

EKISTICS (modern Greek: ΟΙΚΙΣΤΙΚΗ) is derived from the ancient Greek adjective *οικιστικός*, more particularly from the neuter plural *οικιστικά* (as “physics” is derived from *φυσικά*, Aristotle). The ancient Greek adjective *οικιστικός* meant: “concerning the foundation of a house, a habitation, a city or a colony; contributing to the settling.” It was derived from the noun *οικιστής*, meaning “the person who installs settlers in a place.” This may be regarded as deriving indirectly from another ancient Greek noun, *οίκισις*, meaning “building,” “housing,” “habitation,” and especially “establishment of a colony, a settlement or a town” (already in Plato), or “filling it with new settlers”: “settling,” “being settled.” All these words grew from the verb *οικίζω*, “to settle,” and were ultimately derived from the noun *οἶκος*, “house,” “home” or “habitat.”

The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* contains a reference to an *oecist*, *oekist* or *oikist*, defining him as: “the founder of an ancient Greek ... colony.” The English equivalent of *οικιστική* is *ekistics* (a noun). In addition, the adjectives *ekistic* and *ekistical*, the adverb *ekistically*, and the noun *ekistician* are now also in current use. The French equivalent is *ékistique*, the German *ökistik*, the Italian *echistica* (all feminine).

50 years

A reader on ekistics
Thirty years after C.A. Doxiadis