The project "Learning. Engagement. Responsibility." of the Private Pedagogical University of the Diocese of Linz in cooperation with the Independent State Volunteer Center (ULF) is based on the teaching concept of service learning, which combines students' societal engagement with expertise and reflection. Over 1,000 students have participated in the L.E.V. project as part of their education by engaging in activities for the common good and applying their acquired knowledge and personal competencies in various social institutions, such as teaching German to refugees, accompanying asylum seekers, and spending time with a child as part of the Youth Advocate Office. In addition, students bring their personal experiences from volunteer engagement into their education, discussing, reflecting, and analyzing them in theory-guided ways.

Once a year, the so-called L.E.V. Marketplace - a place of lived diversity - takes place at the Pedagogical University of Linz, where the L.E.V. project is introduced to first-semester students, as well as to all other interested teachers and educators. More than 30 NGOs from Upper Austria present their work at this large event and are available to answer questions. In addition, experts give lectures on specific diversity areas.

Important goals of service learning are:

- Students learn to apply knowledge practically and productively for society, deepening their understanding of pedagogical content.
- SL has a positive effect on empathy, social and personal responsibility, self-esteem, and self-efficacy in students.
- Reflection is the link between personal experiences in engagement and education. For a deeper understanding, knowledge and experiences must be connected and interpreted through explicit reflection. Students recognize their own competencies and personal strengths, which facilitates the transfer of professional knowledge and the acquisition and training of metacognitive skills.
- They come into contact with people they might not encounter in their personal environment, which can help bridge gaps within society.
- Promoting diversity and inclusion • Students volunteer in the social sector, applying their personal and pedagogical skills on site.
- Students bring personal experiences of social engagement into their education, discussing, reflecting, and analyzing them in theory-guided ways.
- Political and social education
- Networking with other institutions
- Social networking
- Looking beyond one's own horizon

For more information, please visit https://www.phdl.at/ueber_uns/zentren_initiativen.