

Odysseus Project for the Dissemination of Modern Greek Learning and Teaching

Progress

Public Part

Project information

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Executive Summary

ODYSSEUS: A PROJECT FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF MODERN GREEK LEARNING AND TEACHING MATERIALS

Our consortium has been engaged since 2003 in the development of modern Greek didactics. It includes institutions from Greece, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania, all specializing in teaching modern Greek as a foreign language. As a result from this collaboration, we designed innovative didactic materials that were elaborated with the help of the European Commission funds (within three previous Lingua and Leonardo Projects). These materials, published as printed books and as multimedia CDs, contribute to fill a fundamental gap within the present state of Modern Greek Learning/Teaching. They are *Travel to Greece III* (Socrates project, level C1-C2), *Business Greek* (Leonardo project, level B1- B2) and *Scientific Greek* (Leonardo project, level B1- B2).

The *Odysseus Project for the Dissemination of Modern Greek Learning and Teaching*, funded by the European Commission in the *Lifelong Learning Programme* (Project number: 135779-LLP-2007-ES-KA4MP), intends to make these materials easily available, in order to promote the teaching of modern Greek and to spread the language and culture of the nowadays Greece in a multilingual and multicultural European environment.

The participating institutions are the *University of Murcia* (Murcia, Spain), as coordinator, and the partners *British-Hellenic College* (Athens, Greece), the *European Centre of Education and Development* (Plovdiv, Bulgaria), the *Agenzia per il Patrimonio Culturale Euromediterraneo* (Lecce, Italy) and the *Elea Computer Systems Ltd* (Athens, Greece).

Odysseus objectives and aims are: To disseminate and to exploit the above mentioned didactic Materials resulting from the previous European projects all over Europe, as fully and widely as possible, and, thus, to enrich didactic resources for modern Greek in Europe.

- To promote Greek in secondary, vocational and higher education institutions and in non-formal education, engaging new students in the learning of this language.
- To achieve a higher number of trained teachers in Greek.
- In more general terms, to contribute to the dissemination of the rich language and culture of today's Greece, promoting a minority or *small* European Language.

With this purpose in mind, Odysseus implemented a broad plan of action including:

- Copy and free distribution of our multimedia CDs among European institutions devoted to modern Greek learning.
- Design and implementation of an *Odysseus* website offering free access to the teaching/learning materials and information about modern Greek studies in Europe;
- An intensive strategy of Dissemination and information activities among related institutions and associations and, finally,
- A complete programme of Modern Greek Language Courses, Training Seminars and cultural Workshops.

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1. Project Objectives

INTRODUCTION

Since 2003, when we started our collaboration, our partners' network has developed a variety of innovating multimedia materials for teaching the Greek language. These materials include three textbooks, published both as printed books and as multimedia CDs. They are designed to serve as complementary didactic materials for teaching Greek at any educational level.

The first textbook, *Travel to Greece III*, has been designed for the general teaching of modern Greek as a foreign language. Its innovative approach combines language learning with awareness of the Hellenic cultural heritage. The other textbooks, *Business Greek* and *Scientific Greek*, have been designed for teaching Greek for specific purposes, thus filling a fundamental gap within modern Greek learning. All materials have been elaborated by experienced modern Greek teachers. The technical aspects have been developed by *ELEA Computer Systems*, based in Athens and specialised in multimedia applications for teaching.

Following is a brief description of the materials:



Travel to Greece III addresses advanced users (levels C1-C2 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*). It has been conceived as a trip beyond the Greek borders. Along this trip the student travels to cities around the world that keep traces of the Greek culture. The method is structured into 24 units containing texts and dialogues, reading comprehension and vocabulary activities, grammar theory and exercises, games, poems and songs. It also includes a key to the activities and a Spanish-Italian-Bulgarian glossary.

Travel to Greece III has been funded by the European Commission within the Socrates programme (110007-CP-1-2003-1-GR-LINGUA-L2) and the institutions participating in its elaboration were: the British-Hellenic College (Athens, Greece), as project coordinator, and, the University of Murcia (Spain), the University of Messina (Italy), and the ELBEA company (Bulgaria) as partner institutions.



Business Greek has been designed for intermediate users (levels B1-B2 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*). It aims to cover the needs of teaching Greek in communicative situations related to the business world. The method is structured into 24 units containing texts and dialogues related to business usage, reading comprehension and vocabulary activities, grammar theory and exercises. It also includes a key to the activities and a Spanish-Romanian-Bulgarian glossary.

Business Greek has been funded by the European Commission within the Leonardo da Vinci programme (EL/03/B/F/LA-148105) and the institutions participating in its elaboration were: the British-Hellenic College (Athens, Greece), as project coordinator, and the University of Murcia (Spain), the Alexander Ioan Cuza de Iasio University (Romania), and the ELBEA and EKEA companies (Bulgaria), as partner institutions.



