



NEWSLETTER

Climate Change and healthy AgeinG:
co-creating E-learning for resilience and adaptation



A Journey That Made a Difference

Over the past three years, the **chAnGE** project has brought people together across Europe to tackle an important question: **How can health and social care workers better support older people as climate change affects our patients' health and daily lives, and our ability to provide continuity of care?**

Launched in October 2023, **chAnGE** connected universities, training providers, and health and social care organisations from Austria, Finland, Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. Together, we worked to create practical, flexible learning that fits into real working lives.

As the project comes to an end, this final newsletter looks back on what we achieved — and how the work will continue to make a difference.

Why This Matters

Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, storms and flooding are becoming more common. Older people are often the most affected, especially those who rely on health and social care services.

Many health and social care workers told us they:

- Feel the effects of climate change in their work
- Want to respond better, but lack training and resources
- Rarely see climate change discussed alongside ageing and healthcare



The **chAnGE** project was created to fill this gap - by offering **practical, accessible learning** focused specifically on older people's care.

What We Did

Listening First

The project began by listening. In each partner country, workshops were held with 1) Health and social care workers, 2) Managers and educators, and 3) Older people with an interest in climate and health. Their experiences shaped what the learning would focus on and how it should be delivered.

Creating Flexible Online Learning

Based on this input, the consortium developed a set of short online courses, known as **micro-credentials**.

In simple terms, these are:

- Short learning courses completed online
- Designed to fit around work and family life
- Each one focussing on a specific topic
- Learners can build up knowledge over time

Courses cover topics such as:

- How climate change affects older people's health
- Responding to heatwaves, extreme weather, and emergencies
- Communicating with families and communities
- Mental resilience and wellbeing
- Leadership and teamwork in challenging situations



chAnGE impact to date

Reach

- More than 600 micro-credential completions to date.
- Each MC has reached between 20 and 100 learners.

Benefits for Education Partners

- Education partners reported that the project broadened perspectives and supported the integration of sustainability into existing educational provision.
- Partners also reported personal and professional growth among staff involved in the project.

Evidence of learning and application in life and work

- Knowledge improved by between 23% and 68% across the MCs.
- Learners reported high levels of satisfaction, describing the content as engaging, useful and flexible enough to fit around their workloads.
- Learners reported applying their new knowledge both in their professional practice and in their everyday lives, including through more sustainable behaviours.
- Healthcare managers reported early signs of change in practice and awareness within their organisations.



Sharing the Message beyond the learners

Throughout the project, partners shared *chAnGE* outputs through conferences, professional events, workshops and training sessions, presentations, posters, and online showcases, and via the project website and social media channels.

People who engaged with the *chAnGE* project told us the project helped open new conversations about climate change and ageing

Although formally ended, the project impact will continue:

The learning materials remain available online

Partners will continue to use and adapt the courses

The project has strengthened links between education providers and care organisations

Many learners are now helping to champion climate resilient approaches in their workplaces and communities

chAnGE helped show that **climate-resilient care for older people is not a future issue — it's a current responsibility.**

Successfully Working Together Across Europe

chAnGE was delivered by a diverse group of universities, training providers, and health and care organisations, supported by associate partners from policy, research, and civil society.

This collaboration was central to the project's success. We would like to thank:

- All partners and associate partners
- Health and social care workers who shared their time and experience and/or took the learning
- Older people who contributed their perspectives to help shape the content
- The Erasmus+ Programme and the European Union

Your involvement made *chAnGE* possible- Thank you

Learn More: **Project website:** <https://forschung.fh-kaernten.at/change/>

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