



## HOW THE EU HELPS ISLANDS

Europe's island communities face a series of challenges, including limited access to resources and services, environmental threats, and ageing populations. With EU support, these can be transformed into opportunities that create jobs, boost local economies and improve lives. The EU-funded ADAPT project is one such example.

## Faster, greener ferry system for Finnish and Swedish islands

An EU-funded project has improved public transport in the Åland and Stockholm archipelagos, cutting travel times for both people and goods in these Finnish and Swedish island groups. The aim is to improve local residents' quality of life, attract more tourists and benefit local businesses.

The Åland and Stockholm archipelagos comprise thousands of islands in the Baltic Sea. Boasting natural beauty such as picturesque shorelines, they are popular tourist destinations and also home to local communities and companies.

In this part of Europe, ferries are considered a lifeline since the islands can be remote and very rural, making it crucial for communities to have regular, reliable and year-round connections to better infrastructure and services on the mainland.

The EU-funded **ADAPT** project focuses on contributing to a better-connected region by making maritime public transport routes in the archipelagos not only faster but also more fuel-efficient and safer.

Efforts are already paying off, with overall travel times down by 10% thanks to adjustments to routes and other actions.

ADAPT is focusing on new tools and methods to optimise vessel use and ensure a reliable service in difficult conditions – such as ice, fog and low water levels – in the narrow and shallow waterways that are characteristic of these archipelagos.



*'People who rely on the region's public transport system for their daily lives stand to benefit most from ADAPT, as well as archipelago communities and businesses that depend on tourism and regular visitors.'*

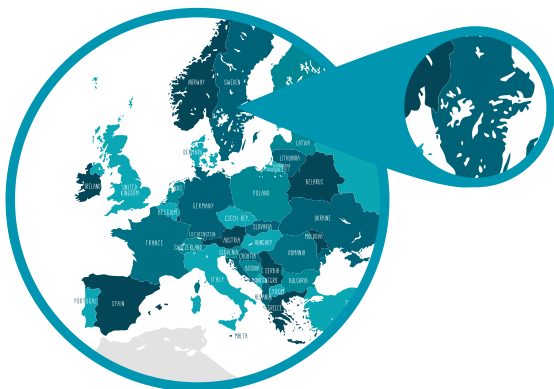
## Laser seabed scans

ADAPT based its actions and recommendations on new and updated sea charts that were compiled using state-of-the-art technology – extensive multi-beam laser scanning of the seabed in both archipelagos. This was necessary since data on smaller sea fairways had not been updated for years, making it difficult to identify new and shorter public transport routes.

In addition to saving time or providing shelter from harsh weather, such improved routes are also expected to bring about significant environmental gains linked to fuel efficiency, including a reduction in harmful emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>).

People who rely on the region's public transport system for their daily lives stand to benefit most from ADAPT, as well as archipelago communities and businesses that depend on tourism and regular visitors. Leisure boaters will also be able to take advantage of the improved routes.

ADAPT is a cooperative effort between the Swedish Maritime Administration, Stockholm City Council and the Åland government.



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## ADAPT

**Project full name:** Assuring depth of fairways for archipelago public transportation (ADAPT)

**Sectors:** Connectivity

**Project website:** <http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/31>

**Total cost:** EUR 2 181 433

**EU CONTRIBUTION:** EUR 1 636 075

**Fund:** European Regional Development Fund

**PROGRAMME:** Interreg Central Baltic

**Project start/end:** 2016 to 2019