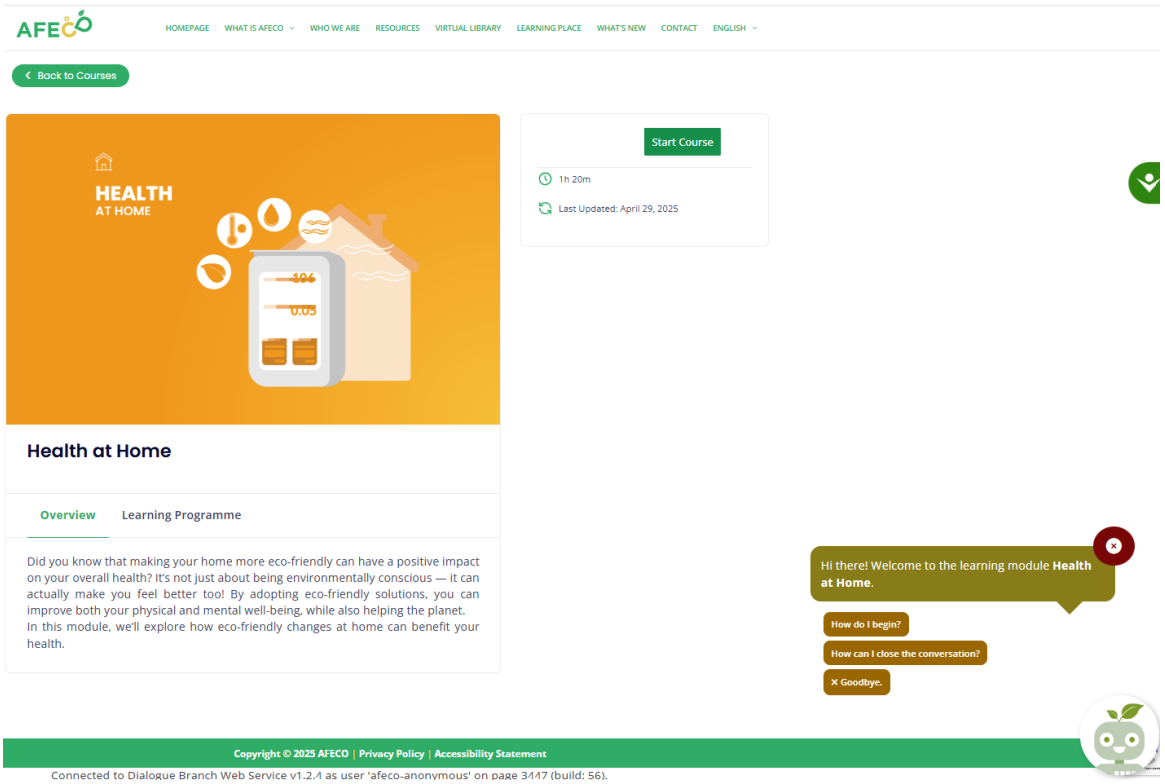
Virtual Assistant AFECO - Alfi

Access to the dialogues

According to the proposal for AFECO, the digital learning platform would contain a virtual assistant (VA) to guide the learners. Alfi should be especially beneficial for learners who are not used to use the internet to follow a learning course. To fulfil the task of the VA, partner SHINE 2Europe developed it and made it accessible on the AFECO website. During the TPM in Wroclaw (PL), the consortium discussed and decided, after a poll, to call the VA – “Alfi”. During the co-creation and validation phases of the AFECO project, the learners (older adults, trainers and caregivers) indicated different experiences with Alfi: at first, they could not find him, and later, they did not know how to close him because he was quite present. All these issues have been solved, and Alfi is presented now in his final form.



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The functionality of Alfi is in summary as follows:

- Alfi welcomes the learner
- He explains how to start a course or to do the survey to match the interest of the learner first
- He provides technical information on how to go through the courses, close them or saving the progress
- He provides extra reading tips
- He opens the door to the assessment quizzes.

Access to the dialogues

The dialogues of Alfi are created using the open source Dialogue Branch platform (www.dialoguebranch.com) and were first authored in English and then translated into six other languages: Dutch, Italian, Greek, Polish, Portuguese and German. The English "dialogue scripts" contain all the logic of how the interactive conversations flow between the user and Alfi. These scripts are then paired with translation files (.json files) that contain handmade translations of all the things that Alfi can say, and all the "reply options" that users have. These dialogues can thus be considered a form of code or script. Therefore, we have decided to host this code on the popular software hosting platform GitHub (www.github.com). Our partner SHINE 2Europe has created a GitHub organisation, and then an open repository under which all the dialogue source files and translations can be found. These can be found through the links below:

Access:

- AFECO dialogues: https://github.com/SHINE2Europe/afeco-dialogues
- AFECO release of the dialogues (May 2025): https://github.com/SHINE2Europe/afeco-dialogues/releases/tag/v1.0.0

The core modules containing the main learning materials of AFECO in all languages are saved in separate PDF files and uploaded to the Erasmus+ Results Platform.