



## The European Small Islands Federation

### Board meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2013 at 12.00 GMT on Skype

#### Participants:

Bengt Almkvist	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Camille Dressler	Scottish Island federation
Sandy Brunton	Scottish Island federation
Elle Puurmann	Association of Estonian Islands
Christian Pleijel	Företagsam Skärgård
Anetté Johansson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago

Host & Secretary: Lise Thillemann Sørensen (Association of Danish Small Islands)

## MINUTES

### Agenda

1. Opening
2. Approval of minutes from board meeting Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 on Skype
3. Financial situation
4. ESIN strategy, what is the next step?
5. Possibility for funding of projects?
6. Report from ESIN meeting in Brussels, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 and from European rural Parliament, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2013.
7. SMILEGOV, status
8. AGM 2014. Host?
9. Meeting calendar, proposed dates:

<b>March 4th</b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>Apr. 1st</b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>May 6th</b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>June 3rd</b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
10. Other issues

## MINUTES

### 1. Opening

Bengt opened the meeting.

The content and questions of the letter from ANCIM, Italy was added to the agenda. (See point 10.)

### 2. Approval of minutes from board meeting Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 2013

Minutes were approved

### 3. Financial situation

No new balance. The Smilegov finances have been discussed between Anetté and Christian.

### 4. ESIN strategy, what is the next step?

- How can we work with the EU institutions?

It is a relevant period now and during the first months of 2014 to approach the candidates for the new EU parliament.

Idea: Scotland often makes a short paper/manifest (short paper on “what is our agenda right now”) from the islands, sent along with an introduction to the national candidates before any kind of election.

- How can we extend the work between islands?

Proposal from Christian: Formal letter from ESIN board to each of our Member’s island organisations: asking for an answer in writing to the following questions concerning ESIN activities in the next 3 years? (Prioritized: rank the five questions in the answer)

1. What should ESIN do on the European level? (ESIN visible, active in Brussels)?

2. What should ESIN do to make the small islands more known?

3. What kind of projects should ESIN apply for, take part in and manage?

4. ESIN members:

Should ESIN have a more complete European islands representation i.e. have members from Germany, Holland, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Croatia, Norway and Iceland...?

Should/could there be more than one member from a nation?

5. How should the meeting management be organised.

It was agreed to formulate a letter from the ESIN board to the member’s island organisation boards – A draft will be sent out.

### 5. Possibility for funding of projects?

- There is a possibility within the Nordic countries to apply for a project that might open up for a project pointing towards a European platform for islanders. *Lise, Denmark will look into this.*

- There are possibilities in the Horizon 2020 programme, within research, innovation, sustainability in rural areas. Perhaps an opportunity to work together with CMPR to make sure the islanders are seen and heard. *Camille, Scotland will look into this.*

6. Report from ESIN meeting in Brussels, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 and from European rural Parliament, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Please see the minutes from the board meeting Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>

7. SMILEGOV, status

The ESIN Project is moving ahead according to the report and plan Christian has sent out in November (see ESIN email from Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, report no. 4)

Scotland: SMILEGOV is progressing quite nicely. Our members want to move ahead with the energy plans in reality. There are problems in connecting with the local municipalities in the projects. It is a challenge to get islanders to participate in the training courses.

Denmark: The project has stalled at the moment. We expect training to be starting in early 2014.

8. AGM 2014. Host?

We have a proposal from the island of Ischia (Italy) to hold the AGM 2014 there. We need an opinion and an answer from ANCIM on this issue, as soon as possible (since the island of Ischia is not a member of ANCIM).

*Christian will make contact with Italy after this meeting.*

9. Meeting calendar

<b>Jan 7<sup>th</sup></b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>Feb 4<sup>th</sup></b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>Apr. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>May 6<sup>th</sup></b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting
<b>June 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	at 12.00 GMT: Skype board meeting

10. Other issues

- Letter from ANCIM

ANCIM, ESINs Italian member has a strong wish for written material.

ESIN board acknowledges that there is a language problem within the organisation that prevents some members from talking part in the Skype meetings. Hence there is a very big need for written material and communication. ESIN does send out quite a lot of written material, but often this comes *after* the meetings, and not before. It could be stated that there is a need for better planned meetings, with questions and remarks provided beforehand.

Since we have meetings every month the minutes function as the link between meetings. Written questions, comments (on minutes from past meetings or on other issues), opinions etc. *will always be regarded as valid and taken into consideration at the first coming meeting.*

It must be noted, that with the limited resources available at the time being, this is so far, the best way to spread and collect information.

ESIN would very much like proposals from Italy (and other members) on the possibilities for the board on how to work in favour of all members. All proposals

for other ways of doing things, should take into consideration that there are no economic resources available.

- Possibilities for connections between islanders within ESIN members?

There is a need for a way of connecting islanders across the nations. Can this be done through the ESIN webpage?

It was decided that the ESIN Facebook page is a better suited forum for this networking activity. Here subgroups can be formed on different issues. The ESIN web page should be kept formal.

*LS. Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 2013*