

# LANGUAGE VOICES

A new language cafe project in Europe



Language Voices is a project for improving and facilitation access to second language studies and opportunities for migrants through participation in Language Voices language cafés, which are informal meetings based on voluntariness but also systematically organised. The concept is modelled after the Cafe Lingua in Helsinki language cafe, which has been running for more than ten years in Helsinki and is well known in the capital area. There are 60-80 participants or even more every week.



The project aims to provide a handbook and training material in order to replicate the multilingual Language Voices concept within EU countries or anywhere in the world, as well as a comprehensive material bank of cultural and language material that are easy to use in language cafes, such as picture cards and discussion cards, culture quizzes, words or phrases based on local culture etc. The purpose of the material is not only to help the migrants learn the native language of their new home country but also to provide topics of discussion and helping with socialising and getting to know the other participants – who can be both local people or migrants. Depending on the organisation hosting or organising the meeting, the language cafes can be open for all or for a specific group. The partner countries are Finland (coordinator), Sweden, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Turkey and Spain, who will start language cafes in their respective cities.

In addition, we will be providing a mobile application for finding language exchange events in the partner countries, which will make it easy for new migrants to discover any language cafes or other similar events happening close to their area.

The project had a successful and efficient kick-off meeting in Helsinki in September 2017, with partners getting to know each other and agreeing 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.



**Coming soon:** our project website [www.languagevoices.eu](http://www.languagevoices.eu)

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/languagevoices/>  
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