



Education and Culture DG

## Lifelong Learning Programme

### **MobLang**

#### **Intercultural Dialogue & Linguistic Diversity via MobLang**

**DG EAC/31/08**

Lifelong Learning Programme

Awareness raising and development of new materials and/or on-line courses

Language barriers between individuals of different ethnic groups living in the same country and of Europeans visiting other countries for business or pleasure hinder natural interaction. Communication in a foreign language can prevent the development of bonds, thus deterring efficient cross-cultural relationships and dialogue. A rudimentary knowledge of the language used by one's conversational partner is usually appreciated and creates a comforting atmosphere which also nurtures further growth of the relationship.

The Lifelong Learning Programme called "MobLang" facilitates intercultural dialogue and intends to contribute to the linguistic diversity that exists between people living in the same country, specifically Greece. This type of enlargement of cognitive horizons of Greek and Albanian nationals via the acquisition of useful and interesting knowledge concerning each other's language and culture leads to more human and meaningful social contact. It can also contribute to individual's professional and academic development.

Today's Europeans are very busy and thus lack the opportunity to learn a language that is not widespread. The exploitation of technology and specifically the recently presented developments in flexible learning can offer a feasible alternative approach. Mobile telephones give people the opportunity to learn anything anytime, at their own pace, even during their free time, while waiting for services, commuting, etc.

The proposed program applies the flexible ancillary learning of languages and contributes to the support of less-widespread, less-taught and also less-used European languages.

The particular series of micro-language courses will be incorporated into a social and cultural framework which will include activities, proposals, exercises, games, competitions of knowledge, as well as access to a live teacher.

For the duration of the program but also after its completion, we hope that "MobLang" will be developed and spread to and by children, students, schoolteachers, parents, students, businessmen, and travelers.

The program's aim is to give individuals that reside in the same country the opportunity to create friendships, professional relationships, and more generally avenues of



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communication.

“MobLang” will focus on the distribution and briefing of Turkish language and culture in Cyprus, Basque in Spain, Gaelic in Northern Ireland, and Turkish and Albanian in Greece.

### **Duration of the project**

From December 2009 till November 2011 (24 Months)

### **Funding Body of the project**

Seventy five percent (75%) of the project is funded by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Union .

### **Partners of the project**

COORDINATOR

CYPRUS NEUROSCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (CNTI)  
(CYPRUS)

CNTI's scope of projects involves the application of technology towards social transformation as well as bridging literacy, economic, and digital divides. It is a supporter of IT education, scientific research, and peace in the three continents around Cyprus. Moreover, CNTI aims at the sensitization, enlightenment, and development of an active civil society in Cyprus. The organization implements the following related projects: 3 projects on Safer Internet, 2 research projects focusing on Web 2.0/Web 3.0 tools, and a research project developing a multimedia learning environment. CNTI has extensive experience in coordinating, conducting, and supervising projects, trainings, conferences, and workshops beyond national boundaries with the use of modern technology for education. Its competencies are development of new educational models based on cognitive science and computing, world-wide operations focused on international development, and enhancement of inter-ethnic and international peace.

CYPRUS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY LANGUAGE CENTRE  
(CYPRUS)

The Cyprus University of Technology (2004) aspires to offer Cyprus the greatest possible autonomy in the training of executives capable of serving the economy, technology, industry, and also society and culture, so that Cyprus will become a leader in the Middle East Region and the EU. The mission of its Language Centre is to assist students to satisfy the University's foreign language requirement. The aim is to broaden student language awareness and help them in their learning, research, exchange study programmes, their future career, and their personal and social life. It uses ICT to underpin its operations, and its activities are informed by relevant research in second language acquisition and educational technology. The LC is also gradually offering Language learning services and resources for the members of the university, a language programme



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of continuing education for adults, teachers training, and services such as testing, translating and interpreting.

### ELHUYAR FOUNDATION (SPAIN)

Elhuyar was created in 1972 and aimed to join science and the Basque language. Later its activity extended to the normalization of the status and corpus of the Basque language. In 2002, Elhuyar took an important step forward by founding the Elhuyar Foundation. The main objectives of the Foundation are:

To collaborate and promote the social normalization of the Basque language and, with that aim, to promote and apply research and development activities;

To stimulate, promote and collaborate in the integration of Science and Technology in society;

To spread and report, in the Basque Country, as well as beyond it, the development of the scientific and technological research done in the Basque Country;

To promote the relationships between the education system and the science and technology system through publications, conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.

