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INTERFACE

Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Fragile Communities in Europe

FRAGILE COMMUNITIES' SITUATION AND SELECTION IN GREECE

NATIONAL REPORT





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PREFACE

The first step in the implementation of the INTERFACE project comprises the selection of the fragile communities, most suitable to be covered by project activities, in order to achieve a substantial and long-lasting effect for these communities in partner countries. This National Report presents the results of the fragile communities’ selection process in Greece and includes an overview of the situation of the selected fragile communities, together with a description of the final fragile communities’ selection process and its outputs. The Report follows the generic structure, proposed by the IO1 ‘Competence Gap Analysis’ leader – Tora Consult, in order to allow for comparability of reported information and outcomes across INTERFACE partner countries, and includes the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Fragile communities’ situation;
- Chapter 2: Final selection of the INTERFACE fragile communities – the selection process and its results.

In preparing this material, a variety of sources have been used, incl. statistical data, reports and reviews, together with the results obtained during the fragile communities’ selection process and the own insights/experiences of the author Professor Joseph Hassid and the entire Aitoliki Development Agency S.A. Team (Spyridoula Papathanasiou, Christina Panagiotidis and Christos Vlachogiannis).

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of all those in “fragile communities” selected for consideration, who devoted time in order to provide information and insights.

Aitoliki Development Agency S.A.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
ΕΠΙΤΕΛΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΟΨΗ	5
1. FRAGILE COMMUNITIES’ SITUATION IN GREECE	6
1.1. Location and infrastructure	6
1.2. Demographic characteristics	7
1.3. Local economy and labour market	7
1.4. Community support initiatives and grant funding	9
2. FINAL SELECTION OF THE INTERFACE FRAGILE COMMUNITIES IN GREECE – THE SELECTION PROCESS AND ITS RESULTS	9
Introductory remarks on pre-selected Western Greece Region’s “fragile” Communities	9
2.1. Communities’ “fragility mitigating factors” assessment	11
2.2. Personal characteristics and survey respondents’ attitudes assessment	13
CONCLUDING REMARKS	15
Fragile communities mitigating factors’ assessment grid	17
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Report presents and explains the process of selecting a number of “fragile” communities in Greece. The wider geographical area initially identified, is that of Western Greece, which is the country’s region characterised by the fastest rate of population decrease and one of the poorest in the country.

The region’s characteristics in terms of demography, educational level, structure of economic activity, labor market situation etc., are presented in Section 1.

Using population and GDP criteria, but also local project partner’s familiarity with local conditions, Section 1 concludes with the pre-selection of ten (10) communities, of various degrees of “fragility”.

As the project’s overall methodology determines the “objective identification” of “fragile” communities, it was supplemented, in Section 2 of the Report, by considering, for each of them, a number of “fragility mitigating factors”, i.e. of factors the importance of which, if appropriately appreciated and effectively combined with types of interventions, such as those to be advanced by the INTERFACE project, may “mitigate” fragility conditions and potentially reverse observed adverse trends. Through this analysis, we reached a list of three (3) communities to constitute the “target areas” for the project’s purposes. The selected communities are those of: Gavrolimni, Trikorfo and Galatas, all located in the Municipality of Nafpaktos.

The factors distinguishing them from the others, are: (a) natural resources’ potential is not being sufficiently utilised, (b) the community has growth potential in specific economic sectors and (c) these communities have access to high-quality public services and regional infrastructure facilities.

For these three selected communities, a small scale survey was conducted using a standardised Questionnaire for all partner countries and partners. The Survey aimed at collecting local stakeholders’ (citizens or local administration affiliated persons) perceptions on the type of problems that the community faces, their severity and on ways to address them.

Despite its small scale, the survey provided interesting findings, of relevance for subsequent project phases. Such findings are, for example, the following: (a) The “level of pro-activity in their community” as “very low”, (b) the most severe “problems” are those associated with “access to financial support for private and public projects”, “business sector productivity” and “infrastructure facilities”, (c) all survey respondents declare their readiness to “participate in an initiative which would potentially serve to address one or more of the problematic fields”, (d) the “skills” believed to be “most beneficial to the community” are INNOVATION and CREATIVITY and, finally, (e) concerning the community’s interest and support to INTERFACE intended training and

other types of intervention, the great majority of responded argue that this would be “High” or even “Very high”.

ΕΠΙΤΕΛΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΟΨΗ

Η Έκθεση αυτή παρουσιάζει και επεξηγεί την διαδικασία επιλογής ενός αριθμού «εύθραυστων» Κοινοτήτων στην Ελλάδα. Η ευρύτερη γεωγραφική περιοχή που είχε αρχικά επιλεγεί, είναι αυτή της Δυτικής Ελλάδας, που παρουσιάζει τον ταχύτερο ρυθμό μείωσης του πληθυσμού, ενώ είναι και μεταξύ των φτωχότερων Περιφερειών της Χώρας.