Scientific Greek has been designed for intermediate users (levels B1-B2 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*). It aims to cover the needs of teaching Greek in communicative situations related to the world of science. The method is structured into 24 units containing texts and dialogues related to scientific usage (physics, chemistry, mathematics, geology, computer science, etc.), reading comprehension and vocabulary activities, grammar theory and exercises. It also includes a key to the activities and a Spanish-Italian-Bulgarian glossary.

Scientific Greek has been funded by the European Commission through the Leonardo da Vinci programme (EL/2004/B/F/LA-148110) and the institutions participating in its elaboration were: the British-Hellenic College (Athens, Greece), as project coordinator, and the University of Murcia (Spain), the University of Lecce (Italy), and the ELBEA company (Bulgaria), as partner institutions.

ODYSSEUS PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the *Odysseus Project for the Dissemination of Modern Greek Learning and Teaching Materials* is to disseminate and exploit the aforementioned materials for modern Greek teaching and learning, all funded by the EU programmes specified above.

Taking this general objective as its departure point, *Odysseus* aims at the following specific targets:

- a) To enrich didactic resources for modern Greek in Europe, through the distribution, free of charge, of these materials among the European educational institutions involved in teaching and promoting the Greek language, as well as by providing free access to the materials through the project's website.
- b) To exploit the materials as fully and widely as possible. The exploitation of results is addressed mainly in two ways: *mainstreaming* and *multiplication*. Regarding *mainstreaming*, the materials, their related website, the courses, the media and conference presentations, and all the other *Odysseus* activities intend to promote the Greek language and culture throughout Europe and beyond. We especially expect to create an awareness among educational institutions and policy makers about the benefits of learning Greek, and the necessity to meet the learning needs of the ever-increasing community of learners interested not only in general Greek, but also in Greek for specific purposes, which has been largely neglected so far. As for *multiplication*, an advanced Greek textbook, as well as pioneering materials to aid teaching Greek for specific purposes, are being put at the disposal of teachers and learners. Being conscious that the educational opportunities within the level and scope covered by our materials are usually scarce, a special emphasis has been placed in making all results known and accessible to those engaged in independent learning or having difficulties to attend formal courses.
- c) To promote the learning / teaching of Greek Language, a Less Taught and Less Used Language in the European context, in secondary, vocational and higher education institutions, as well as in non-formal education.
- d) To exchange experiences and good practices among the institutions involved in the project, especially those related to: project management,

didactic methodology, modern Greek syllabus and course design, the organisation of courses and seminars, the effective planning of activities promoting language learning, and the exchange of relevant information related to our field of study. All this will result in an increase in educational quality and in a most successful management, both in partners and in other institutions not formally associated to the project but engaged in collaboration within it.

Odysseus' general objective and specific targets are comprised in its over-arching goal: to contribute to the dissemination of the language and culture of today's Greece.

POTENTIAL IMPACT AND BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

In general, by offering the didactic materials to the institutions where Greek is already taught and by creating the Odysseus website with the didactic platform, we'll firstly enrich the physical and virtual resources of the educational institutions. By means of seminars and training language courses we'll make interested parties aware of the possibility of introducing Modern Greek in secondary as well as in vocational and higher education institutions and will contribute to arise the number of trained teachers. By encouraging and improving the teaching major tools, we'll be promoting linguistic diversity in the education levels adressed.

The dissemination activities and the rest of Odysseus activities will surely contribute to promote language learning and linguistic diversity in secondary, vocational and higher education in the countries involved. They will also ensure that the results of the previous Leonardo and Lingua projects are duly recognized, demonstrated and implemented on a wide scale.

Finally, increasing the number of trained and conscious teachers and the available resources, engaging new students in the learning of a minority or "weak" language and enhancing the attractiveness of a language like modern Greek, are all actions that serve the final objective os stimulating a demand in the countries involved. Only such a demand could lead to a long-term change in the educative system.

2. Project Approach

METHODOLOGY AND WORK PLAN

According to the objectives described above, *Odysseus'* project approach includes several levels of action:

1. ANALYSING THE SITUATION OF GREEK LANGUAGE TEACHING IN EUROPE.

We have carried out an in-depth analysis of the present situation of Greek language teaching in Europe, paying special attention to the following aspects: available didactic materials, true educational needs of Greek language learners, their motivations to study Greek, strong and weak points of today's resources for Greek language teaching in Europe. The final conclusions of this analysis, which are guiding our project's action plan and the consortium's work, will be presented in the *Final Conference* and published in its proceedings. This way we will secure the dissemination of our conclusions upon the project's completion, thus making our experience available to institutions outside our project, which may be interested in promoting initiatives within this field of study.

2. IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE END-USERS TARGETED BY THE PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES.

After the first phase, mainly focused on reflection and analysis, we have thoroughly gathered data about the educational institutions involved in teaching Greek, as well as the societies, associations and organisations related to the promotion of Greek language and culture. This process has taken place at three levels: locally (Murcia, Lecce, Athens and Plovdiv), national (Spain, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria), and Europewide.

