



ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΣ ΚΑΛΥΒΑΣ

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Ειδική Υπηρεσία Διαχείρισης
Προγράμματος Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης
2014-2020

Υπόψη: κ. Κων/νου Αποστολόπουλου

Αθήνα, 22/12/2020

Σας καταθέτουμε συνημμένα συμπληρωματική έκθεση, σύμφωνα με τις παρατηρήσεις σας, στο παραδοτέο του Έργου «Καθορισμός των Περιοχών που Αντιμετωπίζουν Φυσικά ή Άλλα Ειδικά Μειονεκτήματα» (Applying Common Criteria to Identify Agricultural Areas with Natural Constraints) με τίτλο «*Supplement to Specific Constraints*».

Είμαστε στη διάθεσή σας για οποιαδήποτε επιπρόσθετη πληροφορία ή διευκρίνηση.

Ο Επιστημονικός Υπεύθυνος

Διονύσιος Καλύβας
Καθηγητής ΓΠΑ

HELLENIC MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOODS
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Applying Common Criteria to Identify Agricultural Areas with Natural Constraints

GREECE

*Supplement to
Specific Constraints*

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INTRODUCTION

According to no. 108804/04.08.2020 joint letter of the Regional Governors of Western Macedonia and Peloponnese, which was sent to the Secretary General of Agricultural Policy & Management of Community Resources, a proposal is made for the inclusion of certain local communities (LAU2) in the regions of Western Macedonia and the Peloponnese for support under sub-measure 13.3 "Areas affected by specific constraints".

Following this proposal, the consulting team was mandated to explore the possibilities to include these LAU2 under the areas with specific constraints.

DATA METHODS AND RESULTS

The analysis was based on the Farm Structure Survey 2016, by the Hellenic Statistical Agency and a relevant study by the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece, focusing especially on the transition of the Region of West Macedonia.

The agricultural sector in the Region of Western Macedonia has been declining over the last 10 years with a decrease in the value of production, the number of farms and gross fixed capital formation. Competitiveness is low due to structural problems (small size, fragmentation), but also the absence of business-based cooperative marketing schemes. Between 1990-2007 the change in the total agricultural holdings is -10%, while the corresponding reduction percentage is higher in the period 1980-2007 (-28%).

In particular, the indicators of agricultural land abandonment (30.58% Peripheral Unit of Grevena, 17.68% Peripheral Unit of Kozani and 22.16% Peripheral Unit of Arcadia) [Hellenic Statistical Authority – 2018] and reduction of agricultural employment / farms in recent years and pre-transition period, bring these areas in the top places (and well above the national average) among the regions of the country with the greatest risk of abandonment of agricultural land and agricultural activity. The proposed local communities of the prefectures of Kozani, Grevena and Arcadia of the Transition Regions, refer to purely rural areas with 19.7% and 51.4% (respectively) of the total number of employees to be employed in Agriculture (2018), which are at serious risk of abandoning agricultural land and agricultural activity. After the recent commitment of the Greek government to cease the activity of coal mining units by 2028, these areas will face particularly increased dropout risk of farmland and destabilization of their economic - social cohesion, since there is a serious loss of one of the main sources of income, derived from coal mining activity. It is therefore necessary to immediately support active farmers for staying in these areas, continuing agricultural activity, maintaining a living countryside, and maintaining or improving the environment under Article 32.4 Reg. (EU) 1305/2013.

It should be stressed that other regions in prefectures with similar abandonment indicators (other than transition regions), have been already characterized as mountainous areas or areas with natural constraints, according to the corresponding criteria, in addition to their specific constraints. That is why the proposed local communities are so limited in number and size.

In addition, without any support, the abandonment of agricultural activity and agricultural land use in these local communities will lead to further deterioration of their socio - economic situation (risk of poverty, aging, unemployment- especially in young people and women, depopulation, lack of competitiveness, etc.), which is already bad in comparison with other regions of the country and the EU. The primary sector in these areas plays a key role for their socio-economic cohesion and, as pointed out in the transition strategy, should play an even more crucial role in the transition to the new development model of these Regions.

The aid should be granted to active farmers managing agricultural land in these local communities, to motivate them to stay and cultivate their agricultural land, since their main source of income, namely coal mining, will be lost. Incentivizing active farmers in these regions to keep on managing agricultural land, is a prerequisite for achieving the key objectives of the Spatial and Socio - Economic Just Transition Framework, including production restructuring and the "reconstruction" and redesign of the business development prospects of the three economic sectors (primary, secondary and tertiary).

