

New Energy Solutions Optimised for Islands



EUROPEAN ISLANDS FACILITY

## D7.6: Report from islands staff coaching (first part)

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Authors: R2M Solution



## Technical references

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Context

**The EU Islands Facility - NESOI (New Energy Solutions Optimised for Islands)** is a four-year Horizon 2020 project funded under the call topic LC-SC3-ES8-2019 (*European Islands Facility - Unlock financing for energy transitions and supporting islands to develop investment concepts*). It began in October 2019 and will finish in February 2024, and comprises a multi-disciplinary consortium of 10 partners from 7 EU Member States.

**NESOI is facilitating the decentralisation of energy systems on EU islands** and thus contributing to 2030 climate targets. This is being achieved by mobilising more than 100 M€ of investment in sustainable energy projects by launching open calls to an audience of 2,400 inhabited EU islands and enabling opportunities to test innovative energy technologies and investment approaches in a cost-competitive way. Additionally, the technical assistance and coaching given by the NESOI experts are helping EU islands to develop and implement energy transition plans or sustainable energy-related projects.

**Two open calls (late 2020 and early 2022) for beneficiary projects were organised** by NESOI, to which 168 island energy-transition projects proposals were evaluated. Among them, 50+ beneficiary projects were selected by NESOI experts according to transparent and rigorous criteria. In the first open call of 2020, 27 projects were initially selected (Round 1A), and subsequently 13 projects were included in the reserve list (Round 1B). In the second open call of 2022, the final 12 projects were selected (Round 2). These 50+ beneficiary projects spanning across 11 European countries, cover a wide range of energy transition topics, innovative technology deployments and diverse maturity levels.

**NESOI beneficiary projects receive both financial and technical support.** The financial support (up to 60,000€ per project) is distributed through the so-called “cascade funding” mechanism, in order to hire external experts complementing the technical assistance provided by NESOI experts, in particular for local and/or country-specific activities. The full scope of assistance provided by NESOI experts as such covers all aspects of the funded projects (e.g., technical, economic, financial, regulatory, etc.).



## 1.2 Coaching activities

NESOI is complementing the technical assistance with longer-term coaching activities to ensure that NESOI beneficiaries can benefit from increased capacity for developing and realising investable energy transition projects. NESOI coaching activities do not negatively interact with technical assistance activities, hence they've started lightly after the beginning of these technical assistance activities, in order not to overlap.

All projects, from round 1A, 1B and 2 are progressively receiving coaching activities only when their technical assistance is approaching a conclusion. The coaching activity content is being built based on experiential feedback from technical assistance conducted with the 50+ projects, and knowledge transferred through NESOI foreground such as deliverables, methodologies, handbook, etc.

The present deliverable, *D7.6 Report from islands staff coaching - first part*, reports on NESOI coaching activities conducted so far, with focus on the **collective webinars** in October 2022 and December 2022, and the three **ERASMUS Short Study Tours** in March and May 2023.

Four complementary NESOI coaching actions have been or are currently being conducted:

1. **Individual coaching**, as a direct follow-up of the technical assistance, through bilateral correspondences with each of the 50+ beneficiary projects.
2. **Collective webinars**, enabling relevant topics to be taught, discussed, and shared amongst the beneficiaries of all the projects supported by NESOI and other island stakeholders.
3. **E-learning content**, covering a wide variety of energy transition aspects reflecting knowledge acquired within and beyond NESOI.
4. **The ERASMUS programme**, consisting of 3 short study tours (SST) conducted with guests selected amongst NESOI beneficiaries and applicants from the EU island community and hosted by island organisations with a track record in energy transition projects.

Two public reports (on the [NESOI website](#)) describe these four NESOI coaching actions:

- *D7.5 Islands staff coaching material - first part*, delivered in September 2022,
- *D7.9 Islands staff coaching material - second part*, delivered in February 2023.

