

## Call for Application of Interest to become a Follower Island of the 30 Renewable Islands by 2030

SEPTEMBER 2024

### The Follower Islands programme

The Follower Islands programme constitutes part of the 30 for 2030 initiative and aims to engage at least **90 European islands** over a period of **6 months**. A short and consistent flow of activities aims at ensuring active engagement of the selected islands, as well as delivering plausible and exploitable results in a timely manner. After completion of the programme, the Follower Islands will remain in contact with the Initiative and will be informed about all future activities and content produced.

More information regarding the Clean Energy for EU islands secretariat and the 30 for 2030 initiative is available in Annex 1.

### WHAT IS A FOLLOWER ISLAND?

A Follower Island is one that learns from the experiences and the planned and implemented activities of the group of 30 for 2030 islands. The secretariat will provide assistance to the follower islands in different forms to enable them to adapt these experiences to their specific conditions.

### WHY BECOME A FOLLOWER ISLAND?

By joining the Follower Islands programme, an island will have access to a wide range of activities and benefits, as listed below.

- The Follower Island will benefit from capacity building activities on selected topics delivered by the secretariat's team of experts.
- The Follower Island will collaborate closely with the 30 for 2030 islands learning through experience sharing and interaction.

- The Follower Island will be directly consulted by the secretariat team of experts on selected projects.
- The Follower Island will have access to the whole of the secretariat training and educational content.
- The Follower Island will become part of the CE4EU community providing them contacts and networking opportunities with EU institutions, financing instruments and collaboration opportunities.

## WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR THE FOLLOWER ISLANDS?

The activities in which the Follower Islands will be engaged will depend on the profile/type of each island and will be tailored based on the preferences provided during the application phase. All members of the Follower Islands' transition team are invited to take place in the different activities.

### **Activity 1:** *Energy planning and vision making*

**Goal:** The aim of the activity is to support the Follower Islands in preparing energy plans that are realistic, sufficiently integrated to the local communities, and effectively communicated to the relevant stakeholders.

**Description:** The secretariat will assess the energy plans of the selected Follower Islands and compile a list of questions/recommendations to support the enhancement of the plans. Consultation meetings will be organised with each one of the Follower Islands, based on the assessment of their energy plans.

At the end of the programme the Follower Islands will be requested to resubmit their plans for evaluation and/or further comments.

### **Activity 2:** *Capacity building*

The activity is comprised of two sub-activities aiming to cover a wide range of learning topics and interests.

**Sub-activity 2.1:** Setting-the-ground training workshop on island energy systems (regulatory and system management).

**Goal:** The aim is to make the Follower Islands aware of their energy system conditions both in terms of regulatory and technical limitations and possibilities.

**Description:** The content of the studies developed by the secretariat, analysing the regulatory and energy system conditions on EU islands, will be presented. The workshop will be delivered in the form of presentations per country and per type of energy system. The

participants will have the possibility to address their questions and join constructive dialogues with the secretariat members.

**Sub-activity 2.2:** Capacity building activities on the selected learning topics.

**Goal:** The aim is to raise awareness and broaden the knowledge of the Follower Islands on specific topics of interest. The learning topics are based on the topics analysed during the in-person workshops targeted to the 30 for 2030 islands.

**Description:** Each Follower Island can choose more than one learning topic during its application. The secretariat will deliver one online workshop per learning topic comprised of a first part focusing on training content and a second part focusing on good practices from the 30 for 2030 islands. In parallel, Follower Islands will be granted access to a knowledge sharing platform filled with current and past resources developed by the secretariat.

**Activity 3:** Peer-to-peer project coaching

**Goal:** The aim is for each Follower Island to develop a clear project development action plan to further proceed with the maturation of one project.

**Description:** The secretariat will pair each Follower Island with one of the 30 for 2030 islands based on the similarities between the chosen project and those being developed. The secretariat will assist the paired islands individually to enable peer-to-peer coaching and share of best practices. This will result in the preparation of an Action Plan for the development of the project.

The timeline of the respective activities is described below.

Activities	Month					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Energy planning and vision making						
2. Capacity building						
3. Peer-to-peer project coaching						

**Application process**

SUBMISSION

To participate in the Follower Islands programme, applications must be submitted online by **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 23:59 (CET)**. Each applicant must submit the following:

info@euislands.eu  
<https://clean-energy-islands.ec.europa.eu/>

- Application form (online form)
- Declaration of honour of each applying organization.

Please note that no other call for applications to join the programme is planned for the future.

