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**The “Closed and Open” Communities: an Important Factor Determining the
Local Dancing Repertoire. The Paradigm of Zakynthos.**

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Abstract

The purpose of the present study was to investigate and compare the dancing repertoire of people living in mountainous villages the Greek island of Zakynthos, and the respective city inhabitants. The basic research hypothesis investigated by this study was that the “closed” character of traditional communities, in particular for villages situated at the highlands, was a determining factor in preserving greek dancing tradition in contrast to the city dwellers which they modulate a different dancing repertoire throughout their historical time course. The ethnographic method was applied for data collection, which included both primary and secondary sources. Analysis of recent dances repertoire was performed using the structural-typological method while treatment and interpretation of data applying the social-historical method. In conclusion, the growth of “closed” communities created strong bonds between their members, and as a result it was easier to preserve, almost unaltered, till today most of the elements of Greek traditional culture. It is also obvious that for certain remote villages, folk tradition kept alive due to favourable conditions for its preservation.

Key words: open & closed communities, local dancing repertoire.