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**ATHENS 2004 OLYMPIC LEGACY: SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND
GENERAL AFTEREFFECTS**

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SUMMARY

Anastasios A. Katsiadramis: Athens 2004 Olympic Legacy: Sport infrastructure and general aftereffects.

(Under the supervision of Georgiadis Konstantinos, Professor)

Since the antiquity the Olympic Games are considered as a major event. Their revival was a big step for the modern world. Their significance not only for the sport family but for the whole society cannot be doubt. Their impact to the hosting city is huge in a variety of sectors. But what happens to all these buildings and facilities when the lights turn off? As a mega event the study of the Olympic Legacy has attracted many researches. Even more from the tendency to be considered more and more important. In the case of Athens, the legacy of the Olympic Games is a field of argument still 16 years after the Games. This study examines the Athens 2004 Olympic Legacy starting from the bid process until today focusing on the sport infrastructures.

Key words: Olympic Games, Olympic Legacy, Sport Venues, Athens

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ATHOC	Athens 2004 Organizing Committee
AOSC	Athens Olympic Sports Complex
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IBC	International Broadcast Center
MPC	Media Press Center
OG	Olympic Games
OGG	Olympic Games Global Impact
OGOC	Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Presentation of the problem

The Olympic Games have been always an event of great significance. From the ancient time until the modern period it has been a point of interaction among different tribes and cultures. Although from the revival of the Games in 1896 many things have changed, the substance of the Games remains the same: the Olympic Ideals. As the audience increases through the years, it attracts more stakeholders, which results large impact to the hosting cities. But what happens when the Games are over? What remains to the region and which are the benefits? Is the State capable of maintain the new infrastructures? In order to have long term benefits a strategy planning is needed aiming on that. Did this happen in the case of Athens? Which is the size of the benefits for the sports itself and how has the society gain from the event? Which were the chances for Greece? Were these chances capitalized? In which size where the Olympic infrastructures utilized? All these questions look reasonable and need thorough and versatile research in order to be properly answered.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to add some knowledge regarding the utilization and the condition of the Olympic Venues of Athens, presenting all the history around them. Also it aims to a more versatile approach, examining possible development around the Olympic Venues or due to them. The aim is to present the image of Athens regarding the Olympic infrastructures 16 years after the Games.

Importance of the study

For every hosting country is very important the utilization of the important Venues in order to be developed. The Venues could capitalize through financial occupancy, social contribution and tourism development. The effort of holistic approach may become the base for future researchers to work on different aspects regarding the Olympic Legacy. Also, it would be helpful to those who want to examine the correlation of the Games and their impact.

Research questions

In this study will be tried to be answered 2 questions

- What is the use of the Olympic Venues 16 years after the Games?
- Which were the problems in utilizing Athens Olympic Legacy?

Delimitations and Restrictions

The first delimitation for this research was the huge size of information regarding the Olympic Legacy, which extends on many different sectors. Another delimitation was the fact that not all the data are measurable. The third was the access difficulties to the sites as they are not all open for the public and the non-cooperative administration of the Venues in the case of interviews. The fourth was the spreading of Covid-19 virus in Greece during the research which had as a result not only the closure of sport venues and the libraries from which important material could be found but also the restriction of the traffic.

Definitions

In order to understand better the objectives, the definitions of the terms that will be used will be brought into focus:

Olympic Legacy: as it will be analyzed it includes all the tangible or intangible impact of the Olympic Games to the host city, in sporting, social-cultural-political, environmental, economic and urban framework.

Mega-events: are considered the major sport events that attract international economic and advertising interest, as they refer to a great number of audience.

Bid File: is the file which includes the proposed plan for hosting the Olympic Games and is presented to the bidding process.

Olympic infrastructures: are considered all the infrastructures created in order to serve the need of the Olympic Games.

CHAPTER II.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this study the literature review starts examining the term “Olympic legacy” under a holistic approach aiming to provide as more as possible information for all the different approaches regarding the subject, in order to clarify the term *Olympic Legacy*. Then it goes back on time up to the ancient Olympic Games and their revival in 1896 in order to identify common points that could be accepted as ‘legacy’. Then it goes on to the point of the big change regarding the post-Olympic planning in Barcelona 1992 Games and after examining the differences between Athens and other host cities it tries to present the frame of the Olympic Legacy of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Defining Legacy

In order to be able to present, analyze the Olympic Legacy of Athens 2004 Games it should first be defined what Olympic Legacy actually is and what the importance of it is. According to Chappelet the term of legacy was introduced on mega sport events during the 1990’s. This was the time that questions were raised about the balance of the costs and the benefits on organizing sport events. This question raised on financial, social and environmental aspects. (Chappelet, 2012) As the IOC argues there should be clear objectives and strong vision of what the Games can offer to the citizens and the hosting region in order to take full advantage of this opportunity. (IOC, 2012) There are several ways that legacy can be perceived: positive or negative, tangible or intangible, sport or not-sport related, short-or long-term, territorial or personal. It also includes the subjective element as the word can refer on positive or negative result. (Chappelet, 2012) There are three reasons that IOC interests for the positive legacy of the event: it makes a good image of IOC to the public and becomes a reason to support that hosting the Games is good for the city. Also, it justifies the use of public resources for infrastructures related to the event. Third it motivates other cities to become candidates for hosting the Games, increasing by this way the power of the IOC. The big importance of these three reasons is mirrored on the development of the IOC’s project called “Olympic Games Global Impact” (OGGI) which was launched in 2000. The goal of this project was to improve the evaluation of the overall impacts of the Games but also to propose consistent methodology to capture the

effects of hosting the Games. It lasts 11 years, starting on the bidding stage until 2 years after the event ends. The period (2 years) after the Games that means the end of the project is estimated too short to measure the legacy of the event. (Gratton & Preuss, 2008) . The IOC also developed the Olympic Games Impact project (OGI) in order to examine the economic, social and environmental impact of the Games. (Girginov, 2014) “*Legacy is an elusive, problematic and even dangerous word. It has two meanings in English: a specific meaning relating to an individual bequest or a more general meaning, referring to anything that is left over from an era or an event*” (Cashman, 2002, p. 33)

This undefined structure of the world legacy has as a result many theories about which sectors should be considered as legacy. Cashman purposes six legacy categories: economic, physical infrastructure, education, public life-politics and culture, sport, symbols-memory and history. Chappelet identifies five categories: *Tourism and Economy; Infrastructure; Sport facilities; Urban and natural environment; Socio-cultural*. Hiller (2003) proposal sets four types of outcomes: built environment, economic development, memories, and communities. Gratton and Preuss use the term "event structures" and identified six of these structures: infrastructure, knowledge-skill development and education, image, emotions, networks, culture. Volrath suggests that the framework of legacy should also include, aims, motives meanings and impacts. Cashman suggest the term ‘impacts’ and Hiller the word ‘outcomes’ (Sadd & Jones, 2009) Since 2002 the term *legacy* and *sustainable sports development* seem to be essential issues for the IOC at the point that the Olympic Charter was modified including references to positive legacy for the host regions (Girginov, 2014)

As it is understood there is a wide range of sectors that the Games may contribute in terms of legacy. So, except of sports we may notice effects on social, economic and environmental fields. Although some outcomes can be seen since the first day of the Games, other take much time to be noticed, even years after the Games. The IOC introduces five categories of legacy: sporting, social, environmental, urban and economic. Also, it can be distinguished in tangible or intangible form. The first one can include any kind of infrastructure (sporting or transportation) but also any urban regeneration. From the other hand intangible legacies such as increased sense of national pride or new working skills, although they are not visible, they are no less important. To have a closer look sporting legacy is referred to sporting venues

and boost to sport participation, social legacies are related to cultural programs, education, the promotion of the Olympic Values, opening and closing ceremonies and presenting hosting city's culture and history. The development of the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 in 1999 shows the importance of the connection between sports and the environment. It promotes the idea that there should be a proper planning and management so the environmental impacts of hosting the Games are minimized, introducing new sustainability programs which create lasting environmental legacy with long term benefits, using new energy sources. The urban legacy is referred on the renewal and the beautification of urban areas and the transport infrastructures, making the hosting city more attractive and improve the accessibility. The economic legacy is related to the increased level of economic activity and production by hosting the Games or the increase in GDP or even the new job opportunities that are created. (IOC, 2012) Another way to approach the legacy issue is the perspective, who it effects: the city, the organizers, the athletes, the spectators as also the television audience. It is not only the buildings and the monuments, the archives and the souvenirs but also the oral memories, and the stories, treasured by individual citizens is considered legacy. (Cashman, 1998) The numerous different aspects of legacy show that there can be more segregations. For example, can be distinguished in their material, territorial and sporting dimension or in terms of perspective regarding legacy the stakeholders are separated in the owner of the event, the local people and the political and economic leaders. (Chappelet, 2014)

The 2002 International Symposium resulted the need for starting the legacy planning simultaneously with the decision to bid for the Games and that more importance should be given to this sector. (Sadd & Jones, 2009) It is observed that cities take place on the bid procedure in order to benefit in terms of legacy even if they do not win. (Chappelet, 2014) It is also observed that the legacy planning for the London 2012 Games since the Bidding procedure was very crucial for winning the bid showing a turn on the way of thinking. Malfas (2004) argues that the social outcomes can be negative as it happened in Atlanta 1996 and Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games when residents were forced to re-locate. These incidents highlight the need of prior legacy planning. (Sadd & Jones, 2009)

The ancient Olympic Games

Lasting 1-5 days (it changed from century to century) and held every 4 years the Olympic Games were the greatest big event of ancient world. Taking place on a sacred location in Olympia they were connected with the gods elevating the importance of the fest and the victory. Barbarians (non-Greeks), slaves, criminals and women were not allowed to participate. The first and the last days were dedicated to sacrifices, rituals, thanking and athletes' oath. The oath was so important that it was common belief that its' violation would bring in the range of the god. Hymns were written to honor the winners who were treated as heroes when they were coming back to their cities and they were honored and adored even after their death. (Mouratidis, 2009, p. 183-186)

The cultural importance of the competition is mirrored at the peaceful coexistence among different cultures in a social and educational way without underestimate the financial sector. The statute of truce highlighted also the political importance of the Games. A values system was developed based on equality, justice and moral educating at the same time the athletes and the spectators. Through Homer's epics we can see that art is connected with competition and for Plato physical exercise is integral part of youth education in order to create a complete personality. That is why his ideas are up to date and mentioned until today connected with the development of the Olympic Idea. (Goggaki, 2005, p. 197-200)

The legacy can also be found at the statues inspired by the athletes' beauty and in poetry as the Olympian athletes were ideal models of excellence. (Goggaki, 2005, p. 200) The ancient Greek competitions were a powerful moral bond among all the Greeks of different cities and tribes. Especially the Olympic Games were the PanHellenic center of competitive publicity aiming to create men who combine virtue, beauty, bravery and physical health, the brotherhood between all tribes and altruism display. Olympism is a way of life and represents the effort of reaching something higher through sport, securing a beneficial influence for education in all ages, covering also social, moral and spiritual fields, rejecting any social discrimination. (Giannakis, 2002, p. 505)

The revival of the Olympic Games

In order to examine the case of Athens in depth we should go back to the organization of the Olympics of 1896 and 1906 and the huge social impact as also the physical infrastructures. For example, the Panathenaic Stadium which hosted events of the

three Olympic Games of Athens (1896, 1906, 2004). (Georgiadis & Theodorikakos, 2015)

The idea of the revival did not appear suddenly. It is an outcome of the social changes of the era which suggested gymnastics and athletics to have great importance. The European interest for ancient Greece and the establishment of physical exercise as part of the education were two important elements. Around Europe national competitions were held under the title of “Olympic Games”. The same was happening in Greece through the Zappas Olympic Games in Athens in 1859, 1870, 1875 and 1888 although these were mainly agro-industrial and cultural contests. In this frame it was preparing the way for the idea of the revival. At the International Congress for the Re-establishment of the Olympic Games, in 23th of June 1894 it was decided that Athens would host the first modern Olympic Games. (Koulouri, 2006)

The revival of the O.G. was the biggest social event at the end of the 19th century. Vikelas proposed Athens for the rebirth of the Games having as arguments to show to the visitors the monuments of the ancient time at the places that all the ancient PanHellenic competitions were taking place. It was decided to be held in Greece in 1896 instead of Paris in 1900. The opening day 25th of March had existential structure as it is the day that Greek revolution is being celebrated. Also, the Panathenaic stadium where the Games were held has its own meaning. These two facts symbolized the religious status, freedom and the cultural Olympic legacy of Greek people. The Olympic Hymn sounded that day still remains the official Olympic Hymn (Giannakis, 2002) For Greece it was a chance to raise and show to Europe that it was part of it and to separate its substance from the Turks and the Eastern culture. (Koulouri, 2006) At the beginning there were arguing voices on adopting the term “Olympic Games” by the conservatives and those who were opposite to the revival. Finally prevailed the viewpoint that it was a good chance to enhance the national pride, to contribute on the education of the new generation and to show to Europe the face of an organized state and not savage and uncivilized as it was believed. The revival was also seen as a chance for global peace. The contribution of the Games to the Greek society was so big that it was pursued to hold the Olympic Games permanently. (Giannakis, 2002, p. 559-562)

Plato’s words are converted in the science of Sociology as physical exercise and sports are considered as important factor of socializing, when socializing is the mental development and physical act of people through the experience of social

situations.(Stamiris, 1995, p. 177) Under the same substance, having a spiritual and moral stance and described by Coubertin as an educational system with rules, methods and subject, Olympism was a tool for the idealistic internationalisms to change the world. It also acted as a means to promote social peace and the need for civilized solutions. (Koulouri, 2006)

As Koulouri sustains the Olympic Games should be accepted as a modern phenomenon and not as continuity to the ancient competition and they would not be successful if the Western culture was not ready through the acceptance and the spread of the sport activities. Although we cannot pass the similarities which shall be translated as “legacy” of the ancient Games like the fact that women were excluded from the competition or the fact that at the revival Games the Olympic Champion was presented as hero carrying the glory of a nation. The Greek example was Spyridon Louis who won the Marathon race. (Koulouri, 2006)

Other cases

If we examine the Olympic Games before Athens and those after, some interesting common points and differences will be noticed, like the fact that in Athens, Beijing and London the majority of the costs were public fund showing the growing importance of the Olympic Legacy. (Kasimati & Dawson, 2009) Sourdakou (2012) pointed that with the exception of Los Angeles 1984 and Atlanta 1996 were the private sector’s funding was bigger than the State’s, in all other cases was even like in Seoul 1988 and Sydney 2000 or smaller like in Barcelona 1992, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008 and London 2012. (Sourdakou, 2012) Also, through the Olympic Villages of Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London can be identified the element of globalization on architecture creating recognized brands formed by international architecture firms. This tendency raises the concern for new urban security conditions, for environmentally sustainable projects and the opportunity for new urban forms proposal through innovative interventions. (Munoz, 2011)

Barcelona

Form the time that Barcelona was nominated as an Olympic host city the unemployment fell (18.4% in 1986 – 9.6% in 1992) and there was a huge increase in housing market and in construction industry. Isolating the year after the Games, Barcelona had a continuous economic growth. In the case of Barcelona, the objectives were simple and clear: urban transformation of the city and sporting and

organizational excellence and the tool was good cooperation between institutions. (Brunet, 2011) The planning included good transportation links, accommodation based on post-game use and all the investments focused on social benefits, improved telecommunications and convert the coast into a recreation center open to the public. Research have shown that for the residents the intangible benefits are more important than the economic outcomes. (Sadd & Jones, 2009 As it is understood it is big gap comparing the case of Athens were there was no focus on developing brown fields except the case of Faliron Bay, the old airport at Helliniko, the Agios Kosmas waterfront and the Goudi Olympic Complex (Beriatos & Gospodini, 2004)

A comparative study between Barcelona 1992 and Athens 2004 Games showed up the big difference in the long-term planning between the two cities. Although Athens had the will to use the Barcelona model this was not implemented. The research shows that Barcelona had a clear vision looking far on the 2000, harmony and cooperation between the political parties and a plan strategy for the sport venues aiming to upgrade the city after the Games. From the other hand in Athens political controversies were too strong, resulting the change of the winning Bid Team and the review of the master plan which cost much of time. The big difference on planning results is imprinted on the fact that two years after the Games in Barcelona the management company of the venues *Barcelona Promocio* hosted 346 events when for the Greek management company *Hellenic Olympic Properties SA* took two years to complete the competition for the use of some of the venues. Although it has been expressed that there was a focus on historical legacy by the Athens OCOG and the connection of the Games to the antiquity rather than the future as also the enhancement of national pride through this link and this point of view was strengthened by the media (Nunan & O'Brien, 2012) if we have a closer look to the Bid File, we will see that this was not actually planned and even more the outcome shows that the orientation was to highlight the modern Greece. In Barcelona 1992 the public funds covered 67.3% of the budget and the private sector 32.7%. The successful result in transforming the city and in the post-Olympic utilization, showed that this could be a good balance to be followed by other hosting cities. (Brunet, 1995)

