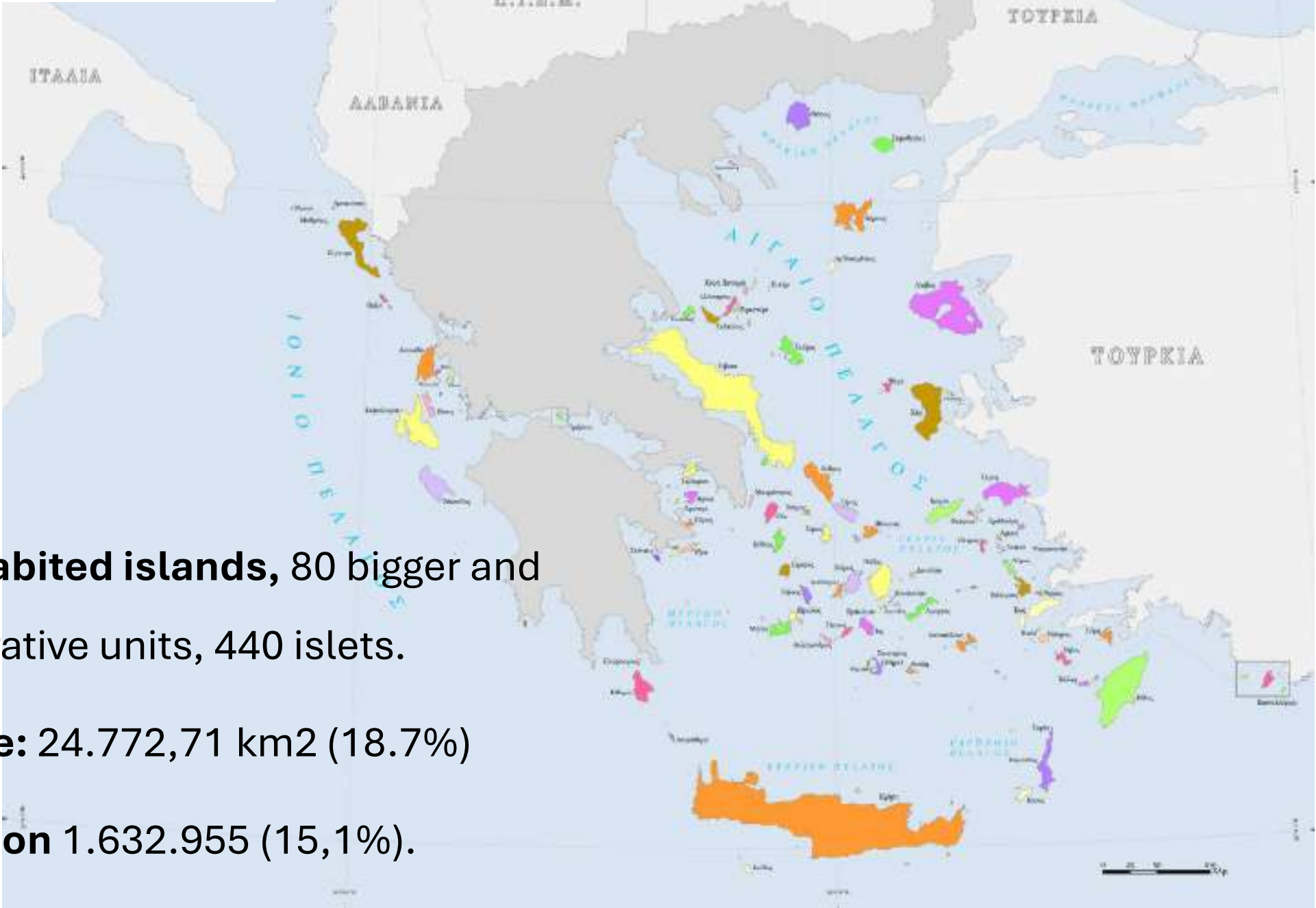


Do agricultural subsidies really work on islands?

Abandonment and intensification of farming on Greek islands

Thanasis Kizos

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- **114 inhabited islands**, 80 bigger and administrative units, 440 islets.
- **Area size:** 24.772,71 km² (18.7%)
- **Population** 1.632.955 (15,1%).

Greek Islands – Agriculture I



Physical geography not really suitable for intensive and large scale farming.



1950s – 1960s mixed : arable crops 23.4%, permanent crops 24.1% and grazing lands 36.2%.



Average farm size > 32 str./farm (3.2ha), but important differences, bigger in grazing lands (e.g. Samos only 1.5 ha/farm, Psara 10.1 ha/farm and 84% grazing lands).



Animal husbandry : sheep and goats, only 9.1 sheep/farm

Greek Islands – Agriculture 1960 – 2010 Changes

Fundamental changes, very difference for some islands. Drivers deep socioeconomic processes (**not just one policy**):

Unattractiveness of farming as a livelihood and population exodus,

Farming now oriented exclusively towards markets,

Geographical features of islands make large scale agriculture unprofitable.

So: Farms decrease 1961-2010 -39% (highest 1971-1991), up to 80% (e.g. -92,5% in Oinousses, -92,3% in Nisyros).

Areas also decrease: arable farms 1961-2010 -50% and their farms -74%. Grazing lands increase (Rhodes +134%, Andros +202%) and decrease (e.g. -70% Syros). Permanent crops +4,5%, but -98% in Folegandros, -70% in Sifnos.

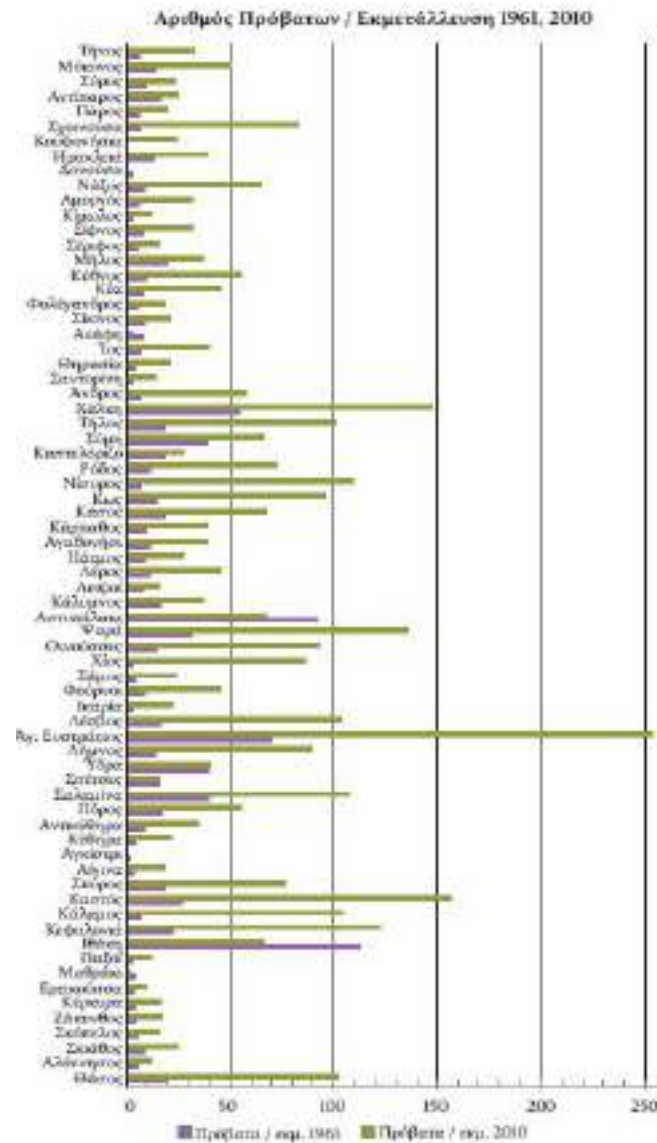
Greek Islands – Agriculture iii

Biggest change: agriculture and farming are no longer complimentary.
Sheep farms increase in size: farms with sheep -78% and animals +71.4%
(but in some islands no animal husbandry at all, e.g. Idra).

