

Spatial inequalities and development perspectives in the Municipality of Pogoni NW Epirus, Greece

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to identify the problems and the new dynamics that have been resulted from the creation of the Municipality of Pogoni, after the implementation of “Kallikratis” administrative reform, which merged number of smaller Municipalities based in two dissimilar topographic areas, namely a mountainous and a lowland area. Despite the problems aroused, the newly formed Municipality has seen greater potential as a result of this coalition and turned out to be highly advantageous for the future prospect of the Municipality of Pogoni.

The objective of this study is mainly to form recommendations for utilizing the potentials and create new development perspectives for the study area. The structure of the production, the demographic characteristics and the social infrastructure were examined for each municipal district of the Municipality of Pogoni, in order to reveal the profile and the contrasts of the study area. Besides the disparities it seems that the area of Pogoni presents significant homogeneities, such as a common cultural identity. Utilizing the musical heritage of this area and promoting as a tourist destination could be two direct, important actions, in the direction of the integrated development of Pogoni Municipality.

Keywords

Spatial inequalities, development perspectives, Pogoni, NW Epirus, Greece.

Introduction

With the implementation of Kallikratis administrative reform in 2010, the total number of Municipalities in Greece has reduced significantly. Alike other Municipalities, this administrative reform has led to the formation of the new Municipality of Pogoni. We estimated that the combination of the settlements was not made with social, environmental, and territorial criteria and instead made on the basis of a sterile logic to cut financial costs (for the state) without counting what the actual cost would be. This paper attempted to investigate these specific matters in order to distinguish the current inequalities of Municipality of Pogoni and recommend possible solutions.

The objective of this paper is to identify and analyze the contrasts between settlements of the new Municipality of Pogoni. In addition, this paper recommends some basic strategic proposals as mitigation measures to address those contrasts in order to improve the prospects of this area. The study of physiognomy of each settlement is based on the analysis of data relating to social, demographic, economic and environmental characteristics, as well as the spatial correlation amongst them. The proposals are based on the identity of the region of Pogoni that is strong, despite the feeling that neighboring regions, such as Zagori has a more intense physiognomy. It was preferred not to propose a variety of measures (despite their importance, they ultimately, remain in a primary level in development, land use plans, etc.) but to highlight key strategic directions which in a simple way can trigger a path with better prospects.

The first and third Community Support Framework (CSF) were aimed to promote the development at regional and local level, with generally unsatisfactory results, however. In the fourth CSF greater emphasis was given to regional and local dimension of developments through the strengthening of regional and local authorities in order to promote social and territorial cohesion. Although efforts are being made by the European Union for socioeconomic convergence of the regions in Europe, the spatial inequalities in a Regional, Municipal and Communal level remain high (Psycharis, 2011). The joining of regions (Kallikratis) raises questions concerning the effectiveness of the fourth CSF after quashing decentralization (Caraveli, Tsionas 2011). Given the impact of the financial crisis from 2009, development and inequalities seems to have intensified. It is questionable that after the implementation of Kallikratis, the percentage of mountainous municipalities in Greece is only 9.5%. This contradicts with the known fact that Greece is one of the top three countries known to have the most mountainous regions within the Europe. This issue has been highlighted in a letter of protest from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) to the Minister of Interior, Decentralization and Electronic Governance Mr I.Ragkousis in 2011. Not characterizing the Municipalities as mountainous ones could bring reductions in development funds / projects. In the case of the Municipality of Pogoni, after the implementation of the law, the classification as a mountainous municipality still remains effective for Pogoni, which is a positive characterization of this area. This could be exploited to enforce programs funded by the European Union for mountainous / disadvantaged areas.

The new Municipality of Pogoni was created by the union of former Municipality of Ano Kalamas, the former Municipality of Ano Pogoniou, former Municipality of Delvinaki, the former Municipality of Kalpaki, the Community of Lavdani and the Community of Pogoniani. From this coalition came a Municipality with characteristics of both mountainous and lowland areas, something that is not unusual in all new Municipalities after the implementation of the Kallikrates administrative reform (e.g. Municipality of Kalamata, Municipality of Amfikleias-Elateias, and Municipality of Xylokastrou-Evrostinis).

Methodology

To investigate the differences and the similarities in a region, consideration has been given to individual characteristics of each area, namely demographic, social, economic, environmental and spatial (Sayas, 2008). This study investigated the population distribution, the population dynamics, the level of education, the economically active population, the areas of production and unemployment in Pogoni area. These data were recorded for each Municipal District and collected from primary and secondary sources. The study of inequalities at a detailed geographical level has a particular interest, especially when having in mind that the most analysis are made in a more wide level e.g. Regional (Hadjimichalis, 2012). In a variety of papers (Sayas, 2008; Tsiotas & Polyzos 2012) it is proven the usage of different indicators to measure spatial inequality, including the Gini and Theil index. However, due to lack of necessary data (e.g. income per capita), for this paper only the indicators of aging and dependency are studied. Based on the analysis results, a set of proposed guidelines has been formulated with the aim to reduce disparities and highlight the benefits for the region.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1 A Brief description of the study area

The new Municipality of Pogoni consists of six Municipal Districts (M.D.). The M.D. of Ano Kalama, with Municipality Capital Parakalamos, the M.D. of Ano Pogoni with Municipality Capital Kefalovryssos, the M.D. of Delvinaki with Municipality Capital Delvinaki, the M.D. of Kalpaki with Municipality Capital Kalpaki, the M.D. of Lavdani with Municipality Capital Lavdani and the M.D. of Pogoniani with Municipality Capital Pogoniani. From these Municipality Districts the M.D. of Ano Kalamas and the M.D. of Kalpaki are identified as lowland areas, while the rest are classified as mountainous regions according to the Hellenic Statistical Authority. Chart 1 shows the average elevation of all M.D. of the Municipality of Pogoni. The new Municipality of Pogoni is the third bigger Municipality in the Regional Municipality Unity (Prefecture) of Ioannina, covering an area of 701 km², after the Municipality of Zagori and Municipality of Konitsa. The population is 8.960 inhabitants according to the census of 2011 of the Hellenic Statistical Authority. Pogoni area borders to the north with the Municipality of Konitsa, east with the Municipality of Zagori, south with the Municipality of Zitsa, west with the Municipality of Filiates (Regional Municipality Unity of Thesprotia) and with Albania to the north and west.

