



INSULAR SMEs AND RENEWABLE ENERGY: BENEFITS AND BARRIERS

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INTRODUCTION

- | **Islands: geographic and physical observations**
 - Insularity, the lack of fossil energy and the reduced size of the energy network create difficulties in energy supply
- BUT
- the physical characteristics and the natural resources of the insular regions (sun, wind, waves ...) create high potential in renewable energy production
- | **Some examples of projects aiming at developing renewable energies in the islands**
- | **How can insular SMEs benefit from renewable energy?**



THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY: A BENEFIT FOR INSULAR SMEs

I **Socio-economic impacts**

I **New market, new jobs**

- Development of a “green business”
- Integration of the local businesses into the market for equipment and related services
- Development of R&D projects

I **Economic benefit**

- lower costs, lower prices for energy



THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY: A BENEFIT FOR INSULAR SMEs

- | **Energy and environmental impacts**
 - | Higher energy independence
 - | Lower impact on environment => positive impact on touristic sector

- | **Other benefits**
 - | Commercial benefit (better image for clients and possible investors)
 - | Financial benefit (new income from unexploited resources)



RENEWABLE ENERGY: CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITS FOR SMEs

I **Cost**

- High cost and problem of access to finance
- Limited subsidy => need of a strong political commitment in some regions
- SMEs prefer to focus on energy consumption management and, in the context of the crisis, on immediate investment return

I **Limits in term of exploitation** (intermittent power, difficulty in reaching energy independence, problems of energy storage...)

I **Limitations related to the exercise of certain activities in the islands**



CONCLUSION

- Renewable energies reveal the strengths of insular regions; islands are no longer a burden but a place of experimentation and development for Europe
- Need of a strong commitment from the political authorities
- Role of the Chambers of Commerce as a privileged partner for enterprises (information, accompanying and support activities)



Thank you for your attention !

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