3. MAKING MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO END-USERS.

This phase includes:

- copying multimedia CDs
- designing and generating an appropriate tool in our website for the didactic materials to be uploaded

4. SPREADING OUT THE MATERIALS.

According to what has just been exposed above, the materials' distribution is carried out in two ways:

- Posting the three multimedia CDs to the European institutions involved in teaching modern Greek (after the data gathering and selection carried out in the preceding phase)
- Uploading the materials (PDF and sound files) to be consulted and freely downloaded by anyone interested

5. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT ODYSSEUS, ITS ACTIVITIES, AND THE DIDACTIC MATERIALS AMONG END-USERS.

This action is being carried out mainly in two levels, a specific and a general one:

Specific dissemination. In the first place, the information is being disseminated among Odysseus direct users, that is, modern Greek teachers and students. We have directly contacted them (by e-mail, post or phone) to keep them informed about the didactic materials, as well as the courses and specific seminars organised within the project.

Given the diversity of end-users, and their peculiarities in each of the countries participating in *Odysseus*, we have paid special attention to reaching every group. Regarding modern Greek teachers and students, we have contacted societies and associations devoted to Greek studies and to the dissemination of the Greek language, namely, the *Spanish Modern Greek Studies Association (Sociedad Hispánica de Estudios Neogriegos, SHEN)* and the *Spanish Classical Studies Association (Sociedad Española de Estudios Clásicos, SEEC)*, the *Hellenic Community at Brindisi, Lecce and Taranto* in Italy or the *Organisation for the Dissemination of the Greek Language* in Greece.

Contacting these organisations to make *Odysseus* known to their members has proved a powerful dissemination tool, which has opened new paths for collaboration. For instance, a Greek course has been organised in Italy in collaboration with the *Comunità Ellenica di Brindisi, Lecce e Taranto*, and in Spain *Odysseus* will be presented at the SHEN's International Conference to be celebrated in October, 2009. Moreover, taking into account that one of the major target groups (especially in Italy and Spain) are secondary school teachers, we have placed special emphasis in communicating and collaborating with this group. A Greek course has been organised in Italy, at the Liceo Linguistico Palumbo in Brindisi, and in Spain a workshop on *Odysseus* and the Greek language is to take place in a meeting for secondary school teachers and students.

On the other hand, Greece has a specific target group: the immigrant population requiring an improvement in their linguistic competence in Greek, so that they can become completely integrated into the job market. Taking this into account, we have placed a special emphasis in disseminating *Odysseus* among immigrants' associations in Greece. Regarding Bulgaria, there the dissemination has been mainly targeting vocational training institutions.

Along with all this, the specific dissemination actions have included the participation in conferences and meetings related to this field of study. It is an important opportunity not only to make the project and materials known, but also to expose *Odysseus* activities to evaluation and discussion in specialised academic forums.

General dissemination: we are also making a big effort to promote the project, along with its objectives and activities, within a wider audience. As long as it is possible, we are keeping *Odysseus* constantly present in the media (newspapers and radio) and in the Internet. This way we intend to make modern Greek language and culture available for society at all levels, in order to make it visible and to contribute to linguistic and cultural diversity in the European space.

6. ORGANISING COURSES AND SEMINARS ON GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

During this first year courses on Greek language and culture have been carried out in each partner's premises. This activity will continue in the second year. These courses allow us to exploit the teaching materials disseminated by *Odysseus* (that is, to use them in the classroom for real). They also help us increase the number of persons with an education in Greek. Each course has been designed taking into account the specific needs of every partner institution and country, as well as their specific target groups. Contents, duration and levels of the courses have been adapted accordingly. Thus, in Spain and Italy the courses are mainly aiming at undergraduates and graduates (including prospective Erasmus students) and to teachers (with a special attention to secondary school teachers in classics). In Greece the courses are targeting immigrants, while in Bulgaria they are mainly designed for technical and vocational training students.

EVALUATION STRATEGIES

Regarding the evaluation strategies foreseen for the project, we should distinguish between *internal* and *external* evaluation actions.

Internal evaluation on the project's management and development is being carried out through a constant communication between all consortium's members. Partners' meetings are proving a crucial instrument to discuss the work plan and its implementation, and to evaluate the project's progress.

Regarding external evaluation, the quality and progress of a diffusion project like *Odysseus* can be well assessed by the impact factor of the actions we have carried out: number of participants in courses and seminars, statistics on the use of our website, visibility in the press and the Internet, number of recipients whom our information has reached, etc. For the time being, the data are very satisfactory, and we can expect them to improve within the second year, when these actions will be completed.

Moreover, the specific evaluation of the Greek language courses is being carried out through feedback questionnaires to be filled in by students at the end of the course. We must say that so far the evaluations are quite positive. A final report on the analysis of these data will be presented at the Final Conference.

Adding to all this, as we have already mentioned, is the presentation of our work in conferences and academic and scientific forums, where our activities are evaluated and discussed by experts. This is another important source of feedback for external evaluation of results.

DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

As *Odysseus* is specifically a dissemination project included in LLP'S KA4, all the project's activities are conceived as dissemination. The whole dissemination and exploitation strategy, designed at the very start of the project, has already been described in detail in the preceding pages.

More specifically, the *dissemination activities* are the following (many of them have already been completed, others are in progress):

- Designing and generating the project's official website, with information about the project and, more generally, about modern Greek teaching in Europe.

- Public presentations of *Odysseus* in partner institutions as well as in others outside the project, on all possible occasions.
- Designing and elaborating promotional materials related to *Odysseus* (logo, flyers, posters, folders, sheets of paper, etc.)
- Press (newspapers and radio) announcements.
- News, articles, interviews and reports in the media (newspapers and radio).
- Creating links to *Odysseus*' official website throughout the Internet (information and university webpages, websites of related societies and associations, relevant blogs, etc.)
- Massive posting and electronic mailing to distribution lists relevant to our actions.

The actions for the *exploitation* of results are the following (many of them have already been completed, others are in progress, and some are due in the second year of the project):

- Free posting of the multimedia CDs among the European institutions involved in teaching Greek. These materials will be owned by those institutions and will contribute to increase their didactic resources for modern Greek.
- Free access to the materials (PDF book and sound files) through *Odysseus* official website, hosted by the University of Murcia, which will remain active after the project's completion.
- Courses and seminars on Greek language and culture. This activity contributes to the promotion of modern Greek learning and to increase the number of learners in this language. It also contributes to teacher training.
- Employing the didactic materials disseminated through *Odysseus* in actual classroom settings. This includes the specific courses organised within the *Odysseus* project, the normal teaching load of *Odysseus* team members, as well as the practice of all those Greek teachers throughout Europe that may have decided to use our materials in their classes.
- Attending conferences related to our field of study, along with the publication, whenever possible, of the related papers in specialised journals and the conferences' proceedings. This contributes to disseminate and expose our activities to the public debate between experts beyond the project and its completion.
- Lectures and public presentations about *Odysseus* in academic forums. This allows us to disseminate and expose our activities to the debate between experts, and it also encourages the appearance of similar initiatives.
- Organising a Final Conference in Murcia, at the end of the project, including the publication of a volume with the proceedings. This Final Conference will also provide an opportunity to present, analyse and debate the final conclusions on the project, not only among the project's members, but also with external experts that will be invited to participate in the conference. Along with all this, the publication of the proceedings will contribute to enrich the bibliography on the situation of the modern Greek language in Europe, as well as its didactics, thus securing the sustainability of the project's results beyond its completion.

3. Project Outcomes & Results

The major achievements and results of the reporting period are:

1. ODYSSEUS WEBSITE: We have designed and launched the Odysseus Project website, hosted by the University of Murcia (www.um.es/odysseus). The webpage is now fully operational and plays a central role in the project's development for three reasons:

- It provides the major instrument to disseminate the project and its activities
- Its Partners' zone is the central tool for the management of the project
- Its section *Learning / Teaching Materials* is the basic means to disseminate and exploit of *Odysseus'* didactic materials. There any user can freely consult and download the materials (PDF and sound files)

The website, which we have sought to design in a clear and attractive fashion, has versions in English, Spanish, Greek, Italian and Bulgarian. It is divided into several sections: *Description of the Project* (information on *Odysseus*), *Partners* (details on the participant and relevant data about each partner institution), *Activities* (information on activities within the project and beyond it, related to modern Greek), *Documents* (public documents generated by the project), *News* (everything going on that is related to the project), and *Links* (to institutions, webs and Internet portals related to Greek language teaching and dissemination).

Εταιρική Ζώνη Επικοινωνία Γλώσσα

ODYSSEUS
Οδυσσέας για την διάδοση της διδασκαλίας της νέας ελληνικής

UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA

Περιγραφή Εταίροι Δραστηριότητες Έγγραφα Νέα Σύνδεσμοι

Νέα Ελληνικά

Οδυσσέας

Εκπαιδευτικό υλικό

- Επιχειρηματικά Ελληνικά
- Ταξίδι στην Ελλάδα III
- Επιστημονικά Ελληνικά

Πρόγραμμα διά βίου μάθησης

ΓΔ Εκπαίδευση και πολιτισμός

Νέα

Nov 04 2008 Το πρόγραμμα Οδυσσέας και το Ινστιτούτο Ξένων Γλωσσών του Πανεπιστημίου της Murcia προσφέρουν ένα δωρεάν μάθημα Νέας Ελληνικής Γλώσσας και Πολιτισμού.

Το μάθημα, που θα είναι διάρκειας 60 ωρών, ξεκινάει στις 17 Νοεμβρίου στο Campus de La Merced του Πανεπιστημίου της Murcia. Απευθύνεται σε όσους ενδιαφέρονται για την Ελληνική Γλώσσα και τον Πολιτισμό της σύγχρονης Ελλάδας.

