

The Learning Bridge Project



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Link to [project presentation](#)

Link to [video pitch](#)

Link to [project website](#)

Mission

LEARNING BRIDGE



MISSION

"TO PROVIDE REFUGEES WITH ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION,
TOOLS FOR TRAINING, MENTORSHIP, AND COMMUNITY INTEGRATION,
EMPOWERING THEM TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES."



Imagine fleeing your home country, arriving in a foreign land where you don't speak the language and without any support to continue your education, gain job market skills for in demand in your new host country or develop your business ideas. This is the reality for thousands of migrants and refugees in Europe. The EU Learning Bridge Project represents a transformative step in addressing their educational and vocational needs.

In 2021, over 183,000 asylum seekers under 18 arrived in Europe, many entering school in their host countries. In 2023, 1.1 million applications were lodged in the EU+, an 18% increase on the previous year, and the most for seven years, and there are currently over 6 million Ukrainians spread across Europe.

Recognizing a critical gap in support for those aged 16-24, who have aged out of compulsory education and adult migrants who often lack the basic communication skills in their host country's language, our initiative aims to provide them with training and support.

Through technology enhanced educational schemes and innovative EdTech solutions, the Learning Bridge Project aims to prevent learning loss and empower migrants with the knowledge, skills, and languages necessary for success in their new environments.

Our mission is to create a world where all undocumented minors and youths in Europe have equal access to quality education and vocational training, ensuring these young individuals are not only integrated into their host societies but are also equipped for meaningful employment.

The Learning Bridge Project bridges educational gaps, provides tools for training, offers mentorship and community integration, promoting inclusivity and equality for all.

The Team

The team is made up of skilled educators and professionals with a deep understanding of second language learning, technology enhanced learning, digital learning, AI in education, vocational training, and community development.

An expert in AI in education and learning experience design, Daire migrated to Italy in the mid 2000s, where she leads research and concept development for the project.

A digital learning expert and graphic designer, William has been working in vocational training development since his return to the UK after years of living on continental Europe.



DAIRE MARIA NI UANACHAIN
RESEARCH AND CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
AI IN EDUCATION EXPERT
LEARNING EXPERIENCE DESIGNER



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VOCATIONAL TRAINING DEVELOPMENT
DIGITAL LEARNING EXPERT
GRAPHIC AND UX DESIGNER



LILA IBRAHIM
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CULTURAL ADVISOR
INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

EDUCATORS WHO KNOW

As well as the above, we are:
Experienced English as a Second Language (ESL) language teachers
Arts and Humanities teachers
Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) experts

Ukrainian-Lebanese Lila, living in France, acts as our community development specialist and cultural advisor, providing essential perspectives on cultural sensitivity and inclusivity.

The team's combination of skills and perspectives allows us to create a sustainable, supportive platform that is responsive to the educational and entrepreneurial needs of migrant and refugee communities.

Project Description

LEARNING BRIDGE



CONTEXT



For 38% of unaccompanied minors arriving in Europe, education was the most important factor in their decision (UNICEF-REACH survey, Italy in 2017)

A lack of EU recognised qualifications and no network causes significant barriers for older migrants and refugees.

Education contributes to cultural understanding, engagement and integration, employment and overall well-being.

Source: UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM

38% of undocumented minors and young refugees cite getting to a European country which guarantees access to education as being one of the reasons they continued to move across Europe after first arrival.

Not all countries guarantee educational opportunities for refugees while working through the various stages of the asylum process so many refugees don't have access to learning content unless they are attending traditional schools.

Often refugees do not have the basic skills or knowledge required in European entry level jobs, training facilities and schools, because their learning stopped before and/or during their journey to Europe, or because their education and training requirements in their home countries differ vastly from EU+ requirements. Many migrants find it difficult to navigate local bureaucracy and don't have support when transitioning into the workplace, formal training or learning environments and have no way of providing documents to attest to their academic or vocational achievements.

The Learning Bridge Project uses cutting-edge technology to provide accessible and engaging educational and training content to migrants and refugees across Europe, including fundamental literacy and language skills in various European languages to assist integration and to offer practical vocational training aligned with the European job market to enhance employability.

