



The project *Language Buddy - Supporting language learning of migrant children and young adults through language buddies*, co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021-2027) of the European Commission, will address the issue of language learning in a consistent and holistic way in the following partner countries: Greece, Austria, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Malta, Romania and Bulgaria.

The Language Buddy project aims at enhancing the language learning of students (12 to 17 years old) with a refugee/migrant background through non-formal and informal learning through the upscaling of mentoring practices and implementation of a buddy system.

Apart from linguistic support, this buddy system will enable pupils to gain a better understanding of the culture and education system of the society in a safe environment where their culture is also valued, as well as possibly motivate the continuation of their studies. At the same time, it will help the HEI students develop their intercultural skills, thus contributing to enhancing their knowledge and open-mindedness much needed to work in multicultural educational environments.

The project duration is 30 months (1 March 2024 - 31 August 2026).



Activities

The project's starting point is the identification of best practices regarding mentoring and buddy system initiatives, co-design workshops and peer learning workshops. These activities will lead to the Language Buddy Model that will be applied through the establishment of Language Buddy systems in HEIs, the development of an online course and e-platform, as well as transnational and national training of students. The mentors will be matched with mentees and 4-6-month buddy sessions will take place, leading to the finalization of the Language Buddy Model. National digital roundtables with key stakeholders will also inform recommendations, leading to one contextualized Policy Recommendations Report per country to be used for the Language Buddy Model's mainstreaming at national level.



Target groups

National level: Migrants students; university students; migrants organisations; schools, universities and education organisations; local and regional institutions.

EU level: stakeholders and decision makers at EU level; EU CSO's; EU educational organisations.



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Pillars

PILLAR 1

Upscale buddy/mentoring systems with a language-learning component for young people with a migrant background

- Review of existing best practices and effective tools
- Co-design of the Language Buddy Model
- Development of the Language Buddy Model

PILLAR 2

Build the skills of Higher Education students on innovative learning methodologies, intercultural pedagogy and language development

- Establishment of Language Buddy system in HEIs
- Development of online course for HEI students
- Transnational Language Buddy Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop
- Training of HEI students

PILLAR 3

Enhance access of young people with a migrant background to nonformal/informal language learning opportunities

- Piloting of the Language Buddy system with pupils with a migrant background
- Evaluation of the pilots and development of the Language Buddy Model 2.0
- Policy recommendations for the mainstreaming of the Language Buddy Model

PILLAR 4

Enhance cooperation between Higher Education Institutions, migrant-led organisations, schools, NGOs, local/regional education authorities for the support of young migrants' language learning

Partners

The Consortium, led by the University of Macedonia, consists of 16 organisations 8 CSOs, 7 Universities, 1 directorate of education and take place in 8 European countries: Greece, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, Malta and Austria.

University of Macedonia (Lead partner) (EL), Symplexis (EL), Periferiaki Dieftinsini Protovathmias And Defterov (EL), Universidade Catolica Portuguesa (PT), Casa Do Professor (PT), BildungsLAB - Hands&Minds Learningcenter (AT), Sdruzhenie Multi Kulti Kolektiv (BG), Migrant Integration Center Brasov (Asociatia Romana Pentru Promovareacalitatii Si Practicilor De Succes) (RO), Cospe (IT), Solidarity And Overseas Service Malta (SOS Malta) (MT), AEA Ltd (MT), Universitatea Transilvania Din Brasov (RO), University Of National And World Economy (BG), Peñascal S.Coop. (ES), Università Degli Studi Di Firenze (IT), UPV Universidad Del Pais Vasco/ Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (ES)



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