



SEN4CE

Seniors for Circular Economy



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NEEDS ANALYSIS SUMMARY REPORT

R2 – CE for Care and Retirement sector

Seniors for Circular Economy (SEN4CE)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
International good practices	3
National good practices	4
Final conclusions	5
List of Best Practices	5

Introduction

The Sen4ce project will enable people working in the care and retirement sector to train their clients on circular economy, thereby enabling seniors to connect to the younger generation on this important topic.

Based on the results of the needs/gap analysis, a course curriculum and learning content for circular economy in the care and retirement sector will be developed, including a train-the-trainer program for staff to use the SEN4CE training (R1) with their clients. The curriculum will focus on enabling EQF 4.

Care and retirement service providers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Non-profit organisations (NPOs) will use the concept to develop complementary training and learning offers on circular economy in the care/retirement sector.

All partners conducted research on training and educational programs on circular economy in the care and retirement context and other NPOs and NGOs providing services in the care/retirement context. Each partner collected 3 best practices from the respective partner country and 1 international/European best practice, e.g., training program for staff on circular economy and the implementation of circular economy principles in the care/retirement sector.


International good practices

During the online research, it became apparent that there are still significant gaps in the field of senior education in a care and retirement context as such and specifically on the topic of circular economy. The best practices found therefore often don't have a direct link to CE but are best practices in adult education for seniors/train-the-trainer programs in general or at least linked to environmental issues.

The following international best practices have been identified and analysed in relation to the objectives of the SEN4CE project:

RISE - Retirees in Service to the Environment (USA)

The primary goal of RISE is to create a new pool of environmental leaders (also known as environmental stewards) who will play an active role in addressing environmental issues in their communities. The program provides participants with several different types of learning experiences to strengthen their leadership capabilities and encourage community engagement. The program also strives to promote active aging to improve the health and well-being of older adults.

 **Training Club** (Romania, Spain, Italy and Poland) is an innovative learning environment for teaching and learning how to support elderly, which provides methods and materials that show how to organise, design and follow up training sessions for those willing to train professionals working directly with elderly.





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-  **PracticeGreenHealth** (United States) is the health care sector's go-to source for information, tools, data, resources, and expert technical support on sustainability initiatives. It offers practical and cost-effective programs to members and educates, motivates, and engages the entire sector to move toward higher standards of care. In addition, it provides case studies explaining step by step how some hospitals have achieved some level of sustainability in their structures. Some content elements like good environmental practices for each of the 12 Environmental Indicators can be useful for our project.

-  **Learn2Change – Global Network of Educational Activists** is an open and democratic network of equal actors that respect each other's diversity and particular perspectives. It serves as a platform and think tank to exchange, foster and implement new approaches of learning and social change through global partnerships. By learning from each other, we seek to search and nurture stories of unconventional wisdom and alternative social practice across borders to decolonize our hearts and minds and relink to our shared earth. It fosters the necessary awareness and understanding of global contexts, to encourage and empower learners of all ages from every society to play an active role for an ecologically sound and globally just transformation.

-  **Older adults and the environment: educating for the care of the Hogar Don Guanella (HDG)** works on the environmentally friendly treatment of inorganic and organic waste. In this way, university extension workers, together with the elderly residents of the home, develop activities aimed at training in better waste treatment in a sustainable and profitable way. The Circular Economy topic is addressed partially because in any case the concept is mentioned directly. However, they cover some topics related such as recycling. The project also focuses on dialogue so that the elderly can build and socialise with their families and friends the knowledge they have acquired in relation to waste recycling and composting. As part of a sustained work, it is planned to continue with the training spaces.

Therefore, by developing a train-the-trainer program with circular economy related content during the project period of SEN4CE, which is specifically tailored to retirement and care sector, the existing gaps can be closed.

National good practices

On a national basis teaching methodologies, handbooks and guidelines on adult education for seniors with and without an environmental content exist. Unfortunately, often only in the national language so that it is difficult to make use of the content on a broader basis. Two promising initiatives useful for the Sen4ce project and dealing with education for the elderly (**Active 80+** and **Didactic guide on environmental education for the elderly**) are put in bold. The **Active 80+** projects approach was to facilitate and provide access to informal

learning opportunities for old people with functional limitations or care needs. It developed a research-based training concept and trained care staff and volunteers to function as coaches for people 80+, who supported older people in developing and realizing their own ideas of learning and active citizenship through projects. The Didactic guide on environmental education for the elderly includes methodological considerations for teaching older people, as well as strategies and good practices for teaching them. In general, teaching methodologies are mainly based on face-to-face teaching.

Final conclusions

- ➔ It is important to focus on the benefits of applying circular economy practices for the people (seniors and staff in residential homes), for them to feel more involved in the approach.
- ➔ It is good to be able to reach out not only to older people and their careers, but also to other family members and friends to have more impact on society. Creating group activities involving as many people as possible close to the older person would be good options.
- ➔ Bringing together young and senior volunteers to promote improvements in their communities is an excellent form of intergenerationally as well as promoting personal relationships as they all work towards the same goal.
- ➔ A good teaching methodology for seniors in care and retirement contexts is based on three pillars: 1) Doing (handicrafts with recycled materials); 2) Learning (through games and educational activities) and 3) Sharing (through round table and workshops).

List of Best Practices

For those interested in exploring some of the best practices identified by our consortium, here is the full list per country:

International Best practices

<https://citra-rise.human.cornell.edu/>

<https://trainingclub.eu/senior/>

<https://practicegreenhealth.org/>

<https://learn2change-network.org/>

https://www.unl.edu.ar/noticias/news/view/adultos_mayores_trabajan_por_el_cuidado_del_medio_ambiente#.Y3ScFnbMJPY

National Best practices

Austria

[Bunte Rampe](#)

[Diakonie](#)

[Alpenverein Akademie](#)

France

[Add'âge](#)

[Maison](#)

[Le réseau Transition écologique en santé](#)

Germany

[Erasmus+ Project Active 80+](#)

[ViLe](#)

[Digital Mobil im Alter](#)

Portugal

[Ecological Christmas](#)

[Project Guimarães 65+](#)

[Superpower Schools](#)

Spain

[Recycling has no age, it is in your hand](#)

[Didactic guide on Environmental Education for the Elderly](#)

[Recycle and create](#)