

## XVII International Congress on Dry Stone

“Dry stone perspectives: challenges after the UNESCO inscription”

Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021

Konstantinos A. Markakis

“Friends of Verga”, Kalamata - Messenia, Greece

kostasmk49@gmail.com

### **Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures**

The case of the drystone paths of Verga (Kalderimia of Selitsa) in Taygetus Mnt



17<sup>th</sup> international congress on dry stone  
KONAVLE 2021



#### **Summary:**

*Documenting and defending traditional dry-stone paths -A 10-year Odyssey (2012 – 2022)*

- 1. Documenting the existence, age, public use, and ownership of traditional paths.*
- 2. Presenting the case to the Administration (community, municipality, regional authority, decentralized administration, government).*
- 3. Recognition of traditional drystone constructions as Monuments of Cultural Heritage, by the Greek Ministry of Culture. Restoration studies by citizen organizations and their approval by the Ministry.*
- 4. Opposition by contractors, challenging the public use and ownership of the old communal paths in front of criminal courts with false arguments, as well as with the involvement of public services and administrative courts against supporters of the case*
- 5. Long court struggles of residents and their associations, defending the case in criminal and administrative courts, until their solemn acquittal. The resulting court decisions constitute jurisprudence about the existence, historicity, communal use, and public ownership of traditional dry-stone paths. Especially the decision of the “Council of State”, judgments of which constitute case law for similar cases.*

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

6. *Refusal of the decentralized administration to recognize that – the centuries-old – “Kalderimia of Selitsa” existed before 1923 CE. They invoked irrational provisions of outdated Greek urban planning legislation.*

7. *Indifference and refusal of the municipal authority of Kalamata and the regional authority of Peloponnese to finance the restoration of the above paths, despite several court decisions and approvals of the restoration studies.*

8. *The paths of Verga were included in the Archaeological Cadaster of the Greek Ministry of Culture, upon request of the “Friends of Verga”. Similar requests by citizen associations to the Greek Ministry of the Environment, for inclusion of the old traditional paths in the Greek National Cadaster, are still pending, waiting for relevant legislation.*

9. *Expanding the objectives and the involvement of local community associations, led to the design and implementation of a “Holistic & Participatory approach to a Sustainable Development Program for Mount Taygetus”. It provides for the participation of all four neighboring municipalities: Kalamata - Sparta - West & East Mani, scientists and researchers from many university departments, research institutions & laboratories, national & international organizations, associations, and local businesses.*

**Keywords:** *Kalderimia                      Selitsa                      Verga                      Taygetus*  
*Drystone*

**Paper:**

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures**

The case of the old Paths of Verga (Kalderimia of Selitsa): a 10-year-old Odyssey

**1. Introduction - a brief history of a 10-year Odyssey (2012 - 2022)**

The three settlements of Selitsa (Verga), are located on the western slope of Mount "Kalathi" (Borolivas), part of the Taygetus mountain range.

Selitsa (alias Ano Selitsa, Ano Verga), the oldest settlement (founded 800 CE), extends at an altitude of 850 - 900 m. Kato Selitsa (alias Kato Verga), the newer settlement (1835 - 1850 CE), extends at an altitude of 200 - 350 m., and Paralia

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

Verga, the recent settlement (~ 1950 - 2000 CE), extends at an altitude of 5 - 200 m. From 1956 onwards the name "Selitsa" was substituted by "Verga".

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

**The Old Communal Path (OCP) of Selitsa, alias "Kalderimi 3":**

- it was for hundreds of years the only access road from the ancient Selitsa to the beach of Almyros in Kalamata, as well as to Agios Georgios on Mount Kalathi (altitude 1340 m.)
- since Kato Selitsa and later Paralia Verga were inhabited, the OCP connects all three settlements with the coastal road of Mani, as well as with Mount Kalathi and the Taygetus mountain range
- until 1989, when the new Evangelistrias road reached Kato Verga, the OCP was still the only access road to the settlement, mentioned as the communal road in contracts and Community certificates
- the OCP is a drystone paved path with drystone sidewalls, about 8 km long, which was recently designated (2015 - 2018) as Cultural Heritage Monument with successive proposals of the Central Council for New Monuments (KSNM) and then decisions of the Ministry of Culture (YPPO)

