

# Islands need their own approach to sustainability

The Sustainable Islands (SUSI) project was designed to help people who live on islands within the EU to feel a greater sense of belonging, by bringing islanders from six different countries together to talk about a topic that affects everyone

SUSI brought together secondary education teachers and students from six islands to talk about sustainability from an islander's point of view. Project Co-ordinator Guillermo Montesdeoca, from Gran Canaria, explains how the project changed people's perspectives:

“ Many students were surprised that specific problems, which felt unique in their home islands, were shared by other partners. Looking at situations from a more objective, geographical "mainland vs island" perspective, made everyone realise that, as European islanders, common problems can be dealt with within the EU framework. This way the European identity grew stronger.”

Students met at workshops on all six islands and worked in internationally-mixed teams. Special care was taken to include women, immigrants and people with special needs. Participants reflected on topics such as identity, transport, food production and distribution, and the management of energy, waste and water. Students also worked to reduce the carbon footprint of their own households during the project.

The aim was to help participants realise they have a shared identity as islanders - but also to make them aware of the benefits of working together to face global problems.

Activities organised by the group included turtle releases on Sardinia and Gran Canaria, cycling tours, and the symbolic planting of "SUSI forests" on all the participating islands, which will have a powerful long term environmental effect.

The forests are not the only actions of the SUSI project that will live on; students and teachers are continuing to visit each other to practise languages, and all the partners are planning to develop another project about islands and the impacts of tourism.



Photo: © Guillermo Montesdeoca, 2016

## Erasmus+

Field: School Education

Action: Strategic Partnerships

### Key facts and figures



Participants:  
900



Countries:  
6



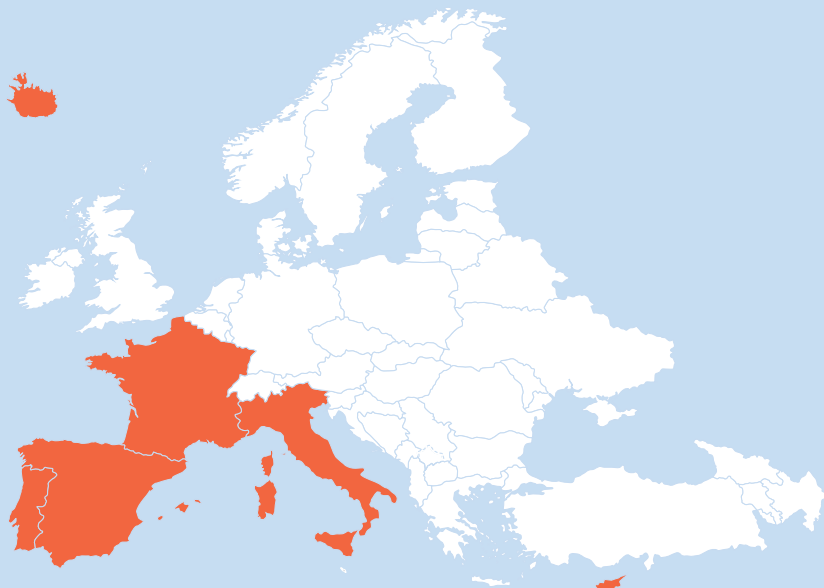
EU grant:  
€132,000



Project duration:  
2013-2015

### Project title

Sustainable Islands - SUSI



### Lead organisation

**Name:** Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria Nueva Isleta - Toni Gallardo

**Location:** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

**Website:** <http://iesnuevaisletatonygallardo.org>

### Partners

Enieo Lykeio Kykkos A, **Cyprus**; Lycée Polyvalent Hyacinthe Bastarud; **France**; Fjölbrautaskóli Suðurlands, **Iceland**; Liceo Scientifico G. Marconi, **Italy**; Escola Secundária Jerónimo Emiliano de Andrade, **Portugal**

### More information

Project website:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/701138919913737>

The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>