

## Spa and Wellness tourism development: Cases from three Greek islands.

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## Outline

- Research rationale
- Research questions
- Results
- Conclusions

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Research Rationale – The case of Greece

- Greece has developed these two forms since the late decades of 19<sup>th</sup> century
- different level of services at various destinations
- well-known destinations have been underdeveloped due to lack of appropriate management and legal framework



## Research

Rationale

## special forms of tourism

• effort to enhance tourism experience

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## Wellness and Spa tourism

- need a standard of substantial services
- " appropriate legal framework



## Research Rationale

Project "Sustainable development of tourism: Diving tourism in Marine Protected Areas and Thermalism in Areas of Thermal Natural Resources" (2017-2020) co-funded by Greece and the European Union

Leader: National Centre for Social Research – EKKE

Special forms of tourism

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# Legal Framework implementation

Locals' perspective

Diving Tourism Spa & Wellness Tourism



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Proposed Legal Framework for Thermal Springs

New legal framework

- a) terms and conditions for the acquisition of the operating license for the officially recognized natural resources.
- b) terms for the distribution of thermal natural resources.
- c) quality standards for spas.
- d) consolidation of the protection zones that are described at the relative hydro geological studies with presidential decrees, so that investments can be facilitated.



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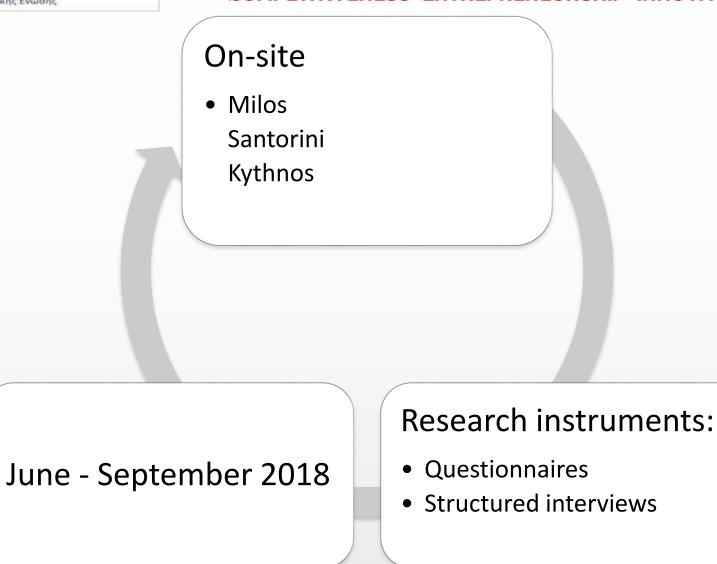
## Research goals

- To monitor specific characteristics of several destinations
- To record locals' opinion about tourism development and spa and wellness tourism
- To examine the level of necessity in terms of adaptation of the proposed network



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Methodology and Data Analysis





Methodology and Data Analysis

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- 32 open-ended and closed questions
  - demographics
  - Current challenges and potential of tourism development (generic)
  - Perspective of respondents on Spa and Wellness tourism
    - Legal framework
    - Problems
    - Potential
    - Goals and proposed practices for further development
    - Current profiles of tourists



**GENDER** 34,3% **OCCUPATION** 2,9% 2,9% 65,7% 28,6% Female Male AGE 65,7% 5,7% 11,4% Public Authority Hotels, restaurants 82,9% Other tourism businesses Commerce

## Results



## Results

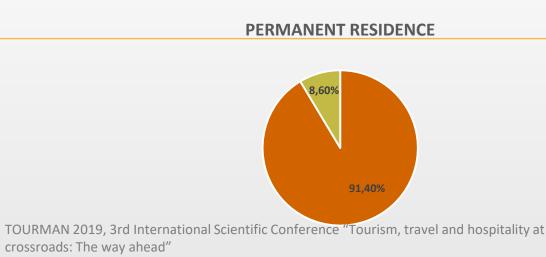
### QUALITY OF LIFE

- 1. Financial
  - opportunities
- 2. Physical
- Environment
- Facilities and
  Infrastructure/Pace of
  Life

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#### **PRIORITY TO DEVELOPMENT**

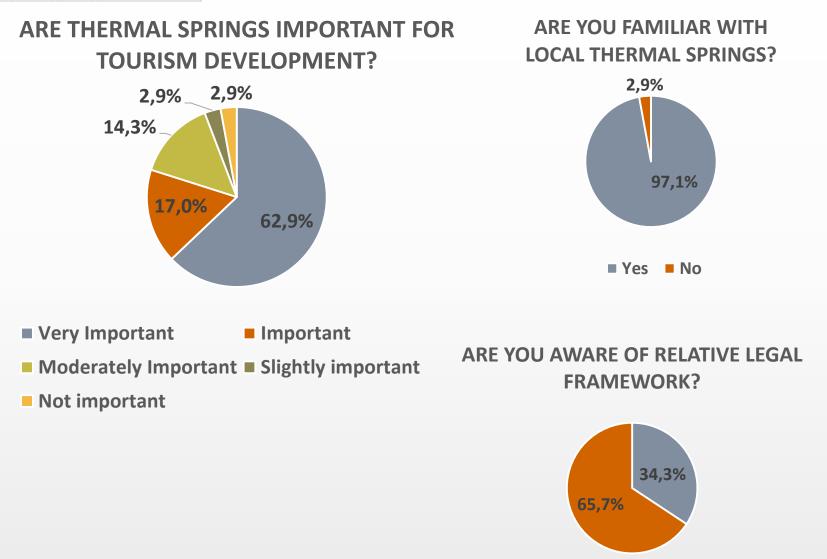
- 1. Tourism Development
- 2. Other (Facilities, Infrastructure Accessibility)



