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ESPON 2013 DEMIFER project

Thessalia case study

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1. Introduction

1.1 Specification of the research questions and the aims (CNR)

[NTUA team notes]

Thessalia is an appropriate Greek case study because the territory included in the respective NUTS2 administrative division is satisfactorily representative of the Greek regions for the following two reasons:

(1) There are no major problems of "homogeneity" i.e. there is not a part of the NUTS2 territory of Thessalia that is functionally associated to another NUTS2 region and so on.

(2) We could study in the case of Thessalia some demographic patterns which are important for Greece as well as representative of some important aspects of a "South European" demographic model, such as:

- the demographic transformation of the rural space
- the migration from the countryside to cities
- The migration from mountainous and / or inner areas to lowland and / or coastal areas in relation, among others, with the tourism development.
- The installation of external migrants to urban and rural areas,
- The change of the age – sex pyramid, provided that the ageing of indigenous population is combined with the coming of young external migrants

etc.

In order to study more appropriately some of the above issues we could use in addition data at LAU1 level.

Another interesting point in the Thessalia case is that the role of the main urban centre (capital city) is undertaken by the bi-pole of Larissa and Volos. This enables us to discuss more widely the demographic aspect of the networking of cities.

However, in more general, *the Thessalia case study could focus in the "Challenge of migration" or "Challenge of migration impacts" as the migration (both from the New member states and the non – EU space) is one crucial aspect of the demographic, economic and social change in Greece (as well as in Southern Europe countries).*

1.2 Historical and economic background

Location, physical geography and summary presentation of the region of Thessalia

The **region of Thessalia** is situated in the central – eastern part of the mainland Greece *-see in the Map 1.2.1-* and its area (14.037 km²) amounts in 10,6% of the total of Greece.

Map 1.2.1: Situation of Thessalia in Greece

Thessaly occupies the east side of the Pindus watershed, extending south of Macedonia to the Aegean Sea. The northern tier of Thessaly is defined by a generally southwest-northeast spur of the Pindus Range that includes Mt. Olympus, close to the Macedonian border. Within that broken spur of mountains are several basins and river valleys. The easternmost extremity of the spur extends southeastward from Mt. Olympus along the Aegean coast, terminating in the Magnesia Peninsula that envelops the Pagasetic Gulf and forms an inlet of the Aegean Sea. Thessaly's major river, the Pineios, flows eastward from the central Pindus Range just south of the spur, emptying into the Gulf of Thermaikos.
The Trikala and Larissa lowlands form an important central plain which is surrounded by ring of mountains (Wikipedia 2010)

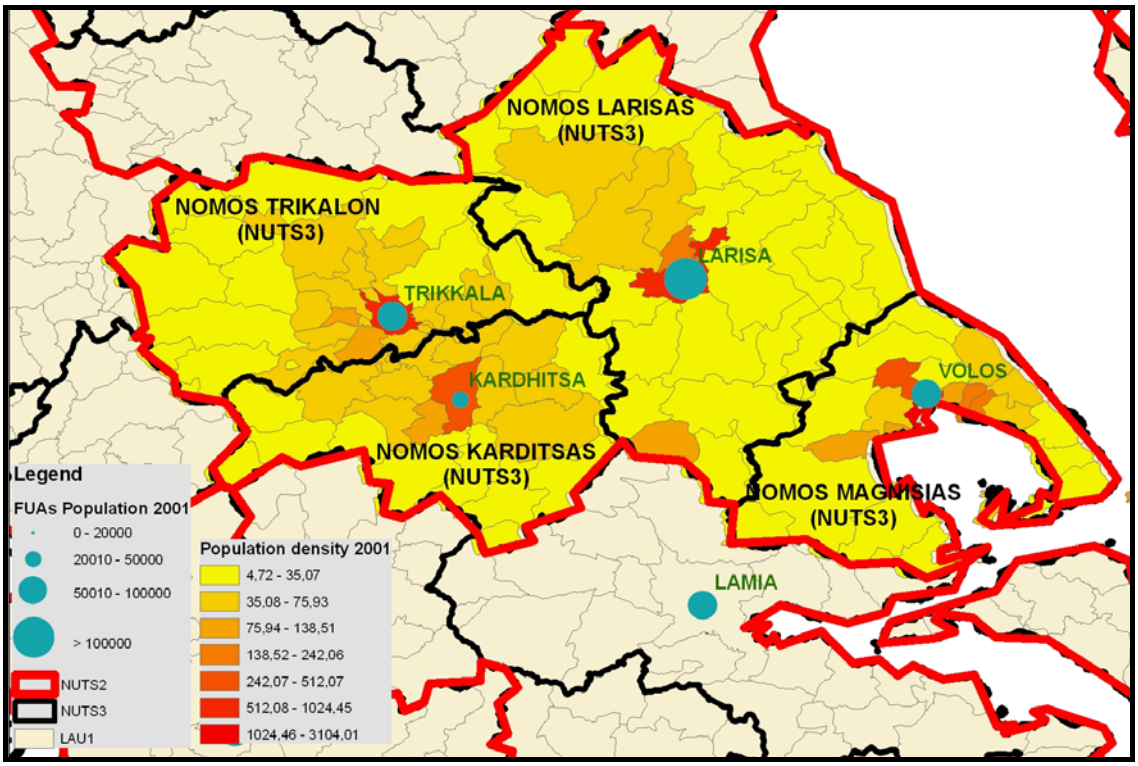
Thessalia (GR14 – NUTS2 level) includes the **prefectures** (Greek "nomoi" - NUTS3 level) **of Karditsa, Larissa, Magnesia and Trikala -** *Map 1.2.1.*

Its **population density in 2009** – **52,4 inh. / Km2**- is slightly lower than that of Greece: 83 inh. / Km2.

Historical background

Thessalia participated in the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829), but was not recognized as part of Greece until 1881.

The administrative region of Thessalia was created in 1986 (together with the twelve rest administrative regions of the country. The city of Larissa is the administrative capital of Thessalia.



