

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE: EU PEACE CHALLENGE-BASED LEARNING COURSE ON CRITICAL THINKING DEVELOPMENT

COURSE INFORMATION

Program	Empowering Community Engagement: Soft Skills Micro-Courses for Students and Staff
University	University of Calabria
Department	Culture, Educazione e Società - DICES
Course name	Socializzazione e longevità. Progettare connessioni tra generazioni Socialization and Longevity: Designing Connections Across Generations
Course code	ECE2.10
Credits/hours	2 hours
Language of instruction	Italian
Target audience	Students, faculty, staff
Course dates	held on Nov 27, 2025 next edition: TBD
Course schedule	9.00 - 11.00 am
Course coordinator	Prof.ssa Emanuela Pascuzzi
Course instructor	Elena Hoo from AUSER Rende
Contact details	emanuela.pascuzzi@unical.it

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This 2-hour micro-course explores active aging and intergenerational engagement through a Challenge-Based Learning (CBL) approach connected to the local context of Calabria. In collaboration with Auser Rende, students analyse social isolation among older adults and reflect on how community-based initiatives can foster participation and social cohesion. Through a short theoretical framing, stakeholder testimony, and guided group work, participants co-design small-scale intergenerational actions aimed at strengthening community engagement and well-being.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge

- Identify key concepts related to active aging, socialization, and intergenerational engagement.
- Recognise the role of community organisations in promoting participation and social cohesion.

Skills

- Analyse a local community challenge related to social isolation.
- Collaboratively design a feasible intergenerational initiative responding to identified community needs.

Civic & Reflective Competence

- Reflect on their potential role as active contributors to community engagement and intergenerational solidarity.
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COURSE CONTENTS

1. Active aging and social participation in the local context
 2. Community needs and social isolation among older adults
 3. The role of Auser Rende in fostering engagement
 4. Introduction to a simplified Challenge-Based Learning cycle
 5. Co-design of small-scale intergenerational initiatives to strengthen social cohesion
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TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course adopts a simplified Challenge-Based Learning (CBL) approach fully achievable within a 2-hour session. The session begins with a concise introduction to active aging and intergenerational participation, directly linked to a real community challenge in Calabria.

A stakeholder testimony from Auser Rende connects theory to concrete community practice.

Students then engage in guided small-group work structured around three steps:

1. Identifying barriers to intergenerational interaction.
2. Analysing community needs.
3. Designing a realistic and small-scale initiative that could enhance social participation and cohesion.

The session concludes with a short collective restitution and reflection on the importance of civic responsibility and community engagement.

Type of activity and time dedicated.

	Activity	Duration
1	Introductory lecture by the course instructor, framing the theme and presenting key concepts	20 mins
2	Expert testimony and thematic in-depth contribution (done by stakeholder, organisation, field professional)	30 mins
3	Challenge-Based Learning activity (problem framing, small-group discussion, collaborative exploration)	40 mins
4	Restitution and collective discussion	20 mins
5	Q&A session with the audience	10 mins

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Overall weight
Self-assessment	Students are invited to reflect individually and collectively on their learning experience during the course.	100%

No formal grading tools or evaluation grids are used, in line with the short duration of the course and its experiential and participatory learning approach.

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)

Contact hours	Outside classroom	Overall
2	0	2

READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES

- Bertani M. (2025). Lifelong learning e invecchiamento attivo in Italia. Punti di forza e criticità, in Boffo, V., Bertani, V., Bramanti, D., Chattat, R., Formenti L. (eds), *Accompagnare la longevità. Buone pratiche educative e formative per l'invecchiamento attivo*. Firenze University Press, pp. 81-90. Retrieved from: <https://media.fupress.com/files/pdf/24/16113/44948>
- World Health Organization. (2020). *UN Decade of Healthy Ageing: Plan of Action 2021–2030*. Geneva: WHO. Available [here](#).