Clean Energy for EU Islands

Memorandum of Collaboration

Stakeholders sessions outcomes

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Introduction

Once a year, the Clean energy for EU islands forum brings together the full range of actors involved in the clean energy transition of European islands. The 2026 edition, held in Mallorca on 20 and 21 May, gathered representatives of national and regional authorities, local and municipal authorities, utilities, system operators and technical experts, and community representatives, alongside European institutions and civil society organisations.

Four European stakeholder sessions were held during the first day of the event: National & Regional authorities and Regulators; Local authorities; Utilities, System Operators and Technical experts; and Community representatives. These sessions created a platform for representatives of the same stakeholder group from islands across Europe to exchange on common challenges and potential solutions, and to find opportunities for collaboration.

This document brings together the discussions held and conclusions reached during three of the four dedicated stakeholder sessions of the forum – namely, Local authorities; Utilities, system operators and technical experts; and Community representatives - in the form of a Memorandum of Collaboration. Each group addressed the energy transition from its own vantage point, yet the sessions pointed to a shared concern: the pace and depth of the transition on islands depend less on any single actor than on how well authorities, operators and communities are aligned with one another.

For each stakeholder group in turn, this Memorandum of Collaboration sets out the participants involved, the topics discussed, the problems identified, and the proposed approaches and actions. It closes with a set of conclusions that draw together the common threads running across the different sessions.

Preamble

The participants of the Clean energy for EU islands forum 2026, including representatives of EU island communities, regional and national authorities, European institutions, energy system operators, private sector actors, civil society organisations and experts, met in Mallorca on 20 - 21 May 2026, at the annual forum of the Clean energy for EU islands initiative, drawing on:

- personal and professional background knowledge and experience,
- the work carried out by the CE4EU islands secretariat,
- the experiences of the 30for2030 and other European islands,
- exchanges held during the forum sessions,

taking note that:

- EU islands face specific challenges for their clean energy transition,
- many island communities are already testing and implementing concrete clean energy solutions**,**
- progress depends on how effectively all stakeholders are aligned.

The participants share the following key messages and orientations emerging from the session discussions.

Context

The forum discussions highlighted the strategic role of islands as drivers of innovation in the European clean energy transition and the crucial importance of aligning all stakeholders to achieve it.

The forum brought together various actors involved in islands' energy transition, enabling exchanges across governance levels and sectors to accelerate the implementation of clean energy initiatives on EU islands.

1. Local Authorities

Participating stakeholders

Name and surname	Organisation	Country
Baraba Andreja	Pašman	Croatia
Toić Franjo	Island of Creš, Town of Creš	Croatia
Bruna Vojvodić	Pašman	Croatia
Kristjan Tamm	Vice-Mayor Saaremaa	Estonia
Panagiotis Lykourgiotis	ZAKYNTHOS FOLLOWER ISLAND, Special Consultant on EU Projects - Innovation and Technology	Greece
Angelo Parodo	Isola di San Pietro - Comune di Carloforte, Istruttore Amministrativo	Italy
Guido Grammatico	Isole Egadi	Italy
Massimo Gaetano Miraglia	Comune di Lampedusa e Linosa	Italy
Davide Cozzella	Administrative	Italy
Gaspare Inglese	Isola di Pantelleria/ Parco Nazionale dell'Isola di Pantelleria	Italy
Rienk Douma	Municipality of Vlieland, Policy Advisor Sustainability	Netherlands
Laura Scholten	Municipality of Vlieland, Policy Advisor Environment	Netherlands
Gonzalo Carreras Montes	CLUSTER DE TRANSICION ECOLO-GICA DE LES ILLES BALEARS	Spain
Eduard Escola	Menorca	Spain
Kersti Rikka	Öland/Mörbylånga kommun	Sweden

Key discussion topics

The four topics below capture the shared problem setting that emerged from the session. The orientations they point to are taken forward, in two complementary registers, in the sections that follow.

