

Teaching Modern Greek at *Olive Grove* and English at *Kara Tepe* (Mytilene, Greece) Dr. Aikaterini Nikolarea, Special Teaching Staff School of Social Sciences University of Aegean



UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN

The course in Modern Greek at *Olive Grove* is offered INFORMALLY by an instructor of the School of Social Sciences, University of the Aegean (on a *voluntary basis*). They are addressed primarily to different gender and age groups of Afghans and Iranians (i.e. teenage girls, boys, men and women) who want to learn Greek but they cannot afford or may not be able to come to the University of the Aegean. Their knowledge of Greek is **zero (0)**, but their drive and willingness to learn Greek **10/10!**

The course in English at *Kara Tepe* is offered INFORMALLY by an instructor of the School of Social Sciences, University of the Aegean, in cooperation with CARITAS – HELLAS (on a *volunteer basis*).

These two courses in the two different languages are offered for the first time, and they follow loosely the academic year.

Teaching Greek runs at the Afghan facilities at *Olive Grove* roughly from October to June, whereas **Teaching English** runs at the facilities of CARITAS – HELLAS at *Kara Tepe* roughly from November to April, with a possibility to be extended to June.

Students who participate in these classes, if they wish, they can take exams either in Modern Greek or in English.

Number of the refugees/migrants who attend **Greek** as a foreign language at *Olive Grove* (2019-2020) – **10 (at times, it varies)**

Number of the refugees/migrants who attend **English** as a foreign language at *Kara Tepe* (2019-2020) -- **10**

The participants fill in an application before the course
At *Olive Grove* (**Greek**): The application is given by the Afghan Community.
At *Kara Tepe* (**English**): The application is provided by the instructor together with a mock exam (Level A2)

The profile of the refugees/migrants

Age	Country of origin	Education	Foreign languages
12-50	from Afghanistan	Primary and Secondary Education	Dari, Farsi, some English. At <i>Olive Grove</i> : Some learn German, too

Goals of the refugees/migrants

1. Oral Communication skills, because they need to stay either in Greece or to go abroad (esp. to Canada)	10 (<i>Olive Grove</i>) 10 (<i>Kara Tepe</i>)
2. Find a job (either in Greece or abroad)	20
3. Further their education (either in Greece or abroad)	3-4

Strengths

1. The students' INNER DRIVE and DETERMINATION to learn the language (either **Greek** or **English**)
2. The students' WILLINGNESS to understand their new linguistic and cultural context (Greece, EU) and, thus, acquire intercultural communicative competence

Weaknesses

1. At *Olive Grove* (**Greek**): The environment + lack of facilities (Photo 1)
2. At *Olive Grove* (**Greek**): The instructor should be in good physical shape and be determined to overcome any linguistic and cultural differences
3. At *Kara Tepe* (**English**): The instructor should be determined to overcome any linguistic and cultural differences

Teaching methods

Teaching Greek at *Olive Grove* is based on more *traditional methods*, such as **teacher-centered** method (because the Afghan students are accustomed to) and **interaction** between the instructor and the students **with the help of an interpreter** (Level 0).

Teaching English at *Kara Tepe* is based primarily on **oral communication**, correct usage and use of grammar and writing about issues that concern the students (Level A2).



