

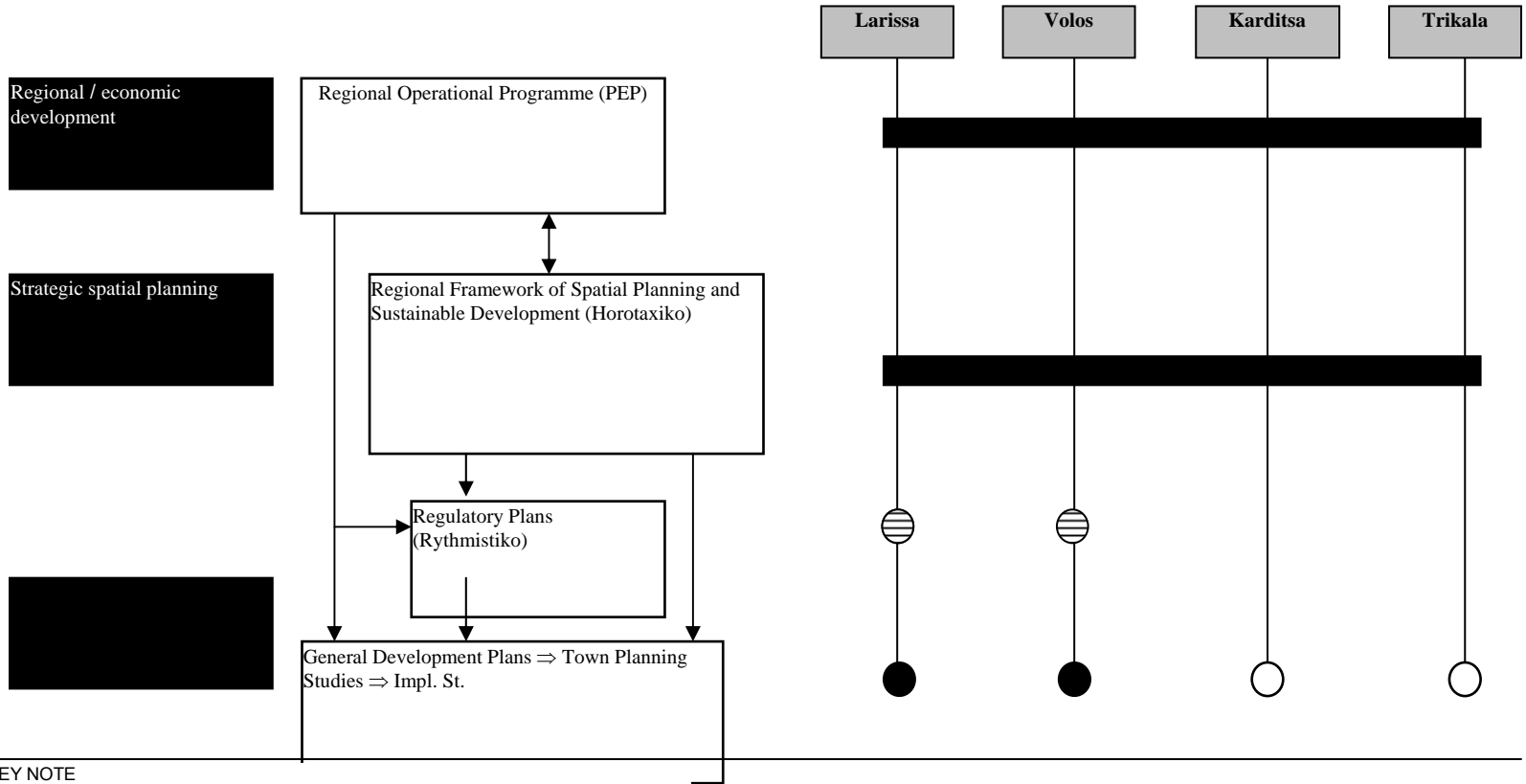
# Administrative organization

- Greece: 13 Administrative Regions (Periferia). Thessaly is one of them.
- Near future: fewer and enlarged Administrative Regions (5 or 6). Thessaly will join Epirus and Sterea Hellas for a new enlarged one, with Larissa as the administrative centre.
- Thessaly: four Prefectures (nomos) of Larissa, Magnesia, Karditsa and Trikala and 104 Municipalities (Demos) which are Local Government Units of the 1st level.
- Larissa is the “capital” of the Prefecture of Larissa and Volos is the “capital” of the Prefecture of Magnesia.

# System of Strategic Planning (a)

- Regional Operational Programme (PEP) of Thessaly 2000-2006. Also Regional Strategic Development Programme 2007-2013 (under elaboration).
- Regional Framework of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (for each Region, since 2003).
- Regulatory Plan (Rythmistiko) for Athens, Thessaloniki and six selected cities with supra regional influence.
- General Development Plan for each Municipality (Demos).
- Town Plan.
- Implementation Study.

