



Regulatory barriers and opportunities for clean energy transition on the EU islands

Lucija Rakocevic (Th!nk E)

Andries De Brouwer (3E)

Clean energy for EU islands

www.euislands.eu | Lucija.rakocevic@euislands.eu

- 15:00-15:05 **Welcome**
Lucija Rakocevic, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat
- 15:05-15:10 **Energy transition on the EU islands**
Tadhq O'Brien, DG ENER
- 15:10-15:25 **Process of study preparation and horizontal measures**
Lucija Rakocevic, Th!nk E, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat
- Questions
- 15:30-15:55 **Recommendations and country examples**
Andries De Brouwer, 3E, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat
- 15:55-16:00 **Croatia experience**
Veljko Radic, Head of Sector within the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Croatia
- 15:55-16:25 Questions and discussion
- 16:25-16:30 **Concluding remarks**
Edita Dranseikaite, DG ENER

Clean energy for EU islands secretariat

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu



Capacity building for islands



Network and communication



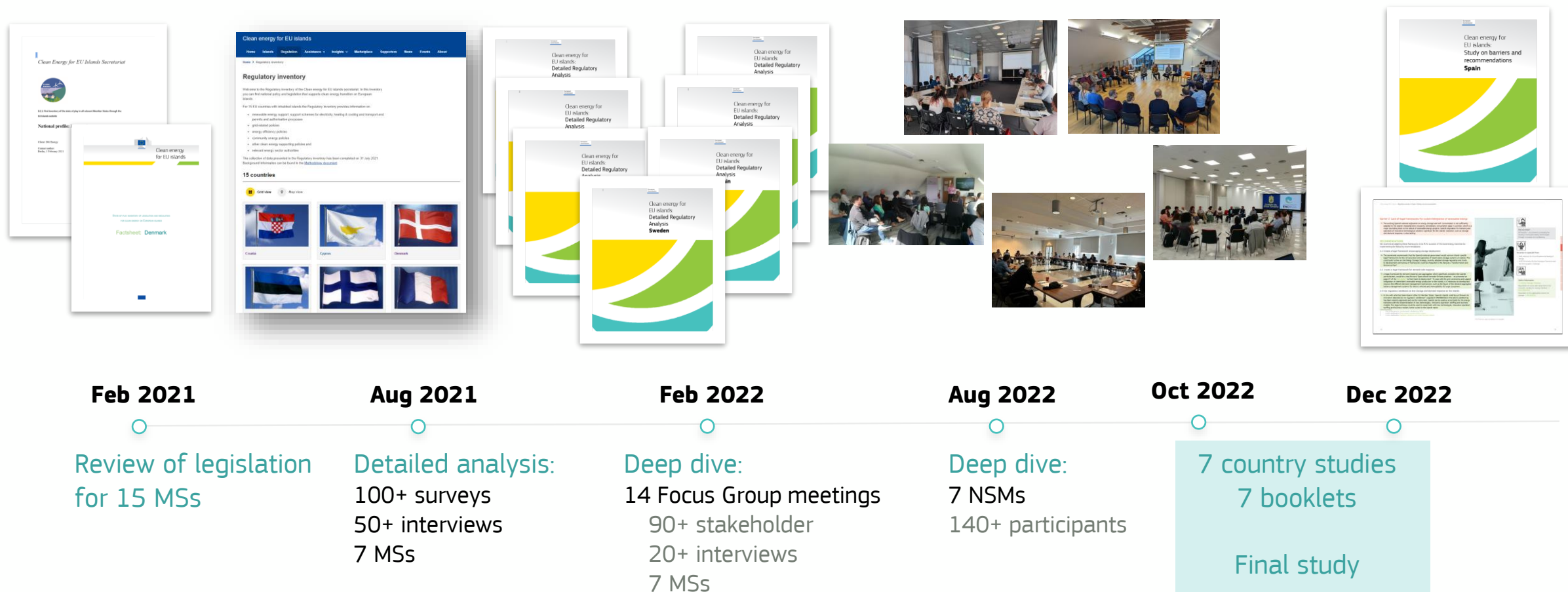
Legal and regulatory inventory and studies