Sydney

As Lochhead (2005) argues Sydney 2000 is another example where the post-games legacy was not of great importance during the planning period. (Sadd & Jones, 2009) The estimated budget was 1.3bn euros. (Kissoudi, 2008) The decision making by the central management and not in a local level resulted high rents and homelessness increase. On the other hand, in Auburn where the management was on the hands of the local council the costs could be controlled and employment opportunities were offered to the locals. This shows the importance of the community participation and the need to involve local authorities on the planning process. (Sadd & Jones, 2009) As a sport contest the sporting legacy of the Games in terms of locals' participation should not be underestimated. Research showed (Toohey & Veal, 2004) no certain result about Australians' involving in physical activity after the event in contrast with an increase in passive involvement with sports. Although it was expected that the world-class facilities would attract international sport events, Sydney was no exception of the common issue of under-utilization of sport facilities after the Olympic Games. This is why the initial plan was replaced by the 'Vision 2025' project. There was not also boost of tourism after the Games as expected but this is partly affected by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The long-term costs and benefits were questioned. From the other hand it should not be overlooked the fact that it was a success of Sydney's' Organizing Committee the transfer of Olympic knowledge to the Olympic Movement unlike previous cases when after the Games the information and the experience of OCOG were lost (Toohey, 2008)

General issues

In order to understand better the impact of a mega events we should have a close look not only on what comes after but also on what was the prospects before the implementation of it. This is why studies regarding the Olympic impact are divided in two categories: the ex-ante studies which are undertaken before the event and the ex-post studies undertaken after the event which may act as doubting means to the results of the first category. (Kasimati & Dawson, 2008)

In the case of Athens there were two opinions on the outcome of wining at the bid process. One voice highlighting the benefits and another complaining for the high cost. (Kissoudi, 2008) In order to maximize the benefits of the event and develop sustainable legacy it is needed the coordination of all the stakeholders.(Leopkey, 2014) A difficult issue for the OCOG was to deal with the negative press comments

and the political parties that were against the Games shaping the public opinion, despite the fact that the benefits would apply not only to the host city but to the host country in general, under a carefully planned legacy combining cultural and economic development which would last much longer than the two-week period of the Games. (Kissoudi, 2008)

There is a double route of the benefits of the mega events: the increased economic activity through investments and the international exposure of the hosting city through the event. The OG attracting a huge number of people, workers, participants, visitors and getting the largest television audience have become an industry. (Brunet, 2011) It is important to understand that the sporting legacy is not automatically attached to a city but is an outcome of planned effort. Sport development as expressed by Girginov is a moving target, not a static point but a holistic process of constructing opportunities which enhance participation and well-being while inspire people promoting ideals. (Girginov, 2014) It is difficult to distinguish the legacy as outcome of mega-events or municipal governance. It is mentioned that the concept of legacy is needed on one-off mega events unlike the events held every year in the same region. (Chappelet, 2014) The growth of the Olympic Games is a matter of concern regarding their sustainability. (Girginov, 2014) According to Roche (2000) mega-events are best understood as 'large-scale' cultural (including commercial and sporting) events, which have a dramatic character, mass popular appeal and international significance. He also mentions their remarkable impact to the host city and nation and the huge attraction of media coverage. For Roberts (2004) mega-events are described by the international character, the big in composition element and the discontinuous they have. Their international audience is being raising. In the case of Athens, it was 27% increase of media coverage comparing to Sydney, reaching 35000 hours watched by 3.9 billion people. There are three reason for the huge growth of the mega-events: the new technologies that are introduced on mass communication and the satellite television, the significant involution of sponsors since Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games and the view of the events as a promotional tool or the cities aiming to attract investments from abroad and increase tourism. (Horne, 2007) This phenomenon has as a result the establishment of an international image which can attract lot of benefits in sectors like investments and tourism. (Essex & Chalkley, 2003)

Athens 2004 Olympic Games should be seen as the peak of an era which started in 1990 and the first attempt to host the Games. (Synadinos, 2004) There is a triple process for implementing successful Olympic Games: the candidature acceptance procedure and the preparation of the Bid File, the organization process and the legacy of the Games and all of them must be part of a broader program responding to urban needs on a long-term vision for the hosting city. (Synadinos, 2014) Developing a model of cooperation between the State and the private sector and in a framework of long-term leasing and securing social benefits, would ensure the proper maintenance and the utilization of the new infrastructures. (Parpairis, 1998)

The IOC role on the legacy planning should not be underestimated. The knowledge transferred to the organizing committees can be effective in order to maximize the benefits and even more can point out the importance of the post-game legacy. (Sadd & Jones, 2009)

CHAPTER III.

METHODOLOGY

Following will be presented the method adopted by the researcher in order to meet the research objectives. It will be used a combination of descriptive research and qualitative research like the on-site observation and record, interviews and literature review related to the Olympic Legacy.

Sample

The sample at this research consists of the Olympic infrastructures which are part of the tangible Olympic legacy. Specifically, there are examined 32 sport venues, 2 non sport venues (IBC, MPC) and the Olympic Village. Also 2 inhabitants of the Olympic Village and 1 employee at the Galatsi Olympic Hall.

Tools

The tools used for this research as mentioned above is the international literature review, the content analysis, the on-site observation and open type interviews.

The literature review provided variety of reliable information but it was not limited on studying the international bibliography. It was extended to an online research of news' articles. This was deemed necessary not only because the management companies were not willing to give information regarding the route of the Venues through the years but also 16 years after the Games the administrations and the employees have changed resulting limited knowledge regarding the legacy. There was numerical recording of these infrastructures and description of their characteristics and were collected elements following the planning process, the construction, the sport operation and the post-Olympic utilization. The interview method was implemented only at the case of the Olympic Village because of the restrictions due to the pandemics. Although there was effort by the researcher to conduct more interviews in some cases the managers of the venues were negative from the beginning and in some others although they were initially positive finally, they did not respond.

In this study the independent variable is the Olympic Legacy and particularly the Olympic Venues and the dependent variable is the post-Olympic utilization.

CHAPTER IV.

RESULTS

The day after

Almost immediately after the Games a conflict about the cost began. The Hellenic Olympic Properties SA company was established in order to create a long-term strategy plan for utilizing the Olympic Venues. The value of the property was estimated 2 billion euros with an annual cost of 15m euros. (Kissoudi, 2008) The company established in 2002 in order to utilize the new Olympic Infrastructures. The management was given by the law N. 3342/2005 but the venues remained under public ownership (Vettas. 2015)

After a research by the Thessaly University of Economics the maintenance cost for the Olympic Venues was estimated 84 million euros per year. Three months after the Games the government announced that the cost of the Games was 9 billion euros and in 2005 the OCOG gave in public a detailed financial report excluding the urban infrastructure expenses and the new sport facilities costs that were funded by the State. The report also mentioned that the expenses were a little bit less than the revenues. Another point of argue was the fact that although the initial budget was 4.5bn euros the final expense reached the 11 billion euros. (Kissoudi, 2008)

Although the newly established management company had plans for the utilization of the new epicenters, the new government elected in 2004 revised these plans and the outcome use to be underused or not in use at all four years after the Games. Subsequently there was dissatisfaction in Greek society and major political conflict. (Gospodini, 2009)

Despite the initial delay the plan started to take place in 2006 when the results of the international competitions were announced. The Badminton Hall was leased for 20 years and until 2007 was renovated and transformed to a luxurious theatre, on May 2006. The Galatsi Olympic Hall was leased for 40 years use and would be converted to shopping and recreation center. In July 2006 the Olympic Village houses were given to the beneficiaries in an official ceremony. In 2006 the IBC was leased for 40 years to Lamda Development SA in order to be converted into a shopping mall and at the same time part of the building would accommodate the Museum of the Hellenic Olympic Games and the International Athletic Museum. The Canoe Kayak Slalom Venue in the Helliniko Complex was leased for 30 years to J&P Avax-Gek-Bioter-

Corfu Water-Parks SA in order to operate as amusement park. In 2007 the Agios Kosmas Sailing Center was leased to Seirios Tech SA for 45 years and would operate as a modern marina. In 2007 it was signed the assignment of the Beach Volleyball Venue to S.K. Pazaropoulos SA for long-term use as musical and performances events center. The same year it was agreed that the Tae-Kwon-Do hall would be transformed into an international convention center after cooperation of public and private sector. The Markopoulo Shooting Center was designed to operate as a police training center. The Helliniko Olympic Complex was planned to be converted into the Athens Metropolitan Park but at that time there was not announced any competition. The Ano Liosia Olympic Center would host the Arts Academy and the National Digital Museum while the Nikaia Olympic Hall would be given to Piraeus University. The Pagkretio Stadium would be given to the municipality of Heraklion. After all these it was clear that the taxpayers would benefit of the maintenance expenditure and all the incomes of the leasing would balance the construction expenses. (Kissoudi, 2008)

Despite of the mobilization of the State some of the assignments did not proceed or were delayed for various of reasons. For example, in the case of Agios Kosmas Sailing Center the mayor was against the operation of the Venue by a private company and wanted free access to the place by the public. (Kissoudi, 2008)

Economic figures

As it is understood all the mega events deal with big economic amounts. It is an opportunity for investments both for the hosting State and the private sector. In order to examine the financial aspect of the Games it is essential to make a separation to three type of budgets: the Greek Government's budget, the budget of the Municipality of Athens and the OCOG's budget. (Georgiadis & Theodorikakos, 2015)

Papanikos (2004) and Balfousia-Savva et al. (2001) undertook researches before the Games and although they used different methodological approaches, they both concluded on a prediction of 0.5% annual growth of GDP for 6 years while Veraros (2004) pointed the positive and remarkable impact of the nomination of the Games to Athens to the Athens Stock Exchange. (Kasimati & Dawson, 2008)

ATHOC'S budget was 1.9 billion euros (\$2.6 billion) and \$900 million were provided by the IOC through broadcasting revenues and sponsorships. Although the ATHOC red line was to stay on budget, the IOC, the international sport federations

and the government would ask for more in order to achieve the best sporting venues possible. The closing of the financial books of the ATHOC showed a positive balance of 123.5 million euros delivered to the government. (Angelopoulos, 2013) According to Pyrgiotis the financial calculation based on the Bid File showed that 71.3% would be fund by the private sector, 28.66% by the State and the rest by the OCOG. (Sourdakou, 2012) It was a governments' decision to fund all the infrastructures needed like, sport facilities, airport, and subways. (Angelopoulos, 2013) A positive economic impact was noticed the years before the Games when the inflation was reduced to 6% from 20% that was during the 90's meeting the European Union standards. (Sourdakou, 2012) On January 2013 the Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras referred to the cost of the Olympic Games estimating 8.5 billion euros. (Angelopoulos, 2013) Another study shows that 3 billion were spend for sporting facilities, 1.2 billion for transportation, 1.2 billion for communication, 1.1 billion for security and 0.7 for other infrastructure. The State fund has been calculated 6 billion euros reaching the 83% of the expenditures. (Kasimati & Dawson, 2008) The OGGI research showed that the final cost was 10.7 billion euros 53.4% spend on infrastructure development, 19.9% for sport facilities and 21.1% for operational disbursement of the Organizing Committee. (Sourdakou, 2012)

This difference between the initial estimation and the final cost was outcome of many factors like the big construction delays and the difficulties of cooperation between private sector and the State at that time. The small size of Greece and the small number of construction companies had as a result the exploitation of governments' lack of experience, overpricing and also affecting the suppliers who overcharged for materials and shipping. The government offered bonus to the constructors if the projects were delivered on time. At the same time the prime minister did not agree on the suggestion of private finance in exchange of post-Olympic use of any project. (Angelopoulos, 2013) Although the results show that the final cost did not have significant difference from other Olympic Games' cost.

The ex-post study of Kasimati & Dawson (2008) using a small aggregate macro-econometric modelling approach concluded to a positive impact to the Greek economy, showing increased economic activity 1.3% of GDP per year for the period 1997-2005 and at the same time unemployment decreased by 1.9% per year. It also predicted a restrained increase fluctuating from 0.46% to 0.52% of GDP for the period of 2006-2012. It is important to mention that this study did not include

evaluation of the intangible effects and the effects were measured on country-level because of the small Greek economy and the population accumulation in to the Greek capital. (Kasimati & Dawson, 2008) The growth rate of Greece was 4.5% per year for the three years after the event. (Angelopoulos, 2013) A research for the period 2000-2013 showed that the financial activity produced because of and for the Games was high. The event boosted the GDP 2.5% for the 2004 and retained 44.000 jobs which would be lost. (Vettas, 2015)

The initial cost estimation for the preexisting Venues was 19.2 million US\$ and the final cost for renovation works was 554.019.643 euros. For the new Sport complexes in Helliniko including the Agios Kosmas Sailing Center, Faliro and Goudi and the IBC, MPC the initial estimated cost was 118.750.000 US\$ and the final cost was 580.124.997 euros. For the Galatsi Olympic Center, the 2 centers in Markopoulo, the Ano Liosia and Nikaia Olympic Centers, the Schinias Rowing Center and the three Football Stadiums away of Athens the initial estimation was 136.800.000 US\$ and the final cost was 660.738.244 euros. (Sourdakou, 2012)

A research undertaken by the University of Thessaly in 2003 predicted maintenance cost for the venues of 40-70 million euros annually while at the same time showed the necessity for private sector funds. (Sourdakou, 2012)

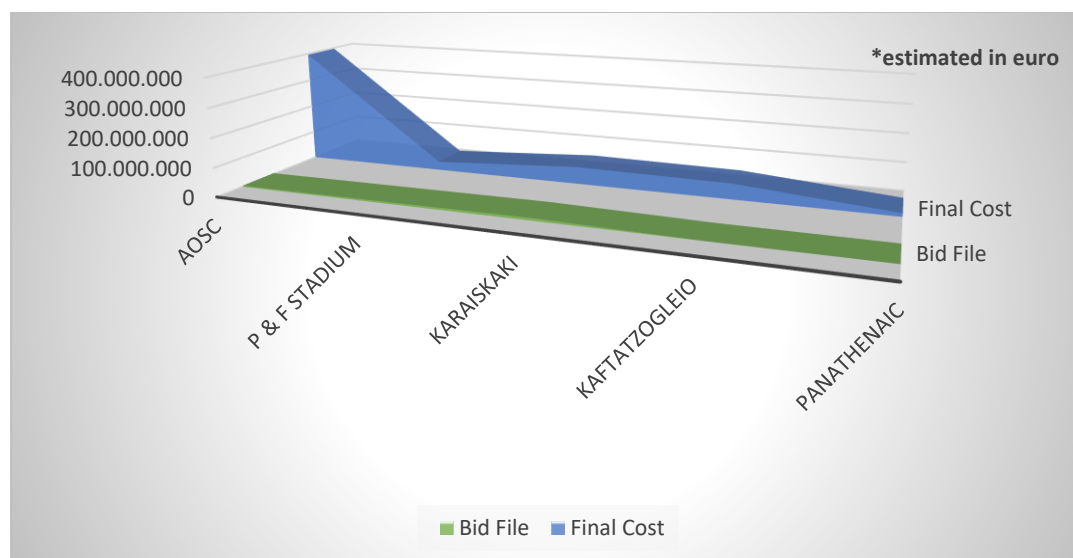


Chart 1. Estimated budget and Final Cost for preexisting sport infrastructure
(source: Sourdakou, 2012 & AOBC, 1996)

Graph design Anastasios Katsiadramis

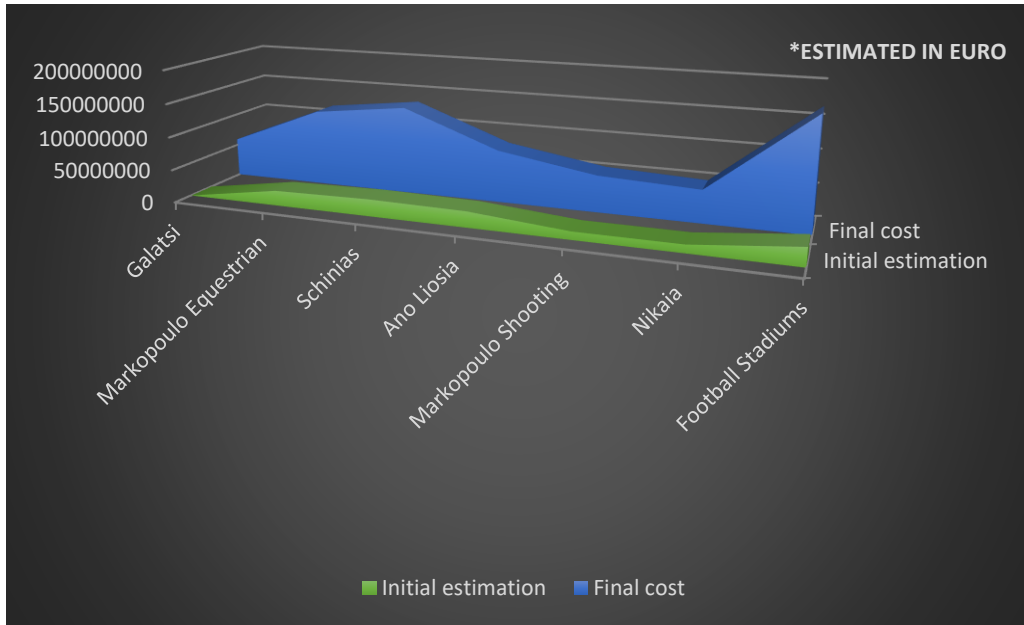


Chart 2. Estimated budget and Final Cost for new infrastructure

(source: Sourdakou, 2012 & AOBC, 1996)