Map 1.2.2: Thessalia region: LAU1 population density 2001, Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) population 2001

Source of data: Eurostat and NSO of Greece, author: M. Angelidis

Before 40 years, in **1971**, the Thessalia population amounted in 661.000 inhabitants – see next in the Table 3.2.1. The two bigger in population and more urbanised prefectures of Larissa and Magnesia had, respectively, 233.000 and 161.000 inhabitants, while the prefectures of Karditsa and Trikala, less populated and less urbanised, had each one roughly 130.000 inh.

During the decade of '70, the total population of Thessalia raised by 5,2%, slower than that of the total of Greece (11,1%). While the population of the prefectures of Larissa and Magnesia raised considerably: 9,1% and 12,9%, respectively, the population of the p. of Trikala raised hardly (+0,6%) and this one of the p. of Karditsa diminished considerably (-6,1%)

In the next **decade of '80,** the population of Thessalia raised with a 5,1% rate, similar to the rate of the previous decade. This rate was, also, similar to the one of Greece in total (5,3%). Regarding the prefectures, the population of Larisa and Magnesia continued growing with a significant rate (7,3% and 7,9% respectively) while the population of Trikala raised in a smaller rate (2,9%). On the contrary, the population of Karditsa continued diminishing (- 1,38%).

See for the population change after 1991 in the section 3.

Economical background

Thessalia is located in the main developmental and transport (road, rail) axis of the country: Patras- Athens – Thessaloniki- Northern borders. Its distance from the two big developmental centres of Athens and Thessaloniki is, 3,5-4,0 and 1,5-2,5 hours, respectively (allowing

same-day trips from and to the region) and, in a relatively small distance from its north border; Egnatia highway, which will presumably become the major developmental axis of Western to Eastern Greece is passing through. Consequently, it is located in a strategic and easily reproachable geographical position.

Its geography, with an extended lowland part surrounded by mountainous bulges and, in the Eastern, the contact with Aegean Sea, ***favours its internal territorial integration.***

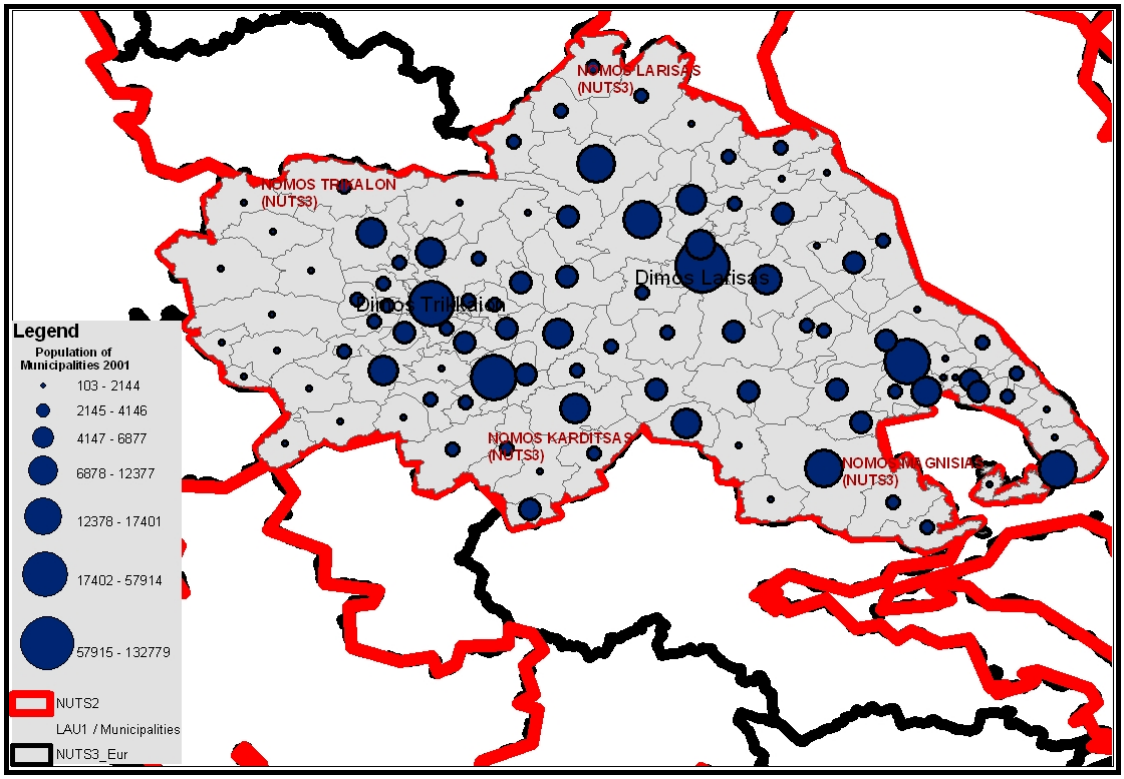
The region's settlements' network is, moreover, ***cohesive;*** it includes two relatively large cities: Larissa and Volos, two medium sized cities and 15 settlements with distinguished developmental role. [Thessalia Operational Plan 2008]

The population of Thessalia amounts to 6,53% of the total population of Greece (Eurostat 2009) and provides 6,0 % of the country' GDP (Eurostat 2003) (4th rank among the thirteen NUTS2 regions of Greece). It provides 15,3% of the total agricultural production of the country (2nd rank), 6,8% of the manufacture production (4th rank) and 5,1% of the services (4th rank) (NSOG 2003).

Its average GDP per capita amounted in 2007 to 17.000 PPS in current prices (Eurostat 2010). It takes the 10th rank in the country according to this criterion. Its GDP amounts (2007) to 73,6 % of the respective average for the country.

1.3 Standard maps regarding settlement structure – possibly night light map (CNR)

[to add comments]



Map1.3.1: Settlements structure of Thessalia:

Population by Municipalities (LAU1) 2001

1.4 Outline of the case study report

After the presentation of the economic background of the region in section 1, the report focuses in sections 3 and 4, respectively, on the demographic stocks and flows of the region (age structure, population change and migration) and on its labour market. Next, and 6, it tries to analyse, in section 5, the relationships among economic development and population change and in section 6 the economic and social consequences of demographic change. Finally, in the conclusions, we try to precise the overall demographic and migratory pattern of the region.

