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Network of Sustainable Aegean & Ionian Islands

aegean energy agency
THE SUPPORTING ORGANISATION FOR GREEK ISLANDS

NEWSLETTER

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF DAFNI NETWORK AND AEGEAN ENERGY AGENCY RELATED TO THE PROMOTION OF SMART ISLANDS

**VOLUME 1
AUGUST 2016**

EVENTS

THE 1ST SMART ISLANDS FORUM HELD IN ATHENS

The 1st Smart Islands Forum was hosted in Athens on 21 and 22 June at the initiative of the DAFNI Network of Sustainable Aegean and Ionian Islands and the Aegean Energy Agency. The Forum, supported by the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Covenant of Mayors Office gathered representatives of island local and regional authorities and actors from 13 countries, namely Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands



and the UK. The Forum was a bottom-up process offering island local and regional authorities the chance to mature the Smart Islands Initiative, which comes as a continuation of years of collaboration among European islands with the support of the European Union. The Smart Islands Initiative, inspired by the Smart Cities and Communities initiative, represents an excellent opportunity for island authorities to devise a place-based, transformative development agenda that taps into islands' competitive advantages, generates local growth and prosperity, and helps the EU meet the goals it has set in a number of policy areas, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, innovation, circular economy, sustainable transport and mobility. [Read more](#)

THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE VISITS THE ISLAND OF KYTHNOS

On Tuesday 17 June a team of seven representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) visited Kythnos in the framework of the Committees' initiative "Smart Islands in Europe". The visit was organized with the assistance of DAFNI Network of Sustainable Aegean and Ionian Islands and the Aegean Energy Agency. Kythnos was selected for it exhibits a successful track record of innovative pilot projects for the production of energy from RES but also in light of the, currently under development, Master Plan that promotes Kythnos as smart island. Prior to Kythnos, EESC



representatives visited five different islands across Europe in order to collect best practices in the fields of energy, water, waste and tourism flow management, to be used for the publication of a Guide. The Guide aims to highlight



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the comparative advantages of islands in implementing such practices and will be disseminated across all EU islands, European institutions and relevant organizations. [Read more](#)

DAFNI NETWORK PRESENTS SMART GRIDS PROJECT ON GREEK ISLANDS AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 22 June DAFNI Network was invited to participate in the event “Towards Sustainable Energy Sectors in Central and South East Europe: Success Stories” hosted by Member of the European Parliament Claude Turmes and co-organized by CEPS and the Greek Energy Forum. The objective of the event was to present the Manifesto on ["Driving the regional cooperation forward in the Energy Union – South-Eastern Europe: more than just a gas corridor, a battery for Europe"](#), signed by fifteen Members of the European Parliament. Further, five organizations from the region, including DAFNI Network, were selected to present their solutions for transforming the region's energy sectors through green innovation. [Read more](#).



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “PORTS, MARITIME TRANSPORT & INSULARITY: BUSINESS, INNOVATION, ENVIRONMENT”

The incorporation of smart technologies and policies in port infrastructure, maritime transport and logistics and the tangible benefits for island territories were the key topics discussed during the high-level conference held on 10-11 March in Piraeus, Greece. The conference gave an overview of the state of play in Mediterranean vis-à-vis Northern European ports and the measures the former must put in place to increase their efficiency and competitiveness, also in light of growing global trade shifts. Moreover, taking stock of developments in the technology and policy fronts, the conference shed light on islands' potential to function as test-beds for smart shipping and port infrastructure, by fully exploiting their significant renewable energy sources and benefiting from effective port management tools. According to Ilias Efthymiopoulos, Director General of the Aegean Energy Agency “the development of smart infrastructures and processes in both continental and island ports and the cutting-technologies replacing fossil fuels in maritime transport including LNG and electricity, provide an excellent opportunity for concrete, sustainable development in a dynamic sector of the (Greek) economy that should not be wasted”. [Read more](#)



WORKSHOP ON ISLANDS, INNOVATION AND GREEK-GERMAN COOPERATION

Innovation, local development and new financing tools were key words that dominated the discussions held during the 2-day workshop “Islands as test beds for innovative sustainable energy technologies”, organized by the Aegean Energy Agency and the Network of Sustainable Aegean and Ionian Islands – DAFNI under the auspices of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on 9-10 November 2015 in Athens, Greece. Important driver of the discussion was the potential for Greek-German cooperation to jointly develop innovative technological packages and deploy projects on Greek islands. Participants represented a wide range of organizations and companies including: the European Commission, HEDNO, PPC Renewables, the Greek Regulatory Agency for Energy, the Consignment Deposits & Loans Fund, the National Technological University of Athens, the Hellenic Institute of Electric Vehicles,





