

**Review article**

**BEGINNINGS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
"EDUCATIONAL GROUP" EO (EKPAIDEFTIKÓS OMILOS)  
AND ITS BASIC OPERATING FRAMEWORK IN GREECE**

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**Abstract.** *The announcement refers to the establishment process and the basic components of the operation of the newly established EO (program, purpose, preliminary declaration of establishment). The EO was an Athenian union with philological and literary deviations and a liberal urban character, ideologically positioned in the middle of the road, a union of intellectuals (Bella, 2018). Its activity lasted from 1910 to 1930 and focused on drafting programs for Greek schools, editing and publishing books, pamphlets, and organizing educational work through speech and lectures within and beyond the Club.*

*Initially, it includes the positions and concerns of its founders and later pioneers (Triantafyllidis, Petrokokkinos) regarding its "hasty" establishment. It then references official documents such as the Foundation Draft, the Declaration of Foundation of the EO and a Letter to potential members. Finally, basic information is provided at the beginning and continuation of its operations, as well as its main actions until the split of its members in 1927. In this context, the Administrative Committee of the Group was set up, space was rented for meetings and speeches were given.*

**Key words:** *Educational Association, Demoticism, Ideological ferments, Education*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The notarial deed establishing the EO, numbered 42691, was executed on June 8, 1911, in Athens, defining the components of its establishment. The primary objectives were the reformation of education through a thorough study of the situation, the enlightenment of teachers and Greek society on educational practices and the preparation of relevant publications and books. The EO was founded by 6 individuals (12 members from the ephorate of the future model school and 24 elite officials from the demoticist circle). A letter was immediately circulated to potential members, which included many scholars of the time, along with an enclosed registration response. Additionally, an initial Program was planned that outlined the Group's publishing activities, the establishment of a model private school, the primary components of its operation, the purpose of its establishment, the regulatory framework for its operation and its administration.

The first operating documents of the EO - the statute, the circular of the ephorate of the planned model school, the letter of the ephorate – were published in the first and second volumes of the DEO (Glinos, 1983, t. B', pp. 80, 81, and Document MA269 (1) 4, Glinos Archive). Contributors to the Bulletin described these documents as revolutionary and linked them to the political change of 1909 and the new momentum in the national life of the country. It appears that the founders of the EO had a realistic view of their project, perceiving it as work based on the belief that education was one of the most important factors for the progress of a nation (As Prologue, DEO, vol.3, 1913, p. -).

Care was taken to rent space due to the formation of the association. Dragoumis considered it necessary to increase the number of meetings with like-minded individuals. They rented more central and modest offices, where, every day from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, they received members and visitors seeking either information or clarification of questions regarding the purpose or work of the Group (Manuscript of Dragoumis, Dragoumis Archive, F. 24, Min. 2, Gennadios Library, ASKSA). The lease was executed in July 1910 by Tsirimokos. At the same time, the release of the second summary circular was planned, regarding the establishment and perspective of the model school. The issue of publishing a possible fortnightly magazine was raised, and it was announced that it would be launched immediately after discussion.

## 2. THE EDUCATIONAL GROUP IN ITS FIRST STEPS

Dragoumis stated in his manuscript that the EO was born from a subconscious need for a progressive union of educated people, and that its establishment was a conscious act (Manuscript of I. Dragoumis, two pages, F. 24, Deputy 2, Dragoumis Archive, Library, ASKSA). The 36 founders included 12 contributors from the tax office of the Model School and 24 elites from demoticist, literary and non-demoticist circles (Tsirimokos, 1927, p. 405). It was a primarily an Athenian association with philological and literary inclinations, characterized by a liberal urban identity and ideologically positioned in the middle of the road (Dimaras, 1985, p. 65). It was also considered an intellectual avant-garde association (Bella, 2018, p. 22).

