The Small islands of Europe and the Smart Islands Initiative

Camille Dressler
Chair, ESIN
The European Small Islands Federation
11 islands Federations: 1,639 small islands 354,794 people

Working at 2 levels:

• **Local level**: island cultural identity, sharing of information & knowledge. *Interreg 3 C, ESIN Facebook and twitter* and *ESIN website www.europeansmallislands.com*

• **European level**: informing relevant EU institutions, influence EU policies and rules by increasing their awareness and understanding of small islands. Work with CPMR (observer member) through project work: **Sustainable energy planning (Project SMILEGOV)**, **Water saving project**, **Small islands Atlas**, **Island Entrepreneurship**, **Island speciality labelling**, **Island sustainability indicators**, **energy transition**
From Smart Island Governance to Smart Islands Initiative:
New pathways for European Islands to create smart, inclusive and thriving island societies for an innovative and sustainable Europe!

10 actions proposed

1. Mitigate and adapt to climate change and build resilience at local level
2. Trigger the uptake of smart technologies
3. Move away from fossil fuels
4. Introduce sustainable island mobility
5. Reduce water scarcity
6. Become zero-waste territories by moving to a circular economy
7. Preserve our distinctive natural and cultural capital
8. Diversify our economies and create new and innovative jobs locally
9. Strengthen social inclusion, education and citizens’ empowerment
10. Encourage the shift towards alternative, yearlong, sustainable and responsible tourism

From initiative to declaration:
Smart Islands Declaration,
EU parliament, Brussels,
March 2016

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Synergy with DG Energy’s action

- Clean Energy EU islands political declaration in Valetta, Malta, May 2016:

  EU Commission launching 'Clean Energy for EU Islands' initiative to:
  - accelerate the clean energy transition on EU's 2700 islands
  - help islands reduce dependency and costs of energy imports by using RES
  - embrace modern and innovative energy systems
  - improve air quality and lower greenhouse gas emissions

- Inaugural meeting in Chania, Crete, September 2017
  200 participants, 40 speakers: overwhelming endorsement by political representatives of national, regional and local level as well as industry and civil society stakeholders
DG Energy’s ambitious objective: 1000 EU islands decarbonised by 2030

8 legislative proposals under discussion in the Council and the EP

Goal: EU becoming a low carbon economy via transformation of its energy system by

• putting energy efficiency first
• achieving global leadership in renewable energies
• providing a fair deal for consumers

• Clean Energy Package: creating the right legal framework (RES, consumers and stability for investment)

• Secretariat to be established for the Initiative to help launching decarbonisation plans on islands, host a stakeholders' exchange platform, as well as organise yearly forums

• Island Facility to be set up to support comprehensive energy transition in preparatory and implementation phase under Horizon 2020

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The future for our islands

- **innovation leaders** for integrating local RES production, storage facilities and demand response;

- **demonstrating** how decarbonisation creates resilient energy systems via reduced reliance on fossil fuel imports, the protection of environment, and autonomy of energy supply

- showing that **energy transition can be a driver for economic development**: (new local jobs, new business opportunities, self-sufficiency of island communities!

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