



## The ESPON 2013 Programme

Applied Research Project 2013/1/2

### **EDORA**

(European Development Opportunities  
for Rural Areas)

## Country Profiles Report **GREECE**

Report n° 25.11

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EUROPEAN UNION  
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund  
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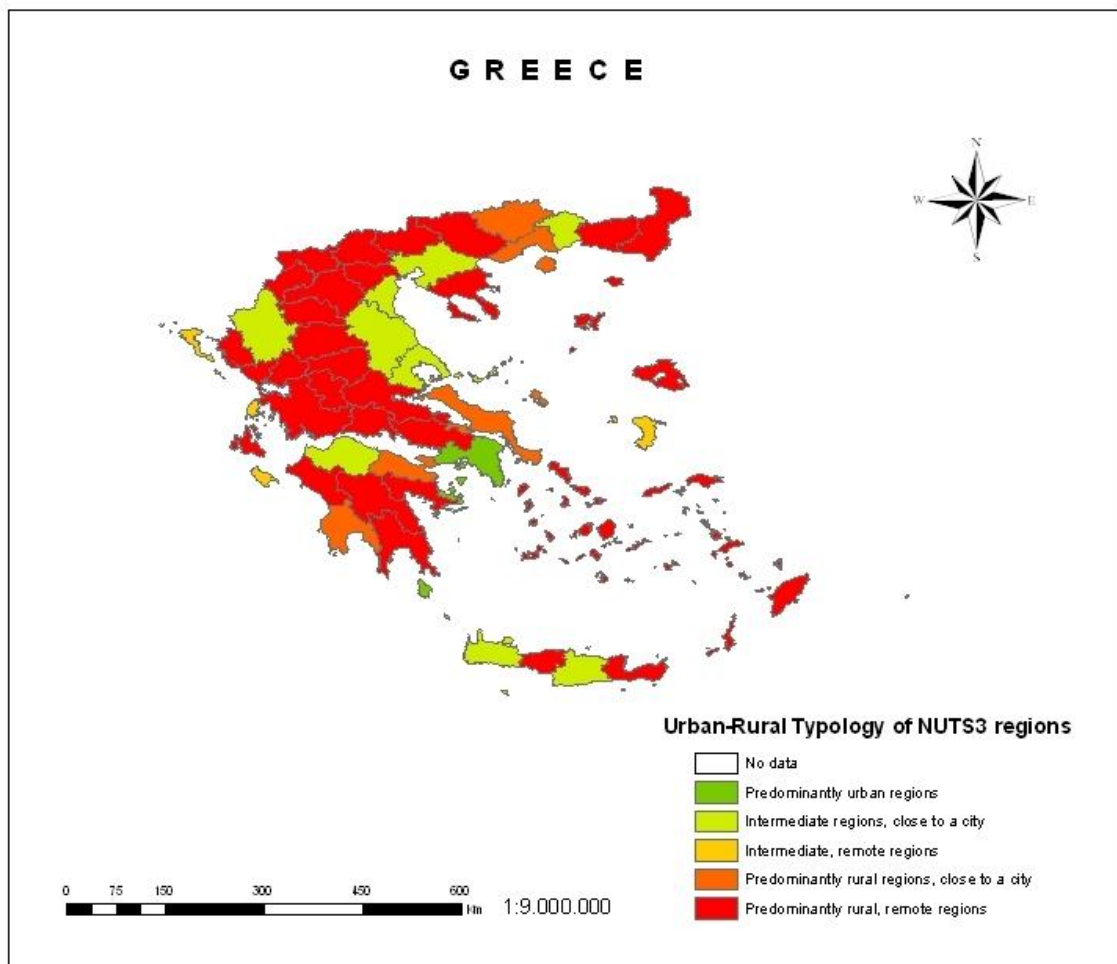
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## 1. Introduction

