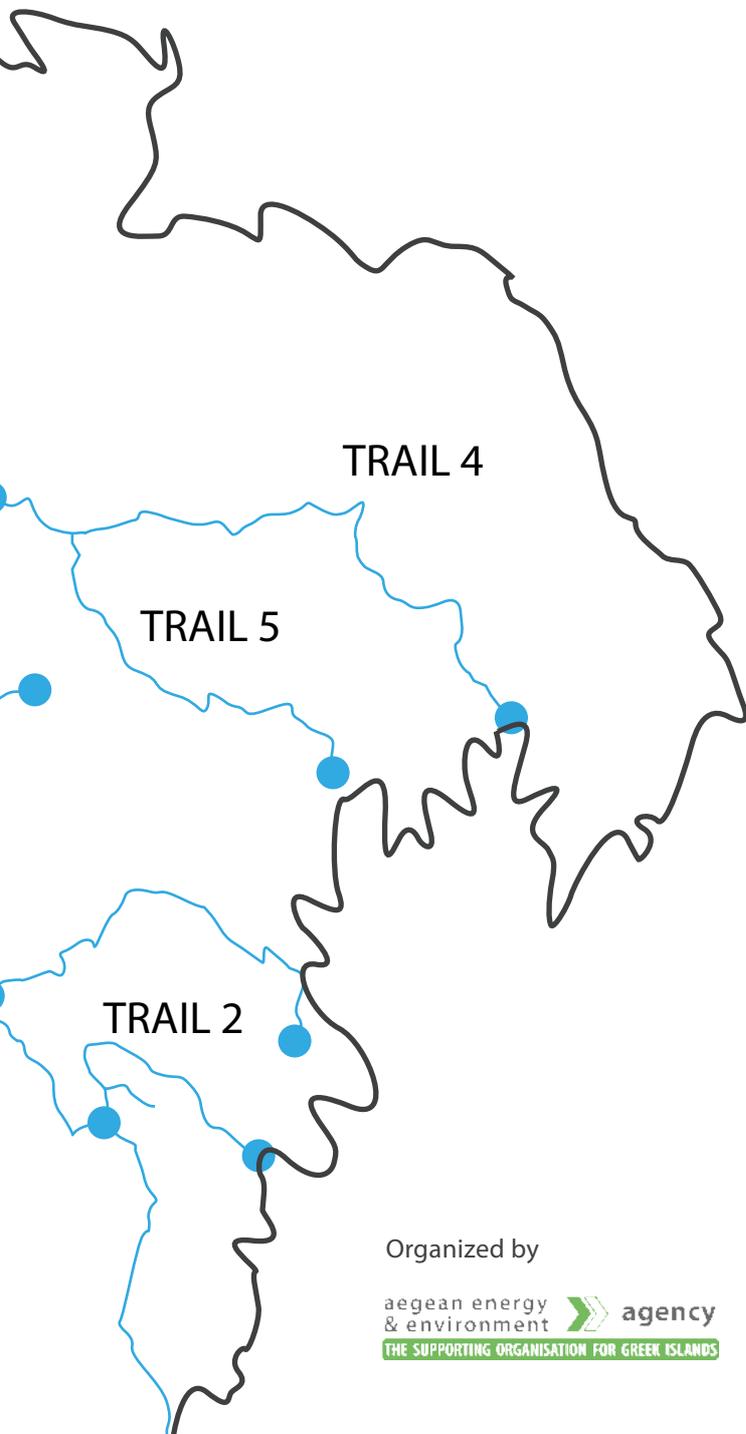


Cultural Paths & Sustainable Tourism in Kythnos Island

International Experts Meeting

9 June 2017
Town Hall (Chora)



Introduction

Kythnos is a small Greek island (99.3km² – 1608 inhabitants) with four main settlements. It lies on the West area of the Cycladic complex and can be reached from the port of Lavrio in less than 2 hours.

A big part of hinterland including the two largest settlements (Chora and Dryopida) has preserved, to a great extent, its traditional character. Moreover, the countryside, with its old farms, pasture lands, glens, innumerable scattered stone artefacts, areas with virgin vegetation, and coastal areas with exceptional beaches represents a unique Mediterranean landscape. Further, the variety of archaeological sites including Vryokastro, the Castle of Orias and the prehistoric remains of Maroulas, as well as the many old industrial buildings constitute one of the most valuable reservoirs of the Aegean civilization.

Particularly extensive is the network of trails that, in the past, used to connect the entire island allowing farmers and their animals to access any point they wished within the island.

Nowadays trails are still there, yet not always continuous. The abandonment of traditional agriculture and livestock farming, coupled with the building of roads and other infrastructure has shifted attention away from the need to actively preserve the trails.

Completing and restoring the network of trails along with setting-up information centers on the island and using modern channels of communication and promotion will help build a branding strategy for Kythnos as a special interest tourism destination.

Action Plan

1. Organisation of an international experts' meeting, June 9 2017, Kythnos island
2. Draft of Master Plan and Feasibility Study
3. Project implementation

The aim of the meeting is to explore the possibility of preparing and implementing the steps (2) and (3) through the international cooperation, the dialog with local stakeholders and the financing institutions.

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