



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

Description of the funded research project
1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty
Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value
Research Equipment

**Title of the research project: Demographic Imperatives
in Research and Practices in Greece**

Principal Investigator: Byron Kotzamanis

Reader-friendly title: DIRAP

Scientific Area: Social Sciences

Institution and Country: Greece

Host Institution: University of Thessaly

**Collaborating Institution(s): Universities
Patras, Aegean, Panteion, Harokopio, Crete &
Democritus**

Budget: 166340,00 €

**Project webpage
(under construction): x-demography.gr**

Duration: 30 months

Research Project Synopsis

The main purposes of the project are:

- To create the adequate data infrastructure that will provide the team and the wider scientific community with not only reliable data, metadata and indicators concerning the population and its components, but also with online tools for their analysis. These tools constitute a necessary background for the present and further development of research in this field.
- To conduct high-quality applied demographic research and disseminate its findings to the scientific community, to policy makers as well as to a wider public. In fact, this kind of findings are indispensable in: a) designing and planning the economic and social development at national and intra-national levels and b) to sensitizing policy makers and the public opinion to demographic challenges.
- To generate projections as regards the evolution of the population in Greece at the horizon 2050, based on the above research results
- To guarantee the widest possible dissemination of the research results/tools, organized in such a way to cover the needs of three target groups: (a) the scientific community, (b) policy-makers, c) the mass media and (d) the civil society.

Project originality

Despite the importance of the demographic problem in Greece, basic and applied research does not correspond to existing needs. Although the small scientific demographic community is active, most publications mainly focus on one of the components of demographic analysis (mortality, fertility, marriage, aging, etc.) without taking into account the multiple interactions between them. At the same time, popularization texts aimed both at the general public and at people / institutions wishing to take into account the “population” component in the framework of planning and decision-making for the development of policies for all topics and existing administrative units (sectoral and not) are absent. Additionally, the approaches at the national level are insufficient, insofar as they mask strong geographical differences, while few analyzes to date include the spatial dimension of demographic phenomena. The aforementioned gaps will be partially filled by the proposed project.

The interest and originality of this research proposal thus resides in the fact that, while relying on existing projects, it offers a global vision of demographic / demographic rearrangements and perspectives at national and regional level, through the use of innovative tools, methods and techniques. In this context, the project aims - in addition to the widest possible dissemination of the results of applied research - to create an open infrastructure which, used by third parties, will give impetus to the further development of demographic research and teaching in Greece.

Expected results & Research Project Impact

This project comes to address multiple needs. First, the needs of a large scientific community, as population/ demographic data, metadata and analyses are of paramount interest not only for demographers but for scientists active in an extended number of areas. Taking into consideration that, despite the sharpness of the actuality of the "demographic problem", the applied research in the field to this day is still ill-fitting existing needs, its impacts on this community can't be underestimated. In fact, this research project partially covers this vacuum as it proposes not only an integrated vision and interpretation of population / demographic evolutions and prospects at national and regional level (through the implementation of innovative tools, methods and techniques) but also through the investigation of some high specialize topics and via the creation of open data and tools web site applications that can be used by third parties, giving a new impetus to the development of demographic research and education in Greece.

But, at the same time, this proposal comes to address the needs of a second group, i.e policymakers, professional and social bodies at the national and regional level. In fact, actual demographic changes pose major challenges for society; politics must react to the interruption of population growth and ongoing aging trends. The knowledge of those changes and their prospective aspects is of main importance for shaping public policy covering a wide range of areas at the national and regional level: Development policies; Social security & investment policies; Health and care policy; Family Policy, Migration Policy, Asylum policy, etc..The needs of this group will be cover partially via the widest possible dissemination of data, metadata, tools, and the research results. Finlay, the proposal aims also to raise the awareness of civil society informing not only demographic changes and prospects but also on their implications as well (and only partially) to enhance education on population matters. Doing it, its cover partially an existing important vacuum (luck of demographic "culture"). This objective will be mainly implemented via the production and dissemination of popularized materials as newsletters, videos, and animations.

The importance of this funding

Important, essential



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