**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Key ideas/comments on the resulting DG Regio Typology (reasonable classification?, processes hindered?, degree of internal variation?, etc.)
- Basic comments on the main Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints affecting different typologies of regions in the country
- Basic comments on the implications of the three “Grand Narratives of Change” described by Mark Shucksmith in the rural areas of Greece (ref. document “Narratives of Change Affecting Rural Areas of Europe”)

**Figure 7.1** DG Region modified Urban-rural typology of NUT3 regions: Greece



Source: own elaboration from [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2008\\_01\\_rural.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2008_01_rural.pdf)

## 2. Demography

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the main demographic processes in the country?
- Which are the features of the “natural growth”? (positive or negative growth, ageing process)
- Which are the features of migration processes? (dimensions, size, directions, prevalence, tradition, consequences on territorial model).
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The distribution of population among the different types of regions is the outcome of major migration process that took place in Greece after World War II. Extremely rural, disadvantaged and remote areas as well as most of the islands lost population to major urban agglomerations and to several European countries including Germany, France and Belgium (as opposed to the migration wave before World War II which was directed mainly to the US and Australia). As a result, major urban centres grew rapidly, the rural space lost population and the Greater Athens region contains now almost half of the Greek population. From table 7.1 it seems that predominately rural areas continue to lose population while urban places and intermediate areas gain.

Predominately rural areas have a higher proportion of older people and a lower proportion of young people (<15). The age dependency index is one and a half times higher in intermediate remote rural areas and predominately accessible or remote rural areas than it is in urban areas. This is in accordance with observed trends of temporary outmigration of the younger parts of the population aiming to get a better education or prepare for national examinations.

The percentage of people with basic education is significantly higher in intermediate remote and in rural areas than in urban areas. Furthermore, farmers with educational attainment are significantly lower in all areas of Greece than in the EU.

Since the early 90's, Greece has been the recipient country of many permanent and temporary migrants especially from Albania, former soviet republics and the Balkans.

These migrants are either of a Greek origin who settled permanently in Greece or are of a foreign origin who either settled permanently or use to work in Greece when there is a need for jobs in rural areas. In 2001, the latest population census records 797,000 legal and permanent migrants and 21.4% of them lives in rural areas and 17.7% works in agriculture. This accounts for almost 10% of the Greek population and is clearly an underestimation of the real situation as it does not account for temporary and unregistered migration. The impact of migrants in rural areas is extreme and is out of the scope of this work. However, the two major impacts are on demography and employment. As concerns demography, migrants increased the proportion of young people in rural areas and, having in general larger families, assisted and supported rural schools and other rural services. At the same time, as these migrants come from the poorest and less educated parts of their countries contribute to lower proportions of educated people and of a lower human capital.

**Table 7.1** Demography indicators

DEMOGRAPHY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+ NO+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
Census population 2001	% people aged 0 to 14 years	14.24	16.38	15.40	15.40	15.35	15.52	16.75	16.70
	% people aged 15 to 64 years	70.94	67.69	63.91	64.82	64.63	65.26	66.62	66.65
	% people aged 64 years and over	14.81	15.94	20.70	19.78	20.02	19.23	16.53	16.55
	Age dependency rate	20.88	23.58	32.57	30.57	31.19	29.69	25.09	25.09
Population*	Population change 2001-2007 (Index pop. 2001=100)	103.60	101.55	105.35	99.74	101.14	101.45	96.58	96.31
	% pop. 0_14_2007	13.84	14.82	13.91	13.96	14.37	14.36	16.68	15.97
	% pop. 15_64_2007	69.65	65.76	64.78	64.54	65.47	65.46	69.75	70.18
	% pop. >64_2007	16.51	19.42	21.31	21.50	20.17	20.18	13.55	13.84
	Age dependency rate	43.58	52.09	54.36	54.97	52.80	52.83	44.08	43.17
Education	Natural increase change_01_06	83.78	46.05	0.00	-7.50	-12.63	2.33	-5.99	-6.09
	Net migration change_01_06	194.13	-35.09	-58.40	-203.74	-135.61	-112.03	7.09	8.97
	% ISCED 0_2**	35.75	53.69	60.55	59.89	56.39	56.18	33.62	36.66
	% ISCED 3_4**	38.89	28.76	26.22	26.59	28.22	28.21	43.29	47.14
	% ISCED 5_6**	20.16	14.42	9.14	11.04	12.33	12.48	17.03	18.54
	% of farmers with basic or full educational attainment	2.10	6.61	6.03	7.98	6.01	6.23	35.34	39.54
	Life-Long Learning in Rural Areas*	2.40	1.53	0.00	0.62	0.88	0.93	7.69	8.61

