

ISOLARIO

A project for the Aegean Islands

2007-2012

Revised and updated in March 2008
Planning 2008-2009

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2007-2012



The '**Isolario**¹' project is an open and flexible plan comprising an extensive array of activities on the Cycladic islands.

The project spans the period between **January 2007** and **December 2012**.

It is a fruit of the collaboration of the island municipalities and the Media dell' Arte Creative Team.

A pilot project was initiated in 2003 with the institution of the "Folegandros Festivities", through which a series of activities have been carried out up to 2006.



General Description

In general terms the '**Isolario**' project can be described as an array of actions intending to protect and preserve the small insular worlds of the Aegean in cultural, social and environmental terms and to provide some prerequisites for an alternative, rational development. The axis of this project is definitely culture, though in its broader sense.



Funding

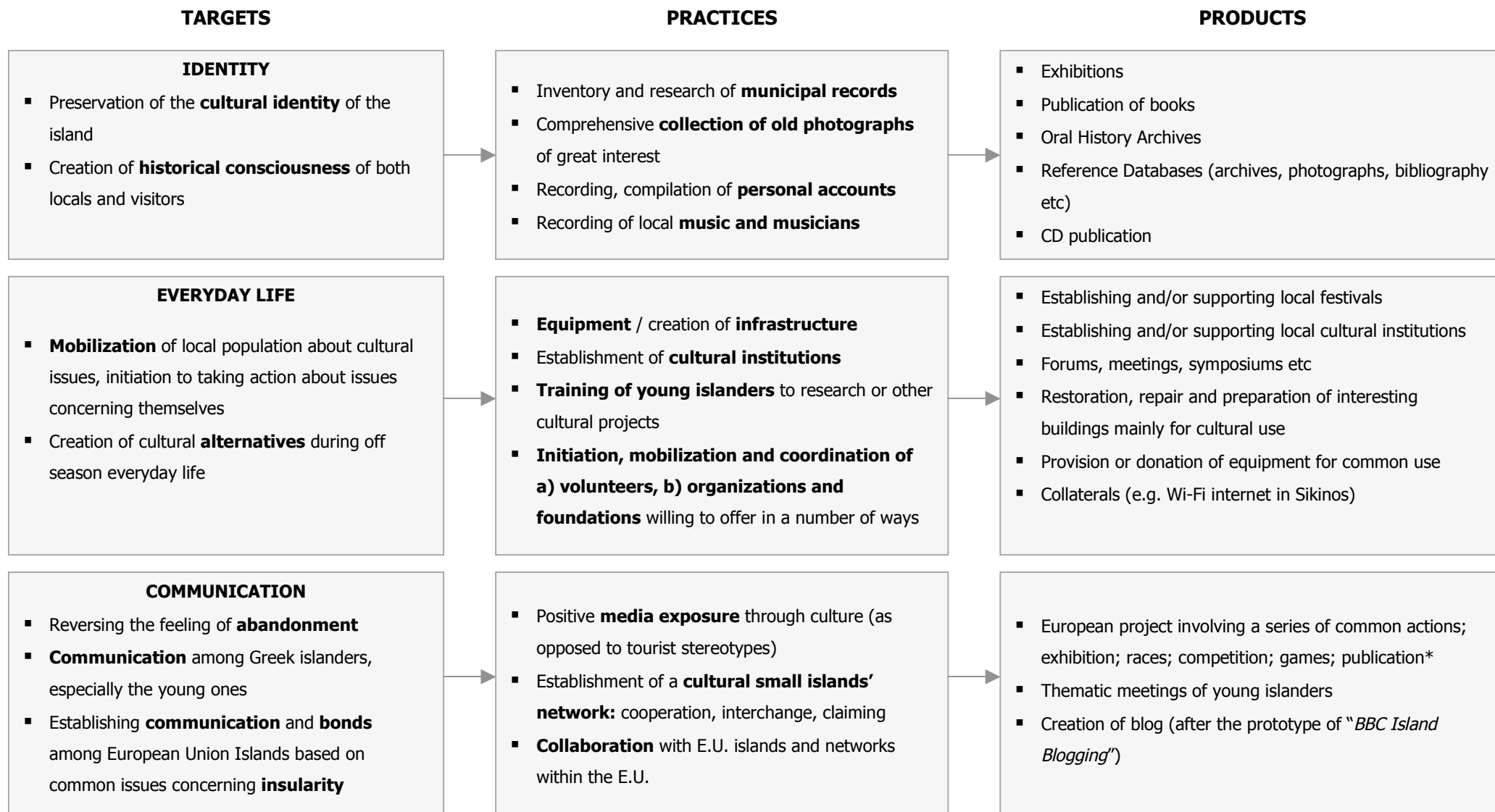
So far there is not regular funding. Practically, the funding of the yearly actions starts from scratch every September. Sponsorships and funding are attempted from both public and private sector. The municipalities of the islands participating in the project cover small part of the budget.