Τα δημογραφικά χαρακτηριστικά, το μορφωτικό επίπεδο των κατοίκων, η διάρθρωση της οικονομικής δραστηριότητας, η κατάσταση της αγοράς εργασίας κ.λπ., παρουσιάζονται στο Κεφάλαιο 1 της Έκθεσης.

Με χρήση κριτηρίων πληθυσμιακών και ΑΕΠ, αλλά και την εξοικείωση του οργανισμού-εταίρου με τις τοπικές συνθήκες, καταλήξαμε σε προ-επιλογή δέκα (10) Κοινοτήτων, με διάφορους βαθμούς «ευθραυστότητας».

Εφαρμόζοντας την μεθοδολογία του έργου, η «αντικειμενική» ταυτοποίηση των Κοινοτήτων, συμπληρώθηκε (Κεφάλαιο 2) με εξέταση, για κάθε μία χωριστά, «παραγόντων άμβλυνσης της ευθραυστότητας», παραγόντων δηλαδή οι οποίοι, εφόσον αναγνωρισθεί η σπουδαιότητά τους και συνδυαστούν αποτελεσματικά με τύπους «παρεμβάσεων» σαν κι’ αυτούς που το INTERFACE προωθεί, είναι σε θέση να αμβλύνουν την «ευθραυστότητα», αναστρέφοντάς πιθανώς τις δυσμενείς τάσεις. Μέσω αυτής της ανάλυσης, καταλήξαμε σε τρεις (3) Κοινότητες που θα αποτελέσουν τις «περιοχές παρέμβασης» του έργου. Οι Κοινότητες αυτές είναι οι: Γαβρολίμνη, Τρίκορφο και Γαλατάς, όλες στην περιοχή του Δήμου Ναυπακτίας.

Οι παράγοντες που κυρίως τις διαχώρισαν από τις υπόλοιπες ήταν: (α) οι δυνατότητες αξιοποίησης φυσικών τους πόρων δεν αξιοποιούνται επαρκώς, (β) τα περιθώρια ανάπτυξης σε συγκεκριμένους τομείς και (γ) οι καλές προσβάσεις σε δημόσιες υπηρεσίες και υποδομές.

Για τις Κοινότητες αυτές διεξήχθη μια μικρής κλίμακας πρωτογενής έρευνα, με χρήση τυποποιημένου, για όλες τις χώρες-εταίρους, Ερωτηματολογίου. Η έρευνα επεδίωξε να συγκεντρώσει απόψεις από πολίτες και εκπροσώπους της Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης της περιοχής, για τύπους προβλημάτων που η περιοχή αντιμετωπίζει, καθώς και για τους τρόπους με τους οποίους τα προβλήματα αυτά θα μπορούσαν να αντιμετωπιστούν.

Παρά την μικρή της κλίμακα, η έρευνα προσέφερε ενδιαφέροντα ευρήματα, χρήσιμα για επόμενες φάσεις του έργου. Ενδεικτικά: (α) ο βαθμός προληπτικής ενεργοποίησης, για αντιμετώπιση των προβλημάτων, είναι «πολύ χαμηλός», (β) τα σοβαρότερα προβλήματα έχουν σχέση με «πρόσβαση σε πηγές χρηματοδότησης» έργων του δημόσιου και του ιδιωτικού τομέα,

(γ) όσοι συμμετείχαν δήλωσαν ετοιμότητα να συμμετάσχουν σε πρωτοβουλίες επίλυσης ενός η περισσότερων προβλημάτων, (δ) οι τύποι δεξιοτήτων που θα πρέπει κυρίως να καλλιεργηθούν είναι αυτοί της Καινοτομίας και της Δημιουργικότητας. Τέλος, σχετικά με το πιθανό ενδιαφέρον της Κοινότητας και την στήριξη που προγραμματισμένες δραστηριότητες του INTERFACE (εκπαιδευτικές και άλλες) θα εξασφάλιζαν, η ομόφωνη σχεδόν άποψη είναι ότι το ενδιαφέρον αυτό θα είναι «έντονο» η και «πολύ έντονο».

1. FRAGILE COMMUNITIES’ SITUATION IN GREECE

1.1. Location and infrastructure

Western Greece Region covers the South Western part of Peloponnese and the Western end of the country’s mainland (Sterea Hellas). Its location is of a strategic character, as it constitutes Greece’s Western “gate” to the Adriatic Sea and Western Europe. The region consists of three Prefectures, those of Achaia, Elia and Aitolokarnania, with a total area of 11350 km², accounting for 8.6% of the country’s total area.

