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ABSTRACTS



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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRADITIONAL SETTLEMENT: THE CASE OF DRAKOPOULATA SETTLEMENT AS A MODEL OF CULTURAL, ECONOMICAL & TOURIST VIABLE UNIT.

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Abstract

A proper management of Cultural Heritage, respectfully to the unique "substance" of a Monumental Site and can be a serious solution for the promotion of the Tangible & Intangible Values that define its character.

The listed traditional settlements, that are either treated as "dead - zones" into the Country planning, either they are over - exploited and losing their integrity and authenticity, need an overall method plan for their sustainable development.

A method plan for the sustainable development of a coastal traditional settlement (Drakopoulata) in Kefallonia Island as a model of cultural, economical & tourist viable unit, proposes a way of combining the Heritage with the Cultural tourism.

This model plan aims to resurrect this stagnant but remarkable settlement, one of the few witnesses of the past. The plan could be adopted and adjusted to every listed settlement in the Mediterranean Basin, according its unique Historical, Geographical and Cultural characteristics. All together these settlements could create an extremely interesting network.

In this pilot plan, was conducted an extended documentation of the Historical and current Data, spatial analysis of the settlement, ethnographic analysis and analysis of Environmental facts.

An assessment of the potentialities of this village took place and extended comparative analysis with other similar projects in listed settlements around Europe was performed. An SOUV stated the importance of Drakopoulata village. The main body of that plan is the development proposal which describes the main thematic axis of the settlement's operation, the suggested configuration of the public spaces and the restoration proposal of the buildings. A transportation scheme is organized and renewable energy systems are used.

A further implementation of economical data is performed, based in the current economical EU support for different sections, as the touristic and agricultural development. Costs, Income statements, contingency plans, cash budget and projected future revenues have been done, in order to prove the economic independence of each business in the first place and of the settlement as a unit in a second place.

Finally, the motives for the owners are described, financial incentives and the legal framework are analyzed and a bill plan is suggested. The protection of the natural beauty is necessary for the implementation of this plan, as activities into the nature are organized and places shaped from geological phenomena are promoted for visits. The primary jobs are enhanced, the traditional professions are main part of the plan and the touristic businesses are complementary, but prosperous.

A strong management plan is applied for settlement's future development: its proper advertising and function.

This plan's scope is to exploit the semi-abandoned settlements, to create jobs, to involve the tourists to the every day traditional life - with everything this entails - to make the local Cultural Heritage "visible" and tangible to the visitors. The most important, is to create to the settlement's residents the necessity for the safeguarding, protection and conservation of their cultural assets, as through that plan they will realize that their Cultural Heritage is not only their past, but mainly, their certain future.

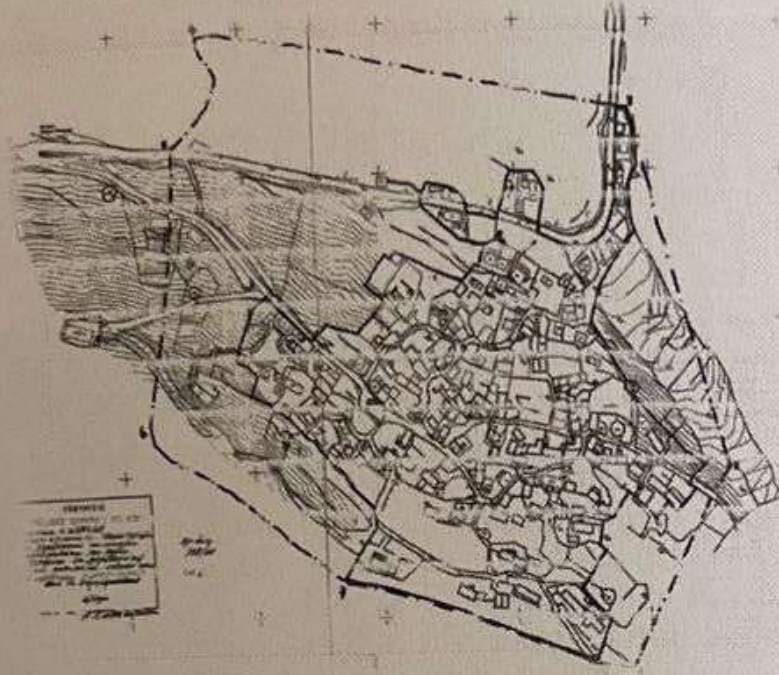


Fig.1: Settlement's borders & plan.



Fig.2: A view.