Graph design Anastasios Katsiadramis

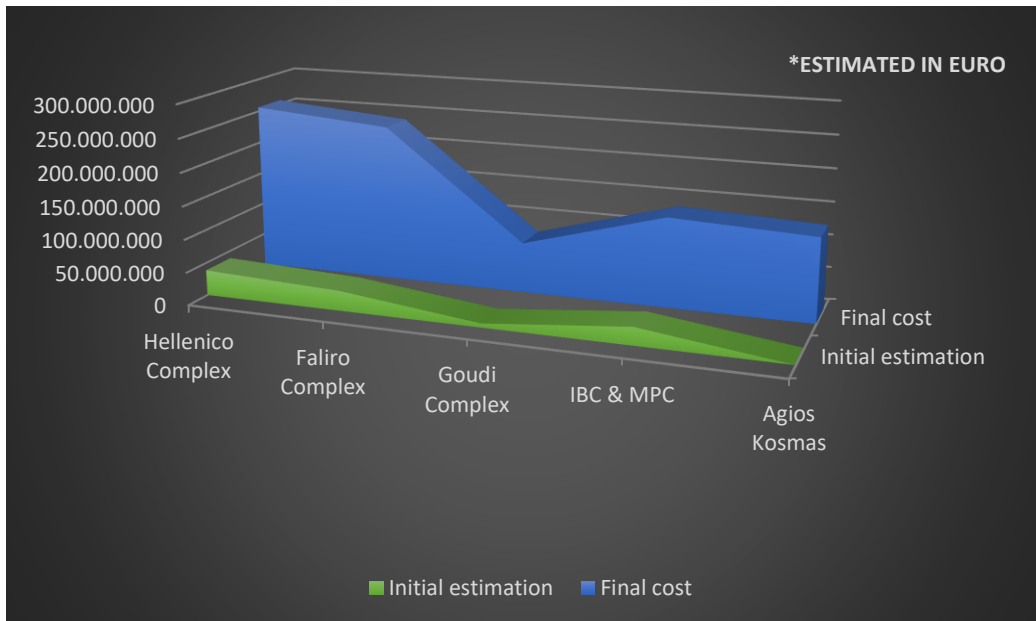


Chart 3. Estimated budget and Final Cost for new infrastructure

(source: Sourdakou, 2012 & AOBC, 1996)

Graph design Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Sport Venues

Athens Olympic Sports Complex



Image 1. Olympic Stadium of Athens
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

“The Athens Olympic Sports Centre (OAKA) in Marousi was a modern complex which had already hosted major international events and world championships” (ATHOC, 2005 p.143) According to the Bid File the AOSC was proposed to host 7 sports and total 118 events and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The Athletics events with the exception of the Marathon Race, Football and Basketball finals, Gymnastics, Swimming and Cycling competitions would be hosted in 5 different sites in the complex (AOBC, 1996) There were already three Training venues and indoor warming-up facilities. All the buildings preexisted and the estimated cost of the works in order to meet the Olympic demands was 22.4 million, 59% provided by the OCOG and 41% by the State. Owner of the site was the Hellenic National Olympic Committee and the proposed post-Olympic use was to continue to be Athens’ premier venue for athletic events. (AOBC, 1996) Consisted of five Venues the Olympic Stadium, Olympic Indoor Sport Centre, Olympic Aquatic Centre, Olympic Tennis Center, training fields, indoor training facilities, parking lot AOSC is Athens biggest sport complex. It is located at the north of Athens, 10km from city’s center, near to Attiki Odos highway which easily connects it with the airport and the Olympic Village and it is connected with the railway. Another big project at the AOSC was the renovation designed by the Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava

creating a new symbol for the city. The project included the roof of the Olympic Stadium, the roof of the Velodrome, the agora and the “Wall of Nations” length of 200m, which left architectural legacy to Athens. (Georgiadis & Theodorikakos, 2015)

Table 1. Initial cost estimation for AOSC (AOBC, 1996, p. 20)

A. ATHENS OLYMPIC SPORTS COMPLEX (AOSC)-(11/7)										
No	NAME AND CAPACITY OF THE SITE	WORKS COST ESTIMATE (IN MILLION US\$)								
		TOTAL COST OF ALL THE WORKS	PROVIDED BY THE OCOG		PROVIDED BY THE STATE			PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR		
			SUM	%	SUM	%	GUARANTEE	SUM	%	GUARANTEE
1	OLYMPIC STADIUM 80,000 Seats	3.10	3.10	100			*			
2	OLYMPIC TENNIS CENTRE 12,000 Seats: Main Court 5,500 Seats: Semifinals Court 5,500 Seats: Semifinals Court Plus 7 courts with 200 Seats each	12.30	3.30	26.8	9.00	73.2	*			
3	OLYMPIC INDOOR HALL 18,000 Seats	2.80	2.80	100			*			
4	OLYMPIC SWIMMING CENTRE 10,000 Seats Open 4,500 Seats Indoor	3.50	3.50	100			*			
5	OLYMPIC CYCLING CENTRE 5,000 Seats	0.30	0.30	100			*			
Sub Total		22.00	13.00	59%	9.00	41%				

Olympic Stadium



Image 2. Olympic Stadium of Athens
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Olympic Stadium, the largest Venue of the Athens Olympic Sports Complex with capacity of 72.000 spectators hosted the Athletics events (except of the Marathon Race, the Road Walk events and the Shot-Put competition) the Men's

Football gold medal match and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. It also hosted the Athletics events of the Paralympic Games. *“Following an ATHENS 2004 and Ministry of Culture initiative, the Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava had designed the upgrade of OAKA using innovative and creative solutions, including the new roof structure for the Olympic Stadium”* (ATHOC, 2005 p324) implemented within a period of 15 months. It was also upgraded and modernized in order to meet the Olympic standards. During the Game the Opening and Closing ceremonies took place there.

The competition area consists of a football field, a 400m track of 9 lanes, 4 pole vault boxes, 4 circles for shot put, 2 lanes for javelin throw, 2 circles for discus throw, 6 lanes for long jump and triple jump, equipment for high jump and 2 new technology electronic boards. It has capacity of 69.618 spectators, 480 journalist seats and 14 VIP suites. The Olympic Stadium was constructed in 1982 hosting several big events like the 1982 European Athletics Championship and 1997 World Championship in Athletics, the 1983 and 1994 European Champions’ Cup finals in football. Except of sport, it has been used for cultural events like concert and special events like the Acropolis Rally Championship in 2005. Since 2004 is the home ground of A.E.K F.C. and for many years for Panathinaikos F.C. but not in continuously. Also, it has hosted big events like the football Champion’s League Final in 2007. (www.oaka.com.gr) (<https://www.aekfc.gr/fp/agonistiki-edra-43678.htm?lang=en&path=1966915489> retrieved on 14/3/2020)

Olympic Indoor Hall



Image 3. Olympic Indoor Arena (AOISC)

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Next to the main Stadium dominates the Olympic Indoor Hall. Constructed on six levels and with dimensions 40m x 70m it can host 18500 spectators and 300 press representatives. It also includes 4 training rooms, one Press Center, Press Conference room and two parking lots. (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020) Although the preliminary rounds and classifications took place at the Helliniko Sport Complex, the quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals of Basketball tournament were held at the 19.250-seat Olympic Indoor Hall. Also, the Wheelchair Basketball tournament was held at this Venue. Also, the sport of Artistic Gymnastics and the Trampoline competition were held in the Olympic Indoor Hall, at the Athens Olympic Sports Complex. During Games-time, seating capacity reached 17.500 for Artistic Gymnastics. (ATHOC, 2005)

After the 2004 Games it hosted big events like the 2008 Pre-Olympic tournament and the Euro league Final-4 in 2007 as also All-star games and Greek Cup Finals. It is the home ground for Panathinaikos B.C. and A.E.K. B.C. for National and European basketball leagues. The final cost for renovation was 7.064.000€ (<http://www.stadia.gr/oaka/oaka-f-gr.html> retrieved 10/3/2020)



Image 4. Olympic Indoor Arena (AOOC)

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Olympic Aquatic Centre



Image 5. Olympic Aquatic Center (AOSC)

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The swimming events took place at the Olympic Aquatic Centre. The Olympic Diving Tournament was held at the indoor pool which had a capacity of 6200 spectators. The Olympic Synchronized Swimming tournament took place at the Synchronized Swimming Pool, capacity of 5300 seats. Synchronized Swimming events also took place at the Synchronized Swimming pool. The Swimming and Water Polo events were held at the Main Pool, which had a total capacity of 11.500 seats and it also hosted the Swimming events of the Paralympic Games at the indoor pool. (ATHOC, 2005)

Constructed in 1991 on a surface of 70000 sq.m and consisted of one indoor and one outdoor swimming pools, the Olympic Aquatic Center hosted big events such as the Mediterranean and European Swimming Games of 1991. The indoor facility includes a swimming pool length of 50m with 8 lanes, an indoor training pool, a diving pool, a warming-up pool, an outdoor training pool, one outdoor training pool for kids, an outdoor Synchronized swimming pool and it has capacity of 5500 seats and 1300 media representatives. It also has doping control room, weightlifting room and parking lot. The outdoor facility includes one competition pool of 10 lanes, one diving pool, an indoor pool for warm-up and has capacity of 8000 seats. It also includes press room for 250 people and parking lot for 100 vehicles. (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020) It operates as training center for many sport clubs of the Southern suburbs and it also host many local and national competitions.



Image 6. Outdoor Olympic Pool (AOSC)

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Olympic Tennis Centre



Image 7. Olympic Tennis Venter (AOSC)

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Olympic Tennis Centre consist of 16 courts: 10 competition courts with total capacity of 15400 seats. (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020) The Olympic Tennis Centre hosted the Tennis competitions of the OG and the Wheelchair Tennis of the Paralympic Games. Except the main court with 8600 seats capacity, other 9 courts were used: court 1 (4.000 seats), court 2 (2.000 seats) and courts 3-9 (200 seats). (ATHOC, 2005)

Nowadays the main court can host 8000 spectators and 300 media representatives and it connects with the other courts through a tunnel. It is equipped with the same surface as the US Open. (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020) In 2007 it hosted the Athens Champions Cup and at the same time as parallel event it hosted the International Tennis Hall of fame Museum. (<https://www.in.gr/2007/05/16/sports/othersports/sampras-koyrier-kas-kai-alloi->

[asteres-lampoyn-sto-oaka/](#) retrieved 22/4/2020) On 2017 it was proposed to host A.E.K B.C. but this was not implemented. Nowadays it hosts tennis sport clubs and the smaller courts are open for the public and are used by sport clubs as training centers. (<https://www.sport24.gr/Basket/OmadesBasket/A1Aek/ta-dedomena-gia-to-ghpedo-tenis-toy-oaka-ws-edra-gia-thn-aek.4596978.html> retrieved on 5/5/2020) It also hosts music concerts and various seminars. (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020)

Olympic Velodrome



Image 8. Olympic Velodrome (AOSC)

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Track Cycling was held in the Olympic Velodrome with capacity of 5250 seats. Equipped with a wooden track of 250m length and 7,20m width.). It also hosted the Cycling events of the Paralympic Games. (ATHOC, 2005)

The Olympic Velodrome is extended on a surface of 4000 sq.m. and it has capacity of 4000 seats” 3100 for spectators, 1500 for journalist and 300 for officials. It was constructed in 1991 and until 2003 it was operating as open Velodrome. Being part of the Athens 2004 Games, it was renovated and equipped with roof, designed by Santiago Calatrava. (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020) This work was part of the project Aesthetic Unification of OAKA. (ATHOC, 2005) It has host many big events such as the Mediterranean Games in1991, the Balkan Games in 2000 and the World Cup Tracks in 1995, 1996 and 1997. (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020)

Nowadays it accommodates the National Cycling Federation. After the Games it hosts every year the National Track Championship and Cup, music concerts and various sport summits. In 2018 Panathinaikos B.C. asked for its use as home ground but still has not proceed with that having arguments with Cycling Federation. (<https://www.sportime.gr/panathinaikos-bc/podilatodromio-ti-zitaei-i-kae-panathinaikos-gia-tin-chrisi/> retrieved on 5/5/2020)

Supplementary Sport Facilities



Image 9. Supplementary Sport Facilities of the AOSC

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Around the AOSC there is an indoor training hall designed for Athletics training, two rooms with weightlifting facilities, two rooms with plastic flooring, a room with parquet floor, two grass courts, 400m/8 lane track, facilities for long jump, high jump, triple jump, javelin corridors, pole valves and eight valves for shot put, discus and hammer throw. All of these are used by sport clubs but are also open to the public.

Surroundings



Image 10. Surroundings of the AOSC *photo Anastasios Katsiadramis*

From the one side of the AOSC we find 5 separated parking lots from the other side is the Agora region, surrounded by the Roman corner, the Wall of Nations and the railway station. Every year many cultural events are being hold there like the Color-Day Festival as also it has been used for commercial projects (www.oaka.com.gr retrieved 30/4/2020)

The on-site research showed that the Venues are well maintained with the exception of the Aquatics Center were part of the grandstand is broken and the diving pool is out of use. There were nowhere noticed abandonment signs. It is guarded and fenced. The facilities are not only used by sport clubs but also by individuals who use the open spaces for their walk and physical exercise. The houses in the Complex are used by National Team Athletes and the Weightlifting Federation. Many sports club of a great variety of sports are using the site as training center. Also, camps are taken place during the summer months. Sport federations have their headquarters in the offices provided by the venues like the Greek Gymnastics Federation, the Greek Basketball Federation, the Greek Volleyball Federation, the Greek Cycling Federation, the Greek Badminton Federation and the Hellenic Paralympic Committee.



Image 11. Surroundings of the AOSC

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Faliron Coastal Zone

According to the Bid File the Sport Venues that would be constructed in the Faliron Coastal Zone would host Wrestling and Judo (Pavilion No. 1) Handball (Pavilion No.2) Taekwondo and Fencing (Pavilion No.3) Boxing (Pavilion No.4), Volleyball

(Pavilion No.5) Beach Volleyball (Beach Volleyball Centre), some events of Handball and Volleyball at Peace and Friendship Stadium, Hockey at Karaiskaki Stadium and Softball. Only Karaiskaki Stadium and Peace and Friendship Stadium already existed. All the others would be new constructions with estimated cost 153.65\$ millions 19.8% provided by the OCOG, 15.1% by the Greek State and 6.1% by the private sector. (AOBC, 1996) The Sports Pavilion together with the Olympic Beach Volleyball Centre, the Marina and the Esplanade were included in a wider urban area redevelopment project of the coastal zone. (ATHOC, 2005)

Peace and Friendship Stadium



Image 12. Peace and Friendship Stadium

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Volleyball events took place at The Peace and Friendship Stadium, which is located next to the coast of Faliro in the south of Athens very close to the port of Piraeus and has a distinct modern architectural style. Its renovation had been undertaken by the General Secretariat of Sports (GSS) and resulted 13.200 capacity stadium. (ATHOC, 2005) The renovation works lasted two years and finally cost 7.300.000€ (<http://www.stadia.gr/sef/sef-gr.html> retrieved 25/3/2020)

The Peace and Friendship Stadium was built in 1985 hosting several big sport events like European Athletics Indoor Championships, World Athletics Indoor Championships, National Championships of various sports like Weightlifting and Gymnastics. It operates as home ground for Olympiakos B.C. hosting competitions of National Basketball League and Euro league Championship. It also hosts other sport-

promoting and cultural events as also exhibitions and conferences. It has capacity of 14.900 seats. The main arena is extended on a surface of 40000 sq.m surrounded by removable athletics track. It also has 11 multi-event rooms facilitating Squash court, gym, basketball court, volleyball court, table tennis room and karate. It has five exhibition and conference rooms. At the facilities of the Venue runs the sport educational program “I respect diversity- I learn about sports”. All these facilities are also used by other amateur sport clubs. Outside of the main Venue there are 2 football fields, 3 basketball courts, 2 volleyball courts, 2 beach volley courts, Piraeus’ Football Clubs Union offices and 3 parking lots. On the side of the facility is built a marina with 200 places for small and medium size. (<https://www.sef-stadium.gr/el/> retrieved 5/5/2020) Between all the sport facilities is developed a park which many individual visit every day for walk and recreation. The Venue is connected with the National Highway, the tram rail, the train rail and many bus lines. It is well maintained and it has become a point of interest for Athens’ residents.