Photo 2



Photo 1

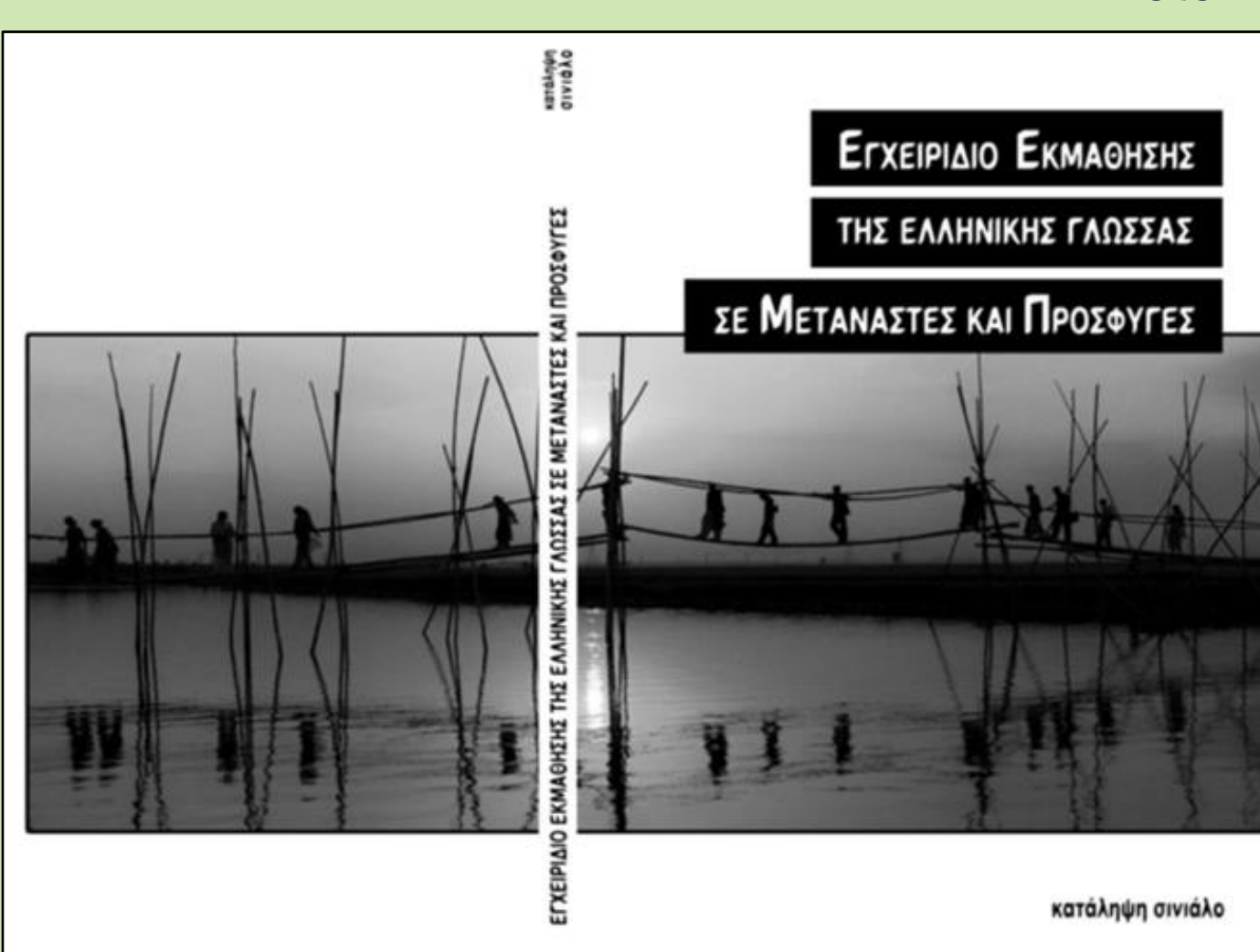


Photo 3

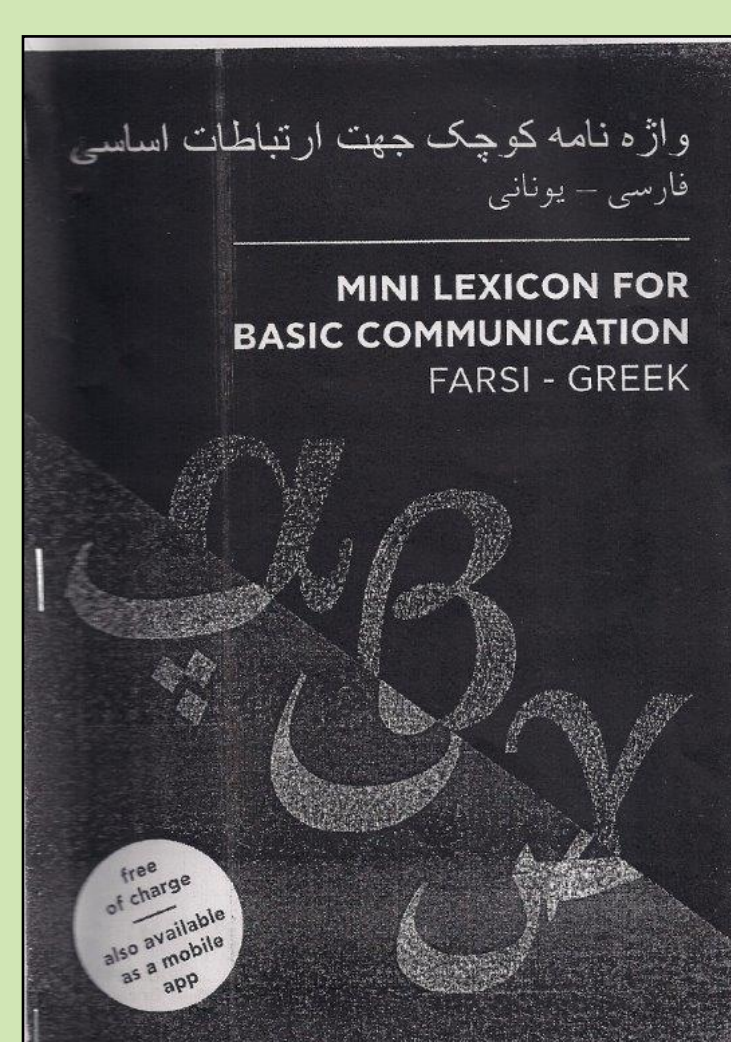


Photo 4

Teaching Materials

For teaching Greek at *Olive Grove*, we use photocopied material from a variety of books; see Photos 2, 3 & 4. The book is a **comfort zone** for the students, since it has a **translation** and a **transliteration** of the Greek expressions in **Farsi**.
For teaching English at *Kara Tepe*, we use photocopied material, when required, and material that can be found in the market.

INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

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