

NEWSLETTER

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

This three-year, €1.5 million Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliance project, entitled 'Climate change and healthy AgeinG: co-creating E-learning for resilience and adaptation' (*chAnGE*), commenced on October 1st, 2023. *chAnGE* aims to enable and empower health and social care (HSC) workers to plan and incorporate climate adaptation and resilience into their everyday work. Please visit the [chAnGE project website](#) for more details...



Why chAnGE?

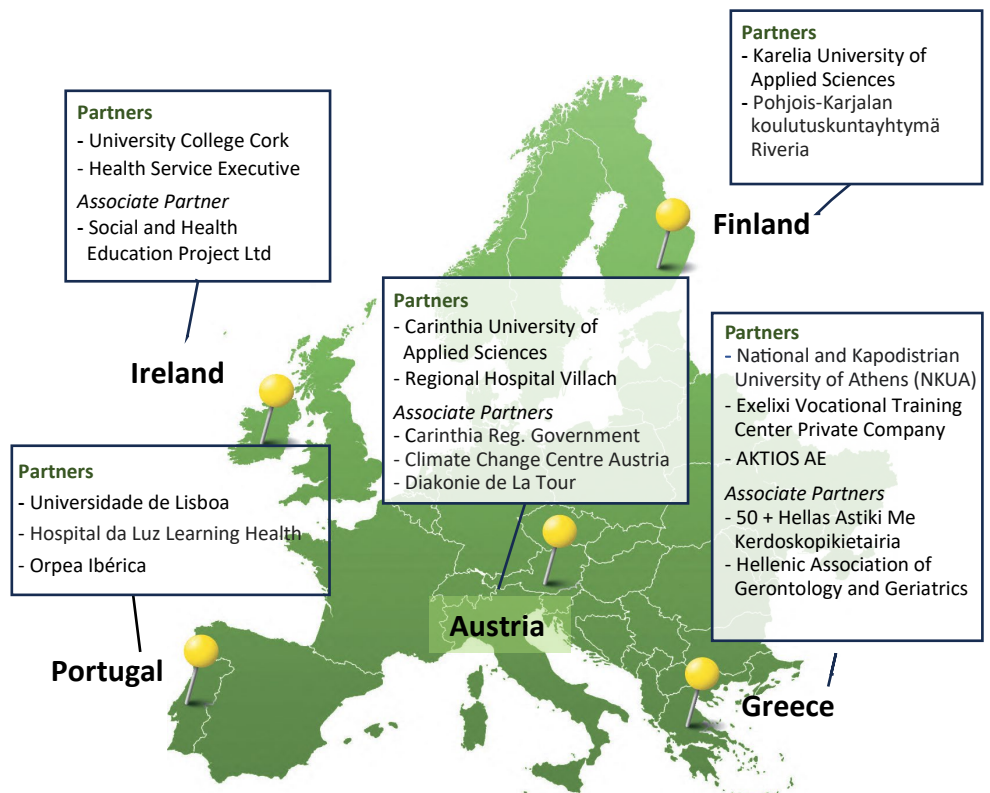
Recent unprecedented climate change and extreme weather events have resulted in an escalation in climate-related health risks within the ever-expanding European population of older people. Climate-vulnerability in older people is exacerbated by the challenges of providing safe and responsive healthcare during climate crisis events.

A **needs analysis** conducted by the *chAnGE* partners found that climate change, health and active ageing are overlooked in policy. Climate action often focuses on youth action. Health and social care (HSC) workers need knowledge and skills in climate change adaptation and mitigation to give them the resilience and leadership capacity to provide healthcare to an increasing number of climate-vulnerable older people, and to overcome more frequent and severe weather events. There is thus a need for flexible, tailored, online learning for HSC workers on the climate-health-ageing nexus.

Who are we?

We are an alliance of universities (n=5), vocational education and training (VET) providers (n=3), and HSC organisations (n=4), across five geographically and culturally diverse countries: Austria, Finland, Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. The HSC organisations span state-provided and private community, acute and residential care providers.

Six associate partners also contribute to the *chAnGE* project: three non-governmental organisations, in climate change and active ageing, respectively; a professional gerontology association; a climate research network, and a government department for health care commissioning and policy.



chAnGE Outputs and Work Progress to Date

The *chAnGE* project aims to generate several outputs (detailed on the right).

To date, a key focus of the *chAnGE* alliance work has been to hold a series of learning co-creation workshops, across partner countries, with HSC workers, managers and representatives of older people, so that that we meet both educational needs (providing key knowledge and skills, informed by our needs analysis) and learning needs (what our local HSC workers want to learn about).

This will shape our curriculum and learning framework and our final learning content. Co-creation groups together agree upon the overall learning outcomes, curriculum and the required criteria for passing each microcredential (MC). Following this, learning content development for each MC will commence. This will then be digitalised for virtually supported delivery and assessment.

First Transnational Project Meeting (TPM)

Professor Suzanne Timmons of the Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, School of Medicine, University College Cork (UCC), Ireland, as project coordinator, hosted the initial face-to-face project meeting in October 2023. This productive 3-day meeting kick-started work across several tasks.

Pictured below is Professor Stephen Byrne, Deputy President and Registrar of UCC, addressing the attendees (left picture). Professor Byrne joined members of the chAnGE alliance for a group photo in the historic West Wing of UCC.



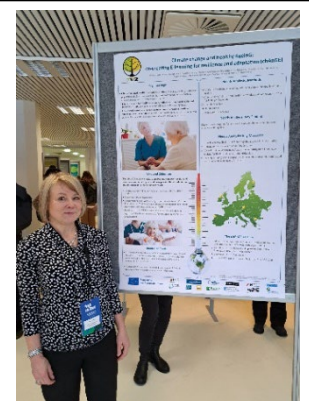
chAnGE Objectives

1. The *chAnGE* project will develop **interactive, accessible, and bite-sized e-learning**, co-created with target learners and older people. The e-learning will be 'stackable' **micro-credentials**, where a learner can accumulate learning credits over time. This e-learning will be piloted with HSC workers in the five countries (courses open in early 2025).
2. The project will also develop resources for learning amplification such as slide presentations, videos, flyers, and posters, which will allow learners (and others) to act as **climate-resilience champions** in their work. These resources will be freely available on the [chAnGE project website](#), from early 2025.
3. The final **learning content** will also be published in 2026.
4. To **foster relationships & knowledge co-creation** between education providers and HSC organisations, targeted knowledge-exchange (KE) events will happen across 2025/early 2026, so that education providers better meet their learners' needs.
5. Finally, we aim to agree an **EU-aligned framework for micro-credential credit recognition and accumulation** (i.e. these can contribute to a future degree), for exploitation by education providers across Europe.

Spreading the Word -some examples

Dr. André Rodrigues from alliance partner ORPEA IBÉRICA delivered a poster presentation at the 6th Meeting of the Geriatrics Studies Group of the Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine, on 26th-27th of October, 2023. The project aroused considerable interest, as a topic that is not usually discussed among doctors.

Dr. Liisa Timonen from alliance partner Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland (pictured to the right at the conference), recently delivered a poster presentation at the international 'PEOPLE AND PLANET - FROM THEORY TO SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE 2024: TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONS', which was held in Lahti, Finland, from 13th-15th February.



This project is co-funded by the European Union. **Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.**