

The Water Issue in Greek Islands: Existing Situation and Challenges
Christopher J. Koroneos
Mayor of Nisyros Island
Unit of Environmental Science and Technology
School of Chemical Engineering
National Technical University of Athens

Islands have specific characteristics: Small size (limited population, area, natural resources), Remoteness and isolation. Insularity influences greatly, but in a negative way, the production and living cost. Greek Islands as compared to the mainland, they cannot have economies of scale due to limited number of resources and their quantity. Also the low accessibility and the high transport costs make it more difficult for their development. The vast majority of the islands do not have natural water. This problem was resolved until recently with the transportation of water. This was a very expensive method. In the past few years desalination has been used. This is an extremely energy intensive method for the production of water. Most of the small Greek Islands today use desalination for their water needs. However, the water produced using desalination has a very high concentration of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) so it can not be used for drinking. This leads to the consumption of bottled water which is imported mainly from the Greek mainland. The production and transportation of the bottled water has a very big environmental impact. This also creates a big solid waste problem from the plastic bottles that are used. To resolve these issues an integrated policy approach is necessary.