

Smart Islands Initiative

An initiative of European island local and regional authorities and actors

2nd Smart Islands Forum

14 September 2018

Athens, Greece

Kostas Komninos

Director of DAFNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands

Coordinator of Smart Islands Initiative

The DAFNI network



- **DAFNI is a network** of island local and regional authorities
- **DAFNI is a non profit organisation**
- **DAFNI has 40 Municipal and 4 Regional members**
- **DAFNI promotes sustainable development** in Greek islands through integrated actions in the fields of energy, environment and culture
- **DAFNI is founding member of the Pact of Islands** initiative promoting sustainability in European islands through local energy planning
- **DAFNI is the coordinator of the Smart Islands Initiative** promoting islands as ideas areas for innovative projects in the fields of energy, environment, transport and mobility



The path towards the Smart Islands Initiative

2011 ISLEPACT – Pact of Islands



2013 SMILEGOV – Smart Islands Strategy



2016 Smart Islands Initiative



Pact of Islands – How it all started



- ISLE-PACT project 2009 – 2012 funded by DG TREN to promote **local sustainable energy planning in EU islands**
- Initiative launched in 2011 under ISLEPACT project to promote **local sustainable energy planning** in islands
- An initiative **in liaison to the Covenant of Mayors** but focusing on the islands' special characteristics
- **Island Sustainable Energy Action Plans (iSEAPs)** produced by the signatories
- **iSEAPs conducted on island-scale** (except of Cyprus and Malta)
- **Methodologies and tools** for planning and monitoring the iSEAPs provided to the signatories
- **117 signatories** from all Member States with islands
- From 12/2016 Pact of Islands is **fully compatible to Covenant of Mayors** and iSEAPs are evaluated by JRC