[Ενημερωτικό Φυλλάδιο \(Format: jpg\)](#)

Oct 31 2008 Μαθήματα Ελληνικών για Μετανάστες στο σχολείο Μέγας Αλέξανδρος

Το σχολείο Ελληνικών για ξένους Μέγας Αλέξανδρος, που είναι τμήμα του Ελληνοβρετανικού Κολλεγίου, έχει οργανώσει στην Αθήνα, στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος Οδυσσέα, δύο κύκλους δωρεάν μαθημάτων ελληνικής γλώσσας για μετανάστες.

BRITISH-HELLENIC

The website also provides the section Teaching / Learning Materials where the textbooks *Travel to Greece III*, *Business Greek* and *Greek for Science* are hosted. A brief presentation can be found in this section, with an overall description of the materials including the 24 units into which each of them is divided, preceded by the contents index and grammar of every unit (PDF files). The materials can be downloaded unit by unit or as complete books including cover pages. Sound files including dialogues, texts and songs from the textbooks are also available for download. An mp3 player has been integrated into the site, so that every user can listen to the texts with no need to download the files. Finally, all materials provide the solutions to the exercises, thus facilitating autonomous learning.

[Página principal](#) >> [Materiales Didácticos](#)>> [Business Greek](#)

Materiales Didácticos

UNIT 1 EXCHANGE

MEPOS A' Part I

- ΣΤΗΝ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ
 - Παράγωγα επίθετα
 - Σύνθεση λέξεων
- at the bank
 - Derivational Adjectives
 - Words composition

MEPOS B' Part II

- ΤΟ ΕΥΡΩ
 - Παράγωγα ρήματα
 - Παράγωγα ουσιαστικά
- the Euro
 - Derivational Verbs
 - Derivational Nouns

Descarga pdf/mp3 Multimedia

Unit 1

Unit 1 Part A

Unit_1_Part_A.mp3

UNIT 2 LEADERSHIP-MANAGEMENT-RANKING

Our website also includes a dynamic Partners Zone, which allows a sustained and fluent exchange of information and documents between the partners. The Partners Zone is a very powerful and useful instrument for the project's management.

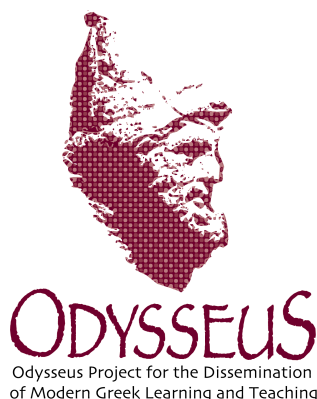
The website is constantly updated and improved, in order to meet the needs deriving from the project and from each of its activities. News are included as soon as possible, written in English, Spanish and Greek, and, when possible, in the other languages of the project's partners as well.

Regarding the impact of our website, it is a little too soon to make concluding statements. Dissemination works in Europe have not concluded yet, and visits are expected to increase considerably. However, we can already say that the number of visitors is very high. Between October 2008, the time when the website was launched, and January 2009, over 10.000 downloads of the didactic materials have been carried out by users from many different countries (see the statistics in the annex *Odysseus website*).

2. COPIES OF THE MULTIMEDIA CDS SENT TO INSTITUTIONS. A total amount of 200 copies have been made of each textbook (*Travel to Greece III*, *Business Greek* and *Greek for Science*), in order to send them to European institutions involved in teaching Greek. This activity has been carried out thanks to the valuable participation of our

technical partner *Elea Computer Systems Ltd* (Greece). Beyond this initial amount, we provide as many copies as are needed by every partner to use in language classes and courses.

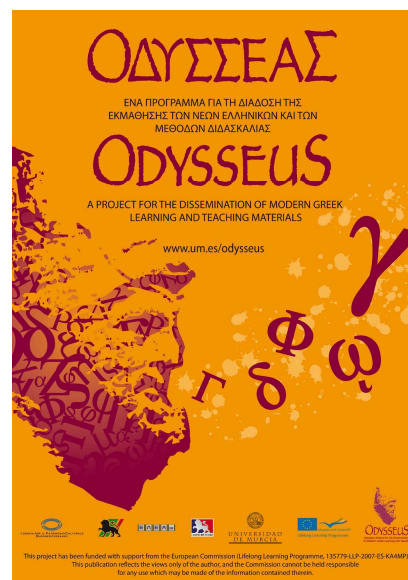
3. ODYSSEUS PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL: Promotional materials have been designed and elaborated for the project. We are using them in all our activities as well as for making the project known. These materials include: the logo for *Odysseus'* corporative image, folders (1000), sheets of paper (1000), and CD labels (1000 with the LLP logo and other 1000 with the *Odysseus* logo). We have put a special care in designing a general information brochure presenting *Odysseus* in a modern, attractive and appealing fashion. Once designed, we have so far printed 1500 units in Greek / English, 1500 Greek / Spanish, 1000 Greek / Bulgarian and 1000 Greek / Italian. Using the same picture we have elaborated a poster (we have printed 50 units, for the time being).