It will also facilitate cultural understanding and social skills development for better integration into host societies, and support the personal and emotional development of younger refugees.

User Journey

Key Phases	Awareness and Outreach	Enrollment and Assessment	Learning and Development	Certification and Validation	Integration and Support
What is the user doing?	Discovering the app, hearing from others	Registering, taking assessments	Engaging with lessons and forums	Completing courses, earning credentials	Applying skills to jobs, engaging in community
What is the user thinking?	Could this be my opportunity?	I hope the admission process isn't too complicated!	I'm getting better at this, maybe I can get a job in the future!	Finally, a certificate! After all the hard work, some recognition!	I am ready to apply for a job and give back to this community!
What is the user feeling?	Hopeful, anxious	Nervous, eager	Motivated sometimes frustrated	Proud, apprehensive	Optimistic, anxious
User pain points	Limited information access, skepticism	Complex registration, assessment anxiety	Lesson difficulty, tech issues, isolation	Credential acceptance, next steps uncertainty	Job market navigation, asylum status anxiety
Ideas and opportunities	Multilingual materials, testimonials, orientation sessions	Simplify registration, provide feedback, introductory courses	Personalized learning, tech support, study groups	Align credentials, partner with businesses, guidance	Job placement services, mentorship, employer partnerships

So, what does interacting with the Community Bridge look like?

Anastasia Koval, a 32-year-old from Ukraine, fled to Europe due to the increasing risk of the ongoing war in her home country. She has an accounting diploma but this is not recognised in the EU. She also lacks formal entrepreneurial knowledge and while she faces cultural and gender-based barriers she is motivated by the prospect of EU support for women entrepreneurs.

Anastasia first learned about the initiative through outreach programs at her asylum seeker support center.

Once Anastasia decided to give the app a try, she found the registration process simple and intuitive, available in multiple languages. The initial assessments helped identify her current skills and interests, providing her with personalized feedback. This step is crucial as it builds confidence and sets a clear path forward for each user.

Anastasia began engaging in interactive language lessons to learn Italian, which is essential for her integration into Italian society. She also started vocational training in areas like foundational business skills, marketing, and customer relations. Our services use AI to personalize learning experiences, ensuring that users like Anastasia stay motivated and supported throughout their journey.

After completing several courses, Anastasia earned microcredentials that are recognized across Europe. These credentials align with the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees. This phase not only validates Anastasia's hard work but also opens doors for further education and employment opportunities.

Finally, with her new skills and qualifications, Anastasia began searching for mentors focused on supporting female entrepreneurs and information about EU grants for female-led startups. Making the most of Community Bridge's network of support Anastasia started to reach her business goals and despite ongoing anxiety about the war in her home country, Anastasia now feels more optimistic and better prepared to integrate into society in her host country.

Solutions



EDUBRIDGE CAMP

Blended learning designed to provide a range of educational services to address the needs of migrant refugees lacking formal secondary education and living in refugee centers.

JOB READINESS
Entrepreneurial Skills
Budgeting and Financial Literacy
Customer Relations and Service
Effective Communication Skills
Legal Basics for Startups
Workshops for Practical Application
Business Simulation
Digital Marketing Basics
Female Entrepreneur Track

EDUGENIE
UNLOCK YOUR LEARNING POTENTIAL

Introducing EduGenie – Your AI-Powered Learning Companion

Followed by the Learning Bridge, our solution is looking for the environment where people experience and actively practice on a wide variety of educational and training topics.

STUDY BUDGY
Students will imagine and manage the budgeting process and the financial aspects of their business plan and the ability to manage their own money in their own way.

LOW COST TUTOR
VOCATIONAL TRAINING
Students will learn the importance of vocational training and the benefits of vocational training. They will learn how to create a business plan and how to manage their own business. They will also learn how to use the internet to find information and how to use social media to promote their business.

TRAINING 4.0
Students will learn the importance of training and the benefits of training. They will learn how to create a business plan and how to manage their own business. They will also learn how to use the internet to find information and how to use social media to promote their business.

EDUGENIE

An innovative AI-powered educational tool, with a large storage capacity and solar-powered design, EduGenie can operate effectively in refugee centers, offering educational content without the need for a stable internet connection.

