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To: EURO-XPRAG Steering Committee (or sub-group for RNP Short Visit Grants)

Subject: Report – RNP Short Visit Grant 5371 (Kyriakos Antoniou)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please find enclosed my report for the RNP Short Visit Grant #5371 for the project “The cognitive foundations of pragmatic development” within the ESF Research Networking Programme *Experimental Pragmatics in Europe (EURO-XPRAG)*.

I would like to use this opportunity and thank the committee for making this visit possible, which was beneficial to all participants involved.

Sincerely,

Kyriakos Antoniou
PhD Candidate, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics,
University of Cambridge

1. Purpose of the visit

This RNP Short Visit was part of the EURO-XPRAG project 'The cognitive foundations of pragmatic development'. The purpose of my visit was to finish the data collection process for our project by testing children from public and private schools in Cyprus. The data collection process was facilitated by Professor Kleanthes Grohmann and Dr Maria Kambanaros who provided permissions from the Cyprus Ministry of Education for access and testing in several schools in Cyprus. Data collection for our project started in February 2012 during my first visit to Cyprus which was not supported by an RNP grant.

2. Description of the work carried out during the visit

I tested 11 more bilingual children from a private school in Cyprus. We have now recruited two groups of children from primary schools in Cyprus, aged 6 to 11 years: 31 bilingual Cypriot Greek–English children and 36 age-matched monolingual Cypriot Greek-speaking children as controls. All participating children were matched for socio-economic background. The experimental methodology involved (i) an extensive conversational test, (ii) an extensive battery of executive control tasks, (iii) one measure of verbal ability and one measure of general intelligence, and (iv) one Theory of Mind task.

3. Description of the main results obtained

The bilingual children show a negative effect of vocabulary ability but a positive effect of inhibition. This adds to the evidence of a bilingual disadvantage in lexical retrieval and a bilingual advantage in cognitive control. Finally, the two groups (bilinguals-monolinguals) did not differ in pragmatic language ability.

4. Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

The research carried out for the EURO-XPRAG project 'The cognitive foundations of pragmatic development' has been very fruitful for all participants involved. I traveled to Cyprus several times for data collection and meetings with the local project participants, Drs Grohmann and Kambanaros. This will be continued until I finish my PhD studies and ideally beyond through joint research grant applications.

5. Projected publications / articles resulting or to result from the grant (ESF must be acknowledged in publications resulting from the grantee's work in relation with the grant)

We presented our work at the 37th *Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 37)*. The ESF is duly mentioned through the EURO-XPRAG project. This conference has proceedings in which our paper will be published. We're currently preparing the full version to submit in spring 2013. Our work will also be presented at the 19th International Congress of Linguists (ICL) which will take place in July 2013 in Geneva.

In addition, we will start writing up a bigger paper dedicated to the findings outlined above, targeting the journal *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* for submission.

6. Other comments (if any)

My travel dates were 17 May to 23 May 2012, although my return flight was on 3 June 2012. I had to stay in Cyprus for some days after the Short Visit for other purposes (nothing is claimed for these days in the travel budget for this grant).