

The mutually supportive role of Local Governments and Universities

The example of Crete

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The Universities in Greece



- ❑ The first University of Modern Greece was founded in Athens in 1836 and followed after 100y in 1925 by the second one in Thessaloniki
- ❑ About half century will pass (1960^s-1970^s) until new universities located in other regions to appear, in Patras in 1964, in Ioannina 1970 and in Crete in 1973.

Local governments, expressing the strong demand of local communities, claiming from central government their own universities, believing that in this way the culture and the economic activity of their regions will increase!

Were these early expectations met?

How did the regional societies interact with their Universities?

Is there any plan to modernize the interaction in the new era being shaped internationally and locally?

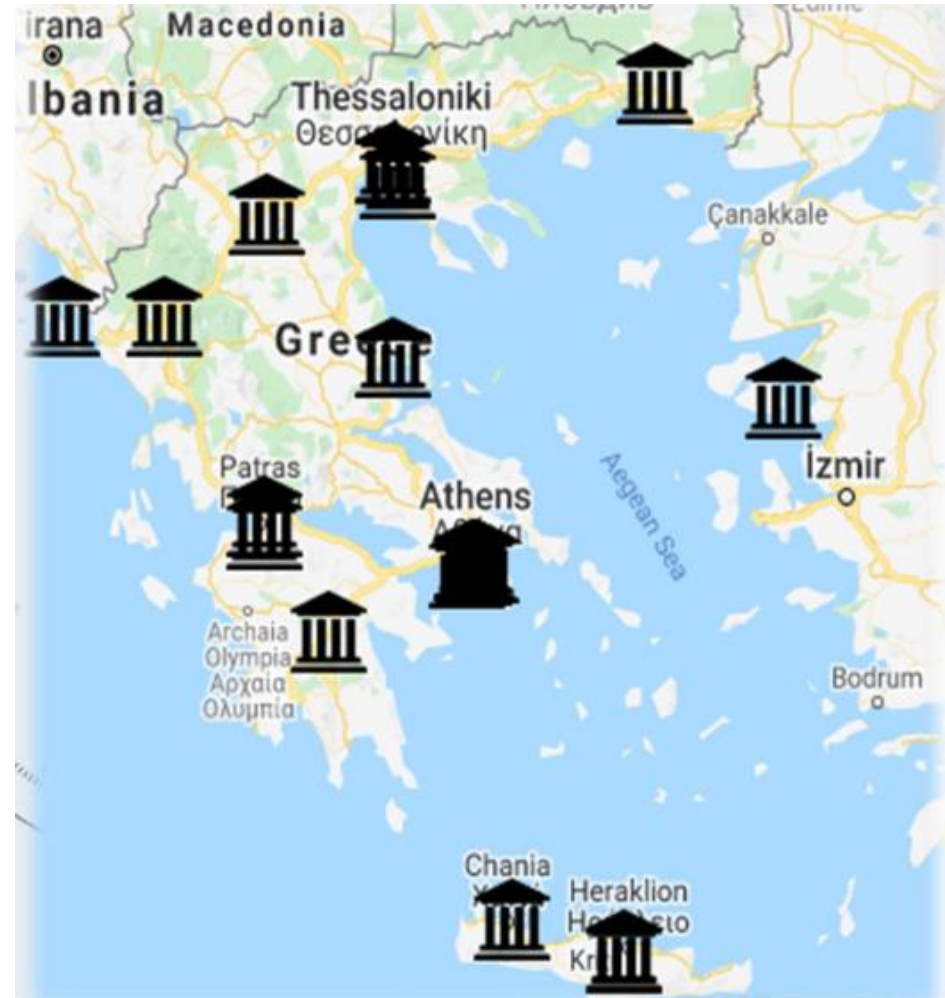
Greek Universities Landscape



24 Public Universities scattered in all regions of Greece:

- Autonomous, self-administered institutions
- Undergraduate degrees of 4-5 years
- Postgraduate degrees of 1 – 2,5 years

All Greek Universities are accredited by the European Union and participate in international rankings.



Never forget the general role of Universities



- ❑ Development of student's personality with the cultivation of speech abilities and critical thinking
- ❑ The transmission of acquired knowledge, know-how and skills with teaching
- ❑ The generation of new knowledge and technology by research
- ❑ The creation and transmission of standards in life and culture that permeates the society
- ❑ The support of the development of country and region, sometimes through collaboration with central and local governments



University on Regional social and sustainable development

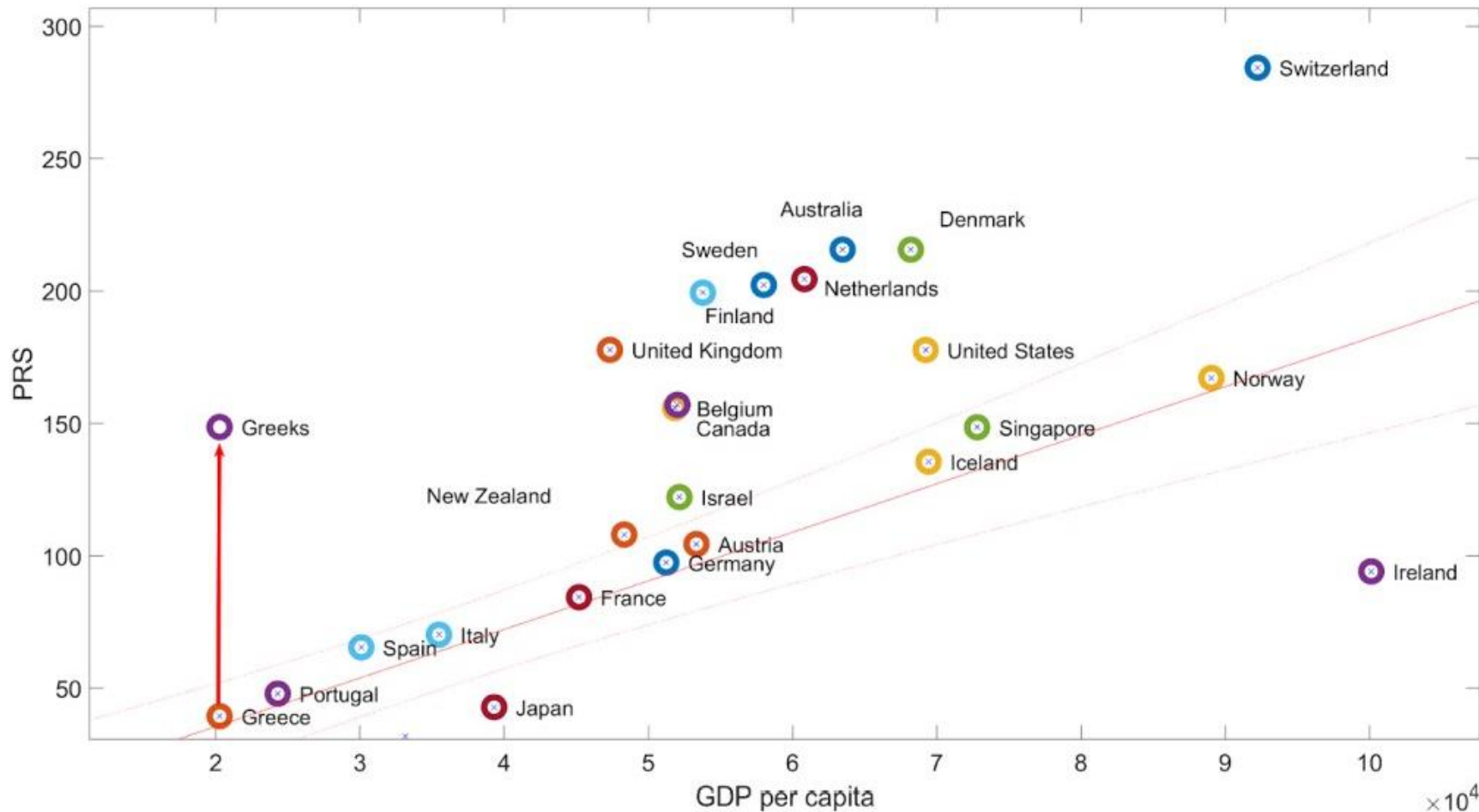


- ☐ Educating the community by attracting students from the region
- ☐ Increase in the number of young students of the region and increase of local population
- ☐ Supporting quality Lifelong education
- ☐ Offering open public lectures and other methods of communication with the local society
- ☐ Contribution to local sports facilities and culture buildings
- ☐ Contribution to urban regeneration (university buildings, new buildings etc)
- ☐ Residents' access to university libraries, etc.
- ☐ Contribution to the vitality and diversity of social and community activities (e.g. public transport)
- ☐ Contribution to cultural vitality: e.g. by strengthening democracy and by acceptance of diversity
- ☐ Student and community interactions
- ☐ Open Days and school-student engaging in primary and secondary education
- ☐ Supporting Experimental Schools



- ☐ Creation and maintenance of jobs (directly and indirectly)
- ☐ Support of the local market of goods and services from the students, university staff and visitors
- ☐ Positive impact on local revenue and expenditure, including local taxis and other multiplier effects
- ☐ Student accommodation and positive impact on the market real estate
- ☐ Transfer of technology, information and knowledge by development of new of spin-off companies and creation of technology parks and innovation-hubs
- ☐ Technological support of local industry
- ☐ Supporting domestic investments
- ☐ Contribution to the local tourism industry
- ☐ Supporting Public Transport System and Local goods transportation companies

Population Ratio (PRS) of Scientist vs GDP per capita



PRS is nearly linear vs GDP!

G. Vasiliadis, E. Kiriakidi and C. Panagiotakis, *A Worldwide Analysis of Top Scientists across Scientific Fields*, JOURNAL OF SCIENTOMETRIC RESEARCH, 2024



Municipality of Rethymno
Crete - Greece

Universities in the Periphery of Crete



UoC – University of Crete (16 Departments)

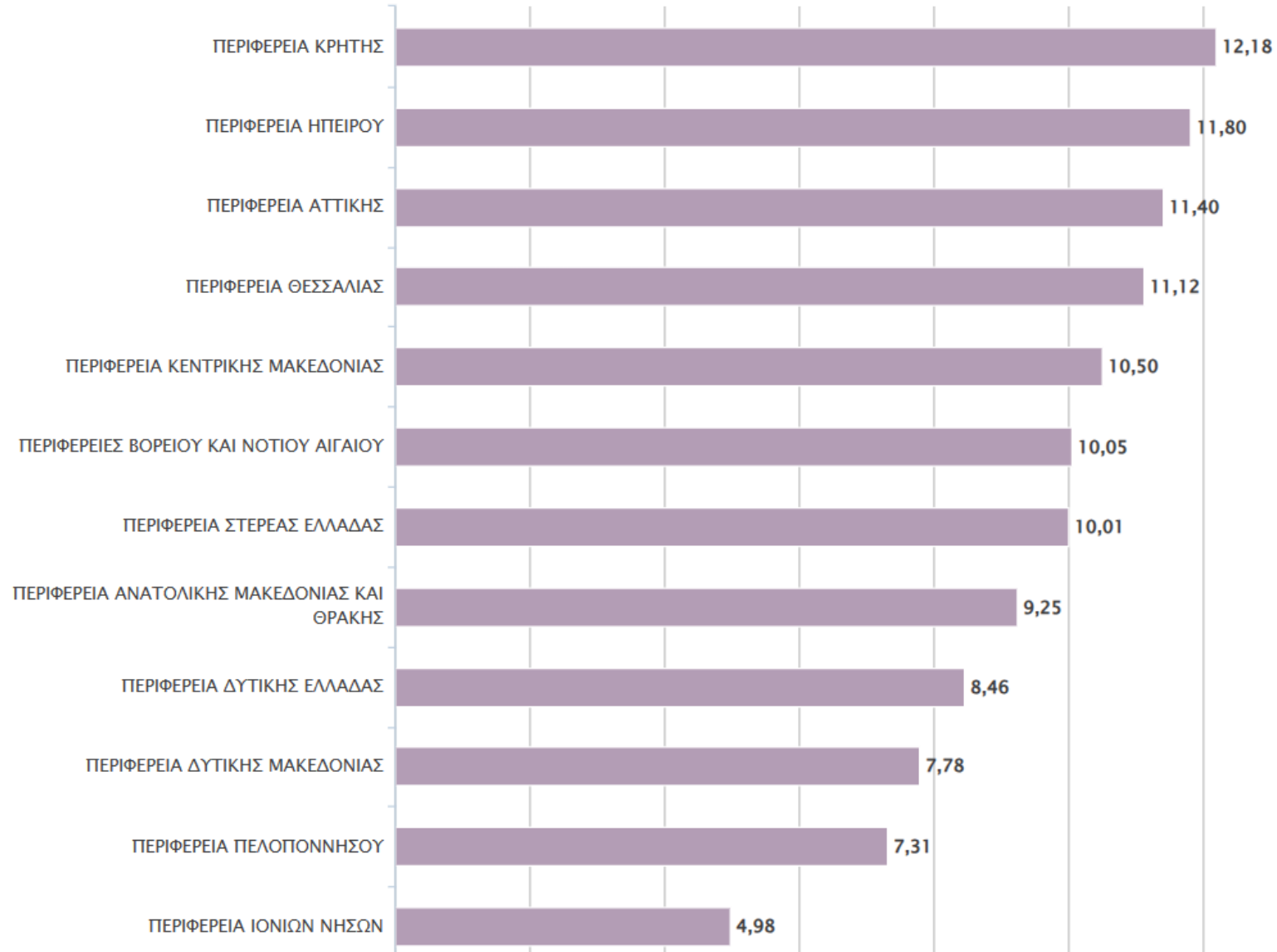
TUC- Technical University of Crete (5 Schools)

HMU- Hellenic Mediterranean University (11 Departments)

Citation impact of Scientific Publications (2007-2021)



Δεδομένα: Web of Science, 2007-2021

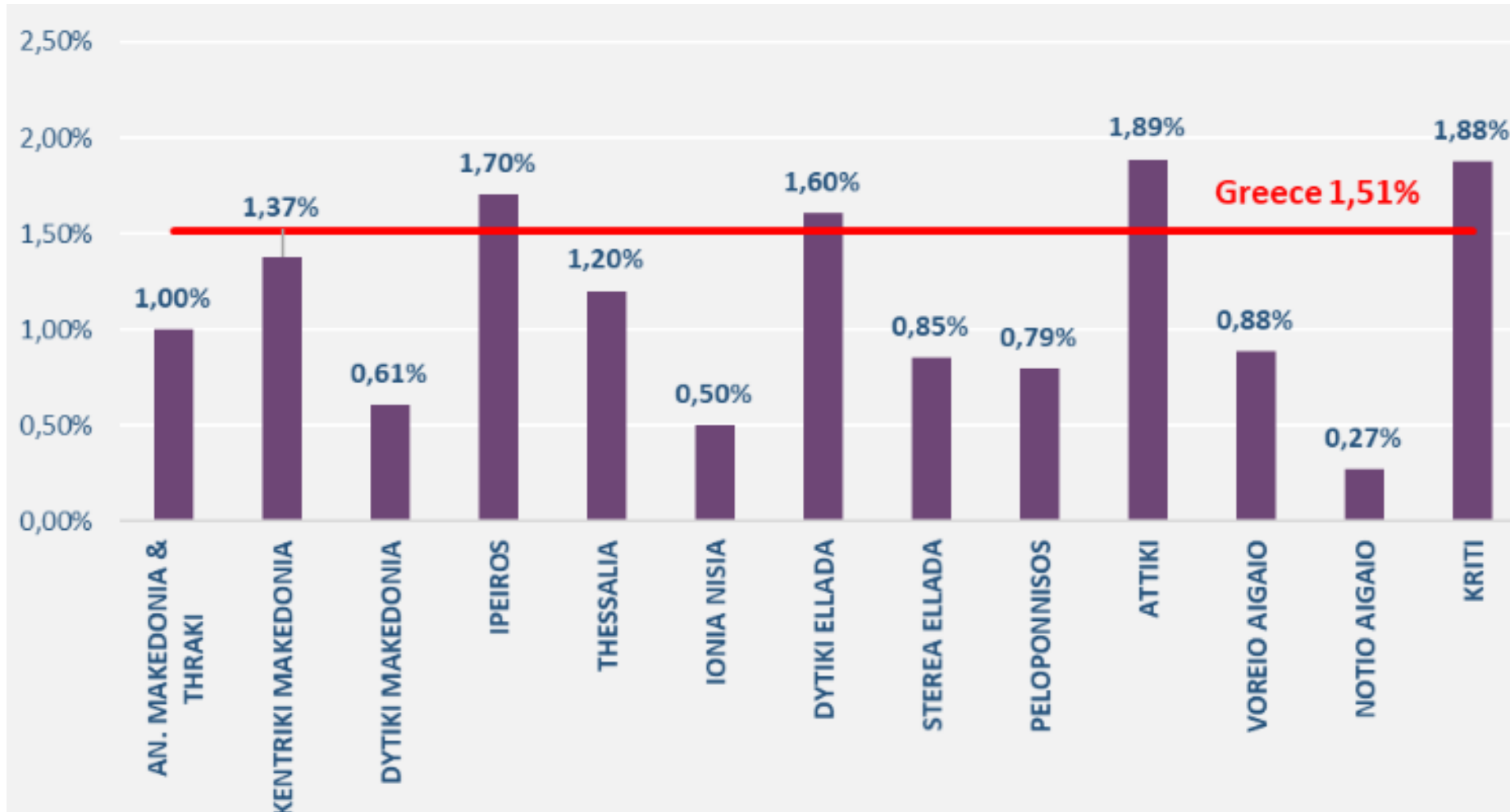


Source:
National Documentation Centre



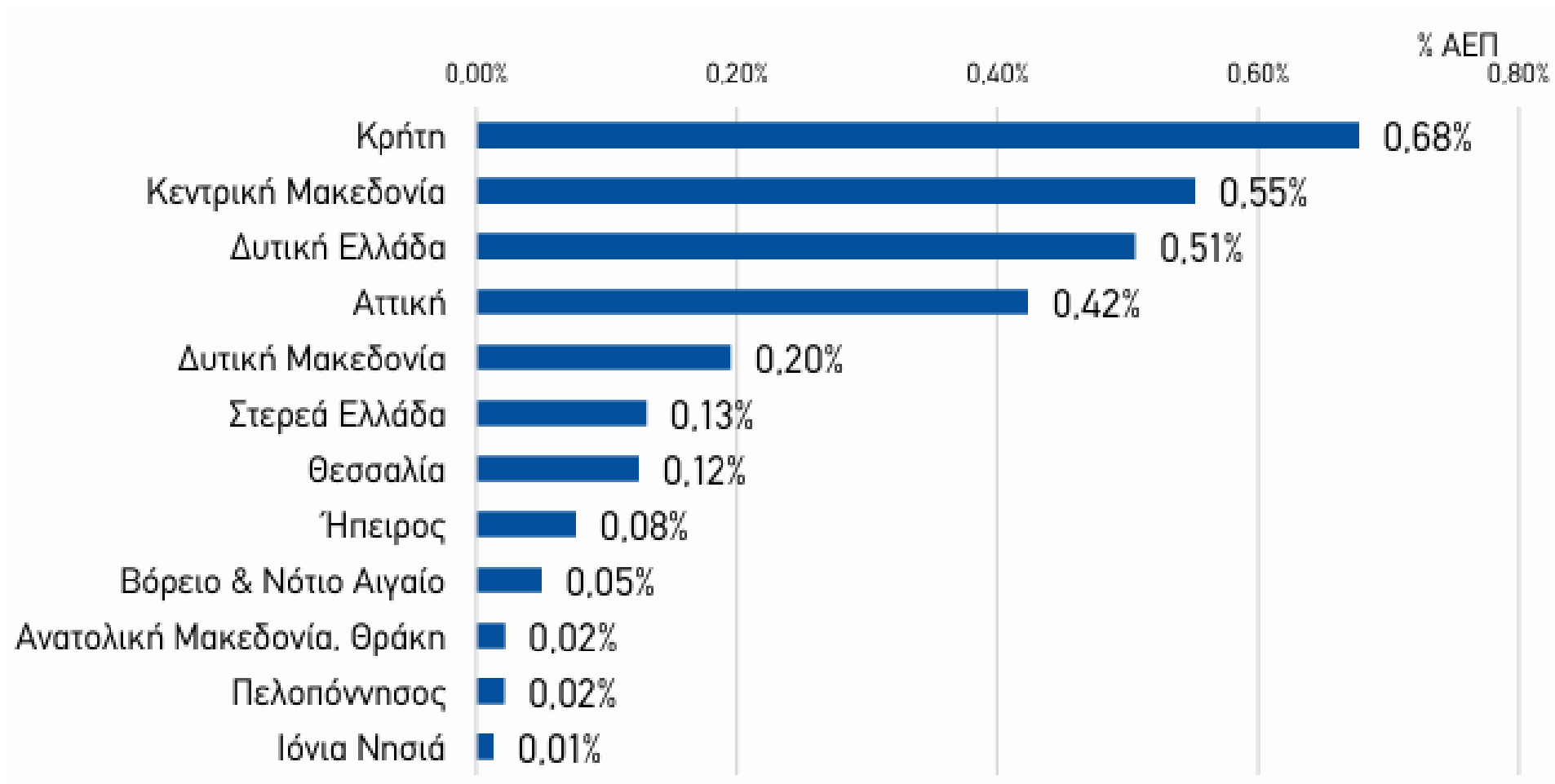
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Research and development expenditure as a percentage (%) of GDP (2020)



Source: National Documentation Centre

Gross domestic product (GDP) at current market price from Horizon Europe Projects (2020-2021)



Source: Eurostat

The evolution of the population of Crete region and sub-regions vs Greece

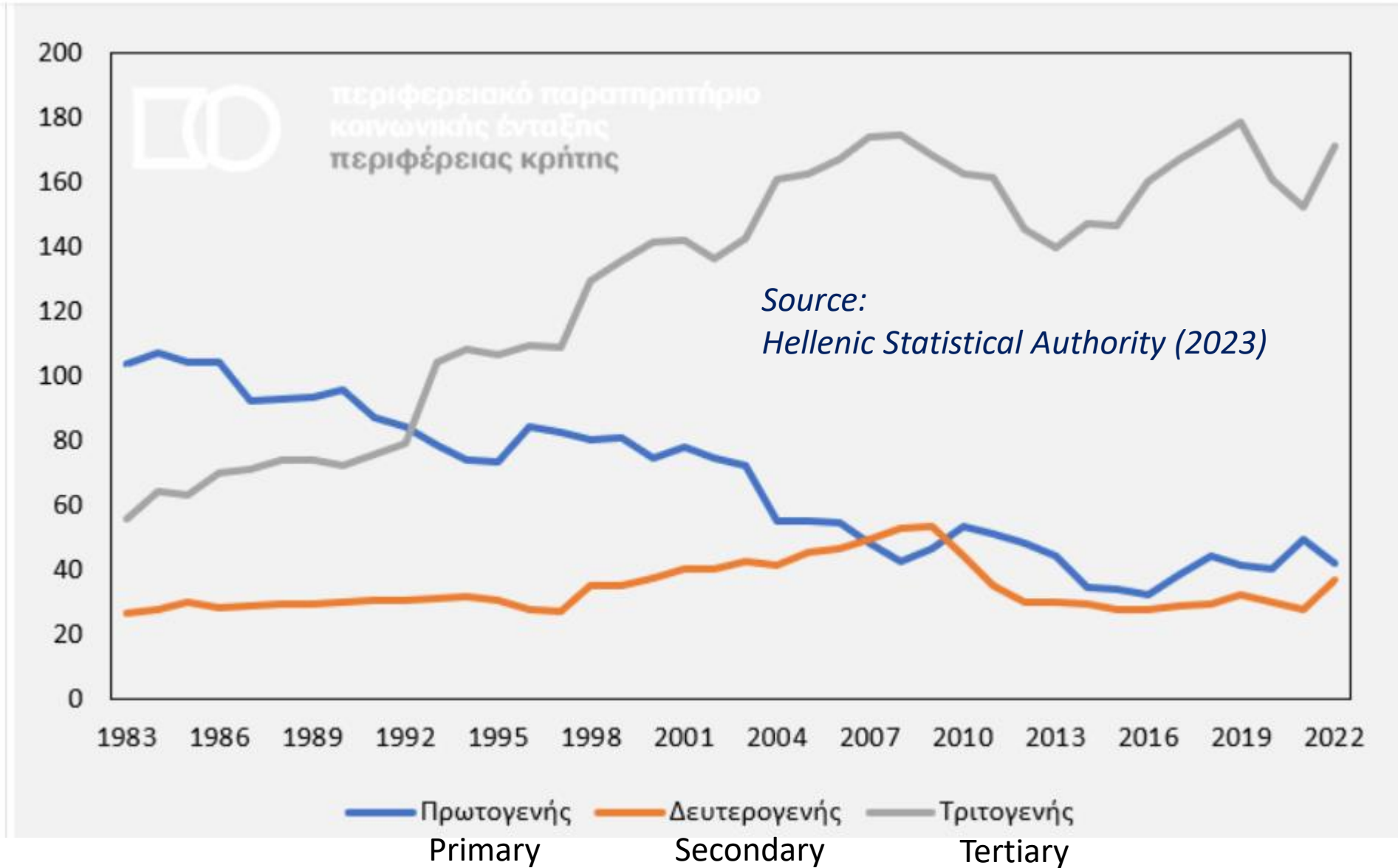


ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗ Region	2020	2060	ΔΙΑΦΟΡΑ	%ΜΕΤ.
Ν.Ηρακλείου	314.715	312.547	-2.168	-0,7
Ν.Λασιθίου	73.889	65.077	-8.812	-11,9
Ν.Ρεθύμνης	87.797	88.142	345	0,4
Ν.Χανίων	160.120	159.034	-1.086	-0,7
ΚΡΗΤΗ Crete	636.521	624.800	-11.721	-1,8
ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΧΩΡΑΣ	10.696.535	9.038.456	-1.658.079	-15,5

GREECE

Source: Manolis Drettakis, 2021

Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sector of employment in Periphery of Crete vs time



What local governments should do to increase the University impact?



- ☐ Offering appropriate land for University development
- ☐ Offering the appropriate physical infrastructure such as roads, water supply, electrical supply, communication supply and transportation services
- ☐ Development of specific policies for social integration of the academic community in the city
- ☐ Interacting with University Liaison Offices and acting as an intermediary with local businesses and local Chambers of Commerce and Technology
- ☐ Developing support policies for special structures for conducting scientific meetings and conferences
- ☐ Supporting the connection between Universities and the school community of the region with special actions and funding
- ☐ Developing policies to support needy students
- ☐ Establishing awards for excellent students and successful academic teachers and researchers



The Academic structures in Municipality of Rethymnon



- ❑ Population 56 000 people + 10000 Students
- ❑ Headquarters of the University of Crete (UoK) and branch of Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU) and Foundation of Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH)

- ❑ **UoK** - SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY (DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY), - SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION), - SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE), – RESEARCH CENTER FOR HUMANITIES, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
