

Student Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Action:
The Unic analysis on Schiermonnikoog, Netherlands
as Part of the INTERREG FREIIA Project
The interviews and process

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Abstract

FREIIA, Facilitating Resilience Embracing Islands Innovation, is a INTERREG project financed by the European Union running from 1. October 2022 until 31. December 2025. The project consists of 14 partners from 6 countries, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, France and Norway.

The aim of this project is to help 6 island communities in the European Union to create competences, capabilities & structures that support the public sector in becoming successful in the green transition, through the involvement of community, young entrepreneurs and students.

Østfold University College is responsible for Work Package 4 (WP4), which focuses on fostering student entrepreneurship. The main objective of WP4 is to integrate entrepreneurship students into the strategic governance of island innovation, strengthening their role in green transitions. When referring to the FREIIA project in this paper, it refers to WP4 of the FREIIA project.

The following section focuses on identifying innovation gaps in Schiermonnikoog, Netherlands, using interviews with local stakeholders and students from participating universities. Stakeholders were engaged through targeted outreach via local networks and direct invitations, ensuring diverse input. Students played an active role in conducting semi-structured interviews, gathering insights from community members, businesses, and the municipality. The interviews highlighted key challenges related to sustainable development and cross-sector collaboration, which will inform the next phase of the project, where design thinking methods will be applied to develop solutions.



*(Noordertoren Lighthouse,
Schiermonnikoog.)*

Introduction

As part of the FREIIA project on Schiermonnikoog, 23 interviews were conducted to capture the voices and perspectives of the local community. Rather than providing a detailed analysis, this document presents raw and unfiltered data, ensuring that stakeholders' experiences and concerns are conveyed in their own words.

The interviews were conducted with a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the public sector, local businesses, NGOs, permanent residents, seasonal visitors, and politicians. Before arriving on Schiermonnikoog, we worked closely with Natuurmonumenten and the municipality to compile an initial list of relevant stakeholders. This helped us connect with key individuals who shared valuable insights on the community's challenges and opportunities.

While many participants were scheduled in advance based on this initial list, others were identified through spontaneous interactions during our time on the island. This combination of planned outreach and organic engagement allowed us to include both well-established voices and perspectives that might not typically be captured in formal research. By blending structured recruitment with on-the-ground flexibility, we gained a more nuanced and representative understanding of life on Schiermonnikoog.

A key feature of this phase was the close collaboration between Østfold University College (HiØ), Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Natuurmonumenten, and the municipality of Schiermonnikoog. This partnership was essential in facilitating the interview process, helping to identify relevant stakeholders and establish trust with the local community. By combining academic and local expertise, the process ensured that the selection of participants was both well-informed and reflective of the community's diverse perspectives.

By focusing exclusively on the transcriptions, the document ensures that participants' perspectives remain intact, offering valuable insights for researchers, local actors, and decision-makers. It serves as a resource for understanding the island's social and economic landscape, highlighting key challenges and opportunities in sustainable and innovative development.

Schiermonnikoog

Schiermonnikoog is one of the West Frisian Islands in the Netherlands, located in the province of Friesland. The smallest inhabited island in the archipelago, it lies in the Wadden Sea, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Covering approximately 40 square kilometers and home to around 950 residents, Schiermonnikoog combines a small, closely-knit village with vast, open natural landscapes.

The island is renowned for its unique natural environment and commitment to sustainability. Large parts of Schiermonnikoog are designated as a national park, featuring sand dunes, expansive beaches, and a rich variety of wildlife, including numerous bird species. A popular destination for tourists, especially nature enthusiasts, the island is celebrated for its peaceful atmosphere, eco-friendly tourism, and cycling-friendly infrastructure. Visitors can only get around by foot or bicycle, as the island is car-free for tourists. Regular ferry connections link the island to the mainland.

Tourism is the primary source of income for Schiermonnikoog, with a strong emphasis on balancing economic activity with environmental preservation. The combination of a rich ecosystem, focus on sustainability, and a unique location makes Schiermonnikoog an integral part of the Netherlands' efforts in environmental conservation and local development.