Topic 1: Distance between central governance and local communities

Problem setting:

- Energy transition regulations and frameworks (e.g., Renewable Energy Communities, REC) are often imposed through top-down approaches, generating widespread local hostility (Not In My Back Yard effects) that can extend from citizens to local decision-makers themselves.
- There is a persistent disconnection between central institutional priorities, regulatory frameworks and the concrete territorial needs and realities of island communities.
- A significant mediation gap remains between public authorities, developers, DSOs and local communities. At the same time, political decision-making tends to prioritise short-term considerations, such as electoral timelines, because the energy transition does not always generate sufficient immediate political appeal.

Topic 2: Tangibility and Transparency of the Energy Transition

Problem setting

- The benefits of the clean energy transition often remain abstract and insufficiently visible for citizens and local stakeholders.
- Institutional communication is frequently too technical and disconnected from the day-to-day implications and practical concerns of local communities.
- Transparency is often treated as a regulatory recommendation rather than as a binding operational principle integrated throughout planning, implementation and communication processes.
- Resistance to change and cultural barriers remain significant in some territories, especially where citizens lack awareness of the links between climate change, energy security and the local benefits of the transition.

Topic 3: Technical Pragmatism and Short-Term Solutions

Problem setting

- Deployment of variable renewable energy sources (VRES) is severely constrained in many islands due to local grid limitations and insufficient infrastructure capacity.
- Electrification alone cannot close the short-term systemic gap required for rapid decarbonisation.
- Decarbonisation of heating and thermal uses remains significantly behind progress achieved in the electricity sector.
- Urban and land-use planning constraints often slow down project development.

Topic 4: Municipal Capacity, Financing and Local Delivery Structures

Problem setting

- Municipalities face difficulties in financing and implementing local energy transition projects.
- Limited technical capacity and insufficient human resources reduce the ability of municipalities to lead and manage transition processes.
- Conflicts of interest between stakeholders and different planning timelines hinder coordination and delay implementation. Some actors, such as DSOs, do not always proactively align planning with local needs.

From shared problems to collaborative action

The problems and orientations above are shared across the pan-European island community, even though local needs, regulatory frameworks and starting points differ widely. For this reason, the session did not produce binding follow-up actions assigned to specific bodies. Instead, the orientations that emerged are expressed below in two complementary registers: replicable local actions that local and regional authorities can take forward and support one another in pursuing, and initiatives that can be facilitated at European level to carry local intentions towards higher governance and a wider audience.

Replicable local actions (bottom-up)

Statements of intent that local and regional authorities can take forward directly and replicate across territories:

- Inverting the operational paradigm from top-down to bottom-up, building local dialogue and social acceptance from the ground up rather than relying solely on central mechanisms.
- Creating or formalising a dedicated mediation role, a local facilitator who connects developers, authorities and citizens around a project, translates technical and regulatory information into plain terms, and helps build trust and shared ownership, especially where communities have limited capacity to engage on their own. Adopting transparency as a core operational principle throughout the energy transition process, including planning, evaluation and communication activities. For example, publicly disclosing, regularly, the revenues and territorial compensation received from local renewable energy installations, including how these resources are reinvested into the territory.
- A common, voluntary reporting template enabling municipalities to disclose revenues and territorial compensation from local renewable installations on a comparable basis.
- Structuring communication and implementation as a phased sequence: territorial planning; information campaigns explaining impacts and benefits; and the launch of first projects supported by visible local "success stories".
- Making projects tangible before physical deployment through practical visualisation and engagement tools such as open days, pilot initiatives and 3D visualisation.
- Applying the energy-efficiency-first principle in local decision-making and pursuing phased, technically realistic transition pathways — prioritising efficiency and progressive electrification before deploying additional large-scale VRES capacity.
- Strengthening citizen-engagement strategies focused on concrete economic and social benefits, using frontrunner municipalities and successful local examples to support replication.
- Setting up dedicated local or regional energy support structures providing continuous, multi-thematic support to municipalities and communities, beyond isolated project-based approaches.
- Reinforcing public–private partnerships supporting the development and management of local energy assets and infrastructure.
- Replicating practical implementation models such as energy performance contracting for public infrastructure, including street lighting, drawing on existing documented experiences.

