

Hello everyone and welcome to the Greek Sim. I'm xris Oller, the educator of Athens Academy in SL. I would like to congratulate you on this conference and to thank you for the participation of the Greek virtual world in SL in it. I also thank all the people of the Greek World that helped to make this presentation.

On the table, there is an object, a book which, if you touch it, you can take notes of the presentation "Greek World in SL (Cities, Culture and Languages)". If you like, you can buy for 0 \$L the others virtual books and "wear" them.

Over me, there is also an object, "a image white board", that you can see the main points of this presentation.

## **"Greek World in SL (Cities, Culture and Languages)"**

### **- Content:**

- What is Second Life for us?
- The Greek Region Management Group.
- Which options we have in this virtual world?
- Our avatars in virtual world:
  - About the work of our avatars.
  - About the life of our avatars.
- The Athens Academy in SL.
- How do we overcome the language barrier?
- Synopsis.

### **- What is Second Life for us:**

Here, we all see the virtual world of SL as a socializing and collaborating virtual environment. SL is a discovery and exploration virtual environment, where learning is an experiential and natural result of our need to do something. We are a Greek community of Greek men and women from all over the world that we are trying through cooperation, to represent the Greece of today.

### **- The Greek Region Management. A Democratic model of management:**

The Greece and Macedonia Sims are many groups, but the Greek Region Management Group, that is responsible for all Greek virtual World in SL consists of :

- Aristotelis Fargis, responsible for the management of the Sims land, Real Estates, - bill42 Streeter, responsible for the Sims building,
- Nventris Hugo, responsible for smooth functioning of the Sims
- xris Oller, responsible for the educational program of the Greek virtual world,
- Sunrise Zelin & Marios Dexter, responsible for the Greek Help Point Notos and
- Mariposa Melodie, responsible for public relations.

The virtual world of SL annihilates distance, uniting all the Greeks, gives us the opportunity to meet, talk and create the Greece that we want. Everyone has a role in this community, everyone's opinion is respected, everyone can freely express themselves and the decisions we make are collective and through democratic procedures.

**- Which options we have in this virtual world of SL:**

We highlight the cultural aspects of our country, its customs and traditions, its architecture, art, religion and its educational institutions.

We make the monuments and buildings similar with the buildings that exist in real life, such as the Acropolis, the Athens Academy, the Herodes Atticus Theater, the Unknown Soldier, the traditional houses in the area of Plaka and the White Tower of Thessaloniki. There is also the church, the Mediterranean museum, the Notos Greek Help Point and the Psychological Health Centre. There are also plenty of galleries, cafes, nightclubs, and shops.

We build our country with beautiful streets, squares, parks with a lot of green, without pollution, garbage, factories and economical crisis (thanks to our Greek Group Management and perhaps the Greek Government should consult it) . We keep only good things, that make us feel glad and happy and delete all the others. We have that option in this virtual world of SL, we have the option to create the Greece of our dreams! Of course, we always rely on Ancient Greek Civilization, the Byzantine Tradition and the contemporary reality. We respect the Greek culture and the Greek tradition and we want the preservation our culture. We are interested in preserving our culture and our reality. But we don't like some things from the reality of Greece, as I said. So here, we create the Greece, our 3D virtual urban society , that we want to demonstrate to all visitors of our virtual world!

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=-Qpk56aXHE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=-Qpk56aXHE)

**- Our avatars in virtual world:**

- **About the work of our avatars:**

Our avatars, our representatives in virtual world, live and work without profit in the virtual world of Greece in SL. Many avatars have their own businesses and sell land, clothing, shapes, skins, buildings, animations, gestures, scripts, entertainment and anything else an avatar needs in SL. Of course if an avatar wants to find a job, he or she can do this, as there are many vacancies available in the virtual world of SL, as you know.

We inform the avatar about the above, both through educational events made in SL, and through websites found in the web. (<http://athensacademy.pbworks.com> , <http://greekworld-sl.blogspot.com> , is written in Greek).