Methods & Process

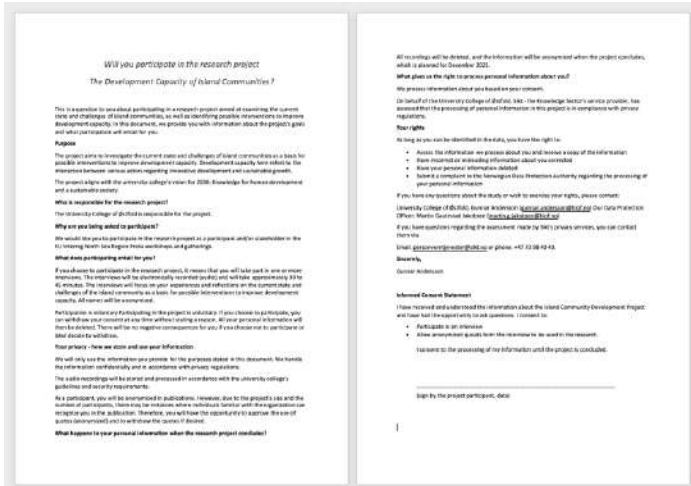
As part of the FREIIA project, 23 interviews were conducted with local stakeholders on Schiermonnikoog. The informants represented both permanent residents and seasonal actors, with the goal of documenting their perspectives on challenges and opportunities related to innovation and sustainable development.

All interviews were transcribed using the 'Diktafon' app and securely stored on SIKT, Norway's national digital service provider for research and education. SIKT ensured that the data was handled in compliance with ethical and privacy standards, safeguarding the confidentiality of participants. (*Sikt – Kunnskapssektorens tjenesteleverandør | Sikt, u.å.*)

The transcriptions are presented chronologically in this report to preserve the original structure of the interviews. Only minimal editing was carried out, primarily to anonymize and remove repetitions and unclear sections, without altering the content or meaning.

The interviews were conducted using the UNIC method, which balances structure with flexibility. This approach ensured that key topics such as local sustainability, housing challenges, and collaboration were covered, while still allowing space for emerging themes. This provided rich and detailed insights, capturing the informants' perspectives in an authentic and comprehensive manner. (Hein, L. (December, 1988b). *Diagnose på utviklingsfunksjonen (notat 2). UNIC-gruppen*).

In research involving interviews, obtaining informed consent is a critical step to uphold ethical standards. The stakeholders interviewed were asked to sign a consent form outlining the purpose of the study, their voluntary participation, and the confidentiality of their identities. This formal agreement ensures transparency and compliance with ethical research guidelines. The consent form specifies that personal information will remain confidential, details how the data will be used, and reassures participants that they can withdraw at any time without consequence. This process fosters trust between researchers and participants, creating a safe environment for open and honest discussions.



(Consent Form for interviewees)

To ensure consistency across islands and for data collecting purposes, a standardized interview guide was employed. Questions were designed to elicit both specific insights and broader reflections on sustainability challenges. The eight questions included:

1. What is your role in the island community?
2. How would you describe the island community and its current state?
3. What are the biggest challenges the island community faces regarding innovative development and sustainable growth?
4. What initiatives has the island community previously undertaken to address these challenges?
5. How does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth?
6. In your opinion, how can the island community improve its development capacity?
7. How can you and your organization contribute to improving the island community's development capacity?
8. How can the island community collaborate better with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals?

Identifying Stakeholders: Process and Approach

The recruitment of stakeholders for the FREIIA project on Schiermonnikoog was a collaborative effort, involving multiple partners and strategies to ensure a broad and representative range of perspectives. Natuurmonumenten and the municipality of Schiermonnikoog played a key role in the early stages by leveraging their local networks and expertise to identify potential participants. Together, they helped create an initial list of relevant stakeholders, ensuring a diverse selection that included public officials, business owners, NGOs, and local residents.

Project leaders from Østfold University College traveled to Schiermonnikoog two days before the fieldwork to review and expand the stakeholder list provided by Natuurmonumenten and the municipality. This initial list, primarily consisting of business owners, was found to be too narrow to

capture the diverse insights and perspectives needed for the study. The team contacted additional stakeholders and scheduled interviews with those already on the list, confirming times and locations ahead of the arrival of students from Østfold University College and Hanze University of Applied Sciences.

While on the island, the research group cycled across Schiermonnikoog to approach stakeholders on the list and identify new ones. Face-to-face planning proved highly effective, enabling clearer communication and stronger commitments to interviews, including with tourists, nature conservationists, and store employees.

A clarification meeting with the municipality of Schiermonnikoog further refined the stakeholder list and finalized the interview schedule to ensure inclusivity and diversity. During this meeting, the team also reviewed the interview questions to ensure alignment with the project's goals. However, this process proved somewhat challenging, as we had our set of eight predefined questions, while the municipality wanted to include additional questions focused on the circular economy and how municipal procedures could better support businesses. This revealed a misalignment, or at least a lack of clarity, between different work packages and their objectives. Had we approached this differently, for example, by establishing clearer communication and coordination earlier in the process, we might have avoided this overlap and ensured a more streamlined approach.

By building on the initial list and expanding it through proactive outreach, the team included a broader range of voices representing various roles and sectors within the community. This flexible and hands-on approach ensured the interviews captured a wide spectrum of perspectives, laying a strong foundation for the FREIA project's goals on Schiermonnikoog.