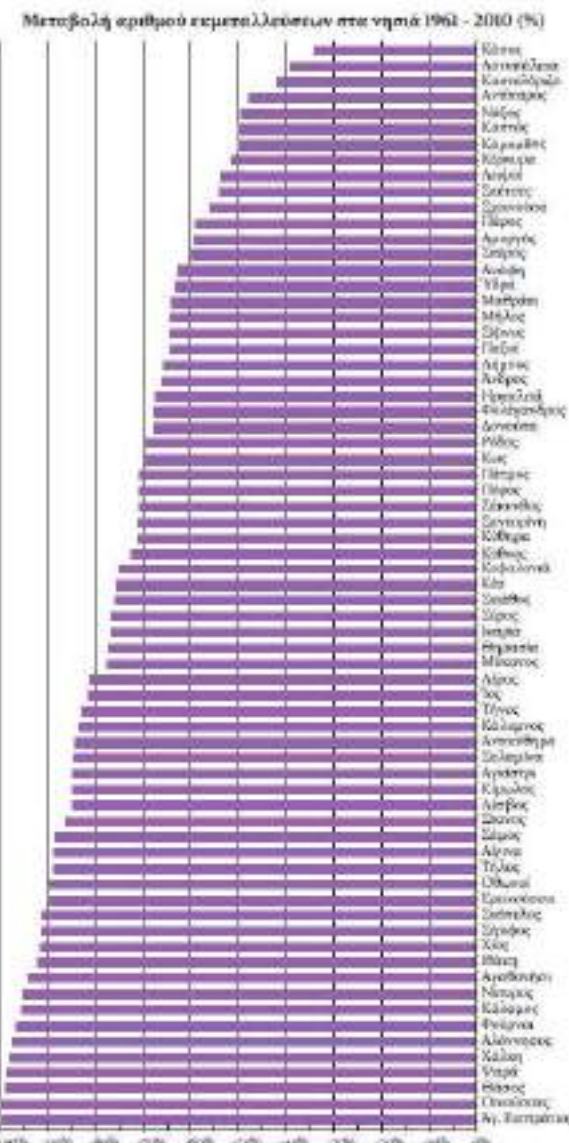
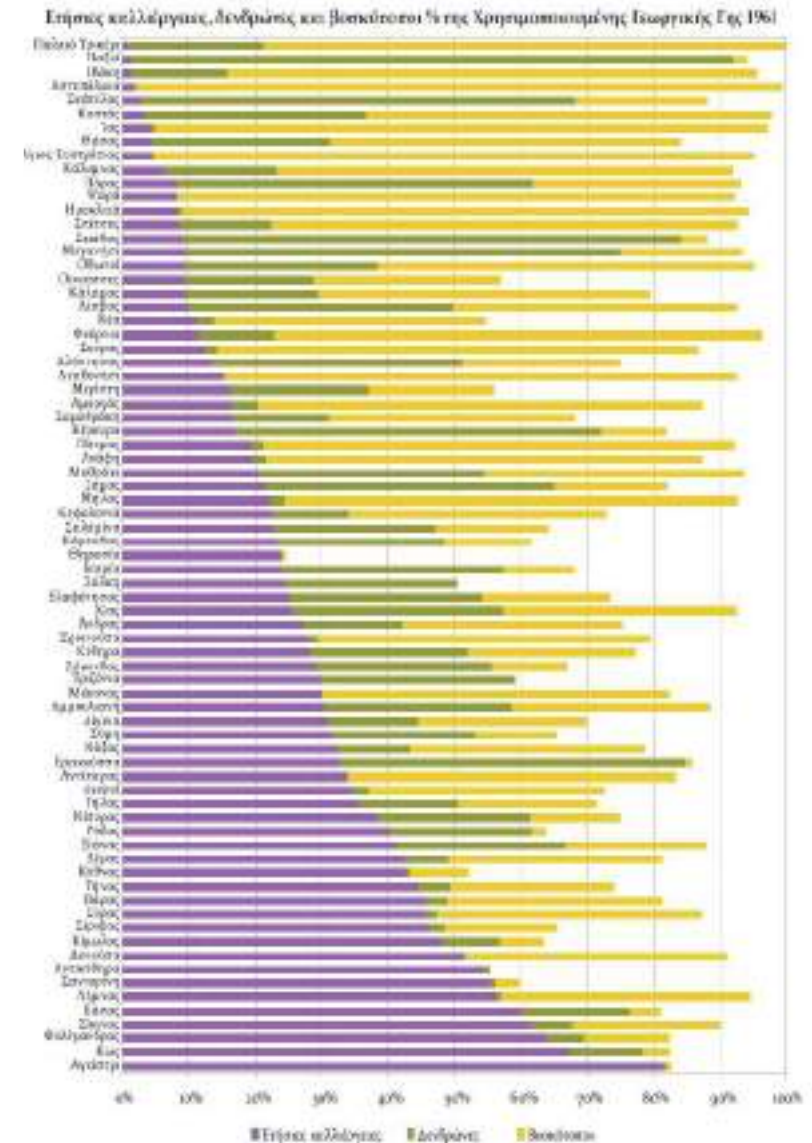
Some factors that account for these changes:

- (a) Type of cultivation (permanent crops – plantations easier to be kept “from a distance”).
- (b) Increase of part-time farmers (retirees, pluriactive).
- (c) Distance and accessibility.
- (d) Tourism intensity

