

The best solution for Greece

For many years now, Greece's new Finance Minister, **Yanis Varoufakis**, has promoted a plan for the development of Europe. His proposal, *A Modest Proposal for Europe* can be found [here](#). Unquestionably, the European continent looks different when viewed from its different capitals, the most relevant viewpoints being those from Berlin, Brussels and Athens. **Varoufakis** perceives the economic landscape as two mountains: one loaded with money and the other one dead empty (no money there).

Would it be possible, by some stretch of imagination, to theorize in case of Greece that it might be able to live in harmony with the EU in such a way that it would be seen beneficial to the union while not becoming subordinate to the interests of the bigger EU countries and the union not having to make too many concessions to Greece?

This kind of problem is often classified as *wicked*, that is, especially difficult. Regardless, I wouldn't think this problem is impossible to solve. *In case of Europe the question boils down to resources*. In some parts of Europe, there is an abundance of resources while in other parts we find scarcity. *In theory, it is possible to find alternative solutions*, where resources, on one hand, and rights to them, on the other, could be exchanged between their owners.

Determining the future of Greece

There are various techniques to plan for future, including the Delfoi and scenario technologies. The most important thing, however, is the ability to think – systematically – on many levels and about the integrated whole. One of the best ways to manage a developing and turbulent country is to apply the [Socio-cultural system](#) technique to the country's initial policies. The importance of some sort of idealism in thinking has been brought up in many studies. Without a proper goal, it is hard to be successful in science, arts, sports or working life.

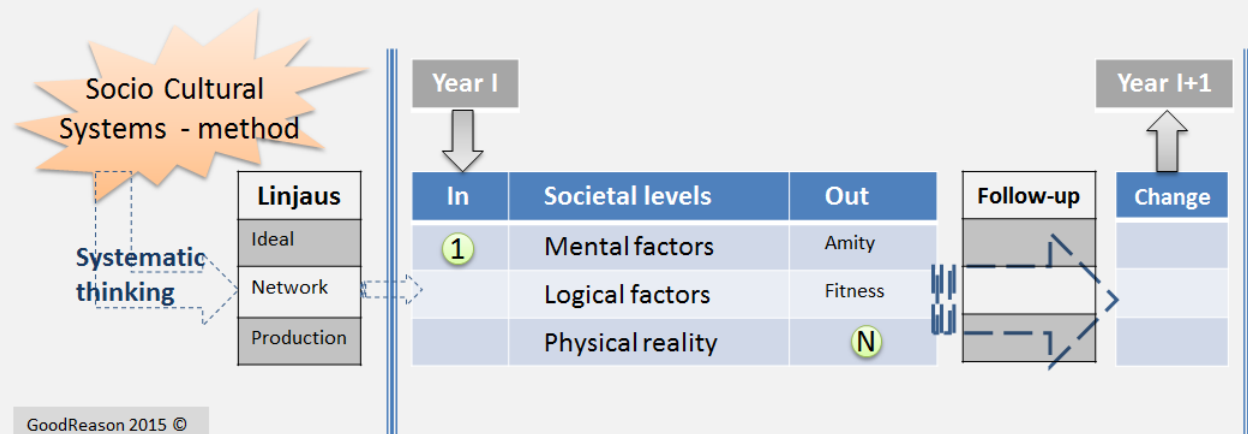


Fig 1. Framework for the situation in Greece in 2015.

The assumption in the figure is that when a government is formed, a determination is made about the ideal situation for the country, taking into account external and internal relationships, the country's resources, tensions and power relationships. This is not an easy task. In the PESTLE concept, the viewpoints highlighted are social, economic, political, geopolitical and human. Of these, the economic situation is seen as the cause behind stresses, and the manipulation of it by politicians, with their prestige at stage, has brought the citizens of Greece into a wretched state. Let us remember that Greece was invited to become a member of the European Community as a result of corruption and misrepresentation of the situation in Greece at that time.

To get closer to the overall problem solution, we need to approach it through various levels. Many different types of levels can be distinguished, for example those of ideal structure, structure and infrastructure or those of mental, logical (network) and physical. Will, one of the mental factors, is the prime mover here, and it must be accompanied by leadership.