### Application Form

The application form is composed of three main parts:

**I. Basic information on your application for participation:** List the members of the island transition team in the “*Island Transition Team profile*”. Provide basic and technical information of your island and its energy system in the “*Island profile*” and “*Island Energy System profile*”.

**II. Learning topics for capacity building:** From the following list of learning topics, choose one or more on which the island(s) transition team will join capacity building activities.

- Effective communication and capacity building strategies on energy and sustainability
- Energy efficiency and energy savings in warm climates
- Impacts from onshore and offshore wind energy
- Smart electricity systems for facilitating the decarbonization of islands: demand-side management and flexibility
- Sustainable land transport: hybrid/full electric/ hydrogen/shared mobility
- Financial schemes for renewable plants and shared ownership
- Reducing the emissions related to water supply and distribution: supply, desalination, losses minimization
- Spatial energy planning for the decarbonization of islands: methodologies, techniques and best practices
- Sustainable marine transport and the role of ports in decarbonizing energy systems
- Battery storage: available technologies, state of the market, investment, business plans

**III. Projects for peer-to-peer coaching:** Follower Islands will choose three projects of preference for which they would like to be paired with one of the 30 for 2030 islands for peer-to-peer coaching, from the following list of standardized projects. For each one of the projects the applicants will have to provide a title, the location and size of the project, its purpose, the work already carried out and the possible barriers faced.

Standardized projects:

- Clean Energy Transition Agenda (CETA) development
- Stand-alone rooftop PV
- Rooftop PV with BESS
- Land-based PV
- Land-based PV with BESS
- Onshore Wind
- Building energy efficiency retrofitting
- Electric mobility (fleet & charging infrastructure)
- Electrification of marine transport
- Hydrogen and alternative fuels for transport
- Energy Storage
- Flexibility/Demand response services

### Declaration of honour

A Declaration of honour must be signed and submitted by each applying organization to declare their compliance with all applicable national and EU-level legislation on environmental, social and health and safety aspects.

A template is available [here](#).

### EVALUATION

#### Procedure

Each application will be assessed by the secretariat to ensure that the minimum application requirements (check 3.2.2 Eligibility criteria) are met. Failure to comply with the requirements will lead to the rejection of the application. The secretariat can request clarifications on the application form or submission of additional information that can assist the assessment of the application.

Following on the first assessment, a short interview session will be held between the secretariat and the applicant's representatives. During the interview additional information can be requested from the side of the secretariat to substantiate the application.

In case of a negative outcome of the evaluation process and consequent rejection from the programme, an applicant may request an explanation in written form from the secretariat.

#### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to participate in the Follower Islands programme, the application must meet the criteria below. If one of these is not met, the application will not be evaluated.

1. Location
2. Beneficiaries
3. Timely submission
4. Non-cumulative award

### *Location*

To be eligible for participation to the programme an island must:

- Belong to one of the Member States of the European Union (EU) and/or countries participating in the LIFE programme. This means that eligible islands can belong to the Member States of the EU, the Outermost Regions (OMR) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)
- Have a maximum area of 30,000 km

The criterion applies to the actual location where the relevant clean energy transition projects will be realised. Some of the co-applicants may be based elsewhere (on the mainland or another island). However, in any case, the Follower Island programme activities must be related to the location of the applicant island.

Activities related to offshore facilities are eligible, provided that their onshore connection is located on an eligible island. Activities related to ferries and other marine transport are eligible, provided that the vessels operate among eligible islands or between an eligible island and the mainland.

### *Beneficiaries*

An application may be submitted by only one organization if this is the local governing body of the applying island. The submission of applications with the participation of **more than one stakeholder** is encouraged.

There is no limit to the number of applications per island. However, it is highlighted that only one application will be selected per island. The application that includes as applicant a local governance body representing the whole of the island will be prioritised in the evaluation.

### *Timely submission*

To be eligible for the Follower Islands call, the complete application must be submitted via the online form by November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 23:59 (CET). A confirmation email will be sent to the leading organisation email introduced on the form once it has been received.

### *Non-cumulative award*

Projects described under the peer-to-peer activities should not be already receiving support by the European Union to avoid duplication of EU funding for the same task.

### *Language*

English is the official language of the open calls. The application form and the letter(s) of commitment written in other EU languages will be evaluated after being translated into English by means of translation software by the secretariat. The secretariat is not responsible for issues or misunderstandings arising from the quality of the translation.

### *Absence of conflict of interest*

Applicants shall not have any actual or/and potential conflict of interest with the selection process or be associated with any member of the evaluation team. Any conflict of interest must be declared together with the application.