# System of Strategic Planning (b)



KEY NOTE



Actually existing, with a new one under elaboration



Not existing but programmed



Existing

# The main priorities of the Regional Strategic Development Programme 2007-2013

- Enhancement of the extroversion of the productive system of Thessaly.
- Enhancement of the competitiveness of the regional products and services, especially of goods of high and certified quality.
- Infrastructure and actions supporting innovation and investment.
- Sustainable development of tourism, linked with natural and cultural environment.
- Creation or improvement of infrastructure and networks of local and supra-local character.
- Development of the human capital and of job opportunities.
- Protection, improvement and sustainable use of the natural and built environment and natural resources, linkage between environment and economy.
- Promotion of the inter-regional and international co-operation.
- Strengthening of the economic and social cohesion inside the Region.
- Amelioration of the Public Administration in the framework of a modern governance model.

# Guidance from the Regional Framework of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development

- Spatial Development Model. Dipole of Larissa-Volos, axis of Trikala-Karditsa.
- Cities and functions of supra-regional significance: Larissa, Volos, Karditsa and Trikala.
- Major zones of inter-regional organization.
- The spatial structure of the Region.
- Networking infrastructure.

# Public acceptance (consent)

- Traditional competition between Larissa and Volos. Similar population figures, equivalence in importance in urban hierarchy, ambition for supra-regional role, traditional differences in urban identity.
- Encouragement of the dipole Larissa-Volos at the official level. Development of common regional identity, positive role of General Secretariat of the Region of Thessaly and the Special Management Authority of the PEP, proposals suggested by the Regional Framework for Regional Planning and Sustainable Development of Thessaly.
- Need for public participation strategy for securing public acceptance. Variety of stakeholders to participate, inclusion of stakeholders of the intermediate zone of the dipole.

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OF THESSALY**

# **The Volos-Larissa urban dipole**

**Experts Report (v. 2)**

**St. Tsakiris and Associates**

**K. Lalenis and Associates**

**Laboratory of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Thessaly (Prof. D. Economou)**

**Athens-Larissa 2006**

## **Historical Background**

Regional Study of National Network of Urban Centres (KEPE, 1967)

Centre of Intense Development (KEPA) of Volos and Larissa (1979)

## **Present Reference**

Regional Framework of Regional Planning and Sustainable Development for the Region of Thessaly (Regional Development Fund 2000-2006)

# Advantages

1. Population: Volos + Larissa: 240000 (2001 census).  
3<sup>rd</sup> in urban hierarchy in Greece. Prediction: 300000 in 2010.  
Small metropolis.
2. Centre of enlarged Region of Thessaly, Epirus, and Sterea Hellas.
3. International influence: Southwest Balkans.
4. Bigger labour market, more private investments, services in private companies. Agglomeration economies.

# Necessary preconditions

1. Implementation of the planned policies for the Volos-Larissa dipole.
2. New services in administration, higher education, research.
3. City marketing – flagship projects, cultural activities – big scale cultural infrastructure.
4. Flexible labour market, upgraded in qualitative characteristics.

# Feasibility

1. Distance of Volos – Larissa: 50-55 km.
2. Time distances (road transport): 30 min. (car), 35 min. (truck, bus).
3. Time distance (rail transport): 35-40 min. Further improvements (gradual or drastic).
4. Airports in Anchialos and Larissa. Upgrading of air transport.
5. Technical infrastructure (telecommunications, energy networks).  
Sufficient.
6. Social and cultural infrastructure. Further improvements. The role of University of Thessaly.
7. Culture. Need for strategy of city marketing. Flagship projects.
8. Research infrastructure. Very limited. Non existing in Greek periphery.
9. Sectors of production. Needs for a logistics centre, a big conference centre, new types of tourist activities.
10. Spatial planning. Needs for adaptation in needs of dipole.
11. Population of dipole: 240000, active population: 87000 (2001 census). 3<sup>rd</sup> in urban hierarchy in Greece.
12. Small metropolis by East European standards (see chart).
13. Political will. Expressed positively in official documents. Needs work in public participation and public consensus.

Country	Number of cities according to rank size population (in million inhabitants)						
	> 3	3 > 2	2 > 1	1 > 0,5	0,5 > 0,2	0,2 > 0,1	0,1 > 0,05
Albania					1		5
Bulgaria			1		2	6	14
Bosnia-Herzegovina					1	1	3
Croatia				1		3	4
Serbia			1			7	19
FYROM					1		4
Greece	1			1		4	7
Romania		1			11	12	23

# Strategy for the implementation

See chart below.

**Priorities:** Transportation, Competitiveness.