The notarial deed establishing the EO, numbered 42691, was executed on June 8, 1911, and defined the components of its establishment. At the beginning of the contract, the need for a systematic effort to reform education was recognized through a thorough study of the situation, the enlightenment of teachers and society educational practices and

the preparation of relevant publications and books. The draft formulation of the statute included seventeen articles and outlined the basic principles of the association's operation and activities, including its constitution and purpose, administration, status and role of members, financial management, methods of activity, headquarters and other issues related to its continued operation. The reform preached by the EO preaches was aimed not at material change, but at transforming the teachers' hearts and minds, who were seen as the main drivers of its promotion (Consequences of the Circular, *DEO*, vol. 1, B', 1911, p. 65).

In his speeches defending the Group's thought to establish a Model School, Delmouzos analyzed the main purpose of the EO: to support the national educational system by providing appropriate textbooks, programs, and methods that aligned with society's needs, emphasizing lively teaching, natural and effortless writing, and a curriculum that served the nation's interests (Dimaras, 1986, p. 1s'). His vision was the implementation of national education and the creation of a modern Greek culture (Fragoudakis, A. The Demoticist Idea, Delmouzos and the Value of the Nation, in: Delmouzos, 2014, p. 45). Dragoumis articulated his thoughts in the draft regulations regarding the organization of the fraternity, insisting on the use of the demotic language and the publication of books containing ancient Greek and scientific texts for both students and teachers. He also proposed awarding prizes for student exams and suggested appointing Petrokokkinos as treasurer. Additionally, he proposed the appointment of agents in various locations for the distribution of books, the organization of lectures, and the facilitation of agent tours (Dragoumis' notes on the Group. F.24 EO, sub. 2, Archive I. Dragoumis, Library, ASKSA).

In the months preceding and following the foundation of the union, Athenian newspapers frequently published articles expressing the opinions and protests of the demoticists of the time, initially with more aggression and gradually becoming more restrained. Dragoumis urged Delmouzos to write a response to articles by Xenopoulos and Hatzidakis, noting that the demoticist movement was beginning to gain momentum: *It's time to write something and answer them, it's not good to be silent all the time*. There was also an immediate need for the Model School's tax authorities to disclose matters concerning the language they intended to use, their syllabus and the overall design of the Model School they planned to establish. Additionally, it was also necessary to prepare the first reading materials, which would serve a propagandistic role. Dragoumis was quite optimistic about the development of demoticism. During this phase, specific individuals were proposed to become founders, such as Saratsis (Letter 1st, 3rd Letter Dragoumis to Delmouzos on November 12, 1908 and May 9, 1910, F. 9, Delmouzos Archive), who accepted the invitation to take on the title of founder, as did Argyropoulos (10th Letter, Dragoumis to Delmouzos September 23, 1910, F. 9, Delmouzos Archive). Saratsis, as indicated in the relevant letter, accepted the role of representative in Volos, tasked with enlightening others on the issue of demoticism, sending relevant names and addresses to the EO and managing the registration of members and collection of their contributions (Charitos, 1989, pp. 184, 185).

Discussions were held by the tax office to determine the members of the Group's Administrative Committee (AC), with Sotiriadis, Tsirimokos and Petrokokkinos being suggested as candidates for treasurer (5th Letter, Dragoumis to Delmouzos, May 20, 1910, F. 9, Delmouzos Archive). There was an atmosphere of investigation, and Dragoumis confessed to Delmouzos the workload he was facing, noting that he received help mainly from

Kazantzakis, as Tsirimokos, Sotiriadis and Petrokokkinos were absent. Simultaneously, it was difficult to communicate with Triantafyllidis, leading Dragoumis to persistently urge Delmouzos to return to Greece to take on a leading role, even referring to him as “the Messiah” (6th Letter, Dragoumis to Delmouzos, June 7, 1910, F. 9, Delmouzos Archive). In his next letter, Dragoumis became more pleading towards Delmouzos: *Please help us too because we are left alone. Glinos and Triantafyllides with the Olympian calm as they look from the German Olympus do not agree to fight with us* (8th Letter, Dragoumis to Delmouzos, June 28, 1910, F. 9, Delmouzos Archive). He repeated the same request, asking Delmouzos when he would return to Greece, addressing him again as “the Messiah” and expressing the hope that Glinos and Triantafyllidis might need a little push to offer their help. It seemed that there was problematic communication among some demoticists, even in the initial phase of creating the union.