2. Review of existing analysis of demographic and migratory flows in the case study

Demographic analyses of the region of Thessalia were mainly conducted in the frame of preparatory studies for the respective regional and spatial Plans, as well as in the frame of spatial development studies for the prefectures of the region.
There are not published detailed analyses for the region or its prefectures.
{We have not found such publications until now]

3. Demographic stocks and flows of the case study region and its subdivisions

The population of **Thessalia** in **2009** was **735.885 persons** (Eurostat, according to the NSOG estimation], and represented the 6,54% of the total population of the country.
Thessalia is the third biggest Region of the country -regarding population.
In the above mentioned population of Thessalia (2009), **363.533** are **males** and **372.352** are **females**.
The population of the two bigger **NUTS3 regions** -**prefectures, "nomos"** in Greek- of Thessalia: **Larissa and Magnesia** amounted in 2009 to: **286.505 and 203.945 inh. respectively**, while the population of **Trikala and Karditsa** amounted to **130.112 and 115.323 inh**., respectively –see in *Map 3.2.1.*

According to the definitions used by the NSOG -municipalities with 2.000-10.000 inh. are classified in "semi-urban" population-, the urban population of the region amounted in 2005 to 44% of the total population while the rate of the rural population amounted to 40% and the "semi-urban"
The prefectures of Larissa and Magnesia include the ***most important urban centres of the region: Larissa and Volos***, *which form a bi-pole that has a capital city role in the spatial planning of the country.*

3.1. Age structure of the population

(telling the story of the population pyramid(s))

In **1991, Thessalia's population** presented the same **ageing index** (persons 65+ years/ persons 0-14 years): 0,72 **with Greece**. However, the share of the 15-64 years population in Thessalia was greater than that of Greece- Table 3.1.1. Already then, the populations of Karditsa and Trikala were considerably more aged than those of Larisa and Magnisia: ageing indexes: 0,90, 0,78, 0,62 and 0,72.

During the period **1991-2001** the **population of Thessalia aged more intensively than that of Greece.**

In **2001** the ageing index of Thessalia amounted to 1,17 while this of Greece to 1,10. The ageing index increased much more in Karditsa and Trikala and amounted up to 1,93 and 1,76 respectively, while in Larisa and Magnisia amounted to 1,25 and 1,35.

> The population of the prefectures of Larissa and Magnesia on 2001 was clearly younger than that of Trikala and Karditsa –see in *Table 3.1.2.* The rates of the 15-64 years population of the prefectures of Larissa and Magnesia amounted to 67% while those for the two other regions were much lower: 62-64% (66% for Thessalia, 68% for the country). Inversely, the older population (65 years and over) rates were relatively low for Larissa and Magnesia: roughly 17%, while they were relatively high for the two other prefectures: 21-22% (18% for Thessalia, 17% for the country).

During the period **1991-2001**, the ageing index increased by 0,57 points in both the prefectures of Karditsa and Trikala, while it increased only by 0,40 and 0,37 for Larisa and Magnisia respectively.

From 2001 until 2009 the same, more or less, ageing process continued.

The ageing indexes of Karditsa and Trikkala increased up to 1,93 and 1,76 respectively, while those of Larisa and Magnisia up to 1,25 and 1,35. Again, the ageing rate is higher in the two "more rural" prefectures (Karditsa and Trikala). The differences of the ageing indexes in these two cases are: 0,46 points and 0,42 points, while for Larisa and Magnisia the respective increases amount to 0,24 and 0,25 points respectively.

Table 3.1.1: Population age by NUTS3 regions of Thessalia 1991

Code	Regions	Total pop. 1991	Pop. age: 0-14 years	Pop. age: 15-64 years	Pop. age: 65 or over	% Share of the pop. that is aged 15-64 years	% Share of the pop. that is aged 65 or over
GR	Greece	10223392	1945050	6875320	1403022	67,3	15,9
GR14	**Thessalia**	729505	147065	476333	106107	65,3	14,5
GR141	Karditsa	123215	23856	77793	21566	63,1	17,5
GR142	Larisa	271786	56466	180556	34764	66,4	12,7
GR143	Magnisia	196273	39239	128586	28448	65,5	14,5
GR144	Trikala	138231	27504	89398	21329	64,7	15,4

Source of data: Eurostat and NSO of Greece

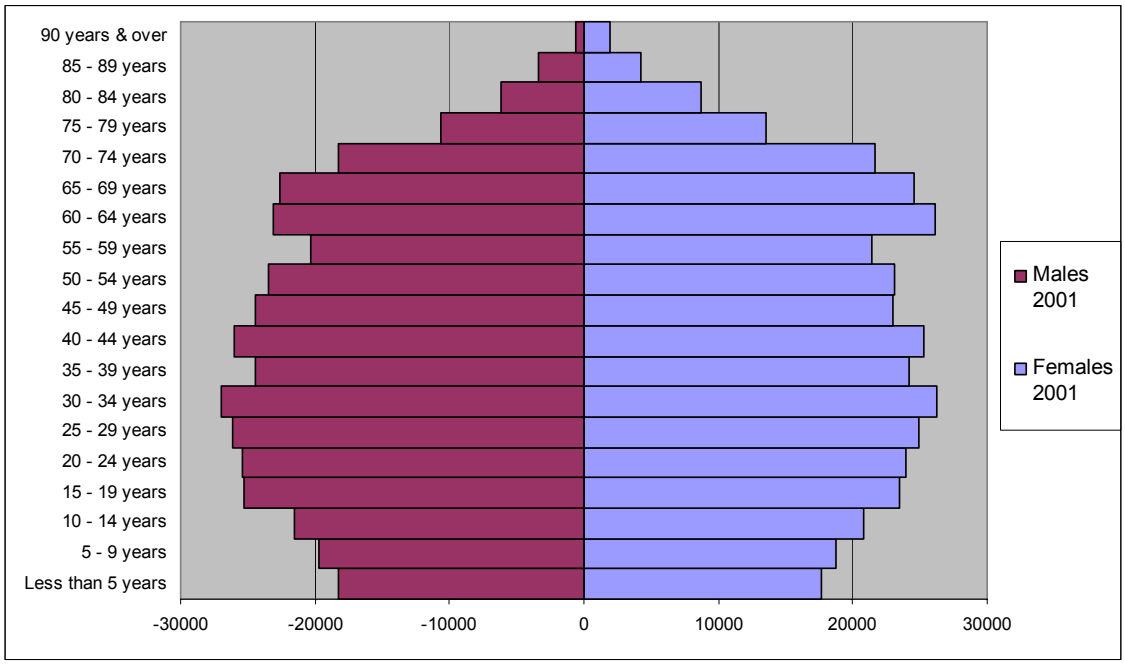
Table 3.1.2: Population age by NUTS3 regions of Thessalia 2001

