

European Rural Sustainability Gathering - 17-21 May 2017 – Greece

FIELD VISITS

We will organise 3 field visits in parallel. The field visits will show different initiatives illustrating the territory and the dynamic of development.

Each field trip will include 3 stops offering a visit of a project/ initiative addressing one of the three main fields:

- **AG** - Agriculture/ cooperatives/ processing
- **SO** - social/ cultural/ education activities
- **EC** - local economy/ cooperation/ networking

GROUP A

- **EC: Development Agency of Karditsa**

Keywords: It hosts a CLLD LAG; it operates an incubator; It supports the "Ecosystem of Collaboration"

<http://www.anka.gr/portal/index.php?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/%CE%91%CE%BD%CE%B1%CF%80%CF%84%CF%85%CE%BE%CE%B9%CE%B1%CE%BA%CE%AE-%CE%9A%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B4%CE%AF%CF%84%CF%83%CE%B1%CF%82-%CE%91%CE%9D%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%91%CE%95-474366139396386/>



The Agency established in 1989 by local authorities of the Prefecture of Karditsa (Thessaly Region, Greece). It hosts a CLLD LAG from 1994 until nowadays; it operates an incubator hosting collective schemes and offer support to the "Ecosystem of Collaboration" constituted by cooperatives, NGOs, associations and other collective bodies. During the last years, in cooperation with the Cooperative Bank of Karditsa it offers Business Development Support services to social or private businesses in the frame of Social Financing tools.

Topics to be addressed:

The local CLLD project; The "Ecosystem Support" ; The Business Development Support in the frame of Local Micro financing system

- **AG: Agricultural cooperative of Superfoods**

Keywords: Factory financed by LEADER, processing of "superfoods" (gogi berry, blue berry etc) and producing jam

<http://www.efkarpon.com/portal/index.php/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Efkarpon/?fref=ts>

The cooperative established in 2012 by people who decided to shift their activities in agriculture. They cultivate "superfoods" (gogi berry, blue berry etc). Now it has 120 members who decided to integrate their activities investing in the

processing of their products, organizing the whole supply chain. The construction of their factory (financed by LEADER) is finished and they have started the production of various products like jams or dried berries. The investment has also supported by the cooperative bank of Karditsa



Topics to be addressed:

Superfood as a niche; Benefits for local economy

FIELD VISITS• **SO: Women center**

Key words: promotes gender issues

<http://www.wck.gr/>

<https://www.facebook.com/%CE%9A%CE%AD%CE%BD%CF%84%CF%81%CE%BF-%CE%93%CF%85%CE%BD%CE%B1%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%8E%CE%BD-%CE%9A%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B4%CE%AF%CF%84%CF%83%CE%B1%CF%82-377922595721918/>

It was established in 1992 by Municipality of Karditsa, Development Agency and Women Associations of Karditsa. It is the oldest Women's Supporting Center in Greece and the only one that "belongs" to the Local authorities. It is organizing National, Regional, Local and European projects aiming at promoting equal opportunities, fighting against discrimination and inequality in working environments, abolishing professional segregation, combining professional and family life, informing and activating citizens in matters of social inequality against women, sensitizing them against violence against women, teenagers, children, spreading practices for the implementation of the above.

Topics to be addressed:

Situation of women in the region; Goal of the center; Success stories

**GROUP B**• **EC: Energy cooperative**

Keywords: Civic cooperative, Pellets production unit financed by LEADER, Local Biomass exploitation

http://www.anka.gr/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=461&Itemid=62&lang=en

It is a civic cooperative aiming at the use of RES of Karditsa. It was established in 2010 and has 350 members. It is hosted in the "incubator" of Development Agency. It is also financed by LEADER program and supported by the Cooperative Bank of Karditsa. Its first target is the rational use of biomass of Karditsa investing in a pellets production unit. The unit is already constructed and its inauguration is expected to be organized soon. The impact of the cooperative to the local economy and especially to the employment in mountain areas, through its cooperation with the forest cooperatives, is expected to be very significant. Among the future plans is the power production, using biomass residues produced by agriculture or other activities.

