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Enhancing effective implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans in European Islands through reinforcement of smart Multilevel Governance

Network of Sustainable Aegean Islands – DAFNI, Greece, Conference of Peripheral & Maritime Regions - CPMR, Region Gotland, Sweden, Ölands Municipal Association, Sweden, Kärddla Town Government – Hiiumaa, Estonia, European Small Islands Federation - ESIN, Samsø Energy Academy, Denmark, Canary Islands Institute of Technology – ITC, Spain, Regional Agency for Energy and Environment of the Autonomous Region of Madeira - AREAM, Portugal, Cyprus Energy Agency, Cyprus, Local Councils Association, Malta, Scottish Islands Federation - SIF

European Islands collaborate for Sustainability

The SMILEGOV project will increase cooperation between different levels of governance and strengthen local capacity with the aim to enhance the implementation of sustainable energy action plans in European Islands.

To do so, the project foresees capacity building and knowledge transfer activities about energy planning through the collaboration of islands from Europe (Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Scotland, Canary Islands, Madeira, Malta, Cyprus, and Greece). The project aspires to develop bonds with more islands and train them in sustainable energy planning in an effort to expand the family of sustainable islands. Coordinator for the SMILEGOV project is the Network of Sustainable Aegean Islands (DAFNI). On www.sustainableislands.eu you may find more information about how European islands see their sustainable energy future, the successful “Pact of Islands” initiative, best practices in efficient multi-level cooperation that lead to interesting projects and much more fascinating material.

SMILEGOV: Kick-off meeting in the island of Santorini, Greece



Setting up priorities for cooperation between islands and remote maritime areas

The kick-off of this new initiative of European islands was hosted in Santorini island, in April 2013. The framework of the cooperation was set and the workplan was decided. Areas of interest and preliminary priorities in the field of multilevel cooperation, sustainable energy projects and innovative technologies were already identified for each geographical region and discussed. The coordination between different levels of administration, the priority

that is given to islands when decision making is done in the mainland, electric vehicles, interconnections, smart grids, sea transport and energy storage were among the topics that were discussed. The islands will meet at regular basis to exchange ideas and experiences and use this cooperation to advance sustainable energy projects in their territories.

>> Read more on this fascinating project [here](#)

MADEIRA GOES HYDRO AND OFFSHORE

The coordinator of the Aegean islands visits Madeira to boost cooperation and ideas exchange



In Madeira there is a long tradition and experience in Hydro-electricity and hydro generation (through pumping between two reservoirs) is currently being used in order to regulate grid loads and variability of wind. Hydro storage and water basins are a solution for irrigation and human consumption, too. There are also photovoltaic systems that feed a desalination plant. Currently there are 50 MW of wind parks installed but the geomorphology of the island limits the potential for further

development: Off-shore wind seems an ideal solution for the near future. AREAM has presented the ongoing national project for an advanced offshore floating wind turbine.

>> Read more on the visit [here](#)

>> Read more on AREAM [here](#)

CANARY ISLANDS: NEW ELECTRICITY LAW

The head of ITC Gonzalo Piernavieja Izquierdo drives us through a new era in energy economics

After some years of stagnation in the governmental RES programme, a new law to be voted soon by the Spanish parliament, is expected to change dramatically the situation in the Canaries introducing reforms in the competition and supply of electricity. The situation in the Canary Islands and the new regulation of the electricity market could be one example of structural parameters influencing RES development in insular systems from a multi-level decision making point of view.



Photo (from left to right): Salvador Garcia Suarez, ITC, Ilias Efthymiopoulos, DAFNI, Gonzalo Piernavieja Izquierdo, ITC

>> Read more on the visit [here](#)

>> Read more on the Canary Islands Institute of Technology [here](#)

REGION GOTLAND CREATES DEMAND FOR BIOGAS

A successful example on how local authorities can boost a green economy

Region Gotland is an excellent example of a public authority which literally created locally the demand for biogas; the region announced that the regional fleet of buses will be adapted to burn biogas and the market adapted to the scenario. Within a few years, a biogas plant was licensed and constructed in a distance of a few kilometres from the main city of the island, Visby. Currently, the plant annually produces 2M Nm³ of biogas feeding them to the extended biogas grid that has been developed in the island and powering 4 blue busses that serve the city.