Multi-level initiatives

Directions that can be facilitated and steered as a catalyst for local intentions — carried towards higher levels of governance and a European audience, without delivering the work itself.

- A permanent dialogue platform between competent ministries and island authorities, dedicated to islands' clean energy transition needs, ensuring continuous and structured coordination beyond ad-hoc consultations.
- Exchange of experiences from 30for2030 and other pilot territories.
- Structured, continuous coordination linking regulation, territorial planning and local social acceptance, supporting a more organic and participatory governance model.
- Integration of energy planning into regional and urban planning, carried out at higher levels of governance and for a European audience, beyond the reach of individual local authorities.
- Shared guidance on the decarbonisation of heating and thermal uses, an area noted as lagging significantly behind progress in the electricity sector.
- Dissemination of national and regional initiatives and funding opportunities relevant to municipalities.

- Best practices of municipal-level business models drawn from experience across the CE4EU Islands Initiative.

Nature of the Memorandum

This document reflects the main points raised during the stakeholder alignment session of the Clean Energy for EU Islands Forum 2026. It is intended as a record of the discussions and as a statement of shared collaboration; it does not constitute a formal or binding commitment.

2. Utilities, System Operators and Technical Experts

Participating stakeholders

Organisation	Country
Redox One	Switzerland
Emergya Wind Technologies	Spain
Red Eléctrica TSO	Spain
Endesa DSO	Spain
Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies (CSIC-UIB)	Spain
Arrecife Energy Systems	Spain
VAT Portugal	Portugal
Empresa de Eletricidade da Madeira	Portugal
Técnico Lisboa	Portugal
Tri Energy	Netherlands
S.MED.E Pantelleria	Italy
Politecnico di Milano	Italy
BluEnergy	Italy
Enel DSO	Italy
Dundalk Institute of Technology	Ireland
PPC Group	Greece
DEDDIE /HEDNO DSO	Greece
Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving	Greece
Energy Pool	France
HDF Energy	France
HOPS TSO	Croatia
University of Aruba	Aruba

Key discussion topics

Horizontal topic: Regulatory framework

Problem setting

- Larger islands have the technical means to address increasing renewable energy (RE) integration. However, attention from the central governments to the island context is needed.
- There is increasing economic motivation to invest in RE due to the competitive levelized cost of energy (LCOE) of renewable power plants compared to conventional systems. However, there is a coordination gap among national policymakers, energy regulators, and local/regional authorities due to difficulties in understanding the specific limitations of project development on islands, creating delays in the development of renewable energy projects.

Suggested approaches/solutions

- Promote regulatory frameworks tailored to the specific island conditions.
- Enhance the capacity and knowledge of regulators on island specificities and economic benefits.
- Establish a dedicated “team/Directorate” for island systems at the national level (policy makers and regulatory authorities).

- Promote the creation of permanent collaboration platforms, targeted to the island context, where policymakers, regulators, system operators, market players and academia may exchange knowledge, build capacity and work together to deliver solutions.
- Establish coordination mechanisms between policymakers & energy regulators and local/regional authorities.

Topic 1: Energy storage systems

Problem setting

- In certain cases, there is no regulatory framework to (financially) support the development of energy storage systems.
- In some fully unbundled island electricity markets, distribution system operators (DSOs) are not allowed to own and manage energy storage systems, resulting in practical limitations in strategic planning in terms of siting, sizing and management of the assets.
- On the other hand, in some extremely remote island electrical systems, energy storage systems are owned and operated by local system operators. In those cases, market entry to storage solutions is almost impossible for other market participants such as private operators of renewable energy installations.
- Moreover, the development of energy storage systems is limited in some islands at low and medium voltage, which can provide local voltage support and solve grid congestion problems.
- In sum, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for island energy systems that vary in size and in geographic, economic and topological characteristics.