The device's Small Language Model can be trained and adapted according to the training requirements and legal guidelines in the host country. Its solar-powered and offline functionality make it an ideal educational tool for both self-learning and guided instruction in refugee centers.

Offline Access
Job Readiness
Vocational Training
Language Support with AI Business Focus
AI-Driven Learning Pathways for Business Skills



COMMUNITY BRIDGE

The app offers an AI-powered comprehensive vocational training solution that not only equips refugees with job-ready skills but also facilitates their integration into European societies through recognized qualifications and practical community projects.

Language Training
Micro-certificates
Business Mentorship Portal
Mentor Matching
Resource Hub with EU Funding Information
Networking and Community Integration
Events Forum
Mentorship for Small Business Promotion
User Reviews and Ratings

The focus of the EU Learning Bridge Initiative is on providing accessible, practical, and tailored educational content through three innovative pillars, with a particular emphasis on language learning, basic literacy, and vocational training.

EduBridge Camp: In-person offering designed to provide a range of educational services and training to address the needs of refugees while living in refugee centers.

EduGenie: An innovative AI-powered educational tool, with a large storage capacity and solar-powered design, EduGenie can operate effectively in refugee centers, offering educational and training content without the need for a stable internet connection. The device's AI-powered capabilities and offline functionality make it an ideal educational tool for both self-learning and guided instruction in refugee centers.

Community Bridge: The app offers an AI-powered comprehensive training solution that offers language training and equips migrants and refugees with job-ready skills. With a mentorship programme and a dedicated entrepreneurship offering, the Community Bridge app facilitates migrant integration into European societies through recognized qualifications and practical community projects.

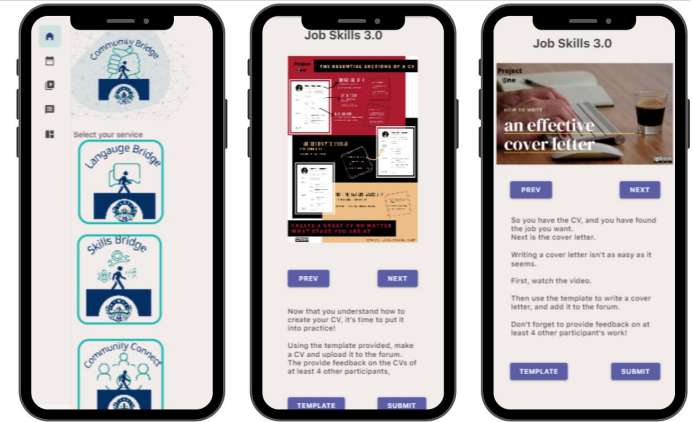
Community Bridge

The central pillar to the Learning Bridge Project is the Community Bridge app, as the solution best equipped to provide migrant refugees with tailored, accessible educational resources, vocational training and support in their entrepreneurial efforts. The app not only accommodates their diverse backgrounds and needs but also facilitates their integration into European societies, by bridging the gap between these individuals and the opportunities available in their host communities. By providing an accessible, mobile-based learning platform, the Community Bridge app enables refugees to use their time effectively while they await the processing of their asylum applications

The learning content on the app will focus on basic literacy, language learning, and vocational skills with the goal of providing the essential skills for employment, focusing on in-demand trades and professions. The programmes will be integrated with the EU educational passport and micro-credentials schemes to ensure recognition and transferability of skills, complimenting the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees by providing foundational educational content that could eventually be recognised as part of the refugees' educational qualifications.

