

Islands of Innovation

Interreg Europe



An interregional cooperation project for improving innovation delivery policies



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Islands of Innovation

An Interreg Europe (European funding programme) project for improving innovation policies in island regions, to keep and attract young, innovative and entrepreneurial people and new activities to the islands.

The project...

...is an Interreg Europe project for improving innovation policies in island regions, to keep and attract young, innovative and entrepreneurial people and new activities to the islands.

Partnership

The project partnership consists of geographical islands or island regions/archipelagos from The Netherlands, Denmark, Portugal, Estonia, France and Greece.

The contexts and problems...

...of the islands are diverse: from Nordic to tropic climates, from high density populations of those in Madeira (PT) to low in Saaremaa (EE); from highly innovative and economically well European islands of Vlieland, Ameland (NL) and Samsøe (DK) to the archipelago with economic difficulties in the North Aegean (GR). In all this diversity, we share common problems:

- one-sided economic structure (mostly tourism, and agriculture resulting in temporary employment, crowding out (e.g. housing), and discontinuity of (public) services;
- Higher production/transport costs, no economies of scale;
- Aging population and brain drain.



Innovation policies

Insular regions in this project want to address the opportunities of diversification of their economies by improving their innovation policies: how to improve public policy measures in order to turn the islands into innovation “test-beds”: islands as innovation-promoting, experimental “probing and learning” environment which can keep and attract young, innovative and entrepreneurial people and activities to the islands.

Activities and outputs

- 6 interregional learning sessions and study visits;
- 1 comparative study report;
- regional stakeholder group meetings;
- 14 good practices;

- 1 Innovation guide for island(s) regions.

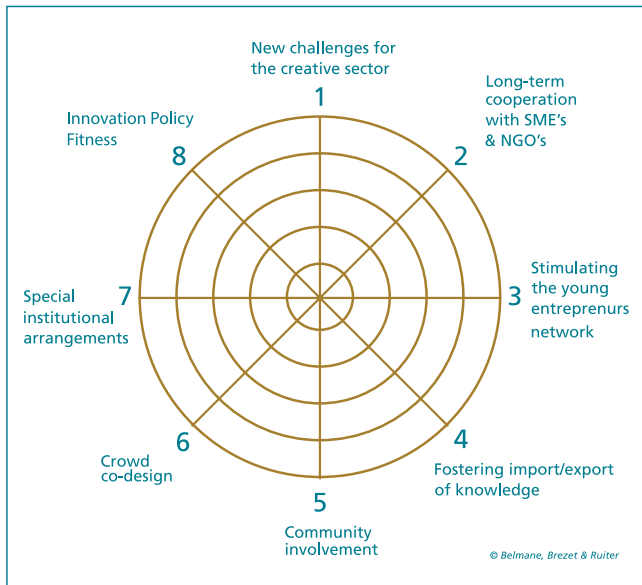
Leading to...

...7 action plans for improving the innovation policies through better governance and new projects.

The innovation guide for islands

In the project, the island innovation guide is being prepared. Within a project, a creative approach to manage the different levels of governance and innovation settings required an unorthodox approach. A new methodology called TIPPING wheel – The Innovation Program’s Perspective for Islands’ New Governance is introduced and applied in the Project.

The Tipping Wheel



- Province of Fryslan, with islands of Ameland and Vlieland (the Netherlands);
- Samsø, project partner: Samsø Energy Academy (Denmark);
- Saaremaa; project partner Saaremaa Municipality Government (Estonia);
- Madeira; project partner Regional Agency for the Development of Research Technology and Innovation – ARDITI (Portugal);
- Azores; Project partner - Cabinet of the Secretary of the Presidency for External Relations – Regional Government of the Azores (Portugal);
- North Aegean Region - North Aegean Region (Greece);
- Urban Community Of North Basse-Terre (CANBT) - Guadeloupe (France).

Want to know more?

Visit us at:

interregeurope.eu/
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