



ELLINIKI ETAIRIA
Society for the Environment
and Cultural Heritage

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA (Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage - ELLET) has since 1972 been active in the fight for the preservation of Greece's natural environment and cultural heritage.

During the last 47 years ELLINIKI ETAIRIA has fought many important battles, among which the establishment of the **Marine Park of Alonissos**, the **saving of Plaka** (a struggle that continues to this day), the protection of the **Delphic landscape**, of the **Southern Saronic Gulf**, of **Pylos**, of the **Prespa lakes**, of the Tatoi estate, of part of the area of **Marathon**, of the **hellenistic tower of Kea**, of many byzantine churches and of historic settlements such as those of **Hydra** and other **Aegean islands**.

At the same time, monuments outside the country's borders have also been saved from demolition, decay and abandonment: the campanile of **San Giorgio dei Greci in Venice**, the **Church of St. Panteleimon or Kizil Kilise in Cappadocia**, and the frescoes of the **Medieval Refectory in the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine at Sinai**.

ELLET is also active in environmental education, and -with its substantiated studies and proposals- in protecting the seas and the forests and in planning for sustainable tourism, carrying capacity and environmental tax reform.

All this thanks to the support of sponsors, scientists, volunteers, members and friends.

Some of ELLET's recent leading projects are:

A. CLIMATE CHANGE:

ELLET is the only civil society representative together with 18 partners, among which the Ministry of Environment, the Academy of Athens, NTUA, the Bank of Greece et al. in the EU funded LIFE IP programme to be implemented in the next 8 years. The aim of the programme is to monitor the implementation climate adaptation policies in all 13 regions of Greece. ELLET's main task will be raising awareness, education, introducing adaptation policies concerning archaeological sites, land uses and landscapes.

B. RESTORATION PROGRAMMES:

NAXOS: St. Kyriaki

One of the rarest Byzantine monuments in the Aegean - Hagia Kyriaki Church which bears witness to the Byzantine Iconoclasm- was restored and returned to the spotlight! This amazing church was saved before the water coming through its dome destroyed its rare frescoes, emblematic of aniconic art, which include crosses, geometric and plant motifs, as well as unique representations of birds. Hagia Kyriaki won the European Union / Europa Nostra Award - Grand Prix for restoration in Berlin last year.



ARCADIA: Moni Philosophou

ELLET is ensuring a new life for the historic Holy Monastery of Philosophou in Arcadia -one of the most important Christian monuments in the Peloponnese- undertaking the architectural study on the conservation and restoration of the building complex at the historic monument in the famous Lousios Gorge. Zeus, the father of the Olympian gods, according to Pausanias, washed at the sources of Lousios river after his birth.



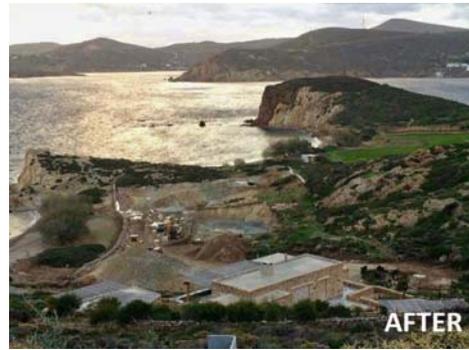
MANI: Ag. Petros

The church of St. Peter in Kastania dates to the 12th c. The church faced serious structural problems and the exceptionally high quality Byzantine frescoes had also suffered serious damage. The restoration of this exceptional church was warmly welcomed by the local community, won a Europa Nostra Award for conservation and has attracted since a significant number of visitors to the remote village of Kastania.

C. SOS PROGRAMME

Patmos legal fights (2018) – major victory!

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA is in favour of those construction works in Patmos, a unique UNESCO World Heritage Site. that improve its growth prospects in line with the principles of sustainability. For this reason, ELLINIKI ETAIRIA had to appeal to the Council of State and won two legal cases against the extensive construction of the Liginou bay, ELLINIKI ETAIRIA believes that Patmos' natural and cultural importance goes beyond any local and national administrative boundaries and belongs to humanity.