In the Municipality there is a protected village, the settlement of Dolo, at the M.D. of Pogoniani. There are several old mansions and public buildings such as schools, that are proof of traditional folk architecture. The soil of the study area consists of mountain complexes, narrow valleys, plains, small grassland and pastures. The hydrographic network of the region is rich and consists of several rivers (Kalamas, Gormos) and lakes (Zaravina) but a significant proportion are polluted by the products of farms and industrial facilities while conveying their effluent at them. The area belongs to the Ionian tectonic zone (Municipality of Pogoni, 2011).

Before presenting the specific characteristics of the study area, the limitations of this study should be noted. The first relates to the age of available data as well as the majority are from the 2001 census, and therefore unable to assess the current status quo in the most appropriate manner. Also, there is a confusion at the intersection of data between Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.) and the Operational Program 2012-2014 of the Municipality of Pogoni. Moreover, there was a lack of data for the M.D. of Delvinaki and the M.D. of Lavdani.

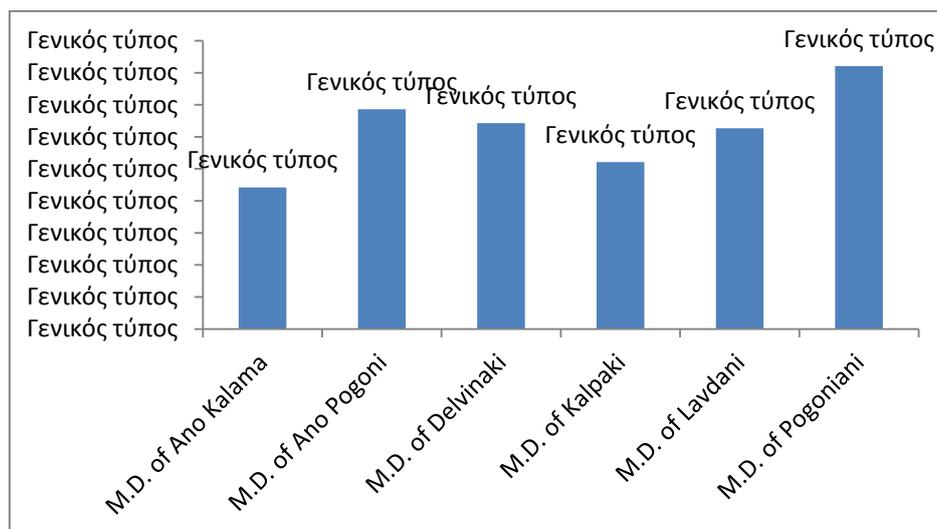


Figure 1. Average altitude of Municipal Districts of new Municipality of Pogoni (Source: Municipality of Pogoni 2011)

2.2 Demographic characteristics

To study the demographic characteristics this study used the indicators of dependency and aging. We also studied the distribution of population density. Table 1 shows the reduction of the population of the Municipality of Pogoni over the decade from 2001 to 2011 in contrast to the large increase in population that had preceded the period 1991-2001. It is noted that in the Regional Unit of Ioannina, depopulation did not occur and this may be due to the large urban center of Ioannina city. The region of Epirus, overall, has a stable population for about twenty years from 1991 to 2011. The strong mountainous morphology of the Municipality of Pogoni and the escapism to urban centers has resulted a fairly sparsely populated area (Figure 2). The latest census data show that in the region of Pogoni population density is only about 1/3 of the corresponding size of the region of Epirus.

Table 1. Percentage Change in Population of Prefecture of Epirus, Pref. Unit of Ioannina and Municipality of Pogoni (Source: www.eetaa.gr 1991,2001,2011 & self editing)

	1991-2001	2001-2011
Prefecture of Epirus	4,14%	-3,98%
Pref. Unit of Ioannina	7,61%	-1,14%
Municipality of Pogoni	72,18%	-16,53%

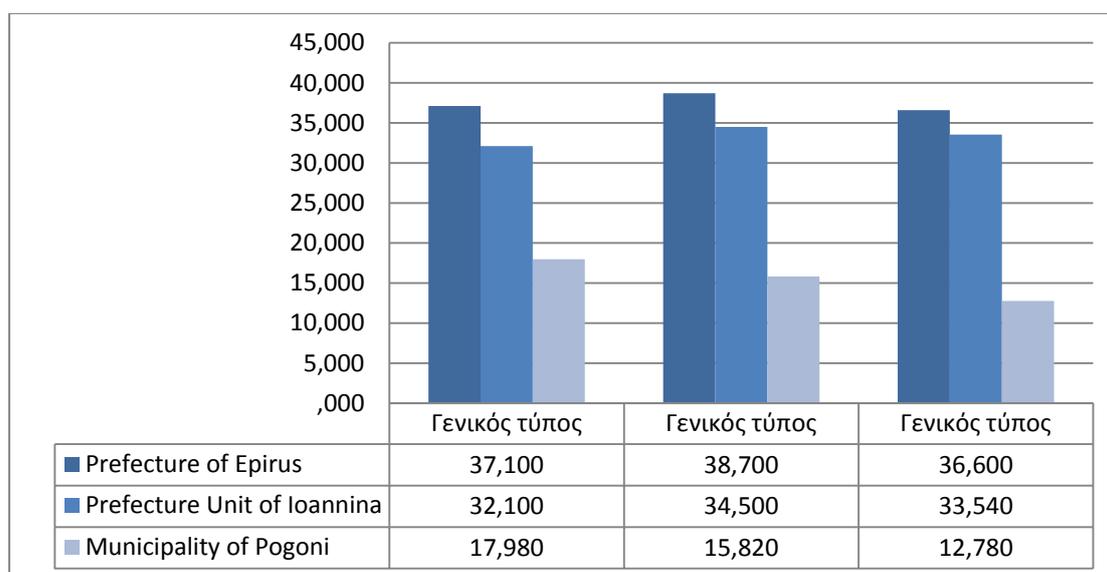


Figure 2. Population Density per decade of Prefecture of Epirus, Pref. Unit of Ioannina and Municipality of Pogoni (Source: EL.STAT. 1991-2001-2011 & self editing)

