

NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN ATHENS, GREECE, Monday 19th March 2007

The national workshop in Greece was organised by PRISMA and held in Athens, at the offices of the coorganiser. Invitations and an Agenda had been circulated well in advance to all the rural heritage museums in the country and to NGOs and public organisations that have an interest in rural heritage. The workshop attracted 20 participants from different parts of Greece, representing 11 museums, the Ministry of Culture and three NGOs:

- The Ethnological Museum of Alexandroupolis
- The Ethnological Museum of Sarakatsanoi, Serres
- Centre of Study of Modern Ceramics, Athens
- The Folk Museum of Komotini
- The Folk Museum of Xanthi
- The Museum of Cretan Ethography
- The Folk Museum of Chalkis
- The Folk-Historical-Literature Museum of Aetolo-acarnania
- The Peloponnesian Institution
- The Museum of Folk Art, Athens
- The Historical and Folk Museum of Rethymno
- The Greek Ministry of Culture, Department of Modern Cultural Heritage

The workshop included presentations and discussion. Presentations included:

- Dr. Fouli Papageorgiou, presented the project to the participants and elaborated on the aims, objectives and activities of Cult-Rural.
- Aphrodite Sorotou discussed on “The socio-cultural construction of rurality: from the material to symbolism”, and elaborated on theme by taking examples from rural Thrace.
- Louiza Karapidaki made a presentation on “Cultural Landscapes” and discussed on the relation of human and nature depicted through manmade settlements and traditional building techniques throughout Europe.

All the museums gave presentations of their collections and their other activities and actively participated in the discussions, which had to do both with the research and theoretical approach of the exhibition themes 1 and 3, but also with their museological approach. All participants were interested on the topics and agreed to participate in the conceptual development and exhibition activities of the project. A few of them expressed their interest to host for a month one of the exhibitions.

All the participants also agreed to take part in the CULT-RURAL network of museums. PRISMA and Euracademy on behalf of the project co-organisers agreed to regularly inform them of project

developments and assist them to get in contact with other European museums of rural heritage, which will participate in the network.