

Islands for equal chances

How can EU policies help filling the gap?



**9th European Week of
Regions and Cities**
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Balearic Islands (ES)

Corsica (FR)

Sicily (IT)

Sardinia (IT)

Crete (GR)

South Aegean (GR)

Larnaca District (CY)

Mayotte (FR)

The much discussed “territorial”

**Mr. Ioannis Firbas, Ministry of Development
Competitiveness & Shipping – Greece**



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- EU Policies have, to a different extent, the territorial dimension considered at the policy design phase, as referred at the 5th Report on Economic, Social & Territorial Cohesion, but very few have a territorial orientation, targeting the balanced distribution of their impact across the EU space. The consequences are:
 - .. the goals & interventions of EU Policies concern large scales and pursue sectoral and not territorial goals, thus restricting insular areas (especially the ones that face the multiplicity of constraints & disadvantages) from opportunities that are available to other, mainly continental, areas.
 - .. non integrated development approaches, that could serve a long term sustainable environment for living and entrepreneurship, for territories with geographical challenges such as islands.

Same words - different readings

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- The notion of the quality of basic services (access, affordability, continuity, response time, safety, etc.), both public & private, as well as of the development needs at the EU level becomes different when put into the island context/ reality..
- .. *and that is something that the EU should consider when designing its policies.*

An imperative

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- The constraints & geographical challenges should be comprehended as an integral part of the island's development situation that require special provisions both at the policies' design and the implementation phase considering synergies among different policies.
- The island Impact Assessment of EU policies and Programmes providing input for the policies' design and implementation.
- Adaptation of the European strategic development goals and priorities ensuring that they are relevant to the islands' needs, potential and opportunities.

Concluding

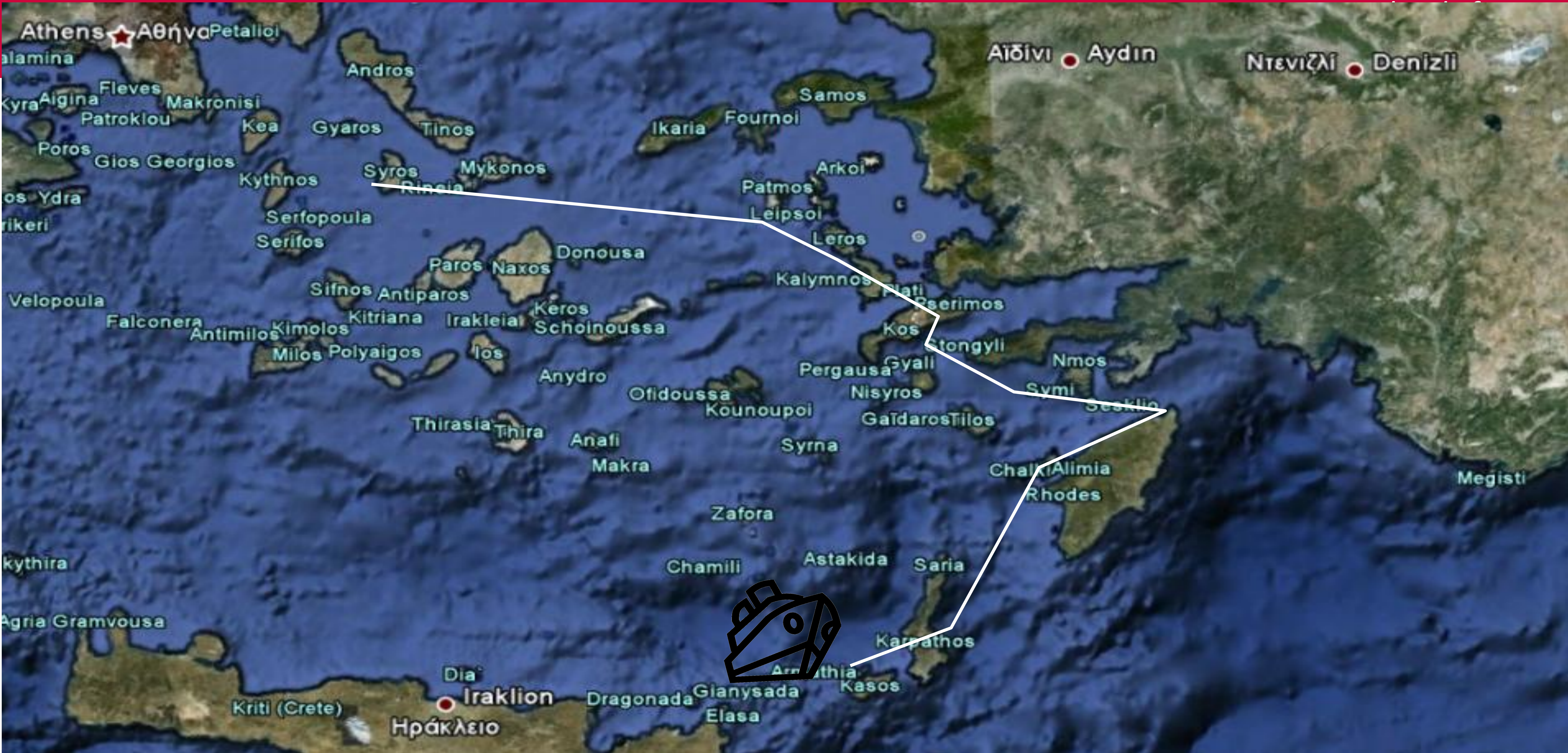
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- The modulation of a European policies framework (EU 2020 Strategy, agriculture, transport, energy, environment, innovation) must combine sectoral with local priorities, identifying the unique nature of these areas, whether these are their specific needs and special conditions that are confronted with, the additional insularity cost or their endogenous potential and their effective competitiveness.
- The need to take into consideration additional indicators, complementary to the GDP, such as those of the unemployment, intra-regional inequality and accessibility, in order to document the appropriate European policies to be implemented to these areas.
- Granting of state aid to insular areas that will be de facto eligible within the framework of the internal market according to the terms and categories included in the Treaty of Lisbon.

Insularity – S. Aegean Region



from KASOS to the capital island of SYROS and back 12 PORTS 64 HOURS

Balearic Islands - Corsica - Sicily - Sardinia - Crete - South Aegean - Larnaca District - Mayotte