



ISLENET

European Islands Network on Energy & Environment



## NEWSLETTER

April 2008

### A word from the Manager

Dear Readers,

Since our last newsletter, right after our annual conference in October 2007, we have been busy with the preparation of two EU-level events, the [Blue Planet Forum](#) organised by the Committee of the Regions and the European Union's Sustainable Energy Week – EUSEW - ([EUSEW 2008](#)) as well as the kick off meetings of four new projects that ISLENET is involved in, TRANSPLAN, STORIES, BIORES and SEC-BENCH.

An important development in future island work in the energy field is the approval in December 2007 of a 2008 European Union budget line ("**Islands Fund**") to finance preparatory actions under the title "**European Islands for a common energy policy**".

ISLENET's Technical Committee held its meeting in Brussels on 29 January 2008. At the top of the Agenda was the "Islands Fund" in connection with the islands' commitment to lead by example in the sustainable energy field.

Furthermore, during the 29 January ISLENET session on "**Sustainable Energy Activities in European Island Communities**" within the context of **EUSEW 2008**, several members of our network renewed their commitment towards the objectives of the **Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources** affirming that islands are ideal platforms for the promotion of sustainable energy technologies and have been contributing positively in the fight against climate change through more renewable energies, more energy efficiency, energy conservation and sustainable transport.

In the context of an initiative that parallels the **Covenant of Mayors** (signed by key European cities on 29 January 2008 during the EUSEW event in Brussels), several islands indicated a strong interest to pursue the concept of the "**Covenant of Islands**".

These two proposals for an "Islands Fund" and a "Covenant of Islands" were presented during the

28th Island Commission General Assembly on the 10 and 11 April 2008 – in Mallorca, Spain. Both proposals were approved by the General Assembly of the Islands Commission.

We will follow closely developments in this area and we invite you to visit our website for more information as it becomes available.

Happy reading,

Panos Coroyannakis  
Manager, ISLENET

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### ISLENET has moved office

Here are our new coordinates and phone number in Brussels. The email and web addresses remain the same.

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[www.europeanislands.net](http://www.europeanislands.net)

### 2008 EU budget to finance European islands for a common energy policy

In December 2007, the European Parliament approved a budget line dedicated to European islands within the 2008 Budget for the European Union.

This is the result of the European Parliament adoption in March 2007 of a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Francesco **MUSOTTO** (EPP-ED, IT) on the islands and natural and economic constraints in the context of regional policy.

Within the framework of the EU objectives to reach:

- a) a 20% target for renewables in the EU overall energy mix
- b) a 20 % improvement in energy efficiency
- c) a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions rising to 30% if there is an international agreement committing other developed countries to "comparable emission reductions"
- d) a 10% use of biofuels by 2020

this new € 3 million budget line is meant to:



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- finance selected projects to develop integrated renewable energy systems adapted to the climatic and specific socio-economic conditions of islands;
- assess the social and economic impact of increased penetration and utilisation of renewable energies and energy efficiency measures to island communities;
- pursue energy technology initiatives;
- develop efficient and environmentally friendly ways to transport this energy to the mainland, including the interconnection of peripheral island electricity networks to mainland grids; and
- exchange best practices between insular regions of Europe.

The "Islands Fund" was presented during the 28th Island Commission General Assembly on the 10 and 11 April 2008 – in Mallorca, Spain. The decision was to proceed with a draft text that would highlight the modalities and areas of priority that this fund could be utilized.

### ISLENET in EUSEW 2008

ISLENET organised a session on "Sustainable Energy Activities in European Island Communities". It took place on Tuesday 29 January 2008, 14:00 – 17:30 - Committee of the Regions, Brussels.

The event attracted over 100 registered participants and the debate that followed the presentations focused on the need for closer island cooperation in order to express island commitment in promoting sustainable energy solutions and lead by example.

**More:** [www.islenet.net](http://www.islenet.net) under the section Projects, EUSEW 2008.

During the session, the European Commission encouraged European island authorities to parallel European cities and sign a **Covenant of Islands**, a declaration of the commitment of insular areas to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, demonstrating the will of European islands to be in the forefront of the fight against climate change.

Island representatives argued in favour of using part of the new € 3 million budget in order to finance preparatory actions in support of the Covenant of Islands concept.

The Covenant of Islands was presented at the Islands Commission General Assembly on the 10 and 11 April 2008 – in Mallorca, Spain. For more information visit:

<http://www.commissiondesiles.org/en/index.php?act=3.1..36>

## PROJECT NEWS

ISLENET is involved in four new projects, all co-financed by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme.

