

STUDENTS WITH MIGRANT BACKGROUND IN CYPRIOT SCHOOLS: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

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Cyprus Pedagogical Institute

EMN LUXENBOURG NATIONAL CONFERENCE "CHILDREN IN MIGRATION"
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The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (CPI)

- One of the Directorates of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
 - To ensure the Continuous Professional Learning of teachers in Cyprus (all levels and all posts),
 - To promote the Ministry policy and the upgrading of the quality of the educational system
- Coordinates and presides the "Interdepartmental Committee for the integration of children with migrant background" since 2016





The Cyprus educational context for students with migrant background

Cyprus educational system in centralized

More than 15% of student population in Cyprus are students with migrant background







The Cyprus educational context for students with migrant background

2016

Re-establishing Interdepartmental Committee

Policy Paper

2016-2018

Action Plan 1

The challenge of reception

2019

Peer Counselling Review

21 recommendations

2019-2022

Action plan 2

ESF support through DRASE+

2023-2025

Action plan 3

On going...





Action Plan pillars

Policy Paper

- Mapping students with migrant background
- Reception of newcomers
- Teaching Greek as a second language
- Teachers' Professional Learning
- Intercultural and antiracist dimension in school life and curricula

Peer Counselling Review Report

- Reception phase (rec. 1-7)
- Supporting teachers and school leaders (rec. 8-12)
- Schools (rec. 13-15)
- Educational Policy (rec. 16-20)
- Diversity (rec. 21)



Recent developments and challenges







Mapping of the migrant population

 Development of an online platform collecting and reporting students' data: starting from registration, to assessment and progress up to lower secondary school

The challenges:

- Lacking data from some schools (underreporting, unclear instructions etc.)
- Utilizing students' data for pedagogical decisions at the macro-, meso- and micro level







Mapping of the migrant population

- The Centre for Educational Research and Evaluation uses validated specific Greek language tests for the Cyprus context (Primary education).
 The tests:
 - are administered annually twice (initial and final evaluation)
 - aim at measuring Greek language attainment of non-native Greek speaking pupils
 - follow the Common European Framework of Reference in Languages in 3 competences
- Upon moving to secondary schools, information regarding migrant students' Greek language competences are passed on from primary schools.



Teaching Greek as a second language







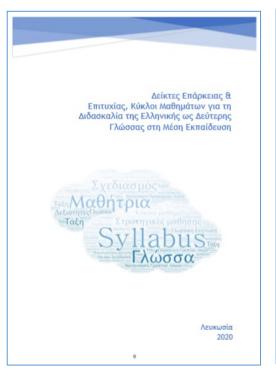
Teaching Greek as a second language: (1) The Syllabus

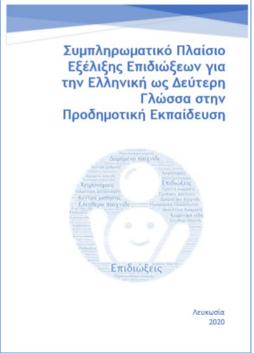
Syllabus for Greek as a second language

(Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education of Cyprus)













Teaching Greek as a Second Language: (1) The Syllabus

- Unified curriculum for all levels of compulsory education
- Indicators for all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing), learning strategies and multilingual awareness
- Methodologies combining language and content learning (e.g. Content based language learning, Communicative approach)
- Introducing migrant students to Cypriot society and culture
- Developing digital skills





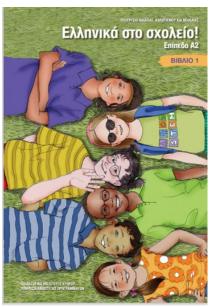
Teaching Greek as a second language: (2) Developing teaching material

Primary Education

Level A1: Greek for children, easy and simple! (2022, Revised edition)

Level A2 Greek at school! (September 2023)





Secondary Education (since September 2023)

Level B1



2. Τι αλλάζει στο Γυμνάσιο και το Λύκειο;



History and Civilization



Συμπληρώνω τις προτάσεις με τις κατάλληλες λέξεις.

> ζωγράφιζαν, κοιμούνταν, μαγείρευαν



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αυτό	ήταν	TO	σπίτι	τους,	συχνά
		πάνω	στους	τοίχους	. Αυτές οι
ζωγρα	φιές ον	ομάζον	ται σπ	τηλαιογ	ραφίες.