An upcoming final public deliverable, *D7.10 Report from islands staff coaching - second part*, will report on all the other remaining NESOI coaching activities performed until the end of the project, namely the final collective webinars and individual coaching. R2M Solution leads NESOI coaching activities, in which all NESOI partners are involved according to their technical and language skills.





## 2. NESOI collective webinars

### 2.1 Webinar on Energy Planning



Figure 1. Webinar 1 YouTube video recording

The NESOI Energy Planning Webinar was held on 24 October 2022. 37 participants (out of 63 registered) attended. The recording is available on [NESOI YouTube channel](#) (Figure 1), and the presentations are available on the [NESOI Platform](#) in the “Energy Transition Plans” category of the [e-learning module](#). It was heavily promoted before (Figure 2), during (Figure 3), and after (Figure 4) the air date.



Figure 2. Webinar 1 pre-event



Figure 3. Webinar 1 live Tweet



Figure 4. Webinar 1 post-event

The agenda and list of speakers were as follows (further details are found in [Annex A](#)).

**INTRODUCTION** *Giorgio Bonvicini, RINA Consulting, Co-Chair of HWG Districts at RHC-ETIP*

### I. ENERGY PLANNING METHODOLOGY

Common points and specificities of:

- SECAP - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
- SUMP - Sustainable Urban Mobility Action Plan
- Port-level Energy Planning

### II. NESOI PROJECTS

Experience sharing, feedback and replication recommendations

- Croatia - Island of Krk SECAP for all  
*Vedran Kirincic. PhD, Faculty of Engineering, University of Rijeka, Croatia*
- Greece - Energy planning for clean energy transition for Astypalea  
*Petros Markopoulos - Energy Consultant at DAFNI Network*
- Italy - Development Of Consistent Key strategy of the Strait port system  
*Daniele Enea - Researcher at ENEA*

**III. PANEL DISCUSSION** *All previous speakers, and: Makis Kartalidis, Research Associate at CERTH and Luigi Laterza, Consultant at SINLOC Spa. Moderated by Cécile Barrère, R2M Solution*

**WRAP UP**



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## 2.2 Webinar on e-Mobility



Figure 5. Webinar 2 YouTube video recording

The NESOI E-Mobility Webinar was held on 12 December 2022. 20 participants (out of 29 registered) attended. The recording is available on [NESOI YouTube channel](#) (Error! Reference source not found.) and the presentations are available on the [NESOI Platform's](#) e-learning module in the “e-Mobility” category. It was heavily promoted before (Figure 6), during (Figure 7), and after (Figure 8) the air date.



Figure 6. Webinar 1 pre-event

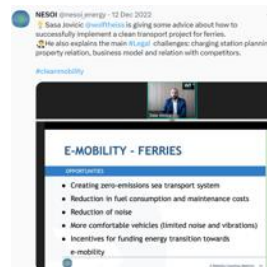


Figure 7. Webinar 2 live Tweet

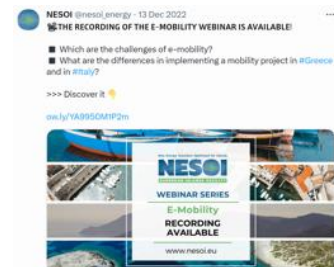


Figure 8. Webinar 2 post-event

The agenda and list of speakers were as follows (further details are found in **Annex B**).

### INTRODUCTION *Giorgio Bonvicini, Senior Energy Engineer at RINA Consulting*

#### I. E-MOBILITY CHALLENGES and OPPORTUNITIES

- Buses - *Giorgio Bonvicini, Senior Energy Engineer at RINA Consulting*
- Ferries - *Sasa Jovicic, Senior Legal Counsel and Partner at Wolf Theiss*
- Road Vehicles - *Carlotta Besson, Mobility & Transport Engineer at RINA Consulting*

