

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, Kärđla 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.

INTERVIEWS

Reunion Island, showcase of innovative technologies and public policies for bio-economic development

Didier Robert, president of the regional Council of Reunion Island



A graduate of the Political Studies Institute of Aix-en-Provence and former French MP, Didier Robert has been President of the Regional Council of Reunion Island since 2010. Reunion Region has just joined the cluster of CPMR islands within the SMILEGOV project, which aims to help EU islands identify and overcome multi-level governance barriers when drawing up and implementing their sustainable energy action plans. As part of the activities of the project, Didier Robert describes the characteristics of his island's energy policy and the unique advances in renewable energy implemented in his region, which is a real powerhouse of expertise and innovation.

[>> Read the complete article to learn what is at stake on Reunion Island's energy policy](#)

Europe should take greater account of the huge potential of the pacific islands

Tearii Alpha, Minister for Marine resources, Mining and Research of French Polynesia



As part of the SMILEGOV Project, which addresses multi-level governance barriers in the implementation of sustainable energy action plans in EU islands, Mr Tearii Alpha, French Polynesian Minister for Marine Resources, Mining And Research with responsibility for pearling and fishing, aquaculture and institutional relations, describes the energy profile of the French Polynesian islands, a European territory with considerable assets in the field of renewable energies, a potential that is still largely unknown to European decision-makers.

[>> Read the entire article and learn why French Polynesia is one of the EU best assets in renewable energies](#)

EVENTS

SMILEGOV: Capacity building workshop and project meeting in Malta

The SMILEGOV partners are pursuing a fruitful project implementation path



At the invitation of the LCA, a capacity building workshop on effective multi-level cooperation for the implementation of sustainable energy projects took place in Sliema, Malta, with the participation of all SMILEGOV partners, as well as of representatives of the island of Alderney and Hiiumaa.

The workshop focused on capacity building and knowledge transfer between clusters leaders. Videos from the task force were presented to introduce good examples of multilevel governance processes, (such as the [successful case of the Biogas process to establish a locally produced renewable fuel etc.](#)) Other presentations of practical cases related to one of the 6 categories of priority areas from the learning partners gave a larger view on [what's going on in the clusters](#). Specific cases from the clusters were of high interest for the learning partners: Mr. Neil Harvey, representing the States of Alderney (Channel Islands) which newly joined the SMILEGOV project, presented an overview of this Channel Island's activities and projects in renewable energies, the [El Hierro case from the Spanish cluster](#) was also presented and discussed. In the second part of the workshop partners received training on the use of the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) method. This methodology will be used to address and overcome MLG barriers within the clusters' local activities.

In the forthcoming months, the experience gained will be transferred to other European islands within the 12 islands' clusters established through local capacity building workshops. These workshops will be organised by the respective cluster leader. Among them, the cluster of Cyprus will organise its [local workshop on 13 July 2014](#) within the framework of the Sustainable Energy Week, the Spanish cluster's local workshop will be organised in July in the Canary Islands. More information on all the clusters' local events will be soon available on the [SMILEGOV website](#).

On 8-9 April, the 3rd SMILEGOV project meeting also took place in Sliema - Malta. SMILEGOV partners, including cluster leaders, presented and discussed progress and achievements of the project. They welcome the new Islands which confirmed their participation in the CPMR cluster: Alderney, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, Martinique, La Réunion and French Polynesia. The group also discussed barriers and difficulties encountered in the setting-up of clusters and inter-cluster networks, as well as on the activities of cluster leaders on capacity development for further project implementation. The SMILEGOV team will meet again on 30 September – 2 October 2014 in Samsø, Denmark.

CPMR Islands Commission General Assembly

How can new EU policies help islands to face their challenges and seize opportunities?



The Islands Commission held its 34th annual General Assembly in Rhodes (GR) 22-23 April at the invitation of Ioannis Machairidis, Regional Governor of the South Aegean Region. The Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn attended the meeting speaking on [the new EU Cohesion Policy](#) related to island issues. During this session every Island Region made a short presentation highlighting the points it considers to be of key importance in the preparation, funding and effective implementation of the 2014 – 2020 Cohesion policy. The progress of the SMILEGOV project and the 'Smart Islands' concept were also

discussed. The Islands Commission unanimously approved a Declaration endorsing the concept of 'Smart Islands'

>> Read more on the [CPMR Islands Commission General Assembly](#)

Smart Grids in European islands

Smart Grids Applications in Europe & the Case of Islands, A New Green Technology Revolution



With the cooperation of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the support of the Aegean Energy Agency, DAFNI organised a two-day conference “Smart Grids Applications in Europe & the Case of Islands, A New Green Technology Revolution” 15-16 May 2014, in Athens. The conference aimed to bring together politicians, high level officials from the European Commission, Universities, utilities and European islands and encourage the dialogue for the promotion of the Smart Grid Platform among the islands and cities willing to save energy, increase the penetration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in their territories and improve power quality for end users.