Gov. Gazette 185/AAP/2015: 1st CHARACTERIZATION OF MONUMENTS – ROUTES IN KATO SELITSA

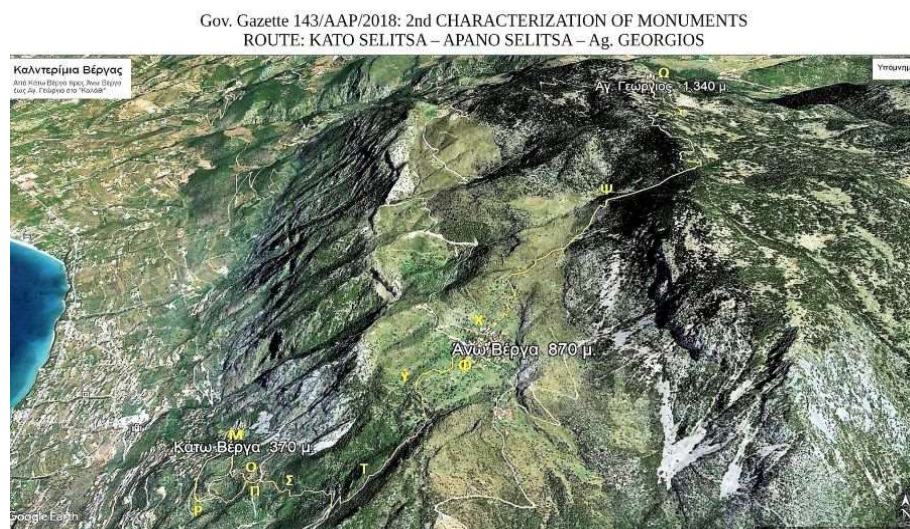


- a decision of the highest annulment court, the “Council of State” (STE), which rejected an appeal by trespassers, ratified the YPPO decision in designating the OCP a Cultural Heritage Monument.
- the Kalderimi 3, is an old mule-road dating before 1830 CE, but - in the form in which the drystone pavement exists today- is protected by the Ministry of Culture

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

as a newer monument dating back before 1915 CE. Therefore, based on the Vetustas doctrine, this old mule road qualifies as a road of public use.



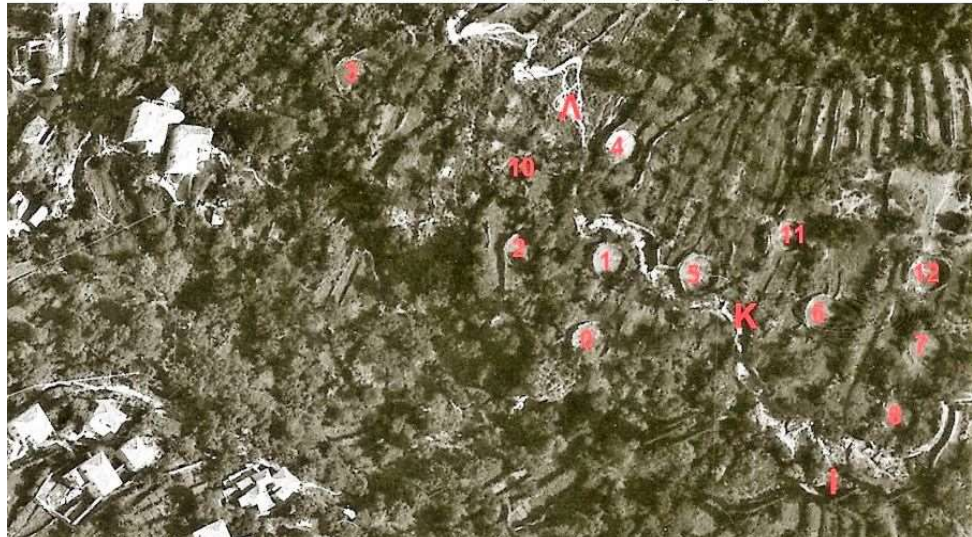
- after successive lawsuits and disputes of interested trespassers, which lasted six years, seven court decisions have repeatedly given reason to the arguments of residents and citizens' associations, the decisions of the YPPO, and the reports of the Urban Planning Department (YDOM) of Kalamata: five criminal, an administrative and the highest annulment court (STE)
- based on all the above decisions for the monuments, the Ministry of Culture approved the restoration studies of Kalderimi 3 and a stone-built Fountain (Ano Vrisi)



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

"KALDERIMI 3" – ROUTE Λ - K - I (as it was initially e.g. 1979)



- three traditionally built drystone paved paths (Kalderimia 1, 2 & 3), 10 traditional threshing floors (Petalona), and a Fountain of Verga were recently included in the Archaeological Cadaster as Cultural Heritage Monuments (<https://www.arxaiologikoktimatologio.gov.gr/el/search-data-map/?type=158646>)
- since 2013 the "Friends of Verga" have submitted requests to the Decentralized Administration to recognize the "Kalderimi 3" as a road pre-existing 1923 CE, as provided in the Greek urban planning legislation, and thus acquire the status of a legal communal road. Due to the incoherence of this outdated and irrational legislation, a Presidential Decree (!) is required for this, preceded by an audit of the Supreme Annulment Court STE (!).
- the "Friends of Verga" recently submitted a request to the (newly established) National Land Registry for registering the "Kalderimi 3" in the cadastral diagrams of Verga, as a "public road, with a special code for public areas, different from rural roads". This is necessary to secure the common use and public ownership of those roads, to protect them from disputes and encroachments. Such a designation requires an additional provision in current legislation, ensuring that there will be no building rights in the agricultural properties next to those roads. These complications and contradictions are due to the irrationality of the Greek

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

urban planning legislation, which allows for “exceptional building rights outside urban areas” (!)

