5. Municipality of Kythera (Greece)

Population: 3 350



Kythera is located in Southern Greece between the southern Peloponnese and Crete. It is a mountainous island that contains a number of small villages, the largest having some 400 inhabitants. The vegetation is rich, especially in northern and western parts of the island. The climate is Mediterranean, with enough humidity and strong winds especially in winter. Kythera has a population of three thousand inhabitants, the villages that remain are many and small, scattered throughout their geographic area. The island is administratively organised into a municipality with the community of Antikythera, the eponymous neighboring island, under the Province of Kythera, which belongs to the Prefecture of Piraeus. The people engaged in agriculture, trade and tourism. The main agricultural products are oil and renowned quality honey. Travel the island is rapidly expanding in recent years and brings the attention of many visitors and tourist enterprises.

Key thematic areas of interest: agriculture (olive), tourism, environmental sustainability, education and health services

Human - financial capacity & motivation:

- ✓ **Active local community** with a lot of small formal or informal groups
- ✓ **Other assets of the community** include rich natural resources and attractiveness , local food and food products
- ✓ **Local lead figures** such as a young dynamic mayor (elected for the 2nd time) a capable leader with a clear vision for the municipality
- ✓ **Cooperation** with the LAG Attica and cultural associations locally, and with other organisations such as the Hellenic Ornithological Society and the National Observatory of Athens
- ✓ **Previous ICT flagship projects** include a project on Waste Management in the Municipality and the development of ICT monitoring tools and a Remote Monitoring and Management of Kythera's Water System

Expected added value of the project – where the village needs support

- ☒ **Addressing challenges such as** an ageing population (the number of 65+ is increasing), young people leaving to study elsewhere and elderly people returning for retirement; isolation (nearest shore is 2h trip by ship), lack of good transport connections, dependency of tourism and lack of other entrepreneurial activities
- ☒ **Identifying smart solutions** for problems that the island and its small communities are facing, the main target being keeping youth on the island, main areas of interest include tourisma and agriculture, but also education and health services
- ☒ **Specialist knowledge needed for strategy development**, no strategies and specialist knowledge is needed on how to develop effective strategies building on the rich assets of the community
- ☒ **Isolated projects** are not brought together into a coherent strategic approach
- ☒ **Developing effective cooperation / goverance** mechanisms among local villages