



1.Title: The Authoress of the Odyssey: regendering the cultural roots of European civilization

2.Link to the UWE Action Themes:

Encouraging cooperation among European members

Increase networking capacity

Engage and invest in next generation

More women in leadership positions

3.Purpose (Qualitative And Quantitative): The main purpose is to support cultural and educational initiatives focusing on women and girls. Forming part of the UWE's Europe-wide initiative to bring gender studies and cultural history into mainstream education. A collaboration between British writer Ros Belford, Italian theatre director, Francesco Zarzana and two student actors, it takes as its precedent Samuel Butler's theory that the Odyssey was written by a Sicilian princess, and that the character of Nausicaa was autobiographical. It is designed to focus questions of gender in the ancient world of Classical and pre-Classical Greece in a way that is immediate, entertaining, accessible and, above all, relevant for high school and undergraduate students. It also aims to demonstrate the benefits of iconoclasm, irreverence and the asking of awkward questions.

4.Time Frame: the project was launched at the AGM London 2015. Future development depends on available funding.

5.Organizations involved: University of Catania; University of Bath (UK); FILDIS Siracusa; Association des Membres de l'Ordre des Palmes (AMPOPA). Supporting Organizations: Friends of Greece.

6.Costs (and funding): The project is self-funded by all the people involved working as volunteers. No funds are required from UWE.

7.Decision Asked: UWE is asked to intervene with an application for EU funding and be encouraged to promote the project within the UWE network. UWE will also be requesting the patronage of the Council of Europe.

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