Policy and regulatory think tank

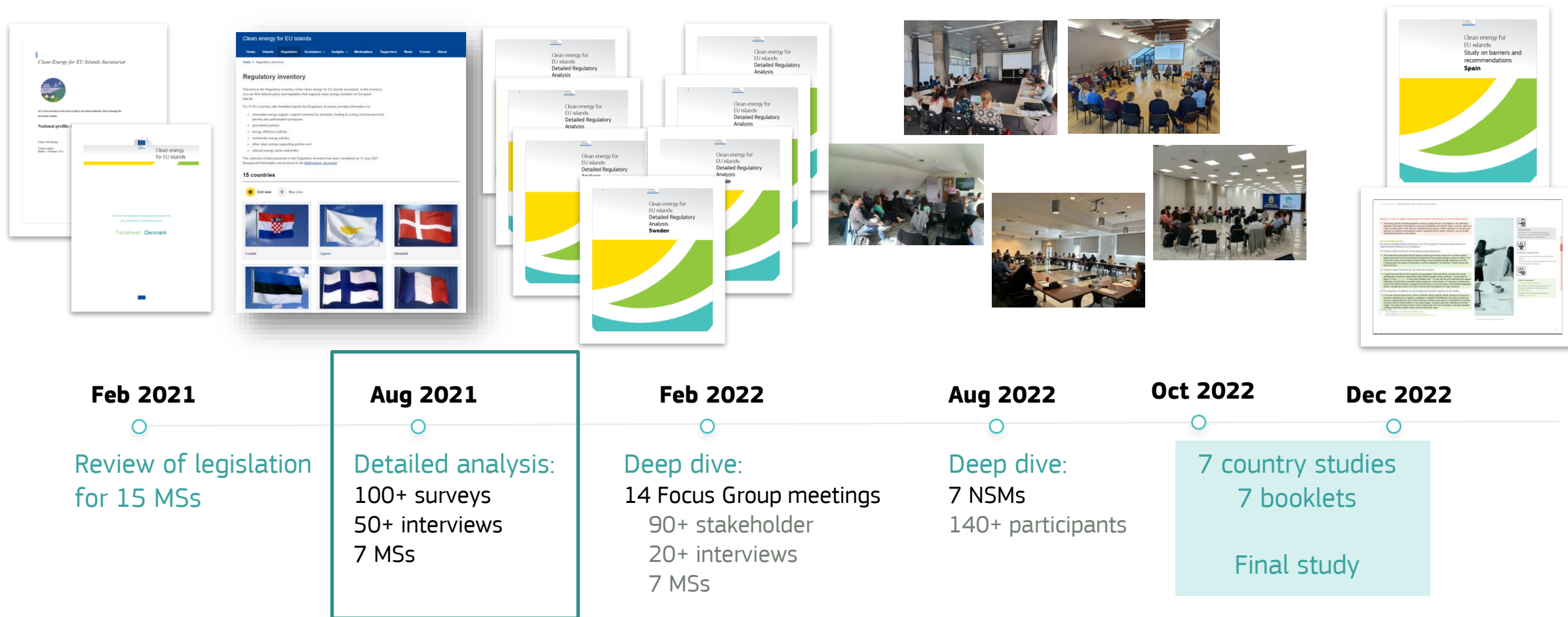
Identification of **existing and emerging legal, regulatory and policy** frameworks that foster the development of local decarbonised energy systems on EU Islands.

Identification of **best and worst practices** in order to **formulate do's and don'ts and clear recommendations** for EU islands to effectively decarbonise their local energy systems.

Work leading to Regulatory study

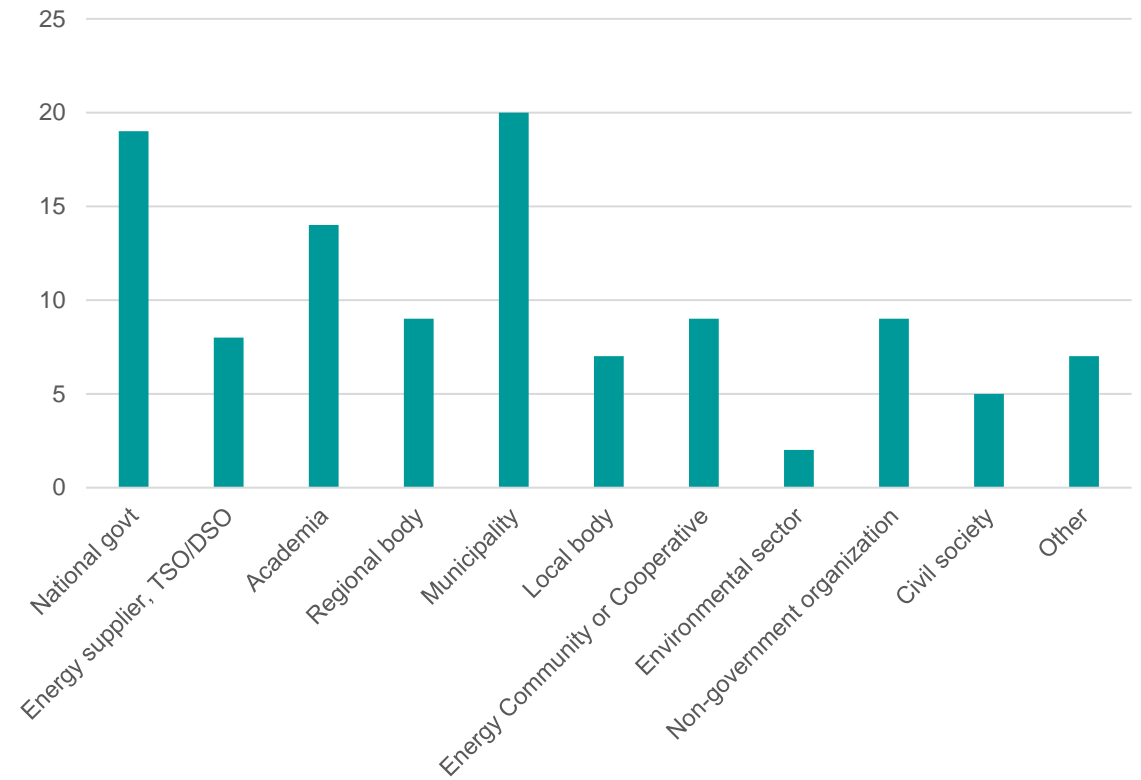
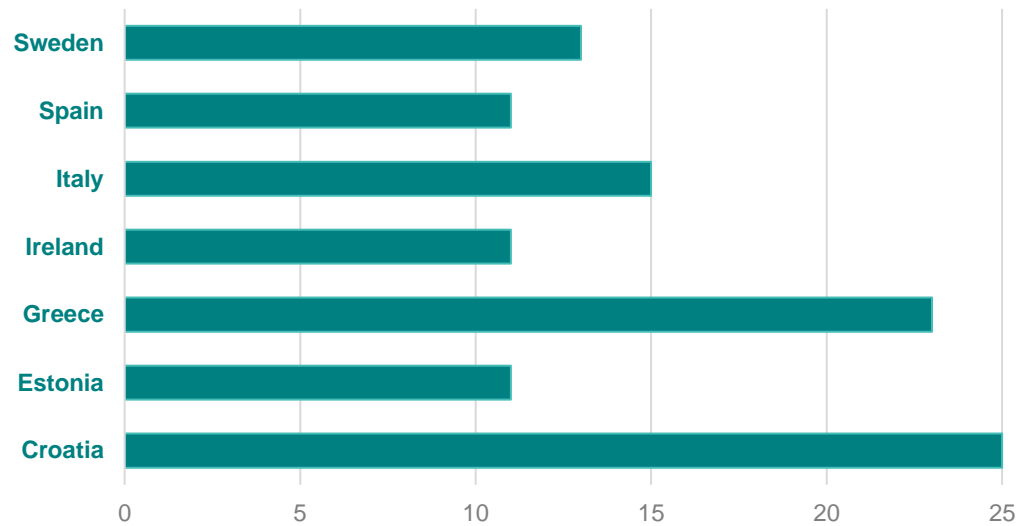