Image 13. Peace and Friendship surrounding area

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Karaiskaki Stadium



Image 14. Karaiskaki Stadium

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Karaiskaki Stadium must be special referenced. Its history begins at 1895 when it was first constructed as Velodrome which was used for the first Olympic Games in 1896. It was first used as a football field in the 1920's. It was renovated and converted to a football stadium in 1960 and it included athletics track. In 2003 it was demolished and rebuilt taking its current look. (<https://www.olympiacos.org/gipedo-g-karaiskakis/> retrieved 25/3/2020)

Karaiskaki Stadium was initially planned to Host the Sport of Hockey. Being one of the largest stadiums in Athens it had a capacity of 36000 seats and enough surrounding areas for training and warm-up. (AOBC, 1996) The estimated cost was 8.8\$ millions 50% provided by the OCOG and 50% by the State as for the post-Olympic use for this venue the plan was to continue to be an important venue which would host any different kinds of sporting events. Reconstructed within 9 months from the signing of the construction contract finally it hosted 11 Football games, among them women's finals. (ATHOC, 2005) The finally cost was €60.000.000 (<http://www.stadia.gr/karaiskaki/karaiskaki-gr.html> retrieved 25/3/2020)

It is being used from Olympiakos F.C. as home ground and it hosts national league matches and European games. It also hosts music concerts and matches of National Football Team It has capacity of 32.115 seats, it includes 40 suites, museum, commercial shops, restaurants, underground and open parking lot. It IS connected directly with the railway and the tram and it has easy access to the National Highway

and Piraeus' Avenue. (<https://www.olympiacos.org/gipedo-g-karaiskakis/> retrieved 25/3/2020)



Image 15. Karaiskaki Stadium
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Olympic Beach Volleyball Centre



Image 16. Olympic Beach Volleyball Center
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Beach Volleyball tournament was held in the Olympic Beach Volleyball Centre in Faliro, a new court with 9.600 seating capacity. The amphitheatric shape is due to the post-Olympic use plan to be converted into a theater, facing the sea, hosting cultural events. (ATHOC, 2005)

After the Games it was again used in 2005 hosting the music festival “G-Fest”. It was also used for the 2006 Beach Volley Open Circuit. (<https://www.in.gr/2006/05/15/sports/othersports/nea-megali-proklisi-gia-tis-ethnikes-beach-volley-to-open-tis-athinas/> retrieved 15/5/2020) On 2007 SK.Pazaropoulos won the international contest to manage the Venue for 30 years providing almost 49 million euros totally. Finally, the licensing procedure was stopped because of environmental issues. (Sourdakou, 2012)

Many years passed before it was used again. It took life again in 2018 operating as exhibition center by hosting the Surf Art Festival organized by private initiative. As the location was ideal it was repeated in 2019 hoping to create an annual tradition. (<https://www.lovesurfing.gr/ola-osa-aidame-sto-surf-art-festival-vol-5/> retrieved 15/5/2020) It also hosted the 6th Cup tournament and the International Tournament of National Team of Beach Handball. The on-site research showed that the Venue is abandoned and needs lot of work in order to be reused. Broken glasses, dried herbs and rusty metals describe the image.



Image 17. Olympic Beach Volleyball Center
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Faliron Indoor Hall



Image 18. Faliron Indoor Hall

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Sports Pavilion of the Faliro Coastal Zone Olympic Complex hosted the Handball preliminary games and the Taekwondo events. It also hosted the Goal ball competition of the Paralympic Games. (ATHOC, 2005) It is mostly known to the public as Faliron Indoor Hall or Taekwondo Indoor Hall

It was a completely new venue with maximum capacity of 8.536 seats, although now only 3836 are available. It is directly connected with the tram. The construction lasted 2 years and the cost was 38.000.000€. The original plan for the post-Olympic use was to be converted to a Metropolitan Summit Center and it was announced an invitation of interest but the procedure was cancelled by the court. Since then, it operates with short-term leasing arrangements. (Sourdakou, 2012) Every year it hosts many exhibitions like “Art Athina 2010” and cultural events such as “Holiday on Ice” in 2006 as also sport events like the Final Fight Championship, a martial art tournament in 2016. Some of the events hosted in 2019 are the “Marathon Expo” a parallel event of Athens Authentic Marathon, music concerts, the Athens Con exhibition, the “Lord of the Dance” music show and the “Erotic Art Festival”.

Flisvos Marina



Image 19. Flisvos Marina
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Although it is not a Sport Venue, Flisvos Marina should be referred as it completes the Faliron Bay and it was used during the Games in order to host VIP. The location was ideal not only for being close to the Faliron Olympic Complex but also for being close to the city's center. It has capacity of 303 places. Beside the marina operates a commercial center and a park open for the inhabitants. Since 2002 Lamda Development is in charge of the management and the development of the marina. The income for 2017 was €13.200.000 and it was awarded the '5 Gold Anchors Platinum' international prize (<https://www.lamdadev.com> retrieved 25/3/2020)

Table 2. Initial cost estimation for Faliron Coastal Zone (AOBC, 1996, p.20)

B. FALIRON COASTAL ZONE (6/10)										
No	NAME AND CAPACITY OF THE SITE	TOTAL COST OF ALL THE WORKS	WORKS COST ESTIMATE (IN MILLIONS US\$)							
			PROVIDED BY THE OCOG		PROVIDED BY THE STATE			PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR		
			SUM	%	SUM	%	GUARANTEE	SUM	%	GUARANTEE
1	FALIRON MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEX									*
1.1	PAVILION No. 1 (FMPC) 8,000 Seats	23.80	3.80	16.0					20.0	84.0
1.2	PAVILION No. 2 (FMPC) 7,500 Seats	23.00	3.00	13.0					20.00	87.0
1.3	PAVILION No. 3 (FMPC) 5,000 Seats	23.70	3.70	15.6					20.00	84.4
1.4	PAVILION No. 4 (FMPC) 10,000 Seats	23.40	3.40	14.5					20.00	85.5
1.5	PAVILION No. 5 (FMPC) 10,000 Seats	22.70	2.70	11.9					20.00	88.9
2	PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP STADIUM 15,000 Seats	3.00	3.0	100					*	
3	FALIRON BASEBALL CENTRE 12,000 Seats	9.65	3.10	32.1	6.55	67.9			*	
4	KARAISSAKI STADIUM 36,000 Seats	8.80	4.40	50.0	4.40	50.0			*	
5	FALIRON SOFTBALL CENTRE 10,000 Seats	9.00	2.70	30.0	6.30	70.0			*	
6	FALIRON BEACH VOLLEYBALL CENTRE 10,000 Seats + 7,500 Seats	6.60	0.60	9.1	6	90.9			*	
Subs Total		153.65	30.40	19.8%	23.25	15.1%			100.00	65.1%

The on-site research showed that the Faliron Coastal Zone with the exception of the unutilized Beach Volleyball Venue has become a remarkable point of legacy of the Olympic Games. Except of the aforementioned venues there is also the unified space starting from surrounding area of the Beach Volley Venue and reaching the Flisvos Park which provides a 3km extended recreation area and free space for the public offered for many kind of activities, 3 football fields which host local sport clubs, tennis courts, athletics field, swimming pool and an indoor hall. Also 2 smaller marinas are operating in this area, used by athletes and sport clubs. Next to the Taekwondo Indoor Hall is placed the Hellenic Air force Museum and a commercial area is developed and includes shopping shops, cinemas, restaurants and coffee shops. During the evenings the coast line is full of people, children and athletes. The esplanade creates an atmosphere of countryside. The buildings next to the Beach Volley Venue and the small marina are used as logistic center by the Ministry of Economic, Development and Tourism and by the Municipality of Kallithea. Also, the Peace and Friendship Stadium is under bitty renovation on its surrounding and the beach next to it is being cleaned in order to attract more people. Also, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation is constructed next to this pole a cultural center placed in a park of 210.000 sq.m, hosting the National Library of Greece, the Greek National Opera and includes recreational area, restaurant and coffee shop and sport facilities. The high rate of visit is also an outcome of the easy access to the point as it is connected with the national highway and the Siggrou Avenue and there are plenty public means of transport which serve the access needs like the tram line, the railway and bus lines.

The utilization of the Faliron Coastal Zone facilities after the construction of the SNF was estimated to provide 160 million euros annually. (Sourdakou, 2012)



Image 20. Faliron Coastal Zone
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis



Image 21. Faliron Coastal Zone-sport marina
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Helliniko Olympic Complex



Image 22. Helliniko Olympic Complex
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Helliniko Olympic Complex is located in the south of Athens, 10km from the city's center and 8km from the Faliro Sport Complex, it was the second-largest cluster of Olympic venues.

Olympic Baseball Centre

Olympic Baseball Games were hosted in the Olympic Baseball Centre, and it consisted of two main fields: Baseball Field One with a seated capacity of 9.000, which hosted the preliminary, semi-final and final games; and Baseball Field Two with a seated capacity of 4.000, which hosted only preliminary games. (ATHOC, 2005) It also hosted the Archery competition of the Paralympic Games. According to the Bid File the Olympic Baseball Centre would be a new built, consisted of a main field with a capacity of 20000 spectators, warming-up and training field, at the Faliron Coastal Zone with sporting, cultural and other events post-Olympic use. The cost would be 9.65\$ millions 32.1% provided by the OCOG and 67.9 by the State. (AOBC, 1996)

The Baseball venue was used by Ethnikos F.C. as training center and A.O. Glyfadas football club and in 2016 accommodated refugee camps (<https://www.iefimerida.gr/news/253670/neos-kataylismos-prosfygon-sto-elliniko-estisan-skinis-sto-gipedo-toy-baseball-eikones> retrieved 15/3/2020) It was proposed in 2014 to be renovated, modified, upgrade the capacity to 20.000 seats and used as A.E.K F.C. home ground temporarily but that agreement did not proceed. Since 2014 is being used as Panathinaikos Baseball Team home ground.

Olympic Softball court

The Falirou Softball Centre, were was initially planned to host the Softball competition would cost 9\$ million 30% funded by the OCOG and 70% by the Greek State, a new built with a capacity of 1000 spectators, and training field with sporting, cultural and other events post-Olympic use. (AOBC, 1996) Finally the Women's Fast Pitch Softball events were held at the Olympic Softball stadium in the Olympic Softball Stadium, a new venue situated in the Helliniko Olympic Complex. The venue consists of a main Softball field of 4.800 seats, two warm-up fields and the requisite spaces for Athletes, competition management, Media, Olympic Family and staff services. (ATHOC, 2005)

The Softball court has host many different events like the Toto & Socrates concert, the Blues Brothers concert in 2008, and the Future Sound of London concert in 2009. It has been used occasionally by softball clubs like Dafni Palaίου Falirou and Pegasus Neou Kosmou softball club for training and selected competitions (<http://www.dafnifalirou.gr/index.php/advanced-stuff/softball.html> retrieved 15/3/2020) (<https://pegasusnksoftball.wixsite.com/home/the-club-to-tmima> retrieved 15/3/2020) It also accommodates the School of Niki Association of people with disability.

Olympic Hockey Centre

Initially it was proposed the event to take place at Karaiskaki Stadium a property of NOC. The estimated cost for the modifications was 8.8\$ million. (AOBC, 1996) Hockey was finally held on two different pitches at the Olympic Hockey Centre within the Helliniko Olympic Complex. The Olympic Hockey Centre is a new construction in the south of Athens with one large pitch of 7.300 seats and a smaller one of 2.100 seats. The Olympic Hockey Centre also included a warm-up pitch for the training of all athletes, situated within the Helliniko Olympic Complex. 352 athletes participated in the 2004 Olympic Games competition. It also hosted the Football tournament of the Paralympic Games. (ATHOC, 2005)

Olympic Fencing Hall

Initially the two planned venues to host the Fencing events were Peace and Friendship Stadium and the new construction Handball Pavilion No.2 at the Faliron Multi-Purpose Complex, capacity of 7500 seats. Both belonged to the Greek Government

and the planned post-Olympic use was to operate as facility for sports, culture, exhibitions and recreation. (AOBC, 1996)

Finally, the preliminaries and finals of the Fencing competitions were held in the Fencing Hall of the Helliniko Olympic Complex. The Fencing Hall had two rooms: one of 3.800 seats for the preliminaries and a 5.000 seated room for the finals of Fencing. (ATHOC, 2005) It also hosted the Sitting Volleyball competition and the Wheelchair Fencing of the Paralympic Games. Initially it was planned to be hosted at the Fencing Pavilion No3, a built with capacity of 5000 seats, at the Faliron Complex.

Olympic Indoor Arena

According to the Bid File the Basketball competitions would take place at two Venues: the Indoor Olympic Sport Hall of the Athens Olympic Sports Complex and in the Peace and Friendship Stadium. The Venues preexisted so the estimated cost for works was 2\$ million. Finally the preliminary rounds and the classification games for places 9 & 10 and 11 & 12 were held in the Indoor Arena of the Helliniko Olympic Complex, which had a total capacity of 15.000 seats (ATHOC, 2005)

The Handball events took place at two separate Olympic Venues: the Sports Pavilion of the Faliron Coastal Zone Olympic Complex, and the Indoor Arena of the Helliniko Olympic Complex. The finals took place at the Indoor Arena of the Helliniko Olympic Complex, which had 14.100 capacity. The same venue hosted the preliminaries of Basketball and the Wheelchair Basketball tournament for the Paralympic Games (ATHOC, 2005) The final cost of the Basketball Indoor Hall and the Fencing Olympic Center was 49 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012) After the Games the temporary stands were removed reducing its capacity to 8000 seats. (<http://www.stadia.gr/oaka-b/oaka-b-gr.html> retrieved 20/3/2020)

The Basketball Indoor Hall was used for some years as the home ground for the first league teams Panionios B.C. and A.E.K B.C. and for the National Cup Finals but the last years it remains unused. In 2019 it was announced a deal between the Ministry of Development and Investments and the Region of Epirus to relocate the venue at Ioannina, a city 400km far from Athens. (<https://www.sport24.gr/Basket/ekplhktiko-to-kleisto-toy-ellhnikou-metakomizei-stagiannena.5630759.html> retrieved 15/3/2020)

Canoe/Kayak Slalom Centre

The original plan was the Canoe/Kayak Center to be constructed with the other Canoeing and Rowing events at Schinias. Finally, the Canoe/Kayak Slalom Racing competition was held in the Olympic Canoe/Kayak Slalom Centre, located within the Helliniko Olympic Complex, in the south of Athens and welcomed 8.000 Canoe/Kayak Slalom fans. The venue was designed to operate as a sports center, consisting of a competition course, a secondary training course, and a warm-up lake of natural form, occupying a total area of 27.000 sq.m. It is located within the former Helliniko Airport in Athens, northeast of the Helliniko Olympic Complex and occupies an area of 288.000 square meters. (ATHOC, 2005) The final cost was 37.1 million euros. In 2007 was bid for €3.5 to 4.6 million per year for use of 30 years by J.P Avax which would convert it into a recreation waterpark providing revenues almost 130 million euros in depth of 30 years. The agreement was canceled in 2011 and the management of the venue returned to the Helliniko S.A. as there were legal issues which blocked the investment.