Student Involvement and Field work

A key aspect of the project was the involvement of students, whose enthusiasm and creative approaches were crucial to its success. The students stayed at De Kooiplaats on Schiermonnikoog and were organized into international, cross-sector teams of two. These teams explored the island and engaged directly with stakeholders, both from a prearranged list and new contacts they identified during fieldwork. Their ability to adapt and approach individuals with diverse perspectives provided valuable insights and enriched the overall study.



(De Kooiplaats campsite, Schiermonnikoog.)

Over two days, Norwegian and Dutch student teams traveled across the island to meet stakeholders in their own environments, including businesses, municipal offices, and local landmarks. A detailed schedule was created to ensure efficient time management and maximize participation, which was then shared with the students. Meeting points were set throughout the day to provide support and address any questions or challenges. A designated lunch station served as a base for the leadership team during the interview period for availability purposes.

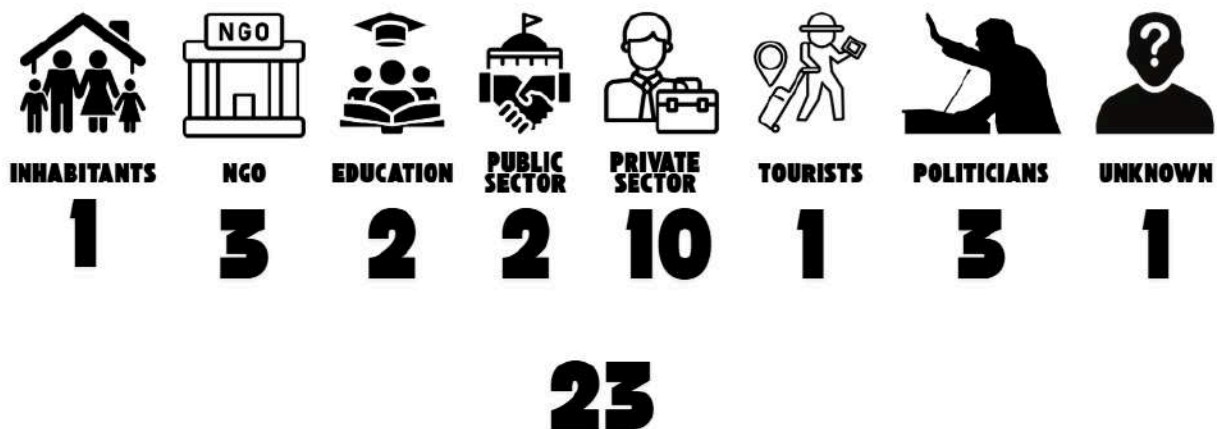
Students conducted semi-structured interviews using a predefined format, consistent across all islands in the FREIIA project. This approach ensured standardized data collection, while allowing participants to share personal insights and experiences.

The interviews were designed to align with the Discover phase of the Double Diamond Method, focusing on uncovering stakeholders' challenges, needs, and aspirations. This approach ensured that the analysis captured the nuances of local perspectives, while maintaining compatibility with findings from other islands. («The Double Diamond Model», 2024)

Additionally, students conducted spontaneous "stunt interviews" with tourists and locals they encountered during fieldwork. This enriched the dataset with unanticipated perspectives, further strengthening the breadth and depth of the findings.

Stakeholders and key insights

As part of the project, we conducted 23 interviews with stakeholders on Schiermonnikoog. The informants represented a broad range of actors, including permanent residents, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the public sector, the private sector, tourists, and a category labeled "Others/Unknown." This diversity of backgrounds and perspectives provided valuable insights and laid a strong foundation for identifying themes critical to the island's future development.



(This model shows the number of interviewees divided into groups.)

Key insights

The FREIIA project's initial phase on Schiermonnikoog focused on uncovering key challenges and opportunities for sustainable development through interviews and workshops with a diverse group of stakeholders. These activities provided important insights into the island's community dynamics, structural barriers, and areas for potential innovation. The findings below summarize the critical themes that emerged during this phase:

Circular Economy

A prominent theme was the differing levels of understanding regarding the concept of a circular economy among stakeholders. While the municipality showed strong interest in advancing circular economy initiatives, many local actors struggled to see how this concept applied to their daily lives and businesses. For some, the idea felt abstract and disconnected from local realities, making implementation challenging. Bridging this gap between theory and practical application will be vital to achieving progress in this area.

Retaining Young Adults

The outmigration of young people to urban centers emerged as a major demographic challenge for Schiermonnikoog. Stakeholders pointed to limited opportunities, a lack of inspiration, and high housing costs as key factors reducing the island's appeal to young adults. Without targeted initiatives to create opportunities for this demographic, the long-term sustainability of the island community is at risk.