Topics to be addressed:

How to start a civic cooperation? Contribution to local/ regional economy; Impact on the employment in mountain areas

• **AG: Agricultural Cooperative of Stevia producers**

Keywords: Agricultural Cooperative financed by LEADER

It was established in 2012 by a pioneer group of farmers with the support of Development Agency. Nowadays it has 70 members. Their aim is to cultivate stevia (a new cultivation in Greece) and through extraction to produce steviol glycosides. So, in cooperation with the University of Thessaly for the cultivation issues, and with the Technological Institution for the processing issues, they have integrated their pilot investment plan. This project has financed by LEADER and supported by the Cooperative Bank of Karditsa. This extremely innovative and bottom – up initiative will influence positive the local economy and maybe in the future will contribute to the reorganization of the local productive system.

Topics to be addressed:

Stevia as a niche; Benefits for local economy; Bottom up or top down initiative

FIELD VISITS

- **SO: Social Cooperative "Roda" (Wheel)**

Keywords: Education through Theater

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/291977144152156/>

It promotes the education, the esthetic culture and critical thought of children. It operates groups of training through the theater drama. It organizes seminars and performances in cooperation with schools. It also promotes the institution of the school mediation.

Topics to be addressed:

Addressees; Success stories; Actual projects



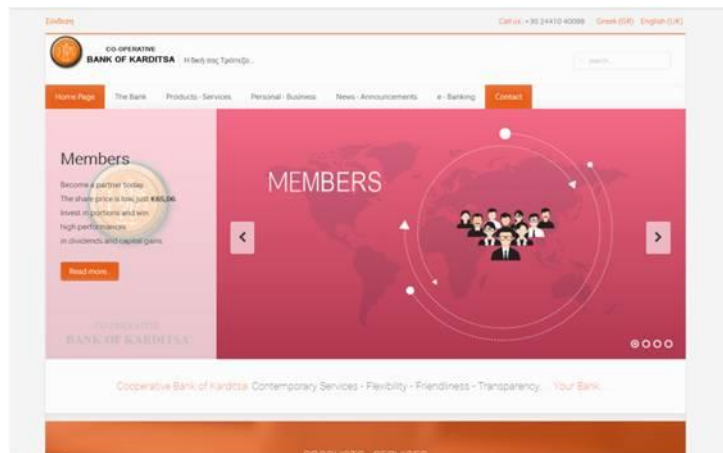
GROUP C

- **EC: Cooperative bank of Karditsa**

Keywords: Civic cooperative, Financial services

<http://www.bankofkarditsa.gr/>

It is a civic cooperative established in 1994 as a credit cooperative. It was hosted in the Development Agency of Karditsa for the first 2 years and in 1998 received the license from the Bank of Greece to function as a Cooperative Bank. It plays a crucial role in the local economy and – especially during the crisis proved its role as a pillar of the resilience of the local society. It is the healthiest bank in Greece, it is certified as an Ethical Bank and it is a pioneer in Social Financing tools.



Topics to be addressed:

Contribution to local economy; Micro financing Program

- **AG: NGO "Oikosfaira"**

<http://www.oikosfaira.gr/>

<https://www.facebook.com/oikosfaira/?fref=ts>

It promotes the organic farming. They organize during the last 16 years the "Eco festival" in Karditsa inviting organic farmers from all over Greece. They also invite speakers from various NGO's (like Peliti)



Topics to be addressed:

The role of NGOs in the organic sector; Their work with volunteers; Their networking and cooperation with other initiatives.

- **SO: Foundation "Alexopoulos"**

Keywords: It offers scholarships

European Rural Sustainability Gathering - 17-21 May 2017 – Greece

FIELD VISITS

There are three foundations in Karditsa. This one offers scholarships focused on graduate and post graduate education. The Alexopoulos scholarship is suspended for the last two years (possibly because of the crisis). Another foundation (the Alamanis' one) offers scholarships focused in technical education and training. For the case of Valtadoros' foundation scholarship, it is practically an ideas' competition.

Topics to be addressed:

Meeting people who have received scholarships, in order to learn about their experiences/ how they could benefit.

The scholarships are focused on graduate, post graduate education

For the case of Alamanis scholarships, they focus on technical education and training.

For the case of Valtadoros scholarship, it is an ideas' competition.

The first two are related to the topic of youth/ unemployment.

The Alexopoulos scholarship is suspended for the last two years (possibly because of the crisis)



Project kindly supported by:

