

Classics Teaching Through ICT Experience to ICT Manual for Classics Teachers

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INTRODUCTION

Some European Classics Teachers, moved by the same passion for Classics and together for Information and Communication Technology so that from long ago used it on teaching Classic subjects in secondary high schools, decided to assemble their own long experience in this field to disseminate Information and Communication Technology for Classics world in Europe and their particular aim has been to demonstrate the importance to insert it in classrooms work about Latin, Ancient Greek & Classic Civilizations. So in 2003 was born CIRCE Project (www.circe.eu): Classics and ICT Resource Course for Europe (of which CIRCE is the acronym); it is the result of 6 European countries partners (Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy and United Kingdom) that met and agreed to create, through three years' work, from 2003 to 2006, 2 important products: (a) A multilingual Website (www.circe.eu) (b) A manual, translated and printed in different European languages.

BACKGROUND

What is CIRCE? It is the research of the intersection between Information and Communication Technology and Latin & Ancient Greek or Classic Civilizations, fruit of year by year studies in ICT (there is a very long list of authors) and experimentations in schools all over Europe and it could give an answer to many questions, from pedagogical to technical issues, as teachers directly involved could implement step by step their daily work with classrooms. ICT revolution did get all over in our life, in the educational world too the impact has been very important (Salomon & Perkins, 1991), transforming methodologies in teaching and approaches in learn-

ing. Computers did create a new interaction system between educational partners, teachers and learners (Jonassen, 1995). So traditional educational systems all over Europe have been changed and innovated in recent years so quickly through Information and Communication Technology (Calvani, 2000). The life of Classic Languages & Cultures has been unchanged a very long time because there were matters left too long apart from technological progress and the problem was due to the secular unchanged transmission of contents, generation by generation, going exclusively round the paper books through three phases of work: reading, translating, and studying to memory. In this chapter, we cannot write all of the history of ICT development in educational world of course, but we will cite some representative articles.

Morgan (1999) in Derby Grammar School did implement ICT in his teacher work about Ancient Greek. His purpose was to stimulate and improve students' learning. This experience such as other CIRCE partners works and studies want to show what and how in Classics teaching too Information and Communication Technology can completely be used by all Classics Teachers. Midoro, Olimpo, and Persico (1996) did show in their studies the important evolution of teacher role and student profile in this scenario, as perfectly described and analyzed by many of other ICT and Didactics specialists, such as Calvani (1994, 1995, 1998), Kumar and Smart (2004), Taylor (1980), Varani (2002), and Varisco (1998), citing some of them.

After we have considered these details, we hope that CIRCE Manual (4 Chapters, 109 pages) and CIRCE Web site can be time by time a "compendium" of all theories and practices in ICT & classics.

MAIN FOCUS OF THE CHAPTER

What are the Most Important Points of CIRCE?

- a. CIRCE Web site (www.circe.eu) offers online all Manual pages and extra materials, useful resources to teachers, as font for Ancient Greek, short articles about Classics Teaching in Europe countries, lessons plans, software by country and other WEB resources in Europe, an important Images Gallery, and so forth.
- b. CIRCE Manual was completed in November 2005 and printed in May 2006. The 1st manual entirely dedicated to apply ICT on Classics; it represents the most demanding work of all partners together, a common effort in selecting best practices through specific Classics & ICT cases study, comparing different educational systems, evaluating concrete lessons plans, creating common resources, organizing training courses (national and transnational) and discussing for a long time about pedagogical and technical issues, especially what new skills the teachers must have in new educational scenarios, as analyzed by Galliani & Manfredi (2001). The teachers who experimented Information and Communication Technology on teaching Classics subjects noted a lot of problems, from times, instruments, software and hardware to content management and new role for teachers: all these details have been presented in CIRCE products that would be a fine support for Classics teachers who are beginners in Information and Communication Technology, an interesting suggestion for all teachers in medium or advanced level and a good help for all people more or less involved in Classics world that are open to new technologies. All these points can show as well that Information and Communication Technology

Figure 1. CIRCE logo



has modified an educational specific context as Classics Matters (in Figure 1 a reproduction of CIRCE logo is given).

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FUTURE TRENDS

What can CIRCE Offer in the Future to Teachers and Students?

CIRCE Manual is the start up point but especially CIRCE Website, as a dynamic site, would be in future a “central site” on disseminating Information and Communication Technology applied to Classics World, all over the countries, a further testimony of what and how Information and Communication Technology can do in teaching and learning mode for Classics target.

Transnational Courses such as National Courses will represent the total realization of CIRCE aims.

CONCLUSION

CIRCE works represent how Information and Communication Technology year by year entered in all sectors of our life and educational world too can be really improved especially applying new technologies in matters and fields where traditional ways were for a long time the only one possible scenario, as happened for Classics Languages & Culture.

CIRCE presents a lot of resources and in the future will continue to offer new panorama and new scenarios in which ICT can be inserted.

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