

Climate Academy



Title : Climate academy

Developed by :

This initiative was developed and implemented by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), with the support of two significant Greek Public Benefit Foundations, the «John S. Latsis» and the «Maria Tsakos». It is a project that is part of the «Initiative '21». The aforementioned was established in 2018 by some of the most significant public benefit foundations in Greece, in cooperation with the Greek National Bank. The primary focus of this initiative for the forthcoming years is to tackle the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

Topics :

- Climate education
- Risk Mapping
- Carbon Footprint
- Climate risk
- School Network

Website: <https://climateacademy.gr/>

Description

The Climate Academy is an educational initiative that aims to cultivate climate change awareness, offering resources, tools, and knowledge to empower communities and individuals to act against climate change. The main objective of this initiative is to become a trustworthy information source on climate change matters, with a special focus on Greece and the Mediterranean territory. This initiative is based on an interactive educational platform, which ensures access to the relevant educational material and applications related to climate change. More specifically, it includes:

1. Educational Material: open online courses, with the subject under study being climate change and analysing the case of Greece and the Mediterranean. It is available here: <https://climateacademy.gr/education/>
2. Climate Stories, including articles and studies presenting new ideas, successful applications, and initiatives for addressing climate change. They are available here: <https://climateacademy.gr/climate-stories/>
3. A series of tools:
 - A Carbon Footprint Calculation Software: a tool that facilitates the estimation of environmental footprint individually or in groups.
 - Satellite Images, for monitoring the impacts of climate change in Greece.
 - A Cartographic Application and Repository: an interactive map showing the impacts of climate change in various regions of Greece, along with a database of relevant information.
 - A Land Cover Change Mapping Tool: a tool for monitoring changes in land use.
 - A School Network (Hub), in order to facilitate the interconnection and cooperation between schools and educational activities.

Duration

Depending on
the use

Resources needed

This initiative offers online tools and educational resources that could be exploited by teachers in a classroom context. Students or educators that would like to access the relevant resources do not need anything other than a computer with internet access and being willing to expand their knowledge.

Age

Suitable for all ages

Relevance to CRISEPAC Objectives

The main subject (climate change) and objectives (promotion of climate change in education) of both of these initiatives are common. The exploitation of this tool could function beneficially for the achievement of the CRISEPAC objectives, as it offers reliable and engaging educational material and tools that could be proved really useful in a classroom context.

Expected outcomes

Individuals, whether they are educational staff or students, accessing the resources offered by this tool are expected to enhance their climate literacy and expand their knowledge on proactive engagement in climate action.



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Management

This tool can be used by anyone interested. It offers a plethora of climate - related information, educational materials and tools that could be integrated in educational curricula in order to create an engaging climate - related course, but at the same time, all of these resources do not require any special management by the responsible educator. In fact, the material can be adapted (in most cases). The only thing that the teachers may have to do is to navigate through the many functions of the online tools, in order to gain a better understanding on how they work and to transfer the relevant knowledge to their students.

Risk prevention

When it comes to promoting risk prevention, this initiative includes, among others, a risk mapping tool, for the case of Greece. Additionally, under the section Climate Stories, it contains a series of informative materials (e.g. articles etc.) that cover a wide range of topics, such as sustainable practices, risk prevention and climate mitigation recommendations, climate - related news and case studies from around the world etc. Last but not least, within the context of the educational material developed in the platform, the third Module is called: "How can we tackle climate change?" and it is further divided in subcategories that cover every climate - related adaptation and mitigation action.

Others

Weaknesses

This initiative is dependent on sustained funding and public engagement, which means that its continuation could be considered unstable. Other than that, we could note that it focuses on Greece and the Mediterranean, meaning that its content is in some way too specific.

Strengths

This tool provides us with a series of comprehensive resources with strong academic backing, that are broadly accessible.

Possible adaptations

What could possibly be done, is an expansion of content, in order to include international perspectives, meaning that the content would be also translated in other languages.

Climate change

Climate change is the core subject of this initiative, with an emphasis on the promotion of relevant education and action.



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Methodologies

This tool can be really useful for integrating climate change in educational curricula. Educators could access the website of the initiative and take advantage of the useful educational resources presented. Other than that, the tools offered can be also exploited, either in order to raise awareness of the educational staff and in their own interest, or in order to make courses even more engaging and interactive for students.

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