Suggested approach/solution

- Tailor-made legal and regulatory framework to support storage solutions in islands, defining design parameters (such as sizing and location, remuneration for energy transfer, provision for ancillary services) as well as lifecycle performance, safety, sustainability, and total cost of ownership, alongside upfront investment costs, and including roles and responsibilities, defining tasks of the local system operators and market participants.
- Targeted grid assessment studies per island system defining the adequate dimensioning, sizing and location.
- Storage solutions should be assessed according to the operational requirements of each island system, including the potential role of long-duration energy storage, hybrid storage solutions, and thermal energy storage in supporting renewable integration, resilience, and energy security.
- Utilities need new services that can respond to a changing system, facing new situations that are difficult to predict. Specifically:
    - Support for utilities to adapt to a more dynamic system operation while integrating new services by defining technical requirements and local control capabilities with adequate parameters.
    - Pumped-hydro energy storage should be explored as an adequate solution when water resources are available. Complementarity to battery energy storage systems should also be considered.

Follow-up actions

- National legislation facilitating storage solutions:
    - Operational perspective: use for energy transfer.
    - Economic perspective: investment incentives in storage solutions.

- Adaptive economic models to islands' characteristics: correlation of investment incentives and remuneration schemes to the specific conditions of each island. For instance, smaller islands face high transportation and maintenance costs.

Topic 2: Control, monitoring and observability of electrical systems

Problem setting

- In transmission or distribution grids on islands, large integration of micro and small renewable energy systems may lead to voltage and frequency problems, lack of observability, and controllability.
- On most island electrical systems, there is a lack of observability and controllability of small existing renewable power plants. A large volume of small renewable power plants requires properly tuned power forecasting tools.
- Increasing the integration of distributed renewable energy sources (RES) on island systems can lead to power quality control issues, including harmonic distortion propagation and voltage unbalance, due to very low local short-circuit powers.

Suggested approach/solution

- Reactive power/voltage and active power/voltage embedded control approaches used by the power converters to mitigate overvoltage on the distribution feeders.
- Exploitation of existing local telecommunication infrastructures to support monitoring and control.
- Increased interconnections between islands and the mainland where appropriate.
- Solutions at the transmission level by investing in the development of transmission assets such as synchronous compensators.
- Installation of control and monitoring solutions on existing renewable power plants.
- Renewable power forecasting tools for utilities and energy companies to manage the thermal generation portfolio.

Follow-up actions

- Build capacity to cover the areas where renewable power plants are installed with a commercial telecommunication solution and promote modernisation of telecommunication infrastructures as a precondition for grid digitalisation.
- Ensure that DSOs have access to data from generation and storage plants, including those that are privately owned.

Topic 3: Economic/market conditions

Problem setting

- Generation assets are very distributed because renewable sources are distributed by nature, and micro and small generation units are associated with customers spread across the grid.
- Investments in RES are done in isolation and need to be done by looking at the wider context of the system, storage solutions and ancillary services.
- Social acceptance and fair and competitive access to renewable resources and related services are still in early stages. Particularly for small, isolated systems, social (citizen) acceptance is crucial for developing grids and/or RES.

Suggested approach/solution

- Flexibility-first procurement: Procure the missing services before or alongside new RES, together with load response: ramping, voltage control, congestion relief, and black-start.
- Renewable-plus-storage auctions: Award contracts to portfolios of solar/wind plants together with battery systems.
- Social contract for the transition with visible benefits: lower bills over time, reduced fuel imports, cleaner air, resilience during storms, local employment, and citizen participation.

Follow-up actions

- Design a RES + storage tender with mandatory ancillary services capabilities.
- Update grid codes for smart inverters, storage, EV chargers and prosumer export control.
- Create a citizen/community benefit framework before project siting.

Topic 4: Demand-side solutions

Problem setting

- Small islands cannot support increased generation capacity and require flexible solutions.
- The legal framework is not set up for demand-side solutions.
- Demand-side solutions have high investment costs.