Problem space and solution space

As it was said in Houston: "We have a problem". We should also have a solutions space and some know how to reach it from the worst case, which could be total collapse of Greece or even disappearance of the European monetary union.

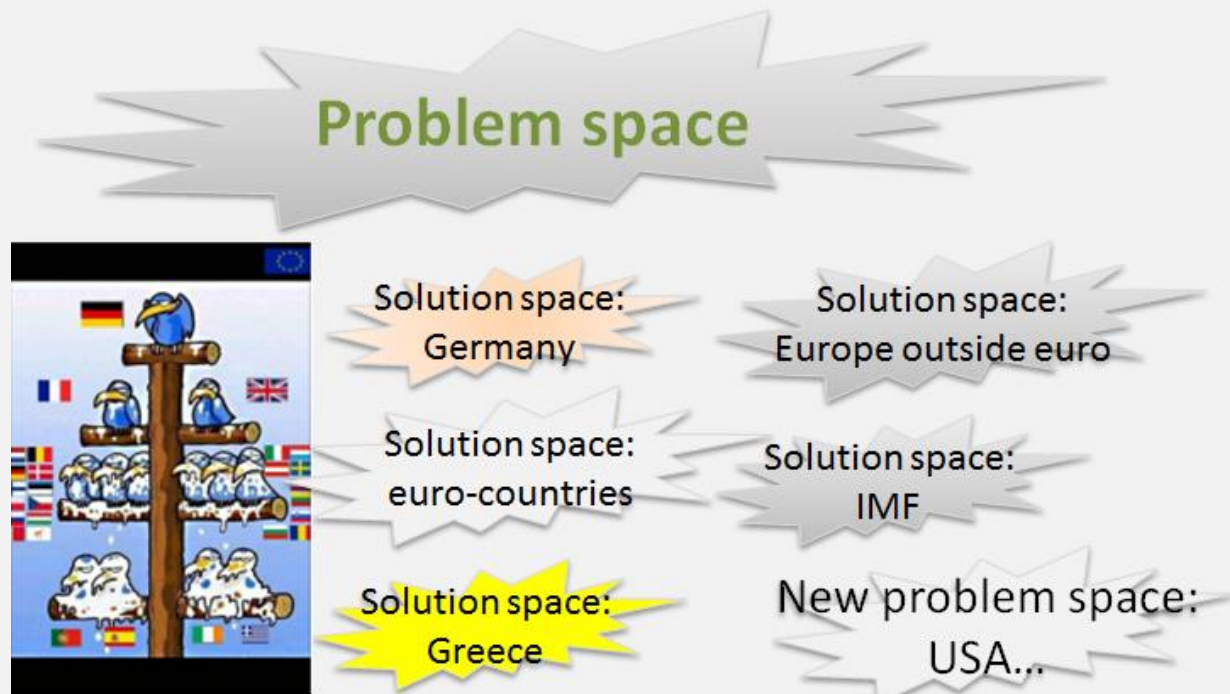


Fig 2. The problem includes many levels and numerous ways how to solve the current situation in order to avoid a world wide damage without causing serious collapse for humanity.

The solution is an attempt to match mental and logical factors of the actors (Fig 2) with the physical reality of Greece as a proof for later economy problems challenging Spain, Portugal, Italy.. even Finland.

Challenges for 2015

Expectations

Ideal

The way to get Greece out of its predicament?

