

TAIEX TSI Workshop

Improving the Quality of Multi-level Governance and Strengthening the Resilience of Island Economies of Croatia, Greece, and Sweden: focus on data and island proofing.

Organised in co-operation with:

*The Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure, Sweden
Region Gotland, Sweden*

Öckerö Municipality, Sweden

The Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds, Croatia

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, General Secretariat of the Aegean and Island Policy, Greece

The Directorate General for Structural Reform Support, DG REFORM, European Commission

The OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



14-15 November 2024

Venues:

14 November **Nordregio**, Holmamiralens Torg 10

15 November **Bankhallen**, Malm Morgsgatan 3

Beneficiaries: Croatia, Greece,
Sweden (Gotland and Öckerö)

TSI IND/STUD/EXP XXXXX

Aim of the Workshop:

The TSI (Technical Support Instrument) is operated by the European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM). TAIEX TSI events are organised by DG NEAR in agreement with DG REFORM for the benefit of Member States that are receiving technical support through the TSI.

The goal of this workshop is twofold: to see how data can help achieve strategic development goals for island economies in a multi-level governance system, and to understand how 'island proofing' can be used as a tool in this context. Participants are local and regional representatives, national experts and policymakers, EU Commission, and the OECD.

To create effective policies for islands, it's important to have clear definitions and the right scale for analysis. However, research on island economies has been inconsistent, highlighting the need for detailed, island-specific data to support the well-being of island communities. Challenges include collecting detailed data, defining units of analysis, standardizing indicators, ensuring timely data, and making data accessible at all government levels. The main challenge is using the most relevant data to promote and sustain cooperation toward development goals for island economies in a multi-level governance system.

'Island proofing', formally introduced into law as Island Communities Impact Assessments (ICIAs) by the Scottish Government's Islands (Scotland) Act in 2018, is a relatively new concept in regional development policy. By considering the unique needs of island communities, ICIAs seek to enhance collaboration across policy areas and assess the effects of initiatives designed and implemented at all government levels. Under the Regulations, ICIAs require Relevant Authorities (including Scottish Ministers) to prepare an ICIA in relation to any policy, strategy, or service which is likely to have an effect on an island community. This provides a tool for implementing tailored, place-based policies, improving communication, ensuring fair resource distribution, enhancing crisis response, supporting economic sustainability, and protecting cultural heritage. By incorporating these principles into decision making, ICIAs not only boosts the resilience and well-being of Scotland's island communities, but they also showcases effective multi-level governance. Hence, island proofing is an effective way for policymakers to consider the impact of their work on island communities when amending, designing and implementing policies of any kind.

Despite being recognized, island proofing faces challenges such as building capacity, engaging stakeholders, dealing with administrative complexities, and ensuring equal access to data. Furthermore, national agencies often have to deal with other territorial or mainstreaming themes. The key challenge is adapting island proofing methods and tools to be useful not just for specific administrative functions but across multiple government levels and within each level so as to render results on the ground at island levels.

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Day 1: Thursday, 14 November 2024	
<i>Venue: Nordregio, Holmamiralens Torg 10, 111 49 Stockholm</i>	
<i>Local time</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<i>11:30 – 12:30</i>	Lunch at <i>Moderna Muséet</i> , Exercisplan 4, 111 49 Stockholm
<i>12:40 – 12:50</i>	Walk to Nordregio
<i>13:00 – 13:10</i>	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <p>Mathias Moberg – Director General at the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure, Sweden</p> <p>Meit Fohlin – Chair of the Regional Executive Board, Region Gotland, Sweden</p> <p>Rickard Vidlund – Chief Executive Officer of Öckerö Municipality, Öckerö Municipality, Sweden</p> <p>Elodie Boulch – Policy Officer, Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)</p>
<i>13:10 – 13:15</i>	<p>About Nordregio</p> <p>Rolf Elmér – Director at Nordregio, Sweden</p>
<i>13:15 – 13:35</i>	<p>The Report for Sweden – Preliminary Findings</p> <p>Stefano Barbieri – Senior Policy Analysts, OECD</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
<i>13:35 – 13:40</i>	<p>Island economies – Challenges and opportunities, Policy Responses, Insularity Costs, and Multi Level Governance</p> <p>Introduction to the workshop themes</p> <p>Cecilia Lindblom – Controller, Öckerö Municipality, Sweden</p> <p>Erik Bäckström – Regional Analyst, Region Gotland, Sweden</p> <p>Maria Ahlsved – Senior advisor, Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure, Sweden</p> <p>Roland Engkvist – EU Policy Advisor, Region Gotland, Sweden</p>