\*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

\*\*% ISCED by groups is calculated for population more 15 years.

### 3. Employment

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Main processes and trends in relation to the labour market (employment/unemployment, disadvantaged groups and territories). Explanatory reasons
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The distribution of employment by age class does not present significant and acute differences among the different types of areas. The most significant fact is presented when the distribution of employment in the three sectors of the employment is presented in table 7.2. Predominately rural accessible or less accessible areas retain, as expected, over 20% of the economically active population in agriculture and, despite efforts to develop the tertiary sector and especially rural tourism, less than 60% of employment is engaged in the tertiary sector.

Sharp differences exist in unemployment rates (table 7.3) and the evolution of unemployment rates (table 7.2) among the younger age classes of the population. This trend explains the outmigration trends and also is explained by the outmigration. Lack of employment opportunities push the more active and well educated part of the population out of rural places while the remaining part is of a lower human capital and less easy to find a job. So, while unemployment is high in rural areas (accessible and less accessible) there is a lack for highly skilled and educated personnel that are able to support either public services (doctors, teachers, etc) or private businesses (personnel in tourism enterprises, accountants, etc).

**Table 7.2 Employment indicators (a)**

EMPLOYMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+ NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Employment rate*	T15_64 years	62.40	61.27	60.35	62.78	60.29	60.75	66.40	66.42
	Tmale 15_64 y	75.30	74.43	76.15	75.92	74.45	74.74	73.05	73.12
	Tfemale 15_64 y	50.20	47.91	44.20	49.10	45.63	46.35	59.72	59.70
	Total 15_24 y	24.90	23.00	25.85	28.08	23.30	23.95	39.66	39.67
	T 45_64 years	55.05	59.51	58.26	60.31	58.09	58.51	62.37	62.34
	Total 45_54	71.90	72.47	70.25	72.86	71.50	71.71	78.30	78.38
	Total 55_64	38.20	46.56	46.28	47.76	44.67	45.31	46.44	46.30
%Empl. in principal sector	%Emp_primary	0.64	18.54	16.56	22.29	24.27	22.00	7.95	7.97
	%Emp_secondary	20.28	19.57	14.45	19.69	20.04	19.49	26.71	26.71
	%Emp_tertiary	79.08	61.90	68.99	58.03	55.68	58.51	65.33	65.31
Unemployment evolution 2002_05	Total > 15 years	88.05	135.73	80.52	123.35	114.34	115.83	187.25	188.17
	Total 15_24 years	65.28	153.49	78.61	222.78	138.52	143.28	255.25	257.16
	Total >25 years	95.50	79.18	80.32	89.25	70.38	75.06	82.27	82.21
	Male > 15 years	85.74	73.12	69.51	80.56	72.51	73.43	82.45	82.35
	Female > 15 years	89.68	73.67	107.34	86.07	79.64	81.59	94.74	94.79

\*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

Finally, long term unemployment is significantly higher in rural areas and its evolution is above average. Recent developments in the CAP support the agricultural exodus which, in turn, supports either unemployment or the rural outmigration. Again, the effect

of foreign migrants is not captured. In rural areas, migrants have assisted and supported the seasonal lack of labour and provided a solution to extensive areas of Greece suffering from low labour supply.

