

Name of the Applicant:	Κατερίνα Μπομπολάκη - Katerina Bobolaki
Period of Studies:	November 2021 – December 2025
PhD Title (provisional):	«"Over - tourism and De - growth. A Study of the Transformation of the Tourism Industry at the regional authority of Chania, Crete"».
Summary:	<p>Tourist development in Greece and especially in Crete, took place in a very short period of time. The geographical location of the island and the number of its tourist resources played a decisive role in activating the model of mass tourism (sun-sea pattern). Seasonality, the spatial concentration of the economy and the role played by the major travel organizations of Europe, ensured high flows of visitors to the island who contributed to the growth of the tourist phenomenon. Nevertheless, there are frequent references in the literature that criticize the specific form and manner of tourism development in Crete.</p> <p>In order to reverse the previously described negative situation on the island and to take measures to address the above problems, it is considered necessary, to focus on the quality upgrade of the tourist product, the development of a tourism model on a non-seasonal basis, the development of mild tourism standards. A possible successful practice for dealing with the adverse consequences of the mass model of tourism development in Crete is the policy of de-growth. The present purpose of this doctoral dissertation is to try to assess the need to adopt a de-growth development policy in order to ensure the sustainable tourism development in Crete.</p> <p>The proposed doctoral aims to add on a practical level to the existing field of knowledge of the subject, through a practical application with a case study of the regional unit of Chania. The main research question is related to the acceptance of the local communities on the idea - concept of de-growth as a viable practice - policy. The concept of de-growth has found fertile ground as a theoretical practice in the international literature, but has not yet found corresponding practical applications internationally.</p> <p>In this light, the present doctoral dissertation raises the question of whether local communities would "embrace" and accept a theoretical concept, which seems to advocate the principles of sustainability, but may influence the existing economic base of local communities. Locals consider the tourist activity, with emphasis on mass tourism, as both an opportunity and a danger. A risk due to environmental and social impacts on the local community. An opportunity due to the financial and professional opportunities it offers. The above dilemma, if put into practical application, in turn raises the question of whether local communities would embrace or accept (and to a greater extent or extent) the proposed practice of de-development in the local tourism industry.</p>
Research output:	