

Whether you are a policymaker, healthcare professional or community member, you can play a role supporting care workers in climate action. By joining chAnGE, you can contribute to strengthening their voices, advocating for better support systems and building a more climate-resilient future.

The chAnGE project focuses on developing accessible, interactive e-learning micro-credentials to help health and social care professionals adapt to the challenges posed by climate change. These micro-credentials cover essential skills in climate adaptation, mental resilience, and effective communication in healthcare settings.

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Find out more here:



Adapting health and social care organisations to the climate crisis

How can we ensure safety and resilience in extreme weather events?



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Climate change: a growing challenge

Climate change is one of the most significant global challenges. Heatwaves, pollution and natural disasters severely impact older adults, increasing their vulnerability and needing adaptation within health and social care organisations.

The impact of climate change on older adults

Heatwaves

Increase the risk of dehydration, heat stroke and worsening conditions like kidney and cardiovascular diseases.

Air pollution

Leads to respiratory issues, increasing the risk of lung infections and breathing difficulties.

Natural disasters

Floods and wildfires disrupt mobility and limit access to medical care.

Social isolation

Around one-third of European older adults live alone, making them more vulnerable to climate emergencies.

Did you know?

36% of older adults in the EU have at least two chronic diseases, making access to regular healthcare even more critical during climate crises.

Challenges for health and social care services

Hospital overcrowding

Increased patient numbers can strain resources and impact care quality.

Resource allocation

Caring for older adults with multiple conditions is challenging during crises.

Service disruptions

Power outages and infrastructure damage can delay critical treatments.

Impact on healthcare workers

Burnout, absenteeism and increased stress due to poor work conditions.

Key solutions:

- **Emergency plans** tailored to older adults' needs.
- **Early warning systems** to inform residents of upcoming climate threats.
- **Resilient infrastructures** to withstand extreme climate events.

Preparing health and social care professionals for climate challenges

Ongoing training

Healthcare professionals need specialised knowledge to support older adults in a changing climate.

Simulation exercises

Practical drills help improve emergency response skills.

Interdisciplinary teamwork

Collaboration between healthcare, social care and emergency services is essential.

Community education

Raising awareness and training older adults to adopt self-protection measures.

Preparation cannot wait!

All professionals must be ready to protect the most vulnerable populations.

The role of the community

What can we do together?

- Monitor older adults during extreme heat

Ensure they are hydrated and can access cool environments.

- Establish community support networks

Regularly check on older adults living alone.

- Ensure accessibility to support centers

Provide transport to safe locations during emergencies.

- Educate about climate risks

Teach older adults to recognise warning signs and protect themselves.