



MUNICIPALITY OF CHANIA (CHANIA)

CITY IDENTITY

City name: Chania Country: Greece
City size: (number of inhabitants): 108.642

Short description of city

The Municipality of Chania is located on the north-west part of the island of Crete in Greece. Its administrative area includes the city of Chania, which is the second city of Crete in size, population and development rate, as well as suburban and rural areas, covering a total of 356,12 sq km. The resident population of the Municipality, according to the data of the recent population census (2011) conducted by the Hellenic Statistical Authority, is 108.642 residents which represents 17.4% of the total Cretan population. The local economy is mainly based on Agriculture and Tourism. Chania is the capital city of the prefecture and the administrative, economic, commercial and transportation centre. On the other hand, it creates a landscape of irregular natural beauty, combining beaches with crystal waters, lakes, gorges, rich flora and fauna, and a benign climate, creating ideal living conditions and exciting environment that attracts too many visitors. The city of Chania constitutes a crossroad of civilizations and continents with a long history unique architecture and rich tradition. In the Municipality of Chania you can find some of the most important areas of natural beauty and of ecological significance of Crete, that have been included in Natura 2000 network, such as the lake of Agia, the gorge of Theriso and the islet of Agii Theodori (or Thodorou). It worth mentioning the Park for the Preservation of Flora and Fauna of the Technical University of Crete, which is located 5 kilometers northeast of the city of Chania in Profitis Ilias, has an extent of 300 square kilometers, and constitutes an important area, where native plants and co-existing animals are protected and can develop without human intervention.

The city's population is approximately 54.000 residents, which doubles during summer, as Chania is a very popular touristic destination. Chania city is lowland with only a few hills. Most central and new built areas of the city are well structured. The old Venetian harbour and the old town of Chania is one of the most characteristic areas with picturesque alleys which has been reconstructed in order to become more accessible. Just one indicative photo (supporting material) demonstrates the harmonic combination of sea, architecture (as a crossroad of civilizations),

mountains and gorges within a few kilometres.

The Municipality of Chania has long experience in implementing projects funded directly or indirectly by European Funding Programs. Since 1993 it has participated in several projects such as "Raphaelle", "Kaleidoscope", "EPET II", "NOW", "Horizon", "Youthstart I", "Youthstart II" (Employment programmes), "Million" (Esprit 20772), "Future-Leonardo Da Vinci", "Chania Syn", "Campiello(i3net)", "Crete Tournet", "OMNI", "SMARTNETS", "AGILE", "E-Park", "Youth in Action", etc.

The IT Department of the Municipality of Chania manages all the information systems (software, hardware, web applications and networks) and the equipment used by the municipal services (mail server, web server, application servers, backup server e.t.c) operating under server virtualization platforms. In addition, the IT Dpt manages a wide network of Fiber Optics (70 klm) which interconnects all the municipal buildings with over public services and it is also responsible for the maintenance of the Municipal Web Portal, offering several web services to citizens and visitors.

The Management and Quality Department of the Municipality of Chania has implemented many National and European co-funded projects, holding a long experience in project management.

Cultural Infrastructure: The Municipality of Chania owns many infrastructures devoted to culture: Libraries, Municipal Art Gallery, Summer Municipal Cinema, cultural and exhibition centres, cultural venues and theatres, which contribute to the cultivation of interest for every expression / form art in our Municipality.

Social Infrastructure: The Municipality of Chania has developed a significant number of social structures that it has under its supervision to provide services of a social nature to the citizens (i.e. elderly, young etc).

Technical Equipment: The Municipality of Chania owns an extended network of 65 Public WiFi Hotspots and 70 Klm. Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) necessary for the networking needs of the project.

Projects:

1) Smart Parking Management System for disabled people:

Municipality of Chania is trying to facilitate people with disabilities in any way. Recently the utilization of new technologies is used in order to facilitate them to find parking space and thereby contribute to a sense of autonomy and a sense of decent living. An innovative Smart Parking Management System for people with disabilities is now working for the

Municipality of Chania.

It is designed to manage the parking spaces (more than 150 - located in various places around city centre and public services buildings) that serve disabled people of Chania Prefecture who want to visit the city as well as visitors coming from other cities or countries.

After a long study of the particular features of this need and the available technologies, the optimum solution for managing Reserved Spaces for Disabled Persons was selected and the system is implemented in ten locations at first place. This integrated system consists a complete and innovative solution and its detailed description is attached in the supporting material. It consists of ground sensors for each parking slot, special spaces cards for disabled people, parking Spaces Management Platform,

The company's social responsibility practices relate to issues about facilitating people who face challenges such as health and safety. In this direction, Parking Spaces Management Platform, Mobile Application and Interface Services. The management platform and the mobile application also provide access to Traffic Police which can exploit the information about illegal occupation of parking space for disabled persons and intervene directly in order to comply with the Road Traffic Code.

