



**ENTAN – the European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network** in collaboration with the **Culture Borders Gender Lab** (club for the study of languages and literatures) at the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies of the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, organize a webinar on:

**Silenced minority languages: Folk tales, songs (France, Greece)**

**9 September 2022**  
**at 10.00 am (French), 11.00 am (Greek) time**

*Certificates of attendance will be issued upon request and registration to the form <https://forms.gle/PvAGxU4rPvhtwseAA>*

Language: English

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Myriam Guillevic**, Senior Lecturer on Breton and Celtic Languages, University of Rennes2, France

**Prof. Stefan Moal**, Senior Lecturer on Breton language and culture, University of Rennes 2, France

**Dr. Theodora Gourani**, Ethnomusicologist, Postdoctoral researcher at the Department of BSOS, University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece

**Dine Donneff**, Musician, Composer, Archivist

**Prof. Alexandra Ioannidou**, Slavist, University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece

ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/8364531775?pwd=OVg3YVZlbnVCYWw3S0JYcEFGYIV1QT09>

Meeting ID: 836 453 1775

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

In many cases of unrecognized minority languages, the first to undergo suppression, for the language to stop evolving and become gradually forgotten, is the folk tradition. The folk tradition, due to its psychological power over the speakers, connected with the dearest memories from their childhood or with reminiscences of festivities in one's hometown or village, is too powerful to be ignored by state authorities in their effort to reinforce the narrative of the linguistic unity of the entire people. The Webinar "Silenced Minority Languages. (France, Greece)" will attempt to approach this phenomenon of language suppression in a comparative way. It will include scholars who deal with this phenomenon in Greece and in France, two countries which do not even consider signing and ratifying the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.

The Webinar will contribute to our knowledge on local minority folklore cultivation in two European countries – France and Greece—the politics of which towards linguistic and ethnic minorities are similar. It will be interesting to observe the means of the attempted suppression of two important areas of language use: folk tale and song, the ways in which the speakers bypass restrictions, the changes that suppression has caused to the original form of folktale and song etc. The area of folk tradition belongs to the very essence of ENTAN, since it signifies the cultural diversity of linguistic and ethnic minorities and corresponds to the needs and wishes of minority members.

Apart from information and exchange of facts and data, the Webinar will initiate a closing discussion between the young attendees of the two countries and examine possibilities for further actions and collaboration. Further, the webinar would also contribute towards future policy considerations, especially since the discussion about minorities in countries which deny the existence of any minorities should first start with this kind of research before minority rights accommodation, including non-territorial autonomy arrangements, can be considered as a viable option.

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