- to integrate the issues of cultural heritage in a broader context, in terms of geography - history - environment - climate - mild and sustainable development, a "Taygetus Holistic and Participatory Development Program" was prepared collectively by civil society organizations. The program includes mountainous areas of all the four Municipalities of Taygetus (Kalamata, Sparta, West, and East Mani). In addition to issues of cultural heritage and traditional stone constructions, the program covers also other areas and activities, such as natural environment, landscape, flora, and fauna with emphasis on forests and pollinators, cultivating terraces and drystone walls, thematic tourism (mountaineering - hiking – cycling - religion – nature). Other goals are the revival of abandoned traditional mountainous settlements and residents’ and citizens’ awareness-raising.
- The program starts with three Conferences in Kalamata, Sparta, and Athens, with the participation of speakers and organizations (Greek and international) for the above areas of interest. Scientists from major Greek universities and research institutes support the program. The organizers want to repeat it every 3 or 5 years for progress monitoring and updating.

“KALDERIMI 3” - PHOTOS FROM OLD ROUTE B to A



## 2. The attitude of the local government

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

Since 2012, the removal of arbitrarily deposited rubble (> 2,400 m<sup>3</sup>, ~ 4,000 tons) from the Old Communal Path (OCP) of Selitsa is still pending, even though the Mayor of Kalamata in 2013 decided the "removal of arbitrarily deposited materials and the restoration of this communal area to its previous state".

The Peloponnese Regional Governor also decided in 2014 that this was "an excavation without a license" and imposed fines and administrative sanctions.

After the designation of the Kalderimi as a cultural monument, the Ministry of Culture approved the restoration studies submitted by the "Friends of Verga," providing for "removal of the rubble until the revelation of pre-existing natural soil (and) for complete restoration - reconstruction of the traditional drystone pavement and the drystone walls, including the regeneration of still existing sections under the embankments".



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

OLD “KALDERIMI 3” - PHOTOS FROM ROUTE A - K (4000 tons of rubble in 2012)



**CONTRACTOR’S ARBITRARY AND ILLEGAL ACTIONS**

OLD “KALDERIMI 3” - PHOTOS FROM ROUTE A - K (after 2012)



OLD “KALDERIMI 3” - ROUTE K – I (old Pavement covered 2007/2012 – recovered in 2016)



The "Ombudsman", for several years, has been harshly criticizing the Mayor of Kalamata for non "restoring the old, paved path and not removing the arbitrary embankments", pointing out also that -“the problem arose from the inaction/omissions of the Municipality....-that the answers of the Municipality are vague, not satisfactory or sufficiently documented...that -there is the impression that there is an intention on the part of the Municipality to not conduct the restoration and that (the Municipality) has taken no action to find necessary resources” etc. The mayor claimed that he aims to promote tradition and cultural heritage and seeks an appropriate financial program since the Municipalities’ resources are not sufficient at this time"

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

OLD "KALDERIMI 3" - PHOTOS FROM ROUTE I - M (paving-walling before 1800)



Finally, the former Mayor of Kalamata found an "appropriate financial program", when he took over as Governor of the Peloponnese Region, and - at the request of the "Friends of Verga" - gave instructions so that this – approved by the Ministry of Culture – restoration “be considered in the Taygetus financial program”. Finally, after 3 years, it turned out to be a mockery, to postpone the protests of residents and citizen organizations.



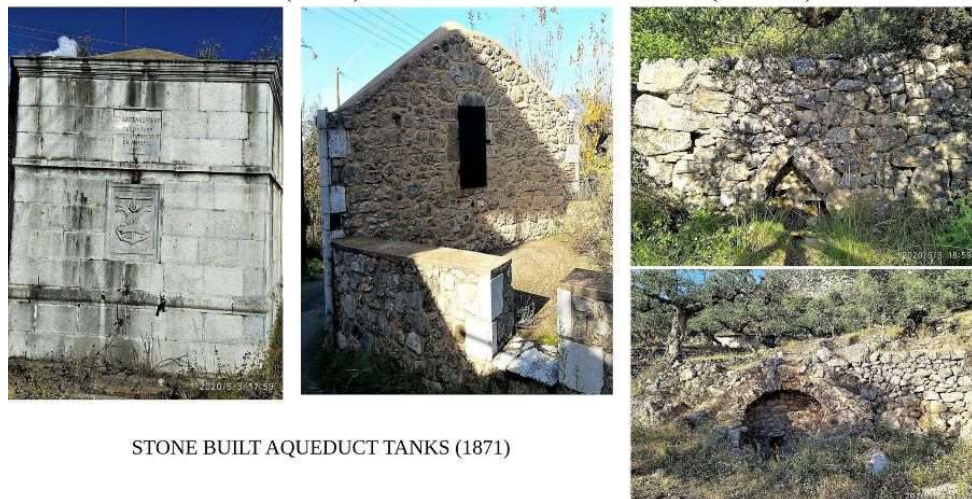
**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