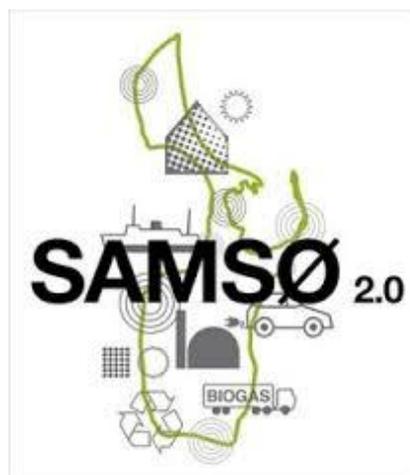


>> Read more on the Visby blue busses [here](#)

SAMSØ RUNS VERSION 2.0

How can islands upgrade their performance towards 2020

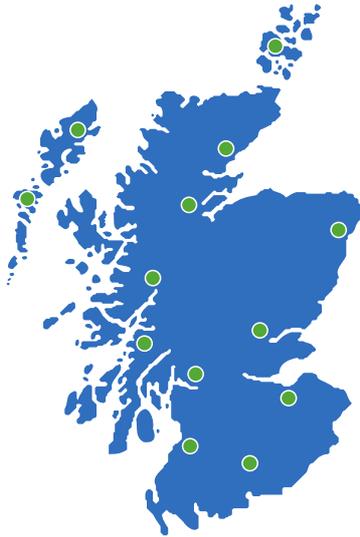
Samsø version 2.0 in short is about Samsø's future role in the world focusing on the transition to a fossil energy free community. The Samsø Energy Academy focuses on which targets of sustainable development will contribute to what we today call Samsø Fossil free Island 2030. Based on the successful results from the previous energy island project, the Samsø Energy Academy is planning a version 2.0. The Energy Academy and the Samsø Municipality are working on the new version of the Fossil Free Island project. It will be based on local ownership and cooperation with the citizens of Samsø. The Energy Academy also bases the work on many positive experiences from national and international cooperation. The development strategy for the Samsø Energy Academy is centred on green education, satellite islands and cities as well as partnerships with local and international relations.



>> Read more on Samsø's fossil free community plans [here](#)

SCOTLAND: LOANS FOR COMMUNITIES

Bankable projects? Yes, but who pays for the first step? Community Energy Scotland has an answer: Through the CARES initiative loans financing are available to cover the pre-planning consent stage of project development, a high risk cost which is widely seen as a barrier to community groups and smaller businesses who would otherwise wish to develop a project. Preference is given to proposals that demonstrate the highest value of wider community benefit.



The strand helps community applicants take forward plans for renewable energy generation schemes on land they own or they can lease. CARES Loans will cover up to 95% of predevelopment costs such as Environmental Impact Assessments and technical feasibility. The maximum loan per entity is £150,000. CARES loans are short term loans to allow prospective developers to work up a project to a stage where a commercial funder will agree to provide loan finance to build the scheme. The loan is required to be repaid when financial close on the capital scheme is reached.

As the Scottish Islands Association has reported during a recent meeting under the SMILEGOV there are actually more than 400 projects all around the country and many of them are located on the islands. "CARES is not only a successful programme for boosting up local economies, but

also a good example of multilevel governance, said Felix Wight, Policy and Innovation Manager in Community Energy Scotland.

>> Read more on Community Energy Scotland [here](#)

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF DECISION MAKERS IN ESTONIA

Both the Governor of Saare County and the Mayor of Kärdla Town Government participated in the first meeting of the Estonian cluster that was hosted in the island of Hiiumaa on 2 July, 2013. The two islands of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa wanted to highlight that the involvement of decision makers is part of the solution for facilitating multi-level cooperation in view of the implementation of their sustainable energy action plans. The message will be sent to all islands of the Estonian cluster through the capacity building workshops that will be held locally, aiming to assist specific sustainable energy projects to move forward.

