



# Επισκόπηση Αγγλικής Λογοτεχνίας II

## Ενότητα 2: The Victorian Age, 1830-1901

Αικατερίνη Κίτση - Μυτάκου  
Αγγλικής Γλώσσας και Φιλολογίας



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ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ



# The Victorian Age, 1830-1901



Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση  
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ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ  
ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑ ΒΙΟΥ ΜΑΘΗΣΗ  
*επένδυση στην κοινωνία της γνώσης*

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ  
ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ

Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ

# Contents

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1. Industrialism: Progress or Decline?
2. From Slave Trade to Imperialist Expansion
3. Late Victorians, Decadence, Aestheticism (1668-71)



# Learning Objectives:

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- Introduction to the historical context of the Victorian Period,
- Exposure to the diverse reactions of the Victorians to the Industrial Revolution and the expansion of the Empire,
- Familiarization with the main voices and trends in Victorian writing.





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ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

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# Industrialism: Progress or Decline?

# The Victorian Period 1837-1901 (1/2)

- 1832: The first Reform Bill
- 1837: Victoria becomes queen
- 1901: Death of Victoria
- Early Victorian (1832-1848)
- Mid-Victorian (1849-1870)
- Late Victorian (1871-1901)





# The Victorian Period 1837-1901 (2/2)

- Expansion of London
- Steam power exploited for new inventions
- Industrialization
- Flourishing of trade
- Capital investments
- England becomes an empire



# Early Victorian (1832-1848)

- The Time of Troubles
- In 1832, the Reform Bill gives the right to vote to all men owning property worth £ 10 in annual rent
- Severe depression, unemployment and riots in the 1840s
- *Laissez faire* economy
- Chartism: working class movement which fought for political reform and the right to vote



# Mid-Victorian (1849-1870)

- The Age of Improvement
- Institutions worked well
- Monarchy was proving its worth
- Agriculture, trade and industry flourished
- The condition of working classes was improved



# Queen Victoria, 1819-1901



Εικόνα 1

# Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their 9 children



Εικόνα 2

# Queen Victoria and Family, 1898



Εικόνα 3



# Fundamental Victorian Principles

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- Progress
- Morality
- Truth, earnestness
- Stability
- Utility
- Class hierarchy
- Family life
- Fixity of gender roles



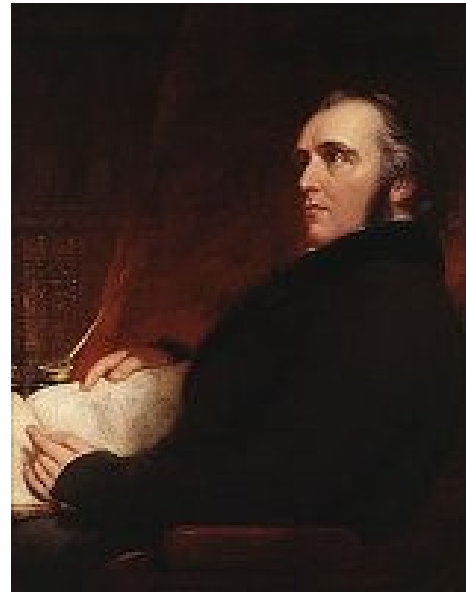
# Progress or Decline?

Robert Southey



Εικόνα 4

Thomas Babington  
Macaulay



Εικόνα 5





# A Review of Southey's *Colloquies* (1/2)

- The factory worker is enjoys a more comfortable and less dependent life than the agricultural laborer.
- Diminution of mortality in manufacturing towns.
- People are better clothed, fed, lodged, attended in sickness because of increase of national wealth.
- The picturesque cannot be the test of prosperity.



# A Review of Southey's *Colloquies* (2/2)

- Natural tendency of society to improve.
- Country becoming richer despite the Napoleonic wars, heavy taxation, huge public debt, and currency debasement.
- Progress of England surpassed the wildest dreams.
- Capital should be left to find its profitable course (*laissez faire*).



# Thomas Carlyle, from *Past and Present*

- ‘*Laissez fair* and every man for himself’ have led us to the present state.
- ‘Liberty to die by starvation’ is not divine.
- A stern Ruler and Line of Rulers is called in.
- When the descendents of the Aristocracy cease to be the Best, they must be cast out.
- Need to find government by your Real-Superiors!