**Table 7.3** Employment indicators (b)

EMPLOYMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+ NO+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
Unemployment rate 2007*	Total >15	7.60	7.82	9.28	10.48	9.69	9.36	7.61	7.63
	Total Male >15	5.10	5.17	5.30	6.04	5.68	5.58	7.06	7.05
	Total Female >15	10.90	12.80	15.15	17.08	15.91	15.32	8.61	8.59
	Total 15_24	20.10	22.86	NA	26.12	25.21	24.64	15.80	15.64
	Total >25	6.60	6.92	7.63	8.38	8.54	8.13	6.66	6.66
Long term unemployment*	% long term unemployment rate_07	49.95	47.78	31.15	53.93	49.60	48.26	43.07	43.12
	Evolution of long term unemployment 2002_07	95.93	94.54	103.24	102.51	97.61	97.96	111.33	110.94

\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

#### 4. Rural business development

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the features of the rural businesses (size, dominant activities, employment, profitability, innovation, use of IST, etc)?
- Which is the profile of the rural entrepreneur?
- Which are the niches of activity in which rural companies are being created?
- Which are the opportunity sectors for future rural business operation?
- Which are the main constraints that need to be overcome?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labelled as “best practices” in rural business promotion?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Unfortunately there are no nation-wide surveys addressing issues related to rural businesses and the rural entrepreneur. Three relatively recent surveys have collected fragmented information (case study specific) concerning the aforementioned issues. These surveys are:

1. Aspatial Peripherality, Innovation and the Rural Economy (QLK5-CT-2000-00783).
2. Entrepreneurship in the Mountainous Areas of Southern Europe (FAIR6-CT98-4169).
3. Western Greece Region Integrated Strategy for employment stimulation (VS/2002/0359).

Micro (less than 10 employees) is the dominant size of rural businesses and the dominant activities include the food industry from the manufacturing sector (cheese and dairy products, olive oil extraction and refinery, fruit and vegetable packaging, tobacco manufacturing, wine and spirits, etc.), construction activities, retail, and more recently tourism activities. The degree of innovation is lower than the corresponding in rural central or urban areas. The penetration of ICTs is lower in rural areas but not exact information is available.

The rural entrepreneur has inherited or created his own business, is of a middle age and educational level and most of his accumulated capital has been informally or through work experience. The major entrepreneurial opportunities include the food processing and drinks industry of the manufacturing sector that was boosted after 1992 due to the institution of products of protected denomination and geographic indication as well as activities related to recreation and tourism.

The main constraints are financial, human capital and access to specialized business networks. Capital is a major constraint for setting up a business in rural areas despite efforts to support setting up capital through capital and interest rate subsidies. The LEADER Initiative supported the creation of rural businesses and it may be considered a good practice example due to the fact that differentiated the support besides conventional instruments of subsidies to more flexible and modern support including access to specialized services (technical and/or financial), supported access to the set up of business networks and the access of smaller businesses to supply chains and commodity networks and supported accumulation of entrepreneurial capital through work placement programmes, experience acquisition, exchange of visits and experiences, etc. As expected, rural areas enjoy lower proportions of businesses in the manufacturing and construction sectors while wholesale and retail prevail. Employment



in high tech industries is minimum in rural areas, especially in intermediate less accessible areas (table 7.4).