Connectivity and access to markets: The region is served by the urban and commercial centers of Nafpaktos and Messolonghi, while in the wider area, Agrinio is the largest city and the main center of economic activity. The distances between the communities of interest for the project and the urban centers have decreased considerably after the completion of the Ionian Road. The distance of Gavrolimni, Trikorfo and Galatas communities to Messolongi is less than 15 minutes and the distance between them and Patras is 15 minutes via the Rio - Antirio Bridge. The area of intervention is interconnected and interdependent with the urban centers of Nafpaktos, Messolongi, Agrinio, Patras and Athens for freight flow and business. Availability and quality of public services: The cities of Nafpaktos and Messolongi are those in which all the public services serving the needs of the citizens of the intervention area, are located. More specifically, Messolonghi hosts the largest number of public services as the capital of the prefecture and administrative center of the wider area.

Regional infrastructure facilities: The main road that crosses the area is the highway (Ionian road), previously known as the national road of Antirrio - Agrinio – Ioannina. The intervention area is connected through a provincial and local road network which is in good condition. Other infrastructure facilities such as communication and transportation exist in the area, are in function and in good condition.

Natural resources: There is a harmonious coexistence of unique ecosystems such as rivers, lagoons, lakes, the sea, plains, forests, mountains and gorges. Geothermal and other minerals

exist in adjacent areas. All these are considered as potential sources of development, conditional on appropriate policies being designed, effectively implemented and efficiently managed.

1.2. Demographic characteristics

According to the most recent Population Census (2011), Western Greece’s (WG) **population** numbers approximately 680.000 inhabitants, accounting for 6.3% of the total population. Between 2001 and 2011, the region’s population decreased by more than 8% - 6 times that of total population decrease. In particular, while the country’s population decreased, during this period, by 1.36%, the corresponding rate for WG was 8.2% (population density), while compared to that of national average, it is lower by about 20%.

The **age distribution** in WG is not different from that of the country as a whole, reflecting the generalised problem of ageing population – particularly so for women.

With regard to the **educational structure** of the population, the Region is characterised by: (a) above national average presence of Higher education students, (b) presence of primary and secondary education students, and (c) low participation rates in Lifelong learning programmes. The main factor that these indicators underly is the presence of several Higher Education institutions and Research Institutes in the Region (within Peloponnesse). In particular, HE students in the region account for 44.7% of the total number of all levels’ students (compared to the 30.4% of the national average). A large part of these students originate however from other parts of Greece and are expected to move out of the Region once they complete their studies. This implies that relatively high rates of higher education activity observed do not necessarily ensure that the region stands to benefit – in the medium and longer term - from its results! Participation of adults (25-64 yrs) in lifelong learning programmes is low and continuously decreasing – regional rate: 1.8%, compared to 2.9% for the country as a whole (9% in EU27).

1.3. Local economy and labour market

Western Greece is the 2nd poorest Greek region, with Regional GDP at 15.500 Purchasing Power Units (PPUs), which corresponds to 70% of the National and 66% of the EU27 levels (Eurostat estimates – 2009). Furthermore, it is gradually deviating from both of them, while, there are pronounced GDP differences within the region.

Primary, Secondary and Services’ sectors contribute to the regional VA, by 7.4%, 17.4% and 75.4% respectively. Primary sector’s relative importance for regional VA is further appreciated if compared to these sectors’ contribution to the national and EU27 contribution rates, estimated at 3.2% and 1.7% respectively.

Most enterprises in Western Greece are small or even “very small” ones and are active in the following sectors: agriculture, forestry, fishing” and wholesome and retail distribution,

construction, hotels – restaurants and in manufacturing. Production, processing and trade of agricultural products is also a very important activity in the region.

The region contributes 5% to the total National Value Added. At the region's level, VA decreased, between 2008 and 2010, by 6.7%, compared to a 4.8% decrease at national level (Note: After 2010, the situation deteriorated substantially, with the region performing worse than the national economy as a whole).

Most of the regional employment (60%) is concentrated in the services, followed by Primary (26%) and Industry sectors (14%).

Between 2010 and 2012, employment decreased by 15.6% (compared to 14.3% for the country as a whole). Most jobs losses took place in the 2ndary sector (35%), especially in activities related to Construction.

Regional unemployment was, in 2011, estimated at approximately 17% for working population aged 20-64 (22% for women, 14% for men). Youth unemployment (20-24 years old), was as high as 45% (62% for women, 32% for men). Long term unemployment was estimated at 53%!