Besides this general promotional material for the project, common to all participating institutions, each partner – always keeping *Odysseus'* corporative image and following the instructions specified by the European Commission – is producing whatever promotional materials are required for their own activities (courses and seminars). Thus, posters and flyers to advertise the courses in Spain, Bulgaria and Italy have been published.

4. ODYSSEUS PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Public presentations have been carried out in all partner institutions, in order to make the project's objectives and activities widely known. We have profited of every occasion to present *Odysseus* at institutions or forums outside the project, for example, the AELFE Conference in La Manga, Spain, the Classical Philology Conference at the University of Málaga, Spain, or INFODAYS 2009 in Brussels.

5. ODYSSEUS TRAINING COURSES: As foreseen by *Odysseus'* objectives, free Greek language and culture courses have been organised at all partner institutions, adapting them to the levels appropriate for each case and to the needs of the relevant target groups. In Greece there have been two courses for immigrants and a seminar for modern Greek teachers. In Bulgaria a cultural workshop on Greece and its language has been organised, addressed at teachers and students, as well as two Greek language courses. In Italy, two courses of Greek language and culture have taken place, one in Lecce and another in Brindisi. The University of Murcia has organised a seminar for University faculty and a modern Greek language and culture for teachers and students, with two levels (Beginners and Pre-intermediate). This course has included workshops on today's sociolinguistics in Greece, as well as on Greek history, gastronomy, music and dance.



The total number of participants in these courses has been 190 people, with a variety of backgrounds: immigrants, vocational training students, professionals, undergraduates, graduates, secondary school teachers and university faculty (see the annex *Report about Odysseus courses*). A questionnaire has been designed for the participants in the courses to fill in. We expect to elaborate a final report with the analysis of the data obtained from the courses already completed, along with those that we will get from the courses that are to take place in the project's second year.



Odysseus Modern Greek Course in Italy



Odysseus Modern Greek Course in Bulgaria



Odysseus Greek Course in Greece



Odysseus Greek Course in Spain

6. ODYSSEUS ON THE WEB: Being conscious of the great importance of the Internet as today's major source of information and communication, we have made a big effort to make sure that *Odysseus* is well represented in the virtual world. So far there are many links to *Odysseus* website, and we have supplied a variety of web portals, websites and webpages related to our field of study with information and updates about our project (see the annex *Odysseus on the web*). To name but a few, *Odysseus* is present in UNIVERSIA, the most important web portal related to Spanish and Latin American universities, in the webpages of important societies and

associations of Greek teachers and students (ODEG in Greece, reaching over 76 countries, the Spanish Classical Studies Society or the Hispanic Modern Greek Studies Association in Spain), or at web portals frequently visited by our potential users: *Interclassica*, *Chiron*, *Culturaclasica.com*, *Serfarondas*, *Obiettivo Europa* –with a newsletter reaching over 10.000 recipients—, *Hellenic Language*, *Hellenic Didactic Internet Portal*, *All Greek Books* etc.).

We intend to pursue this work further, as well as to intensify the dissemination in non participating European countries. As a result, *Odysseus* impact is expected to grow exponentially.

7. ODYSSEUS IN THE MEDIA: crucial among *Odysseus*' objectives are the dissemination of the language and culture of today's Greece and the promotion of European linguistic and cultural diversity. Bearing this in mind, and intending to reach as wide an audience as possible, we have done our best so that *Odysseus*, whenever possible, is present in a wide variety of media. Thus we intend to promote an interest for Greece and its culture among the non-specialised public, as well as amid local and institutional policy makers with responsibilities related to language and education. We intend to pursue this action further. It has already proved quite fruitful.

On one hand, we have advertised the project in magazines of European political and institutional scope (*The Parliament Magazine* de Brussels, issue September 2008), in specialised journals (*Greek International Language*, issue October-December 2008) and in local newspapers and radios (in Bulgaria).

On the other hand, the media have become interested in our project. This year news, articles and interviews related to *Odysseus* have frequently appeared in the radio and in newspapers, both paper and digitally supported (for a complete listing, see the annex *Odysseus in the Media*).

8. MEETINGS: Of the four meetings foreseen for the project, the first two have taken place: the Kick-off meeting at the University of Murcia (Spain), 24 and 25 February 2008, and the First Coordination Meeting at the Agenzia per il Patrimonio culturale Euromediterraneo in Lecce (Italy), 6 and 7 October 2008. At this second meeting we were honoured with a visit of the Executive Agency representatives. These meetings have been a crucial contribution to the debate on our work plan, to solving organisational issues, to the follow-up of our activities, and clarifying doubtful points. They have been equally productive relating the exchange of ideas, good practices and methodologies between the partners. The contents of both meetings have been registered in their respective proceedings.



Kick-off Meeting (Murcia, Spain)



First Coordination Meeting (Lecce, Italy)

9. REGISTER OF INSTITUTIONS, DISTRIBUTION LISTS AND INFORMATIVE MAILINGS: First, we have elaborated a complete register of institutions involved in Greek teaching throughout Europe. We are now posting them the multimedia CDs, which should all arrive along January and February 2009.