Code	Regions	Total Pop. 2001	Pop. age: 0-14 years	Pop. age: 15-64 years	Pop. age: 65 or over	% Share of the pop. that is aged 15-64 years	% Share of the pop. that is aged 65 or over
GR	Greece	10934097	1660899	7445964	1827234	68,1	16,7
GR14	**Thessalia**	740115	116686	487401	136028	65,9	18,4
GR141	Karditsa	120265	18216	75210	26839	62,5	22,3
GR142	Larisa	282156	45965	189666	46525	**67,2**	**16,5**
GR143	Magnisia	205005	32033	137783	35189	**67,2**	**17,2**
GR144	Trikala	132689	20472	84742	27475	63,9	20,7

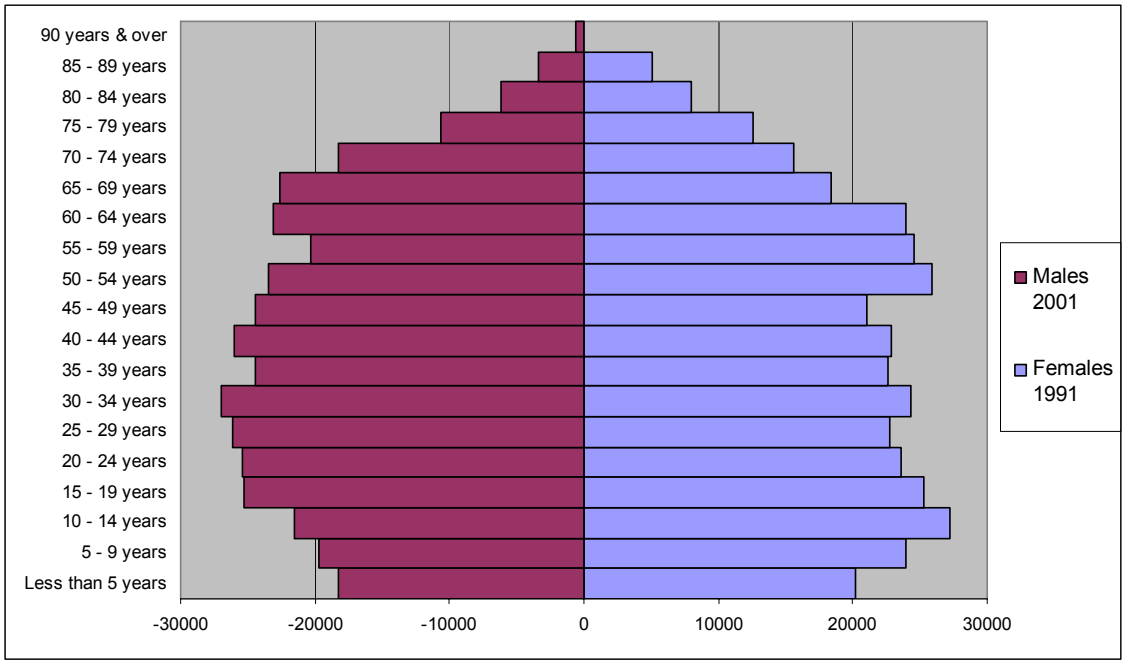
Source of data: Eurostat and NSO of Greece

Table 3.1.3: Population age change by NUTS3 regions of Thessalia 1991-2001

Code	Regions	Total Pop. Change 1991-2001	Pop. age: 0-14 years 1991-2001	Change in pop. Age:15-64 years 1991-2001	Change in pop. Age:65 or over 1991-2001	% Share of the pop. that is aged 15-64 years1991-2001	% Share of the pop. that is aged 65 or over 1991-2001
gr	Greece	710705	-284151	570644	424212	0,8	0,8
gr14	**Thessalia**	10610	-30379	11068	29921	0,6	3,9
gr141	Karditsa	-2950	-5640	-2583	5273	-0,6	4,8
gr142	Larisa	10370	-10501	9110	11761	0,8	3,8
gr143	Magnisia	8732	-7206	9197	6741	1,7	2,7
gr144	Trikala	-5542	-7032	-4656	6146	-0,8	5,3



Graph 3.1.1: Population age pyramid per sex 2001



Graph 3.1.2: Population age pyramid per sex 2001

3.2. Population change and its components

The rate of the population change of Thessalia is lower than the national average. Indicatively, during the period 1991-2005, the population of the region raised by 1,1% in total while the respective national rate amounted in 8,7%.
During the decade 1991-2001, the population of the prefectures of Larissa and Volos raised by 4,2% and 3,5%, respectively, , while the population of Karditsa and Trikala diminished by 2,6% and 4,0%, respectively.

More specifically, during the decade 1991-2001: the urban population as well as the "semi-urban" one grown, while the rural population diminished.

