

NEWSLETTER

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



ChAnGE Project – Where Are We Now

The chAnGE project, which stands for 'Climate change and healthy AgeinG: co-creating E-learning for resilience and adaptation' aims to enable and empower health and social care (HSC) workers to incorporate climate adaptation and resilience into their daily work. We are now halfway through the project and are preparing to open registration for the first three micro-credentials via the Pilot Program – **chAnGE**. These micro-credentials are:

- **MC 1: Understanding Climate Change and Its Consequences for Older People's Health** – This module focuses on the impact of climate change on the health of older adults and serves as the foundation for the other micro-credentials.
- **MC 2: Assessing and Prioritizing Risk for Climate Adaptation in Health Care** – This module teaches how to evaluate and prioritize risks related to climate adaptation in healthcare settings.
- **MC 10: Using Digital Tools for Collaboration, Content Creation, and Problem Solving in Climate Adaptation** – This module covers the use of digital tools to enhance collaboration, create content, and solve problems in the context of climate adaptation.

The remaining 11 micro-credentials will be released in three waves throughout 2025 – stay tuned!

MC 1: Understanding Climate Change and Its Consequences for Older People's Health, 1 ECTS

Developed by University College Cork (UCC), MC 1 explores how climate change affects older adults' health, drawing on research, expert insights, and authoritative sources such as the WHO, European Environment Agency. Some content from a previous EU-funded CLIMATEMED project was also adapted with kind permission, allowing us to offer in-depth but optional learning on the health effects of climate change. This allows different learners to tailor their learning to their needs. The final content was strongly shaped by two co-creation workshops with local healthcare managers and providers, and older people. In these, participants discussed their learning needs and priorities and hence the topics they would like to see included, and in how much depth. In the second workshop, participants helped us to refine the focus and time allocated for different topics in the curriculum. This insight was invaluable. For example, healthcare workers did not want to spend so much time on the causes of climate change but wanted to jump into learning about its consequences as quickly as possible. The participation of older people was also crucial as this shaped a solution-focussed rather than problem-focussed approach.

In the micro-credential, learners will explore both direct and indirect health risks—from heat-related illnesses to increased pressures on health and social care systems—while gaining a critical understanding of climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. By completing MC 1, participants gain valuable insights into the specific needs of older populations in the face of climate change, enabling them to deliver more effective and targeted care.

MC 1 is available at EQF levels 4, 5, and 6 and acts as a foundation for all the other micro-credentials in the suite.

MC 2: Assessing and Prioritizing Risk for Climate Adaptation in Health Care, 1 ECTS

Developed by National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), MC 2 is designed to equip health care professionals with the tools and methodologies needed to assess and prioritize risks associated with climate change. This micro-credential emphasizes the importance of a systematic approach to risk assessment, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods. Participants learn to identify vulnerable populations, evaluate the potential impacts of climate-related events, and develop adaptive strategies to enhance resilience. The course also covers the integration of climate risk assessments into health care planning and policy-making, ensuring that health care systems are better prepared to respond to climate challenges.

The content development started in 2024 with extensive discussions taking place during a series of workshops to determine the topics to be included. These workshops involved higher education teachers, representatives from organizations for older people, and active older individuals. Prior to the workshops, literature was reviewed to create a discussion document.

After thorough discussions, the curriculum was finalized during the Transnational Project Meeting in Austria. The detailed content was developed with contributions from literature and research on risk assessment conducted by the laboratory of prevention in the Sector of Public Health at the Department of Nursing, NKUA. The process also benefited from the team's extensive experience in teaching related courses in higher education and working with older people both in the community and in hospital settings.

The MC will be offered on EQF level 6.

MC 10: Using Digital Tools for Collaboration, Content Creation, and Problem Solving in Climate Adaptation, 2 ECTS

Developed by Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS), MC 10 focuses on leveraging digital tools to enhance collaboration and problem-solving in climate adaptation efforts. This micro-credential introduces participants to a range of digital platforms and technologies that facilitate effective communication, content creation, and data sharing among stakeholders. The course highlights best practices for using digital tools to support climate adaptation initiatives, including case studies and practical exercises.

To tailor the course content, CUAS first held two workshops in Autumn 2024 with older people and HSCO. The goal was to gather ideas and identify necessary topics. The first workshop provided a rough overview, while the second delved deeper into the topics. It became clear that starting with the basics was essential, showing course participants which tools they can use in everyday life and where to find information on the internet.

By completing MC 10, participants will gain the skills needed to harness the power of digital technologies to drive innovation and improve outcomes in climate adaptation projects.

The MC will be offered on EQF levels 4, 5 and 6.

The registration for these micro-credentials is possible via participating vocational and higher educational institutions in the country's native language (English, Greek, Portuguese, Finnish and German) and via the website here: [Pilot Program – chAnGE](#)

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