

Development of the Historical Centre of Agios Athanasios Municipality, Municipality of Agios Athanasios

The project for the construction and re-planning of the central square of the Municipality of Agios Athanasios included a series of measures to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants. It was completed in three phases: the first phase was to divert the main road, as well as the construction of parking areas; the second phase included the construction of the new square for pedestrians which provides safe access to the Municipal Building for elderly and disabled people, a new children's play area and improved landscaping of the surrounding areas; the third phase included the restoration of old buildings in close proximity to the central square and the creation of a library, a municipal youth centre, an arcade and a folklore museum.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe acknowledged and praised the great value of the project presented for the 4th Session 2014-2015 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention and recommended making it well-known to the general public for its exemplary value, and as a source of inspiration. The main aim of the project, central to the municipality's sustainable development policy, made possible the improvement of citizens' quality of life through the renovation of the municipality's historic centre. Some of the major interventions led to improved safety of the road network in the area and the provision of a pleasant space with useful amenities for both young and old to enjoy. A lively public discussion took place around the project design to enable the public to take ownership and build consensus on which plans to adopt. The public use of the new central place attests to the effectiveness of collaboration in improving urban landscapes.