Smart Islands Strategy – How it matured

- Key strategic deliverable of the SMILEGOV islands project



Sustainable islands of Europe



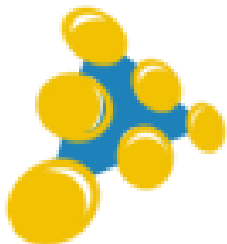
www.sustainableislands.eu

150 members

11 clusters

250 trainees

61 bankable projects



Athens, Greece, 14 S

Cluster of Scotland

10 members

Cluster of Denmark

5 members

Cluster of Sweden

3 members

Cluster of ESIN

21 members

Cluster of Estonia

22 members

Cluster of Spain

9 members

Cluster of Portugal

17 members

Cluster of CPMR

6 members

Cluster of Malta

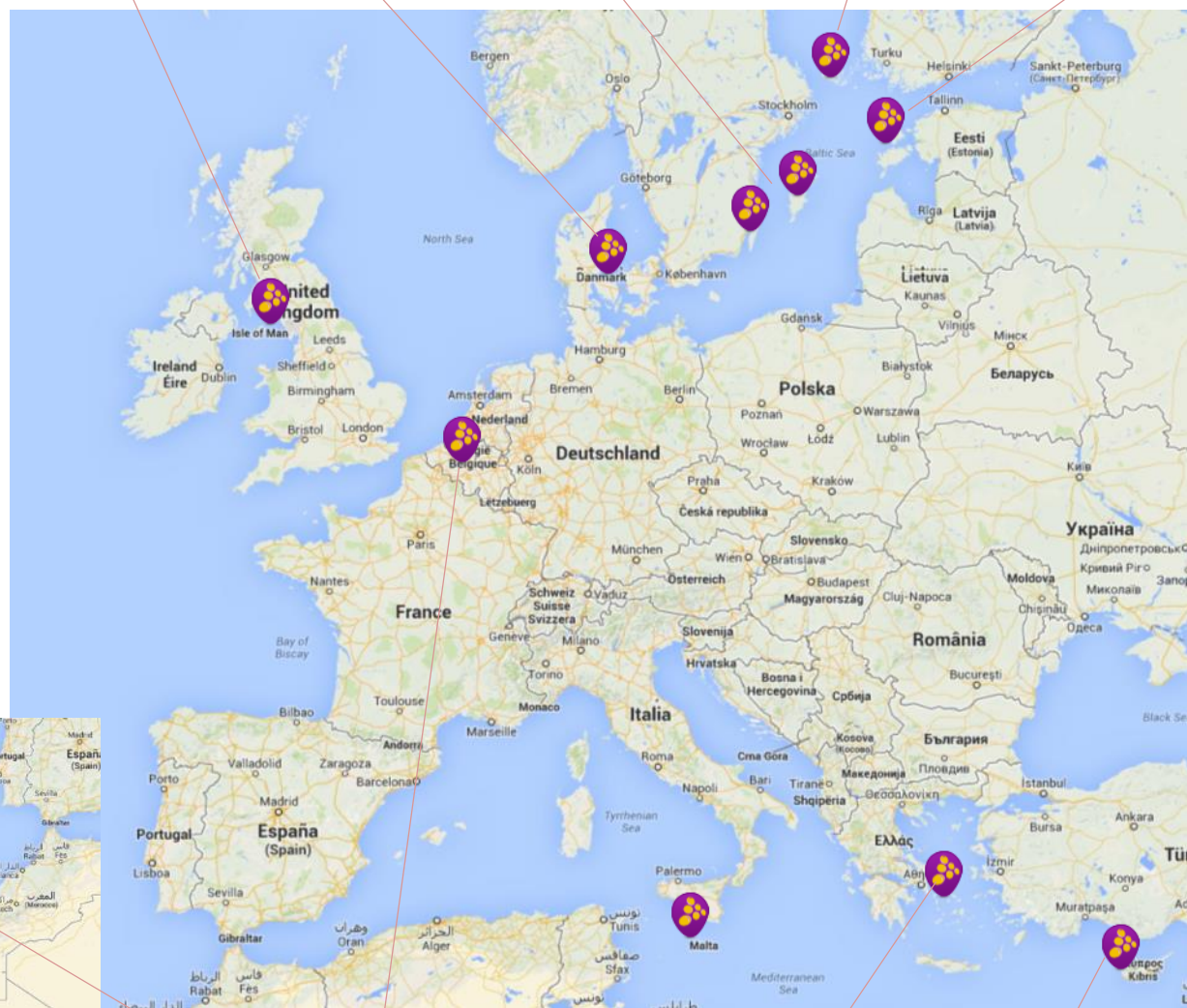
6 members

Cluster of Greece

28 members

Cluster of Cyprus

21 members



In the meantime...

...the opportunities for islands have been crystalized

Opportunities for Islands

- **LOCAL CO2 EMISSIONS PRODUCTION** – Many island regions, unlike mainland regions, are producing locally CO2 emissions for energy production in their territories and can commit to reduce them.
- **LOCAL UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURES** – Islands host locally all the energy, water, waste and waste water management utilities. The integrated management of these infrastructures may create interesting paradigms and accumulated results.
- **INNOVATION IN ISLANDS MATTERS** – Innovative investments such as smart grids, energy storage, sustainable mobility, circular water and waste management have a much higher impact on islands.
- **ISLANDS AS TEST-BEDS** – Islands can function as test beds for different innovative technologies in the sustainability area which then can be scaled up to towns and cities of continental Europe
- **REPLICABILITY POTENTIAL** – Insularity issues faced by islands are in many cases similar with the insularity issues faced by mountainous and geographically isolated areas of continental Europe. The experiences of islands can be easily replicated and transferred to these areas too.

The Market sees the Opportunities

EURELECTRIC reports

1. June 2012 – “EU islands: Towards a sustainable energy future”

*“Use islands as **a priority test-bed for innovative technologies** such as storage, smart grids and RES. Foster RD&D on islands”*

2. February 2017 – “Towards the Energy Transition on Europe’s Islands”

*“European energy and climate policy should cater for the specificities of islands. It should ensure that **local energy communities** are enabled to engage in the transition process, thus **promoting local participation and stakeholder engagement.**”*

*“... **improve the bankability and economic viability** of islands’ energy projects through an appropriate legal framework to ensure legal and regulatory stability for financial and technical cooperation.”*

*“While the CEF or the PCI address connectivity issues in Europe’s electricity network, similar **funding facilities**, potentially under the structure of the European Fund for Strategic Investments 2.0, **would need to be designed for efficient isolated energy systems**, micro-grids and smart-grids on islands”*

The Commission sees them too

Winter Package Communication from the Commission “Clean Energy For All Europeans”

ANNEX 2: Action to boost the clean energy transition

Chapter 8. Governance and partnerships for effective delivery

30 November 2016

“Islands and island regions provide **platforms for pilot initiatives on clean energy transition and can serve as showcases at international level**, as, for instance, in the EU's outermost regions with the case of El Hierro (Canary Islands), 100% renewable energy island.”

“The **Commission would like to help** accelerate the development and adoption of best available technologies on islands and island regions, including exchange of best practice in financing and legal and regulatory regimes, and in energy for transport.”