Sheep per farm, 1961, 2000

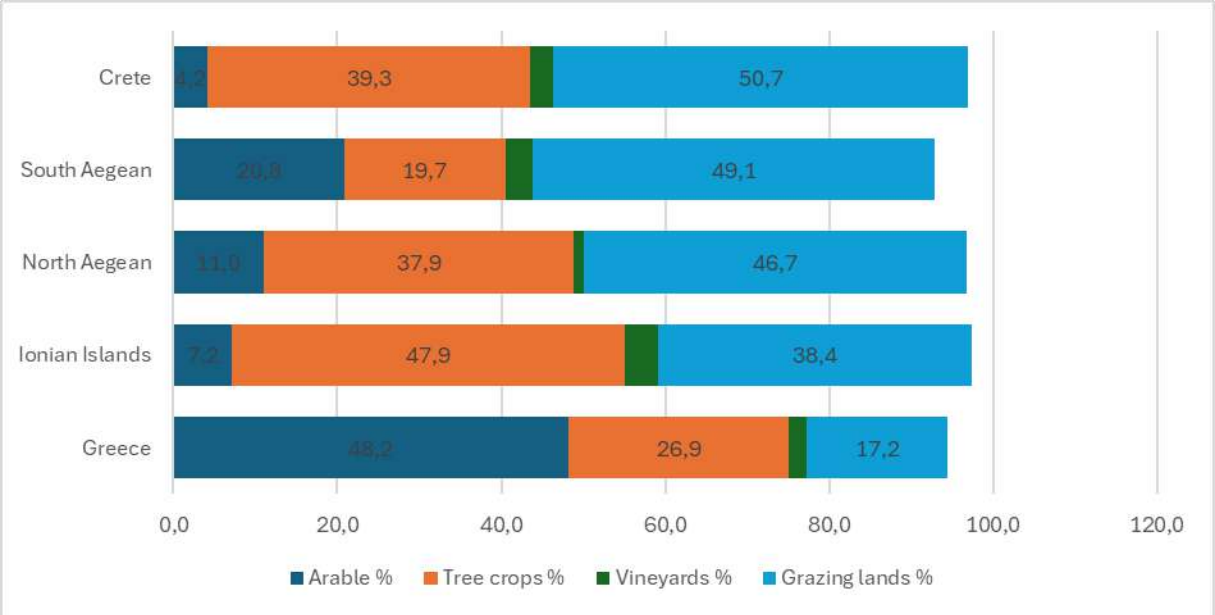


Land use per island, 1961

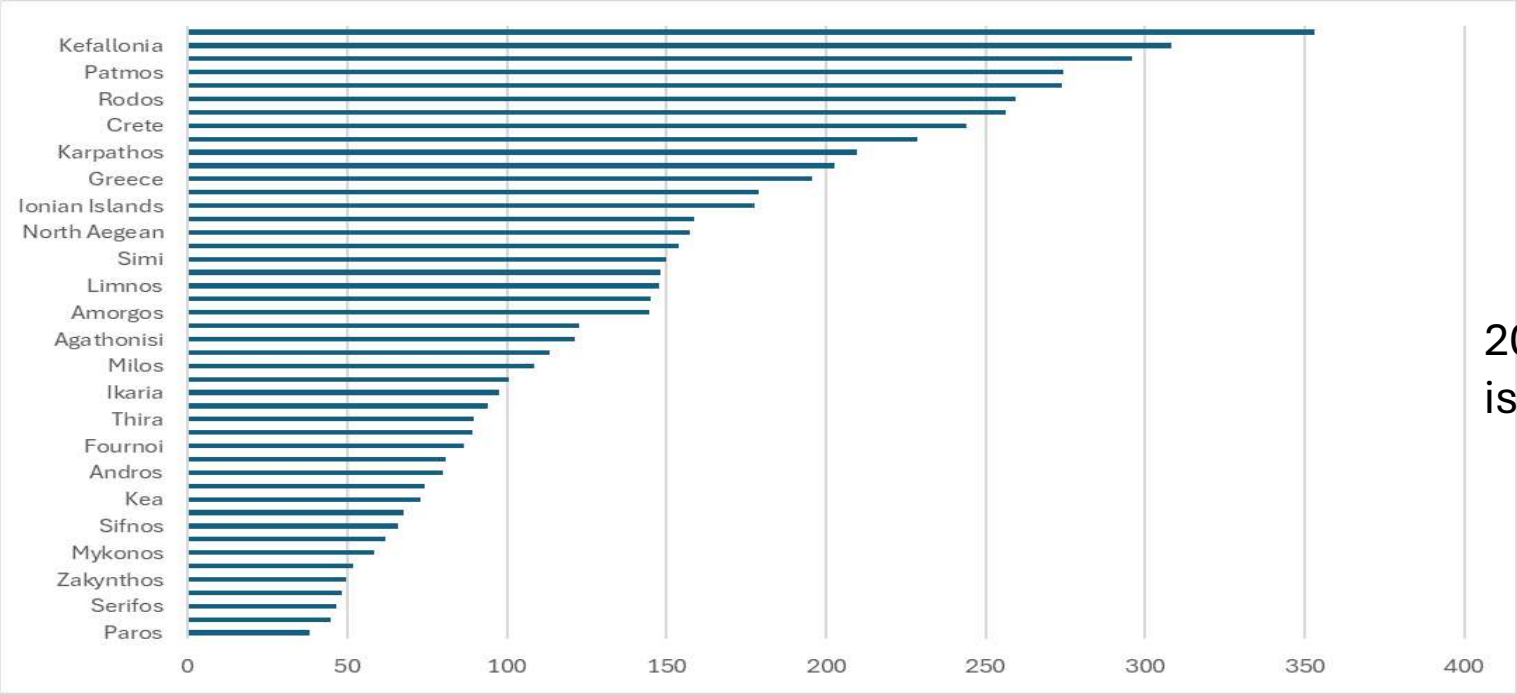
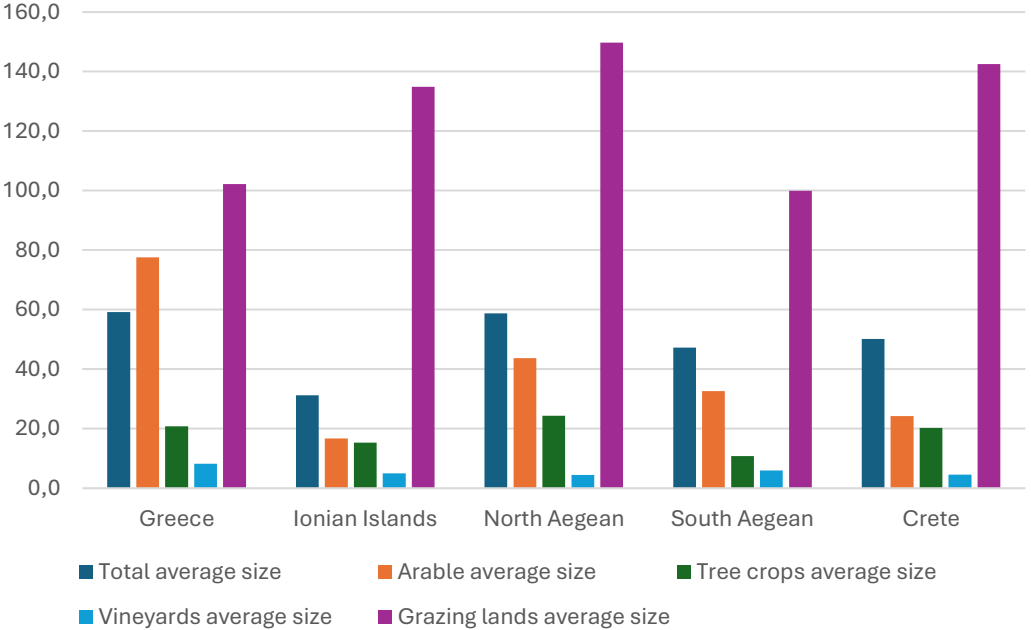


Farm change, 1961, 2000

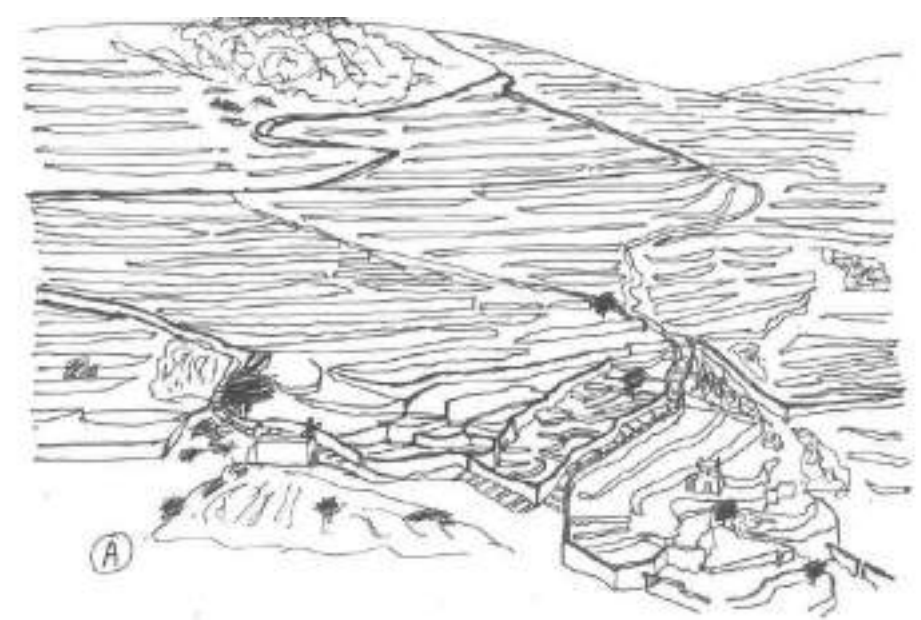
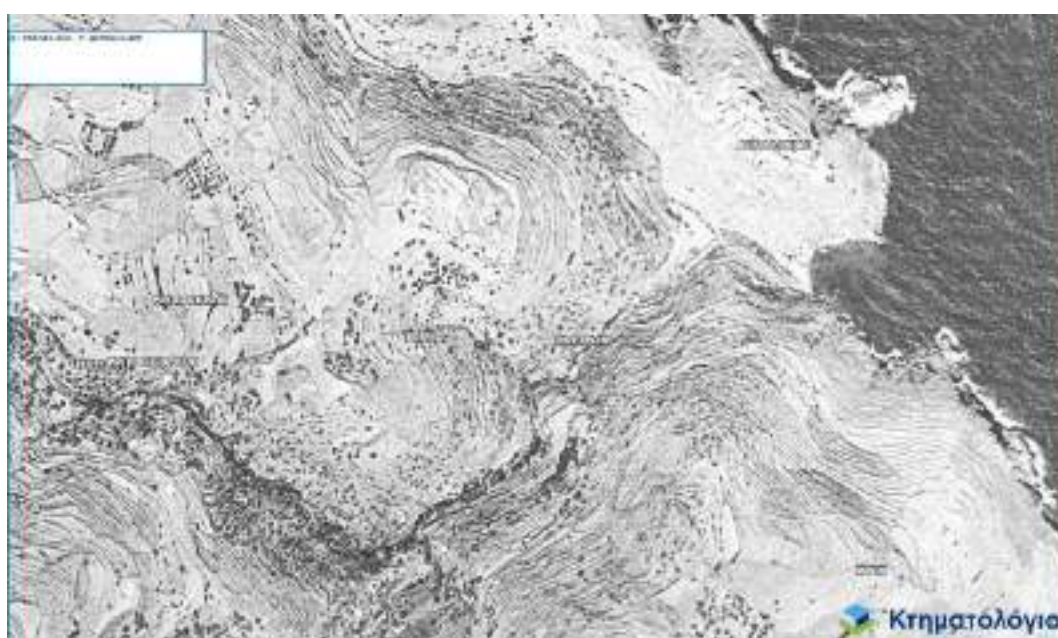
2020, Land use %, Island Regions