The site is guarded and fenced and the entrance is not allowed for the public. Although it is easy to see from outside that it is not utilized. It has access from two main avenues and it is connected with the tram line. Because of the great importance of the site to the surroundings area it has been objective of several studies of gentrification and the idea to create a Metropolitan Park. The management was given to three companies the Olympic Properties S.A., the Tourism Development Company and the Public Estate Company which made difficult the use of the site. (Sourdakou, 2012)

Since 2011 the Complex belongs to the Hellinikon S.A. a company founded in order to manage and utilize the Complex. After the Games some of the facilities have never been used and some have been used as exhibition centers. Mostly used is the Olympic Fencing Center hosting events like the “Christmas Fantasy Fun Park & Theater” Christmas village in 2018 (<https://www.nou-pou.gr/life/xekinai-to-christmas-fantasy-fun-park-theater-sto-elliniko/> retrieved 15/3/2020) the “Tomorrowland” music event in 2019 the “Athens Boat Show” for many years, car exhibitions and fitness summits. For many years it has been of a great importance the issue of utilization of the site. Due to the financial crises and bureaucracy problems the plan has not proceed. In 2019 the Greek State came in agreement with Lamda

Development after a bidding process in order to develop the “Helliniko Metropolitan Park” project which includes hospitality and housing zones, environmental park, modern sport facilities and amusement facilities. It is an investment of €8 billion, providing 10.000 job opportunities during the construction works and 75000 after the works end. (<https://www.capital.gr/epixeiriseis/3387186/to-2020-xekinaei-to-elliniko-katoikies-apo-3-500-euro-ana-t-m> retrieved 22/5/2020) (<https://thehellinikon.com/> retrieved 22/5/2020)

Agios Kosmas Olympic Sailing Centre

Agios Kosmas Olympic Sailing Centre now named Agios Kosmas Marina is located at the wider area of the Helliniko Olympic Complex. Before the Games was part of the Agios Kosmas Youth Sport Center. As it is referred on the Bid File the “Olympic Yachting Centre” would be constructed in the coastal Sports Park at Agios Kosmas and the Olympic Courses would be laid out in the Saronic Gulf. It is close to the Faliron Costal Zone, which was the second main competition Centre. The estimated cost was 16.5\$ millions financed 27.3% by the OCOG and 72.7% by the Greek State. The site belonged to the Greek Government and as a permanent facility the plan for the post-Olympic use was to host national and international events and be a training center. (AOBC, 1996) Sailing competitions took place at the Olympic Sailing Centre in Agios Kosmas. It is located 14km south of Athens. It was a new venue, capacity of 1600 seats. It also hosted the Sailing competition of the Paralympic Games. (ATHOC, 2005) The final construction cost was 118.5 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012)

Now it operates as a private marina with capacity of 337 places. In 2005 the management was given to Seirios company, promising investments of 100 million euros creating commercial shops, sport park, conference center and more. The agreement was for 45 years leasing, in exchange of 14.267.000 euros for the first year and 5 million euros for every year after (Sourdakou, 2012) In 2013 the company was evicted because of not being solvent with the rental payments and the management returned to the Hellinikon S.A. until today. It provides the 70% of the Hellinikon S.A. profits which in 2018 were €3.3 million of €4.6 total income. It is also interesting that 418.000 income came from short-term contracts for other use of the marina like exhibitions and film shootings. (<https://www.capital.gr/epixeiriseis/3390294/oi-skafatoi-denoun-sti-marina-ag-kosma-kerdi-3-3-ekat-to-2018> retrieved 15/5/2020)

Table 3. Initial cost estimation for other competition sites (AOBC, 1996, p.21)

C. OTHER COMPETITION SITES (21/12)*										
No	NAME AND CAPACITY OF THE SITE	WORKS COST ESTIMATE (IN MILLIONS US\$)								
		TOTAL COST OF ALL THE WORKS	PROVIDED BY THE OCOG		PROVIDED BY THE STATE			PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR		
			SUM	%	SUM	%	GUARANTEE	SUM	%	GUARANTEE
1	GALATSI INDOOR HALL 6,000 Seats	13,7	2,70	19,7	11,0	80,3	*			
2	PERISTERI INDOOR HALL 4,500 Seats	2,70	2,70	100			*			
3	NIKALA INDOOR HALL 5,000 Seats	12,00	2,50	20,8	9,50	79,2	*			
4	AG. KOSMAS YACHTING O.C.	16,50	4,50	27,3	12,00	72,7	*			
5	AG. KOSMAS TRIATHLON VENUE 4,000 Seats Start: Ag. Kosmas:						*			
	a) Swimming: Ag. Kosmas	1,20	1,20	100,0						
	b) Road Race: Ag. Kosmas	0,20	0,20	100,0						
	c) Cycling: Ag. Kosmas	0,20	0,20	100,0						
6	GOUDI M. PENTATHLON VENUE									
	Vryonisi: SHOOTING	1,00	0,50	50,0	0,50	50,0	*			
	Faliron Hall No 3: FENCING						*			
	Geradi: SWIMMING	1,00	0,50	50,0	0,50	50,0	*			
	Geradi: RIDING	1,00	0,50	50,0	0,50	50,0	*			
	Geradi: RUNNING	0,50			0,50	100,0	*			

Goudi Olympic Complex



Image 23. Badminton Olympic Hall
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

According to the Bid File Goudi Complex was planned to be the Modern Pentathlon Venue, not including the Fencing and the Shooting disciplines. The facilities were already in place and they had to be improved in order to meet the requirements for the Games. The initial estimated cost was 3.5\$ millions of which 1.5\$ millions would be provided by the OCOG and 2\$ million by the State. It belonged to the Municipality of Athens and the post-Olympic plan was to return to their initial use for recreation and sport development. (AOBC, 1996)

Located near the Athens' center and consisted of two venues, the Goudi Olympic Complex hosted the Badminton events and the Modern Pentathlon. Badminton and disciplines of Shooting and Fencing of Modern Pentathlon took place at the Goudi Olympic Hall, a temporary construction of 5000 seat. Swimming, Riding and Running were held at the Olympic Modern Pentathlon Centre. The complex included a 2500 seats capacity area for Swimming, two 5000 seats areas for Riding and Running and 3000 seated area for Fencing and Shooting. (ATHOC, 2005) The final cost was 35 million euros. (Sourdakou, 2012)

After the Games the Badminton Arena was given to the private company Athens Badminton Cultural Development S.A. and was converted into theatre. The "Badminton Theatre" was the biggest theatre in Greece with capacity of 2430 seats and hosted great cultural Greek and international productions making it a pole with high visiting rate. (<https://www.mytheatro.gr/theatro-badminton/> retrieved 15/5/2020) The leasing agreement was for 20 years providing revenues 610.000 euros annually and the renovation cost was 15 million euros. The theatre stopped operating after some years as the court characterized the construction illegal. The equestrian center building has been used for short term leasing hosting art activities and it also hosted the XIII International Competition of Special Olympics organized by the Hellas Special Olympic (Sourdakou, 2012)

The facilities are used for training and competition purpose not only by local amateur sport clubs but also by big Athens' sports club (like Panathinaikos Modern Pentathlon team) It has also host many cultural events like the "Cow Parade" in 2006, (https://www.athinorama.gr/cityvibe/article/to_atelie_tis_ageladas-102254.html retrieved 17/4/2020) the "Earth and Wind Festival" in 2011 (<https://www.tralala.gr/Oikologikh-psuxagogia-Mousikh-afupnish56-sto-Olympiako-Kentro-Goudi-Olympiaka-Akinhta/> retrieved 17/4/2020) and the Patagonia Dinosaurs exhibition in 2012 (<https://www.thebest.gr/article/159986-> retrieved 17/4/2020) and the "Gods and Heroes of Greek Mythology" and "The most important inventions of ancient Greeks" exhibitions in 2013, the Flower Festival in 2019. In 2020 was decided to host the General Secretary of Research and Technology at the former Equestrian Center which will be renovated funded by the Onassis Foundation. (<https://www.lifo.gr/now/greece/266661/sto-olympiako-kentro-stoy-goydi-i-g-g-ereynas-texnologias-me-dorea-apo-to-idryma-onasi> retrieved 17/4/2020) It has been used by Greek Government for National Cadaster offices. Now the Complex belongs

to the ETAD and it is being used and it operates as multi-purpose center. It accommodates the Greek Modern Pentathlon Federation offices and the Greek Football Federation offices.

The on-site research showed that although the Badminton Venue is out of use and has abandonment signs, the surrounding area has developed not only into a sport park that serves the needs of the many sports clubs but also has become a recreation area ideal for individuals. The equestrian center is in use for training purpose and all the remaining area is free for the public.



Image 24. Badminton Olympic Hall

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis



Image 25. Goudi Equestrian Center

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Galatsi Olympic Hall



Image 26. Galatsi Olympic Hall
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Olympic Hall in Galatsi was a new construction of 6500 seats located on a suburb northwest of Athens' center, close to the AOSC (4.5km) and with easy access to the highway. Initially it was planned to host the Table Tennis tournament but later the Rhythmic Gymnastics events added. It also hosted the Table Tennis tournament of the Paralympic Games (ATHOC, 2005) The site on which it was constructed belonged to the Greek Government The estimated cost of construction was 13.7\$ millions 19.7% funded by the OCOG and 80.3% by the State. The proposed post-Olympic use was to be a multi-purpose center for training and competitive events as also for social and cultural events. (AOBC, 1996) It includes the main hall and a training indoor and the construction lasted two years. The final cost was 60.4 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012)

In 2007 it was bid through competition in which won a joint venture in order to convert it into a recreation and shopping center. The agreement was leasing for 40 years and 3 million euros annually but the Municipality of Galatsi brought it before to the court and the agreement did not proceed.

For two years after the Games, it hosted the games of A.E.K. B.C. It also hosts many cultural events such as music concerts and thematic events. Initially it was planned to become a mall and later sport center with some commercial use. It belongs to ETAD which has granted the venue to the Municipality of Galatsi until January 2020. (<http://www.psaos.gr/presentations/Kriezopoulos.pdf> retrieved 23/3/2020) It hosts sport activities of Municipality's sports clubs and school sport events. Facing

Veikou grove which comprises of many sport facilities (football field, athletics track, swimming pool and other) it results a multi-event complex that has upgrade the region. It has easy access through the Attiki Odos Highway and is connected with bus lines. The site is in very good condition and it is guarded. It is also fenced preventing the invaders from entering at non-working hours.



Image 27. Galatsi Olympic Hall
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Nikaia Olympic Weightlifting Hall



Image 28. Nikaia Olympic Weightlifting Hall
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The sport of Weightlifting took place at the Nikaia Olympic Weightlifting Hall not far from the Faliron Costal Zone. It also hosted the Powerlifting competition

of the Paralympic Games Because of the popularity of the sport in Greece it was planned to be constructed by the Greek Government regardless the candidacy of Athens for the Games. The estimated cost of the venue was 12\$ million and it was covered 79.2% by the state and 20.8% by the OCOG. There were two training venues proposed: Korydallos indoor sports hall, which is close to the venue and a new one in the Olympic Village. The site on which the venue was constructed belonged to the Municipality of Nikaia and the post-Olympic plan according the Bid File was that the venue would continue to be used as training venue and to host national and international weightlifting events. (AOBC, 1996)

It was a new construction originally planned for 5000 seats. It was one of the first projects planned by the General Secretariat of Sports for the Games. It is extended on 8000 sq. m. in which -except the main hall -there are additional areas for training and general sporting and cultural activity. (ATHOC, 2005) The construction lasted two years and it was delivered on November 2003 costing 49 million euros. (Sourdakou, 2012) (<http://www.stadia.gr/nikaia/nikaia-gr.html> retrieved 17/3/2020) On 4/9/2007 it was signed the concession of the Venue to Piraeus University and it would it would be held one year later on 30/4/2008. (http://www.olympicproperties.gr/contents_gr.asp?id=283 retrieved 16/5/2020)The agreement was free use for the first 3 years and low price leasing for the rest 40 years

The Venue is well maintained without blight signs, guarded and fenced. Although it is not used as a sport facility, the on-site research showed that around the venue are developed two football fields and two indoor halls creating a sports park. Although the access is not easy by public transportation, it consists a high-level recreation area for the residents.



Image 29. Nikaia Olympic Weightlifting Hall surrounding area
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Ano Liosia Olympic Hall



Image 30. Ano Liosia Olympic Hall
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Ano Liosia Olympic Hall hosted two Sports: Judo and Wrestling. It also hosted the Boccia and the Judo events of the Paralympic Games. Located in the northwest region of Athens it was ideal not only because it was close to the Olympic Village but also due to the easy access to the main highway. (ATHOC, 2005) Initially it was planned that both Sports would be hosted at the Wrestling Sports Pavilion No1 at the Faliron Multi-Purpose Complex in the Faliron Costal Zone. It would be a new construction of 8000 seats. The estimated cost was 23.8\$ millions funded 16% by the OCOG and 84% by the private sector. The post-Olympic use plan for this Pavilion was to operate as a facility for sports, culture, exhibitions and recreation. (AOBC, 1996) This plan changed after the Government decided to examine the relocation of some venues in order to avoid potential future problems “due to the existing zoning and town planning legislation.”(ATHOC, 2005 p.143)

The construction began in 2001 and it was completed in January 2004, the cost was 80,8 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012). The whole construction extends on a surface of 35000 sq.m and the Hall has a capacity of 9000 spectators. (ATHOC, 2005) The total surface including surrounding areas and the parking lot is around 65000 sq.m. The management of the venue is assigned to ETAD.

In 2007 it was proposed to host the Culture and Art Academy and the Digital Museum of Sound and Visions. (Sourdakou, 2012) After the Games it has been used for several sport and other activities (handball finals, ice hockey competition, TV shows) It is also used by combat sports clubs and it hosts the Karate Federation office, the Wrestling Federation office and the Judo Federation office. (<https://gga.gov.gr/epopteyomenoi-foreis/omospondies> retrieved 1/3/2020) At the end

of 2018 it was announced that A.E.K B.C. was under negotiation with the management company in order to use the Venue not only for the official games but also as a training center for the first team and the academy. (<https://www.sport24.gr/Basket/OmadesBasket/A1Aek/aek-ta-dedomena-gia-ta-anw-liosia.5396370.html> retrieved 5/4/2020) Because of bureaucracy this plan was delayed. In 31-5-2020 it was announced by the team manager that the next season the procedures will have finished and the Venue will be finally used. (<https://www.sport24.gr/Basket/OmadesBasket/A1Aek/o-team-manager-ths-aek-gia-to-neo-ghpedo-sta-anw-liosia-sthn-enarksh-ths-neas-sezon.5715490.html> retrieved 31/5/2020)

The on-site research showed that it is in very good condition and it is guarded by private security company. Although it has easy access by the Attiki Odos Highway, the public transportation is not helpful for the Venue. It is also located in a degraded area which does not leaves any chances to be used as recreation area as other Olympic Venues. The site did not fulfil the purpose of which the location decision was taken, to upgrade the quality of life of for the region of Ano Liosia.

Olympic Boxing Hall



Image 31. Olympic Boxing Hall
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

According to the Bid File the Boxing venue was initially proposed to host the Badminton events. The estimated cost of the works was 2.7\$ millions and it was provided 100% by the OCOG. The proposed post-Olympic use it continues to operate as a sport center serving the need of the surrounding areas. (AOBC, 1996)

The Sport of Boxing finally took place at the Olympic Boxing Hall in Peristeri. It is located in the west Attica region and the place was ideal due to the easy access to the National Road, close to the Olympic Village (16.5 km) and near to Dekeleia Training Complex. (ATHOC, 2005) Also it was near the three proposed training venues (Aigaleo Indoor Hall, Nikaia Indoor Hall and Haidari Indoor Hall). At the time of the bid venue's capacity was 4500 seats but after the works for the Games it increased up to 8000 seats. Also, a warming area was laid out next to the main hall (AOBC, 1996) The works lasted 1 year and the final cost was €14.671.801 including a football field next to the main hall capacity of 3000 spectators. As it was before the Games, Municipality of Peristeri is still the owner and the handler of this venue. After the Games modification were made, part of the stands was removed in order to construct 2 football fields, 1 basketball court, 2 tennis courts and 1 volleyball court. This has as a result reduced capacity to 2.305 seats. (<http://www.stadia.gr/peristerinew/peristerinew-gr.html> retrieved 18/3/2020)

It is still used as sport center hosting many sport clubs both for training and official games and for other events like the “Athens Dance Sport Open Festival”, the “Cosmogym Festival”, gymnastics events, martial combat shows and bridge tournaments. It is well maintained and no access is allowed to the public. The football field next to the main venue is used by Atromitos F.C. as training center and under the stands it hosts team's headquarters. Also, it hosts gymnastics sport clubs and the ‘Citizen's Theater’ of Municipality of Peristeri. Although it has easy access through the National Highway it is difficult to get there by public transportation means.