Work leading to Regulatory study

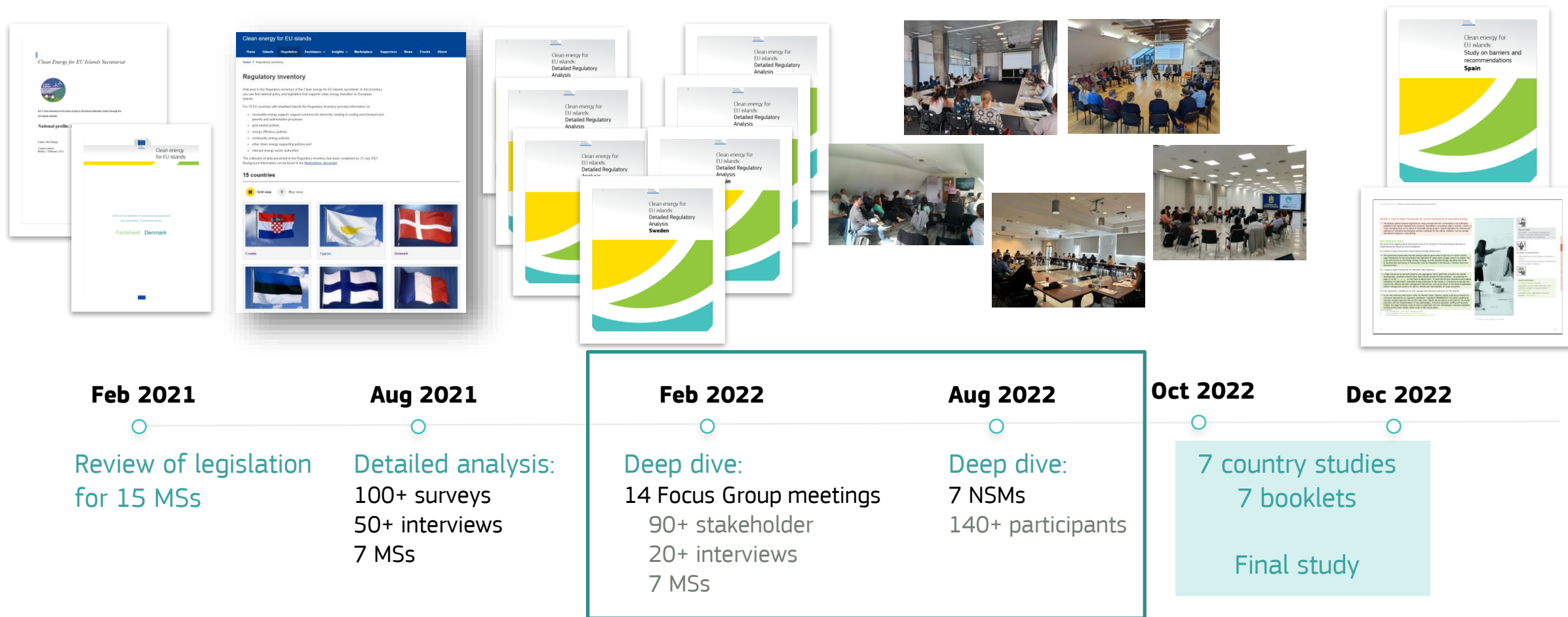


109 EU wide surveys

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu



Work leading to Regulatory study





Main barriers

Regulatory studies - barriers

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Barriers that are identified among priority barriers for all 7 MSs