The diagram on the following page is overview of the priorities, (**targets**), the methods (**practices**) and the outcome (**products**) of the actions taken by this project.



¹ *Insularium, Isolario: 15th century term referring to map collections accompanied by narrative descriptions, geographical and historical observations, exploration logs and a wealth of other information collected by travellers, explorers and cartographers of the islands.*



More about "Isolario" project: www.mediadellarte.gr



2008 - 2009 PROGRAMMING

The actions of the Isolario project are re-evaluated and reconsidered every autumn and spring. All participants contribute to the course of action.



The following actions were designed in the autumn 2007 and revised before the end of March 2008. They are categorized as actions concerning:

- A. IDENTITY,
- B. EVERYDAY LIFE,
- C. COMMUNICATION (see table on page 3).

They cover the period **January 2008 - May 2009**. This period's participants are the islands of **Folegandros, Sikinos, Amorgos, Donoussa, and Kimolos**.

Next revision will take place in the autumn 2008.



A. IDENTITY: research, digitalization, and promotion of local culture

Action 1. Oral History Archive - database implementation

- **Recorded interviews** of the inhabitants.
- Topics such as **jobs, emigration, historical events, transportation, social relations, superstitions, ethics, everyday life, crimes** etc are covered here.
- **Young islanders participate** throughout this action. They are trained in new technology, which they use to record their own culture.
- The action begun in 2003 and will continue until 2012 (*winter 2008- spring 2009*)

Action 2. Photographic Archive - database implementation

- **Collection of old photographic or cinematic material** from the inhabitants' personal archives. This material is a historical testimony. Due to the owners' ignorance the material is destroyed and thrown away day after day. During Action 2 the material is collected, digitized (mainly scanned) and recorded in the database.

- Like in Action 1, young islanders are involved in this action (collection of the material, digitalization, database implementation).
- The action begun in 2003 and will continue until 2012 (*winter 2008- spring 2009*)

Action 3. Recording of local music and musicians

- Recording of **music and musicians of Sikinos** (*March 2008*)
- CD publication: the **music of Folegandros and Sikinos** (*winter 2008*)

Actions 4 and 5. Books' publication

- Action 4 is the publication of two books about the **cuisine of Kimolos and Amorgos** (*winter 2008*)
- Action 5 is the publication of a book about the interior decoration of the houses of the Aegean: the meaning, the aesthetics and today's social structure (*winter 2009*)
- The books and the CD are the outcome of the research during the Actions 1 and 2.

B. EVERYDAY LIFE - INFRASTRUCTURE:
equipment, training of young islanders, creating and supporting cultural institutions

Action 6,7. Equipment

- Action 6 is the **donation of a grand piano** to the municipality of Amorgos (*June 2008*)
- Action 7 is the **donation of two video projectors** to the municipality of Folegandros and to the film club of Amorgos (*June 2008*)

Action 8. Organizing the summer festivals

- **Folegandros Festivities 2008, Sikinos Festivities 2008, Amorgos - Days of Art and Culture 2008, Art exhibition in Kimolos:** Exhibitions, music, theatre, dance, happenings and street performances.
- The important characteristic of these organizations is the **parallel training of the young islanders** in

every stage of the preparation and implementation of the project: funding, making the programme, budgeting, public relations, media coverage, production, post production etc. (*July - August 2008*)

Action 9. Cinema festival "Documentary Days"

- Folegandros, Amorgos, Sikinos (*July - August 2008*)

Action 10. Restoration of the Sikinos school building

- Preliminary actions are taken for the restoration of the Sikinos Primary School building.
- After the restoration the building will serve the community as a cultural center.
- Exhibitions, concerts, conferences and a number of similar events will be hosted here.