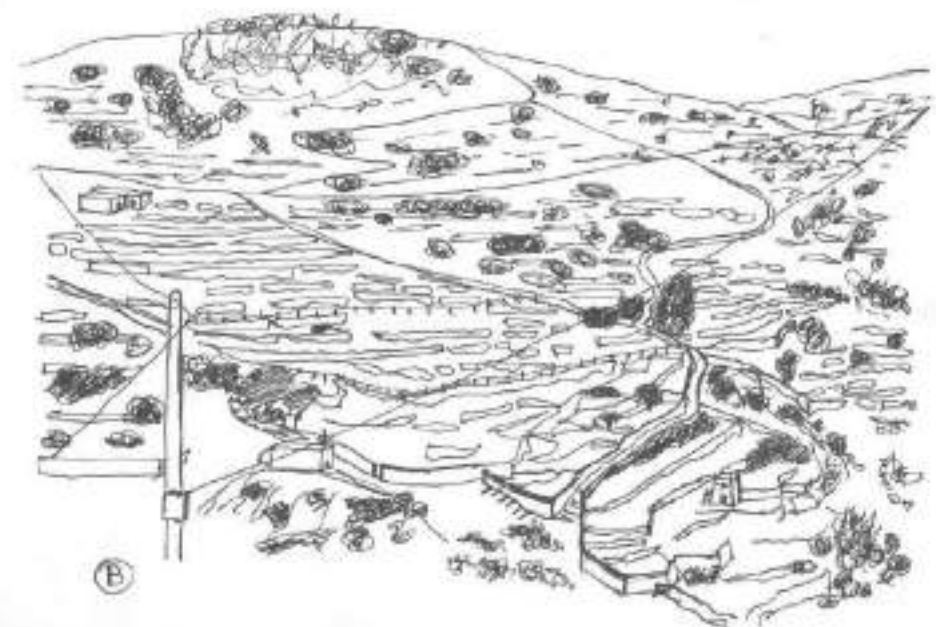
2020, Average farm size per farm use %, Island Regions