#### II. NESOI PROJECTS

Experience sharing, feedback and replication recommendations

- ANTIPAROS - TESLA - Ship electrification  
*Marios-Alkinoos Dimitriou, Energy Engineer at DAFNI*  
*Stelios Spagouros, Technical Director of Hydrus Engineering*
- TILOS - NERIDA - e-fleet for municipality  
*Eustathios Kontos, General Secretary of the Municipality of Tilos*
- CATANIA- BEST-CT - e-buses  
*Salvatore Capri, Production area manager, AMTS*  
*Giorgio Bonvicini, Senior Energy Engineer at RINA Consulting*

**III. PANEL DISCUSSION** *All previous speakers, and: Vasiliki Palla, Energy engineer at CERTH. Chaired by Sara Ruffini, Energy Engineer at R2M Energy*

#### WRAP UP



### 3. NESOI Erasmus Short Study Tours (SST)

Three [ERASMUS Short Study Tours \(SST\)](#) were organised along with a [helpdesk](#) enabling island stakeholders to exchange knowledge and best practices on a given topic. Each SST had a NESOI beneficiary or close technical partner as the “host”, and the “guests” were selected through an open call (Annex C). Table 1 shows the hosts, topics, and dates of each SST. Both Northern and Southern European islands were represented. Two of them (i.e., SST1 and SST2) were held in Southern Europe during March 2023 (before the Easter break and at the beginning of the summer holiday season). For Northern Europe coverage, SST3 was held in May 2023, when the weather was pleasant for traveling in Scotland (UK).

*Table 1. SST locations, hosts, topics, and dates*

Country	Island	Host + Partners	Topic(s)	Dates
Greece	Astypalea	Dafni + Astypalea Municipality	Energy Community and RES installations (e-mobility, solar)	6-10 March 2023
Italy	Sicily	Port Authority of Messina + ENEA + CNR	Clean ports and boats	27-31 March 2023
UK	The Orkney Islands	EMEC + PlusZero	Green H2 and marine renewable energy (wave, tidal)	8-12 May 2023



*Figure 9. Main promotional image of NESOI's Erasmus SSTs*

Details on SST participant recruitment and contracting can be found in **Annex C** herein.

**Annexes D through F** contain six sections each, namely: (i) SST programmes; (ii) SST presentations which have been converted into “courses” and placed in relevant categories on the e-learning module of the NESOI Platform to facilitate coaching activity by providing valuable content; (iii) SST pictures; (iv) SST communications before, during, and after the SST; (v) SST workshop outcomes; and finally (vi) SST takeaways and participant feedback.



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### 3.1 SST1 on energy communities in Astypalaea (Greece)

[SST1 in Astypalaea, Greece](#) took place on 6 -11 March 2023, [its brochure](#) is shown below in Figure 10.



Figure 10. SST1 brochure

Table 2 below lists SST1 participants, their organisations and the islands they represented.

Table 2. SST1 list of participants

ID	NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
<b>NESOI's Erasmus Short Study Tour 1 (SST1) on energy communities in Astypalaea, Greece</b>			
1	Dimitris Katsaprakakis	Hellenic Mediterranean Un/ty - Minoan Energy Comm.	Greece
2	Francesca Battistelli	Italian National Research Council	Italy
3	Mirna Dalić	Island Movement	Croatia
4	Vedran Kirincic	University of Rijeka, FACULTY OF ENGINEERING	Croatia
5	Pablo Alvarez Fernandez	Arousa en Transición	Spain
6	Ugo Toić	OTRA (Island Development Agency)	Croatia
7	Henrique Nóbrega Pinto Correia	EEM - Empresa de Electricidade da Madeira S.A.	Portugal
8	Adán Jorge Dávila Medina	Gestión Urbanística de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain

All SST1 details can be found in Annex D, below (Figure 11) is a snapshot of its feedback survey.

Average level of satisfaction regarding the organisation of the SST1

4.8/5

Average level of satisfaction regarding the technical programme of the SST1

4.2/5

Figure 11. SST1 feedback survey snapshot



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### 3.2 SST2 on clean boats and ports in Sicily (Italy)

SST2 in Sicily, Italy was on 27 -31 March 2023, its brochure is below in Figure 12.