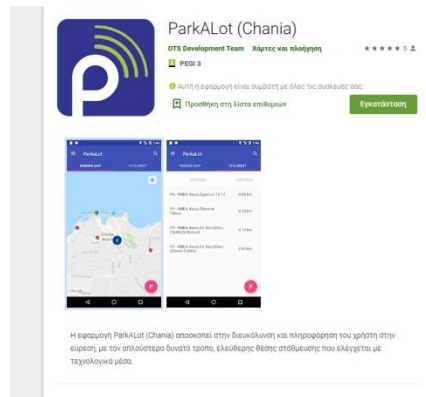
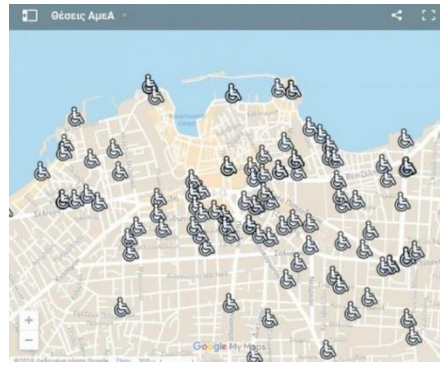
The results of this project are impressive by making these spaces available to this vulnerable social group and at the same time limit violations by unauthorized cars. Obviously, the municipality's strategy to provide parking spaces for disabled people next to their residence is also about to be combined with the aforementioned system. (a detailed analysis of the applied system is available in the supporting material)

Additionally, together with the Union of Disabled of Chania there are "white taxis" for disabled people and people in wheelchairs. Citizens as well as visitors may call to set an appointment. The fare is equal to the fare of a regular taxi.

One more initiative of the Municipality of Chania is financed by an Interreg project for ecological mobility and includes the purchase of a mini bus specialized for disabled people in order to follow a short route around the city.

Concerning public transport in Chania apart from taxis there are public buses and ferries and airplanes owned by private companies. Ferries offer services to people with disabilities as they have lifts, escalators and specially designed cabins for disabled. The suburban buses station is accessible to disabled and obviously, Chania's airport is fully accessible and has facilities for people with disabilities. Last but not least, all companies offering public transport services have official web sites where information on time schedules, destinations and contact information is easily accessible to everybody.

The Municipality of Chania offers a variety of transactions and online services, minimizing the need for disabled people to come to the city hall in order to be served. Complains, suggestions, questions and inquiries can be submitted and replied via the municipality's app (Chania-citizen app). They can also be served by e-mail, fax or telephone.



2) Accessibility to public facilities and services: Sea tracs

An innovative and initiative of Chania Municipality is the installation and function of five “Sea tracs”, in order to provide full and easy access for people with disabilities from the beach to the sea. Each one of them consists of the appropriate chair, placed in a specific wooden passageway that leads inside the sea, together with all the appropriate infrastructure and components that ensure a safe and enjoyable dive in the crystal-clear sea.

3) Virtual Tour for the monuments and emblematic building

Another useful initiative for people with disabilities is the Interactive Virtual Tour for the monuments and emblematic building of the old city of Chania. It is an interactive high- tech system which uses video projectors for virtual tours. It is installed in the Mediterranean Centre of Architecture in the Venetian port of Chania and many people (with disabilities or not) are able to visit (virtually) all the hot spots of Chania Municipality.

4) Step2Smart: Cross-border cooperation between island urban areas to improve environmental conditions through the use of Intelligent Transport Systems with the acronym. The main objective of the Step2smart project is to create an Interoperable Open Architecture System for Urban Transport Management and Environmental Impact Assessment.

5) ECORouTs: Common Actions to Create Green - Environmentally Friendly Routes in Tourist Areas and Acronym. The goal of the project is to limit the impact of public transport to the natural environment and to gradually replace the vehicles used by municipalities, with electric vehicles.

6) Smart Cities: Development of intelligent city applications in the municipalities of Cyprus, Crete and the North Aegean, with the acronym. The goal of this project is to develop applications and actions using ICT to improve the interaction between the Municipality and its inhabitants, furthermore creating an attractive environment for businesses, visitors and institutions.

7) ERMIS-F: Online Environmental Risk Service - floods with the acronym. The goal of this project is to develop a Standard Integrated Public Supported Service, a Digital System and an Internet Platform for Information and Flood Risk Management. (INTERREG V-A GREECE - CYPRUS 2014-2020)

8) AGILE: Rapidly-deployable, self-tuning, self-reconfigurable, nearly-optimal control design for large-scale, nonlinear systems. The project aimed at providing a scalable, self-tunable/ reconfigurable design for complex Large-Scale Control Systems to achieve nearly-optimal performance. Its implementation in Chania improved the Traffic Management System. (7th Framework Programme)

9) Automatic Bike Sharing System of Municipality of Chania: The Automatic Bike Sharing System of Municipality of Chania consists of 4 stations and 50 bikes. The bicycles are city bikes with low step frame which is easy to be used either by men or women.

10) Mobile Library of the Municipality of Chania: The Mobile Library visits Primary Schools and Kindergartens with the aim of lending books to students, promoting books and readability, serving children who don't have easy access to Children's Libraries. The staff of the Municipal Libraries are responsible for operation of the Mobile Library. Every year, on average, the Library visits 15 schools and lends about 3,000 books.