NESOI PLUS

Island Outermost Regions



NESOIPlus in the Azores

Press Release

Co-funded by the European Union

N. 101216221. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Azores strengthen leadership in the energy transition with the presentation of the European project NESOIPlus

March 2026 - The Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructure, Berta Cabral, affirmed that the energy transition is “crucial to the economic, environmental, and social future of the European Union’s outermost regions,” highlighting that this priority is not only a challenge for the future but also an urgent imperative for the present.

These remarks were delivered during the opening session of the seminar “Innovating to Decarbonise: The Electrical System and Energy Communities in the Azores,” organised by the Regional Directorate for Energy under the NESOIPlus (New Energy Solutions Optimised for Island Outermost Regions) project. This European project, funded by the LIFE Programme for the 2025-2028 period, aims to establish a “one-stop-shop” to support the development of Energy Communities across the European Union’s outermost regions.

The Regional Secretary stressed that the current international geopolitical instability – marked by conflicts and volatility in global energy markets – reinforces the need to accelerate investment in renewable energy as a viable and sustainable alternative. It was underlined that the European Union’s actions in this field, although at times misunderstood, demonstrate essential leadership in driving the structural transformation of the economy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels and external suppliers.

The Azores are firmly committed to this pathway, leveraging their geographic position, endogenous resources and long-term strategic vision for a more prosperous and sustainable future. This Autonomous Region’s commitment to sustainability “is not rhetorical”, it is reflected in public policies, strategic investments and internationally recognised initiatives such as the pioneering Azores Marine Protected Areas Network and the Gold Level Sustainable Destination certification, an unprecedented global achievement for archipelagic regions.

Participation in the NESOIPlus project is fully aligned with this strategy, serving as a vehicle for strengthening energy autonomy, fostering innovation and promoting the active involvement of local communities in energy production and management.

It was recalled that the Azores have long been pioneers in the energy sector, particularly in geothermal development, where the Autonomous Region has consistently led the way. Also highlighted were the use of hydropower, the sustained expansion of wind and solar energy, flagship initiatives such as the Graciosa hybrid energy system, and recent programmes like SOLENERGE, which place citizens and businesses at the centre of the energy transition.

Co-funded by the European Union

N. 101216221. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

The Government of the Azores also emphasised the importance of the recently approved new configuration of the Azores Electrical System, which adapts national and European regulatory frameworks to the archipelago's unique reality of nine isolated electrical grids. The new model is expected to deliver greater security of supply, tariff stability, regulatory predictability, responsible openness to innovation and independent production and favourable conditions for the development of Renewable Energy Communities, while consistently ensuring territorial cohesion and consumer protection. The transformative potential of these communities was underlined, as they promote decentralised energy production, strengthen energy literacy, encourage self-consumption and generate local economic value.

The Regional Secretary stressed that this seminar represents an essential platform for reflection, knowledge-sharing and the collective development of solutions. It was reiterated that the energy transition must be technically sound, socially fair and politically prioritised, and affirmed that the Government of the Azores remains fully committed to leading this process with responsibility, ambition, and long-term vision – ensuring that energy innovation contributes to environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness and an improved quality of life for the people of the Azores.

Co-funded by the European Union

N. 101216221. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

1. Useful Links

Website	https://nesoi.eu
Sing up for the NESOI Plus Newsletter through the contact form at the bottom of the homepage.	

2. Social Media

LinkedIn	**Instagram**
@NESOI Plus - Island Outermost Regions	@nesoiplus

3. Contacts

Project Coordinator:	**Alessandra Montanelli**	
	Position:	Project Coordinator
	Emai:	alessandra.montanelli@sinloc.com
Media Contacts:	**Anna Lorenzini**	
	Position:	Communication Manager
	Emai:	alorenzini@zabala.eu
	Janire García	
	Position:	Communication Manager
	Emai:	janiregarcia@zabala.eu

Co-funded by the European Union

N. 101216221. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.