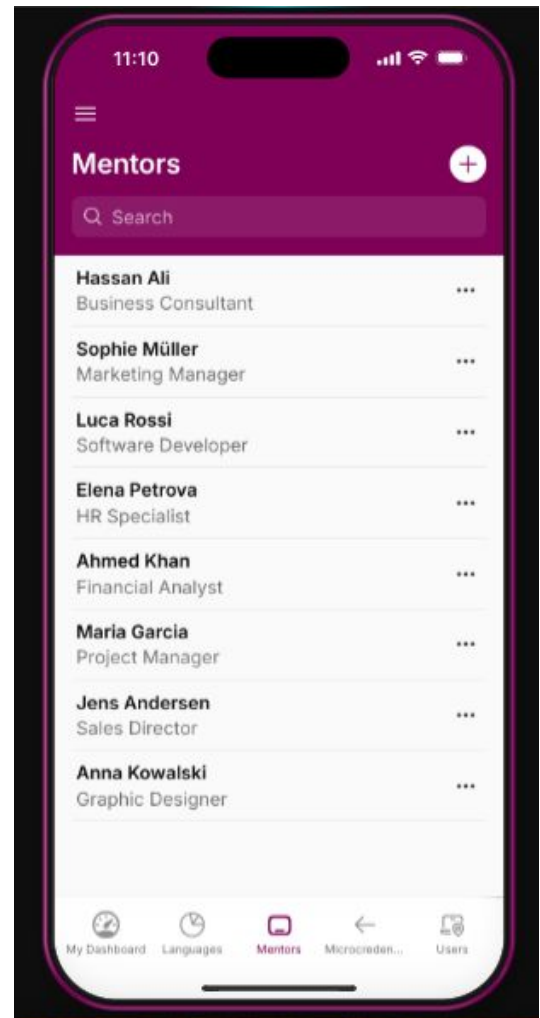
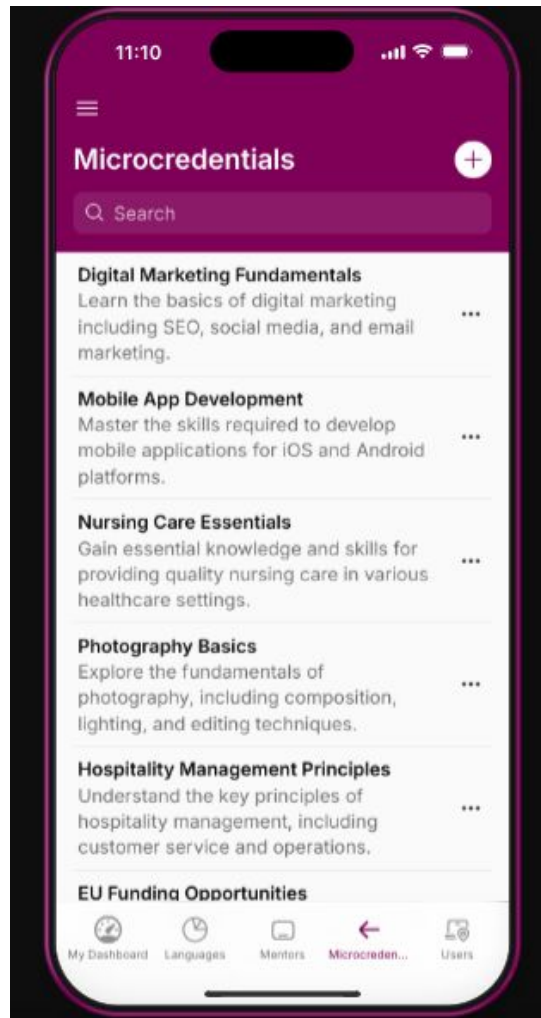
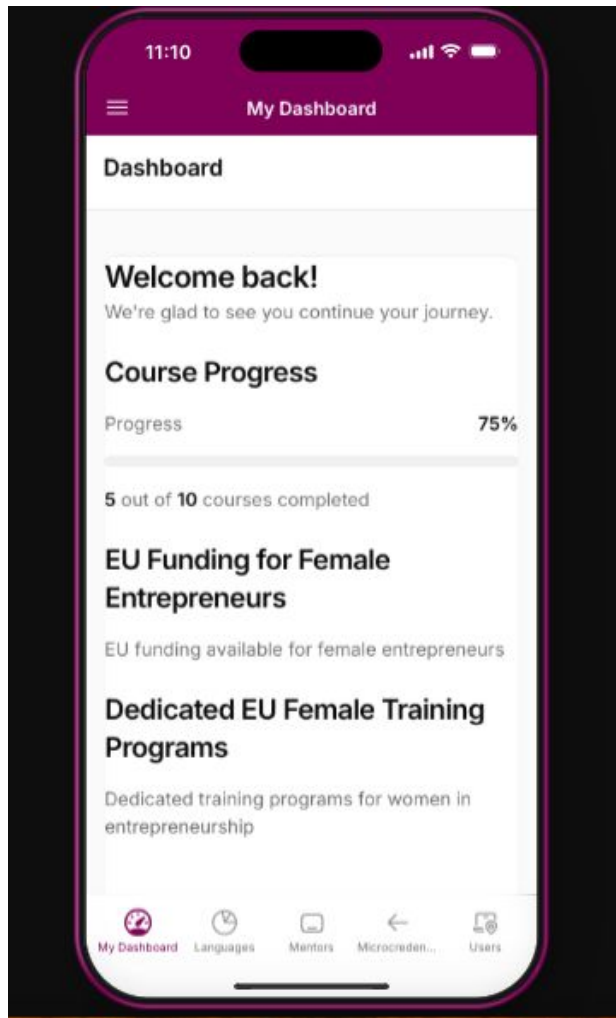