**Table 7.4** Rural business development indicators

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+N O+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
N° FIRMS BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying	0.03	0.07	0.14	0.04	0.10	0.09	0.30	0.30
	% Manufacturing	50.86	10.23	6.43	9.87	10.38	10.79	14.08	14.05
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.61	0.63
	%Construction	49.11	13.11	14.50	15.50	14.05	14.75	9.48	9.46
	%Wholesale and retail trade	0.00	37.59	30.05	37.84	35.10	34.72	23.02	21.83
	%Hotel and restaurants	0.00	14.84	29.11	15.23	15.85	16.34	6.52	6.15
	%Transport, storage and communication	0.00	7.10	7.23	7.92	7.35	7.21	8.69	8.46
	%Real state, renting and business activities	0.00	17.04	12.53	13.58	17.14	16.08	37.29	39.12
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying	0.31	0.24	0.26	0.22	1.54	1.06	0.58	0.52
	% Manufacturing	49.88	16.61	6.95	20.13	17.45	17.38	29.18	28.08
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	0.00	0.34	0.28	0.30	0.30	0.30	1.14	0.89
	%Construction	49.78	11.25	10.58	10.39	11.40	11.96	9.09	9.14
	%Wholesale and retail trade	0.00	40.36	34.52	38.38	37.43	37.08	26.14	26.93
	%Hotel and restaurants	0.00	14.19	29.78	15.25	15.44	16.02	8.27	8.37
	%Transport, storage and communication	0.00	8.09	7.76	7.82	7.73	7.65	8.65	8.52
	%Real state, renting and business activities	0.00	8.90	9.80	7.48	8.67	8.51	16.78	17.51
Employment in high and medium technologies manufacturing activities_2004	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_Media	3.44	1.10	0.27	1.91	1.52	1.45	6.88	7.42
	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_%EU 25	47.73	19.32	4.68	16.13	18.74	18.05	95.89	107.13
%firms with own website		46.90	23.32	25.45	20.04	26.57	25.67	50.21	50.21

\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

## 5. Rural-urban relationships

**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Are there established or incipient initiatives for cooperation between urban and rural areas?

- Is the “territorial approach” developed? (ie. Territorial Employment Pacts, supra-municipal planning, etc.),
- are there rural-urban partnerships? If so, which are their goals and ways of operation? Where is the power located?
- Which is the importance/extent of suburbanization’s processes?
- What are the main demands/uses over rural areas from urban inhabitants? How these are met?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labelled as “best practices” in promoting appropriate rural-urban relations?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

In Greece there are not established initiatives for the cooperation between urban and rural areas. However, several “territorial approaches” have been developed in rural areas that are supra-municipal and supra prefectural. One can mention the wine roads that extent over several prefectures in the Peloponnese and in central Macedonia as well as the quality pacts developed for firms in the rural tourism industry in central Greece.

There are not established rural-urban partnerships besides trade networks and supply chains. Suburbanization and counterurbanization are important processes in certain regions of Greece. Especially around major urban agglomerations (Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras) suburbanization has extended the pressure on agricultural land and on rural land prices.

Urban based consumers demand agricultural and food products as well as tourism and recreational services. The latter is developed either around the utilization of natural resources (sea resorts – ski resorts) or around cultural heritage and places of archaeological interest (e.g. monasteries, sites of ancient history, etc.).

There are not specific policies or programmes that promote rural-urban relations but some fragmented approaches may be mentioned. The extension of trains to rural areas as a substitute to urban transportation has been put through in major cities of Greece. Promoting transportation was conceived as a means for promoting rural-urban relations.

## 6. Cultural heritage

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the main cultural resources?
- Which are the main cultural resources of rural regions?
- Is cultural heritage used? If so, in which senses (ie. tourism, other economic activities, identity reference, education, other non profit uses?)
- Which are the main demands upon cultural heritage?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in protecting/promoting sustainability of cultural heritage?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Cultural resources are divided into two categories. Those referring and linked to the history (ancient, medieval, modern) and those refers to tradition and practice. Greece is a country rich in ancient and medieval cultural resources while more modern (19<sup>th</sup> century and after) heritage is abundant. Cultural heritage is the most frequent way of linking tourism activities as well as the image of the region to the characteristics of food and agricultural products.

A nation wide survey of wine consumers revealed that the decision to consume PDO or PGI designated products depends on the consumers image of the rural area as either a place that has a tradition and craftsmanship in the production of the particular type of wine or that the area's resources (soil, water, grape) are suitable for the production or that consumers can identify themselves with the place of origin.

The LEADER Initiative has attempted to protect and promote cultural heritage (including culinary heritage and craftsmanship) for the promotion of products through the creation of regional images.

