

Athens Institute for Education & Research

# Bilingual Education: Opportunities and Challenges

15-18 May 2017, Athens, Greece

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Bilingual education is at the heart of many international policies, so it has become a priority for most educational organisms and institutions (UNESCO, OECD and most European Ministries of Education).

Therefore, bilingual education is now rooted among most European countries' educational systems and research on the area is becoming boosted by scholars, institutions, organizations and educational agents. This proposal will encounter key topics within the area (coping with the 4Cs of the CLIL approach), such as: Culture (that is, Intercultural Education); Cognition (thought); Competences (ICT and CALL); and Content (and its importance for higher education curricula). Therefore, this panel will cope with some of the most interesting aspects within this topic:

1. The benefits of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) to higher education.
2. The intercultural approach within bilingual education.
3. The intercultural competencies of the bilingual teacher.
4. ICT and CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) within bilingual education.
5. The use of micro-video within bilingual education.
6. The role of thought within bilingual education.

### Mission of ATINER

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) is a World Association of Academics and Researchers based in Athens. ATINER is an independent **Association** with a **Mission** to become a forum where Academics and Researchers from all over the world can meet in Athens, exchange ideas on their research and discuss future developments in their disciplines. Athens was chosen because of its long history of academic gatherings, which go back thousands of years to *Plato's Academy* and *Aristotle's Lyceum*. Both these historic places are within walking distance from ATINER's downtown offices. Since antiquity, Athens was an open city. In the words of

Pericles, Athens "...is open to the world, we never expel a foreigner from learning or seeing". ("Pericles' Funeral Oration", in Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*). It is ATINER's **mission** to revive the glory of Ancient Athens by inviting the World Academic Community to the city, to learn from each other in an environment of freedom and respect for other people's opinions and beliefs. After all, the free expression of one's opinion formed the basis for the development of democracy, and Athens was its cradle. As it turned out, the Golden Age of Athens was in fact, the Golden Age of Western Civilization. *Education and (Re)searching* for the 'truth' are the pillars of any free (democratic) society.







This was our fantastic taxi driver who showed us many interesting places in Athens on the first day.

14 May

After landing in Athens at noon we directly drove by taxi to the **Acropolis** and to **Cape Sounion** that is noted as the site of ruins of an ancient Greek temple of Poseidon, the god of the sea in classical mythology.

According to Greek Mythology, Cape Sounion is the spot where Aegeus, King of Athens, leapt to his death off the cliff, thus giving his name to the Aegean Sea.

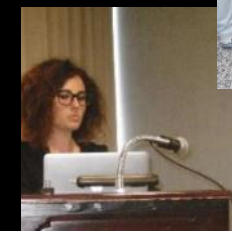




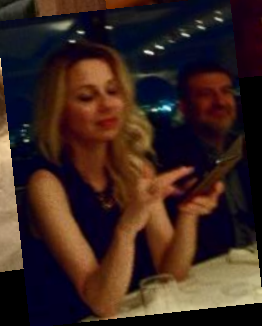


15 May The conference starts...

We stayed in the recommendable Hotel Stanley, downtown, that was at the same time the venue of the conference. About 180 speakers from over 45 countries joined this conference...







Original Greek Night and Dinner downtown Athens.



16 May

Urban Walk in the morning to the broader area of Athens:  
Walking and talking as in the ancient peripatetic school of Aristotle.



One of the most famous town halls in Europe ☺





After the urban walk in the morning the conference continued with many, many lectures.







Bernd gave his lecture on **Multilingual Education of Students on a Global Scale and Perspective – Intercultural Networking on the Example of Bioindication & Biomonitoring** in the evening as well Sonja Schwarze from the University of Münster and Wim de Grieve from Belgium.

In between 21 and 22 o'clock there was a gala dinner at the Hotel Stanley.