Table 3.2.1

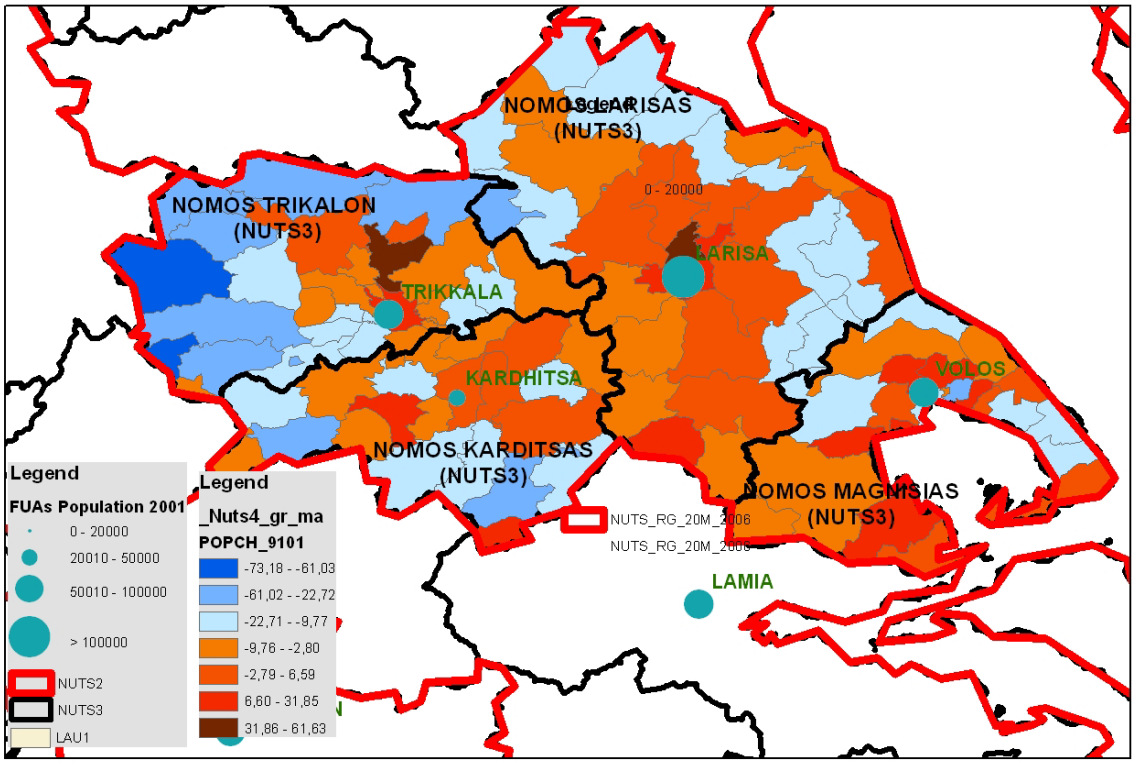
000

		1971	1981	1991	2001	2007	change 1991 - 2001	change 2001 - 2007	change 1971 - 1981	change 1981 - 1991	change 1971 - 2001
EU27	EU-27			464201	484324	432679	4,33	-10,7			
GR	Greece	8768,641	9740,417	10256,3	10950	11192,8	6,76	2,22	11,08	5,30	24,88
GR14	Thessalia	660,986	695,654	730,8	739,8	736,6	1,23	-0,43	5,24	5,05	11,92
GR141	Karditsa	133,018	124,93	123,2	120	116,2	-2,60	-3,17	-6,08	-1,38	-9,79

GR142	Larisa	233,159	254,295	272,8	282,3	285,6	3,48	1,17	9,07	7,28	21,08
GR143	Magnisia	161,392	182,222	196,6	204,9	204	4,22	-0,44	12,91	7,89	26,96
GR144	Trikala	133,417	134,207	138,1	132,6	130,7	-3,98	-1,43	0,59	2,90	-0,61
Sources of data: to explain											
		GNSG / βιβλίο μου	GNSG / βιβλίο μου	Euro-stat - popula-tion per year	Euro-stat - popula-tion per year	Eurostat - popula-tion per year					

Table 3.2.2

		1961 1981 1991	1991	2001	2007	change 1991-2001 %	change 2001-2007 %
EU27	EU-27		464201,4	484323,9	432679,1	4,33	-10,66
GR	Greece		10256,3	10950	11192,8	6,76	2,22
GR14	Thes-salia		730,8	739,8	736,6	1,23	-0,43
GR141	Karditsa		123,2	120	116,2	-2,60	-3,17
GR142	Larisa		272,8	282,3	285,6	3,48	1,17
GR143	Magnisia		196,6	204,9	204	4,22	-0,44
GR144	Trikala		138,1	132,6	130,7	-3,98	-1,43



Map 3.2.1: Thessalia region: Population change per LAU1 (municipalities) 1991-2001

Source of data: Eurostat and NSO of Greece, author: M. Angelidis

3.3. Natural change (fertility and mortality)

In the **decade 1991-2001,** the **fertility rate** (live births rate) **in Thessalia declined significantly:** from 10,0 ‰ to 9,4 ‰ (-6,0%) –*Table 3.3.1 in Annex,* **while it raised from 2001 to 2007:** from 9,4 ‰ to 10,0 ‰ **The same decline and, next, raise can be identified in all four prefectures of the region**.

On the other hand, [Greece] for the same time period (1991-2001) the **mortality rate** (death rate) in Thessalia increased from 9,6‰ to 10,4‰ and continue to increase until 2007: 11,1‰ – Table 3.3.2 in Annex.

Therefore, **the natural change in the entire country was positive in 1991 (+0,7‰), decreased to 0,0 in 2001 and increased slowly: to 0,2‰ in 2007.**

The respective change for Thessalia is considerably different. In 1991, Thessalia presented lower birth rate and higher death rate compared to the national average, as long as it included comparatively bigger percentage of rural population, which is usually older that the total population in all Greek regions. Consequently, the population's natural change rate in Thessalia was 0,2‰ -while for Greece 0,7‰. This rate was decreased significantly in 2001: -1,7‰.

