

CARING



-  ÎLE AUX MOINES
-  INISHBOFIN
-  NAGU
-  FUR, VENØ
-  ULVA

“Small islands often do not have enough resources and expertise to dedicate to the energy transition. This collective initiative enables 6 small islands to work in parallel but also together on innovative solutions for their local contexts”



This project is supported by the EU Islands Facility NESOI. NESOI has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°864266

The European Islands Facility NESOI aims to unlock the potential of EU islands to become the locomotives of European Energy Transition. To do so, NESOI aims to mobilize more than €100 Million of investment in sustainable energy projects to give EU islands the opportunity to implement energy technologies and innovative approaches, in a cost-competitive way. NESOI has selected 56 such projects across the European Union and provide them with financial resources and technical support.



Clean energy initiatives targeted to small islands

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Promoter

European Small Islands Federation (ESIN)



Stakeholders

European Small Islands Federation (ESIN)
Local companies and organizations in Île aux Moines, Inishbofin, Nagu, Fur, Venø, Ulva



Countries

France, Ireland, Finland, Denmark, UK



Sector

Energy Planning



PROJECT VALUE 129.1 M€

DESCRIPTION

Small islands often do not have enough resources and expertise to dedicate to the energy transition. Larger in scale private initiatives are likely to trigger local reactions as the priorities of project developers and small island communities differ. This project lead by ESIN involves 6 small islands and engages stakeholders from islands in a participatory process to build a vision and get them involved in the energy transition.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The project has three main elements.

- a Clean Energy Transition Agenda (CETA) for Fur, Venø, Nagu and Ulva.
- Study and specifications of a community shared electric vehicles system on Île aux Moines.
- Study to set up a community renewable energy production scheme on Inishbofin.

FUTURE STEPS

Thanks to the CETAs developed in Fur, Venø, Nagu and Ulva, these islands are now aware of specific changes that can be made to improve energy efficiency and increase renewables production. The first shared electric vehicle was installed in Île aux Moines and is used daily by the citizens. Inishbofin chose a specific energy transition pathway that is implemented step-by-step.

HOW THE EU ISLANDS FACILITY NESOI SUPPORTS THE PROJECT

- 1 Identification of the island dynamics for Île aux Moines, Inishbofin, Nagu, Fur, Venø, and Ulva
- 2 Development of Island Transition Paths for Île aux Moines, Inishbofin, Nagu, Fur, Venø, and Ulva
- 3 Action plan and monitoring system, allocation of responsibilities for its implementation
- 4 Preliminary analysis for selected projects on each island (renewable energy sources, sustainable mobility, cooperative energy schemes, use of organic materials for energy production)





INTERVIEW WITH

Alexis Chatzimpiros, Project Coordinator

Q: How was the project initially designed? Why choose this specific sector?

CARING supports the first steps for CETA on small islands, which often lack resources and monitoring capabilities to advance a transition. ESIN (European small islands federation), initiated the application for cascade funding to support these islands through grants for soft projects, such as early CETA planning or preparing an island with a CETA to ask for investments. 5 of the 11 ESIN Member States joined the application, and the NESOI grant money was used to support each of the 6 islands. Each island had a different theme, such as technology or sector, and used the grant money to advance their projects.

Q: How did the project engage local citizens?

ESIN's hired multiple external advisors to visit each island, allowing local workshops to gather feedback from stakeholders. This bottom-up approach was used in all cases. ESIN also partnered with Samsø Energy Academy in Denmark, saving a portion of the budget for a joint workshop with all 6 islands. This allowed for exchange of best practices and community engagement. Participants found this workshop one of the most fruitful experiences they had during the 12 months.

Q: What are the next steps and replication potential of the project?

What each island got from the subproject funding was exactly what they needed (e.g., the 4 CETA planning documents, feasibility studies, etc.). The next steps for those 4 islands are to study specific technological projects based on their new CETAs. For the 2 islands that already had CETAs, they now have valuable info to continue discussions (e.g., with grid operators in Ireland, etc.). ESIN believes that more cascade funding beyond NESOI that ends up close to the island beneficiaries would be ideal as next steps to carry forward.

ESIN's 11 members meet regularly to discuss and learn from each other's experiences. 4 islands have received CETAs through the CARING project, encouraging the bottom-up approach for other islands without CETAs or those making significant progress. The bottom-up approach has good replication potential, as it has been successful for 6 islands and ESIN pledges to help all members, providing concrete evidence for high-level decision-makers to replicate this bottom-up approach.

THE IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITY



1 Local Economy

The CETAs and the solutions in sustainable mobility, renewable energy production and cooperative schemes are community-based. They will lead to more sustainable island energy systems and consumption patterns that can reduce bills, increase tourism, create new opportunities for local jobs and increase the citizens quality of life.

2 Social Acceptance

The 6 island communities are small and the relevant stakeholders, citizens and public authority on the mainland are all informed and support the project. Workshops with citizens and stakeholders will highlight the project's positive social impact and benefits for the local economy to empower the community to participate from the start.

Clean energy initiatives targeted to small islands – Technical Data

FOCUS ON

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION ON SMALL ISLANDS



Île aux Moines

The survey carried out among the inhabitants showed the relevance of setting up an electric car-sharing vehicle and enabled the development of the system's specifications. The specifications of the system were defined and this new mobility solution has been implemented.



Inishbofin

The Energy Transition Plan developed presented three 'Transition Pathways' for the island. The pathway selected focuses on achieving a Net Zero energy scenario and involves

- the realisation of building fabric and lighting upgrades to the island building stock,
- heating system upgrades to energy efficient alternative heating systems i.e. heat pumps,
- and a switch from fossil fuelled island and ferry transportation to electric.



Ulva

Two scenarios were developed - Moderate and High Ambition renewable energy scenarios. Both scenarios meet at least 51% of the island's estimated future energy demand, representing cost savings and a reliable source of energy.



Nagu

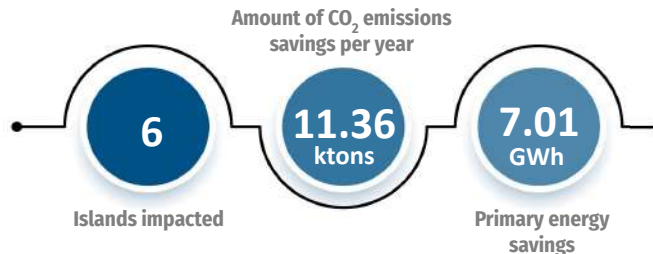
Nagu has a great potential for solar energy, but the grid capacity for solar PV needs further examination. In addition, a central heating system would reduce oil usage significantly in larger buildings and enabling easy procurement of Renewable Energy based systems for one family houses, it could theoretically be possible to fully phase out oil usage for heating.



Fur and Venø

Energy mapping was done for the islands of Fur and Venø and the developed CETAs and roadmaps help to design specific projects in the future. In Venø, the project also focused specifically on informing and gathering the residents on the island in order to achieve the implementation of the energy transition projects.

KEY NUMBERS OF THE PROJECT



REPLICABILITY IN OTHER ISLANDS

The ESIN membership with 11 National associations and 1640 islands is a unique opportunity to disseminate the outcomes and lessons learned and inspire more islands to engage and take similar action. Neighbouring mainland communities are engaged, as their citizens visit the islands on day trips. Local transport companies on the mainland are interested in the e-mobility solutions on Île aux Moines. Mainland Struer and Skive municipalities are looking into Venø and Fur respectively. Studies on Inishbofin and Nagu demonstrate scalability potential. Ulva shows the way for islands being repopulated.

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