



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

Description of the funded research project
1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty
Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value
Research Equipment

Title of the research project:

Creative multilingualism: From practice to research to education

Principal Investigator:

George Androulakis

Reader-friendly title:

MEinART

Scientific Area:

Social Sciences

Institution and Country:

Greece

Host Institution:

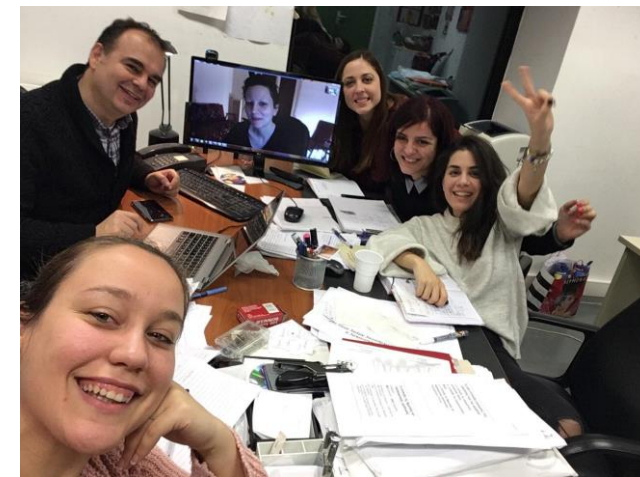
University of Thessaly – Greek Language and Multilingualism Lab (GLML)

Collaborating Institution(s):

-

Project webpage

<http://greeklanglab.pre.uth.gr/el/meinart-elidek/>



Budget: 150.150 euro

Duration: 36 months

Research Project Synopsis

- Greece as a "place", in relation to the refugee experience, is regarded either as a 'transit country' or as a 'limbo country'. The diversity of the geographical, political and social 'space' also affects education. In the everyday fluidity, the only thing that remains stable is "the one" concrete experience related with the refugee status (see for example Ludwig, 2016), especially when we refer to gender dimension. Refugee women's voices and identities have not been typically incorporated in research and education, planning for service provision, and policy design (Goodkind & Deacon, 2004; McPherson, 2015).
- The main goal of MEinART is to identify the value of multilingual/translingual practices as sources of creativity that will lead to the construction of innovative learning 'spaces' for women with a refugee or another background, where their multilingual and multicultural identities and voices will be facilitated and valorized. These innovative learning 'spaces' will shape the transition from conventional numeracy and literacy to literacies (multiple literacies, digital literacies) that are based on alternative linguistic practices (translanguaging, codemeshing). The purpose of the research is to transform (digital) learning 'spaces' to 'spaces' of promoting and legalizing women refugees' multilingual and multicultural identities, where they could express themselves, actually develop their linguistic, cultural and social capital, and also be accompanied to 'spaces' of new paths of knowledge and life.

Research Project Synopsis

More specifically the project's **objectives** are:

- to investigate how multilingual/translingual creative practices shape identities of women with a refugee or another background;
- to investigate the potential of using modes of art and creative applications of ICT for the multilingual/translingual self-expression of women speakers;
- to design alternative (digital, blended and face-to-face) learning spaces that will facilitate and valorize women's identities.
- Project's **implementation** is participatory and is structured around three distinct phases: **practice, research, education**. We adopt a migratory research aesthetics (see for example Bal, 2015; Frimberger, 2016a; Phipps & Kay, 2016) combined with arts-based methodologies. The project includes the design and implementation of language learning interventions through arts. Our main objective is to encourage women's voices for example through common artworks and actions.

Project Originality

- MeinART project, through an inclusive and critical approach, seeks to bring closer research and practice through connections among the arts and the digital space, multilingualism/multiculturalism and immigration, women with refugee background and local women, researchers and artists.
- The coexistence of different scientific starting points (fields of arts and sociolinguistics) in combination with the individual-personal multilingual/multicultural paths of each participant is one of the biggest challenges of the Project. At this point, it is worth noting the projects' parallel local and global character due to our pluri-team: scientists, women, educators, researchers who live and work in Greece -in different cities- and in other countries of the world.
- In addition, we hope that the participatory culture, that is adopted and will develop during the Project, will give voice to women from its beginning and will motivate active participation in all Project's phases. We seek to construct a "reverse discourse" as to the ways that research, knowledge production, and learning processes take place. Such endeavor presupposes a change of thinking about processes or "spaces" such as learning, away from "conventional" notions in order to create a multilingual/multicultural (digital) public "space" of learning accessible to all.

Expected Results & Research Project's Impact

- To identify and collect existing scientific knowledge on creative multilingualism, as well as artistic, ICT and educational best practices.
- To design a training guide on relevant issues of research, education and art for researchers and artists.
- To design and develop arts-based actions of non-formal and informal education, focusing on identity boosting in public 'spaces'.
- To conduct qualitative research on educational-artistic interventions through case studies.
- To influence educational policies and decision makers towards recognising the value of creative multilingual/multicultural practices for refugees and gender mainstreaming in education.
- To develop multiple ways of dissemination that are accessible to everyone.

Expected Results & Research Project's Impact

- Projects' results are expected to have an impact on both women's educational and social integration and the fostering of alternative ways of research and (language) education.
- **Key directions of the project's impact** will be:
 - to initiate long-term improvements to translingual and intercultural understanding, and to relationships between linguistic communities of practice, but also relationships between multilingualism, creativity, social cohesion, conflict resolution, and societal well-being;
 - to raise public awareness and influence perspectives concerning multilingualism's potential within cultural and creative arts communities;
 - to influence change concerning language curricula and syllabi, emphasizing on public, community-based, arts-based and digital learning, and to influence policy implications with regard to education and the public space;
 - to offer capacity building opportunities.

The importance of this funding

- Project's funding signifies focus on multilingual repertoires, refugee and gender identity in times of multiple crisis, as well as investment on innovative ways of social, educational and artistic expression.
- GLML's team is given the possibility to continue its award-winning research and educational effort, that has begun and evolved during different projects and experiences such as ELMEGO, MATHEME, PRESS, in order to proceed to new scientific, educational and artistic pathways.
- An international network on creative multilingualism will be articulated around the project, through the participation of experts outside Greece.
- In addition, this funding will promote the coexistence of artists with educators, researchers and artists, and the creation of public sustainable collective artworks and actions.



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

COMMUNICATION

185 Syggrou Ave. & 2 Sardeon St. 2
171 21, N. Smyrni, Greece
+30 210 64 12 410, 420
communication@elidek.gr
www.elidek.gr