

GREECE

Implementing Local Development Strategies

Location

Nikiti, Sithonia

Programming period

2007 - 2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 4 – LEADER

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 206 545

EAFRD 196 218

National/Regional 10 327

Project duration

2013 – 2015

Project promoter

Museum of Nikiti - NGO

Contact

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Website

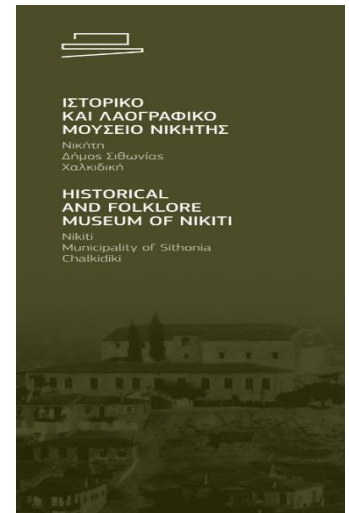
www.mouseionikitis.gr/en/

Protecting cultural and architecture heritage while creating a new tourism attraction.

Summary

The economy of Nikiti area in Chalkidiki, is based on agriculture and tourism. Despite having a large number of hotels and tourist accommodation sites, the area was lacking cultural facilities such as museums and exhibition centres. To cover this gap and create a new tourist attraction, an old school building constructed in 1870 was transformed into a folklore Museum. The works started back in 2000 but then stopped due to the lack of financing.

The project helped to complete the renovation of the building and surroundings and it also helped mobilise the local community to collect items for the museum's permanent collection.



Results

The museum opened its doors to visitors in April 2015 and it is expected to be a significant tourist attraction increasing visitor numbers to the old village of Nikiti.

The operation of the Folklore museum allows the demonstration of local folklore and culture of the area to visitors not only from Greece but also abroad. It also highlights the cultural heritage of the region, differentiating at the same time from other touristic services offered.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The immediate mobilisation of civil society by forming an NGO for the completion of the renovation of the building, and gathering the items to be displayed was a key success factor.
- ❑ In order for any such initiative to be successful, the collection should not be static but constantly enriched with new artefacts or new thematic exhibitions at specific intervals.

Context

Nikiti is a village situated in Sithonia peninsula, Chalkidiki. The area attracts a large number of tourists every year and its economy is based on agriculture and tourism. Despite having a high number of hotels and approximately 150 tourist accommodation sites that attract tourists from all over Greece and abroad, the area lacks museums and exhibition centres. More importantly the cultural and historical heritage of the area had not been promoted or protected and buildings of historical conservation value were often deserted and forgotten. This is also the case of a school building located in the old village of Nikiti which is a historically preserved building built in 1870.

Objectives

The project aimed to renovate and transform the old school into a folklore Museum. The project would also aim to stimulate creativity and common action of the local community, and at the same time act as a catalyst for an improved tourism experience of the area.

Activities

The restoration and transformation of the old school into a museum started in 2000 based on museological, museographic, architectural studies, as well as field and literature research. Due to a lack of finance, the renovation works and the collection of items for the permanent exhibition of the folklore collection could not be completed. To tackle this problem local residents founded the "Museum of Nikiti - NGO". In 2011, the NGO submitted a project proposal and received finance from the Local programme "LEADER APPROACH - Axis 4, for

Halkidiki". The main activities of the project included restoration works on the building and surroundings. A photo exhibition hall was created in the ground floor and four thematic rooms in the first floor. Moreover the project involved animation activities to mobilise local residents and donate items for the creation of the museum's collection.

Main results

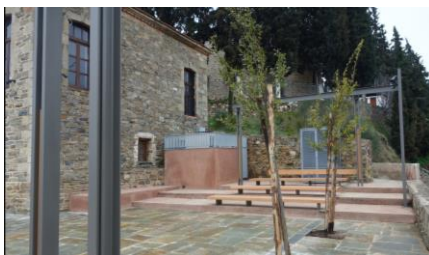
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Main lessons

Key factors for success of the project were:

- The immediate mobilisation of civil society
- In order for any such initiative to be successful, the collection should not be static, but constantly enriched with new artefacts or new thematic exhibitions, at specific intervals. It should be a living exhibition, open to all, interacting with both the needs of local population and its visitors, constantly gathering feedback in order to improve.



Additional sources of information

n/a