Image 32. Olympic Boxing Hall surrounding area
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre

Located in Markopoulo, an area 35km east of Athens near to the airport, the Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre hosted all the Equestrian Events. It also hosted the Equestrian events of the Paralympic Games. Initially it was planned to be hosted in a new construction in Tatoi, a suburb 15km north of Athens, capacity of 30000 spectators and both use of competition and training, which would remain as a property of Greek Government and with post-Olympic use of national and international competitive events and training purposes, estimated cost was 22.6\$ millions financed 20.3% by the OCOG and 79.7% by the Greek State. (AOBC, 1996)

The Centre during the Games had two main arenas, one with grass and one with sand, is extended on a surface of 940000 sq.m and has capacity of 10000 seats for the Jumping Event, 8100 seats for the Dressage and 15000 seats for the Cross-Country Events. (ATHOC, 2005)The final construction cost was 110.4 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012)

Now the management body is TAIPED. The facilities included in the Centre now are: Main Jumping Arena capacity of 6000 seats, Main Arena Dressage capacity of 2000 seats, Indoor Arena capacity pf 2100 spectators, 3 practicing equestrian skill arenas, 4 practicing jumping arenas, stables for 280 horses, animal medical center, 2 level office building, open parking lots and, fire Department building. (<http://www.hradf.com/>)It accommodates the Greek Equestrian Federation offices. (<https://hef.gr/index.php/el/omospondia/o-i-k-markopoulou> retrieved 22/5/2020) After the Games has been used as training center but also hosts sport events. In June 2016 hosted the WKND Warriors event a multisport event and July 2018 hosted the Athens Equestrian Festival a very important international event which operated as chance for qualification to Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the Nationals Cup Final in Barcelona(https://www.ethnos.gr/athlitismos/52153_athens-equestrian-festival-i-ELITIS-pagkosmias-ippasias-dinei-resital-sto retrieved 2/5/2020) Next to the center have been developed the Markopoulo Park, a horseracing venue with high visiting rate. (<https://www.markopoulopark.gr/>)

Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre

The Shooting Events took place in the Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre. It was a new built 30km east of Athens, near to the airport, extended over 312000 sq.m with total capacity of 4000 spectators. It also hosted the Shooting events of the Paralympic Games. The site included facilities such as restaurants, hostels, press areas and parking areas. (ATHOC, 2005) On the Bid File it is mentioned that the site was selected on environmental criteria and belonged to the Greek State. The estimated cost was 12\$ million, 8.3% funded by the OCOG and 91.7 by the Greek State. It would be used also as a training area and the post-Olympic perspective was to be used for training and competition purposes on national and international level. (AOBC, 1996) The final cost was 60.6 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012)

The venue was given to the Greek Police in 2008 not only for training purpose but also in order to accommodate units like the Anti-terrorist Unit and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Department. Against this decision was the Greek Shooting Federation. Arguing that according the law it should be used as sport facilities.

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http://skoe.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=161:%CE%A4%CE%9F-%CE%9F-%CE%9B%CE%A5%CE%9C%CE%A0%CE%99%CE%91%CE%9A%CE%9F-%CE%A3%CE%9A%CE%9F%CE%A0%CE%95%CE%A5%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%A1%CE%99%CE%9F-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9-%CE%80%CE%AC%CE%BB%CE%B9-%CE%83%CE%84%CE%BF-%CE%80%CE%81%CE%BF%CE%83%CE%BA%CE%AE%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BF&catid=9:2010-09-21-17-06-02&Itemid=41 retrieved 3/4/2020)

Schinias Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre

The Canoe/Kayak Flat-water Racing and the Rowing events were held at the Schinias Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre. Schinias is located near the village of Marathon, 37km northeast from Athens. The decision for this location was strongly

argues for being wetland and for being the place of the Marathon combat in ancient times. There were two lakes the main one 2250m long and one smaller used for training and warm-up. It could host 14000 spectators. (ATHOC, 2005) The initial estimated cost for this new built was 33.9\$ millions 2.9\$ million provided by the OCOG AND 31\$ million by the State. (AOBC, 1996) A change from the original plan is the relocation of the Slalom Canoeing Event to the Helliniko Complex. The final cost was 76.3 million euros. (Sourdakou, 2012)

After the Games it was used as training center and in 2010 free access was granted to the public as training and resting area. In 2007 it was agreed to operate as the third training center for the International Rowing Federation and finally happened in 2010. It has host big events like the European Rowing Championship in 2008 and qualification competitions organized by the Greek Rowing Federation. The facilities are also used by the Greek National Rowing Teams for practicing. (<https://www.in.gr/2010/06/03/plus/diakopes/to-olympiako-kwpilatodromio-ethnikoy-parkoy-sxinia-marathwna-anoigei-gia-oloys/> retrieved 2/4/2020) It has also host other events like the Eco Festival in 2011 (<https://www.tovima.gr/2011/04/28/afieromata/kwpilatodromio-sxinia/> retrieved 2/4/2020) in 2015 the 3d mental and body invigoration festival “Eu Zein” (<https://www.kathimerini.gr/817976/article/politismos/atzenta/trito-festival-ey-zhn-sto-olympiako-kwphlatodromio-sxoinia> retrieved 2/4/2020) and in February 2020 h the 1st Atromitos Ultra Run, a running event with many different disciplines. The center is property of the ETAD. As it consists part of the National Park it is open for the public, although it is located far from Athens and it is difficult to be more utilized.

Table 4. Schinias Olympic Center distances from other venues (AOBC, 1996, p. 52)

MAIN CENTRES	Distance (Km)	Travel Time (min)	
		Current	2004
(V) Olympic Village	34	41	34
(O) Olympic Stadium (AOSC)	35.5	44	33
(F) Faliron Coastal Zone	44.5	60	48
Press Village (Aghios Andreas)	11	13	11
Press Village (Goudi)	35.5	47	34
(O) MPC & IPC (AOSC)	35.5	44	33
(C) City Centre (main VIP & official accommodation)	37.5	53	43

Panathenaic Stadium



Image 33. Panathenaic Stadium
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The Panathenaic Stadium first operated as stadium in ancient Greece. Around 330-329 BC it started to host the athletics events of the ancient festival Panathenaia.. After many centuries it was used again at the first attempts of the Olympic revival in 1870 and 1875 funded by Evangelos Zappas (Zappeian Olympiads). It belongs the international record of biggest attendance at basketball match in the history of the sport. During the Basketball Championship's Winner Cup final between AEK B.C. and Slavia Prague in 4/4/1968 it hosted 60000 spectators. (<http://www.panathenaicstadium.gr/>)

Having capacity of 45000 seats and with initial estimated cost 0.3\$ millions for works fully provided by the OCOG, the Panathenaic Stadium was planned to host the finish of the Marathon Race, continuing the tradition from the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Also it was planned to facilitate various cultural and recreational events. It is placed at the center of Athens and belongs to the Hellenic Olympic Committee. As it existed before the Games the post-Olympic plan was to be Athens' premier venue for athletic events. (AOBC, 1996) For the Marathon race finish the capacity was up to 34500. The renovations included upgrades on its infrastructure, configuration of the track and surrounding areas and works on the lighting. It also hosted the Archery competition, with capacity of 7500 and 128 athletes participation which was initially planned to be hosted at the Tatoi Olympic Archery Centre (a new built with estimated cost 7.64\$ millions, 21% provided by the OCOG and 79% by the State.) (ATHOC, 2005) The final cost of the renovation was 11.959.940, 75€ (Sourdakou, 2012)

Nowadays it operates mainly as sightseeing and museum with high visitation rate, but it also hosts sport and cultural events (Marathon Race, Semi-Marathon of Athens, concerts, Olympic Flame delivery ceremony, torch relay). (<http://www.panathenaicstadium.gr/>) It is well maintained and it has easy access through public transportation.

Other Sport Venues

According to the Bid File it was planned that the preliminaries for the sport of Football would take place in four different Venues. Three of them were away from Athens and all belonged to the Greek State. The post-Olympic use plan was to continue to be permanent sporting facilities. Finally there were four Olympic cities: Patra, Volos, Thessaloniki and Heraklio (ATHOC, 2005)

Pampeloponnisiako Stadium

Located in Patra, a city 210 km away of Athens Pampeloponnisiako Stadium had a capacity of 20000 seats. It is part of the Pampeloponnisiako National Sport Center and it is managed by the municipality of Patras. It was built in 1981 and it was renovated in 2004 in order to be upgraded and meet the Olympic standards (<http://www.stadia.gr/patras/patras-gr.html> retrieved 5/5/2020) The works lasted 2 years and the estimated cost of works for the Games was 1.1\$ millions all provided by the OCOG. The final cost was 45.1 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012)

In 2008 the management was given to the Municipality of Patras', funded 3 years by the Olympic Properties S.A. and then it would be own-funded (Sourdakou, 2012) It is being used as home ground for Panachaiki F.C. and as training center for other 12 sport clubs. It is equipped with Athletics track and it hosts many sport events like the 2019 National Athletics Championship and the Greek football Cup Final in 2005. It has also been used for music concerts. (<https://www.pampeloponisiako.gr/%cf%83%cf%85%ce%bc%cf%86%cf%89%ce%bd%ce%b7%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%ac/> retrieved 5/5/2020)

Panthessaliko Stadium

Located in Volos, a city 326 km away from Athens, Panthessaliko stadium was built in 2004 having a capacity of 20000 seats and it is equipped with athletics track. The estimated cost was 25.1\$ millions 1.1% provided by the OCOG and 95.6% by the State. (ATHOC, 2005) The final cost was 50.4 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012)

In 2007 the management was given to the Prefecture of Magnesia, the Municipality of Volos and the Municipality of N. Ionia. (Sourdakou, 2012) It has been the home ground for Olympiakos Volou F.C. and Niki Volou F.C. occasionally. It has host big events like the football National Cup Final in 2007 and 2017. In 2020 it was announced that the management of the venue would be given to the Municipality of Volos. (<https://magnesianews.gr/volos/desmeyisi-parachorisis-toy-panthessalikoy-stadioy-sto-dimo-edose-i-etad.html> retrieved 6/5/2020)

Kaftatzogleio National Stadium

Located in Thessaloniki, the second biggest city of Greece, 400 km from Athens Kaftatzogleio Stadium is built near the city center has a capacity of 27707 seats. It was built in 1960 and since the construction of the AOSC it was the biggest stadium of Greece with capacity of 39190 spectators. It was renovated for the Olympic Games reducing its initial capacity. The estimated cost was 1.1\$ millions all provided by the OCOG. The works lasted 2 years and the final cost was € 47.000.000. It is the home ground of Heracles F.C. and it has host big events like the Cup Winners' Cup Final in 1973, Mediterranean Athletics Championship and football games of National Team The stadium used for the Olympic Games is part of a sport complex that also includes a training football field with athletics track, training field for throwing sports, indoor training hall and a 4-level building with offices, suites, press conference room and press room. (<https://kaftanzoglio.gr/>) It is being used by many sport clubs and it is free to the public. Also, at the facilities of the stadium take place the sport educational program "I do sports, I participate, I express myself». Beside this complex is located the Olympic Museum.

Pankritio Stadium

Located in Crete island at the Heraklio area, Pankritio Stadium hosted preliminaries games of Football. It was built in 2004 although the idea started in 1980. The capacity of the stadium was 26400 seats, the works lasted 3 years and the final cost was 73.7 million euros.(Sourdakou, 2012) It is equipped with shot put and hammer throw valves, 400m track, swimming pool and other facilities planned for post-Olympic use. (ATHOC, 2005)Also beside the stadium is a football training field with athletics track. The management has been given to the Municipality of Heraklion. Since 2005 it has been the home ground for Ergotelis F.C. (<https://www.ergotelisfc.gr/gr/pagkritio-stadio>) It has also hosted football National

Team's games, music concerts and international athletics championship and accommodates many sports clubs academy teams and sport camps.

(<https://aahaeota.gr/%cf%80%ce%b1%ce%b3%ce%ba%cf%81%ce%ae%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%bf-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%ac%ce%b4%ce%b9%ce%bf/> retrieved 5/5/2020)

The management was given to the municipality of Heraklion in 2008 agreeing that it would be own-funded (Sourdakou, 2012)

Ancient Olympia



Image 34. Ancient Olympia Stadium
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Although the big majority of the Athletics events took place at the Athens Olympic Stadium, the Shot Put Event was hosted in the Stadium of Ancient Olympia. This was a decision finalized in December 2003 among other actions which aimed to accent the event's return to its birth place. (ATHOC, 2005) As it is described on the Official Report, there were only a few seats, no shading or electronic boards and in general no temporary structures and grandstands. The 15000 spectators who attended the event sat on the ground. The athletes and the Media representatives were hosted by the International Olympic Academy where a stadium was used as training and warm up facility. The IOA also offered the conference center in order to be used as

media work area and for press conferences. The medals awarding took place at the Olympic Stadium in Athens. (ATHOC, 2005)

Ancient Olympia is an ideal of long term legacy example. The modifications of the city such as the pedestrianized central streets, the car parks, the renovation of the two museums, the new hotels and the upgrade of the port of Katakolo resulted a touristic growth translated to economic and social benefit for the region. Another point of legacy is the renovation and modernization of many facilities of the IOA, in which the most important archives of the Games are kept digitized. Also IOA facilitates the international Master's Program in "Olympic Studies, Olympic Education, Organization and Management of Olympic Events" in collaboration with the University of Peloponnese hosting every year students from all over the world.(Georgiadis & Theodorikakos, 2015) The stadium is managed by the Ilia's' Antiquities' Euphoria and operates as tourist attraction as it is World Heritage Site of Unesco. (http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/2/gh255.jsp?obj_id=501 retrieved 8/5/2020)



Image 35. Master programs' students in IOA

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

Parnitha

Parnitha is a mountain located at the north of Athens, 25km from the center and near the Olympic Village. The Cycling Mountain Bike competition took place there. The venue was temporary and exclusively constructed with overlay elements which after the Games were completely removed. (ATHOC, 2005) The estimated cost was 0.6\$ millions all provided by the OCOG.

Vouliagmeni Olympic Centre

According to the Bid File the three events of the Triathlon were proposed to be held in the Sport Park in Agios Kosmas, a region not far from the Faliron Coastal Zone. The temporary support structures that would be developed, after the Games would be dismantled in order to return to its initial use as a place of recreation for the residents. The estimated cost was 1.6\$ millions financed 100% by the OCOG. (AOBC, 1996)

After O.C initiative to propose other places more suitable the event relocated in Vouliagmeni, an area 23km south of Athens. One reason leading to this decision was the excellent quality of the water at the Oceanida beach, the place that the swimming events took place. Another reason was the mountainous landscape of the area which was ideal to be used for the cycling and running events. The facilities were temporary and the spectators were lined the whole route. (ATHOC, 2005) The site also hosted the Cycling Road Race of the Paralympic Games.

The seaside part of the venue, Oceanida beach belongs to the ETAD and it is being used as organized beach facility named “Akti Vouliagmenis” (Vouliagmeni Coast). The facility includes basketball courts, tennis courts and beach volleyball courts, medical center and open parking lot. It is connected with bus lines and during the summer months it has high visiting rate. It is also being used for marketing and other private social events. There is nothing left at the place reminding that it was once an Olympic Venue. (<http://vouliagmeni-akti.gr/>)

Non-Sport Venues

International Broadcast Centre and Main Press Centre



Image 36. International Broadcast Center

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

According to the Bid File, it was planned by the Athens 2004 Bid Committee to accommodate the International Broadcasting Centre and the Main Press Centre in two building complexes, close to each other in the AOSC eliminating all the possible problems and allowing the highest level of specialization in offered services. The IBC would be housed in a new building the International Exhibition Centre owned by the exhibition body “HELEXPO” next to the AOSC covering an area of 55000 sq.m and after the Games it would return to its previous functions. (AOBC, 1996) After a more detailed examination of the operational needs it was decided that these Venues were inadequate. As a result of exploring new options, it was decided that the MPC would be hosted at the HELEXPO building after an extension and for the IBC a new building would be constructed next to the MPC on an open-air parking lot. The new locations kept the advantage of being close to the AOSC. Also a nearby private space was offered In order to place the IBC Satellite Farm. (ATHOC, 2005) The estimated cost for both of them was 27\$ million. (AOBC, 1996)

IBC

After the decision to be relocated it was placed at a new building on Kifisias Avenues, next to the AOSC and with easy access to the highway covering an area of 100000 sq.m Designed to accommodate the needs of television and radio Rights Holding Broadcasters (RHBs) “The IBC Broadcast Operations Centre was the main

broadcast status reporting control point for all broadcast-related activity at the venues and IBC during Games-time.” (ATHOC, 2005 p.79) By the time of the Games it was the biggest Olympic IBC center ever created and the construction cost was 103 million euros. (Sourdakou, 2012)

After the Games an international competition was held and Lamda Development undertook the management of the building converting it into a Mall. It accommodates more than 100 commercial shops, cafes and restaurants, hair salon, bank and underground parking providing jobs to many people. It also hosts many cultural and marketing events. All of these make it a pole of attraction for many visitors.

MPC

Being the hub for all services to written and photographic Press the location of the MPC was of great significance. (ATHOC, 2005) It was to be placed at the existing Olympic Centre Accommodation Facilities covering an area of 40000 sq.m and as it would be modernized the plan for the post-Olympic use was to remain as it was and serve as a modern accommodation and training camp for athletes. (AOBC, 1996) Finally hosted at the HELEXPO building, next to the AOSC on Kifisias Avenue with easy access to the highway. It consisted of three multi-level buildings: the central MPC building (HELEXPO building) and two nearby buildings interconnected to each other, covering 52000 sq.m. The main objective was to ensure ideal working conditions to press representatives and to create a pleasant environment with strong sense of hospitality. (ATHOC, 2005) The cost was 66.5 million euros (Sourdakou, 2012)

The HELEXPO building is managed by the National Institution for the Organization of exhibitions, Congresses and Cultural Events. It is divided on three exhibition spaces, one congress room, underground and peripheral parking lot. Every year several major national and international exhibitions take place at this building since 2005 such as the *Sports Exhibition of the Official Athens Half Marathon*, the ‘Healthy Life Festival’ and “Athens Home Expo” indicatively mentioned. (www.helexpo.gr) It also hosts the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport as also the Ministry of Health.

