

# Municipality of Agia

**YOUROPE**

*“Joining Paths to Build a Better  
Perception of Europe”*

*International Meeting*

*Noto, Sicily*

*10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019*

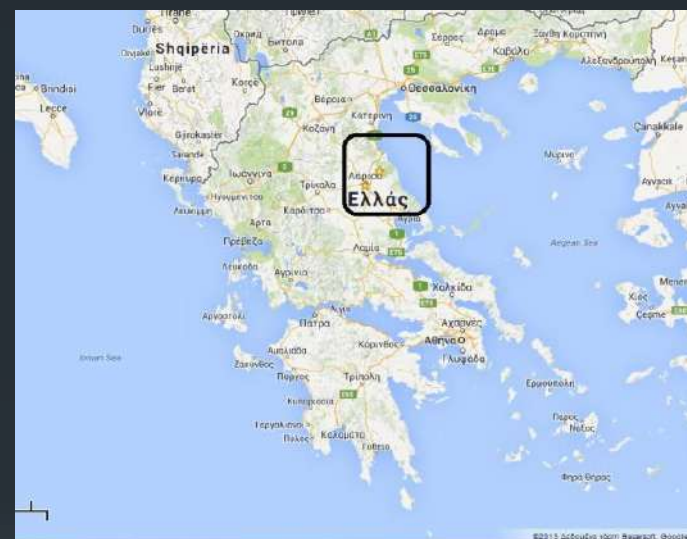
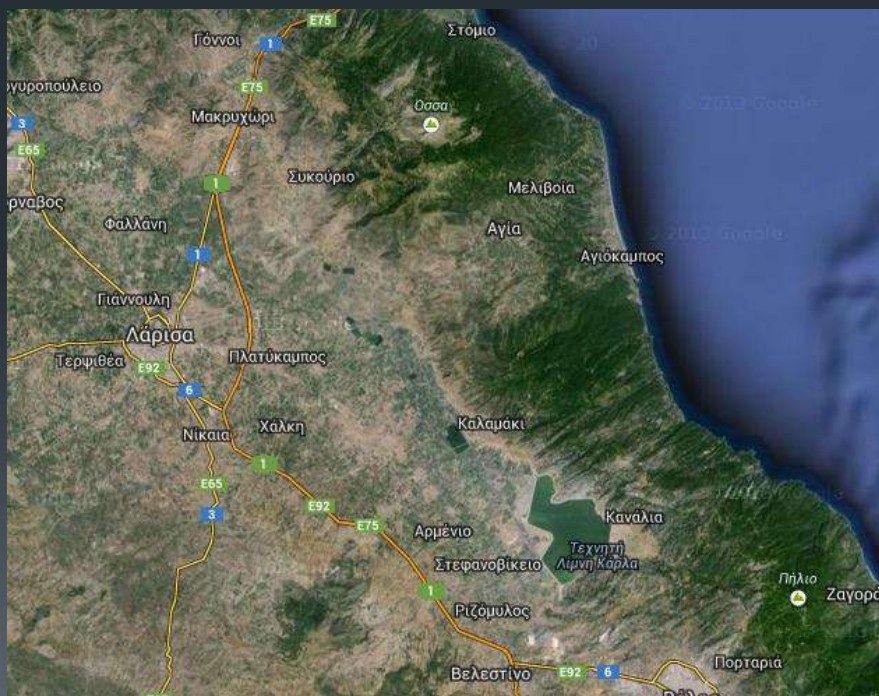


HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
PREFECTURE OF LARISSA  
MUNICIPALITY OF AGIA



Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union

- The Municipality of Agia is located in eastern Thessaly .
- Its population is **11.470** inhabitants (as of 2011) and it covers a surface area of **668,26 km<sup>2</sup>**



## MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION

- The 36 km long **coastline** and especially the 13 km long beach that expands from Velika to Agiokampos.
- The **mountains Ossa** (GR 142003, GR 142007) and **Mavrovouni** (GR 142004, GR 142006) with their **nature reserves** for rare kinds of birds and animals, belong to the NATURA 2000 network
- **Lake Karla** (GR 142004) and the **Delta of Pinios** (GR142002, CITES), which are **nature reserves** for rare kinds of birds, belong also to the NATURA 2000 network
- The **mineral springs** of Kokkino Nero. The water temperature is 13 °C and researches have proved that its body chemistry heals some kinds of diseases.





# VELIKA COASTLINE



➤ The Municipality of Agia consists of 22 villages. Their main characteristics are the traditional architecture and the agricultural way of life.



➤ The vast majority of the inhabitants of the Municipality of Agia are farmers. They raise almost 30% of the total Greek apple production, which means about 100.000 tones.





