

SPYROS NIAVIS

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<https://scholar.google.gr/citations?user=4ZxNBeEAAAAJ&hl=el&oi=ao>



UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALY



FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Regional Economics
- Spatial Inequalities
- Efficiency Evaluation
- Stakeholders Analysis

EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor (2026-...), Assistant Professor (2021-2026), of Regional Economics, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly
- Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Thessaly (2017-2021)
- Research Associate, Laboratory for the Evaluation of Development Programs and Projects (2007-...)
- Financial Manager, Development Agency of Magnesia (AN.E.M. S.A.), Volos, Greece (2005-2006)

EDUCATION

PhD in Planning and Regional Development, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly (2012)

MSc in Planning and Regional Development, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly (2012)

BSc in Economics, Department of Economic Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2004)

PAPERS IN REFEREED JOURNALS (SELECTION)

1. Kallioras D., Niavis S., Petrakos G. and Tsiapa M. (2025), Regional business cycles synchronization and regional inequalities in the EU, *Regional Science Inquiry*, 17(2), 37-51
2. Niavis, S., Petrakos, G., Petrou, K.-N., & Saratsis, Y. (2025). Assessing the Impact of Smart and Green Transition Policies on Spatial and National Income Inequalities in EU Countries. *Sustainability*, 17(17), 7774

3. Kallioras, D., & Niavis, S. (2025). Regional inequalities: Knowledge frontiers and debates. *Sustainable Regional Development Scientific Journal*, 2(1), 66-79.
4. Niavis, S., Gavanas, N., Anastasiadou, K., & Arvanitidis, P. (2025). Investigating Users' Acceptance of Autonomous Buses by Examining Their Willingness to Use and Willingness to Pay: The Case of the City of Trikala, Greece. *Urban Science*, 9(8), 298.
5. Balafoutis, T., Skandali, C., Niavis, S., Doulos, L. T., & Zerefos, S. C. (2025). Light Pollution Beyond the Visible: Insights from People's Perspectives. In Special Issue of Sustainable Urbanization, Regional Planning and Development, *Urban Science*, 9(7), 251.
6. Niavis S., Kallioras D. and Petrakos G. (2024), The distributional characteristics of Interreg Transnational Programmes and their role in promoting regional cohesion, *Papers in Regional Science*, 103(6).
7. Karditsa, K., Niavis, S., Paramana, T., Monioudi, I., Poulos, S., & Hatzaki, M. (2024). Is the Insular Coastal Tourism of Western Greece at Risk Due to Climate Induced Sea Level Rise?. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 251
8. Niavis, S., Papatheochari, T., Koutsopoulou, T., Coccossis, H., & Psycharis, Y. (2022). Considering regional challenges when prioritizing tourism policy interventions: evidence from a Mediterranean community of projects. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 1-22.
9. Adamakou M., Niavis S., Kallioras D. and Petrakos G. (2021), Understanding the Regional Engagement of Universities from a Stakeholders' Perspective: The Case of University of Thessaly, Greece, *Sustainability*, 13(19).
10. Niavis S. and Kallioras D. (2021), The Efficiency of Tourism Sector in EU Mediterranean Coastal Regions: The Effects of Seasonality and Spatiality of Demand, *Region*, 8(1): 135-152.
11. Vlontzos, G., Niavis, S., Kleisiari, C., Kyrgiakos, L. S., Athanassiou, C., & Pardalos, P. (2021). Why Farmers Get Involved in Participatory Research Projects? The Case of Arable Crops Farmers in Greece. *Applied Sciences*, 11(1), 6.
12. Niavis, S., Kyrgiakos, L. S., Kleisiari, C. and Vlontzos, G. (2020). What Drives Farmers' Decisions to Invest? The Role of Research Engagement, Information Collection and Type of Farm, *International Journal on Food System Dynamics*, 11(3), 241-257
13. Niavis, S. (2020). Evaluating the spatiotemporal performance of tourist destinations: the case of Mediterranean coastal regions. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 28(9), 1310-1331.
14. Niavis, S. and Tsiotas, D. (2019). Assessing the tourism performance of the Mediterranean coastal destinations: a combined efficiency and effectiveness approach. *Journal of Destination Marketing and Management*, 14, 100379
15. Niavis, S., and Vlontzos, G. (2019) 'Seeking for Convergence in the Agricultural Sector Performance under the Changes of Uruguay Round and 1992 CAP Reform'. *Sustainability*, 11(15), 4006
16. Niavis, S., Papatheochari, T., Psycharis, Y., Rodriguez, J., Font, X., and Martinez Codina, A. (2019) 'Conceptualising Tourism Sustainability and Operationalising Its Assessment: Evidence from a Mediterranean Community of Projects'. *Sustainability*, 11(15), 4042.
17. Niavis, S., Papatheochari, T. and Coccossis, H. (2019). Supporting stakeholder analysis within ICZM process in small and medium-sized Mediterranean coastal cities with the use of Q-Method, *Theoretical and Empirical Researches in Urban Management*, 14:1, 53-74