Challenges for 2016

Success 2015

Adaptivity

Mental factors

Logical factors

Physical reality

	Scenario 1	Greece attempts to remain in EU	Key points	Justification
Mental factors	1 Image: Trust 1	Leadership: defining the attitude towards the elite, cuts, people. Political challenges.	Synergy and commitment	Wide support starts from the EU level
	2 Sustainable idea: self-organization	Resourcing: what kind of country will Greece be in the future? Investment target. Cradle of culture.	Motivation: brand, "country of tourism"...	A plan for the whole state
	3 Change of direction	Transparency and openness: once we know what Greece is doing, we will see it as a partner.	Added value: Greece is a part of Europe	Change management
Logical factors	4 Deficit – the worst problem	The deficit is not likely to disappear for many years. Dept can be reduced by selling of assets.	Deficit weighs the country down to be renegotiated.	SWOT analysis
	5 Sales – the biggest challenge	More external trade: technology, environment, partnerships.	Net revenue and profitability.	Traditional business models
	6 Order book	Domestic trade: industry and sales to get better production figures... through demand.	Accelerating activity.	More local projects
Physical reality	7 Domestic services	Public economy: government's attitude to cuts, to tax increases, to those with high incomes.	Change to public expenditure.	Political decisions
	8 Evaluation and feedback	A positive cycle will start immediately with the stimulation of demand. Alternative: total collapse.	Society and culture are values to be cherished.	To prevent anarchy; capital into circulation
	9 Physical aspect: people's daily life	Satisfying people's daily needs – neglecting them will have disastrous results.	The skills of flexibility and sharing.	Greece – a valuable part of Europe. N

Storytelling Table for Scenario 1

It is not an easy task to understand or define the relevant levels. To do so, requires conceptualization skills, impartiality and diverse information about the state of society up to the higher echelons of the EU's leadership. *As the author of this page does not have all that information, let the proposal below provide at least the underlying principles in this issue.* A lot what is said below has features similar to those presented by Varoufakis in his videos.

The scenario below depicts Greece that wants to remain in the EU. The table has nine rows: the leftmost column states the issue in the question, the next one to it describes what measures Greece should take and the next what beneficial key points can be derived from the measures. The rightmost column provides a justification or basis for the result produced in each row.

Row 1 refers to the initial stage, that is, establishing mutual trust, first when forming a government and later on with other stakeholders. The most important thing here is the attitude towards the elite inherited from the past, towards the earlier ruling political parties and towards oligarchs still in possession of large swathes of the country. If that trust can be established, a brand or a profile of some kind can be created as a locomotive for progress (imagination is the only limit). A plan that would interest the whole state should then be designed. It might be useful to market it at the European level also: e.g. "Wellbeing in Greece means wellbeing for each country in the EU; malaise and unease in Greece results in gnashing of teeth in every country.

This gives us the starting point for a formula for the rescue of Greece.

Row 4 (deficit) describes a really serious problem: negotiations and consultations are required so that the EU could throw away conditions that are not workable in any union of independent countries. For countries enjoying a surplus there are always countries that suffer from deficit. This is a fact similar to a fact that the moon orbits the earth.

Rows 4–7 illustrate decisions related to the network or structure. With these decisions, it is possible to improve the country's economy. Naturally, there are many other ways to do that, but it is advisable to start with the most important things, like those mentioned above, with which to develop a country.

Rows 8 and 9 describe physical activity. If that is out of whack, if angry people still march on the streets, the hope for rescuing the country will diminish considerably. Capital must be cycled also to reach unemployed people and people without a home, among others. Under that circumstance, the capital most probably will find its way to local shops and neighbourhoods, enforcing the positive economic cycle. Eventually the money in circulation will end up in banks who now will have the money to lend to productive uses for companies and private individuals. The need to capitalize banks directly through central banks will disappear and the economy will be in a better shape.

The most inane thing that can be done in an economic policy is to ignore the needs of microeconomy at the behest of macroeconomical considerations. A country like Greece cannot be developed and funded if the needs of its citizens are ignored. Symbol N in the table means success. That state will be achieved, not in 2015, but perhaps in 2015+I if the conditions stated in the rows of the table can be met without new crises. Success is guaranteed if enough flexibility and desire to share is found among the people of Brussels and Berlin and other cities. This might be too much to hope for, but let's hope Greece at least remains a reasonably homogenous nation in its aspirations and goals; even that would be a significant achievement in these times of uncertainty.

Other scenarios

Other scenarios include Greece leaving the EU and getting new partners like Russia and China. They are geopolitically more dangerous. Let's hope that scenario 1 will succeed in any way.

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