Saarte energiaressurss on suur

Eelmisel nädalal käis Hiiumaal kevadel käivitunud üle-euroopalise energietikaprojekti SMILEGOV juht Ilias Efthymiopoulos Kreekast.

HARDA ROOSNA
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Kulaline ütles, et Hiiumaal, nagu kõikidel saartel, on suur energietiline potentsiaal: biomass, kuna siin kasvab palju puid, tuuleressurss aga ka ookeanist saadav energia st meretuulepargid ja ehk ka homsed lähendused laineituse energia kasutuselevõtuks.

"Üleminek traditsioonilistelt energiakandjatele uue põlvkonna energiakandjatele, pean silmas rohelist energiat, on väga tähtis," kinnitas Efthymiopoulos.

Probleemiks nimetas ta sellise elektri tootmise infrastruktuuri kõrget hinda ja uusi tehnoloogiad, mis samuti on väga kallid. "Just see on põhjus, miks Euroopa saared peavad tegema koostööd ja üksteist aitama, et need takistused ületada," selgitas ta.

Uue perioodi võimalused

EL uue programiperioodi võimalusteks nimetas ta Euroopa Komisjoni ja eelkõige energietika peadirektoraadi algatust mobiliseerida paljusid fonde, mille eesmärgiks rahastada uue põlvkonna ehk intelligentse energia tootmise lahendusi, avardada energia salvestusvõimalusi jms. Samuti on avanemas fondid, mis toetavad saarte koostööd selles valdkonnas. "Mitmed neist on suunanud kohalikele omavalitsustele,



Kaidi Nõmmerga, Kristjan Ojasoo, Saare maavanem Kaido Kaasik ja Ilias Efthymiopoulos kohtumisel Kärdla linnavalitsuses.

kuna just nemad mängivad tulevikus energiamajanduses otsustavat rolli – see on meie, saareelanike, kreeklaste, arvamus," ütles Efthymiopoulos. Ta märkis, et just sel eesmärgil loodigi saarte võrgustik, et kasvatada kohalike omavalitsuste võimekust neist fondidest raha taotleda.

"Kohalikud omavalitsusjuhid peavad õppima hindama tegevlikku olukorda, omandama oskuse käituda uues majandusolukorras ja uuel turul, samuti peab hästi mõistma selle rahastuse mehhanisme – eelkõige pankade osa selles, sest just pangad hakkavad mängima suurt rolli

uute fondide haldamisel," ütles kauge kulaline. Ta lisas, et võimalusi on palju, aga kohtadel on vaja luua suutlikkus kasutada neid võimalusi, et osaleda energietika revolutsioonis.

Efthymiopoulos raakis, et Kreekal on enam kui tuhat saart, millel on suur tuule-, päikese-, geotermaal- ehk vulkaanilist energiat, ookeanilainete energiat jm ressursse. Peaprobleemiks on, et seda potentsiaali on enam kui kohapeal st saartel vaja-takse, seega on vaja toodetud energia saartelt ekspordida. Selleks on vaja luua nii saar-tevahelised elektritulekande-võimalused või leida energia muundamisvõimalusi, näiteks vesinikuks. Paraku on paljud olemasolevad lähendused veel väga kallid ja osa alles tulevikuisioonis.

Jätkub lk 3.

Article on SMILEGOV in a local journal of Hiiumaa island (Estonia).

Photo (from left to right): Kaidi Nõmmerga (Kärdla Town Government, Head of Development and Economy Department), Kristjan Ojasoo (Kärdla Town Government, Economy specialist), Kaido Kaasik (County Governor) and Ilias Efthymiopoulos (Network of Sustainable Aegean Islands, Greece), representative of the SMILEGOV coordinator.

