

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PORTS OF MESSINA TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY OF PELOPONNIS

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Abstract

The aim of the study is to present the value and functionality of the ports of the major area of Messinia, as these are one of the most important factors of the economy of the whole Peloponesian landline. These ports operate, produce and store great wealth, compared to other ports in the greek territory. But what will greatly boost their efficiency in a high level, will be the creation of an institution that will focus on the presentation of history, navigation and operation of trade routes.

It is true that these ports from ancient times until today have been a crucial hub at economic, social and cultural level. Today, in the surrounding era of knowledge and the acquisition of new methodological tools, such as sustainable development and the green economy, these ports will be a carrier of wealth hoarding. Therefore, today's generation should integrate sustainable development, renewable energy, circular economy and their products into their daily lives.

Key words: *Messinia, economy, development, energy*

Introduction

By starting my presentation, the first thing I would like to state is that shipping has been, is and will remain the primary means of transporting products, of all kinds, around the world! Many are already beginning to be divided, because as technology advances, more and more means of transportation of products are created, which are oriented towards automation and aerial traffic as a permanent solution for the environment. Shipping makes a decisive contribution to the well-being of citizens, as it ensures the supply of most of the necessary raw materials, energy, food and other essential items. Maritime trade accounts for the majority of imports and exports in major categories of food, energy and raw materials (Adamakopoulos, 2007).

The sea used to be a "road" that the ancient Greeks, like other peoples, exploited from a very early age, taking significant risks in terms of the safety of transporting material goods from country to country from continent to continent. However, as the ancient Greeks say, "The bold win", so with the persistence they showed for maritime trade, they managed to prove not only to the people back then, but also to the modern world that shipping is one of the most basic economic cores of the earth.

In the present work, some of the ports of Messinia and especially the port of Kalamata were selected for research. More specifically, the reason why we chose this important port is because, on the one hand, its historical aspect has not been exploited, and on the other hand, its geopolitical position in the Messinian Gulf, which gives it the possibility of creating an integrated maritime theme park, which will promote cultural elements and the maritime history of Messinia and the wider Hellenism that will depict the reality of that time!

The aim of this paper is to highlight the historical course of the ports of Messinia, focusing on the port of Kalamata, which unfortunately over time did not follow the evolutionary course of the rest of the ports. Fortunately, we have the opportunity to highlight the obvious historical and cultural treasures that we have. As part of the creation of this theme park, the wider area is to be completely upgraded as we bring the maritime history to life in every realistic detail possible. Therefore, you could understand the excitement and extroversion that it is going to cause in the rest of the countries of Europe as it will constitute the creation of such a single cultural, historical and touristic complex in Messinia (Kuchera, 2016).

In conclusion, this park will provide several jobs to new people who will be naturally familiar with the technology of virtual-3D reality and specialized programming. The realization of such a project will be a source of attraction for visitors and will give impetus to Messinia, which has developed in the tourism sector until now.

The use of Messinia's ports over time

Messinia was one of the main commercial ports that Greece had in ancient times, with the first and most important being that of Kalamata. A basic condition for a port to be considered important is its geographical position in the wider Greek area. There are also factors that enhance the development of a port. First, the port should be spacious in terms of storage and maintenance of imported and exported products. Secondly, it is important for it to have enough charter berths, in order to park enough commercial ships. Thirdly, it must have security with a proper combination of lighthouses and lighting around the port area, and last and most important what a "good" port has is that it is a connection point for multiple coastal shipping lines, i.e. it has a direction to other equally important ports (Christou, 2021).

In this particular case, the port of Kalamata has all four very important characteristics and this is because its geographical and geopolitical position allowed it to have all these characteristics which are still ideal and enviable. In addition, the fact that the next port or sea passage is that of Corinth and then Piraeus means that the port of Kalamata belongs to the most important maritime axis that connected all of Greece.