KATO SELITSA: TRADITIONAL STONE CONSTRUCTIONS (1750 - 1950)



KATO SELITSA (VERGA): TRADITIONAL STONE CONSTRUCTIONS (1870 - 1900)



STONE BUILT AQUEDUCT TANKS (1871)

The new Mayor of Kalamata continued the perpetuation of not imposing sanctions and the concealment of illegalities. The municipal water service proceeded with massive concrete construction in the trampled and covered with rubble area, without the approval of the Ministry of Culture, an arbitrary and illegal act concerning the provisions of the archaeological law. This attitude of the Municipality confirms the assessment of the Ombudsman that "there is an impression that there is an intention on the part of the Municipality not to proceed with the restoration after the removal of the rubble".

This arbitrary and illegal intervention in a Monument should be immediately demolished, the rubble removed at last under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, and the Monument restored properly by the municipality. Administrative

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

and criminal responsibilities should be sought by the authorities, and appropriate sanctions should be imposed on the perpetrators, so as not to create a climate of arbitrariness and impunity, which is catastrophic for the Cultural Heritage, as emphasized in a relevant letter to the municipality from the Archaeological Ephorate of Messenia.

KALDERIMI from KATO to APANO SELITSA – NEW ROUTE Ξ-P-II (1835 - 1890)



On the contrary, the new Mayor hired one of the two trespassers as an "unpaid special Advisor for urban and cultural issues"! This happened two months before a civil court of appeals adjudicated on the lawsuit of the two trespassers against the Municipality, seeking to be recognized as the owners of parts of the new municipal road and the old communal path. Both the former mayor in a court of the first instance and the new one in the court of appeals refused to appear in the courts and defend the common use and public ownership of the roads, thus "giving" their friends the citizens' property. The decision of the court of appeals is still pending.



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

KALDERIMI from KATO to APANO SELITSA – OLD ROUTE M-N-Ξ-O-II (before 1800)



The stubborn refusal of the Mayor of Kalamata and the Governor of Peloponnese Region to impose appropriate sanctions on their collaborators/perpetrators, to defend the communal use and public ownership of the roads, and to finance the restoration of the damaged monuments from public Greek and EU budget, is unjustified and inadmissible.

At the 17th International Conference of the "international scientific Society for interdisciplinary studies on Dry Stone" (SDS), held in October 2021 at Cavtat - Konavle - Croatia, the delegates agreed to support the 10-year efforts of the "Friends of Verga" for the rescue - preservation – restoration, and promotion of the old traditional dry-stone structures in the settlements of Verga (Selitsa). "We call on the Municipal Authority of Kalamata and the Regional Authority of Peloponnese to proceed with the financing of the restoration and promotion of these monuments, from Greek and European Community Resources."



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

KALDERIMI from KATO to APANO SELITSA – OLD ROUTE: Π-Σ-T-Y-Φ



SDS, “The International Molinological Society” (TIMS)-Hellenic Department, the

KALDERIMI from KATO to APANO SELITSA – OLD ROUTE: Π-Σ-T-Y-Φ



Greek society "Flowers on Stone" (Anthi tis Petras) also sent letters to the Mayor of Kalamata and the Regional Governor of Peloponnese. These International and Greek organizations, specialized in dry-stone and other traditional constructions, express their desire to cooperate in the restoration and promotion of the monuments of Verga and ask for financing the restoration by national and community programs. No answer from the Greek Authorities, so far.

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

ANCIENT SETTLEMENT OF SELITSA (APANO VERGA) – LEFT PHOTO 2018 – RIGHT PHOTO 1969



### 3. The attitude of the Greek Decentralized Administration

In addition to the Municipality and the Region, the Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese (ADP) also takes a similar stance: bureaucratic obstacles, tergiversation, attempt to cover up arbitrariness, justification of trespassers.

The "Friends of Verga" have since 2014 submitted a complete case file to the ADP for the recognition of the fact that the old mule-road of Selitsa is much older than 1800 CE, and that the drystone pavement and its drystone walls predate at least 1923 CE. The file contains pre-1923 parcel contracts and a sequence of legal property transfers to date, signed statements of old residents, detailed reports with topographic drawings, -and interpretations of orthophoto maps. It contains thorough research of historical references to Selitsa from 1300 CE to 1865 CE. Frankish contracts of 1360 CE, Venetian censuses of settlements and populations of 1700 CE, Venetian maps of 1700 CE from Italian and Austrian archives, excerpts of books dating about 1800 CE, maps and texts of the "French Scientific Mission to Morea" around 1835 CE, maps and inventories of the new Greek State.

Competent services and authorities that studied the case, such as the urban planning office of Kalamata, the Ministry of Culture, the Ombudsman, criminal, and administrative courts that examined relevant lawsuits and appeals, including the "Council of State" (STE), give justice to the arguments and data presented by the citizens and their associations.



