

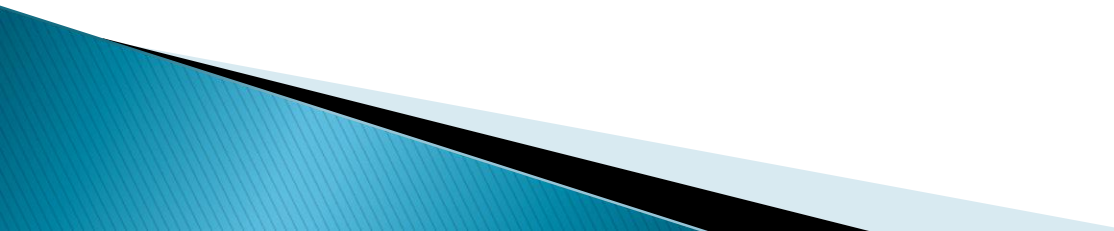
Foreign and heritage language learning in Greek primary schools: the facts and the problems

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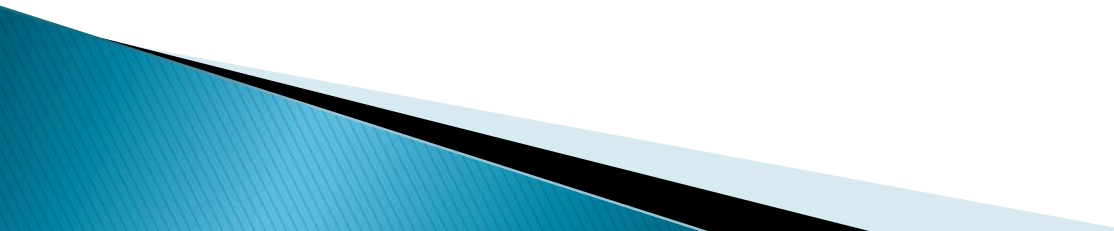
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Outline

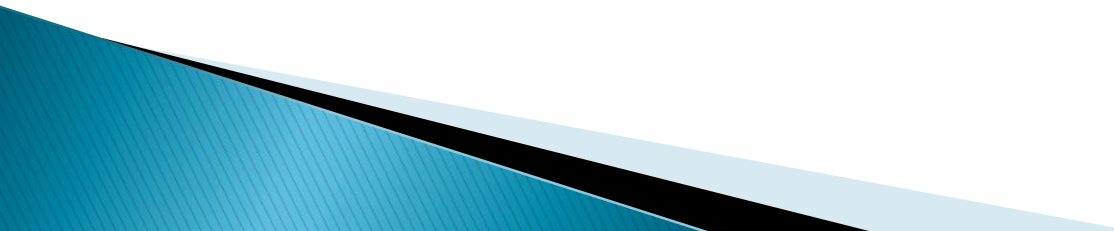
- ▶ Foreign language tuition in Greek primary schools: historical development and current models
 - ▶ The 'experimental school' model for foreign language teaching and learning
 - ▶ Heritage language and literacy development
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A. The introduction of foreign language tuition into Greek primary schools

Milestones:

- 1987: initially implemented for the **last 3 years** of primary school with most schools offering English.
 - 1991: English became the **compulsory** foreign language in all schools.
 - 2003: English was extended to the **last 4 years** of primary education
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B. Further development

- ▶ 1993: The introduction of a compulsory **second foreign** language in junior high schools
 - ▶ English: a compulsory subject and French or German as a **second foreign** language.
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Recent development

- 2010–11; “English for Young Learners” (PEAP) project: English language was introduced to the **first** and **second** grade in 800 primary schools around the country (1 / 3 of primary school children participated)
- 2011–2012: the number of schools increased to 900 and currently they are about 1,100. This project introduced changes and modifications to the school curriculum and apart from English, Arts and IT were also introduced.

Number of hours learners are exposed weekly to English language instruction

School year	Age	Contact hours in regular schools	Contact hours in PEAP school
1 st primary	6		2
2 nd primary	7		2
3 rd primary	8	3	4
4 th primary	9	3	4
5 th primary	10	3	4
6 th primary	11	3	4

Teaching material for **PEAP** schools

- Grades 1 and 2: Special material designed for learners of those schools. English is introduced through the development of **oral** skills
<http://rcel.enl.uoa.gr/peap/>
- Grade 3 children are gradually introduced to literacy through a phonics-based approach.
- School teachers' profile:

Postgraduate qualifications (in TEFL)	Experience in teaching young learners
17,8%	96%

The 3rd Model: Experimental School for EFL teaching

- Experimental Primary School
- <http://3dim-evosm.web.auth.gr/>
- Founded by the School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2005.
- It was the first primary Greek state school which introduced English language instruction to the **first two grades**.
- The school follows an intensive foreign language programme and to this aim it has gradually adopted and implemented several innovations:
- (a) the number of ELT hours per week, (b) the English language syllabus, (c) the methodology of teaching English, (d) the ELT material.

English language instruction at the Experimental School

School year	Age	Contact hours
1 st primary	6	5
2 nd primary	7	5
3 rd primary	8	8
4 th primary	9	8
5 th primary	10	8
6 th primary	11	8

English language classes are smaller than the Greek ones (the 2 Greek classes at each grade are divided into 3 classes during English language instruction).

