

Mediterritage

Valorisation économique du patrimoine naturel et culturel des montagnes méditerranéennes

SOUS-PROJET « WINOLIVE »

Présentation de la contribution de La Commune de Plastiras Région de Thessalie (Grèce)

1. Présentation générale du territoire/village

Overall presentation of the territory / Village

The area we are targeting is the municipality of Plastira. It is located in the west of the city of Karditsa in a distance of 21 km and has an extension of 93.2 km². It is lying in the slope of the east layer of mountains of lake Plastiras (see map 1). These layer of mountains belong to Pindos mountain chain. The altitude of Plastira's municipality is from 200m in the east part until 1100m near the lake Plastiras cost in the west part of the municipality. The municipality of Plastira is composed of the following communities : Morfovouni, Moschato, Mesenikolas, Kerasia, Lampero with capital the village of Morfovouni.



Views of Lake Plastiras

All the above communities are by the lake Plastiras but none village is placed in the cost of the lake. The reason for that is that lake Plastiras is an artificial lake which has been constructed from 1953 until 1969 but the villages are much older. The whole region around Lake Plastiras is characterized from the National Statistic Service as mountains and so the municipality of Plastira.

The climate of the region is semi-dry Mediterranean with alternation of humid and dry period. The humid period is from the middle of autumn until the middle of spring. The winter is usually very heavy with very low temperatures, snowfalls as well as the bigger rain height. On the contrary, the summer is particularly dry and hot, with high temperatures.

From the 93,2km² of the area of Plastira municipality, 54.3km² are forests, 4.3Km² are meadows (public & private), and 20Km² are cultivated plottages and fallows the rest area is covered by water (lake Plastiras) 13.3km² and the toft is 1.1km². The cultivated plottages are estimated to be 7.5km² and from them 2.4km² are vineyards, 1,9km² annual cultivations, 1.4km² are bosky cultivations and the rest 1.8km² other cultivations.

2. Situation du territoire / village par rapport au thème du sous-projet

Situation of the territory / village with regard to the sub-project

Structure of population

The population of Plastira's municipality according to the official documents of the National Statistic presented in the next table 1.1 , but according to the field research for the needs of the study for the local "Leader+" project we found that the people who really live in the region are less than the official numbers and presented in the next table 1.2 . The reason is that many local people from are not staying permanently in their villages but they used their houses there, mostly for vacation and for the weekends because they live and work in Karditsa city or other urban centres.



Monastery

In table 1.2 we see that only 1.360 people live permanently in Municipality Of Plastira and 2.190 people live less than 6 months per year Development Agency of Karditsa "ANKA" sa page 3 of 7 which means that less than 40% of the official population live and work permanently in M. Plastira. Another significant parameter is that only 5,3% of the permanent habitant of M. Plastira are until 18 years old, 40,% are from 19 to 64 and 54,4% are more than 65 years old as we can observe in the following table 1.3. Also very important is to see that from the age of 19 until 40 there are only 59 females for 104 males. This is the most important problem for the area the "escape" of the young women to the urban areas and the difficulty of the young men to find a mate and start up their family in their place. There are creating therefore obvious problems which are connected with the immigration of local population, as the reduction but also the ageing of existing population. The main reason for that is the lack of occasions for employment of the active workforce.

Social System

The tight bounded family and the intensive relative feeling are the primarily parameters of the social system in the villages of M. Plastira and in all Greek mountainous villages. That has as result the "nuclear" structure of the settlements, where all the family live in the same house and the relatives are living in the same neighbourhood and the houses are very densely building and usually with common courtyards and the streets are catwalks. That has as result for the people of the same village to have very strong feelings for each other (good or bad). Also in this kind of settlements the value of the family is primarily and secondary the friendship and thirdly is the religion. Most of the local customs are bounded to the Greek Orthodox Christian religion and sometimes mixed with ancient greek. The most important celebrations and festivals are "saint's day" different for every village, historic days from Greek history, wine celebration (Dionysian custom) and the marriages of the local people where all the village celebrate with them.

Education

The education profile of the permanent population of M. Plastira is in the next table1.4 where we observe that most of the young and educated people from the region has left from their villages and move to urban centers for better employment chances.

The educational infrastructures in the area are very poor so there is only one kindergarten in Mesenikola village, 3 elementary schools in Mesenikola, Morfovouni and Lampero and as far as for High school there is only one in Mesenikola and after high school for upper secondary education the students must go to Karditsa city to study in the Unified Lyceum or Technical Vocational schools.

Recreational activities

The recreational activities in the area could be two kinds the social activities in the village plaza for a village celebration the cafes, taverns and restaurant for dinning, talking, dancing etc and the sport activities like : •

horse riding, in the Cavalry club that function in the community of Kerasia and visit the cost of the lake but also the beautiful forests around the lake.