In early 1911, Petrokokkinos expressed doubts about the future of the EO, and in a moment of weakness, he confessed that his inclination was to disband the organization and let time and artists guide the world on the right path (Letter from Petrokokkinos to Delmouzos, February 2, 1911, F. 10, Delmouzos Archive). Meanwhile, Triantafyllidis, who was in Germany, commented on the new momentum in the demoticism movement, which had gained strength a few months after the official establishment of the EO, thanks to the involvement of new demoticists filled with enthusiasm and desire. He believed that some individuals should be provided with material support to engage in the struggle without succumbing to external pressure for the sake of their livelihood. He proposed the creation of positions such as a secretary, manager or editor for the Bulletin, along with the payment of DEO columnists. He suggested Glinos, Vamvetsos, and Skliros as the most suitable candidates for these roles (Triantafyllidis, 2001, p. 173). Additionally, Triantafyllidis recommended that these individuals, along with Apostolakis, engage in consultation and spiritual communication to establish a common foundation for the social struggle they were to participate in, ensuring it would be both successful and effective (Triantafyllidis letter to Dragoumis, July 9, 1911, Triantafyllidis Archive).

### 3. PRELIMINARY DECLARATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EO & ITS LETTER

In March 1910, the tax office of the Model School was convened – a core group consisting of Delmouzos, Demertzis, Diomidis, Dragoumis, Melas, Pappos, Petrokokkinos, Sotiriadis, Topalis, Tsirimokos and Fotiadis - with the aim of establishing a Model School even before the official founding of the EO (Tsirimokos, 1927, v. 7, p. 404). The tax office prepared and distributed a **declaration of establishment**, a document expressing the group’s intention to a Model School that would employ more appropriate pedagogical methods, use model textbooks, and implement a standardized alphabet, all with the aim of producing students with well-developed character, understanding, and the ability to cultivate the native spoken language. This initiative was baptized by the group as a ‘national experiment’. According to the preliminary declaration, the purpose of primary education was to prepare children for life by providing them with useful knowledge and skills related to various fields such as gymnastics, hygiene, religion, arithmetic, geometry, natural science, patriotism, and grammar of the native spoken language. The declaration also addressed the issues plaguing Greek schools at the time, including the outdated teaching methods, inadequate

textbooks, and insufficiently trained teachers, and emphasized the need for reform through the institutionalization of experimental schools, curriculum changes, and updated teaching methods and materials. The declaration concluded with an appeal for donations - both material and moral - to support their national experiment. This statement was published in the 4th issue of the first volume of the DEO by Glinos (Glinos, 1983, B', p. 81). The declaration also included the decision to create an educational group with the same purpose. The text was signed by the members of the ephorate of the Model primary school (Glinos, 1983, B', p. 81, and Preliminary Work of the Group, DEO, vol.1, vol. A', 1911, pp. 3-9).

In the statement issued by the tax office of the Model primary school in March 1910, the critical need to reform the primary school curriculum was emphasized. The goal was to prepare children for life by providing them with essential knowledge in arithmetic, geometry, natural sciences, patriotism, and the fundamental rules of the Greek language, all delivered in a way that educates rather than burdens the students, using practical examples (Preliminary Work of the Group, DEO, vol. 1, vol. A', 1911, pp. 3-6; Charalambous, 1987, p. 46; and 10th letter of Tsirimokos to Delmouzos (undated), F.11, Delmouzos Archive).

Regarding the Model School, it was stated that all necessary changes to the curriculum and teaching methods would be implemented clearly for the four existing primary school grades. However, the prospect of adding two more grades (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) remained uncertain and dependent on state approval. This issue was to be revisited after five years. Tsirimokos proposed forming a committee consisting of Kourtidis, Boutonas, Sotiriadis, Delmouzos, Triantafyllidis and Glinos to define the curriculum for the 1st and 2nd grades (10th (undated) and 11th Letter from Tsirimokos to Delmouzos, March 14, 1910, F.11, Delmouzos Archive).