#### Research area Athens

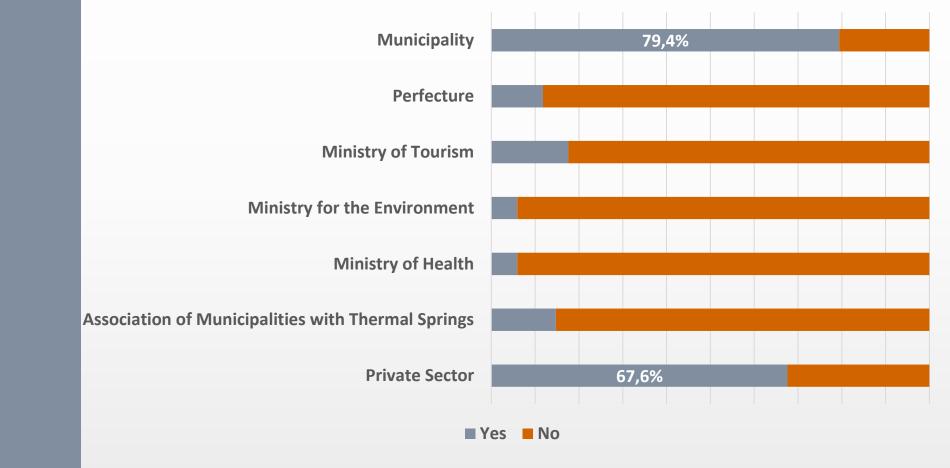








#### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THERMAL SPRINGS**

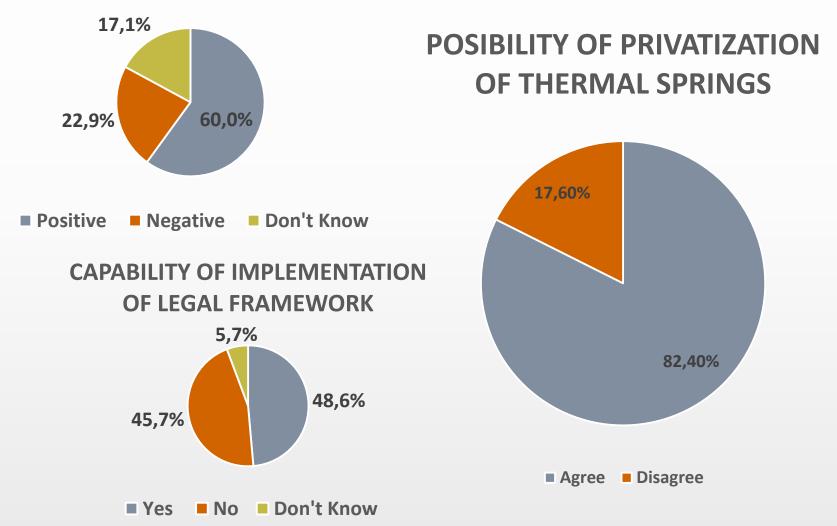


#### TOURMAN 2019, 3rd International Scientific Conference "Tourism, travel and hospitality at crossroads: The way ahead"

## Results



**REACTION OF LOCAL COMMUNITY** 

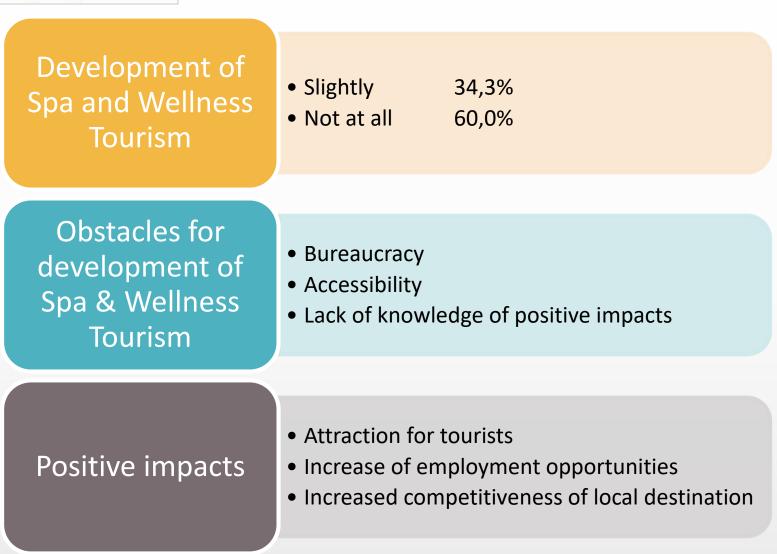


Results



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Results





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## Results

Other issues to be highlighted

- New development model based on international and national cases (*Without neglecting the old one*)
- Some respondents declared the importance of thermal springs also for local people



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

## Conclusions

- Positive perspective over this form of tourism and the legal framework
- Lack of interest for Spa & Wellness tourism mainly because of other more important problems
- The problems remain the same...(generic accessibility of the destination, generic problems of facilities, lack of planning etc.)
- Different levels of development lead to different perspective



Further & Ongoing Research EPANEK 2014-2020 OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME COMPETITIVENESS•ENTREPRENEURSHIP•INNOVATION

- Exploitation of the experience from other international or national destinations
  - E.g. cases of Aidipsos or Pozar springs
- Goal: Best practices implementation and monitoring possible adaptation of legal framework



# Thank you for your attention!

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3rd International Scientific Conference "Tourism, travel and hospitality at crossroads: The way ahead"

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