

# FOUND IN translation

An unemployed Greek civil engineer discovers new opportunities.



**Member since:**  
January 31, 2011



**Earnings:**  
nearly US\$21,000



**Projects completed:**  
residential & commercial  
plans, interior design, CAD

Since the recession struck Greece six years ago, the country has had to deal with rising unemployment rate. Before the recession, unemployment was only 7.2%. In November 2013, it hit a record high of 28%, twice the euro zone's average. For unemployed youth under the age of 25, it was 61.4%. As a result, many of the unemployed have turned their sights overseas to earn a decent living, and for some, they shifted from regular employment to freelancing.

One such individual is Ioannis Tsakiris, a 27-year-old civil engineer with a Master of Science degree in Antiseismic Design who hopes to one day return to full-time employment. "I am currently unemployed," he says, "but freelancing has offered me a means to earn an income."

Searching for the right online freelancing platform was easy for him. Following his friend's recommendation and after reading positive reviews, he chose Freelancer.com, the world's largest outsourcing and crowdsourcing marketplace. "The recommendation and reviews were very convincing and also the use of Paypal was a major factor for me to trust the site more."

But unlike other freelancers who choose to take gigs in line with their academic degree, Ioannis favored doing Greek to English translations compared to engineering-related projects. "I started translating a long time ago," he explains. "I have proficiency in English from the University of Michigan. It is very common for youth my age in Greece to acquire this certification in their teens."

He explains further: "If I take on projects related to civil engineering, the

amount I would earn is lesser and I have to deal with building codes in each country. With my studies and experience, I can deliver projects according to European codes, but still, between European countries, there are differences. It is more difficult to bid on a project from other countries." While he acknowledges that he has done AutoCAD projects on Freelancer.com, he maintains that money is significantly less compared to designing a building or road from scratch.

His first translation project involved 15 pages of a financial website, each with 400 words. The client was very pleased that Ioannis was able to complete the job in two days as promised. Translations, Ioannis says, offer a greater amount of money for the number of hours worked and require very limited editing and changes.

To illustrate his point, he cites that the legal basic monthly salary in his country is 380€ for more than eight hours of work. "Even if my project was US\$250 (or 180€), less than the basic salary, you have to take into account that I don't have to pay for transportation; I am my own boss; I work whenever I want under my own rules (even in my pajamas); and to be honest, I work five hours a day max."

Despite the prevailing unemployment condition in Greece, Ioannis has found the opportunity to navigate through the harsh economy by making use of his other skill through Freelancer.com. "Freelancer® is the best choice to earn money, stay in your home country and face work with a different perspective. It gives you real jobs where you have to compete with others, be confident about your skills, and be able to effectively deal with problems through communication."

## FROM ONE TRANSLATOR TO ANOTHER

- Write a very informative and project-directed cover letter. Don't simply copy-paste skills and experience.
- The more unique the language you speak, the higher the fee you can ask for.
- Take the translation and languages tests on Freelancer.com or from the employer to ensure the quality of translation.



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