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**“NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC
CITY-PORT OF PATRAS”**

by

P. Georgakopoulou, I. Pantazopoulos, A. Papalou,

Representatives of committee for the “Protection of Architectural Heritage”
Technical Chamber of Greece – Western Greece Branch
40, Trion Navarhon Str. - Patras 26222
Tel:00302610/334787, FAX: 00302610/ 330632
e-mail: logist1-tde@central.tee.gr or pgeorgac@yahoo.gr

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to present the main directions of Patras’ area Master Plan (M.P.P.), especially the propositions concern to the city of Patras and discusses the views and considerations for its successful completion.

Patras, located in the northwest coast of Peloponnese, Greece, is a city that its origins go back in the history. **(1)** It was developed dynamically since 1828, after the foundation of the Greek state, as a city - port, multinational and multicultural, being influenced by the West Europe culture. Its economical prosperity and growth was based on the resin’s commerce. In the second part of 19th century, Patras becomes the most important port in the Greek State for exporting goods. **(2)**

The following century, especially since 1950, Patras’ development is based on the new role of its port as a link with Italy and West Europe, and also on its local industry. In the eighties and nineties, the industry crisis drives the biggest production plants to close or dislocate, leading the city to economical depression.

Trying to find a new identity for the city to develop its economy and reorganize the social infrastructure, today’s M.P.P. proposes the development of the city based on “urban tourism”. **(3)**

The main issues the city has to face, until the M.P.P. be legalized, include:

- The development of the tourism model that the city will invest its future.
- The projects that will support the tourism model, mainly the regeneration of the city’s historic center and the uses of the urban land.
- The protection of monuments and the promotion of historical places.
- The connection of the city’s historic center with the “sea front” that is subject of conflict of diverse interests.

- The necessary infrastructure that will enhance and promote the new city's identity, taking advantage of its history, tradition and local products.

References

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3. *Master Plan of Patras Area, 2nd phase study*, Athens 2008. Ministry of Environment, Planning and Public Constructions.

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