



FIRST OUTCOMES FROM NRN Focus Groups IN GREECE



ENRD Thematic Group on “Long Term Rural Vision”

Webinar 27 January 2021

4 Territorial Focus Groups



FG1: KARDITSA, TRIKALA, SERRES

- Lowlands, **plains**, **field crops**, **big agricultural holdings** (10 ha), an increase of primary sector by 20%, mountainous areas, rich ecosystems.



FG2: AITOLOAKARNANIA, ILIA, ACHAIA, ARGOLIDA, ARKADIA

- Olive trees, horticulture, citrus fruits, livestock, **easy access to the sea & to the mountain, small agricultural holdings (5ha), close to Athens and other cities, access to motorways.**



FG3: Northern & Southern Aegean Sea

- More than **100 populated islands**. Olive trees, wine, fishing, experiencing the recent wave of refugees/ migrants, **tourism, very small agricultural production**, transport problems between islands.



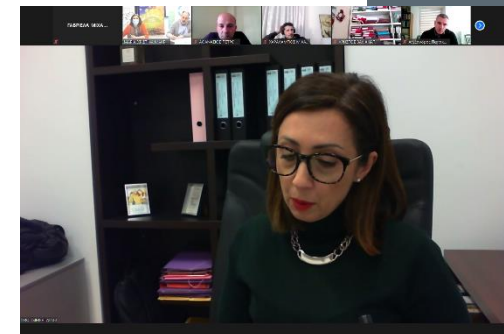
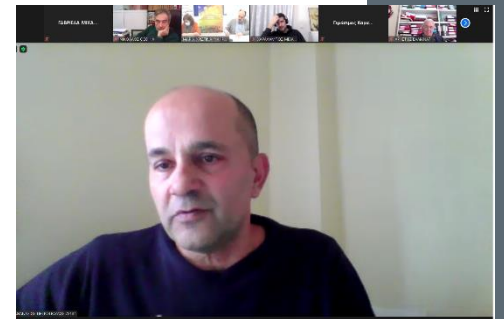
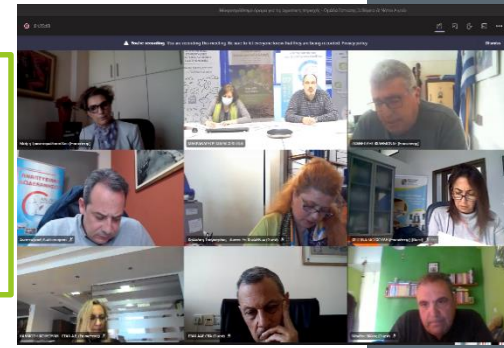
FG4: WEASTERN MACEDONIA: GREVENA, KASTORIA, FLORINA, KOZANI

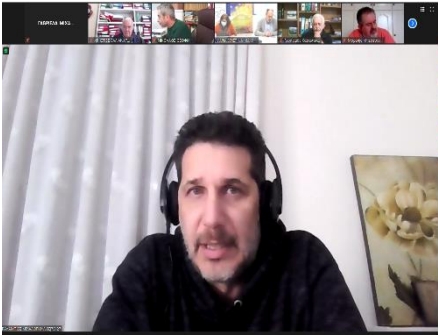
- **Mountainous** and disadvantage rural areas, horticulture, permanent crops, sheep & goat farming, **very low density, transition towards a climate-neutral economy**



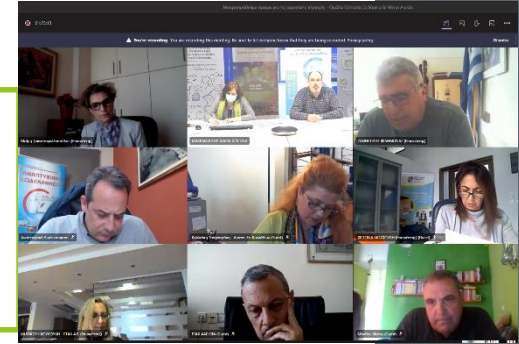
Who took part in Focus-Groups?

- *Farmers – Agricultural Cooperatives*
- *Local Associations (tourism, culture, energy)*
- *Coordinators of NATURA areas*
- *Livestock Farmers*
- *Organic Farmers*
- *Local Irrigation Organisations*
- *Winemakers*
- *Hoteliers, small tourist accommodation*
- *Mayors*
- *Representatives from Regions*
- *Geotechnical Chambers*
- *LAGs LEADER/CLLD*





What did rural stakeholders say?



- *Where there are livestock farmers, there are also lively villages*
- *We, islanders, are not counted on. You cannot make a port and an airport on every island!*
- ***Most young people do not want to hear about agriculture: give incentives to create a more secure productive environment.***
- ***Something we are not doing well: we have floods and at the same time we do not have water during summer for our agricultural holdings.***
- *Tourism in the islands brings problems: it drives out livestock farmers, it takes water from agriculture.*
- *Pandemic crisis woke us up to environmental and digital issues.*
- ***With recent cyclone IANOS and the disasters that happened last September, we went back decades.***



THE LOCAL VISION....

