Project title: Improving aural cultural links between different lingual communities in Thrace
Code no.: 3768
First 4-month Analytical progress report

University of Patras (UoP)

Deliv.	Progress Report
3.1 UoP, PUAS	In order to test in-situ the specialized recording equipment, the UoP team went to Komotini from 18/11/15 until 20/11/15 to record various sound material. The main object of the travel was to test the outdoor and also the indoor equipment and prepare recording procedures (see deliverable 3.2).
	Eight native speakers of the Turkish linguistic community (5 women and 3 men) participated in these recordings. The recorded audio material took place indoors, mostly at the the speakers' homes in Komotini and surrounding villages. Special care concerning the avoidance of noise and optimizing the fidelity of the material has taken place via appropriate time schedule (to avoid nearby activities), room choice (to avoid noise and long reverberation) and proper equipment positioning.
	The pilot recorded material contains spoken language concerning traditional everyday activities (tales, lullabies, verses, anecdotes et al.) and songs. Some of the original files were split in order to create the individual tracks for each recorded sample (e.g. tale, phrase, song etc.). Parts containing preparations, errors by the speaker, noise and irrelevant sounds were removed with the collaboration of the DUTh team. A part of the recorded material will be actually further utilized as an input for other deliverables (e.g. 2.1, 2.2 etc.). This work will be completed during the next steps of the project.
	The PUAS team received the first batch of pilot recorded material files from the UoP team and proceeded to the quality evaluation in terms of possible major corruptions or less severe recording imperfections such as the reduced clarity, existence of noise, distortions and spectral unbalance, etc.
	In the next steps of this WP, materials from the greek and pomak linguistic community will be captured.
3.2 UoP, PUAS	UoP team during the trip to Komotini from 18/11/15 until 20/11/15 measured traditional buildings concerning the Turkish linguistic community activities. The measured buildings were the Geni Tzami and Imaret in Komotini.
	Moreover, 2 field recordings of Turkish linguistic community neighborhoods in Komotini and Ipio village were captured. The outdoor recordings focused on everyday activities of the community and were implemented with specialized mobile recording equipment. The noise in these cases could not be avoided and proper treatment for the elimination especially of the wind noise was taken via specialized windshield on the microphone. Further enhancement of the audio files will take place during the next steps of the project.
	Specialised equipment, software and techniques were also tested. The acoustic excitation of the buildings was achieved via sweep audio files adjusted in length according to the expected reverberation time. The utilised capturing devices were: a) a sensitive omnidirectional measurement microphone and b) a KEMAR dummy head with a microphone attached on each ear, both connected via an external hi-

	end audio card to a laptop. The impulse responses are internally calculated from the measurement software via the convolution of the recording with the inverse excitation signal. Impulse responses were measured in various indoor listening positions of the buildings. The impulse responses will be utilized to extract and study the acoustic parameters of each space and also create the virtual auralisations to be disseminated in the application and web-site. The building response measurement files obtained by the UoP team were also received by the PUAS team for proper filing and classification, preparing them for the database to be developed in the next step (during WP 3.5).

Democritus University of Thrace (DUTh)

Deliv.	Progress Report
1.1	Preparatory work on the identification, selection and collection of materials (traditional songs, fairy tales and other cultural material) in the written and oral tradition of each one of the main linguistic communities in the area of Thrace was undertaken by the team of DUTH. This involved research on previously existing collections of local songs, tales, or other relevant texts and on their situational settings, as well as contact with members and possible informants of the three local communities, who would provide oral material and information on everyday activities or ceremonies. In addition administrative work was done concerning the implementation of specific planned tasks (selection of ancillary personnel). As a result, the actual corpus of linguistic material has started to build up, currently the more advanced component being the one concerning the Turkish speaking community. Typical examples of various songs, folktales, jokes, ceremonial recitations, greetings, expressions involving curses or wishes have been acquired in their natural surroundings by directly contacting informants from this community. Detailed tables were implemented containing the classes of material, the sources, the locations and potential recording dates. This paved the way for the first series of recordings to be carried out by the UoP team. Extraction of similar material through in situ contact with informants has progressed to some extent for the case of Greek and Pomak community. Contact to some informants of the Greek community has been established, but the songs, folktales and ceremonial verses thus far collected are still inadequate in variety and number and they need to be further enriched. Material from the Pomak community is more difficult to access, since the linguistic status of this dialect is highly debated (at least as far as its usage within the Greek territory is concerned), while informants from this community tend to be less open. Nevertheless, the DUTH team has made progress with the identification of the most typical examples of culturally significant linguistic material in use within this community.
1.2	In fulfillment of the task of identification and selection of significant traditional buildings and sites where everyday activities and ceremonies take place (labor, feasts, weddings, funerals etc) for each community the DUTH team has reviewed the relevant bibliographic information. It has been decided to focus on the areas of Komotini and Xanthi, which are more suitable for the implementation of the research project since they are easily accessible and at the same time

	representative of the varied historical interaction between the three cultural communities. As a result, a list of buildings and sites has been compiled. More specifically, the following buildings will be included: 1. The Imaret in Komotini 2. The New Mosque (Geni Tzami) in Komotini 3. The church 'Koimisi tis Theotokou' (Assumption of Virgin Mary) in Komotini 4. The Residence of Tavaniotis family (today Museum) situated in Maroneia 5. The Residence Kougioumtzoglou (Museum) in Xanthi 6. The Ahrian mosque (Ahrian Tzami) in Xanthi The following sites will be included: 1. The neighbourhood Kir mahalle in Komotini 2. The (predominantly Pomak populated) neighbourhood Ahrian Mahale in Xanthi 3. The Open Market site in Xanthi 4. The village Aigeiros (near Komotini) 5. The village Myki (in Xanthi area) All of them are scheduled to be visited by the UoP team in at least three subsequent trips, each time focusing on buildings/sites related to each one of the three communities. Necessary preparation has also been done by DUTH team in order to enable the UoP team to conduct the recordings of oral material and measurement of the buildings and sites associated with the cultural life of the Turkish linguistic community. Similar, work has been also carried out for the sites concerning the other two communities. To this end, the DUTH team has successfully sought official permission from the relevant local authorities. This procedure evolves less smoothly in the case of Pomak community.
1.3	Quite a few issues concerning the best possible solutions for translating or rendering the texts from each community to the language/dialect of the other two cultural communities have been examined during the preparatory period. An important question was how to render in written form linguistic material from the Pomak community, since the local oral varieties used by the members of this community (comprising a dialect cluster of the south Slavic linguistic continuum) lack an official written system. It was decided that texts from this dialect will have to be represented in a simplified form of the IPA transcription used internationally in linguistic research. In order to secure future progress with respect to this WP, a provisional rendering of a small sample of Turkish material first into Greek and then into Pomak was attempted. More work will be done with the help of external collaborators, native speakers of each one of the dialects of the main linguistic communities under the supervision of the main research members.
1.4	Literature research for the production of the accompanying explanatory material of the traditional songs, tales and other texts of each group has also begun. Nevertheless, since the corpus of the linguistic material has not been finalized yet, the team has not really proceeded with its literary and cultural analysis.

Piraeus University of Applied Sciences (PUAS, former TEIPir)

Deliv.	Progress Report
2.1 PUAS, UoP	Several different web-site logo alternatives were developed by the PUAS team and presented to UoP team. The two teams, after analyzing pros and cons of each proposed alternative ended-up with a logo that represents neutrality, equality and solidarity among the linguistic communities, in close agreement with project's scope. In the selected version, each one of the communities are minimally depicted as human figures close to a home of different color, surrounded by colorful musical notes. The selected logo was deliberately chosen not to be a perspective drawing, in order to avoid any figures standing out more than others which could give the impression of promotion of one specific linguistic community. The project title is illustrated in the logo via a sans-serif font that is documented to produce very easy to read text. A first proposed layout for the web-site pages was developed by the PUAS team and evaluated in collaboration with the UoP team aiming at a simple, user-friendly, and easy to follow structure. Several aspects regarding the layout of the pages have been discussed and decided in collaboration with the UoP team such as: 1. Presentation of the audio material. 2. Format of the distributed audio files 3. Description of the files The project of the web-site was chosen to be designed with the use of an open source content management system and specifically the latest version of Joomla which based on PHP and MySQL. The first thought is the use of open source add-ons as much as possible. As yet, a first trial version of the site is hosted on local host. It was also proposed by UoP team that the material of each category should be presented as a list in a user friendly and easy to read way. In order to achieve more readability for the material description, it was decided that the main area of the web-site layout will be broad, allowing the line distance and the text density to be ideal. The description of the material will contain a brief overview of the recorded audio file. In order to achieve higher data rates both for slow connections and for users using mobile devices, it was decided to compress the audio files via the MPEG2-Layer3 codec. Such a compression will reduce the file size without a great compromise in the audio quality especially for speech material. The next step regarding the design of the web-site will be to analyze the structure and the menu categories.
2.2 PUAS, UoP	As far as the mobile application is concerned, upon gathering the requirements we have designed, using an online prototyping tool, wireframes demonstrating alternative layouts and navigation and after reviewing them with the UoP team we have decided on the basic application flow. Moreover, we have worked on choosing the right infrastructure based on cost and features and decided to move forward with Oceanos, GRNET's cloud solution which is perfectly fitted for Academic purpose at no cost. Finally, since a mobile application requires a connection with the server in order to consume the content we have decided to build a RESTfull API on top of the MySQL database to be developed (during WP 3.5).