One can detect clear influences of the German pedagogical movement in the preliminary declaration of the tax office regarding the establishment of the school. The purpose of primary education was to prepare the children for life by equipping them with useful knowledge, physical education, and the ability to think critically. The curriculum included subjects such as hygiene, religion, arithmetic, geometry, natural sciences, patriotism and the rules of the native language. The teaching methodology emphasized an approach that did not burden the mind but instead cultivated it. An experiential teaching approach was proposed, enabling the child to truly understand what they were learning (The tax office of the Model Primary School refers to the establishment of the Educational Group. Series: B. Language Education Archive, folder B 14, Group and Education Committee, subfolder B 2. Minutes of the Education Committee. Statutes, Sessions, Work Programs of the Educational Group, 1910-1920, Triantafyllidis Archive). The methods and subjects were aligned with the principles of German pedagogy and its educators. Glinos described it as a revolutionary school that, once established as a Greek institution, would become a model for all Greek schools and deliver the first substantial impact on educational practices. The goal was to foster a balance of moral strength, intellectual development and essential knowledge (Glinos, 1983, v. B', p. 81).

Two circulars were also drafted and distributed: one for raising funds and another for recruiting agents in various cities. These circulars highlighted the role of the (Friendly) Club in producing new, suitable books for children and discussed ways to support those who wished to help disseminate, sell and cover the financial costs of these books (Charalambous, 1987). At the same time, a letter was circulated to potential members of the EO, which

included an enclosed response-application for those interested in joining. This letter outlined the primary purpose of the Club, the means by which it operated, and the annual subscription fee of 5 drachmas<sup>1</sup> for membership. The letter was signed by D. Petrokokkinos as the representative of the members of the ephorate of the Model School (Glinos, 1983, V. B', p. 81, and Printed letter to a member of the Educational Group. Series: B. Language Education Archive, folder B 14, Group and Education Committee, subfolder B 2. Minutes of the Education Committee. Statutes, Sessions, Work Programs of the Educational Group, 1910-1920, Triantafyllidis Archive). Those who wanted to enroll were instructed to send the relevant application to I. Dragoumis, who was acting as deputy treasurer at the time, due to Petrokokkinos's absence abroad (Preliminary work of the group, DEO, vol.1, vol. A' 1911, p.4). The names of the recipients of the letter and the circular-declaration were recorded in a handwritten document found in the Dragoumis archive. Recipients who received the forms directly from Dragoumis were marked with an asterisk, while those who received them by letter from Petrokokkinos were marked with a cross. The names and addresses of members were listed on a separate leaflet. Those who received only the letter were marked with a "C", those who received the circular with an "E", and those who received both were marked with "C" and "E". This record follows Dragoumis' handwritten text (two pages) (6. List of names, one page; 7. List of names, 2nd page; 8. List of names and addresses, 3rd page, F. 24, Min. 2, Archive I. Dragoumis, Gennadios Library, ASKSA). On April 30, 1910, a second messenger letter was sent to remind the recipients to respond to the invitation to register with the EO (Charalambous, 1987, pp. 51-52).

The list of names provided a clear picture of demoticist circle's reach at the time of the EO's foundation. The list included many notable scholars, writers and politicians of the era, such as Kazantzakis, Venizelos, Pallis, Gavrielidis, Xenopoulos, Cavafis, Delta, Psycharis, and others who were considered by the founders as potential members. This group also included the later trinity of EO: Glinos, Delmouzos and Triantafyllidis. The circular was sent to various newspapers and institutions, such as Noumas, Alithia, the Library of Parliament, the National Library, etc. On the third page of the Dragoumis file, some names are crossed out, indicating that the letter was ultimately not sent to those individuals. Next to certain names, Dragoumis added the phrase: *To write founder*, referring to figures like Alexandris, A. Mylonas, K. Triantafyllopoulos, who were among the original founders. While the letter was sent to all of the above, the circular was also specifically sent to Fr. Karapanos. It is evident that many recipients lived outside Athens or even outside Greece, reflecting the broad geographical scope of the demoticist movement.