However, the Municipality of Pogoni has more than twice the population density of the Municipality of Zagori and Konitsa (Table 2). The Municipality District of Ano Kalama is the most populous one and the M.D. of Lavdani the one with less population density. In comparison with the Municipality of Zagori, and also in comparison with the Municipality of Konitsa - who additionally has a suburban center that gathers permanent population, Konitsa - the Municipality of Pogoni excels at permanent population. An interesting thing is that the population of the Municipality does not have a unite distribution. The highlands have much less permanent population compared to lowland ones (Table 2), (Map 1, Appendix).

Table 2: Area, Population, Population Density of Prefecture of Epirus, Perf. Unit of Ioannina, Municipality of Zagori, Municipality of Konitsa, Municipality of Pogoni and Municipality Districts of Municipality of Pogoni (Source: EL.STAT. 2011 & self editing)

	Area (km ²)	Population	Population Density
Prefecture of Epirus	9.203	336.856	36,60
P.U. of Ioannina	4.990	167.400	33,54
Municipality of Zagori	989	3.724	3,76
Municipality of Konitsa	951	6.362	6,68
Municipality of Pogoni	701	8.960	12,78
<i>Lowland settlements</i>			
M.D. of Ano Kalama	86,5	2.526	29,20
M.D. of Ano Kalpaki	116	1.719	20
<i>Mountainous settlements</i>			
M.D. of Ano Pogoni	137	1.490	10,87
M.D. of Delvinaki	255	2.437	9,5
M.D. of Lavdani	48	221	4,6
M.D. of Pogoniani	56,6	567	10,01

One problem, which the entire Region of Epirus and the Regional Unit of Ioannina faces, is the aging population. The Municipality of Pogoni, as is observed in Figures 3 and 4, the problem is most acute. To calculate the amount of how aged is the population of a region, an appropriate indicator is the aging index. This indicator is calculated as the ratio of people aged 65 and over to those aged 0-14 years. For the Regional Unit of Ioannina, the index is 1.43 which means that one person aged 0-14 correspond to 1.43 persons aged 65 years and older. For the Municipality of Pogoni the index shows a much more aged population. Specifically, the ratio is 3.07 (Municipality of Pogoni, 2011). As it is shown in Figure 3 in the lowland settlements of the Municipality it is gathered the youngest aged population, while in the mountainous settlements, the most aged. Especially high numbers presents the M.D. of Delvinaki and the M.D. of Lavdani, regarding large percentages ages.

It was studied as well the dependency ratio, an important indicator that shows how many dependents (aged from 0-14 and 65 and older) correspond to 100 people in the working population. It shows, the 'burden' bearing the active population at a given time. Generally, a low rate of the indicator is an indication of satisfactory perspective for the economic development of a region. Specifically, the Regional Unit of Ioannina is 0.53, meaning that 1 person aged from 15-65 years represent 0.53 people having an unproductive age (65 and older). In the Municipality of Pogoni the indicator of dependency ratio is higher, specifically 0.67. In the mountainous areas of the Municipality presented with the highest values of the dependency ratio, consequent to some extent, of the high aging index also observed in these regions.

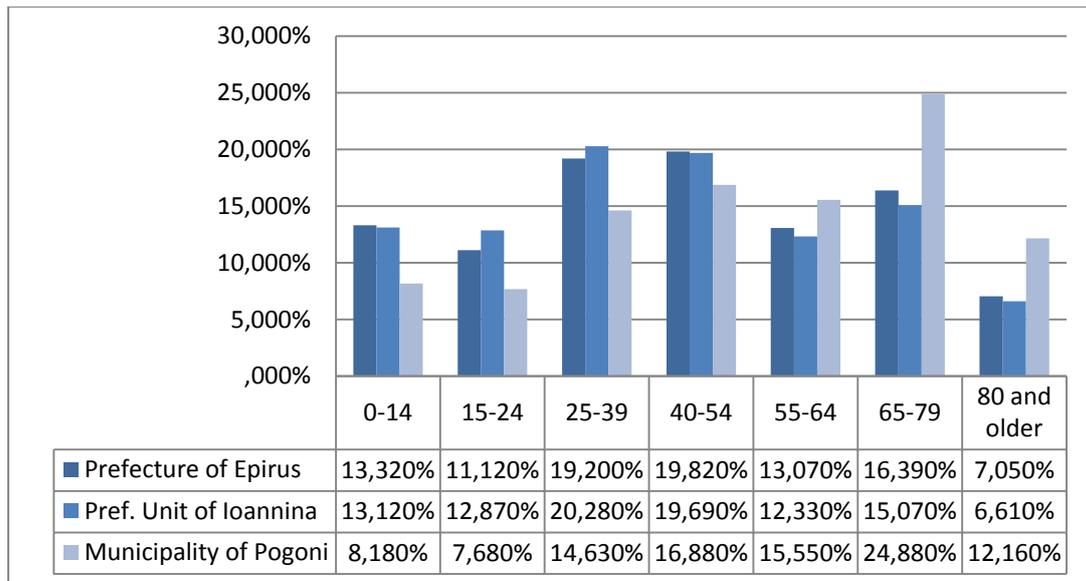


Figure 3. Comparative Percentage of age composition between the population of Prefecture of Epirus, Pref. Unit of Ioannina and the Municipality of Pogoni (Source: EL.STAT. 2011 & self editing)

