



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
PRESIDENCY AND PRESIDENTIAL PALACE



COMMISSIONER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

APPENDIX A

Summary of the National Strategy for the Development of Troodos Mountain Communities

Strategic and Integrated Interventions & Draft Budget



University of Thessaly

May 2019

Preface

The present study looks at the planning of the National Strategy for the Development of Mountain Communities (NSDMC) and includes the diagnosis of the region, the strategy and the operational plan referring to 250 actions. The most significant contribution of this project is that it proposes a development model adapted to the particular conditions of Cyprus' mountain region. This model takes into account the potential of the mountain region, its integration at a European and international level and the political-administrative reality of the country.

The whole planning framework of the NSDMC was determined by the positive conjuncture of the will of the Cypriot Government to shape an integrated mountain policy and of the people of Troodos to actively participate in the planning for the development of their area.

The NSDM's national dimension arises from the corresponding national importance of the Troodos region for Cyprus. Mountain regions are considered a territorial component of the country of vital and strategic significance as an extensive area of habitat and resources. They constitute the administrator of the great national value of Cyprus' natural and cultural heritage.

The “Philosophy” behind the intervention

In order to establish a sustainable intervention strategy for the mountain areas/communities of the Republic of Cyprus and focusing on the Troodos region, it is necessary to take into account the **big picture** of development of the country's national territory.

This entails a **radical redefinition of the relationship** between the “centre” and the “periphery” as it is structured in a relatively small island state. That is, the relationship between the central government-administration and the actors at a local level (local authorities and other entities).

Troodos constitutes not only a distinctive territorial unit of Cyprus but also a **completely unique** case of an area, both on a local and regional scale, outside the urban clusters (Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Pafos). To wit, we are dealing with an **extra-urban** area that is at the same time **mountainous** and **environmentally sensitive** and therefore **vulnerable**.

It is a place of meeting, contact and connection or “entanglement” of the ends of the integrated space of the urban areas of the Island. A space that tends to be absorbed by the dynamism of cities but which, at same time, is “claimed” and “shared” by these cities in many ways. Today, it has become an area for **passive consumption** and not for **creative production**.

The **local dimension** of development in Troodos must therefore **be distinguished** and take into account specific parameters outside the classic recipes for urbanisation of the mountains that have dominated Europe in recent years/ decades and led to dead ends.

In the age of rapid **climate change**, Troodos – a region of 30,000 inhabitants – is called upon to and can play an important role for the whole of Cyprus provided the adoption of the appropriate policy, as well as the cooperation of central and local decision makers.

For this reason, an **integrated intervention** is extremely necessary, which, beyond the visual level, should be quite pragmatic. This means that an **organic link/coherence** between the strategic and operational plan [or action plan], such as the one proposed by the National Strategy for the Development of Mountain Communities in Cyprus, is called for.

However, it should be stressed that the **successful and effective implementation** of this plan/ programme does not only require the coherence of the study. It also requires the appropriate synergy and partnership of stakeholders as to **properly link** all existing **institutional tools and commitments** (national and communal or international) relating to the environment and other **horizontal policies**.

The intervention area

The study area includes part of Cyprus' mountain areas with a distinct geographical and cultural identity and the historical name of Troodos. The boundaries of the area were determined by a cooperation decision taken by 155 communities. The area covers 25% of free Cyprus, has 27,695 inhabitants and maintains ties with 70,000 expatriates.

In recent decades, mountain communities have entered a process of population decline, dragging their productive activities at the risk of a significant part of the territory falling into a state of abandonment. Troodos now has, marginally, the necessary critical mass of population for the viability of its productive activities and territorial cohesion. Mountain areas remain fragile, threatened by ecosystem disruption and natural hazards. The weakening of the region's role in the management of natural resources and in addressing important challenges (climate change, water, biodiversity) will have incalculable consequences and costs for Cyprus.

These stakes raise the issue of interventions in Troodos to a goal of national importance with multiple aspects and clear developmental and spatial dimensions.

Nevertheless, today, the recognition of the multifunctionality and disadvantages in the production and living sectors of mountain areas provides these areas the value they deserve, while their image is being upgraded by policies to protect the natural and cultural reserve and avoid abandonment, the interest of consumers in their heritage and products as well as new technologies.

These prospects, combined with the impact on the natural environment, the lack of services and the international and European commitments of the Republic of Cyprus, **place the Cyprus mountain areas at the heart of spatial and development policies**.

For Cyprus, the issue of integrating mountain communities concerns the link between spatial and development planning through a single mountain policy, effective public

1. The framework and planning of the NSDMC

International and European environment

The Troodos' future is defined to some extent by the integration of Cyprus in the EU which shapes the framework of a new relationship between centre and periphery through the adjustment of each Member State's public action (participatory planning, local governance).

The EU recognises the particularities of mountain areas, proposes the territorial approach of their development and embraces new perceptions regarding their potential:

- a) transition from protection policies to policies that contribute sustainably to the development of mountain areas by establishing a new protection-development model;
- b) territorialisation of public action based on the fact that local scales can better identify policies appropriate to the diversity of local situations and development risks.

The EU does not have a single mountain policy but rather sectoral and horizontal policies which are accompanied by various community commitments (decentralisation, environment, RES, etc.) and can be put into action through the community programming periods. Their utilisation requires the transition from government policy action to public territorial action which Cyprus has just launched through reforms in local self-governance, health, etc., pertaining to the relationship between centre and periphery.

National and regional dimension of the NSDMC

The national dimension of the NSDMC is linked to its contribution to the functional integration of a part of the national territory of the Republic of Cyprus, which is characterised by:

- a) its area (25% of free Cyprus) and the diversity and density of natural and cultural heritage resources with emphasis on the housing stock,
- b) its problematic situation which risks leading to the abandonment of a significant part of the national territory with implications for the management of natural resources of national importance and with high contingency costs,
- c) the potential for revitalisation by recognising the values and resources of mountain areas and initiating a process of endogenous development.

The role and assistance of the Republic of Cyprus in the implementation of the NSDMC is determined by the importance and the stakes of national interest of the mountain communities due to their role in the economy, society, environment, landscape and culture.

With reference to the regional dimension of the NSDMC, its design and objectives are determined by the following:

- Troodos is caught between a central policy that needs to be adapted and an environmental approach that does not integrate development,
- European and national policies and the shift of consumers towards the quality and identity of products and places create a favourable environment in favour of mountain areas,
- the continuous improvement of the mountain areas' relevance as an important national residential, cultural and environmental reserve of strategic value opens new horizons for the region,
- the development strategies of the Republic of Cyprus largely determine the interventions in the areas of living environment, economy and natural environment of the mountain areas, without, however, being a part of a single plan,
- the difficulty to maintain the desired population size and productive activities is associated with the low value of the products and the adverse living conditions, which greatly affect the functionality of the space,
- the Republic of Cyprus has entered a period of ongoing reforms.

In this general political-administrative framework, the issue of redefining the integration of the Mountain Areas in the whole national system of planning and implementation of spatial and development policies is raised.

The NSDMC has set as its main objective its contribution to the functionality and compatibility of the relationships between a) the reference area (historical areas, administration division), b) the policy framework (European/ National policies, clusters, governance) and c) the territorial development (coordination for the utilisation of resources). In the context of these relationships, the organization of local actors, clustering and governance, aspires to establish the Troodos Territorial Development Entity.

The NSDMC as a framework of strategic targeting and implementation (governance) ultimately contributes to the national planning for the local (mountain) region.

Areas of intervention and content of the NSDMC

The NSDMC:

- adopts the dimension of sustainable development which horizontally penetrates all its thematic priorities,
- redefines the relationship of the Republic of Cyprus with a part of its territory through the establishment of a functional relationship of cooperation and coordination with the Troodos region as a territorial development entity,
- forms the model of local self-governance taking into account the European Charter of

Local Self-Government which has been jointly signed by the Republic of Cyprus but also the administrative tradition and the reforms effort of Cyprus,

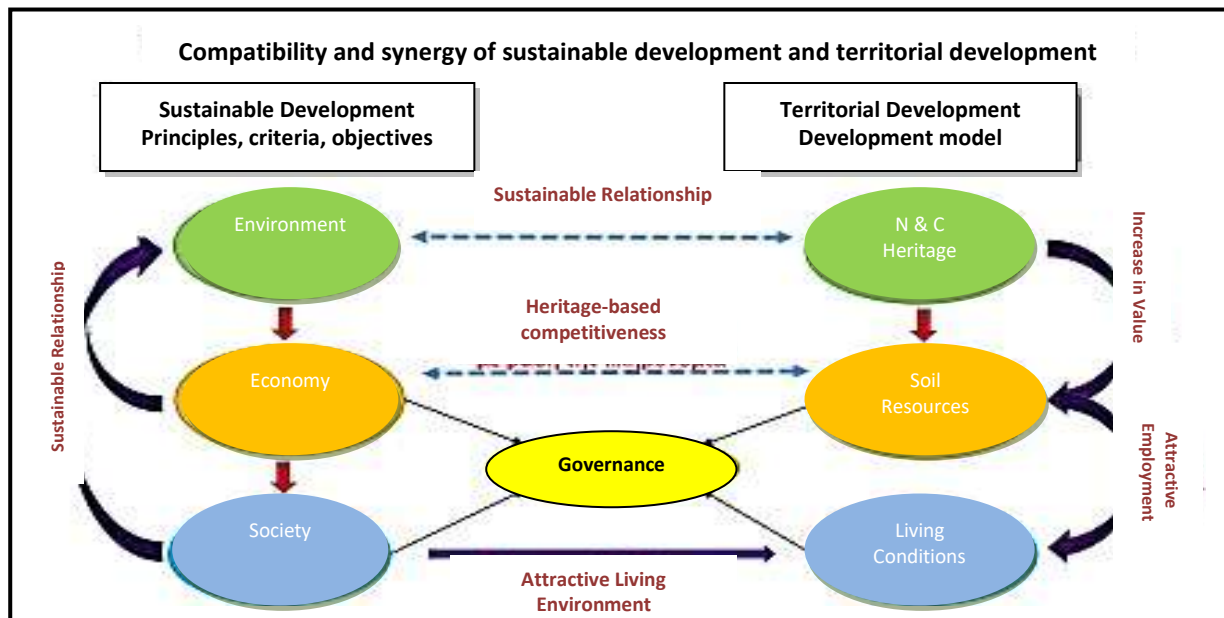
- contributes to the harmonisation with the European and national development framework as well as with the existing European and national sectoral policies,
- shapes and formulates at the level of objectives and interventions:

- ⇒ the framework and objectives for an integrated mountain policy of the Republic of Cyprus governing sectoral and horizontal mountain policies,
- ⇒ proposals for sectoral policy adjustments and for necessary institutional arrangements based on the evaluation of the results of the diagnosis,
- ⇒ integrated interventions at the level of sectoral and cross-sectoral policies with elaborated respective action plans,
- ⇒ the general framework of implementation and funding while proposing a coordination structure which integrates the Troodos' public sector and actors.

The implementation of the NSDMC will contribute to Troodos acquiring the position it deserves in all the policies of the Republic of Cyprus, considering the mountain areas as a protected and utilised element with respect to natural balances.

2. Theoretical framework for approaching the development of mountain areas

The NSDMC adopts the principles of sustainable development and the territorial way of development. While sustainable development incorporates the intergenerational dimension, territorial development complements it by focusing on the present generation and its living conditions.

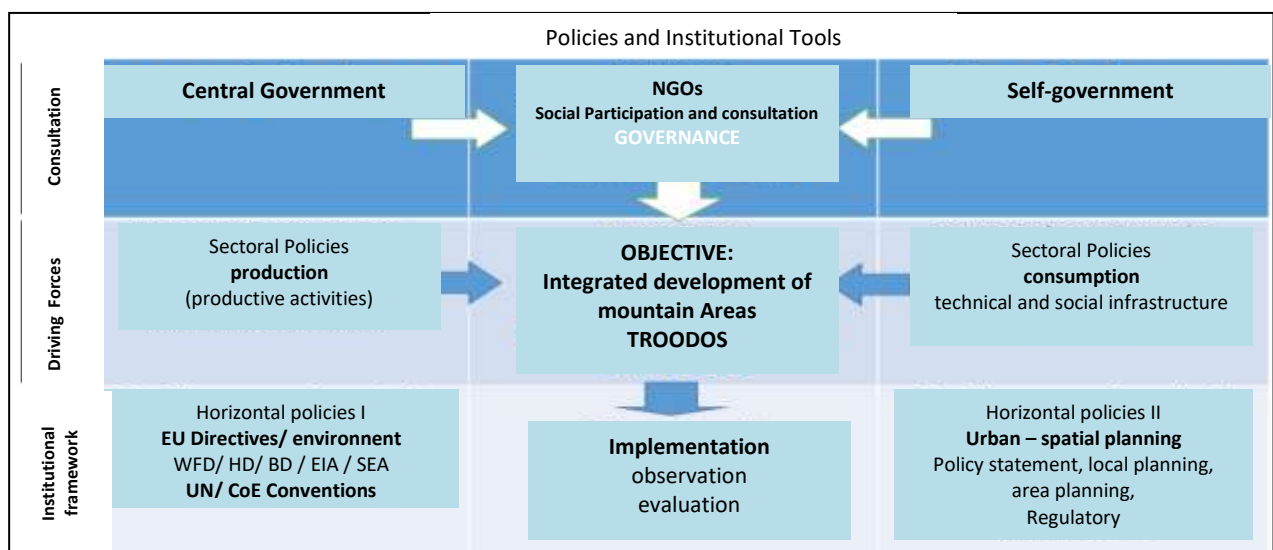


Sustainable development harmonises the three major dimensions of human action (**environment, economy, society**) and contributes to the establishment of a sustainable relationship between them, the management and reproduction of natural and cultural heritage and the quality of living conditions. The model of Territorial Development contributes to the increase of the added value of the local resources, to the increase of the incomes and to the attractiveness of the region.

3. Interconnection between tools and commitments (national, communal, international) relating to the environment and other horizontal policies

As aforementioned, the successful and effective implementation of this plan/ programme does not only require the coherence of the strategy itself. It also requires the appropriate synergy and partnership of stakeholders in order to properly associate all existing institutional tools and commitments (national and communal or international) relating to the environment and other horizontal policies.

The incorporation of the principles, criteria and objectives of sustainable and territorial development in the planning of the strategy, allows to a large extent, the harmonisation of the relationship of the NSDMC as a policy tool, with the wider context of policy and institutional tools.



The above diagram illustrates the interplay between political, institutional tools and governance, which the NSDMC integrates into its design, combining:

- a) the wider institutional framework (spatial and commitments as to the environment),
- b) the productive and consumer infrastructure as driving forces of growth and attractiveness of the living environment; and
- c) the governance structure (coordination) for the activation and implementation of the NSDMC.

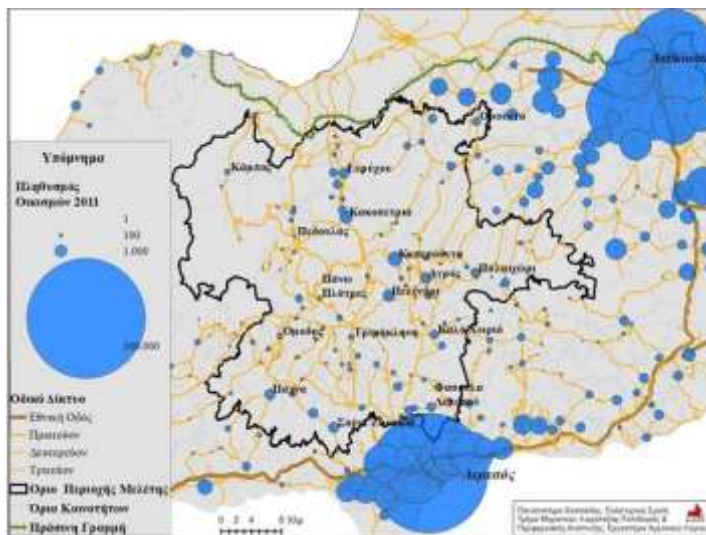
POPULATION

Trends

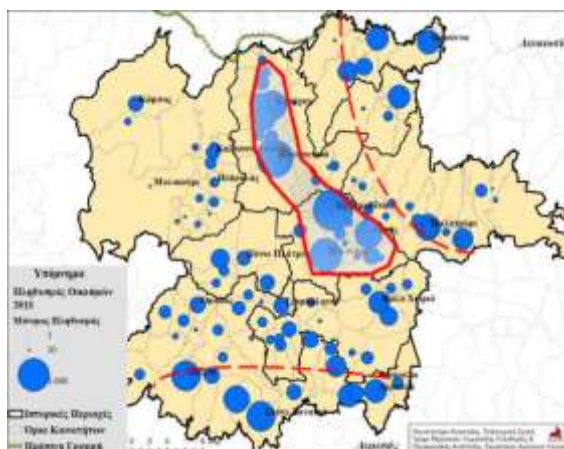
Population: **27,695 inh.** Stabilisation within the Troodos area but reduction of its specific gravity in the entire population of Cyprus

Density: **18,8 inh/km²** (132,9 inh/km² in Cyprus)

946 families settled in Troodos after 2011 of which 682 are <40 years old



Concentration of population on the axis with the largest urban centres (Solia – Pitsilia of Limassol) and in the suburban area of Limassol.

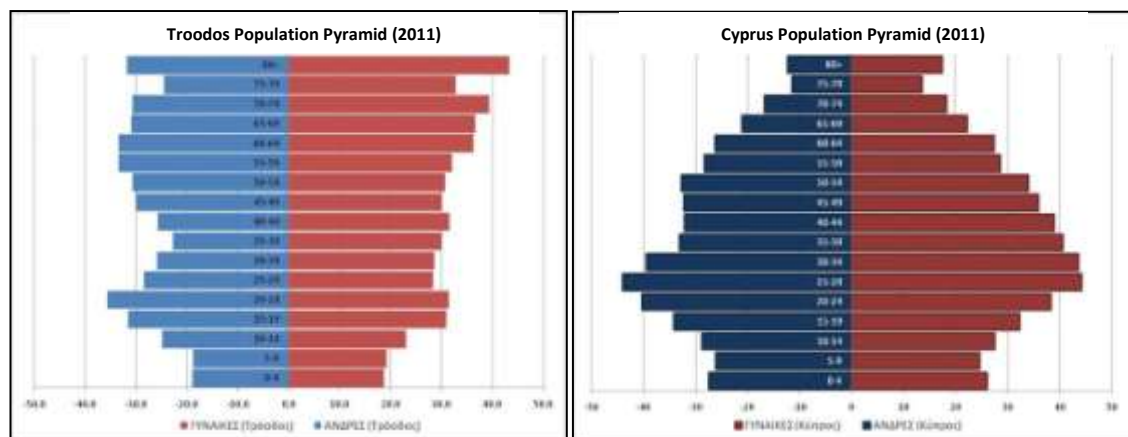


Evaluation

• • •

- ❑ Population ageing raises ominous prospects for the demographic development of the area until 2030 with consequences for social cohesion (lack of critical mass in education, services, production).
- ❑ The seasonal population is an important element in assessing both Troodos' habitability and traffic: expatriates who have a second home in the area, tourists and visitors to the area.
- ❑ 3,528 foreigners (12.7% of the Troodos population) with a spatial concentration mainly in the suburban area of Limassol.
- ❑ The case of permanent return of some expatriates in the area should not be ruled out, given the convergence of lifestyle and the divergence in the cost of living between Troodos and the cities.
- ❑ Southern Troodos shows signs of population recovery (Krasochoria), while Marathasa and Pitsilia of Nicosia are still experiencing a population decline.
- ❑ Difficulties in attracting young couples.

Age Structure of Population



- Ages < 14 years old: 16,8% (2001) to 12,3% (2011) ↓
- Ages > 65 years old: 25,6% (2001) to 27% (2011) ↑

Population projection (2015-2030)-Population forecast baseline for 2011

Based on the age projections, it appears that the population of Troodos will be experiencing an increase in its aging rates until 2030. More specifically, it appears that the numbers relating to population aged 65 and over will increase from 27% in 2011 to 35% of the total population in 2030.

	Lower	Baseline	Higher
2015	27.755	27.913	28.071
2020	28.443	28.639	28.835
2025	29.252	29.526	29.800
2030	30.092	30.442	30.792

Seasonal Population – Expatriates



Significant seasonal population unevenly distributed in space, as well as time (weekends/ holiday periods/ summer). The significant presence of seasonal population (mainly expatriates) and short-term tourism increases the use of basic infrastructure (water supply, sewerage, road networks, etc.).

A significant part of the seasonal population comes from the expatriates of the area who live permanently mainly in the big cities or abroad. The case of permanent return of some to the area should not be ruled out, given the convergence of lifestyle and the difference in the cost of living between Troodos and the cities.

There are weak indications when it comes to young people staying in their villages and young couples settling down.

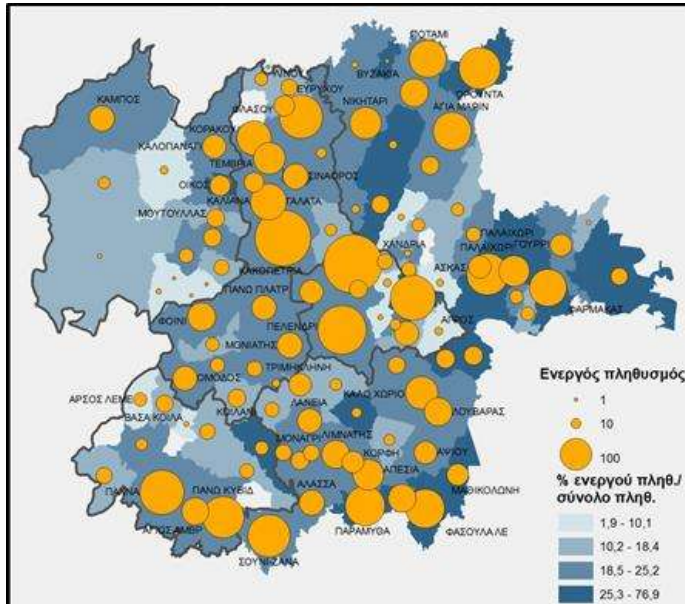
The demographic picture of the area (low percentages of young people and high percentages of older people) highlights the demographic risk faced by Troodos. Taking drastic measures to retain and attract population soon is now necessary so that the area does not collapse demographically – at least in some areas.

EMPLOYMENT

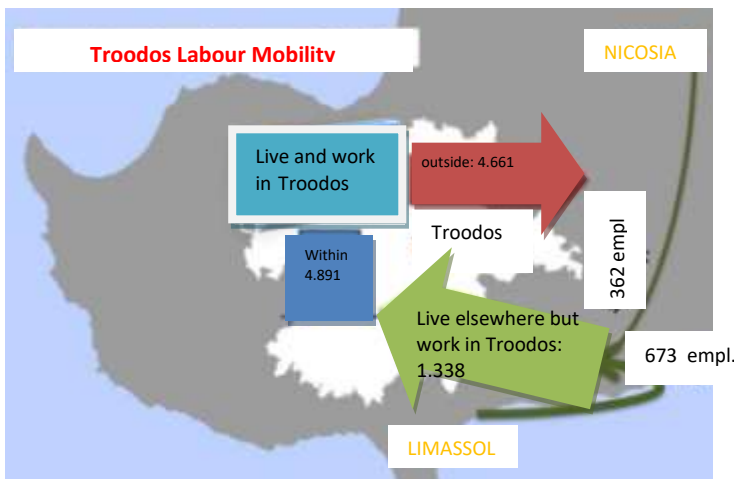
Number of Employed persons: **9.972**

Economically Active Population: **11.048**

Unemployed persons: **1.076 people**



47.7% of the working residents of Troodos are employed outside the region. 1388 employees in Troodos live outside the area.



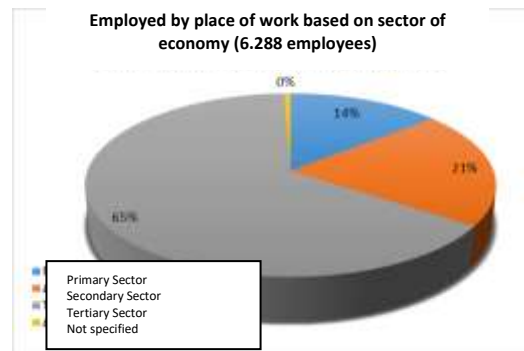
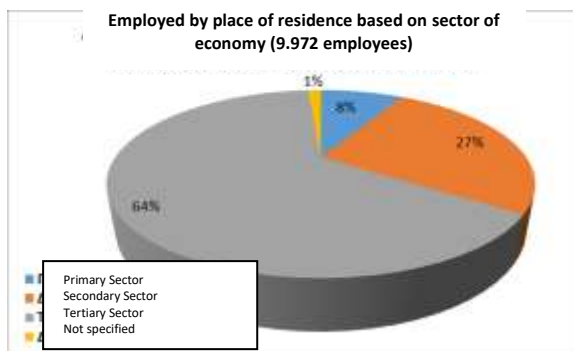
A comparison of the number of employed persons at the place of residence and the place of work shows that Troodos is generally an attractive place to live, but does not offer job positions to a satisfactory degree. Such places are in more detail the area of Pitsilia of Nicosia, the mountainous Morphou, the Krasochoria (Wine Villages) area and the Koumandaria (Commandaria) area. In contrast, the Mountain Resorts and Marathasa areas have the same ratio (approximately 50%) between the number of employees staying at the workplace and the number of job positions offered locally.

Evaluation

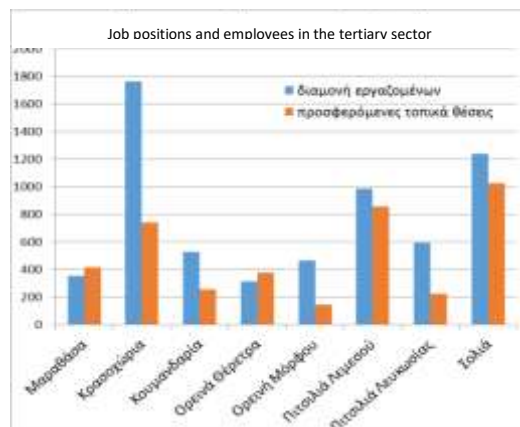
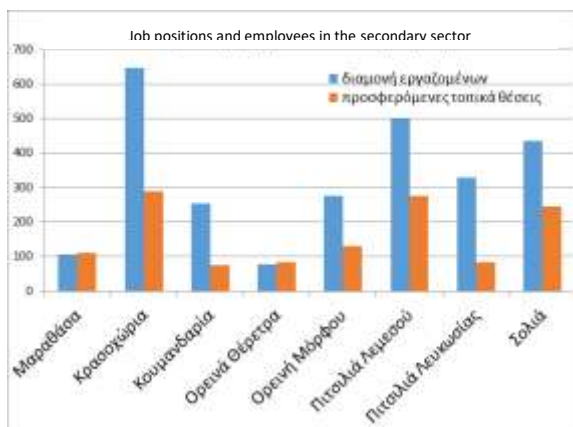
• • •

- ❑ The economically active population of Troodos representing 40% of the total population (in comparison to 50% in the whole of Cyprus) shows a relatively limited workforce (due to high rates of population ageing).
- ❑ Unemployment in Troodos in 2011 remained low (<10%).
- ❑ All productive sectors have significant productive potentials ensuring a relative integration of the local economy.
- ❑ The workforce in Troodos is limited and concentrated in three main areas (Southern Pitsilia, Solea and Krasochoria). Labour shortages, however, are partially offset by the settlement of migrants.
- ❑ Job positions within the region remain unattractive, forcing people to turn to cities in search of employment. This limits the retention of young people and makes it difficult to attract youth.
- ❑ Employment prospects emerge through the utilisation of local resources with a focus on processing, tourism and medium-to-long-term on natural environment and the needs of the living environment

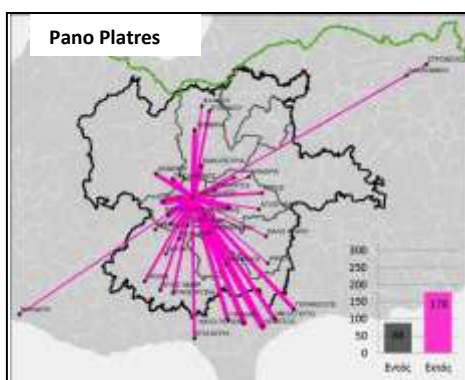
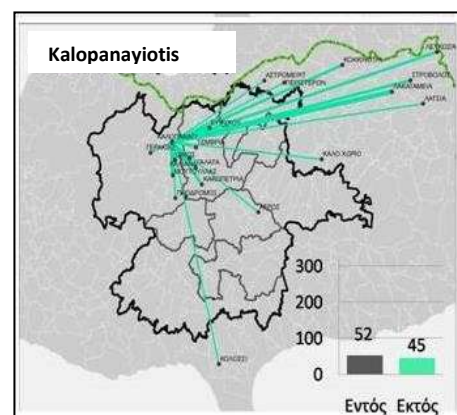
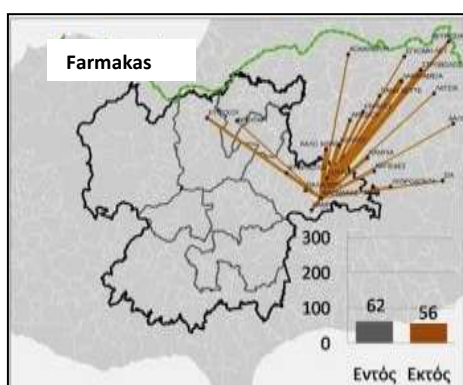
Employment based on the place of residence and the place of work of employed persons



Out of the total number of employees with Troodos as their place of residence, the percentage of agricultural workers corresponds to 8%, while out of the total number of employees within Troodos, the percentage corresponds to 14%.



Labour Mobility



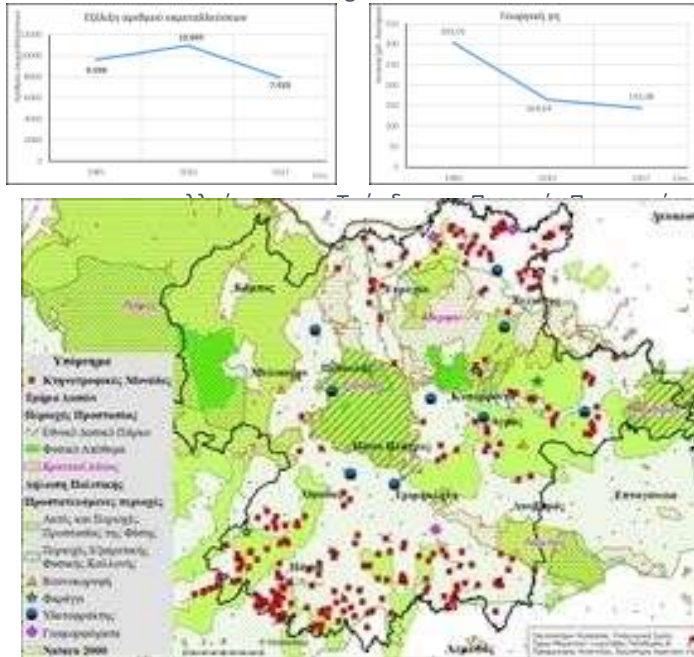
The **central Communities** attract workers from an enlarged spatial area which includes both areas within and outside Troodos, while the more **peripheral Communities** attract workers mainly from areas outside Troodos. The maps depict the daily labour mobility of the workers, while the noticeable great mobility towards Troodos for work on a daily basis is clearly indicated.

AGRICULTURE

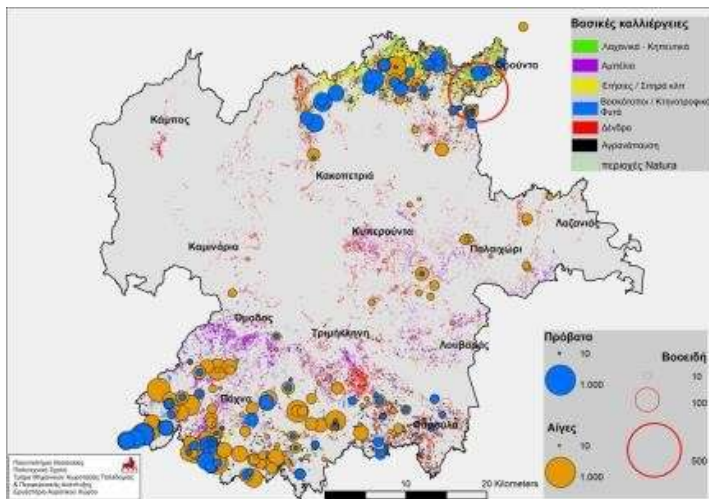
Trends

Development of agricultural land and holdings

Distribution of livestock farming



Productive specialisations



Dominance of traditional Mediterranean crops: vines, olives and orchards

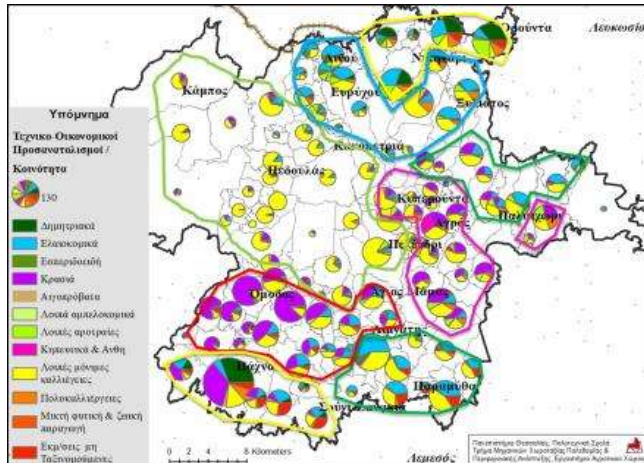
Restriction of crops around residential areas and along the streets

Evaluation

...

- ❑ Land: fragmentation, multiple inheritance
- ❑ Animal husbandry almost exclusively around Troodos
- ❑ Ageing and poor generation renewal of farmers. Lack of workers and bureaucracy for their employment.
- ❑ Low prices of raw material (non-promotion of quality-identity)
- ❑ Satisfactory advice system but insufficient for the promotion of quality agriculture
- ❑ Continuous abandonment of agricultural land → degradation of the natural environment → issue of recovering and managing productive capital
- ❑ Orientation towards the intensive production model
- ❑ Need for integrated and coordinated animal husbandry support
- ❑ Weak organisation of producers
- ❑ Primary production without added value exposed to international competition
- ❑ Management and recovery of abandoned agricultural land
- ❑ Inability to build and promote quality agriculture
- ❑ An important asset for the area are the small pluriactive households

Troodos agricultures (productive orientation of farms per community)



Structure of holdings

8.155 holdings

- 7.876 agricultural, 235 livestock farming & 44 mixed farming holdings in Troodos
- Pluriactive families in their vast majority
- 55% of which reside in cities
- 44.4% of farmers are over 65 years old while only 1.5% are under 30 years of age.

Existence of “critical mass” of holdings per historical area

Prospects for value added increase

Low value products			Market	Degree of Organisation		
Σιτηρά	35.000	40.300 δεΚ	Trade, Animal Husbandry	-		
Κτηνοτροφικά φυτά	5.300					
High value products			Bulk, Market, Merchant, Supermarket	Basic		
Λαχανικά	1.640	3.054 δεΚ				
Πατάτες	1.481					
Εσπεριδοειδή	1.156					
Potentially high value products			Processing	good		
Αμπέλι	25.005	62.472 δεΚ				
Ελιές	11.629					
Φυλλοβόλα	11.156					
Χαρουπιές	1.793					
Αρωματικά	400					
Αμύγδαλα, Φουντούκια	8.273					
Περβόλια	3.216					

Πηγή δεδομένων: ΚΟΑΠ 2017

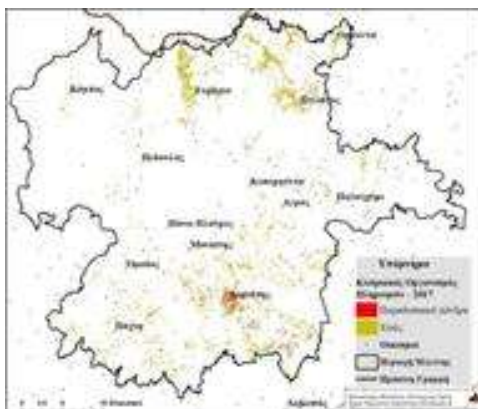
Πηγή δεδομένων: ΚΟΑΠ 2017

Status-enhancing references of resources

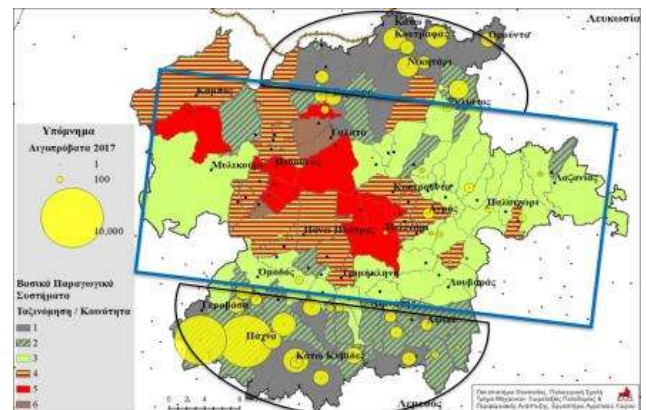
- ✓ agro-ecosystem
- ✓ degree of environmental burden
- ✓ landscape
- ✓ terroir
- ✓ heritage (know-how, practices..)