- 1 Dashboard
- 2 Course Content
- 3 Course Content



Community Bridge offers a comprehensive vocational training solution that also facilitates the refugees' integration into European societies through practical community projects once they have achieved their recognised qualifications.

The app also contains a networking platform that connects refugees with local entrepreneurs and potential mentors and links to EU resources. This platform can facilitate collaborations, co-working opportunities, and community projects, supporting social and economic integration, with a section on mentorship and funding opportunities specifically for female entrepreneurs. The app also has a marketplace where migrant entrepreneurs can showcase their services and sell their goods.



Completed Business Model Canvas

[Accompanying document](#) with an elaboration on the Business Model Canvas



Problem

Lack of educational resources and opportunities due to political decisions and/or refugee status
Financial constraints of accessing or providing education or training offers
Lack of social integration and growing increased flow of asylum seekers fleeing wars due to current Geo-politics

Partnerships

NGOs and Refugee Support Organizations
Educational Institutions and EdTech Providers
EU and Government Funding Bodies, especially for programs supporting women-led businesses and economic empowerment.
Local Businesses and Chambers of Commerce

Cost Structure

Approx €1,960,000
Curriculum development and maintenance: €300,000
App/device development and maintenance: €800,000
Educator and volunteer training and support: €400,000
Developing learning content: €180,000
Community Engagement Events and Marketing activities: €80,000
Salaries and wages for employees: €400,000
Infrastructure and technology costs: €160,000

Unique Value Proposition

For Refugees: A comprehensive support platform that provides refugees with business training, mentorship, funding guidance, and a marketplace to promote their products or services.

For NGOs and Local Governments: A scalable, easy-to-deploy tool that supports refugee integration and economic self-sufficiency.

For Sponsors and Funders: An impact-driven program that supports the EU's goals for economic empowerment and social integration for refugees.

Offering marginalized and excluded children and teens access to a recognized curriculum and a verified track of their learning paths during their absence from traditional learning institutions

Ethical Implications

The Learning Bridge Project is envisioned to impact the users by offering opportunities to marginalized societies through EdTech as a tool to create equality and level the playing fields. By keeping the costs of supplying education and training low, the host country can easily set up learning and training opportunities in refugee camps or centres and creating opportunities for undocumented minors to improve their lives and integrate back into society.

Key Activities

Content Development: Create and curate learning and training resources, guides for funding applications
Mentorship and Networking: Establish and manage mentor networks, mentor-mentee matching
Community Engagement: Host events, both virtual and in-person, for networking, support and showcasing refugee businesses.
Platform Management and Updates: Regularly update the app and incorporate user feedback

Key Resources

Human Resources: Mentors, advisors, and instructors
Technology for app development, backend database, AI for personalized learning, and API integrations for external resources
Partnerships: Collaboration with NGOs, educational institutions, and business associations to enhance content, mentorship, and funding access

Audience Relationships

Personalized Learning and Mentorship
Peer-to-Peer Support: In-app networking and community groups allow refugees to connect and support each other.
Mentorship and Office Hours
AI powered chat bot

Channels

Mobile App and Web Platform: The main channel through which refugees can access resources, training, and the marketplace.
Community Centers and NGOs: Partner with refugee support centers and NGOs for onboarding and providing offline access to the app.
Social Media and Refugee Networks: Increase awareness and reach through social media and local refugee networks.

