

GREENEU

Green transition against COVID19 and climate crisis

7th International Meeting in Agia (Greece)

23rd – 26th January 2024

Municipality of Agia

Infopack



About the partner

The **Municipality of Agia** is located in the region of Thessaly in Central Greece. The total area of the municipality is 668.26 km² and has a population of 10.705 inhabitants, as of 2021. The current form of the municipality arose with the “Kallikratis” Program from the extension of the original municipality of Agia by the merger of the pre-existing municipalities of Lakeria, Evrimenes and Melivia.

The Municipality of Agia consists of 22 villages. Their main characteristics are the traditional architecture and the agricultural way of life.

Agriculture plays a significant role in the local economy since the vast majority of the inhabitants of the Municipality of Agia are farmers. They raise almost 30% of the total Greek apple production, which means about 60.000 tones. The most important local products are: **apples, cherries, chestnuts, olives, extra virgin olive oil and kiwis.**

Tourism is also one of the most important economic activities as the Municipality of Agia has one of the longest coastlines and one of the longest beaches in Greece. This is a wonderful combination of mountains and sea, of small picturesque bays and long beaches, of quiet places and organized beaches attractive to all types of visitors.

The **main characteristics of our region are:**

- The 36 km long **coastline** and especially the 13 km long beach that expands from Velika to Agiokampos.
- The mountains **Ossa** (GR 142003, GR 142007) and **Mavrovouni** (GR 142004, GR 142006) that part of them is a nature reserve for rare kinds of birds and animals and belongs to the NATURA 2000 network
- **Lake Karla** (GR 142004) and the **Delta of Pinios River** (GR142002, CITES), which are nature reserves for rare kinds of birds and belong also to the NATURA 2000 network
- The **mineral springs of Kokkino Nero**. The water temperature is 13°C and researches have proved that its body chemistry heals some kinds of diseases.



The most important sights of our region are:

- **The Castle of Velika**

The Castle of Velika dates back to 400 B.C. according to findings. Findings also show that during the Byzantine period another one was built on top of it. Until today, a church, a part of the fort and a part of the settlement have been excavated.

During the excavation period, the Municipality of Agia in collaboration with the Archaeological Department of the University of Thessaly and the Ephorate of Antiquities welcome and host both Greek and foreign students.

According to Homer **Philoctetes** was the **King of Melivia**. He was one of the kings that took part in the Trojan Crusade. On their way to Troy the Achaeans dropped anchor in Lemnos. There Hera, who envied him sent a snake to bite him. The wound smelled very bad and he was in such pain that he was screaming loudly. Due to this the Achaeans decided to leave him in Lemnos. He stayed there for ten years until Odysseus came to steal his bows because they could not win the War without them. Finally Odysseus convinced him to follow him to Troy after his wound was healed.

The excavation of the Castle of Velika brought into light findings that prove that Philoctetes was the King of Melivia.



- Churches and monasteries from the Byzantine and the post-Byzantine Period
- Traditional villages like Metaxohori, Megalovryso and Anatoli
- Archeological Finds of the Neolithic Period
- Stone arched bridges and aqueducts
- The historical center of the town of Agia
- The network of paths that connect the mountains with the coast
- The mountain of Cells

During the byzantine period and especially from the 11th century a large number of monks founded monasteries and cells on Mt Kissavos or Ossa. They chose this region because it was a passing point for those travelling to Constantinople or Pontos.



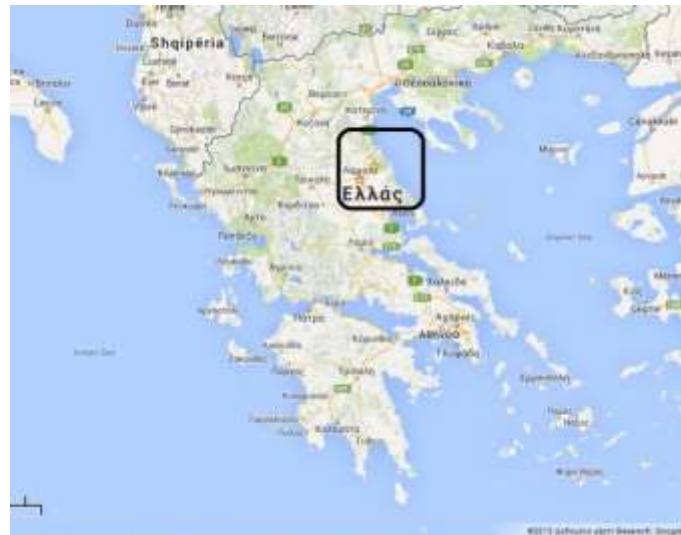
The most **important events** are:

- **Apple Feast in Agia from the 31st of August to the 5th of September**
- **Cherry Feast in Metaxohori at the 2nd weekend of June**
- **Mushroom Feast in Sklithro and in Anatoli in October**
- **Chestnut Feast in Melivia and Karitsa in October**
- **Kissavos Marathon Race in April**
- **Coastal Marathon in July**
- **Cycling Marathon on mountain Kissavos in May**
- **“Philoctetes” Swimming Marathon from Agiokampos to Velika in September**

The Municipality of Agia believes in the involvement of young people and groups of citizens in activities that will let them gain new skills, teach them to cooperate, to share and also how to achieve common goals. It is of great importance to focus on challenges like social integration and search for best practices in order to achieve them. These best practices shall combine both the facilities in our area as the potential that our citizens have.

Thanks to the participation of the Municipality in several EU funded projects over the last few years, the region of Agia has been an active member of several networks regarding social inclusion, integration of immigrants, volunteering, youth, solidarity, social enterprises, rural tourism and the preservation of cultural heritage. Through networking, brainstorming, best-practice exchange and the contact to European communities and organizations new skills and innovative ideas can be gained that shall lead to local development based on the respect for nature, history and human relations.

www.dimosagias.gr



CLOSEST AIRPORT TO AGIA

- THESSALONIKI INT. AIRPORT "MAKEDONIA" (SKG) 200km approx.
- ATHENS INT. AIRPORT "ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELOS" (ATH) 400km approx.

ACCOMMODATION

- “Archontiko Soulioti”
<https://www.souliotismansion.com/>

There are everyday transfers from/to the hotel for all the activities

CONTACTS

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Available also on **Messenger**, **Viber** and **WhatsApp**