Value: crops in combination with low water consumption, plant protection products and fertilizers use, are characterised as of great natural value.

Olive Tree Plantations (Solea and Mountainous Morphou)



Zones of potential increase in the value of agricultural products



PROCESSING

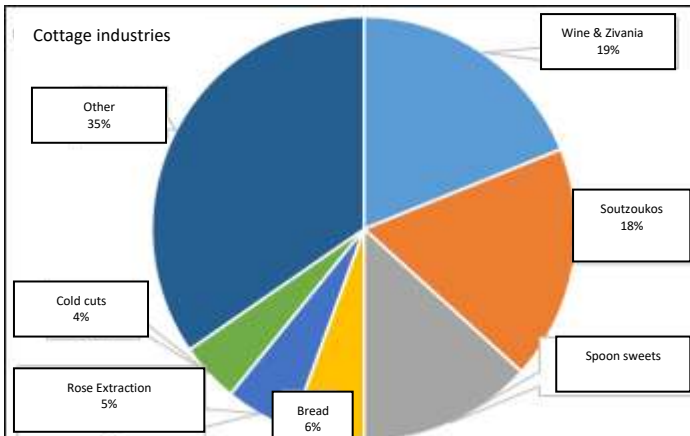
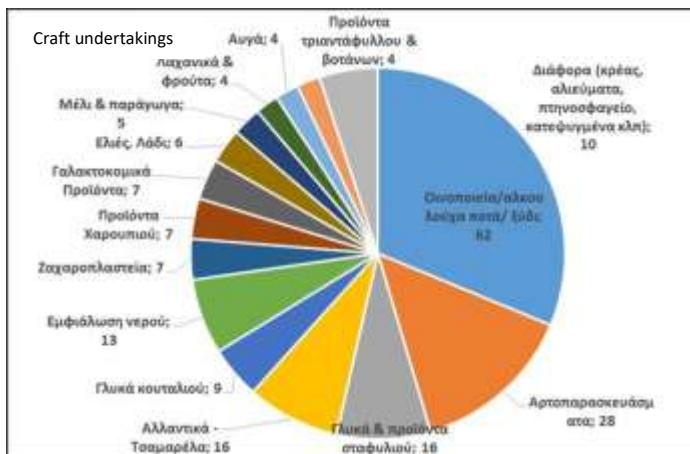
❑ Potential of the processing sector

484 food processing businesses (on-site)

- ✓ 198 craft undertakings (some registered and some approved)
- ✓ 286 “cottage industries” (small-scale craft undertakings operated out of a home)

474 other processing businesses (on-site)

❑ Productive specialisations



- ⇒ Agrofood businesses produce products utilising agricultural products (grapes, fruit, herbs), traditional know-how and production techniques of the region, often in different variations per region.
- ⇒ Modern family businesses, encountering problems in marketing products (packaging, label, links to the place of production) and marketing (individual distribution network, lack of organisation)
- ⇒ In several family businesses, young members specialise in marketing economics or the product.

❑ Investments in craft industry

- ✓ Foods of Plant Origin: **€1 million (RDP)**
- ✓ Foods of Animal Origin: **€1.5 million (RDP)**

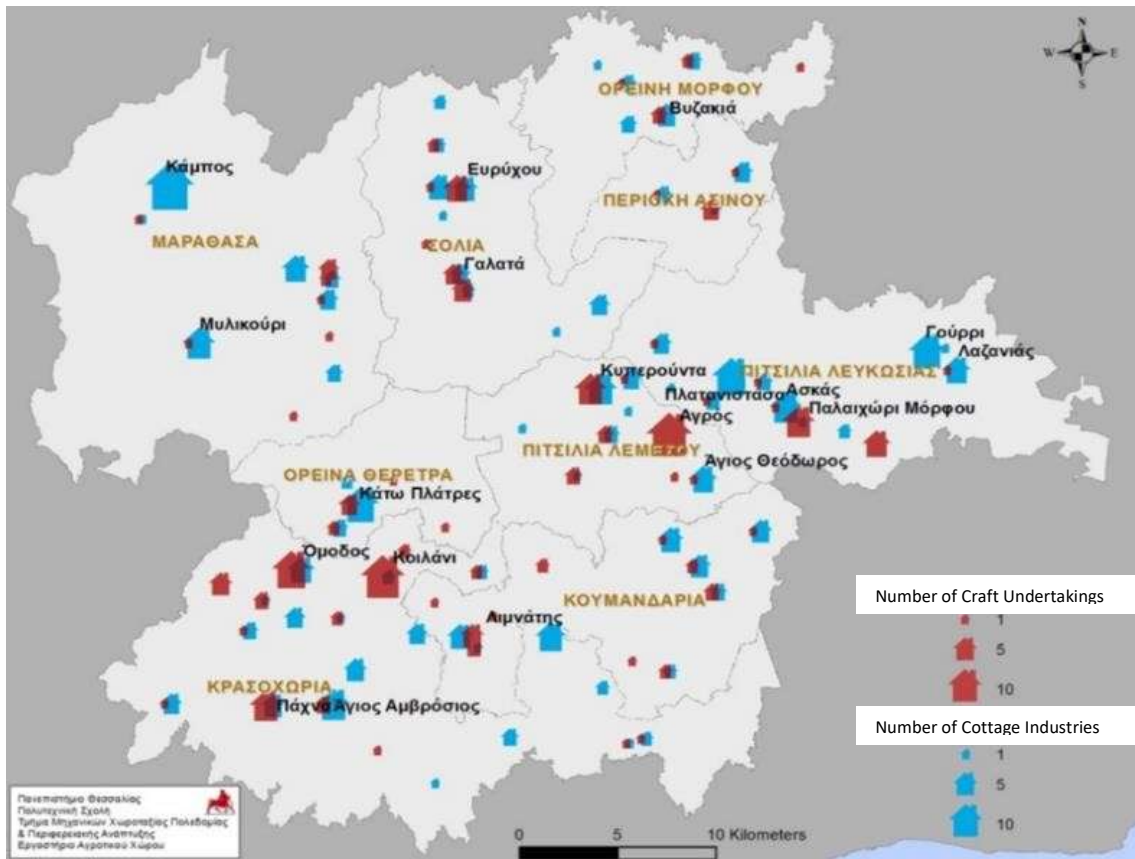
Evaluation

...

- ❑ remarkable variety of local produce based on local production and know-how
- ❑ cottage industries facilitate the integration of farmers, processing know-how providers into the craft industry
- ❑ craft undertakings and cottage industries produce the same products which allows the development of collaborations
- ❑ significant number of businesses in a state of lawlessness due to a complex and incomplete licensing system
- ❑ significant deficit in identifying and highlighting the quality characteristics of products for which specialised research-study is required
- ❑ many businesses participate in exhibitions receiving awards. However, there is a lack of coordination for the promotion of products abroad.
- ❑ Absence of a specialised support body for the development of processing
- ❑ Possibility of integration of the local inherited knowledge and know-how, in the production and “image” of local products, utilising scientific knowledge
- ❑ Troodos is considered capable of taking advantage of opportunities to produce quality products
- ❑ Deficit in the organisation of processors
- ❑ Weakness of integrating businesses in systems

✓ Wineries: €17 million (RDP)

□ Spatial dispersion of craft undertakings

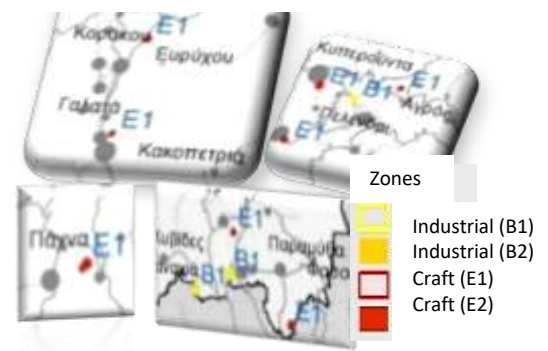


Market: local market (business store, local shops, fairs, Trimiklini outdoor farmers' market and local cultural festivals within and outside the area of Troodos), municipal & outdoor markets of Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol. Fruit shops & supermarkets of these cities, wholesale markets (Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol) and some quantities abroad.

□ Recognised quality products

- ◆ PDO: wines : Pitsilia, Krasochoria and Koumandaria
- ◆ PGI: Rose spoon sweet from Agros, Zivania, 2 wines (Nicosia and Limassol)
- ◆ at the final stage of approval: Pitsilia cold cuts
- ◆ Agros' rose water is under review at a national level
- ◆ The quality term "mountain product" is currently undergoing an institutionalisation process

Industrial & Craft Zones



TOURISM

Trends

❑ Number of holiday accommodations licensed by the CTO:

49 in 2006, 90 in 2017 while a field survey (2018) recorded a number of 256

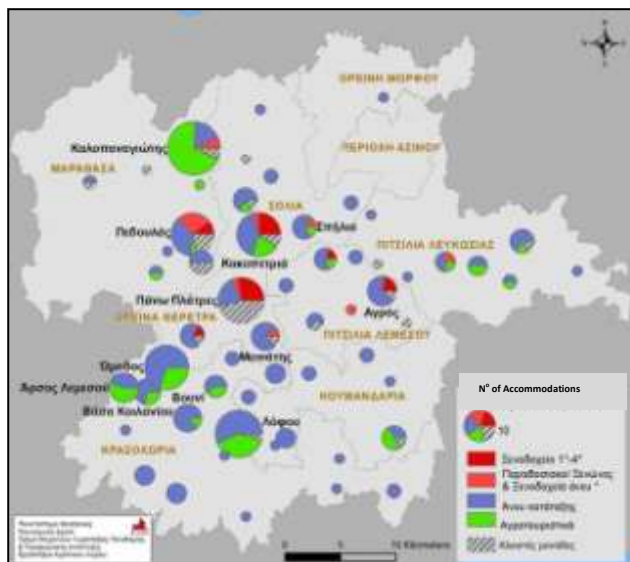
❑ Beds: 2.091 (2017 – official data), 2.921 (field study)

❑ Restaurants: 382 (2017 – official data), a field study (2018) recorded 511 catering businesses (restaurants, coffee shops, canteens)

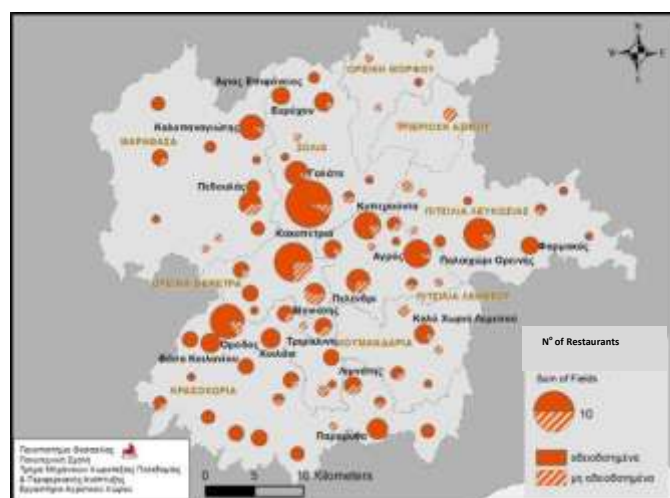
Distribution and concentration of tourism potential

Tourism, despite its complexity as an activity, is undoubtedly one of the dynamic sectors of the Troodos region, offering many tourist attractions and opportunities for creating experiences. Its future is based on its complementarity with other areas of activity.

Distribution of accommodation facilities



Distribution of catering establishments

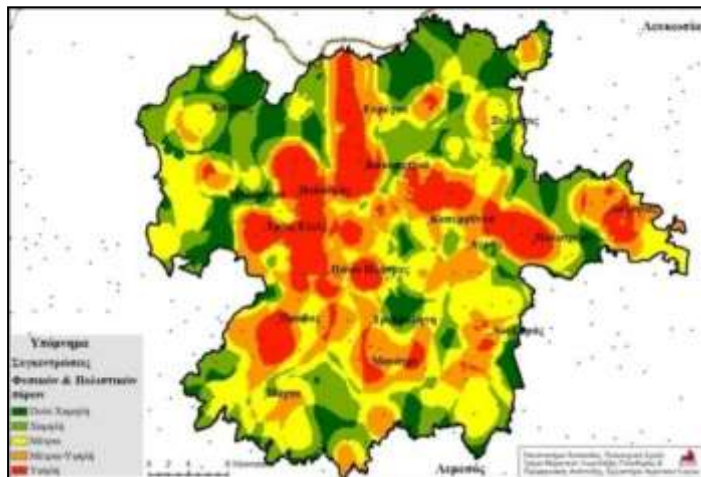


Evaluation

...

- ❑ Costly unused projects (construction despite operation)
- ❑ Multiple Bodies (CTO, Districts Troodos Development Company) for Museums, Routes, Cultural centres. Coordination difficulties.
- ❑ Complex procedures for obtaining required licenses (9-24 months) of annual duration and classification system
- ❑ Weak professional organisation
- ❑ (CHA, Restaurant Association)
- ❑ Lack of staff & specialised staff
- ❑ Lack of specialised training plans adapted to the peculiarities of Troodos: family-run businesses and seasonality of mountain tourism
- ❑ Difficulties of integrating routes in local agreements of cooperation and linking them to the market
- ❑ Absence of mountain tourist product and relevant promotion procedures
- ❑ Lack of specifications and quality assurance procedures of the services provided
- ❑ Lack of specifications for the establishment and operation of community infrastructure (museums, community buildings)
- ❑ Low occupancy and high seasonality

Concentration of natural & cultural resources



Investments through Grant schemes:

- Agrotourism: holiday accommodations: €31 million studies: €5 million
- Promotion of rural tourism in the markets: €4.4. million
- Agrotourism (tourism infrastructure): €2.2 million
- CTO Enrichment: €6 million (SPA centre)

Lack in correspondence between cultural infrastructure and routes (large communities), and places of tourist activity

Distribution/ concentration of (tourist) routes

Routes administrators:
Wine: CTO

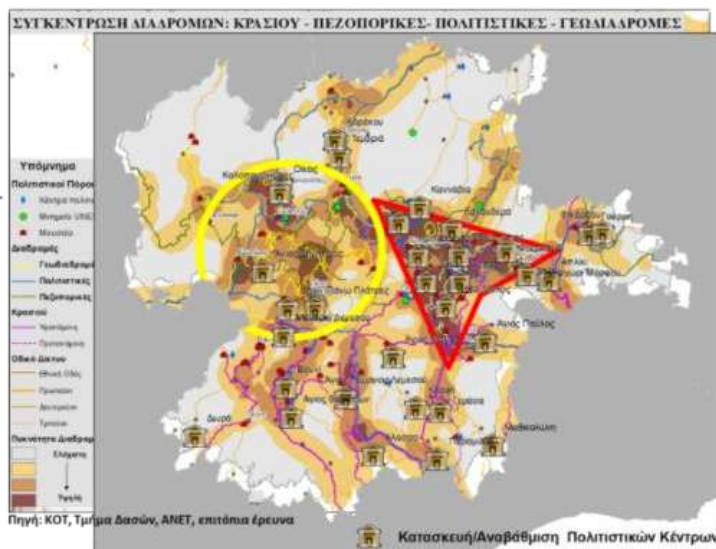
Hiking:
Forests
Department

Cultural: CTO

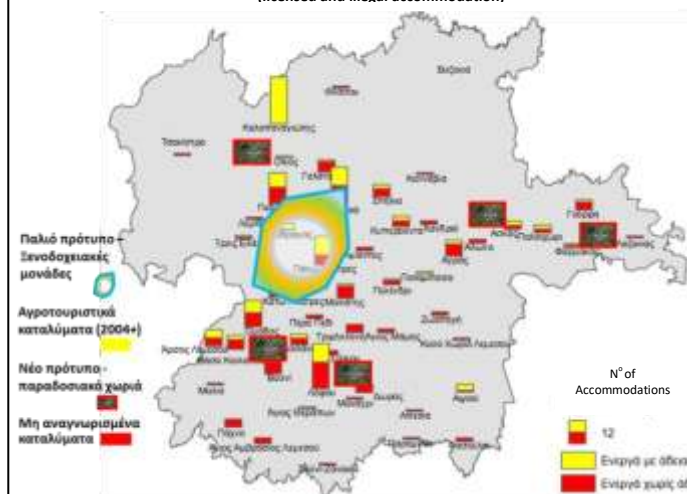
Geo-trails: TDC

Concentration of routes

Cultural Infrastructure



Coexistence of three tourism development models in the Troodos region (licensed and illegal accommodation)



Tourism development models

- ⇒ Hotel Units – old model
- ⇒ Agrotourism accommodation
- ⇒ Traditional Villages



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Evaluation



Rich fauna and flora integrated in the European & National Protection network

✓ Main Degradation Factors

- Risk of Fires.
- Climate change (drought –floods, etc.).
- Abandonment of agricultural land.
- Degradation of the landscape by anthropogenic activities.
- Disposal of waste.

✓ Governance

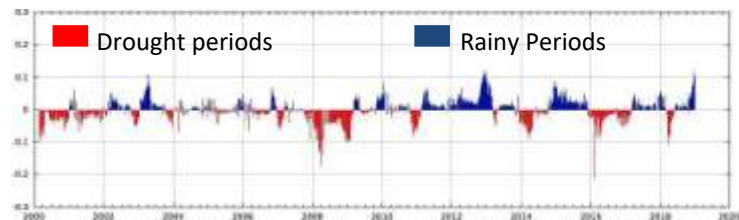
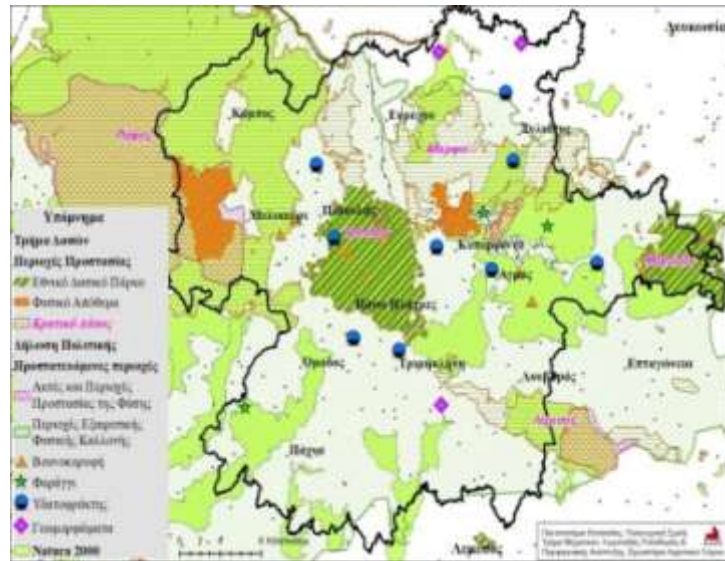
- Fragmented protection & management responsibilities in different services.
- Lack of involvement of the local community in protection issues.



- Protection, management of protected areas at an ecological landscape level.
- Involvement of the local community in decision-making when it comes to protection measures.
- Utilisation of environmental policy measures in cooperation with the competent public services.
- Development of environmental services.

- Natura 2000: Area 845 km² or 57,2% of the region
- Five state forests: Area 500 km² or 34% of the region

Protected areas in the Troodos region



Drought monitoring over a period of 18 years: 2000-2018

Breaking point

Troodos region to acquire the capacity to leverage the increasingly robust environmental policies for the protection, management and utilisation of its natural resources

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Evaluation

• • •

- Troodos is the main source of water for Cyprus
- Existence of several dams/ tanks

Problems - Shortages

- Excessive number of IAs & IDs for rational management.
- Significant water loss due to irrigation networks
- Weaknesses in the system of monitoring and controlling water consumption
- Lack of tools and means to evaluate: (a) water management at a community level and (b) the water balance at a water basin level

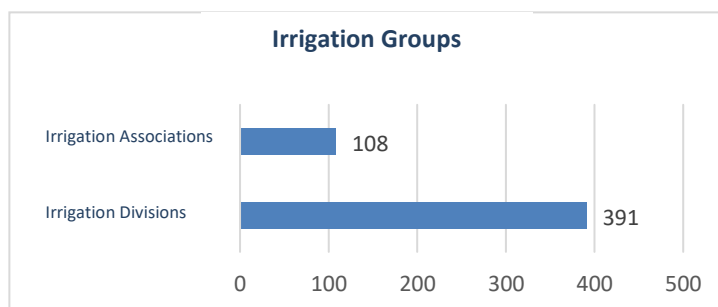
• • •

- **Articulation of Water & Development Policy**
- **Specialisation of the 2nd RBM Plan for Troodos & Communities**
- **Modernisation of Irrigation – Water Supply Networks**
- **Institutional and operational organisation of the Troodos region in two scales: (a) Communities and (b) River Basins**
- **Identification of environmental services (ecological water)**

Numerous rivers/ streams start from the Troodos mountain range.
The average annual rainfall is greater than 1100 mm.
The total average runoff in Cyprus is of $200 \times 106\text{m}^3$ annually



Map of Hydrologic Regions & River Basins



Large number of irrigation groups in Troodos region

Breaking Point

Need to re-establish water institutions & redefine their mission: sustainable water resource management, irrigation efficiency, link to local development.

ROAD NETWORK & COMMUNICATIONS

Road network organisation in two basic scales

A. Regional Scale: connectivity of the region to external poles and areas

• With the two big cities

Nicosia-Evrychou: service of Solea and Marathasa. Evaluation of alternative roadway alignments

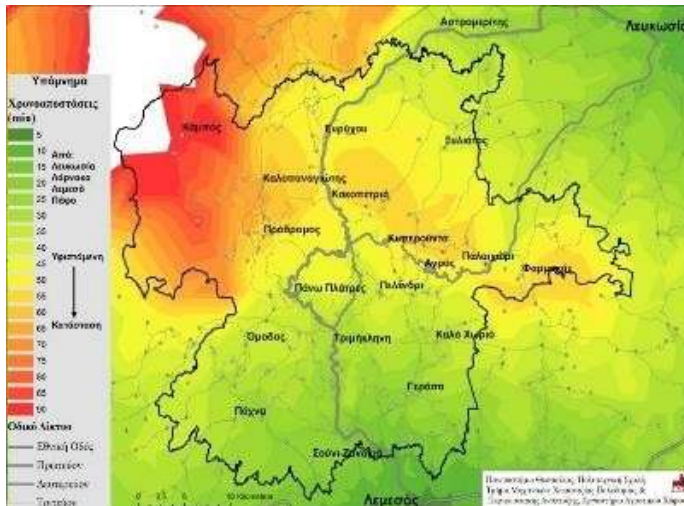
Nicosia - Palaichori: Service of N. Pitsilia. Significant reduction of distance and time in the perimeter of Nicosia

Limassol – Troodos: service of southern Troodos. Significant reduction of distance and time in the section Palodia - Alassa

• Small-scale inter-provincial connections

Larnaca via Odou, Ayios Nicolaos Pafos from Mandria and Kaminaria and to Lefka's roadblock: secondary entrance gates to Troodos with tourism importance. They need to be improved.

Distance and time from Cyprus' 4 urban centres

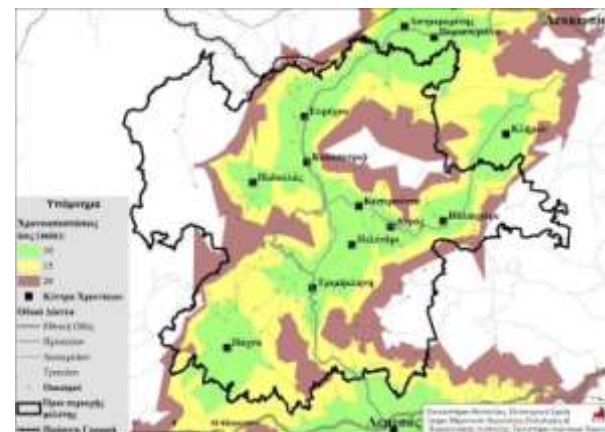


Evaluation

• • •

- ☐ Satisfactory coverage of the region
- ☐ Adequate service of transportation to basic health and education units, as well as workplaces
- ☐ Nature of works is often fragmentary
- ☐ Issues of redistribution of the responsibility of the road network to the competent bodies
- ☐ Utilisation of the "Digital Strategy of Cyprus" for the improvement of access to services and the improved access to and from mountain Communities
- ☐ Need to improve the planning based on the positive perspectives for the development of tourism and second homes
- ☐ Lack of integrated and targeted traffic policy

Distance and time from Troodos' residential centres



B. Troodos scale (internal connectivity): the contribution of the local road network to the mobility and access of the population to employment and services is of particular importance

- Connectivity between proximity/ service areas (e.g. Pedoulas, Pachna, Palaichori) and isolated village units (capacity & inter-communal roads). Roads that help to diffuse traffic and that need to be upgraded according to the basic specifications. Main focus areas: N. and S. Marathasa, N. and S. Pitsilia, Ayios Mamas – Kalo Chorio – Arakapas axis.
- Connectivity between historic areas and main settlements (main road axes connecting the villages of the region): dealing with difficulties in the passage of Karvounas, improving technical characteristics of the roads (e.g. construction of 2 + 1 lanes)

The highway scenario: towards the adoption of gradual and departmental selection

The diagnosis (simulation of the effects on the distance and time of the three proposed highway projects – works) reveals that:

a) The Nicosia – Palaichori route is the best solution for the improvement of access to and from the central Troodos as indicated in the following maps:



Distance and time from the 4 cities (existing network)



Proposed highway projects – works (2019 -2030) and distance and time from the 4 cities

b) The cost for the construction of all the projects is excessive in relation to the expected reduction of distance and time.

Based on this, it is suggested to investigate the adjustment of the planning and scheduling of the execution of the three highways, aiming at: a) the simultaneous and gradual construction of these relevant projects up to the Troodos entrance gates (contribute to a significant reduction of distance and time Denia – Astromeritis, Anthoupolis Regional, Limassol – Alassa) and

b) the substantial improvement of the sections located within the region, mostly for road safety.



Proposed highway sections arising from the study as well as distance and time (Nicosia & Limassol)

Evaluation:

From the comparison of the construction plan of the new highways and the proposed scenario of improvement of the road sections within the area, it results that both distance and time remain unaltered.

RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

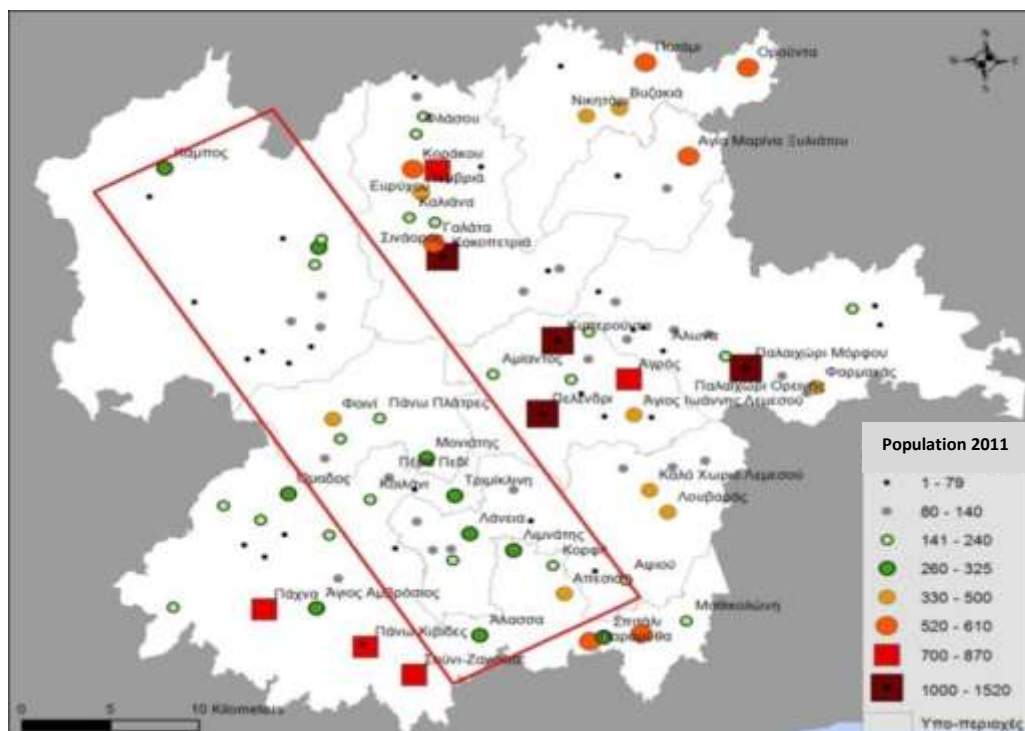
- ❑ 115 small settlements, **only 8 settlements with a population of 800 – 1.500 inhabitants**
- ❑ Problematic population zones: Marathasa, Mountain Resorts, central and western Krasochoria
- ❑ A number of 12 settlements provide a significant number of government services and commercial services. They are divided into **Settlement Areas – Networks** (Solea, Southern Pitsilia, Moniatis – Platres – Foini – Mandria – Omodos zone) and **Individual Proximity Areas** (Pedoulas, Palaichori, Pachna, Trimiklini)

Population size class (inh.)	Number of settl.	% in relation to the total number of settlements	Population
< 80 κατ.	29	26,4	1100
80-140 κατ.	24	21,8	2815
141-240 κατ.	22	20	4100
260-325 κατ.	10	9,1	2954
330-500 κατ.	9	8,2	3836
520-610 κατ.	7	6,4	3961
700-870 κατ.	5	4,5	4042
1000-1520 κατ.	4	3,6	4883
Total	110	100	27695

Evaluation

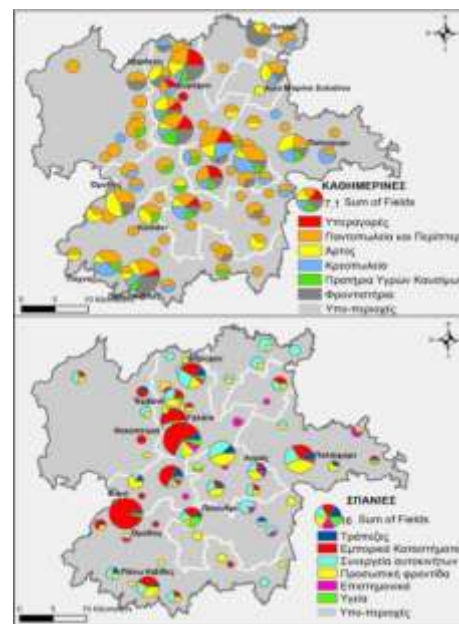
...

- ❑ Development of a multicentre network of relatively large settlements extending on the main road axes of Troodos
- ❑ Problematic Population zones: Marathasa, Mountain Resorts, central and on the west
- ❑ The service of the population by government and private services is problematic due to their dispersion in many settlements of the region. Only Evrychou emerges as a centre of administrative services.



Private Services

- From the distribution and concentration of services, 8 central settlements of level 1 and 6 settlements of level 2 result. The distribution of health and education infrastructure strengthens the centrality of four settlements (Evrychou, Agros, Pachna and Palaichori). It is interesting to see the conversion of the area of Trimiklini – Platres – Foini and Omodos to a residential unit of services.
- A total of 12 settlements provide a significant number of government services and commercial services. They are divided into **Settlement Areas - Networks** (Solea, Southern Pitsilia, Moniatis – Platres – Foini – Mandria – Omodos zone) and **Individual Proximity Areas** (Pedoulas, Palaichori, Pachna, Trimiklini)
- The relationship that each village has with neighbouring settlements to cover the services that each village does not have was mapped.



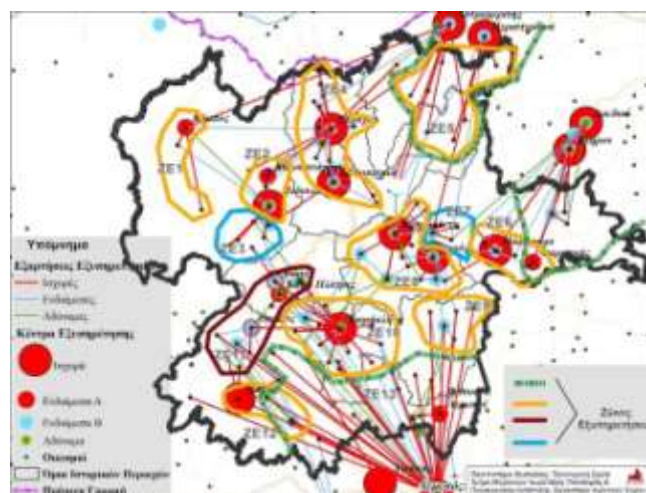
The mapping indicates the service scope of the settlements that have a sufficient number of services.

- Need to convert the existing housing network (clusters of residential centres, proximity to residential centres, village units) into a structured and hierarchical system of settlements organised at the level of Troodos.

Table 1. Services provided in central residences

Residences	population	No of services		Education					Health	
		Public	Commercial	K	P	G	L	PL	RHC	Hospit
Evrychou	827	7	29	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Kakopetria	1274/581	4	26	+	+					
Kyperounta	1516	2	31	+	+			+		+
Agros	806	5	20	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Pelendri	1074	2	17	+	+					
Pachna	865	2	20	+	+				+	
Palaichori	1019	2	19	+	+				+	
Pedoulas	132	3	12						+	
Trimiklini	307	-	15	+	+					
Platres	239	7	7						+	
Omodos	322	2	9			+			+	
Foini	391	-	18							

Service centres, dependence and service zones



EDUCATION

Educational Structures and Infrastructure

1. Protection – day-care structures for preschool children: 4 kindergartens, 1 day-care centre, 2 summer schools and 4 children's clubs. The Community Volunteer Councils and LGA contribute to the operation of the above structures.

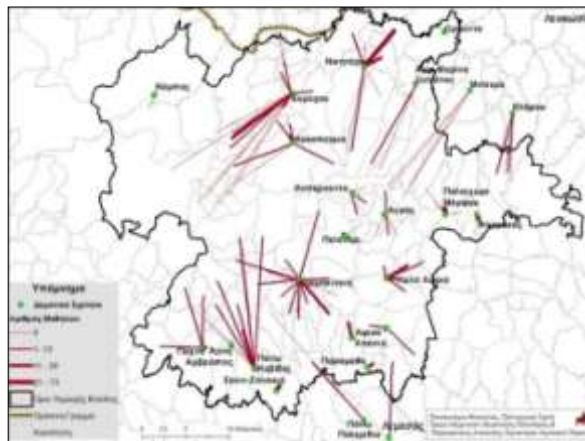
2. Public Kindergartens – Pre-primary: 20

5% increase in public kindergarten students

3. Primary Schools: 21 to 1052 students

- 12 all-day primary schools- stabilisation and/ or small increase in the number of students in recent years
- Several one-teacher schools causing inequalities in the education provided

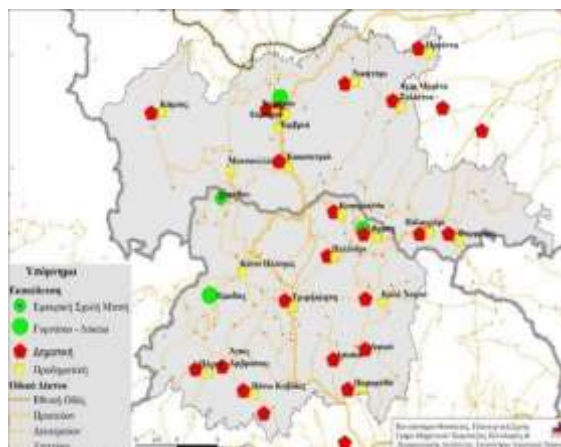
Distribution of primary schools & concentration villages



4. Gymnasium and Lyceum Units : 4 to 715 students and Hospitality School in Agros Gymnasium with 44 students

5. State Institutes of Further Education, EEC and Adult Education Centres: The contribution to the needs of students and adults of the Troodos area is significant. The EEC in Pedoulas is positively evaluated. The completion of the EEC in Koilani is expected.