The on-site research showed that both the IBC and MPC have been well maintained and have been attractive poles for individuals. Around them there has

been developed a market which includes one other Mall and many commercial shops. The location is ideal as it has easy access with the public means of transport and by car as it is connected with the Attiki Odos Highway.

Olympic Village



Image 37. Olympic Village
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The growing importance of architecture in the 20th century, resulted the planning of Olympic Villages on a bases of being part of a process of enlarging a city in the territory and transforming older buildings instead of ephemeral constructions.(Munoz 2011) In the case of Athens following the principles of the modern movement and alongside with the idea of an ecological park, the planning emphasized on elements like the proper orientation, natural ventilation making it a “highly interesting example of postmodern interpretation of modernity”(ATHOC, 2005 p. 205)

According to the Bid File, the location of Acharnai at the foot of Mt Parnitha, was decided since the candidature of Athens to host 1996 Olympic Games. The guidelines were the use of technology to save energy, new water management resources, use of new solid waste management strategy, use of new building materials, landscaping of indigenous vegetation areas, landscaping parks connected by eco-routes and designed in accordance with the principles of the Modern Movement. Consisted of three zones the International Zone, the Residential Zone and the Olympic Park, the works were scheduled to last 6 years. The Double fencing arrangement the modern technological equipment, the controlled traffic the closed-

circuit television and the checks on moving in persons and vehicles assured a high security level. There was provision for catering, recreation and leisure facilities. The Olympic Park would include track for field events, swimming pool, courts for basketball, tennis and volleyball, cycle track and baseball court for training use. (AOBC, 1996)

Described as the largest Olympic Venue on the Official Report, it was not only the center of the Athletes' life during the Games but also the center of operations for the National Olympic Committees. It hosted 16650 athletes and Team Officials in a period of one month. Also, it provided services to 7166 athletes and Team Officials for the Paralympic Games. The Venue Team personnel was 9970:885 paid staff from the ATHOC, 3875 volunteers and 5300 contractor staff. (ATHOC, 2005)

As it was planned the Olympic Village was located at the foot of Mount Parnitha, close to the center of Athens. The residential buildings were constructed by the Social Housing Organization and were conceded to ATHOC for Olympic and Paralympic use. After the Games would be used by the Organization's beneficiaries. The total area covered was 1.240.000 sq.m. . In order to ensure moderate temperatures during summer months, it was built according to the principles of bioclimatic energy design and with environmentally friendly materials. It was divided into two main areas, the Residential Zone and the International Zone, with internal access control points from one zone to the other. Only Olympic Village residents and certain guests had access to the Residential Zone. It included all the residences (366 built with 2292 apartments) covered an area of 230000 sq.m. Each block had a Resident Centre with recreation areas operating similar to hotel reception. Serving 600 residents each, the number of the centers was twenty-eight place at the Olympic Village and thirteen at the Paralympic Village. Other facilities were the 4980 sq.m. Polyclinic offering a wide range of medical services, a sport complex (two gyms, one swimming pool, four tennis courts, long distance track and athletic facilities) for recreation, the Sport Information Centre, the Library and dining facilities. Also there was a Religious Service Centre for five religions. The International Zone being the main entry to the Olympic Village, was the area with free access for the guests and Accredited Media representatives. At this area were offered couriers services, hair salon, bank, ticketing office, photo shop, travel agency, post office and also accommodated the Lost and Found office, the Museum of the Olympic Games, an Amphitheatre and a reception Hall. (ATHOC, 2005)

Nowadays the Olympic Village operates as part of Municipality of Acharnai. The beneficiaries who firstly moved there were socially vulnerable groups and had the opportunity to buy the residents at low prices. It has 4 primary schools, 1 junior high school and 1 high school. It was planned to have 22 commercial shops and although at the beginning there was big interest to be rent, the high price taken after the bidding process had as result to stop working after a small period of time. The inhabitants have established an Association in order to promote their needs as they claim lack of social services and abandonment by the competent bodies. It has low town planning, pedestrians and sidewalks, accessibility for people with special needs everywhere. (<https://www.kathimerini.gr/873512/article/epikairothta/ellada/to-xwrio-poy-egine-polh> retrieved 10/5/2020) The water comes from underground drillings and the municipality has undertaken a research for energy autonomy of the public buildings. The location is ideal for someone transporting by car due to its easy access to the 2 highways but at the same time is a disadvantage for public transportation means as it has no access to the railway or the metro but only buses. The sporting facilities are being used by three sport clubs Phoivos, Athena and Dias which operate many sports like tennis, volleyball, basketball, athletics, handball and others.

From the beginning there were management issues as the Municipality of Acharnai could not absorb the massive installation of new people in its area which caused dissatisfaction to the residents. Only few job opportunities were offered and mostly on public sector (police, teachers) as there is no development of commercial shops because of the high rents. There are still problems with the delivery of the housings to the public as 2000 applications are still pending because of bureaucracy. There are many volunteering associations established in order to serve the community like the 'Residence Association 2007' and the women's association 'Kalipatira'.

The sport infrastructures in the majority are well maintained but the good condition is due to the sport clubs. They are well designed to enhance accessibility. Only the athletics field is open to the public and only the swimming pool is not used because of its high maintaining cost. The residents are pleased regarding the environmental structures and the modern telecommunication networks. There are no antennas and all the networks are underground, it also has optical fiber since 2006 when in the rest of the Athens is still being developed. There is an issue about photovoltaic installations as because of the air force base next to the Olympic Village does not allow it.

The accessibility by public transport to the Olympic Village is a problem for the residents as there are only two bus lines which connect the area with the train rail and the suburban railway but it is very easy by car as it is connected with the highway. Residents would like to be connected with the new metro line that will be developed not only for transportation but also for development issues as in the Olympic Village there is free space which meets the standards for mall construction.

It is common for the residents the feeling of safe. In the Olympic Village there is a Police Department and the crime rate is low, although some buildings are vandalized. The first years there was also a security company and the entrance was only allowed showing the residence card and there was installed wire mesh surrounding the area which was removed 2 years ago by the residents.

Residents believe that in general the initial planning was very good with the exception of the spread of the commercial shop in many areas instead of the development of a central market. It is a problem that the most vacancies generated are on the public sector and not on the productive. They also believe that ‘green area’ should be developed and the abandoned building should be utilized in order to create an alive community, also they stress the need of Municipality’s aid to maintain the infrastructures. Another problem is the restrictions on sales and leasing of the houses which has as a result the “aging” of the population as there is no renewal and the youngest leave.



Image 38. Olympic Village sport facilities

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis



Image 39. Olympic Village main square
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis



Image 40. Adriano's Aqueduct in Olympic Village
photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

General Aftereffects

Urban Development

In terms of legacy the OG should be considered as an opportunity to develop and promote city acting as a catalyst for urban renewal projects and infrastructures. (Synadinos, 2014) Since the 1930's the model of constructing the necessarily infrastructures has changed in a way that characterizes a whole aspect of city construction. Munoz call this "Olympic urban planning" (Munoz, 2011)

The city of Athens during the 90's would be described as densely populated, lack of green areas and an old fashion road network which maximized not only the traffic problems but also the air pollution. (Kissoudi, 2008) During the 90's Athens was dealing with huge traffic problems and air pollution with negative effect on development of tourism. The period between the unsuccessful bid for the Games of 1996 and 1997 when the city was awarded the Games major infrastructures were being constructed such as the Athens Metro, Attiki Odos highway, the new airport. (Synadinos, 2014) The major transformations of Athens and the improvement of the urban space quality is closely connected with the Olympic Games. (Gospodini, 2009) It was a great chance to enhance modern sport and culture while at the same time the national economy would benefit. The project of the city would present Athens as a modern metropolis, emerging at the same time its classical nature. (Kissoudi, 2008) Other projects built for the Games included 120 new roads, 90km rebuilt roadway, flood protection works on Kifissos, Poseidonos and Marathon, tram network, modernized rail line, improvements to the port of Piraeus, Rafina and Lavrion and important investments in the Greek Public Power Corporation and the Greek Telecommunications Organization. This change of city's image made Athens to be considered as an attractive tourist destination and a place for hosting other international events. (Synadinos, 2014)

The basic principles on which the planning of the Games developed were the creation of an Olympic Ring network, the development of two major sport poles connected through that network, the minimization of the geographical spread of the competition venues and the utilization of the existing facilities. At the final stage of finalizing the Venues' location and after reexamining each of them some changes were decided in order to eliminate potential future problems while maintaining the basic principles of the Bid File. Some reasons related to this decision were to free up

space from decongest venues, to reduce the extension of big venues, the delays in contracting, to reduce the geographical dispersion as also historical and promotional reasons. (ATHOC, 2005)

The biggest new infrastructure described on the Bid File was the new airport. A project which had already started although it was at primary level planned to be assisted by other 4 airports located around Athens, in Attica region for the needs of the Games. There was an investment plan of \$2 billion for the modernization of the railway network connected with the Olympic Games-related transport needs. The road network development plan included the development of the Via Egnatia and the development of Patra- Athens- Thessaloniki- Evzoni road axis which connects the three largest cities of Greece, including installation of modern traffic management systems. Two other big projects were the Elefsina- Stavros- Spata Airport motorway and the Imittos ring road total cost of 331.000.000.000 drachmas (€971,3 million) which would link the Olympic Venues and the city's center easily and fast. The Athens Metro was under construction and combined with the Athens railway which already existed and connected the Faliro Venues with the city's center and the AOSC, promised good transportation for the public. Also, there was a completed study for construction Light Rail network connecting city's center with the Faliron Sport Center, Helliniko and Voula. There was an improvement program of the Suburban railway to the Athens- Halkida line and the Athens- Corinth and Athens-Lavrion lines reopening was under examination. The buses and trolley-buses were improved and reorganized. (ATHOC, 2005)

The final plan included junctions of the Olympic ring and Poseidonos Avenue, upgrade the Marathon route, Pallini diversion, upgrade Varis- Koropi Avenue, create an exclusive ring road for better access to the AOSC, new roads to the Olympic Equestrian and Shooting Centre, to improve access to the Olympic Weightlifting Halls in Nikaia, in Galatsi and in Ano Liosia. Totally 2.800km were built or upgraded including 120km of new road network, 90m of upgraded road network and 40 new junctions. Marathon Avenue Kifissos Avenue and Attiki Odos are the most important works. (ATHOC, 2005)

The construction of Attiki Odos was a catalyst for solving many issues of the problematic Athens in terms of traffic. It is connected with the National Highway and the big arterial roads serving the everyday needs of thousands of people. For 2018 the total traversals were 82.502.880 reaching 1.366.224.857 traveling km. A research

undertaken by Invision. / Metron Analysis showed that 82.3% of the Attiki Odos users gain from 15 minutes to 1 hour on their daily transportation. (<https://www.aodos.gr/>) The line of the Metro nowadays has 40 stations and 3 more are almost ready to be delivered. It is linked with the airport, the city center and the port. It serves 600.000 people daily (<http://www.stasy.gr/index.php?id=26&L=0>) For 2018 the fixed rail network (metro, tram, electrical railway) of transportation had an average of 902.173 daily boarding which had as a result 158.782 less vehicles on the roads.

(http://www.stasy.gr/fileadmin/uploads/RFPs/Apologismos_2018_MerosA.pdf)

The new means of transport like the Metro, the Tram and the Suburban rail were designed providing accessibility, as all the buses and trolleys were upgraded meeting the demands issued to this sector. Municipality of Athens improved the sidewalks and the urban space as the Ministry of Culture improved the accessibility to the Acropolis archaeological site. Also, the ERMIS-Accessible Choice Program was created to promote awareness of accessibility issues, implemented in all Olympic cities. (ATHOC, 2005) In total 60 projects were planned in order to prepare the city for the Olympic Games. 1.577.164.810 euros invested on projects based on innovative design. 127.349.567 euros invested on projects related to build heritage which included pedestrian roads linking the archaeological sites restoration of archaeological sites and reconstructions of streets, squares and important buildings and 900.973.355 euros invested on non-competitive projects aiming to beautify the public spaces and improve transportation. (Beriatos & Gospodini, 2004)

Media villages

Although at the Bid File was not any other provision for special accommodation sites for constituent groups the detailed market researched pointed the need for extra accommodation sites. There was deficiency of four and five stars hotel categories. After targeted studies it was proposed and finally adopted the development of Media Villages, the use of cruise ships as floating hotels, the use of public buildings and the use of privately owned residencies in order to increase the overall accommodation capacity. Giving great importance to the post-Olympic commercial viability the objective was to secure one Media village of 10000 beds but there was not large enough land in the Attica Region to accommodate it. (ATHOC, 2005) Finally in 2001

the ATHOC concluded the list of seven Media Villages each one offering faster access to certain Competition Venues and total capacity of 8755 beds:

- Agios Andreas Media Village. Located in northeast Attica the existing resorts of the Armed Forces and of the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, of Education and of Public Order were renovated in order to work as Media Villages. The site still operates as a vacation inn for the military staff.
- SELETE Media Village: located in distance 700m from AOSC and 2km from the IBC and the MPC the new construction before being used as the central administrative services of the Ministry of Education offices was granted to operate as Media Village. Nowadays it operates as students' residence hall.
- Amygdaleza Media Village in the Police Academy Campus, located near the Olympic Village. The facilities operate as hot spot accommodating immigrants.
- Marousi Media Village a new private housing development very near the OAKA Complex, the IBC and the MPC. Nowadays it hosts the Ministry of Education
- NTUA Media Village, which was located in newly constructed student residence halls of the National Technical University of Athens. It returned to its initial use
- University of Athens Media Village, which comprised newly constructed as well as renovated student halls of residence. It still operates as student residence hall
- Pallini Media Village a new private housing development near the airport. It has been a modern housing estate, meeting high level standards in terms of quality of life

Despite the high accumulation of population and economic activity in Athens, it seems to have low-level influence in the region. Olympic Games were considered a challenge for Athens in order to be established as a metropolitan center in southeast Europe and this is obvious through the fact that 95% of the projects were permanent

infrastructures aiming to be re-used after the Games, which resulted a positive impact on the development prospects. The lack of strategic plan and the development of projects without a focus makes difficult to measure this impact. (Beriatos & Gospodini, 2004)

For the Faliro coastline was a an opportunity to reborn as after remaining abandoned and undeveloped for 50 years it was turned into garbage dump as for the Schinias area it was executive need at that time to protect the natural landscape and the springs that were neglected and this opportunity came through the Games. (Kissoudi, 2008)

Tourism



Image 41. Piraeus port

photo Anastasios Katsiadramis

The development of Tourism after the Athens 2004 Olympic Games is of important significance and it is strictly connected with the importance that was given to the issue of Security. In May 2000 was established the Olympic Games Security Division under the jurisdiction of the Chief of the Greek Police. During the games it occupied 34.737 individuals. Four Command Centers operated providing protection and security services for infrastructure, Athlete, spectators and journalists and in each Venue had its own Olympic Venue Security Command Center. Modern equipment was used and high-level security systems creating a safe environment. (ATHOC, 2005) All this promoted an image of safe visiting place to all over the world.