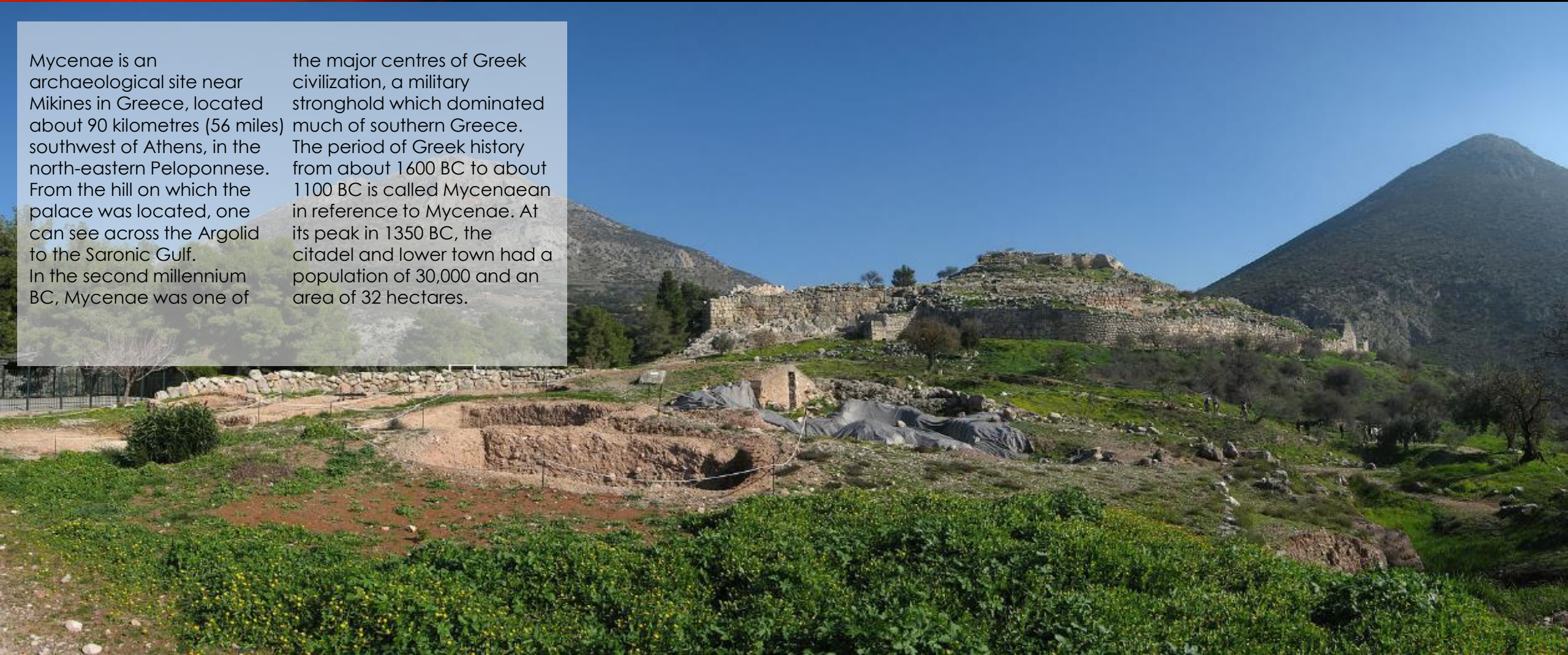




# Educational Tour to Mycenae

Mycenae is an archaeological site near Mikines in Greece, located about 90 kilometres (56 miles) southwest of Athens, in the north-eastern Peloponnese. From the hill on which the palace was located, one can see across the Argolid to the Saronic Gulf. In the second millennium BC, Mycenae was one of

the major centres of Greek civilization, a military stronghold which dominated much of southern Greece. The period of Greek history from about 1600 BC to about 1100 BC is called Mycenaean in reference to Mycenae. At its peak in 1350 BC, the citadel and lower town had a population of 30,000 and an area of 32 hectares.



17 May

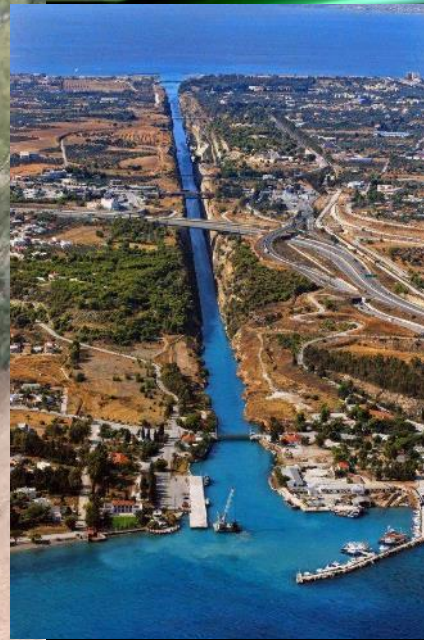
Early in the morning a 2 ½ hours bus-tour to Mycenae started. The weather changed rapidly that's why some of the participants stayed in the bus. Others walked through the rain – please have a look further on...