Location of schools of all levels



Evaluation

• • •

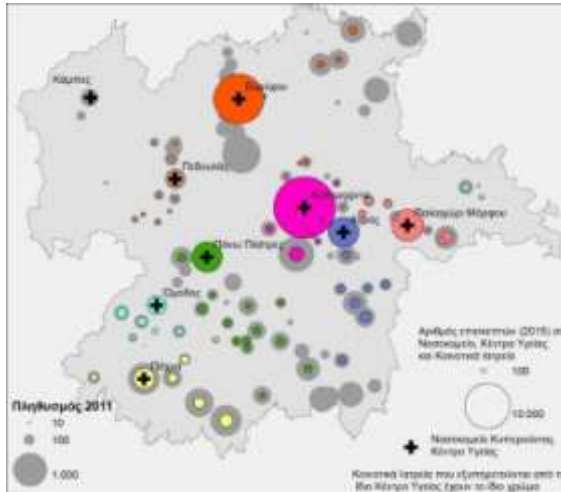
- Rational management of available resources in preschool structures. Limited cooperation and waste of resources due to lack of coordination between the co-competent bodies (MEC, MLWSI, LGA)
- The proportion of teachers in Primary and Secondary schools is high and the fact that most teachers are not locals has a negative effect.
- Utilisation of the Bill on the merger of School Committees.
- The development of shadow education reflects some weaknesses of the education system while creating distortions in family strategies that often lead to relocation of families to cities.
- Optimisation of the combination of the coverage of the space and quality of services for all levels of education and especially the lower ones.
- Dealing with one-teacher schools by integrating new digital optical technology in the educational process.
- Lack of an educational ecosystem in Troodos to support entrepreneurship, employment and youth integration in the local community.

HEALTH

❑ Organisation – operation of Health Structures and Infrastructure

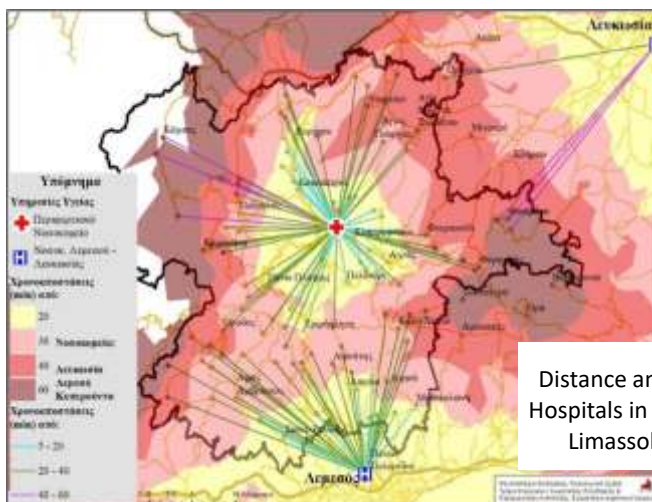
- Primary health care: outpatient clinics of Kyperounta Hospital, 8 Rural Health Centres and 68 community clinics.
- Prehospital health care: six Ambulance Centres (in Public Hospitals, Ambulance Stations) and Accident and Emergency Departments (Kyperounta Hospital and in all Health Centres)
- Hospital Health care. Kyperounta Rural Hospital

Patient flow in Health Services



Implementation of the GHS

- autonomisation of bodies,
- clustering of health units,
- upgrading the Ambulance Service,
- introduction of the PD institution,
- establishment of a Health Insurance Organisation (HIO).



Evaluation

...

- ❑ Problems due to opening hours and on call system
- ❑ Dysfunctional operation of ambulances with volunteer drivers
- ❑ Dysfunctional operation of the Rural Hospital in terms of infrastructure, equipment and staffing. Satisfactory accessibility due to location
- ❑ Community Clinics: Degraded role and limited services provided
- ❑ Concerns for the successful implementation of the PD institution based on the particularities of the region.

Inadequate space coverage and reduced quality of health services provided.

Degradation of Kyperounta Hospital, basic operation of the RHC and devaluation of Community Clinics

Inefficiency in managing the resources available to offer quality services to the population of the region

The implementation of the GHS in the region to take into account the mountain areas, the large percentage of the elderly and the seasonal increase of the population (second homes, expatriates, visitors)

Administrative, managerial and historical division of the Troodos region

Historic Areas



Zones of settlements served per school unit



Regions and Health Services



Waste Complexes

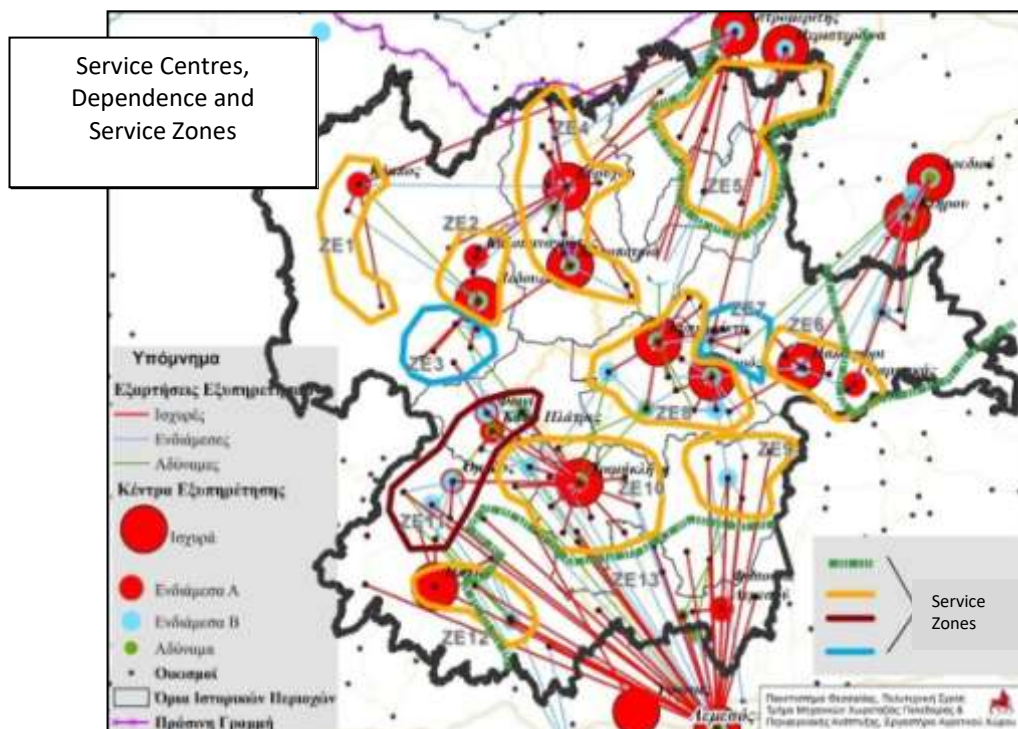


Zones of activities of Troodos & Limassol Development Companies

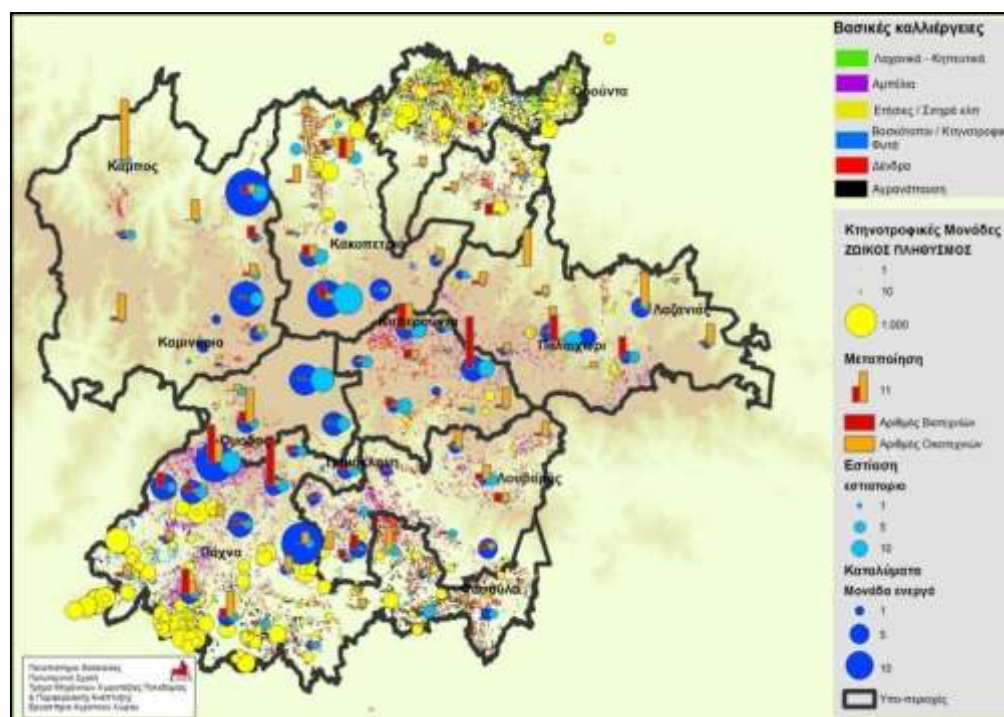
District Agricultural Offices



Fundamental spatial structures of the Troodos region
residential and productive units



When it comes to historic areas, residential units have been formed which are almost always polarised by a central settlement



When it comes to the same historic areas, agricultural holdings, processing and tourism businesses coexist, constituting small-scale versions of the local mountain economy.

4. Diagnostic Conclusions – Development Profile

The deregulation of the socio-economic system of the Troodos region took place approximately between 1980 and 2010. The region experienced a continuous decrease in population, passing from sixty to thirty thousand inhabitants. Today, its main residential areas are not recovering in population while 20% of the communities do not have young people less than 24 years of age. The utilisation of natural and cultural resources does not secure the added value they deserve.

Agriculture has abandoned more than half of its land while there is a deterioration of irrigation infrastructure which is underperforming at increasing costs. Almost half of the heads of agricultural holdings live on a permanent basis in Limassol and Nicosia. The abandonment of agricultural land (vineyards-arboriculture) degrades the natural environment of the region and raises the issue of recovery and management of this productive capital.

The **processing**, mainly of agri-food products, utilises traditional know-how and moves between the craft industry and a promising cottage industry. However, it is up against an institutional environment which fails to support its particularity by confining it to a regime of lawlessness. At the same time, the region lacks training, lifelong learning, and entrepreneurship structures capable of supporting the specific needs of local businesses.

In **tourism**, the collapse of the Mountain Resorts was followed by the agrotourism policy and the establishment of an institutional framework which led to illegal tourist accommodations. At the same time, the lack of a distinct Troodos tourist product limits the tourism activity to two-day and social tourism. The new promising endogenous initiatives, developed in the form of Casale-type accommodations, utilise the natural and cultural heritage but are also up against a non-flexible and dysfunctional business environment.

The region retains the elements for building the **new mountain economy** (ties between agriculture, processing and tourism). However, while these sectors maintain links with the site and its heritage, it has not been possible to highlight and promote the distinctiveness of the products and services offered. There is also a lack of coordinated effort to support entrepreneurship, especially among young people.

Resource management: The close and enhanced interdependencies between the living environment, nature and productive resources, highlight the need to coordinate cooperation between the various management systems implemented in the region. In particular, the issue of water management is urgently raised. The region has a complex system and dense irrigation/ water supply network. However, the pressure to redistribute the available quantities based on the new needs (increase of tourists, visitors, environment, agriculture) raises the issue of streamlining the management and the system with the participation of local actors.

Road Networks and Infrastructure: The road network of the region was designed mainly to facilitate access from urban centres to selected high traffic areas of the region without balancing this orientation with a plan to improve key axes of internal connectivity.

Both in road networks and in a number of other infrastructures and services, the division of the region into two provinces and the retention of the community as a basic scale of infrastructure planning, led to ineffective interventions (road network between Northern and Southern Marathasa and Alona-Polystopos with Agros and Kyperounta area).

Where the planning incorporated the whole region (e.g. organisation of education and health, irrigation and sewerage network of Solea), the results are more positive, primarily in terms of geographical coverage and secondary in terms of the quality of services provided.

When it comes to policies, Troodos was not treated as a single space. It was approached more as a place of visit and recreation. The lack of public planning for the entire region of Troodos contributed to the irrational development of the region. The majority of public investment and infrastructure as well as their targets are limited to the communities' level. Only a few of them have an intercommunity dimension.

With reference to **depopulation**, agricultural land abandonment and growth stagnation, two trends have emerged that affect the course of the region. The first concerns the dominance of nature protection over other uses, while the second focuses on attracting small investors to buy a second home as the only development goal for Troodos. This goal, considered as the only revitalisation solution, led to the excessive expansion of residential areas by adopting scattered construction and secluded detached houses. Therefore, it is not inexplicable that for the vast majority of community leaders, the claims are still limited to the activation of residential areas. The issue does not arise from the claims themselves but from the lack of a comprehensive plan to support permanent residents and attract young people.

Any fragmented efforts to strengthen local functions (e.g. relocation of government services) that could lead to the development of private services, collide with the small number of permanent residents (in the majority of communities) and the large rate of population ageing. The weak return migration trends of young people identified are not supported by a comprehensive policy of attracting and retaining youth and businesses.

Promoting local community development issues requires broader planning scales (settlement units, historic areas).

Values and resources (weak indications but of great potential)

The importance of Troodos for Cyprus is growing, becoming a fundamental issue of conservation, management and development for the country. The diagnosis identified behind the above negative situations and trends, weak indications of potential and initiatives that formed the basis for the evaluation of the stakes, prospects and potential for the development of the region.

Troodos constitutes, after all, a special natural geographical formation of multifaceted and invaluable value for Cyprus, gathering in a unique way for the whole country:

- Sites of natural resources, biodiversity and landscape (forests, meadows, dry stone walls) often threatened by desertification or land use change,
- Agricultural land still utilised with traditional crops. Their preservation contributes to the survival of the active population and to the strengthening of its role in the management of open landscapes and in the prevention of risks,
- Significant small-sized craft undertakings' potential that utilises local know-how but is unable to operate in a non-flexible institutional environment,
- Areas with rich cultural heritage and identity, which can be valued through commercial goods, the so-called mountain products,
- Significant links with the expatriate population which makes this important human capital active,
- a housing stock which is a huge asset,
- stock of unused infrastructure,
- water resources which it produces and manages, especially in summer, by storing these resources mainly in reservoirs, dams, etc.,
- Tourist attractions and leisure activities

5. Vision and Mission

The NSDMC is at the service of the vision that expresses the wishes and goals of the Troodos region, the Cyprus' Government and Public Administration.

The mission statement is at the service of the Strategy and expresses the will of the Republic of Cyprus to put into use the necessary means and available resources to coordinate the whole project in cooperation with the local forces.

Vision

“The Troodos mountain communities to be formed into a development entity and to become an attractive place to live, with a high value economy based on their heritage and in harmony with the natural environment”

The vision is common to a very high degree, accepted, acts as a motivator and announces the intentions of the people of Troodos for the future. It defines the goal of planning and development towards the implementation of sustainable “territorial development” in the region, by integrating the living environment, preserving the natural and cultural heritage and promoting a mountain economy of higher value.

Mission Statement

State assistance in the implementation of the NSDMC in a new governance framework:

“Coordinating the implementation of the NSDMC, and putting into use the available productive, social, cultural, environmental and financial resources, to promote the sustainable development of mountain communities (increase in incomes and improvement of living conditions) in cooperation with local bodies”

6. Formulation of Special and General Directions

I. *Population*: Retaining and attracting population and new fields of employment

- Planning and implementation of short-term and long-term policies to curb its population and demographic situation focusing on a Policy to Attract and Retain Population:
 - ✓ Integrated Housing Policy of Troodos Mountain Communities
 - ✓ Job creation through the increase at a local level of the added value of Troodos products and services (Environmental services)
 - ⇒ operation of an educational ecosystem based on the standard Education, training and lifelong learning to upgrade human resources and support entrepreneurship and employment.
 - ✓ Living environment (services)
 - ⇒ Ensuring creativity (cultural, sporting activities and
 - ⇒ improving welfare benefits

General Direction:

enhancing the positive image and attractiveness of the mountain areas in the face of risks of decline, ageing and economic marginalisation by investing in environment, quality of life and the growing demands of the living environment, while taking into account

the long-term effects of anthropogenic interventions (construction) in areas limited by the natural environment and the exposure to hazards.

II. *Territorial Mountain Economy and increase in Added Value*: organisational/ institutional issues

- Building the new Troodos mountain economy through the development of horizontal relations (cooperation, quality agreements) between agriculture, processing and tourism, and vertical links (heritage, terroirs, know-how) with the area.
- Production and promotion of local products and services through quality systems.
- Support of the concept of multifunctional agriculture (environment-landscapes, land, employment).
- Implementation of special measures to reduce the trend of abandonment of agricultural land in favour of other uses given its rarity.

- Creation of a flexible institutional framework for businesses and entrepreneurship.
- Establishment of cooperation networks to support the transition to quality and identity products (education, advice and research).
- Strengthening of the local business ecosystem to promote competitiveness based on the distinctiveness of Troodos products and services.
- Establishment of multi-organisations at multiple levels of governance (cooperation of businesses, producers and other social and competent public bodies)
- Promotion of alternative and special forms of tourism adapted to the region
- Establishment of the Troodos tourist product and shift of the tourist planning reasoning from “accommodation” to “activity”
- Territorial marketing planning for the promotion of Troodos tourism based on highlighting and guaranteeing the relationship of local resources, experiences and activities
- Reform of the Policy Statement in order to become a flexible system of space management and regulation of land uses (productive zones, terroirs, tourism activities – natural environment, housing-cottage industry, installation of RES, etc.)

General Direction:

Support of the quality and sustainability of activities and landscapes (quality products, purchase and protection of agricultural land, recognition of the full value of forests, cottage industries, tourism adapted to local resources)
restricting competition between different land uses (residential, recreational, productive etc.) and pressures on the natural environment.

III. *Living environment: Housing reorganisation, services, spatial planning*

- Housing network organisation (residential centres and housing units)
- Strengthening the housing functions, services and infrastructure of the living environment based on polycentrism at an intermediate level of spatial organisation and development planning at the level of historic areas.
- The organisation of the road network to take into account the housing and spatial organisation of Troodos and the prospect of development of the settlement network.
- Balancing external (urban centres) with internal (residential areas and isolated settlements) connectivity.
- Ensuring a balance between covering the region and improving the quality of the services provided (health and education) taking into account the limitations of mountain areas, the local dimension of Troodos and the contribution of the ICT

- Enhancing the coherence of the subsystems of the Troodos Health System and harmonizing its integration in the GHS.
- Strengthening the role of Public Education (formal and non-formal) in Troodos taking into account local social, economic, environmental and cultural conditions, particularities and perspectives.
- Improving the quality of the educational services provided
 - ✓ Priority zone of Troodos mountain schools
 - ✓ Distance education (remote learning)
- Development of an efficient and economically viable health system in the Troodos region that will provide quality health services to its population and will be a pole of attraction for citizens – consumers of health services outside the region.
- Reform of the Policy Statement to convert it into a flexible space management framework that regulates land uses (housing, craft industry), the location of infrastructure and activities contributing to the functionality of the settlement network.

General Direction:

improving accessibility (especially for larger settlements) and providing equipment and services,

while strengthening the mobility of the population and the relations between them reducing at the same time the effects of “obstacles” by strengthening the relations between the settlements and the networking of the various actors (bodies, companies, clusters).

IV. *Protection, conservation and management of the Natural Environment: Enhancing the capacity of the area and implementing horizontal environmental policies.*

The undivided management of nature protection areas with the integration of human activity (Forest, Natura, High Nature Value Production Systems and Terroirs) as a precursor of a transition policy to agro-ecology

- The change of the model of Organisation and Management of Water Resources of Troodos aiming at the viable/ sustainable management of water resources in the study area within the river basins and the management framework (2nd River Basin Management Plan)
- Troodos to become an energy sustainable region, adapted to climate change where carbon dioxide emissions will be drastically reduced through the use of RES (solar and wind energy, biomass energy) and energy saving.

General Direction

specific precautionary measures (participatory management plans) to be taken into account due to the region's sensitivity to global warming and the expected impacts

on biodiversity conservation, increased natural hazards, the sustainability of agricultural or tourism systems or the development of traffic flows.

V. Local Culture: Mountain culture, identity and local economy

- Utilising the interest of consumers and the economy for the benefit of cultural heritage and to contribute to the increase of the added value of local products
- Protection – preservation of the cultural heritage of Troodos and its contribution to the upgrading of the cultural product produced and offered in the region
- Streamlining and better utilisation of existing cultural infrastructure
- Empowerment of local communities through the knowledge of their history

General Direction:

to protect and preserve the mountain culture and highlight its timeless value through the connection with the local economy and the active participation of the local community.

VI. Local Government: Direction of the implementation framework of the NSDMC

- The area has never been an administrative entity, nor does it have a single coordination and representation structure, strong structures for planning, management and implementation of development plans in collaboration with the Central Administration. In this regard, the promotion of cross-sectoral issues should be supported by the following horizontal interventions:
- New organisational forms of cooperation and coordination at local and national level governance organisation for the Troodos region
- Organisation of spatial planning at the level of historic areas and Troodos
- Adaptation of the institutional framework to the particular conditions of the mountain areas
- support mechanisms
- utilisation of all possible financial sources and search for the appropriate financial tool in the context of the EU territorial policy
- These interventions have a structural institutional character and can form the backbone of the implementation framework of the NSDMC, contributing to the formation of the development entity of the Troodos region

Direction: Troodos Region

to build a common government (elected, economic actors, collective actors, scientists etc.) operating at the scale of Troodos as a principle of consultation and coherence between the various actors, but also as a producer of knowledge and consensus, facilitating the implementation of public and local policies to meet the challenges of the Troodos mountain communities.

Direction: Republic of Cyprus

to coordinate its interventions in the areas of governance, participatory planning, institutional arrangements and horizontal support mechanisms for the formation of the region into a development entity, utilising the EU territorial policy and the Government's reform efforts for decentralised cooperation.

7. Priorities for Troodos

- The evaluation of the above framework of guidelines raises priorities which should be promoted by the strategy of “sustainable territorial development” of the Troodos region through multiple specific actions. This strategy should, through these actions that will derive from local projects, having as its main objective to:
- create a vibrant and attractive mountain area, investing in the quality of life, unique resources and sustainable environmental management
- maintain and move towards the quality and identity of a productive economy
- serve people: education, mobility, health, culture and digital technology.
- build an ecological transition policy
- adopt a series of innovative public policies (e.g. policy to attract youth)
- establish a government that seeks solidarity and cooperation and promotes research
- strengthen support mechanisms (education, advice, entrepreneurship and research to understand and anticipate socio-economic and environmental developments in mountain areas)

8. The strategy framework

The Troodos strategic advantage

The integration of the region in the Cypriot and then in the international economy, deregulated the mountainous system of organisation of the economic and social life. However, despite the fact that this system has lost its functions, it retained those elements that allow the attempt to reorganise it in the context of the new consumer society. These elements are:

- ❖ Inherited resources (productive, natural, social). The shift of the markets towards quality and identity orient towards the emergence of the links of the products with the heritage of Troodos' timeless values (social ties, ties to expatriates, traditional cultures, know-how...)
- ❖ The Troodos territorial system which retains the main pillars characterising its structure and coherence: the Leaders of the local economy, civil society (organised groups) and the elected representatives of Local Authorities. The whole system is supported by the local development company TDC.

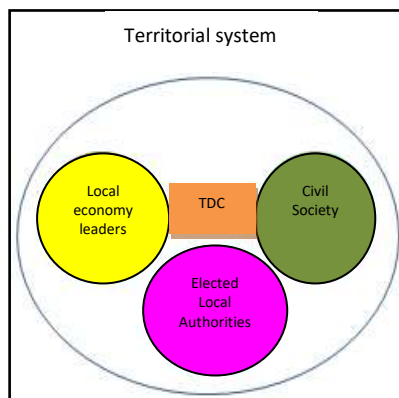
Therefore, if the Troodos region was considered in the context of the intensive development model as inferior due to the inability to increase productivity in comparison to the lowlands, today its resources and their non-intensive utilisation constitute its **main advantage**.

Troodos as a sensitive and complex space must acquire the organisational and operational capacity to put these advantages into use.

The reasoning behind the strategic framework

The planning of the NSDMC adopts the **principles of sustainable development** and favours the **territorial approach of the development** as the most suitable for the conditions and development potential of the mountain communities of the Troodos region.

The main aim is the reorganisation of the territorial system of the Troodos region and the reintegration of their resources into a territorial way of development as well as the attractiveness of the living environment for the settlement of young people. This pursuit should be promoted operationally through a series of objectives such as:



1. The **restoration of the endogenous productive system** so that it will constitute the driving force of economic, social development by increasing the added value of its products locally.
2. **Ensuring the balance between protection and development** for the reproduction of natural & cultural heritage resources and their contribution to establishing competitiveness based on distinctiveness.

Organisation system of social and economic life (strengthening of housing functions, improvement of services).

3. **Improving the functionality of the living environment** through more appropriate planning scales between the geographical sub-regions and the proposed clusters, as to connect the spatial and development planning and to optimise the relationship between quality of services and coverage of the region.

4. **Need to bridge the population gaps** caused by the exit in order to ensure the necessary critical mass for the whole system of organisation of social and economic life (strengthening housing functions, improving services)

5. **Territorial entity - Governance**

The implementation of the model of territorial development supports the formation of the region into a territorial entity in the development sense of the term. Establishing a widely accepted government (elected, unions, professionals, scientists) in the Troodos region is the necessary and decisive action to be taken for the coordination of its actors and its institutional expression to the outside world.

The combination of territorial development, which contributes to the strengthening of the local economy and governance as a form of institutional integration in the national political-administrative system is the foundation of the conversion of the region into a territorial development entity.

Towards a sustainable model of territorial development: the targeting of the NSDMC

The NSDMC should aim, based on the principle of territorial solidarity and justice and through sustainable and territorial development, to ensure a balance between the protection and utilisation of the significant natural and cultural heritage of the region in:

a) improving the income of the people of Troodos which is connected with the establishment of a **New Mountain Economy**.

Its adaptation to the new productive environment cannot be attempted on the basis of the existing institutional framework organised on sectoral policies. The mountain economy must regain the **territorial dimension of production** (ties with the place) as an alternative to the crisis of overproduction and the stereotype of products and tourism services.

Market demand for products linked to local resources allows heritage areas such as Troodos to base their competitiveness on **distinctiveness** rather than cost reduction. This development is driven by consumers, leads to a **mountain economy of high added value**, and presupposes the coordination of local actors, the adaptation of sectoral policies and the support of entrepreneurship.

b) improving the living conditions (territorial solidarity and justice) which is mainly related to the field of **social infrastructure** (health, education, care and cultural creation).

The recognition of the disadvantages of mountain areas by the EU and Cyprus legitimises the NSDMC to propose as a location criterion not the number of beneficiaries but the **service of the area**. Additionally, the consequences and costs of abandonment widen the potential **spatial interventions** which are associated not so much with the number of inhabitants of mountain areas, but with the nature of their relationship with the surrounding area. The NSDMC takes into account that the challenge for the Government and the Public Administration is to ensure the balance between the coverage of the area and the quality of the services provided.

Achieving these two goals is decisive in order to tackle the demographic and population issue which is of key importance for the region. Due to the need for urgent intervention in this complex issue, a comprehensive Population Attraction and Retaining Policy must be implemented, combining access to housing, services and employment.

Strategic goals

Three factors impose on the NSDMC to organise its **Strategic Goals** on the basis of the triptych of mountain areas: production, nature and living environment

- a) the content of sustainable development revolves around the three environmental, social and economic poles in the long run;
- b) the territorial model of development, focusing on the utilisation of local resources, needs to organise the rational framework of objectives and interventions in a way that strengthens the interconnection of functions between production, nature and living environment;
- c) the particularities of the mountain areas in terms of living conditions and the strong interdependence of natural, productive and human resources, requires horizontal adapted policies because of precisely this interdependence.

Tactical Objectives

The directions and their specialisations (of sectoral and cross-sectoral content) which were formulate above, will be promoted through the tactical objectives. This means that tactical objectives should “lead” the driving forces with which the following three strategic objectives will be promoted:

Strategic and tactical objectives		
1st Strategic Objective: Troodos: a place of resources of recognised value	TS 1.1:	Promoting the quality and identity of local products and services
	TS 1.2:	Improving human resources and the business environment and promoting cross-sectoral collaborations
2nd Strategic Objective: Balanced protection and utilisation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage	TS 2.1:	Single sustainable management of the Natural Environment and anthropogenic activities
	TS 2.2:	Cultural Heritage management as an active element of local identity and economy
3rd Strategic Objective: Attractive living environment in a functional polycentric settlement network	TS 3.1:	Improving basic, technical, environmental and transport infrastructure
	TS 3.2:	Upgrading the quality and spatial reorganisation of social and cultural services
	TS 3.3:	Improving the housing and spatial organisation

1st Strategic Objective:

Troodos: a place of resources of recognised value

The Troodos development project is part of the overall effort of the highlands to plan their future and progress by adopting a new model of development. This model is based on the realisation that it is no longer possible for a mountain area to become competitive in the market by reducing the cost of goods and services offered. This difficulty is explained by the disadvantages arising from the particularity of mountain areas and the need for large investments and heavy infrastructure.

Another development path must therefore be sought, the context of which is determined by EU policies and experiences, and the general consumer trend towards quality and identity. Achieving this goal is based on highlighting the distinctiveness of Troodos' products which in turn ensures competitiveness and increased added value of products in relation to similar products of other regions and countries. Troodos can support such a development choice by utilising at the same time with its productive potential, the external (links with the region) and internal (organoleptic properties of products) characteristics of its resources and final products.

This goal will be achieved by certifying the quality and identity of local products and services (quality systems) utilising the Natural and Cultural Heritage, the upgrading the business environment and the contact with specific markets. Increasing locally the added value of products and services, will contribute to increasing the income of residents and enhance the attractiveness of the area. For the Government, and the Central Administration, this option does not have a high cost, is part of its environmental and development strategies and meets the goals of food quality and territorial cohesion.

Tactical objective 1.1 :**Promoting the quality and identity of local products and services**

This objective will contribute to building competitiveness based on the high quality and identity characteristics and the distinctiveness of Troodos products. The promotion of this objective is based on intangible infrastructure with emphasis on new technologies and the strengthening of the organisational sector (multi-organisational cooperation of producers, research organisations, Development Companies, competent public services, etc.).

It will contribute to the creation of idiosyncratic and distinctive products and services and will contribute to the support of the integration in quality systems (PDO, PGI, Mountain Product, PGS etc.), and in the design of a territorial marketing. Achieving these objectives is expected to have the following overall operation results for the region.

Tactical Objective 1.2:**Improving human resources and the business environment and promoting cross-sectoral collaborations**

This objective simultaneously activates and combines three areas related to the construction of the new Troodos Mountain Economy, utilising the results of the previous tactical objective (1.1): a) mobilisation and upgrading of human resources (information, education, training), b) creation of a favourable business environment (support and institutional arrangements) and c) collaborations between the three pillars of the local economy through quality agreements and quality systems (organisation and coordination).

This tactical objective will contribute to the utilisation of the industry specialisations and local products that the region has, increasing the penetration in quality markets (local, national, international). The aim is, in combination with tactical objective (1.1), to integrate these local products through partnerships, in the local and national tourism activity. Achieving this tactical objective will increase the recognition of Troodos products and the diversification of markets and, above all, will enhance the attractiveness of cottage industry and agricultural activities for young people.

2nd Strategic objective:

Balanced protection and utilisation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage

Both the natural and cultural (N&C) resources of the Troodos region are part of effective management and protection systems designed and implemented by the competent public bodies. However, the sustainable use of these resources is part of their protection. This requires a single management with the involvement of local actors to agree on common obligations and rights as to ensure a balance between protection and exploitation.

This objective aims to ensure the harmonious relationship between protection, management, promotion and utilisation of basic resources in quality, identity and number of local resources both tangible (forests, landscapes, monuments, etc.) and intangible (history, myths, tradition etc.). Highlighting the N&C resources of Troodos, recognisable for their history, will support alternative development directions in Troodos. It is possible to make these resources, in the context of a sustainable relationship between nature and human activity, economically utilisable by the local community.

The strategic importance of this objective is also reinforced by its focus on promoting the Troodos identity as the component of the great value inherited characteristics of the place of activity of the local community, monuments, landscapes, customs and local history in general. The dynamic element that has increasingly intervened in recent decades in the relationship between identity and heritage constitutes the interest of the economy and consumers in them. This finding means that the protection of Cultural Heritage (CH) is of strategic importance since, in addition to its special historical value, it is a key element for the development of the region and the recognisability and competitiveness of its economy.

This objective, in fact, expresses the operational and sustainable intervention for the utilisation of the N&C Heritage. It responds to the strategic objectives of the Republic of Cyprus for the sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Tactical Objective 2.1 :

Single sustainable management of the Natural Environment and anthropogenic activities

This tactical objective focuses on areas with different protection regimes and in the presence of human activities and takes into account that the ecological transition policies adopted in EU countries require:

the ability to jointly manage areas where the Forest, Natura areas, agriculture, animal husbandry and other human activities coexist

the development and implementation of special tools for the management of natural areas and water resources, which incorporate regulations, provisions, specifications and regulations, in the design and implementation of which local bodies will also participate.

The aforementioned will be promoted through:

- a) the creation of innovative cooperation structures of the public services and local actors involved, in order to harmonise the various overlaps of responsibilities, and
- b) the co-formulation of appropriate protection actions and management plans.

Tactical Objective 2.2 :

Cultural Heritage (CH) management as an active element of local identity and economy

The objective aims at managing and transforming the CH into an active element of the local identity and economy by highlighting its links with the local community, its productions and activities. This objective will be promoted through a body that will coordinate the cultural governance (Public, Private and Social Institutions) seeking the:

contribution of the utilisation of local heritage in ensuring its reproduction, enrichment of the local tourist product with a product bearing CH elements and integration of its functions in tourism activities,

active involvement of local bodies and stakeholders in management, “reading”, promotion and utilisation of its cultural resources especially for locations where the local community has created experiences and activities, contribution of social, cultural and educational activities to the development of a local identity as an element that incorporates local culture.

3rd Strategic Objective:

Attractive living environment in a functional polycentric settlement network

The strategic objective of improving the quality of life addresses the issue of enhancing the attractiveness of the area, which depends on the functionality of the spatial and residential organisation of the area. This functionality is affected by the particularities of the mountain areas and the dispersion of infrastructure and services in many settlements. This reduces the efficiency of infrastructure and increases its cost.

This strategic objective will contribute to overcoming inherited spatial differences and inequalities as a result of a) policies implemented or not implemented, b) administrative division, c) attractiveness of neighbouring urban centres, d) the inability of the region to compete a productive model based on the intensification of productive factors at the expense of quality and finally, e) the most recent effects of invasion and occupation.

In order to achieve the 3rd strategic objective, the improvement of the mobility of the population, the provision of social services, infrastructure and equipment comparable to those of the rest of Cyprus must be effectively combined. This combination will allow the strengthening of a) the cultural creation of young people, b) the care of the elderly of the area and c) the reconciliation of family and professional life. Finally, in the context of the limitations set by the mountain areas and the lack of central locations, the planning of the housing and spatial planning of the area must contribute to the improvement of the spatial and residential functions, to the emergence of some basic centralities/ and to the coverage of services in wider zones – historic areas.

The strengthening of polycentrism aims to ensure the functional spatial relationship between place of residence, employment and central points of service. This pursuit promotes the long-term goal of retaining and attracting population to all historic areas and isolated communities of the Troodos region and, consequently contributes to its social and territorial cohesion.

Tactical Objective 3.1:

Improving basic, technical, environmental and transport infrastructure

The objective of improving the mobility of population contributes to the habitability and attractiveness of the area. It aims at:

the balanced and progressively implemented policy of promoting the internal and external connectivity of Troodos
improving the quality of life in relation to environmental parameters

protecting the natural environment through high quality infrastructure which is connected with the management of solid and liquid waste, etc.

Promoting the objective will contribute to the improvement of the environmental footprint and the living environment but also to the performance towards the international commitments of the Republic of Cyprus (European Waste Directive, landfills, etc.)

The effective and relatively fast implementation of the relevant actions, without great cost, is connected with the possibility of developing clusters within the Troodos region, and in particular with the adoption of innovative solutions for small communities.

Tactical Objective 3.2:

Upgrading the quality and spatial reorganisation of social and cultural services

This tactical objective aims to contribute to the attractiveness of the area for habitation, through the organisation of space (as a living environment) in a way that ensures the functional relationship between the residence, the place of employment and points of primary social services. The objective focuses on upgrading the services relating to health, education but also culture and entertainment, as a means of creativity for younger and older people. It also addresses the issue of a balanced reorganisation of the spatial distribution of these services, in order to strengthen the fundamental principle of territorial solidarity and justice. This principle is considered important due to the polycentric layout and organisation of the Troodos region (Multifunctional centres, RHCs).

Local social actors can contribute to the general promotion of this tactical objective through the development of social, cultural and collective activities with or without an economic object (Social Economy) under the coordination of the governing structure that will emerge.

Tactical Objective 3.3:

Improving the housing and spatial organisation

The objective aims at formulating an integrated spatial policy framework for Troodos that organises land uses, infrastructure and improves functionality in the area. This spatial framework will constitute the main tool for organising and improving the living environment, which is largely structured by infrastructure and services that are promoted by the two previous tactical objectives (3.2 & 3.2). The pursuit of a quality upgrade of the living environment in Troodos should include actions to improve the housing environment (renovations, etc.) and to attract and retain young people.

