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# University of Macedonia Announces Successful Completion of Innovative EU-Funded ‘Language Buddy’ Online Course

The University of Macedonia has successfully concluded the Greek implementation of the pioneering Language Buddy Online Course. This initiative is a core component of the EU-funded Language Buddy Project (AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL), under Work Package 3, which focuses on establishing a **sustainable Language Buddy System within Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across Europe.**

Designed to equip university students with essential mentoring, intercultural communication, and language support skills, the course prepares them to ***assist migrants and youths in their social and cultural integration***. The training was delivered via the project eLearning platform, featuring eight interactive modules that blended theoretical knowledge with reflective activities and collaborative peer forums.

**In Greece**, the program's first intake attracted strong engagement, with over 58 students, with a dynamic mix of young adults, primarily aged 20-30, alongside several lifelong learners,



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reflecting broad appeal. Participants came from diverse academic fields such as Education, Pedagogy, Psychology, and Special Education, fostering a rich, multidisciplinary learning environment.

## Overwhelmingly Positive Participant Feedback

Post-course evaluations revealed exceptionally high levels of participant satisfaction and perceived value:

- 93.75% of participants agreed the course materials were informative, relevant, and practically useful.
- 100% of respondents reported being either Satisfied (68.75%) or Extremely Satisfied (31.25%) with their overall experience.
- 87.5% found the eLearning platform user-friendly and easy to navigate.

Participants particularly praised the course's interactive design, rich educational content, and practical orientation. The Greek support team received notable commendation for their professionalism and constant availability, with one participant stating, *"The coordinators were by our side throughout the entire duration of the course, which motivated us to continue and successfully complete our training."*

## Commitment to Continuous Improvement

While feedback was overwhelmingly positive, participants also provided constructive suggestions for future iterations, including enhancing opportunities for direct cross-cultural



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**DIRECTORATE OF PRIMARY AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION OF  
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exchange, increasing interactive quiz elements, and adding platform navigation guides for new users. These insights will directly inform the ongoing development of the program.

## Expert Leadership and Collaborative Execution

The Greek implementation was led by Professor Anastasia Psalti/ University of Macedonia, who provided scientific supervision. She worked closely with Mrs. Anthi Psoma, who coordinated mentorship and participant engagement. The team also included mentors Mrs. Chrysa Strouni and Mrs. Aurela Hoxha, ensuring consistent support.

## A Model for European Higher Education

The successful deployment of the Language Buddy Online Course in Greece marks a significant milestone in creating a scalable, effective model for peer-to-peer support within universities. By empowering students as mentors, the project strengthens social cohesion and actively supports the integration of migrants and youth across Europe.

### ***About the Language Buddy Project:***

*Funded by the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Language Buddy Project aims to foster inclusive societies by building capacity within Higher Education Institutions through training and system development, by preparing students to provide linguistic, cultural, and social support to migrant and refugee pupils.*



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The screenshot displays a video conference interface on the left and an online course interface on the right. The video conference shows four participants: Anthi Psoma (UoM), Anastasia Psalti (UoM), and two others. The online course interface is for the 'AMIF Language Buddy Online Course' and shows the course structure and completion status.

**For further information, please contact:**

Anastasia Psalti, Professor

University of Macedonia

Email: [psalti.an@uom.edu.gr](mailto:psalti.an@uom.edu.gr)

Anthi Psoma, Ph.D. student

University of Macedonia

Email: [anthipsm@uom.edu.gr](mailto:anthipsm@uom.edu.gr)



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