Among the participants were the Vice Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, the President of the Public Power Corporation (PPC), the Chairman & CEO of the Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator S.A. (HEDNO), the Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), a policy officer from DG MOVE, European Commission, and representatives from the European islands of Gotland (Sweden), Bornholm (Denmark), Orkney and Shetland (Scotland, UK), from Crete and from many Aegean islands. Key note speaker was the Director General of DG ENER Mr. Dominique Ristori. The conference was addressed to grid distribution specialists, electric utilities, regulators, technology providers, renewable energy companies, consultants, educational & research institutions, local authorities and especially island authorities and other stakeholders.

>> Read more on the [Smart Grids in European Islands conference](#)

Multilevel governance model and strategies for improving energy efficiency in Malta



On 26 March the LCA organised a Multi-Level governance workshop concerning the Energy Efficiency in Buildings. The workshop was attended by more than 50 participants coming from various Mediterranean states: Morocco, Tunisia, Italy, Spain, Greece, France, Cyprus, Montenegro, Slovenia and Malta.

>> Read more on the [Multi-level governance and Energy efficiency in buildings workshop](#)

Åland islanders from the ESIN-cluster visit Samsø in the Danish cluster



In the beginning of April a group of representatives from the Åland archipelago visited the island of Samsø. The purpose of the visit was to hear and experience the story of how a small island within 10 years has changed their energy supply radically and how it was possible!

Furthermore the group that forms a part of the ESIN Cluster in SMILEGOV, heard about the ongoing Samsø version 2.0 activities. Especially how a master plan is taking shape, showing how the government's grandiose plan of making Denmark fossil independent by 2050 can be implemented on the island by the year 2030.

>> Learn more on the [visit in Samsø](#)

GOOD PRACTICE CASES

Samsø, the 100% self-sufficient renewable energy island



Discover Samsø, a Danish renewable energy island where the expression "think local, act local" has never been as much appropriated. By harvesting their energy from wind, sun and biomass, and by committing all the island community to sustainable actions and investments, the unique model of Samsø is now 100% self-sufficient in energy thanks to the wide implementation of renewable energy sources.

- >> Read the [Prezi presentation](#)
- >> Watch the [Samsø energy academy video](#)

El Hierro, the Spanish island towards energy independency



El Hierro, the Spanish "Meridian Island", the smallest one of the Canary Islands, is preparing an energy revolution, hoping to become completely self-sufficient by the use of a variety of renewable energy sources (wind, solar...) and the implementation of hydrogen cars, banning oil from the Island. How this pioneer island will achieve these goals?

- >> Learn more on [El Hierro's energy revolution by watching the BBC news video](#)
- >> Read more on [El Hierro Wind Hydro Pumped Storage Power Plant](#)
- >> Read more on [the pilot project of a biodiesel production plant launched in El Hierro island](#)

Sustainable energy actions in Cyprus municipalities - Cyprus Energy Agency



The Cyprus Energy Agency has worked through the Medeea Project to foster the implementation of sustainable energy planning in local municipalities. What were the concrete results in term of energy and sustainability achieved in Cyprus municipalities?

- >> Learn more by watching the [video on the Medeea project in Cyprus](#).

The project TESTSITE Gotland: combining wind and solar power



Mr. Ingvar Britse runs his own company Kyl och Maskin Corporation and he also develops various technical projects. He has experience from the development of cooperatively owned wind power turbines on Gotland and now he is developing smaller solar PV power units to be placed on fields and to be a complementary energy storage component to some older wind turbines

- >> Learn more on the [TESTSITE Gotland project](#)

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria town council takes action to reduce energy consumption in public lighting



The Las Palmas de Gran Canaria town council, the biggest urban area in the Canaries, has carried out several activities to reduce the energy consumption in public lighting.

4500 lighting points have been replaced by lower consumption bulbs during 2013, which represents 400.000 € less in the electric bill.

