

THEMES 2020. Sustainable

Project Title: Dislocations

More than 50% of electricity in Greece is produced in the area of Western Macedonia, in Northern Greece. It is the largest lignite mine in the Balkans which is constantly working 24 hours a day. The villages located in this area have lignite in their subsoil and for this reason they are gradually being destroyed while the people are obliged to evacuate them. The residents were pushed to give up their plots and their homes and to receive financial compensation. Lignite mining destroys thousands of acres of arable land and it eliminates the villages.

The project Dislocations describes the gradual disappearance of a village called Mavropigi. The photographic research began two years ago when most of the residents have left their homes. In many of these houses, they left behind personal items, photos, clothes, toys and much more. The village remained as a ghost waiting for its demolition. Gradually the mine expanded and the houses began to be demolished, deleting any trace of the previous life. The project comments on the privatization of the national resources and of the land. Mavropigi is a place that is disappearing, with immense social, economic and environmental costs for the benefit of the electricity company. The long-term effects of lignite mining remain invisible to both residents and the environment.