Then, until 2007, it slightly increased but still remained negative: -1,3‰.. **The evolution during the period from 1991 to 2007, differ significantly in each one of the prefectures of Thessalia** –Table 3.3.3. In 2007, only the pr. of Larisa, which includes a big urban centre, had a positive rate of natural change: +1,4‰.. Inversely, the prefecture of Magnesia has a moderately negative rate: -1,1%, while the prefectures of Trikala and Karditsa have, respectively, a high (-3,3%) and even higher negative rate (-6,0%).

Table 3.3.3: Natural change rate (‰) 1991, 2001, 2007

in Thessalia and its prefectures

Code	Regions	1991	2001	2007	1991-2001	2001-2007
GR	Greece	0,7	0,0	0,2	-0,7	0,2
GR14	**Thessalia**	0,2	**-1,7**	**-1,3**	-1,9	0,4
GR141	Karditsa	**-1,1**	**-5,3**	**-6,0**	-4,2	-0,7
GR142	Larisa	1,6	0,4	1,4	-1,2	1,0
GR143	Magnisia	0,2	**-1,2**	**-1,1**	-1,4	0,1
GR144	Trikala	**-1,5**	**-4,0**	**-3,3**	-2,5	0,7

Source of data: Eurostat - our own elaboration

Undoubtedly, ***the inversion in the natural change in both the country and the region of Thessalia, from the mid-90s until our days, is very closely related to the entry of a very important number of foreign migrants much younger in average than the nationals.*** This becomes very clear from the analysis of the births and deaths during the period 2004-2008 per nationals (Greeks) and foreign migrants in Greece and in Thessaly - Table 3.3.4.

In the total of Greece, natural change was positive: +22.088 inh. because the positive change of foreign population exceeds (in absolute number) the negative change of national population. In Thessaly the total natural change is negative: -2.997 inh. The change of foreign population is

positive but it does not exceed the natural decrease (in absolute number) of the national population.

Taking into account that during 2004-2008, the total population of Thessalia decreased by 1.261 inh. (737.340 in 2004 and 736.079 in 2008 / NOSG estimations) the net migration into Thessalia during 2004-2008 probably amounted to 1.743 inh. or, roughly, to 0,59 ‰ of the total population of the region, per year.

Table 3.3.4: Number of births and deaths in Greece and Thessaly 2004-2008: nationals and foreign migrants

	Births			Deaths			Natural change		
	Nationality			Nationality			Nationality		
	Total	Greek	Foreign	Total	Greek	Foreign	Total	Greek	For-eign
Greece	555.471	458.974	96.497	533.383	524.979	8.404	22.088	-66.005	88.093
Thessaly	**36.318**	**31.501**	**4.817**	**39.315**	**39.109**	**206**	**-2.997**	**-7.608**	**4.611**

Data of NSOG, compiled by Drettakis 2010

3.4. Net migration

(intra-regional, inter-regional, intra-ESPON Space, extra-ESPON Space)

Unfortunately, we only have (at this moment) data on intra-regional migration (migration from/to the prefectures of Thessalia) and inter-regional migration (from Thessalia to the other Greek regions and vice-versa) as well as other migration, only for the time periods 1995-2001 and 2000-2001. We will comment, for the moment, on the **migration flows from 1995 to 2001.**

Inter-regional Migration

In the total resident population of Thessalia in 2001, 3,47% migrated to it since 1995 from other regions of Greece. The higher rates correspond to Attiki -1,39%- and Central Macedonia (including Thessaloniki): 0,82%.

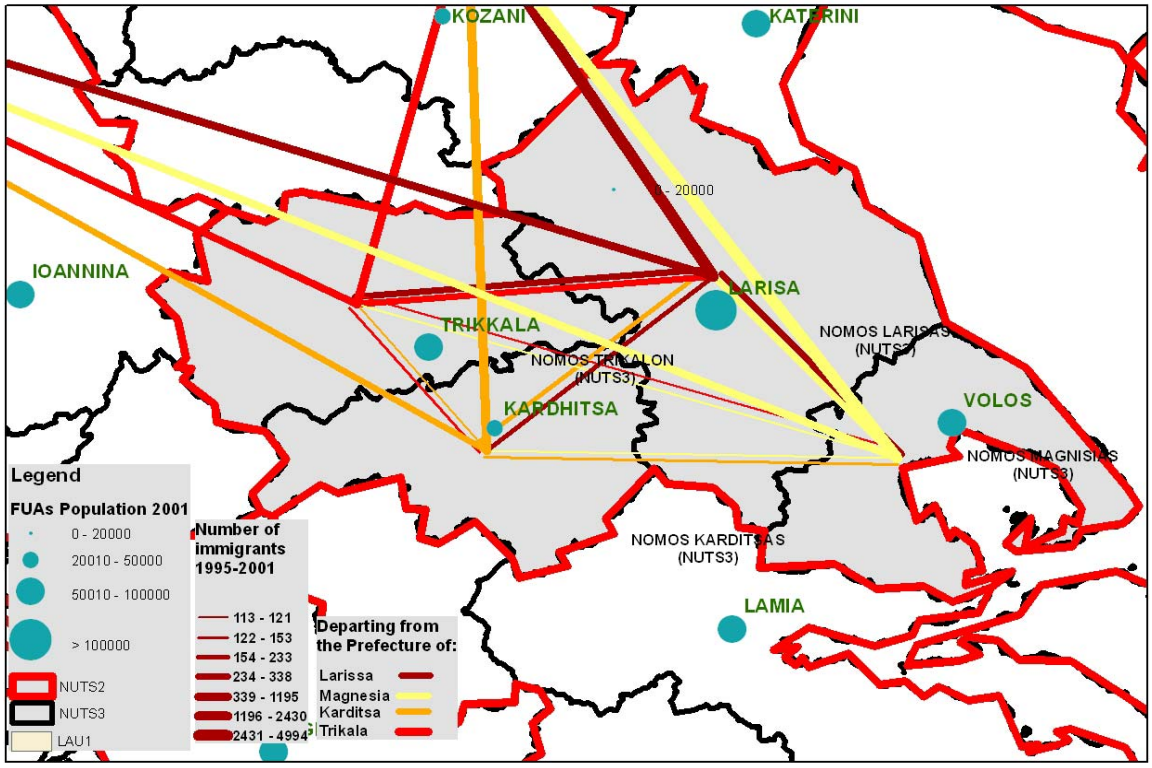
The majority of migrants belongs to the age 5-49 years, for instance their share in the population age 25-29 years amounts to 9,8%.