2020, Sheep + goats per farm, islands and Island Regions



Faces of change: Abandonment in Sifnos

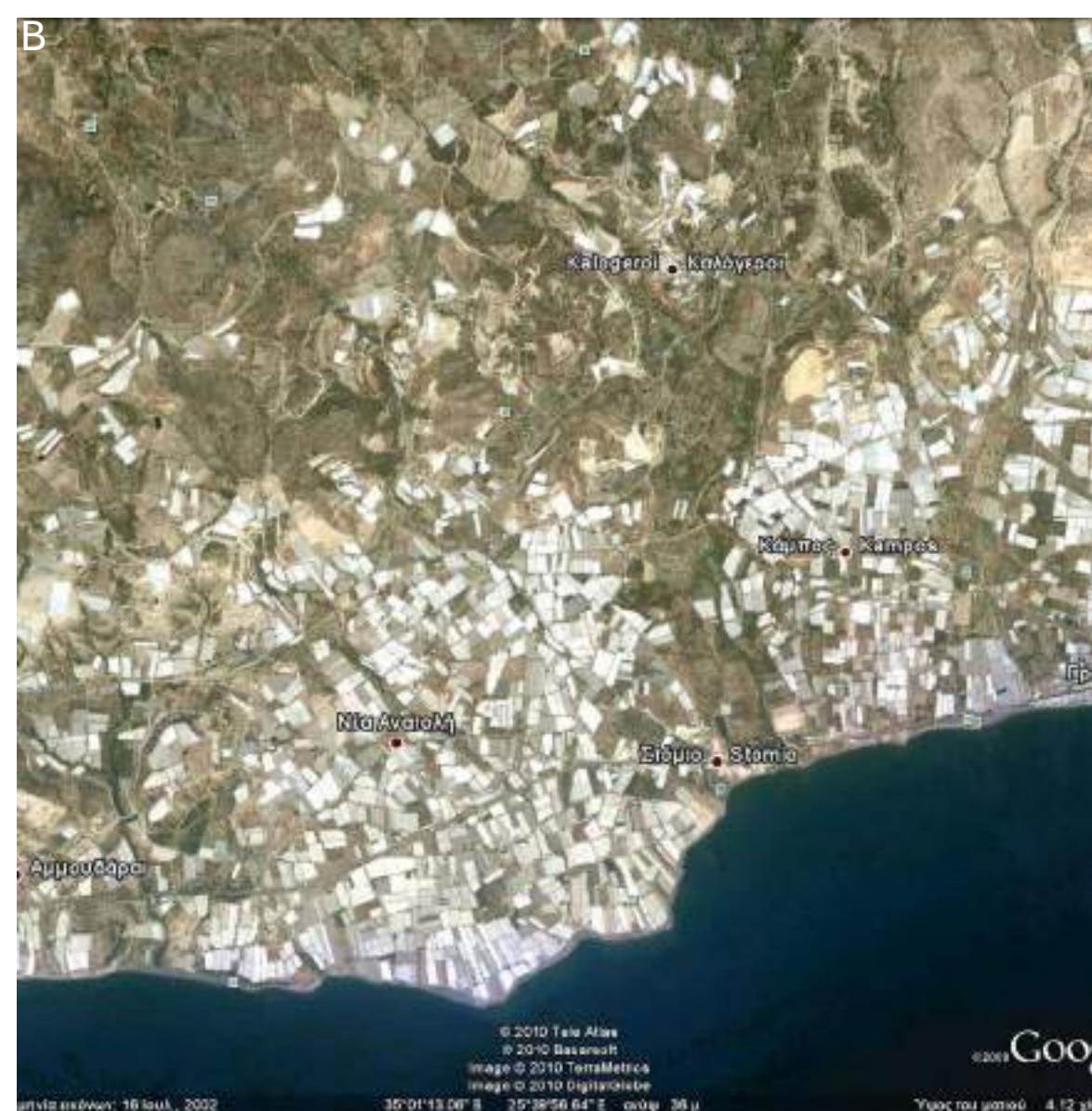




0191-1. Λουτρό Κύθνου Les bains de Kythnos Φωτ. Δ. Γ. Θύνιου



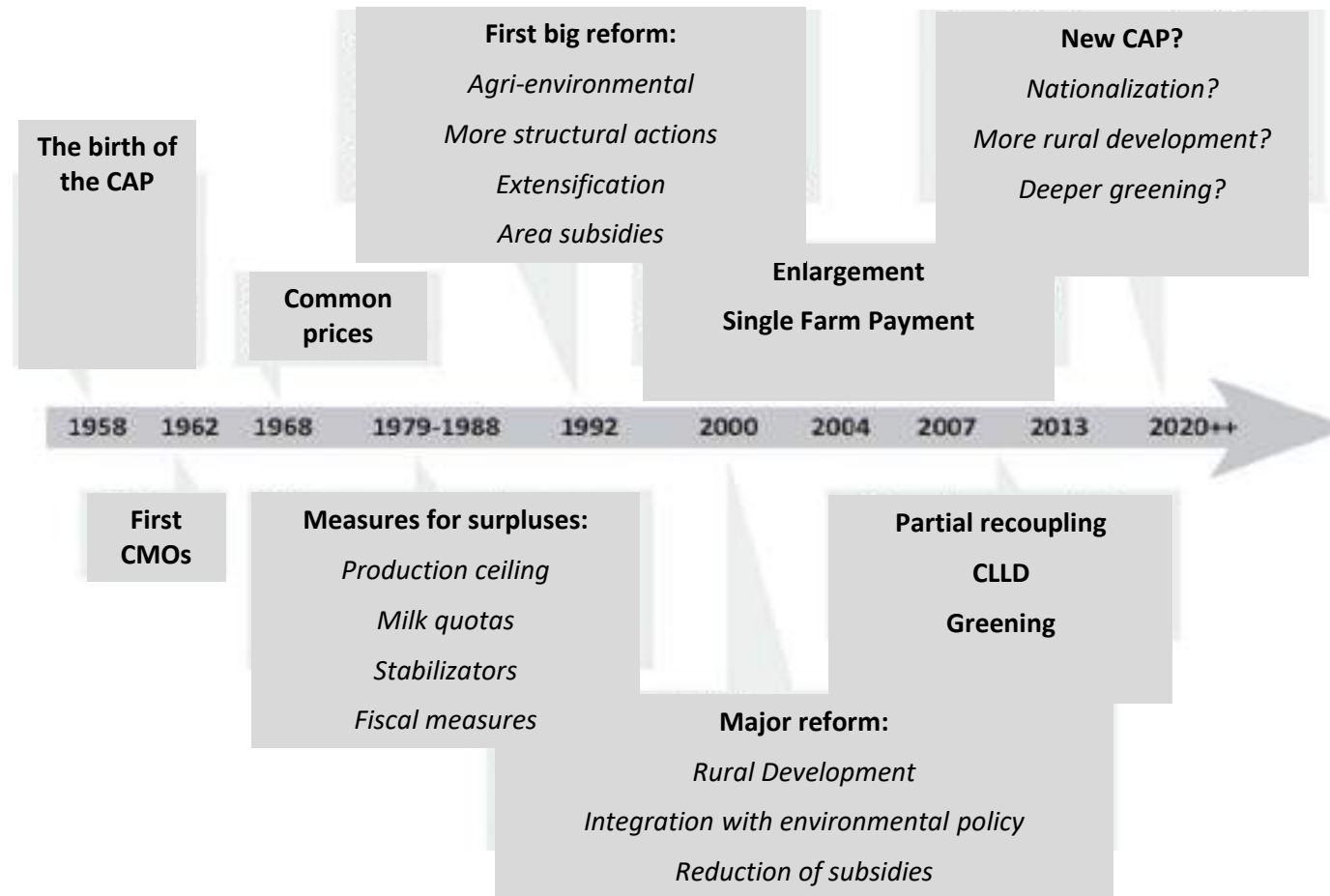
Faces of change: Abandonment in Serifos



Faces of change

- Urban sprawl in Mykonos
- Greenhouses in Ierapetra, Crete

The CAP





Subsidies: from production oriented to farmer income oriented

- Subsidies one of the most important tools of the CAP to support European farming first and then farmers (until 2000s)
- Related to production initially (the more you produce, the more you get paid)
- After 2003 related to farmers and then agriculture (does not matter how much you produce, as long as you stay in farming)

AGRICULTURAL VS RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES



Agricultural Policies:

- Oriented towards markets and prices of the products initially
- Now oriented towards farmer incomes (“decoupling”)



Rural Development Policies:

- Used to be called “structural” or “accompanying”
- Unified under “rural development”
- Shift towards a spatial policy
- Includes environmental issues and “public resources”
- Realize that rural areas change, and agriculture is not the only user of land anymore.

What does a farmer / farm on an island receive?

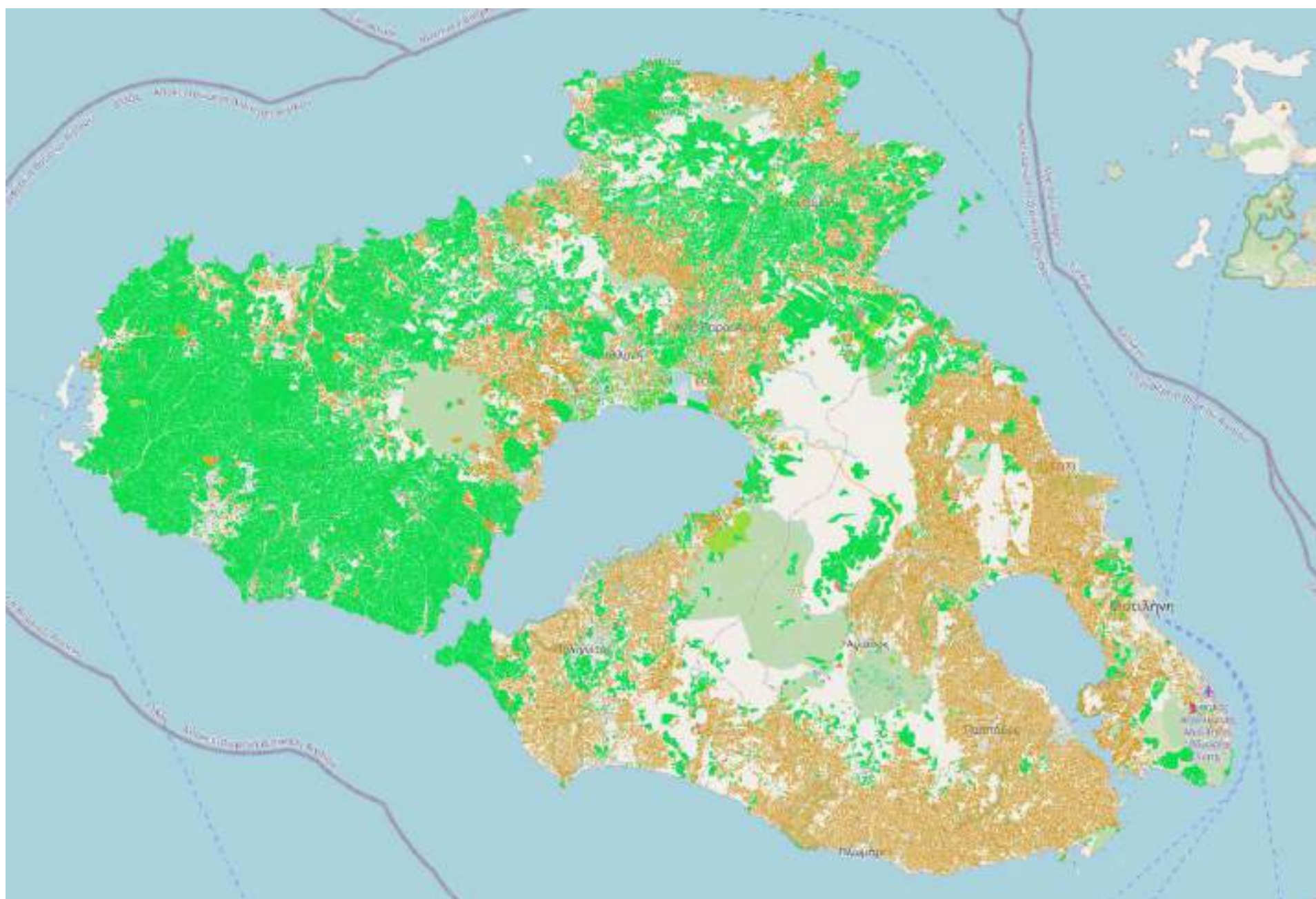
- **Farm payment:** single farm payment according to land managed and “rights”
- **Compensatory payment:** part of the Less Favored Areas Scheme, a payment to “compensate” farmers that farm in these areas
- **Other rural development measures:** e.g. Young Farmers scheme, Investment scheme, etc.
- **Agri-environmental measures:** e.g. organic farming

There is a cap per farmer/year



But wait... how much is that?

- Example Lesvos: roughly 16000 - 15000 beneficiaries
- 40% older than 65
- Overall sum 2,5 mill/year SFP and 0,5 mill Compensatory
- Average 2.500, median 850/year SFP
- Average 1400 Compensatory
- Farmers with olives close to the median
- Farmers with sheep higher than average



Are they enough? Depends who you ask...



