

An institutional framework for education for sustainable development through service-learning in universities

PURPOSE

Higher education institutions play a pivotal role in achieving sustainable development goals. The purpose of this study is to present an institutional framework for education for sustainable development through service-learning at ESPOL Polytechnic University in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

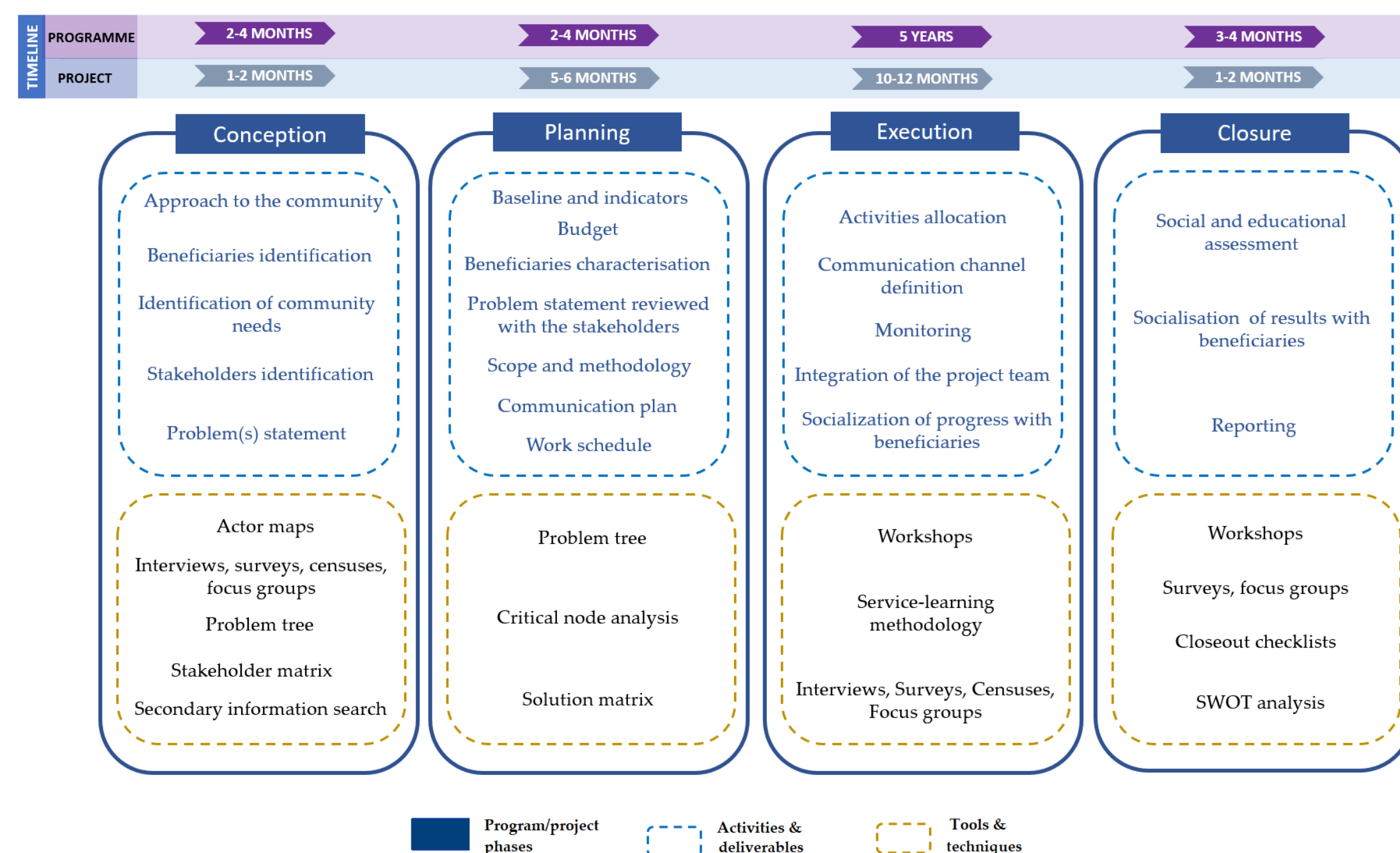
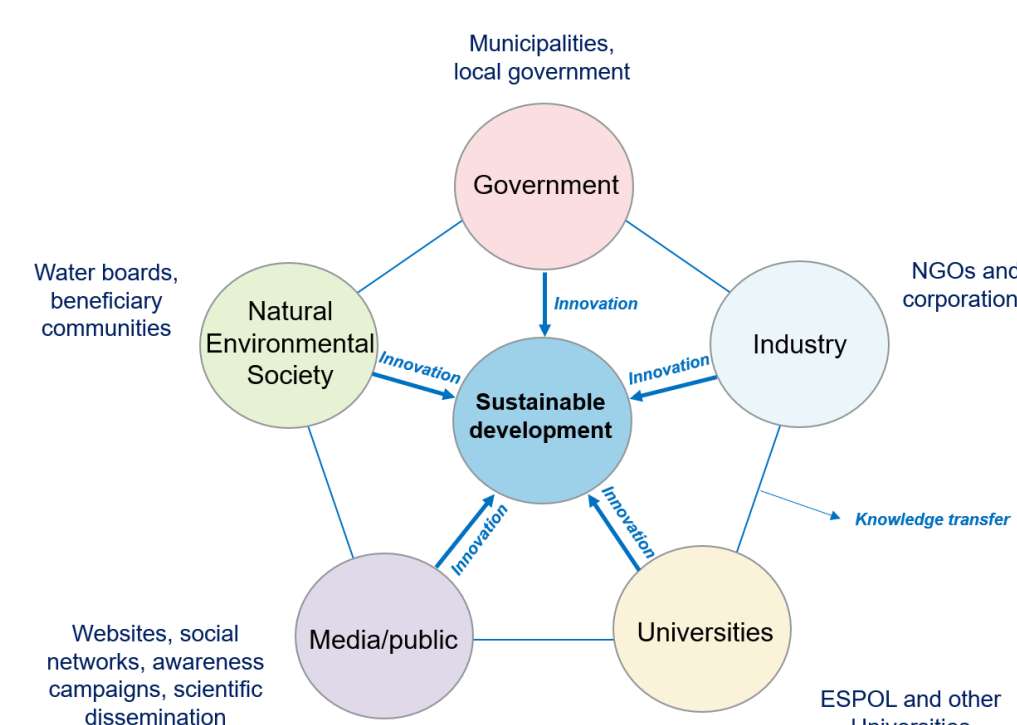
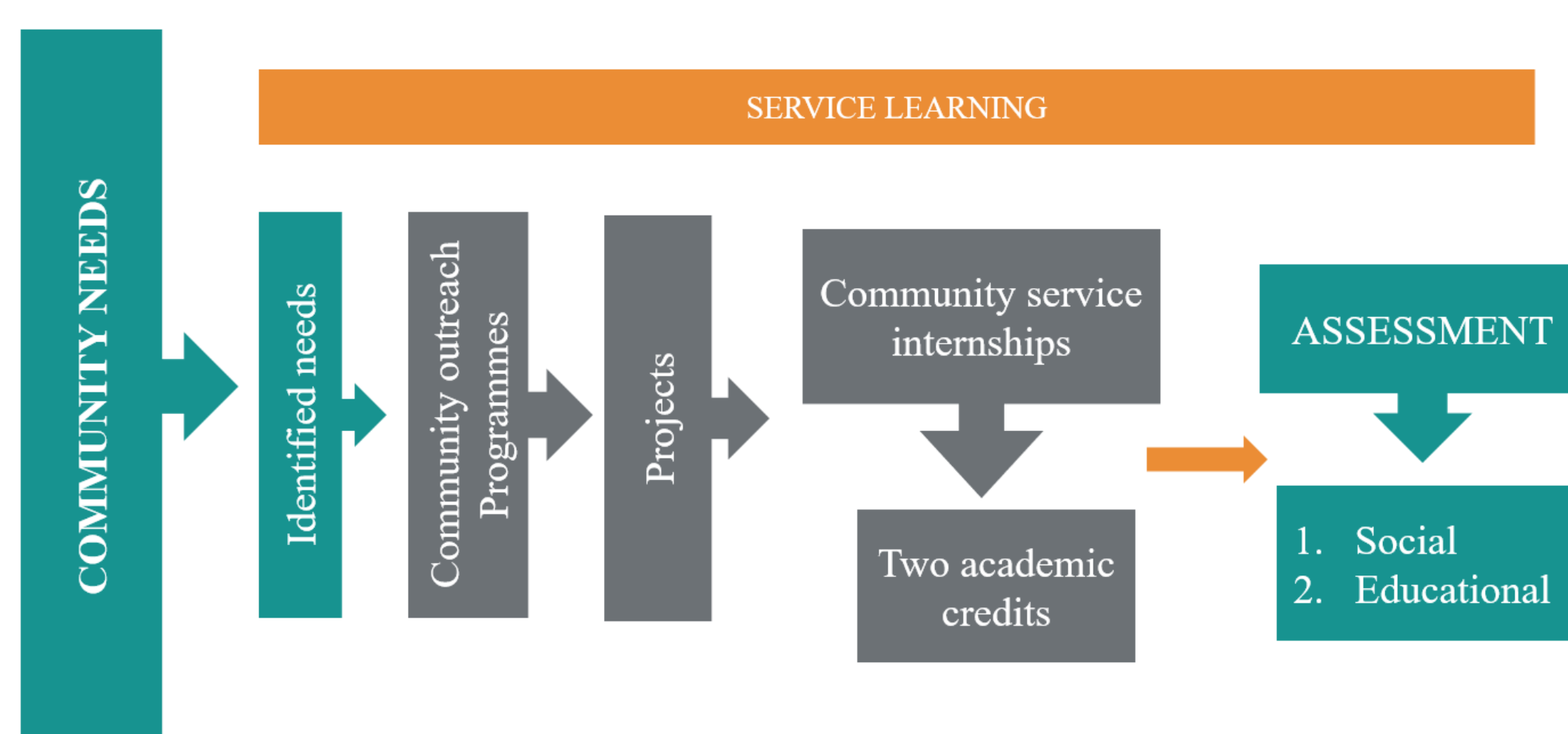
RQ1. How is an institutional framework for SL structured and implemented?