Customer Audience Segments

Primary: Refugees in Europe who have aged out of compulsory education, who want vocational training so they can work and/or who want to become entrepreneurs or develop employable skills, with a focus on those from Lebanon and Ukraine as example personas.

Secondary: NGOs, local governments, and educational institutions looking to support refugee integration and economic empowerment.

Additional: Potential funders and sponsors interested in refugee-focused entrepreneurship programs, especially those supporting female entrepreneurs.

How?
Provide support and training to educators and volunteers
Regular updates and improvements to the Community Bridge App.

Revenue Streams

Donations and grants from NGOs and governments
Sponsorships from EdTech companies

Asylum-seeking children have the right to access the host country's education system, but in practice, it may be delayed, and alternative classes in accommodation centers often fall short of full curriculum and teaching standards. Undocumented migrant children face the greatest risk of being excluded from school, with only a few countries explicitly recognizing their right to basic formal education.

The Learning Bridge Project aims to address these issues by providing a range of curated services through 3 specific products (EduBridge Camp, EduGenie and Community Bridge App) including a recognised curriculum and other learning content both online and offline.

The Learning Bridge Project aims to create equality and level the playing fields using EdTech to widen the education and training offerings currently available to these vulnerable people, in the hopes of speeding up their integration into society. We believe that access to education and training is a fundamental human right and that our project can help to create more opportunities for these vulnerable groups.

The Learning Bridge Project has several key focuses: undocumented minors and youths who are being processed as well as those who have aged out of compulsory education by the time they are processed, and adult migrants and refugees whose prior training and learning may or may not align with EU+ requirements as well as those who want to embark on entrepreneurial endeavours in their host countries.

Impact and Scalability

Our approach is centered on accessibility and relevance, combining digital learning with practical, hands-on training. The design process is iterative, including a needs analysis and a range of development and testing feedback loops. We will collaborate with a network of partners including educational institutions, vocational training centers, and NGOs, to create a comprehensive support system, ensuring the utmost quality during all design phases.

IMPACT

➤ Economic Empowerment and Self-Sufficiency

The app empowers refugees by providing them with the tools, training, and resources needed to start work or to become entrepreneurs and grow their own businesses. This not only helps individuals achieve financial independence but also contribute to the economic development of their host communities.

➤ Enhanced Social Integration and Community Building

The app fosters social integration by providing a platform for networking, mentorship, and community engagement. Through interactions with local mentors, peers, and customers, refugees can build valuable connections, reducing social isolation and enhancing their sense of belonging.

➤ Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs

The app provides targeted support for female entrepreneurs, addressing gender-specific barriers such as limited access to funding, mentorship, and professional networks. By prioritizing resources and guidance for women, Community Bridge helps level the playing field and supports the EU's gender equity goals.



POTENTIAL



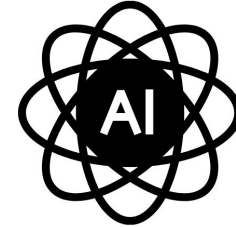
Scalability Across Europe

The app's design and functionality are built with scalability in mind, allowing it to be adapted for use across multiple EU countries. The integration of multilingual support and country-specific resources (e.g., local funding guides) ensures it can meet diverse needs.



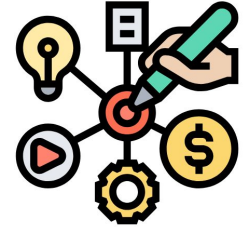
Knowledge of AI and Data Privacy

The team are pioneers of AI for education, are familiar with the AI Act and its implications for AI providers and deployers in the EU. Their understanding of GDPR and data privacy regulations ensures that the app will be designed with user trust and security in mind.



Educational and Instructional Design

The team includes members with expertise in instructional design and creating educational content, critical for developing the app's training modules.



The platform is designed to be adaptable for use in multiple EU countries, with support for multiple languages and resources tailored to specific regional needs, such as local funding guides. The team's in-depth knowledge of AI regulations, including the EU AI Act and GDPR, ensures that the app is developed with a strong commitment to data privacy and user trust. Furthermore, the team includes instructional design experts who will create high-quality educational content and training modules, making the app's resources accessible and engaging for users. These elements position Community Bridge as a sustainable, secure, and scalable solution for supporting refugee entrepreneurs across Europe. This initiative is more than an educational program; it's a commitment to empower, uplift, and transform the lives of migrants and refugees in Europe, helping them build a stable, prosperous future in their new communities.

