



# Press Release

Date: January 17, 2025

## The Language Buddy project has successfully concluded UoM’s participation in Task 3.1 under Work Package 3: “Establishment of the Language Buddy System in HEIs”.

Under the coordination of Advenio eAcademy as Work Package 3 Leaders, the Language Buddy programme held in Greece a launch event that was organized by the University of Macedonia.

The event aimed to introduce the Language Buddy Program and its implementation to educators, academics, NGOs, and community members, with a primary focus on inviting HEI students to participate as mentors. More broadly, the discussions addressed the challenges faced by children with migrant or refugee backgrounds in language learning, emphasizing an inclusive approach. There was also an emphasis to present opportunities for students of UoM (and not only, as students from other Universities of Thessaloniki were present as well) to participate in the mentorship program and other project activities.

The event attracted over 90 participants, including public authorities, students, academic representatives, and local citizen community members. Attendees actively engaged in discussions, shared their experiences, and expressed strong commitment to the project’s objectives. Overall, the event lasted more than 4 hours with seven different talks.

Promotion for the Launch Event included brochures, social media posts, announcements on the University’s official e-learning platform (Open E-Class-UoM), and an open call published on the University of Macedonia’s website.



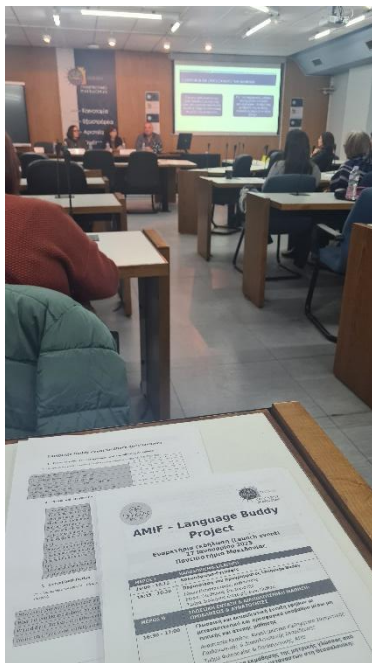
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Some photos from the event

Feedback received included the following:



- Attendees of the launch event expressed enthusiasm for the topics discussed, highlighting the importance of an inclusive approach in language learning.
- Participants praised the event's organization, including the coordination of speakers, effective time management, and the avoidance of delays.
- Educators and higher education institution (HEI) students showed interest in intercultural education, particularly emphasizing the challenges faced by teenagers.
- Some HEI students expressed interest in participating in the mentor sessions.
- HEI students raised questions about the structure and duration of the mentor sessions, as well as the process of working with mentees.
- Additional questions focused on the qualifications required to participate in the Language Buddy program.
- There were inquiries about the possibility of conducting mentor-mentee meetings entirely online.

The launch event in Greece, held at the University of Macedonia, was a notable success, characterized by excellent organization, meaningful knowledge exchange, and strong participation from HEI students, academics, NGOs, and community members. The event proceeded smoothly, adhering to the agenda while fostering engaging interactions.

Overall, attendees expressed strong interest in the objectives of the Language Buddy Program and demonstrated enthusiasm for contributing to its implementation.

### Contact details:

To learn more about the Buddy Language Project, its partnership, objectives, and the main expected results, please, visit the projects website at: <https://www.languagebuddy.eu/>.



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