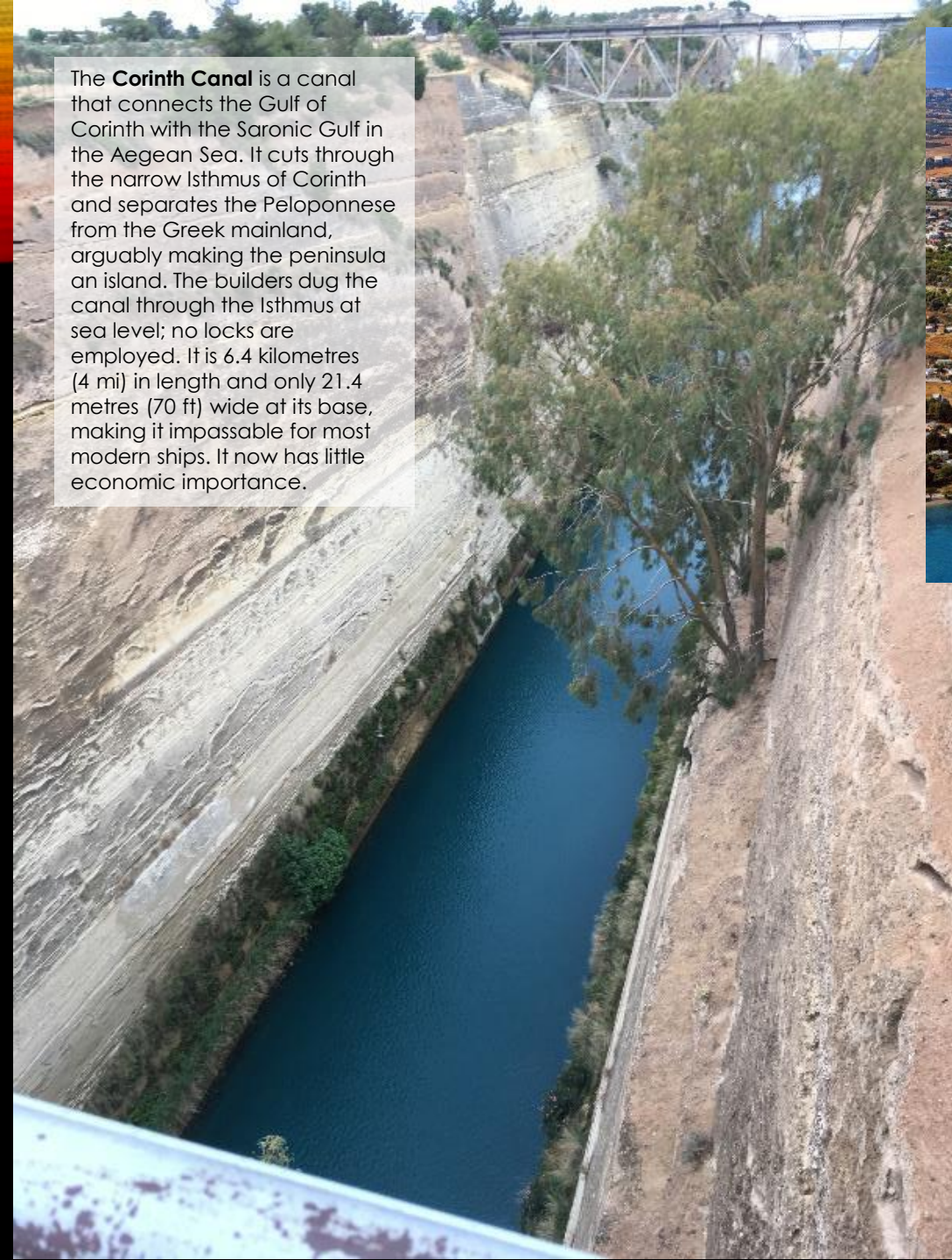


The **Corinth Canal** is a canal that connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea. It cuts through the narrow Isthmus of Corinth and separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland, arguably making the peninsula an island. The builders dug the canal through the Isthmus at sea level; no locks are employed. It is 6.4 kilometres (4 mi) in length and only 21.4 metres (70 ft) wide at its base, making it impassable for most modern ships. It now has little economic importance.



After the wet visit to Mycenae the weather conditions changed and it was possible to have a look to the great Canal of Corinth.

