

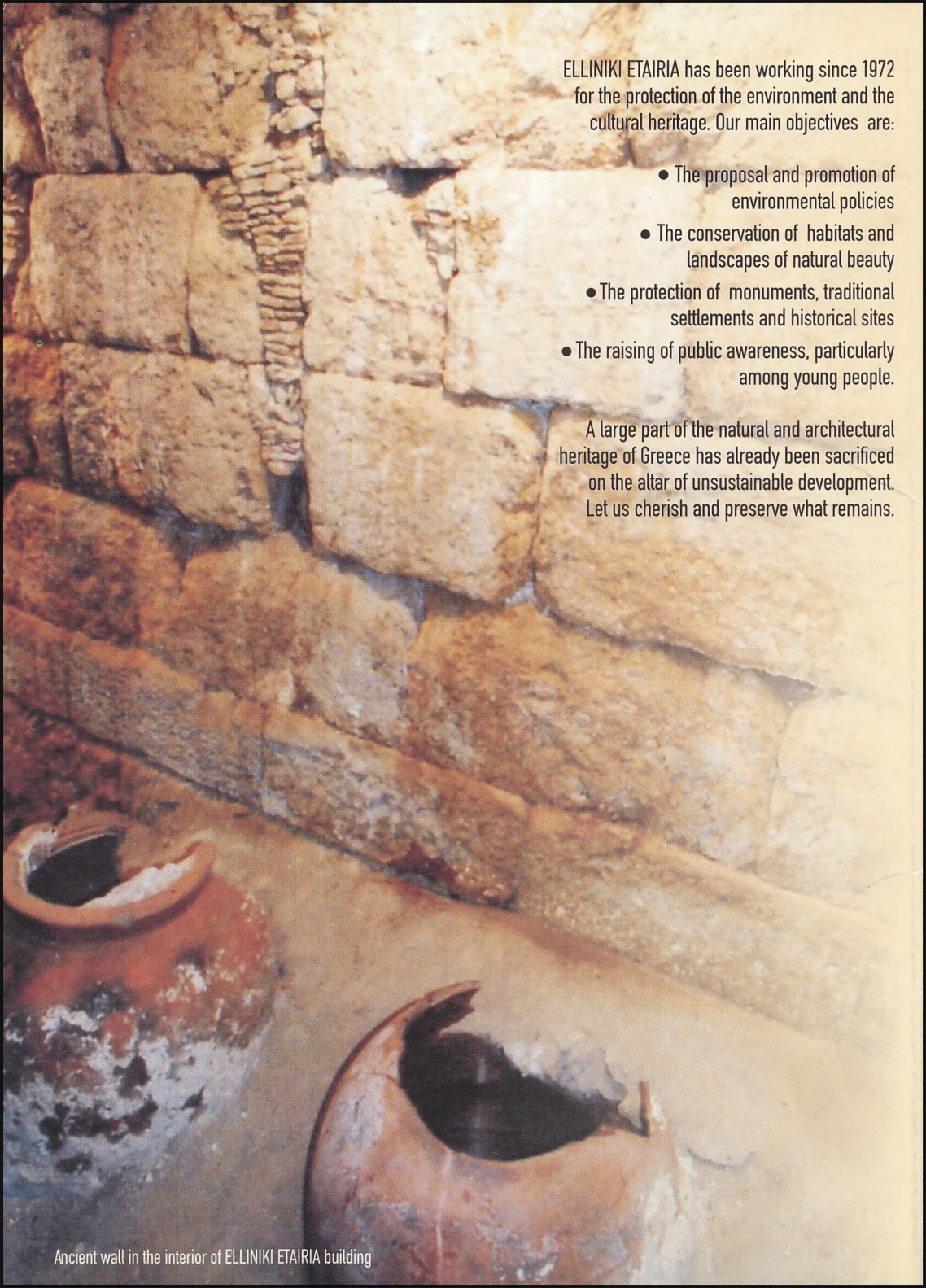


ELLINIKI ETAIRIA

for the Protection of the Environment
and the Cultural Heritage

*Quality of life is a right,
but also a responsibility*



The background of the entire page is a photograph of an ancient stone wall made of large, irregular, light-colored blocks. In the lower-left foreground, there are two large, reddish-brown terracotta pots. One pot is partially broken, showing its dark interior. The other pot is also damaged, with some of its rim missing. The floor is made of light-colored stone or concrete.

