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HAPPY

2023

WISHING YOU  
A YEAR FILLED WITH  
LOVE & SUCCESS!

## Project Updates

### YENESIS 2.0!!

These past 3 years were filled with amazing memories and experiences for both our

partners and our participants, and we are excited to announce that this amazing journey won't stop here!! Our consortium has been granted additional funds for our YENESIS 2.0! We will continue helping young people in islands on their journey towards sustainable employment.

On November 29th & 30th the partners met at Las Palmas, Gran Canaria and had the kick-off meeting for YENESIS 2.0, where they discussed the activities that will take place during the next 14 months.



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## **Celebrating the European Year of Youth**

The Cyprus Energy Agency, as the Lead partner of the YENESIS project has participated at the 2022 annual thematic seminar of Regional Funds projects funded under the EEA and Norway Grants Regional Funds. This year's theme was "Celebrating the European Year of Youth" and the event took place in Brussels between the 12th and the 14th of December. The annual thematic seminars are aimed at providing an opportunity for the project partners to get together and strengthen their sense of community through common learning and exchange of experiences between projects working for a better future of the next generations.



## Partner Meeting





On May 18th-19th the project partners met at the beautiful island of Naxos in Greece, for the bi-annual meeting. The meeting was organised by our Greek partner, DAFNI – Network of Sustainable Greek Islands.

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## **YENESIS Final Communication Event**



On June 8th the project partners met in Cyprus for the Final Communication event of our project. Stakeholders and participants from all partner countries attended the event sharing their good practices and experience.

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## Capitalisation Event



On June 29th & 30th the YENESIS partners met in Croatia for the Capitalization Event of the project! The event brought together stakeholders from all participating countries to promote the policy recommendations and good practices that resulted or were identified during the project.

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## Testimonials

We asked our NEETs to share with us their experiences from their local placements and local apprenticeships and they delivered! Read below the stories of Brigita from Estonia and Irene from Greece.

### **Brigita, Estonia**

### **Irene, Greece**





I found out about the YENESIS project through the SEI Tallinn Facebook page back in late 2019/early 2020, but I didn't apply as I was still in school finishing my bachelor's degree and working part-time on organizing a student conference on renewable energy. In summer 2021 I did my internship in SEI Tallinn regarding my master's program, during which I was offered to join the project as one of the NEETs had found a good job through YENESIS before doing the apprenticeship abroad, which gave me an opportunity to do the last (and best) part.

I completed the online course in the field of renewable energy and business innovation and in January 2022, after having completed all the courses in my master's program in Estonia, was ready to travel to the other side of Europe – Las Palmas, Gran Canaria. I did my apprenticeship in the Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias (ITC), where I was analyzing how wind turbines affect birds in the region. Although I didn't get to go to the ITC due to the Covid-19 restrictions in the institution, I got to explore the island plenty and enjoyed working from my rooftop balcony in Las

My name is Elena and I live in the picturesque island of Corfu, Greece. I hold a B.Sc. in Civil & Structural engineering and I have a cross disciplinary educational background due to master's/post graduate studies in various fields like; climate change, real estate, museology and education. When I was chosen as a participant for the Greek YENESIS group back in 2019, I was full of excitement for the new informative experiences that would occur. I did not anticipate though, that I would meet driven, loving professionals with whom I share common vision and who could be friends of mine before the workshops conclude. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic rescheduled everything in 2020, but somehow, we all stayed connected, focused and determined to make the best for our islands and local communities. We are sharing our news, experiences, wins and struggles, forming a network of young professionals who are trying to improve their islands, contribute with expertise to the forming of a sustainable future and becoming ambassadors of renewable energy/energy efficiency/sustainable tourism/business innovation/sustainable mobility. During the past year, and after the YENESIS

Palmas.

On my first night there, a German PhD student working at the ITC, who is now almost considered Canarian and known as being the local tour guide, invited me to a birthday party, where I met 10+ of his friends from all over Europe now living in Las Palmas. They welcomed me with open arms and immediately made me feel at home. During my stay, I met some Estonian guys who were there also for a month, living the digital nomad life, who I'm now great friends with. Further, 3 of my friends from Estonia decided to come and visit me, which gave me an opportunity to act as a tour guide to them. The month went by too quickly, but I still managed to repeatedly visit the beach, the mountains, and the infamous Dunes of Maspalomas in addition to working.

On my last day I got invited to a conference on renewable energy that the ITC was hosting, but which wasn't held at the institution, where I finally saw my supervisor in person for the first time. Friends of mine, the PhD student and two other NEETs from Croatia, were also there and had a presentation about the success of their company which they started thanks to the YENESIS project.

Looking back, I now think I was meant to take part of this project, even though I didn't apply at first, as it led me to great experiences and eventually getting hired at SEI Tallinn, where I'm now working on the YENESIS project among others. I'm grateful for the opportunity to escape Estonian winter this year and practice my Spanish. 😊

training and placement, I started my own business called Vasilakis group, focusing on engineering solutions and curatorial designs. The need for expertise and the love for my island made me continue my educational path and become a certified EU Energy Mentor/consultant. In addition, due to my research work for UNESCO heritage cities, sustainable tourism and landscape capacity, within YENESIS project I am part of the sustainable tourism group. To understand the trigger about my research I shall mention that my island is one of the top Greek touristic destinations for decades, its old city is an UNESCO heritage site and sustainability is not implemented in the extend that could make a difference. My research is well received and has led to new partnerships, among which are the Ionian University Museum and the Ionian Islands Museum Network. Since August 2021, the digital exhibition about Ionian Islands Culture & heritage in which I contributed as curator and content creator, operates under the auspice of the Ministry of Culture and is available online. My local placement was in a regional agency, which was a key factor to form new relationships and plan new projects as I became the connecting link that led to the conclusion of synergies between institutes. For me, to be able to contribute and share my vision with communities and professionals is a wish come true. I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of YENESIS community, I loved the time shared with my colleagues and I am looking forward for my apprenticeship later this year.

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**YENESIS Networking Platform**



The Network section of our YENESIS platform is now online!

Through the Networking function of the platform, the NEETs and companies can sign in and come in touch for business opportunities. Additionally, NEETs can connect with each other and exchange ideas and experiences in our forum section.

[YENESIS Platform](#)

## Youth Employment Magazine



The next issue of the Youth Employment Magazine is out now.



The magazine is a source of information on all projects funded by the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment. YENESIS is one of the 26 projects currently benefiting from the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.

You can find all the published issues here: <https://youthemploymentmag.net/archive/>

# “Working together for a **green**, **competitive** and **inclusive** Europe”

Want to learn more about the project? Read our leaflet [here](#)



**Participants will have the opportunity to:**

- Participate in an educational course on business innovation and the 4 thematic areas
- Take part in a showcasing expedition on good practices in the expertise partner's country
- Partake in an apprenticeship mobility scheme (12 participants per country) between the beneficiary countries
- Work on local sustainability projects, upon return to home country
- Receive mentoring from experts
- Share and exchange ideas throughout the network through an online platform

YENESIS project benefits from €2.3M grand from Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway through EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment. The project aims at creating employment opportunities, for NEETs in islands.

Stay in the loop and follow us on



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