

PRESS RELEASE

Language Buddy: a linguistic bridge for educational inclusion of migrant youth in Europe

Language Buddy is a European project co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union, promoting the educational and social inclusion of young migrants and refugees through language learning and intercultural mentoring.

Running from 2024 to 2026, the project brings together 15 organisations from eight European countries – universities, NGOs, and education authorities – to implement the Language Buddy Model: a mentoring system linking university students in education, pedagogy, or language studies with secondary school students of migrant background.

Project objectives

- **Promote the linguistic, social and cultural inclusion** of young migrants and refugees aged 12–17.
- **Train over 350 university students** as mentors (“buddies”) equipped with intercultural and pedagogical skills.
- **Strengthen cooperation** between universities, schools, NGOs and public authorities in inclusive education.
- **Develop an innovative digital platform** to support mentoring, learning resources and best practice exchange.
- **Create evidence-based recommendations for integrating the Language Buddy Model** into European education systems.

European training for mentors

As part of the initiative, Advenio eAcademy (Malta) has launched the Language Buddy Mentoring Course, available on the [OpenLearning platform](#). The course includes eight modules covering:

1. Intercultural Understanding and Dialogue in Education
2. Principles of Critical and Social Pedagogy
3. The Role of Family and Overcoming Language Barriers
4. Innovative Language Learning Tools
5. Art as a Tool for Intercultural Dialogue and Language Learning
6. Observation, Documentation and Self-Assessment
7. The Language Buddy Model and its Implementation in HEIs
8. How to Organize a Language Buddy Session using the e-Platform

Participants receive a Certificate of Participation recognised by the international consortium.

A strong European partnership

Coordinated by the University of Macedonia (Greece), the project involves partners from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Austria, Romania, and Bulgaria, including Symplexis, Advenio eAcademy, Peñascal S. Coop., Casa do Professor, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, COSPE, UTBV, MKC, and BLAB.


Next steps

Pilot programmes will be carried out in 2025 across the eight countries, engaging over 350 university students and 350 migrant youth. The Final European Conference in 2026 will share results and recommendations for policy adoption across Europe.



For more information:

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