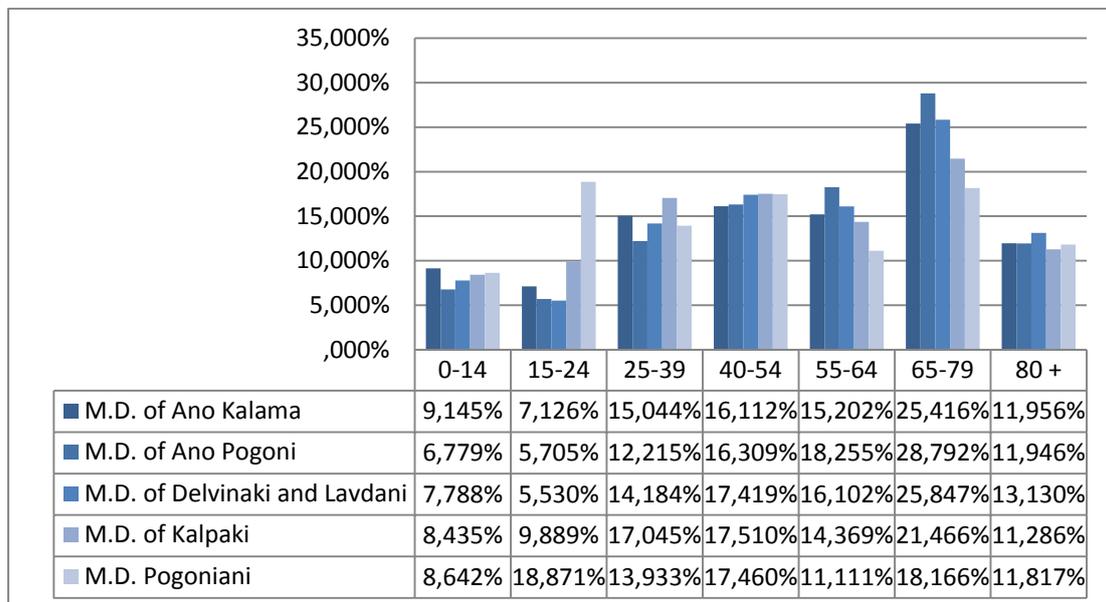


Figure 4. Percentage age composition of M.D. of Ano Kalama, M.D. of Ano Pogoni, M.D. of Delvinaki and Lavdani, M.D. of Pogoniani (Source: EL.STAT. 2011)

2.3 Social characteristics

The level of education, as seen in Figure 5, is quite low throughout the Municipality and there is no heterogeneity between mountainous and lowland settlements. The largest proportions of residents in all Municipal Districts are graduates of primary and secondary education. It should be noted, as is apparent from the analysis of the results, that the number of illiterates in the Municipality is quite high. This finding could be explained if we combine it with the high proportion of elderly people in the entire Municipality, many of whom may not have been able to attend school due to the particular circumstances faced.

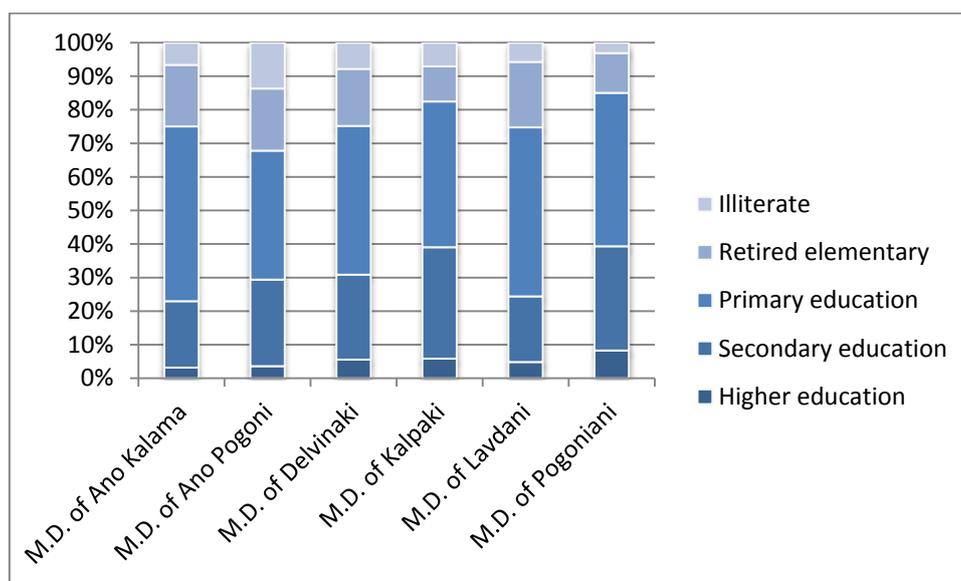


Figure 5. Level of education of the population of all Municipal District of Pogoni (Source: EL.STAT. 2001)

2.4 Economic characteristics

The Figure 6 shows that the Municipality of Pogoni bases its economic development mainly in the tertiary sector, with the exception of the M.D. of Lavdani which completely is dominated by the primary sector and the M.D. of Kalpaki in which about two thirds of economic activity is within the primary and secondary sectors. This image is reflected as well in the general profile of economic activity throughout the country (according to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, 2001, the distribution of employees in the primary, secondary and tertiary sector was 17%, 24% and 59%, respectively). In the M.D. of Kalpaki there are high employment rates in the primary sector and this is interpreted because of the lowland terrain and the large number of companies engaged in animal husbandry and agriculture. In the M.D. of Ano Pogoni the proportion of the tertiary sector has increased and this is mainly due to catering services activities in mountainous Pogoni area, where tourism and support services is most developed, and due to the existence of the operation of the Metallurgical Industry of Epirus. It is worth mentioning that the Metallurgical Industry is threatened with closure, which implies a possible dismissal for approximately 70 employees and, by extension, further depopulation. The closure of the industry will affect not only the capital of the Municipal District, Kefalovryso, but all business - satellites that depend upon it. There will be a negative impact on the whole Municipality, as 70 employees account for about 2% of the economically active population, according to Census 2001.