On the whole, the regional labour force's "participation in economic activity" rate is rather low! Active population accounts for 65.6% of total adults (15-64 years), lower than the country's average (67.9%), with the corresponding rates for women and men at 54.5% and 76.1% respectively. Employment rates of population aged between 20 and 64 years are 53.1% in the region, lower than national average (55.3%) and even lower than EU27 (68.5%). On the basis of this region-specific rate, Western Greece is ranked 11th among all Greek regions. The situation for women in particular, is much worse than for men (41.4% and 64% respectively).

Employment situation has been adversely affected by the post-2008 economic "crisis" which has led to falling employment and increasing unemployment.

The **region's growth potentials** are conditional on the national economy's performance and the extent to which the specific region will be able to claim benefits of whatever positive development will result in the medium and the longer term. This, in turn, depends on the latter's comparative advantages and mainly on the persistence of those factors which have, up to now, resulted in observed poor performance.

In a **SWOT Analysis** contained in a Report published recently by the Municipality of Nafpaktia, the Western Greece Region's "*Weaknesses*" and "*Threats*" presently faced (or expected) highlight the performance constraining factors and, to a large extent, explain the "fragility" identified for several of the region's Communities.

In particular, among the *Weaknesses* identified, depopulation, relatively low educational level, low per capita income and high unemployment are at the top of the list. Furthermore, under-developed entrepreneurship ecosystem and lack of training provisions for local Authorities’ staff and elected officers, are among the *Weaknesses* mentioned.

In the *Threats’* List, scarcity of resources is expected to worsen the situation, by limiting hiring of trained personnel in local Authorities and Development Agencies.

1.4. Community support initiatives and grant funding

(a) The coverage of these and similar communities by the priorities of Development policies at regional and national level: Development policies at regional and national level consist, amongst others, of investment strategies aiming at stimulating the communities’ economic development and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants. Such strategies are implemented through the Structural Funds, as their aim is to invest in the economic and social reconstruction of the communities.

(b) The role of local/regional administration for community development: The local and regional administration plays a significant role in community development as it prepares its five-year Operational Programme, which includes projects and actions, covering all areas of local development. This Programme is updated every year in the Annual Action Program and it is implemented in the community. Other local organizations, such as Development Agencies, also play an important role in the development of the community, as they aim in the economic, environmental, tourist and social growth of the area, through the implementation of different EU programs.

(c) Implementation of project/initiatives, funded by national and EU grants: Projects are implemented through the Structural Funds like the European Fund of Regional Development and the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. In the area of intervention, currently the Development Agency is in the process of preparing a call under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and soon a call will be launched under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

2. FINAL SELECTION OF THE INTERFACE FRAGILE COMMUNITIES IN GREECE – THE SELECTION PROCESS AND ITS RESULTS

Introductory remarks on pre-selected Western Greece Region’s “fragile” Communities

The INTERFACE partner in Greece (Aitoliki Development Agency S.A.) has provisionally selected ten (10) “fragile” Communities in Western Greece Region which is, according to national and

OECD data, the country’s region with the fastest rate of population decrease and the lowest per capita income. Selected fragile communities are presented in the table below.

Western Greece - General economic magnitudes and preselected “fragile communities

	Population			Per capita GDP		
	('000)			('000€, current prices)		
	2001	2011	Change (%)	2008	2013	Change (%)
COUNTRY	10932	10786	-1.3	21.8	16.5	-24.0
REGION:	722	680	-6.0	16.4	12.2	-26.0
WESTERN GREECE						
Prefecture: AITOLOAKARNANIA	219	209	-5.0	14.8	11.9	-20.0
Municipality: Nafpaktia	26.8	27.5	+1.0	-	-	-
Pre-selected fragile communities:				Pre-selected Communities’		
				Location and main activities		
1	Gavrolimni	3.0	2.0	-44.0	Plain	Agrofood, Tourism
2	Thermo	2.3	1.7	-26.0	Mountainous	Tourism
3	Aitoliko	5.5	4.9	-10.0	Seaside	Fisheries, Tourism
4	Antirio	1.1	1.1	-6.0	Seaside	Agrofood
5	Trikorfo	0.4	0.4	-9.0	Mountainous	Agrofood, Tourism
6	Neochori	3.7	3.5	-7.0	Seaside	Agrofood
7	Galatas	1.1	1.1	-3.0	Seaside	Agrofood
8	Katochi	2.9	2.8	-2.0	Plain	Agrofood, Tourism
9	Makinia	0.5	0.6	+21.0	Mountainous, Seaside	Agrofood
10	Astakos	2.6	2.7	+6.5	Mountainous, Seaside	Agrofood, Tourism, Fisheries

Source: National Data, OECD “Regions at a Glance”, June 2016

2.1. Communities’ “fragility mitigating factors” assessment

The methodological approach adopted by the INTERFACE project, as this is outlined in the submitted and approved Project Proposal, is that, while the prevailing situation in certain communities with regard to key indicators, such as depopulation trends, declining economic activity and others, justify their inclusion in the so-called “fragile communities” category, there are, in these same communities, other factors which, if appropriately addressed and exploited, could “mitigate” this “fragility”. Furthermore, if these factors’ potentially positive impact could be strengthened, through suitable “interventions”, the situation could even be reversed, given of course time for the effects of such interventions to produce visible results on the “fragile” communities’ socioeconomic situation.