- **About the life of our avatar:**

Our avatars create social contacts, fall in love, marry, have fun, argue! They participate in cultural and educational events, exchange ideas on issues related to both SL and real life. The exhibits at the Mediterranean Museum are changed at regular intervals, so that we can learn more and more about the Greek civilization. At the Herodes Atticus Theater there are musical and theatrical offerings by major Greek artists.

Finally, are our avatars ourselves? This is a question that we are concerned about! So, if this happens, we need to know ourselves. At the Psychological Health Center, where lidaActor Scorpio, the social psychologist of our virtual world is responsible , "Self-Knowledge Groups" are held to get to know ourselves and make our lives better.

### **- The Athens Academy in SL:**

The educational program of the Greek virtual world is provided by the Athens Academy.

The name "Athens Academy" is informal. We chose this name for our land in SL, because we want to honor the Academy of Athens and will try to do this with the attitude of our Academy in the virtual environment of SL.

Anything is free in the Academy and we have no economical gain from this.

The Athens Academy also organizes Educational Events related to the influence of the environment of SL to RL. These Educational Events are designed for Greek users to exchange views and experiences on the virtual world of SL. Their goal is cooperation and closer relations among the Greek community in SL.

The Athens Academy aims to offer free educational courses to all members of our group. It was created especially for Greek teachers and seeks the cooperation and their active participation in order to create a Greek learning community within the environment of SL, which aims to distance education.

The courses at the Athens Academy are on educational issues, such as the creation and implementation of classroom teaching scenarios using Technologies of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Also at the Academy, Greek newbies can watch tutorials (Beginners tutorials) on the basic tools of SL. In this, NOTOS Greek Help Point cooperates closely with the Academy.

In the Academy of Athens, all users of SL can enjoy works by Greek artists in the exhibition hall of the Academy. Also in an adjacent hall you can find an exhibition on Ancient Greek Technology and through the notes (which are written both in Greek and English) they learn how the Ancient Greek Technology has helped the development of modern technology.

Finally, the library of the Academy is interesting as it contains virtual books with notes from the educational and cultural events and various other scientific articles.

More information can also be found in the web:

<http://athensacademy.pbworks.com> ( written in Greek).

<http://greekworld-sl.blogspot.com> ( written in Greek)

### **- How do we overcome the language barrier:**

To watch the events and the courses there is a necessary condition: they must know Greek at an advanced level. Of course the technology can help us to overcome the language barriers. I know there are already text translators in the world of SL, but I don't know if there are voice translators in SL. There are voice translators in the web. I wonder if such a product (voice translator for SL) is a good investment for companies & Linden Lab that deal with these products. With great pleasure I would like to listen to experts about it at this conference.

Learning multiple languages or languages of interest to us is also a way to overcome the language barrier. We can do it in SL environment.

But what i support as a teacher, is that the language is the culture, the root culture of each country and should be maintained, at least in the virtual world of SL.

**- Synopsis:**

We can work and live in SL. We can have a vitrual urban society, that resembles a Democratic model of management. We can create the Greece of our dreams with respect to the Greek culture and the Greek tradition to maintain our culture. We are interested in preserving our culture and our reality. We want to demonstrate the virtual Greek world to all visitors of SL or websites! We can create a Greek learning community within the environment of SL.

We want to create more activities in the world to develop a knowledge society in 3D urban environment.

But to do the above, we need to spend more time on SL or on the web. We are interested in living in the urban city that we created in the virtual world in SL, but we are also interested in our real life. We view our virtual life as a complement to our real life and it should not absorb or replace it.

It is necessary to have a measure in the management of our time. With the cooperation of everyone we can do it. The ancient Greeks, our ancestors say: “The Power in unity”. We do this!

But our ancestors saying: “All should be done in moderation”, is difficult to implement!

**- Ladies & gentleman, thank you for your attention!**

Discussion with the audience follows in the following questions (Jose coordinates the discussion):

Will we be working and living ‘in-world’?

How sustainable is this urban second life?

In a world without borders, without time and space, where are the opportunities and where is danger?

What kind of role do virtual worlds play for the preservation of culture?

How do we overcome the last of all barriers, the language barrier?

We wish you good luck in your conference and we hope to come up with useful conclusions.