- >> Learn more on the [actions taken by Las Palmas de Gran Canaria](#)

Investigation for a mobile fuel platform for LNG in Visby harbor, Gotland



Bertil Klintbom from Region Gotlands has investigated the ideas with mobile LNG or Biogas powered mobile power stations for electric power supply to the future ships in Visby harbor.

In planning for the establishment of a cruise ships harbor in Visby, Region Gotland is looking for ways of supporting the ships with electric power while in harbor more than one hour.

>> Learn more on the [mobile fuel platform for LNG](#) planned for the Visby harbor in Gotland

Gotland: The Power to Gas concept



Methanisation is a chemical reaction where carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide is transformed into methane or methanol. The most known process is called the Sabatier process. The reaction demands a temperature of 300 – 700 degrees Celsius and it produces water and methane.

When big industries today investigate different methods of carbon capture systems this process can open a new way. Instead of storing or hiding the CO₂, it can be used for the production of methane gas, a synthetic biogas, so to speak.

>> Learn more on [this methanisation project and the challenges for Gotland](#)

Scottish Islands paving their way towards a sustainable energy future



Scottish Islands are part of the SMILEGOV project within a cluster led by the SIF (Scottish Islands federation). The SIF announced the [collaboration with Community Energy Scotland \(CES\)](#) to help establishing sustainable energy action plans. This would enable the cluster to take advantage of the expertise and advices of this charity organisation.

Mike MacKenzie, Alyn Smith and Sandy Brunton
Photo: ESIN

Scottish Islands are paving the way for ensuring a sustainable energy future. Their wishes for better conditions for those that live and work on Scottish islands were expressed in the [Islands Champion pledge, which was firstly signed by MEP Alyn Smith](#). Expressing his commitment, he declared “*The EU already offers support to islands via various projects and exchanges and today I pledge to fight for more! I hope my fellow Euro candidates will follow suit and recognise diverse needs of communities across Scotland; this way we can ensure fair and adequate representation for the Scottish Islands in Europe*”.

The launch of new projects always faces several issues, in addition to technical or environmental aspects, the most challenging issues are the financing ones as well as obtaining support from local communities. In this context, the Scottish Islands are experiencing those multilevel governance related issues, as published in the Oban times, the [Islay Wind farm project collapsed](#), whereas on the [Isle of Mull local community organisations successfully raised funds for a hydro project](#).

A success story shines a spotlight on the Isle of Bute, as the [project Fyne Futures Towards Zero Carbon was awarded the National Energy Globe Award United Kingdom](#). This project has delivered significant carbon reductions on Isle of Bute via recycling waste management, reuse of furniture, growing local produce, raising awareness and promoting behaviour change across a number of themes including low carbon travel initiatives, energy efficiency and renewable technologies.

>> Learn more on what's going on in the Scottish Islands and read the following articles:

- [Islay Wind farm project plan collapsed](#)
- [Community Energy Scotland \(CES\) to help the Scottish Islands Federation in SMILEGOV](#)
- [Local community organisations on the Isle of Mull raising funds for hydro project](#)

La Gomera Island (SP) and Juist Island (DE) to improve their sustainable development



La Gomera Island and the German island Juist have signed an agreement in order to improve their sustainable development: reducing their CO2 emissions, managing their waste and using renewable energies technologies.

The final scope is that both islands can be identified as sustainable tourist destinations concerned about environment protection.

>> Learn more on the [collaboration between La Gomera and Juist islands](#)

EU NEWS

EC Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy 2014-2020



The European Commission has published on DG Competition website "**The Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy 2014-2020**". These Guidelines have been adopted in principle on 9 April 2014 and formal adoption will follow. The CPMR in its [response to the European Consultation](#) last February, identified areas of concern in this Communication.

>> Learn more on [the EC Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy 2014-2020 and the CPMR response to the consultation](#).

A charter for multilevel governance in Europe



The Committee of the Regions adopted a [Charter for Multilevel Governance in Europe](#) establishing a set of shared values and identifying principles and processes of good European governance. The Charter points out that local and regional authorities have a legitimate place in European debate and calls for them to be structurally and systematically involved in the shaping, implementation and evaluation of EU policies and legislation. It is also a real political manifesto, giving the Committee of the Regions and the EU's local and regional authorities an excellent opportunity to set out their vision of European governance.

>> Learn more on the [Charter for Multilevel Governance](#)



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