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

All active citizens' organizations of Kalamata and hundreds of individual citizens supported the case in writing to the Decentralized Administration. However, this administration and its advisory councils and services refused to proceed with the recognition.

APANO SELITSA: CHURCHES / CHAPELS (1700 CE)



Evading a decision, in 2018 CE they referred the matter to the Ministry of Environment (YPEN), because "it exceeds the competence of the Decentralized Administration due to serious urban planning consequences, and a Presidential Decree should be issued"! However, they did not submit a complete file to YPEN, with the arguments and documentation mentioned above, but only unfounded - untrue views of their service and the trespassers. YPEN returned the file, unable to form an opinion and decide based on insufficient evidence.

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

KALDERIMI from APANO SELITSA to Ag. Georgios / FIR FOREST- Route: X – Ψ – Ω



In 2021, the "Friends of Verga" re-submitted the 2014 request, to YPEN and ADP, updated with all the latest information. The response of YPEN was in principle positive: it announced that it expects a complete dossier from ADP, supplemented with an updated opinion of its advisory councils and services, "for further examination and submission of a legislative proposal".

#### **4. The urgent need to modernize the Greek Urban Planning Legislation**

- The old mountainous paths and roads, located outside the boundaries of recent urban plans, pre-existed the neighboring private agricultural properties. They have always connected the settlements between themselves, with cities and ports, to transport and sell livestock - agricultural - forestry products from these mountain settlements to the cities and abroad. Conversely, for purchasing processed products from the city and imported goods from abroad.

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

KALDERIMI from APANO SELITSA to Ag. Georgios / FIR FOREST- Route: X – Ψ – Ω



- In the period before the National Independence (1821 CE), the land was the property (manor) of Byzantine - Frankish - Venetian or Ottoman landowners, while the Greek inhabitants of the settlements were employed as serfs. Throughout all these years, the mountainous paths and paved roads remained communal in use, as they continue to be till today.



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

“Ω” (1340 m.) – Ag. Georgios – Mnt “KALATHI” (Boro-Livas) – SELITSA – View to TAYGETUS Mnt



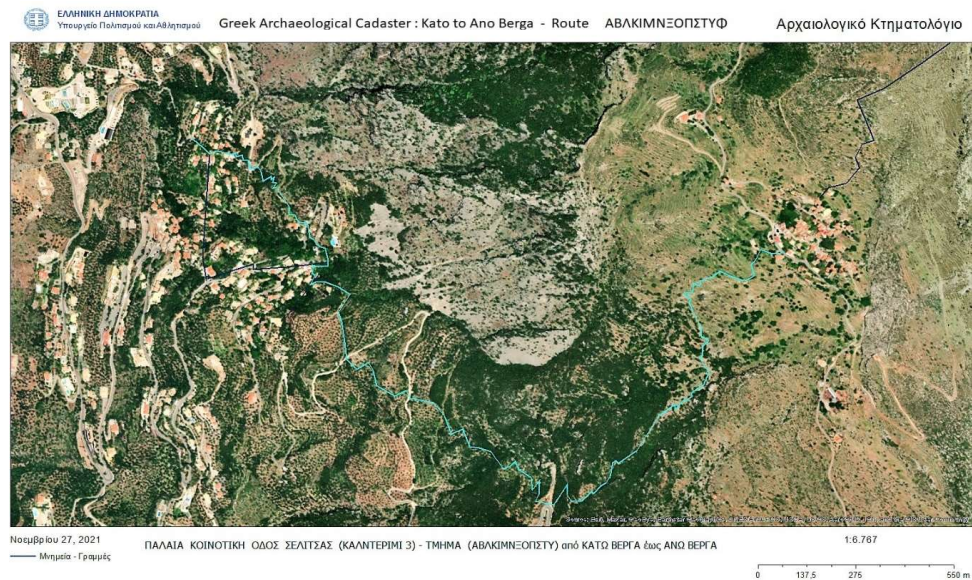
The drystone walls on both sides of those paths were boundaries between the public road and the agricultural properties in addition to their use as retaining walls. The drystone-paved mule-roads were typically three meters wide, allowing the simultaneous passage of loaded mules and herds of goats and sheep. Especially in areas with groups of threshing floors (Petralona), where loaded animals were “parked,” the Kalderimi reached a width of six meters to allow the simultaneous passage of two loaded animals on both central “lanes”, in addition to those parked near threshing floors.

- The routes of those paths and mule-roads amount to hundreds of kilometers on the Greek mountains, connecting settlements, but also with other destinations, such as coastal cities - ports, monasteries, churches, chapels, mountain shelters, fountains, springs. This network of old mountain roads is a valuable heritage from our ancestors, which is not only monumental but remains functional and useful to this day.
- In the light of protecting the environment and the landscape, the conservation of biodiversity – (the mountain flora and fauna)-, the revival and utilization of mountain settlements, the value of this network of traditional roads, are enormous.