The members of the ephorate did not fully agree on the language issue, but they reached a consensus that the teaching medium should be the living language. The EO was ultimately established by those who signed the petition, along with a few other like-minded individuals (Tsimokos, 1927, v. 7, p. 405). Upon its establishment, the spirit of the EO began to spread internationally through a network of representatives, including Cavafy in Alexandria, Egypt, Fotiadis in Polis, Glinos in Leipzig, etc (Charalambous, 1987, p. 62). By early April 1910, the circular was ready for distribution in Athens and abroad. Petrokokkinos sent 30 copies to Delmouzos in Volos, asking him to forward them to publicists and demoticists he knew. He also sent a letter to Saratsis, inviting him to become a member of the EO (EO's letter to Saratsis, in 1910, in: Charitos, 1989, p. 184).

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<sup>1</sup> Currency of Greece in that period.

**1. List of recipients of the letter from the ephorate of the Model Primary School (1st page)**

Αυγέρης Παλαμάς (Αθήνα)	Βάρναλης Κατεχάκης	Γρυπάρης (Ε. Βενιζέλος)	Δελμούζος Γληνός
Σ. Αλεξίου	Α. Μαυρουδής	Να Ζωή	Τριανταφυλλίδης (Προύσης)
Ν. Καζαντζάκης	Γκιώνης	Καλομοίρης	Σ. Στελλάκης
Χρηστουλάκης	Φοιτητική Συντροφιά	Σ. Σπωννίδης, Πόλη	Γ. Μαρκάτης
Νουμάς (50 αντίτυπα)	Α. Σαχτούρης	Α. Ανδριάδης,	Νίκος
Ακρόπολις (1 αντίτυπο)	Ελπίδα	Νάτα	Φίλιππος
Παναθήναια (2 αντίτυπα)	Καλογεροπούλου	Ζωή	Σ. Μενάρδος
Γράμματα (1 αντίτυπο)		Έφη	Α. Πάλλης, Κάιρο
Ροδοκανάκης		Χαρίκλεια	Γ. Παρμενίδης, Κέρκυρα
Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη		Μαρίκα	Φ. Τσαλίκη
Βιβλιοθήκη Βουλής		Αλεξάντρα	Μ. Τσαλίκης
Βιβλ/θήκη παν/στημίου		(Αντρ. Μελά)	Σταματιάδης, Πόλη
Β. Ελευθερουδάκης		Κ. Μελάς	Αιμ. Καραβία
Βιβλιοπωλείο.Εστία (16 αντίτυπα)		Γ. Σοτηριάδης	(Χαρδαλιάς), (Μπουντόνας)
Α. Πανταζής, Πόλη		Η. Σταύρου	Μπούτουρας
Φ. Φωτιάδης, Πόλη		ΚαΜ. Παπαρηγόπουλου	Μ. Φραγκούδης, Κύπρος
Γ. Σιώτης, Πόλη		Βερναρδάκης	Μαρί. Κοτοπούλη
Α. Πασάς, Πόλη		Ι. Χρυσάρης	Παπαντωνίου
Παναγόπουλος, Πόλη		Λ. Μαβίλης	Περ. Καραπάνος
Ν. Μαυρουδής,		Κ. Θεοτόκης, Κέρκυρα	Κ. Χατζόπουλος
Μοναστήρι		Σκίτης	Ι. Χαλκοκονδύλης
Ζάχος, Αργυρόκαστρο		Κ. Χρηστομάνος	Δ. Τοπάλης
Νούλης, Βεράτι		Αγ. Σικελιανός	Τιμ. Σταθόπουλος
Κόλης, Μι		Σοφούλης	(Ν. Χατζηδάκης)
Πανουριάς, Θεσ/νικη		(Καλλ. Παρρέν)	Σαχτούρης
Κανελλόπουλος, Πόλη		Σιγ. Μαρίνος Θεσ/νικη	(Γ. Φοκάς)
Νικολαΐδης, Πόλη		Πετροκόκκινος	Π. Ψύχας
Π. Νιρβάνας, Αθήνα		Ν. Πολίτης	Δ. Σαράτσης(Βόλος)
Μ. Τσιμιώκος, “		(Σ. Λάμπρος)	Γιαννός, Ιωαννίδης
Κ. Μάνος, “		Χ. Τσούντας	Αλιμπέρτης
Στεφόπουλος, “		Γ. Ξερόπουλος	(Κακλαμάνος)
Α. Καρκαβίτσας “		Ιωήλ. Τισαμένου	Κα Παπαγεωργίου
Ζ. Παπαντωνίου, “		Ψυχάρης	Πολυτ.
Λ. Πορφύρας, Πειραιάς		Πάλλης	Δημητρακοπούλου
Ν. Ποριώτης, Αθήνα		Εφταλιώτης	Κα Νέλλη Κανελλίδη
(Λ. Κορομηλιάς) “		Βλαστός	Καλογήρου
		Πην. Δέλτα	Δημητριάδης
		Κ. Καβάφης	Ζερβός
		(Σ. Σκιαδαρέσης)	
		(Γυρτός)	
		(Κ. Δέλτας)	