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA has been working since 1972 for the protection of the environment and the cultural heritage. Our main objectives are:

- The proposal and promotion of environmental policies
- The conservation of habitats and landscapes of natural beauty
- The protection of monuments, traditional settlements and historical sites
- The raising of public awareness, particularly among young people.

A large part of the natural and architectural heritage of Greece has already been sacrificed on the altar of unsustainable development. Let us cherish and preserve what remains.



► ELLINIKI ETAIRIA's historical buildin in Plaka, Athens



► Osios Loukas, photo from the book "Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Architecture in Greece", by Char. Bouras



► Nea Moni, Chios, photo from the book "Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Architecture in Greece", by Char. Bouras



► Prespes, Dalmatian pelicans, photo archives SPP/L.Nikolaou



► Amvrakikos Bay, photo from "7 plagues of Paradise" by L. Carras



► "I Chora" the capital of Serifos island, photo by D. Dimopoulos

Programme for the sustainable development of the Aegean Islands:

In 2005, ELLINIKI ETAIRIA initiated on Serifos and Sifnos a programme for the sustainable development of the Aegean Islands, stressing the economic importance of preserving the natural and cultural resources of the islands.

THE ACTIVITIES OF ELLINIKI ETAIRIA "THE HELLO OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE"

Protection of the architectural heritage:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA:

- Proposes and oversees conservation of monuments as of Nea Moni in Chios, the churches of Agios Georgios and Agia Kyriaki in Palaiochora on Aegina, the church of the Saviour at Alepochori in Attica, the church of the Koimisis tis Theotokou in Tairia near Monemvasia, the belfry of San Giorgio dei Greci in Venice, with the help of generous sponsorships by the A.G. Leventis Foundation, the Leon Lemos Foundation, the Stavros S. Niarhos Foundation and donations from members of ELLINIKI ETAIRIA.
- Promotes the protection of **traditional** settlements, as through the Office of Architectural Advice in the Cyclades and the programme for the Old City of Xanthi.
- Informs and mobilises public opinion, lobbies local authorities and undertakes legal actions in order to prevent the destruction of monuments and settlements, as in the cases of Arahova and Hydra.

- Plays a leading role in the protection of the Plaka district in Athens through an active Local Committee.
- Organises lectures and seminars on the protection of monuments and traditional settlements, such as for the islands of the Aegean and ecclesiastical architecture.
- Proposes distinguished restorations for the Europa Nostra Awards.
- Provides, with the support of the Leventis Foundation, **annual scholarships** for postgraduate studies abroad in the field of architectural restoration.

Coordination: **Council for the Architectural Heritage**



ENIC SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION PAGE"

Promotion of institutional changes favourable to the environment and the cultural heritage:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA:

- Contributed decisively to the drafting and defense of Article 24 of the Constitution on the protection of the environment
- Contributed decisively to the creation of a permanent Committee for the Environment in Parliament in 2005.
- Works for an environmental tax reform aiming at the incorporation of the true environmental cost in market prices.
- Is active in the promotion and application of proper land planning, as in opposing the forest law of 2003, and in preventing other measures that harm the environment.
- Organises courses and seminars, e.g. on sustainable development in respect of energy and transport, and bioclimatic architecture.

Coordination: **Council for the Institutional Framework**

Raising public awareness:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA:

- Promotes its objectives in the media and coordinates the actions of its many volunteers in order to achieve the maximum impact on the public.
- Proposes simple environmentally friendly daily practices.
- Carries out panhellenic surveys of public opinion and attitudes to the environment and environmental issues, as in 2001 and 2005.
- Organises events, such as the Panorama of Ecological Films, the Festival of Spring and the Christmas Bazaar.