How we differ

Community Bridge sets itself apart from similar initiatives by offering a comprehensive, scalable, and uniquely accessible platform that addresses the specific needs of refugee entrepreneurs across Europe.

Unlike the UK-focused model of The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN), which primarily supports refugees within a localized structure, Community Bridge is designed to operate on a broader European scale. This cross-border reach allows refugees to connect and network with individuals from various countries, creating more extensive opportunities for collaboration and growth than TERN's regional focus can provide. Additionally, while TERN's services are largely delivered through localized, in-person support, Community Bridge is fully digital, making resources accessible to refugees across different countries without the need for physical presence.

In comparison to ACH (formerly Ashley Community Housing), which primarily emphasizes housing and basic integration services, Community Bridge offers a much broader range of resources specifically focused on entrepreneurship, such as a resource hub includes EU funding guides, business training, and micro-credentialing opportunities



➤ The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN)



➤ ACH (formerly Ashley Community Housing)



➤ Startup Refugees

Furthermore, Community Bridge includes a marketplace where refugees can promote and sell their products and services, providing a direct path to economic independence that ACH's services do not emphasize. Designed with scalability in mind, Community Bridge is adaptable for use across various EU countries, incorporating multilingual support and region-specific resources to meet the diverse needs of refugees. This scalability contrasts with ACH's more region-specific approach, allowing Community Bridge to reach a broader and more varied audience.

Compared to Startup Refugees, which is primarily based in Finland and tailored to the Finnish context, Community Bridge is accessible across multiple European countries, enhancing its reach and inclusivity. By integrating EU-wide resources, such as funding guides and business training materials, Community Bridge provides a centralized platform that supports refugee entrepreneurs across Europe, which Startup Refugees' Finland-centric model cannot offer. Moreover, Community Bridge places a strong emphasis on supporting female entrepreneurs, addressing the unique challenges faced by women refugees in building businesses. This focus on women-led startups is reflected in the platform's targeted funding resources, mentorship programs, and alignment with EU priorities for gender equity.

Ethical examination of the project

In 2021, there were 183,600 asylum seekers under 18, and 2023 saw 1.1 asylum request logged in EU+, predominantly come from countries like Ukraine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Syria, and Bangladesh. According to a UNICEF-REACH survey, education was an important factor in their decision to continue their migration after landing in Europe, highlighting the critical need for accessible educational resources. The ongoing Ukraine crisis is increasing the number of Ukrainian citizens arriving in the EU, while the increasing instability in the Middle East indicates that numbers of asylum request are only going to increase.

Our goal with Community Bridge is to provide migrants and refugees with essential education and vocational training through AI-driven personalized learning pathways matching the training to their individual skills and job market demands. By offering the training in multiple languages users can start learning even before they fully master the host country's language, creating a situation in which migrants and refugees can find gainful employment and contribute positively to their host communities

Our commitment provide high-quality, inclusive education to marginalized migrants and refugees is rooted in international human rights laws and EU regulations. To meet these obligations, we ensure our educational content is inclusive and accessible, even offering offline options for those with limited internet access.

Cultural sensitivity is a key component of our program. We embed cultural understanding in our language and vocational training to help refugees assimilate into their new communities. Our approach respects ethical pluralism, presenting content that accommodates diverse cultural beliefs.

User privacy is paramount. We adhere to GDPR, ensuring users have full control over their data, which is only used to improve our product, never sold to third parties. Our AI functionalities comply with the EU's AI Act, maintaining the highest standards of data protection.

We align our content with the EU Digital Education Action Plan and the European Qualifications Framework, ensuring that our microcredentials are recognized across Europe. Transparency is crucial—we clearly communicate the purpose and limitations of our credentials, avoiding false guarantees.

By maintaining these ethical standards, we aim to provide free or low-cost educational resources that truly support the SDG goal of quality education for all. We ensure that our actions are always directed towards doing the right thing, never compromising on our ethical duties

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