Migration from abroad

In the total resident population of Thessalia in 2001 **2,03%** migrated to it since 1995 from abroad. This type of migration concerns mainly the population ages from 5-44 years with higher shares in the age classes 20-34 years: 12,5% in total of the respective population class of Thessalia came from abroad from 1995 to 2001.

Internal migration

Only a small part of the total of persons who migrated to each one of the prefectures of Thessalia during 1995-2001 is originated from the rest of Thessalia. Their participation in the total population of each prefecture amounted from 0,64% for Karditsa to 0,78% for Magnisia.



Map 3.4.1: Thessalia region: Number of migrants 1995-2001
from / to Thessalia prefectures / rest of Greece / rest of EU-27

Source of data: Eurostat and NSO of Greece, author of the Map: M. Angelidis

3.5. Age composition of migrants

(intra-regional, inter-regional, intra-ESPON Space, extra-ESPON Space)

[To be completed]

3.6. Other composition of migrants

(intra-regional, inter-regional, intra-ESPON Space, extra-ESPON Space), if data are available

Whenever it is possible at LAU1 level: focus on the contrasts between the 2 major cities, the 2 secondary cities and the countryside of the region. Otherwise at NUTS3 level.
We will further examine if it is necessary to organise interviews with key persons and / or key organisations for some of the above relevant issues

4. Economic change and population: the labour market of the case study region and its sub-divisions

4.1. Economic characteristics (GDP, unemployment)

GDP per capita in **Greece** in **1996** (12.900 - PPS at current market prices) was equal to the 83,8% of the average in EU-27 (15.400). It **raised** up to 92,8% (23.100) of the respective average in **2007** (24.900). Therefore, **It gained 9,0 points** – *Tables 4.1.1a and Table 4.1.1b in Annex.*

GDP per capita in **Thessalia** in **1996** (11.400) was equal to the **74,0% of the average in EU-27** and to **88,4% of the average in Greece**. It **decreased** to **68,3%** (17.000) **of the EU-27 average** and to **73,6% of the Greek average** in **2007**. Therefore, It lost 5,8 points and 14,8 points, respectively.

The decrease of the GDP per capita in terms of % rate of the EU-27 and the Greek averages **was much more important in the pref. of Karditsa and Trikala where the rural sector was and remains important.** Thus the high decrease rate could be attributed in losses in GDP of the rural sector. Specifically, the % rate of the GPS per capita in the pr. of Karditsa decreased from 79,8% of the national average in 1996 to 54,5% in 2007. It thus lost 25,3 points. The respective losses amount to 17,9 points for Trikala (slightly less "rural" prefecture than Karditsa), 13,3 points for Larissa (having an important rural sector but also a big urban centre) and only 9,8 points for Magnesia (which has a comparatively less important rural sector).

It is expected that the decline of the rural sector of Thessalia will continue in next decades unless a major reorientation of its agriculture would be realized.

[The following will be rewritten]
Thessalia Region ranked 195th among the 213 regions (NUTS2) of EU-25 or 201st among the 254 regions of EU-27 (Eurostat 2006). With the declared income per tax payer in 2003 at 10,7 thous. Euros (7% raise), the Region includes 6,4% of the country's total of tax payers (+2,4% το 2003). Its declared income amounts to 5,4% of the country's total (Greek review "Epilogi" 2006).

Table 4.1.1a: GDP in PPS at current prices in Thessalia 1995, 2001, 2006

Code		1995	2001	2006
GR	Greece	12300	17100	22200
GR14	**Thessalia**	10900	13300	16100
GR141	Karditsa	9900	10200	11900
GR142	Larisa	11000	14600	16500
GR143	Magnisia	12000	15100	19600
GR144	Trikala	9800	10400	13400

Source of data: Eurostat

See also the Tables 4.1.1b and 4.4.2 (GDP in Euros) in Annex 2

Unemployment

Unemployment % rates (age: 15 years and over) decreased in Greece and in Thessalia from 12,1% and 13,4% respectively in 1999 to 7,7% and 8,4% in 2008. The rates for 2008 are greater than that of the EU-27 (7,0%) – Table 4.3.1a, see also Tables 4.1.3x in Annex.

Unemployment rates were in 2008 probably higher in the more urbanised pref. of Larisa and Magnesia (9,7 and 8,1) than in the rural pref. of Karditsa and Trikala

[to cross-check with data of the NSOG]

Table 4.1.3a Unemployment rate (15 years and over) EU27, Greece, Thessalia %

		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
EU27		:	:	:	:	9.1	9.2	8.9	8.2	7.2	7.0
GR	Greece	12.1	11.4	10.8	10.3	9.7	10.5	9.8	8.9	8.3	7.7
GR14	Thessalia	13.4	12.9	12.9	11.4	10.7	9.8	9.5	8.2	7.8	8.4
GR141	Karditsa	8.7 (u)	11.0	10.7	12.9	12.6	6.2 (u)	9.3 (u)	5.8 (u)	6.6 (u)	6.5 (u)
GR142	Larisa	12.9	11.4	11.1	12.5	11.9	11.5	10.4	9.0	9.5	9.7
GR143	Magnisia	16.1	15.0	12.7	12.5	11.5	9.3	8.5	7.8	5.9	8.1
GR144	Trikala	14.5	14.6	17.5	7.8	6.7	10.1	8.7	8.8	7.3 (u)	7.1 (u

u unreliable/uncertain data

Source: Eurostat

4.2. Demographic and socio-demographic characteristics of the working age population

[To be completed]

4.3. Changes in the working age population

Changes in the active population of Thessalia 2001-2007

During the period of 2001-2007, we can identify an increase in the active population aged 15 and over for the region of Thessalia (+3,6%) as well as for its prefectures of Karditsa (10,8%), Larisa (10,1%) and Magnisia (6,8%).On the other hand in Trikala, there is a very important decrease (-15,5%). For the same period, the active population aged 15 and over at national level presents a satisfactory increase (+7,4%).