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Island proofing – a Method to Address Insularity Challenges	
<i>13:40 – 14:10</i>	<p>Regional development and rural development in a Swedish political context</p> <p>Martin Olauzon – Head of Government Inquiry of Swedish Development Coherence SVESAM, Sweden</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
<i>14:10 – 14:40</i>	<p>Swedish efforts in rural proofing</p> <p>Carin Persson – Rural and Local Strategist, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Sweden</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
<i>14:40 – 14:50</i>	Short break
<i>14:50 – 15:20</i>	<p>Greek Practices from Multilevel Cooperation – lessons learnt</p> <p>Manolis Koutoulakis – Secretary General of the Aegean and Island Policy, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Greece</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
<i>15:20 – 15:50</i>	<p>Finland’s Approach to Territorial Development and National Policies for Islands and Archipelagos</p> <p>Laura Latvakoski – National Expert at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
<i>15:50 – 16:10</i>	Break, coffee and biscuit

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Data Use – Development of Island Economies in a multi-level Governance System

Prevalence of Data at Different Levels of Government, European, National, Regional, and Local Experiences of Using Data for Development Goals

16:10 – 16:40	<p>Territory and Data in the Case of Sweden</p> <p>Wolfgang Pichler – Coordinator Analysis and Reporting, and ESPON National Contact Point Sweden, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Sweden</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
16:40 – 17:10	<p>Territory and Data in the Case of Croatia</p> <p>Veljko Radić – Head of Sector, Directorate for Islands, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Croatia</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
17:10 – 17:40	<p>Territory and Data in the Case of Finland</p> <p>Kimmo Nurmio – Researcher at Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, Finland</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
17:40 – 18:10	<p>On the Cost of Doing Business</p> <p>Tsekeris Theodore – Senior Research Fellow, Transport Economics and Spatial Development, Greece</p> <p>Contributions from participants</p>
18:10 – 18:20	<p>AOB and wrap up of day 1</p> <p>Enrique Garcilazo – Deputy Head of Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, OECD</p>
18:20	End of the day 1
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner, Venue TBD

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Day 2: Friday, 15 November 2024 Venue: Bankhallen, Malmtorgsgatan 3, Stockholm	
Local time	Activity
08:30	Check in at the venue – bring your passport (mandatory for entering the Ministry’s premise)
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction to Workshop on Island Proofing and Data Use <i>Key Take Aways from Day 1</i> Roland Engkvist – EU Policy Advisor, Region Gotland, Sweden
09:10 – 10:00	Case Study: Island Proofing and Data-Driven Island Policy Development in Scotland Erica Clarkson – Head of Islands Policy, and Lewis MacAskill , Scottish Government – Presentation and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island Proofing in Scotland: From Policy Inception to Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing the 2nd Scottish National Islands Plan ○ Rural Mainland and Island Proofing in tandem ○ Financing Islands Policy in a Challenging Fiscal Landscape • Data-Driven Island Policy Development: Leveraging data to shape policies for islands <p>Focus: Challenges, lessons, and successes from the Scottish model for island-focused policies</p>
10:00	Break, coffee and biscuit
10:15-11:15	Interactive Parallel Sessions on Policy Implementation and Data Collection Two guided group discussions focused on practical themes related to island development. <i>Facilitator:</i> Stefano Barbieri – Senior Policy Analysts, OECD Sessions (40 min): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Island Proofing Policies – what steps in your own country? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategies for initiating and advancing island proofing within national policies ○ Identifying key stakeholders and partners for successful implementation • 2. Data Collection for Island Development – for use and for change on the ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tools and instruments for gathering island-specific data ○ Assessments and Mitigation ○ Steps to design effective data collection frameworks for robust island development strategies <p>Wrap-up summaries by each working group (5–10 min per group)</p> <p>Enrique Garcilazo – Deputy Head of Regional Development and Multilevel Governance Division, OECD</p>

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11:15-11:45	<p>Panel Reflections on implementation of island proofing and data collection</p> <p>Panellists share their insights as policymakers on these two topics from their national, regional or local perspectives, and from takeaways from the workshop, discussing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the current situation, - any changes they would like to see or are currently implementing in their office duty, and - steps or resources they do believe are essential to move onwards. <p><i>Panelists (7 min each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zrinka Raguž – State Secretary, Croatia • Manolis Koutoulakis – General Secretary, Greece • Meit Fohlin – Chair, Executive Board, Region Gotland, Sweden • Jan Utbult – Chair, Executive Board, Öckerö Municipality, Sweden <p><i>Moderator:</i> Elodie Boulch – Policy Officer, Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)</p>
11:45-12:00	<p>Concluding Remarks and Next Steps for Island Economies Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Final Reflections:</i> Summary of insights and actionable next steps for national action plans <p><i>Presenter:</i> OECD, EC, and the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure, Region Gotland, Öckerö Municipality</p>
12:00	End of Event
12:30	Lunch at <i>Grodan</i> , Strömgatan 14, Kungliga Operan, Stockholm
14:00 – 15:00	Social event , Guided tour through the Old Town

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