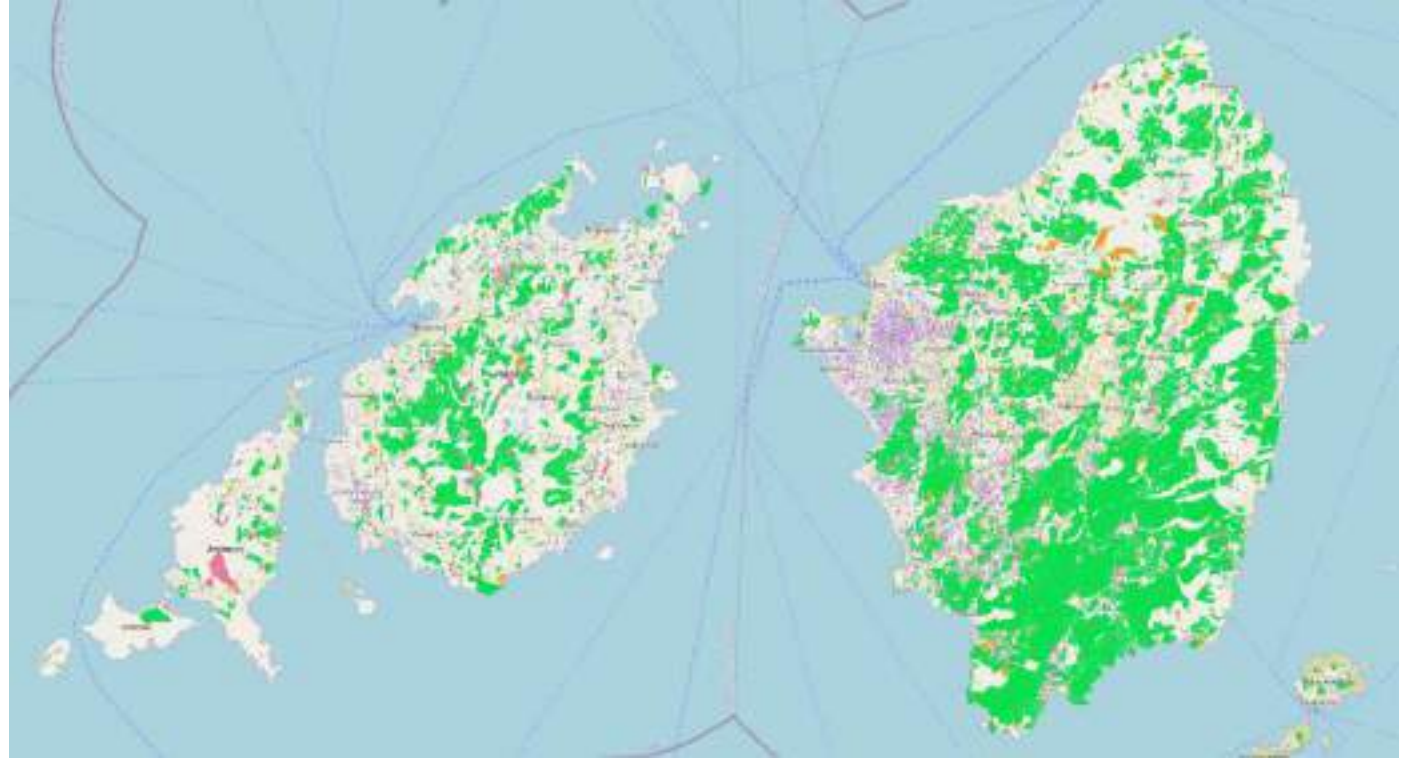
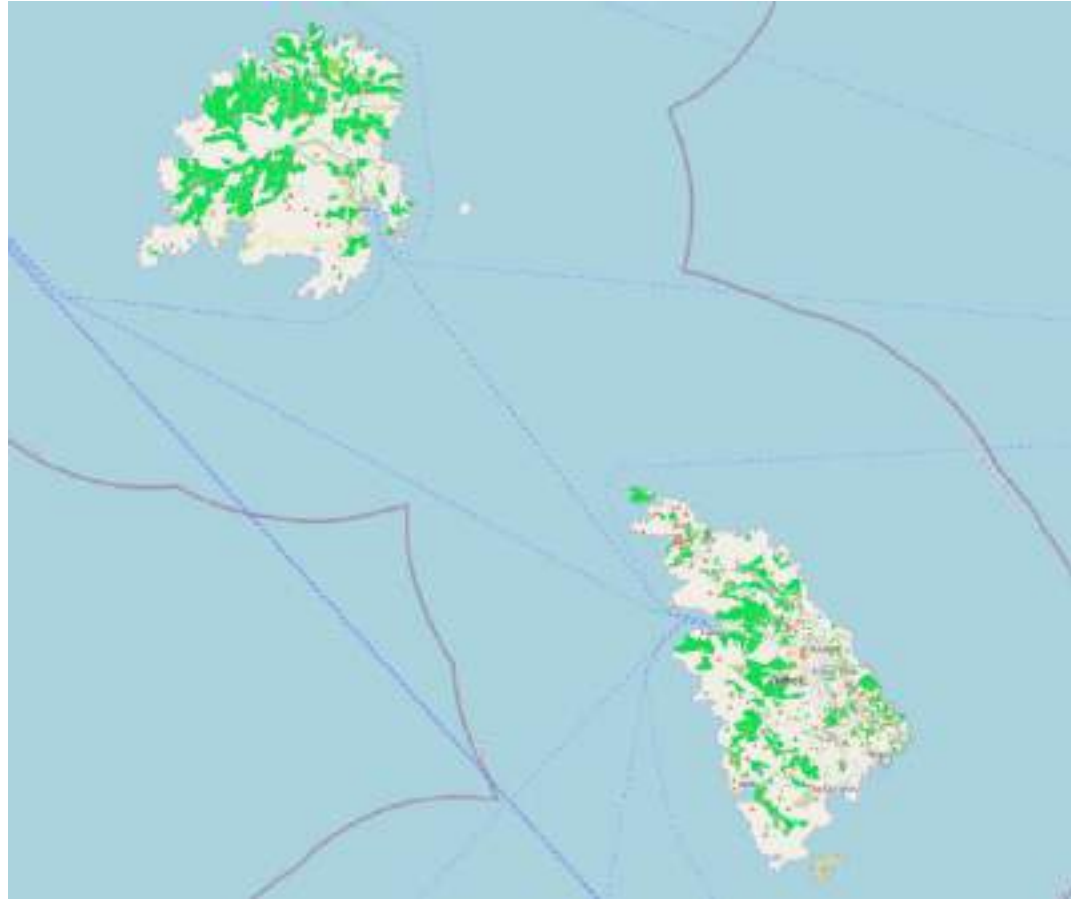
They may be enough to break even, especially for sheep farms



Some farms indeed receive higher amounts, but have high costs as well



They are not compared to other incomes (e.g. tourism, services, etc)



CHANGING CAP

Number of dilemmas:

- *(a) encompass spatial diversity of agricultural structures and geographical features of Europe,*
- *(b) deal with ongoing shrink of rural populations and farmers,*
- *(c) take into account shift of expectations of and towards the rural by the increasing urban populations in Europe,*
- *(d) establish a more environmental and quality oriented agricultural production,*
- *(e) meet the demands of international agreements of the EU.*

Tourism on islands

- Always an important activity for islands
- Has become a monoculture for many around the world
- Creates enormous land use change pressures
- Brings also cultural and social pressures



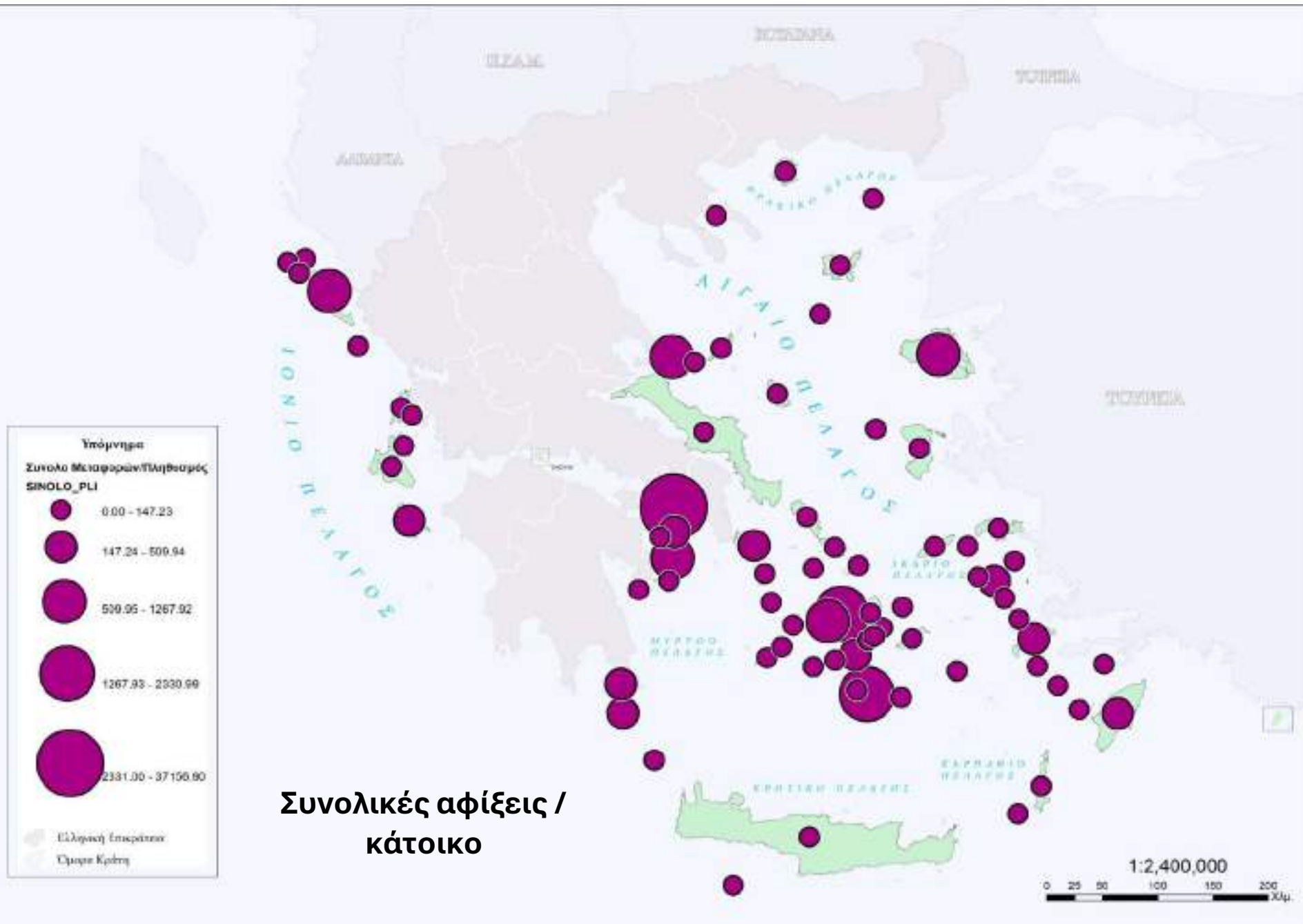


Table 2. *Average values for spatial and socioeconomic indicator for population classes*

