

Περίληψη - μέχρι 300 λέξεις στην Αγγλική

Within the Programme “Education of Immigrant and Repatriate Students” (<http://www.diapolis.auth.gr/>, A.U.Th), the team for the “Reinforcement of the mother tongue” produced an *interactive open source extensible software* for the teaching/learning of Albanian (levels A1/A2 & B1) and Russian (level A1/A2) in order to help students (10-15 years old) with the respective languages as their heritage languages develop or preserve bilingualism. The e-learning environment aims at assisting the development of receptive and productive language skills with emphasis on reading and writing. Specifically, it was designed on the *Framework for the Development of Academic Expertise* (Cummins 2001) in order to support the development of academic language proficiency and literacy in both languages.

The environment is based on a storyline in which a Wizard is imprisoned by a Dragon. The user needs to go through certain learning tasks in order to collect enough points (7 keys) that would allow him/her to set the Wizard free. More specifically, the user is presented with (Albanian/Russian) texts and their (Greek) translations, dictionaries and quizzes in a game-like setting, in which scoring and achievement badges provide additional incentive. A variety of quiz types is provided (e.g., true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks/-table, pairing/listening, crosswords, essays, and non-gradable in-class/at home activities) and an in-game assistance is offered by two cartoon-like characters (the Dragon, who gives navigation details and the Wizard’s Helper, who assists in the language tasks). The application also provides student-teacher messaging and an online magazine for posting students’ activities. The software is designed to offer real-time correction of all quizzes. A separate application for teachers facilitates essay correction and commenting on the students’ language progress and achievements. New texts and quizzes can be added over time. All data is stored in, and retrieved from, an online database. An embedded updater automatically downloads the latest version of the application.