From Figure 7, it can be seen that all over the Municipality, both in mountainous and lowland settlements, there are high percentages of economically inactive population, which was expected based on the indicators of aging and dependency mentioned in Section 2.2. Although there is uniformity in the distribution of the economically active population, the

productive structures seem to be concentrated mainly in the lowland settlements. According to the Business register of 2005, in the lowlands settlements they operate around 275 businesses, while in the mountainous settlements are 170 companies, about 40% less.

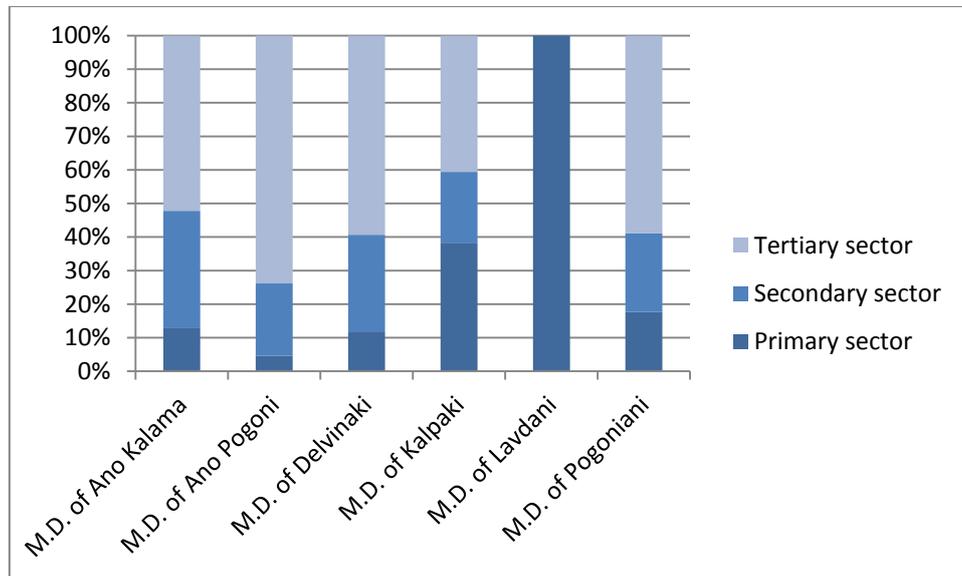


Figure 6. Employment by sector per Municipal District of Municipality of Pogoni (Source: EL.STAT. 2005 Business register & self editing)

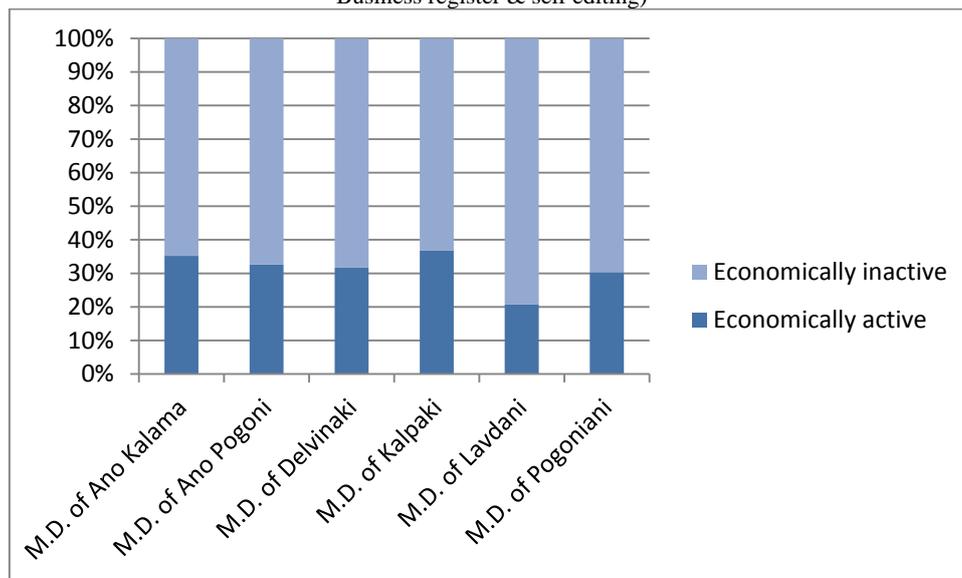


Figure 7. Economically active and inactive population of all Municipal Districts of Municipality of Pogoni (Source: EL.STAT. 2001)

2.5 Infrastructure

From the overall analysis of Tables 4 and 5 arises that the Municipality of Pogoni overall has a considerably good level of infrastructures in place. However, just their existence is not enough but it is necessary to maintain them also. In the historical Municipal capital of the Municipality, the M.D. of Delvinaki, operate services that are not found in any other M.D.. It is mentioned that the health center, the land registry, the fire team and the police department operate only in that M.D.. The best level in infrastructure presents the M.D. of Delvinaki and the M.D. of Kalpaki. It is apparent that the infrastructure and services are concentrated in these two M.D. The welfare facilities and aged care services are quite satisfactory as in all M.D. operate clinics. The M.D. which seems to lack in infrastructure is M.D. of Lavdani.

It is considered to be a positive aspect that in the Municipality of Pogoni it is not expected to be any merger of schools, as we were informed from the Prefecture of Epirus. However, this can not be said with certainty, to the extent that development processes are dynamic, so ensuring those infrastructures should come as a future priority of the municipality. Mergers and school closures have negative consequences, especially when it is happening in mountainous and disadvantaged areas. One of those consequences is depopulation.

