

"Sustainable" and Worth-living Integrated Development of mountainous areas in Greece and worldwide

A. Papadimatou, Electrical and Computer Engineer, N.T.U.A.
MS "Environment and Development" N.T.U.A.

D. Rokos, Professor, N.T.U.A.,
Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Center (M.I.R.C.) of the N.T.U.A.,
Laboratory of Remote Sensing, N.T.U.A.

Abstract

With the exception of marginal cases compatible with Greek governments' main development policy choices, mountainous areas in Greece have been deprived of systematic interest, planning and financing.

The vast - relative to the size of Greek territory - mountainous areas have been experiencing the ageing and tragic reduction of local population, the abandonment and degradation of land, the abandonment and destruction of built heritage, the decline of traditional occupations, the loss of talents and skills rooted in local cultures and the complete absence of State policy, which has continuously focused on initiatives of one-dimensional and mostly urban economic development. The exception to this rule has been the development of ski centers, through patterns imitating and reproducing the dominant development model and promoting the intense, seasonal accumulation of winter tourism.

In recent years, however, as a consequence of the competition-founded development model globally dominant, the "development" potential of mountainous areas is being discovered and its "exploitation" is being pursued, in the context of the ideology of "sustainable development".

In this paper, a critical analysis of current efforts for the development of mountainous areas at national, European and global level is attempted from the perspective of integrated and worth-living development, which requires, first of all, the systematic survey, study and reliable recording, mapping and monitoring of the specific characteristics of mountains' physical and socioeconomic reality (and the resulting unavoidable issues).