

The island of Gran Canaria

Gran Canaria is the third largest island of the Canaries Archipelago, located in the Atlantic Ocean just 100 km away from the African coast. Gran Canaria, described as a continent in miniature, is an island of contrasts: high mountains, dunes, beaches and a cosmopolitan capital, with more than 380.000 inhabitants of the total 850.000 people living on the island. The main sources of income in the island are related to tourism and harbor activities. The island is part of the Spanish SMILEGOV cluster.



The starting point

Gran Canaria is endowed with a substantial wind and solar resources. The first wind turbine was installed in the late 80's and installation continued growing until the late 90's. Since then, new wind installations have suffered from administrative barriers hindering their wider implementation. The total wind capacity installed until 2012 was 80,6MW while installed PV capacity reached 5 MWp. The share of renewables represented 7,4% of total electricity production.

The energy directives are established in the Energy Planning of the Archipelago PECAN 2006-2015, which is about to expire without having reached its objectives regarding total renewable energies share. The Regional Government is putting great effort in getting over the restrictions for new RES installations introduced by the last electricity national law approved in 2012.



Thanks to Smilegov

SMILEGOV has offered to the island the possibility of connecting different government levels through local workshops and activities organized in the framework of the project. Focusing on the bankable projects identified through SMILEGOV, several meetings have been organized and contact with different stakeholders has been improved. From these activities, new opportunities of future collaboration have been identified.

Some other relevant profits that can be noticed are:

- An international network of energy experts
- An overview of good practices from other European islands
- Capacity building in energy planning issues

This is what we achieved so far

Within SMILEGOV period several actions have been improved:

- Installation of a new multi megawatt wind turbine in the port of Arinaga (southwest of the island)
- Proposals for new energy efficiency measures
- Electric vehicle strategy
- Waste and biomass valorization
- Updating of energy planning

Future hopes and expectations

Gran Canaria will keep on improving the use of RES and energy efficiency measures in the island. ITC, as leader of the Spanish SMILEGOV cluster, will be the driving force and the linking nexus among all stakeholders in order to advance in the sustainable development not only of this island but of the whole Archipelago. The final goal is to reach EU 20-20-20 targets mainly through the use of new wind farms (including possible off-shore), PV, hydraulic and biomass valorization.