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**2. List of recipients of the letter from the ephorate of the Model Primary school (2nd p.)**


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Φωτιάδης, Πόλη	Μάτης, Βερολίνο
Παλαμάς, Αθήνα	Κ. Χατζόπουλος, Μόναχο
Βλαστός	Μάτης, Τάγκα
Καρκαβίτσας	Λογοθέτη
Πασάς, Πόλη	Ψύχας
Παπαντωνίου, Ζάκυνθος	Φ. Τσαλίκη, Πόλη
Σερ. Δημητρακοπούλου	Σωτηριάδης
Καζαντζάκης,	Τοπάλης
Πετρούλα Ψηλορείτη	Χρηστουλάκης, Χανιά
Δ. Πετροκόκκινος	Ανδρεάδης
Μ. Τριανταφυλλίδης	Ν. Πολίτης
Μ. Τσιριμώκος	Πανωρέου, Βερολίνο
Ν. Μελά	Αραβαντινός, Βερολίνο
Λ. Παλαμάς	Δουρώτης,
Α. Δελμούζος	Πολίτης, Βερολίνο
Α. Νικολαΐδης, Πόλη	Σταυριδάκης, Ηράκλειο
Χ. Κοκαόνη	Γαβριηλίδης
Μ. Καζάζη	Νιρβάνας
Σ. Καλλέργη	Ξερόπουλος
Α. Ξύδη	Πανουριάς
Ζ. Pelensa	2 εργάτες Βερολίνο
Φ. Δραγούμη	Σικελιανός
Α. Δραγούμης, Σέρρες	Κλ. Λάκων
Ν. Μαυρουδής, Ανδριανούπολη	Ποριώτης
Γ. Κανελλόπουλος, Βουκουρέστι	Σ. Στελλάκης
Κ. Καβάφης, Αλεξάνδρεια	Σιώτης
Τ. Markof, Πετρούπολη	Andeiam
Τραπεζούντος, Τραπεζούντα	Παναθήναια
Παρμενίδης, Κέρκυρα	Τσουντας
Ψυχάρης, Παρίσι	Καμπούρογλου
Πάλλης, Λιβερπουλ	Εφταλιώτης
Πανταζής	Λυκούδης
Καλομοίρης	Κ. Θεοτόκης
Α. Ζάχος, Άργος	Σ. Λασκαρίδη
Σταματιάδης, Πόλη	Κ. Παρρέν

