

# The Solid Waste Management Structure of the Greek Island of Samothraki. Current Challenges and Initiatives. A Case Study Approach.

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**In the thesis, I pose the following research questions:**

1. What is the present state of the municipal solid waste management system on the island of Samothraki?
2. What are the challenges and shortages of the management system that the island of Samothraki is confronted with?
3. Which are the present initiatives active in improving the opportunity structure?
4. What are the local efforts and challenges of separating organic waste? What did the local bottom-up initiative for household organic waste collection and composting at schools try and what did they achieve?
5. How effective was this initiative in paving the way towards a policy for organic waste collection in households and spreading the idea of composting?
6. Which strategies can be harnessed that can contribute to the improvement of the MSWM and the expansion of the composting initiative on other areas of the island? What are the possible benefits?

## **Methods:**

1. Extensive literature review
2. Expert interviews
3. Semi-structured interviews

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## **Main findings and results:**

1. Waste management on the island is not efficient and is in need for immediate improvements
2. Open air burning and illegal dumping of waste are still taking place.
3. Ambitious plans from the municipality on waste management but open discussions to how appropriate they are for Samothraki
4. Proper landfill management is a challenge for Greece
5. Information on existing initiatives in the municipality which aim to trigger sustainable practices
6. Case study of „Nature’s Way of Recycling, composting in primary schools in Samothraki“ has proven to be a good means of spreading awareness in the community and triggering change
7. Separation of organic materials from the mixed waste flow and management on the island would be beneficial both economically and prove useful for the community.

## **Work is relevant for and why:**

1. Researchers on Island Waste Management Systems
2. Students researching on Island Waste
3. Greek Management Authorities
4. Municipality of Samothraki

**Outlook:** The results of this research and the suggestions can be useful in the improvement of the SWMS on the island of Samothraki and influence the decisions of which plans will be implemented.

A key aspiration for my research was also to assist on the aim of the Island of Samothraki to attain a Biosphere Reserve Status.

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