Second, in order to secure a good and effective dissemination of *Odysseus*, we have carried out an intense search and data gathering related to possible final users and potential subjects interested in our project. All this has been compiled in a series of Distribution Lists that we can use to send information on *Odysseus*, mainly by e-mail with the informative leaflet as a PDF attachment. These lists include a variety of persons and institutions, selected within a local (Murcia, Lecce, Plovdiv and Athens), national (Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece) and European scope. In essence, these lists include:

- contact e-mails of partner institutions' students and alumni, who are interested in studying Greek.
- contact e-mails of university faculty, university schools and departments related to the study and teaching of the Greek language.
- contact e-mails of secondary education and vocational training teachers.
- contact e-mails of associations and societies devoted to the study and promotion of the Greek language, teachers associations and Greek communities associations outside Greece.
- Intercultural schools and vocational training centres in Greece and Bulgaria.
- Public and private language schools involved in teaching Greek.
- Immigrant associations in Greece.
- Other institutions: educational departments of administrative institutions, embassies, centres for information and dissemination related to the Greek language, cultural institutions, etc.

Using these lists, which are obviously subject to revision and expansion throughout the project, we have periodically sent information on *Odysseus* and its activities. During this first year, such dissemination has mainly been carried out locally and nationally (i.e. in the partners' countries). During the second year we expect to intensify our mailing to the other European countries.

10. PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS: the presentation of results at this level is mainly expected during the project's second year, especially at the Final Conference. However, some project members presented a paper at the *VII Annual Conference of the European Association of Languages for Specific Purposes* (AELFE), entitled "A pilot Experience in the development of Materials for Greek LSP: Dissemination through the Odysseus Project". This conference took place in Murcia in September 2008 (see www.um.es/aelfe2008/). It was a splendid opportunity to present our materials for teaching and learning Greek for specific purposes, and to discuss them with experts within the field. The paper has been published in the conference's proceedings.

The project coordinator was also invited to participate in the *V Conference of Classical Philology* at the University of Málaga (Spain), where she gave a presentation on *Odysseus* and on the present situation of modern Greek teaching in Europe (see www.infouma.uma.es/docs/jornadasclasica.doc).

4. Partnerships

The *Odysseus* consortium promotes relationships among countries not previously related to each other, such as Spain-Greece, Italy-Bulgaria or Spain-Bulgaria, and contributes to strengthen traditional relationships among neighbour countries such as Spain-Italy, Italy-Greece or Greece-Bulgaria.

It allows new communication flows among education institutions, private companies and non profit associations devoted to the dissemination of the cultural and linguistic heritage of the Mediterranean. It also favours a new EU member of the Balkan Integration Area (Bulgaria).

Our consortium works to reach a wide audience at various levels: teachers, secondary and university students (mainly in Spain and Italy), vocational training students and workers (especially in Bulgaria) and foreign or immigrant population (in Greece). These targets groups are also addressed from a variety of educational approaches: formal, non-formal and continuing education.

Thus, our project has a complex multilateral character, stimulating as well as enriching, as a result of its intrinsic features: a heterogeneous group of partner institutions, the peculiarities of the target groups in each country and their different needs regarding modern Greek learning and teaching.

Our consortium also has a strong record of collaboration in designing and elaborating the aforementioned materials through the EU programmes Socrates-Lingua and Leonardo. Thanks to this previous experience, the communication amid all partners is fluent and dynamic, a key factor for *Odysseus'* success.

Collaboration between partners is being really fruitful to exchange experiences and good practices, especially those related to project management, didactic methodology, modern Greek syllabus and course design, the organisation of courses and seminars, the effective planning of activities promoting language learning, and the exchange of relevant information related to our field of study.

Besides, we have contacted persons and institutions beyond our consortium. We have collaborated with institutions and associations related to our field of study, for instance, by disseminating information about *Odysseus* among their members, including relevant information in their websites or co-organising events. Leaving aside those studying in our courses, we have also worked with people interested in the project, who have requested information or asked for the multimedia materials. *Odysseus* is maintaining a fluent and constant interaction with all its end-users in all cases. We expect this relationship will grow both in scope and depth during the second year of the project.

5. Plans for the Future

In order to achieve *Odysseus'* objectives, during the second year of the project the activities we expect to carry out are the following:

LANGUAGE COURSES AND SEMINARS: courses, seminars and cultural workshops will continue to take place as planned. Each partner (i.e., University of Murcia, British-Hellenic College, Agenzia per il patrimonio culturale euromediterraneo and Educational and European Centre of Education and Development –the partner P3, Elea Computer Systems Ltd does not participate in this work package) will organise Greek language and culture courses at its premises. Besides, an intensive Greek language course is being planned for the summer 2009. This course, jointly organised by all partners, will take place at the premises of the British Hellenic College in Chania, in Crete.