The list of “fragility mitigating factors” considered is presented in Annex A.

For the 10 preselected Greek communities, their ranking according to the relevance that each of these factors (“criterion”) has for each Community, suggests that:

(a) There are three types of factors that, for all communities, are considered less able to “mitigate fragility”, in, at least, the foreseeable future. These are related to: the existence and the efficiency of business support infrastructures (Criterion 7), the adverse impact of external factors, associated mainly with the general “economic crisis situation” in the country and, finally, the age and educational structure in the communities, which may only be affected in the long run and are conditioned by General Policy making and large scale Public Investment expenditure that might reverse the trend of population migration away from these communities.

(b) Among the communities, there are three in which the “fragility mitigating factors” are somewhat more pronounced. In particular, in these three communities that occupy the top three positions in the relevant rankings, the situation is as follows:

First: Like most of the other communities, “fragility mitigating factors” that are considered most relevant, are:

- The local/regional administration is apt to supporting activities, initiated by third parties or by community members themselves in support of local development
- The improvement of the socioeconomic situation in this and similar underdeveloped communities is among the priorities of Development policies at regional and national level

Second: On the contrary, as in most of the other Communities, the factors that are least able to exert “fragility mitigating” influence, are:

- The business support infrastructure at local level (if any) does not seem to operate effectively to the benefit of local businesses

- The community’s situation is affected by external factors, such as economic crisis, geopolitical situation, etc., with little effort at local level to mitigate their adverse effects

Third, the factors that seem to “make some difference” for the three “top ranking” communities (i.e. those for which “fragility mitigating factors” may be relatively more effectively promoted and potentially contribute to the reversal of adverse trends), are:

- Natural resources’ potentials are not being sufficiently utilised for the betterment of the community
- The community has growth potentials in specific economic sectors, e.g. agriculture, tourism, etc., which so far have not been sufficiently utilised
- The community has access to high-quality public services and regional infrastructure facilities are favourable for the development of the local/regional economy.

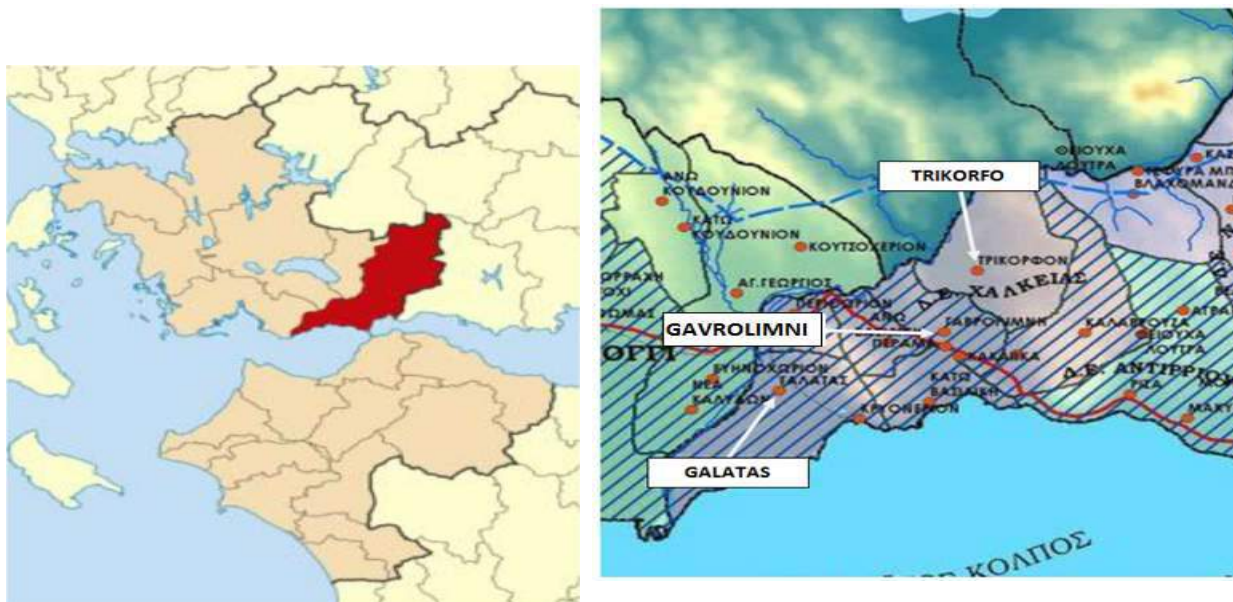
The top-three communities (among the pre-selected 10) are:

1. Community of Gavrolimni
2. Community of Trikorfo
3. Community of Galatas

In addition to the argument presented earlier on the relevance of these “fragility mitigating factors”, it is worth noting that it is such factors that, in a sense, determined the final selection of communities to be considered. The general consideration of “cost – benefit” would imply that although there may be other communities whose present situation is relatively worse, one has to be cautious not to initiate interventions in environments where there is little chance of having the identified “fragility” reversed!

The locations of the above three communities are shown in the map below.

Map of Nafpaktia Municipal area and selected “fragile” Communities’ location



2.2. Personal characteristics and survey respondents’ attitudes assessment

As already mentioned in previous sections of this Report, the types and the geographical distribution of project “interventions” to be planned and implemented, will be determined, not only on the basis of observed and measured low and probably deteriorating economic performance of certain communities, but also by considering cases in which specific “fragility mitigating factors” allow expectations that resources allocation will have better prospects of creating conditions for alleviating the observed situation (“pulling the specific communities out of their socioeconomic “fragility”). Besides this, it is also considered necessary to incorporate in the design and planning of interventions, some prior information on the extent to which local stakeholders of various types, possess a good understanding of their region’s problems, have somehow experienced previous attempts to face local problems and, more important, are, at least in principle, favourably disposed towards intended INTERFACE interventions.

The presentation and assessment of such “fragility mitigating factors” in the previous section, was supplemented by a number of contacts, in each of the three selected Communities. In particular three such contacts were made in each Community, on the basis of a structured Questionnaire and follow-up direct communication. The details of the findings of this “mini survey” are presented in Annex B of the Report, while in this and the subsequent section 2.3 we present first the “personal characteristics of survey respondents” and then their responses on “perceived community problems and ways to address them”.

The nine (9) survey respondents (7 men and 2 women) are of various ages and of various educational backgrounds (50% of them above University level) and most of them (6 out of 9) are affiliated to some business organisation. The rest are affiliated to Local Administration.

2.3. Perceived community problems and ways to address them

The small number of responses does not allow, for most of the issues considered, detection of clear deviations of respondents’ views. The detailed distribution of responses is presented in Annex B. A summary of them is the following:

(a) Five respondents seem to be “satisfied with the overall situation in their community” (all of them from the two of the communities) (Question II.1)

(b) The majority however (8/9) rate the “level of pro-activity in their community” as “very low” or, at best as “rather low” (Question II.2)

(c) The categories most problematic are “access to financial support for private and public projects”, “business sector productivity” and “infrastructure facilities” (Question II.3)

(d) Only half of the respondents are “aware of previous initiatives to address problematic fields” in the community” (Question II.4), mostly of those related to Infrastructure and “access to financial support” problems” (Questions II.5), undertaken by various “internal” or “external actors” (Question II.6), in which half of the respondents (4/9) were themselves involved.

(e) One issue to which all respondents provided a clear answer (9/9) was that related to their intention to “participate in an initiative which would potentially serve to address one or more of the problematic fields” (Question: II.8).

(f) The “skills” that respondents believe would be “most beneficial to the community” are INNOVATION and CREATIVITY (Question II.9) and they all (9/9) declare readiness to “actively participate in an initiative directed towards boosting them” (Question II.10), indicating, at the same time, that similar initiatives “have not been implemented in their community” (Question II.11). Finally,

(g) To the Question on what would be the community’s interest and support to such an initiative, the great majority (8/9) responded that it would be “High” or even “Very high” (Question II.12).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Available statistics and other types of documentation of prevailing socioeconomic situation at Greek communities’ level are not sufficient for reliably detecting the degree of their “fragility” and, consequently, the direction and the urgency of interventions that might prevent further worsening of such situations. For this reason, the methodology adopted by the INTERFACE project is that of combining “objective/quantifiable” identification of relatively “fragile” communities (based, at least, on population and income trends), with local experts’ insights and understanding of regional strengths and weaknesses and of their determining factors. Furthermore, to allow design and implementation of cost-effective interventions that may lead to communities’ socioeconomic improvements, the same methodology argues for simultaneous consideration of “objective fragility detection”, with assessment of “fragility mitigating factors” and “assessment of stakeholders’ perceptions of problems and of ways to overcome them”. The latter will provide indications that resources investment are more likely to produce positive results. Furthermore, as the Greek communities’ case showed, it may also, in subsequent, project phases, guide the design and planning of needed interventions that are, not only consistent with local community’s needs, but are very likely to be facilitated by stakeholders’ support and active involvement.

