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Climate University for Virtual Exchanges (CLUVEX) Erasmus+ project

Moderators' training & lessons learnt (WP3 on Staff Training for VE)

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Call: ERASMUS-EDU-2022-VIRT-EXCH

Type of Action: ERASMUS-LS

Project Number: 101111959

Duration: 36 months

Start Date: 01 Jul 2023



Work Package 3 (WP3) Duration: M04 – M24

Staff Training for Virtual Exchanges

WP3 Leading: TSNUK (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv)

WP3 Objectives

- to orientate and familiarize the staff members with VE concept as “nurturing Climate Messengers from students” and educate them to act as Virtual Exchange Climate University facilitators /moderators by introducing them developed online tutorials (e.g climate competencies) and digital skills
- to facilitate and carry out the trainings for teachers, assistants, administrators, IT staff of the CLUVEX partners



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WP3 Tasks (T)

- **T3.1 (M04-M15 / TSNUK+All) Training of administrators and IT staff (hybrid format)** (to arrange and carry out the training on the VE approach and tools based on output from WP-2)
- **T3.2 (M04-M21 / TSNUK+All) VE-based training for teachers and facilitators on Climate University's climate literacy for Climate Messengers (hybrid format)** (to arrange and carry out the staff training based on Climate University courses and introduce them climate competences).
- **T3.3 (M04-M24 / TSNUK+All) VE-based training for teachers and facilitators in digital co-creation for Earth science students (hybrid format) based on Climate University courses** (to arrange and carry out the training based on Climate University's climate related e-libraries, databases together with existing regional, national and international climate adaptation and mitigation programs, using different interactive materials developed).



WP3 Deliverables (D)

D3.1: Set of online tutorials/ recordings for the CLUVEX trainings and course modules

(Due Date – M12, M15, M18, Electronic format)

D3.2: Online tutorial on soft-skills development and digital didactics for VE learning

(Due Date – M24, Electronic format, 20 pages)



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CLUVEX Trainings for Moderators:

TR1 - CLUVEX concept & technical skills - 8 May 2024 (58 participants)

TR2 - Climate University MOOCs - 14 May 2024 (44 participants)

TR3 - Soft skills - 27 May 2024 (33 participants)

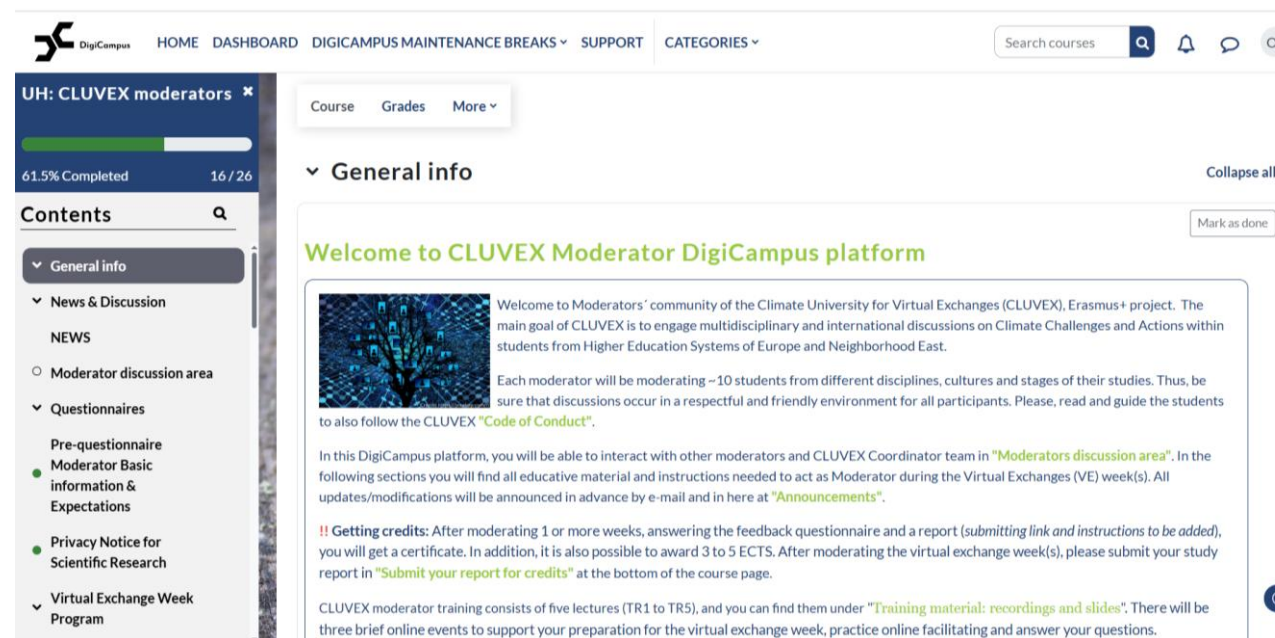
TR4 - CLUVEX handbooks & materials – 5 Sep 2024 (40 participants)

