

Urban sustainability and resilience: a social research in Thessaloniki

P. Kosmopoulos^{1,2}, A. Kantzioura³, I. Kosmopoulos¹, K. Kleskas¹, A. M. Kosmopoulos¹

¹K-ecoprojects co,

²f. Director of the Laboratory of Environmental and Energy Design of Buildings and Settlements, DUTH,

³Democritus University of Thrace

*Corresponding author: E-mail: pkosmos@env.duth.gr, Tel +30 2310303109, Mob: +306977331850

Extended abstract

This paper presents the results of a social survey conducted in the metropolitan Thessaloniki area, in order to investigate the views of the residents on issues related to the urban environment, climate change, energy crisis and extreme phenomena at three levels: at their home, at their Neighborhood and at their City in general.

At the UN General Assembly in 2015, all member states agreed on seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, eleven of which refer to the pursuit of Sustainable Cities.

If cities are responsible for 70% of energy consumption and 75% of greenhouse gas emissions, but at the same time there are problems with adequate, safe and affordable housing as well as services and necessary facilities, it becomes necessary and imperative to make cities Sustainable and resilient, both for the present and for the challenges of the future.

Although the recent COP26 pointed out the problems of disagreement on common goals by all the countries, the messages that were heard very loudly, made it clear that there is not much wiggle room left - from the high government policy makers all the way down to us, the plain citizens.

The conjecture of the effects of climate change, the energy crisis (which results in a direct economic crisis for the people) and the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, create a special reference point from which to explore the views of residents in relation to the present and the future of the urban environment.

It is therefore important to explore and present the views of plain people on these issues, both to determine their level of information and interest, as well as to present their opinions and needs on them.

The research was conducted from October 2021 to January 2022, and one thousand seventy-two (1072) questionnaires were collected, which covered the entire area of metropolitan Thessaloniki.

(Important note: The research was conducted during the period of measures against the Covid-19 pandemic as well as during increased energy costs and some extreme phenomena).

Keywords: sustainability, urban environment, climate change, energy crisis, Thessaloniki