

<b>STSM title:</b>	THE NEW COMMUNITY GARDENS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE
<b>STSM reference number:</b>	COST-STSM-TU1201-14615
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<b>STSM period:</b>	30.07.2013 – 21.08.2013

## INTRODUCTION

Allotments and community gardens (AG and CG) in Southern Europe are different from those of countries with a strong tradition, but they are an emerging use both in Spain and Greece, linked to community, root-based dynamics as well as to local government's programs.

## PURPOSE OF THE STSM

The purpose of the visit was to study the characteristics of Greek allotments and community gardens, in regard to economic crisis and new forms of community organization and ecological management. The final aim of this STSM is to compare the recent arising of AG and CG in Spain and Greece, in the economic crisis context, their functions, their opportunities and their threats.

Through field work, interviews with gardeners and project coordinators, the first step has been to collect the motivations, expectations and valuation of the projects as expressed by the participants. Secondly is being made a literature review to complete the data, in order to document the main features of the case studies. Finally, based on previous studies made about Spanish cases, is possible to compare Greek and Spanish development of AG and CG.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

- **Development of analysis methodology and case studies selection.** Definition of interview's guideline and data collection - validation by dr Stavrides.  
Community and municipal gardens were first identified by web research, then Dr Stavrides proposed some contacts and projects, and finally through the field work more projects were detected. So, although there were proposed only 3 case studies, once in Greece the possibility to visit a wide range of spaces made that finally there were made 8 field visits in Athens and 2 in Thessaloniki.

- **Visit research, interviews and data collection in Athens.** 8 gardens visited, 20 people interviewed.  
MUNICIPAL ALLOTMENT GARDENS
  - Maroussi Allotments / Δημοτικός Λαχανοκηπος. Δήμος Αμαρουσίου.
  - Agios Dimitrios Allotments / Δημοτικών Λαχανοκήπων Στον Άγιο Δημήτριο
 COMMUNITY GARDENS
  - Navarino Park / Πάρκο Ναυαρίνου
  - Botanikos Kipos Social Centre. Urban Agriculture Group Gyálino (Glass) / Βοτανικός Κήπος. Ομάδα Αστικής Καλλιέργειας Γυάλινο,
  - Agros In Tritsi Park / Αγρός, Πάρκο Τρίτση
  - Agros Elliniko. Initiative for self managed agriculture in Ellinikó / Αγρό Στο Ελληνικό. Πρωτοβουλίας Για Έναν Αυτοδιαχειριζόμενο Αγρό Στο Ελληνικό.
  - Halandri Community Garden / Αστικός Αγρός Χαλανδρίου
  - Agroscholoι / Αγροσχολοι
  
- **Visit research, interview and data collection in Thessaloniki.** 2 gardens, 4 people interviewed.  
INSTITUTIONAL GARDENS
  - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki / Αριστοτελείο Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλονίκης
 COMMUNITY GARDENS
  - Per.Ka. (Periurban Crops. Urban And Periurban Agriculture Group) / Περ.Κα. (Περιαστικές Καλλιέργειες. Ομάδα Αστικών Και Περιαστικών Καλλιεργειών)
  
- **Systematization of results.** Transcription of interviews. Completion of data through internet and literature review.

## MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

### OUTPUTS:

Contact database with the main projects of Urban Agriculture, those visited plus other projects and organizations of interest.

A descriptive sheet for each case study it's been made, indicating:

History of the site / Beginning of the project / Internal organisation and management / Social composition / Agricultural practices and food / Alliances

A brief abstract of the case studies can be seen in Annex 1)

**ANALYSIS RESULTS.** The first hypothesis of the project, that financial crisis is generating an emergency of urban agriculture initiatives in Greece, as is happening in Spain, has been confirmed. This is a recurring event linked to economic crisis cycles, as can be seen in Relief gardens during 1930s crisis in Europe and North America. Nevertheless a double response to crisis can be seen related to nowadays urban agriculture projects in Southern Europe, that arising from people and that from local governments. These responses are represented by two big types of gardens.

The first ones are the community gardens, developed by community groups, reclaiming vacant public spaces, with a polyvalent purpose: ecological, cultural, political, associative... They're developing forms of direct democracy, signaling conflicts on public land management, urban model and food sovereignty. In these projects can be analyzed the limits and potentialities of self management, regarding the emergent debate about commons and communing.