The goal is to organise certain centres for the provision of functions and services within a multifunctional, multi-purpose centre and interconnected settlement network with complementary roles and with the assistance of a customised transport system. The primary and necessary services and functions of this network will be complemented by the services of neighbouring cities.

9. NSDMC interventions

The NSDMC organises and proposes the above interventions at two levels:

1. Strategic interventions proposed to the Government and Central Administration:

- Mountain Policy Framework and Principles (Hilliness Principle and Mountain Policy reference area, definition of the National Mountain Area)
- Spatial Planning and Renovations (Policy Statement)
- Policy for Attracting and Retaining Youth
- New Structures for the Management of the natural environment and natural resources of national importance
- Community service clusters in Troodos
- Multi-level governance framework of the Troodos region and implementation of the NSDMC
 - ⇒ governance structure in the context of a decentralised cooperation and clustering,
 - ⇒ adoption of the spatial tool “Integrated Territorial Investment” of the EU.

2. Integrated interventions that concern each of the total of sectors that structure and organise the area:

- Innovative approach to agriculture and animal husbandry
- Processing in the new mountain economy
- New model of the Troodos mountain tourist product
- Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning
- Education
- Natural Environment
- Water resources
- Culture: Troodos Values Project

- Health
- Connectivity and accessibility infrastructure, road network and communications
- Solid and Liquid Waste Management
- Energy: “Energy Strategy – Troodos 2030”
- Exercise, Health and Quality of Life – “Atlas” Project

10. Main objectives for change in the situation

Two key indicators for the return on actions and investments in the Troodos region are estimated and calculated herein. These indicators refer to the population growth and the increase in job positions that will be created and offered within the region.

A. Population growth

This will be achieved by retaining young people and attracting population to the area.

To estimate population growth, the following are taken into account:

the results of the population projection 2015 – 2030 which translates into an increase (10.8%) of about 3.000 inhabitants in the area (0.72% per year, on average); the settling of new couples and/ or families (progressive increase) based on the progress of the implementation of the NSDMC.

Table 1. Population growth scenarios in the period 2019-2030

Population	Population 2019	Population Projection 2015 - 2030	Population after the implementation of the NSCMC (2019-2030)	
			Scenario A	Scenario B
growth		3.000	4.320	9.450
change		+10,8%	+26,4%	+45%
total	27.695	30.695	35.015	40.145

The results of scenario A are related to the case of partial implementation of the NSDMC, while scenario B will be achieved if the **implementation of the main cross-sectoral and horizontal actions** for the economy and the living environment is completed.

For both scenarios, it is estimated that about 50% of the growth will be presented in the suburban communities of Limassol, Koumandaria and Krasochoria, part of Pitsillia of Nicosia and Mountainous Morphou.

For the rest of the Troodos region (Central Troodos, Marathasa, Northern-Western Pitsillia of Nicosia and Solea) it appears that the growth at the end of the 2030s will be 10.2% in the case of scenario A and 17.5% for scenario B.

The population of the area (27.695 people), combined with the natural increase of the local population by 3.000 people, is projected at the end of the next decade **to reach:**

Population growth

35.015 people, based on **Scenario A** [7.320 people (or an increase of 26,4%)],

40.145 people, based on **Scenario B** [12.450 people (or an increase of 45%)].

B. Increase in Job positions

The calculation of the expected increase in job positions in the Troodos region is based on a combination of data and information such as:

the increase of the added value of the products in the three sectors of the local economy,

the creation of services for the environment,

the expected contribution of the entrepreneurship ecosystem to the support of potential entrepreneurs,

the continuation of the financing of the Rural Development Programme of the previous programming periods for the settlement of young farmers,

the forecast in the operational action plan and financing schemes for the sectors of processing and tourism in combination with the trends recorded by the diagnosis, the consultations

the job positions from the services proposed by the implementation of the NSDMC and the settlement of young people

The implementation of the sectoral and cross-sectoral actions of the NSDMC is expected to contribute to the creation of new job positions as follows:

A. Agriculture: Total of job positions in Agriculture : 350

200 people to join the measure “Young Farmers” of the RDP 2021-2030

150 people who will develop agricultural activities

B. Processing: craft industry and cottage industry Total of job positions for Processing: 265

It is planned to create/ modernise:

60 craft undertakings (including the number of existing ones that will be licensed) 30 small and 20 medium-size craft undertakings: 260 job positions

10 wineries: 35 job positions

100 cottage industries creating: **80 job positions**

C. Tourism: total of job positions for Tourism: 600

It is planned to create/ modernise:

72 Tourism businesses creating **200 job positions**

80 Catering companies creating **260 job positions**

Hotels creating **140 job positions**

D. Environment: total of job positions for Environment: 70

It is planned to create 70 job positions in environmental services that will be developed.

E. Support services for the implementation of the NSDMC: Total of job positions: 80

Increasing employment

Overall projected increase in employment in the decade 2020-2030:

1.375 or 21.1% of the jobs currently offered in Troodos

NSDMC Implementation Schedule

The time-planning of the organisation with regard to the implementation of the strategy and of each measure depends on:

- a) the need to ensure the maturity of interventions (governance, organization, institutions, studies, action plans and small needs of new infrastructure)
- b) projects that are planned or in progress
- c) on the flow of funding (timing of the various sources of funding)

The NSDMC funding is based on available resources and their organisation and distribution over time. It is organized in the following four time periods:

❑ 2019-2022: First Phase of Implementation of the NSDMC

Main sources: National funding, utilisation of unallocated funds of the co-financed programmes for the period 2014 - 2020.

Content:

- a) Interventions aimed at maturity both for the implementation of the NSDMC (institutional adjustments, governance) as well as for the implementation of sectoral and cross-sectoral actions related to the reorganisation of key sectors and promotion of driving forces: institutional changes, creation of collective structures, collective structures, entrepreneurship support, organisation of actions plans etc. The main action is the operation of the support mechanism and the acquisition of the ability to absorb funding for Troodos during the new programming period 2021 – 2027.

b) Completion of projects whose implementation is in progress (ongoing projects), or projects that have been planned and their funding is secured (mainly by the Republic of Cyprus)

At the beginning of this period, the proposal for the utilisation of the European “tool” of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) should be prepared and submitted. The ITI is based on the formulation of a territorial strategy which must be part of the NSDMC and must meet the general criteria for the organisation of the ITI. At the same time, as a flexible financial tool, it must include a specific and integrated framework of the NSDMC needs.

At the end of this period, the implementation of the NSDMC should be evaluated and at the same time the inclusion of the NSDMC actions in the Operational Programmes for the period 2012- 2027 should be promoted. The inclusion of the criterion of the particularities of mountain areas in the implementation of the operational programmes is of key importance.

☐ **2022-2025:** Beginning of the Second Phase of implementation of the NSDMC

Main sources: National funding, co-financed European programmes for the period 2021 – 2027. The integration of European sources of funding allows for the increase in the amount of funding of the NSDMC and therefore the number of actions in all areas.

Content:

a) NSDMC interventions concerning the implementation of mature projects and interventions including the construction of infrastructure, or the implementation of interventions arising from studies and action plans prepared in the previous phase.

b) Implementation of the interventions included in the Integrated Territorial Investment.

In 2024 a new evaluation of the implementation of the NSDMC should be made, which will contribute to the adjustment of itself and the National Business Planning in view of the second period 2025 – 2027 according to the common framework for the management of the European Funds for the Programming Period 2021 – 2027.

☐ **2025-2027**

Main sources: National funding, co-financed European programmes for the period 2021-2027.

Content: Inclusion of actions in the updated business plans of the programming period 2025-2027.

Determination of the actions to be included in the new programming period 2028-2034

☐ **2028-2034**

Implementation of the Operational Programme of the NSDMC for the period 2028-2034

Submeasure SI.1.1.	Principle of Hilliness and Mountain Area Policy Reference Area
Action SI.1.1.1.	<p>"On the establishment of the principle of hilliness and the mountain area policy of the Republic of Cyprus"</p> <p>Drafting and submission for voting of the relevant bill required for the definition of mountain areas, their horizontal and integrated management and the balance between development and protection of the mountain (relevant directive with the decision of the Council of Ministers N° 84.854)</p>
Description	<p><i>Integration of the principle of Hilliness in the institutional framework of the Republic of Cyprus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Definition of mountain, mountain area and mountain policy -Principles of mountain policy - Definition of "National Mountain Area" (from a European to a National definition of Hilliness) - Spatial and development integration of the "National Mountain Area" - Mountain recognition and public action - Mountain policy main objectives - National Council of Mountain Communities <p>This action relates to the completion of the framework of principles and general objectives of the mountain policy and their integration in the legal framework of the Republic of Cyprus so that the Republic of Cyprus adopts the Principle of Hilliness. In essence, the Bill on the adoption of the Principle of Hilliness by the Republic of Cyprus is being drafted and submitted for approval to the Parliament.</p> <p>The adoption of the Principle of Hilliness by the Republic of Cyprus, determines the framework of principles and general objectives of the mountain policy as well as the operation of certain key institutions (education, Policy Statement, etc.). More specifically it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> formulates the general objectives of the mountain policy and confirms the principle of adjusting public policies to the specificities of mountain areas. <input type="checkbox"/> looks to utilise the mountain's edge to increase income, improve quality of life, employment and leisure activities, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the increase in added value locally and in addition to the compensation of the disadvantages related to the geographical climatic conditions, o the need to improve social services, mobile telecommunications and the internet in general, o the introduction of innovation in the fields of local economy and cultural creation, <input type="checkbox"/> promotes the integrated management of natural resources and natural and cultural heritage with the participation of local actors <input type="checkbox"/> sets the framework for the establishment of governance
Action SI.1.1.2	Determination of the "National Mountain Area" (Specific Development Area) based on the principles and identification of mountain areas and submission to the Council of Minister for approval
Description	<p>On the basis of the decision of the Council of Ministers N° 84.854, the definition of the "National Mountain Area" (Specific Development Area) is required according to the principles and the definition of the mountain areas. This determination must be submitted to the Council of Ministers for Approval.</p> <p>On the basis of the implementation of specific criteria and the expression of the will of the mountain areas themselves to join the NMA, the final list of Communities belonging to the NMA will be drawn up, following a local consultation. This delimitation will be included in the aforementioned bill.</p> <p>The cost of this action will be incorporated in the following action (SI.1.1.3)</p>

Action SI.1.1.3	Expansion of the National Strategy for the Development of Mountain Communities to include the Mountain Communities of the Districts of Pafos and Larnaca as well as the remaining communities of the Limassol District on the borders of the National Mountain Area.
Description	Preparation of a Diagnosis and Operational Programme for the remaining mountain Communities to be integrated in the provisions and in the framework of the actions of the NSDMC. These Communities are the Mountain Communities of the Districts of Pafos and Larnaca, as well as the remaining communities of the Limassol District on the borders of the National Mountain Area.

Submeasure SI.2.1	New framework of Spatial – Territorial Organisation
Description	<p>The evaluation and review of the existing Policy Statement (PS) highlighted as a key issue the connection of the effective implementation of the NSDMC with the provision of a spatial organisation framework appropriately designed for the various interventions (roads, productive zones, services) and sectoral policies (health, education etc.). Due to this fact, it is clearly indicated that the existing Policy Statement cannot effectively meet the new needs that arise. The issue of changing the PS in Troodos must be addressed on the basis of a different philosophy from the one on which the existing one is based. The development framework of the NSDMC has a clear character of a Regional Level Development Programme, which must be framed by a Regional Spatial Planning.</p> <p>The Troodos Spatial Framework will be developed at three key levels:</p> <p>1st: Troodos Spatial Planning which will constitute the Troodos Policy Statement. The geographical reference point of this planning will be the entire region of Troodos.</p> <p>2nd: Local Spatial Planning and Specialisation Action Plans of the NSDMC (LSP – SAP/NSDMC) which will be prepared and implemented at a Cluster level, as formed in the area based on Historic Areas.</p>
Action SI.2.1.1	Preparation and approval of the Troodos Policy Statement
Description	<p>Preparation and approval of a New Policy Statement for the Troodos region as the Master Plan which will direct the underlying plans and mainly that of the Local Spatial Planning and the Specialisation Action Plan (LSP-SAP/ NSDMC). The main objectives of the Troodos Policy Statement are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonious coexistence of man and nature in the context of sustainable development • Encouragement of the development and attraction of desirable activities • Contribution to the protection of the natural and cultural resources of Troodos • Dealing with negative effects of the past development model • The TPS to become a supportive and institutional tool for the effective implementation of the National Troodos Development Strategy. <p>The main aim of the TPS is to organise the various sectoral policies as they are determined by the NSDMC. The actions of these policies must be integrated and implemented in a single spatial framework in which the protection and sustainable management of the environment, as well as the avoidance of conflicts of land and interests will be ensured.</p> <p>As far as the technical characteristics of the TPS are concerned, they have been agreed with the Department of Town Planning and are attached to the analysis of the Action (study area, TPS development framework, TPS preparation process, TPS indicative structure, execution schedule of required works).</p> <p>The Yiannakis Papadouris Foundation will be financing this development project taking into account the key importance of the TPS in the implementation and execution of the development framework of the NSDMC, provided that this donation will be approved by the Ministry of Finance. Otherwise, the amount required for the preparation of the TPS should be included in the budgets of the Ministry of Interior.</p>
Action SI.2.1.2	Integration of new spatial planning tools in the institutional framework of the Republic of Cyprus – Local Spatial Planning and Specialisation Action Plan of the NSDMC (LSP-SAP/ NSDMC) & Town – Street Planning (TSP)

Description	<p>The two new spatial and development tools LSP-SAP/ NSDMC and TSP proposed by the NSDMC should be included in the institutional framework of the Republic. This integration will take place through a pilot implementation process of the two projects which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of an initial framework for the preparation and implementation of the Projects. • Preparation of an experimental-pilot plan for the two types of studies, for research and application purposes in one area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finalisation of the design and implementation framework (specifications) ○ Institutional integration of the two Projects in the planning system of Cyprus (amendments to the Legislation, approval/ Law on Urban and Spatial Planning)
Action SI.2.1.3	Preparation of Local Spatial Planning and Specialisation Action Plans of the NSDMC (LSP-SAP/ NSDMC) for each Cluster of Communities in Troodos
Description	<p>Clustering of Communities can “offer” a more effective planning and implementation for both spatial organisation and development interventions. The preparation and institutionalisation of this plan in a cluster aims at the specialisation of both the NSDMC and the Troodos Spatial Planning at the level of the Cluster, so that the main-strategic directions provided for in the two projects are effectively designed and implemented with inclusiveness. At the same time, at this level, various provisions of the Troodos Policy Statement relating to Town Planning (e.g. architectural morphology, traditional settlements, listed building, landscape policy etc.) can substantially become more specialised.</p> <p>For the organisation, the preparation framework and the specifications of the LSP-SAP/ NSDMC, the experience and the content of the Master Plans that have been prepared over the past years in the Communities of the region can be put into use. The LSP-SAP/ NSDMC, consolidating in many cases the already prepared Master Plans should address the needs of the communities as they are expressed and evaluated at a Cluster level. This Plan-Programme should result in actions relating to the regulation of the space, the required individual targeted studies and the necessary Cluster projects.</p> <p>The preparation of these Projects will be promoted after the finalisation of the specifications and the integration of the LSP-SAP/ NSDMC in the planning system of Cyprus for each Troodos Mountain Communities Cluster of Services area. The Department of Town Planning and Housing should supervise the preparation process.</p>
Action SI.2.1.4	Preparation of Town – Street Planning/ TSP (residential areas) depending on the Communities
Description	<p>Following the finalisation of the specifications and the integration of the Town – Street Planning in the planning system of Cyprus and the preparation of the LSP-SAP/NSDMC, the preparation of the Town-Street Planning will be promoted where a relative need has been diagnosed.</p> <p>Street Planning will relate to the implementation of the LSP-SAP/ NSDMC, including the road network, the Blocks of Houses, detailed uses by building or block, and will be designed on a scale of 1:1000 or 1:5000. Alternatively, the scale of the residential areas can be of 1:1000 or 1:2000 and include information required in both in LSP-SAP/ NSDMC and Street Planning. In this case, no further scale is needed for Street Planning.</p> <p>The Town – Street Planning for the historical cores of the settlements relates to Housing Regeneration Plans, with special specifications, while determining the road network and the Blocks of Houses for the extension zones.</p>

Submeasure SI2.2	Housing stock management and regeneration interventions
Action SI.2.2.1	Preparation of an inventory study for the registration of vacant buildings and their use in Troodos settlements (building identity)
Description	<p>The Troodos Communities have a very large stock of vacant buildings such as residences, commercial and industrial buildings (e.g. hotels) or public buildings, as a result of the large-scale depopulation that has occurred in the area over the last 50 years.</p> <p>It is recommended that the preparation of the study be commissioned by the Office of the Commissioner for Development of Mountain Communities to a specialised team of advisors. The study will be monitored by a technical committee which will include the District Administration, the Town Planning and Housing Department, the Conservation Unit of the Town Planning and Housing Department, the Department of Antiquities, the Department of Lands and Surveys and the Technical Chamber of Cyprus. It is also recommend, at a first stage, to prepare an experimental-pilot study on a representative sample of Troodos communities based on their architectural features (3-5 Communities). Following the preparation, an evaluation will take place and the final methodology of preparation of the study for all the Troodos Communities will be determined and subsequently promoted.</p> <p>The study for the registration of vacant buildings at a Community level should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Identification of vacant buildings: assessment of the condition of the buildings (b) Recording of current and previous use (c) Description and assessment of the architectural features of the building (construction period and specific features) and the structural elements and materials used for its construction (d) identification of the building's owners/ heirs (e) identification of areas for the grouping of vacant buildings and the preparation of maps (g) investigation of possible operational issues of these buildings (access to the road network, access to water supply and sewerage networks, organisation of construction – unoccupied spaces, etc.) <p>The buildings should be registered in a digital database in the form of digital ID, as to create an electronic list of vacant, abandoned and dilapidated buildings in Troodos. Editing and evaluating this database can fuel a range of policies and interventions. Preparing an inventory of the current condition of the vacant and abandoned buildings can contribute to the formation of appropriate interventions which will allow the improvement of the buildings and therefore their reuse through specialised programmes. These programmes can even be linked to the housing policy of the highlands by contributing essentially in the policy of attracting population.</p>
Action SI.2.2.2	Study of organisation and prioritisation of regeneration interventions
Description	<p>Scientific study of identification of areas that need protection and promotion based on their cultural and architectural significance. Identification and extent of interventions (surrounding areas of monuments, parts of settlements – neighbourhoods, settlements) and formation of a framework of specifications adapted to local characteristics. Report on prioritisation and planning of interventions.</p>
Action SI.2.2.3	Interventions and renovation projects in settlements, parts of settlements – neighbourhoods and surrounding areas of monuments
Description	<p>Based on the Report on the organisation and prioritisation of regeneration interventions (Action SI.2.2.2) and depending on the financial framework and the possibility of including projects for co—financing from European resources, specific projects will be promoted for maturity and construction, based on the organisational study and the prioritisation and programming report of the regeneration interventions (up to 12 interventions for surrounding areas of monuments, up to 6 interventions for parts of settlements – neighbourhoods, up to 3 interventions for settlement interventions).</p>

	<p>List of ongoing projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regeneration of Alona core € 1,157,000.00 2. Regeneration of the traditional core of Apesia – Phase B of Urban Planning Project (Phase A: Ayia Zoni square and Ayios Georgios with a cost of €351,411.76 has been completed). Total project cost €1,500,000 (€200,000 settled in 2018) - €1,300,000.00 3. Urban Development Project: Regeneration of the Central Square of Pelendri and adjacent streets – Phase A (Total cost €1,200.000)- €450,000.00 4. Urban Development Project: Regeneration of Holy Cross' Square at Pelendri – Phase B (Total cost €1,300.000)- € 488,000.00 5. Reconstruction of part of the traditional core of the Arsos community - Phase B (Total project cost: €475,000) -€ 160,000.00 6. Reconstruction of Kaoura square area in Agros (Total amount €590,115)- €390,115 of which have already been settled - €200,000.00 7. Sett Paving of Central Artery NIC/00745/2017 (5.3.13.50.1) Gouri €744,000.00 8. Regeneration and landscaping of Korakou core Phase A €969,772.00 9. Reconstruction of part of the Ayios Ioannis core by connecting the Central Square with reference points of the Community. All licenses LIM- 2014/01003 €44,000.00 10. Regeneration of Kato Vrysi square and construction of a Monument in Alona €80,000.00 11. Regeneration of the old neighbourhood of Kyperounta, Cultural Central, Shops and Apartments in an area to be regenerated in the old neighbourhood LIM-2014/01311. €1,500,000.00
Submeasure SI.2.3	Activities and Recreation Park “DASOESSA”ECOMUSUM: NATURE - CULTURE - SPORTS (Regeneration and development of the Amiantos area)
Action SI.2.3.1	Hierarchy and Prioritisation of Works (Public Infrastructure and Private Interventions) and identification of the resources and methods of funding of the Project
Description	Appointment of a Financial Advisor who will shape the project' execution planning (prioritisation of projects), as well as its financial arrangement. Sources of funding will be sought in National, European and Private resources.
Action SI.2.3.2	Maturity of infrastructure projects based on the scientific techno-economic study of the utilisation of the Amiantos mine for the creation of the park
Description	<p>The regeneration of the Amiantos mine area for its conversion into an Eco-museum, according to the modern museological approach for a holistic preservation and promotion of a place for the benefit of the local community and economy.</p> <p>The Eco-museum will be based on the synergy and cooperation of Public and Private sector bodies that will take action in order to develop the local community through the promotion of a new tourist product based on the triptych Nature-Culture-Sports.</p>

	<p>The positioning of the Eco-museum is in line with the modern priorities of industrial archaeology. The reasoning of the regeneration of the industrial settlement of Amiantos is developed in I.I.8, Actions 8.5.1 & 8.5.2.</p> <p>Through the action of this Strategic Intervention, the maturity of the infrastructure projects is proposed, which will emerge following the scientific and techno-economic study of the utilisation of the Amiantos Mine in action 8.5.2.</p> <p>The proposal for the regeneration of the industrial settlement of Amiantos through a concrete strategic planning and with the appropriate synergies is analysed in I.I.8, Culture: "Troodos Values" and in submeasure 8.5.</p> <p>The projects to be promoted for maturity will be proposed for implementation</p>
Action SI.2.3.3	Implementation of a development plan for "Dasoessa"
Description	Implementation of the Proposal selected during the International Competition for the creation of the Theme Park of Activities and Recreation "Dasoessa" based on the Hierarchy and Prioritisation Projects.

Submeasure SI.3.1	Policy for attracting and retaining youth
Action SI.3.1.1	Coordination of policies and incentives to provide housing, services and employment
Description	<p>The promotion of attracting and retaining young people requires the coordination of public services and government interventions to this end. It is particularly important to alleviate the various challenges that arise from the implementation of uncoordinated and contradictory policies, which effectively override each other.</p> <p>At the same time, the aim is to implement the opportunity zones formed in the NSDMC with a series of policies that contain incentives, without grading them in space. The consequence of these incentives is often to favour rural areas located in or near suburban areas, which does not fully serve the purpose of these policies.</p> <p>This action should be coordinated by the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities (Commissioner Office).</p>
Action SI.3.1.2.	Establishment of a Population Retention Centre for the operation of the Attraction and Retention of Youth Structure in Troodos
Description	<p>Preparation of an Action Plan for the operation of the Centre (creation and upgrading of Databases, actions to attract population and businesses, continuous support of new residents and employees) which can be hosted by the TDC (at least initially), while it should be funded to acquire the necessary equipment.</p> <p>The staffing process of the Centre will be supported by the Office of the Commissioner for Mountain Communities and specialised education and training of the staff should be provided.</p>
Action SI.3.1.3	New integrated housing policy for mountain communities
Description	<p><u>Development of an incentive plan:</u> The national housing policy must be enriched with measures based on the objectives, areas and needs of the Troodos mountain communities. The following will be offered to families who choose to settle in Troodos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent subsidy per year, a percentage of the annual rent with a maximum subsidy amount based on the market prices. - Grant for the purchase of an existing house or the construction of a new house within a settlement as a priority. - Urban incentives for the utilisation of existing buildings concern the possibility of granting an additional building coefficient in order to create functional residences, provided that the local morphological-architectural features of the building are ensured. - Tax incentives in case of construction works which translate into reduced VAT. - Possibility of utilising other financial programmes for the energy efficiency improvement of existing buildings. - Favourable lending terms by financial institutions.

Submeasure SI.4.1	New Structures for the Management of the Natural Environment and National Resources of National Importance
Action SI.4.1.1	Establishment of a Troodos Protected Area Management Organisation
Description	This action is developed in action 6.1.1 of I.I. 6
Action SI.4.1.2.	Establishment of Troodos Water Resources Organisation and Management Organisation
Description	This action is developed in action 7.1.2 of I.I. 7

Submeasure SI.5.1	Local Government Clusters in Troodos
Action SI.5.1.1.	Promotion of the Bill on Community Clustering
Description	Promotion of the Bill on Community Clustering (proposal of the Union of Cyprus Communities) with the following adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modifications to the geographical boundaries of some proposed clusters - integration of provisions for the establishment of Regional Councils (development of cooperation between at least two clusters at a larger scale)
Action SI.5.1.2	Preparation of a techno-economic and technical-legal study for the establishment of a Troodos Mountain Communities Cluster of Services Regional Council, based on the framework of principles, organisation and responsibilities defined in the NSDMC.
Description	For the detailed definition of the responsibilities and relations between the levels (especially with the Province) it is proposed/ necessary to draw up a special technical-legal report/ study. The aim is to achieve the best distribution of roles and responsibilities between the two new structures, as well as between them and the communities, i.e. between the three levels of self-governing entities (Communities, Clusters, Regional Cluster-Council).

Submeasure SI.6.1	Establishment of Structures responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Integrated Development Policy for the Mountain Areas of Cyprus and the preparation and implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Mountain Communities
Action SI.6.1.1	Establishment of a Committee of Ministers responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Integrated Development Policy for the Mountain Areas of Cyprus (Establishment by decision of the Council of Ministers 84.854 / 24.4.2018)
Description	Establishment of a Committee consisting of the Ministers of Interior (Chairman), Finance, Transport – Communications & Works, Energy – Commerce & Industry, Agricultural – Rural Development & Environment, the Deputy Minister and the Commissioner for Development, as an observer, responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Integrated Development Policy for the Mountain Areas of Cyprus (Council of Ministers Decision 84.854). It is recommended that the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports & Youth and the Deputy Minister of Tourism join the Committee.
Action SI.6.1.2.	Evolution and expansion of the Steering Committee for the establishment of a Monitoring Committee
Description	<p>The Steering Committee was determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers (84.854/24.4.2018). It consists of the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Interior, Finance, Transport – Communications & Works, Energy – Commerce & Industry, Agriculture – Rural Development & Environment, or their representatives and the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities as the Coordinator.</p> <p>Upon the approval of the NSDMC by the Council of Ministers, the Steering Committee will be transformed into a Monitoring Committee, an enlarged body responsible for monitoring its strategy and priorities guided by the NSDMC's strategic and integrated interventions. The Monitoring Committee should constitute an enlarged body involving social and economic partners with supervisory and strategic responsibilities at both a central and local level.</p> <p>It is suggested that the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports & Youth and the Deputy Ministry of Tourism and representatives of local bodies (representatives of the Regional Council of Mountain Communities, TDC, LDC, Producer Groups, Foundation for Culture) join the Committee.</p>
Action SI.6.1.3.	Establishment of Technical Committees at the level of Ministries according to the decision of the Council of Ministers 84.854 / 24.4.2018
Description	These Committees will be consulted to determine the action plans for the implementation and execution of the National Strategy for the Development of the Mountain Communities of Troodos in the first stage and of the other mountain areas in the second stage.
Action SI.6.1.4.	Institutionalisation of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities
Description	The President of the Republic, with Act N° 745/2018, appointed Mr Yiannakis Papadouris as the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Committees, as of 18 November, 2018. The terms of the appointment relate to the responsibility of preparing, monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Mountain Communities.
Submeasure SI.6.2	Operation of the Horizontal Government Mechanism for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Implementation of the Development Policy for the Mountain Areas of Cyprus
Action SI.6.2.1	Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities
Description	Organisation of Departments and Staffing with appropriate and sufficient staff for the execution of the tasks assigned to the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities based on his appointment. The organisation chart of the Office must identify with the Integrated and Strategic Interventions of the NSDMC.

Action SI.6.2.2	Council of Personalities for the Development of Mountain Communities
Description	Personalities coming from the Troodos region have expressed their support for the Government's effort, through the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities, to formulate and implement an Integrated Development Policy for Mountain Areas of Cyprus. The establishment of the Council aims at the organisation of interventions in support of the implementation of the NSDMC by these personalities.
Action SI.6.2.3	Network of Commissioners for the Troodos region (Presidential Commissioner for Humanitarian and Expatriate Affairs, Environment Commissioner and Commissioner for Volunteering and Non-Governmental Organisations)
Description	Establishment of a Network of Commissioners to support, by means of their coordination, the implementation of the NSDMC.
Action SI.6.2.4	Scientific Council for the operation of the NSDMC Support Network
Description	The Universities that have participated in the preparation of the NSDMC will constitute the main evaluation body of the actions of the NSDMC in collaboration with other Universities in Cyprus and abroad. At the same time, these Universities will establish a Scientific Support Network for the NSDMC.
Action SI.6.2.5	Establishment of organisation and participation in Local, European and International Conferences and events
Description	
Submeasure SI.6.3	Reinforcement, improvement and creation of new Government Structures to support the NSDMC interventions
Action SI.6.3.1	Support of the state mechanism to promote Troodos agriculture, by upgrading the Pitsilia Agricultural Office to a Troodos Agricultural Office.
Description	Integrated Intervention 1 "Innovative approach of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in the Troodos region" Action 1.2.1
Action SI.6.3.2	Reinforcement of the Platres Regional Tourism Office (Information Centre) with the operation of an Inspectors Office
Description	Integrated Intervention 3 "New Model of Troodos Mountain Tourist Product " Action 3.3.1
Action SI.6.3.3	Upgrading the role and enhancing the operation of the Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company (TTC)
Description	Upgrading the role and enhancing the operation of the Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company (TTC) (a) Recruitment of officers for: - the support of the unique tourist product and the creation of experiences and activities with the coordination of the involved bodies - the support and promotion of territorial marketing (b) Reinforcement of promotional actions as defined in the Territorial Marketing in the following 8 years Integrated Intervention 3 "New Model of Troodos Mountain Tourist Product " Action 3.3.2
Action SI.6.3.4	Establishment of the Troodos Mountain Communities Foundation for Culture
Description	Establishment of the Troodos Mountain Communities Foundation for Culture, which will act as an advisory body to the Government and will implement actions for the coordination, protection and utilisation of the cultural heritage Integrated Intervention 8 "Culture: Troodos Values Project" Action 8.1.1

Submeasure SI.6.4	Enhancing and upgrading the role of Development Companies
Action SI.6.4.1	Improving the institutional framework to enhance the role of Development Companies as local development mechanisms
Description	Institutional adaptation of legal content concerning the role of Development Companies as intermediate support mechanisms.
Action SI.6.4.2	Cooperation Agreement with a Development Company to implement specific actions of the NSDMC
Description	Selection of NSDMC actions that can be implemented by a Development Company based on their nature and requirements (technical and consulting support, actions to encourage and incite local actors, information and publicity etc.) and conclusion of Cooperation Agreements for the undertaking of actions based on them.
Submeasure SI.6.5	Adaptation and implementation of the NSDMC funding framework
Action SI.6.5.1	Preparation and submission of a proposal for the utilisation of the financial “tool” of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)
Description	The adoption of the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) tool is proposed as the most appropriate in form and efficiency in terms of business planning for the implementation of the NSDMC, since it fully meets its design criteria, while offering an organisational and operational framework deemed essential for the effective implementation of the strategy.
Action SI.6.5.2	Integration of Strategic and Integrated Interventions of the NSDMC in the strategic planning of each Ministry
Description	Integration of the Strategic and Integrated Interventions of the NSDMC in the Strategic goals of each Ministry and its Submeasures and Actions in the Objectives and Activities of each Directorate and Department of each Ministry.
Action SI.6.5.3	Establishment and operation of the Mountain Communities Regeneration Fund
Description	The Fund will be supported by sponsors for the implementation of the NSDMC actions. The Personalities Council will be in charge of attracting sponsors and preparing a management plan for the Fund.

Integrated Intervention / Measure 1. Innovative Approach to Agriculture and Animal Husbandry	
Submeasure1.1.	Increasing the added value of agricultural products
Action 1.1.1.	Creation of identity and promotion of the quality of agricultural products
Description	<p>(A) Action plan to identify, document and promote the identity and quality of Troodos agricultural products.</p> <p>The cooperation of the Department of Agriculture with the Laboratory of Rural Space of the University of Thessaly is recommended for the preparation of the Action Plan based on the following procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of the most important agricultural products of the Troodos region, identification and promotion of their quality attributes. Conduct of research on the 5 most important agricultural products (initial pilot application). Upon the completion of the research for the 5 most important agricultural products of the Troodos region, other agricultural products will be determined in order to organise the respective research. <p>(B) Action Plan to locate, identify and promote terroirs</p> <p>The cooperation of the Department of Agriculture with the Laboratory of Rural Space of the University of Thessaly is recommended for the preparation of the Action Plan based on the following procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Research to identify and demarcate all terroirs. The results of the research will be included in the Troodos Policy Statement. Selection of terroirs for the implementation of a pilot project as follows: (a) five (5) terroirs in the first year (one of the first implementations will be the Fountoukodasos (Hazelnut Forest) in Pitsilia, (b) five (5) terroirs in the second year and (c) evaluation of the continuation of the action, based on the results of the action and the determination of the cost (main criteria include the distribution of terroirs in the area, the products produced, the potential (producers and owners) of each terroir). <p>Interconnection of the Action with I.I. 2. Processing in the Mountain Economy</p>
Action 1.1.2.	Formulation of quality specifications (management model)
Description	<p>Process of development – establishment of quality management systems: management systems (AGRO), PGI, PDO, mountain product, Participatory Guarantee System etc.</p> <p>The cooperation of the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities with the Laboratory of Rural Space of the University of Thessaly and local development bodies is recommended for the pilot implementation of the Action with reference to two products:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of quality specifications in relation to the production of products and/ or holdings Adoption of quality management system specifications <p>Interconnection of the Action with I.I.2. Processing in the mountain economy</p>

Action 1.1.3.	Development of Participatory Guarantee Systems
Description	<p>A. Participatory Guarantee Systems for the quality and identity of the products produced within a value chain. Involvement and cooperation of stakeholders (producers) and experts to identify and document the production methods, techniques, phases of a product, their self-monitoring procedures resulting in the development of control and certification protocols and ultimately the development of Participatory Guarantee Systems with a common logo and marketing strategy.</p> <p>The cooperation of the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities with the Laboratory of Rural Space of the University of Thessaly, the Department of Agriculture, the Network of Research Institutions (including the Agricultural Research Institute) (Action 1.2.1), local development bodies and producers is recommended for the pilot implementation of the action with reference to three products.</p> <p>B. Integration of farmers/ stockbreeders in cooperation and quality agreements with local processors and tourism entrepreneurs. The mobilisation of producers with the support of the Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit (MEDU) aims to include them in cooperation and quality agreements with local associations, local processors and tourism entrepreneurs to create value chains of locally guaranteed quality products, utilising local traditional knowledge.</p> <p>The financing of the TDC is recommended to support the organisation of cooperation agreements on a pilot basis in 3 producer collaborations, in cooperation with the Industry and Technology Service, the Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company and the Department of Agriculture (of an advisory nature where required, in the context of agricultural applications).</p> <p>Interconnection of the action with I.I.2.Processing in the Mountain Economy and I.I.3.New Model of Troodos Mountain Tourist Product.</p>
Action 1.1.4.	Multifunctional – open farms: identification and specifications
Description	<p>It is proposed that the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities appoints experts to develop a technical know-how on the definition, meaning and content of the multifunctional – open farm concept and the activities that can be developed on-site, as well as the conditions for the development of such activities.</p> <p>Subsequently, the concept of the multifunctional – open farm must be included in the Troodos Policy Statement, as well as in the unique tourist product and the measures of the RDP for the new programming period 2021 – 2017 as to be financed.</p>

Submeasure 1.2.	Reorganisation of support structures for the territorial agriculture of Troodos
Action 1.2.1.	Enhancing and upgrading the role of the state support mechanism for Troodos agriculture
Description	<p>A. Expansion of agricultural applications in the new areas of intervention for mountain agriculture</p> <p>It is proposed to adapt – expand the agricultural advisory programme to the Department of Agriculture's new areas of interventions and services offered, in order for the mountain agriculture of the Troodos region to become more competitive based on the quality characteristics of its products, to establish a link with processing and contribute to environmental management. The document "New areas of intervention and services offered" of the Department of Agriculture (Troodos Regional Agricultural Office) as agreed with the Specialised Technical Committee of the Department of Agriculture, is attached hereto as <i>Appendix 2.2</i>.</p> <p>In order to support the implementation of the proposal, it is recommended that the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Laboratory of Rural Space of the University of Thessaly proceed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the formulation of an Action Plan for the awareness-raising/ training of agronomists and mountain farmers regarding the Innovative Approach plan for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an awareness plan • Preparation of an agronomist training plan • Preparation of a farmers training plan (b) the formulation of an Action Plan for an integrated support programme and individualised counselling for potential farmers and young farmers, and (c) the implementation of a training plan for agronomists by the Department of Agriculture. <p>B. Networking of specialised research bodies for the development of applied research</p> <p>It is proposed to formulate an action plan for the targeted dissemination of innovations and research results of the research and educational institutions and actions for their portability to the Troodos region.</p> <p><u>In detail:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) definition of research fields and topics, (b) call for expression of interest to research institutes for their inclusion in a network of research bodies for the development of applied research in Troodos (c) organisation of a stakeholders meeting to set up a network and decide on which areas of cooperation and research are to be developed; (d) formulation of research proposals. <p>C. Upgrading the Pitsillia Agricultural Office to a Troodos Agricultural Office</p> <p>Upgrading the role of the Regional Agricultural Office of Pitsillia to a Troodos Regional Agricultural Office, thus expanding the coverage area under its responsibility and diversifying the services provided, is considered essential to establish complementarity and synergies capable of enhancing the specialisation of this support structure in mountain agriculture.</p>

This ascertainment was formulated and analysed through the “Innovative Approach Plan of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of the Troodos region” (Appendix 1), and was discussed at length with the Specialised Technical Committee of the Department of Agriculture.

