



15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EUROPEAN SMALL ISLANDS FEDERATION

AGM 2015

MINUTES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

BENGT ALMKVIST	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE SWEDISH ARCHIPELAGO
ANETTÉ LARM JOHANSSON	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE SWEDISH ARCHIPELAGO
ANNA-KARIN UTBULT ALMKVIST	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE SWEDISH ARCHIPELAGO
EVA WIDLUND	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE SWEDISH ARCHIPELAGO
LENNART ANDERSSON	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE SWEDISH ARCHIPELAGO
CAMILLE DRESSLER	SCOTTISH ISLAND FEDERATION
DENIS BREDIN	ASSOCIATION LES ILES DE PONANT, FRANCE
PIA PROST	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FINISH ISLANDS
MICAELA JANSSON	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FINISH ISLANDS
CHRISTIAN PLEIJEL	FÖRETAGSAM SKÄRGÅRD, ÅLAND
DORTHE WINTHER	ASSOCIATION OF DANISH SMALL ISLANDS
LISE THILLEMANN SØRENSEN	ASSOCIATION OF DANISH SMALL ISLANDS
ELEFThERIOS KECHAGIOGLOU	PRESIDENT HELLENIC SMALL ISLAND NETWORK (HSIN)
MARIA KAMMA	MAYOR OF TILOS ISLAND VICEPRESIDENT HSIN
FOTIOS MAGGOS	MAYOR OF LIPSOI ISLANDS BM HSIN
GEORGIOS VASSILOPOULOS	X.MAYOR OF ITHACA BM HSIN
DIONISIOS STANITSAS	MAYOR OF ITHACA V PRESIDENT HSIN
SPYRIDON FARDELLOS	VICEMAYOR OF SPETSES ISLAND BM HSIN
ELENI PANAGI	MAYOR OF CHALKI ISLAND BM HSIN
DR. IOANNIS SPILANIS	UNIVERSITY OF AEGEAN
DR. MARIA LEKAKOU	UNIVERSITY OF AEGEAN
GEORGIOS REMOUNDOS	UNIVERSITY OF AEGEAN
KONSTANTINOS VLACHOS	MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMY
EVAGGELIA PAPANATHANASI	ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
SOTIRIOS PAKONSTANTINOY	SECRETARY HSIN
NIKI KALAMATHIANOY	SECRETARY HSIN
GEORGIOS ASSONITIS	TECH. ADV INSULEUR
GEORGIOS BENETOS	PRESIDENT INSULEUR
ANTONIO DEMENEGAS	MAYOR OF KEA ISLAND
PARASKEVI DEMENEGA	HSIN
SPYRIDON ARGYROS	V MAYOR MATHRAKI ISLAND
ANDREAS KARAGIORGIS	PRESIDENT. PSARA ISLAND ASSOC.
SAKIS ELISAIOY	PRESIDENT OF INTER ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY
MARGARITA KARAVASILI	PRESIDENT CIS D COMMUNICATION COMPANY
NIKOLAOS MICHALITSIS	COMMUNICATION COMPANY
NIKOLAOS KAMPANIS	DIR. DEPRT. RESEARCH ITE
GIAN ANDREA PAOLO GARANCINI	TECHN CONSULT

ELENI INIOTAI	ADVISOR ETAM
LISA PAPATHANASSI	
REPRESS.	MUNICIPALITY OF KASTELLORIZO ISLAND
REPRESS.	MUNICIPALITY OF KASTELLORIZO ISLAND
MICHAEL ACHLANDIOTIS	VICE MAYOR OF MEGISTI ISLAND
MEMBER OF	TILOS ISLAND
REPRESS.	FROM PREFECTURE SOUTH AEGEAN
JONATHAN STEFANO	PRESS RADIO KASTELLORIZO

WEDNESDAY 23RD of September, EVENING

Due to the delays caused by the weather situation, the programme was changed and point 7e and the AGM theme on 'Blue Growth' Theme was discussed Wednesday evening.

1) Welcome and opening of board meeting

Bengt Almkvist, Sweden, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 15th ESIN Annual General Meeting in Greece.

7e) Proposal for INTERREG Europe Entrepreneurship programme. See attached PP.

Denis Bredin, France, presented the ideas for a new EU INTERREG EUROPE programme focussing on Entrepreneurship, as a way to fund the work programme decided upon at last year's AGM in Sant' Antiocco, Italy.

The aim of the project is to look at the determining factors for sustainable economic growth on small islands, with the first 3 years looking at examples of good and bad practice in entrepreneurship to produce an analysis of such factors in a number of sectors.

The last two years of the project would be devoted to exchanges and training.

AIP (Association des Iles du Ponant) would be the lead partner in the project under ESIN's umbrella. Considered to be a public body, AIP would be eligible for 85% funding, with the remaining 15% to be shared amongst the participating ESIN members. The members' share of the 15% could be in the shape of staff time.

The French proposal was discussed in the conference panel. It was decided to go along with the project and suggestions were to focus the theme on either 'green jobs' (waste management, green tourism, etc.), or the social economy which would include looking at economic and social benefits as well as environmental benefits. The decision on which focus to choose should be made in the preparation of the project.