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

They constitute a readily available development capital, as elements necessary for the desired mild and sustainable tourism and product development and the response to the climate crisis.

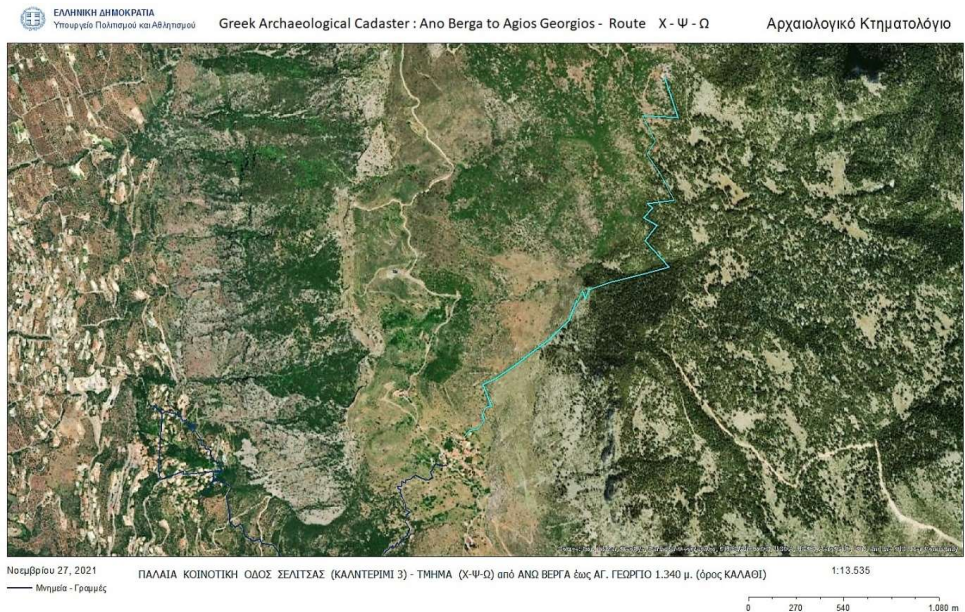


- Traditional drystone paths and mountainous settlements acquire special tourist and development importance in the context of climate change and rising temperatures, as the coastal tourism of the Mediterranean countries must compete with coastal tourism in northern European countries. In general, the preference of visitors for mild tourism in areas of natural beauty increases, in combination with physical exercises such as hiking or mountaineering, and with a healthy stay in traditional settlements.

This kind of mild and environmentally friendly tourist development contributes to an autonomous revival of abandoned traditional settlements, as well as abandoned agricultural and livestock activities giving a higher income to the local community, compared to the big tourist resorts and -cruise ships, where the accommodation of visitors concerns prepaid "all-inclusive" programs, without a benefit to the local economy.

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---



- Despite all these advantages, there is no provision yet for the registration of the mountainous path networks as of communal and public ownership in the (newly founded) Greek National Cadaster. An important reason for this is that the recognition of the communal and public ownership of these old traditional roads, located outside the boundaries of urban plans, creates the right to build houses in the adjacent agricultural or forestland. This is based on the provision of "exceptionally building outside the borders of urban Plans", which is an outdated and absurd peculiarity of the Greek urban plan law!
- The Municipal and Regional Authorities **HAVE NOT BEEN INTERESTED** in securing those roads' communal and public properties, either defending them against trespassers in the courts or registering them in the National Cadaster. On the contrary, due to their dependence on their voters and on friendly "investors", they oppose the efforts of civil society organizations for rescuing and promoting them, even in the cases where the YPPO designated these old traditional roads as Monuments of Cultural Heritage.
- Hiking - Mountaineering and other Associations already have coordinates of these "mountain trails", which they posted on hiking maps. The Associations pursue their efforts to register those roads at the cadastral offices, as "Interconnecting Roads"



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

between settlements or between settlements and other destinations, e.g., Monuments, Churches, Shelters, Fountains. They propose complementary legislation for a "new code of public area different from that of rural roads", to avoid the possibility of converting adjacent agricultural land into residential plots of land as well as to prevent damage, encroachments, and private claims.

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

**Sources and bibliography:**

**Books**

1. POUQUEVILLE, F. (1805) *Voyage en Morée, à Constantinople, en Albanie*. Paris: Chez Gabon et Compe
2. GELL, W. (1817) *Itinerary of the Morea being descriptive of the routes of that Peninsula*. London: Rodwell and Martin
3. GELL, W. (1823) *Narrative of a Journey in the Morea*. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown
4. LEAK, W. M. (1830) *Travels in the Morea*. London: John Murray
5. (1827, 1833) *The History of Modern Greece: With a View of the Geography, Antiquities, and Present Condition of that Country*. Boston: Nathan Hale
6. LOGNON, J and TOPPING, P. (1959) *Documents inedits sur le regime des terres dans la participaute de Moree au XVIe siecle*. Paris:
7. PANAGIOTOPOULOS, V. (1985, 1987) *Population & Settlements of Peloponnese in 13th –18th century*. (Venetian Archive GRIMANI, 1700 CE). Athens: Historical Archive/Commercial Bank
8. SAITAS, G (2011 & 2017) *Expedition Scientifique de Moree 1829-1838*. Athens: Melissa, Band I & II.
9. KATSIARDI-HERING, O. (2018) *Venetian maps of Peloponnese from the 17th-18th century*. Athens: MIET/National Bank
10. KAPETANAKIS, S. (2015) *Maniates at the Greek Revolution 1821*. Athens: Laconian Studies
11. MEXIS, D. (1977) *Mani and the Maniates*. Athens: ESTIA / Authorhouse (2006, Engl. Transl.)