SPREAD OUT OF THE LEARNING / TEACHING MATERIALS IN CDS MULTIMEDIA: Within January-February 2009 we will post the multimedia CDs to the European institutions devoted to teaching Greek. Every institution will receive a copy of each of the textbooks (*Travel to Greece III*, *Business Greek* and *Greek for Science*), along with promotional and informative leaflets and folders about *Odysseus*.

ODYSSEUS WEBSITE: throughout this whole period the *Odysseus* website will be constantly updated.

FINAL CONFERENCE AND PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS: it will take place at the University of Murcia, coinciding with the project's concluding meeting, during the fall term 2009. All partners will participate, along with members from other institutions related to the teaching and promotion of the Greek language. It will be a very appropriate forum to present conclusions, to debate about results, and to exchange experiences between partners as well as with specialists beyond the consortium. Proposal topics include: experience in Modern Greek Training in the *Odysseus* Courses, assessment of the "Odysseus" Materials, Methodology and Problems of Teaching Modern Greek as Foreign Language, Language Policies related to Modern Greek Promotion/Preservation, "Strong" Languages vs. "Weak" Languages etc.

The products of this conference will be published in a volume of proceedings, which will contribute to enrich European bibliography on related topics, thus ensuring *Odysseus'* sustainability after its completion.

DISSEMINATION ACTIONS: as dissemination is central to the very idea of the *Odysseus* Project, during the second year all dissemination activities will continue at all levels, as described in the preceding pages. On general terms, as during the first year the dissemination has been kept mainly –although not exclusively–local (Athens, Lecce, Plovdiv and Murcia) and national (Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Spain), in the second year we intend, while paying no less attention to those contexts, to intensify dissemination in the remaining European countries.

Regarding *Specific Dissemination* among our nearest potential end-users (Greek teachers and students), massive mailings to distribution lists will keep on being a fundamental tool. We will also keep on including information about *Odysseus* in

specialised journals and web portals and sites related to our field of study, a practice that has proved quite effective so far.

We will make stronger efforts to achieve an effective *general dissemination* of *Odysseus*, in order to reach a wider audience belonging to a variety of social backgrounds. To make this possible, we will try to be frequently and widely present in the media, just like we have been doing until present.

Finally, as indicated in our strategic plan for the dissemination of *Odysseus* and its didactic materials, we will keep giving public presentations in relevant forums. Some of these activities are already confirmed: for instance, the presentation seminar of the project at the Agenzia per il patrimonio culturale euromediterraneo in Lecce, on the 28 January 2009, a workshop about *Odysseus* and modern Greek in a teachers and students meeting at the IES Alhama de Murcia (Spain), in May 2009, an *Odysseus* stand at the *Hispanic Association of Modern Greek Studies* Conference, to take place in Saragossa (Spain), in October 2009, or the presentation of *Odysseus* in the conference about the project "You speak Greek already" (Athens, November 2009). Some other activities are now being organised.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT: management and follow-up activities will go on as usual, implemented through the Partner's zone of *Odysseus* website and through fluent and continuous contact (by phone and mail) between all consortium members. Besides, other two meetings are planned: the second coordination meeting, which will take place in Athens at the end of February 2009, and the Concluding Meeting, which will be celebrated in Murcia in some date between October and December 2009.

6. Contribution to EU policies

Our project puts into practice basic principles of present European policies, which give priority to the promotion of language teaching and learning, as well as of linguistic diversity in education and training.

Consequently, our project complies with the guidance lines established in the Bologna Declaration, by insisting in the need to offer and integrate a diverse and varied range of European languages in all formal and non-formal education sectors.

Specifically, *Odysseus'* objectives aim at promoting the teaching of a European minority language. In more precise terms, Greek is a LWULT (Less widely used and less taught) language. This falls within the protection of *smaller* European languages, with regard to *larger* languages.

Along with all this, the project follows the European guidelines and pursues the *Lifelong Learning Programme* objectives. It promotes, within the context of continuing education, innovative contents and teaching practices based on ICTs, and encourages end-users to use them within their own learning process. This is mainly carried out by disseminating multimedia materials and by implementing the didactic platform at *Odysseus* website. These educational resources are a considerable novelty in the case of Greek language learning. Such procedures and instruments are rare within the field.

In our view, we are thus contributing to improve the quality, attractiveness and accessibility of continuing education in foreign languages at all educational levels (obviously, in the Greek language, in our case).

Odysseus also promotes intercultural dialogue and contributes to protect Europe's cultural diversity. Accordingly, our project complies with the conclusions reached by the group of intellectuals led by Amin Maalouf: "A Rewarding Challenge: How the Multiplicity of Languages Could Strengthen Europe" (Brussels 2008). Within this framework, *Odysseus* intends to promote the Greek language as *personal adoptive language*, thus contributing, as we said, to intercultural dialogue in Europe.

Finally, *Odysseus* encourages and promotes student mobility and contributes to immigrant integration in their host country (Greece), by improving the linguistic competence of immigrants.

