



**ΕΕΛ/ΛΑΚ**

Εταιρεία Ελεύθερου Λογισμικού /Λογισμικού Ανοιχτού Κώδικα

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Λ. Μεσογείων 56, Αμπελόκηποι, 115 27 Αθήνα, [info@ellak.gr](mailto:info@ellak.gr), Τηλ: 210 7474271, Fax: 210 7474252

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Athens, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to express our support for the Thesswiki project, a wikipedia-related project organised by the Municipality of Thessaloniki with the aid of the Greek Wikipedia Chapter, GFOSS and other community and private sector organisations. The aim of the project is to digitize the history and culture of the city of [Thessaloniki](#) by the citizens themselves using the most prominent online encyclopedia in the world, Wikipedia, while interconnecting digital entries in the urban landscape.

Thesswiki is a cyber-physical action, which aims to have impact on culture, education, tourism and e-government.

The Greek Free/Open Source Software Society ([GFOSS](#)) is a non-profit organization, consisted of 29 Universities and Research Centers. GFOSS's main goal is to promote Openness through the use and development of Open Standards and Open Technologies in Education, Public Administration and Business in Greece. GFOSS is a platform for, Open Standards Free Software, Open Content, Open Data & Open Hardware.

GFOSS is affiliated with Creative Commons, a founding member of COMMUNIA and FAB LAB ATHENS, member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Network, Node of the Open Data Institute, member of the Open Budget Initiative and member of the Open Policy Network.

GFOSS is actively supporting wikipedia related initiatives and communities in Greece, through its network of institutional members and volunteers, while respecting the rules and guidelines of the Wikimedia Foundation. We have recently successfully completed the first Wikipedia Editathon on Greek history

([www.25marcheditathon.gr](http://www.25marcheditathon.gr)), in the framework of our initiative on open content <https://mycontent.ellak.gr/>, which was co-organised by the [Greek National Historical Musuem](#) under the auspices of the [Ministry of Education](#). The editathon was very successful, had extensive participation (more than 30 school from all over Greece) and resulted in some excellent wikipedia entries (see e.g. [Δημήτριος Ίπατρος, Οικογένεια Βισβίζη, Ελληνική Επανάσταση του 1821 στην Κρήτη](#)) by the schools that have participated to the Editathon.

Through our initiatives we contribute to the following:

- Raising public awareness
- Providing reliable and timely information on national openness initiatives
- Fostering cooperation and equal participation for all stakeholders that are directly or indirectly involved in open projects
- Supporting the development, use and promotion of open content projects such as the Thesswiki.

Through our member and their communities of volunteers in Thessaloniki, [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#) and [University of Macedonia](#) (UoM), GFOSS will mobilize volunteers and all interested parties to work for the main goals of Thesswiki. GFOSS will support the dissemination of the project results through its community in all major cities of Greece.

We would be honoured if Wikimedia Foundation would be interested in supporting and endorsing thesswiki project and grant the Municipality of Thessaloniki the right to use "Wikipedia" (both as a logo and a term) in the context of the main project entitled "Thessaloniki: wikipedia city".

Moreover, we are actively looking for your financial contribution and sponsorship in order to extend the possible outreach of "Thessaloniki: wikipedia city" project as well as other wikimedia-city related projects.

Looking forward to hearing from you,



[Diomidis Spinellis](#),

President of the Board of Directors