

# The Necessity of informing the Citizens for the new roles of the Local Government

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Those involved in Local affairs discover with interest and astonishment a number of “contradictions” in the area of Local Government of A’ (Organizations of Local Government) and B’ (Prefectural Local Government) degree.

What is interesting is that during the last years the State’s policies on the particular matter have transcended from the phase of the limited granting of jurisdictions and funds towards the Organizations of Local Government (OTA) for the period 1952-1982 to the phase of the generous assignment of jurisdictions (not of funds) for the period 1982-1997.

In this respect, while the Local Government until some decades ago had only a few jurisdictions, nowadays Local structures typically have more jurisdictions lacking only a few of the relative ones of the Member States of the European Union.

We have to refer at this point to the jurisdictions of the OTA on financial activities (Developmental Links, Public Enterprises, Water Supply and Sewage, Radio, Tourism, Professional training etc.), Councils of the Region, on the Municipal Police, on the “fraternization” with the relative Organizations of other Countries, on Cultural Centers and others.

The granting of all those new jurisdictions by the State to the Organizations of Local Government and to those of the Prefecture is not always accompanied by the granting of the relative Funds having as a purpose their effective practice, so evidently the question here is what are the reasons for this transfer of jurisdictions from the Administrative Center to the autonomous Units with eligible administration?

But, if the lack of the relative funds towards the transferred jurisdictions of the Local Government in general, is attributed to the State’s inability, then what could be the explanation concerning the lack of information from behalf of the State towards the Organizations of Local Government concerning the capabilities e.g. Funding stemming from the sources of the EU, or the explanation of the total lack of informing the Citizens concerning the nature of the Local Structures, in other words their jurisdictions their

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ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ

**Ο ΘΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΟΥ  
ΕΠΙΜΟΡΦΩΤΟΥ ΣΤΙΣ  
ΙΔΙΩΤΙΚΕΣ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΙΣ**

**Ο ΡΟΛΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ  
Η ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΤΕΧΝΙΚΗ  
ΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΑΡΤΙΣΗ**

Επιστημονικός Υπεύθυνος  
Καθηγητής Κωνστ. ΓΕ.  
ΑΘΑΝΑΣΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ

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mission, their struggles in favor of local interests and affairs and also for the common problems of the region.

How many ΟΤΑ or Prefectural Local Governments, know their capabilities to draw funds from sources stemming from Abroad (e.g. the European Bank of Investments), from EEC-Funds/Programs/Actions, their capabilities to turn to the Universities so as to take advantage from the “produced” knowledge?

Or how many Organizations of Local Government which have Municipal Radio Stations can inform the Citizens for the reasons of the existence of the Local Government, of the relative mechanisms necessary for the functioning of these Organizations, the necessity of these new expensive annoying Services (e.g. Municipal Police) and others.

In the writings<sup>1</sup> on matters of Local Government there is a reference to the period that we are going through, during which the affairs of the State should be characterized by a certain transparency and they should be easy to access at any time, as well as easily controlled, given the fact that only mushrooms have the right to grow up in the absence of light. At this point in time, what is essential is the adoption of a new kind of policy concerning the systematic information of the Citizens concerning local affairs.

Statements of the kind that “funds are not enough”, that there are no provisions for expenses on Publicity etc., are unacceptable and do not promote the idea of the Local Government, an Idea extremely important and valuable for the redefinition of the identity of the Citizen and the survival of the Nation. The whole issue is urgent, because unfortunately “time passes by very quickly”...

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1. See Const. GE. ATHANASSOPOULOS: *Regional Administration - Local Government. Athens, 1996, Vol. A', p. 56ff.*

## The “Price Nick. Vrettakos” was awarded to Professor Dion. K. MAGLIVERAS

The Cultural Center of the Municipality of Athens has instituted the “Price Nick. Vrettakos” in memory of the distinguished poet. This price is sponsored by Professor Hipp. Yatzidis of the Medical School of the University of Athens. This Price is awarded every two years to a poet while every other year is dedicated to a different literary kind.

For the year 1996 the Price (for the first time) went to the Best Essay and it was awarded to Professor Dion. K. Magliveras for his book titled : “ The 20th century Neo-Greek Society through Novels” ( Edition of Friends).

With this new book Mr. Dion. Magliveras tries to picture the 20th century Greek Society, as it is presented in various novels.

In his book, among other things we encounter, patterns, customs, situations, professions, problems, facts concerning the Greek society of the 20th century, as presented through the novels of : T Athanasiadis, Ellis, Alexiou, Theotokas, Ioannou, Karagatsis, Kornarou, Marg. Liberaki, B. Moskovi, Lilika Nakou, Xenopoulou, Panagiotopoulou, Prevelaki, Terzaki, P. Hari. According to the specialists we are dealing with an original sociological essay, that no one in Greece has ever attempted something similar, up to date. Mr. Magliveras, in his book, apart from the social situation of the 20th century, also describes persons, habits, ideas, the political and economic life etc., with the extensions they acquire and their impact in general, in other words those elements which constitute the social world of our century.

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**LA NOTION «INVESTISSEMENT PRODUCTIF PRIVE» DANS LE  
CADRE INSTITUTIONNEL DE LA LEGISLATION GRECQUE  
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT**

Bruxelles, 1994