Different types of regions tap into different cultural heritage resources depending on their history and evolution. Due to the rich cultural heritage and the extreme variation of the cultural landscape no place is really identical or even similar to another. However, one may argue that remote rural areas managed to preserve more intact their cultural and architectural heritage to their isolation. This has now turned to be one of the most valuable resource for developing low density tourism activities and recreation.

## 7. Services of General Interest

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which is the general situation of the services of general interest (SGI) in the country?
- Which are the main problems in relation to accessibility and provision to SGI for rural residents and visitors?
- Which are the main forms of provision of services in rural areas? Are there innovative solutions to low accessibility areas?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting accessibility/provision of Services of General Interest, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The major services of public interest refer to health, education, transportation and communication and the provision of amenities. The provision of health services has increased significantly since the late 80s due to a re-organization of primary health provision in rural areas and the organization of an emergency health provision unit to the isolated small islands and mountainous areas. As a result the gap in indicators such as hospital beds per thousand inhabitants has narrowed but still is wide. However, what is not described by statistical data is the difficulty to hire specialized doctors and nurses in less accessible rural areas as well as the fact that most rural health centres have not been equipped with the appropriate medical equipment. Recent programmes implemented under regional operation programmes attempted to equip the so-called rural doctor's places with basic equipment for the primary diagnosis or the performance of basic checks (simple blood checks, blood pressure checks, etc.).

Rural schools have undergone dramatic changes since the early 70s and now most primary schools in villages have closed and converted to amenity or sports places due to lack of students. The state has put forward a programme of student transportation to major rural places or small towns. However, still in isolated places such as small islands or mountainous areas there are small primary schools that operate with one or two teachers who address the needs of all six grades of classes. Furthermore, when students reach the age when they have to take national examinations they are assisted by private tutorials which are provided only in small towns. The larger the town the better the quality of these tutorials and the higher the chances of students to enter the Greek higher education system. This is an important reason leading students of the last two grades of higher school to migrate temporarily from small rural and less accessible villages to the nearby larger city.

The provision of transportation and telecommunication facilities has improved but still rural transport is of lower quality (older buses or trains) less frequent and/or irregular due to weather conditions (especially in the islands). The state has adopted a programme of subsidised transportation through boats or airplanes for the smaller islands and for mountainous areas of the country. Telecommunications have not improved because due to low population densities it is inefficient to extend modern infrastructure (optical lines) to predominately rural and less accessible areas. Furthermore, state post was forced to close many of its services in less accessible areas while private courier services charge differently when less accessible areas are addressed.

Finally, one of the worse services concerns with the provision of amenities extending from simple broadcasting of tv programmes to the operation of cinemas, small libraries, small coffee shops for the inhabitants to come together or the availability of places for cultural and sports events. The low provision of amenities is a major push factor for young people to leave less accessible predominately rural areas while cannot assist the attraction of new inhabitants or pull inhabitants back.

**Table 7.5** Services of general interest indicators (a)

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+N O+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Density of motorways		0.02	0.02	NA	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04
Density of trunk road		0.10	0.13	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.17	0.17
Density of railways		0.03	0.03	NA	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.10	0.10
Area (km2)**		3808.20	28289.60	2307.00	15028.60	82192.20	131625.60	5659749.80	4600910.40
DENSITY	Evolution density 2001_06	2.81	2.68	3.47	-0.37	-0.32	0.56	0.93	0.92
	Density of population 2006***	1050.87	99.12	102.66	52.86	41.64	77.46	414.65	446.23
Daily population accessible by car		5074.00	2403.33	296.50	3958.20	2509.81	2509.70	18078.54	19285.23
Time to nearest hospital		21.43	24.19	96.87	61.17	74.38	64.95	22.83	22.83
Time to nearest university		30.85	40.17	83.03	93.99	95.67	83.45	45.10	45.10
Time to nearest airport		35.35	100.35	96.87	130.88	132.78	122.14	83.44	83.44
%households with broadband access		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	49.07	48.00
% households with internet at home		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	81.46	81.20

\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

\*\* The findings of these variables are the sum of values, not the average, as the others.

\*\*\* These values are only indicatives and aren't real because in the calculation there are values NUTS2 and NUTS3.

**Table 7.6** Services of general interest indicators (b)

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR +IS+LI+ MK+ NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
N° STUDENTS ISCED 0_6*	N°students ISCED_0 per 1.000 inhabitants	9.23	14.58	13.94	13.46	14.94	14.54	29.59	29.46
	N°students ISCED_1 per 1.000 inhabitants	49.11	63.08	61.95	58.61	63.89	62.79	61.66	60.76
	N°students ISCED_2 per 1.000 inhabitants	26.71	32.83	30.26	31.46	32.39	32.10	43.21	43.28
	N°students ISCED_3 per 1.000 inhabitants	30.09	36.97	31.52	33.97	36.71	35.95	48.05	48.03
	N°students ISCED_4 per 1.000 inhabitants	4.37	2.84	1.48	5.90	2.11	2.61	3.06	3.10
	N°students ISCED_5_6 per 1.000 inhabitants	65.76	60.89	27.81	32.11	55.56	52.09	37.37	37.23
BEDS IN HOSPITAL PER 100.000 inhabitants*	N° of beds in hospitals per 100.000 inhabitants_05	608.80	441.44	423.02	277.98	382.36	390.18	696.91	704.88
	Evolution nbeds 2000_05	91.43	100.06	98.69	104.44	102.90	101.99	91.53	91.94
	Density of hospitals	6.04	0.71	3.12	0.47	0.31	1.01	5.44	5.44
	Hospital beds per head	4.04	4.20	6.31	3.54	4.17	4.26	4.98	4.98
	Doctors per inhabitant	579.80	393.61	313.90	294.82	335.83	345.07	171.35	171.35

\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

## 8. Farm structural change

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the main DOC in relation to agriculture?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labelled as “best practices” in promoting agriculture?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The major farm structural changes are observed after 2005 when full decoupling for a series of products took place. For example full decoupling of tobacco cultivation decertified whole tobacco growing areas in central and western Greece. The same happened with cotton cultivation which was partly decoupled and a series of other products. These changes were supported by high market price uncertainty especially in the case of cereals and oilseeds. Finally, the absence of a serious farm registry is the major obstacle for the development of Greek agriculture.

Due to aged population and the lack of succession, the number of farms in predominately rural areas decline. The sharpest changes are observed in the very small and large sizes while sizes between e and 100 ESUs remain stable or grow. It is also important to note that this vivid lack of succession results to declining numbers of farms owned by young farmers (<35 years old) especially in intermediate less accessible areas.

**Table 7.7** Farm structural change indicators (a)

FARM STRUCTURAL CHANGE		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
% HOLDINGS 2005	< 2 ESU	55.56	33.14	43.00	30.84	36.04	35.95	33.42	33.89
	2 to 100 ESU	44.14	66.72	56.99	69.02	63.83	63.93	57.56	57.02
	>100 ESU	0.30	0.14	0.01	0.14	0.13	0.12	8.33	8.38
%CHANGING N° HOLDINGS 2000-2005	% Change in number of total holdings 2000-2005	1.60	1.83	1.86	1.78	1.92	1.88	-9.53	-9.19
	% Change in number of holdings less 2 ESU 2000-2005	-6.68	0.08	37.96	24.38	6.75	9.49	-2.22	-0.65
	% Change in number of holdings 2 to 100 ESU 2000-2005	13.84	1.26	-12.06	-3.58	3.11	1.15	-13.91	-13.73
	% Change in number of holdings over 100 ESU 2000-2005	166.67	62.90	NA	127.67	81.76	86.18	32.21	31.28