Using the described “fragile communities’ selection” procedure, AITOLIKI Development Agency, the Greek INTERFACE partner, has selected three communities, all located in the Nafpaktos Municipality of Western Greece (i.e. Communities of Gavrolimni, Trikorfo and Galatas), satisfying all requirements for being considered as the “intervention areas” for subsequent project activities (training or other), i.e. observed adverse population and income trends, presence of relative strong “fragility mitigating factors”, citizens and other stakeholders with clear perceptions of existing problems, aware of the reasons that similar interventions in the past did not perform as expected and, most important, with declared interest for a new set of interventions in which they seem ready to participate and support.

ANNEXES

Annex A

Fragile communities mitigating factors’ assessment grid

Partner country: GREECE

Community No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Criterion	Criterion scoring (on a 1-5 scale)									
1. The community has a strategic location in terms of connectivity and access to big markets and high-quality public services	4	2	4	5	3	3	4	3	5	3
2. The community has access to high-quality public services and regional infrastructure facilities are favourable for the development of the local/regional economy	5	2	4	5	3	3	5	3	5	3
3. Although in place, the natural resources’ potentials are not being sufficiently utilised for the betterment of the community	5	5	3	3	5	4	5	3	3	3
4. The age and educational structure of the human resources in the community are relatively favourable, yet the local economy cannot fully utilise them	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5. So far, the grant funding, received by the community has been limited, mainly due to the lack of initiative coming from within the community itself	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5
6. The community has growth potentials in specific economic sectors, e.g. agriculture, tourism, etc., which so far have not been sufficiently utilised	5	3	5	3	5	4	5	4	3	5
7. The business support infrastructure at local level (if any) does not seem to operate effectively to the benefit of local businesses	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
8. The improvement of the socioeconomic situation in this and similar underdeveloped communities is among the priorities of Development policies at regional and national level	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
9. The local/regional administration is apt to supporting activities, initiated by third parties or by community members themselves in support of local development	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

10. The community’s situation is affected by external factors, such as economic crisis, geopolitical situation, etc., with little effort at local level to mitigate their adverse effects	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total score:	41	33	37	37	38	35	40	35	37	36

**List of communities: Communities with highest Total Score for “fragility mitigating factors”:
Nos: 1, 5 and 7**

▪ **Community No.1: Gavrolimni (41)**

- Community No.2: Thermo
- Community No.3: Aitoliko
- Community No.4: Antirio

▪ **Community No.5: Trikorfo (38)**

- Community No.6: Neochori

▪ **Community No.7: Galatas (40)**

- Community No.8: Katochi
- Community No.9: Makinia
- Community No.10: Astakos

Annex B

Fragile community members’ attitudes assessment – Details of survey participants’ responses

FRAGILE COMMUNITY MEMBERS' ATTITUDES ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE															
COMMUNITIES			GAVROLIMNI			TOTAL	GALATAS			TOTAL	TRIKORFO			TOTAL	TOTAL SUM
RESPONDENTS			1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3		
S.A/A	QUESTIONS	CHOICES													
I.2	Gender	Male	x			1	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	7
		Female		x	x	2				0				0	2
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
I.3	Age	20 - 29			x	1				0				0	1
		30 - 39	x			1				0	x			1	2
		40 - 49		x		1			x	1				0	2
		50 - 59				0	x			1				0	1
		60+				0		x		1		x	x	2	3
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9		
I.4	Education	Secondary School		x		1	x		x	2				0	3
		Vocational Education & Training				0				0		x		1	1
		University Level	x		x	2		x		1				0	3
		Post - Graduate				0				0	x		x	2	2
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9		
I.5	Affiliation	Local Administration	x			1			x	1		x		1	3
		Business Organization		x	x	2	x	x		2	x		x	2	6
		Business Support Organization				0				0				0	0
		Regional Development Organization				0				0				0	0
		Training Organization				0				0				0	0
		Social Enterprise				0				0				0	0
		Voluntary Organization				0				0				0	0
Civil Society Organization				0				0				0	0		

INTERFACE – Fragile communities’ situation and selection in Greece, National Report