“The first step is to **bring the islands themselves together, regardless of their size, geography or their location.**”

The EESC sees them too

TEN Section Report on the “Smart Islands” Project

March 2017

“Despite their geographical diversity, EU islands face identical challenges such as territorial discontinuity, demographic desertification, strong seasonal fluctuation of tourists, energy dependency on fossil fuels (e.g. diesel), waste management, water supply and funding scarcity.”

“Islands are answering these challenges by **developing innovative projects which can be a model for other territories**, particularly in the fields of ICT, the environment, energy, transport, tourism and commerce.”

“**Islands are living laboratories** since they optimise the use and management of local resources and infrastructures.”

Clean Energy for EU Islands

Political Declaration on Clean Energy for EU Islands

18 May 2017

The European Commission, together with 14 EU countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden) signed a political declaration to launch the new 'Clean Energy for EU Islands' initiative.

Aimed at accelerating the clean energy transition on Europe's more than 2700 islands, this initiative will help islands reduce their dependency on energy imports by making better use of their own renewable energy sources and embracing more modern and innovative energy systems.

The initiative will create a forum for all those with an interest in the clean energy transition on EU islands to share best practice and support the creation of a long-term framework to promote funding and technical assistance.

22 September 2017 – [Inaugural Forum in Crete](#)

The timing is perfect...

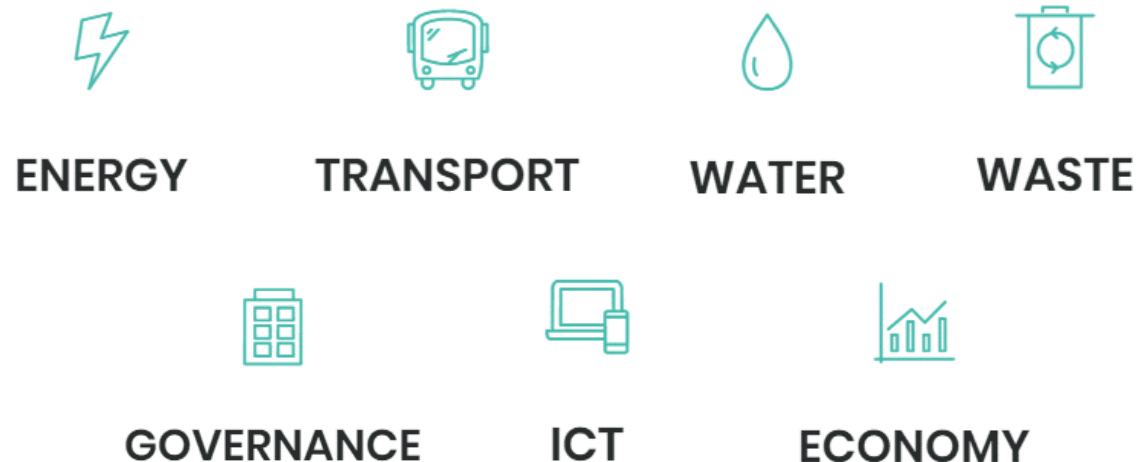
...for island local and regional authorities to play a key role
in the transition to the smart era

Smart Islands Initiative – *The dynamics*

The Smart Islands Initiative is a bottom-up effort of European island authorities and communities which seeks to communicate the significant potential of islands to function as laboratories for technological, social, environmental, economic and political innovation.

Island Quadruple Helix Ecosystems

A collaborative process of setting the Smart Islands Initiative into motion



Smart Islands Initiative – *The Smart Islands Declaration*

In 28 March 2017 **12 MEPs** hosted in the European Parliament
33 Local and Regional island authorities from **15 Member States** signing
on behalf of more than **200 EU islands**



Smart Islands Initiative – *The commitments*

We want to become smart, inclusive and thriving societies and to this end we will:

1. Take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change and build resilience at local level
2. Trigger the uptake of smart technologies to ensure the optimal management and use of our resources and infrastructures
3. Move away from fossil fuels by tapping our significant renewables and energy efficiency potential
4. Introduce sustainable island mobility including electric mobility
5. Reduce water scarcity by applying non-conventional and smart water resources management
6. Become zero-waste territories by moving to a circular economy
7. Preserve our distinctive natural and cultural capital
8. Diversify our economies by exploiting the intrinsic characteristics of our islands to 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, inland, coastal and maritime

Thank you

For more information

director@dafni.net.gr

info@smartislandsinitiative.eu