Figure 12. SST2 brochure

Table 3 below lists SST2 participants, their organisations and the islands they represented.

Table 3. SST2 list of participants

ID	NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
<b>NESOI's Erasmus Short Study Tour 2 (SST2) on clean boats and ports in Sicily (Italy)</b>			
1	Grete Pöldemaa	Saarte Liinid	Estonia
2	Riinu Härmas	University of Tartu	Estonia
3	Klaudia Teresa Tolstow	Dalane Energi AS	Norway
4	Bárbara Vieira	APRAM, S.A.	Portugal
5	Gabriele Freiin von Hundelshausen	Concello de A Illa de Arousa	Spain
6	Petros Markopoulos	DAFNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands	Greece
7	Fanis Christakopoulos	Aegean Energy & Environment Agency - AEGEA	Greece
8	Demetrio Marino	WSP E&IS GmbH is a business unit within WSP Group	Italy
9	Emmanouil Giannaros	MUNICIPALITY OF ASTYPALEA	Greece

All SST1 details can be found in Annex E, below (Figure 13) is a snapshot of its feedback survey.

Average level of satisfaction regarding the organisation of the SST2

Average level of satisfaction regarding the technical programme of the SST2

5/5

4.7/5

Figure 13. SST2 feedback survey snapshot



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### 3.3 SST3 on green hydrogen & marine energy in the Orkneys (UK)

SST3 in Orkney Islands, Scotland was on 9-12 May 2023, [its brochure](#) is below (Figure 14).



Figure 14. SST3 brochure

Table 4 below lists SST3 participants, their organisations and the islands they represented.

Table 4. SST3 list of participants

	NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
<b>NESOI's Erasmus Short Study Tour 1 (SST3) on green hydrogen &amp; marine energy in the Orkneys, UK</b>			
1	Ricardo Luis Guerrero Lemus	EnergyRIS - Universidad de La Laguna (ULL)	Spain
2	Nikolaos S. Argyriou	Municipality of Alonissos	Greece
3	Sulev Alajõe	Estonian islands energy agency	Estonia
4	Ivan Zokovic	Energy cooperative Novi Otok Korčula	Croatia
5	Bjarti Thomsen	Faroese Environment Agency (Umhvørvisstovan)	Faroe Islands
6	Melis Yılmaz	Troya Environmental Association	Turkey
7	Eduard Escolà Capdevila	Consell Insular de Menorca	Spain
8	Zikouli Effie	Aradippou Municipality	Cyprus

All SST3 details can be found in Annex F, below (Figure 15) is a snapshot of its feedback survey.

Average level of satisfaction regarding the organisation of the SST3

4.8/5

Average level of satisfaction regarding the technical programme of the SST3

5/5

Figure 15. SST3 feedback survey snapshot



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## 4. Conclusion and next steps

**This public deliverable (D7.6)** reported on NESOI coaching activities conducted so far, with focus on two collective webinars held between 2022 and 2023, and the three ERASMUS SSTs held in 2023. It is foreseen that two additional collective webinars will follow the submission of this report, and no more SSTs are planned. These two actions have fed the e-learning module of the NESOI Platform to facilitate both awareness-raising for the public, and to help create tailored coaching on technical and financial aspects of island clean energy transition for stakeholders of the 50+ beneficiary projects supported by NESOI.

**To learn about the full scope of NESOI coaching activities**, it is highly encouraged to refer to two previous public deliverables (D7.5 from September 2022 and D7.9 from February 2023) and expect one final upcoming deliverable (D7.10 planned for February 2024). Together, these deliverables (i.e., D7.5, D7.6, D7.9, and D7.10) describe the four coaching actions of NESOI, namely: (i) individual coaching (ongoing), (ii) collective webinars (ongoing), (iii) population of digestible and valuable material on the e-learning module of the NESOI Platform (ongoing), and (iv) the Erasmus SST programme (concluded).







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