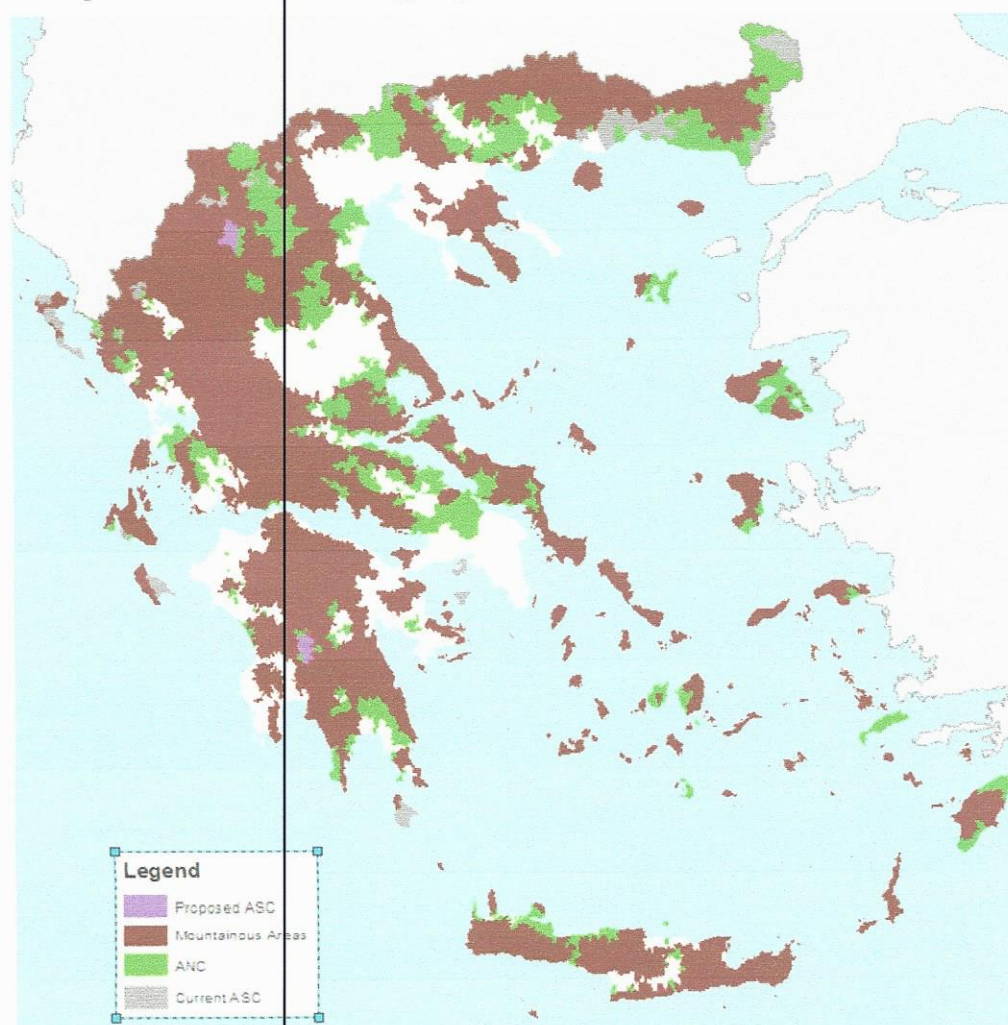
The Local Communities (LAU2) proposed to be included in the Scheme of Areas Affected by Specific Constraints are as follows:

Kozani: Local Communities of Λουκομίου, Μολόχας, Νεάπολης, Πεπονιάς, Περιστεράς, Αηδονοχωρίου, Αλιάκμωνος, Αξιοκάστρου, Ανθοχωρίου, Πολυλάκκου, Πυλωρίου, Ροδοχωρίου, Χειμερινού και Τραπεζίτσας. These Communities belong entirely to the Municipality of Voio.

Grevena: Local Communities of Αγίου Γεωργίου, Αηδονίων, Ελεύθερου, Κιβωτού και Κληματακίου. These Communities belong in entirety to the Municipality of Grevena.

Arcadia: Local communities of Μαυριών, Κυπαρισσίων, Θωκνίας, Χωρέμη, Τριποτάμου, Νεοχωρίου Λυκοσούρας, Βελιγοστής, Ελληνίτσας, Ποταμιάς, Σουλαρίου, Λεονταρίου, Ραφομμάτη, Περιβολίων, Ανθοχωρίου, Γέφυρας, Μεγαλοπόλεως, Μαραθούσης, Πλάκας, Σούλου, Κατσίμπαλη, Ζώνης, Τριλόφου, Νέας Εκκλησούλας και Μακρυσίου. These Communities belong entirely to the Municipality of Megalopolis.

These LAU2 are presented in the following map:



The spatial impact is presented in the following table.

	Article 32(1).c Current delimitation	Article 32(1).c Proposed addition	Article 32(1).c Total with the proposed addition
UAA (ha)	203.934,92	17.819,70	221.754,62
% Total UAA	4,14%	0,36%	4,50%

% Country	1,54%	0,34%	1,88%
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LEVEL OF SUPPORT

The level of support in these areas remains the same as the one estimated for the rest of the areas with specific constraints.

SOURCES:

- Study by the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece:
<https://www.geotee.gr/MainNewsDetail.aspx?CatID=1&RefID=23158&TabID=2>
- Farm Structure Survey 2016, by the Hellenic Statistical Agency
<https://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/76d51b89-18ed-426b-8227-01790d9c2a3d>