



WP3 TRAINING COURSE FOR BRIDGE  
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE  
ANIMATEURS





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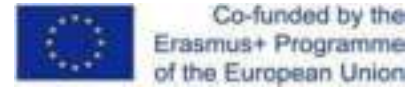


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## Introduction

The BRIDGE project aims to integrate migrants already permanently resident in Europe: women and men who live in our cities and suburbs, who have children in our schools and who need to communicate in the most common situations of everyday life but are unable to do so because they don't speak our language. While newly arrived migrants are immediately included in integration programs where language teaching is compulsory, some of those who have lived in Europe for a long time are now forgotten and have become "invisible" to the reception system.

The BRIDGE project is addressed to them, through informal language teaching methods based on a "language club" model. To better support the integration process through language clubs, **BRIDGE will create a new professional figure, the "Language and culture animateur"**, an innovative skill set combining language teaching skills with competences typical of social animateurs and inter-cultural mediators, thus offering a very innovative professional free training opportunity.



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**Good luck from the BRIDGE team!**



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## Who is a Language and Culture Animateur?

The “**Language & Culture Animateur**” can be thought of as a social and cultural mediator who leads language learning activities in informal settings and makes a *bridge* between long-settled migrants on the margins and other community actors and institutions.

The BRIDGE animateur gives life to a space, making it the center of learning and activities for people who need to learn the language; where people from different countries, backgrounds, cultures, religions, life experiences, interests and needs feel comfortable to come in and find a welcoming, positive environment, where the learning starts from them and their daily communication needs. A Language and Culture Animateur will not need to correct mistakes or explain grammatical rules but should be able and willing to speak in clear and correct the language on a variety of subjects and provide one-to-one support with the integration of learners into the local community, for example, by helping them to understand official letters, complete forms and understand processes and instructions.

## Who can become a Language and Culture Animateur?

Language teachers and volunteers who wish to acquire or deepen skills, tools, and strategies for teaching in informal contexts, managing multicultural groups and setting up language clubs in their community.



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## What is a Language Club?

The focus of a Language Club is to promote the integration, social interaction and civic participation of long-settled migrants who may be marginalized due to poor language skills. The aim will be to provide learners with a chance to practice speaking the language in a relaxed, fun setting through informal conversation and build their ability to interact confidently in everyday life. A BRIDGE Language Club is an informal learning space where BRIDGE Language & Culture Animators can organize language learning sessions for migrants, especially long-settled migrants who still need to learn the national language to help them manage daily life and communication. A BRIDGE Language Club welcomes learners in a positive environment and makes it possible and easy for them to join sessions, to make requests about their language learning need, to learn at their own pace and always feel supported. Flexibility of teaching and learning is the key for success of BRIDGE Language Clubs.





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## **The Training Course for Language and Culture Animateur: Objectives and Structure**

**The course 's aim** is to provide language teachers and volunteers with specific skills, tools and strategies on intercultural mediation and teaching in informal contexts and on the establishment and management of learning environments, such as language and cultural clubs. To do so, BRIDGE partners developed a series of **tools and materials** which allow participants to successfully complete the course online on their own at their own pace, and evaluating their performance, results, and acquired competences. Tools and materials can be viewed and downloaded by any other user who wants to acquire such competences, and successfully use them in their own settings. The course can be approached in three ways:

- > To be delivered by a trainer F2F
- > To be delivered by a trainer online
- > To be followed independently online

## **The BRIDGE Self-assessment tool to evaluate starting competences and late progresses**

The **starting point of the course** is a **Self-assessment tool**, a questionnaire where language teachers and volunteers will be able to assess their own existing competences against the BRIDGE animator competences. Participants are asked to complete the Self-assessment tool twice: once before starting the course, and then after completing it, so that they can evaluate their progresses.

**The Self-Assessment tool here:**





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## The BRIDGE Competence Framework for Language & Culture Animateurs

The starting point for developing the structure of the course has been the Competence Framework, thus ensuring all competence areas would be covered by the proposed module structure. This framework entails the redefinition of competences as it builds on intercultural competence framework complementing it with 'domain-specific' competences (intercultural mediation competences, required by language teachers and volunteers in general) and 'community animation' competences (required to involve hard to reach long-settled migrants). The competence framework is intended for language teachers/volunteers, working with particularly 'hard to reach' long-settled migrants, functioning as Language and Culture Animateurs in this project. The structure of the framework is linked to the BRIDGE Language & Culture Animateur Training Program.

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## The core of the training course: the Online Modules

The proposed structure of the training course is based on 8 Modules, where Module 1 is *Opening* and Module 8 is *Closing*, plus an *Introductory one*, which contains links to in-depth materials. At the end of the course a certificate of participation is issued. It takes about 10 hours to complete the online course (including reading BRIDGE materials and resources).

In detail, here are the different components of the course and the contents for each module, according to the order in which it must be followed:

### **Introduction – A guide through the project and the training**

- Projects' aims and content
- Course content and structure





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**Module 1: The BRIDGE L&C Animateur**

- Role of the L&CA in a Language Club
- The Competence Framework - course content

**Module 2: Intercultural awareness**

- Intercultural communication - delivering a message correctly
- Non-verbal communication
  - Interpreting messages differently according to culture
- Common cultural norms in different religions/cultures

**Module 3: Self-reflection and Emotional Intelligence**

- Openness to other cultures and active listening
- Empathy
- Ability to suspend judgement and stereotypes
- Motivation to work with intercultural groups

**Module 4: Adjusting to multicultural environments**

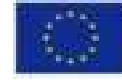
- Self-evaluation
- Being flexible
- Adjusting behaviors, manners, language & body language

**Module 5: Intercultural mediation and leadership**

- Stimulating active participation
- Empowering people
- Leadership - who is a leader?
- Finding common ground to create a "community"
- Conflict prevention and conflict resolution

**Module 6: BRIDGE CLA knowledge & understanding**

- Needs analysis - the local community
- Cultural awareness analysis - Language Club learners
- Planning a session in consultation with stakeholders



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**Module 7: Language Club setting up and running**

- Knowing the community (stakeholders, resources, challenges)
- Presenting the Language Club to local stakeholders
- Organising the Language Club space - organising online Language Club
- Recruiting learners (outreach & engagement)
- Flexible arrangements to facilitate learners

**Module 8: Closing and action planning**

- The Learning Village as support tool
- Self-assessment
  
- Action Planning



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## Modules and activities to support and enhance learning

A **training module** is **one structured section of a course**. The content within a training module has been designed, and created, to support the learner's intake and retention of the information it contains. Grouping training modules together is used to create step-by-step learning.

A **training activity** supports learning by using practical examples. Each training module may contain a set of activities.

Module activities, as developed by all BRIDGE project partners were listed beside relevant competence areas, as suggested activities for trainers to use flexibly (N.B.: some module activities can be used as supporting activities in more than one module, therefore individual trainers can make decisions about them - which ones to use / when to use / other activities to add etc.).

A PDF document available online collects activities proposed by partners, using drama, role-play, active-learning methods, and other interactive methods.

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