- ❑ **HMU** - SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND OPTOACOUSTIC TECHNOLOGIES (DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AND ACOUSTICS, DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC STUDIES) , – UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER (INSTITUTE OF PLASMA PHYSICS AND LASER)
- ❑ **FORTH** – INSTITUTE FOR MEDITERANEAN STUDIES





☐ Establishment of a Center for Scientific Culture

- ✓ The establishment of a management regulation for the co-operation of public and private structures hosting large international conferences and international schools + universities networking events with the local community
- ✓ The drawing up of a techno-economic study after recording the possibilities of organizing large international conferences and schools mainly in periods outside the summer
- ✓ The finding of financial tools for the development of the administration and management structures of the Scientific Culture Center within the framework of the programmatic agreement of the Municipality with the Region of Crete and the local Academic structures.
- ✓ The extended and systematic utilization of the scientific potential of the region for the developement of the interconnection of the Academic structures with Secondary and Primary education and the citizens of the city (e.g. Science in the city, Researcher's night evenings, researchers at schools, summer schools for students, science popularization days, visits in research centers of the city, natural science festival, promotion festival of humanities and social sciences, University and Research Center Open days, etc.)

☐ Municipal Liaison Office with Universities

- ✓ Helping Students, Academic Staff and young researchers to integrate into the social fabric and the local labor market
- ✓ Participation in the management and operating costs of the large infrastructures of the local university (Large Amphitheater, new large facilities for student residences, sports facilities, etc.)



The End

Thank you for your attention