**Table 7.8** Farm structural change indicators (b)

FARM STRUCTURAL CHANGE		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
HOLDERS	% Holders working full time 2005	7.18	11.19	7.41	11.08	12.60	11.69	35.42	35.50
	% Change in Number of Holders working full time 2000 - 2005	-14.73	-17.11	41.94	-1.43	-4.45	-2.95	0.00	0.33
	Economic Farm Size (RDEU07)	4.70	7.20	3.48	6.72	6.66	6.47	41.93	41.93
	Farmers with OGA (RDEU07)	28.80	24.06	31.03	23.54	23.04	24.01	37.56	37.56
	% holders > 55 years 2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50.19	50.62
	% holders < 35 years 2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.35	6.32
	% change in holders > 55 years 2000 - 2005	12.21	2.62	5.01	3.36	2.28	2.85	5.88	5.62
	% change in holders < 35 years 2000 - 2005	NA	-15.66	-26.48	-30.57	-21.48	-21.74	-34.01	-33.96
% farmers with basic and full education in agriculture attained (RDEU07)		2.10	6.61	6.03	7.98	6.01	6.23	42.30	42.30

\*\* Some values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2



## 9. Institutional Capacity

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- characteristics of the governance system (type of administrative system, levels of government, distribution of powers),
- Dominant types of interactions among levels of government (formal/informal, hierarchical/cooperative, open/closed, top-down/bottom-up, etc.)
- Which are the main problems in relation to government and governance?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting better institutional capacity, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Greece witnessed two major outbreaks in its institutional structure since the late 90s. The first concerns with the total re-organization of the old communes to consolidated municipalities. The fragmented first-degree of local authority was consolidated to larger and spatially more dispersed administrative units. This resulted to numerous rural municipalities with more resources and a central administration able to cope with larger projects as concerns infrastructure. Of course, there was a considerable time lag before the new system was able to operate efficiently and still certain limitations exist.

The second trend refers to the creation of numerous local development agencies. The first LEADER Initiative introduced the first truly bottom-up development approaches in rural areas. Many municipalities and second degree local authorities (prefectures) set up their own development agencies only to realize that these were not economically viable firms. At a second stage most of these firms consolidated at a prefectural or other spatial levels to represent larger units and acquire higher power.

The main problems faced in the governance of rural areas are related to the lack of appropriate financial resources and lower levels of human capital. Intermediate less accessible and predominately rural areas suffer from low human capital which either cannot be attracted to these places or cannot be promoted to higher administration because of the rigidities of the human resources management system prevailing municipalities and local authorities in general.

As concerns levels of economic development, intermediate and predominately rural less accessible areas are in the worst position in relation to urban places and other EU countries (table 7.8).

**Table 7.8** Institutional capacity indicators

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+ NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
GDP DISPERSION OF GDP_2005	GDP in Mio. Euro 2005	97000.50	4714.97	826.35	2237.26	1396.33	3894.30	9722.69	9856.11
	GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2005	29360.70	17227.14	16948.80	17574.84	16098.78	16769.32	20926.84	21110.46
	GDP in euro per inhabitant in percentage of the EU average 2005	108.80	63.84	62.80	65.12	59.65	62.14	94.38	95.48

## 10. Climate change

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the main perceived threats in relation to climate change for population, authorities, interest groups?
- Are there any scientific evidence pointing to climate change? Please describe
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in counteracting the effects of climate change, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

There are not recorded threats in relation to climate change. However, the two most serious problems faced by rural areas refer to first, water management and second, soil erosion. The need to irrigate in relation to old and badly managed irrigation techniques and practices wastes available water and, especially in coastal areas, leads to high levels of water salinization. The high degree of farm fragmentation, the intensive farm practices and forest fires cause high soil erosion risks in certain areas.

The programmes applied under cross compliance in agriculture have attempted to solve the environmental problems in agriculture but not successfully. Furthermore, extensive establishment of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and nitrification programmes were used mostly as additional subsidies and rather away from their initial objective to protect watersheds from nitrification and agricultural waste protection. The establishment of Natura 2000 sites has not as yet resulted to any substantial results due to the low pace with which management authorities for these areas were established, equipped and staffed.