

NETZEROCITIES 2030: A RACE TO ZERO: CUTTING-EDGE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND KALAMATA'S CLIMATE CONTRACT FOR A CARBON-FREE FUTURE.

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Overview

[The "Kalamata Climate Contract"[1] is an ambitious strategy designed to join Kalamata in the network of 100 European Union cities aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2030(NetZeroCities).

The city's low environmental footprint efforts began in 2015 amid the financial crisis of the 2010s, which forced it to reduce energy costs by upgrading municipal lighting. The 2016 flood and prolonged heat waves also played a role. that raised public awareness about climate change .

Methods

A questionnaire was drawn up based on the climate agreement of Kalamata, which in the initial phase was distributed to students of the University of Peloponnese. In particular, an online link was created (<https://forms.gle/yGAEqAdnCPus8isC7>) for seven academic departments of the University to participate. All seven departments are located in the municipality of Kalamata.

The questionnaire was drawn up 3 times consecutively, and its final version was distributed to students in order to check the average completion time, to receive feedback from the students but mainly to draw the first statistical conclusions about the attitude of the students towards the municipality proposals that have been designed and budgeted in detail. 71 students responded. After the pilot questionnaire, our ultimate goal is to distribute it (after adjustments) to, as many residents of the Municipality of Kalamata, as possible.

The Kalamata climate agreement is ultimately based on 4 pillars.

1. Kalamata, a city to live in
2. Kalamata, a city for low-emission transport
3. Kalamata, a city to produce and create
4. Kalamata, a city that learns

The specific pillars led to forty questions that except the first 9 that are referred to demographic data were categorized and matched to each of the abovementioned pillars:

We set $f(x)$ = external funding(question 38) as the dependent variable. The independent variables were created via PCA factor analysis .

Results

In essence, we want to examine whether the attitude of the respondents towards the changes that will occur in the urban area of Kalamata, will affect the attitude of external investors for further financing in green infrastructure.

Since the explanatory power is close to 64% (R square and Adjusted R square), we have come to the conclusion that we made a correct selection of groups and a decent selection of regression model (linear regression).

External funding= $3.845 + (0.352 * \text{Green \& efficient Square}) + (0.62 * \text{Green \& smart infrastructure}) + (0.169 * \text{Low emissions}) + (0.212 * \text{City to produce}) + (0.187 * \text{Legislative \& Citizen Initiatives}) + (0.131 * \text{Education \& Knowledge dissemination})$

Conclusions

The attitude of the respondents towards the changes that will occur in the urban area of Kalamata, will affect the attitude of external investors for further financing in green infrastructure.

Future research will expand upon this foundational analysis of Kalamata's climate contract to comprehensively examine every decision associated with the six Greek cities involved in the NetZeroCities initiative. This ongoing research will contribute valuable insights for the 2026 paper selection process, further supporting the ambitious climate neutrality goals set forth by this initiative

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