It is worth mentioning that in Pogoniani has opened the first department of the “Ark of the World”¹ in province and can accommodate up to 120 children of all ages, who are housed at the student residential. This movement had a direct positive impact on the region as the Middle or Junior High School of Pogoniani boosted by the students of the Ark of the World that been transferred there. Meanwhile, it has reopened and primary school of Pogoniani which was closed the past years as the number of students was not justifying its operation. Children around college age of the Ark entered the high school of Doliana. Such movements provide encouragements and opportunities for growth and affect not only the Municipality of Pogoni but the whole continent. The Ark of the World will established in Pogoniani and Agricultural School for young population aged 15 and over, and with free attendance will receive a diploma, in order to be promoted in the labor market. A large proportion of these children who have learned from first hand the life in the province and has loved the place acquiring knowledge and skills, relating to the primary sector, could remain and work in Pogoni (<http://kivotostoukosmou.org/> website "Ark of the World"). Related infrastructure that could support the growth prospects are the Public Open University in Delvinaki and the Monastery of Vella in Kalpaki which is a Higher Ecclesiastical Academy.

It has been found that most mountainous areas of the Municipality are active in the field of education. This fact, in comparison with the continued operation of existing schools is a positive factor in the maintenance of the population of mountain settlements.

Table 4. Infrastructure per M.D. of Municipality of Pogoni (Source: www.pogoni.gr, Municipality of Pogoni, 2011)

	Welfare centre for elderly	Regional health centre	Rural medical services	Citizens service centre	Drug shop
<i>Lowland settlements</i>					
M.D. of Ano Kalamas					
M.D. of Kalpaki					
<i>Mountainous settlements</i>					
M.D. of Ano Pogoniou					
M.D. of Delvinaki					
M.D. of Lavdani					
M.D. of Pogoniani					

¹ “Ark of the World” is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, which aims at taking care of children that have been experiencing abandonment, racism and social exclusion.

Table 5. Infrastructure per M.D. of Municipality of Pogoni (Source: www.pogoni.gr, Municipality of Pogoni, 2011)

	Kindergartens	Primary school	Middle or Junior High School	High school
<i>Lowland settlements</i>				
M.D. of Ano Kalamas				
M.D. of Kalpaki				
<i>Mountainous settlements</i>				
M.D. of Ano Pogoniou				
M.D. of Delvinaki				
M.D. of Lavdani				
M.D. of Pogoniani				

3. Conclusions

Regional development policies followed in the last decades in Greece, showed weakness in both the design and targeting of policies (Petraikos, 2004). Something similar happened in the Municipality of Pogoni, where policies that followed were not led to the economic development of a region. The Municipality appears to be geographically isolated, but has a key position as it borders with Albania, located very close to the port of Igoumenitsa, associated with Egnatia Highway, is just a few kilometers from the city center of Ioannina, borders by the Municipality of Zagori and have common characteristics with it regarding the traditional architecture of the settlements and the geomorphology of the terrain (F.E.K. 1451 / 10.06.2003). In the drive for integrated development of the area, these counts as comparative advantages for the Municipality of Pogoni that during the multidimensional crisis, that still remains in Greece, could utilize to improve, if not eliminate, the spatial and socioeconomic inequalities.

Based on what has been mentioned in sections 2.1 to 2.5, the new Municipality of Pogoni composed of relatively disparate areas in terms of the terrain, since it includes both areas with mountainous and lowland character. The mountainous areas of the Municipality are significantly less populated than the lowland ones and production activities are concentrated mainly in the lowland ones. However, the percentages of the economically active population, the level of education, the age composition of the population, and the existing infrastructure have no particular differences between the various Municipal Districts. Additionally, all the individual areas of the Municipality appear to have common historical and cultural origins, for example the polyphonic singing², thus, a strong shared identity. Hence only through concerted efforts to develop the whole Municipality, effectively addressing the problems of both mountainous and lowland settlements, people of Pogoni may have better prospects, a more prosperous future in general.

² The greek polyphonic singing is found throughout the region of Pogoni, both in mountainous area (Ktismata, Dolo) and the lowland (Parakalamos), forming a connecting element for the entire Municipality.

3.1 Identity / characteristics of the Municipality Pogoni

The study area has significant advantages and opportunities:

- The Municipality of Pogoni has a very good connection as far as its network, which is a very positive factor for the growth prospects of the region.
- Pogoni has a significant number of residents as well as in relation to its neighboring Municipalities. The population is equally distributed between mountainous and lowland settlements.
- The infrastructure in the area is satisfactory and spatially dispersed, in comparison to neighboring Municipalities and for a small Greek Municipality in the province. It is particularly important that within the Municipality of Pogoni operates the Public Open University in Delvinaki, the Monastery of Vellas in Kalpaki and the first department, apart from Athens, the Ark of the World in Pogoniani. It is soon expected to operate, within the facilities of Ark of the World, an agricultural college in Pogoniani. At present, it appears that there will be no mergers / closure of schools.
- The Municipality of Pogoni can be characterized as one of the cultural cradles of Epirus. In Pogoni's villages it is developed the polyphonic singing and the 'Pogonisos' famous dance as well as a musical style in the traditional clarinet. Even today, Parakalamos is a living growth cell of popular folk music, with the active participation of Roma.
- The region of Pogoni has diverse landscapes including mountains, flat areas, canyons, rivers and lakes. The beauty of the Municipality and the scattered monuments and pretty villages create an interesting set for visitors. It should be noted that the region has particular historical weight for modern Greece particular in the Municipality District Kalpaki because there occurred the halt of Italian invasion in 1940.

Considering the above it is easily understood that Pogoni has a strong identity. The benefits and opportunities of the municipality, in combination with rationally designed interventions can contribute decisively to the integrated development of the Municipality and to remedy problems, threats and inequalities, which can be summarized as follows:

- In the Municipality of Pogoni, the population has a high percentage of aged people and very large rates of the population are economically inactive.
- The majority of the population is concentrated in a small number of settlements mainly in the lowland part of the Municipality (Parakalamos, Kalpaki, Kouklio, etc.) and in some mountainous villages (Kefalovryso, Delvinaki, Pogoniani). In many villages have remained very few inhabitants.
- The concentration of productive activities locates primarily to the flat terrain. Possible closure of the Metallurgical industry of Epirus in Kefalovryso, as well as the inevitable centralization of administration and services due to Kallikratis administrative reform, are potential threats to the conservation of the population of the mountainous areas of the Municipality.
- The population of the Municipality of Pogoni is characterized generally by a low level of education. The number of illiterates and those who left the elementary school is big.