The second ones are the allotment's municipal programs, designed to prevent or mitigate social exclusion, they share in both countries most of their characteristics. Municipal gardens have appeared later than the community gardens, more easily in medium and small municipalities, as Thermi, Kalamata, Tripoli, Larissa... In Greece, these programs have a strong food access objective, in Spain they have, by now, recreational or training aims.

This diagnosis will be further developed and justified in foreseen publications.

## **FUTURE COLLABORATION AND FORESEEN PUBLICATIONS**

At least two publications will be prepared during the next months:

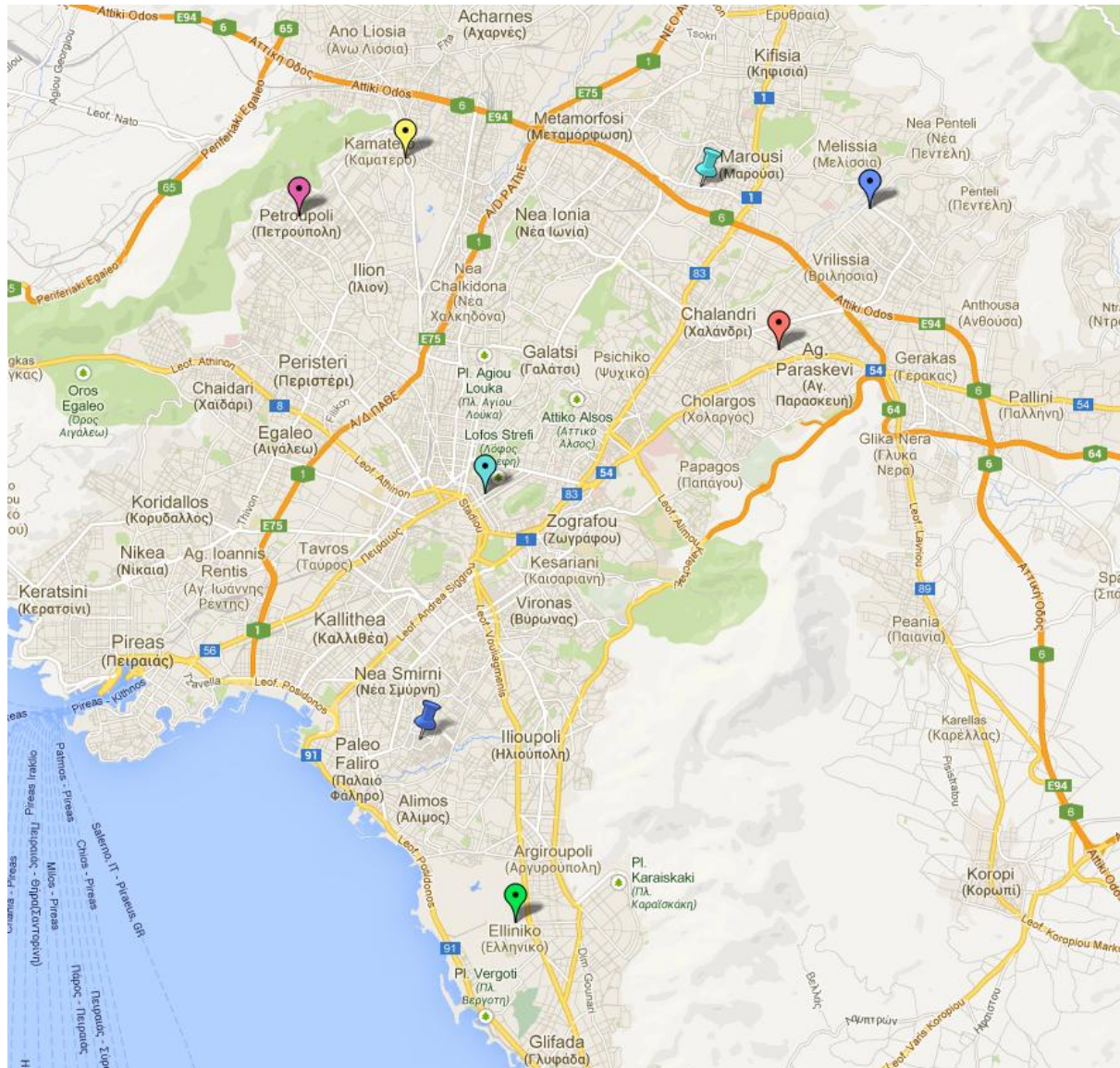
- Descriptive article about urban agriculture projects in Greece. Intended to be published in a socio-ecological magazine
- Academic paper comparing Spanish and Greek projects from the commons approach.









## **CONFIRMATION BY THE HOST INSTITUTION**

Please find the confirmation attached to this report.

## ANNEX I.BRIEF SUMMARY OF CASE STUDIES

## ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS, ATHENS



-  MAROUSI ALLOTMENTS / ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟΣ ΛΑΧΑΝΟΚΗΠΟΣ. Δήμος Αμαρουσίου.
-  AGIOS DIMITRIOS ALLOTMENTS / ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΩΝ ΛΑΧΑΝΟΚΗΠΩΝ ΣΤΟΝ ΑΓΙΟ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟ
-  NAVARINO PARK / ΠΑΡΚΟ ΝΑΥΑΡΙΝΟΥ
-  ΒΟΤΑΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΙΠΟΣ / ΒΟΤΑΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΠΟΣ
-  AGROS IN TRITSI PARK / ΑΓΡΟΣ, Πάρκο Τρίτση
-  AGROS ELLINIKO / ΑΓΡΟ ΣΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ
-  HALANDRI COMMUNITY GARDEN / ΑΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΑΓΡΟΣ ΧΑΛΑΝΔΡΙΟΥ
-  AGROSCHOΛΟΙ / ΑΓΡΟΣΧΟΛΟΙ



**MAROUSI ALLOTMENTS****ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟΣ ΛΑΧΑΝΟΚΗΠΟΣ. Δήμος Αμαρουσίου.****Municipality:** Maroussi**Site:** Municipal program in public space.**Size:** 1500 m<sup>2</sup>. 40 plots, 25 m<sup>2</sup>**Starting date:** APRIL 2012**Web:** <http://www.maroussi.gr/>

**SUMMARY.** Municipal allotments for people in danger of economic and social exclusion. Free plots, the municipality provides water and technical support. Organic agriculture, no sales allowed. Meeting space developed by beneficiaries.

**AGIOS DIMITRIOS ALLOTMENTS****ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΩΝ ΛΑΧΑΝΟΚΗΠΩΝ ΣΤΟΝ ΑΓΙΟ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟ****Municipality:** Agios Dimitrios**Site:** Municipal program in public space.**Size:** 1.5 Ha. 120 plots, 30-50 m<sup>2</sup>**Starting date:** OCTOBER 2012**Web:** <http://www.dad.gr/>

**SUMMARY.** Municipal allotments for people in danger of economic and social exclusion. Free plots, 10% of the production must be given to the municipal social grocery. The municipality provides water and technical support. Organic agriculture, no animals nor trees allowed.

## NAVARINO PARK ΠΑΡΚΟ ΝΑΥΑΡΪΝΟΥ

**District:** Exarchia

**Site:** Occupied park in public space

**Size:**

**Starting date:** 2009 (comm garden in 2012)

**Web:** <http://parkingparko.espivblogs.net>



**SUMMARY.** Self managed park in the heart of Exarchia, the site, a former parking in public land, historically reclaimed by the neighborhood as green zone. People occupied the space, designed the park, and constructed it. A weekly assembly manages the site and activities. The aim of the community garden is formative, to show how to grow food, reproduce and collect seeds.

## BOTANIKOS KIPOS SOCIAL CENTRE. Urban Agriculture Group GYÁLINO (GLASS) ΒΟΤΑΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΉΠΟΣ. Ομάδα αστικής καλλιέργειας ΓΥΑΛΙΝΟ

**Municipality:** Petropolis

**Site:** Social centre. Occupied public facility

**Size:**

**Starting date:** DECEMBER 2008

**Web:** [votanikoskipos.blogspot.gr](http://votanikoskipos.blogspot.gr)



**SUMMARY.** The botanical garden was constructed in 2004, but remained opened for less than 6 months. After that was used sporadically and began to degrade. Occupied by neighbors for developing cultural activities and a community garden, is managed by a weekly assembly. They send seeds all over the country and hold agroecological events.



## AGROS IN TRITSI PARK ΑΓΡΟΣ, Πάρκο Τρίτση

**Municipality:** Ilion

**Site:** Social center and community garden, occupied area and building in Tritsi Park (green zone)

**Size.** Comm garden: 500 m<sup>2</sup>, whole park: 1200 km<sup>2</sup>

**Starting date:** 16th MAY 2009

**Web:** <http://www.eleftherosagros.blogspot.com.es/>



**SUMMARY.** Located in the biggest metropolitan park in Athens, a symbolic site due to its biodiversity and history. This community garden and social centre grows traditional seeds, has a collective kitchen, carries out workshops, documentary screening and events related to food sovereignty and agroecology. They also contribute to the park's trees maintenance.

## AGROS ELLINIKO. Iniciativa para una agricultura autogestionada en Ellinikó ΑΓΡΟ ΣΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ Πρωτοβουλία για έναν αυτοδιαχειριζόμενο αγρό στο Ελληνικό

**Municipality:** Elliniko - Argyroupoli

**Site:** Open space transferred to the municipality (former airport and military base). Managed by community group, allowed by the municipality

**Size:** 2 500 m<sup>2</sup>

**Starting date:** MARCH 2011

**Web:** <http://agroselliniko.blogspot.gr/>



**SUMMARY.** Located in a state area temporary transferred to the municipality, this community garden tries to show an alternative use of vacant open spaces, and the potentiality of urban agriculture as a way to deal with social, ecological, economical and environmental crisis.

## HALANDRI COMMUNITY GARDEN ΑΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΑΓΡΟΣ ΧΑΛΑΝΔΡΙΟΥ

**Municipality:** Halandri

**Site:** Private, rented.

**Size:**

**Starting date:** DECEMBER 2010 - JANUARY 2011

**Web:** <http://astikosagrosx.blogspot.com.es/>



**SUMMARY.** Run by a group of people who experiment with biodynamic and permaculture. Linked to local assemblies, and groups of consumers supporting local agriculture. They make open events like workshops, festivals, recreational and child activities.

## AGROSCHOLOI ΑΓΡΟΣΧΟΛΟΙ

**Municipality:** Vrilissia

**Site:** Green zone. Managed by community group, allowed by the municipality.

**Size:**

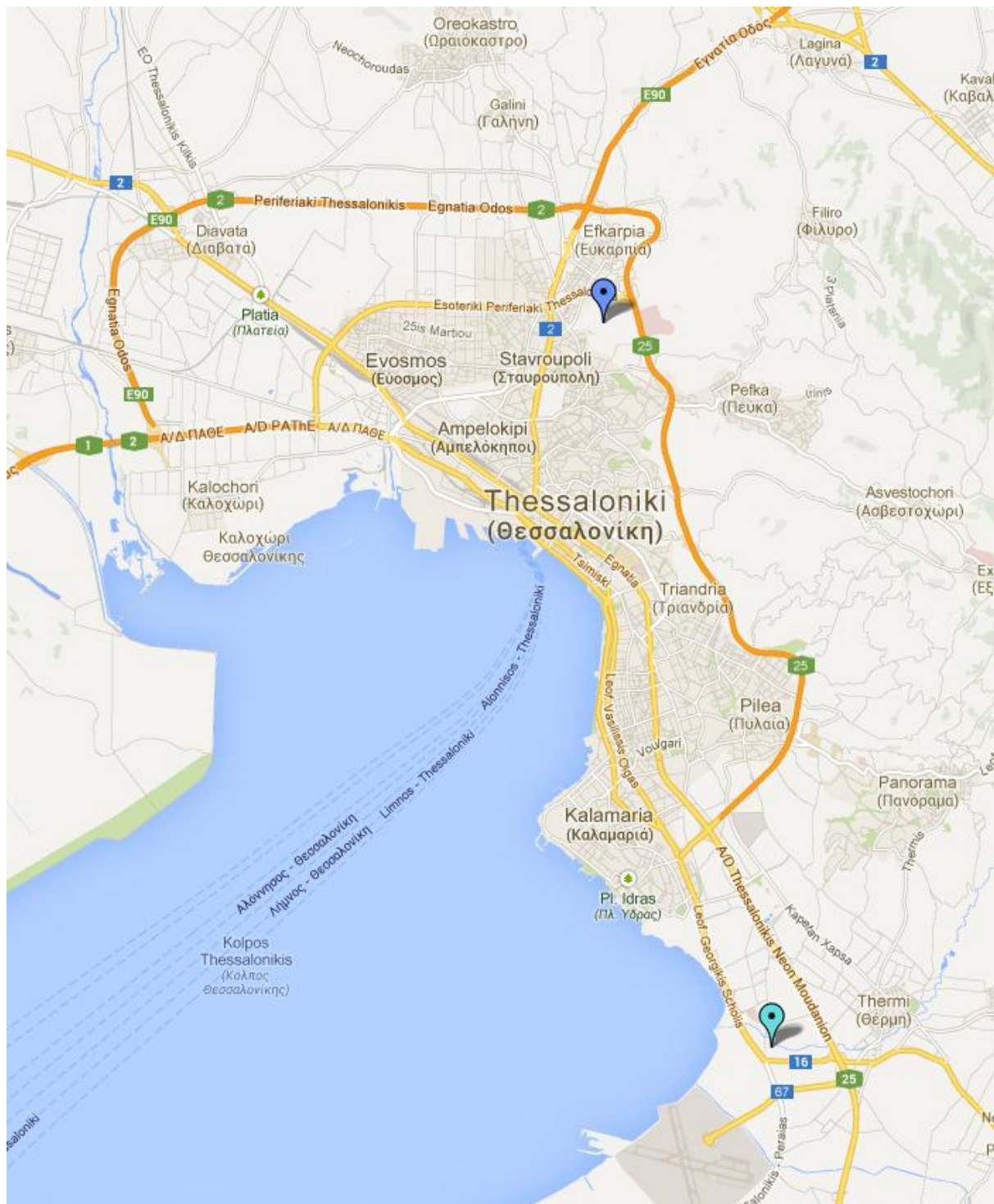
**Starting date:** OCTOBER 2011





**SUMMARY.** Community garden begun by a mountain group, located in a green zone over a military bunker. Their next steps will be the construction of a greenhouse, and they're thinking about open the space to community activities, as school visits, climbing wall, etc



## ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS, THESSALONIKI



-  PER.KA / ΠΕΡ.ΚΑ. (ΠΕΡΙΑΣΤΙΚΕΣ ΚΑΛΛΙΕΡΓΕΙΕΣ.  
Ομάδα αστικών και περιαστικών καλλιεργειών)
-  UNIVERSIDAD ARISTOTELES SALONICA.  
ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

**PER.KA. (CULTIVOS PERIURBANOS. Grupo de agricultura urbana y periurbana)**  
**ΠΕΡ.ΚΑ. (ΠΕΡΙΑΣΤΙΚΈΣ ΚΑΛΛΙΈΡΓΕΙΕΣ. Ομάδα αστικών και περιαστικών καλλιιεργειών)**

**Municipality:** Pavlos Melas (Παύλου Μελά), Thessaloniki  
**Site:** Occupied, former military barracks sold to municipality  
**Size:** 650 000 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Starting date:** 2011  
**Web:** <http://perka.org/>



**SUMMARY.** Former military camp sold to the municipality, and reclaimed by local associations, is been occupied for growing food by local neighbors. There are seven groups of 30-40 people each one, with individual and community plots, meeting places, greenhouses. PER.KA belongs to the direct sale movement of Thessaloniki.

**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI**  
**ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ**

**Municipality:** Thessaloniki  
**Site:** Institutional. University program  
**Size:** 8.5 Ha. 600 plots - 100m<sup>2</sup>  
**Starting date:** 2012  
**Web:** [http://eco.auth.gr/wordpress/?page\\_id=3425](http://eco.auth.gr/wordpress/?page_id=3425)



**SUMMARY.** Initiative of the university dean. The allotments are open to all citizens who apply for them, they must pay 10 euro per month, for water and maintenance expenses. They must attend training seminars before beginning to grow. Several students offer technical support.



# NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS



## SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE


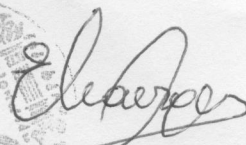
DEPARTMENT III ARCHITECTURAL LANGUAGE - COMMUNICATION - DESIGN

Athens September 10, 2013

To  
*COST Action TU1201 Management Committee*

I hereby confirm that Nerea Morán, PhD student at the Technical University of Madrid, developed the STSM entitled "The new community gardens in Southern Europe", between July 30 and August 21, 2013.

She visited several urban agriculture projects, institutional programs and community initiatives, in Athens and Thessaloniki, interviewing participants and coordinators of these projects. Then she elaborated a descriptive sheet for each one, and began the analysis and comparison between Spanish and Greek situation.



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