Strategic and systematic planning, coordination, monitoring of energy transition on the islands with local input



Grid constrains and security of supply



Spatial planning and stringent constrains



Community involvement in energy projects

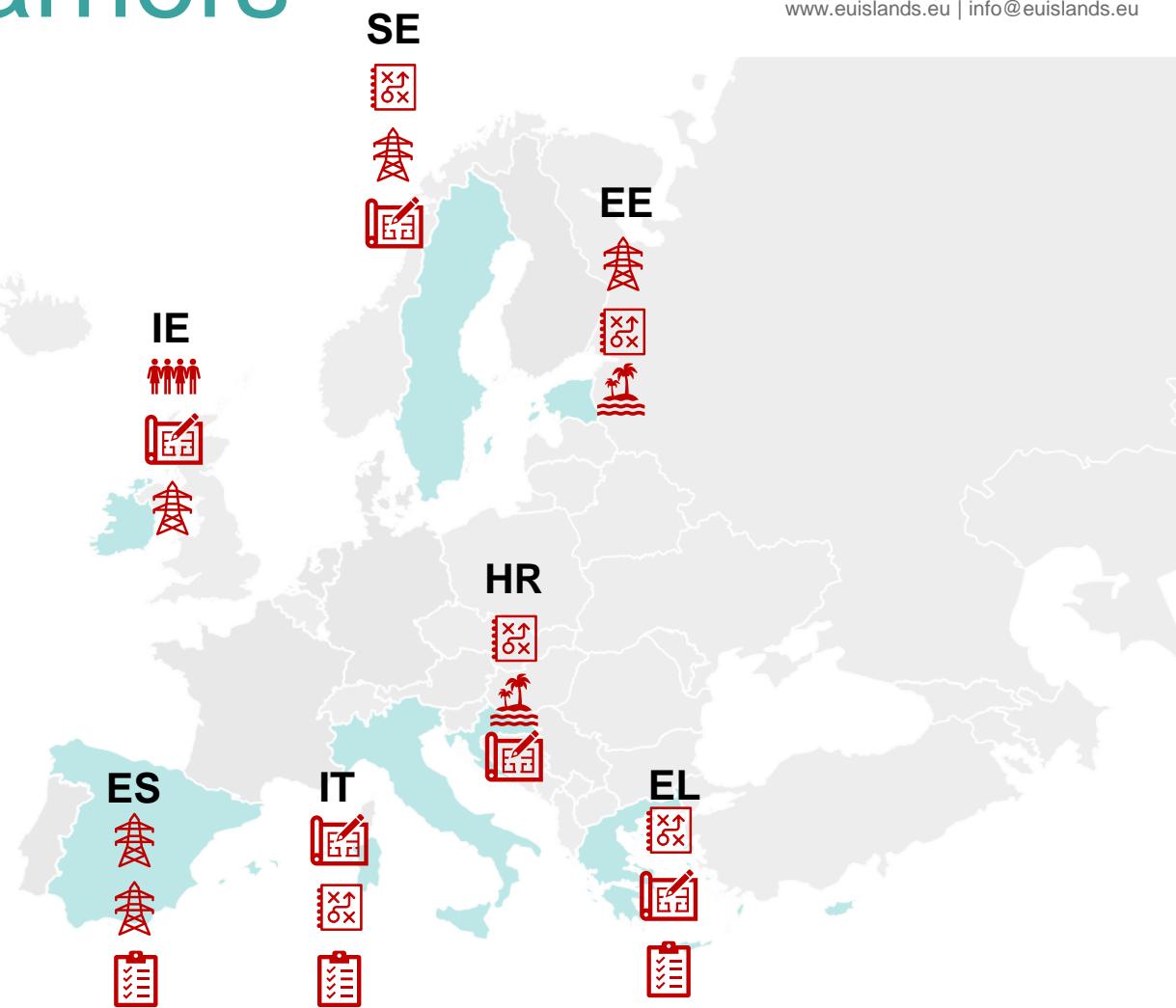
Barriers that are identified for 4-5 out of 7 MSs



Complex and lengthy authorisation



Support tailored to islands needs and characteristics





Actions to be taken at EU and MS level

Actions – EU level policy and funding

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

REPowerEU implementation of actions by MSs

- Simplification of authorization procedures and capacity building
- Go-to areas (for smaller projects too) to be defined in coordination with regional and local level
- Support for policy on that supports grid flexibility and security of supply (storage, demand-side response, etc.)