4.4. Economic activity

Investments, structure of the economy, competitiveness

Thessalia receives 6% of the national **investments**, which is slightly smaller than its rate in the country population (6,7%)[1]. Its rate in the industrial investments in the country amounted in 5,4% in the period 2000-2004 (ICAP 2005).

It ranks 1st in the production of cotton among the other regions with the 42% of the total production, 1st in the production of cheese with the 24% of the total (2nd in 2001 with 15%), 2nd in the production of milk with 14%, 3rd in apples with 26%, tomatoes and wheat with 18% and 21% respectively and 3rd, in national level, in the production of almonds, in pig breeding and traditional qualitative products and food, while it presents an important delay compared to the national average in the production of biological products (Selection 2006, NSOG 2006).

Table 4.4.1 presents the distribution of the prefectoral and regional GDP in the three production sectors (regional specialisation). It, also, presents the spatial distribution of GDP for each one sector in national level (sectoral concentration).

Table 4.4.1: Per sector distribution of the production in Thessalia 2001

Territorial unit	Primary sector				Secondary sector				Tertiary sector			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
	2001				2001				2001			
Greece	100		7,0		100,0		22,6		100,0		70,4	
Thessalia	**15,0**	***2***	**17,2**	***1***	**6,0**	***5***	**22,2**	***6***	**5,2**	***4***	**60,6**	***9***
Attiki	3,4	*10*	0,6	*13*	34,4	*1*	20,5	*4*	42,3	*1*	78,8	*1*
Magnisia	3,2	*12*	12,2	*24*	2,3	*9*	28,8	*8*	1,5	*9*	59,0	*42*
Larisa	5,5	*1*	16,7	*13*	2,5	*8*	24,4	*14*	1,9	*6*	59,0	*41*
Trikala	2,9	*14*	19,8	*7*	0,6	*25*	13,5	*34*	1,0	*21*	66,7	*27*
Karditsa	3,4	*8*	25,5	*2*	0,5	*28*	13,3	*36*	0,8	*30*	61,2	*35*

Compiled from OP of Thessalia
Source of data: New Cronos, Eurostat 2004
1. Share in the country
2. Ranking at national level
3. Share in the region
4. Ranking at national level

[The following will be rewritten]

Regarding GDP of the **primary sector**, Thessalia seems to have the biggest dependency rate and the second biggest share in the total national activity. This is, mainly, due to the prefecture of Larisa, which presents the biggest share among the prefectures of the country. The rest pre-

[1] In this paragraph we compiled to some extent data from the Thessalia OP

fectures of Thessalia, also, possess high rates, with Karditsa and Trikala presenting the biggest dependency rate.

In the **secondary sector** the results differ significantly. Thessalia produces the 6% of the country's GDP in the secondary sector (5th in national level) and presents a rather high dependency rate in this sector, which constitutes the 22% of the regional GDP. The share of the secondary sector in the regional GDP is almost equal to the share in national level. Magnisia seems to have both high concentration and high specialisation in the secondary sector. It produces the 2,3% of the country's GDP in secondary sector (9th rank) and presents relatively high dependency rate in the secondary sector, which constitutes the 28,8% of the prefectoral GDP. Larisa also produces an important part of the country's GDP in the respective sector (2,5%). The industrial regions of these two prefectures, which are very close to each other, compose an industrial development pole of national importance.

The share of the **tertiary sector** in Greece's GDP is high (70,4%), like in the rest EU countries. Thessalia produces 5,2% of the country's GDP in the tertiary sector and ranks 4th. Magnesia, despite the fact that it has important tourist destinations and one University, does not seem to have significantly developed this sector and produces only the 1,5% of the national GDP in tertiary sector and ranks 9th. Similarly, Larisa, although possessing one University and a Technical Educational Institution, produces 1,9% of the country's GDP and ranks 6th.

To sum up, economy in Thessalia presents a comparatively expanded primary sector, a secondary sector similar to the national average, while its tertiary sector presents a relative delay.

Employment per economic activity at the 4 prefectures of Thessalia for 2001

We elaborated data for the year 2001 for Thessalia and its four prefectures for the employment per economic activity in six groups of branches of the NACE classidication -*Table 4.4.1 in Annex.*

- Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (A and B)
- Mining and quarrying; industry, electricity, gas and water supply (C to E)
- Construction (F)
- Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communication (G, H and I)
- Financial intermediation; real estate, renting and business activities (J and K)
- Public administration and defence, compulsory social security; education; health and social work; other community, social and personal service activities; private households with employed persons (L to P).

In the region of Thessalia, which includes an important plain, *the rate of the employment in the rural sector* -28,8% of the total employment- *is higher than the national average.* The rates of agriculture are much higher (than in the region) in the prefectures ("nomoi") of Karditsa -43,1%-, and Trikkala -35,8%-, while Larissa has a medium rate -27,9%- and Magnesia has a much lower rate -16,1%. In the prefectures of Larisa and Magnesia, which include the big urban centres of Larisa and Volos, the rates of administration and public services (public administration, compulsory social security, education, health etc) are comparatively higher: 27,2% in the pr. of Magnesia and 25,3 in the pr. of Larissa.

4.5. The role of migration

5. Economic change and population: other aspects of the case study region and its sub-divisions

6. Economic and social consequences of demographic change in the case study region and its sub-divisions

7. Population ageing at the regional level and the DEMIFER scenarios (only when available)

8. Conclusions and the demographic challenges in the case study region

9. Annex I: data issues – characteristics, quality and timeliness of data at the national level and regional particularities

10. Annex II: data used in the report (case study region and its territorial sub-divisions)

Bibliography - sources

[To be completed]