Population classes	Sealed cells (km ²)	Build-up (km ²)	Island soil sealing (%)	Tourist density (tourist arrivals/km ²)	Compactness (Standardized Value)	Empty houses/km ² in 2011	Number of houses built after 1991 percentage of 2011 houses	Empty houses change 1991–2011 %
<1000 inh. (N = 12)	0.067	0.052	0.46	288.86	0.27	10.92	0.24	0.38
1000 – 10000 inh. (N = 19)	0.468	0.336	0.60	600.61	−0.25	19.04	0.24	0.69
10000 – 100000 inh. (N = 11)	3.397	3.257	2.76	1,901.39	0.15	36.75	0.28	0.51
>100000 inh. (N = 1)	9.601	8.276	1.27	1,385.91	−0.04	15.59	0.28	0.52
Total (N = 43)	1.318	1.188	1.13	892.22	0.00	21.22	0.25	0.55

Table 3. *Average values for spatial and socioeconomic indicator for tourism density classes*

Tourism density (arrivals/km ²) classes	Island soil sealing (%)	Compactness (Standardized Value)	Tourist density (tourist arrivals/pop.)	Empty houses/km ² 2011	Empty houses 2011/ Total houses (%)	Number of houses built after 1991/ 2011 houses (%)	Empty houses change 1991–2011 (%)
100 tourists/km ² (N = 5)	.51	0.169	5.94	12.7	55.8	14.4	42.1
100 – 500 tourists/km ² (N = 19)	.73	−0.079	14.04	16.2	54.8	24.5	43.2
500 – 1000 tourists/km ² (N = 7)	.58	−0.564	29.41	20.1	60.7	23.2	46.4
1000 – 3000 tourists/km ² (N = 6)	1.16	0.040	23.46	31.8	52.5	29.2	80.5
> 3000 tourists/km ² (N = 3)	6.56	0.865	34.11	55.1	50.2	33.7	86.3
Total (N = 40)	1.18	−0.044	18.63	21.7	55.3	24.4	52.5

Disneyfication

- Place as **spectacle**: form more important than function
- Visitors (and 2nd home owners) want to experience an **ideal and mediated** place, a scenery and not productive space, especially from agriculture

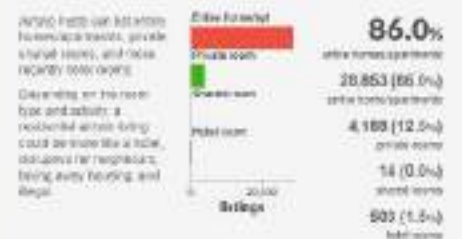




South Aegean

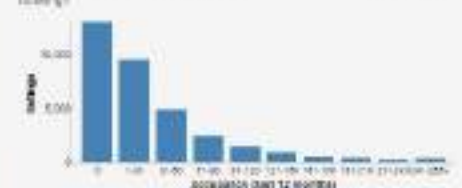
Filter by:
 South Aegean
 33,558
out of 33,798 listings (100.0%)

Room Type



Activity

The destination, stay, price, and number of reviews have been used to estimate the number of nights booked and the income for each listing for the past 12 months.
 Is the home, apartment or room listed frequently, and attracting only of housing and residents? Does the income from Airbnb transactions add to the total of long-term housing?



Licenses

According to the law, guests should have a license to stay in a home.
 How many listings are licensed? Is the listing owner a resident, and how many do Airbnb (or other) to devices and other tools?