Based on the Department of Agriculture’s (Troodos Regional Agricultural Office), new areas of interventions and services offered, a draft “Proposal for the establishment of the Troodos Regional Agricultural Office” has been drawn up (the appendixes are listed based on the number they are attributed in the text of the NSDMC).

1. “Redistribution of communities under the Regional Agricultural Offices of Nicosia, Limassol and Pitsillia” (Appendix 2.1).
2. “New areas of intervention and services offered by the Troodos RAO”, which arise from the guidelines of the National Strategy for the Mountain Communities (Appendix 2.2.).
3. Staffing needs of the Troodos Regional Agricultural Office and the Department of Agriculture and staffing costs (Appendixes 2.3 & 2.4.)
 - The need to create a new job position of Senior Agricultural Officer (additional cost of €5.000 on an existing salary, as it is a promotion position)
 - The necessity to cover the needs deriving from 10 existing organic positions. The cost of the positions (coming out of a hiring freeze regime) will be covered in accordance with the MTBF 2019 – 2021 which has already been approved, without the need for additional expenditure.
4. Renaming the Regional Agricultural Office of Pitsillia to Troodos Regional Agricultural Office
5. The Pitsilia RAO’ headquarters located in the community of Agros to be used for the needs of the Troodos RAO, and offices to operate in Eptagonia, Evrychou and Pachna. In Eptagonia, the office that used to be operated by the RAO of Pitslia will be reopened, in Evrychou the use of the Agricultural Office of Nicosia will be transferred to the RAO of Troodos and in Pachna the Agricultural Office will be established from scratch. The offices will act as satellites of the headquarters and will not be permanently staffed, but periodically, on a regular basis of visits to the farmers of the areas.
6. The three-year implementation schedule of the Action with the key reference points as worded (Appendix 2.5.).

Action 1.2.2.	Supporting Troodos business initiatives
Description	<p>The Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities, through the Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit, will carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Call for expression of interest for farmers with business goals and creation of a farmers' network, (b) Organisation of a seminar to inform producers about the entrepreneurial ecosystem, the support of business initiatives and the business activity areas that can be developed based on the objectives of the NSDMC, (c) Support of the business activity (financing of TDC/ LDC to support the formulation of business plans for the implementation of the business ideas of the local producers).
Action 1.2.3.	Integrated support system and personalised counselling
Description	<p>A. Renewal of human resources in agriculture</p> <p>The Action will be implemented by the Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit (I.I. 4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning). For the implementation of the Action, the Department of Agriculture will cooperate with the Laboratory of Rural Space of the University of Thessaly to formulate an Action Plan for the establishment of an integrated support system and individualised counselling for potential farmers and young farmers (Action 1.2.1) based on the following procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Establishment of an integrated support system and individualised counselling for potential farmers and young farmers. (b) Inventory of potential successors to agricultural holdings in the Troodos area (with the support of the Department of Agriculture). (c) Technical and advisory support and personalised consulting of potential agricultural holdings successors, especially in matters of multifunctional mountain agriculture. . <p><u>Objective of 30 business plans for young farmers and their monitoring for one (1) year.</u></p> <p>B. Engaging youth in agriculture: a plan to support the first stages of engagement</p> <p>The office of Attracting and Retaining youth, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Mechanism, will undertake the support of the first stages of the engaging process of youth in the Troodos region, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Office (Strategic Intervention 3) informs the interested parties about the available agricultural land in the community they are interested in, ✓ The local development company (according to Action 1.2.2) supports the formulation of a business plan for the interest party, ✓ The Department of Agriculture provides the necessary technical and consulting support based on the aforementioned business plan.

Action 1.2.4.	Support of Pluri-active Farmers to enhance and develop their activities
Description	<p>The Action refers to the encouragement of the diversification of the agricultural product, through the development of cottage industry and/ or tourism activity (multifunctional – open farms), within the agricultural holding and/ or the household. Priority should be given to proposals that are part of quality and identity guarantee systems.</p> <p>The Action will be developed by the Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Mechanism (I.I.4. Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance and the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry.</p> <p><u>In particular, the Mechanism will undertake:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the preparation of an inventory of the pluri-active Farmers and their field of activity; (b) the identification of the support required; and (c) the formulation of support actions (education – investment plans) for their modernisation and upgrade. <p>Interconnection with I.I.4. Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning.</p>
Action 1.2.5.	Supporting the creation of producer cooperation structures
Description	<p>Supporting the creation of producer cooperation structures (sectoral and/ or cross--sectoral) and preparation of business plans for those who will develop Organisations or Groups of Producers.</p> <p>The action will be developed by the Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit (I.I.4. Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture.</p> <p><u>In particular, the Unit will undertake:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The identification of producer nuclei based on geographical (of same area or terroir origin) or sectoral reference, for the creation and organisation of producer / value chain cooperation structures (action to be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture (advisory role) (b) the technical advisory support for their organisation; and (c) the support for the development of an Action Plan <p>Interconnection with Action 2.2.2.</p>
Action 1.2.6.	Crop development in connection with the secondary sector of Cyprus
Description	<p>Development of crops to enhance cooperation with the secondary sector (oregano, olive, etc) based on innovative methods of advanced agriculture and agroecology.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities appoints experts to prepare an Action Plan, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, the Service of Industry and Technology and local development bodies and producers, following the below procedure:</p>

	<p>(a) Identification of the agricultural products needed by the secondary sector of Cyprus, aiming at developing the respective crops in Troodos.</p> <p>(b) Identification of adapted technologies in the Troodos mountain agriculture to support the development of these crops.</p>
Submeasure 1.3.	Arrangements and interventions for the protection, management and use of land for agriculture and animal husbandry
Action 1.3.1.	Recovery – Management of abandoned agricultural land. Pilot Implementation
Description	<p>Recovery – Management of abandoned agricultural land. Preparation of an inventory with reference to the available land, with priority on the terroirs that have emerged (Action 1.1.1.), formulation of a management and recovery plan by providing incentives</p> <p>Pilot implementation in the Fountoukodasos and Koumandaria areas.</p> <p>Inclusion in the Troodos Policy Statement, provisions for arable land and grazing area.</p> <p>Interconnection with I.I.6. Natural Environment.</p>
Action 1.3.2.	Set-aside land in agricultural and natural resource areas
Description	<p>Rational integration of the set-aside concept in agricultural and natural resource areas (interconnection with I.I.6. Natural Environment).</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Drawing up of a draft criteria and priority zones plan, based on the objectives of the NSDMC.</i> - <i>Pilot plan for integration in the protected area of single management of agriculture and natural resources (interconnection with Action 1.3.1. and I.I.6. Natural Environment)</i> - <i>Pilot plan for the utilisation of set-aside land for the needs of animal husbandry (Interconnection with Action 1.3.3.)</i>
Action 1.3.3.	Grazing management plan
Description	<p>The cooperation of the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities and the department of Agriculture with the Agricultural University of Athens, the Department of Forests, the Department of Lands and Surveys, the Department of Town Planning and Housing, the District Administrations and local development bodies, is recommended to prepare a Grazing Management Plan following the below procedure:</p> <p>(a) Identification of areas in need of a grazing management plan,</p> <p>(b) Prioritisation of the above areas, based on local needs (identification of 4 pilot areas),</p> <p>(c) Preparation of a grazing management plan for the pilot areas (Diagnosis and evaluation of the current situation, identification of interventions and their costing)</p> <p>Inclusion in the proposed Troodos Policy Statement of the term “pasture-grazing land” and the areas as defined based on the Grazing Management plan. To determine these conditions, it is proposed that the Department of Agriculture, the CAPO and the Ministry of Interior participate.</p>

Action 1.3.4.	Establishment of Public infrastructure for animal husbandry
Description	<p>It is proposed that the beginning of the action follow the steps – interventions below:</p> <p>(a) Implementation of interventions (small infrastructure projects) in areas where a Grazing Management Plan has been piloted (Action 1.3.3.)</p> <p>(b) In the context of the preparation of the Troodos Policy Statement the existing husbandry areas in Troodos will be evaluated and their spatial distributions will be redefined based on local needs. Depending on these needs, the required <i>“town-street planning for their activation”</i> will follow.</p> <p>(c) Husbandry area of Pachna - Dora</p> <p><u>Following the completion of the Troodos Policy Statement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plot for the development of the proposed Husbandry Area in the area of Pachna – Dora will be determined and secured, • The Construction Study will be prepared and the construction costs will be determined • The Husbandry area will be set up in the area of Pachna – Dora
Action 1.3.5.	Registration of rural roads
Description	<p>The issue of unregistered rural roads is very important for the development of Troodos’ mountain agriculture, since it has caused many problems for the modernisation of farms. Therefore, it is proposed to draw up a <i>“Study for the listing – mapping, evaluation, classification and formulation of proposals for the registration and upgrading of a network of rural roads of strategic importance for the development of agriculture and husbandry”</i>.</p> <p>This specific action is developed and its cost is estimated in I.I.10 Connectivity and Accessibility Infrastructures – Road Network and Communication.</p>
Submeasure 1.4.	Adaptation and implementation of financial programmes to support Mountain Agriculture
Action 1.4.1.	Credit points allocation system in respect of actions supporting agriculture and animal husbandry in Troodos
Description	<p>Taking into account the principle of hilliness, the horizontal nature of the actions of the financial instruments (RDP, EPCD) the need to establish mountain agriculture as a main pillar of the economy of mountain communities, as well as their specific production conditions (geomorphology, production costs), it is deemed necessary to determine a credit points allocation system, which will provide subsidies to the applications for assistance from residents of mountain communities. It is proposed to prepare a special know-how for the determination of the point allocation system (definition and description of criteria, as well as the significance attributed to them), taking into consideration the principles of hilliness proposed by the NSDMC for the areas that are included in the mountain policy.</p>
Action 1.4.2	Enhancing Agricultural/ Animal Husbandry activity and holdings
Description	<p>The approach and strategic planning of Troodos mountain agriculture and animal husbandry should focus on enhancing the sustainability of family holdings, but also on the place held by agriculture within the region.</p>

	<p>The whole stake is to establish an agriculture that strengthens and enhances ties with the region, adjusts to horizontal policies and contributes to regional governance. This means that a new design is now needed for the sustainable organisation and operation of the space, in which agriculture and producers should not be absent, but actively involved.</p> <p>Support for mountain agriculture can be based on funding for the next programming period of 2021–2027 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhancing investment plans, ✓ Development of actions aimed at increasing the added value of products produced and agricultural income, and ✓ Development of actions that promote the interconnection of agriculture with other sectors of the local economy.
--	---

Integrated Intervention / Measure 2. Processing in mountain economy	
Submeasure 2.1.	Troodos Product support for the development of competitive businesses and business activity
Action 2.1.1.	Creating an identity for processed products
Description	<p>Preparation of an “<i>Action Plan for the identification, documentation and promotion of the quality and identity characteristics of the product (processing) and utilisation of the inherited traditional know-how</i>”. The road map of steps that the contractor or the Action Plan should follow is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Information – awareness of processors for the benefits of the implementation of quality standards (production of an identity quality product, utilising local knowledge and know-how at stages of the production process) and the need to organise them (sectoral/ cross-sectoral) to ensure their implementation and the bargaining power of craftsmen. (b) Mobilisation of the production potential (local experts and technicians, processors, etc.) in order to identify and capture all the key points of the production process. (c) Development of cooperation with the research potential of the country as to document this knowledge and prove their locality and links with the region. <p>The action is linked to Submeasure 1.1. “Increasing the Added Value of Agricultural Products” of Integrated Intervention 1 “Innovative approach to Agriculture and Animal husbandry”, which it complements by identifying and promoting the particular characteristics of the processing, preservation and standardisation procedures of products for which the identity and quality is proposed to be promoted.</p>
Action 2.1.2.	Formulation of quality standards (management standards)
Description	<p>A. On the basis of the previous action (2.1.1) “Creation of identity for processed products”, the same contractor will propose a certification framework per identity processed product and will prepare the relevant application form for their recognition. The road map of steps that the contractor of the Action Plan should follow is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selection of the appropriate type of certification for each product: official certification such as PDO, PGI etc., or private certification (Participatory Guarantee System etc.) 2. Formulation of quality production of products standards. Integration of specific quality characteristics in the processing stage in the production specifications of each product. 3. Preparation and submission of the identification process of the selected quality system. <p>B. Following the identification of the quality system, the following procedure is deemed necessary for the adoption of the specifications of the quality management systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information and activation of craftsmen and local bodies 2. Establishment of a stakeholder group of processors and support actions to prepare for the adoption of the standards system <p>This action is interconnected with I.I.1 Innovative approach of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry</p>

Action 2.1.3.	Development of Participatory Guarantee Systems
Description	<p>Participation and cooperation of stakeholders in a value chain and experts to identify and document the production methods, techniques, phases of a product, their self-monitoring procedures resulting in the development of control and certification protocols, and ultimately, the development of Participatory Guarantee Systems with a common logo and marketing strategy.</p> <p>Inclusion in cooperation and quality agreements with local farmers and tourism entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Interconnection with I.I.1 Innovative Approach to Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and I.I. 3 New model of Troodos Mountain Tourist Product.</p> <p>The University of Thessaly will undertake the formation of a Participatory Guarantee System for three (3) products in collaboration with the Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit, the Department of Agriculture, a network of research organisations, local development bodies (TDC/ LDC) and producers.</p>
Action 2.1.4.	Bill for the recognition of “Cottage industry”
Description	<p>The promotion of the added value of the products, the diversification of the agricultural production and the enrichment of the unique tourist product of Troodos, requires the recognition of cottage industry. Additionally, the promotion of “Cottage Industry” can help increase the income of small-scale agriculture.</p> <p>The scientific team and the Departments of Agriculture, Medical Services and Public Health Services and the Service of Industry and Technology, discussed at length the issue of recognition of the cottage industry concept and ascertained the need for the existence of this business form.</p> <p>Through the institutional recognition of business forms such as that of cottage industry, the productive potential will be able to overcome the weak points of the sector (lack of organisation, adoption of quality systems) and take advantage of opportunities that remain unexploited (product reputation, emergence of quality markets, focused financing, operation of development companies). During the consultation, the Service of Industry and Technology of the MECI, pointed out that in the event that the institutional problems related to the recognition of the cottage industry concept as a branch of the secondary sector are solved, cottage industries could be involved in actions of innovation, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning, environment and culture etc., including new government sponsorship schemes, but also entrepreneurship support schemes. Additionally, the Service considers very important the recognition of cottage industry as a <i>branding</i> tool for Cypriot products.</p> <p>Based on the above, the adaptation to the present Cypriot context of legislation applied in other EU Member States is recommended as a good and widely applied practice and the preparation of a bill for the recognition “Cottage Industry” as a branch of the secondary sector.</p>
Action 2.1.5.	Formulation of standards for the development and operation of cottage industry/ craft industry
Description	<p>Formulation of specific terms and standards for the positioning and development of cottage industry/ craft industry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) for inclusion: (a) in the Troodos Policy Statement (possibility of changing the use of existing buildings), and (b) the Unique Tourist Product of the area (2) for the adjustment of the provisions of the Urban Incentive Plan for purposes of recovery of the development activity in Cyprus. (3) for the co-financing and inclusion of “cottage industry” in the RDP 2021-2017 (Implementation Guide, terms and specifications of invitation for expression of interest).

Action 2.1.6.	Plan for the Creation of an Agri-Food Cluster in Troodos and Pilot Actions
Description	<p>(a) Support of the creation of processors' co-operation structures (sectoral and/ cross-sectoral) and the preparation of business plans for those structures that will develop clusters and/ or business networks.</p> <p>(b) Preparation of a plan for the development and interconnection of horizontal and vertical value chains to connect the mountain economy with the Cypriot industry aiming at producing – promoting and commercialising high value-added products and services. Exchange of products/ services between mountain processing and Industry, utilising and supporting horizontal and vertical value chains (exchange of know-how and quality standards, transport services, production of raw materials/ processed raw materials or final traditional/ local products).</p> <p>Interconnection of action with I.I. 4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning</p>
Submeasure 2.2.	Improving the Business environment – Developing new skills and enhancing existing ones
Action 2.2.1.	Technical and Consulting Support to upgrade the quality of all Troodos products
Description	<p>(a) Advice (small businesses),</p> <p>(b) Information (technical, commercial, economic, tax, legal etc.)</p> <p>(c) Research – Innovation / Opening up to innovation processes,</p> <p>(d) Access to funding</p> <p>(e) Outward-looking orientation of craft undertakings (product promotion)</p> <p>Interconnection of action with I.I.4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning</p>
Action 2.2.2.	Education and training with reference to processing
Description	<p>Enhancing education and training activities mainly concerning the first and second processing of agricultural products, with emphasis on the utilisation of local know-how and focusing on areas such as the promotion of local product identity, quality labelling, product quality and safety improvement of packaging, export orientation etc. At the same time, some training programs will also cover non-food processing industries (crafts, construction professions, etc.) This action concerns both the processors (entrepreneurs) and the employees of the sector.</p> <p>Interconnection with I.I.4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning (Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit) and I.I. 5 Education (Higher Agricultural School and Interuniversity Innovation, Research and Experimental Unit).</p>
Submeasure 2.3.	Infrastructure for sustainable production and development
Action 2.3.1.	Establishment of Troodos Industrial area in the Linos Community (mature project to be implemented)
Description	<p>The need for the creation of an Industrial Area in Troodos has been identified though actions taken to promote the Industrial Area in Linos. The interest that has been there for a decade has recently been renewed. There are still many companies wishing to relocate to this area. In particular, it is proposed to provide industrial plots to attract young people, who will settle in the area, or to existing entrepreneurs (plumbers, carpenters, metalworkers, etc.) to relocate the businesses they operate within the settlements with the prospect of upgrading/ expansion, thus significantly contributing to the potential of these sectors.</p>
Action 2.3.2.	Plan for relocation of craft undertakings from the settlements to the Crafts and Industrial Area (excluding the agro-food sector)
Description	<p>This action also includes the provision of incentives (except town planning) for the attraction of craft undertakings, such as financial, tax, fees etc., to units that will establish – relocate their businesses to these industrial areas (with emphasis on those that do not belong to the agri-food sector).</p>

Action 2.3.3.	Establishment of an industrial area for Craft undertakings in Ayia Marina Xyliatos
Description	<p>The said industrial area in Ayia Marina Xyliatos should be improved to cover the needs of the entire eastern part of Troodos (Pitsillia of Nicosia).</p> <p>Given that this area is located on state land, the procedures for the promotion and establishment of an industrial area for Craft undertakings are facilitated and therefore the following are required :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity, water and telephone supply networks up to the borders of the plot of this area, - Construction/ paving of an access road and the main road axis, and layout (earthworks) of the internal road network in cooperation with Local Authorities. <p>It is reminded that no expropriations are needed for the road network.</p>
Action 2.3.4.	Industrial/ crafts areas (evaluation and activation planning)
Description	<p>Evaluation of existing crafts / industrial areas, redefinition of their spatial distribution and Town-Street Planning for their activation, based on local needs. Pilot application in two areas.</p> <p>(a) Town/ Street Planning which will be prepared following the completion of the Troodos Policy Statement</p> <p>(b) Promotion of the activation planning on the basis of the evaluation in the Policy Statement</p>
Action 2.3.5.	Creation of Craft Villages – Pilot implementation in Amiantos
Description	<p>It is proposed to utilise existing building stocks for the creation of “Craft Villages”, which will combine the production, presentation to visitors and the sale of products in a collective promotion centre. In other words, they will constitute a production centre, but also a tourist destination, promoting the direct interconnection of the two main pillars of the mountain economy and indirectly of the primary sector. We consider the addition of the Crafts/ Industrial heritage to the unique tourist product of the region really important, as an integral part of the “experience/ product package” that Troodos has to offer – a conclusion to which the Service of Industry and Technology also came.</p> <p>Creation of Craft Villages – Pilot implementation in Amiantos) developed in S.I.2.3 – “Dasoessa” Activities and Recreation park)</p>
Submeasure 2.4.	Adjustment and implementation of financial schemes to support mountain craft industry
Action 2.4.1.	Formation of Sponsorship Schemes for mountain processing and credit points allocation system in respect of crafts/ industrial investment proposals and processing cooperation with other sectors of the mountain economy
Description	<p>The action refers to the market of consulting services for the formulation of sponsorship schemes adapted to the requirements of the NSDMC for the processing sector.</p>
Action 2.4.2.	Enhancing the Processing activity
Description	<p>On the basis of the Sponsorship Schemes that will be established, the appropriate measures of various sponsorship schemes related to the processing of agricultural products, women’s entrepreneurship, youth entrepreneurship etc., can be put into action accordingly.</p>
Action 2.4.3.	Establishment of a Guarantee Fund and Microfinance Tools
Description	<p>Enabling access to finance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishing and/ or utilising of a flexible microfinance framework for SMEs. - evaluating regional and transnational agreements. - adapting European and national sponsorship schemes to mountain processing

Integrated Intervention /Measure 3. New Troodos mountain tourist product model	
Submeasure 3.1	Development of a Unique Mountain Tourist Product
Action 3.1.1	Design of a Unique Mountain Tourist Product
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Creation of Enriching Experiences in relation to the Troodos tourist product ii. Planning – Redesign of Troodos routes with a multi-thematic orientation and business approach (Agrotourism, Gastronomy, Walking – Religious – Cultural Tourism, etc.) (Interconnection with I.I.8 Culture: “Troodos Values Project”) iii. Estimation of the Tourism Carrying Capacity (TCC) of the Troodos region
Action 3.1.2.	Integration of the concept of “multifunctional – open farms” and “Cottage Industry” in the unique tourist product
Description	<p>The multifunctional – open farm concept (interconnection with I.I.1 Innovative approach to agriculture) and cottage industry (interconnection with I.I.2 Processing in the Mountain economy) once recognised, are proposed to be included in the unique tourist product (interconnection with Action 3.1.1)</p> <p>The interconnection of the three sectors of the economy can lead to the creation of value chains, which is a key priority of the draft strategic approach of the New Industrial Policy, which is in the process of formation.</p>
Action 3.1.3	Tourist activity in areas of protection of the Natural Environment: formulation of development and operation specifications
Description	<p>Determination of specific terms and specifications for the development of tourist activities based on the unique Tourist product of the region in areas of protection and Funding Scheme (terms and specifications of a call for tenders) for public interventions and business establishment. The implementation of the Scheme is included in Integrated Intervention 4 Entrepreneurship.</p> <p>The action is interconnected with S.I.2 Spatial Organisation Framework.</p>
Action 3.1.4	Integration of tourism companies in cooperation and quality agreements based on quality and identity guarantee systems
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development of Participatory Guarantee Systems. Involvement and cooperation of interested parties (producers) and experts to identify and document the production methods, techniques, phases, self-monitoring procedures, resulting in the establishment of control and certification protocols, and finally, the development of Participatory Guarantee Systems with a common logo, marketing strategy. b) Inclusion in cooperation and quality agreements with farmers and local processors. Interconnection with I.I.1. Innovative Approach to Agriculture, I.I.2. Processing in the Mountain Economy and I.I.4. Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning
Submeasure 3.2.	Enhancing market access and outward-looking orientation
Action 3.2.1.	Troodos Territorial Marketing and Tourism Promotion plan
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Territorial Marketing <p>Plan for highlighting, guaranteeing and promoting local resources, experiences and activities.</p>
Action 3.2.2.	Reinforcement and improvement of the thematic events “getting acquainted with the region”
Description	<p>Reinforcement and improvement of the thematic events on “getting acquainted with the region” (agricultural and craft products, culture etc.)</p> <p>Interconnection with I.I.8. Culture: Troodos Values.</p>

Action 3.2.3.	Mountain Portal
Description	<p>Creation of a “Mountain Portal” in big cities (priority given to Limassol and Paphos) which will function as a point of promotion of products and services of the mountain Communities and the beginning of connection routes with Troodos’ main tourist attractions.</p> <p>3.2.3. Mountain Portal</p> <p>Preparation of a report by experts which will focus on the:</p> <p>(a) preparation of the terms and specifications of the development and operation of the “Mountain Portal”</p> <p>(b) preparation of its routes and stations, fleets and necessary infrastructure</p> <p>(c) formulation of a promotion plan and promotion actions for the “Mountain Portal”</p> <p>After completing the above, the construction of the necessary infrastructure, the purchase of the necessary equipment, the agreement for the provision of services (e.g. for the execution of the itineraries) and anything else that could possibly emerge from the report that will be prepared, is recommended.</p> <p>It is also recommended that the Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company undertake the coordination of the operation of the “Mountain Portal” as proposed. The budget proposed for the financing of the TDPC is 15.000 per year for 5 years, while the operation of the program is expected to generate revenue to render it self-sustaining.</p>
Submeasure 3.3.	Restructuring of support infrastructure for mountain tourism
Action 3.3.1.	Establishment and operation of a Troodos Tourism Office
Description	<p>Establishment of a Regional Tourism Office under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism which will be properly staffed (quality control and operation inspectors). Inspectors should be trained in areas related to mountain tourism and the Troodos unique tourist product.</p> <p>Integration of the Existing Information Centre</p> <p>With the upgrade of the Regional Tourism Office, it is proposed to employ additional officials for the operation of the Office of Inspectors.</p>
Action 3.3.2.	Upgrading the role and enhancing the operation of the Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company (Troodos TDPC)
Description	<p>Upgrading the role and enhancing the operation of the Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company (Troodos TDPC)</p> <p>It is suggested to:</p> <p>(a) Recruit Officials for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the support of the unique tourist product and the creation of experiences and activities with the coordination of stakeholders - the support and promotion of territorial marketing <p>(b) enhance the implementation of promotional actions as defined in the Territorial Marketing in the eight-year period between 2023-2029 (€60.000 / year)</p>
Action 3.3.3.	Establishment of a Control and Monitoring Committee
Description	<p>Establishment of a Control and Monitoring Committee under the deputy Minister of Tourism, in which the Rural Tourism Department of the Ministry of Tourism, the Troodos TDPC, the coordinating committee of the Troodos Geopark and the Commissioner for the Development Mountain Communities will participate. The committee will review and coordinate the annual Action Plans of each body, so that there are no overlaps, resources are not spent pointlessly, and coordination for effective and immediate and profitable actions is achieved.</p>
Submeasure 3.4.	Promotion of Education and Training in the tourism industry and the alternative forms of tourism
	<p>The interventions proposed in Integrated Intervention 5: Education/, in Submeasure 5.5 – Establishment/ Upgrading of Schools of Special Interest, Secondary General and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, Sub-measure 5.6 Establishment of Structures of Post-Secondary Institutes of Vocational Education and Training and Public Schools of Higher Education in the Troodos Mountain Communities and 5.7 Establishment of Departments of Higher Education Institutions and Research and Innovation Centre aim not only at the creation of a comprehensive plan for the development of the educational system in the region, but also at the promotion of the region as a main centre for vocational education and training and mountain</p>

	<p>entrepreneurship both for the island and the Eastern Mediterranean. The desideratum is not only to attract people from Troodos but also from other regions of Cyprus, Europe and Middle East who want to enhance their professional skills and receive high quality vocational education and training services, especially in the fields of Sustainable Tourism, Primary Sector, Processing and Applied Arts and Entrepreneurship.</p>
Action 3.4.1.	Establishment/ Upgrading of Schools of Special Interest, Secondary General and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education
Description	<p>The researchers and the Department of Secondary Technical, Vocational Education and Training came to the conclusion that enhancing the Technical and Vocational School of Education and Training is one of the most important measures for the revitalisation of the region, The establishment of the schools will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ enhancing employment and the fight against unemployment, especially for young people who tend to abandon the area, ✓ dropping the unemployment rate of young people aged 18 to 30, in particular young people who found themselves outside the education, training or employment structures, by enhancing their skills in order to facilitate their entry into the labour market and ✓ the fight against the early school leaving phenomenon and empowerment of young people in the area <p>As to determine which Schools of Special Interest, Secondary General and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education are necessary to be established in the region and in which geographical area of the mountain communities, the diagnosis of the NSDMC and its results were taken into account, regarding the needs and perspectives of the three key pillars of the mountain economy.</p> <p>Interconnection with I.I.5/ Action 5.5.3</p>
Action 3.4.2.	Establishment of structures of Post-Secondary Institutes of Vocational Education and Training and Public Schools of Higher Education in the Troodos Mountain Communities
Description	<p>(A) It is recommended to draw up a study for the preparation of the establishment and operation of the HHIC Troodos – Platres Campus, which will include a business operation plan, identification and costing of infrastructure, programmes of study (full and partial and distance) and other services offered by the Institute (research/ studies, examination and certification of qualification, etc.), organisation and staffing structure, academic and administrative operation, the budget of the establishment and operation and the implementation plan with implementation schedules. The proposal is in line with the recommendations of the HHIC Restructuring Study for the development of selected branches outside the capital.</p> <p>(B) It is proposed to prepare a techno-economic study to identify and propose the best choice between the establishment of Post-Secondary Institutes of Vocational Education and Training or Higher Education School (Public Higher Education Schools) regarding the following:</p> <p>(a) School of Fine & Applied Arts (Culture – Creative Crafts)</p> <p>(b) Academy of Mountain Economy and entrepreneurship – Dimosthenis Mitsi (will also manage the School of Special Interest)</p>

	<p>It is recommended that the above studies analyse and evaluate the potential Higher and Tertiary Education Schools of Cyprus and/ or Abroad which would be interested in cooperating for the operation of the proposed Schools.</p> <p>Interconnection with I.I.5 Education/Action 5.6.1</p>
Action 3.4.3.	Establishment of Departments of Higher Education Institutions and Research, Innovation and Experimental Centre in Galata
Description	<p>(A) Preparation of an Incentives Plan to attract local and foreign Universities for the establishment and operation of Departments and/ or Schools in Troodos. For the preparation of the Plan, tax and financial incentives will be developed as to entice interested parties. The real estate available for use, the trusts or the donations of expatriates which might be provided for this purpose will also be evaluated and presented. The call for tenders and the eligibility criteria will be formulated in the tendering procedure guidelines. The interested parties will have to submit a technical and financial proposal in an open call for tenders.</p> <p>On the basis of the particularities of Troodos and its dynamics, the following fields are indicatively mentioned: environment, biodiversity, forest, water resources, geology, cultural heritage, architecture, alternative forms of tourism etc.</p> <p>For the purposes of drawing up the Plan, monitoring the tender procedure and selecting a contractor or contractors, it is proposed to establish a Scientific Committee.</p> <p>(B) It is proposed to prepare a Techno-economic Study for the establishment and operation of an "Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit" in Galata in the context of the proposal of the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development. It will include the investigation of the potentially contracted Higher Education Schools of Cyprus and/ or abroad, identification of the areas and fields of cooperation, determination of the services to be offered by the Unit, infrastructure needs, organisational and staffing structure, academic and administrative operation, the creation and operation budget and the implementation plan with implementation schedules.</p> <p>Interconnection with I.I. 5 Education, Action 5.7.2</p>
Action 3.4.4.	Education and training for tourism entrepreneurship
Description	<p>Promotion of education and training for tourism entrepreneurship, interconnection with I.I.4. Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning and I.I.5 Education (Action 5.5.3 Upgrading of Hospitality School in Apeitio Gymnasium (Junior High) – Lyceum (High School) of Agros and Action 5.7.1. Establishment and operation of the Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit.</p>
Action 3.4.5.	Formulation and implementation of an education and training plan for the "Cypriot Hospitality" and the acquaintance with the region
Description	<p>Formulation and implementation of an education and training Plan for the "Cypriot Hospitality" and the acquaintance with the region of each professional of Troodos, with priority given to tourism entrepreneurs (interconnection with I.I.4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning and I.I.5 Education)</p>
Submeasure 3.5.	Establishment of a Framework for the modernisation and quality upgrade of the accommodation and recreation centres of the area
Action 3.5.1.	Inventory and evaluation of the various accommodations based on the infrastructure and the quality of the services offered
Description	<p>It is proposed to classify accommodation into three groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing classified accommodation, which can upgrade their infrastructure and services based on the new classification framework, 2. Existing unclassified accommodation, which may be included in the new classification framework, and 3. Other accommodation types, for which no classification provision has been provided. <p>Preparation of recommendations for each business.</p>

Action 3.5.2.	Adjustment of the framework to the needs and requirements of tourism development in Troodos (internal procedure of the Ministry of Tourism)
Description	<p>Formulation of provisions for inclusion in the new Classification Framework and amendments:</p> <p>(a) Other types of accommodation for which no classification provision is provided (Agrotourism and Traditional Accommodations, Mountain Shelters etc.)</p> <p>(b) Adjustment of specifications for the development of a new type of tourist accommodation based on the particularities of the region (e.g. accommodation in a non-single space - albergo diffuso /scattered hotel, etc.)</p> <p>It is proposed to amend the existing classification framework, which will be promoted by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism for approval. Provisions should be included in the new Troodos Policy Statement.</p> <p>Interconnection of the action with S.I. 3 Spatial Organisation Framework</p>
Submeasure 3.6.	Adjustment and implementation of funding programmes to support mountain tourism
Action 3.6.1.	Formulation of sponsorship schemes for businesses developing special and alternative forms of tourism and establishment of a credit points allocation system for investment proposals for cooperation with the other sectors of mountain economy
Description	<p>Formulation of incentive scheme and funding framework for the development of new and/ or the upgrading of existing businesses of special/ alternative forms of tourism – focus on the creation of experiences and activities – for inclusion in the new programming period 2021-2027.</p> <p>Interconnection with S.I.4. Policy to Attract and Retain Youth and I.I.4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning</p>
Action 3.6.2.	Formulation and adjustment of plans to attract groups of alternative forms of tourism, adapted to the mountain tourist product
Description	<p>Development of a new and adjustment of existing plans to attract alternative forms of tourism, adapted to the mountain tourist product (e.g. sports tourism). The actions supports S.I.4 Policy to attract and retain youth and is interconnected with I.I.4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning</p>
Action 3.6.3.	Formulation of a Sponsorship Scheme for the modernisation and upgrading of accommodation and recreation centres
Description	<p>Formulation of incentive schemes (urban planning, financial, etc.) for recreation centres and the inclusion/ adjustment of accommodation infrastructure operating in the area in the new classification framework. Focus on identity, quality and services.</p> <p>The action supports S.I.3 Policy for attracting and retaining youth and is interconnected with I.I.4 Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Action 3.6.4 Support for tourism businesses</p>
Action 3.6.4.	Support for tourism businesses
Description	<p>Supporting tourism businesses, with priority given to those who upgrade the quality of their services and create experiences. The action supports S.I.4 Policy for attracting and retaining youth.</p>
Action 3.6.5.	Supporting public infrastructure in areas of Natural Environment protection
Description	<p>The necessary infrastructure (small interventions, paths, observatories, mountain shelters etc.) that will be developed, will be indicated by the study for the formation of the unique tourist product (Action 3.1.1.) To this end, the environment will be utilised in a gentle way to develop the economy of the region. Existing infrastructure will be upgraded as a matter of priority to meet international standards.</p> <p>The infrastructure (developments and arrangements) for the development of tourism activities in nature protection areas, will be developed taking into account the special terms and specifications that will be formed (Action 3.1.2) for this purpose.</p>

Action 3.6.6.	Creation of a Guarantee Fund – Microfinance Tools
Description	<p>Enhancing access to finance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishing or utilising a flexible microfinance framework for SMEs - utilising regional and transnational agreements - adjusting European and national sponsorship schemes to mountain tourism

Integrated Intervention 4: Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning	
Submeasure 4.1	Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning
Action 4.1.1	Regulation of the Legislative and Regulatory Framework for Mountain Entrepreneurship and Employment in the Troodos Mountain Communities
Description	Preparation of a study for tax incentives and alleviations to attract young people and businesses.
Action 4.1.2	Development of infrastructure & equipment with ICT for lifelong learning and Entrepreneurship
Description	<p>Establishment of a Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit: The Unit will be temporarily housed in the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities. However, it is recommended to create infrastructure in the mountain communities in order for the Unit to operate efficiently.</p> <p>The action includes the development of a Lifelong e-learning platform in collaboration with the Open University of Cyprus. The platform will also support the development of the International Network of Universities and Research Centres which will operate through the Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit. The Unit is developed in I.I.5, Action 5.7.1.</p> <p>It is proposed to use community buildings to create venues suitable for conferences, training etc.</p> <p>This Action also includes the support for the operation of the two Educational Youth Multifunctional Centres of Mountain Communities in I.I.5 (Action 5.4.4)</p>
Action 4.1.3	Mountain Employment & Entrepreneurship Observatory
Description	Establishment – Operation of an Observatory to systematically calculate the labour supply and demand curves. Based on its observations, determining the needs for educational programs and support interventions (e.g. funding) will become more effective, while the Observatory is deemed extremely useful to identify needs, adapt existing or shape new education, training and lifelong learning programmes. At the same time, the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the business potential will be ensured, especially that of young people for their continuous support.
Action 4.1.4	Development of a Mountain Research and Innovation Ecosystem
Description	For the promotion and introduction of technology, research and innovation based on the needs of local entrepreneurship, the development of a mountain research and innovation ecosystem is recommended, which is to be supported by the Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit. This unit is developed in I.I.5, Action 5.7.1. The Unit will undertake the information, awareness on lifelong learning and training, entrepreneurship, innovation and social economy.
Action 4.1.5	Information, awareness on lifelong learning and training, entrepreneurship, innovation and social economy
Description	The action concerns the dissemination of information in the mountain areas as well as the better implementation of the existing programmes so that they can be utilised to the maximum extent by the Troodos entrepreneurs.

