IMPLEMENTING EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL NETWORKS IN AEGEAN ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT AND MOTIVATIONS OF "SXEDIA" & "TELEMACHOES"

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Abstract – The Information Technologies in Greek schools is introduced since 1986 by a number of pilot projects according to pupils' discipline, age range, pedagogical and didactical needs and geographical conditions. This is to add another educational and learning tool in school everyday life, to develop, extent and support the collaboration in national and international level, and to improve the local living conditions. Here the deployment of multimedia workstations and intranet infrastructure, the policies adopted to train and motivate the users and the educational application in school program from two different projects are presented. These are: 1) "Sxedia" applied to 46 primary schools in 32 islands, and 2) part of "Telemachos" applied to 21 secondary level schools in 16 islands, all small, dispersed and isolated Aegean islands. The results of all the various actions are presented and commented upon.

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The Information Technologies (IT) are introduced in Greek schools as an additional educational and learning tool, by a number of projects, since 1986. These projects follow different technical and pedagogical procedures mainly due to the discipline and age-range variations among the pupils. They are based on the latest available IT advancements, adjusted both to the pedagogical and didactical needs and the local geographical conditions as well.

Two different projects of great importance and difficulty are accomplished for schools located in small, dispersed and isolated Aegean islands. Here, the introduction of IT promotes not only the educational procedure provided, but also the standard of living and communication in small and isolated societies.

"SXEDIA" project which deals with 46 primary schools in 32 islands, was implemented by the University of the Aegean and funded by the Ministry of the Aegean and welfare societies. School equipment included multimedia workstations, printer and video camera all connected together in a local network based on the Education Network of the Ministry of Education using dial up lines. The number of computers varied according to the number of pupils. The Department of Education of the University of the Aegean provided educational and technical support. (The University of the Aegean- a university network itself with departments in five departments in five islands and offices in six locations-was a suited institution for the project).

Part of "TELEMACHOS" project was applied in 30 secondary schools in 16 islands. The project was implemented by the Computer Center of NTUA (in collaboration with TEI Kozanis, PI and ILSP) and funded by the Ministry of National Education and Religious affairs. Multiple servers with appropriate peripheral and communication equipment were installed in schools. The software developed and installed, networked schools in a secure intranet environment, providing facilities for pedagogical communication and collaborative learning/work (e-mail, collaborations, e-articles/papers, e-learning and web pages). The whole intranet is supported and controlled, both remotely and locally, by the network control nodes in NTUA and TEI Kozanis.

The results of all various actions are presented and commended upon.

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