## Important Sights

- The castle of Velika
- Archeological Finds of the Neolithic Period
- Churches and monasteries from the Byzantine and the post-Byzantine Period
- Traditional villages like Metaxohori, Megalovryso and Anatoli.



## Important Sights

- Stone arched bridges and aqueducts
- The historical center of the town of Agia
- The network of paths that connect the mountains with the coast





## Stone arched bridges and aqueducts





## ➤ Local Products

Olives / extra virgin olive oil / chestnuts / cherries / apples / kiwis

- ✓ 5.000 tones Cherries
- ✓ 3.000 tones Chestnuts
- ✓ 2.000 tones Kiwis
- ✓ 20.000.000 m<sup>2</sup> Olive trees



## The Castle of Velika

The Castle of Velika dates back to 400 B.C. according to findings. Findings also show that during the Byzantine period another one was built on top of it. Until today, a church, a part of the fort and a part of the settlement have been excavated.

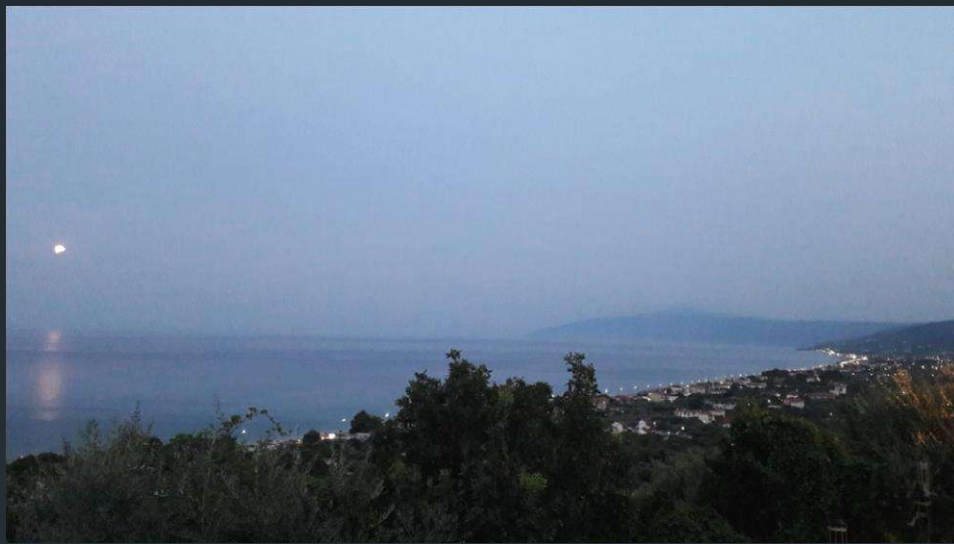
The excavation of the Castle started in 1995 and was funded by the then Local Community of Melivia. A few years ago the project was funded by the European Union and the Ministry of Culture but only for two years. The Ephorate of Antiquities is the authority in charge.

During the excavation period, the Municipality of Agia in collaboration with the Archaeological Department of the University of Thessaly and the Ephorate of Antiquities welcome and host both Greek and foreign students.









In the full moon of August the Ephorate of Antiquities in collaboration with the Women's Association of Velika and the Municipality of Agia organizes a special cultural event, which gives access to a different magical night view of our castle. It is one of the most popular events.





## IMPORTANT EVENTS

- Apple Feast in Agia from the 31<sup>st</sup> of August to the 5<sup>th</sup> of September
- Cherry Feast in Metaxohori at the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of June
- Mushroom Feast in Sklithro and in Anatoli in October
- Chestnut Feast in Melivia and Karitsa in October
- Kissavos Marathon Race in April
- Coastal Marathon in July
- Cycling Marathon on mountain Kissavos in May
- “Philoctetes” Swimming Marathon from Agiokampos to Velika in September



- Guided tours on the paths of the region for groups and schools



- Coastal Marathon  
from Agiokampos to Velika in July





# KISSAVOS MARATHON RACE

**KISSAVOS MARATHON RACE** is organized by the Runners Association of Agia in cooperation with the Municipality of Agia and the Prefecture of Thessaly.





- 40km from Agia to Profitis Ilias, the top of the mountain Kissavos and back.
- 12km from Agia to Megalovryso and back





An event organized by volunteers. A story of successful cooperation between young people, authorities, associations and small local enterprises.



## EUROPEAN PROJECTS

The Municipality of Agia has participated in several EU funded projects over the last few years and has been an active member of several networks regarding social inclusion, integration of immigrants, volunteering, youth, solidarity, social enterprises, rural tourism and the preservation of cultural heritage. It is our strongest belief that through networking, brainstorming, best-practice exchange and the contact to European communities and organizations new skills and innovative ideas can be gained that shall lead to local development based on the respect for nature, history and human relations.







**THANK YOU!**



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