Action 4.1.6	Entrepreneurship Education in the Troodos mountain communities in the context of the new mountain economy
Description	The action will support specialised programmes for Lifelong Learning, Training and Support of entrepreneurs, as well as for family-run and cooperative businesses, start-ups. entrepreneurship of the elderly (silver entrepreneurship), social entrepreneurship etc.
Action 4.1.7	Business Consulting & Mentoring Programmes
Description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme design 2. Implementation of business and tailored-made programmes/ mentoring of EBRD in collaboration with the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship Sector.

Integrated Intervention / Measure 5. Education	
Submeasure 5.1	Formation of a new framework for the organisation of education adapted to mountain areas
Action 5.1.1	Study for the organisation and operation of the “Educational Priority of Mountain Schools E.P.M.S.” Network
Description	<p>Study for the organisation and operation of the E.P.M.S. Network (School Supervision, Organisation, Basic Operations and Pilot Implementation)</p> <p>Preparation of a study for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The organisation and operation of the schools, which will be included in the E.P.M.S. Network. 2) The basic operations of the “E.P.M.S. Network” schools 3) The framework for the organisation of the “E.P.M.S. Network” schools 4) The pilot implementation in schools that will be indicated by the study <p>Cooperation between the University of Aegean and the Ministry of Education and Culture for the preparation of the study.</p> <p>The monitoring of the study will be undertaken by an Extended Scientific Committee. The “Educational Priority” sets the goal of educational policy, when a state wishes consciously and with a specific political expression to offset the impact of geographical, social and economic inequalities on school success by improving the quality of pedagogical and educational action in schools and institutions in geographical areas facing the greatest social difficulties.</p>
Action 5.1.2	Adjustment of the draft law on School Committees to the particularities of the demands of the Mountain Schools
Description	Adjustment of the geographical distribution of the regions of the new school committees in the context of the institutionalisation of the draft law for the School Committees. It is proposed to establish three distinct regions which can be organised based on three different scenarios.
Action 5.1.3	Virtual School in Troodos
Description	<p>Promotion of distance learning supported by the new digital Media (Distance Education) which can help alleviate spatio-temporal, geographical, social and economic difficulties in the educational process. The ever-decreasing cost of using technology helps to implement such an action. More specific actions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher training network 2. Distance learning supported by new digital Media 3. Creation of educational material
Submeasure 5.2	Harmonisation of Professional and Family Life in Troodos
Action 5.2.1	Adjustment of existing services and development of new services for children up to 5 years and 8 months old
Description	<p>The action concerns the promotion of the operation of “Unified Structures of care and Education of Preschool Children”. The structures will emerge with the joint implementation of programs of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance. This cooperation is implemented in many cases according to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, without any particular difficulties.</p> <p>To implement this Action, an Action Plan will be prepared per geographical area to prepare an inventory of the children per geographical area, from infants to children up to 5 years and 8 months old, their needs, as well as their parents’ needs. Then, the Public Kindergartens will be selected which will :</p>

	<p>a. extend their opening hours (7.00a.m. - 6.00p.m.),</p> <p>b. be upgraded and equipped to serve as Nurseries,</p> <p>c. be upgraded and equipped to house an After School Day Centre, in accordance with the After School Day Centres Law, for Primary School children either during periods where these schools are closed (Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays) or in the afternoon depending on the geographical area, the needs and the structures in operation.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, the Ministry of Education should employ additional Kindergarten Teachers and Assistants for the afternoon operation of the Public Kindergartens. In addition, a non-Governmental Organisation will be established, which will undertake the implementation, among other activities, of the structures of the Centre for the After School Day Centre and the Nursery School. The Action will be approved on the condition that all annual submissions are made, as provided in the relevant state sponsorship scheme which will be announced by the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance. Exceptionally, it is recommended that the submitted applications can be approved with funding of up to 60% to ensure the viability of these structures.</p> <p>Pilot implementation :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marathasa area (1 Kindergarten Teacher X €33,767) 2. Krasochoria area (2 Kindergarten Teachers X €33,767) 3. Kourris – Xylourikos area (1 Kindergarten Teacher X €33,767) <p>(Estimated annual income of €90,000 from tuition fees which will supplement the amount per year for operating expenses which amounts to €350,000)</p>
Action 5.2.2	Development of pre-school education infrastructure
Description	<p>Building and logistical upgrade of Public Kindergartens (those that are included in the Action Plan and those that will preserve the existing operating regime, as well as an upgrading planning, e.g. for the Public Kindergarten of Kyperounta)</p> <p>Upgrade of 3 Public Gardens for joint operation and construction of a new one in Trimiklini (Expenditure €500,000, part of which can be secured by donations). Establishment of a new Public Kindergarten included in the planning of the Ministry of Education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reopening of the Regional Primary School of Marathasa, relocation of the Public Kindergarten and operation of a Single Unit (€85,000) 2. Construction of a facility at the Primary School of Trimiklini for the relocation of the Public Kindergarten and operation of a Single Unit (€450,000) 3. Construction of facilities in Ayios Ambrosios, operation of a Public Kindergarten and a Single Unit (€450,000) 4. Promotion of the erection of a new Public Kindergarten in Kyperounta with infrastructure to operate as a single Single Unit (€100,000)
Submeasure 5.3	Business education in schools in the context of the mountain economy
Action 5.3.1	Development and establishment of Creativity, Innovation and Business Idea Programs in Primary and Secondary Education “New Generation of Mountain Entrepreneurship professionals” Programme
Description	<p>The Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit in collaboration and coordination with the Pedagogical Institute, the other Directorates of the Ministry of Education, the Youth Organisation, the non-profit organisation Junior Achievement etc., will jointly undertake the development of new programmes and the implementation of existing programmes of creativity, innovation and business idea and the promotion of participation in entrepreneurship competitions in Primary and Secondary Education (I.I.4 – Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning)¹. Their implementation will create a new generation of Troodos schools’ graduates and a new group of professionals in key sectors and fields of the economy who will</p>

	<p>contribute to the recovery and revitalisation of the region. The actions that will be promoted concern the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Formation and production of educational material for different groups of trainers and trainees & Different Types of Entrepreneurship² (Unit for the Promotion and Development of Mountain Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Foundation for Culture of Mountain Communities). Focus on sectors such as primary sector, processing, alternative mountain tourism, sport and culture ii. Development and implementation of educational programs in Public Schools for the promotion of mountain entrepreneurship such as iii. Establishment of Virtual Businesses programs (e.g. in collaboration with Junior Achievement Cyprus), Business Ideas – Creativity and Innovation Competitions (e.g. “Ideodromio”) for primary, secondary and technical school students. iv. Participation in relevant entrepreneurship and productivity competitions such as the competition of the Cyprus Productivity Centre v. Getting acquainted with the region programmes (brand my land) – Ambassadors of Mountain Tourism vi. Establishment of Mountain Entrepreneurship Competitions at national and local level (as an annual institution in Public Education Schools, rewarding existing businesses, start-ups, etc.) vii. Promotion of Good Practices – Group visit studies, Networking and collaboration viii. Continuous Assessment System, Programmes, Educational Material, Instructors and Learners <p>The content of this action is interconnected with I.I. “Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning”.</p>
Action 5.3.2	Establishment of Vocational Guidance, Counselling and Vocational Education Centres
Description	<p>It is proposed to design special programmes of “Counselling and Vocational Education” focusing on the specific nature of the region, such as the mountain particularities, small and family entrepreneurship and culture, while focusing on areas that can be applied in the region such as the primary sector with the highest quality products produced, processing, alternative mountain tourism, sport and culture.</p> <p>Within the framework of providing Counselling and Vocational Education to young people in the Troodos areas, the researchers of the NSDMC and the DSGE (CVE) suggest the creation of Vocational Guidance Centres, where people who will meet the qualifications provided by the Counselling and Vocational Education Professors Service Plan, will be employed to offer their Services, which promote the empowerment and development of skills related to the personality and entrepreneurship of young people.</p>

	<p>The Vocational Guidance, Counselling and Vocational Education Centres will be jointly housed with the Troodos Multifunctional Centres of Mountain Communities for cooperation and coordination with the services offered by the Cyprus Youth Organisation which are provided to young people aged 14-35, with the aim of supporting them so that they can make the most appropriate educational and professional choices.</p> <p>Implementation of CVE programmes, with the aim of managing issues that concern young people and developing “soft skills”, such as emotional and social intelligence, empathy, interpersonal relationships, teamwork.</p> <p>The content of this action is interconnected with I.I. “Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning”</p>
Submeasure 5.4	Structures of non-formal and informal education
Action 5.4.1	Completion and upgrade of the operation of Environmental Education Centres
Description	<p>The infrastructure of the EEC of Pedoulas needs to be upgraded due to the fact that the existing one cannot meet the needs of the EEC for two-day, three-day and multi-day programmes, as well as for the new development plans that have been foreseen for the EEC by the RDP Implementation Unit. Regarding the EEC in Koiliani, its financing has been approved by the Rural Development Program and its educational infrastructure is already under construction. The financing has not included the construction of accommodation facilities, which means that the EEC in Koilani will initially only provide one-day programmes and not three-day programmes, as provided by its design.</p> <p><u>Based on the above, the following are recommended:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EEC in Pedoulas to undergo a complete redesign to become operational and to be able to serve the existing and new needs. In addition, as a model of environmental education, the design should take into account its energy consumption in order to turn it into a zero-consumption building. In the context of the redesign, the surrounding area, the other building complexes that are developed on the same plot, the points of access, the amenities and the facilities of the users and the neighbourhoods should be evaluated. It is recommended to proceed to an architecture tender and to construct it as a Public Infrastructure Project. 2. To build the accommodation facilities and other supporting infrastructures for the EEC in Koilani, which were provided for in the design but also in the relevant urban and other approvals obtained. <p>For Budget matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete restoration of building complexes and surroundings of the Pedoulas Education Centre. Call for tenders for researchers and implementation of the project (€855,000) 2. Construction of auxiliary infrastructure and accommodation facilities for the Education Centre in Koilani (mature project to be implemented) €365,000

Action 5.4.2	Establishment, Construction and Operation of Cultural Education Centres of Mountain Communities (CECMC)
Description	<p>It is proposed to organise Cultural Education Centres of Mountain Communities which will operate, according to the model of the Environmental Education Centres (EEC) with the assistance of the University of Cyprus and the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Centres will operate under the management of the Foundation for Culture of Mountain Communities and to this end the Action is developed in the Integrated Intervention: “Culture – Troodos Values” – Submeasure 8.4</p> <p><u>Given that the programmes are destined for students, they should be approved through the procedures of the Ministry of Education under the supervision and monitoring of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute.</u> It is necessary to prepare differentiated educational programmes for all levels of Education (Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary) as well as for groups of adults, in the context of improving Lifelong Learning as well.</p> <p>The CECMCs will be addressed to Public and Private schools by connecting the school with the mountain culture, to the local community by contributing to social cohesion and the strengthening of local identity, and to visitors and special interest groups by strengthening the local economy.</p>
Action 5.4.3	Development of infrastructure for the Cultural Education Centres of Mountain Communities
Description	<p>Rehabilitation of non-operating education infrastructures, for their use as Cultural Education Centres (building and logistical infrastructure):</p> <p>In particular, it is proposed that CECMCs be established in the following Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palaichori: Old Primary School, which is a listed building and has been granted a planning permit and a building permit for its conversion into a cultural centre. The Cultural School in Palaichori will be the first to operate on a pilot basis. – Restoration of the Old Primary School of Palaichori €1,250,000 (first to operate on a pilot basis for multi-day programmes) • Vouni: Utilisation of the Oenological Centre and the Old Primary School in which adjustments should be made to meet the needs of the CECMC – Additions, conversions and equipment for the Vouni Primary School and Oenological Centre €90,000 (one-day programmes) • Kaminaria: Old Primary School “Archimandrite Ieronymos Myriantheas”. The preparation of studies necessary to obtain the required permits must be promoted to finance the implementation of the project – Restoration of the Old Primary School of Kaminaria (€575,000).
Action 5.4.4	Establishment and operation of 2 Educational Youth Multifunctional Centres of Troodos Mountain Communities
Description	<p>This multipurpose space will be created according to the standards of the learning centre of the future, which provides 6 learning and work zones: Develop, Exchange, Create, investigate, Present, Interact. This is a measure of formal and informal education and its structure will operate according to the standards of the action “the STEAMers” in collaboration with the Cyprus Youth Organisation. Additionally, within the Educational Youth Multifunctional Centre of Troodos Mountain Communities and in collaboration with the Cyprus Youth Centre the following will jointly operate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Youth Information Centre (which will operate according to the standards and rules of the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA)) and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Youth Makerspace (access of young people to high-level and state-of-the-art equipment to develop prototypes and implement their business ideas). <p>Vocational Guidance, Counselling and Vocational Education Centres (Action 5.3.2) will operate within the Educational Youth Multifunctional Centre of Troodos Mountain Communities and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture.</p> <p>For the creation of the Multifunctional Centres, it is recommended to restore the old building of the Police Directorate of Morfos (Evrychou) & adjust an existing building in Agros. In terms of operating costs, it includes the employment of a teacher who will assist and organise the study based on the digital material, while there will be a possibility of joint actions between students and members of the local community. The teacher will support both centres (daily full-time physical presence in one centre or the other).</p> <p>Additional recruitment of an officer at the Solea Multifunctional Centre by the Youth Organisation. In Agros, the Youth Organisation employs an official from an existing information centre.</p>
Submeasure 5.5	Establishment/ Upgrading of Schools of Special Interest, Secondary General and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education
	<p>The conclusion made by the researchers and the Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education is that the strengthening of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training is one of the most important measures for the revitalisation of the region. The establishment of such schools will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the strengthening of employment and the fight against unemployment, especially in young people who tend to abandon the area, ✓ the drop of unemployment rates in young people aged 18 to 30, in particular young people outside education, training or employment structures, by enhancing their skills in order to facilitate their entry into the labour market and ✓ the fight against the early school leaving phenomenon and the empowerment of young people in the area <p>To determine which Schools of Special Interest, Secondary General and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education are necessary to be established in the region and in which geographical area of the mountain communities, the diagnosis of the NSDMC and its results were taken into account, regarding the needs and perspectives of the three key pillars of the mountain economy.</p>
Action 5.5.1	Mitsi School of Economics and Commerce in Lemythou
Description	<p>The Council of Ministers, following a proposal of the Ministry of Education and Culture, approved, at a first stage, the conversion of the lyceum (high school) of the Mitsi School of Commerce in Lemythou into a School of Economics and Commerce (SEC). The primary goal is to promote excellence through a high-level education and to enable students who have an aptitude and a special interest in economic studies to enter immediately the labour market (through the development of local entrepreneurship) or to join higher education institutes in order to obtain an academic degree.</p>

	<p>The Mountain Entrepreneurship Development Unit and the researchers of Integrated Intervention 4 – Entrepreneurship and Lifelong Learning will support the preparation of the training programs of the SEC as to integrate the strategic aspirations of the NSDMC.</p> <p>Interconnection with Action 5.6.3. for joint operation with the Academy of Mountain Economy and Entrepreneurship – Dimosthenis Mitsi</p>
Action 5.5.2	Troodos Agricultural Technical School (Galata)
Description	<p>In order for the transition from intensive farming to quality farming to bear fruits, trained farmers and technicians who can help support production systems and crops that can deliver high value-added products are needed. It is noted that this aspiration is the main aim of the NSDMC and is therefore recommended to create, at the same time, a strong unit to support entrepreneurship which will embrace the primary sector as a key contributor to the local mountain economy. The supply of quality products such as the Koumandaria wine and the prospects that open up for the integration in quality systems of the majority of agricultural products not only of the Troodos region but also of the whole of Cyprus, justify the need to establish the Troodos Agricultural Technical School. The proposed Agricultural Technical School can constitute the entryway for the subsequent admission to Post-Secondary Institutes of Vocational Education and Training (PSIVET) programmes or to the proposed Troodos Higher Agricultural School that will operate in the same area. Interconnection with Action 5.6.3.</p> <p>Solea is located in the centre of an area with significant mountain agriculture of various produce whose role will be upgraded in the near future as a potential producer of quality and identity products. Additionally, the Troodos region produces PDO/ PGI products such as the Commandaria wine, Zivania (pomace brandy) and other Wines, Pitsilia cured meat products and the Agros Rose Spoon Sweet.</p> <p>The above highlight an area with great growth prospects for the primary and secondary sectors. The proposed agricultural education structures will support the new generation of farmers in the mountain communities as well as the existing farmers as to modernise and upgrade their units. Finally, it is important to support the model of mountain agriculture, the promotion of inherited knowledge and its link to quality products and the introduction of innovations through the specific education structures.</p>
Action 5.5.3	Upgrade and relocation of the Technical Hospitality School in Apeitio Gymnasium –Lyceum of Agros
Description	<p>In the secondary school of Agros, there is a Technical School department in the field of hospitality and culinary arts of practical direction. Based on the needs of the area, its specialisations and the general design of the NSDMC, <u>it is proposed to upgrade and relocate the Hospitality School (introduction of a theoretical branch, operation and management of hospitality units). Additionally, Post-Secondary Institutes of PSIVET programmes can be introduced for the fields of Bakery – Confectionery.</u> The upgrade of the School addresses the increased need for specialists in the effort of creating the Troodos mountain tourist product which will be promoted by the NSDMC. This creation will be based mainly on local professionals, existing and newcomers, local products and local experiences. The goal set by the NSDMC to shift the tourism of Troodos from accommodation to activity also specifies the new needs for the creation of an alternative tourism strongly linked to the place which should be taken into account by the upgraded School. In any case, this school will constitute the entryway for admission to the HHIC.</p>

Action 5.5.4	Art School at Omodos Gymnasium – Lyceum
Description	<p>The Foundation for Culture of Mountain Communities through the multiple programmes that it will develop aims at the active participation of young people in cultural creation. The operation of the Art School (Fine and Applied Arts) specialising in Folk Arts, proposed to be established by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth (following the establishment of the successful institution of Music Schools), is one of the most important structures and infrastructure to achieve this goal.</p> <p>Based on the above, the Foundation will collaborate and support the Ministry of Education in the operation of the school, will undertake the promotion of educational programmes outside the structures of the Public School and will be responsible for planning their operation. Based on the above proposal, dormitories should be created in the Omodos lyceum to host students and provide the necessary facilities.</p> <p>To promote the operation of the Art School, it is recommended to prepare an Action Plan with the support of experts in which the Directorate of Secondary General Education (Art Inspection) should assist given its competence and experience, as well as the Cyprus Handicraft Service. Additionally, the necessary procedures for the implementation of the required infrastructure in order for the Art School to operate should be promoted.</p>
Action 5.5.5	School of Technical professions in the Gymnasium – Lyceum of Evrychou (feasibility study)
Description	<p>Operation of a School of Technical Professions (branches of theoretical and practical direction – architecture and civil engineering, construction works, electrical engineering and electronic applications, etc.). The proposed School will operate as a department integrated in the Gymnasium – Lyceum of Solea.</p> <p>It is recommended to explore the feasibility based on the needs of the geographical areas served by the Lyceum.</p>
Action 5.5.6	Sports School at Solea Gymnasium – Lyceum
Description	<p>For the creation of the Sports School at the Solea Gymnasium – Lyceum the following are required:</p> <p>(a) support of the creation of development department (sports – academies – clubs) in order to prepare the athletes who will be able to meet the criteria for admission to SS.</p> <p>(b) promotion of the necessary procedures for the implementation of the necessary infrastructure in order for the SS to operate (it is noted that there are several sports facilities and infrastructure in both the Gymnasium – Lyceum and the neighbouring communities).</p> <p>Funding of local sports clubs for the development of departments – academies of athlete training, for a period of at least 3 years, in order to prepare the athletes who will be able to meet the school’s admission criteria.</p> <p>The location will be re-evaluated.</p>
Submeasure 5.6	Creation of structures of Post-Secondary Institutes of Vocational Education and Training (PSIVET) and Public Higher Education Schools in the Troodos Mountain Communities
	<p>The interventions that follow are aimed not only at creating a comprehensive plan for the development of the education system in the region, but also at the promotion of the region as a key centre for the provision of vocational education and training services and mountain entrepreneurship for Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean.</p>

	<p>An important issue is not only the attraction of people from Troodos but also from other regions of Cyprus and Europe who want to enhance their professional qualifications and receive high quality vocational education and training services, especially in the fields of Sustainable Tourism, Primary Sector, Processing, Fine and Applied Arts and Entrepreneurship.</p>
Action 5.6.1	Establishment of HHIC Branch - HHIC Troodos Campus
Description	<p>The proposal is in line with the recommendations of the HHIC Reorganisation Study for the development of selected branches outside the capital. In addition to the core programmes of study of the HHIC, specialisation programmes relating to the Troodos tourist product (Gastronomy-Sommelier, Mountain Tour-Mountain Guide, Experiential Tourism-Alternative forms of Tourism such as Mountain Tourism, Nature Tourism, Religious Tourism, Wellness Tourism etc.) will also be offered in English and Greek. The programmes could be offered either as self-contained (programme of study or short-term programme) or in the form of a specialisation programme of study.</p> <p>Based on the above, it is recommended to prepare a study for the establishment and operation of the HHIC Branch – HHIC Troodos – Platres Campus, which will include an operational plan, identification and costing of infrastructure, programmes of study (full- and part-time and distance) and other services which will be offered by the Institute (research/ studies, examination and certification of qualifications etc.), organisation and staffing structure, the academic and administrative operation, the budget of establishment and operation and the implementation plan with implementation schedules.</p> <p>The preparation of the study has been extensively discussed with the Director of the Higher Hospitality Institute and it has become apparent that it can be prepared by specific distinguished academics/ experts who have previously collaborated with the HHIC under the Joint Programme with the World Tourism Organisation and who expressed their interest in working on the preparation of the said study.</p>
Action 5.6.2	Strengthening Post-Secondary Vocational Education and Training (PSIVET)
Description	<p>The need for the contribution of education to the new emerging mountain economy is highlighted, and in particular through the support of technical professions with special education and training programmes. The aim is the education and training of the local and non-local population and the acquisition of skills and abilities to support local productive and business specialisations (small mountain agriculture, agri-food, fine and applied arts).</p> <p>It is proposed to prepare a techno-economic study to investigate and propose the best choice between the establishment of Post-Secondary Institutes of Vocational Education and Training (PSIVET) or Higher Education Schools (Public Tertiary Education Schools) when it comes to the:</p> <p>(a) School of Fine and Applied Arts (Culture and Creative Artisanship) (b) Academy of Mountain Economy and Entrepreneurship – Dimosthenis Mitsis (will also manage the School of Special Interest)</p>

	<p>The Department of Higher and Tertiary Education of the Ministry of Education agrees with the above. Nevertheless, it points out that the possibility of cooperation with Higher Schools and Universities of Cyprus or abroad for Higher Education matters should be investigated. Therefore, it is recommended that, in this study, the potential Higher Schools and Universities of Cyprus and/ or abroad, which would be interested in cooperating for the operation of the proposed Schools, be investigated and assessed. Then, the areas and fields of cooperation should be defined.</p>
Action 5.6.3	Study of preparation for the establishment and operation of the Troodos Higher Agricultural School in Kalo Chorio - Louvaras
Description	<p>The choice of establishing the Higher Agricultural School in Troodos is based on four factors: (a) existence of an attractive living environment, (b) proximity to the city of Limassol (half an hour provided the improvements to be made to the Kato-Chorio-Limassol road), but also the local centres of Agros and Pelendri, (c) the existence of part of the required infrastructure and (d) the location of the settlements in the centre of an area with significant mountain agriculture of various produce whose role will be upgraded in the near future as a potential producer of quality and identity products.</p> <p>(a) Preparation of a study for the establishment and operation of the Troodos Higher Agricultural School, which will include an operational plan, identification and costing of infrastructure, programmes of study (full-time, part-time and distance) and other services offered by the institute (researches/ studies, examination and certification of qualifications etc.), structure, organisation and staffing, the academic and administrative operation, the budget of establishment and operation and the implementation plan with implementation schedules.</p> <p>(b) Legislative elaboration of the proposal and preparation of the necessary amendments.</p> <p>The location will be re-evaluated.</p>
Submeasure 5.7	Establishment of University School Departments and a Research and Innovation Centre
Action 5.7.1	Establishment of the Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit
Description	<p>A. Techno-economic Study for the establishment and operation of the "Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit" in the framework of the proposal of the DG for EPCD. It will include an investigation of the potentially contracted Higher Schools of Cyprus and/ or abroad, identification of the areas and fields of cooperation, determination of the services to be offered by the Unit, the infrastructure needs, the organisational staffing structure, the academic and administrative operation, the establishment and operation budget and the implementation plan with implementation schedules.</p> <p>B. Creation of infrastructure</p> <p>The Interuniversity Unit is proposed to be jointly housed with the Troodos Foundation for Culture, the Troodos Library, the International Centre for Biodiversity Research and Education and the Geological School in an industrial building located at the Amiantos Mine.</p>
Action 5.7.2	Formulation of an Incentives Plan to attract local and foreign Universities for the establishment and operation of Departments and/ or Schools in Troodos and call for expression of interest
Description	<p>Preparation of an Incentives Plan to attract local and foreign Universities for the establishment and operation of Departments and/ or Schools in Troodos.</p>

	<p>For the preparation of the Plan, tax and financial incentives will be elaborated that will be attributed to the interested parties. Furthermore, the real estate available for development, the trusts and/ or the donations of expatriates that can be used for this purpose will be evaluated and presented. The call for tenders and the eligibility criteria will be formulated in the plan. The tender will be open and the interested parties will have to submit a technical and financial proposal.</p> <p>Based on the particularities of the Troodos region and its dynamics, the following fields are mentioned indicatively: environment, biodiversity, forest, water resources, geology, cultural heritage, architecture, special interest tourism etc.</p> <p>For the purposes of designing the Plan, monitoring the tender process and selecting a contractor(s), it is proposed to establish a Scientific Committee.</p>
--	---

Integrated Intervention / Measure 6. Natural Environment	
Submeasure 6.1	Governance
Action 6.1.1	Establishment of a Troodos Protected Area Management Organisation
Description	The sustainable utilisation of the natural resources and the anthropogenic environment of the Troodos region, will be served on the one hand by the delimitation of the Single Management Protected Area (except for state forests) and on the other hand by the establishment of a Management Organisation (MO) for the single area in which all Stakeholders will be in constant cooperation and consultation.
Submeasure 6.2	Highlighting the contribution of biodiversity & agroecosystems to the sustainability of the Troodos region
Action 6.2.1	Design of a local agri-environment scheme
Description	The aim of the action is to establish a coherent agri-environment management scheme, with a spatial dimension and the scope of the Single Management Protected Area, which can be implemented immediately and effectively by the proposed Management Organisation.
Action 6.2.2	Environmental quality label of protected areas through networking
Description	Environmental quality label of protected areas through networking (European Federation of Protected Areas (Europarc)). Certification through the environmental quality label of the protected areas of Troodos with the aim of preserving its ecosystems and biodiversity as a sustainable tourist destination. The action is interconnected with I.I.3 New model of Troodos mountain tourist product.
Submeasure 6.3	Institutional arrangements for the management of Forest areas
Action 6.3.1	Integrated Fire Protection Plans for forest areas and communities
Description	<p>The issue of Forest Fires is primarily a matter of safety both for people and property. It is a common ascertainment of all stakeholders (Department of Forests and Researchers) that precautionary measures should be taken due to: (a) the region's sensitivity to global warming and the expected effects with reference to biodiversity conservation, (b) forest fires and other natural hazards, (c) the need for sustainability of agricultural systems and tourism activities. Climate change and urbanisation in particular are the two main factors contributing to increasing the risk of wildfires exponentially.</p> <p>A. Preparation of a specific integrated fire protection plan for forest areas, rural areas and communities within or around them (identification of high risk zones, specialised action plans per zone, probability assessment or timely identification of starting points and fire spread etc.). The cooperation and coordination of the Department of Forests, Fire Service, District Administration, Civil Defence and the Police is required for the preparation of the plan as well as the implementation of the integrated fire protection plans.</p>

	<p>B. Actions that simultaneously achieve the protection from fires and the utilisation of interstices in the forest areas and the abandoned fields for their protection but also for the generation of income and the support of biodiversity. Additionally, the following are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use of technological tools (satellite data, sensors, etc.) and combined methods to prevent and suppress fires. b. Reinforcement of measures to prevent and suppress fires on private property. c. Evaluation of zones within forest areas for the development of agroforestry systems. d. Provision of incentives or compensation for cultivation of abandoned fields either by the owners or by the state with the consent of the owner.
Action 6.3.2	Energy production from forest residual biomass
Description	Creation of a flexible institutional framework for forest biomass residue power plants.

Integrated Intervention / Measure 7. Water Resources			
Submeasure 7.1	Reorganisation of the operation of the various sets of water users in the Troodos Mountain Communities		
Action 7.1.1	Preparation of general plans for water supply and irrigation in the Troodos region, techno-economic study and study with reference to the Institutional framework for the creation of an Organisation for the Operation and Management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Solid and Liquid Waste Infrastructure of the Troodos Mountain Communities		
Description	<p>It is proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and the Agricultural University of Athens for the preparation of a Techno-economic Study and Institutional Framework study for:</p> <p>(1) the organization and operation of the various sets of water users (and submission of proposals for their modernization and upgrading), and (2) management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Sewerage and treatment and disposal of Troodos urban waste. The study will indicate the responsibilities and the structure of the establishment and operation of the Organisation for the Management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Sewerage and treatment and disposal of Troodos urban waste³. The contents of the study have been extensively discussed and decided during the first, second and third conferences of the "Scientific and Technical Committees for the Renaissance of Troodos"⁴.</p> <p>As to prepare the study, the Agricultural University of Athens will collaborate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, - the Polytechnic School of the University of Thessaly, - the Law School of the University of Athens - the Private Company that will undertake part of the work of the study <p>The responsibility for the study and the coordination of the study team will be borne by the Agricultural University under the Scientific Officer, Mr Nicos Derkas, Associate Professor of the Department of Natural Resources and Agricultural Engineering at the School of Agricultural Production, Infrastructure and Environment.</p> <p>The Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities, Department of Natural Environment, Water Resources and Energy, will be responsible for supporting the study team, coordinating and monitoring the research in the field as well as the participating bodies in Cyprus. Additionally, it is proposed that the Office of the Commissioner promote the implementation of research programmes in order to support the study team, the research in the field, the inventory of the water supply/ irrigation infrastructure etc. For this purpose, a group of young and experienced scientists will be established who will implement the programme.</p>		
	Research Programme	2020-2021	Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities
Action 7.1.2	Establishment of an Organisation for the Operation and Management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Solid and Liquid Infrastructure of Troodos Mountain Communities and relevant actions.		
Description	<p>Based on the aforementioned studies (Techno-economic and Institutional framework), the following proposals will be made:</p> <p>(A) Bill for the establishment and operation of the proposed Organisation. Within the framework of the Infrastructure Management Organisation the following will be carried out:</p>		

	<p>- Organisation of a Management network at the level of the Area Upstream of the River Basins (AURB) with the participation of the communities.</p> <p>(B) Association of water users based on the indications of the Techno-economic Study (Action 7.1.1.). From this study, the mergers to be made and their cost will be identified.</p>
Submeasure 7.2	Modernisation of systems and infrastructure in the Troodos Mountain Communities
Action 7.2.1	Hydraulic Studies
Description	Preparation of Hydraulic Studies for merging and/ or modernising systems. The cost of the studies will be determined in the Techno-economic Study (Action 7.1.1) in which the prioritisation of the proposed interventions will also be determined. Studies will be prepared for those projects approved to be promoted for implementation based on the financial framework.
Action 7.2.2	Study and development of a database on an e-platform
Description	Study and development of a geospatial database on an e-platform which will include the inventory and monitoring of hydrological and hydraulic elements.
Action 7.2.3	Ecological water supply studies
Description	Ecological water supply studies. The Techno-economic Study (Action 7.1.1.) will determine the necessary studies and their cost. The scheduling of the preparation of the studies will be decided on the basis of the financial framework.
Action 7.2.4	Completion of the irrigation project in Solea
Description	It is recommended to speed up the implementation of the project taking into account that the main and most expensive part of the project has been completed.
Action 7.2.5	Modernisation of the Kampos & Tsakistra Water Management System
Description	Implementation of an Action Plan for the reorganisation and modernisation of sets of water users and systems in the communities of Kampos & Tsakistra (in the first phase upgrade of the Tsakistra dam pumping stations up to the head unit. The cost relates to the operation of the Tsakistra Water Project up to the head unit. The cost of hydraulic connection of the four irrigation projects will be determined after the completion of the hydraulic study.

