

CONFERENCE

STRENGTHENING EU ISLANDS' GRIDS AND ELECTRICITY SYSTEMS TOWARDS A 100% RENEWABLE SUPPLY

30 January 2025 | 13:30-20:00 CET | Brussels, Belgium



#CE4EUislands

Conference: Strengthening EU islands' grids and electricity systems towards a 100% renewable supply

30 Jan 2025 | 13:30 - 18:40, Followed by a networking cocktail | Brussels, Belgium [Martin's Brussels EU Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, Brussels](#)

Abstract

Electricity grids are at the heart of the sustainable and fair energy transition of EU islands, ensuring security of supply and integration of distributed renewable energy generation using local resources and involving islands stakeholders. Islands, characterised by high electricity production, transmission and distribution costs, but also abundant renewable energy resources, are the natural frontrunners in the achievement of a fully decarbonised power mix. In addition, the learnings from the management and operation of isolated systems with large shares of asynchronous generation can be of relevance for the energy transition of the whole EU.

In January 2023, the Clean energy for EU islands (CE4EUI) secretariat published a report assessing the legislative challenges for the energy transition of EU islands, providing specific recommendations for seven Member States. The key challenges facing islands across all Member States include a lack of strategic planning adjusted to island settings, spatial planning and environmental constraints, lack of involvement of local stakeholders, and grid constraints and lack of security of supply. As a follow up, in July 2024, the CE4EUI secretariat published a report on the connection policies and management of island electricity systems,¹ based on 10 island case studies, 33 interviews with DSOs, regulatory agencies and governments, and 11 national and thematic workshops. The work identifies the key challenges for island grids hosting increasing shares of renewable generation, together with a set of recommendations on the regulatory, legislative and operational level, also based on the best practices already in place in several EU islands.

After 2 days of workshops addressed to the insular stakeholders accompanied by the CE4EUI, a Policy conference organised jointly between the CE4EUI Secretariat and the CPMR will enable participants to reflect on the challenges ahead of the new EU mandate. During this conference, the CE4EUI secretariat will present the key learnings and recommendations from the recent study and the current gaps for the implementation of measures towards a 100% renewable electricity supply. The CPMR, particularly through its Islands Commission, and its members will provide their views from a regional perspective.

¹ Clean energy for EU islands secretariat, Study on connection policies and management of energy systems under conditions of asynchronous generation in the non-interconnected islands, [Link](#)

The strengthening of EU island grids and electricity systems for achieving electrification and decarbonisation will then be discussed in two panels with EU policymakers, EU organisations and representatives from island regions. The first panel will discuss the legislative framework and planning issues, and the second panel will focus on the regulatory framework and financing of the required interventions.

A first panel will be devoted to the **planning of the electrification of EU islands and will discuss the enabling legislative framework for the successful deployment of renewable energy systems and grid interventions on islands**. The smartening and digitalisation of grids to enable higher RES penetration and the realisation of new renewable power plants still face significant obstacles. This is often related to missing or outdated land use plans which give limited room for manoeuvre to local stakeholders planning to develop new renewable power plants. In such a framework, the CE4EUI Secretariat recommended that grid development plans and permitting procedures are aligned with the national, regional and/or local energy and climate plans. These and other planning needs will be discussed with EU organisations, aiming at the formulation of solicitations to the EU and national policymakers.

In a second panel, EU organisations and policymakers will contribute to the **definition of a collaborative action plan for the coming years, aimed at the modernisation and integration of EU islands grid infrastructures**. The potential of a Pact for Engagement for Island Grids will be discussed in view of the regulatory frameworks, of the needed grid interventions, and of the existing and required financing and funding mechanisms to enable the implementation of such interventions. A focus will be dedicated to those mechanisms which are nowadays not accessible to **small islands** and **remote areas**, and to the actions required to extend their scope to islands.

In both panels, EU organisations and policymakers will interact around the **policy measures to strengthen EU islands' grids and electricity systems and to finance and fund the required interventions**. The role of the EU in facilitating the implementation of such measures at the national level will also be addressed. The discussions will serve as an input to the process towards the Citizens Energy Package and the Electrification Strategy.

A **networking cocktail** will follow, aimed at strengthening the connections between the EU island stakeholders and the relevant organisations.

Agenda

13:30 – 14:00	Welcome coffee and registration
14:00-14:45	<p>Introduction: islands pioneering the way to the sustainable energy transition in the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonino Picula, Member of the European Parliament • Alejandro Ulzurrun De Asanza Y Munoz, Acting Director of Just Transition, Consumers, Efficiency and Innovation, DG ENER • Filip Reinhag, President of the CPMR and Regional Councillor at Region Gotland • Jan Cornillie, Project Coordinator, CE4EUI secretariat (3E)
14:45- 15:00	<p>Presentation of the study on connection policies and management of energy systems on islands²</p> <p>Riccardo Novo, Renewable Energy Consultant, CE4EUI secretariat (3E)</p>
15:00-16:30	<p>1st Panel discussion – Planning the electrification of islands for the 100% renewable target</p> <p><i>Discussion on the enabling legislative framework for the strategic planning and successful deployment of renewable energy systems and grid interventions on islands.</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tadhg o’Briain, Deputy Head of Unit Consumers, DG ENER • Diego Viu Dominguez, Director General of Circular Economy, Energy Transition and Climate Change, Government of the Balearic Islands • Santiago Díaz, Head of the Section for Sustainable Energy, Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias • Catarina Augusto, Senior Technical Advisor, Solar Power Europe • Diogo Vasconcelos, Project Manager in EEM’s Studies and Planning Directorate, EEM-Empresa de Electricidade de Madeira • Lucija Rakocevic, Senior Energy Consultant, Energynautics <p><i>Moderation:</i> Guglielmo Migliori, Senior Policy officer for energy, CPMR</p>
16:30-17:00	Coffee break

² CE4EUI, *Study on connection policies and management of energy systems under conditions of asynchronous generation in the non-interconnected islands*, [Link](#)

<p>17:00-18:30</p>	<p>2nd Panel discussion – A call to action for the modernisation of EU islands grid infrastructures: towards a Pact for Engagement for Island Grids <i>Discussion on the regulatory framework and on the existing and required financing and funding mechanisms to enable the implementation of grid interventions.</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stefano Lambertucci, Policy Officer, Energy and Climate Policies, DG REGIO • Filip Reinhag, President of the CPMR and Regional Councillor at Region Gotland • Joana Ferreira Rita, Regional Director for Energy, Government of Azores • Alexander Antonyuk, Energy Representative, European Investment Bank • Savannah Altvater, Head of Distribution & Market Facilitation, Eurelectric • Jean Vergnet, Project manager for non-interconnected electrical zones, Commission de régulation de l'énergie <p><i>Moderation:</i> Jan Cornillie, Project Coordinator, CE4EUI secretariat (3E)</p>
<p>18:30 – 18:40</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Helly, Policy and Project Officer, CPMR Islands Commission • Jan Cornillie, Project Coordinator, CE4EUI secretariat (3E)
<p>18:40-20:00</p>	<p>Networking cocktail</p>