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COSMOTE, Hellenic Petroleum, the Greek – German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Athens Exchange Group, the Technological University of Crete, the Union of Hellenic Chambers, Greek island municipalities, the Municipality of Spiekeroog, the German Ministry for Economy, the Centre for Innovation and Sustainability in Tourism, the German Energy Storage Association, Intracom-Telecom, the Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies, ENTEKA wind, Fortisis, Full Charger Hellas, Eurosol Hellas, ENET S.A., Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Europe GmbH, OSRAM, Schneider-Electric, Siemens, Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Futouris, Karlsruher Institut Für Technologie (KIT), WIP Renewable Energies, Younicos AG, Innovative Lighting Systems, Philipps, Ae-Kaufmann, Smartlab Innovationsgesellschaft Mbh, Fraunhofer Energy Alliance/Fraunhofer Institute For Solar Energy Systems Ise, Bündnis Bürgerenergie (BBEn) e.V. [Read more](#)

PROJECT NEWS

SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION OF 14 PROJECT PROPOSALS

In the period between October 2015 and April 2016 the Aegean Energy Agency and DAFNI Network were involved in the submission of a total of 14 project proposals in different EU programmes including territorial cooperation programmes in the Balkan, Mediterranean and cross-border area (Interreg MED, Interreg Balkan-Med and Interreg Greece-Cyprus programmes), research and innovation (HORIZON 2020) and education programmes (Erasmus+). The proposals were submitted in collaboration with members of DAFNI Network (island regional and local authorities), renown academic institutions and companies and amount to a total budget of over 3M€, with the Agency, DAFNI and its members as direct beneficiaries.

The topics addressed include energy efficiency in public buildings, electro-mobility and sustainable mobility, traditional bioclimatic architecture, integrated management of agricultural waste, sustainable tourism, smart grid pilot demonstration, innovative and socially inclusive education activities. Overall this has proved to be a very enriching process for both organizations, allowing them to broaden their scope of work in accordance with the principles of the Smart Islands approach, deepen their expertise in different scientific fields and set up strategic partnerships with important actors in the abovementioned fields of activity.

PARTNERSHIPS

BUILDING SYNERGIES BETWEEN PACT OF ISLANDS AND COVENANT OF MAYORS INITIATIVES

The Aegean Energy Agency has been subcontracted by the Covenant of Mayors Office (CoMO) and in particular FEDARENE, member of the CoMO and umbrella organization of European Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment where AEA is a member, to deliver services to the island signatories of the Covenant of Mayors and Pact of Islands, all while creating synergies between the Pact of Islands and Covenant of Mayors initiatives. More specifically the Aegean Energy Agency is tasked with assisting in the development of support services, capacity building tools and events for Pact of Island Signatories, with the ultimate objective being the alignment of the Pact of Island commitments with the ones of the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.



Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy

AEGEAN ENERGY AGENCY BECOMES ACCREDITED PARTNER OF UNEP/MAP

With an official letter addressed by the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Coordinator Gaetano Leone to Aegean Energy Agency's Directro General Ilias Efthymiopoulos, the



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Agency's accreditation as MAP official partner is now confirmed. The decision was taken during the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 19) that took place in Athens on 9-12 February 2016. The Aegean Energy Agency was selected among a list of civil society organizations through an official application process that took place a year ago. Partnering up with UNEP/MAP will allow the Aegean Energy Agency to shed light on the role of islands in the protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea Area and its coastal regions. It will also provide the Agency with the opportunity to expand its cooperation networks with other actors in the region.



The Aegean Energy Agency's contribution will focus on deepening MAP's knowledge on Mediterranean islands, the challenges these face but also their untapped potential as test-beds for innovative technologies and policies in an array of fields including: renewable energy and energy efficiency, low-carbon transport and mobility, smart water and waste management, blue growth, the protection of natural and cultural capital, governance and participatory planning. The key priorities informing the work of UNEP/MAP in the next years are reflected in the [Athens Declaration](#) of the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during COP 19.

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