TR5 - CLUVEX group exercise “Climate Horizon” – 12 Sep 2024 (46 participants)

Extra TR#6 - Moderators-get-together - 27 Sep 2024 (34 participants)

Moderators' expectations & feedback questionnaires - Before and after the 1st VE Week

All materials are available at the DigiCampus platform (after registration)
Moderators' DigiCampus (<https://digi-campus.fi/course/view.php?id=5195>)



The screenshot shows the DigiCampus platform interface for the course 'UH: CLUVEX moderators'. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'DASHBOARD', 'DIGICAMPUS MAINTENANCE BREAKS', 'SUPPORT', and 'CATEGORIES'. A search bar and notification icons are also present. The course progress bar indicates '61.5% Completed' and '16 / 26' items. The 'Contents' sidebar lists sections: 'General info', 'News & Discussion', 'Moderator discussion area', 'Questionnaires', 'Pre-questionnaire', 'Moderator Basic information & Expectations', 'Privacy Notice for Scientific Research', and 'Virtual Exchange Week Program'. The main content area displays a 'Welcome to CLUVEX Moderator DigiCampus platform' message. The message includes a tree graphic and text explaining the course's purpose, the role of moderators, and the 'Code of Conduct'. It also mentions the 'Moderators discussion area' and 'Announcements'. A section titled '!! Getting credits:' details the requirements for earning credits, including moderating weeks, answering questionnaires, and submitting reports. The final paragraph states that the training consists of five lectures (TR1 to TR5) and three brief online events.

II VE Week (12-16 May 2025)

Moderator's registration deadline is 15 March 2025



“Moderators-get-together” in Zoom:

- TR1 - CLUVEX Introduction - 26 March at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time;
- TR2 - Climate Horizon exercise - 9 April at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time;
- TR3 - Moderators' Q&A - 30 April at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time.

The moderator trainings consist of three online training sessions and independent study materials.

Moderators' expectations & feedback questionnaires (2nd version, Julia)

1) Before the 2nd VE Week for students (Julia, Olga)

- Expectations:

<https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/130737/lomake.html>

2) After the 2nd VE Week for students (Julia, Olga)

- Feedback: <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/130741/lomake.html>

Moderators' Digicampus (<https://digicampus.fi/course/view.php?id=5195>)

- TRs 1-5 materials - All uploaded in DigiCampus & CLUVEX Google-Drive

Join the Moderators' Training Program for CLUVEX VIRTUAL EXCHANGE (VE) WEEK

The University of Helsinki coordinates the EU ERASMUS+ project “Climate University for Virtual Exchange”, CLUVEX (2023-2027), as a part of Climate University at the University of Helsinki. CLUVEX organizes an interactive, online virtual exchange week, 3 hours per day, on **Climate Change and Sustainability Science** topics for students from European and Eastern European universities mainly from Finland, Denmark, Ukraine, and Armenia.

The next CLUVEX virtual exchange week is on **May 12.-16.2025, three hours per day at 2 PM (Helsinki time, UTC+3)**. During the virtual exchange week, we will introduce and discuss the latest scientific knowledge on climate change from **multidisciplinary perspectives, from natural and social sciences and the arts**. The CLUVEX virtual exchange sessions are organized on Zoom with ~500 students. The daily meetings consist of lectures, discussions, and workshoping in small groups of ~10 students and a designated moderator. **The moderator's central role is to facilitate and guide the international and interdisciplinary interactions, workshoping, and learning in small online groups.**

Participating Moderators' training & moderating during the Virtual Exchange Week as a moderator you will...

- get an internship certificate related to your studies
- get 3-5 ECTS, given by Open University at University of Helsinki
- hone your online interaction, pedagogy and language skills in an international environment
- increase your contacts with the CLUVEX network and universities

Moderator Training on-line events on Zoom

TR1 - Introduction	26 March at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time
TR2 - Group exercise	9 April at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time
TR3 - Orientation for the week and Q&A	30 April at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time

The moderator training consist of **three online training sessions** and independent study materials.

