

# ESIN 2001-2021



## **From a Network to a Federation**

The European Small islands Federation is the fruit of a successful cooperation between small islands communities. In May 2001, six national organizations representing small islands communities decided to gather within a network : the European Small Islands Network composed of Danish, Finnish, French, Irish, Scottish and Swedish small islands was born. In 2005, the six founding members of ESIN decided to formalize the network. Statutes were approved and the European Small Islands Federation came into being however the name “ESIN” remains to design the federation.

ESIN progressively made it known amongst islands communities and three new organizations joined ESIN in 2006 : Estonian, Italian and Hellenic small Islands. In 2009, the Åland Islands became a member of ESIN and in 2014, the Croatian Islands.

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2001 Möja Sweden

2002 Femö Denmark

2003 Aran Islands Ireland

2004 Egg Scotland

2005 Belle-ile France

2006 Idö Sweden



# AGM 2007 Hydra Greece

- The AGM decided to accept the application and welcome the “National Association of the Finnish Islands” as the member from Finland.
- Bengt Almkvist reported about the discussions on establishing an ESIN secretariat during the spring and the Brussels meeting.
- The booklet “Meeting the Challenges of Small Islands” was now printed



# AGM 2008 Kaknäs Finland

- About 70 participants from 9 countries.
- Focus on youth: a parallel youth seminar was held at the same time.
- Story telling centers, the ESPON project, the Maritime policy of EU, and the role of the islands in the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 was discussed, among other things.

# AGM 2009 Elba Italy

- The secretariat was in Brussels to meet with ESPON
- The ESIN annual general meeting agreed on the renewal of the secretariat for two years.
- The annual general meeting agreed that the service fee for 2010 is €1400.

# AGM 2010 Sejero Denmark

- ESIN was invited to meetings and participated in the intergroup 174.
- Different ways to find basic funding for ESIN from the EU has been examined.
- Two electronic newsletters have been edited since the last AGM.

# Islands diversity

Each country has its own definition of a “small island” according to geographical and administrative criteria, local culture and traditions. However, small islands agreed on common features : there are home for permanent communities, they are surrounded by water and generally have no permanent links with the mainland. There are 1,638 small islands among ESIN members, which represents about 355,000 inhabitants. Even though many of them have population of less than 1.000 inhabitants, small islands population can run from few to several thousands' inhabitants, but they are still motivated by the same will to cooperate and to inform people of their specific common issues.

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# AGM 2011 Ile d'Yeu

- Motion from Denmark on “adult education college”.
- A group put together some important aspects:
  - Concentrate on three main issues
  - Form a stronger, more executive, board. Regular board meetings
  - Use the website more actively
  - Distribute short, and quick, reports from all activities
  - Promote the “political” issues.
- Board meetings on a more regular basis will be tested via Skype communication.

# AGM 2012 Isle of Mull, Scotland

- The Association of Danish Small Islands agreed to take on the technical secretariat of ESIN for 2012/2013.
- John Walsh raised the question of the need of a youth project.
- During the year, ESIN took part in a new initiative from on energy related projects in island areas; Smilegov.

# AGM 2013 Kökar Åland

- A new ESIN website was developed, and the old homepage was closed.
- More information on small island life should be gathered and made available
- ESIN must take action towards the EU and get the message of the islands situation through to the EU. We need to sharpen the message!

# AGM 2014 Sant'Antioco Italy

- ESIN has tried to influence the EU agricultural programme, CAP.
- Several project options have been examined through the year.
- ESIN formulated a pledge for nominated MEP's to sign.

# AGM 2015 Kastellorizo island in Greece

- Denmark proposes that every second year the AGM should take part in Brussels.
- 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.
- Entrepreneurship project was presented

## Aims of ESIN

ESIN main objective is to help small islands communities remaining alive. To this end, ESIN acts at two levels :

**1 Local level** : ESIN aims at strenghtening islands cultural identity, facilitating the circulation of information between its members. It allows comparison on how different countries cope with issues and it gives support to each other through the sharing of knowledge.

**2 European level** : ESIN also aims at informing relevant EU institutions and at influencing EU policies and rules by increasing awareness and understanding of small islands issues.

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# AGM 2016 Brussels

- Camille Dressler, Scotland was elected president by the annual general meeting. Bengt Almkvist was appointed honorary president of ESIN after 16 years as a president.
- Företagsam Skärgård, Åland takes on the responsibility of the ESIN secretariat.
- ESIN has a new leaflet on the organisation.

# AGM 2017 Orkney Scotland

- Ireland takes on the responsibility of the ESIN secretariat
- Themes: Clean energy, entrepreneurship, island statistics, island branding .
- ESIN is a part of Smart islands Initiativ.





# AGM 2018 Brussels

- THE FUTURE OF CAP post 2020
- CLEAN ENERGY for EU Islands
- Smart Village Thematics
- Secondary education on the islands
- How can we make better representation at all levels

# AGM 2019 Hven Sweden

- John Walsh Ireland was elected as a new chairman.
- Working groups on various themes were set up.
- Article 174.

# AGM 2020 Digital meeting

- The ongoing pandemic made this year's AGM held digitally.
- We worked to renew the statutes.
- Even though we were so far apart, we were able to conduct a cultural evening.

# AGM 2021 île aux Moines France



