

# Routes on the Islands Landscapes

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Summary for the **European** conference

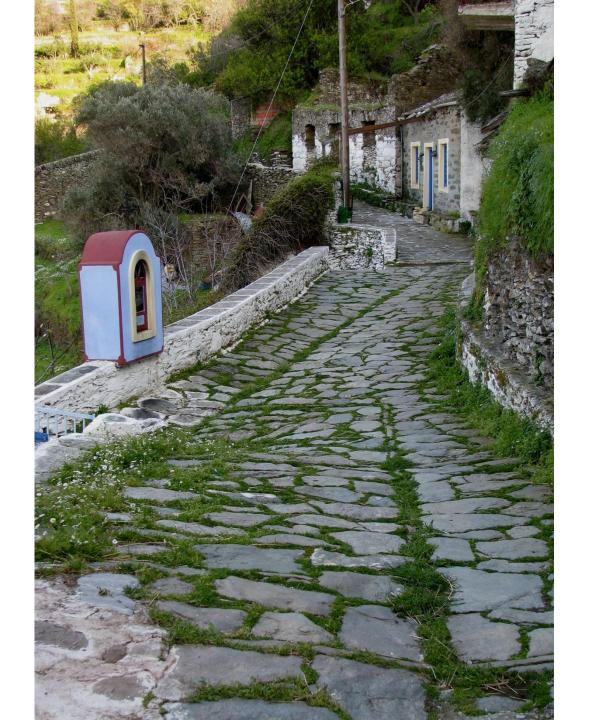
"European Citizens for Local Action» - 24.2.2013





## Cyclades are one of those places

that resonate with a rich historical feeling, as "each island alone and all of them together", belonging to an entity and in the same time being unique.





So every island by virtue of its individual physical and cultural environment, offers a different experience to the visitor.







The impact of environmental learning in schools and lifelong learning Educational hikes on a continuous basis at places of cultural interest to form bonds with nature and culture, should be the most appropriate measure promising the formation of lifelong relations in children and adolescents, as members of the natural and cultural environment of their country. Such a strong and imminent experience would indisputably hold a decisive role in any form of sensibilisation.













## Social solidarity .Creating spirit of community

In previous years until the previous century, solidarity among members of the community was particularly strong. Nowadays, social cohesion of society is rapidly getting lost. It is vital need to revive the values of the old Cycladic society, such as solidarity, brotherhood, humility, equality and common action with respect to the diversity of each individual.



#### Revival of farming with new activities

In times, like the ones we are currently experiencing, as the stability of a good life quality in Cyclades is unsure for an indefinite time period, the return to agricultural and farming activities that have been neglected for a long time, will certainly prove beneficial.

Namely, it can be of significant importance the production of local products of every island, as biological cultivations of local aromatic and pharmaceutical herbs, with organised promotion.



### Alternative tourist facilities and activities based on culture and environment

Practices of alternative tourism should be adopted in a large scale as soon as possible, and if this does not happen, the consequences for the human and natural environment will be destructive.

For example, the establishment of a link between the alternative tourism and the agricultural initiatives is of significant importance. Actions, such as the re-opening of establishments using pre-industrial technology, the production of local goods using the traditional way, the opening of distilleries for the production of raki, etc, with the help of accommodation facilities involved, can fortify the iniciative of cultural tourism and eco- tourism.

One significant aspect of alternative tourism, is cultural tourism. In this field, the area of Cyclades has recently implemented a programme of restoration of routes of cultural interest, in order to save, restore and bring to the light, in an organised form, an ancient network of communication, consisting of footpaths and stone- built roads in almost every island of Cyclades.









We have over 600 km of footpaths on the islands of the Cyclades. We have fully restored over 50% of them in **Andros**, **Tinos**, **Kea** and **Amorgos**. Also at **Anafi**, **Donousa** and at **Iraklia** 

At the islands of Ios and Thira we are near completion at three path networks, and to the rest of the islands as well.

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Most of these actions were completed with special procedures for assignment of works to small local crews, combined with coordinated voluntary actions..







They worked at: Kea, Andros, Tinos, Siros and **Naxos** islands for the last 5 years, during the summer time with the support of Municipalities and Prefectures. The achieved results were very encouraging.





The assigned works were executed properly with the best ratio of value for money.

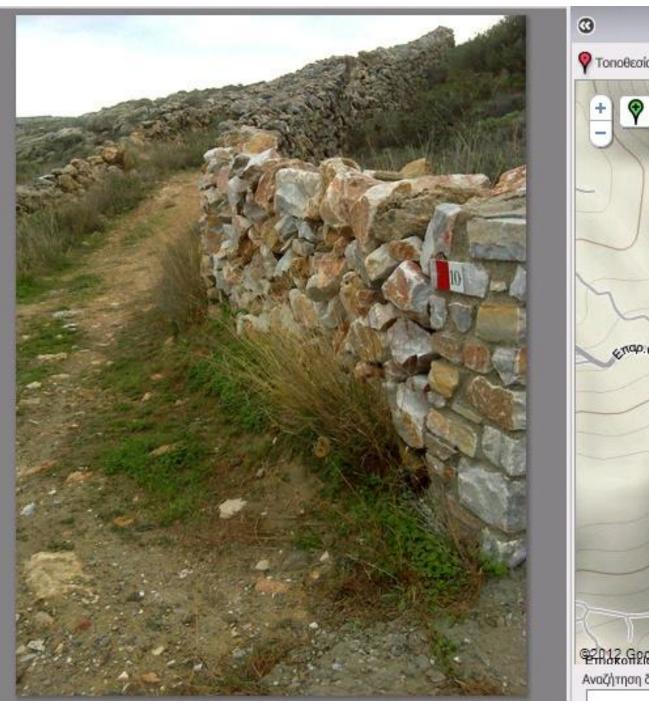
Local crews and voluntary teams cooperated in most cases responsibly and conscientiously, which arised from the direct contact with the area, the local community and the constant presence of the relevant local authority in the field of work.

These contributed to a great result: The programming, the methodology and the amount of work achieved are now considered a model.



Users of paths and government officials have commented favorably and asked for advice for sharing good practice.

In seminars held recently, in various places, like Kea, Amorgos, Sifnos, Naxos etc, it has been stressed out the choice of the above mentioned practice and the implementation of it, has contributed significantly and has created the best conditions for the further development of alternative hiking tourism in the area of South Aegean Sea.





" Ό, τισώ σες μέ σ στην αστραπή,

καθαρό στον αώ να θα διαρκέ σεί"