



TALETE

Teaching mAthS through innovative Learning approach
and conTEnts

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME
COMENIUS

Coordinated by Università degli Studi "G.Marconi"

*"EL - CLASS- iCO - Electronic Classroom in Collaborative Environments"
Workshops and training programs targeting educators, pedagogcs, and
policy makers, including the presentation at the Grundvig In-Service
Programme*



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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Elaborated by (Name of the organization)	University of Thessaly (Greece)
Conference Name	"EL - CLASS- iCO - Electronic Classroom in Collaborative Environments" Workshops and training programs targeting educators, pedagogcs, and policy makers, including the presentation at the Grundvig In-Service Programme
Date	11-12/06/2012 in Serres (Greece)

Grundtvig In service Training: “EL-CLASS-ICO – Electronic Classroom in Collaborative Environments”

This Grundtvig In service Training program was funded by the European Union and organized by Epimorfotiki Kilkis aiming at engaging adults in training experiences mainly with tools that promote collaboration, and communication in the workplace; participants were exposed to the use of Interactive Whiteboards and were provided with details regarding installation, setting and good practice examples. The participants were also exposed to platforms for e-learning (such as Moodle, Eclass, A tutor, Lotus Learning Space), tools for videoconferencing (i.e skype, flashmeeting, DimDim, Google Talk and more). Web2.0 tools for collaboration and communication with a wider audience were also presented by trainers (i.e Wikis and blogs). The seminar also included sessions about ‘virtual laboratories’, ‘tools for user testing and evaluation’ and ‘tools for creating e-learning content (i.e text editors, photo editor, movie editors, audio editors etc)’

Interestingly, apart from practical training with tools, more research-oriented and innovative ideas were additionally presented. This took place under the session ‘Educational Games and playful approaches to learning’. In this session, trainers had the chance to present ideas about game- based learning and playful approaches to learning; together with the participants they attempted to define what an educational game is and to address answers to the following questions: ‘How edutainment differs from playful learning’ and ‘in what ways playful approaches to learning can help people advance their skills and enrich their knowledge? These questions raised the dialogue and the participants exchanged ideas inspired by their own needs and experiences. In the context of this theoretical debate different type of games were mentioned (i.e constructionist games, exploratory games, virtual worlds, microworlds, avatar- based games, adventure games and more). After this theoretical debate, the LLP projects that run through the University of Thessaly and the Center for Research and Technology Thessaly were presented by Rene Alimisi (invited speaker) as examples that bring the discussed ideas into focus. The objectives, the didactical framework, the pedagogical design and the technical design of educational games were discussed. In total, 3 projects were demonstrated (cMinds, EnvKids and TALETE). The presentation of the projects inspired the dialogue about target- groups and design issues focused on the target groups. The participants had the chance to practically expose themselves to the tools that were stable and available for user practice.

The seminar concluded with cultural activities and events aiming at bringing participants closer to the Greek culture. Five participants from 3 European countries (Lithuania, Belgium, and Romania) took part in the seminar. Four members/trainers of Epimorfotiki Kilkis and two invited speakers were also present. The seminar lasted 5 days (10 -15 June, 2011) and took place in Keramoti, Kavala.