Register here:

<https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/133241/lomakkeet.html>

Registration deadline is 15 March

After filling in the application form, you will receive email instructions on joining the course on [the Digicampus](#) online learning platform. Contact person: julia.karhumaa@helsinki.fi

More information about the virtual exchange: <https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/cluvex/>
Join the moderators' mailing list: https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/cluvex/?page_id=668



III VE Week (6-10 Oct 2025)

Moderator's registration deadline is 1 Sep 2025

“Moderators-Get-Together” in Zoom:

TR1 - CLUVEX Introduction - 8 September at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time;

TR2 - Climate Horizon exercise, Miro-board, Web-based tools, testing breakout-rooms - 15 September at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time;

TR3 - Moderators' Q&A - 22 September at 14.30 EET/Helsinki time;

Moderators' expectations & feedback questionnaires (2nd version, **Julia**)

1) **Before the 3rd VE Week** for students (**Julia, Olga**)

- Expectations: <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/130737/lomake.html> /

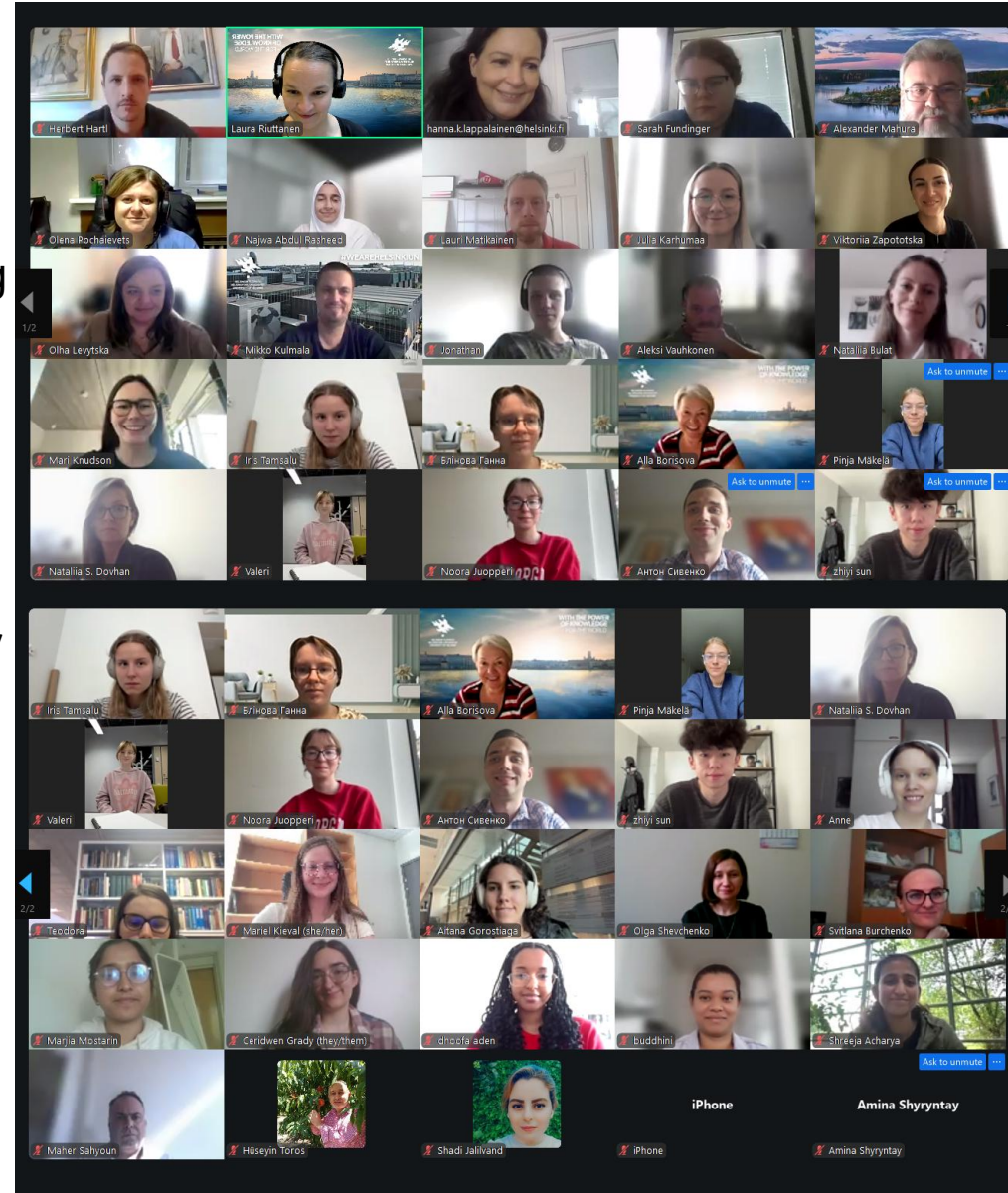
2) **After the 3rd VE Week** for students (**Julia, Olga**)