However, apart from the direct connection that existed with the rest of Greece, a major problem that was solved through the construction of this port was that trade channels that were created with the southwestern Mediterranean, as Italy, Sardinia, Tunisia, Malta, Alexandria and in general, Egypt comprised successive ports of a series of exploration, trade and exchange of culture for the Messenians, due to the short distance they had from each other (Themelis, 2007).

Therefore, the economic, spiritual, social development and by extension any kind of familiarity with other different cultures is a product of evolution and continuous renewal. This is due to the fact that the stimuli they acquired from the ways of conducting trade from the other peoples, the technology they used in the naval means combined with the ingenuity and acumen possessed by the Messenians, managed to break from a very early age the binding and possibly conservative way of thinking and perception that the not so outgoing Greeks of the Mainland had until then (Christou, 2021).

The rest of the legacy that the Messinians leave to the new generation, however strange or scary it may sound, is a word that they tend to emphasize in their daily speech, a word that constitutes the startup of every creation, contact or expectation, and this word is none other than from "Interaction". Interaction in every activity we do is the beginning of dialogue and communication, understanding and respect that ultimately creates cooperation. Cooperation in turn creates trade, which trade creates wealth and development (Adamakopoulos, 2007).

Map 1: Port of kalamata: 1,000m of breakwater, 1,200m of quay walls, 500,000sq.m of port basin



The creation of the Maritime Park

The Maritime Park would be equally one of the most essential and creative attractions which will consist of a series of spaces, which will be used not only for educational, touristic and cultural purposes but also as places of recreation and relaxation for visitors (European Parliament, 2015).

Initially, the port itself is an ideal construction site, which has several abandoned buildings (old warehouses) that are no longer in use, except that they are carcasses of another era and degrade the visual view of the port. These other buildings should be restored with environmentally friendly specifications such as the use of solar panels, photocatalytic paints, which have the ability to absorb atmospheric pollutants and expel them with the rain (Tzikalos, 2010). Even their renovation should be modest both in the interior and exterior spaces, using stone and wood, as this is the only way it will be preserved after decades (Marianna V, 2014).

In particular, the building complex will consist of four main pillars. The first pillar will be the space where there will be a large elevated auditorium equipped with modern audio-visual means, where citizens will wear simulation glasses (virtual) and will watch the entire process of transporting products from one port to another on a scale of 1:2. There will also be corresponding material showing how sailors dealt with a difficult storm or a possible attack by pirates (Tricat, 2017).

After this realistic representation, the visitors will move on to the next pillar of the guided tour, which is the purely educational one, but not the classic one. It is actually the expanded one (touch screen system), in which the tour guide will enable the visitors themselves to take part and for everyone to propose their own conclusions, thoughts without, however, straying from reality (Tricat, 2017).

Then the third pillar will consist of the room where it will have the goods that were traded since ancient times such as: fruits, food, oil, wine, ores, wood, animals, textiles and precious stones. These goods will be placed in corresponding vessels such as amphorae, sharpened vessels, jars and sacks.

As the fourth and last pillar of the tour, there will be a ship which will have an engine but its design will be like the ships of antiquity, in their safest form of course and in fact several parts of it will be made of fully recyclable materials. This ship will make a long journey where it will start from the port of Kalamata and make a big circle in the Messinian Gulf in order to show the passages and the difficulties that the sailors faced during the long journey.

As we understand the combination of technology, history and above all natural landscape is the ultimate experience for the visitor, because he is not satisfied with fruitless knowledge but with lifelong learning. Statistically, scientists prove that audio-visual is the best learning method compared to the classic reading of a book. Fortunately, technology has generously distributed into all fields of science solutions and results to difficult problems that man would certainly not have solved on his own. At the same time, the simple and spacious area of the Park will have a library for a more demanding study that will be used by those interested who are constantly looking for new places with internet access and quiet (European Parliament, 2015).