3.2. Ideas for development

The ideas for development that are proposed face the Municipality as a whole. The ideas aim to overcome divisions that actually do not exist, and aim to address the problems arising from the implementation of the administrative reform Kallikratis. The ideas that follow are based on a common cultural and social identity of the regions that comprise the Pogoni. They are proposed with two main directions in order to remove the problems existing in the Municipality of Pogoni, exploiting the potential of the entire region:

- **Creation of an academy of traditional music.** The Regional Unit of Ioannina, and specifically the city of Ioannina have a long tradition of education and at the same time has a rich cultural tradition. Considering that the area of Pogoni is one of the major "music schools" of Epirus (Kokkonis, 2008), it is proposed the creation of an academy of traditional music and polyphonic song in the municipality. This creates a development opportunity utilizing the perhaps strongest feature of the area's identity. The operation of an educational institution in a region can help to increase productivity and competitiveness (Caraveli; Tsionas, 2011). Creating a specialized music academy, the rich cultural wealth of Pogoni displayed and it is highlighted the fact that the area is a cultural cradle of Epirus. Such an activity will not only have an impact on the local community, but could also attract pupils / students and outside the Municipality. It should be noted that this kind of activity takes into account that the polyphonic singing is one of the open areas of research of musicologists³. A similar example of exploitation of the complexity and specificity of the language of folk music traditions and increasing the "mobility" of a Municipality, is the festival of music and culture that takes place for several years by students of the Department of Traditional Music of the T.E.I. in Arta, Epirus (www.teiep.gr). The emergence of the Municipality could occur through the culture. The cultural wealth of the entire Municipality of Pogoni has the ability to display further and provide a basis for development through the institutionalization of a musical, folkloric festivals while creating a dipole of tourist interest between the mountainous (polyphonic songs) and lowland Pogoni (live music tradition, with the significant contribution of Roma). The interest in music festivals with core local lore (ethnic) remains strong and, in Europe, carried out a variety of such events every year. Empowerment and staffing of this festival could be done by students who will attend the traditional music academy. This academy could be operated in one of the facilities that are spatially dispersed in the region and in good condition. For example you could use the former carpet school in Delvinaki or some other building, close to the main road Kalpaki - Kakavia. Of particular importance is the preservation and strengthening of the role of existing cultural associations in the direction of supporting such a musical festival.
- **Touristic development of Pogoni region.** It has been observed that the existence of tourism resources can rapidly affect the local economy and greatly enhance the per capita GDP of each region as reported by Caraveli and Tsionas (2011). Based on the theory of income multipliers, we could determine the relationship between the value of output of an industry and the workers in it. In accordance, therefore, with the Employment multipliers of Type I and II, it is shown that for every one direct job in the tourism sector, 1,556 indirect jobs and 2,383 consequential jobs are generated (Georgiou, 2011). The tourism industry could bring more jobs (indirect and consequential), compared with other sectors of the economy (based on input - output tables for the entire Greek economy) and so, it is critical to develop the tertiary sector in the Municipality of Pogoni. It is useful, therefore, to claim more development funds to upgrade the so far "unknown" tourist product of Pogoni. Pogoni is an underdeveloped tourist area.

³ Liavas L. «The polyphonic songs of Epirus». <http://polyphonic.forumotion.com/t112-topic>

However, it has many areas of natural beauty, areas with rich history and has a significant number of monuments. There must be done some basic moves for the tourist promotion of the region and attract visitors. Therefore, the creation of a network of tourist spots scattered throughout the area of the Municipality is proposed. This network will connect and highlight areas of natural beauty, traditional architecture, archaeological sites, monasteries and bridges in the area. The fact that the area has very good access to major shopping streets, both from land (Egnatia Odos, and Albania) and from sea (Igoumenitsa), seems to be, until today, unexploited for the promotion of the area for tourism and commercial activities. There could be a tourist package combining short vacation at sea (on the coast of Igoumenitsa) with connection in the area of Pogoni. Moreover, the proximity of the Municipality of Pogoni to the popular and touristically developed Zagori should not be seen as a competitive disadvantage but as an opportunity. The numerous visitors of Zagori could spend one day exploring the attractions of the Pogoni region. Something we noticed in Pogoni is that there are no shops to promote the local products. The visitor only accidentally would be able to come into contact with a local product, e.g. if a restaurant uses or serves it. Thus, it is proposed to combine the tour in the acquaintance with local products. This could be done by locating stations in key spots (eg at the entrance of the M.D. of Kalpaki and Delvinaki), to organize promotion of products, combining products produced in the mountainous and lowland Pogoni. Still, it could work a multifunctional tourism type, for cooperatives with dairy products (such as cheese) (primary sector) to promote their products through tourism service (tertiary sector). Such targeted actions for exporting and promoting local products could be combined with parallel update of tourists regarding the history and identity of Pogoni. Wanting to highlight the tourism potential of the Municipality of Pogoni between lowland and mountainous areas, we selected 13 places of tourist interest that include a wide range of sights of the Municipality and are reflected in the Map 2 (Appendix).

The actions proposed above do not constitute an extended "road map" to address the region's problems. But they work as a trigger to move towards the integrated development of the region. They do not require complex and costly operations in a time of recession and reduction of available funds. They are based on the potential and identity of the region, building on existing structures and dynamics. They contribute to the common path of the Municipality, utilizing the characteristics of both the mountainous and the lowland part. Dealing with the problems of Pogoni - as, perhaps, in every mountainous area - requires a coordinated, safe steps and ideas that are presented in this work which help to the contribution in that direction. In particular, the establishment of a music academy and the establishment of a music festival, along with a first organized effort to promote the Pogoni and its products, it is very likely to result in the retention of population and to attract young people to stimulate the economic activity and to create opportunities for improving the level of education of the population. These effects are expected to affect the whole region, both lowland and mountainous Pogoni.