- Feedback: <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/130741/lomake.html> /

(3) 2nd Moderators' DigiCampus

(<https://digicampus.fi/course/view.php?id=5195>)

TRs 1-5 materials - All uploaded in DigiCampus & CLUVEX Google–Drive



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IV VE Week (23-27 Feb 2026)

Moderator's registration deadline is 8 Dec 2025

3 “Moderators-Get-Together” trainings in Zoom:

TR1 - CLUVEX Introduction - 10 Dec 2025 at 14.00

EET/Helsinki time;

TR2 - Climate Horizon exercise, Miro-board, Web-based tools, testing breakout-rooms - 5 Feb 2026 at 14:00 pm EET/Helsinki time);

TR3 - Moderators' Q&A - 11 Feb 2026 at 14:00 pm EET/Helsinki time).

Moderators' expectations & feedback questionnaires (2nd version, **Julia**)

(* Before the 4th VE Week for students (**Julia, Olga**)

•Expectations:

<https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/135426/lomakkeet.html>

(* After the 4th VE Week for students (**Julia, Olga**)

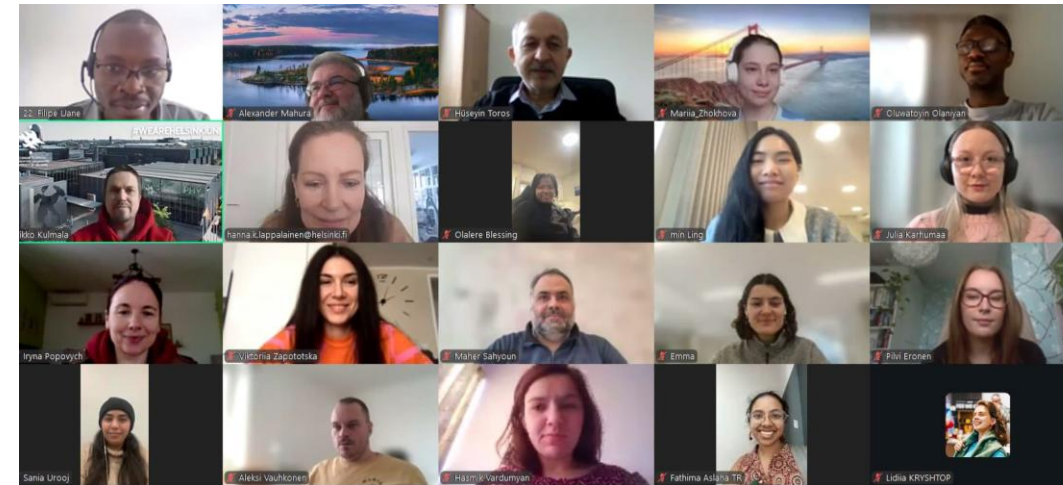
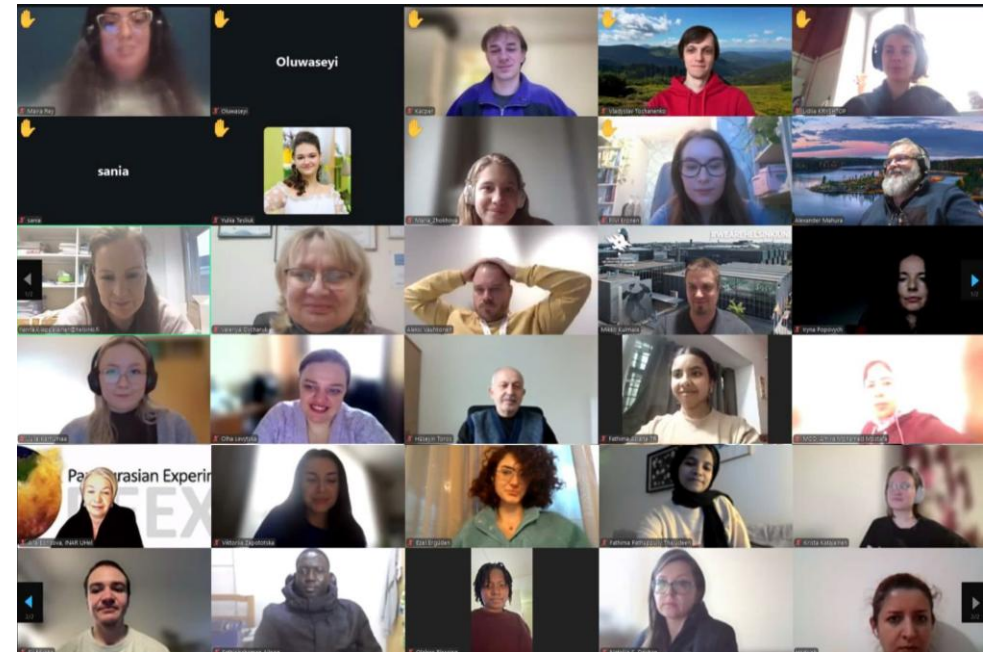
•Feedback:

<https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/135422/lomakkeet.html>

(* 4th Moderators' DigiCampus (**Julia, Aleks**)

(<https://digi-campus.fi/course/view.php?id=5195>)

•TRs 1-5 materials - All uploaded in DigiCampus & CLUVEX Google-Drive



5th VE Week (20-24 Apr 2026)

Moderator's registration deadline is 27 March 2026

3 “Moderators-Get-Together” trainings in Zoom:

TR1: CLUVEX Introduction - **30 March 2026** at 14.00 EET/Helsinki time;

TR2: Climate Horizon exercise, Miro-board, Web-based tools, testing breakout-rooms - **8 Apr 2026** at 14:00 pm EET/Helsinki time);

TR3: Moderators' Q&A - **13 Apr 2026** at 14:00 pm EET/Helsinki time).

Moderators' expectations & feedback questionnaires (**Julia**)

(*) Before the 5th VE Week for students (**Julia, Olga**)

•Expectations: <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/135426/lomake.html>

(*) After the 5th VE Week for students (**Julia, Olga**)

•Feedback: <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/139671/lomake.html>

(*) 5th Moderators' DigiCampus

<https://digi-campus.fi/course/view.php?id=7205>

TRs 1-5 materials - All uploaded in DigiCampus & CLUVEX Google–Drive

Moderators participation and completion outputs

Table. Moderator aggregate participation and completion indicators.

VEW	Pre-reg.	Certificates	Reports	ECTS	Cert./pre-reg.	Report/pre-reg.
VEW1	43	37	37	26	86.0%	86.0%
VEW2	33	33	32	32	100.0%	97.0%
VEW3	95	31	24	15	32.6%	25.3%
VEW4	37	30	19	15	81.1%	51.4%
VEW5	30	23	20	13*	76.7%	66.7%