**Conference Proceedings**

12. MARKAKIS, K. (2020) Traditional Dry Stone Paved Paths (Kalderimia), Threshing Floors (Petralona), and Dry-Stone Walls (Xerolithies) in Verga (Selitsa), Kalamata, Greece.16th International Congress & Workshop on Dry Stone (2018). Ciutadella de Menorca: Cercle Artistic, pages 179 – 186



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

13. MARKAKIS, K. (2021) Securing the communal use and public ownership of old drystone paved paths, in Seven Steps. 4th Panhellenic Meeting for hiking Trails, City of Xanthi

**Presentations and Lectures**

14. MARKAKIS, K. (2018) Traditional Dry Stone Paved Paths

15. MARKAKIS, K. (2018) Contribution of the Restoration of Monuments and Cultural Paths to the Revival of Mountain Settlements – The case of Mani

16. MARKAKIS, K. (2019) Cultural Paths – The case of Selitsa

17. MARKAKIS, K. (2021) Problems in the management of cultural heritage

**Journal Article**

18. SIMPSON-HOPE, R. (1966) The seven cities offered by Agamemnon to Achilles, *The Annual of the British School at Athens* (Vol. 61, pp. 114 and 116).

19. MOUNDREAS, E. (1981) Ethnological composition of the peasantry in the Frankish Kalamata, *Messenian Letters* (Vol. 3)

20. WAGSTAFF, M. and CRYSOCHOU-STAVRIDOU, S. 2 Unpublished Maps from 1707

21. MARKAKIS, K. (2010) Traditional threshing floors of “Selitsanika Kalivia”, *Ithomi*, 61/62.

**Web site**

22. MARKAKIS, K. (2019) Verga-Kalamata, <https://www.iamgreece.org/gallery/regions-of-greece/peloponnese/verga-kalamata/>

23. MARKAKIS, K. (2021), Registration of paths in the National Land Registry, <https://www.messinia24.gr/καταχώρηση-καλντεριμιών-μονοπατιών/>

24. MARKAKIS, K. (2021), Monuments of Verga in the Archaeological Land Registry, <https://www.messinia24.gr/μνημεία-της-βέργας-στο-αρχαιολογικό/>

25. MARKAKIS, K. (2021), Two-day conference of "Taygetus Development Program" in Kalamata, <https://www.messinia24.gr/διημερίδα-του-προγράμματος-ανάπτυξ/>

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

26. MARKAKIS, K. (2021), Old Olive Mill in Kato Verga (1835-1965), <https://www.messinia24.gr/ελαιοτριβείο-κάτω-βρύσης-κάτω-βέργα-1835-1/>
27. MARKAKIS, K. (2021), A 7-year-old "Odyssey" with the old community road of Verga, <https://www.messinia24.gr/μια-7χρονη-οδύσσεια-με-την-παλαιά-κο/>
28. SDS (Society for Dry Stone) (2021), Satisfaction of SDS for the restart of the program "Participatory and Holistic Development of Taygetus" - Thoughts for a conference in Taygetus – Mani, <https://best-tv.gr/ikanopoiisi-tis-deex-sps-gia-tin-epanekkinisi-toy-programmatos-symmetochikis-kai-olistikis-anaptyxis-taygetoy-skepseis-gia-synedrio-ston-taygeto-manis/>
29. «FLOWERS on PETRA» (2021), For the restoration of the Monuments of Verga, <https://www.messinia24.gr/ενδιαφέρον-για-αποκατάσταση-των-μνημ/>
30. TIMS-Hellenic Department (2021), About Verga & the Taygetus Development Program, <https://www.messinia24.gr/και-νέα-φωνή-γι-αποκατάσταση-δύο/>
31. MARKAKIS, K. (2021), "Friends of Verga": Let us jointly prove that we can restore our monuments, <https://www.messinia24.gr/φίλοι-της-βέργας-ας-αποδείξουμε-ότι/>
32. SPS Congress in Konavle, Croatia (2021), Resolution in favor of the dry-stone structures of Verga, <https://www.messinia24.gr/ψήφισμα-υπέρ-των-ξηρολιθικών-κατασκευ/>
33. IDEAP\_THERMOU (2021), Online conference on "paths as a leverage for growth", <https://www.messinia24.gr/διαδικτυακή-ημερίδα-για-τα-μονοπάτι/>
34. MARKAKIS, K. (2020), The "Friends of Verga" about the Integrated Territorial Investment of Taygetos, <https://www.messinia24.gr/οι-φίλοι-της-βέργας-για-την-ο-χ-ε-ταϊ/>
35. MARKAKIS, K. (2020), "Friends of Verga": Synergies of Universities and Citizen Associations, <https://www.messinia24.gr/φίλοι-της-βέργας-συνέργειες-αι-ορ/>
36. MARKAKIS, K. (2020), "Friends of Verga": The jurisprudence (S.T.E.) on the preservation - promotion of antiquities, <https://www.messinia24.gr/η-νομολογία-σ-τ-ε-περί-διάσωσης-ανάδει/>
37. MARKAKIS, K. (2020), The "Friends of Verga" for the case of the road in Robola, <https://www.messinia24.gr/οι-φίλοι-της-βέργας-για-την-υπόθεση/>