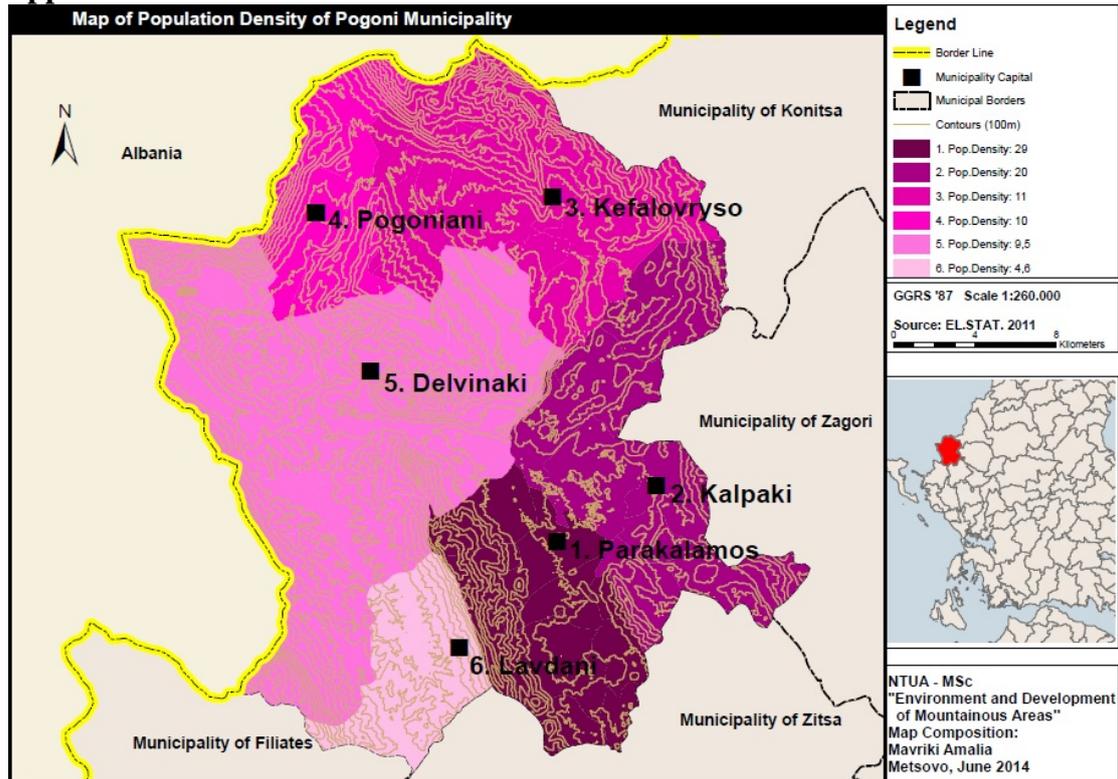
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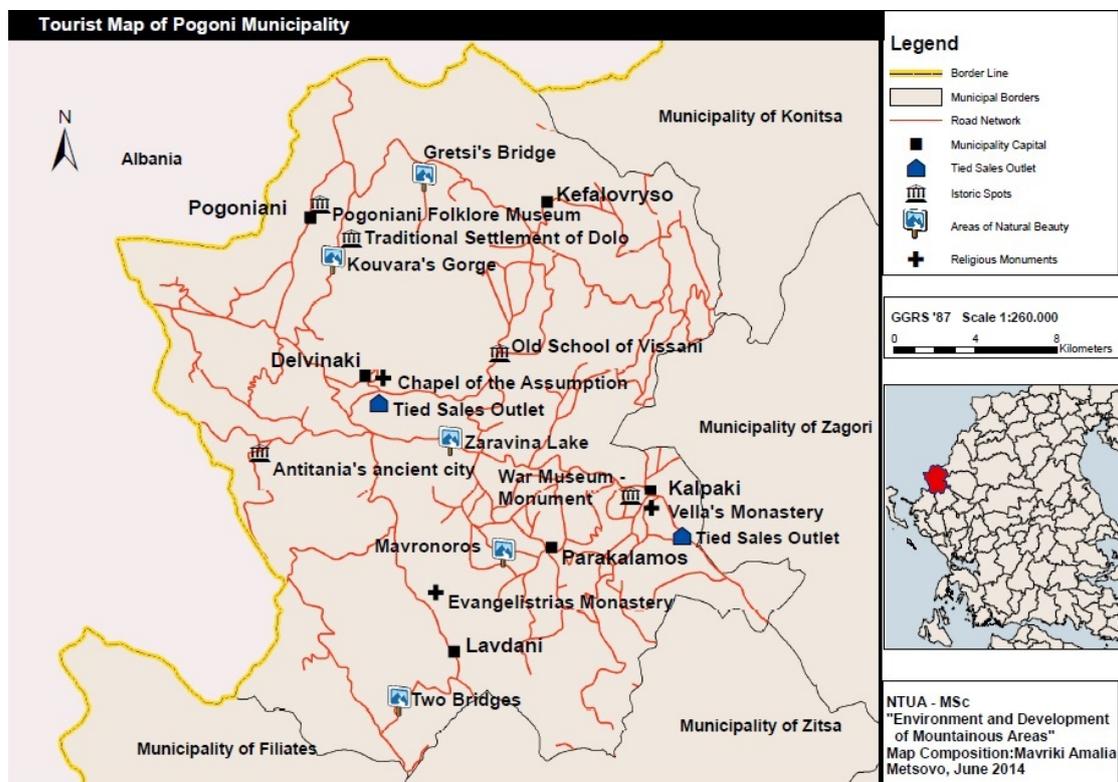
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Appendix



Map 1. Map of Population Density of Pogoni Municipality



Map 2. Tourist map of Pogoni Municipality