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<i>3. Name of recipients of the letter from the ephorate</i>	<i>What should be sent</i>
A. Αβέρωφ	Γ
Γ. Αβέρωφ	Γ
A. Αλεξανδρή	Γ
N. Γάτος	Γ
K. Γκότσης	Γ
Γ. Δούμας	Not send
Γ. Σωχίος	Γ
I. Ζυγομαλάς	Γ
I. Θεοτόκης	Γ
Γ. Καφαντάρης	Γ, E
Γ. Κολοκοτρώνης	Γ
Παρ. Καραπάνος	Γ
K. Κατσίμπαλης	Not send
Δ. Μυλωνάς	Γ
A. Παπαναστασίου	Γ
K. Πρινάρης	Γ
Θ. Σοφούλης	Γ
M. Στελλάκης	Γ
K. Τριανταφυλλόπουλος	Γ
Δ. Φωκάς	Γ
Γ. Χατζηκυριάκος	Γ
Σοφία Μάτση	Γ
N. Αμοιραδάκης	Γ
Αλ. Ασημακόπουλος	Γ
K. Κωνσταντινίδης	Γ
K. Μωραιτόπουλος	Γ
A. Καλαμποκίδης	Γ
Σ. Μαραδάκης	
A. Λάμπρος	
Ηλιόπουλος	
Δ. Δησής	
I. Μάσχας	
Δ. Παπαλεξόπουλος	

#### 4. THE OPERATION OF THE EO

The first operating documents of the EO, including the statute, the circular of the ephorate for the planned Model School, and the letter from the ephorate, were published in the first and second volumes of the EO (Glinos, 1983, v. B', pp. 80, 8; Document MA269 (1) 4, Glinos Archive). Specifically, in the first issue of the first volume (January, 1911), on pages 3-6, the tax circular, the letter from the tax office, the statute, and the letter from the EO committee were published. Contributors to the Bulletin described these documents as revolutionary, linking them to the political changes of 1909 and the renewed vitality in the national life of the country. The founders of the EO appeared to have a realistic perspective on their project, recognizing it as a venture rooted in the belief that education is one of the most crucial factors for the progress of a nation (As Prologue, DEO<sup>2</sup>, vol. 3, 1913, p.-).

<sup>2</sup> EO magazine.

Within a few months of the release of the preliminary declaration, the EO had quickly established a base of operations. The Administrative Committee of the Group was elected and it was promptly decided to send a circular to members and demoticists to clarify the Group's purpose and working methods (11th Letter, Tsirimokos to Delmouzos, March 14, 1910, F. 14, Delmouzos Archive). A leaflet was printed urging followers of demoticism in the provinces and abroad to strengthen their connections, enlighten their communities, and form groups to influence state educational policies. The leaflet emphasized the importance of electing a three-person committee and informing the EO Committee accordingly (Document OST446015, Various forms, Glinos Archive). It appears that during the summer season, activities within the EO, including the collection of subscriptions and membership registrations, slowed down significantly (Document XI 429a, Note by Olga Oikonomou, June 16, 1925, Glinos Archive). This pattern of reduced activity during the summer had been in place since the beginning of the EO's operations.

The first speeches within the Group were held from 1911 onwards. However, in 1913, no speeches were made due to the abnormal political climate, conscription and the reluctance of many members (Accountability, for fiscal year 1914-1915, DEO, vol. 5, 1915, p. 154). The Group then focused on publishing children's books, scientific books and some speeches.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The article focused on the first phase of the EO's operation, from its official foundation to the initial years of its activities. The founding of the Group was somewhat unexpected and occurred relatively spontaneously. However, it quickly attracted numerous intellectuals from Athens, who were united by their spiritual concerns and commitment to the ideal of urbanism. Among the 36 founders were 12 contributors to the tax office of the Model School and 24 elites from both demoticist and literary circles and other intellectual circles. These founders represented a spectrum of ideologies: some were defenders of the national idea (Dragoumis, Mavilis), others were proponents of the socialist ideal (Tsirimokos), while others supported liberalism (Triantafyllidis, Delmouzos).

