

ISLE-PACT NEWSLETTER

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The **ISLE-PACT project** is committed to developing **Local Sustainable Energy Action Plans** with the aim of meeting or exceeding the **EU sustainability objectives** set by the EU for 2020, reducing the CO₂ emissions by at least 20%. The project's duration is 30 months, 1 February 2010 – 31 July 2012.

The project's coordinator is the **Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) – The Outer Hebrides of Scotland**. The project is co-financed by the **European Commission, Directorate General for Energy**.



Directorate-General
for Energy

The project partners show their political engagement to the project objectives by signing "**The Pact of Islands**", a three-page document that specifies the individual commitments that are to be made by European island authorities in order to achieve the EU sustainability objectives set for the year 2020.

For more information about the project and its partners, please visit: www.islepact.eu

The Pact of Islands

The Pact of Islands is a binding instrument with which island authorities will enter into a political engagement in order to meet the objectives of the project.

The three-page document is structured in a manner similar to the **Covenant of Mayors** and is taking into account the particularities of European island communities. The Pact of Islands signatories make a number of significant commitments, such as:

- to go beyond the objectives set by the EU for 2020, reducing the CO₂ emissions in their respective territories by at least 20%;
- to submit an Islands Sustainable Energy Action Plan including a Baseline Emission Inventory which outlines how the objectives will be reached;
- to submit an implementation report at least every second year following the submission of the Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes;
- to organise Energy Days, in cooperation with the European Commission and with other stakeholders, allowing citizens to benefit directly from the opportunities and advantages offered by a more intelligent use of energy, and to regularly inform the local media on developments concerning the action plan;
- to attend and contribute to events organised by European Institutions relating to the Pact of Islands & the Covenant of Mayors;
- to mobilise sustainable energy investments in their respective territories.

Towns and Municipalities in the partner islands sign the Pact of Islands

On 26 January 2011 the Regional Government of the Azores has signed the Adhesion Form of the Pact of Islands. This brings the total number of signatories of the Pact of Islands to nineteen (19).



Öland, Sweden signed on 13 September 2010.



Gotland, Sweden signed on 28 October 2010.



Hiimuaa, Estonia signed on 6 December 2010.



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - The Outer Hebrides of Scotland signed on 4 November 2010.



Samsø, Denmark signed on 16 November 2010.



The Union of Saaremaa Local Governments, Estonia signed on 20 January 2011.



Cyprus: Ten municipalities and two communities sign the Pact of Islands on 20 January 2011 in Lefkosia: The municipalities of Strovolos, Agios Athanasios, Latsia, Paralimni, Idalion, Aradippou, Aglantzia, Larnaca, Lakatamia, Polis Chrysochous and the communities of Geri and Ergates.

Island Sustainable Energy Action Plans

All 12 groups of European islands participating in the ISLE-PACT project are in the process of preparing their ISEAPs. Draft ISEAPs will be available as early as March 2011 for review and consultation.

The Pact of Islands signing ceremony to take place in Brussels, on 12 April 2011

We are pleased to announce that the Pact of Islands signing ceremony will be held in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions on 12 April 2011. More details will be available soon on the ISLEPACT project website: www.islepact.eu



The event will take place within the context of the [European Union Sustainable Energy Week](#) – 11-15 April 2011.

Island mayors, presidents of island regions and official representatives will receive their official invitations by the end of February 2011. The event will offer the opportunity to meet partners and share experiences.

The ISLE-PACT project office in Brussels

The ISLE-PACT project office is located at Rond Point Schuman 14, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

Telephone +32 2 612 1704 Fax +32 2 280 2765 e-mail info@islepact.eu

Intelligent Energy Europe Info Day 18 January 2011 - Brussels



The 2011 IEE Call for proposals was launched during the IEE Info day in Brussels. One major new component of the IEE call for proposals this year are the Integrated Initiatives – the INTEGRATED programme

IEE INTEGRATED Initiatives

Mobilising Local Energy Investments (MLEI)

MLEI provides Technical Assistance to local or regional public authorities for launching sustainable energy investments

The need: bankability of smaller scale investment projects by local authorities

One of the biggest challenges especially for small and medium-sized authorities is to prepare sustainable energy projects which are big enough to be considered 'bankable' by financing institutions and/or suitable for grant funding by EU financing facilities such as the cohesion or structural funds.