Intelligent Energy  Europe

### The TRANSPLAN Project



**TRANSPLAN** is a project of 30 months that started in September 2007. Its full title is "**Transparent Energy Planning and Implementation**". The TransPlan project will produce 5 new energy plans for 5 islands.

Partners	Role
Bornholm Regionskommune	Coordinator
PlanEnergi	Trainer
ISLENET	Dissemination
Gotland	Demonstration island
Ålands Landskapsregering	Demonstration island
Saare Maavalitsus	Demonstration island
Punto Energia Provincia di Sassari	Demonstration island

The project will base its work on the Energy Planning Tool (EPT) which creates transparent energy balances and has been used in Denmark, Poland and Thailand.

#### Project Coordinator

Jorgen Jespersen

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Bornholms Regionskommune

Projectwebsite: [www.transplanproject.eu](http://www.transplanproject.eu)

### The BIORES Project



**biores** The BIORES project started in November 2007 with a duration of 30 months.

Its full title is "**Reinforcing Investments in biogas technologies for small-scale RES applications in islands**".



PARTNERS	COUNTRY
Coordinator EPTA Energy–Environment – Local Development Ltd	GR
ALAWS - Association of Local Authorities of West Samos	GR
ALESA Local Agency for Energy and Environment	IT
BSI - Business Systems International S.A	GR
INETI Instituto Nacional De Engenharia Tecnologia e Inovação I. P.	PT
ISLENET - The Outer Hebrides of Scotland (Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar)	GB
PEPS - Multiss - Punto Energia Provincia di Sassari	IT
SEMK Samsø Energi- og Miljøkontor	DK
UPATRAS - University of Patras / Economic Department	GR

BIORES aims to promote technologies for energy production from biogas derived from municipal waste in European islands.

The two main objectives of the project are:

1. to overcome non-technical (administrative, regulatory, market) barriers and financing obstacles that hinder investments in energy production from biogas derived from waste, and
2. to develop decision support tools for the assessment of the techno-economic perspectives and feasibility of such investments.

Work focuses on 6 European islands, namely Samos (Greece), Samsø (Denmark), Sardinia and Tremiti islands (Italy), Porto Santo (Portugal) and one more island from the ISLENET network (to be identified).

The project addresses two important issues faced by islands: Energy dependency from the mainland and waste management.

**Coordinator: Alexis Chatzimpiros**

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The project website will be operational by the end of April: [www.biores.eu](http://www.biores.eu)

## The STORIES Project



The STORIES project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2007. Its duration is 30 months. The full title of the Action is: **Addressing**

**barriers to STORAge technologies for increasing the penetration of Intermittent Energy Sources.**

**The main objective** of STORIES project is to facilitate renewable energy sources (RES) penetration in islands, through modifications in the legislative and regulatory framework that will adopt energy storage technologies. Partners coming from countries that include islands, both from Southern and Northern Europe, and two European networks/councils will work together, exchange experiences from their countries and examine the effect of different environmental conditions and regulatory frameworks on RES market development.

**The main outcome** of the project will be the development of a **Roadmap for the adoption of hybrid RES-energy storage power systems.**

PARTNERS	COUNTRY
Coordinator: Centre for Renewable Energy Sources	GR
National Technical University of Athens	GR
Canary Island Institute of Technology	ES
Instituto de Engenharia Mecanica - Polo IST	PT
Regulatory Authority for Energy of the Hellenic Republic	GR
ISLENET-The Outer Hebrides of Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	UK
European Renewable Energy Council	BE
SOFTECH TEAM	IT
University of Zagreb Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture	HR
Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority	CY

**Coordinator: Dr. Manos Zoulias**

Centre for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES)

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Co-ordinator of RES&H2 Technologies Integration Laboratory, RES & H2 Technologies Integration Section, CRES, 19th km Marathonos Ave. 19009, Pikermi, Greece

The project website: [www.storiesproject.eu](http://www.storiesproject.eu)



## The SEC-BENCH Project



The SEC-BENCH project started in November of 2007. Its duration is 30 months.

The full title of the project is **Sustainable Energy Communities – Benchmarking of energy and climate performance indicators on the web.**

### Main Objective

SEC-BENCH will develop a web-based benchmark solution to help local communities to identify, plan and realise their potential with respect to saving energy and converting to more sustainable energy sources.

