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Press Release

The team from the Catholic University of Portugal in Braga, in collaboration with consortium partners under the EU-funded Language Buddy Project (AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL), invested persistently and resiliently in promoting the course among students between the months of June and September. The Portuguese team managed to enroll 63 students, 50 of those 63 successfully completed the implementation of the Language Buddy Online Course as part of Work Package 3 – Establishment of the Language Buddy System in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The online training programme was designed and developed by the consortium partners to equip higher education students with mentoring, intercultural communication, and language support skills to assist migrants and youths in their integration journey. The online course was delivered through the eLearning platform provided by Advenio eAcademy. The course featured eight subject modules, combining theory, reflective activities, and forum sections to promote peer collaboration.

In Portugal, there were more than sixty course registrations, but only sixty remained valid till the end of the course, once 3 students dropped out of the course.

The Portuguese participants represented a diverse and motivated cohort of 60 students, aged between 18 and 67, with an average age of 31. Their academic backgrounds included studies in Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, and other university-level fields, mainly from the Catholic University of Portugal in Braga, as well as from the University of Minho and UTAD. Some participants had prior experience working with migrant or refugee communities, reflecting an awareness of intercultural communication and social inclusion.

Their participation in the course demonstrates strong engagement and commitment to the objectives of the Language Buddy project. As mentioned a total of 50 students successfully completed all the required components of the online training and were awarded a Certificate of Completion, recognising their achievement in the AMIF Language Buddy Online Training Course.

The feedback from Portuguese participants was generally very positive:

- 100% of students agreed that the course met or exceeded their expectations.
- 100% found the content interesting and educational.
- 95% rated the e-learning platform as user-friendly and easy to navigate, while 5% reported a neutral experience.

The vast majority expressed satisfaction with the professionalism and support of both the Portuguese coordination team and the Maltese coordinators.



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Participants particularly appreciated the flexibility, structure, and intercultural focus of the course, emphasising how it enhanced their understanding of mentoring and inclusion. However, several participants also shared constructive feedback to improve future editions of the course. Less positive remarks mainly referred to practical aspects such as limited time to complete activities, technical issues, and the structure of some materials. Examples of comments included:

- “The platform occasionally froze.”
- “I think the time allocated for a course of this dimension is too short, especially considering the complexity of some content.”
- “Some content was too theoretical, and a few exercises became somewhat repetitive.”
- “Certain course tasks did not seem to make much sense or were confusing.”
- “Some lessons were too long.”
- “A few exercises felt redundant.”
- “Too little time to answer the questions.”
- “Suggestion: include listening exercises. Overall, it was an excellent experience!”

Overall, students regarded the course as a meaningful and enriching learning opportunity that contributed to both their academic and personal development.

National facilitator Researcher Raquel Rodrigues led the online tutorial sessions, ensuring students received academic and technical support throughout (these sessions took place on the 24th, 25th, 26th, 29th of September and on the 8th of October). Moreover, throughout the entire duration of the course, the researcher Raquel Rodrigues was available on a daily basis to closely support all the students enrolled in the course, maintaining regular contact with the rest of the Portuguese team as well as with her colleagues from the Maltese team. The training concluded with students earning their Language Buddy Certificates, preparing them to mentor young migrants in the next phase of the Language Buddy project.

The screenshots below were taken during the first online tutorial session which took place in 22nd of September of 2025. The session was led by the Pro-Rector Professor Paulo Dias and the Researcher Raquel Rodrigues from the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Catholic University of Portugal in Braga, with the presence and collaboration of Isabel Vieira from Casa do Professor.



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Anúncio Como parte de uma atualização recente, algumas Equipas que possa ter ocultado anteriormente estão agora visíveis novamente. Se preferir não vê-las, pode ocultá-las facilmente na sua vista do Teams.

September 2025 17:00 - 18:00 [Parte 1](#) [Parte 2](#) [Parte 3](#)

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AMIF - O Projeto Language Buddy

Curso Online Intensivo

Setembro de 2025

Partners: symplexis, UNIVERSIDADE CATOLICA PORTUGUESA, casadoprofessor, b!dungSLAB, Multii!luX, ceospe, SOS, Advenio eAcademy, Peñascal

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September 2025 17:00 - 18:00 [Parte 1](#) [Parte 2](#) [Parte 3](#)

Participants: Isabel Vieira, Damiana Cristina Gonçalves Ribeiro, Beatriz Costa, Angela Macedo, Paulo César Azevedo Dias, Anna Silva, Raquel Monteiro, Jose Silva



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