From the outset, the EO established an operating statute that outlined the administration by the DE. Additionally, a circular from the ephorate detailed plans for the Model School. In March 1910, along with the preliminary founding declaration, a first letter was sent to intellectuals both in Greece and abroad. The names listed in the corresponding tables provided a clear picture of the demoticist circle's breadth at the time of the foundation, including notable figures such as Kazantzakis, Venizelos, Pallis, Gavrielidis, Xenopoulos, Cavafis, Delta, Psycharis.

The tax office of the Model School included Delmouzos, Demertzis, Diomedis, Dragoumis, Mela, Pappos, Petrokokkinos, Sotiriadis, Topalis, Tsirimokos and Fotiadis. Their goal was to operate the Model School even before the establishment of EO. The members of the ephorate did not completely agree on the language issue, but did agree to accept the use of the living language. With the formation of the union, a building was rented to implement its program: member meetings, speeches, and other necessary activities. The first speeches in the Group's area began in 1911. Subsequently, the Group published editions of children's books, scientific books and some speeches, as well as its magazine.

The establishment of the EO was a significant progressive act by the early 20th century Greeks. It was complemented by the political changes of 1909 in Greece, including the revolution of the Military League<sup>3</sup>. Its main vision was to strengthen national education, preparing children for life by equipping them with useful knowledge, gymnastics, physical education, and critical thinking skills. With the collaboration of several educated pioneers, the EO laid the foundations for radical changes in the language issue through the promotion of demoticism, as well as in other necessary aspects of Greek school organization, operation and philosophy.

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## POČECI OSNIVANJA „OBRAZOVNE GRUPE“ EO (EKPAIDEFTIKOS OMILOS) I NJEN OSNOVNI OPERATIVNI OKVIR U GRČKOJ

*Saopštenje se odnosi na proces osnivanja, i osnovne komponente rada novoosnovanog EO (program, namena, prethodna izjava o osnivanju). EO je bila atinska unija sa filološkim književnim devijacijama i liberalnim urbanim karakterom ideološki pozicioniranim na sredini puta, unija intelektualnog avangardizma. Njena delatnost traje od 1910. do 1930. godine i odnosi se na izradu programa za grčke škole, uređivanje i izdavanje knjiga, pamfleta, kao i organizovanje prosvetiteljskog rada sa govorima, predavanjima u prostoru Kluba i šire.*

*U početku uključuje stavove i zabrinutost njegovih osnivača i kasnijih pionira (Triantafyllidisa, Petrokokkinosa) o njegovom „ishitrenom“ osnivanju. Zatim se upućuje na zvanična dokumenta kao što su Nacrt osnivanja, Deklaracija o osnivanju EO, Pismo potencijalnim članovima, dok se na kraju daju osnovne informacije o početku i nastavku operacije i njenim glavnim akcijama do razdvajanja njeni članovi, 1927. U tom kontekstu se formira Administrativni odbor Grupe, iznajmljuje se prostor za sastanke i govore.*

*Saopštenje se odnosi na proces osnivanja, i osnovne komponente rada novoosnovanog EO (program, namena, prethodna izjava o osnivanju). EO je bila atinska unija sa filološkim i književnim devijacijama i liberalnim i urbanim karakterom, ideološki pozicionirana na sredini puta, unija intelektualaca. Njena delatnost je trajala od 1910. do 1930. godine i bila je usmerena na izradu programa za grčke škole, uređivanje i izdavanje knjiga, pamfleta i organizovanje obrazovnog rada u okviru Kluba i van njega.*

*U početku uključuje stavove i brige njegovih osnivača i kasnijih pionira (Triantafyllidis, Petrokokkinos) u vezi sa njegovim „ishitrenim“ osnivanjem. Zatim se poziva na zvanične dokumente kao što su „Nacrt fondacije“, „Deklaracija o osnivanju EO“ i „Pismo potencijalnim članovima“. Konačno, date su osnovne informacije o početku i nastavku njenog rada, kao i o glavnim akcijama do rascepa njenih članova 1927. U tom kontekstu je formiran Administrativni odbor Grupe, a iznajmljen je i prostor za sastanke i držanje govora.*

Ključne reči: *prosvetno društvo, demotizam, ideološki fragmenti, obrazovanje*