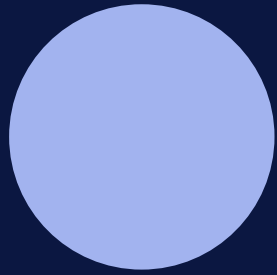


// Results from ESPON projects

Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight

**Hållbara skärgårdar – Hur kan en bättre planering
bidra till en hållbar skärgårdsutveckling?**

14th September 2023

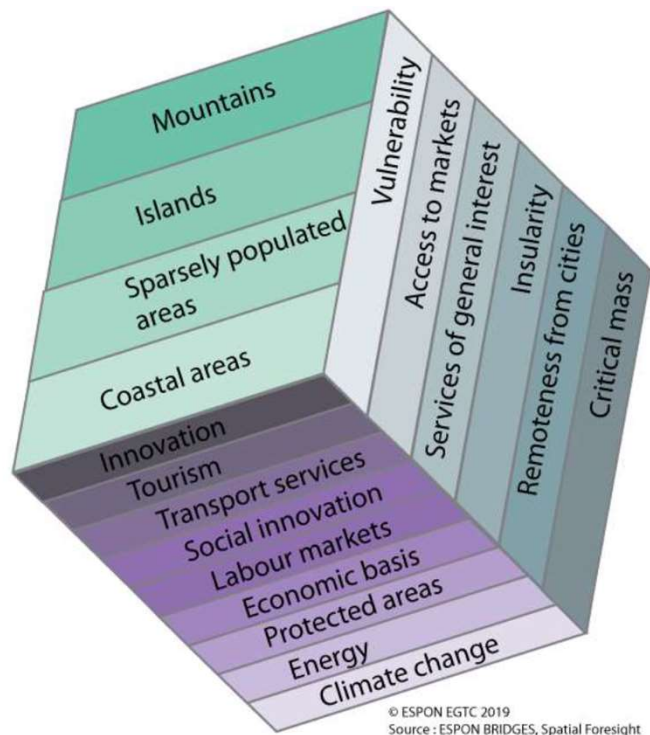


European state of play regarding islands and geographic specificities

Key contextual elements

- Legal basis: Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
- Key players: European Commission, DG REGIO
REGI-Committee at European Parliament, Committee of the Regions,
Islands Commission of Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- This legislation is incentive, not constraining.
- Keywords of relevance for all territories: Integrated Territorial Strategies, Community-based locally led development (CLLD) and Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) .

Analytical framework



ESPON [GEOSPECS](#) (2012)
and [BRIDGES](#) (2019) projects

Geographic “specificities”
rather than “handicaps”.

Types of situations
to be addressed:

- Market failures,
- Policy inadequacies,
- Policy dependences,
- Path dependences.

Key recurring issues

- Connectivity,
- Energy
- Tourism and leisure, seasonality
- Access to services of general interest
- Nature and biodiversity preservation
- Land use

2

Policy perspectives

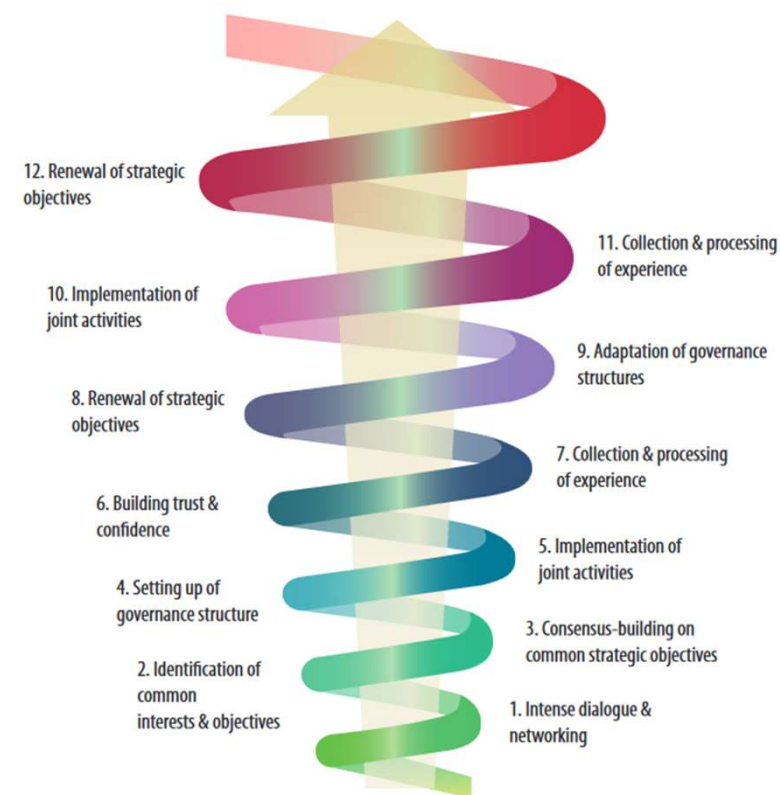
Identified bottlenecks and remedial measures

- Produce integrated assessments of island vulnerabilities and assets,
- Pinpoint issues for which individual islands / groups of islands is an appropriate level of policy design and implementation,
- Establish the island / group of islands as a legitimate context for territorial governance regarding these issues,
- Coordinate interventions with overlapping territorial governance units (e.g. administrative regions and labour market areas)

Soft territorial cooperation frameworks

- Flexible delineations
- Integrative perspective
- Seeking to enhance capacities of involved players
- Seeking to renew relations between institutional levels
- Result-oriented
- Often building on so-called 'communities of intent'

→ Guidance available on the ESPON Website [ACTAREA Project](#) and its [Handbook](#).



Source: ESPON ACTAREA (2017).

Cohesion policy frameworks

Integrated Territorial Strategies make it possible to envisage funding under Policy Objective 5 (“Europe Closer to Citizens”), with extensive thematic flexibility.

Such territorial strategies may be designed and implemented in different frameworks:

- CLLD areas (“Leader-areas” in Sweden),
- Integrated territorial investment,
- “any other integrated territorial tool designed within a national strategy”.

Objective: enhanced capacity to address challenges and opportunities of sub-regional territories such as the skerries / archipelagos.

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Possible concrete measures

EU resources that could be mobilised

- ESPON
 - Targeted analysis,
 - Peer review workshops.
- Interreg Europe
 - Peer review on a specific issue or challenge
- Clean energy in EU islands secretariat