Marathon (2018) – important victory – “Νενικήκαμεν”

After 12 years of sustained effort, finally the historic beach of Marathon-Schinias, where the Persian fleet anchored invading Marathon, has been cleared of illegal, ugly constructions and has emerged as a place of peaceful memory for the historic battle that shaped European civilization. Furthermore, the lush nature of Marathon with its rare pine forest, wetlands and unique flora and fauna (more than 320 species of plants and more than 230 species of birds) has thus been allowed to revive.



Makrygianni (2019) – very important success!

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA has managed to yield the **first positive results in the fight against the construction of tall buildings obscuring the Acropolis and Parthenon!**

The Municipality of Athens the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment, after an incredibly successful mobilization of public opinion with an Avaaz petition collecting thousands of signatures in 10 days and unanimous support of the media, have revoked permits for very high buildings and are preparing new legislation protecting the view of the Acropolis.

Furthermore, **ELLEET secured the support of Europa Nostra**, the European federation of cultural organizations, stressing the **international dimension of this issue**.

Please see below some of the articles in the media:

- <https://nos.nl/artikel/2274637-protesten-tegen-hoogbouw-rond-akropolis-in-athene-hebben-succes.html>
- https://www.lavanguardia.com/cultura/20190304/46824187464/grecia-paraliza-construccion-hoteles-cropolisatenas.html?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=cultura&utm_campaign=lv&fbclid=IwAR3rR2zdpkMjoiTZuJquqMpXGaLQeLVGkM_Uk8BNJbWh9rsA9fHyXCTxla4
- <http://www.ekathimerini.com/237874/article/ekathimerini/news/protests-mount-over-tall-buildings-around-acropolis>
- <http://www.ekathimerini.com/236368/article/ekathimerini/news/makriyianni-residents-bemoan-new-buildings-at-foot-of-acropolis>
- <https://greece.greekreporter.com/2019/02/21/acropolis-obscured-greeks-angry-at-construction-near-the-holy-rock/>
- <https://www.thenationalherald.com/233410/no-more-acropolis-blocking-buildings-construction-suspended/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/mar/08/not-everythings-for-sale-greeks-mobilise-as-new-hotels-obscure-acropolis-views-athens>

Delphic Landscape (2019)

The archaeological site of Delphi and its region constitutes a landscape of exquisite beauty, outstanding world-wide historical value and artistic importance. No wonder that the Delphic landscape has been included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

ELLET had protected successfully the Delphic landscape in the past (1980). Once more, to ensure the protection of this unique area ELLINIKI ETAIRIA, responding to the request of local civil society and organizations, decided to join forces with the Municipality of Delphi and the Region of Central Greece and file a separate appeal to the Council of State to annul the newly revised Regional Plan. This new legislation proposes the creation of mining zones in areas adjacent to the Delphic landscape and may lead to its irreversible degradation.

Forests (2019)

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA responded to requests of associations from all over Greece to support them by taking a legal stand against recent legislation undermining the protection of the forests. This legislation results in violations of the State's constitutional obligation to draw up a Forest Registry and to protect forests and woodland areas.

D. GREEK PATHS OF CULTURE PROGRAMME

“An act of sheer brilliance!”, *Bettany Hughes, Journalist & BBC Presenter, Prospect Magazine, 12/12/2012*

The **“Greek Paths of Culture”** is an integrated, multi-disciplinary programme, which involves selecting, sign-posting and linking up a nexus of public footpaths in areas of particular environmental or cultural importance in Greece.

Wherever the programme was completed the impact on local economy has been really impressive, securing jobs in hotels, restaurants, shops, local products etc, throughout the country, thus securing employment for the young in their area.

This year is seeing the completion of the paths in **Epidaurus**, in **Thrace**, in **Crete**, in **Lesser Cyclades** and is starting in the wider area of **Delphi** and **Samothrace**.



For further information on our recent work, please see the latest issue of our annual magazine:

Δράσεις / Our Work 2018

http://ellet.gr/taneamasarchive/ELLET_Draseis_OurWork_2018.pdf

www.ellet.gr