



IN-SITE ANALYSIS

The scope of the in-site analysis document is according to the approved AF *“to inform participants on problems solved and good practices implemented”*. The provided information should be brief, in order participants of the Study Visits to have a clear view of the Fortress and actions, projects and policies which have been developed around it or planned to be developed.

Name of the Fortress, Location	Byzantine Fortress of Komotini, Greece
Brief Historical Background	<p>It was built around the 4th AD century for financial and military reasons since from here was passing Egnatia Str. The city of Komotini Fences the Emperor Theodosius I (379-395 AD) because it was considered as a point of strategic importance. From here went Egnatia Street and military-economic reasons the city was fortified by a wall built with stones. Had sixteen towers, of which twelve were rectangular and circular on the four corners. The height reached to 9.60 m He had two main entrances to the SW and SE side, and there were two smaller ones. Over the centuries and destruction of neighboring villages, thanks to the protection offered, it became an attraction for the people of the region. The wall remained intact until 1363. The Turks, during the invasion, destroyed part of the castle and built with its stones of mosques.</p> <p>Until the beginning of the 20th century the precinct was kept almost intact. Around 1910, the first systematic actions of stoning the towers and ramparts of the south and west side by the Turkish authorities for the construction of the Division building are recorded. The destructive actions continued for the next decade by the Greek Administration, when almost the entire northern side and a large part of the eastern side were demolished. Finally, in 1950, part of the south side was demolished in order to open the road that now crosses the Fortress with a north-south axis.</p>



<p>Current Status</p>	<p>For many years, the fortress and its surroundings were neglected in the city and did not play a crucial role in the socioeconomic life. It is characteristic that people of Komotini named it “the wall”, as it was not the feeling that the centre of the city was built around the fortress.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the last decade, attention has been given to the area and the most important actors, which are related to the fortress (Municipality of Komotini, Ephorate of Antiquities of Rodopi and Metropolis of Komotini, have developed various project, most of them in cooperation among them, for the development of the area. All this effort brought the fortress again to the centre of the attention of the city and social and economic activity have moved from the central square of Komotini to the area around Byzantine Fortress.</p>
<p>Recent projects implemented</p>	<p>The first interventions on the monument were made by the then 12th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, responsible for the area, between 1991 and 1996. They included mainly fixing works on the east, south and west side of the fortification. The main goal was to deal with the detachment of the stones with additions and in place joints for the enhancement of its statics. In addition, a 4.00 m wide green belt was created along the west side.</p> <p>Then with the creation of the 15th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities in 2005 under the responsibility of the monuments of Thrace begins the new period for the monument with the main goal of its preservation.</p> <p>The Byzantine Fortress of Komotini in 2011 was included in the Operational Program Macedonia - Thrace 2007-2013 with an initial budget of 820,000 €, which was reformed at the request of the implementing body in the amount of 1,020,000 €. The project entitled "Consolidation and shaping of the Byzantine Wall of Komotini", functioned in addition to the efforts made during the 1970s and 1990s to save the monument, effectively putting an end to a process of decline and abandonment. The project was completed in 2015 and the initial implementation body was the 15th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, while after October 2014 and the change of the organization chart of the Ministry of Culture, the implementation of the project was undertaken by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Rodopi.</p> <p>Through this project, part of the walls were restored, including two towers, so the western part of the fortress started to remind its old shape and create at last the impression to citizens of Komotini and visitors that there is a fortress in the city.</p>
<p>Projects under implementation or planned to be implemented</p>	<p>Back in 2016, Municipality of Komotini in cooperation with Ephorate of Antiquities of Rodopi and Metropolis of Komotini, created the Municipal Master Plan for Urban Development. The Target area of the plan was the Byzantine Fortress of Komotini and the area around it. Under the master plan, various subprojects were developed by responsible partners. These</p>



	<p>subprojects are funded under Regional Operational Programme 2014 – 2020 of Region of East Macedonia and Thrace and more specifically by the policy and funding instrument, which is called “Integrated Territorial Intervention Egnatia”.</p> <p>These subprojects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of the Byzantine Fortress of Komotini • Restoration of the roads around Byzantine Fortress • Restoration of the Historical Church of Assumption • Restoration of the Ecclesiastic church (Imaret) • Restoration of the old Bishopry of Komotini • Create of cultural route around Byzantine Fortress <p>Most of these projects are in the finalization phase.</p>
<p>Local, regional, national and/or European policies used related to the preservation of the Fortress and the development of the area</p>	<p>The most important policy and funding opportunity, which is related to the Byzantine Fortress of Komotini is the Integrated Territorial Investment “Egnatia, which is part of the Regional Operational Programme of East Macedonia and Thrace 2014 – 2020.</p> <p>The strategic goal of the INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENT OF THE CULTURAL ROUTE OF EGNATIA ROAD, is to create a comprehensive network of tourist destinations with interventions in important cultural sites, improvement of spatial planning and, mainly, completion of the value chain of the tourism - culture sector and in its emergence as a distinct, international TOURIST DESTINATION OF EXCELLENCE, so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to create a special tourist identity based on the rich natural and cultural resources of the Region • to integrate the tourism and cultural resources of the Region in a single network • to create nodes and individual poles of combined interest • to strengthen the accompanying alternative forms of tourism • to develop collaborations with neighboring Regions and countries in the field of promotion of natural and cultural resources • to create a distinct, international TOURIST DESTINATION • to have a positive combined effect on the development of tourism activity and through it on the employment and income of the inhabitants of the area. <p>The budget of ITII Egnatia is around 32 million Euro</p>
<p>Local, regional and/or national stakeholders involved</p>	<p>All key actors of the area are involved in the development and implementation of the action plan and its subprojects for the Byzantine for Fortress of Komotini:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephorate of antiquities of Rodopi • Metropolis of Komotini • Region of East Macedonia and Thrace



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Authority of Regional Operational Programme 2014 – 2020 of East Macedonia and Thrace • Chamber of Commerce • Chamber of industry • Disability people NGO “Perpato” • Democritus University of Thrace
<p>Public consultations (if any)</p>	<p>During the preparation of the Komotini’s master plan for urban development in 2016, there was a public consultation for the future of the area and the vision of economic and social partners of the city and citizens.</p> <p>More than 12 open public meetings were made, and more than 100 persons submitted their proposals and opinion by using a structured questionnaire that the municipal employees created for the consultation.</p>
<p>Public opinion</p>	<p>The public opinion is very positive for the interventions in the Byzantine Fortress and around it. Special interest is given from entrepreneurs of the city and the region, who find the highlighting of the rea as an opportunity for starting more attractive business, by the increase of visitors in the area.</p> <p>The main crucial point remains thee parking seats in the centre, which are limited, and by the above mentioned projects are decrease even more.</p>
<p>Existing problems related the preservation of the Fortress and the development of the area</p>	<p>From the previous analysis, can the following overall problems be identified in the intervention area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First, the intervention area, although part of the city center, has not been functionally integrated with its other parts. This is due to the fact that the intervention area is not connected to the network of sidewalks, bicycle lanes and light roads that has already been formed and covers a large part of the city center. The paving and pedestrian walkways that have been implemented in the intervention area (eg on Stoukopoulou Street and in a part of Tsanakli Street) are cut off from the rest of the city network. - Also, the important centers - poles of activity located in the intervention area are unconnected to each other, as the intervention area presents a relaxed internal functional coherence. At this point, the non-implementation of the road plan in the area of the Byzantine Castle has an important role. - The important monuments located in the area of intervention have not been sufficiently preserved and highlighted, as a result of which they are not recognizable and are not attractive to the



	<p>residents and visitors of the city, in proportion to the value and importance they have for the Historical Identity of Komotini.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the intervention area there is intense use of the car, either for transit or for parking, which results in the general nuisance of residents and visitors, both from air pollution and environmental noise. - The intervention area remains in a state of relative degradation, which does not make it particularly attractive to either city visitors or professionals, at least to the extent and intensity that would be commensurate with the value of the monuments included in the this area. Thus, while the other part of the city center is suffocated by the density and intensity of the different uses that are installed in it (eg the pedestrian street of Venizelou Street), in the intervention area the business activities are relatively weak.
<p>Problems solved related the preservation of the Fortress and the development of the area</p>	<p>During the last decade. That the Byzantine Fortress of Komotini was brought back to the centre of interest, many problems were faced and solved: and more specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unclear status of ownership of different parts of the target area • The mobilization of all related actors • The creation of a common master plan for the restoration of the Byzantine Fortress and the development of the area • The funding of subproject of the master plan
<p>Good practices used</p>	<p>No specific good practice was used for the restoration work, which was implemented in another city. Of course, all works and project take into consideration the common practices for the restoration and highlighting of a monument.</p>
<p>Policy instruments related to the Fortress preservation and development</p>	<p>Two policy instruments are related to the restoration of the Byzantine Fortress of Komotini (both have been analyzed above):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Komotini Master Plan for Urban Development 2. Integrated Territorial Investment “Egnatia”, of the Managing Authority of Regional Operation Fund 2014 – 2021 of Region of East Macedonia and Thrace
<p>Brief evaluation of the status before Study Visit</p>	<p>In general, there is a positive activity regarding the Byzantine Fortress of Komotini the last years. And this activity will go on during the new programming period 2021 – 2027, as the needed attention has been given to the Fortress by all important actors, including entrepreneurships and citizens of Komotini.</p>



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Webpages related to the Fortress containing useful information for participants	https://www.kastra.eu/castleen.php?kastro=komotini https://www.emtgreece.com/en/archeological-sites/fortress-and-the-byzantine-wall-of-komotini http://www.jti-rhodope.eu/poi.php?poi_id=1_497&lang=en
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