NECP

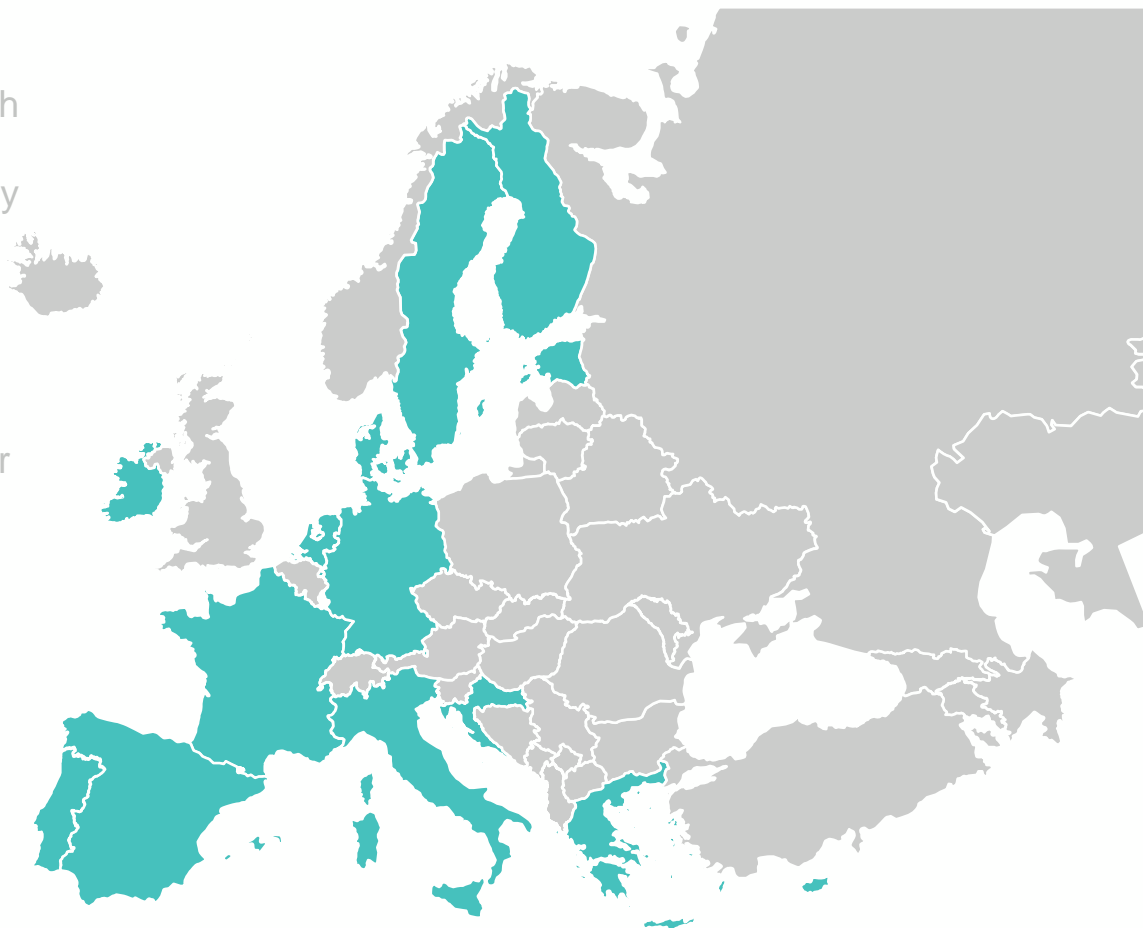
- Include more defined Islands strategy
- Goals on regional level – or for islands (not only on national level)
- Actions to align spatial planning with energy, climate, and other sector planning

Resilience and Recovery Plans and Funds

- Put focus on multifunctional projects
- Require involvement of local stakeholders in projects

Provide support to grids to adjust their planning and financing to meet requirements of energy transition

Innovation and research funding to support island decarbonization and involvement of local stakeholders



Actions – Member State level

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Coordination body/committee for islands on MS level

- Represent islands priorities and policy on the national level
- Coordinate and monitor all islands funds and actions together

RePowerEU implemented into national legislation

NECP + islands

- Include more defined Islands strategy
- Goals on regional level – or for islands (not only on national level)
- Actions to align spatial planning with energy, climate, and other sector planning
- **Feedback loop from local to national level on implementation**