RQ2. What are the success factors and challenges of the institutional framework for SL?

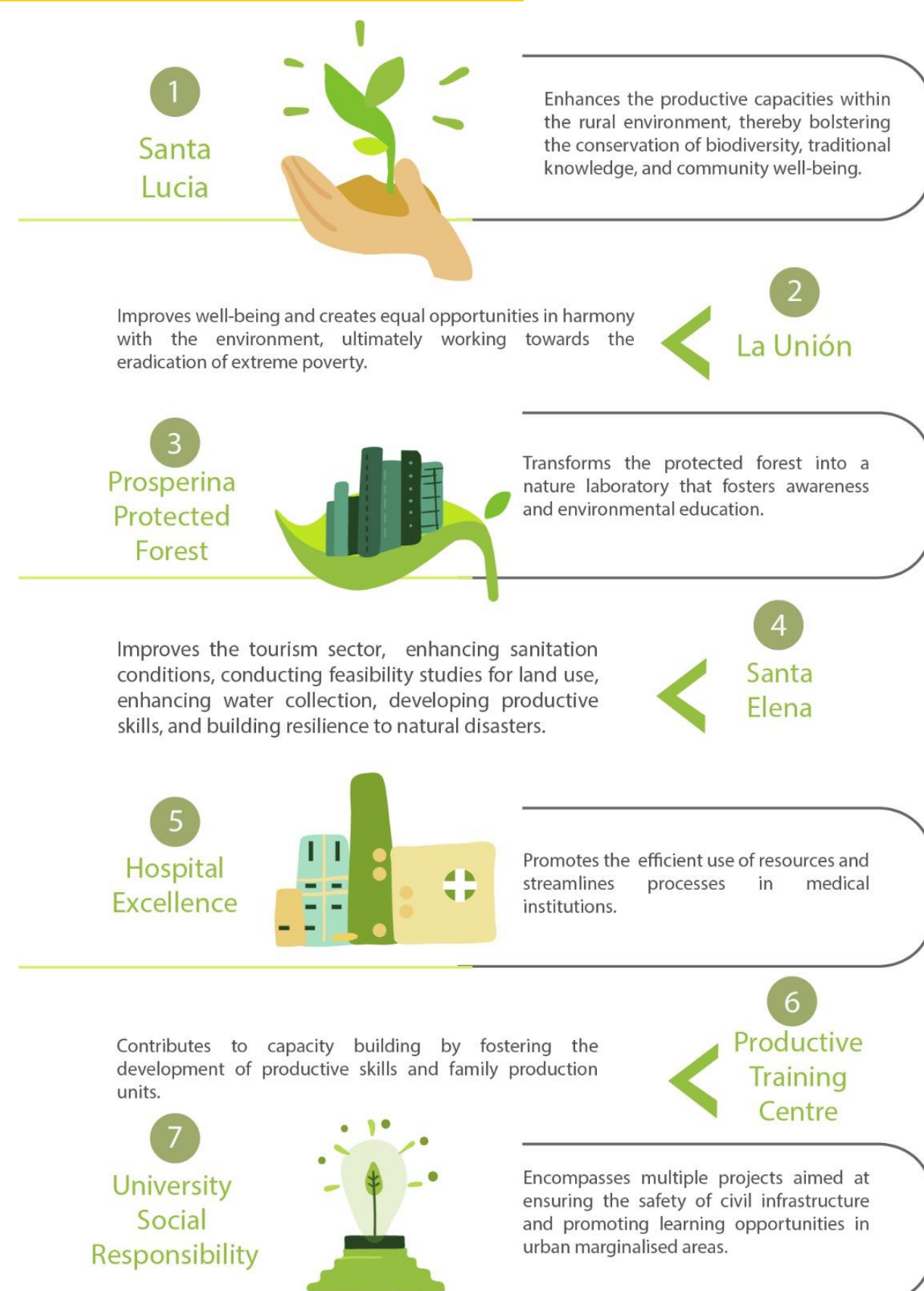
Methodology

A mixed-methods approach was used, combining documentary analysis, a preliminary survey and two focus groups involving 15 professors directly immersed in the service-learning initiatives. The research examined success factors, challenges and the development of students' competencies in service-learning contexts.

ESPOL's Service Learning Framework



RESULTADOS



Focus Group

Key success factors and challenges

- Leadership and teamwork
- Project design and execution
- Communication channels

Students' social competencies

They (students) face a real community with a real problem within their areas of expertise, allowing them to propose an intervention or even initiate a solution. (P9)

The fusion of students from different disciplines in various projects is important. For example, biology students can contribute their expertise to engineering students ... (P7)

I always start by introducing what we have, the problems we face, and who is involved. My goal is to make sure that students understand how they can contribute ... (P4)

CONCLUSIONES

- The study presented an institutional framework for sustainability through SL, emphasising the need for holistic approaches to integrate sustainability into higher education.
- The primary impact on students' social competencies included the development of communication skills, teamwork, and ethical and professional responsibility.