The working team is formed by 110 professionals--language specialists, scientists, contributors to scientific and educational publications.

### LUZIA LIMITED (UNITED KINGDOM)

Luzia Limited (LL) specializes in educational software for mobile phones. It is creating its own products and working with research institutions on projects to expand the use of mobile phones in education. One of its products is getawayphrases, software for mobile phones that help people learn a language for their holidays. Different level games and other activities cover all basic words and phrases that will be needed such as greetings, numbers, and directions. It also teaches basic phrases for use in restaurants, shops, hotels, transport, and emergencies.

### ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST (UNITED KINGDOM)

St. Mary's University College is proud of our reputation as a friendly, welcoming place where staff and students work together and know each other as individuals. In addition to the student teachers who have been the core of St. Mary for the past 100 years, our BA (Liberal Arts) programme has brought new students with new career ambitions and interests that give a new dimension to life at the College.

European Studies Department: "Europe" is a multi-dimensional concept that means many different things and covers a number of academic fields. This cross-disciplinary subject enables students to explore various political, cultural, and economic concepts and consider them as contexts for future engagement. Students will examine Europe as a political and economic context, and as a cultural space. By doing so they will be



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developing the life-skills for living and working in a continent marked by great diversity yet increasing unity.

### DROMOS-(IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE GROUP) (GREECE)

DROMOS is a NGO established in 2008 in Thessaloniki. DROMOS is a migrant-based organized group of people acting for the better living of them in the city of Thessaloniki. Since its formulation, its headquarters have served as a lively meeting place for migrants, refugees, and natives. Numerous live music events have been organized, consisting mainly of traditional and eastern sounds, but also music from all around the world. Moreover, this space is open every day for anyone to come read a book, drink tea/coffee, or have a discussion. Individuals have donated books in many languages, so a small library has been formed. But most important are the 8 free Greek Language courses. Teachers and university students offer their services to migrants and refugees that are willing to learn the Greek language and plan to live in Greece. Moreover, migrants and refugees offer free courses to natives to learn Turkish and Albanian, among other languages. All activities are organized and carried out by migrants and refugees.

### ANTIGONE - INFORMATION & DOCUMENTATION CENTRE ON RACISM, ECOLOGY, PEACE, AND NON VIOLENCE (GREECE)

ANTIGONE is the Greek national partner for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. It has a close cooperation with several institutes and organizations that strive to combat discrimination. Throughout the last five years, in order to feed the database of the EUMC with reliable data, ANTIGONE has gained much theoretical and practical experience in the critical field of data collection. ANTIGONE has a long experience of project management, has a long lasting relationship with the European Union and has participated in numerous youth training programmes.

The primary aim of the organisation consists in the improvement of the living conditions and the life quality of various social groups named as "sensitive" or "vulnerable" , which are often the target of discrimination (migrants, refugees, prisoners, homosexuals, unemployed, the elderly, minorities, women, young etc).

ANTIGONE works on a large number of research projects with both national and European partners, implements activities, such as lessons of the Greek language to migrants and refugees, consulting towards unemployed women, trainings for migrant women, creative workshops for prisoners, peace dialogue workshops, intercultural meetings, non formal education activities, awareness raising actions and support regarding employment issues towards Roma and other people, disseminates publications and studies and issues press regarding racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the sectors of employment, education, legislation, racial violence and housing in Greece, participates in press conferences concerning issues of discrimination and in various Antiracist Festivals in Athens, Thessaloniki and other cities, launches a variety of awareness-raising activities, training seminars and anti-discrimination events, since 2002, it organises an annual National Round Table. Government representatives, public officials,



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academics, NGOs and migrant and minority organisations participate in the event, maintains and updates an electronic library ([www.antigone.gr/library/default.html](http://www.antigone.gr/library/default.html)) with various scientific material on issues of discrimination, migration, asylum and human rights aiming at practical assistance of all researchers.