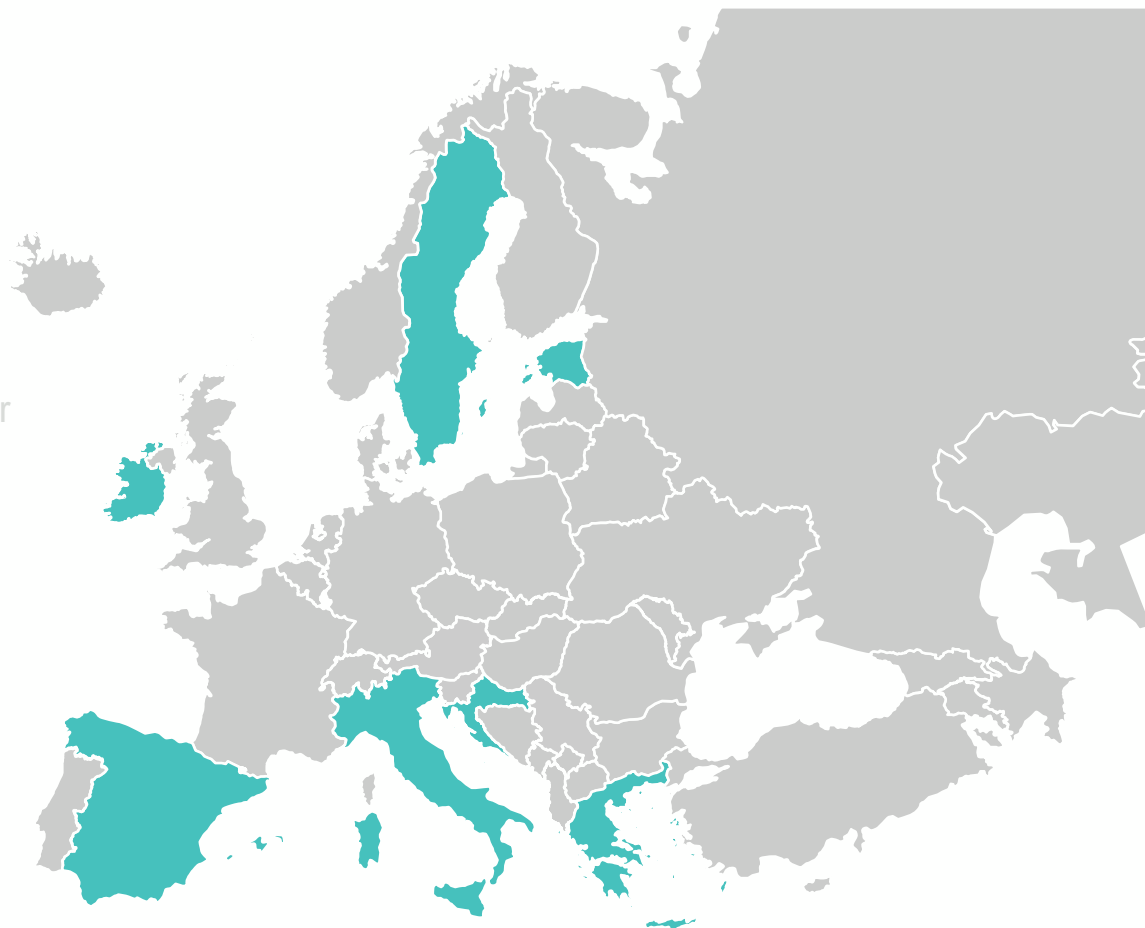
Resilience and Recovery Plans and Funds

- Take into account regional and local needs – integrate into system
- Provide assistance to local level to prepare projects

Implement clear regulation for use of storage, DSM and RES, including grid policy – for increase share of RES on the islands

Provide support tailored to islands conditions

Mandate private sector to engage local stakeholders in energy projects



Actions – Local level (islands)

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Prepare local energy plans

- Identify needs and priorities
- Involved various islands stakeholders

Create supporting community for energy transition

- Raise awareness
- Info offices
- Provide more exposure to local best practices
- Provide best practices with public spaces/buildings

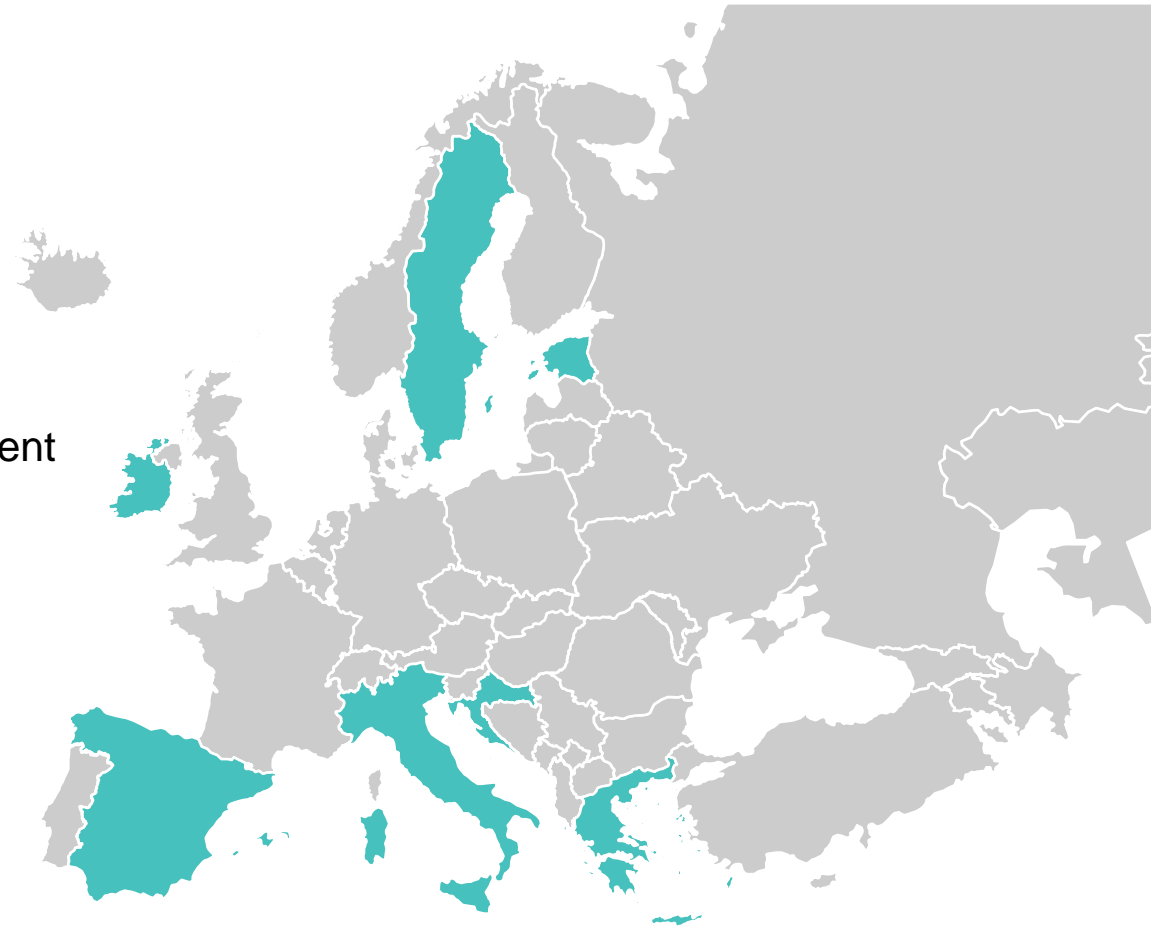
Communicate local needs to the regional and national government