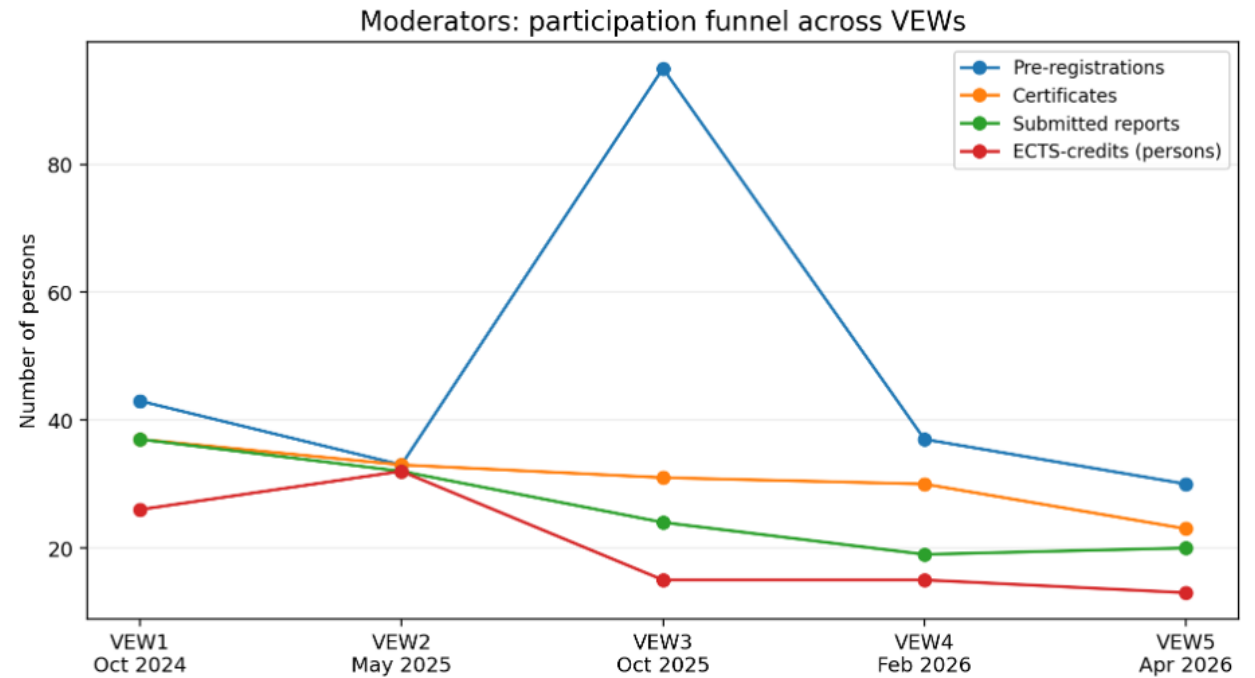


Fig. Moderator participation funnel counts by VEW.



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Trainings for moderators - lessons learned

During the moderators' teaching, we used surveys to make it possible to maintain constant feedback, identify strengths and weaknesses, and improve the moderator training.

To get moderators' feedback about trainings:

- 1) Moderators' expectations & feedback questionnaires before and after every VE Week
- 2) A survey to assess the learning outcomes/ skills
- 3) Video-interviews with 6 moderators about their opinions and impressions of the training sessions.

Trainings for moderators - lessons learned

Survey: training itself & Learning Outcomes (LOs) - self-evaluation

The web-based questionnaires for all five trainings for moderators included two parts:

the first is for evaluation of the training itself by the moderators, the second part is for self-evaluation by moderators of learning outcomes/ skills after each training is completed.

In both these parts the following scale was utilised: strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree. For each completed training for moderators, the first part included same list of questions such as:

- (1) The lecturers were supportive and open to participants;
- (2) The lecturers conducted the training excellently (clearly, sparked interest etc.);
- (3) Training materials were of excellent quality (content, layout, clarity etc.);
- (4) Information about the training was sufficient (announcement, programme, etc.);
- (5) I will recommend such training to my colleagues.

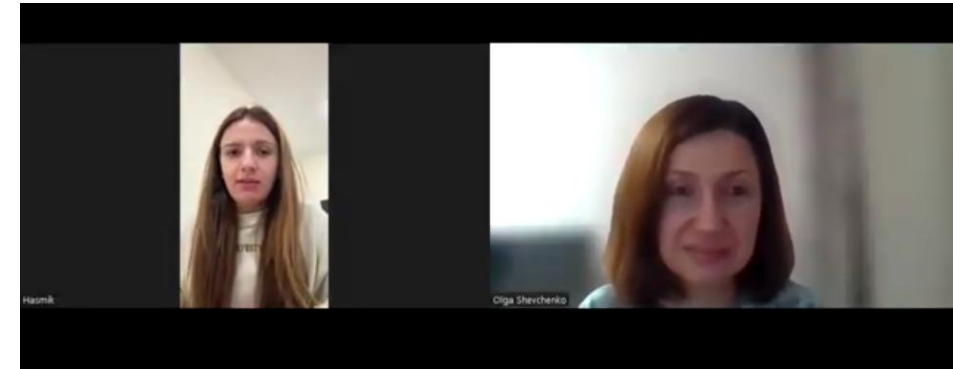
For each completed training for moderators, the second part included a different list of learning outcomes.

Before the 1 st VE Week (Oct 2024)						
	TR1	TR2	TR3	TR4	TR5	Avg
P1: Evaluation of training itself						
QN1	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
QN2	87.50	92.86	93.33	100.00	100.00	94.74
QN3	93.75	100.00	100.00	92.31	100.00	97.21
QN4	93.75	92.86	100.00	100.00	100.00	97.32
QN5	100.00	85.71	93.33	100.00	100.00	95.81
Avg	95.00	94.29	97.33	98.46	100.00	
P2: Self-evaluation LOs/ skills						
LO1	100.00	92.86	93.33	84.62	85.71	
LO2	100.00	92.86	100.00	92.31	100.00	
LO3	93.75	100.00	100.00	100.00	92.86	
LO4	100.00		100.00	92.31	92.86	
LO5	87.50				85.71	
Avg	96.25	95.24	98.33	92.31	91.43	

Interviews with moderators

Analysis of the responses from interviewed moderators showed that the training provided a good foundation, although the depth of learning varied.