C. COMMUNICATION:

collaboration - meetings - influx of information - insular network - European perspectives

Action 11. Archaeological symposium

- The subjects of the meeting will be a) **preservation and restoration of historical monuments** b) **Antiquities of the Classical period on Cycladic islands**
- The meeting will be held every other year on a different island (*first meeting: spring 2009, Sikinos*)

Action 12. European meeting of Young Islanders

- 22 young islanders from 11 different European islands meet on Sikinos and discuss on common issues. Partnership building for a larger project which will be announced during the workshops.
- Funding through the "Youth in Action" program will be attempted
(*Sikinos, April 2009*)

Action 13. Young Masons: meeting

- Action 13 **calls young islanders working in the construction industry** (workers, constructors, technicians etc) to a two days meeting.
- **Awareness, information and education** on issues concerning the **local architectural heritage and environment** are the goals of this meeting
- Architects, engineers, the Aegean University, Technical Chamber and the Ministry of the Aegean will be invited to participate in this meeting.

PAST ACTIONS OF THE YEARS 2003-2007

The following actions were designed and implemented by the communities of each island with the collaboration of Media dell'Arte. Some of them are already complete while some others still continue.

Research work:

1. **Municipal Archives:** research, classification -partial digitalization and database implementation (Folegandros, Sikinos and Donoussa)
2. **Collection of old photographic material:** digitalization and database implementation (Folegandros, Sikinos and Donoussa)
3. **Oral History Archive:** Recording and classification of accounts taken from the islanders
4. Creation of the only existing **bibliographic database** of book titles about the Aegean Sea
5. **Local music and musicians:** recordings in Folegandros and Sikinos

Exhibitions:

1. **Two photography exhibitions** (2003, 2004)
2. **"Archipelago exhibition: the voyage-the people-the environment -the sea"**. Book exhibition from all over the Aegean (2004)
3. **"Stories in History: the municipal archives of Folegandros, 1825-1970"**, historical exhibition (2005)
4. **"In the shadow of Karagiozis"**, an exhibition about the hero of the traditional Greek shadow treatre (2006)
5. **"An overwhelming voyage"**: astronomy exhibition (2007)
6. **"Sikinos 2007, microhistories"** Ethnographic exhibition (2007)
7. **Archaeological exhibition A'** "Geometric Donoussa: Vathi

Limenari, a fortified settlement of the 9th century B.C.

B' "Chronicle of an excavation, 1968-1972: Breakthroughs and Restorations" (2007)

Organizations:

1. **"Folegandros Festivities"** summer festival (2003-2007)
2. **"Documentary Days"** open air film festival (2006-2007)
3. **"Sikinos Festivities"** summer festival (2007)
4. **"Donoussa Festivities"** summer festival (2007)

Publications:

1. **"Folegandros cooks"** (2004, 2nd edition 2006, Greek & English)
2. **"Archipelago"**, exhibition catalogue, Greek English (2004)
3. **"Stories in history: Folegandros, the minimum scale"** Greek, (2005)
4. **"Dear compatriots and noble strangers"** publication for the municipal archive of Folegandros, Greek-English (2006)
5. **"Sikinos cooks"** Greek, (2007)
6. **"Donoussa cooks"** Greek, (2007)

Miscellanea:

1. Donation of **grand piano** to the community of Folegandros (2003).
2. Installation of **wireless internet** (Sikinos, 2007).
3. Purchase of **videoprojector and HiFi** and establishment of the Sikinos cine-club operational throughout the year (community of Sikinos, 2007).

PATRON INSTITUTIONS AND SPONSORS OF THE YEARS 2003-2007

Since 2003, a variety of institutions have offered manifold assistance in the organisation of the range of events held each year.

- Hellenic Culture Organization (OPEP)
- National Greek Television (ERT)
- National Book Centre of Greece (EKEBI)
- The Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive (ELIA)
- The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage
- Centre for Asia Minor Studies
- Eugenides Foundation
- Hellenic Navy General Staff, Historical Archive
- Thessaloniki Film Festival
- Greek Film Centre
- Conservation Volunteers Greece

Patron institutions:

- General Secretariat for Youth (2007)
- Ministry of the Aegean and Island Policy (2003)
- The Prefecture of Cyclades (2006, 2007)
- Greek National Tourism Organisation (2006, 2007)
- Hellenic Tourist Properties (2003)

Sponsors from the private sector:

- Nounou Family (Main Sponsor, 2003-2006)
- Jetoil (2003-2007)
- G/A Ferries (2003-2004)
- Epilogi Ktirion K.Benakopoylos (2006-2007)
- Anemi Hotels (2007)
- Elies Resorts Sifnos (2007)
- Copelouzos Group (2007)
- Kaoussis (2007)
- Elter S.A. (2007)
- OTE (2007)
- Blue Star Ferries (2007)
- Unisystems (2006)
- Aegean Speed Lines (2006-2007)

Media sponsors:

ERT, Eleftherotypia, Kathimerini
and the radio stations
Sto Kokkino 105,5 VM Radio