



Sun.Com 1st Newsletter

Introduction to the project

Sun.Com <http://www.sun-languagecommunity.eu/> is a European Union funded education project for students and teachers of languages. It will build a sustainable social community that will share and support teachers and learners of many languages.

The community will specifically focus on informal learning methodologies

This highly innovative project will build a replicable methodology for sustainable, online social networks for informal language learning. The community will include:

- A Community of Learning, for learners of foreign languages and native speakers who are learning foreign language
- A Community of Practice for experienced and prospective teachers of foreign language

The social networking community will utilise peer and tandem informal teaching methods and blended learning.



Need for the project

There is a growing need for the development of innovative methods for the development of language learning. A promising solution for addressing this need is social computing, known as web 2.0 tools. However, and despite the proliferation for online language learning resources, teachers and students have to find a methodologically stable and effective method to teach/ learn languages. Social communication through web- based networking can be one of the most enjoyable ways people learn a new language.

Getting involved

The first community the project will construct will be for the informal learning of Greek and will include innovative teaching and learning methodologies. If you are a present or future **student or teacher** of Greek we invite you to complete the form and return to us if you would be interested in helping to pilot the resources in the autumn 2012.

About You			
Name		Email	
		Email (again)	
Are you a (language teacher, teacher trainer)			
How many years experience			

About Informal language learning



Informal learning is semi-structured and occurs in a variety of places, such as learning at home, work, and through daily interactions and shared relationships among members of society. For many learners this includes language acquisition, cultural norms and manners. Informal learning for young people is an ongoing process that also occurs in a variety of places, such as out of school time, as well as in youth programmes and at community centres.

Informal learning can be characterized as follows:

- It often takes place outside educational establishments standing out from normal life and professional practice;
- It does not necessarily follow a specified curriculum and is not often professionally organized but rather originates accidentally, sporadically, in association with certain occasions, from changing practical requirements;
- It is not necessarily planned pedagogically conscious, systematically according to subjects, test and qualification-oriented, but rather unconsciously incidental, holistically problem-related, and related to situation management and fitness for life;
- It is experienced directly in its "natural" function of everyday life.

Contact

Website: <http://www.sun-languagecommunity.eu/>

Email : joel.josephson@joel-josephson.org