

A village in Greece with 0% unemployment

With all the doom and gloom that we hear on the radio and news waves lately, we wanted to bring you the uplifting story of the small town of Anarva in the

Magenia prefecture in Thessaly. This small town of just 700 people, has made a turn around from being a small blighted village without any schooling facilities in the 1990s; to a modern village with 0% unemployment, a growing population, a booming live stock industry, modern schools, and boasts a generally speaking high standard of living for a village of its size.

How could this village do this in today's economic climate? With many of years of planning. The transformation of Anarva did not happen over night but began in

the early 1990s when then resident Dimitrios Tsoukalas, ran for mayor and began transforming some of the old practices of the area. Mayor Tsouaklas used provincial community's resources and European Union funds (no central government funds from Athens were used) to help turn this community into a self sustaining and prospering village.

Home to a medical center, a mint wind farm, modern gym, two story parking garage and a small folklore museum; this village can be a model for other towns and small villages to follow.



Building penalty could hit thousands

More than 1 million households could soon be forced to pay thousands of euros each to ensure that areas of their homes which were originally planned as balconies but have since been turned into closed rooms are not liable to be demolished. A gap in building laws has allowed developers to include so-called semi-open (imiy-peithici) areas in homes. These are essentially covered balconies that have walls on three sides but are open on the fourth. It is estimated that some 1.5 million of these spaces have been closed off and turned into rooms proper. Earlier this month, Public Works and Environment Minister Giorgos Souflis suggested the government was working on a plan to regulate all these illegally closed spaces in Greek homes. Souflis emphasized this would not amount to a legalization, which would allow homeowners to include the square meters taken up by the semi-open spaces in the total area of their home and therefore push up its price.

The government's plan to regulate the matter means that homeowners will simply be able to protect themselves against possible demolition of the offending part of their house or apartment, which the law demands.

Sources have now indicated that the ruling conservatives are working out how much households will have to pay to protect their properties from any action in the future.

Less but brighter women

Based on a research done on "Women Leaders," women with careers are more bright but less in number than men. The research was done, in order to see what kind of development the woman's role has passed through for the last 20 years within family and society.

The research was done by the public opinion research poll agency Focus Bari and was presented by Mrs. Xenya Kourtoglou at the second annual forum in Thessaloniki.

The research claims that the world of business still belongs to men and this is due to the personal choice, family and social engagements of the woman. When it comes down to talent, women are "better" than men, because they were forced to work twice as hard, in order to break the glass ceiling, to change the "homemaker" stereotype, and to prove that they can play many different roles by combining career and family.

In more detail, the data shows that Greek women are better educated than before - for example, right now 57% of women between 18 and 24 have higher



education. Though, in 1988, this percentage was hardly 26%. 45% of women between 25 and 44 have higher education and in 1988, the percent was 18%. And 29% of them between ages 45 to 54 have a university diploma, when 20 years ago they were 9%.

Meanwhile, the percentage of women who know one or more foreign languages is: between 18 and 24 - 85%, and in 1988 it was 73%; between 25 and 44 - 74%, and in 1988 it was 50%; between 45 and 54 - 45% and 20 years ago it was 27%.

Today, women work more than before. 32% of those between 18 and 24 work, while before they were only 26%. 62% from women in the 25-34 category work and before the percentage was 40%. 64% of those between 35 and 44 work now and 20 years ago they were 35%. Today, 53% of women between 45 and 54 work and in 1988 they were 19%.

Today Greek women get married and give birth to children when they are older. 46% of mothers advise their daughters to graduate from university and to become financially independent. 51% of the mothers also advise their daughters to study and find a job but not to forget that their priority is marriage and 3% tell their little girls to find a husband and make a family without necessarily having to work.

During the last twenty years, it is noted that the number of women in high positions have increased, the percentage is still low - 3%. On the other hand, the number of women in middle management positions has increased - 20%. On other positions there are 33% women, when in 1988 there were only 20%.



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF NSW GREEK COMMUNITY HOME FOR THE AGED ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΠΙΤΙ

The president of the Greek Community Home for the Aged (Elliniko Spiti) Mr Kikis Efthimiou, would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the Home's 15th Annual Panigyri.

The Panigyri was a huge success which raised over \$16,000.00. The proceeds will go towards the continual improvement of the Home and for the benefit of the elderly our liv-



ing history.

Mr. Efthimiou would also like to Thank all the volunteers who donated their time for this event and especially the Home's Fund Raising Committee, whose hard work, dedication and support made the

Panigyri an unforgettable event.

The Fund Raising Committee are:

President: Kikis Efthimiou
Vice President: Peter Hronopoulos

Secretary: Mary Koufou

Members: Theo Rizakis, Argyris Miliopoulos, Nikitas Hartofyllis, John Koulouridis, John Spanellis, John Psomas, Frosso Efthimiou, Paul Bertuzzi