

Creative Care

Participatory Arts Programmes
for older persons
in healthcare settings



Introducing the Creative Care project

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Creative Care is an Erasmus+ project that aims to enhance the capacity of professionals working directly with older people in healthcare settings, including hospitals, day-care centres, and residential care homes, to provide art programmes and activities for older persons, based on an intergenerational and participatory approach.



But why focus on artistic programmes?

Art has an incredible ability to touch the soul, lifting spirits and enhancing emotional and psychological well-being. These programmes are designed to give older people a voice – a way to express their thoughts and feelings, stimulate their minds, and foster meaningful social connections. Whether through painting, music, theatre, or crafts, these activities brighten their days, improve their mood, and, most importantly, enhance their quality of life.

One of the most beautiful aspects of the project is the intergenerational learning.

We make sure to involve young volunteers and family members in these programmes, creating bridges between generations. This ensures that the artistic activities are not only enriching but also sensitive to the needs of older people, helping to avoid any experiences that could be overwhelming or misunderstood.

Our goals

- ✚ Create custom educational tools for Vocational Education & Training (VET) on designing intergenerational and participatory art programmes.
- ✚ Introduce evidence-based socially engaged art practices into healthcare programmes for older persons.
- ✚ Improve VET trainers' understanding and capacity to offer learning opportunities for professionals working with older individuals.
- ✚ Promote awareness among professionals about the benefits of socially engaged art programmes for older persons in healthcare settings.



Our kick-off meeting

In March 2024, the Creative Care project made a significant leap when our partner consortium gathered in Bucharest, Romania. We met in person not only to discuss the remarkable progress made so far but also to strategise and plan for the exciting journey ahead.

Where are we now?

- ✚ The Creative Care project is currently underway, with the Habilitas Association conducting the first study to identify the learning needs of professionals in social work and art who work with older persons. This study aimed to pinpoint discrepancies and challenges in professional training offerings and to advocate for the importance of participatory arts and intergenerational approaches in older persons' care. Results revealed that in Greece and Romania, such activities are limited and sporadic, while in Austria, creative activities are seamlessly integrated into daily care routines. Activities encompass painting, music, dance, literature, theatre, and physical exercises. Additionally, the study focused on identifying challenges, formulating sustainable recommendations, and pinpointing the skills necessary for professionals in the field.
- ✚ Our first project result is the Good Practice Guide and Recommendations for VET Providers. The document is available on the project's website in all partner languages. This guide represents a key step in supporting professionals in the vocational education and training (VET) field, offering valuable resources to develop innovative educational programmes for older adults. On the 8th of October, a Transnational online Event is organised to promote the Good Practice Guide.
- ✚ Our next step is the organisation of co-design workshops for the training programme, scheduled to take place in autumn 2024. These workshops will play a crucial role in shaping and refining the educational materials, giving participants the chance to contribute to the programme's development actively.

With every step, the Creative Care Partnership is moving closer to realising its vision of bringing valuable innovations to the education of care of older persons.

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