18. Niavis, S. and Tsiotas, D. (2018). Decomposing the price of the cruise product into tourism and transport attributes: evidence from the Mediterranean market, *Tourism Management*, 67C, 98-110
19. Tsiotas, D., Niavis, S. and Sdrolas, L. (2018). Operational and geographical dynamics of ports in the topology of cruise networks: the case of Mediterranean, *Journal of Transport Geography*, 72, 23-35.
20. Vlontzos, G., Niavis, S. and Pardalos, P. (2017). Testing for Environmental Kuznets Curve in the EU Agricultural Sector through an Eco-(in)Efficiency Index, *Energies*, 10(12), 1992
21. Niavis, S. and Vaggelas, G. (2016). An empirical model for assessing the effect of ports' and hinterlands' characteristics on homeports' potential. The case of Mediterranean ports', *Maritime Business Review*, 1(3), 186 – 207.
22. Vlontzos, G., Niavis, S. and Manos, B. (2014). A DEA approach for estimating the agricultural energy and environmental efficiency of EU countries, *Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 40, 91-96
23. Niavis, S. and Tsekeris, T. (2012). Ranking and causes of inefficiency of container seaports in South-Eastern Europe, *European Transport Research Review*, 4(4), 235-244

BOOKS

1. Petrakos G., Niavis S. and Kallioras D. (forthcoming) *The Inequality Gap in Europe: Perceptions, Realities, Policies*, London: Edward Elgar.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Principal Investigator

1. Thematic Community project of the Interreg Euro-MED Sustainable Tourism Mission. Funded by Interreg Euro-MED (2023-2029)
2. RECIRCLE MED - Supporting the implementation of blue and circular tourism in the Mediterranean, Coordinated by DPRD-UTH, Funded by Interreg Euro-MED (2025-2027)
3. Foodmission - Engaging citizens as agents of change for sustainable food system transition with a novel gamified educational citizen science platform, Funded by Horizon Europe 2021-2027, HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01 (2025-2028)

Member of research teams

4. CIRCUIT: Integrating deCarbonization and ciRcularity actions in industrial sites to achieve Climate-neUtral and sustalnable ciTies, Funded by Horizon Europe 2021-2027, HORIZON-MISS-2025-04-CIT-01 (2026-2029)
5. The impact of a Just Transition Observatory on energy transition. Exploring synergies with spatial justice and place-based governance through a comparative perspective JT-OBSERVATORY. Funded by Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) (2024-2025)
6. ESSPIN: Economic, Social and Spatial Inequalities in Europe in the Era of Global Mega-trends. Funded by Horizon Europe 2021-2027, HORIZON-CL2-2021-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-03 (2022-2025)
7. HECSOs: Higher Education institutions and Civil Society Organisations together for community engagement. Funded by Erasmus+ (2022-2024)
8. Sustainable Tourism. Horizontal Project of Interreg-MED 3.1 Community on Sustainable and Responsible Tourism, Funded by European Union/Interreg-MED Programme (2020-2022)

