



EDU-MENT Connections

Jan/Feb/March 2026

EDU-MENT e-Training – English

Categories: EDU-MENT Online Courses



About Course

Course Progress

0/20

0% Complete

Start Learning

Complete Course

You enrolled in this course on **December 15, 2025**

February 25, 2026 Last Updated

A course by



01.

EDU-MENT
Screening Tool
Demo



EDU-MENT Connections

EDU-MENT Connections is a quarterly newsletter that keeps program stakeholders informed on project implementation, share practical tools and resources to support their EDU-MENT work, and encourage collaboration and learning across Austria, Cyprus, and Slovenia. EDU-MENT is an Erasmus+ Vocational Education and Training project.



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EDU-MENT from Development to Practice

Jan/Feb/March 2026

01. **EDU-MENT Policy & Evidence Context - Why EDU-MENT Matters Now**

02. **EDU-MENT Phase Update - From Development to Practice: Info for Nurses, Care Institutions and EDU-MENT Trainers**

03. **Partner Spotlight - Project Contacts**



Policy & Evidence Context

Why
EDU-MENT
Matters Now





Why EDU-MENT Matters Now

POLICY & EVIDENCE CONTEXT

Recent European and international evidence highlights persistent challenges in long-term care systems:

Key challenges identified:

1. **Skills gaps** in mental health detection among care professionals
2. **Limited structured training** in psychosocial care
3. **Increasing complexity of care needs** in ageing populations
4. **Uneven digital literacy** across the healthcare workforce

Evidence highlights

(WHO, 2023; Bansal et al., 2022; Torous et al., 2020; Kyaw et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2016):

Mental health in care settings remains under-detected

Early identification significantly improves patient outcomes, particularly when supported by trained non-specialist professionals.

Blended learning improves competence transfer

Research shows blended learning approaches enhance:

- clinical skills
- knowledge retention
- confidence in real-world practice

Digital tools strengthen both care and training systems

When embedded into structured education, digital tools improve:

- decision-making
- early detection capacity
- workforce efficiency

EDU-MENT: Policy & Evidence Resources

1. Bansal, A., Greenley, S., Mitchell, C., Park, S., Shearn, K., & Reeve, J. (2022). *Optimising planned medical education strategies to develop learners' person-centredness: A realist review. Medical Education, 56*(5), 489–503. <https://doi.org/10.1111/medu.14707>
2. European Commission. (2018). *Communication on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market (COM(2018) 233 final)*. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A233%3AFIN>
3. Kyaw, B. M., Posadzki, P., Paddock, S., Car, J., Campbell, J., & Car, L. T. (2019). *Effectiveness of digital education on communication skills among medical students: Systematic review and meta-analysis. Journal of Medical Internet Research, 21*(1), e12959. <https://doi.org/10.2196/12959>
4. Liu, Q., Peng, W., Zhang, F., Hu, R., Li, Y., & Yan, W. (2016). *The effectiveness of blended learning in health professions: Systematic review and meta-analysis. Journal of Medical Internet Research, 18*(1), e2. <https://doi.org/10.2196/jmir.4807>
5. Torous, J., Myrick, K. J., Rauseo-Ricupero, N., & Firth, J. (2020). *Digital mental health and COVID-19: Using technology today to accelerate the curve. JMIR Mental Health, 7*(3), e18848. <https://doi.org/10.2196/18848>
6. World Health Organization. (2023). *Mental health, human rights and legislation: Guidance and practice*. <https://doi.org/10.2471/9789240080737>

EDU-MENT: Policy & Evidence Resources

European Commission – Digital Health & Care Strategy

Summary: Emphasises workforce skills, digital literacy, and system readiness as key enablers of digital transformation in health systems (European Commission, 2018).

WHO – Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025

Summary: Explicitly links digital health to workforce capacity, governance, and health worker competencies (WHO, 2021)

WHO – Digital Health Competency Framework (health workforce)

[WHO guideline: recommendations on digital interventions for health system strengthening” + related competency work]

Summary: Focuses directly on competence development and confidence in practice for health professionals using digital tools (WHO, 2019)



EDU-MENT Project Phase Update

From
Development
to Practice



EDU-MENT: From Development to Practice

The EDU-MENT project has now moved into a pivotal **implementation phase**, advancing its core aim of strengthening the digital and professional competencies of registered nurses (RNs) working in home-based and residential elder care settings. **This stage focuses on the delivery of EDU-MENT training across partner universities and learning institutions, alongside the practical application of the EDU-MENT digital mental health screening tool within participants' own care environments.**

From **April 2025 to April 2026**, EDU-MENT partners developed key results:

- a **digital screening tool** for mental health in care settings
- a **5 ECTS blended-learning programme** for nurses
- **Train-the-Trainer (TtT)** activities to build long-term skills

EDU-MENT: From Development to Practice cont.

EDU-MENT (Education in Mental Health for Nurses in Home and Residential Care) is a blended-learning programme that helps nurses support the mental health of older adults. It combines digital tools, care theory, and practical methods to improve everyday care.

Partners in **Austria, Slovenia, and Cyprus** worked closely together to share knowledge and apply results in different care settings and systems.

This work supports European goals to improve vocational education and training. It also shows that digital change in healthcare depends on people having the right skills, confidence, and support.

