GREECE AT A GLANCE

The longest coastline in Europe with mountains, forests, lakes, and thousands of islands dotting the blue Aegean Sea to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Ionian Sea to the west.

**POPULATION:** 10,72 million
Average population density: 81 per km²

**AREA:** 131,957 km²

**AGRICULTURE:**
- 11% of total employment
  - Female 34.8%
  - Male 65.2%
- 94.3% of the country is rural
- 54.8% of the population lives in rural areas
- 6,000 islands
  - 227 inhabited
- 684,950 agricultural holdings
  - 77.3% are <5ha (UAA)
  - 3.7% of holders are <35 years old
  - 33.5% of holders are >65 years old

1/4 of the population lives at least a 60-minute drive from a populated center with 50,000 inhabitants or more

1,000,000 people in Greece must travel at least 90 minutes to reach the nearest city

>6 hours on average from islands in the South Aegean Region to reach the nearest town

Sources: European Commission Statistical Factsheets, Greece June 2020, OECD, Territorial Reviews, Regional Policy for Greece Post 2020
LOCAL DISCUSSIONS FOR GREEK RURAL VISION

Organisers: Greek NRN - Network of Pindos Range - Association of Livestock Breeders of Attica - LAG of Achaia - LAG of Parnonas - Region of Epirus

From 12/1 - 28/1 2021

18 virtual meetings
175 participants
We have to preserve our natural resources
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Weaknesses
• Poor road networks in remote rural areas
• Unsatisfactory access to health, educational, cultural & public services mainly in mountainous areas & small islands
• Poor connectivity between islands & main ports, particularly during the winter months
• Increased transportation costs for islands

Opportunities
• Coverage of broadband network

Vision
• Better infrastructure for livestock farmers and schools for their children
• Simplify the legal framework for small scale investments
• One-stop shop for public services
• Improve the connectivity in mountainous & insular areas
• Set up experimental farms & support knowledge transfer

I would like a small cinema and a library
POPULATION

Weaknesses
• Out-migration of young people and women
• Elderly residents live in small mountain communities and the Aegean islands during winter
• Limited tourist season

Opportunities
• COVID 19 highlighted rural areas in relation to urban life
• Teleworking opportunities in rural areas

Vision
• Develop vertical production
• Targeted agricultural education
• Availability of non-agricultural activities
• Reversing the negative perceptions of young people about agriculture

I don’t want to lose other friends
SOCIAL INCLUSION

Weaknesses
• Poor conditions for migrant workers in the primary sector
• Refugee crisis on the Eastern Aegean Islands affected economic life

Opportunities
• Greek diaspora’s contribution

Vision
• Social inclusion actions for Roma and migrants via rural development measures
• Social housing for migrant workers
• Tax policy incentives for settling in the countryside

I would like to hear children’s voices in my village
INCOME, WORK, JOBS

Weaknesses
• Limited employment opportunities for young people & women
• Small and fragmented land parcels
• Lack of economies of scale and processing capability
• Absence of training and advisory services for producers
• Lack of highly educated and skilled young people
• Some rural areas are heavily dependent on monoculture

Opportunities
• Focus on certified quality products
• Invest in dynamic / niche and high-quality crops
• Tourism as a year-round activity
• Easy access to loans through Cooperative banks

Vision
• Banking products for farmers
• Operational programmes to develop new jobs in the processing sector
• “Brand awareness” for each rural area

For my children not to feel insecure about finding a job
BASIC GOODS, FOOD, ENERGY

Weaknesses
• Limited processing of local products
• Limited connection between consumers & producers

Opportunities
• Great variety of high-quality products
• Combine local production with traditions & culture
• Tourism in combination with gastronomy could promote the area’s quality certified local products

Vision
• Local markets to bridge the gap with consumers
• Local Supply chains
• Lighter packaging for products

Our products to be the ambassadors of our territory
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Weaknesses
• Digital illiteracy
• Inadequate broadband infrastructure

Opportunities
• Teleworking & e-training opportunities in rural areas
• Reduction of bureaucracy

Vision
• Local training and resourcing structures to support digital transformation

For every island to have 10G
GOVERNANCE AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Weaknesses
- Population cannot contribute fully to the planning and organization of collective local development actions
- Remoteness of rural areas from decision-making centers
- A constantly changing and complex legal framework
- Lack of synergies and strategic planning among local actors

Opportunities
- Citizens actively seek opportunities to get involved in participatory processes for the design of their areas’ future
- LEADER is vital for engaging local stakeholders in local development.
- Networking among local actors is increasing and cooperation between local regional and national authorities is improving

Vision
- Systematic consultation within local communities and central & regional government

There are things that we can do ourselves, as citizens
KEY MESSAGES

Depopulation: the major challenge for mountainous areas
- Decreased transportation costs
- Sufficient connectivity

A precondition for Aegean Islands:
- Decreased transportation costs
- Sufficient connectivity

High quality, certified and labelled production: an advantage for Greek agriculture

Building a brand name place-based in gastronomy, culture and environmental protection

Retaining and attracting population in rural areas:
- Healthcare, education, culture, entertainment
- Employment opportunities

Specific policies for mountainous areas & islands

Expand the use of renewable energy sources without degradation of the landscape

Access to advisory services & skills acquisition especially for young farmers

ENRD harvesting sheet (en)
ENRD harvesting sheet (el)
IF THE VISION IS NOT IMPLEMENTED, IT REMAINS AN IDEA

My vision is for my region to be characterised as green, following the end of lignite use.

We will have succeeded in our vision if local collectives are activated.

We need policies to get families to return to the islands.

Not just subsidies... let's look at what we can do on our own.

URSULA GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE DISCUSSION ABOUT OUR AREA

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