

The contribution of Greeks of Pontic origin to social life in Greece with emphasis on education and culture (20th-21st century)

The integration and presence of Greeks of Pontian ancestry within the Hellenic area are of particular interest, whilst their identity is becoming significantly perceptible through their polymorphous influence on it during the 20th and 21st centuries. A meticulous study is attempted regarding their contribution towards the social life of the country, by identification of Pontian associations and exceptional personalities of Pontian ancestry. In particular, the degree of influence applied by Pontian associations on the fields of education and culture are investigated, based upon scholarly literature. Interviews with nine personalities of Pontian ancestry whose social contribution has been significant and 24 representatives of Pontian associations of the 20th and 21st centuries are analysed, which have been conducted in order to trace archives Greeks of Pontian ancestry. Furthermore, archives and statutes of these associations are studied along with statistical data from the World Wide Web regarding 450 associations which are formal members of the two Panhellenic Pontian federations, the Panhellenic Federation of Pontian Associations (Π.Ο.Π.Σ.) and the Panpontian Federation of Greece (Π.Ο.Ε.). The continuous contributions of Greeks of Pontian ancestry are ascertained, via major accomplishments either in the form of welfare infrastructure and monuments, or through the progression and ascent of Pontian scientific, cultural and religious figures and all kinds of advocates of the dialect, the tradition and the history of Pontus. The Pontian ethno-regional identity remains potent and it is manifested in every aspect of culture in Greece as well as internationally.