Integrated Intervention / Measure 8.**Culture: "Troodos Values" Project**

Submeasure 8.1	Organising and supporting the Cultural Policy for Mountain Communities
Action 8.1.1	Establishment of the Troodos Mountain Communities' Foundation for Culture
Description	<p>The purpose of the foundation will be to list, preserve, study, develop and promote the history, natural and cultural heritage of mountain communities, and upgrade the cultural education provided and the cultural creation produced today. At the same time, the aim is to support the business ecosystem of the region by means of utilising the cultural heritage but also the modern creation.</p> <p>In order to be able to fulfil its role, the Foundation will consist of the following departments/ Centres:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Troodos Centre for Scientific Studies2. International Centre for Research and Education and Museum of Biodiversity3. Department of Management of the "Dasoessa": Nature – Culture –Sports (activities and recreation park)4. Library – Archive – Documentation Centre5. Department of Museums – Network of Museums, Information and Troodos Monuments Centres6. Department of Cultural Education, Training and Lifelong Learning (interconnection with Entrepreneurship) A. Troodos Mountain Communities Cultural Education Centres B. School of Fine and Applied Arts (based on the standards of the Music School)7. Promotion Department <p>Amiantos is defined as the headquarters of the Troodos Foundation for Culture. To this end, one of the large industrial building infrastructures that exist in Amiantos' Zone 1 (Interconnection with actions 8.2.5, 8.5.1 and 8.5.2) is proposed to be used for its housing. The same space will house the Troodos Library, The International Centre for Research and Education on Biodiversity, the Geological School "GEOSCHOOL" to accommodate Troodos' students, researches, pupils and special interest groups (Interconnection with the Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit) – I.I. 5 - Action 5.7.1.).</p>
Action 8.1.2	Network of Collaborating Bodies with the Foundation for Culture
Description	Establishment of a network of collaborating bodies with the Foundation for Culture (educational and research bodies).
Submeasure 8.2	Formation of a Troodos cultural tourist product and promotion actions
Action 8.2.1	Study to identify, list and document the tangible and intangible heritage and action plans for its promotion and utilisation
Description	<p>The Foundation will promote the implementation of research programmes as to prepare an inventory of history, tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Troodos mountain communities. For this purpose, a team of young and experienced scientists will be established in order to implement the programme. Additionally, the promotion of collaborations with University Institutions and other relevant research bodies will be sought to undertake further specialised research with the simultaneous search for funding from national and European resources (Interreg, Research Promotion Foundation, EEA and Norway grants)</p> <p>The findings of the above research will:</p> <p>(a) be used for the creation of museums and educational institutions</p>

	<p>(b) contribute to the cultivation of historical consciousness in the local community</p> <p>(c) preserve and promote a very important part of the historical wealth of Cyprus and its unique mountain culture</p> <p>(d) provide information to the scientific teams that will work to promote the traditional products and services of the Troodos region (Interconnection with actions 1.1.1, 2.1.1 and 3.1.1). This action is particularly important for promoting the quality and identity of foods in Troodos, given their great tradition and recognition. It also contributes to the achievement of the objectives of integrated interventions for agriculture and processing, in particular in relation to value-added actions for local products.</p>
Action 8.2.2	Promotion of Cultural Resources
Description	Action plans for the promotion of the cultural resources of the region and the activities of the Foundation. The action is coordinated by the Promotion Department of the Foundation.
Action 8.2.3	Design of a network of cultural thematic units
Description	<p>It is proposed to formulate 5 action plans – one for each thematic unit, the pillar of each will constitute a Regional Thematic Museum (RTM). Each RTM and respectively each Action Plan will present the main areas of development of the relevant thematic unit. That is, the landscape, the thematic monuments, other specialised museums and related businesses. All of the above will constitute a specialised thematic network. The creation of the Network should be accompanied by an action plan of the activities it will develop, the identification of a network of external bodies and collaborators that can support its action as well as the relationship it will have with the Troodos Mountain Communities' Foundation for Culture. Finally, it will propose the layout of the routes connecting all the relevant infrastructures with the thematic unit (e.g. vineyard – winery – local museums/monuments – thematic museum). The Action Plans should be prepared taking into account the Design of the Unique Tourist Product – Integrated Intervention 3: New Troodos Mountain Tourist Product Model/ Action 3.1.1.</p>
Action 8.2.4	Promoting cultural resources using digital technologies
Description	<p>Formulation of a plan for the use and integration of new technologies in monuments and cultural spaces and a plan for the implementation of the creation of technological tools for the remote service of visitors and users:</p> <p>(a) support of the digital functions of the Library/ Archive/ Documentation Centre</p> <p>(b) development of tools using technological means that will aim at education as well as the promotion of the cultural resources of the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical support from an external partner - Supply of equipment
Action 8.2.5	Establishment and operation of the Troodos Library – Archive – Documentation centre
Description	<p>The creation of a modern Troodos Library is of vital importance. The Library will systematically gather all Troodos-related literature (studies, articles, printed and periodical press, etc.). The Library will feature a special section on flora and fauna and biodiversity in general, which will meet the needs and support the work of the International Centre for the Study of Biodiversity, as recommended to be established in Troodos.</p> <p>Additionally, it is necessary to establish the Troodos Archive which will list, collect and digitise archival material for Troodos with the primary concern of listing, preserving, maintaining public and private archives (e.g. school, local government, church, commercial record-keeping, association and cultural institutions record-keeping etc.), which due to the suspension of operation of these bodies are ignored or threatened with extinction.</p> <p>Amiantos is defined as the headquarters of the Troodos Foundation for Culture, the main Section of which will consist of the Troodos Library. To this end, it is proposed to house the Library in one of the existing large industrial building infrastructures in the Amiantos Zone 1. (Interconnection with Actions 8.1.1, 8.5.1 and 8.5.2).</p>

	<p>The International Centre for Research and Education on Biodiversity and the Geological School – “GEOSCHOOL” established to accommodate the Library’s students, researchers, pupils and groups of visitors of special interest will be also housed and operate in the same space as the Troodos Library (Interconnection with the Interuniversity Research, Innovation and Experimental Unit – I.I. 5 Action 5.7.1).</p>
Submeasure 8.3	Upgrading and Utilising cultural infrastructure
Action 8.3.1.	Action Plan for the evaluation – classification – scientific study of utilisation – networking of existing “museums”
Description	<p>To upgrade and utilise the existing museum stock of the area, it is necessary to prepare :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An evaluation and classification programme of the existing “museums” 2. A scientific study for the utilisation and networking of museums <p>Based on the above, the final proposal for the improvement and promotion of the existing “museums” will be formed. Based on the said proposal, the thematic museums – pillar museums will have a symmetrical geographical dispersion, will be connected with other similar Museums, Monuments, Craft undertakings, establishing a network of Museums/ Monuments, etc., utilising existing structures and facilities in the best possible way. Additionally, its geographical dispersion and networking will be depicted on relevant maps – Interconnection with Action 8.2.3 Design of a network of cultural thematic units.</p> <p>The maturity and implementation, enrichment and upgrading of the existing museums as indicated by the study, is included in Action 8.3.6.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Promotion of Networking and Collaborations between the Museums of Troodos Mountain Communities
Action 8.3.2.	Establishment and operation of the Troodos History Museum
Description	<p>It is proposed to prepare an architectural and specialised scientific/ historical and museological study for the establishment of the Troodos History Museum: “Troodos: a Journey through Space and Time” as the central museum of Troodos. For the housing of the History Museum, it is proposed to utilise the industrial building complex in Amiantos Zone 1, where a multi-thematic presentation of the History and Culture of Troodos will be developed – permanent exhibition. Additionally, periodic special thematic exhibitions will be showcased to highlight the cultural wealth of the Troodos region that is not permanently exhibited in special thematic museums. The History Museum is part of the project for the utilisation and renovation of the space and infrastructure of the old Amiantos mine. The same building complex will house the Ecomuseum, the Science and Technology Exhibition, the Industrial and Mining Heritage Information Centre.</p> <p>The Planning will be integrated with Action 8.1.1. (The structure will be housed in an industrial building in Amiantos, the cost of which is analysed in SI.2.3)</p>
Action 8.3.3.	Development of Regional Thematic Museums
Description	<p>Based on the diagnosis, the thematic units that will be developed have been identified. Depending on the results of Action 8.3.1 (evaluation – classification of existing “museums”) the infrastructure and the areas where the 5 regional thematic museums will be developed and which will constitute the central pillars of the following thematic units will be identified:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional museum and thematic unit “Vine and Wine” 2. Regional museum and thematic unit of Gastronomy 3. Regional museum/ information centre and thematic unit – Museum of Byzantine and post-Byzantine wealth of the Troodos region. 4. “Open Air Museum” – Traditional village – Art and Life of Toil: Traditional Arts and Professions – FIKARDOU 5. Regional Museum and thematic unit: Tourist Tradition of Mountain Resorts <p>For each of the above, an architectural and specialised scientific/ museological study will be prepared. Finally, their gradual construction will follow based on the available appropriations.</p>
Action 8.3.4	Action Plans to upgrade and utilise monuments
Description	<p><u>UNESCO Monuments:</u> Preparation of an Action Plan to improve their operation and promotion. <u>Study to list and promote the Byzantine and post-Byzantine wealth of the area</u> (enrichment of existing museums, access to monuments, unified signage of guidance and information), listing, classification and restoration action plans.</p> <p><u>Agricultural Heritage Monuments:</u> Background – documentation, classification study and actions plans to promote the rich agricultural heritage of Troodos for its use and connection with the new Troodos’ unique tourist product and their inclusion in thematic routes.</p> <p><u>Monuments of modern history and cultural heritage:</u> Background – documentation, classification study and action plans to showcase it.</p> <p>The maturity, implementation and operation of the monuments is included in Action 8.3.6</p>
Action 8.3.5	Action Plans to upgrade and utilise Information Centres and other Cultural Sites
Description	<p>To upgrade and utilise the Information Centres and Cultural Sites, it is necessary to prepare an Action Plan for their evaluation, classification and scientific study for their utilisation. In the first phase, the study and implementation will be financed by National Resources for 2 to 4 projects. The rest is recommended to be implemented after 2022 with European or other resources.</p> <p>Maturity and implementation in action 8.3.6.</p>
Action 8.3.6	Maturity and implementation of infrastructure of Action Plans for Museums, Monuments, Information Centres and Cultural Sites and development of a network of Multifunctional Social Welfare, Education and Lifelong Learning Centres
Description	<p>The preparation of architectural studies and implementation of projects as follows is proposed:</p> <p>Monuments: conservation, restoration and improvement of access to monuments of all classifications (€5,000,000 over a decade) (Action 8.3.4.)</p> <p><u>15 museums:</u> equipment, conservation, upgrade (€2,000,000 over a decade) (Action 8.3.1.),</p> <p><u>4 cultural spaces</u> for theatrical and musical performances: interior renovation and installation of equipment to meet specifications commensurate with the activities they will host (€3,500,000 over a decade) (Action 8.3.5.),</p> <p><u>6 conference rooms/ certified vocational training centres and vocational training structures</u></p> <p>For the implementation of subsidised, co-financed and/ or proclaimed training activities: interior renovation and installation of equipment to meet the relevant specifications (each €1,500,000 over a decade) (Action 8.3.5.).</p>

	<p><u>15 Multifunctional Social Welfare, Education and Lifelong Learning Centres</u> – Network Development (€2,500,000 over a period of three years) (Action 8.4.3.)</p> <p>Additionally, the recruitment of up to 8 people for the operation of these monuments with special emphasis on UNESCO monuments. The people who will be employed will receive special education and training (8 X €18,020, VAT not included)</p>
Submeasure 8.4	Supporting the Development of Cultural Creation (Education, Training and Lifelong Learning)
Action 8.4.1	Cultural Education Centres of Mountain Communities (CECMC)
Description	<p>It is proposed to establish Cultural Education Centres of Mountain Communities (CECMC) which will operate, according to the model of Environmental Education Centres (EEC) with the assistance of the University of Cyprus and the Ministry of Education and Culture.</p> <p>The CECMCs will address the Public and Private schools, connecting the school with the culture of the mountain, the local community contributing to the social cohesion and the strengthening of the local identity and to visitors and special interest groups, thus increasing local economic growth.</p> <p>To promote the operation of the CECMCs, it is proposed that the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities, in cooperation and coordination with the Pedagogical Institute, the other Directorates of the Ministry of Education, the University of Cyprus (and other bodies that will be decided) promote the establishment of an Action Plan for the development of the CECMCs Network in the mountain communities.</p> <p>Phase A – Pilot implementation in Palaichori and Vouni with daily programmes in existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Phase B - Pilot implementation in Palaichori with the renovation of an old Primary School for the creation of education and accommodation infrastructure for students and special interest groups that will host two-day and three-day programmes.</p> <p>Infrastructure development is proposed as an action in the Integrated Intervention 5 Education, Action 5.4.3 development of infrastructure of Cultural Education Centres of Mountain Communities</p>
Action 8.4.2	Art School at Omodos Gymnasium – Lyceum
Description	<p>The Foundation for Culture of Mountain Communities through the multiple programmes that it will develop aims at the active participation of young people in cultural creation. One of the most important structures and infrastructure to achieve this goal is expected to be the operation of an Art School (Fine and Applied Arts) specialising in Folk Art (Handicraft) which is proposed to be established by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in accordance with the successful institution of Music Schools. The proposal is developed in more detail in Integrated Intervention 5: “Education”. More specifically, in this intervention (Submeasure 5.5. Creation/ Upgrading of Schools of Special Interest, Secondary General and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education) – Action 5.5.4)</p> <p>The Foundation for Culture will cooperate with and support the Ministry of Education in the operation of the school, will undertake the promotion of educational programmes outside the structures of the Public School and will be responsible for the planning of their operation. In Omodos lyceum and based on the above proposal, dormitories should be created to accommodate students and provide the necessary facilities.</p> <p>In order to promote the operation of the Art School (Fine and Applied Arts) specialising in Folk Art (Handicraft), it is recommended to prepare an action Plan with the support of expertise to be assisted by the Department of Secondary General Education (Department of Art) due to its competency, experience and expertise. In additional, the necessary procedures for the implementation of the required infrastructure in order for the Art School to operate should be promoted.</p>

Action 8.4.3	Promotion and development of cultural education – Multifunctional Social Welfare, Education and Lifelong Learning Centres
Description	<p>Community buildings in the area will be utilised, after their upgrade, to be transformed into Multifunctional Social Welfare, Education and Lifelong Learning Centres. The centres will provide Lifelong Learning, Exercise⁵, Cultural Education and Creation⁶, Social Welfare⁷ and Medical Services. In order to provide the above services, the joint implementation of programmes of various Ministries is recommended in the first stage. Many of these programmes are offered in the area (e.g. Sports for All, Training Centres, State Training Institutes, Cyprus Handicraft Service, Cultural Services etc.). Nevertheless, there is a need for further utilisation on a systematic basis and single planning to render them appropriate and accessible to all Troodos residents. It is noted that some of the courses and programmes will have to be redesigned to adapt to the needs of the area with a particular focus on cultural education courses. Additionally, new programmes should be introduced and implemented with a focus on cultural education and creation (e.g. theatre and music workshops), due to the fact that a lack is observed when it comes to these areas in the form of both public and private intervention.</p> <p>Based on the above, it is recommended to <u>prepare an Integrated Action Plan with all stakeholders as well as an integrated programme for the Organisation of Cultural Education and Creation Centres per geographical area to provide programmes to students of all ages and adults</u>. The Centres will be housed in the “Multifunctional Social Welfare, Education and Lifelong Learning Centres”. The Plan and syllabus should be established with the help of physical entities (creators) creating traditional culture in the area, parents; associations, youth councils, local authorities and other members of the local community. The action concerns the logistics for the creation and operation of the “Centres for Cultural Education and Creation”. Additionally, an Action Plan for the courses and training that will be offered per centre should be formulated.</p> <p>Interconnection with Action 8.3.6.</p>
Action 8.4.4	Enhancing the skills of the physical entities creating culture in the Troodos region
Description	<p>Education of local human resources to support the Project.</p> <p>The number of trainings that will be carried out and the schedule of their implementation will be determined depending on the sources of funding. An estimate was made for the training of 50 executives and 300 people (3 people from 100 associations).</p>
Submeasure 8.5	ECOMUSEUM “DASOESSA” –NATURE – CULTURE – SPORTS : Theme Park of Activities and Recreation
Action 8.5.1	The Ecomuseum: the modern museological approach for a holistic preservation and promotion of a place and the proposal for the development of the Amiantos mine for the benefit of the local society and economy – Reasoning proposal and approval by the Council of Ministers
Description	<p>By the term Ecomuseum we define that museum space and the collaborating institutions/ services and infrastructure which based on local participation focus and collaborate in the holistic promotion of the identity of an area. The Ecomuseum is a means by which communities can preserve, interpret and give value to their tangible and intangible cultural heritage, utilising and highlighting the geophysical environment of the place.</p>

	<p>In this sense and with this approach, the “Dasoessa” Ecomuseum will include cultural institutions (museums, information centres, study centres), traditional delicacy undertakings and folk/ traditional and other art exhibits, the places of exercise and sports (e.g. walking and cycling routes), catering and recreation as well as the hospitality areas that will be developed in the various development zones of the Amiantos mine. The Ecomuseum will be based on the synergy and cooperation of all these public and private sector actors that will undertake within its framework to develop the local community through the promotion of new tourist products based on the triptych Nature – Culture – Sports. The Ecomuseum will provide opportunities for education, sports and entertainment.</p> <p>Establishing the Ecomuseum in the area of Amiantos, is in line with the modern projects of industrial archaeology. The regeneration of the industrial settlement of Amiantos will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. contribute positively to the redefinition of the problematic spatial relationship of the area with the surrounding region 2. utilise a significant number of high architectural, aesthetic and historical value public building infrastructures, attributing to them cultural public uses 3. connect these infrastructures organically and functionally with open and green spaces. 4. cover human needs through a targeted strategic planning and with the appropriate synergies, promoting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ sustainable tourism development with the operation of spaces for recreation/ entertainment, catering and sports facilities ❖ attracting new investors to create small tourist units/ hostels ❖ mild processing/ craft activity (small craft undertakings) ❖ the upgrade of the tourist product of the area by showcasing existing cultural resources and operation of new cultural institutions (industrial museum, biodiversity museum, history museum etc.)
Action 8.5.2	Scientific and Techno-economic Study and Sustainability Study for the exploitation of the Amiantos mine to establish the “DASOESSA” Ecomuseum – NATURE – CULTURE – SPORTS: Theme park of activities and recreation
Description	<p>The promotion of the above projects requires the preparation of Special Scientific and Techno-economic Studies by scientists in matters of Culture and Ecology, as well as by technocrats/ experts in matters of economy, architecture, urban planning. In particular, the following are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Research and Scientific Museological Study for the Ecomuseum (working group of historians, biologists, environmentalists, museologists) ✓ Spatial Regeneration Study/ design of the Amiantos area (by a specialised architectural firm) ✓ Techno-economic study of proposed constructions and other projects ✓ Sustainability Study <p>The maturity of the projects and the promotion of their implementation are presented in Strategic Intervention 2: Spatial Planning and Regeneration, Action 2.3.1 Hierarchy and prioritisation of projects (public infrastructure and private interventions), identification of sources and methods of project financing, Action 2.3.2. Maturity of infrastructure projects based on the scientific and techno-economic study for the Amiantos mine as to create the park.</p>

Integrated Intervention / Measure 9. Health	
Submeasure 9.1	Formulation of a specialised health policy adapted to mountain particularities
Action 9.1.1	Introduction of the Troodos Health District
Description	<p>It is proposed to adjust the boundaries of the region that is part of the Troodos Health System and to identify it with all of the Mountain Communities of the Troodos Region. In particular, it is proposed to expand the health district of Kyperounta Hospital by incorporating the coverage areas of the Rural Health Centres of Platres, Agros, Palaichori, Pedoulas, Kampos, Evrychou , Omodos and Pachna.</p> <p>In order to rationally manage the available resources, achieve economies of scale and increase the efficiency of services provided, priority should be given to placing all the health structures of the mountain communities under the supervision and coordination of the Troodos Hospital.</p>
Action 9.1.2	Study for the adaptation of the Troodos Health System to the General Health System
Description	<p>The study aims to determine the conditions that must be specified for the effective implementation of the GHS in the Troodos region in order to contribute to the improvement of the efficiency of the local Health System and the universal and quality coverage of the health needs of the residents of the region.</p> <p>The study in question aims, having already diagnosed the main problems that will arise from the implementation of the GHS in the Troodos region, to design on the one hand specific policy proposals and on the other hand, specific actions for the implementation of the proposed policy.</p>
Submeasure 9.2	Improving the Kyperounta Hospital, creating a Troodos Hospital
Action 9.2.1	Upgrading the Troodos Hospital
Description	<p>Basic directions for the Troodos Hospital are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the upgrade of the provided health services in order to establish a state-of-the-art and efficient Hospital with specific clinics that will serve the needs in secondary care of the entire Troodos region population and visitors (e.g. paediatric ward). ▪ the provision of specific health services that will make the Hospital attractive to consumers of health services outside the Troodos region (e.g. geriatric clinic etc.) ▪ the utilisation of the upgraded Pulmonary and Tuberculosis clinic <p><u>To achieve the above, the following are recommended:</u></p> <p>(A) Promotion projects of limited scale interventions (aesthetic and operational) which will enhance the confidence of Hospital users</p> <p>(B) Architecture Call for tenders and Techno-economic study for the modernisation and upgrade of the Troodos Hospital buildings and the regeneration of the surrounding areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical report on the development and upgrade of the Hospital building and the buildings surrounding it and regeneration of the surrounding areas - Technical analysis and costing presentation of the Experts' proposals - Departmental development planning, presenting the expenditure schedule and budget

	(C) Establishment of a Pulmonary and Tuberculosis Clinic
Action 9.2.2	Upgrading Primary Health Care services and the Accident and Emergency Department of Troodos Hospital
Description	<p>(A) Outpatient Clinics of Troodos Hospital (the approval of the Council of Ministers for the overtime employment of pharmacists to cover the evening clinics must be secured)</p> <p>(B) Completion of the upgrade and expansion of the Accident and Emergency department (AED)</p> <p>(C) Covering the staffing needs of Kyperounta Hospital for the expansion of the operation of the clinical laboratories and the radiology department, during the afternoon and night shifts of Troodos Hospital. The project has been set by the State Health Services Organisation for processing and implementation</p> <p>(D) Operation of a First Aid Station in Evrychou</p>
Submeasure 9.3	Reinforcing the provided Services of the Ambulance Service
Action 9.3.1	Expanding Ambulance operation
Description	<p>(A) Reinforcing existing Ambulance Stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research on the fleet and staff reinforcement matters for the Evrychou Ambulance Station in first priority ▪ The nurse of Pedoulas Rural Health Centre in rotation with the nurse of the Kampos Health Centre to cover the needs of the on call system and to respond together with the volunteer drivers to the calls with the ambulance <p>(B) Establishing New Ambulance Stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of a New Ambulance Station in Marathasa (co-housed with the proposed Fire Station) ▪ <i>Establishment and staffing of an Ambulance Centre to cover the area of Kalo Chorio (Limassol) – Kellaki (recommendation)</i>
Submeasure 9.4	Restructuring the state Primary Health Care in the Mountain Areas
Action 9.4.1	Upgrading Rural Health Centres to Multifunctional Health Centres
Description	Building upgrade and/ or relocation of the Evrychou Health Centre. Additionally, for the smooth and efficient operation of the health structures, their connection to the PACS ⁸ system has been largely implemented. This action should be completed in the Rural Health Centres of the highlands, while their connection with the Troodos Hospital should be ensured.
Action 9.4.2	Modernising Rural Health Centres
Description	<p>(A) Relocation of Palaichori Health Centre to the newly built Elderly Home building,</p> <p>(B) Renovation of Pedoulas Health Centre and additions/ alterations to host an Elderly Care Centre (design and construction)</p> <p>(C) Restoration of the Existing Building for the creation of a new Health Centre in the area of Kourris - Xylourikos (design and construction)</p>

Action 9.4.3	Upgrading the Kampos Rural Health Centre and Construction of a Multifunctional Centre for Kampos – Tsakistra
Description	Study and Construction of a Multifunctional Centre for the area of Kampos – Tsakistra, which will house the Kampos Health Centre
Action 9.4.4	Multifunctional Social Welfare, Education and Lifelong Learning Centres and Integration of Community Clinics
Description	Community buildings in the area will be utilised, following their upgrade, and converted into Multifunctional Centres. The centres will provide Lifelong Learning, Exercise, Cultural Education and Creation, Social Welfare and Medical Services. For the provision of the above services, programmes of different Ministries will be jointly implemented on the basis of a single planning depending on the needs of the citizens. The Multifunctional Centres will offer upgraded Primary Health Care services, replacing the institution of Community Clinics. In this context, the Medical Services of the Multifunctional Centres will be staffed and will operate once or twice a week on a full time basis (7.30 – 15.00 or 10.30 – 18.00) compared to the partial operation of the Community Clinics which are currently staffed and operate on a part time basis or twice per month. In this way, the intermittent visits system currently implemented by the Rural Health Centres and the Troodos Hospital is streamlined and adapted to the General Health System.
Submeasure 9.5	Mobile Health Clinics
Action 9.5.1	Mobile Health Clinics – Preventive Care (Cardiologist, Mammography, Ophthalmologist, ENT)
Description	<p>It is estimated that the purchase of vehicles to serve as mobile health clinics (cost 65,000/vehicle) could be secured through sponsorships of CSR Programmes. The operation could be included in the mechanisms for the Period 2021 – 2027 in the framework of the ITI with a target population living in less-favoured areas.</p> <p>The action includes: staff - 4 Doctors, 4 Nurses, 3 Drivers, 2 Vehicles. Their operation will not be limited to Troodos, but will cover the entire countryside.</p>

Integrated Intervention / Measure 10.	
Connectivity and accessibility infrastructure: road network and communications	
Submeasure 10.1	Prioritisation and planning of execution of Road Works for the area of Troodos
Action 10.1.1	Implementation Prioritisation and Planning Report of significant road works
Description	Adoption of the Prioritisation and Planning Report for the implementation of important road works for the Troodos region by the Government (Council of Ministers) Public Works Department Network and Capacity Roads of central connectivity, establishment of a Financial Planning and Monitoring Committee, under the Prioritisation Report.
Action 10.1.2	"Study of registration, classification, evaluation and formulation of proposals for the upgrade of Capacity and Community Roads and Prioritisation and Planning Report of their implementation"
Description	Study for the evaluation of the geometric configuration, Road Safety, the Operational Status and the design of the proposals for the upgrade of the Capacity Roads. Also, estimation of the cost of the projects and preparation of the Prioritisation and Planning Report for their implementation.

Submeasure 10.2	Maturity and Implementation of Works
Action 10.2.1	Maturity and Implementation of the Road Works - Department of Public Works
Description	Maturity of the road works to be implemented and/ or preparation of new studies and implementation of works according to the Prioritisation Report (Action 10.1.1.).
Action 10.2.2	Maturity and implementation of priority Capacity Roads
Description	Through the diagnosis of the current situation, high priority capacity roads have been recorded due to their contribution to the improvement of internal connectivity. These roads are recommended to be promoted for maturity and implementation.
Action 10.2.3	Assessment of capacity and traffic characteristics of rural roads
Description	Study on the recording, mapping, classification, assessment and formulation of proposals for the registration and upgrade of a network of rural roads of strategic importance for the development of agricultural activities.
Action 10.2.4	Final study for the implementation and design of the Railway connection between Evrychou – Skouriotissa and preliminary roadway alignment design of Evrychou – Galata
Description	Design and implementation of the railway line between Evrychou – Skouriotissa (Phase A – 8km). Feasibility study regarding its extension to the community of Galata (Phase B – 7Km).
Action 10.2.5	Construction of railway connection between Evrychou – Skouriotissa and Terminal
Description	Implementation of the study (Action 10.2.4) with the construction of the project.
Action 10.2.6	Feasibility, roadway alignment and viability study of cable car routes from the central settlements to the top of Mount Troodos
Description	Feasibility, roadway alignment and viability study of cable car routes from the central settlement to the top of Mount Troodos. This study should evaluate alternative routes to and from the top of Mount Troodos so that a network of lines can be organised to connect important tourist destinations-settlements around the top of Mount Troodos, which are also connected to the main road network of Troodos. The alignment must take into account factors such as tourist traffic, the landscape from the transit zones, the slopes of the ground but also sustainability.

Submeasure 10.3	Actions to reduce travel
Action 10.3.1	Sustainable Mobility Plan
Description	(A) Improvement of the collective transport system (internal and external lines, on demand service) (B) Organisation of traffic management system
Submeasure 10.4	Development of digital networks
Action 10.4.1	Broadband Development
Description	Access to high-speed broadband networks

Integrated Intervention / Measure 11. Solid and Liquid (wastewater) Waste Management	
11a. Liquid Waste	
Submeasure 11a.1	11a.1 Improving the institutional and organisation framework for liquid waste management
Action 11a.1.1	Approval and adoption of the “Liquid Waste Management Plan for the Troodos Mountain Communities”
Description	Approval and adoption of the “Liquid Waste Management Plan for the Troodos Mountain Communities” by the Council of Ministers (Prioritisation and Planning Report of the necessary interventions (in communities/ groups of communities) based on environmental criteria and their implementation based on the financial framework)
Action 11a.1.2	Establishment of an Organisation for the Operation and Management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Solid and Liquid Waste infrastructures of Troodos Mountain Communities
Description	Establishment of an Organisation for the operation and management of infrastructure for Water Supply, Irrigation, Solid and Liquid Waste of the Troodos Mountain Communities (presented in the Integrated Intervention “Water Resources”) (Interconnection with SI7, Action 7.1.2)
Action 11a.1.3	Amendment of the legislative framework (provision of consultancy expertise)
Description	Amendment of the legislative framework (provision of consultancy expertise) for: (a) the use of recycled water from Wastewater Treatment Plants (WTPs) but also the explicit reference to the existence of large storage facilities for treated water; (b) use of RES to serve the WTPs – Interconnection with I.I.12 “Energy: Energy Strategy – Troodos 2030” (relevant approval for water supply and irrigation projects). Integrated parks to meet Local Government Authorities energy needs, (c) single pricing policy with two components (fixed & consumption-based)/ centralised subsidy adjusted after a targeted study.
Action 11a.1.4	Establishment of a Network for the Coordination of Sewerage Councils of Communities with the WTPs
Description	In the first stage, it is proposed to promote a Coordination Network which will act as an organisation and coordination body as to properly manage the WTPs and reduce the operating costs until the establishment of the proposed Organisation for the operation and management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Solid and Liquid Waste Infrastructures.
Submeasure 11a.2	11a.2 Systems / Infrastructures
Action 11a.2.1	Expansion and upgrade of existing WTPs
Description	<p><u>New proposed projects</u></p> <p>(A) Construction of the 2nd phase of the Kyperounta Sewerage Network to link the area of the Hospital with the WTP (€490,000)</p> <p>(B) Upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) in Askas to save energy and reduce operating costs (€85,000)</p> <p>(C) Construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kyvides to replace in-ground tanks (€375,000)</p> <p><u>Current Projects in progress</u></p> <p>(D) Construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant in the community of Ayios Ioannis. A project for which until 2016 the network of a cost of €150,000 has been constructed. Study for a connection with the community of Kato Mylos (€201,000)</p> <p>(E) Construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant in the community of Apliki (planned project. (€146,000)</p> <p>(F) Completion of Solea Sewerage Project (€14,324,238)</p> <p>1) The construction of a sewerage network in Temvria and Korakou is in progress</p> <p>2) The construction of a sewerage network in Evrychou, Flasos and Linos is expected</p> <p>3) Wastewater Treatment Plant</p>

Action 11a.2.2	Maturity of priority projects (in communities facing significant environmental problems)
Description	<p>Maturity of priority projects (in communities facing significant environmental problems). In accordance with the prioritisation and planning of the Troodos Mountain Communities Liquid Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>It is proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between: (a) the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and (b) the National Technical University of Athens (School of Civil Engineering, Department of Water Resources and Environment) which will undertake the coordination and supervision of studies. The indicative cost of maturity studies for the priority communities is €250,000, and its implementation is expected to be carried out over a period of 16 months.</p> <p>Additionally, it is proposed that the Office of the Commissioner promotes the implementation of research programmes in order to support the study team, the field research, the inventory of infrastructures etc. For this purpose, a team of young and experienced scientists will be established who will implement the programme.</p>
Action 11a.2.3	Implementation of priority projects (in communities facing significant environmental problems)
Description	<p>Based on the financial framework and the available resources, the implementation of the priority projects will be promoted, according to the stage of their maturity in cooperation with the Water Development Department. The implementation of these projects in the operational planning of the National Strategy for the Development of Mountain Communities is being developed over a decade. It is recommended that a number of projects be promoted for co-financing from European funds. Additionally, it is noted that they can be co-financed under the EU Integrated Territorial Investment⁹ financial instrument, which is proposed to be adopted by Cyprus for the next Programming Period 2021 – 2027 as the most appropriate and most effective for the acceleration of the implementation of the NSDMC in the Troodos region (Strategic Intervention 6 – Action 6.5.1)</p>

11b. Solid Waste	
Submeasure 11b.1	Improving the institutional and organisational framework for solid waste management
Action 11b.1.1	Approval and adoption of the “Solid Waste Management Plan for the Mountain Communities of Troodos region”
Description	Approval and adoption of the “Solid Waste Management Plan for the Mountain Communities of Troodos region” by the Council of Ministers
Action 11b.1.2	Establishment of an Organisation for the operation and management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Solid and Liquid Waste Infrastructures of Troodos Mountain Communities
Description	Establishment of an Organisation for the operation and management of Water Supply, Irrigation, Solid and Liquid Waste Infrastructures of Troodos Mountain Communities Interconnection with SI7, Action 7.1.2
Action 11b.1.3	Ensuring full coverage of the region by the Green Dot Collective Compliance System for Waste (CCSW)
Description	<p>As it becomes evident from the analysis of the current situation, the goals set by the legislation are sufficient. However, their implementation is problematic due to the operation and financial problems mentioned above.</p> <p>As far as the legal framework is concerned, it should be amended at a first stage in order to impose the contribution of the GreenDot CCSW to the study area, where <u>the largest percentage of settlements are not included in the said Packaging CCSE.</u></p>

	In some of these settlements there are Partners of the System, while very few settlements have managed to sign a contract with the CCSE, mainly due to the fact that the settlements are remote, and, at the same time, very small amounts of recyclables are collected.
Action 11b.1.4	Amendment of the legislative framework
Description	<p>Amendment of the legislative framework (provision of consultancy expertise) for:</p> <p>(a) adjustment of service communities between the Integrated Waste Management Facilities of Kossia and Pentakomo (the communities were assessed based on techno-economic criteria as one entity in order to achieve optimal management of solid waste based on their proximity to service stations).</p> <p>(b) preparation of a new single pricing policy (the Organisation will adopt a common pricing policy based on equal treatment and reciprocity)</p>
Submeasure 11b.2	Systems/ Infrastructure
Action 11b.2.1	Implementation of a sorting-at-source system
Description	<p>Implementation of a sorting-at-source system – five-year development plan. Implementation of an Integrated Plan including awareness and information campaigns and the provision of composting and recycling equipment to households and communities.</p> <p><u>Actions for implementing the sorting-at-source system:</u></p> <p>A) Supply of compost bins and collection bins (households) (€455,000)</p> <p>B) Supply of community composters (€1,750,000)</p> <p>C) Awareness campaign (original plan) (€120,000)</p> <p>D) Bins for recycling incentive scheme (€200,000)</p>
Action 11b.2.2	Operation and conversion of mobile Green Points
Description	Operation of two mobile Green Points for which the person in charge of the Green Points is appointed as their administrator. The mobile green points are planned to serve each community about once a month. There is a need to study the infrastructure and the waste bins in order to achieve full functionality of the mobile GPs (that is, an efficient way of waste collection). It will be possible to adjust the grip with a new head (hook type) and use bins with opening bottom.
Action 11b.2.3	Creation of Community Areas to support Mobile Green Points (Small Green Points)
Description	<p>In order for the system of mobile Green Points to be functional and for the convenience of the citizens, <u>small temporary waste disposal sites/ smalls GPs</u> should be created in each community of group of neighbouring communities. These areas should be close to the settlements, so that they can be used by the residents, but also on a main road, so that the mobile green unit can access them. For the service of the proposed points and the proper management of the materials to be collected, the conversion of the equipment of the mobile green points is necessary. The detailed Description of the action is included in the “Solid Waste Management Plan of the Mountain Communities of Troodos region”.</p> <p>Creation of 30 small Green Points to cover all geographical areas.</p>
Action 11b.2.4	Development and operation of SGPs
Description	<p>Study of the immediate restart of the planning and operation procedures of SGPs, near the (A) Linos Green Point. (2019-2020, €475,000)</p> <p>(B) Establishment of a SGP in the community of Agros (2023-2026, €625,000)</p> <p>Transitionally, the operation of a temporary mobile SGP at an area to be studied at a later stage should be considered.</p>

Integrated Intervention/ Measure 12. Energy: “Energy Strategy-Troodos 2030”	
Submeasure 12.1	Actions to support, raise awareness and promote the Mountain Communities energy policy
Action 12.1.1	Support & education of citizens on energy-environmental matters
Description	<p>Conduction of conferences/ information seminars to raise awareness on energy-environmental matters, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. promotion of energy policy in Troodos b. ways to save energy c. the existing financing programmes for energy upgrades d. possibilities of utilisation of renewable energy sources e. low emission vehicles and f. information on the requirements of the energy performance of buildings law and the provisions governing the provision of a building permit for new buildings. <p>The conferences/ information seminars will be held by the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities in collaboration with the Cyprus Energy Agency and the Energy Service. The aim is to hold 15 conferences/ information seminars in the following 3 years.</p> <p>Additional 100 Energy Audits in buildings of the region (representative of the building stock of the region), the cost of which will reach €45,000.</p>
Action 12.1.2	Establishment of a renewable (green) energy fund
Description	<p>It is proposed to establish a renewable energy fund whose revenues will be used to finance energy saving actions, energy upgrades and the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, the final beneficiaries of which will be the residents of local authorities and local businesses. The income of the fund may come from the following resources: (a) annual green fee imposed on residents and businesses operating in the region and (b) savings income.</p>
Action 12.1.3	Participation in the initiative of the Covenant of Mayors (for all communities)
Description	<p>Mobilisation of local authorities to accede to the Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy and preparation of the necessary local action plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and increase resilience to climate change. In this way, they will gain wide recognition at both a European and international level, thus ensuring access to funding programmes.</p>
Action 12.1.4	Adoption of measures for the implementation of green public contracts
Description	<p>Adoption of measures for the implementation of green public contracts (green public procurement) and the training of local authorities in this area – in cooperation with the Cyprus Energy Agency.</p> <p>The implementation of this action can be carried out through Action 12.1.1.</p>
Submeasure 12.2	Use of Renewable Energy Sources
Action 12.2.1	Adoption and implementation of the institution of energy communities and the "Virtual Net Metering" institution
Description	<p>Adoption and implementation of the institution of energy communities. Promotion of a financing plan from European Funds during the programming period 2021-27.</p> <p>1. Adoption and implementation of the "Virtual Net Metering" institution.</p>

Action 12.2.2	Support in the installation of autonomous PV systems in buildings of local authorities, covered parking lots and public spaces (parks, squares, etc.)
Description	This action provides for the installation of photovoltaic systems in buildings of local authorities, covered parking lots and public spaces for the purposes of electricity generation and energy autonomy. The goal is 50-80 interventions with a higher funding of €10,000.
Submeasure 12.3	Energy upgrading of buildings and street lighting
Action 12.3.1	Energy upgrading of community buildings (as public use buildings)
Description	<p>Energy upgrading of buildings used by local authorities to reduce energy consumption. The first stage of the implementation of this measure is the energy audits in the said buildings, which will help to identify measures that can be implemented in each case individually such as: (a) regulation or replacement of heating and air conditioning systems, (b) installation of photovoltaics to cover a significant percentage of electricity demand, (c) replacement of light bulbs with new energy efficient LED type light bulbs, (d) installation of lighting automation using motion detectors in areas where lighting is not needed on a constant basis, (e) replacement of windows with double-glazed windows and thermal break and (f) installation of thermal insulation on the roof and masonry of buildings where possible.</p> <p>The budget of the project concerns the financing of the study and then the upgrading of the building (if the study shows that its upgrade is necessary). Additionally, the budget is indicative and the final amount to be used will depend on the interest that will be observed.</p> <p>The Ministry of Interior – Local Authorities will bear the responsibility for coordination and implementation.</p>
Action 12.3.2	Energy upgrading of private buildings (residences)
Description	<p>(A) Energy Upgrading of residences through existing programmes. Coordination by the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities and the Ministry of Interior. Interconnection with action 12.1.1.</p> <p>(B) Energy and morphological upgrading of Facades and Roofs. The plan will cover investments related to the purchase of new equipment and materials. A Basic Parameter is an energy upgrading which respects the traditional character of the settlement of the area and the local architecture. Therefore, the formulation of the plan regarding the morphological upgrading will be made by the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities and the Ministry of interior – Department of Town Planning and Housing.</p>
Action 12.3.3	Energy upgrading of business buildings
Description	<p>The following grants are proposed to encourage energy upgrading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship for energy upgrading of processing units – workshops. Upgrading of unit equipment with new more efficient equipment (replacement of equipment, boilers, machines etc.) and new equipment for energy upgrading. • Sponsorship for upgrading hotel units. There are 24 hotel units operating in the study area, of which 22 have been constructed prior to 2010. It is proposed to formulate a plan for the energy upgrading of the hotel units in the study area: Type A – Nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEB), Type B – Energy upgrading of Units for energy conservation of over 50%, Type C – Individual Measures (thermal insulation, replacement of equipment etc.) in hotel units. <p>Implementation from financial programmes announced by the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and industry. The goal is the energy upgrading of 100 businesses.</p>

Action 12.3.4	Improving the energy efficiency of street lighting
Description	It is proposed to upgrade the energy efficiency of street lighting by replacing existing light bulbs with new more efficient ones (e.g. LED). The proposed project can be implemented through a call for tenders and the conclusion of an Energy Efficiency Contract.
Action 12.3.5	Installation of RES to serve WTPs, irrigation and water supply projects
Description	It is proposed to provide incentives for the preparation of the required studies in order to determine the financial viability of the implementation of RES systems, as well as a grant on the investments made to implement these RES projects.
Submeasure 12.4	Transport measures
Action 12.4.1	Gradual replacement of local authorities' vehicles with low emission vehicles
Description	This action concerns the gradual replacement of local authorities' vehicles with more efficient low emission vehicles. (Euro 6).
Action 12.4.2	Improving bus stop infrastructure
Description	As a measure to encourage and facilitate the use of public transport, it is proposed to improve the existing infrastructure such as bus stops and to put into place the appropriate signs for the routes served by each stop.
Action 12.4.3	Creation of EV charging stations
Description	As a measure to encourage and facilitate the use of electric vehicles, it is proposed to install EV charging stations in public parking lots in cooperation with the EAC or other potential electricity providers.
Submeasure 12.5	Policy proposals
Action 12.5.1	Configuration/ adjustment of incentive framework for increasing the rate of energy renovations (in terms of urban planning, taxes, etc.) while taking local particularities into account
Description	As to increase the rate of energy renovations, it is proposed to apply special provisions for energy upgrading and utilisations of RES in buildings with historical – cultural value, which will encourage the improvement of their energy efficiency, without affecting their aesthetic and cultural value. Interconnection with action 12.3.2 B Energy and morphological Upgrading of Facades and Roofs
Action 12.5.2	Inclusion of RES zones in the Troodos Policy Statement
Description	Based on the preliminary investigation of the University of Thessaly regarding the application of the criteria of the existing spatial policy in Troodos, the RES zones will be included in the Troodos Policy Statement, taking into account the location of other activities and factors (agriculture, craftsmanship, landscape, infrastructures, etc.) and further multi-criteria spatial analysis.
Action 12.5.3	Framework of financing plans especially for Cyprus' mountain areas
Description	Implementation of a financial support plan
Action 12.5.4	Use of small domestic wind turbines
Description	Change of existing policy that prohibits the installation of small domestic wind turbines within the development limit, with special conditions and terms imposed by the competent government departments that will ensure their integration into the residential environment without consequences.
Action 12.5.5	Promotion of the Upgrading of Public Buildings
Description	Each competent Ministry to promote as a matter of priority the Energy Upgrading of Public Buildings located in the Mountain Communities.

