



HANDS & MINDS LEARNING CENTER

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Press Release

Date: 08/01/2026 -

Austria's Language Buddy Team is Complete:

50 Mentors Trained and Ready to Support Migrant Youths

Successful completion of EU-wide online training programme – mentee matching phase begins January 2026

Vienna, Austria – BildungsLAB, Austria proudly announces the successful completion of the **first national mentor intake** for the EU-funded *Language Buddy* project.

As of December 2025, **50 mentors have completed the official Language Buddy Online Training Programme**, marking a major milestone for Austria within this Europe-wide initiative.

Developed under the AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL funding framework, the Language Buddy project empowers **students and young professionals** to become trained mentors for youth with migrant backgrounds. With their training now complete, Austria's newly certified mentors will begin the **mentee-matching process in mid-January 2026**, supporting a new generation of migrant teenagers in language learning, integration, and personal development.

Inclusive Training Across Disciplines and Cultures

The training course was delivered online through the *Open Learning* e-platform, coordinated by **Advenio eAcademy**, and featured **eight interactive modules** combining theoretical foundations, reflective learning, and peer exchange.

Led by national facilitator and mentor coordinator **Jürgen Schroeder**, the Austrian intake engaged **59 registered participants**, with 50 officially completing the required components and receiving certification.

Participants came from diverse academic and professional backgrounds – including **humanities**,



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biological sciences, social work, business, game design, and media – and represented a broad multicultural spectrum: students from Austria, Turkey, Germany, Bulgaria, Russia, Hungary, and Vietnam currently living in Austria. This diversity echoes the programme's core values of **inclusivity, empowerment, and intercultural dialogue**.

Mentor Voices: Practical Value Meets Personal Growth

Feedback from participants highlighted the **practical relevance** of the course, particularly its strong focus on intercultural communication and youth mentoring strategies. Many reported that the training broadened their understanding of migration challenges and sharpened their ability to support others empathetically and effectively.

Next Phase: Matching 50 Mentors with 50 Young Mentees

The next major milestone will take place in **January 2026**, when the Austrian team will begin pairing its certified mentors with **50 young people aged 14–17** from migrant communities across the country. These mentees will benefit from **weekly mentoring sessions**, role modelling, language support, and a deeper sense of social belonging.

About the Project

Language Buddy is a transnational project coordinated by a European consortium of universities, NGOs, and digital education providers. It aims to establish a sustainable **mentoring system within Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** to support integration, empowerment, and digital inclusion for youth with migration backgrounds.

The project is co-funded by the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)** of the European Union.

More information:

 www.languagebuddy.eu

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