

Nicholas Konsolas

Athanassios Papadaskalopoulos

Ilias Plaskovitis

Regional Development in Greece

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P r e f a c e

This book is based on the Regional Section of the Development Plan 2000 2006, prepared by the Regional Development Institute according to the Greek Ministry of National Economy's directions and available data. The different development proposals coming from the Country's Regions were also taken into account. The information contained in the Regional Institute's database and the conclusions of the studies made by the Institute's collaborators were also used. The thematic maps in this edition were also produced by the Regional Development Institute's GIS (Geographical Information System) laboratory. The Development Plan 2000-2006 was submitted by the Ministry of National Economy to the European Union in September 1999 and represents the basis for the 3rd Community Support Framework's acceptance.

The book is organized into four parts. Part one contains six chapters reflecting the evolution of the Greek and European Regional Policy, as well as the trends for the coming period. More specifically, the first part refers to: the Greek Regional Policy of the 1950-1985 period, the EEC Regional Policy, the twenty years of Operational Programme (1986-2006), the evolution of the main objectives and priorities for this period, the evolution of means and processes and the new trends in Regional Policy and Planning.

In the second part, the basic figures and trends of Regional Development in Greece are analysed. Specifically, we refer here to the population concentration, the regional distribution of GDP, the employment and unemployment rates and the sector specialisation.

Part three represents a systematic analysis and evaluation of the country's Regional Policy. A synoptic but thorough analysis of the existing situation and of the developing trends in the Country's regional disparities is made, as they are presented in the Development Plan 2000-2006, with the official data regarding demographic developments, distribution of the regional GDP, employment and unemployment and sector specialisation for the country's Regions and Prefectures.

There follows a systematic inquiry into the socio-economic characteristics of the Regions and the results of the previous development efforts. The basic objectives and strategy of the Development Plan for the period 2000-2006 are then presented. These objectives reflect the specific characteristics of each Region but also the new challenges they face and the opportunities that they may take advantage of in the upcoming period. The link between the main strategic objectives and the corresponding actions for each sector is explored. This is presented for all the 13 Regions of Greece, more specifically: Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Central Macedonia, Western Macedonia, Epirus, Thessaly, Ionian Islands, Western Greece, Sterea Ellada, Attica, Peloponnese, Northern Aegean Islands, Southern Aegean Islands and the Island of Crete.

Finally, part four of the book consists of the presentation of special categories of spatial units, with problems that represent a priority for the specific period. More specifically we refer here to the Metropolitan Centres, Mountainous Areas and Island Areas.

The relative analysis for each type of spatial unit includes the existing situation, a brief presentation of the development strategy and its objectives but also the suggested type of actions that were defined in the context of the Development Plan 2000-2006. In this section all the data relating to these types of Areas, such as demographic, geographic, economic data are examined.