*Deadline for the commitment as partner is **end of October 2015.***

Funding application would require to be completed by early 2016 – although there would still be the possibility of applying for another call later on in the year if not ready for January/February 2015.

AGM theme - Blue Growth issue:

(Presentations on the Blue Growth theme will be distributed by Eleftherios Kachagioglou).

Insularity can be turned into an asset by focussing on 'the Blue Economy' as islands have important maritime resources such as aquaculture, maritime tourism, maritime culture.

Blue Growth must be considered a tool for the development of islands (for example in achieving accessibility for small islands).

Transportation by sea as one aspect of Blue Growth was especially discussed at the AGM: Small islands depend on shipping. If there is no link to the nearest metropolitan centre, the island cannot develop. An everyday link is necessary whenever possible. The shipping link is the island's "artery of life".

An island has a right to have transportation of goods and people to and from the island and its metropolitan center.

Monopolies often exists in island transportation: a major issue is how can tariffs be controlled and how can ferry services be accessed all year round?

The theme presentations and discussions were continued Thursday morning.

THURSDAY 24th of September

In the morning, debate, presentations and discussions continued on the Blue Growth Theme. (Presentations on the Blue Growth theme will be distributed by Eleftherios Kachagioglou)

The formal agenda of the ESIN AGM was then resumed from yesterday.

Lise Thillemann Sørensen (Denmark) was elected secretary for the meeting.

1) Welcome again, **opening of the 15th AGM**

2) **Election of member to check the minutes**

Eleftherios Kechagioglou was elected to check the minutes

3) **Approval of agenda**

Agenda was adopted.

4) **Adoption of the minutes from the 14th Annual General Meeting 2014**

Minutes were adopted.

5) **Chairman's report**

(document will be forwarded by Bengt Almkvist)

6) **Treasurer's report**

(2 documents attached)

Balance sheet for 2014 was presented

It shows a loss for the year 2014 of **-2006.49** Euros due to ESIN holding the SMILEGOV project and paying the expenses for this project. The expected profit of the SMILEGOV project is a plus of about 3000 Euros (to be paid early 2016)

HSIN expects to pay 2500 Euros to ESIN during Oct. /Nov. 2015 (membership fee and service fees from earlier years since Greece joined ESIN in 2006)

Auditor's report was read out aloud and adopted by the annual meeting.

Treasurer's report was adopted by the annual meeting.

The annual meeting grants the ESIN board full discharge for the year 2014.

7) **Annual general work plan.**

a) SMILEGOV preliminary final reports

Christian Pleijel presented the results of the project for the ESIN cluster (*Presentation attached*).

Camille Dressler presented the Scottish results of the SMILEgov project (*Presentation attached*).

ESIN cluster SMILEGOV. The project is ending September 30 but will work through October to get everything finished and reported including finances.

The objectives were:

(-a) to make an energy audit, calculate emissions and define what actions could be taken.

(-b) to make islands join the Pact of islands.

(-c) to create an financial surplus in ESIN.

What we have accomplished: We have made energy plans/gone through planning (being an island on sub-municipality level means you do not have the jurisdiction and the means to plan most infrastructure) on 11 islands and engaged 2 sub-clusters (AIP/France and Otocni Sabor/Croatia).

We have created a positive balance of 3,700€ for ESIN.

Interesting findings: Besides the Island Sustainable Energy Action Plans and the processes to make these (both valuable for the islands), the ESIN SMILEGOV project has introduced a “technical description” for island populations involved, and has demonstrated that ferry fuel is ½ to 1/3 of an island’s energy use, and that islands are much energy-efficient than the European mainland average which is 28,439 kWh/person/year. (see graph attached for five islands.)

b) SEAGULL project

SEAGULL is a continuation of SMILEGOV project, aiming to a/reduce the daily energy consumption of islanders through tools, services, products and methods; b/ intervene in everyday behaviour and c/ reduce private energy consumption that goes into heating/cooling, electricity, water management and transports.

Time Plan: 30 months. Starting December 2015/January 2016

Coordinator: Innova Spa, Italy

Partners: Samsö Energy Academy, Aegean Energy Agency (Syros), Tenerife Energy Agency (Tenerife, La Graciosa), Energy Agency Iceland (Heimaey), Energy Service Bornholm, Regional Development Fund Crete, Cabildo de Lanzarote, Community Energy Scotland (Orkney) and ESIN.

ESIN's role:

(a) a learning partner

(b) Dissemination to islanders, intermediaries, public authorities, ESIN islands, general public, scientific/energy experts

Budget: Total 1,3 MEUR

ESIN Personnel 71,050 euro

Travel 8,800 euro

Other 10,000 euro

Indirect 25%, flat rate 22,462 euro

Sum 112,312 euro

There is 100% EU funding for this project.

We will know in November 2015 if the project is accepted by the EU.

c) Eco-islands and sustainable communities (EI &SC) Global Summit 2015

(presentation attached)

Camille Dressler presented the origins of the EI &SC Global summit and the issues it is concerned with, such as minimizing the impact of tourism on the environment, the retention of population –especially the young, and the development of renewal energy

systems. Community Energy Scotland will be the ESIN representative at the summit. Felix Wight as the European delegate selected by SIF and approved by ESIN needs a mandate from ESIN within the next month.