Before lunch time we visited the Silo Art Factory nearby Mycenae ([www.siloart.gr](http://www.siloart.gr))







Lunch  
time





# Educational Tour to Delphi

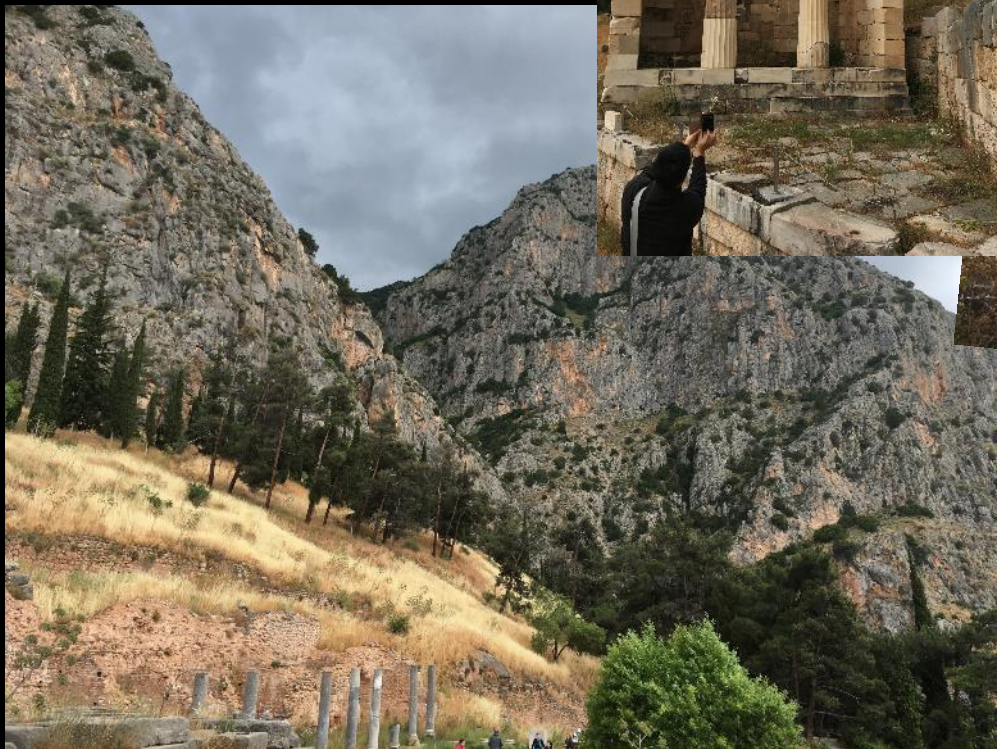
18 May

**Delphi** is famous as the ancient sanctuary that grew rich as the seat of Pythia, the **oracle** consulted about important decisions throughout the ancient classical world. Moreover, the Greeks considered Delphi the **navel (or centre) of the world**, as represented by the stone monument known as the Omphalos of Delphi.

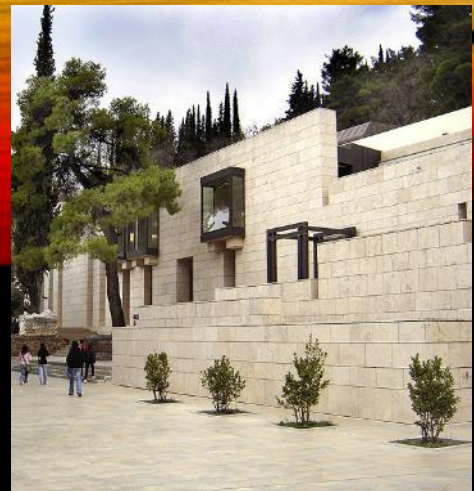
It occupies an impressive site on the south-western slope of Mount Parnassus, overlooking the coastal plain to the south and the valley of Phocis. It is now an extensive archaeological site with a modern town nearby. It is recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in having had a phenomenal influence in the Ancient world, as evidenced by the rich monuments built there by most of the important ancient Greek city-states, demonstrating their fundamental Hellenic unity.











### Delphi Archaeological museum

is one of the principal museums of Greece and one of the most visited. It is operated by the Greek Ministry of Culture (Ephorate of Antiquities of Phocis). Founded in 1903, it has been rearranged several times and houses the discoveries made at the panhellenic sanctuary of Delphi, which date from the Late Helladic (Mycenean) period to the early Byzantine era.



Of course we have had other exciting and interesting activities outside this picture collage – so we have talked to many, many fantastic and especially friendly people here in Greece. We were very warmly welcomed – thank you to the people of Greece and thank you to the organizers of that perceptively conference. Another big thank you goes to the Hotel Stanley that we highly recommend for a stay in Athens!

Thank you to all of you!

Bernd & Simone