		Individual Community Member				0				0				0	0
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
II.1	Are you and those around you satisfied with the overall situation in your community?	Yes	x		x	2	x	x	x	3				0	5
		No		x		1				0	x	x	x	3	4
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
II.2	How would you rate the general level of pro-activity in your community with regards to issues of community importance?	Very high				0				0				0	0
		High			x	1				0				0	1
		Rather high				0				0				0	0
		Rather low	x			1			x	1	x		x	2	4
		Low				0	x	x		2				0	2
		Very low		x		1				0		x		1	2
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
II.3	Which of the categories do you consider most problematic for your community?	Natural resources: air, water, soil, etc.	x			1				0		x		1	2
		Infrastructure facilities: roads, electricity, etc.	x		x	2			x	1	x	x	x	3	6
		Human resources: age structure, level of skills, etc.	x			1	x	x		2	x		x	2	5
		Access to financial support for public and private projects	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	9
		Business sector, jobs and labour productivity		x		1		x	x	2	x	x	x	3	6
		Regional and local development policy	x	x		2		x		1	x		x	2	5
		External factors: economic crisis, geopolitical situation, etc.		x		1				0				0	1
		Valid Answers	5	4	2	11	2	4	3	9	5	4	5	14	34
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of V.A. + N.A.	5	4	2	11	2	4	3	9	5	4	5	14	34		
II.4	Are you aware of any initiative(s) which has been undertaken in your community to address one or more of	Yes	x		x	2				0	x		x	2	4
		No		x		1	x	x	x	3		x		1	5
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

INTERFACE – Fragile communities’ situation and selection in Greece, National Report

	the problematic fields identified above?	Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9	
II.5	If the answer to the previous question was affirmative what problematic area(s) did the initiative(s) address?	Natural resources: air, water, soil, etc.				0				0				0	0	
		Infrastructure facilities: roads, electricity, etc.	x			1				0	x		x	2	3	
		Human resources: age structure, level of skills, etc.			x	1				0					0	1
		Access to financial support for public and private projects	x			1				0	x		x	2	3	
		Business sector, jobs and labour productivity			x	1				0			x	1	2	
		Regional and local development policy				0				0			x	1	1	
		External factors: economic crisis, geopolitical situation, etc.				0				0					0	0
		Valid Answers	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	6	10	
		No Answer	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	5	
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	2	1	2	5	1	1	1	3	2	1	4	7	15	
II.6	Was the action(s) initiated by actors from within the specific region or outside it and who was/were the main actor/s?	Internal Actors: Local administration	x			1				0			x	1	2	
		Business organization				0				0			x	1	1	
		Business support organisation			x	1				0			x	1	2	
		Regional development organization				0				0	x		x	2	2	
		Training organization				0				0				0	0	
		Social enterprise				0				0				0	0	
		Voluntary organization	x		x	2				0				0	2	
		Civil society organization				0				0			x	1	1	
		Valid Answers	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	6	10	
		No Answer	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	5	
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	2	1	2	5	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	7	15	
		External Actors: Regional/National Government				0				0				x	1	1
		Business organization			x	1				0	x				1	2
		Business support organisation				0				0				x	1	1
		Regional development organization				0				0				x	1	1
Training organization			x	1				0					0	1		
Social enterprise				0				0					0	0		
Voluntary organization			x	1				0					0	1		

		Civil society organization				0				0			x	1	1
		Valid Answers	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	5	8
		No Answer	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	6
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	3	5	1	1	1	3	1	1	4	6	14
II.7	Have you already been involved in any such activity?	Yes	x		x	2				0		x	x	2	4
		No		x		1	x	x	x	3	x			1	5
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
II.8	If you had the opportunity to participate in an initiative, which would potentially serve to address one or more of the problematic fields identified above, would you take it?	Yes	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	9
		No				0				0				0	0
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
II.9	Raising the potential for responsibly and autonomously employing which of the following skills do you believe would be beneficial for your community?	Innovation	x	x		2	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	8
		Creativity	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	9
		Analytical thinking	x			1			x	1	x	x		2	4
		Resourcefulness			x	1				0	x	x	x	3	4
		Leadership				0		x	x	2		x	x	2	4
		Resilience	x			1				0			x	1	2
		Valid Answers	4	2	2	8	2	3	4	9	4	5	5	14	31
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of V.A. + N.A.	4	2	2	8	2	3	4	9	4	5	5	14	31		
II.10	Would you or anyone you know be interested in actively participating in an initiative, directed towards boosting the level of the above skills within your community?	Yes	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	9
		No				0				0				0	0
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
II.11	Have any initiatives of such type already been implemented in your community?	Yes			x	1				0				0	1
		No	x	x		2	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	3	8
		Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
		No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
II.12	If such an initiative is undertaken in the future, how would you rate the	Very high				0			x	1				0	1
		High			x	1	x	x		2	x		x	2	5
		Rather high		x		1				0		x		1	2

INTERFACE – Fragile communities’ situation and selection in Greece, National Report

interest and support it is likely to receive in your community?	Rather low	x			1				0				0	1
	Low				0				0				0	0
	Very low				0				0				0	0
	Valid Answers	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9
	No Answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Number of V.A. + N.A.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	9

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