Teaching Greek as a second language: (3) The Timetable

RECEDTION

	1-3 months In or out of the school	1-2 years Participation in the mainstream class and intensive language lessons	2+ years Integration in the mainstream class			
Pre-primary education		Integration In-classroom support with a 2 nd teacher (schools participating in DRA.S.E+ Program) (2 teaching periods per day)				
Primary education	First weeks (2-3 weeks) according to the Reception Guides for Primary and Secondary Education	 Participation in the mainstream class Intensive language lessons G2L in small groups (at least one teaching period per day) In-classroom support with a 2nd teacher (schools participating in DRA.S.E+ Program) 	 Participation in the mainstream class In-classroom support with a 2nd teacher (schools participating in DRA.S.E+ Program) 			
Secondary education		- Transition classes (14 + 5 teaching hours)	 Participation in the mainstream class In-classroom support with a 2nd teacher (schools participating in DRA S Et Program) 			



Teaching Greek as a second language: (4) Monitoring students' learning - formative assessment and evaluation

- Initial, midterm and final assessment
 - Different tests according to age and level of language acquisition
 - All 4 language competencies
 - Administered by teachers
- Tests to be standardized





ΠΑΙΔΑΓΟΓΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ

очора рас	ητή/μαθήτριας:	
Χώρα Κατο	γωγής-Μητρική γλώσσα:	
Χρονιά Ενί	εχυσης:	
Τμήμα:		
Υπεύθυνος	/Υπεύθυνη δάσκαλος/δασκάλα για	
την ελληνι	τή ως δεύτερη γλώσσα:	

ΕΝΔΙΑΜΕΣΗ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗ - ΤΑΞΗ Α

 Βάλε μπροστά από την κάθε λέξη το άρθρο που ταιριάζει, όπως στα παραδείγματα (μονάδες 20).







The challenges

Implementing diverse and flexible paths for different migrant populations:

- The case of unaccompanied minors
- The case of children who have not achieved B1 after two years L2 teaching
- Procedures for continuing school education after attending L2 classes/lessons





Reception of newcomers



- Reception Guides for:
 - Pre-primary and Primary Education
 - Secondary Education
 - Parent-mediators
- Seminars

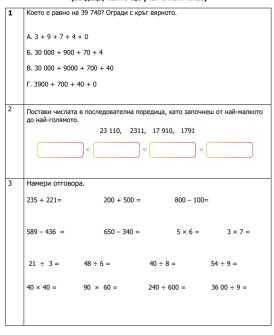
ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΗ - ΠΡΟΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΗ ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ (σγγλικά, αραβικά, βουλναρικά, ναλλικά, γεωργιανά, κινεζικά, ουκρανικά, περσικά, ουκρανικά) ρουμανικά, ρωσικά, τουρκικά) 1. Οδηγίες Συμπλήρωσης Εντύπων (Για συμπλήρωση του εντύπου στα Ελληνικά ή στα Αγγλικά)

- 2. Ερωτηματολόγια Γονέων
- 3. Έναρξη της σχολικής χρονιάς 3. Έγκριση γονέα για αποχώρηση την 7η (Πληροφορίες και κανόνες)
- 4. Μαθητική Στολή
- 5. Ατομικό Δελτίο Μαθητή/Μαθήτριας 5. (Έντυπο ΥΠΑΝ ΔΔΕ 01)
- 6. Αίτηση για εγγραφή σε Δημοτικό ή 6. Δήλωση για τηλέφωνα, sms Νηπιαγωγείο (Εντυπο ΥΠΑΝ ΔΔΕ 11)
- 7. Αίτηση για εγγραφή σε Νηπιαγωγείο (Έντυπο_ΥΠΑΝ ΔΔΕ 30)
- 8. Εγγραφές Μετεγγραφές Δημοτικών (Πληροφορίες και Κανονισμοί)
- (Πληροφορίες каі Νηπιαγωγείων

ΜΕΣΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ (αγγλικά, γαλλικά, αραβικά, ρωσικά, βουλγαρικά, ρουμανικά, κινεζικά, περσικά, τουρκικά,

- 1. Ατομικό Δελτίο
- 2. Δελτίο Απουσίας, Κανονισμοί για απουσίες
- 4. Ενημέρωση γονέων για απουσίες
- Δήλωση για ννωστοποίηση προσωπικών στοιχείων
- 7. Κανονισμοί νια στολή
- 8. Ερωτηματολόγιο για θέματα υγείας
- 9. Συγκατάθεση για δημοσιοποίηση φωτογραφιών, βίντεο
- 10. Απαραίτητα για πρώτη εγγραφή στο

ТЕСТ - ЧЕТВЪРТИ КЛАС (За деца, които ще учат в пети клас)



- Documents translated in 11 languages (English, Arabic, Bulgarian, French, Georgian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Farsi, Romanian, Russian, Turkish):
 - Ministry's Official Forms for parents/guardians
 - Diagnostic Tests (Greek, Mathematics and Science)





Use of material and videos from different projects co-funded by the European Commission













MaSDiV



Teachers' Professional Learning



"Teachers are the backbone of effective education provision, including that for children with a migrant background. It is vital to prepare them through initial and continuing training for teaching in culturally diverse classrooms."

