Solutions to sustaining Languages: collaboration or online?

Prof Michael Tsianikas
Professor in Modern Greek
Flinders Learning Online
Modern Greek Studies

• Established at Flinders University in 1988
• Enrolments online Australia-wide
• Strong post-graduate program
• 10 biennial international conferences on Greek research
• 3 international conferences on aging in a foreign land
• very strong connection with the Greek community
“I liked the opportunity for interactive communication and meeting new people.”

“I think this online topic is great.”

“The materials that were used were very helpful.”

“The best materials are the vocabulary, reading tasks, speaking tasks, grammar and definitely the weekly tutorial materials.”

“Language learning is all about interactions and using the language. FLO Live [virtual classroom] provided a great base to utilise the language we learnt each week.”

“I think this online topic is great.”

“It [the virtual classroom] made me feel more connected.”

“Language learning is all about interactions and using the language. FLO Live [virtual classroom] provided a great base to utilise the language we learnt each week.”
A unique online program

Blogging

Learning activities

Online assessment

Cultural resources

FLO Live

Discussion forums
## Collaboration and online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Possible solutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students are unaware of language study options and information about courses, enrolments etc.</td>
<td>Language courses should be marketed more widely.</td>
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<td>Information about existing collaborations not widely available.</td>
<td>Information to be included in enrolment packages.</td>
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<td>Misconception that a critical mass of students is required for a course to go ahead.</td>
<td>It needs to be more widely known that cross institutional enrolment in an online course is possible for even only 1 student.</td>
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<td>Cross-institutional enrolment disallowed.</td>
<td>Universities need to be more supportive.</td>
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Collaboration **and** online

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<td>Lack of enthusiasm amongst colleagues in key positions to facilitate cross-institutional enrolments for languages not offered at their institution.</td>
<td>Cultural change in the university systems.</td>
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<td>Students do not get appropriate recognition (i.e. NGP only) for cross-institutional studies.</td>
<td>Universities should allow students to include the grade achieved on their transcript.</td>
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<td>No Australia-wide collaborative approach to the provision of online language programs.</td>
<td>Online programs are developed by those universities with the capability to do so in collaborative agreement.</td>
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A foreign language is tough enough without having to learn dialects...

Bow wol
Woof ruff
Arf bark
Rowf yap

...and without cross-institutional barriers...