New Energy Solutions Optimised for Islands

NESOI

EUROPEAN ISLANDS FACILITY

The EU Island Facility NESOI unveils the 28 sustainable energy projects selected to receive support from the initiative

The EU Islands Facility NESOI, with the objective of facilitating the energy transition in islands, has confirmed support for 28 innovative clean energy projects which, combined, are expected to avoid around 300 kilotonnes of CO_2 per year and generate close to 1 billion euros in investments.

The EU Island Facility NESOI is pleased to announce the results of its initial efforts to engage European Island communities in its energy innovation programme. Through its first open call launched in October 2020, the facility received 117 applications from 14 countries involving over 100 islands. Out of the 117 submitted project proposals, 28 were finally selected to receive support from the facility: a combined total of 1.6 million euro in the form of technical and legal assistance, and 1.6 million euros of financial support to carry out complementary studies and action plans. Along with the backing from the facility, the selected projects are expected to generate more than 1 billion euro of investments from a wide range of stakeholders.

The selection, geographically spread across 40 EU islands in 10 countries, includes two projects from the Baltic region, five from the Atlantic region, seven from the West Mediterranean region and fourteen from the East Mediterranean region. The supported projects have also been divided into three broadly defined “maturity levels”. Seven of the selected projects are at “entry-level”, whereby no previous significant planning has been carried out by the beneficiaries. Fourteen of the initiatives are at a “conceptual design” stage, meaning that the beneficiaries have identified projects of interest to the island, but no substantial groundwork has been carried out to ensure their feasibility yet. Finally, seven projects are at “deployment level”, meaning that the beneficiaries have verified the feasibility of their projects and intend to implement them (see Annex for full details).

Focusing on different energy technologies, the effects of the selected projects on their local energy systems will vary. Almost all projects will involve the production of energy from renewable energy sources, mainly photovoltaics but also from wind, pumped hydro, and tidal energy. Just over half of the selected projects are also interested in

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energy storage systems and energy efficiency interventions on public assets. Other areas of intervention can be seen in the graph below (Figure 1).

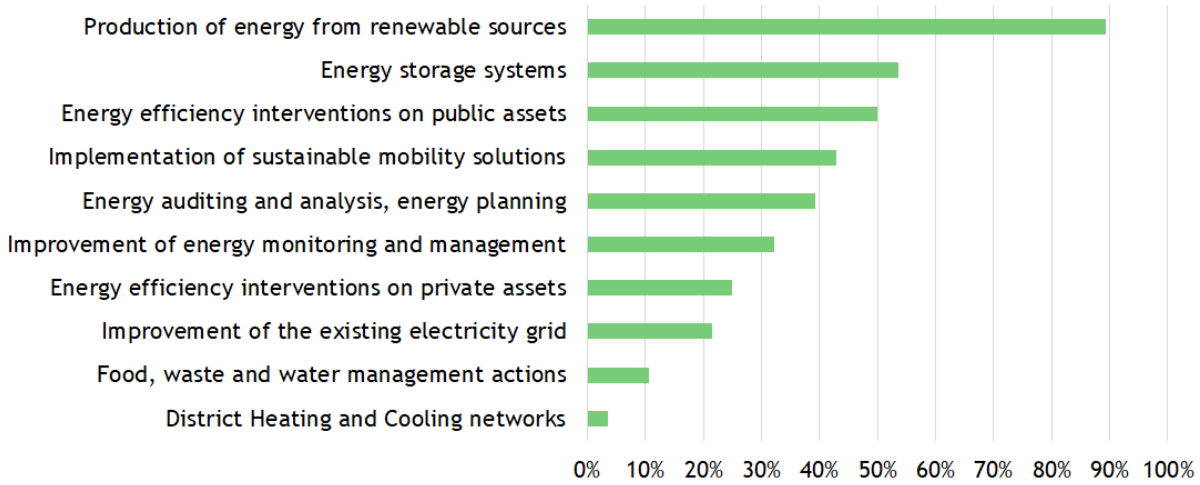

Figure 1 Areas of intervention of the selected projects

The selected projects will support the EU Island Facility NESOI environmental and economic objectives as well as contribute to achieving the EU's broader clean energy targets as outlined in the EU Green Deal. The estimated primary energy savings to be obtained by these projects amount to 541.5 GWh/year, with an average of 19 GWh/year per project. On the other hand, the expected average contribution per initiative in reducing greenhouse gas emissions is by 10.5 kilotonnes of CO_2 per year. Combined, the 28 selected projects are expected to avoid around 300 kilotonnes of CO_2 per year.