Another big investment was the 1.2 billion euro for security. After the 9/11 terrorist attack it was of great importance to secure a safe environment for the participants and the spectators. If we compare it with Sydney's 200 million, we can understand the priority of this sector for the OCOG. This has as a result to promote Athens as a safe city to be visited. (Georgiadis & Theodorikakos, 2015) The 9/11

terrorist attacks increased the need of massive security plan, ensuring a safe environment for the Olympic family and the spectators. Comparing to Sydney six times more money spent for security issues, reaching \$1.5 billion. (Angelopoulos, 2013)

Statistics have showed big increase on the incoming tourism and a general turn of Greek society to the sector of tourism. 4 years before the Games the international tourist arrivals were 12.4 million, occupying 788.300 people covering 19.2% of total employment. Reaching the 10.1€ billions receipts it contributed to GDP 16.6%. At that time 8073 hotels offered a total of 593.990 beds. On 2004, the year of the Games the international tourist arrivals was 11.7 million, occupying 785.300 people covering 18.2% of total employment. Reaching receipts of 10.4€ billions it contributed to GDP 16.3%. The number of the hotels was 8.899 offering 668.271 beds. Fourteen years after, in 2018 the international tourist arrivals was 30.1 million, the tourism industry occupied 988600 employees (25.9% of total employment), the income was 15.6€ billions contributing 30.9 to the GDP. The total number of hotels was 10.121 offering 789.650 beds. At these numbers the cruise passenger arrivals are not included. (<https://sete.gr/en/strategy-for-tourism/basic-figures-repository/?year=2004> retrieved 18/5/2020)



Chart 4. International tourist arrivals (source: <https://sete.gr>)

Graph design Anastasios Katsiadramis

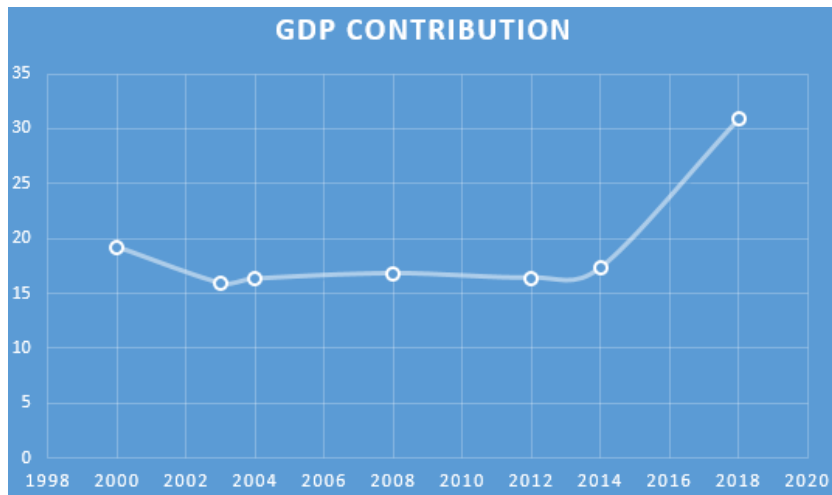


Chart 5. GDP contribution of tourism (source: <https://sete.gr>)

Graph design Anastasios Katsiadramis

Piraeus Port operated as hospitality site during the Games across 3km length and on a surface of 323000 sq.m named “Piraeus Olympic Hospitality Zone”. Nine cruise ships were utilized as floating hotels in order to accommodate Olympic Family members and spectators. (ATHOC, 2005) The extension of Kifissos avenue and the modification and improvement of local roads for the Olympic Games made the access to the port easier and easily connected to the airport. (ATHOC, 2005) According to the ELIME there were 3899 cruise arrivals to Greek ports in 2019 carrying 5.537.500 passengers. At the first place of arrivals was the Piraeus port with 622 cruises and 1.098.091 passengers. Katakolo, the port close to Ancient Olympia was at the fifth place for 2019 with 199 cruises and 413.716 tourist arrivals when in 2010 the numbers were 360 and 763.861 respectively. (<https://www.elime.gr/index.php/krouaziera> retrieved 7/4/2020)

Environment

The topographical conditions of Athens had as result high level air pollution, similar to Los Angeles. The surrounding mountains trapped the pollution layer and did not let it pall during the night. This created concerns regarding the athletes’ health. Therefore, a scientific team was established by the Bid Committee in order to predict the air quality in Athens, focusing on the oxides of nitrogen emissions. At the same time several research carried out, taking into consideration all the infrastructure changes of the upcoming year showed that during the Games year the ozone levels

would be lower than in 1990. (James, Donaldson, Stone, 2004) Also the housing needs would be planned to cover the housing needs and to solve environmental problems. (Kissoudi, 2008)

The Olympic Games gave the opportunity of awareness to a large part of the population and in the case of new built new “clean technologies” and environmentally friendly planning could be implemented. Aiming to create a healthy environment for the Games, improve the environmental parameters of the city and to enlarge environmental awareness, the ATHOC created the Environmental Plan through the “Olympic Environmental Alliance” collaborating with all the involved bodies. (ATHOC, 2005) The Strategy Plan included Environmental publications, leaflets distribution, school activities at “Gaia” (Museum’s Environmental Research Centre), seminars, tree transplanting and tree planting programs, promotion of the Recycling Programme to the Olympic Cities, environmental Information Desks, special projects promoted by the sponsors, the Insect Control Programme, the Oil Spill Contingency Plan, activities AT Piraeus Port organized by the Piraeus Port Authority like the implementation of on-board generated waste disposal service, daily control and noise pollution management at the Airport and promotion of recycling. In addition, the transport infrastructure development had as a result the reduction of atmospheric pollution and improved the travel condition ensuring a more safe transportation network. (ATHOC, 2005)

The implementation of the environmental program and the new infrastructures had as a result the reduction of air pollution. The annual reports of the Ministry of Environment give us a clear image of the size of this reduction. Even in the years before the Games when Athens was a huge construction site the air pollution was reduced compared with the 90’s. At the following table are presented the results from the air pollution measuring station located in the center of Athens

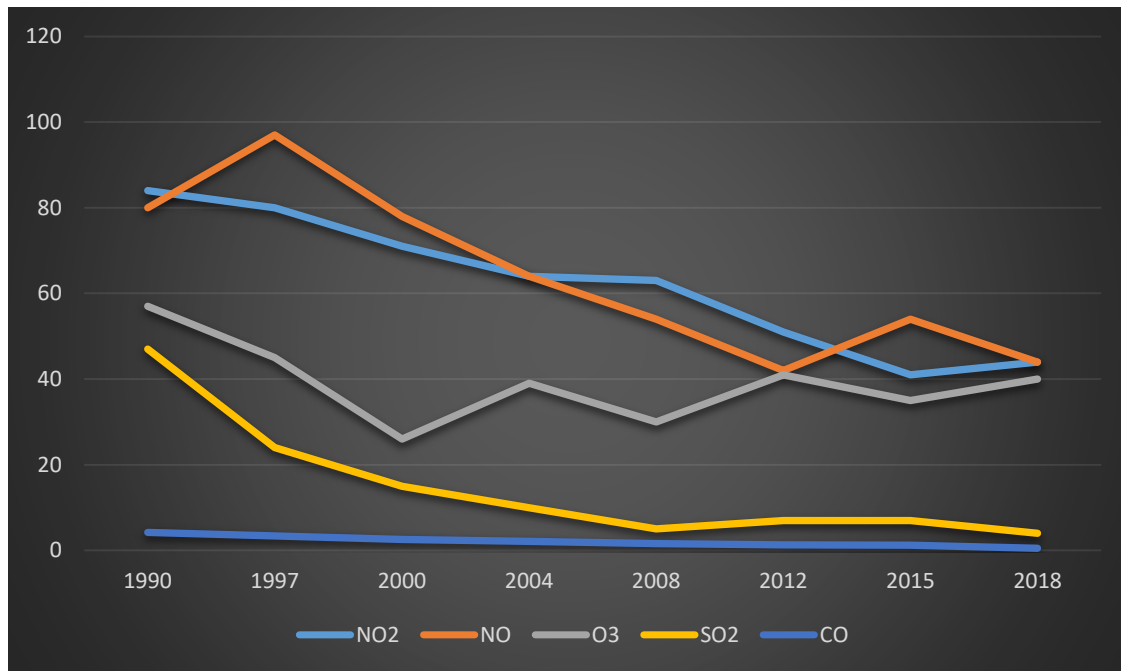


Chart 6. Athens' air pollution

(source:<http://www.ypeka.gr/Portals/0/Files/Perivallon/Poiotita%20Atmosfairas/Ektheseis/Ekthesi2018.pdf>)

Graph design Anastasios Katsiadramis

Culture

The long history between sports and culture date since the antiquity. In the modern Olympic Games this link first seen in 1912 Stockholm OG. There is a belief of the sport marketers that if non-sport and cultural activities engaged with sport would increase the audience and these events are perceived as personal experiences by them. Research shows that the majority of the people (76.3%) believe that engaging sports with culture brings in the fulfilment of Olympic Ideals. (Panagiotopoulou, 2008)

An important distinction of the audience of the Olympic Games is the one among domestic and foreign audience. As the Olympic Ceremonies present the culture of the host region expressing the ideals of humanism based on the Olympic Charter seeking the international recognition this distinction was very important for Greece. (Traganou, 2010) Although the Opening Ceremonies work as advertisement for the host country in the case of Athens it was aiming to show the feelings of the nation, emphasizing on the emotion through the connection of ancient and modern Greece that was presented. (Panagiotopoulou, 2008) It was clear there was attempted to regenerate the bond between the modern and the ancient Olympic Games through

the Athens 2004 Games and was also connected with the idea of Olympism. (Panagiotopoulou, 2008)

The implementation of the Cultural Olympiad of Athens was undertaken by the Promotion of the Hellenic Cultural Heritage SA (HCO) and took place in the period 2001-2004. Unlike other cases that the budget was low or even shrunk, in Athens the initial estimation was 120 million US\$ and finally cost 143.51 million euro, when in Barcelona US\$59 million were spend and in Sydney A\$21 million instead of the A\$51 million that were originally estimated. The program included many different kinds of activities like exhibitions, music events, theatre shows, dance and literature. Also, the program *Hellas 2004* was implemented aiming to activate the Greek periphery. The extent of the cultural activity was more than 1000 cultural events held in more than hundred different places. (Panagiotopoulou, 2008)

Another point that should be mentioned is the Cultural Infrastructure. Remarkable projects were made like the renovation of the National Archeological Museum, the Byzantine Museum, the constructions of new museums like the New Benaki Museum, the Islamic Art and the Glyptothek and the renovation of museums away of Athens but of great significance like the museum of Olympia, Delphi and Marathon.

These projects had as a result the increase of the visitors. The total visitors of 13 museums in Athens in 2002 was 715.613 when in 2006 were increased to 903.521 (Panagiotopoulou, 2008) In addition to that the reconstruction and the upgrade of Athens' cultural monuments and their promotion of to the global audience enhanced country's international image gaining benefits on tourism industry. (Boukas, Ziakas & Boustras, 2013) The result of all these actions is imprinted on the following table which presents the increase of visit rate to the museums and the archaeological sites of the country. The revenues in 2019 were 23.342.078 euros from the museum tickets and 107.590.870 euros from the archeological sites.

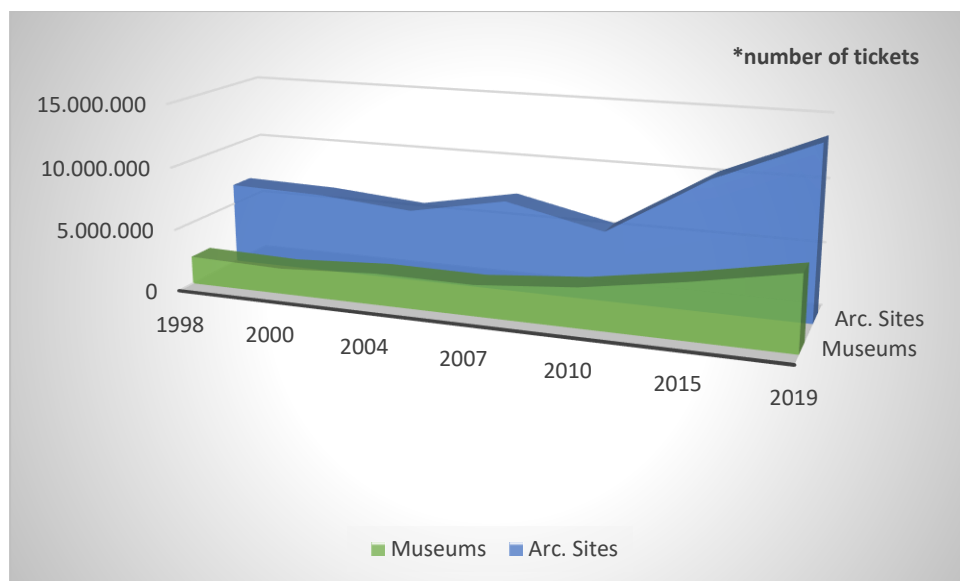


Chart 7. Visit rate to Museums and archaeological sites
 (Source: <https://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SCI21/->)
 Graph design Anastasios Katsiadramis

CHAPTER V.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Discussion

As it was showed, after examining the initial and the implemented plan of each infrastructure is easy to understand that there are significant differences regarding the number of the infrastructures, the locations and the budget. Also, there was not special reference or analytic plan about the post-use of the Venues.

The aim of this study was to present the current condition of the Olympic Venues and the level of their utilization. The results show the huge impact of such a major sport event into Athens. The city was rebirth in terms of infrastructure, new facilities were constructed, transportation problems were minimized and the pollution was reduced. It presented the difficulties that came up because of bureaucracy and did not allow the proper utilization of the Olympic Venues. It was also showed the lack of post-Olympic use plan for the sites. Finally, the research showed that the majority of the Venues are used either as sport facilities or for other purpose and moreover they have become the epicenters for local development.

The results agree with Sourdakou (2012) on the huge impact of the event in Greece, the problems that bureaucracy caused to the utilization of the venues and the need of oriented strategy for sustainable planning. The prohibition of entrance to some of the Venues made difficult for the researcher to have more detailed results. The management and administration changes of the venues through the years was an important delimitation of this study as more details could not be offered.

We can say that although it took much time to proceed with the necessary actions, the majority of the Sport Venues is being used. As it is shown on the table from the 29 sites (the Ancient Olympia Stadium and the temporary constructions of Parnitha and Vouliagmeni are not included) the 59% is utilized in a positive way the 10% is partly used and the 31% is either low or no utilized. Except the preexisting facilities which returned to their previous use enhanced on equipment and beautified, all the new infrastructures had bureaucracy problems when the management was decided to be given. Many international competitions were held but few of them were finally implemented although the financial benefits were advantageous for the Greek State, not only because it would be relieved by the high maintenance cost but also would profit from the leasing agreements. Also, many of them were given to

sport federations and at the same time operate with other activities. The first company established for the management was the Olympic Properties S.A. and then the portfolio was given to the ETAD which is still responsible for the maintenance and the utilization of the sites. The city was upgraded in terms of transportation and the international image of the country was improved. It has been noticed increased tourism activity as a result of the cultural heritage promotion and the safety feeling. The unbalanced factor of the economic crisis that hit the country in 2009 makes it impossible to estimate how big could be the benefits from the Olympic Games. Finally, it is clear that if the planning had a clear vision looking to the future the utilization of the Olympic Venues would be better and the public opinion would be pleased. All the infrastructure developed had as a result a better quality of life for Athens' residents. The air pollution was reduced, traffic issues were solved and transportation time was alleviated. City's image has been upgraded and attracts more tourists as a safe destination.

Conclusions

The prior long-term planning is a necessity for every hosting city although it must be an issue of examination which bodies should be involved when the decisions are taken and in which priority. As it was shown in Sydney was crucial the involvement of Municipality of Auburn in contrast with Sydney's Municipality. Another interesting point is the fact that although Barcelona 1992 Games are considered as a model in terms of planning and sustainability, the following host cities did not follow it although more money were spent. The increasing references to the Olympic Legacy and sustainability in the Bid Files shows the significance of the issue for the IOC.

In the case of Athens there was no prior planning for post-Olympic use of the venues and the initial estimation of costs and benefits was finally affected by baptizing 'Olympic' any new infrastructure. Additionally, the Government change resulted many delays and this increased the budget. Political arguments, bureaucracy and law issues did not allow to utilize all this accumulation of sport, economic and social capital. Also, the economic crisis of 2009 had a negative impact in all these and even more we will never know what could have happened if Greece did not have this huge economic problem which came up. From one side we see great opportunities raising up all these years and from the other hand the inaction conquers. At the same time the social legacy of the Games should not underestimated. Although it need

research in depth it is easy to see that the residents of Athens after the Games are more involved with environmental issues and with volunteering.

The two big poles the AOSC and the Faliro Coastal Zone have turned into important recreational areas for the local community, they have offered numerous jobs opportunities and the big events that they host give the opportunity for more international exposure, attracting tourists. Especially for the Faliro case the construction of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and big works for the improvement of the road network in 2019 show that it was a very good choice for creating that pole. The increasing level of tourism is closely connected with the Games not only in terms of the improved infrastructures. All the big changes that took place in Athens have created the feeling of a secure city, ideal for vacations. Also, the promoted link of the Games with the antiquity has been a great chance to advertise the archeological treasures of Greece, attracting even more tourists. With the urban development achieved due to the Olympics, new infrastructures developed solving transportation issues and reducing city's air pollution offering a better quality of life for the residents.

The researcher observed a gap on the studies regarding the intangible Olympic Legacy. A big issue and not of less importance which seems to be underestimated. More research should be done in this field in order to have a more holistic knowledge regarding the event. The social implications of the Games and their impact to the Greek society as perceived by the residents of Athens would give new data and would help the future organizer to maximize their benefits.

The Olympic Games is a unique chance for every country to invest and gain benefits in many levels, providing a better future to its residents. The international exposure of the Venues if it is combined with rational utilization can provide significant benefits. If Greece achieves to exceed the micro-politic expediency and act in the framework of the common benefit there are still chances to gain in many ways from the Olympic Legacy.

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