- Request more funds/capacity building for people on the ground
- Ask for technical assistance where needed

Expand the network

- Engage with neighboring islands/ or association of islands
- Reach out to European support system (Secretariat) to get support to be involved in European projects
- Bring more attention to the islands

Encourage/mandate private sector to engage local stakeholders in energy projects



Recommendations

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

- 1 Islands local needs and priorities**
- 2 Islands security of supply**
- 3 Islands resource management for sustainable development**

Recommendations

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Islands local needs and priorities

Island expert and coordination body

(Taskforce, committee, department)

Assess islands

Analysis by experts

Local plans

Strategy and systematic solution

NECP 2023 – islands

Feedback loop



Support to islands

Technical assistance (increased capacity,
developing projects and plans)

Tailored funding

Exchange of best practices (travel, EU projects)



Strategic planning and follow-up

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Sweden

Barrier

984 inhabited islands but:

- Lack of visibility of island energy challenges on the national level
- No specific island policy or strategy
- No coordinated action or support for energy transition from national level

Recommendations

- **Group of experts should be mandated to analyse the current energy situation on the Swedish islands**
- Provide guidelines and indicators for national stakeholder on best support for energy transition on the islands
- Island energy transition should be recognized in NECP and support innovation and multifunctional projects



Strategic planning and follow-up

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Ireland

Barrier

- Energy sector strategies and the long-term energy planning are highly centralized
- No clear strategy for the energy transition on the islands in NECP
- Island stakeholders are not consulted in a systematic manner

Recommendation:

- **Develop a national policy – coming from the national government – to address the specific needs of the islands**
- This Islands policy is currently being developed and will include our recommendations

Dear Andries

Many thanks for your email and for sharing the results of your study with me in advance of its publication. As you know, we are currently finalising our national policy for the islands and we will certainly consider the findings of your study in that context. I also look forward to the publication of the full study and the comparable studies for other Member States.

Many thanks once again.

With kind regards
Bairbre

Bairbre Nic Aongusa

Runaí Cúnta, Forbairt Pobail

Assistant Secretary, Community Development

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail

Department of Rural and Community Development

Country examples



Support tailored to islands needs

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Italy

Barrier

Many funding program exist:

- Lack of coordination and monitoring of different funding programs
- No feedback loop to national strategic and funding planning
- No visibility of local priorities in the NECP and national planning

Recommendations

- ☐ **Mandate development of regional energy and climate targets and plans**
- ☐ Annual monitoring of implementation of all funding programs (similar to how it is done for PNRR)
- ☐ Develop National Taskforce for island energy transition



Support tailored to islands needs

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Croatia

Barrier

There is funding that islands can use but:

- Lack of island stakeholders applying
- Timing of the calls and deadlines too unpredictable and short
- No calls tailored to islands

Recommendations

- ❑ **NECP should include island energy transition as one of the priorities in order to plan island specific support by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund**
- ❑ Provide annual calls with predictable timing and similar requirements
- ❑ EPEEF to provide calls for technical assistance to the islands, mobilizing national energy experts to help identify and prepare viable projects for funding on the islands.