Project coordinator Andrea Martinez, from SINLOC Sistema Iniziative Locali S.p.A. said: "*European islands play an essential role in achieving the Green Deal objectives and making the European Recovery Plan a success. The number of applications received showed a great commitment towards a greener energy future.*"

The validation of the selected projects is completed and kick-off activities for several of them are expected to begin next month. For the full list of selected projects please consult the Annex.

The EU Island Facility NESOI will launch a second open call for applications in the Autumn of this year.

Further information

Islands across the EU have long been prime candidates for the implementation and uptake of renewable energy sources like wind, solar and tidal, and in engaging all relevant local stakeholders in the clean energy transition process. Their specific geographical situation naturally creates a need for a strong and cohesive community. Additionally, with tourism being an important asset and at the same time a stress factor, the preservation of the natural environment of islands as well as the establishment of a resilient economy is a key aspect of the clean energy transition.

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In Europe alone, there are around 2,400 inhabited islands. To support them in driving the energy transition, the European Commission launched the EU Island Facility NESOI (New Energy Solutions Optimized for Islands) in 2019. The NESOI facility backs local entities of islands in getting the necessary technical and financial support for the effective development of their energy transition plans.

The EU Island Facility NESOI is an interdisciplinary group of experienced partners including economic and financial specialists, technical, legal and procedural experts as well as consultants on environmental and social issues that have joined forces to help island communities achieve more efficient and sustainable energy solutions, in line with the EU's clean energy priorities, through the funding, supporting and monitoring of energy projects lead by local authorities and island energy communities.

The NESOI consortium is made up of 10 recognised organisations from 7 different EU member states led by SINLOC - Sistema Iniziative Locali S.p.A, in partnership with R2M Solution, RINA Consulting S.p.A., ZABALA Innovation Consulting S.A., Hellenic Association for Energy Economics, E.ON Innovation, Fundación CIRCE Centro de Investigación de Recursos y Consumos Energéticos, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, Deloitte Advisory, S.L. and Wolf Theiss Rechtsanwalte GmbH & COKG.

Starting in 2019 and ending it 2023, the EU Islands Facility NESOI has been awarded by the European Commission with a Horizon2020 Programme grant of €10 million, out of which €6.2 million are meant to directly support islands in their energy transition process.

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Annex

List of Selected Islands

Project title	Island	Country
Setup of First citizens' energy community in the Canary Islands: Adeje	Tenerife	ES
Sustaining drinking water services and electromobility in insular areas by integrating grid-tied and autonomous PV power	Tilos	EL
Boosting Energy Sustainability in Transport for Catania	Sicily	IT
Renewable Malevizi Energy Future	Crete	EL
Sustainable Estonian Islands	Saaremaa, Hiiumaa	EE
Sustainable Actions for Viable Energy	Crete	EL
Support to the 'fossil-free island' process in Samso, Denmark	Samso	DK
Zero emissions Nisyros	Nisyros	EL
Feasibility study for electric solar boat transportation to Elafiti	Elafiti	HR
Clean energy initiatives targeted to small islands	Îles aux Moines, Inishbofin, Nagu, Fur, Veno, Ulva	DK, FI, FR, UK, IE
Hydroelectric Pumping Storage	Sardinia	IT
Fair Energy Communities	Sicily	IT
Community-Supported Energy: A Step to Community SOLAR Islands	Korçula, Cres-Losinj	HR
Island of Krk SECAP for all	Krk	HR
Energy efficiency in 40 Schools Supports Community	Sardinia	IT
Global renovation of public lighting in Corsica	Corsica	FR
Development Of Consistent Key strategy of the Strait port system	Sicily	IT
Smart, clean and green marinas in Naxos and Koufonisi	Naxos, Ano Koufonisi	EL

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Local Energy Community Energía Bonita y Renovable	La Palma	ES
Green Orkney Hydrogen Market Expansion	The Orkney Islands	UK
Industrial Energy Community powered by Renewable Energies in the Arinaga Industrial Area (Gran Canaria Island)	Gran Canaria	ES
Wind turbine repowering in Kythnos	Kythnos	EL
Just clean energy transition of Diapontia Islands	Othonoi, Ereikoussa, Mathraki	EL
Decarbonization of Generation and Resilience of Security of Power Supply in an autonomous North-Aegean Archipelago	Chios, Psara, Oinousses	EL
Feasibility study for energy storage and solar energy in Lipari	Lipari	IT
Preparation of tender documentation for a large non-integrated photovoltaic power plant on the islands	Krk	HR
Transport Electrification on Sea and Land in Antiparos	Antiparos	EL
Energy Planning for Clean Energy Transition for Ikaria	Ikaria	EL

***Please note**: This press release should not be regarded under any circumstances as a formal commitment by NESOI to provide financial support, as this depends on the satisfactory and timely conclusion of sub-grant agreements preparation and on the internal completion of further validation checks.*

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