Methodology of teaching English

- The content-based method has been adopted throughout the curriculum. In particular, from Grade 3 and beyond, **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** is implemented for the teaching of the following subjects:
 - Grade 3: *History*
 - Grade 4: *Environmental Studies and Arts*
 - Grade 5: *Geography and Religious Education*
 - Grade 6: *Geography and Religious Education*

Monitoring the experimental school

- Research is being carried out aiming to study the effect of those innovations on learners' language and cognitive development.
- The study of early foreign language learning on young learners' **cognitive** skills
- The role of **aptitude** in young learners' language development
- The impact of **CLIL** on learners' language skills and content knowledge
- The effect of the exclusive use of children's **literature** on 3rd graders' language development

Results on English language: Oxford **Quick** Placement Test

	CLIL (n=26)	Non-CLIL (n=26)
Mean score in OPT1	17.6/40	18/40
Std deviation	3.1	4.6
Mean score in OPT2	20.7/40	19.6/40
Std deviation	4.5	2.7

OPT1: September 2011

OPT2: June 2012

Results on **geography** for CLIL and non-CLIL learners

Geography tests	CLIL (n=26)	Non-CLIL (n=26)
Mean score in Test1	6,5/10	6,3/10
Std deviation	2,2	2,6
Mean score in Test2	6,8/10	6,5/10
Std deviation	2,5	2,6

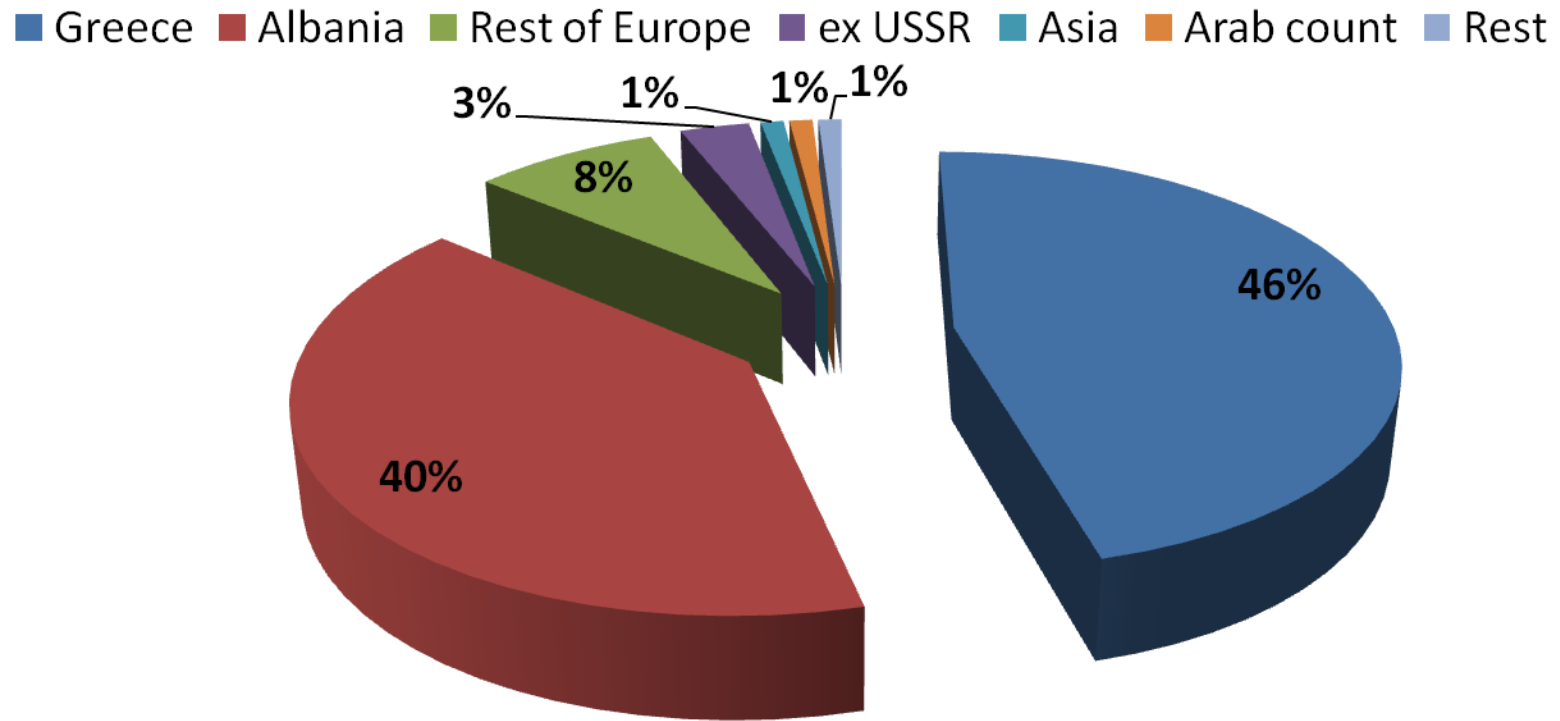
Geography was **tested** in **English** for the CLIL group and in **Greek** for the non-CLIL group

Heritage language speakers in Greek schools

	2002–2003	2008–2009
Primary education	10,60%	11,60%
Secondary education	7,53%	9,60%

Non-Greek students in Greece

Countries where foreign students in Greek primary schools were born



Heritage language development

- The Ministry of Education has set up 26 **cross-cultural** schools in high-immigration areas and prioritised the recruitment of teachers who speak the pupils' mother tongues.
- In these schools, teachers are also available to provide interpretation and counselling services for immigrant pupils

source: <http://www.eurydice.org>



Provision for heritage language teaching

- In Greece, four hours of extracurricular tuition per week can be organised whenever there is demand from at least seven pupils and depending upon availability of qualified teachers. The cost of this tuition is met by the State.

source: <http://www.eurydice.org>

- Problems: state funding is radically reduced.
- Political issues