Coordination: **Council for Communication**

Protection of nature and landscapes:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA:

- Was among the first NGOs that became involved in the protection of Lake Prespes. It built, equipped and operated the Biological Station at Mikrolimni in Prespes. It is a founding member of the Society for the Protection of Prespes.
- Coordinates a programme for the protection of the small horse of Skyros in collaboration with the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki and the Municipality of Skyros.
- Participates in the Management Agencies of protected areas.
- Strives for the increase, protection and upgrading of green spaces in large conurbations (e.g. the National Garden, Elliniko, Goudi, and the Hill of Filopappou in Athens).
- Is active on issues of environmental policy, as on the right of access to environmental information, exercising continuous pressure for the ratification of the Convention of Aarhus
- Works actively for the protection of ecosystems, and collaborates with other NGOs in appeals to the Council of State, as in the case of the proposed diversion of the **Acheloos river**.
- Is active on issues of **water** management (specialised studies, production of information material, public debates).
- Organises lectures and seminars, e.g. on biodiversity, health and the environment.

Coordination: **Council for the Natural Environment**



Horse of Skyros,
photo by Bessy Mantzara



Acheloos-Moni Agiou Georgiou-Myrofyllo, photo taken
by N Petros and appear in the book "Acheloos", published by KOAN /Books of the World.



"The environmental train of Nestos",
photo by N Germantzidis.

Environmental education:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA

- In 1974 pioneered the production and distribution to 4,000 schools of a set of slides on the environment "Spaceship Earth".
- Offers programmes of environmental education at schools and at its building in Plaka.
- Founded and for years managed two big networks of primary schools in Greece, and in Cyprus : "**Nautilus**" and "**Sporaki**" (**Little seed, the source of life**), and participates in the coordination of the first Greek Environmental Education Network, "**To Potami**" (**The River**).
- Creates reliable educational material, such as "Environmental Education for Sustainable Cities" and, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Office of Information, "Water in the Mediterranean".
- Organises, in collaboration with the Hellenic Railways Organisation and the Ministry of Education, educational excursions on the "**environmental train**" through the Nestos river gorge.
- Organises important congresses, such as the biennial panhellenic seminar for teachers, as well as ecological summer camps (e.g. Trikeri, Xanthi).

Coordination: **Council for Environmental Education**

International action:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA actively participates in international environmental institutions, such as **IUCN, Europa Nostra and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)**.

- ELLINIKI ETAIRIA's sister organisation in America, the **Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage (SPGH)**, took effective action to secure the return of the Mycenaean Treasure of Aidonies to Greece. Today it adorns the National Archaeological Museum.
- ELLINIKI ETAIRIA has founded together with EEB, the **Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)**, which it represents in Greece.
- ELLINIKI ETAIRIA actively participates in **ECOFORUM** for the ratification and enforcement of the Convention of Aarhus.

Tripodon 28, a hospitable centre for the visitor to Plaka:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA's offices are in a neoclassical building in Plaka, in whose basement **part of the ancient street of the Tripods** is preserved, while its tall western wall of well fashioned stone masonry is dated to the **5th or 4th century B.C.**

On the ground floor there is a little shop with a rich collection of books on nature and the cultural heritage and other items inspired by tradition, whose sale benefits ELLINIKI ETAIRIA's work.

Here the lounge for friends of ELLINIKI ETAIRIA has become a popular meeting place for all those who are interested in nature and the cultural heritage.

Thessaloniki Branch - Local Committees:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA is active throughout the country with an extensive network of collaborators and friends. There is a branch office in Thessaloniki which is also involved in international conservation projects, while Local Committees have been constituted in various cities of the mainland and the islands, as in Plaka, Imathia, Kerkyra, Preveza, Xanthi, Naxos, Patmos, Symi and Spetses.

Publications:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA publishes books and educational material such as:

- «Heritage Walks in Athens» (Greek & English)
- «Elafropatita» ("Tread Lightly") (only in Greek)
- «Aegean Islands, Protection of the Natural and Built Environment» (only in Greek)
- «Five years after the Aarhus Convention» (only in Greek)
- «Taxation for the Environment» (mainly in English)
- «Panhellenic Conference on Environmental Education» (only in Greek)
- «Sustainability, Energy and Transportation» (only in Greek)
- «Environmental Education for Sustainable Cities» (only in Greek).

Friends, Supporters, and Members:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA is supported by its thousands of friends, supporters and members, who work on a voluntary basis.

You too can become a supporter or friend of ELLINIKI ETAIRIA

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage.

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- I wish to become a friend offering ☐ 12 € annually
- I wish to become a supporter offering a minimum of ☐ 50 € annually ☐ Other sum ____ annually
- I am interested in participating actively as a volunteer ☐
- I wish to support ELLINIKI ETAIRIA through standing order ☐

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