# Fashionable street in London



Εικόνα 6



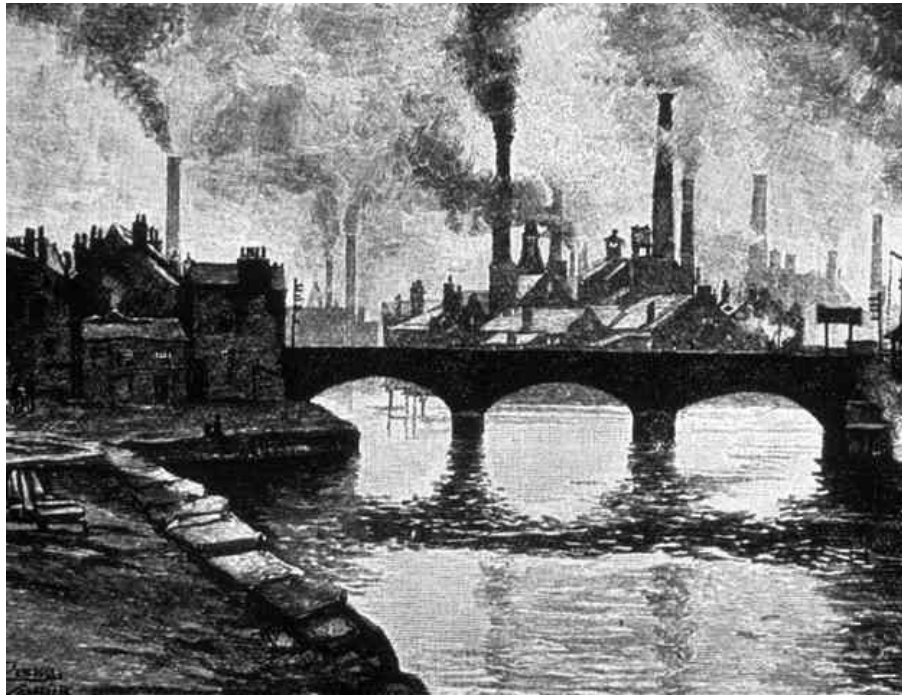
# Victorian Slum



Εικόνα 7



# Pollution in London



Εικόνα 8



# Pollution in the river Thames



Εικόνα 9



# *Oliver Twist*, 1838



Εικόνα 10





# Charles Dickens working in a blacking factory



Εικόνα 11



# *Oliver Twist*, Excerpts from films

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZrgxHvNNUc>  
(David Lean, 1948)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kr4WxEQHiCE>  
(Polanski, 2005)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IEDDsBKsU>  
(BBC, 2007)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qkF7tFeIKU>  
(David Lean, 1948)



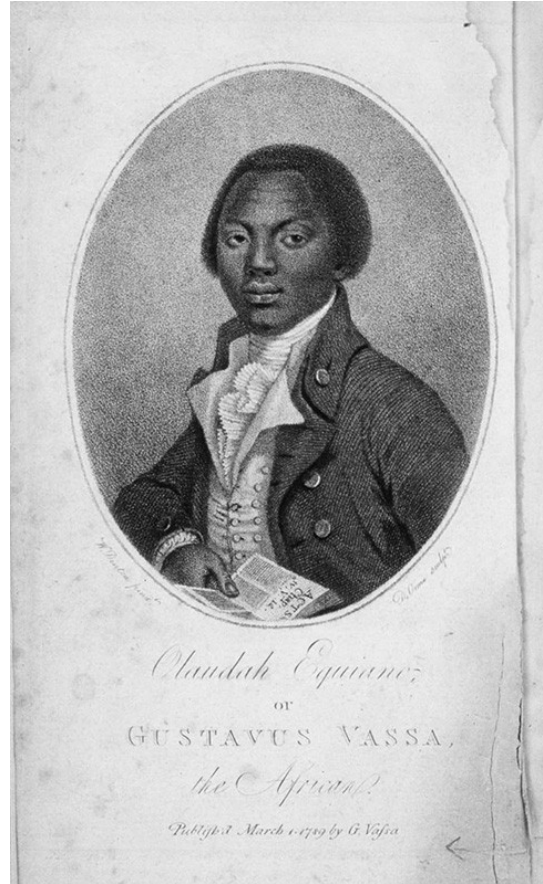


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# **From Slave Trade to Imperialist Expansion**

# Olaudah Equiano (ca 1745-1797)



Εικόνα 12

# Facts about Slave Trade (1/2)

- Captain John Hawkins made the first known English slaving voyage to Africa, in 1562, in the reign of Elizabeth I.
- In the 245 years between Hawkins first voyage and the abolition of the Slave Trade in 1807, merchants in Britain dispatched about 10,000 voyages to Africa for slaves, with merchants in other parts of the British Empire perhaps fitting out a further 1,150 voyages.