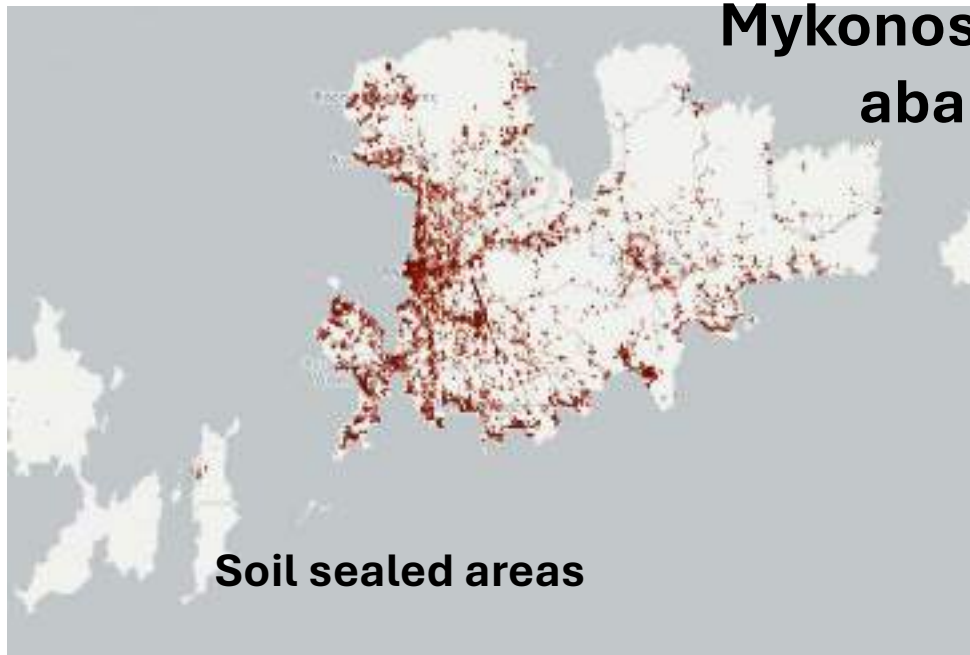


AirBnB

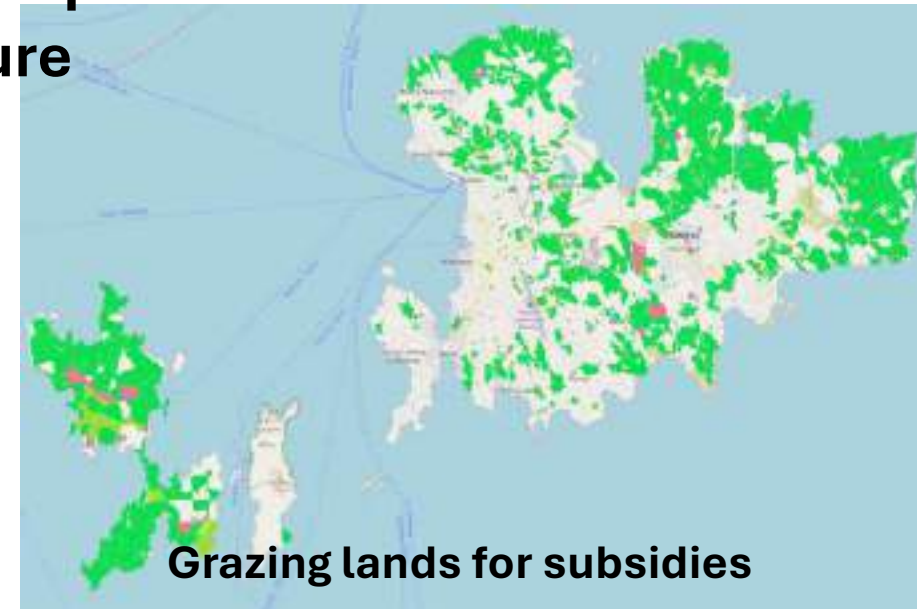


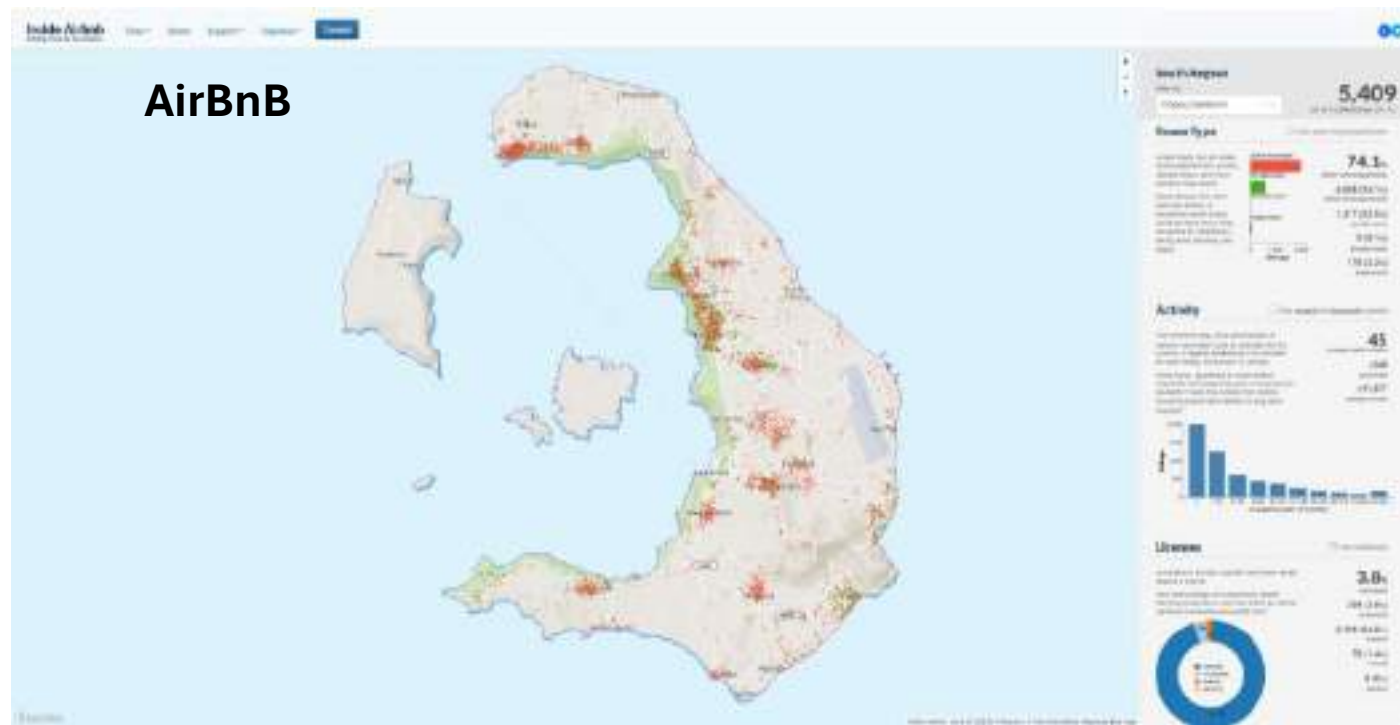
Mykonos: high end tourism, complete abandonment of agriculture

Soil sealed areas

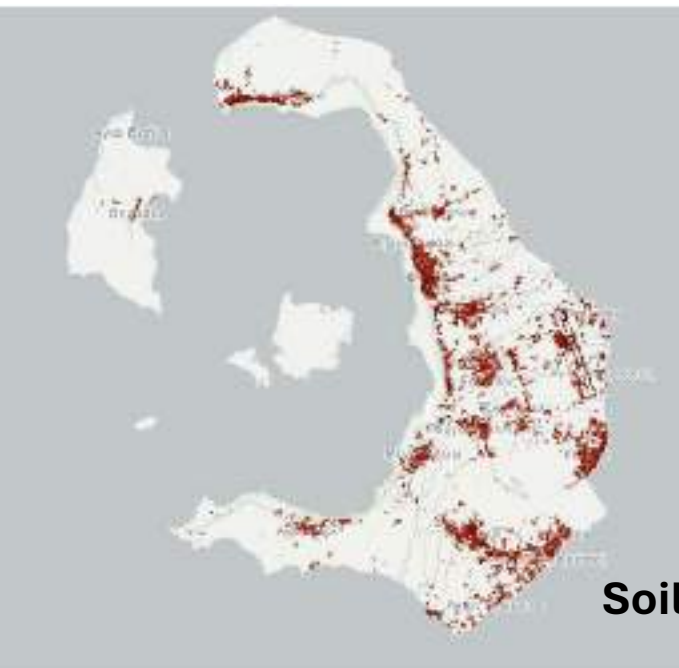


Grazing lands for subsidies

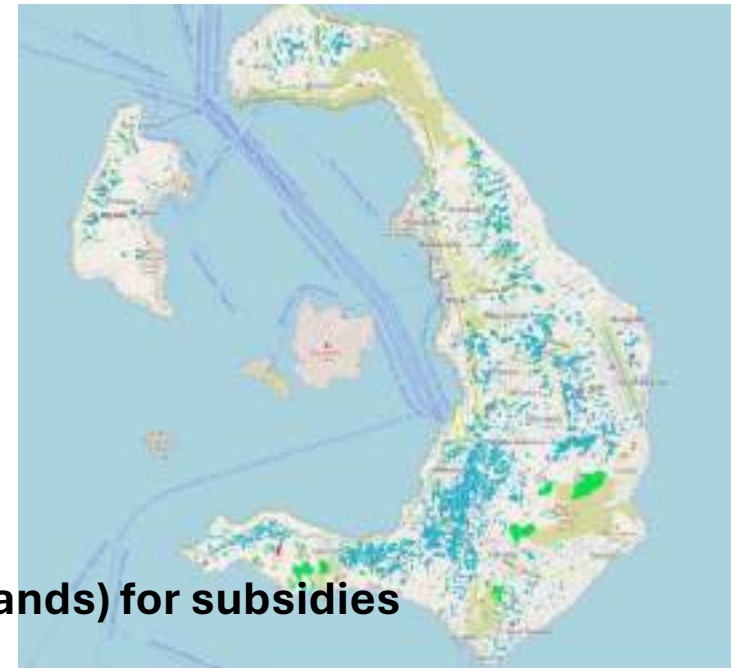




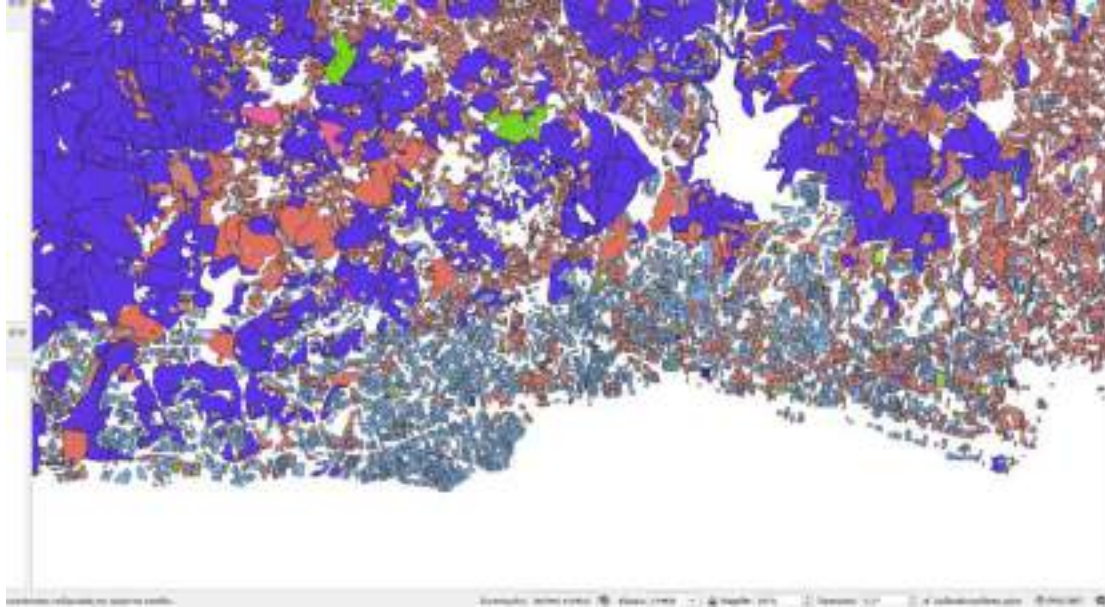
Santorini: a struggling wine industry with suffocating tourism intensity



Soil sealed areas



Vineyards (and Grazing lands) for subsidies



Ierapetra (Crete): sea of plastic

To sum up

Fast and slow: change is both fast on islands, rapid in tourism areas, faster in the few plains and favorable areas, slow in hills and less favored areas;

Spatial polarization: Very real and important; reflects also INTENSITY and ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Changes continue, but polarization remains;

What will happen in the face of climate change...

To sum up II

Environmental impacts: very important in quantity and quality for soils, water and biodiversity.

What will the future bring: more polarization and touristification, not too much intensification, less farmers

To sum up III

**Has the CAP destroyed or saved
agriculture on Mediterranean islands?**
Neither...

What are we to do in the future?