- Canoe – Kayak - swimming, in the lake Plastiras and especial in the beach of Lampero village
- children camp in Kerasia community
- mountain bike, trekking by the lake, fishing etc

Structure of Employment

In the mountainous area of lake Plastira and generally in Pindos mountain chain it is noticed the phenomenon of someone to work in different works at the same time and or not all the year, but only specific periods. This is mainly, because of the bas-relief of the region (mountainous - disadvantageous area) and the structure of primary production sector (small and in many pieces plot). The bigger percentage of the workforce occupied in the primary production sector and combine the employment in the agriculture and the livestock-farming, with the employment in another production sector (secondary or tertiary). Usually the individuals that maintain commercial or tourist business in the region (cafe, restaurant, tavern, rented rooms, hotel etc), maintain also animals or cultivate the land. Also the younger people (women mostly) of the region, works seasonally in the family agriculture business.

The structure of employment in the region of Plastira Municipality is the structure of employment in the region of Plastira Municipality is mostly focused in the primary sector with 72.4% of the economically active people, afterwards in the 3rd sector (tourism service) with 23.8% and last in the secondary (manufacture) sector only 3.8%, according to the field research for the local Leader+ project (at the year 2002) presented in the next table 1.5. The unemployment rate is 5,1% but we must remember that many other unemployed people left their villages to find a job in urban centers and they are out of this rate. Also the development of Agrotourism by the lake Plastiras has increase the number of the touristic business (mostly for accommodation and dining) and therefore the employment in the 3rd sector is so height. From the traditional crafts today there are only some stone builders and a saddler in the village of Mesenikola. Also the women of the Plastira municipality, organized in a cooperative, they produce special hand made preserves from fruits and the special “retzely” made from cocozelle and (wine) must, with the traditional way and they sell it to the visitors.

Structure of the primary sector Because of the nuclear structure of the settlements and the bas-relief of region (mountainous) the primordial exploitations are outside of the villages and sometimes far away of them. In the primary sector we have almost 600 exploitations and from them 64% are pure agricultural and 36% are mixed exploitations which means that a stock-farmer also cultivate land or the opposite for economic reasons. We have only 2 pure stock-farming exploitations in the whole area of Plastira municipality. The animal capital describing in the next table 1.6. where we see that the exploitations are reducing and so the animal capital except of the number of the sheep where we have an increase of 68% because of the increased tourism needs the last years in the Lake Plastiras. The stock farming products are mainly meat, secondary milk and last cheese (feta) but for family consumption.

The most important agriculture product of the area is the grape, and the wine. In the Municipality of Plastira we have the production of wine “Black Mesenikola” that has been characterized as Product of Origin (V.Q.P.R.D.). This wine is produced by the grapes of variety "Black Mesenikola" at 70% and at 30% from grapes of variety "Carignan" or "Syrah". Also in the community of Moschato there is a small cultivation of oregano. Generally the rural income diachronically declines, also the rural exploitations even if problematic they survive because of the additional income, that emanates from the financial aids that are given for the majority of cultivations.

Structure of the secondary sector The declining course of employment and the low income from the primary sector, and of course the nature of the region that is characterized as agrarian, had as result the slightest development of the secondary sector. There are presented only few manufacturing units which are scattered all over the region. The producers (grangers) of the region keep to the production of primary products, agricultural and veterinary surgeon without extended in the next stage of processing – standardisation – packing of those products. The exception are only few and very small constructive companies with no more than 20 employees in total. Very important parameter is the existence of 59 wine and distillery factories which are family businesses and used for the production of the family wine and tsipouro (kind of grappa) but also for an additional family income. Most of the owners are grangers and tavern owners and they have licence to produce small amount of wine and tsipouro. Must be mentioned also

that in the previous project Leader II in Municipality of Plastira there was only 1 investment in the secondary sector “relocation and extension of a small smithery” and the investment was not more than 25.000€

Structure of the tertiary sector The area of Plastira Municipality because of the natural beauty (forests and the lake Plastiras) the last 10 years has started to develop tourism (agrotourism) small businesses. Now in the area exist 16 touristic businesses for accommodation (2 hotels, 9 groups with rented rooms and 5 hostels) with 250 bedrooms capacity. Also there are 50 businesses for dinning and recreation (restaurant, tavern, cafe etc) and 8 other touristic businesses. In the touristic sector there are almost the 80% of the employees of the 3rd sector and the rest of them are working in commercial, services and public service sector. In the previews Leader II project in the touristic sector in M. of Plastira. We had 10 investments with total fund 607.500€
The problems in the region are : • The habitant (owners and employees of the touristic businesses) don't have touristic culture and sufficient training • Not enough infrastructures • The touristic product is not related to the local products (ex. wine)

3. Les attentes par rapport au sous-projet Expectations from the sub-project