Scotland proposes to have the ESIN AGM 2017 in parallel with the next EC & SC Global summit as it is currently campaigning for it to take place in the Orkney Islands. Proposal for ESIN 2017 theme: Sustainable transport.

d) Entrepreneurship project was presented yesterday (Wednesday 24th) ESIN is grateful for the work of the AIP so far and wishes to thank the French organisation.

e) EU Champion Pledge

The Champion pledge was created in 2012. We need to revise it and push it forward again at EU level as well as on local authority levels.

Territorial cohesion must stay in focus.

8) Proposals at the AGM

Dorthe Winther, Denmark proposes that every second year the AGM should take part in Brussels. To allow for more ESIN members to attend the AGM, and at the same time have opportunity to take contact to MEPs. Proposal was accepted.

9) Budget for 2016.

Decision on budget is given to the board.

10) Annual membership fee and service fee 2016.

It was decided to retain a membership fee of 250 Euros in 2015.

11) ESIN secretariat agreement.

Denmark accepts to hold the ESIN secretary on the level it is now. ESIN expressed appreciation on the work of the Danish Association.

12) Membership application: Poland and Gozo

The applications were discussed separately and the statements from Ireland (absent from AGM) were read out aloud.

The application from Poland was dismissed on the grounds that the islands concerned are rather large, connected to the mainland by bridges (motorways) and the application does not come from a community organisation, but from an academic person.

The application from Gozo was discussed. Concerns were about the size of the island and the organisation's relationship to the Gozo local government. More information is required before a decision can be made, and the final decision will be left to the ESIN board when it is received.

13) Election of ESIN board members - and substitutes

Each member is entitled to one board member and one nominated substitute. The following persons were elected ESIN board members for 2015/2016.

	Board member	Substitute
Denmark	Dorthe Winther	Eva Terkelsen
Croatia	Denis Barić,	Goran Grguričin
Estonia	<i>to be announced</i>	
Finland	Micaela Jansson	Julia Ajanko

ESIN thanked Pia Prost for her work in the ESIN board

France	Bruno Noury	Denis Bredin
Greece	Eleftherios Kechagioglou	Maria Kamma
Ireland	John Walsh	Rhoda Twombly
Italy	<i>to be announced</i>	
Scotland	Camille Dressler	Sandy Brunton
Sweden	Bengt Almkvist	Anetté Larm Johansson
Aaland	Christian Pleijel	Kent Eriksson

14) Election of president and vice presidents

Camille Dressler stepped down after her three years serving as vice president, representing islands in the West (according to the decision from AGM 2014, which set up 3 rotating vice chairs serving for 3 years, representing North, West and South). *ESIN thanked Camille Dressler for her work during the past three years.*

As vice-presidents the following were elected:

From the north: Christian Pleijel, continuing in his second year

From the west: John Walsh, elected for the next three years

From the South: Eleftherios Kechagioglou, elected for the next three years

Bengt Almkvist was elected as president.

15) Appointment of auditor

Kurt Olsson, Sweden, was elected as auditor.

16) Economic authorization

Anetté Larm Johansson (Sweden) was re-elected treasurer. The AGM agreed that the treasurer, Anetté Larm Johansson CPR: [REDACTED] is authorized to sign the economic matters for ESIN.

17) Final resolution from the 15th annual general meeting.

See below.

18) Next annual general meetings of ESIN: 2016 and 2017.

The proposition of having every second AGM meeting in Brussels was discussed and agreed in principle, with final decision given to the board for AGM 2016 and 2017.

19) Close of Annual General Meeting.

Bengt Almkvist declared the AGM closed.

Island of Kastelorizo, Greece

24th of September 2015

Bengt Almkvist
Chairman

Eleftherios Kechagioglou
Elected to check the
minutes

Lise Thillemann Sørensen
Secretary



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RESOLUTION from the ESIN 15th AGM

Blue Growth offers a tremendous potential for the islands, not only in Greece but for other islands and coastal areas of Europe. It is an excellent programme to help the smaller islands in particular develop integrated strategies with specific goals to combat economic and social decline in innovative ways and respond to the challenges of climate change.

Improved connectivity in particular is essential for the development and survival of island communities with an all-year population. Island connectivity should therefore be considered equal to land-based connectivity as small islands require public, secure and stable transport on a regular basis and all year round.

However for the Blue Growth programme to succeed, there is a vital need to involve local actors and stakeholders at grass roots level. Thus, ferry and air transport must respond to the needs of island populations and other users and consult them.

Blue Growth will also need to be supported by political will at all levels, and Konstantinos Vlachos from the Greek Ministry of Economy and Development indicated that the new programme favoured the use of an intermediate managing authority that would give island municipalities and other partnerships such as NGOs the role they deserve to make it a success in the framework of integrated territorial investment.

Blue Growth addresses the issue of territorial cohesion, which is crucial for the promotion of economic and social well-being on islands, as per Article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty. This issue which ESIN keeps championing, must not be put aside by the current EU crisis.