RES COOPERATIVE UNDER DEVELOPMENT IN SIFNOS ISLAND



Alternative financing and ownership schemes for RES projects in Sifnos

A remarkable initiative has started in Sifnos island in the Cyclades complex in Greece. A group of local citizens have been discussing the last years the creation of a local cooperative which could develop projects related to the exploitation of locally available renewable energy sources, the enhancement of the building energy performance and other similar activities. This initiative was recognised by the REScoop 2020 IEE project and was included in the renewable energy sources cooperatives (RES coops)



which would receive technical assistance by the REScoop specialists. In this framework a local workshop open to all locals was organized in Sifnos on the 7th of September 2013 with the participation of the REScoop coordinator, Dirk Knappen. DAFNI was invited to join and contribute to



the workshop. Sifnos island is member of the Greek SMILEGOV cluster and has also signed the Pact of Islands. The discussions with the local society were fruitful and the presence of Dirk Knappen gave them motivation to continue their efforts. Kostas Komninos representing DAFNI offered the network's support towards the realization of this effort, while in personal discussions with Dirk Knappen investigated the possibilities for synergies between the two projects.

>> Read more on the REScoop project [here](#)

COOPENERGY STARTS WORKING ON MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE



The coordinator of the SMILEGOV project attends the 1st COOPENERGY

internal workshop

On the 16th and 17th of May the COOPENERGY project launched its activities starting with the kick-off meeting and continuing with the first internal workshop aiming to identify the best case criteria to analyse existing multi-level governance models. Kostas Komninos representing the coordination team of the SMILEGOV project attended the workshop on the next day together with the project officer of both projects. Both projects work on Multilevel Governance (MLG) and it is foreseen to exchange knowledge and results during their lifetime. The points of interaction between the two projects were highlighted, however since both projects were in their very early times



it was decided to further investigate the levels of interaction on later phase. During the workshop the participants were split in two groups and through discussion criteria were proposed for the evaluation of the different MLG models, to be identified under a European survey to be carried out the next months.



>> Read more on the COOPENERGY project [here](#)

SMART ISLANDS: A SMART IDEA

Using the model of Smart Cities, the islands can develop additional paths for energy efficiency

Representatives from European islands that met in Santorini island on 28-29 May 2013, agreed that efficient cooperation between different levels of administration in European islands (e.g. local, regional) and the respective National authorities can be a smart indicator for European islands. The smart cooperation can lead to consistent energy planning and implementation of specific projects and contribute to the achievement of the 2020 targets of the islands. The idea is not new; the formulation of a "Smart Islands" platform similar to the "Smart Cities" initiative, where islands would be evaluated how smart they are in specific sectors was conceived during a Pact of Islands Conference in 2011, in the Islands Commission General Assembly of June 2013 in Cagliari – Sardinia and it is still being elaborated. A non-exhaustive list of those sectors is: Smart production and use of energy, Smart grids, Smart Governance, Smart mobility, Smart Environment, Smart water management, Smart tourism solutions, Smart waste management, Smart agricultural practices, Smart fisheries, Smart Economy.

The SMILEGOV project will contribute in the dimension of Smart Governance providing good practices and guidance from experienced islands ("learning from the experts").

>> More information will soon be available on www.sustainableislands.eu

THE INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY AND THE NEW FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Blue Growth: An opportunity for European Islands and maritime areas



To make it through the crisis, Europe needs the contribution of all sectors of its economy. In a Communication on 'Blue Growth' the European Commission presents promising indications for economic growth and employment prospects in the marine and maritime economy to help Europe's economic recovery. These economic sectors provide jobs for 5,4 million people and contribute a total gross value added of around 500 billion euros. By 2020, these should increase to 7 million and nearly 600 billion

euros respectively. To realise this potential, the Commission establishes that obstacles hindering growth have to be removed and smart solutions to boost new sectors need to be implemented. By promoting marine research and innovation, by supporting innovative SMEs, by addressing skills needs and by encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment. Traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism will gain in competitiveness. Growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology, can become a key to creating more jobs, cleaner energy, and more products and services

>> Read more on Blue Growth [here](#) and more on marine energy [here](#)

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