MLEI grants for technical assistance

MLEI (Mobilising Local Energy Investments) provides grants of up to 75% of the costs incurred by public authorities for technical assistance to prepare, mobilise financing, and launch investments in sustainable

energy projects. Proposing authorities may work together with financial institutions and/or fund managers and/or ESCOs. MLEI grants will be awarded for a period of up to three years, during which time the proposed investments must be launched and tenders issued for construction / implementation. MLEI grants will not contribute to hardware investment costs.

What kind of investment projects?

MLEI will prioritise sustainable energy investment projects in the following **target sectors**: public and private buildings, social housing, street and traffic lighting, urban transport and local energy infrastructure. Support for financial intermediaries and the following sectors are **excluded**: stand alone renewables, long distance transport infra-structure, industrial facilities. The supported projects must deliver concrete, measurable results in terms of energy saved, RES supply increased, GHG reduced, and/or local jobs created. MLEI will complement other EU financing instruments such as the ELENA Facilities.

Budget and scale of MLEI technical assistance

Proposals must involve minimum technical assistance costs of EUR 400 000, leading to a minimum investment of EUR 6 million, and must achieve a leverage factor of at least 15 (each Euro for technical assistance must lead to investment of at least EUR 15). Duration of technical assistance is 36 months (max).

Who should apply?

MLEI addresses individual public authorities (municipalities, cities, provinces, regions) or groupings of neighbouring authorities (preferably representing a combined population of more than 200,000 inhabitants).

Proposers must submit detailed plans for their technical assistance activities and for their investment projects (draft designs and plans, cost estimates, etc), preferably from their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP or equivalent), and must have secured a political commitment to invest in their projects.

Proposals may be submitted by **one** or more local or regional public authorities based in a **single IEE participating country** (EU27, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Croatia) or in more than one country. Groups of public authorities must be neighbouring authorities located in one clearly defined geographical area.

How to apply?

Applicants for technical assistance under MLEI must submit proposals to the IEE Call 2011.

Deadline for submission: 12th May 2011

Local Energy Leadership

This initiative aims to strengthen the overall capacity of public authorities in the field of sustainable energy planning and implementation and to overcome barriers for local/regional communities to reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to meeting the EU energy policy targets.

The technical capacity of public authorities can be reinforced by peer-to-peer approaches, which are crucial to ensure proper take-up of sustainable energy policies by local/regional authorities. **Action 1** - Integration of Sustainable Energy Policies in Public Authorities Operations - targets direct exchanges of experience and capacity-building between experienced local authorities and 'learning' local authorities demonstrating the institutionalisation of sustainable energy policies in their operations.

Local and regional communities need comprehensive and reliable energy data. **Action 2** of the initiative - Facilitating Cooperation between Public Authorities and other Local Actors- fostering effective collaboration between public actors (local authorities, energy agencies, etc.) and other local stakeholders, in particular energy utilities. The objective of this action would be to stimulate cooperation in the form of regular sharing of energy data between public authorities and utilities for use in developing, implementing and monitoring sustainable energy action plans.

For more information, please consult the IEE Call and Workprogramme 2011

<http://ec.europa.eu/intelligentenergy>

Project Coordinator Representative

Derek McKim

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR - The Outer Hebrides of Scotland

coordinator@islepact.eu

Contact for Networking & Communication

info@islepact.eu

Newsletter Editor

Panos Coroyannakis - ISLENET

project website: www.islepact.eu



The ISLE-PACT project supports the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign

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