Suggested approach/solution

- Promote demand-side management solutions offered by different market participants.
- Enhance stakeholder engagement.
- Enhance the capacity and knowledge of policymakers on the economic benefits of demand-side solutions.
- For isolated systems, facilitate tariff regulation for island DSOs that is distinct from mainland regulation.
- Develop innovation niches: use islands as testbeds/ demonstration sites for demand-side solutions

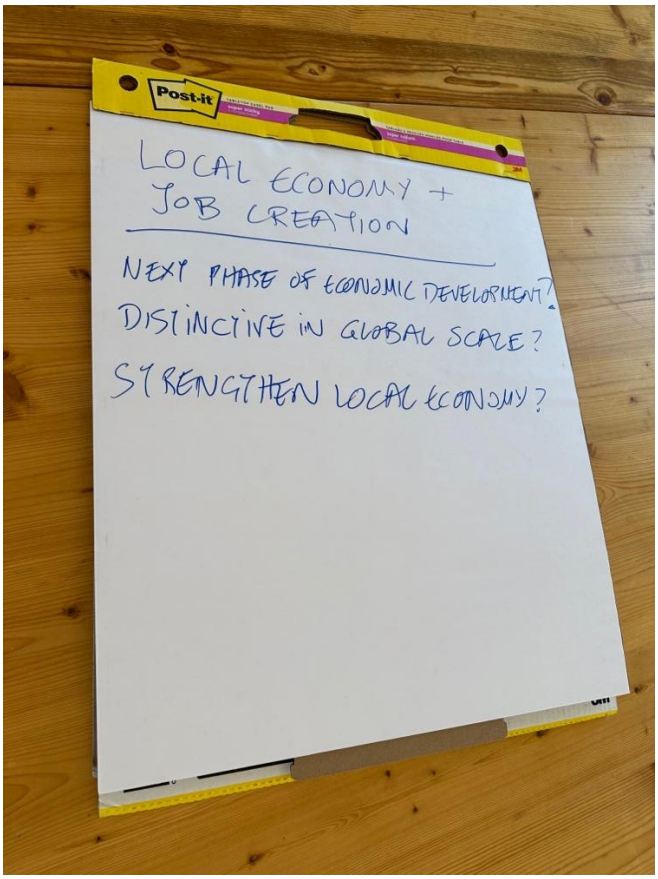
Follow-up actions

- Promote local flexibility platforms: energy communities, hotels, EV fleets, public buildings, campuses, batteries and water utilities, enabling facilities with high and predictable demand (including heating and cooling) to provide flexibility services to the DSO.
- Define standard flexibility products: €/kW availability, €/MWh activation, response time, location and duration.

3. Community Representatives

Key discussion topics of the session

Theme A: Local economy and job creation



Alexis Chatzimpiros, Samsø Energy Academy

Topic 1: Human capacity and skills for island transition jobs

Problem setting

Participants highlighted that a shortage of qualified workers is a major barrier to local economic development and the creation of clean energy jobs on islands. Limited access to post-secondary and vocational training drives youth out-migration, while reliance on mainland experts increases project costs and does not build long-term local capacity.

Suggested approach/solution

Develop island-tailored skills pathways by partnering with universities and VET providers to deliver accredited hybrid/online modules linked to real island transition projects (renewables, energy efficiency, project development, community energy). Combine training with apprenticeships, return programmes for island youth, and shared talent pools across islands.

Attention should also be given to community energy governance skills, citizen participation processes and local energy community management capacities.

Follow-up actions

- Run a quick island skills needs assessment aligned with planned transition investments and upcoming projects.
- Identify academic/VET partners and pilot at least one accredited online/hybrid module (micro-credential) that can be taken from the island.
- Design a return/placement scheme (scholarships or traineeships) that links trained people to island employers and public projects.

Topic 2: Housing, connectivity and quality of life as enabling conditions

Problem setting

Participants noted a domino effect: even when skills exist, people will not return or relocate without adequate living conditions. Affordable long-term housing, childcare/schools, health services and reliable connectivity to the mainland are prerequisites; otherwise, islands struggle to attract/retain experts and costs rise. Solutions must be context-specific (e.g., transport governance and subsidies differ widely across islands), so one-size-fits-all approaches do not work.