PARTNERS		COUNTRY
New Energy Performance AS	NEPAS	NO
Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	KS	NO
Agder Energi Nettkonsult AS	AEN	NO
Coalition of 21 Local Authorities in the Northern Prefecture of Athens	21 OTA	GR
Centre for Renewable Energy Sources	CRES	GR
Agenzija za Prestrukturiranje Energetike d.o.o.	ApE	SL
Danish Association of Local and Regional Authorities	KL	DK
Baltic Sea Solutions	BASS	DK
CBE	CBE	PT
Region of Lazio	RL	IT
ISIS	ISIS	IT
Dobrich Local Agency Energy Management	DLAEM	BG
Association of European Islands	ISLENET	BE

### Activities and expected results

**Networks:** establishment and/or operation of existing national thematic networks in 7 partner countries. The project will aim at involving a significant number of municipalities or other entities (e.g. islands) in every national network.

**Energy Planning:** review of existing planning models as well as the issue of a practical guide on local energy planning. The REAM model from the 3-NITY project will be used by the SEC-BENCH pilot-studies.

**Indicators:** assessment of existing indicators as well as any available long term data-series for the partner communities. The project will also prepare a proposal for data collection routines, data processing as well as presentation of relevant indicators. These will have to be in line with the web-based benchmarking tool

**Web-Benchmarking:** investigation of existing solutions, and development of a web-based benchmark tool for municipal energy and climate indicators.

**Communication and dissemination:** widespread and target oriented dissemination of the developed tools, know-how and other deliverables with a view to promoting municipal benchmarking around Europe.

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The project website [www.sec-bench.eu](http://www.sec-bench.eu) will be operational by the end of May.

## FP7-ENERGY-2008-TREN-1 CALL was announced on 29 April 2008

**Identifier:** FP7-ENERGY-2008-TREN-1

**Publication Date:** 29 April 2008

**Budget:** €147 000 000

**Deadline:** 08 October 2008 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

**OJ Reference:** OJ C108 of 29 April 2008

**Specific Programme:** Cooperation

**Theme:** Energy

### Areas Covered:

- Renewable electricity generation
- Renewable fuel production
- Clean coal technologies
- Smart energy networks
- Energy efficiency and savings
- Concerto\*

### More:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL\\_ID=127&ACT\\_CODE=ENERGY](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=127&ACT_CODE=ENERGY)



## PAST EVENTS

### COVENANT OF MAYORS

The official launch of the Covenant of Mayors by Andris Piebalgs, Energy Commissioner took place on 29 January 2008 in the context of the ManagEnergy Annual Conference at the second EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW).

The Covenant of Mayors is a new, ambitious initiative of the European Commission that will bring together the mayors of Europe's most pioneering cities in a permanent network to exchange and apply good practices across these cities and beyond to improve energy efficiency significantly in the urban environment. The Covenant of Mayors is the response of the most active cities to global warming: a formal commitment by the cities to reduce their CO2 emissions even beyond the EU 20% objectives. Almost 100 cities throughout Europe, including 15 capitals, have expressed their willingness to join.

 [Draft Covenant of Mayors \(11 January 2008\)](#)

**For more information:**

<http://www.managenergy.net/products/R2008.htm>

## FUTURE EVENTS

### DENMARK IS HOSTING THE 2009 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Denmark will be the host country of the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference. The event will take place in Copenhagen from 30 November to 11 December 2009.

The goal is to enter into a binding global climate agreement. The agreement will apply to the period after 2012.

**More:** <http://www.cop15.dk/en/>

### Conference on Biomass in Spain - Thursday 5th June 2008

IDAE, as sponsor of the 16th European Biomass Conference & Exhibition, with the collaboration of AVEN, is organising the Conference on Biomass in Spain that will take place, in the framework of the European Conference, the 5th of June 2008 in the Feria Valencia facilities.

**More:** <http://www.conference-biomass.com/index.htm>

### 1st European Solar Days to be celebrated on 16 and 17 May



As an awareness raising campaign, the European Solar Days aim to promote the use of the sun as an energy source for all solar applications, Solar Thermal

and Photovoltaic, throughout Europe.

**More:** <http://www.solardays.eu/>

### Facilitating Sustainable Innovations in the City of Leeuwarden on 26-28 June 2008

The theme of the conference is Sustainable Innovation as a tool for Regional Development.

**More:** [www.fryslaninternational.org](http://www.fryslaninternational.org)

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