The development of the City itself through the Park

With the creation of the Park, the development of the city is a given. A city beyond the spectacular coastal zone, clean and safe streets, crowded shops and systematic policing needs in any case places of healthy recreation and tranquility. For example, there is no city abroad that does not have at least one such specialized theme park, which is fully adapted to the new required environmental data.

It is now time for both the state and private individuals to proceed with the creation of such parks, as this is the only way to ensure both economic success and spiritual bliss. With spiritual rejuvenation, citizens escape from the tiring routine and look for new ways of recreation. Some of these ways are exercising in the "lungs of the cities", i.e. in the Parks, trips to museums and art galleries and above all anything to do with culture, music and culture (Zaxou, 2022).

In recent years, extensive research has shown that young people have now escaped from the ordinary ways of entertainment, such as nightclubs, and focus so that their rest also includes the part of self-improvement. This phenomenon has changed because society itself promotes and promotes culture to citizens as a means of liberation, education and above all economic independence. The issues that the whole world now focuses on are modernization and highlighting the past.

An important factor of all these things is, in addition to the financial support from the state itself, sustainable development and the circular economy. More specifically, sustainable development refers to economic development that is planned and implemented taking into account environmental protection and sustainable development. The criterion of sustainability is the maximum possible gain of goods from the environment, without, however, interrupting the natural production of these products in sufficient quantity. Sustainable development requires the development of the productive structures of the economy alongside the infrastructure for a sensitive and friendly attitude towards the natural environment and ecological problems. Sustainability implies that natural resources are exploited at a rate less than they are renewed, otherwise environmental degradation occurs. In theory, the long-term result of environmental degradation is the inability of the Earth's ecosystem to support human life (Dianeosis Research and Policy Institute, 2015).

Equally important is the circular economy which is essentially an economic system that represents a paradigm shift in the way human society relates to nature. It is mainly aimed at eliminating waste and the continuous use of resources. In recent years, concepts based on the recycling of resources are increasingly coming to the fore, and this is because the circular

economy is a production and consumption model that aims to increase the efficiency of raw materials, through the use of materials for a longer period of time, with while minimizing the use of natural resources.

Similarly, we find similar parks in other regions of our country. Some of them are the Botanical Garden in Nafpaktos with over 3,500 plants in 6 themed gardens, the Mining Park in Amfissa where the visitor gets to know the life of the miners, where they will enter a real underground gallery where time "froze » in the middle of the 20th century (Zaxou, 2022).

In conclusion, from the moment a Theme Park is built in an area or in a city, it is certain that the area will receive development as the curiosity to explore will never be lost! In parallel, with the Theme Park, as this will be recognized by the public, it is normal to create cultural events, exhibition evenings and much more. Another advantage that emerges is that tourism develops with the expansion of hotel complexes which results in the economic boom of an area.

Conclusions

The aim of this study is to contribute to the creation of a Theme Park that aims to upgrade the lifestyle of local residents and visitors. At the same time, it is worth noting that young people are aware of their choices, since research findings clearly show that they are excited and attracted when their entertainment includes learning and especially culture (Dianeosis Research and Policy Institute, 2015).

Technology has been an important helper for the promotion of this whole project, as through it we manage to make this plan a reality in a short period of time! Of course, the whole process requires endless time, ideas and patience, because only in this way something authentic and essential emerges. In conclusion, we must emphasize how the present work has highlighted that Theme Parks are an inspired solution which can be realized through the support of the state apparatus and finding the required financial resources. However, until today history has shown us that Messinia has brought forth powerful and demonic businessmen, who until today have generously offered their financial support and assistance, so that Messinia is one of the most important tourist destinations worldwide. I hope this tradition will continue in order for the younger Messinian entrepreneurs to financially support innovative ideas such as the Maritime Park (Themelis, 2007).

The future belongs to those who invest in it and rush to help it in the most effective way, as the late Aristotle Onassis said in several interviews "great risk brings great profits", the point is, of course, to take the great risk so as to change the data.

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