- Some found them **sufficient**; others relied on prior knowledge or self-study. Overall, **moderators felt capable of guiding students**, though confidence levels differed.
- Moderators with **climate backgrounds found it easier**, while others needed extra preparation.
- **Most did not need extra materials** beyond the arranged trainings, though some revisited DigiCampus for reassurance or clarification. The majority felt the training's content was enough. Although in general, the trainings were accessible and useful for moderators, the ERA5 climatology, socio-economic indicators, World Bank Data, technical details, and connections to future climate scenarios, and Climate Horizon exercise description were commonly mentioned in the moderators' answers as confusing and needed more clarification and explanation in instructions for exercise and tools navigation.
- Among the **most important items/topics** for a moderator to know before a VE Week were listed **understanding the materials** and tools thoroughly, **the ability to guide discussions** and manage group dynamics, **possessing soft skills**, and balancing technical knowledge with communication skills.
- **Most valuable** knowledge, skills, and experience **for the future** gained by moderators during the trainings are **leadership and group management skills**, **communication** skills (explaining climate concepts to non-specialists), experience with **digital platforms/tools** and **cross-cultural collaboration experience**. These were seen as transferable to careers, teaching, and future international projects.



Challenges of moderators' training and suggestions for improvement

Feedback collected after the training provided valuable insights into both its strengths and areas requiring further improvement, contributing to the refinement of future training activities.

In particular, analysis of the feedback on the moderators' trainings highlighted areas for improvement (list below as Cons), particularly in the familiarisation with tools, practical preparation, and depth and effectiveness of discussions working online in groups in breakout rooms.

Cons 1: Comprehensive introduction to the tools utilised in VE Week. While the training included some guidance, participants noted that not all were practiced enough, leaving moderators less confident in their usage during VE Week. Specifically, collaboration Miro-board required more hands-on preparation to ensure effective facilitation later.

To address this issue, more time including self-education was devoted to practice with e-platforms (such as Zoom, Miro, and DigiCampus) as well as web-based tools for climate related data visualisation, analysis, and interpretation.

Cons 2: Limited connection between the training content and the topics covered in lectures. Participants suggested that the training could benefit from integrating lectures' topics to better prepare moderators for discussions. Familiarity with the lecture content would enable moderators to engage more effectively with participants and facilitate meaningful dialogue.

To address this issue, the CLG guidebook included instructions for the Climate Horizon exercise and lists of questions related to the lectures topics as well as slides of lectures and video-recordings available in the DigiCampus area for moderators.

Cons 3: Concerns about the social and communication skills of moderators. Participants mentioned that some moderators were less active than expected. This could hinder their ability to lead discussions in groups of students effectively.

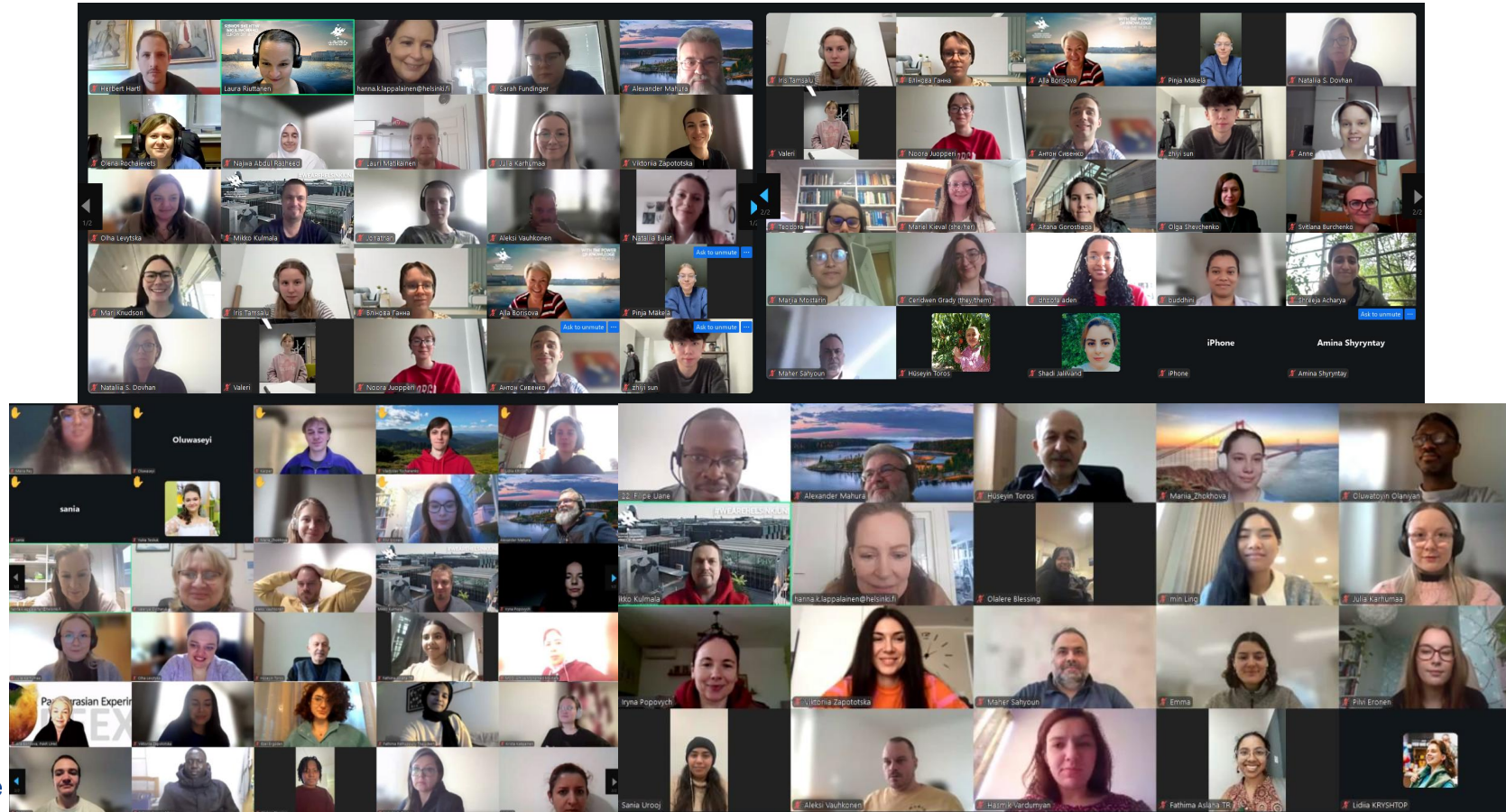
To address this issue, during training the encouragement of moderators attention was paid to develop more stronger social and facilitation skills through targeted practicing.