Suggested approach/solution

Treat housing and basic services as enabling infrastructure for the energy transition. Develop key-worker/affordable housing initiatives (municipal land, renovation of public buildings, co-operative models, incentives for long-term rentals) and improve transport and digital connectivity while preserving island character. Package these measures with targeted incentives for critical roles needed to deliver transition projects.

Participants stressed that clean energy transition policies cannot succeed if broader territorial sustainability and demographic resilience are neglected.

Follow-up actions

- Define a minimum liveability or habitability baseline checklist for energy transition delivery (housing availability, transport reliability, digital connectivity, essential services).
- Collect and share good practice examples on key-worker housing and long-term rental schemes suitable for islands.
- Engage relevant authorities on transport and service provision to secure predictable funding and avoid last-minute capacity gaps.

Topic 3: Mobilising remote workers and newcomers for local value creation

Problem setting

Remote work has increased interest in living on islands, but newcomers/expats often remain outside the local economy beyond spending, and their professional skills are underused. At the same time, some islands face pressure from too many people (housing affordability, seasonality), so integration must avoid displacement and ensure local benefit.

Suggested approach/solution

Create lightweight mechanisms to connect remote workers and external experts with local needs: a skills registry, mentoring, and expert-in-residence schemes supporting municipalities, SMEs, and island transition teams. Use co-working/community hubs as entry points for collaboration and encourage local procurement and value chains to ensure inclusive governance and community benefit.

Integration mechanisms should also strengthen social cohesion and meaningful participation in local community life to avoid the emergence of parallel social structures between residents and newcomers.

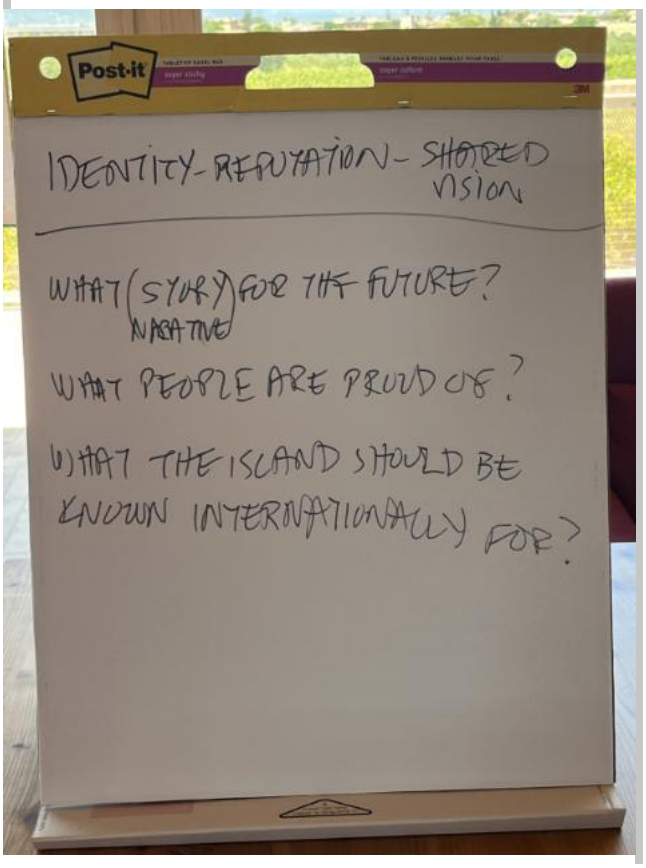
Follow-up actions

- Pilot an Island Talent Exchange (onboarding plus skills/needs matching) that offers short advisory assignments for local public projects and SMEs.
- Set up a local skills/offer database and a simple pathway for newcomers to contribute (mentoring, volunteering, project clinics).
- Monitor housing and social impacts and define safeguards so remote-work growth strengthens, rather than distorts, the local economy.