# Facts about Slave Trade (2/2)

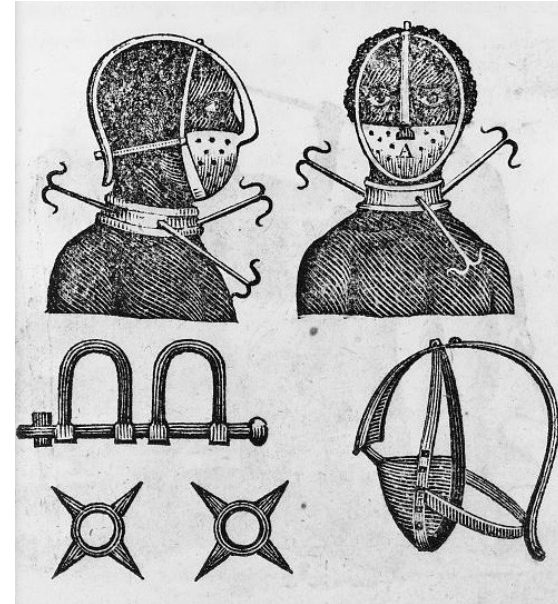
- British ships carried 3.4 million or more enslaved Africans to the Americas.
- The total number of African slaves transported by European traders, to at least 12 million people.
- The profits gained from chattel slavery helped to finance the Industrial Revolution and the Caribbean islands became the hub of the British Empire. The sugar colonies were Britain's most valuable colonies. By the end of the eighteenth century, four million pounds came into Britain from its West Indian plantations, compared with one million from the rest of the world.



