

ILLITERACY IN GREECE



- ⌚ Illiteracy in Greece, according to researches in 2010, is a significant issue.
- ⌚ Almost 23.4% of the Greek population fall into this category.
- ⌚ 9.4% of them never went to school and 13% have studied only for some years.
- ⌚ Women are the 2/3 of the illiterate population.

The problem is extremely high in groups like:

- Roma and gipsies in general
- Prisoners
- Immigrants
- People with special needs
- Elderly people

Our minister of Education using European Union support has scheduled a project called «SOCRATES».

The main purpose of the programme is to support institutions or special schools which will work with those people within lifelong learning programmes. Their aim is to intergrate them into society, to prevent social exclusion, to give them the oppurtunity to feel more confident, since Knowledge is the only key.

Through this programme, adults will take part in various activities cooperating with other Europeans. The main goal is to develop the European dimension of education, exchange experiences and create a policy through which all those groups could benefit the most.

The «Socrates» project has two strategical key actions:

- ⌚ 1. Formal education for those who want to complete their studies and -at the same time- an informal one through social activities
- ⌚ 2. Informal education outside school, which will include basic skills and new competences for working environment

Illiteracy in Thessaloniki

In Thessaloniki, the municipality is the official representative of the «Socrates» programme. Every municipality has established an institution, in which adult people can complete their studies, formally or informally.

Most of them are women, who got married very early, had kids, stopped school and returned to school in the ages of 40-45 to complete basic studies.

A great number of our students' mothers do it and our students and we, encourage them to continue. They told us that Knowledge is a new amazing path for them and that it is very exciting

We haven't really worked with illiterate adults. We have worked though with immigrant students. Unfortunately, there are no special schools for them and they are in a very difficult position, since they don't understand the Greek language (most of the time), so they can't really comprehend things.

The only right given to them by law is to have oral exams instead of written ones, but the result is the same, due to their low level of knowledge.

They usually don't go to university and they are forced in a way to go to work in order to make a living. We don't have special tools for their education, so our only option is to use power point presentations, films, a lot of imagination and finally give them some extra homework to help them understand some elementary things.

On the other hand, our organization is planning to conduct seminars for adults, where our members (whose majority are teachers), shall teach them basic English, Computing and Greek literature. The number of students

increases every year, which means that through the crisis they rediscovered the power of knowledge and consider it a forceful and essential tool to overcome dire situations.

OUR PLANS AS ORGANIZATION

- 1. To establish a network for the women in Balkan – organize seminars and training courses for illiterate women**
- 2. To organize seminars to help illiterate groups to have basic knowledge in language and computers**
- 3. To help anyone who needs it. That is the main reason we have formed a group of volunteers**