Suggested Cross-cutting Recommendations

- Strengthen island-specific workforce and transition planning at regional and national level.
- Improve coordination between clean energy policies and territorial cohesion policies.
- Support island-tailored training and micro-credential schemes linked to local transition projects.
- Recognise affordable housing and basic services as strategic infrastructure for island resilience.
- Develop mechanisms to better integrate newcomers and remote workers into local island economies and community life.
- Promote community-led transition models and local energy communities as drivers of local value creation.

Theme 2: Identity – Reputation – Shared vision



Alexis Chatzimpiros, Samsø Energy Academy

Topic 1: Pressure from tourism and demographics

Problem setting

Islands have strong local identities and reputations rooted in their unique characteristics. At the same time, the demographic challenge and the lack of new jobs, along with the increasing number of houses used only part of the year, alter the island's society and local identity. Maintaining a shared, solid vision for the future becomes more challenging as local human resources and capacity weaken.

Suggested approach/solution

- Special circumstances call for special and local solutions.
- We want to encourage, insist on and support sustainable natural beauty, wildlife and a good life on islands.
- Discuss the island's identity.
- A shared vision can lead to a good plan for the future.

Follow-up actions

- Rethink the approach to tourism, as tensions from traditional tourism also challenge identity, while eco-tourism is a word with inflation, almost greenwashing.
- Encourage the definition of a landscape that works for residents and reflects future needs. It includes human, cultural, environmental, climate, nature and other aspects that will derive from a democratic process.

- Once a shared vision and a plan for the future are agreed locally, work with all competent authorities, also on the mainland whenever relevant. It is important that the administration responds constructively to prevent the plan from hitting walls and restrictions. Aim for an attitude along the lines of “maybe this way is not possible, what if you did it this way?”.

Topic 2: Independence

Problem setting

“Every time we import 1 MWh of energy, or other, we export some sovereignty and identity”.

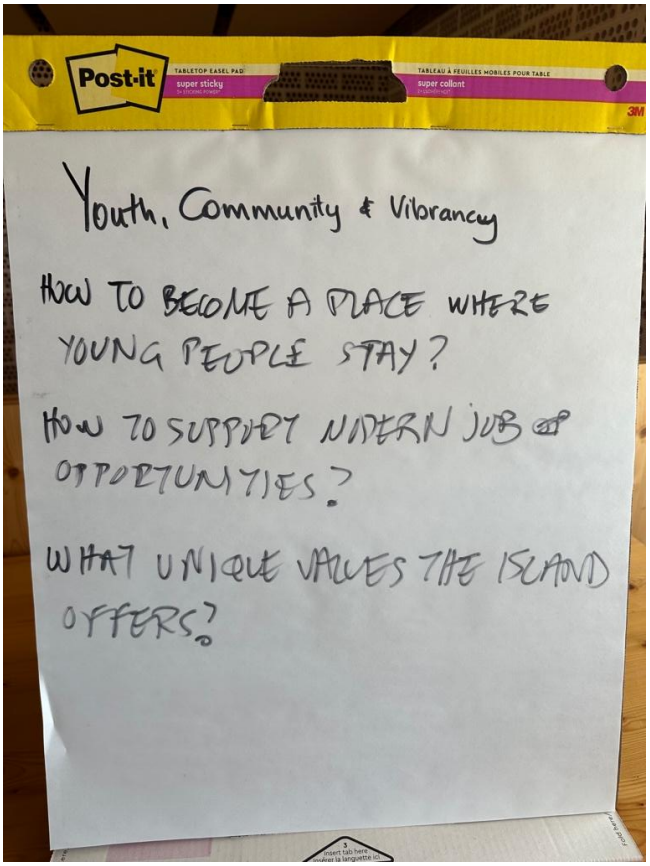
Suggested approach/solution

- Independence is a strong identity for islanders. It’s an integrated identity that islanders have – sovereignty is key.
- Local interests and needs are solved with local solutions.
- The notion of piracy is interesting in the sense that sometimes islands make demands on their own terms and do not just take what the administration or bureaucracy defines for them.
- The sovereign and independent identity is supported by an almost anarchist way of doing the best actions to support islanders’ interests and needs – even if local solutions may have to challenge business as usual and mainstream regulation.
- Play with governance: islands are minorities and must be protected.