(EC Peer Counselling Report, 2019)





Teachers' professional learning: Networks and PLCs

- Teachers of Greek as a second language all over Cyprus
- School leaders and school coordinators
- Teachers of Mathematics, Biology and Physics in Secondary Education transition classes
- School network for anti-racist education and the implementation of the "Code of Conduct Against Racism"

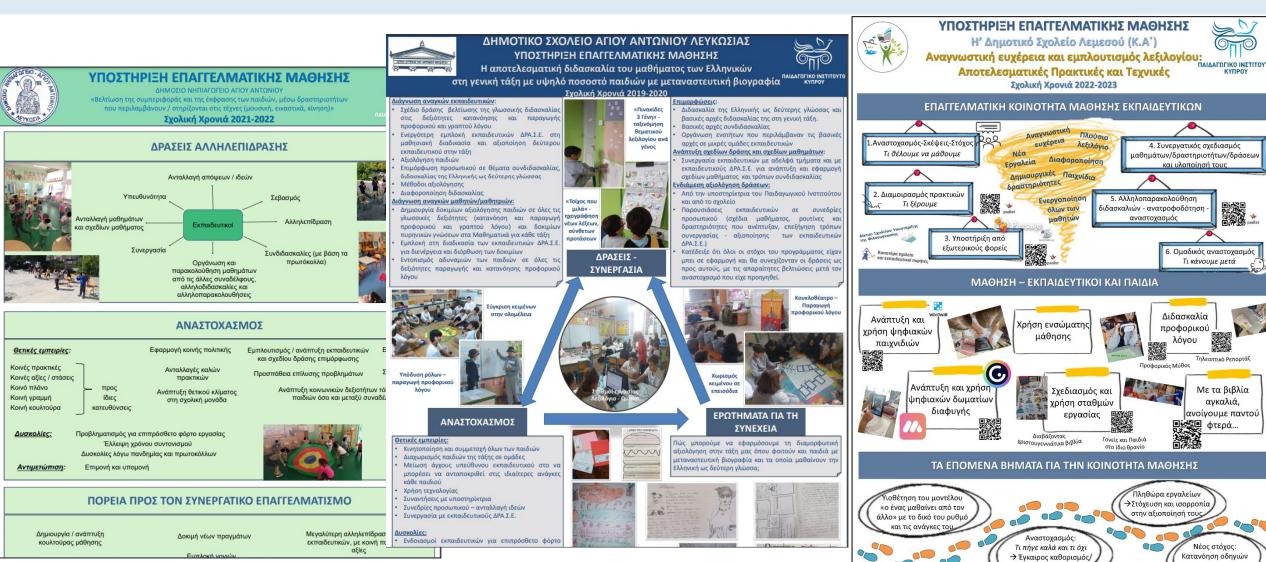
- Blended learning methodology
- Use of Moodle platform
- Training, interaction between teachers and trainers
- Exchange of teaching material, discussion etc.
- Lectures by specialists
- Quality teaching rounds for teachers of neighboring schools







Schools focusing on migrant education through the TPL support program – cooperation with a critical friend





Antiracist policy: Official position of the state against racism

Implementation across schools as official policy of the MOE

 annual reports of recorded incidents are collected at the end of each school year

Based on:

- A directive of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) to all member states of the Council of Europe
- International and European conventions ratified by Cyprus





The challenges

- The vast majority of schools does not appear to implement the policy, even though it is an approved, official policy of the MOE, addressing schools of all levels.
- Teachers report that their colleagues are often unable or refuse to identify violent incidents as racist.
- Under-reporting mentioned by teachers as the major obstacle for the recording of racist incidents.
- Lack of accountability for the implementation of the antiracist policy and, therefore, lack of suitable pedagogical interventions based on the type of incidents at each school





Some feedback data...







Teachers' perceptions regarding blended learning and networks

- Higher level of satisfaction as regards trainings designed through the blended learning method.
- The percentage of teachers who refer to an improvement in their efficacy to teach Greek as a second language and the ability to connect theory and practice has doubled.
- The percentage of teachers who say they are happy / satisfied to a very large extent with the methodology applied has increased by 50%.
- The application of the non-parametric Mann-Whitney criterion to compare the satisfaction of the two groups of teachers (teachers who took part in the training schemes during 2018 − 2019 and teachers who took part in the training schemes of 2019 − 2020) showed that the differences in all cases are statistically significant.

 (Hadjitheodoulou-Loizidou et al, 2020)



Teachers' perceptions regarding blended learning and networks

- ✓ The exchange of successful practices applied by colleagues in practice helped me to differentiate and adapt these practices, according to the needs of my children.
- ✓ Sharing materials with colleagues helped enrich my activities and motivate students.
- ✓ The exchange of views with colleagues and the experiential element of the seminars enables implementation in practice.
- ✓ The fact that the seminar was all year round gave us the opportunity to try
 things and come back to discuss them and get feedback.



