



Αμάθεια

# "Greek Society for the Protection of Indigenous Animal Breeds (agricultural and domestic)"

- "AMALTHIA" is a non-profit NGO, founded in 2006.
- It is an association of individuals and legal bodies.
- Main objective is the protection of biodiversity and the natural environment.
- It operates in accordance to Greek State and European Union laws.
- Today 12 Associations and Societies together with many individuals and are members of "Amaltheia".



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## What we do to promote rare breeds

- Promotion and presentation of different rare breeds (exhibitions, articles, meetings etc)
- Field search for unknown populations or recognised breeds thought to be extinct
- Engagement in different projects through collaboration with Universities, Ministry, Municipalities, Organizations, Associations, Farmers etc
- Establishment of new breeding groups
- Documentation (reviewing, interviews etc)



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## Successful actions

- Research on Greek bovine populations and genetic characterisation through collaboration with AUA and LMU
- Project on Greek indigenous breeds and populations, funded by St. Niarchos Foundation :
  - 1) Athens Exhibition of Jason Roberts's work and photos
  - 2) Publication of a book (Greek-English)
  - 3) Production of educational material for schools



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## NEEDS & PROBLEMS

Funding is the biggest obstacle that “We” face in order to achieve our goals, especially during the current recession.

Legislation & bureaucracy consists a major obstacle, since it favors modern breeds and does not allow changes.

Ignorance from a big part of the farmers / breeders about the value of their breeds and the way to preserve / improve them.



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## What does not work (problems & needs)

- Drawbacks in forming new herds.
- Un-co-operative breeders (among themselves).
- Official certifying agencies may award certification to incorrect animals (poor knowledge of breeds).
- Providing coordination and support on European and other programs.
- Representing Our (Amaltheia) interests at the European decision making centres.
- Supporting the collaboration between partners for potential common project.



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## Lessons learned

- Significance of co-operative, consistent and reliable local contacts - proper/rounded briefing of local contacts and field researchers.
- Education more effective than subsidizing.
- State administrators in key positions with a personal interest in native livestock can make a huge difference.
- Collaboration between partners for potential common projects.
- Connection between products and breeds is very important.