# The Iron Muzzle



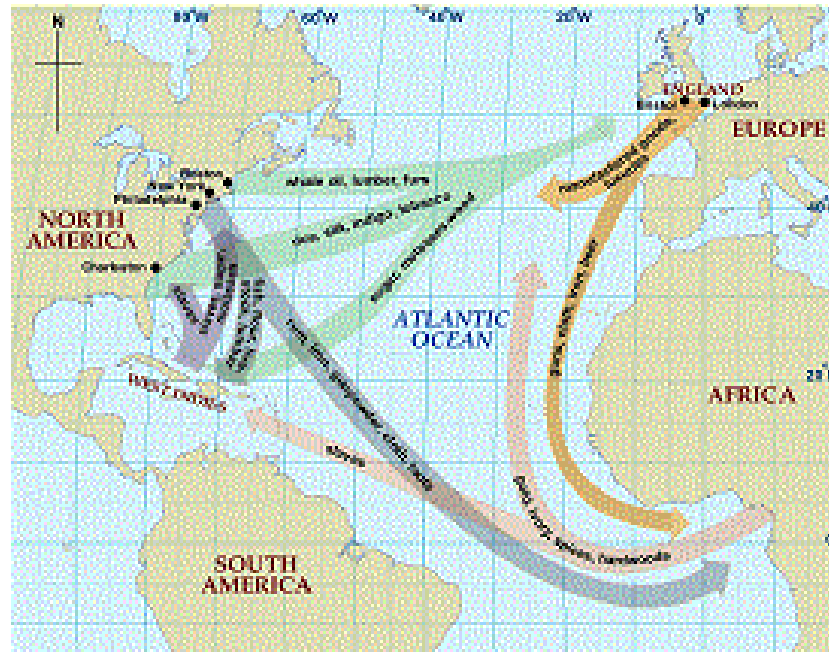
Εικόνα 13



Εικόνα 14



# Slave trade routes

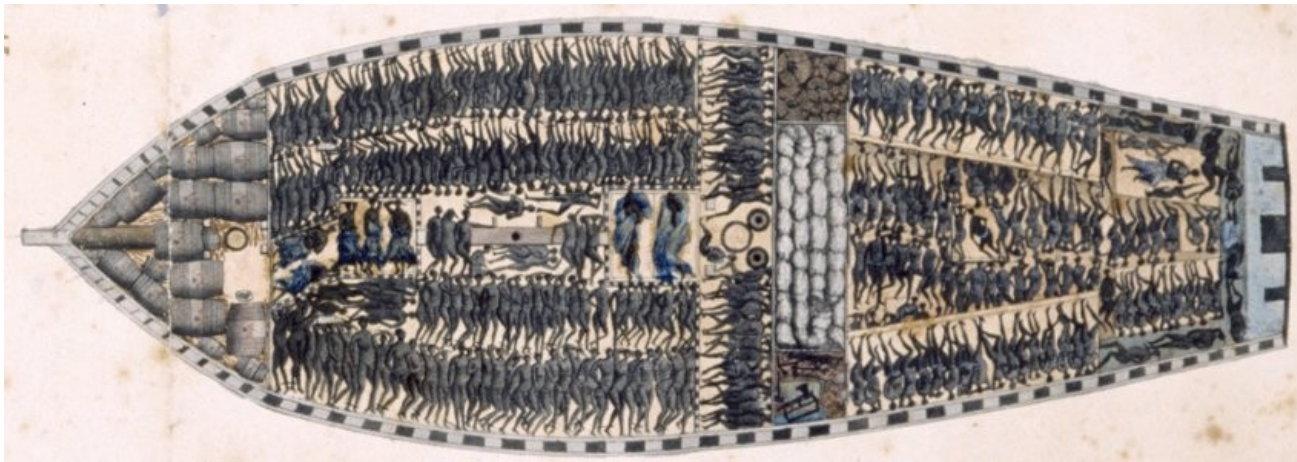


Εικόνα 15



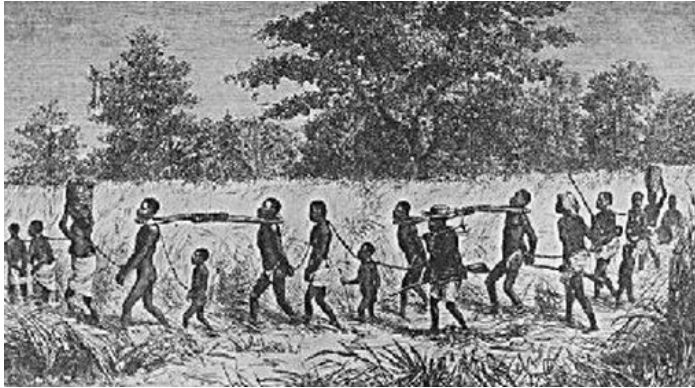


# Slaves stacked in ships



Εικόνα 16

# The Life of Slaves in the Plantations



Εικόνα 17



Εικόνα 19



Εικόνα 20



Εικόνα 18



# Thomas Babington Macaulay, *Minute on Indian Education, 1835*

- Dialects spoken in India are poor and rude.
- Western literature is by far superior to the literature of India and Arabia.
- In every branch of physical or moral philosophy the superiority of the Europeans is immeasurable.
- English is the language of metaphysics, morals, government, jurisprudence and trade.
- We must cultivate a class of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, opinions, morals and intellect.



# Joseph Chamberlain, *The True Conception of Empire, 1897 (1/2)*

- **1st stage** of imperialism: colonies valued as a source of profit.
- **2nd stage**: separation of colonies was desired.
- **3rd stage**: self-governing colonies are not possessions but kin, part of ourselves.
- The rest of the colonies are governed with a sense of obligation to add to the happiness and prosperity of the people.



# Joseph Chamberlain, *The True Conception of Empire, 1897 (2/2)*

- *Pax Britannia* has brought security to life and property and improvement in the condition of people.
- Bloodshed and loss of population was in some cases inevitable in order to achieve disciplined order.
- The English have a mission and an obligation imposed by their history and national character to civilize the brutes.



# J. A. Hobson, *Imperialism: A Study*, 1902

- **One-fifth** of the entire surface of the globe is British.
- **One-sixth** of human population lives under English colonisation.
- Throughout the empire no real power of self-government and no civil freedom has been given.
- In British protectorates no one enjoys the political rights of British citizens.
- The British took the responsibility of ruling the lower races by methods which are antithetic to what they value for themselves.



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# Late Victorians, Decadence, Aestheticism (1668-71)



# Dominant trends in art during the Late Victorian Period

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- Art for Art's Sake
- Aestheticism
- Decadent Art
- Fin-de-siècle Pose
- Sensationalism





# Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Monna Vanna* (1866)



Εικόνα 21



# Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) (1/3)



Εικόνα 22



Εικόνα 23



# Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)(2/3)

- Born in Dublin, Ireland.
- Educated in Trinity College, Dublin and Magdalen College, Oxford.
- Moved to London after completing his studies.
- In 1881, he traveled to the USA to deliver lectures on Aestheticism.
- In 1884, he got married to Constance Lloyd and had two sons.
- ‘The Happy Prince and Other Tales’, 1888.
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1890.
- *The Importance of Being Ernest*, 1895.



# Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)(3/3)

- Met Lord Alfred Douglas, 1891.
- Arrested, convicted of homosexuality, and sentenced to two years hard labor, 1895.
- Spent the last three years of his life traveling in Europe.



