

THESSALONIKI GREECE

LINKING HISTORICAL MONUMENTS THROUGH A NEW PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

CONSERVATION AND VALORIZATION – PUBLIC SPACES

IDENTIFICATION

Creation of a pedestrian network integrating historical monuments and public open spaces (pilot phase of implementation: the “Rotonda”).

SIZE OF THE CITY: 1 100 000 inhabitants 1 780 ha

SIZE OF THE PROJECT: A monument and its area

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION(S) OF THE CITY:

Regional capital, public administration centre, business city, harbour, university

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION(S) OF THE PROJECT AREA:

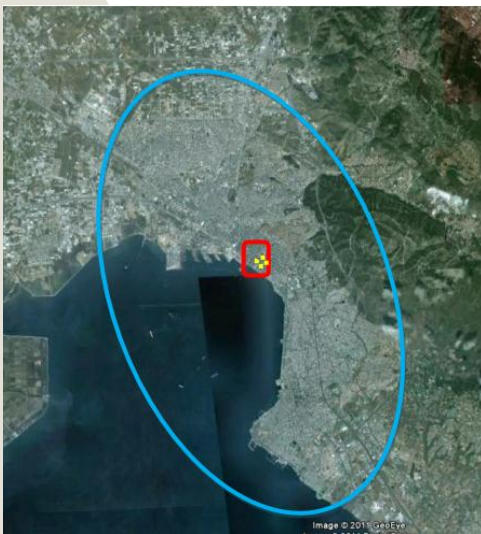
Central commercial and residential area, public open space



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The « Rotonda »

PROJECT SCALE



City

World Heritage Property



Project

WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

PALEOCHRISTIAN AND BYZANTINE MONUMENTS OF THESSALONIKA

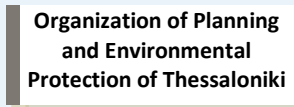
Inscription	1988	Founded in 315 B.C., the provincial capital and sea port of Thessalonika was one of the first bases for the spread of Christianity. Among its Christian monuments are fine churches, some built on the Greek cross plan and others on the three-nave basilica plan.
Criteria	(i)(ii)(iv)	
Area	5,33 ha	Constructed over a long period, from the 4th to the 15th century, they constitute a diachronic typological series, which had considerable influence in the Byzantine world. The mosaics of the rotunda, St Demetrius and St David are among the great masterpieces of early Christian art.

DIAGNOSIS/ STATUS	Thessaloniki has to address economic globalisation and intercity competition, and improve its position in the global urban hierarchies. The city's historical identity is one of the competitive edges.
PROBLEMS/ ISSUES	How to enhance the historical monuments of Thessaloniki in order to use heritage as a key factor for promoting the city at the international level?
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Improve the spatial connection of the monuments ➔ Protect the monuments and their buffer zones from environmental pollution due to car traffic ➔ Encourage sustainable modes of urban mobility ➔ Enhance the quality of the urban landscape ➔ Enhance the enjoyment of visitors during sightseeing

THE INITIATIVE



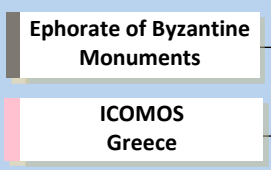
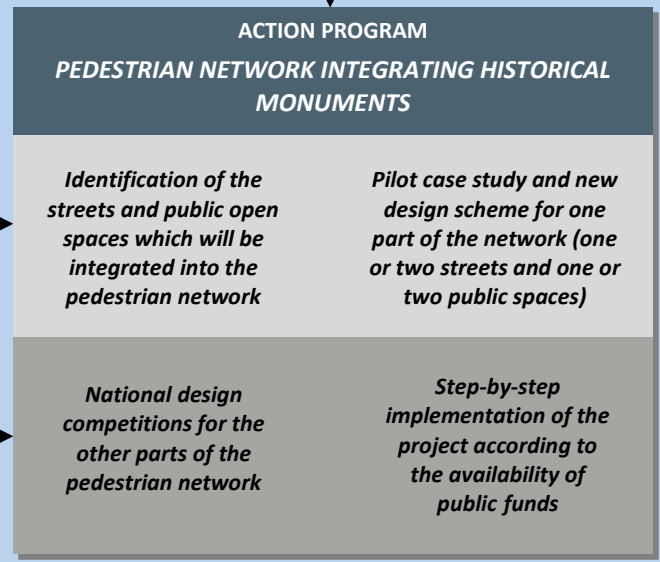
THE PROJECT DRIVERS



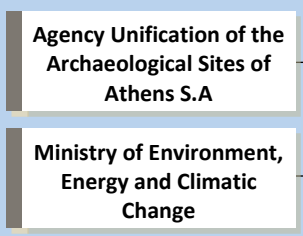
THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



Coordinate/
Conduct



Participate



Participate

STAKEHOLDERS / ACTORS:



SITE MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- National legislation (strict national archaeological law, Law 3028/2002)
- Structural and Development Plan of the Greater Metropolitan Area of Thessaloniki (1985)
- Strategic Plan of the Greater Metropolitan Area of Thessaloniki 2003
- Strategic Plan of Municipality of Thessaloniki (2006-2015)
- Master Plan of Municipality of Thessaloniki (1993)

FUNDING**TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT**

No further funding details are currently available

Restoration of the street Dimitri Gounari: 990 000 €

Restoration of the environment Area Rotonda: 2 576 000 €

STATE OF PROGRESS

The project is currently being carried out

No further details are currently available

RELATION BETWEEN THE PROJECT AND THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY

The project valorizes all monuments that are part of the serial World Heritage site not only increasing their conservation and the quality of the surrounding urban space but also making them more accessible to inhabitants and tourists alike. By creating a pedestrian network linking the monuments, the project helps to tell the story of the monuments and their relation to the city,

which can enhance the pride and identity of the inhabitants as well as the understanding of the visitors. The project outcome can be seen as a tourism product that adds to the city's attractiveness and helps to promote the city through its heritage assets and position it at the global scale.

Since the project is currently being implemented, only one monument, the Rotonda, has so far benefitted from the improvement measures around the monument.

It is expected that the continued development of the pedestrian network among the series of monuments will significantly enhance the attractiveness of the area for both residents and visitors.

By reducing motorized traffic in the immediate vicinity of the monuments, the project would also allow a better protection from air pollution next increasing the accessibility of the monuments and better use of the public spaces in daily life.



The pilot case of the "Restoration of the Environment Area Rotonda": before /after

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QUESTIONS

Since the network has not yet been entirely put in place, the actual impacts both for monument conservation and the quality of public space still need to be monitored.

It might be considered to extend the pedestrian network to other attractions of the city, e.g. link it to the waterfront areas.

Financial uncertainties may exist regarding the possibility to fully implement the project.

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