Integrated Intervention / Measure 13. Exercise, Health and Quality of Life – “ATLAS” Project – Centre for the Functional Evaluation of Physical Activity (three pillars: (1) sport (social and economic dimension), (2) Health (prevention/ treatment/ rehabilitation) and (3) Quality of life (physical, mental and social well-being))	
Submeasure 13.1	Coordination and organisation of the promotion of physical exercise for the improvement of health in all areas
Action 13.1.1	ATLAS Project Management Mechanism
Description	<p>Establishment of a unit within the Troodos Mountain Communities Foundation for Culture for the implementation of the ATLAS project.</p> <p>The aim will be the promotion, development and monitoring of the actions of the ATLAS Project based on the stakes, directions and special directions resulting from diagnosing the current situation and consulting with the concerned Organisations and Ministries. The unit and its officials will act as an advisory body to the Government, will implement actions and coordination programmes with the Ministries, the Cyprus Sports Organisation, other Organisations, Committees and Federations related to sports and exercise as a measure of prevention, rehabilitation and quality of life with the aim of turning the mountain areas of Cyprus into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A research centre for the evaluation and promotion of physical activity at all ages (school exercise, operational capacity of security corps, etc) ➤ A local and international centre of excellence in matters of exercise, health and quality of life with the motto “Exercise is Medicine” (the Pharmacy of Exercise) (wellness centres, training centres for non-communicable diseases etc.) ➤ A sports destination for local and foreign athletes and sports teams utilising all sports facilities, walking, hiking, mountaineering, cycling routes through a complete network of complementary structures and services in synergy and cooperation with the Tourism District Office and tourism entrepreneurs (integrated management of sports facilities and infrastructures and mark of suitability/ quality of cooperating tourism companies) ➤ Rehabilitation centre of the Neurological Clinic of the University of Cyprus <p>The programmes to be promoted by the ATLAS Project are analysed in Appendix 2.</p>
Action 13.1.2.	Creation of a research network/ Transfer and exchange of knowledge and experience
Description	<p>Establishment of a network of specialised bodies (educational and research bodies related to Exercise, Health and Quality of Life) for the production of focused research. Promotion of the cooperation of these bodies.</p>

	<p>Cooperation with Sports Training Centres and Rehabilitation Centres abroad for the transfer of know-how and expertise. The main effort of the ATLAS Plan is to promote the “Exercise is Medicine” action.</p> <p>For the past five years, the American College of Sports Medicine – ACSM has pioneered the creation (in Europe and America) of model centres under the generic name “Exercise is Medicine”. This is a global initiative to use physical activity as a means of preventing and rehabilitating the most common non-communicable diseases (e.g. cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, hypertension and obesity). The “Exercise is Medicine” movement is based on the belief that physical activity promotes optimal health and is an integral part of the prevention and treatment of many non-communicable diseases. Exercise is included in the design of treatments where patients with non-communicable diseases are referred to individualised exercise programmes under the supervision of specially certified trainers. The “Exercise is Medicine” movement is fully integrated into the American, British, German and Polish health systems for patients with non-communicable diseases, with the aim of improving morbidity symptoms, while reducing the overall cost of public health care. “Exercise is Medicine” is active in more than 40 countries around the world.</p> <p>Conferences and events will be organised to promote the action. ATLAS officers will participate in European and International networks and organisations and memoranda of cooperation will be signed with Universities and Research Institutions.</p>
Action 13.1.3	Upgrading the National Sports Centre “Glafkos Clerides” and converting it into a National Centre for Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation
Description	<p>The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Cyprus Sports Organisation and the Medical School of the University of Cyprus have been consulted on this action. All views are positive and, based on the needs, which have been submitted in writing or agreed in the consultation, the following framework has been formed regarding the utilisation of the Glafkos Clerides centre.</p> <p>Rehabilitation department</p> <p>Cyprus is the only European country that does not have a Neurological Clinic, while special mention should also be made to the complete lack of a Stroke Unit. It is important to emphasise that Cerebrovascular Accidents (CVA) is a recognised neurological disease (WHO, 2017) and patients need specialised care. It is also emphasised that cardiovascular diseases (myocardial infarction and CVA) are the leading cause of death in Cyprus, while CVAs are the leading cause of disability (Global Burden of Diseases 2018).</p> <p>The Ministry of Health expresses its intention to support the establishment of a University Neurological Clinic at the Nicosia General Hospital. The creation of the first Neurological Clinic in a state hospital in Cyprus will upgrade the provided health services and will bridge a huge gap in the treatment of patients with neurological disease both in acute and chronic phase.</p>

	<p>Additionally, a Stroke Unit will be implemented. The revised Action Plan for Stroke (2018-2030) of the respective European Organisation (ESO, European Stroke Organization) advises that all patients with strokes be treated in specialised units and that they follow rehabilitation programmes in specialised centres. <u>Therefore, and based on the consultations that the Scientific Team had with the Medical School of the University of Cyprus, it appears that the proposed ATLAS Project – “Glafkos Clerides” Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation Centre will be able to complete the operation of the under construction University Neurological Clinic at the Nicosia Hospital.</u> Based on the proposal relating to the ATLAS Project, the Stroke Unit of the Neurological Clinic will treat acute cases, which, after their stabilisation, will be referred to the “Glafkos Clerides” Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation Centre for rehabilitation. These two services, which will be established for the first time in Cyprus, will bridge an immense gap in the treatment of patients with neurological diseases both in acute and chronic phase.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, the development of a modern rehabilitation centre at “Glafkos Clerides” in Agros, utilising its state-of-the-art infrastructure, is considered an ideal scenario. The social and economic benefits deriving from the whole approach will be great and will significantly upgrade the care of patients with neurological diseases in Cyprus, in a specialised centre specifically created for this purpose. At the same time, it will establish Cyprus as a medical destination for the provision of high and specialised level series. The vision of ATLAS is the creation and staffing of the following rehabilitation departments: (1) Stroke rehabilitation, (2) Cancer and autoimmune diseases, (3) Addictions (Alcohol, smoking, etc.), (4) Sports injuries and (5) Metabolic diseases, neuromuscular and neurological disorders as shown in Figure 2.3b. These department will offer four types of services: (1) Specialised personalised treatments and exercise, (2) Physical activity, (3) Physiotherapy and (4) Counselling. The provision of the services can significantly reduce health costs for the treatment of the aforementioned non-communicable diseases in Cyprus. Based on the available scientific data, <u>the cost of the investment for the establishment of the rehabilitation centre at ATLAS will be quickly amortised</u> by the reduction of the costs of health and pharmaceutical care of the national health system for the treatment of non-communicable diseases, without calculating the social benefits which will result from the improved quality of life of patients and their families.</p> <p>For the establishment of the Rehabilitation Centre, the indoor spaces of the Glafkos Clerides Centre will be upgraded, for the creation of offices: cardiologist, chief ergophysiologicalist, etc, staff, counselling and functional rehabilitation room, stress test room, treatment room, physiotherapy room, musculoskeletal training room, cardiorespiratory fitness, treadmill of at least 500m. Additionally, a small-scale extension of the existing infrastructure for the inclusion of at least 15 beds to serve the Neurological Clinic of the University of Cyprus will be promoted, thus bridging the gap in the treatment of patients with neurological diseases.</p>
--	---

Alterations to existing sports facilities (indoor basketball court and swimming pool) to create specialised infrastructure for persons with disabilities (PWDs)

The common vision with the CSO regarding these interventions is for the “Gafkos Clerides Sports Centre” to be established as a specialised centre for persons with disabilities (PWDs) involved in sports/ competitive sports so that it can host Paralympic Sports such as wheelchair Basketball, sitting volleyball, Para table tennis, Boccia, Para archery, Para cycling, Para badminton, Para Trap, air pistol, 10m air rifle, stationary target shooting etc. Establishing these infrastructures will create the possibility of holding international competitions or training athletes with disabilities from other countries in the above facilities. Considering that the Centre is accessible to people with all kinds of disabilities, in order to upgrade the facilities, the changing rooms will have to be upgraded and relevant special equipment must be purchased.

Establishment of an ergometric centre

Relocation and upgrading of the Cyprus Sports Medicine Research Centre (CSMRC) to the proposed Centre for Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation in Agros. The CSMRC will serve the mission it already serves and will be upgraded based on the needs of the research ATLAS department. The ergometric centre will be utilised for the proposed annual evaluation programmes of District Administration Offices and Security Corps, sports lyceums, the Centre of training and competitive activity – Mountain Training Camp, as well as the measurements that the rehabilitation department will require. The “Glaftos Clerides” Centre features the spaces that can meet the needs of the CSMRC. Only small-scale indoor building adaptations and improvement of the existing equipment of the CSMRC will be needed once relocated.

Addressing existing building problems, energy upgrading and securing final approval

The building is facing rainwater runoff problems in various spots. Moreover, with the exception of the basketball court and swimming pool, it does not have the final approval licences. An energy audit carried out on the equipment and infrastructure indicates that the building is energy-intensive and will need to be upgraded in terms of energy. Finally, promoting its redesign to meet the new specifications and needs predisposes that all the problems faced because of the building’s lack of licensing are resolved.

Training and Administration Centre

The ATLAS project unit will be housed at the Glaftos Clerides Centre and for this reason the existing office spaces will be upgraded, as well as the existing conference room in order to be used for the learning and education needs on an island-wide basis as part of the “Troodos – The school of exercise” programme.

The proposal for the utilisation of the abandoned, but with many prospects, National Sports Centre “Glaftos Clerides”, which is proposed to be converted into a Centre for Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation. The centre will be addressed to high level athletes, ordinary citizens, patients (e.g. suffering from heart diseases, Parkinson’s disease, cancer, obesity), Armed Forces and Security Corps, students, as well as scientists active in the field of health, exercise and the quality of life. The vision of the Centre is to become an International Centre of Excellence in terms of wellness, rehabilitation and research in Kinesiology and to be the national pole of production of primary knowledge in this key field, supporting the Government in office to formulate national strategies. At the same time, it will offer high quality services, contributing to the financial viability of the project and to upgrading the economic and social life of the mountain communities in the region.

Action 13.1.4	Action Plan for the promotion of the programmes and its implementation
Description	<p>The mechanism will formulate an action plan to promote the programmes and activities to be offered, but also the contribution of physical activity to the quality of life, diet, obesity and physical exercise with focused programmes for children and young people (information seminars, events, conferences, of a nationwide scope and reference). The facilities of the ATLAS Project will be displayed and promoted through the website of the CSO and the sports map, its activities will be promoted through the CSO Sports Calendar and comprehensive information campaigns. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Deputy Ministry of Sports, the Troodos TDPC, actions will be promoted to showcase the Mountain Communities as a sports destination. Finally, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, it will hold lectures on the benefits of exercise, the promotion of physical activity.</p>
Submeasure 13.2	Atlas Project Programmes and Activities
Description	<p>In cooperation with the Cyprus Police, the Fire Service, the National Guard and other security corps, action plans will be drawn up with specialised evaluation programmes and/or annual monitoring. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth an annual programme of sporting activities and events to be hosted in the region, an Action Plan for the organisation of one-day, two-day, three-day and multi-day programmes for students at the Mountain Training Camp in Amiantos, programmes for sports lyceums (athletic camp) will be established. Finally, action plans will be prepared for the promotion of the programmes of action 13.2.4. In cooperation with the Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Federations with which programmes can be developed in the mountain areas, the CSO, Sports Teams, Local and other sports clubs, Actions Plans will be prepared to promote the organisation of events and activities, as well as attendance and evaluation programmes, hosting programmes at the Mountain Training Camp in Amiantos.</p>
Action 13.2.1	Observatories for monitoring and evaluating special population groups in the fields of nutrition, obesity and physical exercise
Description	<p>The upgrading or establishment of the following is proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Physical Exercise Monitoring Centre for Improving Health (Relocation and upgrading of the Cyprus Sports Medicine Research centre (CSMRC)). 2. Observatory for monitoring and measuring the physical activity of students in Cyprus. 3. Observatory for monitoring the physical condition and health, for improving the operational readiness of the officers of the armed forces and the security corps. 4. Observatory on Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity. 5. Scientific and research centre for the evaluation and promotion of physical activity – creation of a database aiming at its contribution to the formulation of policies and the development of the above monitoring systems.

Action 13.2.2	Integration of Exercise into health (prevention, treatment, rehabilitation)
Description	<p>Exercise is proven to be the best and most cost-effective way to improve the quality of life and prevent/ treat chronic diseases due to the multifaceted effect it has on all normal human systems. However, less than 50% of the Cypriot population participates in physical activity, while Cyprus ranks last in Europe in terms of walking. The same data indicates that about 60% of the male and 40% of the female Cypriot population is overweight or obese.</p> <p>The facts provided for children are just as worrying. According to information provided to the Working Group by the Nutrition Coordinator of the Ministry of Health (Department of Medical and Public Health Services), Ms E. Markidou, Cyprus ranks among the countries with the highest rates of childhood obesity (COSI - Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative, 2015). The obesity rate in 6-year-old boys is 39.2% and the corresponding rate for girls is 28.8%. The COSI, as a monitoring programme, will continue to apply to children aged 6 to 9, offering comparable results both over time and in relation to other countries.</p> <p>This severe lack of physical activity combined with increased rates of obesity is, according to the World Health Organisation, one of the most important predisposing factors for the occurrence of non-communicable diseases. It should be mentioned that 70% of the Cypriot population recognises that physical activity is one of the most important health-improving factors, despite the fact that their participation in physical activities is very low.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the State Health Services Organisation, health promotion programmes will be formulated and implemented through exercise, focusing on the “Integration of exercise in health” as a means of prevention, rehabilitation and treatment of chronic diseases: to make physical exercise an effective part of primary prevention (of non-communicable diseases).</p> <p>Unfortunately, there is currently no model centre in Cyprus that (a) operates in accordance with European standards, (b) addresses the social challenges of the lack of physical activity as demonstrated by the World Health Organisation, and (c) is a leader in the prevention of non-communicable diseases, which constitute the biggest burden on health budgets. Through the ATLAS Project and the monitoring mechanism that will be set up, the “Glafkos Clerides Centre will emerge as a Centre of Excellence in matters of exercise, Health and quality of life with the slogan “Exercise is Medicine” (The pharmacy of exercise) supporting Wellness Centres, Exercise centres for non-communicable diseases and more.</p> <p>It should be noted that, as far as the exercise for treatment purposes is concerned, the centre of Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation “Glafkos Clerides” will be a structure of care – rehabilitation of people with non-communicable diseases for whom physical activity is an important means of treatment or normalisation of their symptoms. Description available in Action 13.1.3.</p>

Action 13.2.3	Educational programmes and activities for students of all levels
Description	<p>Formulation and implementation of educational programmes for students of all education levels</p> <p>As a summary of the section Physical activity in the field of Education and in particular of the directions and suggestions of the section Exercise in the student population, the diagnosis of the current situation and as a result of the consultation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, the pillars of activity of the “ATLAS” Project are listed together with the proposed structures based on which it will be able to support all actors of the learning and education sphere nation-wide. It is noted that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth (Physical Education Department) welcomes the establishment of the Sports, Wellness, Rehabilitation and Research Centre, envisages the cooperation of the Ministry in many areas of this project and agrees with the promotion of the following:</p> <p>“Troodos – the school of exercise” Educational Centre</p> <p>It concerns the student population as a whole with the aim of cultivating a positive mindset towards exercise and physical activity for health, in the developmental ages with actions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-day school visits in the context of the two annual compulsory school trips; the students’ trip will combine their visit to the “National Glafkos Clerides Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation Centre” or the Educational park for environmental physical education and the development of children’s motor skills which is recommended to be created at the “Dasoessa” Ecomuseum – Nature, Culture, Sport. Educational activities for children related to nutrition, physical exercise and sports by promoting special programmes for the mountain communities of Cyprus and programmes hosting educational activities for students from Cyprus and the EU. • Two-day organised student physical activity excursions such as walks on forest paths etc. and participation in programmes of the Mountain Training Camp, which will be developed at the “Dasoessa” Ecomuseum – Nature, Culture, Sport. It is noted that the “GEOSHOOOL” will be operating in the same park, utilising and upgrading the botanical garden and the Information Centres of the UNESCO Global Geopark and the Botanical Garden. • Organisation of lectures by the Centre on the benefits of exercise. • Organisation of attractive programmes by the Centre, promoting physical activity such as the creation of a Sports Village as part of the European Week of Sport etc. <p>Scientific and Research Centre – “Glafkos Clerides National Sport, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation Centre”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ergometric tests for Sport Lyceum students in order to improve their competitive performance (during their stay at the Mountain Training Camp) • Anti-doping programmes and cooperation with the National Anti-Doping Authority. • Cooperation of the Centre for the implementation of a specific programme entitled “National Programme for the Assessment of Physical Fitness of School Children and Adolescents” with the ultimate goal of taking corrective measures for the health of students based on the findings of the programme. The programme is promoted by the Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture in the framework of the implementation of guidelines of the European Council and the World Health Organisation to promote the health

	<p>of European citizens through the network of National Physical Activity Focal Points (EU HEPA (Health Enhancing Physical Activity) Focal Points) of which it is a member. In the future, the Centre will be able to become an “Observatory” for monitoring and measuring the physical activity of Cyprus’ student population.</p> <p>Coaching and Competitive Activity Centre - Mountain Training Camp</p> <p>(“Dasoessa Ecomuseum” – Nature, Culture, Sport: Theme Park of activities and recreation: II 8: Submeasure 8.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of training camps for the athletes of the Sports Lyceums, national teams of federations as well as for clubs and associations. • Venue for the final phase of Pancyprian School Championships. • Venue for hosting and organising Panhellenic School Championships hosted by the Ministry of Education and Culture. • Venue for hosting and conducting the key stage of preparation of various teams and athletes. <p>Expansion of the institution of the Sports Lyceum to the mountain communities</p> <p>This action is developed in II5 Education</p> <p>Additionally, it is recommended especially for the Sports Lyceum of Mountain Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a Network of Sports Lyceums in Cyprus and for the said Lyceum to be their headquarters • To promote specialised mountain-related programmes • To specialise in programmes specifically tailored for persons with disabilities • To provide accommodation to students
Action 13.2.4	Armed Forces and Security Corps
Description	<p>Formulation and implementation of programmes for the Armed Forces and Security Corps based on studies to be carried out and special agreements to be signed. The services are addressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Guard General Staff - Transnational agreements for the provision of services to third-country Armed Forces - Police and Fire Service - Services to Private Organisations
Action 13.2.5	Coaching and Competitive Activity Programmes
Description	<p>Action Plans to promote the organisation of events and activities, and programmes of attendance and evaluation as well as hospitality at the Mountain Training Camp at the “Dasoessa” Ecomuseum – Nature, Culture, Sport to be prepared in cooperation with the Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Federations with which programmes can be developed in the mountain areas, the Cyprus Sports Organisation, Sports Teams, local and other sports clubs. Hosting and supporting coaching and competitive activities with specialised infrastructures and programmes for persons with disabilities (PWDs) involved in sports/ championships so as to provide the possibility to host Paralympic Sports in the area.</p>

	<p>The main and central infrastructure of this action is the “Glafkos Clerides Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation Centre” as well as all the unused sports infrastructures and facilities in the area which have been assessed in the context of the preparation of the ATLAS Project. The submeasure – ATLAS Project infrastructures describes the infrastructures that can be upgraded to be used in the context of the promotion of mountain communities as a sports destination of local and foreign athletes and sports teams, utilising all sports facilities, walking and cycling routes, through an integrated network of mutually complementary structures and services in synergy and cooperation with the Office of Mountain Tourism and tourism entrepreneurs (integrated management of sports facilities and infrastructure and suitability/ quality mark of cooperating tourism businesses).</p>
Submeasure 13.4	ATLAS Project Infrastructures
Action 13.4.1	Upgrading and equipping of existing Sports Infrastructures and Facilities in the Troodos Mountain Communities for utilisation according to the “ATLAS” Project.
Description	<p>Funding of communities that will be included in the project to design their spaces as follows:</p> <p>(1) Utilisation of abandoned football fields for the creation of 2 outdoor spaces for evaluation activities and the regular training of athletes (Armed Forces and Security Corps)</p> <p>(2) Utilisation of multifunctional halls and environment of closed school spaces for the creation of infrastructure for climbing training and practice (e.g. creation of a climbing wall)</p> <p>(3) Evaluation and selection for the upgrading of existing turf pitches (11) for the creation of three track and field stadiums of at least six lanes and up to five for their full equipment. The upgrading and equipment in both cases include training benches and changing rooms, three offices, equipment storage and similar portable equipment (e.g. goals). These pitches will be used for the training of athletes (various sports), the training of football teams and for the needs of the Mountain Training Camp; carrying out of activities (e.g. Sports Villages institution) etc.</p> <p>(4) Upgrading of 7 existing Five-a-side football pitches with their full equipment (changing rooms, benches, storage, etc.). They will be used both for the exercise needs of the local population and for “Football is Medicine” programmes of the ATLAS Project in the context of the provision of exercise services aimed at both the prevention and rehabilitation of non-communicable diseases.</p> <p>(5) Selection of two of the 17 multifunctional school halls or the 5 sports centres for (1) their upgrading to a training room for martial arts athletes with tatami mats and a boxing space and (2) the creation of a hall for indoor racket sports such as table tennis, racquetball and squash with changing rooms, and storage of approximately 1.000 m².</p>
Action 13.4.2	Funding for the creation of outdoor gyms (GYM-PARKS)
Description	<p>Funding for the creation of outdoor gyms - GYM-PARKS (6-8) including their equipment (consists mostly of 8 – 10 exercise machines similar to those found in a conventional gym). They will be offered free of charge to all citizens.</p> <p>This will come to complement the ATLAS Project efforts, as part of the exercise services that it will offer with the aim of both the prevention and the rehabilitation of non-communicable diseases of the population of the region, as well as in the context of the proposed services of the ATLAS project related to sports and medical tourism.</p>

Action 13.4.3	Upgrading of existing sports infrastructures for hosting and the support of coaching and competitive activities for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
Description	<p>Upgrading of existing sports infrastructure for hosting and the support of coaching and competitive activities for persons with disabilities (PWDs). In all the infrastructures which are mentioned in Action 13.4.2 or which constitute existing infrastructures to which no alterations will be made but will be upgraded and standards of exercise will be adopted to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.</p>
Action 13.4.4	Mountain Training Camp
Description	<p>Integrated Intervention 8: Culture “Troodos Values Project”, Action 8.5.1 Ecomuseum: the modern museological approach for a holistic preservation and promotion of a location and the proposal for the utilisation of the Amiantos mine for the benefit of the local society and economy – Reasoning proposal and approval by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>Large-scale coaching centres are created and operated on a worldwide basis in provincial cities and, in fact, many of them in mountain areas. Thus, the opportunity to develop smaller provincial cities is given, while the athletes and their coaches are given the possibility of isolation and self-concentration that are required by the various stages of sports preparation. Typical examples are the US Olympic Training Centre in Colorado, the European Training Centre in Gavirate, Italy or the Italian Training Centre in Coverciano.</p> <p>Creation of a model, international sports and training centre, which will utilise the unique possibilities offered by the region (mild climatic conditions, oxygen, rich natural environment) in the emblematic area of the old hospital in Amiantos. The Mountain Training and Sports Camp is a proposed action of the “ATLAS Project” (II 13), where it is analysed extensively. The Hospital as it is designed can be renovated to house accommodation rooms and dormitories, common recreation spaces, training rooms, a projection and meeting room and a closed training room of at least 1.000m² including two rooms of 100m² each for group exercise (e.g. aerobic exercise, yoga etc.). These halls will be used for prevention and rehabilitation programmes by non-athletes while at the same time they can be used for the specialised training of athletes. Furthermore, the Camp will be supported by the “Glafkos Clerides” Sports, Wellness, Research and Rehabilitation Centre in Agros through its ergometric centre, swimming pool and indoor court. The Mountain Training and Sports Camp will be used to organise training camps for Sports Lyceum athletes, national federation teams as well as for clubs and associations, for two-day organised student physical activity field trips, to host the Sports Village in the context of the European Week of Sport, etc., to host the Security Corps and Armed Forces (annual evaluation to improve their operational capacity). Moreover, it will be used to host and organise various sports events, such as the Panhellenic School Championships, hosted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, while all these events will take place in the dozens of sports facilities which are scattered in the communities of the region. Sports facilities for various sports, such as archery and other ancient Olympic sports, will be set up in the surrounding outdoor area.</p> <p>The Mountain Training and Sports Camp will take advantage of both the walking and cycling routes within the activities and recreation park as well as those surrounding the park. This park will be used for one-day excursions for children, in specially designed programmes for their physical exercise, nutrition and health benefits. The spaces will also be used by the guests of “GEOSCHOOL” and the children of the camps.</p>

Action 13.4.5	Educational park for environmental and physical education and development of motor skills of children
Description	In the context of the programmes of action 13.2.3 and in addition to the purpose of the establishment and operation of the “Dasoessa” Ecomuseum – Nature, Culture, Sport.

Integrated Intervention / Measure 14
Cyprus Police and Cyprus Fire Service

The following are recommended to the Ministry of Justice and Public Order:

- 1. The NSDMC recommends the promotion of the construction of a heliport in the area of the Morphou Police Directorate**, which also covers the needs of the Forests Department, the Fire Service and the Ambulance Service, in order to meet the needs of patients and helicopter refuelling.

The Morphou Police Directorate agrees and seeks the construction of the heliport, and notes that it should be built in an area independent of other use, fenced, easily accessible and with the appropriate facilities for helicopter refuelling, guarding and ground staff offices. Additionally, the Directorate agrees to cooperate with other bodies, and for this reason, it points out that the needs of those who will use the heliport should be put down on paper and their views should be taken into consideration in the design process.

The Fire Service agrees with the construction of the heliport, which can be used by helicopters that will deal with fire fighting in the Troodos region and in the wider area. They consider it important that the helicopters can be refuelled in the area of the Morphou Police headquarters, as it will result in a quick response to the incidents. Additionally, the heliport can be used by helicopters participating in rescue operations by the Fire Department in the area thus reducing the airlift time of rescued people.

Based on the above, the insurmountable need for the construction of the heliport appears as a priority project. Therefore, the construction of the heliport should be included in a broader planning and should be constructed with a budget that will be included in the budgets of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order and the Cyprus Police.

For the aforementioned issue and after the positive response of the competent bodies, a meeting was convened at the Morphou Police Directorate to discuss the location of the heliport. It was decided, following a suggestion of the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities to build the heliport in the area where the construction of the Troodos Industrial Zone in the community of Linos is being promoted. The plot where the heliport will be constructed should be transferred to the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. The Office of the Commissioner undertook the collaboration with the Linos Community Council to advance the whole process and to submit to the Department of Public Works all the permits that had been secured for the construction of a road network and the division of industrial land in the said plot. The heliport will operate on a 24-hour basis and will have to be

constructed based on specifications of simultaneous presence of more than two helicopters and additional landing space for two helicopters. Furthermore, due to the fact that refuelling facilities are needed, the site of the heliport and the road access network must meet specific requirements in order for the heliport to be serviced by the refuelling vehicle. For the final formulation of the specifications that will be required for the design of the heliport, it was agreed that following the approval of the proposal by the Council of Ministers, a Technical Committee will be set up in which all the competent bodies of the Police and Fire Brigade, the Forests Department, the Ministry of Health and Civil Aviation will participate. The Committee will address design issues in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. The Morphou Police Directorate will bear the coordinating role in the whole process with the support of the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities where needed.

2. Actions proposed by the Fire Service

2.1. In order to improve the coverage of the areas, especially those of Evrychou and Moniatis, the Fire Service recommends as the only solution, the conversion of the Rural Fire Stations of Moniatis and Evrychou into permanent regional fire stations. This implies their permanent and 24-hour staffing and therefore 37 Permanent Fire-fighters are required for each Station. Firstly, the upgrading of the Evrychou Station will be promoted and secondly, that of Moniatis.

2.2. To promote the construction of modern facilities at the Pachna Rural Fire Station.

2.3. To promote the construction of the Marathasa Fire Station, at a key point, near the community of Pedoulas, where an Ambulance station will be constructed. The Station will be staffed with Emergency Fire-fighters in the way that other Rural Stations operate. The location of the Station should be evaluated, if the land belongs to a community authority then it is recommended to prepare the Plans and to obtain the necessary approvals and permits so that the Ministry of Justice and Public Order and the Fire Service undertake its construction.

3. Strengthening of the Institution of Community Policing as a matter of high priority

- i. Promotion of the staffing of the Morphou Police Directorate with one member for the completion of the programme that has been prepared for the Marathasa Valley. The Police Directorate is able to implement the institution given that its vacancies will be staffed.

- ii. In detail review of the implementation of Community Policing in the area of the Lania police station (possible establishment of a neighbourhood police officer in the Limnatis community).

4. The free connection of the UNESCO Monuments with the central security system of the Police is recommended. It is noted that most of the monuments belong to the Church of Cyprus and not to the Department of Antiquities and the connection is avoided for financial reasons. For the connection, the owner of the monument must arrange for the installation of an alarm system compatible with the relevant specifications. Due to the historicity of the monuments and the archaeological treasures they contain, free connection is in the interest of the state. Development of Broadband Networks is necessary – Interconnection with Integrated Intervention 10: Connectivity and Accessibility Infrastructures – Road Network and Communications, Submeasure 10.4. Development of Digital Networks.

5. Additions/ Alterations to police stations

- Kakopetria Police Station: The Community Council of Kakopetria has granted the ground floor where the post office was housed as to expand the station. A relevant study has been prepared. Relevant licenses and costing estimates are expected.
- Kampos Police Station: Two estimates of the Department of Public Works have been prepared for the repair of the building and fencing, which amount to approximately €40,000. They are expected to be included in the Police projects for the year 2020.
- Lania Police Station: There are studies that have been prepared for the demolition of the dilapidated building and construction of a modern building in its place. The study provides for the construction of a building with an area of 260 m², as agreed, including six offices, three storage rooms, breathalyzer room, server room, staff kitchen and toilet facilities for the staff and the public. The preliminary cost of the building was estimated at €450,000, resulting in the project being put on hold due to its high cost. Taking into account the unsuitability of the existing plot for the construction of the Police Station, it is recommended to find a Community Building that meets the specifications or a plot that belongs to the Local Authority for the construction of the Station.
- Kalo Chorio Police Station: The Kalo Chorio Police Station is housed in a rented building which was designed to be used as a residence and therefore does not cover the needs of the Police. It is necessary to erect a new modern building on state land or to relocate it to a community building.

6. Relocation of Troodos Police Station

In Integrated Intervention 8 – Culture, Submeasure 5, the utilisation of the Amiantos mine is recommended for the implementation of the proposal: “DASOESSA” ECOMUSEUM – NATURE – CULTURE – SPORT: Theme Park of activities and recreation. A cable car to the Troodos Square is proposed to be installed in the park. Taking into account the proposal of the NSDMC, but also the wider plans of the Government for the utilisation of the Amiantos Mine, the relocation of the Troodos Police Station in the area of the Mine is recommended. A specific Public Building could be restored to meet the needs of the police. The proposed building is situated near another building which is expected to be restored as to house the Office of the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities. After consulting with members of the Police, it appears that the above proposal is possible with the parallel creation of a substation in Troodos Square during peak traffic periods.

7. Evaluation of the adjustment of policing areas based on the geographical boundaries and/ or the boundaries of the service clusters, which in most cases coincide. Moreover, the readjustment of the boundaries of Peristerona, Klirou and Kakopetria Police Stations should be assessed accordingly, while the establishment of a Police Station in the central area of the communities of Mountainous Morphou (Ayia Marina Xyliatou, Ayios Georgios Kafkalou, Xyliatos, Nikitari (Asinou), Kannavia, Ayia Irini, Vyzakia) should be considered.