

The cluster of ESIN

ESIN is a federation of national island organisations in Europe. It is the voice of 475,000 islanders on 1,350 small island communities and is helping them remain alive. To this end, ESIN acts at two levels:

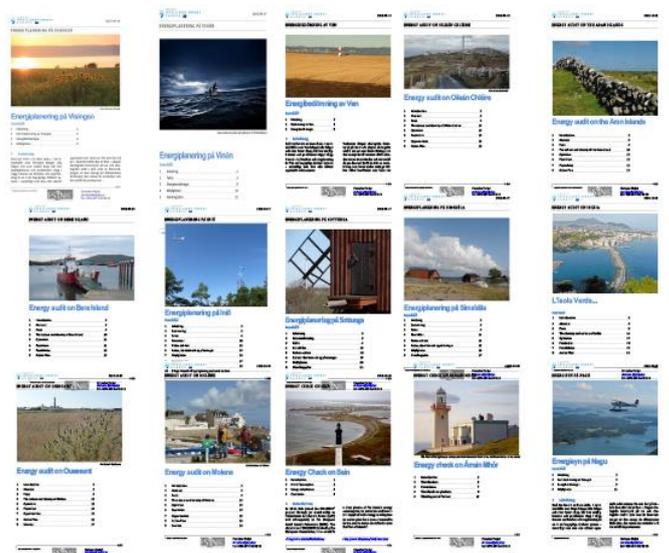
- 1 Local level: strengthening islands cultural identity, facilitating the circulation of information between its members, allowing comparison on how different countries cope with issues, sharing knowledge.
- 2 European level: informing relevant EU institutions, influencing EU policies and rules by increasing their awareness and understanding of small islands.

The starting point

ESIN came in late in Smilegov but was immediately inspired by the project idea. Fifteen small islands have made their way through the project with the help of a core team of 40 people.

These islands represent different seas (Mediterranean, Atlantic and Baltic), different nations (Italy, France, Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Åland), different political levels but one culture: being European islanders.

As most of these islands are below municipality level, multilevel governance issues are of great importance: how does a small island contribute to the European 20-20-20 objectives? How can it use less energy and produce more sustainable energy locally? How can it get knowledge, technical and financial support to realise its plans and become an attractive, modern society where people want to live?



Thanks to Smilegov

Smilegov has given ESIN knowledge of the energy situation of fifteen of its islands, representative for most of the 1,535 others. It has shown aspects of Multi Level Governance that were not known to the islands neither to the organization as a whole.

Smilegov has also strengthened the federation's network for future cooperation and development.

An important outcome is the common knowledge possible to draw from all fifteen islands together:

- the great share of energy use on a small island coming from sea transports, the smaller the more;
- the great share of a small islands emissions coming from the same sea transports, plus from sea transports passing through the waters of the island/archipelago;
- the good examples gathered from level 1 islands (especially thanks to Samsø) and from ourselves although being level 2 islands.

This is what we achieved so far

- Knowledge of small-scale wind and biogas production
- Knowledge of EV's systems and mobility
- 10 new Pact of Islands signatories
- Inspiration for local projects
- Shared knowledge of tools, processes and possible accomplishments

Future hopes and expectations

ESIN wants to continue cooperating with islands outside its own organization but within the European island network. Focus will probably be on local, sustainable, small-scale energy production, on mobility (ferries, EV's) and on change processes to get islands to feel they can and should improve their own situation.