

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2000

To the IREX Organization  
Fax N° 00374.2.151116  
Yerevan

**Subject: *Adhesion to the glottodidactic research program “Elaboration of Teaching Methods of Languages as a Foreign Language” to be developed in collaboration with the Ghevond Alishan Cultural and Educational Association of Yerevan, headed by Mrs. Svetlana Aslanyan, and with the Chair of Armenian Studies at INALCO in Paris.***

To whom it may concern,

the undersigned hereby, Prof. Boghos Levon Zekiyan, titular of the Chair of Armenian Studies at the State University Ca' Foscari of Venice and Director of the *Summer Intensive Course of Armenian Language and Culture*, held every year in August, since 1986, at the Ca' Foscari University, gives by this presents his full adhesion to collaborate to the above mentioned research program proposed by Mrs. Svetlana Aslanyan, in collaboration with the INALCO Armenian Studies program in Paris, and to host Mrs. Aslanyan in Venice, should she obtain the IREX grant for this purpose, putting at her disposal every kind of University facilities linked with this kind of research, and especially: free access to the library, computers, software programs, contact with the teaching staff and the students of the *Corso di Laurea* in “Eastern Languages and Civilizations” and especially with those of the Department of “Eurasian Studies” - including Iranian, Turkic, Arabic, Jewish, Caucasian Studies - to which the Chair of Armenian Studies also belongs.

Personally I have known Mrs. Svetlana Aslanyan since 1982, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Armenian linguistics in Yerevan, and since then we both realized many common points and targets in our research concerning the Armenian language and, in a very special way, its teaching at whatever level as a “foreign language”, independently from the fact if the teaching activity is directed to native Armenians or to non Armenians. The above mentioned Summer Intensive Course has been in these recent years one of the main activities developed by our Chair in this direction, as well as the same target was aimed by the courses organized in Armenia for people not possessing Armenian as their mother tongue by *the Ghevond Alishan Association* founded for this purpose by Ms. Aslanyan.

Another important activity of our Chair of Venice has been the production of the audiovisual course, entitled *Hayeren khosink* (“Let us Speak Armenian”), to learn Armenian also, and especially, by self-access.

Since our generations realized that the language heritage is an important patrimony not only for the people itself which is the heir of a given linguistic tradition, but for human culture in general, the survival of the Armenian linguistic tradition in those circumstances in which it faces a serious risk of extinction has to be regarded as a vital issue. Of course we cannot understate also the percentage of non Armenian people eager to study Armenian in the various European and American Universities. An unavoidable requirement to face this topic urgency is, without any doubt, the development and application of the most recent glottodidactic methodologies to the teaching of Armenian as a second or a foreign language.

I hope that Mrs. Aslanyan will obtain this grant and the realization of this utmost topic and useful project will be possible. Very sincerely yours

**Prof. Boghos Levon Zekiyan**