Cons 4: Critics on structure of the training sessions. Some participants found repetitiveness of trainings, and group discussion prompted overly simplistic and difficult to foster engaging conversations.

To address this issue, it was suggested to incorporate more in-depth content related to lecture topics, provide advanced training on tools, and to design group activities on Climate Horizon exercises that are more challenging and relevant.

Moderators' training: lessons learnt

- The results showed that online trainings for moderators is a highly effective method and offers many advantages. It can be used for international teams when people are located and work in different countries.
- The use of online learning platforms (such as DigiCampus) enables asynchronous learning at a convenient flexible time.
- The development of manuals and guidebooks, and availability of lectures, web-based tools, their recorded videos and demonstrations, expands opportunities for self-learning and enhances the effectiveness of trainings.
- Usage of surveys makes it possible to maintain constant feedback, identify strengths and weaknesses, and improve the moderator training. Thus, the methodology developed and applied for training of moderators has significant prospects for further wide application in VEs.



Extra task – paper about moderators’ trainings May & Sep 2024 into peer-reviewed journal

The draft of the paper

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Tr88wjKHV50_IF7obmrSJpxtXDcy6jSs/edit

Questionnaires for evaluation of trainings & self-evaluation of learning skills/outcomes:

- 1st training --- <https://forms.office.com/e/Yarfmnr4e8>
- 2nd training --- <https://forms.office.com/e/PENC7mgizB>
- 3rd training --- <https://forms.office.com/e/RmbgGDLXsM>
- 4th training --- <https://forms.office.com/e/yNmVVPnYF0>
- 5th training --- <https://forms.office.com/e/c7yL9PmZW7>

Interviews (+transkripts) for the moderators (6 in total)

- from Armenia, Denmark, Finland and Ukraine
- list of questions - prepared
- interviews - done (6 interviews were conducted (with moderators - 2 UKR, 2 FI, 1 AM, 1 DK)

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 - 3.5. Climate Horizon exercise and web-based tools for climate-related data analysis
4. Guidebooks
 - 4.1. VEG
 - 4.2. CLG
 - 4.3. CMC
5. Tools for climate-related data analysis
 - 5.1. ERA5-PCE
 - 5.2. SSPs
 - 5.3. IPCC Web-Atlas
6. Moderators’s education (trainings) and work
 - 6.1. Cons and pros
 - 6.2. Evaluation moderators (questionnaire + interviews)
7. Conclusions
8. Acknowledgements
9. References
10. Supplementary materials (links to publicly available docs – slides & video-recordings)



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