Recommendations

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Islands security of supply

Integration of RES

Forward looking grid planning and capacity building for DSOs

Connection requirements favorable to RES

Increase flexibility of the grids

Storage, Demand-side management regulation and support

Modernize existing infrastructure

Innovation with maintenance

Regulatory sandboxes

Investments (taking into account maintenance) and replication



Grid constrains and security of supply

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Estonia

Barrier

- Electricity grids upgraded based on potential consumption.
- Grids on islands not strong enough to incorporate larger amounts of renewable energy: both offshore wind as PV on island

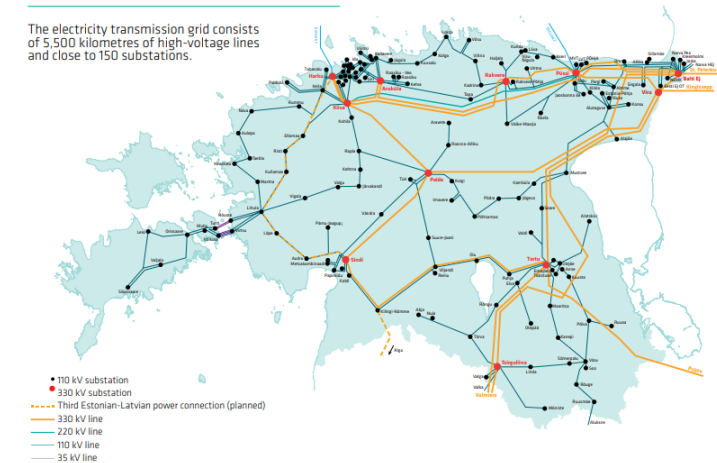
Recommendation:

- **Improve grid development planning**
- Take into account future offshore wind energy to the mainland and ensuring grid capacity for the development of renewable energy projects on the island itself.

2 months later, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications has indeed issued guidelines to the transmission system operator Elering for planning a 330 kilovolt transmission line to Saaremaa.

The Estonian power transmission grid

The electricity transmission grid consists of 5,500 kilometres of high-voltage lines and close to 150 substations.





Grid constrains and security of supply

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Ireland

Barrier

- Underwater connection cables too small to allow export excess energy
- Grids on the islands are not strong enough to incorporate any substantial amount of additional renewable energy generation facilities.
- Grid capacity upgrades are demand led, not based on potential generation capacity

Recommendations:

- **Adapt grid development methodology from an ad-hoc approach to a future-oriented approach**
- Islands to plan RES generation together with DSO
- Designate go-to zones for targeted grid upgrades.



Grid constrains and security of supply

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Greece

Barrier

10 year plan to interconnect island systems but:

- Insufficient capacity of island grids
- 30% share limit of RES penetration for security of supply
- No remuneration for use of storage capacities
- Storage can only be used within hybrid system (RES+storage)

Recommendations:

- **Allow use of regulatory sandboxes for innovative solutions**
- Create supporting regulatory framework for storage use and demand-side management
- Encourage utilisation of flexible loads and sector coupling with RES for more flexible systems

Recommendations

Islands resource management for sustainable development

Planning and priorities

Spatial planning guidelines for resource use

Go-to areas with simplified procedures (one-stop shops)

Need for adequately staffed institutions

Local involvement

Support and regulate community initiatives/sharing

Mandate involvement of local stakeholders in energy projects (e.g. ownership)

Awareness raising (info offices and examples)



Spatial planning and stringent constraints

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Italy

Barrier

Spatial planning different for different regions:

- National framework in preparation - missing
- Regional territorial and landscape plans ambiguous – causing discrepancies in implementation
- RES projects not possible in many areas due to restrictions (Special areas of conservation and special protected areas)

Recommendations:

- **Guidelines to regional level through new national framework law for spatial planning**
- Regional energy master plans (suitable areas for islands) to be mandatory for integration into regional landscape plans
- Involve regional and local stakeholders in the process of landscape planning



Complex and lengthy authorisation

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Spain

Barrier

There are some exemptions and simplified procedures for certain categories of RES projects, but

- Procedures for RES projects on islands are too complicated and too many authorities and governments at different levels are involved.
- There is a shortage of skilled staff in the local authorities in charge of issuing permits.

Recommendations:

- **Extend the simplified procedures, accelerate and simplify procedures for RE projects on the islands.**
- Create a one-stop shop for clean energy projects on the islands.
- Build capacity at local level and provide permitting guidance.



Community involvement in energy projects

Clean energy for EU islands
www.euislands.eu | info@euislands.eu

Estonia

Barrier

Big ambitions for offshore wind energy

- strong opposition from the island inhabitants against more wind turbines – what's in it for them
- specific regulations related to energy sharing, energy communities or prosumers missing
- Authorisation procedures too stringen

Recommendations:

- **Develop facilitating services for energy community projects and a framework for engagement of the island inhabitants**
- Local info office for energy communities and sharing
- Shifting the logic from 'tolerance fee' to a real RES projects co-ownership structure

Thank you!

✉ info@euislands.eu

📍 Belgium, Kalkkaai 6 1000 Brussels

👤 Lucija Rakocevic, PhD

✉ lucija.rakocevic@euislands.eu

👤 Andries De Brouwer

✉ Andries.debrouwer@euislands.eu