9. Linking Academic Performance and Regional Performance: Creating, Empowering and Maintaining a Comparative Advantage. Funded by ERDF (2020-2021)
10. CROPFEED, Creation of feed production protocols adapted to the rearing of dairy cows, Funded by General Secretariat for Research and Technology (2018-2021)
11. Socio-economic status of the base area of West Patraikos, Funded by Hellenic Petroleum West Patraikos Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons SA. (HELPE) (2020)
12. Costing of services and activities of OLB SA. Funded by the Volos Port Authority SA (OLB SA) (2019)
13. BleuTourMed_C3, Horizontal Project of Interreg-MED 3.1 community on Sustainable and Responsible Tourism, Funded by European Union/Interreg-MED Programme (2016-2019)
14. COMPASS - Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning
15. Systems in Europe, Funded by European Spatial Planning Observation Network – ESPON (2017)
16. Action-Med, Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes, Coordinated Programmes of Measures and Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps in Mediterranean Sea. Funded by European Commission/ Directorate-General for Environment (2015-2016)
17. The role and prospects of Port of Thessaloniki to the local economy under the prism of the new proposed works, Funded by Thessaloniki Port Authority (2016)
18. Med-IAMER-Integrated Actions to Mitigate Environmental Risks in the Mediterranean Sea. Funded by European Union/MED (2014-2015)
19. Adriatic Ionian Maritime Spatial Planning. Funded by European Commission – DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (2014-2015)
20. Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for hydrocarbon research and exploitation at the Ionian Sea. Funded by Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (2014)
21. Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for hydrocarbon research and exploitation at the South-Western Sea of Crete. Funded by Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (2014)

TEACHING

Urban Economics (postgraduate); Urban Development (postgraduate); Development Economics (undergraduate); Regional Economics (undergraduate); Public Finance and Administration (undergraduate); Public Finance, Administration and Institutions (undergraduate); Political Economy (undergraduate), Sustainable Development (undergraduate), Project Appraisal (undergraduate), Agricultural Economics (undergraduate), Regional Development (undergraduate), Transport Economics (undergraduate), Economic Theory and Policy (undergraduate), Tourism Geography (undergraduate), Project Management (undergraduate).

INVITED / KEYNOTE SPEAKER

1. Lecture delivered in the context of the seminar series of the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Programme “Planning and Development of Tourism and Culture,” entitled “Examining the Role of Destinations and Companies in the Development of Cruise Tourism,” Volos, December 4, 2024
2. Speech delivered in the context of the event “Magnesia 2030: An International-Scale Transport and Logistics Hub,” organized by the AHEPA, July 25, 2022
3. Presentation entitled “Sustainable Tourism for Sustainable Towns: Evolution, Challenges, and the Contribution of the Sustainable Tourism Community” in the context of the international

- seminar “Enhancing Sustainable Tourism Attraction in Small MED Towns,” organized under the Interreg MED project “SUSTOWNS,” Thessaloniki, September 23, 2021
4. Presentation entitled “The Development Prospects of the Port of Volos” at the conference “Magnesia Chamber of Commerce: 100 Years of Presence and Action,” Development Conference “Magnesia 2030,” Volos, December 6–8, 2019
 5. Participation in a roundtable discussion entitled “Which Drivers for a Sustainable & Inclusive Growth” at the event “MED for YOU: Unfolding a Strong Narrative for Policy Change,” organized by the Interreg MED programme, Athens, October 24, 2019
 6. Presentation on the achievements of the Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Community at the event “Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Convention 2019,” organized by the Barcelona Provincial Council and the MED Sustainable Tourism Community, Barcelona, June 5–7, 2019
 7. Presentation entitled “Examining the Competitiveness of Nea Anchialos Airport” at the workshop “Nea Anchialos Civil Airport and Development: History, Course and Prospects,” organized by the Synthesis Dialogue Community and the Friends of Nea Anchialos Civil Airport Initiative, Volos, June 15, 2018
 8. Speech entitled “Blue Economy and Integrated Coastal Zone Management” at the event “MADE in MED – Crafting the Future Mediterranean,” organized by the Managing Authority of the Interreg MED Programme, Rome, April 18–19, 2018