Follow-up actions

- Develop an energy community democracy: We must work on blended ways of democracy – being an island and a part of a country calls for different approaches to democratic decisions.
- Ask for regulatory sandboxes: Our conditions make our options for action different from those on the mainland. Other rules to “play in” are relevant to support common needs and interests.

Theme 3: Youth community and vibrancy



Alexis Chatzimpiros, Samsø Energy Academy

Topic 1: Condition of housing stock

Problem setting

The housing stock on islands is often in bad condition. There is a lack of available housing, also due to seasonality. Refurbishing houses is too expensive, and paying upfront is a major barrier for islanders, while securing a loan is hard; banks are reluctant to finance smaller-scale, higher-cost projects.

Suggested approach/solution

- One size does not fit all; islands need special policies.
- Government should make it easier for people to refurbish homes.
- Need for public money serving as a guarantee for a community to raise grants for community projects, such as an 'island bank' or an island guarantee fund.

Follow-up actions

- Plan for future housing.
- Study examples of guaranteed schemes for financing local projects, e.g. Samsø.

Topic 2: Attractiveness for full-time residents

Problem setting

Lack of jobs and incentives for young people to return and/or new families to move to the island and work all year round, which results in a decreasing population.

Suggested approach/solution

- Focus on the strong sense of history, strong closeness to nature, the connection to the land and the place to turn constraints into advantages.
- Remind that living on the island comes with a sense of having a meaningful contribution to island life to attract new families.
- Invest in good connectivity to make remote working possible from the island.
- Enhance structural support and more initiatives to create businesses.
- Advocate for appropriate central decentralisation policy, priority plan and investment plan.
- Support for services like ferries and secondary schools.

Follow-up actions

- A campaign to attract new families with a focus on the special island conditions related to culture, language, innovative spirit, resilience, pride in island local identity, diversity, and language that make islanders feel stronger from the resourcefulness of the place.
- Maintain social life on the island by all means.
- Conduct impact assessments of policies and give feedback to enhance local opportunities.
- Organise training schemes for young people, e.g. summer camps can attract people from the mainland who will get to know island life.
- Set up language courses and training schemes on cultural heritage.
- Connect with other islands across the EU to strengthen the feeling of a European island family.

Conclusions

The European stakeholder sessions of the Forum 2026 examined the island energy transition across different scales, from national regulation to local delivery and community life. Read together, they point to a small number of shared conclusions.

Alignment across governance levels remains the central challenge. Local authorities, utilities and communities each described, in their own terms, a persistent gap between where decisions are made and where the transition is delivered. Closing this gap calls less for new competences than for structured, continuous coordination between the levels that already exist.

The transition succeeds or stalls on its tangibility. Across all groups, participants returned to the idea that clean energy must be visible, explained in plain terms, and connected to concrete local benefit, whether through transparent reporting of revenues, pilot projects, or campaigns that link the transition to jobs and quality of life.

Islands cannot be treated as small versions of the mainland. Their technical, financial, and social conditions differ sufficiently that tailored regulatory frameworks, dedicated support structures, and island-specific solutions for storage, grid management, and demand response are needed, rather than adaptations of mainland rules.

Finally, the transition on islands is inseparable from the question of who lives there and how they live. Housing, skills, connectivity and a shared sense of identity were repeatedly named as preconditions for the transition rather than side issues, and community representatives in particular stressed that energy policies alone, without these enabling conditions, are unlikely to hold.

This memorandum does not create binding commitments. It records the orientations that emerged from the Forum 2026 and offers a shared basis for the CE4EU Islands Initiative, its participants, and the wider European audience to take these directions forward, whether through local action or through initiatives carried to higher levels of governance.