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

38. MARKAKIS, K. (2020), They ask for the intervention of the Municipality of Kalamata for a road in Verga-2, <https://www.messinia24.gr/ζητούν-παρέμβαση-του-δήμου-καλαμάτας-2/>

39. "ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL UNION OF MESSEANIA" (2020), Promotion of old paths and monuments of Verga, <https://www.messinia24.gr/ανάδειξη-μονοπατιών-και-παρόδιων-μνη/>

40. MARKAKIS, K. (2020), They ask for the intervention of the Municipality of Kalamata for Verga, <https://www.messinia24.gr/ζητούν-παρέμβαση-του-δήμου-καλαμάτας/>

41. "OPEN MUNICIPALITY - ACTIVE CITIZENS" (2020), The "Open Municipality" requests the intervention of the Mayor for Verga, <https://www.messinia24.gr/o-ανοιχτός-δήμος-ζητάει-παρέμβαση/>

42. FRIENDS of VERGA & COMMUNITY of VERGA (2020), On October 8, the appeal of the "Friends of Verga" for Evangelistrias Street - What do they ask from the Municipality of Kalamata, <https://eleftheriaonline.gr/local/koinonia/item/225559-stis-8-oktovriou-i-i-efesi-ton-filon-tis-vergas-gia-tin-odo-evaggelistrias-ti-zitoy-n-apo-ton-dimo-kalamatas>

43. FRIENDS of VERGA (2020), Utilization of a hiking route is requested by the Association "Friends of Verga", <https://eleftheriaonline.gr/local/koinonia/perivallon/item/212879-aksiopoiisi-peporirikis-diadromis-zitei-o-syllogos-filoi-tis-vergas>

44. CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS (2019), Event for the development of the traditional settlements of NW Taygetus, <https://kalamatajournal.gr/oikonomia/tourismos/item/19354-ekdhlwsh-gia-thn-anaptyxh-twn-paradosiakwn-oikismwn-toy-bd-taygetoy>

45. MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL (2018), Initiative for digital recording, restoration, promotion of the Taygetus path-network, <https://kalamatajournal.gr/messinia/kalamata/item/15525-prwtoboylia-gia-katagrafh,-apokatastash,-anadeixh-toy-diktyoy-monopatiwn-toy-taygetoy>

46. MARKAKIS, K. (2018), The whole drystone path from Kato Verga to the Kalathi Mnt is now under protection (as a monument of cultural heritage),

**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**“Friends of Verga”**

---

<https://kalamatajournal.gr/messinia/kalamata/item/15720-ypo-prostasia-pia-olo-to-kalinterimi-apo-thn-katw-berga-mechri-to-kalathi>

47. MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS OF KALAMATA (2019), Expropriation of municipal property by the mayor for the sake of individuals,

<https://kalamatajournal.gr/koinonia/apopseis/item/16795-“apempolhsh-dhmotikhs-idiokthsias-apo-to-dhmarcho-charin-idiwtwn>



**Rescue, restoration, and promotion of mountainous traditional dry stone structures** Cavtat, Croatia, October 1-2 2021 **Konstantinos A. Markakis**  
**"Friends of Verga"**

---

**Short biographies of author:**

*Born in Kalamata in 1949.*

*Electrical & Mechanical Engineer NTUA Athens -TU Hannover*

*Worked as an engineer for the construction of lignite mining equipment in METKA SA, operation of lignite mines, and department of informatics in PPC SA.*

*CEO of ETEKA SA (construction of lignite mining equipment)*

*Special Adviser to the Ministers of Energy & Natural Resources, Industry and Agriculture*

*Report Coordinator "Traffic Accidents & Road Safety" for the Hellenic Parliament*

*Manager of the NGOs: "Hellenic Road Safety Association" and "Friends of Verga"*

*Member of SPS, TIMS, "Messenian Archaeological Studies"*



17<sup>th</sup> international congress on dry stone  
KONAVLE 2021