



# Language Voices Newsletter

Winter  
2018

## Kicking-off The Language Voices Erasmus+ project in Helsinki in September 2017

The Language Voices project is an Erasmus+-funded project running from 2017 to 2019 and it aims to improve and facilitate the access of migrants to second language studies as well as social connections through participation in Language Voices language cafés, which are informal meetings based on voluntariness but also systematically organised. The concept is based on the Café Lingua language café in Helsinki, which is a multilingual event with both migrants and Finns, where people gather to practice speaking languages and to teach their own in exchange. The event has been running successfully for a decade. The migrants gain access to social, informal environments of the resident country while integrating into a community of learners and tutors, which is often a key success factor in establishing a quality life in a new country.

The project will provide a preparatory training and handbook so that the multilingual Language Voices concept can easily and successfully be replicated throughout the EU or anywhere else in the world; a comprehensive material bank with language learning and cultural material and resources and a possibility for online communication and language exchange; a mobile application to find language exchange events available in the partner countries and a Language Voices association registered in Finland to carry on the activities. One of the main aims is for the partners from six countries – Finland (coordinator), Sweden, The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Turkey – organise and run a language café in their respective cities. The event can be open to all or more specially targeted for migrants, for example.

## LANGUAGE VOICES

A new language cafe  
project in Europe





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In the kick-off meeting in Helsinki, Finland, in September 2017 the partners from the project countries met and got to know each other, agreed on the timetable and administration and some practical arrangements for starting the language cafes locally. They also received training in establishing the cafes and material creation, provided by the Finnish partners who have experience running Café Lingua language café in Helsinki for a decade.

The next steps are doing some research into the needs of especially migrants in terms of language learning and material in the project countries, as well as best practices in the partner countries and regions in terms of other language cafes and events. The partners will also prepare some material to be used when they pilot the language cafes, such as picture cards and discussion cards, culture quizzes, words or phrases based on local culture etc. Many of the flashcards can be created online or using templates created for the project and will be available on the project website for everyone to use. The partners will also start the preparations to make language cafes in their respective cities.



**Please see our project website** [languagevoices.eu](http://languagevoices.eu) for more news  
and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/languagevoices/> and Twitter @language\_voices



This is an Erasmus+ international project