

Networking students and teachers in Greece



Students get to grips with new technologies

Project name

Greek School Network

Project duration

2000-2004

ESF priority area

Creating an adaptable work force

Country

Greece

ESF funding

€9,923,980

Total funding

€17,809,088

ESF funding type

Objective 3

Target group

Students, teachers, schools, administration staff

Name of coordinating organisation

Ministry of National Education, Office for the Information Society

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The creation of a nationwide information network in the education sector and the provision of digital resources for schools have been the principal objectives of the Greek School Network, a project led by the Education Ministry. The project has succeeded in creating a national intranet service linking all secondary schools and 92% of primary schools in Greece.

To promote innovative teaching methods and improve the communication and networking capacity of geographically dispersed schools, the Greek government designed a project to develop a national educational intranet, linking primary and secondary schools around the country.

The system introduced provides access to standard communication tools like e-mail and internet, as well as discussion forums and more advanced informatics services like webcasting, teleconferencing and Video on Demand. It also allows users to benefit from e-learning systems and education services for those with special needs.

Supporting learning and promoting cooperation

"We wanted to create a national infrastructure for primary and secondary schools via an educational intranet, with the aim of supporting learning while promoting information exchange and cooperation among schools," says Dr. Michael Paraskevas, Technical Director of the Greek School Network.

"The Network is targeted at the educational sector as a whole, including students, teachers and administrative staff in both primary and secondary schools, and also provides links to educational and administrative content managed by the Education Ministry."

To date, 100% of Greek secondary schools have been connected to the network, while 92% of primary schools currently enjoy access. A total of 45,000 email accounts had been set up by September 2004.

Developing the skills of staff and students

"The Network represents a major form of support for staff by promoting the use of new technologies for education, communication and cooperation," according to Dr. Paraskevas. "It also serves to develop the skills of students by introducing them to new information technologies at an early age."

The project has helped develop one of the largest intranets in Greece, with potential for future use in advanced scientific and research applications. The network is currently being upgraded with new broadband installations, and the project has now been extended to 2006. Funding has been shared between the ESF and the Greek government's Framework Programme for the Information Society.