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Organic agriculture, agroecology and the challenge of a sustainable rural development (agrotourism, ecotourism, entrepreneurship)

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Key words: sustainable development, eco-agrotourism, organic entrepreneurship

Organic agriculture constitutes an important parameter for the sustainable rural development. In the frame of agroecology and of sustainability models which respect the environment could reinforce the rural entrepreneurship. Priorities as: biodiversity, social and ethical welfare, viable activities, promotion of the uniqueness of each area, gastronomy, cultural and historical mentions are the base for an holistic development planning. The challenge of including different sectors which influence the rural development, is an opportunity for "restarting" with the involvement of local societies and for the creation of strong and viable networks. The eco-agrotourism in the Mediterranean is a proposal for an environmental friendly policy of development with full respect to man, to environment, to financial viability. The case study of Zakynthos in the frame of Interreg program NATPRO provide the priorities of a strategic plan.

Paths through the biodiversity: methodology of recording, monitoring and promoting its importance and uniqueness

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Key words: environmental routes, mapping, soundscape, natural and cultural heritage, awareness, disabled.

The importance of the protection and conservation of biodiversity make its record and its mapping a significant tool which will improve the knowledge as concerned the different ecosystems and species. The study took place at Zakynthos and at Strofades islands, Greece. Virtual maps of the areas was designed, with the main purpose of audiovisual recording. The main mapping criteria were: a) the main villages or other important landmarks of Zakynthos and Strofades islands, b) specific significant environmental areas, c) the main occupations, d) cultural monuments. The creation of paths through the biodiversity promotes interesting biological cycles and seasonality, the cultural profile and different relative events, and creates a network of environmental friendly reference points. New technologies have been applied and the produced material has been designed also for people with disabilities.

Water hydrophobia in agricultural soils. Influence on water movement in the soil in adapting to climate change and water decrease

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Key words: Agricultural waste, hydrophobia, Mediterranean crops

The hydrophobicity of the soil in dry Mediterranean environments has been investigated in forest areas in relationship to fire. There are few studies on the influence on soil hydrophobicity of different types and amounts of organic matter coming from agricultural crop wastes crop in the Mediterranean scrubland.