- Faster internet
- “Digital” nomads teleworking in rural areas.
- Better infrastructure for livestock farmers and schools for their children.
- Agencies for the management of the water
- Turning to an agro-ecological model
- **Access to all public services (education, health, roads etc.)**
- We don't want to become Mykonos & Santorini (touristic busy islands). We want to combine mild tourism with qualitative products.
- **To have sensitized and informed citizens and to see more participation in common projects by young people**
- To see newcomers from other parts of Greece and abroad
- To have the same services as in Brussels
- From an «Infected» Region to a “Green” one.
- **To drive on a secure road without being afraid of high altitude**
- **Keep listening to the sounds of children and sheep's bells**

Πού θα
βρισκόμαστε
το 2040;

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Creation of an eco-system of cooperatives of different orientation

Pilot farm with new crops in view of climate change

Alternative tourism projects combined with local products (PDO, PGI)

Social housing for land/farm workers for a better standard of living & working.

Hybrid education for children living in mountainous areas

Summer camps for children to know better the countryside

POLICIES



Separate funding pillar for the mountainous areas

Focused policies on the insularity

No more horizontal policies but fitted to the needs and characteristics of the territory

Big gap between European & national policy makers and those who implement the policies

Policies to improve the demographic profile in mountainous and depopulated areas.

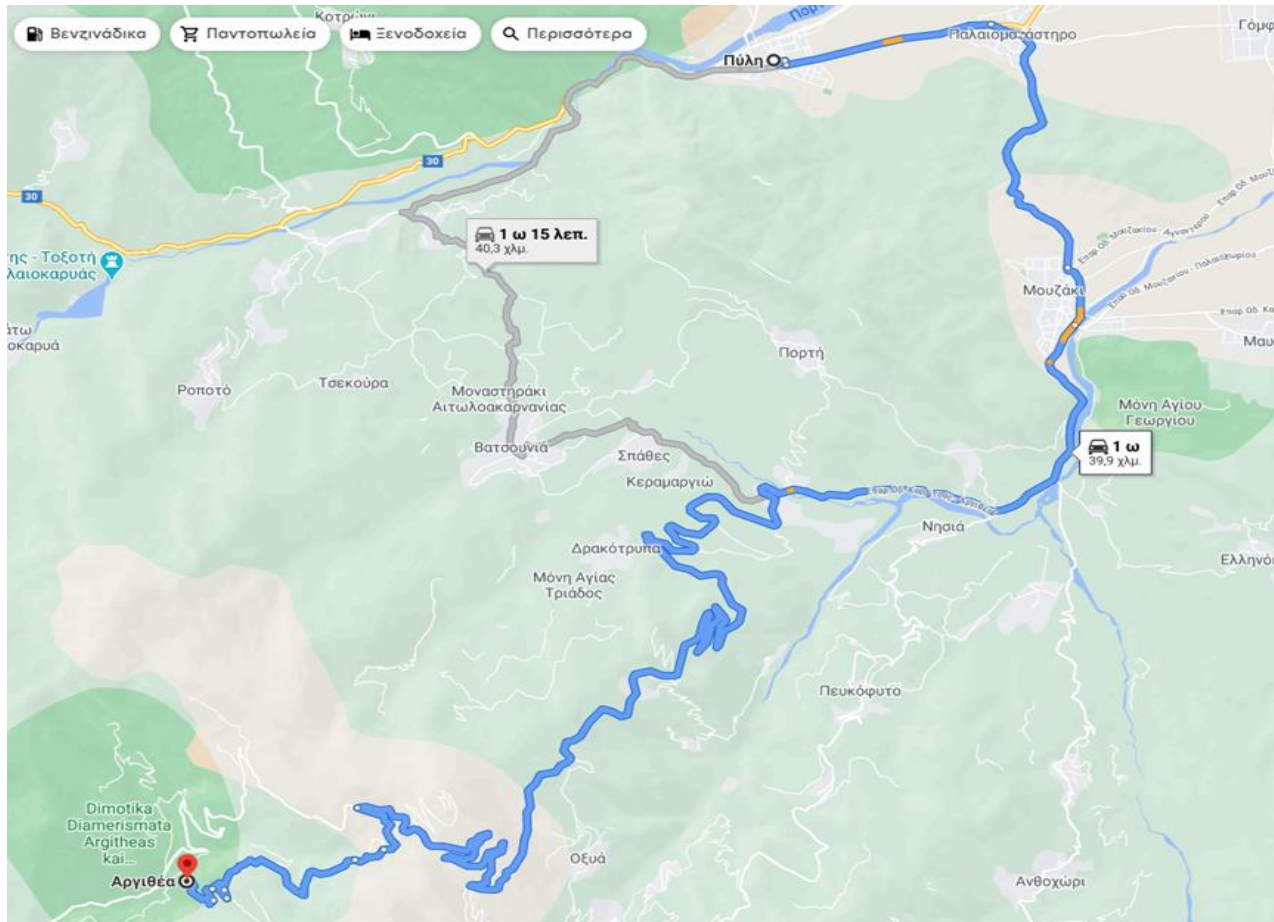


Messages

The European vision needs to be translated into a LOCAL VISION and local communities need to express their views. Otherwise, the vision, if not realized, will remain an idea

The rural citizens wish to continue the discussions about their future and need to be informed in a permanent basis

COVID-19: the journey from a mountainous village to the nearest vaccination Center: 80 km, about 3 hours round trip



A Greek Livestock
Farmer Woman got
ownership of this
picture!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION