

**smart &
sustainable
island**

Fact sheet



Organized by

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

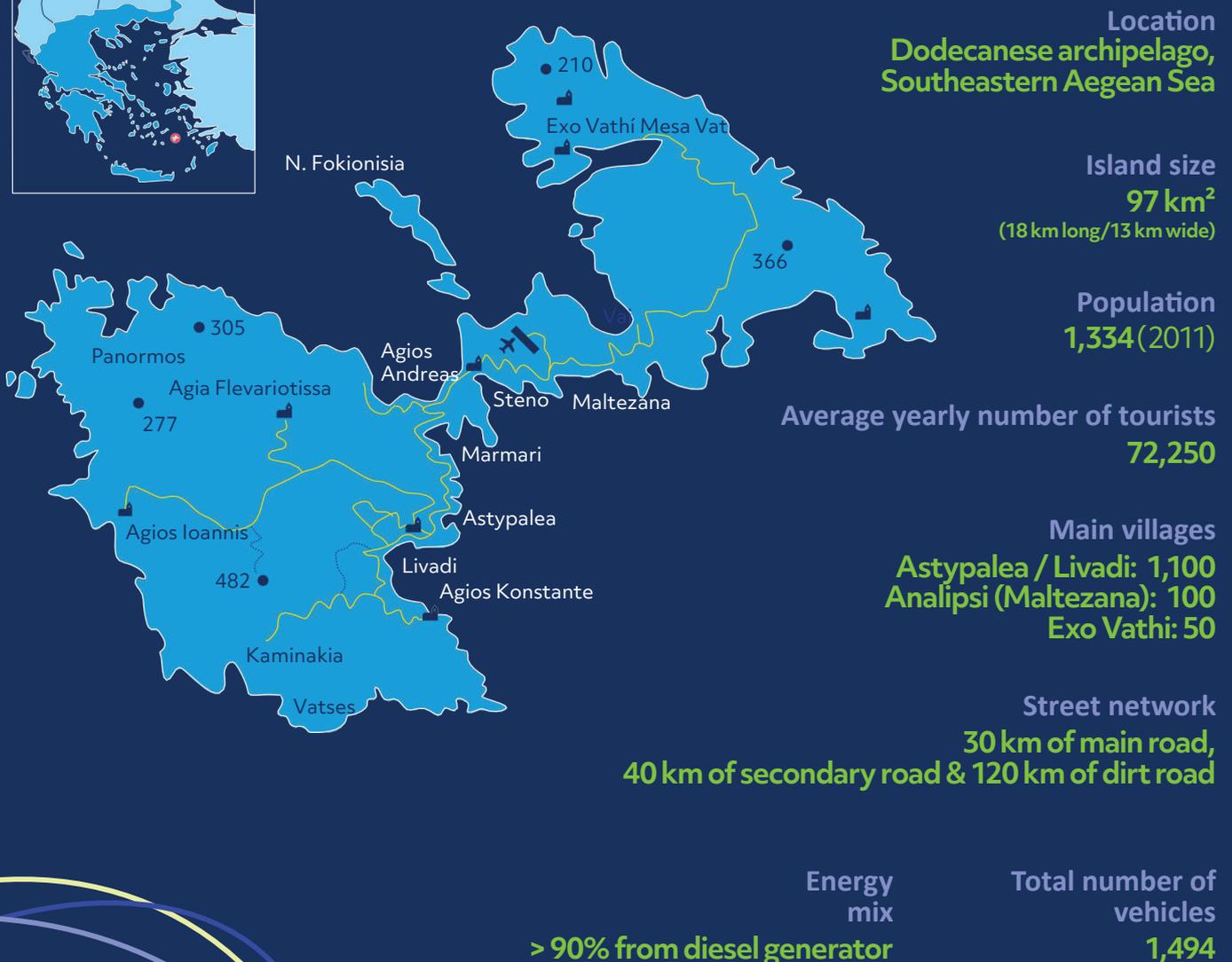
With the support of



ENTERPRISE GREECE
INVEST & TRADE

Astypalea: Smart and Green Island

Astypalea is known as the butterfly of the Aegean Sea. The island has been growing dynamically on many levels. About 1,300 people live permanently on this 18-kilometre long and 13-kilometre wide paradise island on the Greek Aegean. With enchanting beaches, surrounded by crystal clear deep blue water, the island attracts around 72,000 tourists each year. The island of Astypalea is fully committed to achieving sustainable development and improving the everyday quality of life on the island, both for permanent residents and visitors, including through promoting sustainable mobility.



Smart mobility

At present, the northern and southern parts of the island are not accessible via public transport. The existing limited public transport does not run at night, and the car rental business is only run in the summer. In this framework, residents have to rely almost exclusively on their own private vehicles. The intended implementation of new innovative mobility services – namely, ridesharing and stationary vehicle sharing, as the basis for the new transport system on Astypalea is therefore one of the key project goals.

Firstly, the traditional bus public transport shall be transformed into a ridesharing service that will deploy 100% electric on-demand shuttles. These e-shuttles shall be operated on the island according to the needs of both locals and visitors, flexibly and all around the island. As a result, for the first time, the entire island shall become accessible by public transport to everyone, day and night.

Secondly, a part of the current seasonal car rental business shall turn into a flexible year-round stationary vehicle sharing business. Together with local partners, the vehicle sharing service shall be operated throughout the whole year on the island, making it possible, not only for visitors, but for the first time also for locals to have access to mobility and vehicles at any time, as an alternative to an own private vehicle. Electric cars, bikes and scooters shall be available at various stations across the entire island.

Thanks to smart on-demand mobility, the access to all kinds of mobility services at any time shall be made possible. All mobility needs shall be fully covered with smart mobility: from the daily trip to work or school, to family outings and shopping trips, even to evenings out at restaurants and bars. Tourists would be able to discover the island on demand and will commute back to their hotel at night safely and flexibly.

Any and every trip would be booked simply and quickly at any time using a mobility app. Thus, residents and tourists would become mobile whenever and wherever they want, 100% electric and connected.

This improved mobility shall have positive effects on local carbon emission footprint and overall quality of life. This will make the island not only more livable, but also significantly more attractive for the booming sustainable tourism industry and the local economy.

Vehicle electrification

The intended implementation of smart mobility services shall enable the reduction of the current vehicle park on the island as well. Nevertheless, individual motorized mobility will continue to play an important role on the island, especially for permanent residents, local businesses and local authorities.

A key target of the project is to gradually switch the existing fleet of combustion vehicles with electric vehicles: from micromobility to passenger cars to utility and light commercial vehicles.

Additionally to the smart mobility services, the project aims to replace the current rental and taxi businesses of the island with electric vehicles. Moreover, passenger vehicles of local residents as well as commercial vehicles of local businesses shall also be replaced with electric ones.

Finally, utility vehicles such as police vehicles, ambulances and authority vehicles shall also be adequately replaced with electric scooters, passenger cars, and light to medium commercial vehicles - meeting the needs of those respective services.

Charging infrastructure

The basis for sustainable and connected mobility is a smart charging infrastructure, supplied with renewable energy. In order to meet the energy requirements of the new e-vehicle fleet, a wide charging infrastructure network will be implemented.

This infrastructure shall consist of private and semi-public charging points, that shall mainly be installed at private residences, car rental agencies, taxi businesses and vehicle sharing stations.

Additionally, to ensure the flexible operations of the planned ridesharing service all around the island, and as often as needed, fast-charging infrastructure shall also be implemented. Finally, public charging stations scattered across the island shall complete the network, making charging possible everywhere, including at beach spots.

Green energy

Basis for sustainable and connected mobility is a smart charging infrastructure, supplied with renewable energy. The island of Astypalea possesses a significant and untapped green energy potential. The green energy strategy for Astypalea aims at substantially increasing the use predominantly of solar and wind energy, in order to cut existing dependence on fossil fuels, increase self-reliance and drastically reduce CO2 emissions. Within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding and within the framework of the LTCF, it is aimed that, in accordance with European and Greek legislation, all necessary initiatives shall be taken and relevant procedures initiated as of 1.1.2021, so as to ensure that the majority of the electricity needs on the island shall be covered by renewable energy sources, within the time frame of implementation of the project, including but not limited to the installation of the necessary hybrid power system. In this prospect, it is projected that the additional electricity demand, due to the introduction of e-mobility, shall be exclusively covered by renewable energy sources.