EDU-MENT: For Nurses



For nurses in elder care, this phase brings new expectations. Nurses are not only providing clinical care, but also supporting mental health, using digital tools, and working with data in care systems.

These changes reflect wider shifts in healthcare, where digital tools are becoming part of everyday practice. Nurses need new skills to adapt to this.

EDU-MENT supports this development by helping nurses build confidence, improve decision-making, and provide early, person-centred care in both home and residential settings.

EDU-MENT: For Care Institutions

For care institutions, these changes are also important. Digital screening tools and structured training help staff identify mental health needs earlier, work in a more consistent way, and improve continuity of care.

They also help organisations respond to growing demand and staff pressures.

Train-the-Trainer (TtT) models allow institutions to build skills internally, reducing the need for external training and supporting long-term staff development.

This is especially important as populations age and mental health needs among older adults increase, placing more pressure on care systems.



EDU-MENT: For Trainers

EDU-MENT Train-the-Trainer (TtT): Building Capacity Across Europe

At EDU-MENT, education helps knowledge spread.

Each participant who completes the blended-learning programme can become an **EDU-MENT trainer** after reviewing the main teaching materials. They can then deliver training in their own workplace or institution.

This means nurses gain not only knowledge, practical skills, digital skills, and mental health tools, but also the ability to train others in their organisations.



EDU-MENT: For Trainers

The **TtT model** sustains future EDU-MENT training by:

- 📖 Equipping future trainers with digital tools and structured learning resources
- 🌍 Supporting adaptation to local care contexts across Europe
- 🤝 Embedding mentorship and peer learning for sustained professional growth
- 💻 Capacitates the delivery of a 5 ECTS blended-learning postgraduate programme through future EDU-MENT trainers.



THANK YOU!!

We would like to sincerely thank all **consortium partners** for their dedicated work in delivering this complex phase of the EDU-MENT project.

Our appreciation also goes to the **participating nurses** and **trainers** for their commitment to completing the training and contributing valuable feedback through course evaluation.

Finally, we thank the **participating institutions** for their ongoing support and engagement in advancing innovation in elder care practice.

Many thanks,

UMIT-TIROL
Project Management Lead





EDU-MENT Partner Spotlight

About
EDU-MENT
Partners and
their work



University of Maribor

Faculty of Health Sciences



Πανεπιστήμιο
Κύπρου



MATERIA GROUP
CARE · NURSING · REHABILITATION



UMIT-TIROL

EDU-MENT Project Role

Focus: Coordination + Digital Health Innovation

1. Project coordination and leadership
2. Development of digital screening tool
3. Scientific and methodological framework
4. Integration of research into practice



UMIT-TIROL EDU-MENT Project Contacts

i.A. ao. Univ.-Prof. Mag. Mag. Dr. Eva Schulc
Project Coordinator, WP1 & WP2 Lead

Sarah House, MPH
EDU-MENT Project Manager

UMIT-TIROL

Private Universität für Gesundheitswissenschaften,
Medizinische Informatik und Technik (University for Health
Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology)
Division für Integrierte Versorgung (Division of Integrated Care)

 Innsbruck, Austria

University of Maribor - Faculty of Health Sciences

EDU-MENT Project Role

Focus: VET Curriculum Development

1. Design of 5 ECTS blended learning programme
2. Definition of learning outcomes and competencies
3. Alignment with nursing education standards
4. Pedagogical structure of training modules

UM FHS EDU-MENT Project Contacts

Prof. Dr Majda Pajnkihar

WP4 Lead

Izr. prof. dr. Dominika Vrbnjak

Project Manager

Asist. Kasandra Musović

Researcher



UM FHS

 Maribor, Slovenia

Materia Group - AgeCare

EDU-MENT Project Role

Focus: Practice-Based Implementation

1. Real-world testing in care environments
2. Practitioner feedback and validation
3. Pilot implementation support
4. Ensuring relevance to daily care practice

AGECARE EDU-MENT Project Contacts

Dr. Sotiria Moza

Dissemination & Lead WP3

Romina Sampanai

Project Manager WP3



Materia Group

 Latsia, Cyprus

University of Cyprus - SEIT Lab

EDU-MENT Project Role

Focus: Digital Systems & Learning Infrastructure

1. Development and integration of digital learning environment
2. Technical support for screening tool implementation
3. Ensuring usability and digital accessibility
4. Supporting innovation in digital VET delivery



Software Engineering and Internet
Technologies Laboratory

UCY EDU-MENT Project Contacts

George A Papadopoulos

Project Manager

Marios Kyprianou

Researcher/Technician

Christos Mettouris

Technical Lead of WP3,
Management

Evangelia Vanezi

Researcher

**UCY Software Engineering and Internet Technologies
Laboratory**

 Nicosia, Cyprus

Hafelekar

EDU-MENT Project Role

Focus: Evaluation, Quality Assurance & VET Innovation Transfer

1. Monitoring and evaluation framework
2. Quality assurance of training and outputs
3. Ensuring methodological robustness
4. Supporting dissemination and policy alignment
5. Strengthening transferability of VET innovation

Hafelekar EDU-MENT Project Contacts

Dr. Paul Schober

Quality Management & WP5 Lead

Virag Suhajda

Project Manager WP5



Hafelekar

 Neulengbach, Austria

Thanks for keeping up with EDU-MENT!



University of Maribor

Faculty of Health Sciences



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HAFELEKAR

Questions or comments? Get in touch with:

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