# Oscar Wilde & Lord Alfred Douglas



Εικόνα 24

# Wilde's Inversions



Εικόνα 25



## Wilde's Inversions

from *Phrases & Philosophies for the Use of the Young*, 1894

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- If one tells the truth, one is sure, sooner or later, to be found out.
- Only the shallow know themselves.
- To love oneself is the beginning of a life-long romance.
- To be premature is to be perfect.
- I can resist everything except temptation.
- The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it.



# Marriage (1/2)

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- Men marry because they are tired; women, because they are curious: both are disappointed.
- A man can be happy with any woman, as long as he does not love her.
- The one charm of marriage is that it makes a life of deception absolutely necessary for both parties.





# Marriage (2/2)

- The first duty in life is to be as artificial as possible.
- What the second duty is no one has as yet discovered.
- Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others.
- The well-bred contradict other people. The wise contradict themselves.
- Nothing that actually occurs is of the smallest importance.
- Dullness is the coming of age of seriousness.
- In all unimportant matters, style, not sincerity is the essential.
- In all important matters, style, not sincerity is the essential.



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**1895**

***The Importance of Being Earnest***



# Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*

- ... whatever I have tried to do in life, I have tried with all my heart to do well; that whatever I have devoted myself to, I have devoted myself to completely; that in great aims and in small, ***I have always been thoroughly in earnest***.. ... and there is no substitute for thorough-going, ardent, and sincere earnestness. Never to put one hand to anything, on which I could throw my whole self; and never to affect depreciation of my work, whatever it was; I find, now, to have been my golden rules.



# *The Importance of Being Earnest*

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→ Play read at two levels:

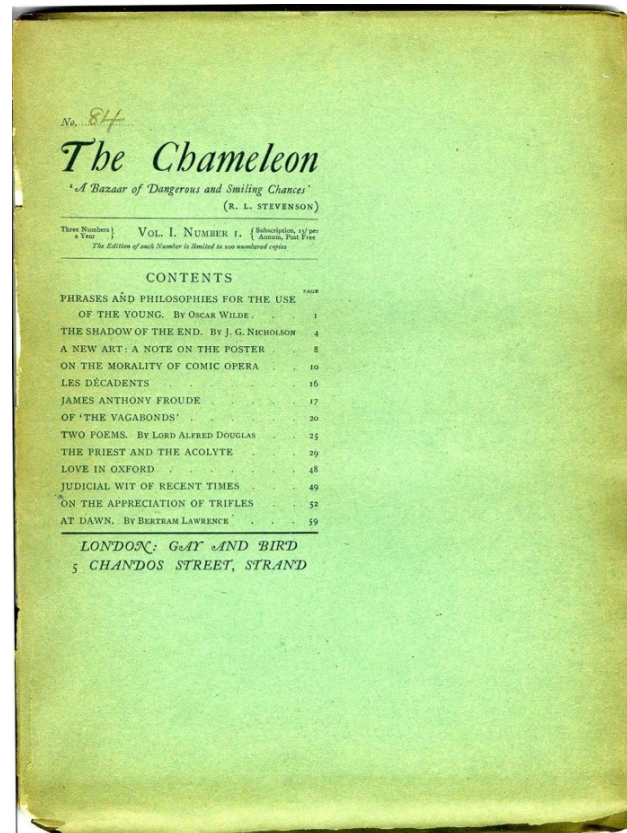
- A stage comedy, publically & aesthetically entertaining
- A privately coded play on queer desire

→ Importance of names, appearances, surfaces, flat characters

→ Use of inversions/reversals



# The Chameleon



Εικόνα 26



# A chameleon



Εικόνα 27



# The Cultural Context of the Play

- *Chameleon*, Oxford undergraduate magazine, published in 1894.
- *Ernest*: coded word for homosexual desire.
- *Love in Earnest*, collection of homoerotic poems by John Gambriel Nicholson.
- Poems by Alfred Douglas: ‘*In Praise of Shame*’, ‘*Love that Dare Not Speak Its Name*’.



# Oscar Wilde dressed as Salome



Εικόνα 28



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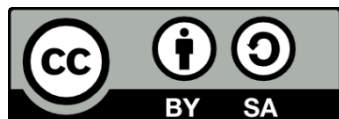
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ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ  
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Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ

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Οποιαδήποτε αναπαραγωγή ή διασκευή του υλικού θα πρέπει να συμπεριλαμβάνει:

- το Σημείωμα Αναφοράς
- το Σημείωμα Αδειοδότησης
- τη δήλωση Διατήρησης Σημειωμάτων
- το Σημείωμα Χρήσης Έργων Τρίτων (εφόσον υπάρχει)

μαζί με τους συνοδευόμενους υπερσυνδέσμους.