Perceptions on using the L2 Curriculum and diagnostic tests

 Teachers' motivation appeared to be higher for those who have participated in teacher training networks compared to those who haven't.

"When you teach for the first time, it's kind of a stressful procedure, I'm telling you the truth about me and how it fits my personality. Of course, you get a lot of moral satisfaction from the learners, their progress... I believe if I do it for a second year in a row the satisfaction would be greater or the creativity... I need to first clear things in my head, understand the procedure... and then I can be creative too..."

(Mitsiaki et al, 2021)



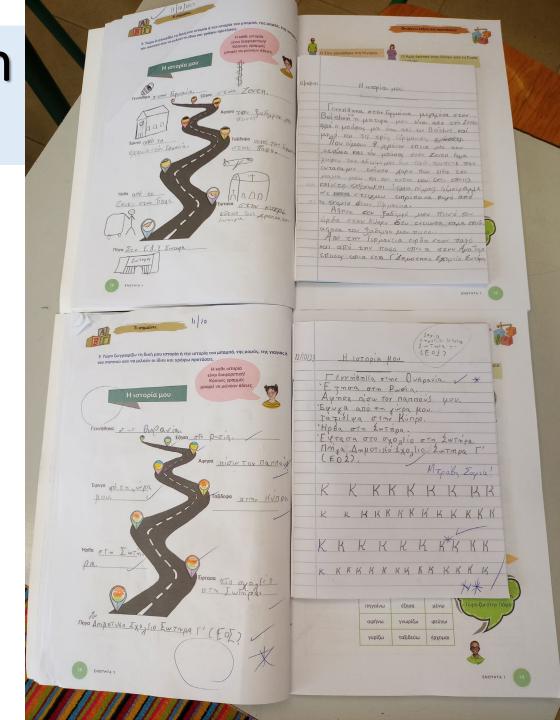
Reactions after the first month of using the new A2 book

.....I felt I wanted to send you these (two photos with four assignments). Children (in grades B, D and E) have just written them with reference to the book.

Just to know how the book inspires children (through differentiation according to their level of language proficiency, of course).

In addition, it is obvious that [the book] strongly supports our work. Thanks!







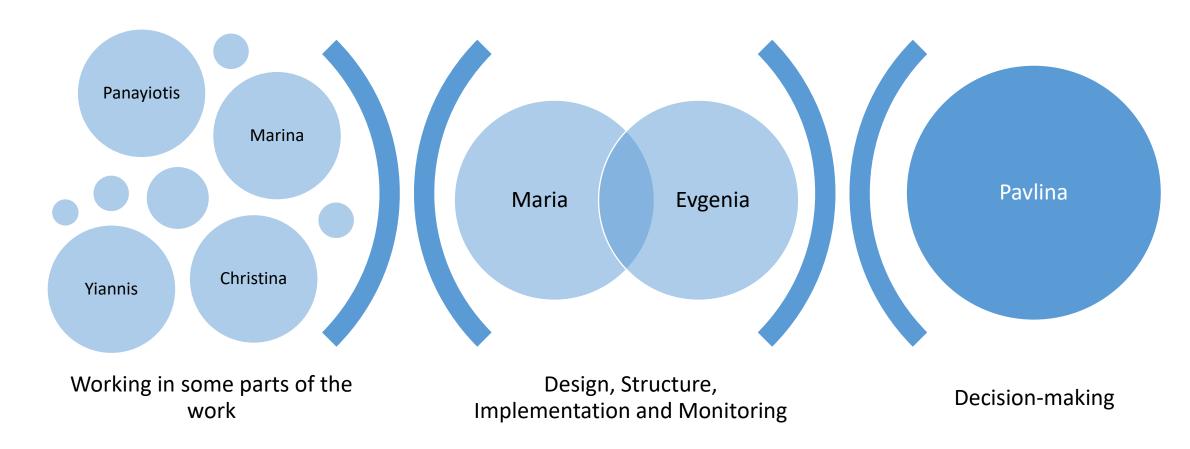
Concluding remarks and steps forward

Taking into account that:

- Structural and individual factors
 - o come into play
 - contradict or complement each other
 - o create both dead ends and open spaces in the implementation of the action plan and the development of culturally responsive schools.
- Improving educational opportunities for children with migrant background follows the same path as improving the respective opportunities of pupils of the general population
 - The emphasis is on developing general codes to regulate expectations, requirements and actions which respect each person as an equal member of the social and educational process



OUR TEAM





Thank you very much for your attention!

