



## 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 Cyclades Islands Interconnection project is one such example.

## Greece's Cyclades connect to reliable energy source

An EU-funded project is providing electricity to Greece's famous Cyclades islands via state-of-the-art undersea cables. Locals and tourists alike will benefit from reliable and cheaper power, as well as cleaner air due to the closure of old oil-generated plants and an increased focus on renewables.

The Cyclades are a group of islands in the Aegean Sea that includes the tourist hot spots of Mykonos and Paros. Located to the south-east of the Greek mainland, they are known around the world for their magnificent beaches, crystal clear waters and iconic white and blue houses built into the hillsides.

In recent years, local power stations have come under increasing pressure from the rising demand for energy. These oil-generated, ageing and poorly maintained facilities are neither environmentally friendly nor cost-effective, making it crucial to seek more sustainable alternatives.

The EU-funded **Cyclades Islands Interconnection** project addresses this challenge by linking the islands to the Greek mainland's power grid via modern, high-voltage underwater cables. The result? A reliable source of electricity for decades to come that will help safeguard the region's natural beauty and create new opportunities for the local economy via renewables.



*'The Cyclades Islands Interconnection project delivers numerous benefits, including cuts to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to the phasing out of ageing power plants and cost savings of EUR 80 million in the project's first year of operation.'*

## Revvng up renewables

Following a first phase that saw the connection of Syros island to the mainland port city of Lavrio, the electricity needs of a string of islands – including Mykonos, Paros, Antiparos, Naxos and Koufonissi, among others – are now being met by the Mainland Hellenic Electricity Transmission System.

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In addition, the increased energy security for the Cyclades' communities is expected to boost the area's important tourism industry and therefore help fuel the local economy.

The project will also help tap the significant renewable power potential of the islands, where both wind and the sun are in ample supply. For example, excess energy produced in this way could be fed into the national grid via the new cables.



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## CYCLADES ISLANDS INTERCONNECTION

**Project full name:** The Interconnection of Cyclades Islands with the national mainland interconnected system

**Sectors:** Connectivity/Energy, Environment, Tourism

**Project website:** <https://bit.ly/32rrWCl>

**Total cost:** EUR 273.6 million

**EU CONTRIBUTION:** EUR 176 million  
**Fund:** European Regional Development Fund

**PROGRAMME:** Operational programme 'Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship'

**Project start/end:** 2013 to 2022