AFECO

EMPOWERING OLDER ADULTS TO APPLY AFFORDABLE ECO- AND AGE-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS TO AGE IN PLACE

Newsletter #5 | May 2025

AFECO PROJECT COMES TO A CLOSE

The **AFECO project will officially reach its end on the 31st of May**, marking the end of a rich and inspiring collaboration.

Throughout the project, we have developed a new learning programme alongside a digital learning place. Each partner organisation conducted co-creation meetings in their respective countries, followed by validation sessions to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the content and of the platform. As a result, the learning platform is now ready to showcase age-friendly, eco-friendly, and affordable solutions that support ageing in place.

While we conclude the AFECO activities, we are actively working on ensuring the sustainability of the project. Our goal is to make its outcomes, resources, and networks accessible to a wider public, so they can continue to inspire action across Europe and beyond.

Thanks for reading and following along!

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

AFECO AT VILNIUS TRAINING SCHOOL ON PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES WITH OLDER ADULTS

In March 2025, AFECO's participatory approaches with older adults were presented at the Training School in Vilnius, Lithuania, organised by COST Action PAAR-Net.

Willeke van Staalduinen, AFECO coordinator, shared AFECO's co-creation methods, results, and lessons learned. This session drew on experiences from co-creation activities involving over 120 older adults and 60 caregivers across six European countries.

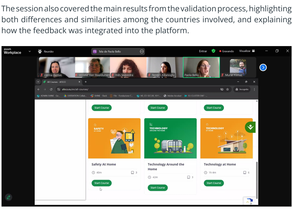
Read more **here**.

AFECO LEARNING PLACE – VALIDATED IN ALL PARTNER COUNTRIES

Between February and March 2025, the AFECO consortium carried out the **validation of the AFECO Learning Place**. The process involved older adults (65+), carers, healthcare professionals, educators, and trainers in lifelong learning.

The validation took place in two rounds: the distribution of two questionnaires (one directed at the learners and one at the trainers) aimed at collecting quantitative feedback in relation to the accessibility of the training contents and the platform, and a focus group with learners and trainers, to collect qualitative data on the integrability/applicability in the living environment and daily life of older people.

The insights gathered were used to fine-tune the platform before its final release, ensuring its accessibility, usability, and real-life applicability.



LAST AFECO TPM IN TREVISO

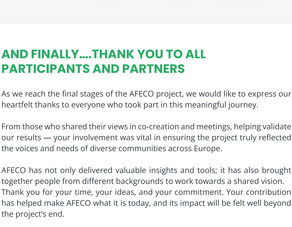
In April 2025, the AFECO consortium met in Treviso, Italy, and online, for the last Transnational Project Meeting (TPM). The meeting brought together partners to share updates and coordinate the final steps ahead of the AFECO Learning Place finalisation.

Discussions focused on the development of the Learning Place, which has been improved based on feedback from validation sessions with local communities. These inputs were key to enhancing the platform's user experience.

The partners also discussed the sustainability of the project's outcomes and explored possibilities for future collaboration.

The meeting provided space for broader reflection on topics such as the link between environmental and social policies, challenges in reaching specific groups, and the importance of mutual learning in shaping age- and eco-friendly policies.

Read the full article **here**.

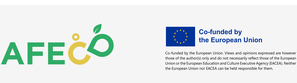


AFECO FINAL WEBINAR

On 16th May 2025, the AFECO consortium held its final webinar, "Empowering older adults to apply affordable age- and eco-friendly solutions to age in place".

During the webinar, the consortium presented the online learning platform, which had been tested and validated by over 100 older adults and trainers from six European countries.

The session also covered the main results from the validation process, highlighting both differences and similarities among the countries involved, and explaining how the feedback was integrated into the platform.



WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

AFECO LEARNING PLACE: NOW LIVE!

The AFECO learning place has now been finalised and it is available in seven languages.

The learning place, available **here**, offers the opportunity for older adults, caregivers, and community professionals to explore practical, affordable solutions for creating age- and eco-friendly living environments. It includes interactive learning modules, real-life examples, and guidance tailored to support independent and sustainable living across diverse European contexts.

In addition, users will be able to receive a tailored learning path based on the results of a short survey.

AND FINALLY….THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS

As we reach the final stages of the AFECO project, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part in this meaningful journey.

From those who shared their views in co-creation and meetings, helping validate our results — your involvement was vital in ensuring the project truly reflected the voices and needs of diverse communities across Europe.

AFECO has not only delivered valuable insights and tools; it has also brought together people from different backgrounds to work towards a shared vision. Thank you for your time, your ideas, and your commitment. Your contribution has helped make AFECO what it is today, and its impact will be felt well beyond the project's end.

Meet all the partners here.

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WHO WE ARE

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