Collaboration Across Sectors

A lack of collaboration between the public, private, and civic sectors was another significant issue raised by stakeholders. While there is a willingness to work together, the absence of formal platforms for collaboration hinders progress and innovation. Developing spaces for cross-sector cooperation could unlock shared solutions and drive sustainable development on the island.

Space and Resource Optimization

Schiermonnikoog faces physical and environmental constraints that limit its capacity for growth. Strict building regulations, while essential for preserving the island's character and natural environment, present challenges for sustainable development. Stakeholders emphasized the need for innovative approaches that balance conservation with the community's evolving needs. Finding ways to grow sustainably within these spatial and resource limitations is a critical priority for the island's future.

Next Steps

These findings provide a foundation for addressing Schiermonnikoog's key challenges and opportunities. Bridging the gap between the concept of a circular economy and its practical implementation will require creating a shared vision that resonates with local stakeholders. Similarly, retaining young adults demands targeted initiatives focused on housing, employment, and cultural engagement. Building platforms for cross-sector collaboration and finding sustainable ways to optimize space and resources are also critical to fostering long-term growth and resilience.

Acknowledgments

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This work was made possible by the generous support of the Interreg NSR and the EU. We would also like to acknowledge Østfold University College for providing access to the necessary facilities, staff, and data. Our gratitude extends to the technical staff at SIKT for their assistance with all matters regarding data collection.

We are deeply grateful to all the students from Innovation and Project Management (HiØ) and Product Design (Hanze Hogeschool) who conducted interviews, analyzed and transcribed data, and contributed their time and dedication to the project.

We are especially thankful for the collaboration with the municipality of Schiermonnikoog and Natuurmonumenten. Your guidance and support were invaluable to the success of this phase. Lastly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the stakeholders from Schiermonnikoog, who generously shared their time and perspectives, which were essential for our analysis and the project's success.

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(Hein, L. (December, 1988b). Diagnose på utviklingsfunktionen (notat 2). UNIC-gruppen).

Transcripts

The following transcripts represent raw data collected during the research phase of the project. To ensure accuracy and efficiency, AI-assisted transcription tools were used. While we have made efforts to verify the content, minor errors or inconsistencies may still occur.

For privacy reasons, all interviewees have been anonymized, and identifying details have been removed where necessary as according to signed consent forms by our interview objects. Additionally, some phrasing may be difficult to understand when reading due to the raw nature of the preserved data.

These transcripts serve as foundational research material and should be interpreted within the broader context of the study.

Audio-recording-2023-09-28-100251.txt

[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_00]

We're recording. You wanna start, or should I start? Yeah, sure. Well, what is your role in this island community? What do you mean by role? Like, you play a part.

[SPEAKER_03]

yeah this organization yes what part is that so i work for Natuurmonumenten the nature preservation organization um that's my job and then i do some voluntary work as well for the KNRM the rescue rescues, lifeguards, boats. And I live on this island, obviously, and I do a little bit of projects as well about housing on the island. Oh, and I'm also with the literature festival in the organization.

[SPEAKER_01]

And how is your role affected by the island tourism?

[SPEAKER_03]

How my role is affected by island tourism? Well, my job mostly contains working with tourists. So for Natuurmonument I work half the time at the desk of the visitor center. So then I answer the questions of the tourists. So what's the most beautiful place to go or can I buy a lighthouse or what's there to do? So that is mostly affected by tourism.

And I also organize excursions for Natura Monumenta, so that's also most of the time, because there are sometimes also islanders that want to go with a park ranger on an excursion, or they have other questions, but also mainly affected by tourists who come here with their families or their friends or their colleagues or whatsoever to have an excursion or something.

[SPEAKER_01]

Would this organization be a thing if you didn't have tourism?

[SPEAKER_03]

This organization would for sure be a thing because it's the national park. The island is 90% of the national. Yeah, 90% of the island is a national park. So that has to be maintained anyhow. And there has to be checks and research in the national park. And even though that's not my part in this organization, this organization would for sure exist.

[SPEAKER_01]

Would the visitor center exist without tourists? Probably not. How do you think the activities you do in this organization are different the way it is with all the tourism? What does tourism bring to this organization?

[SPEAKER_03]

I think for Natuurmonumenten, well the Visitor Center, like maybe you have been explained, is there are two organizations together in this building. So where the Visitor Center and Natuurmonumenten are together in this building and they sit together at the desk and downstairs you have a shop part and you have an exposition part and we have different roles and different

different interests, values in this visitor center. Then I forgot the question. What does tourism bring to? So for the tourist information center as a business, it's obviously their business model. That's their income to have tourists and give them information and sell them stuff.

For Natura Monumenta, I think there's a different part or a different value, different interest in this visitor center. And that would be educating and informing people. So we want them to know what's nature, what it is about, where you can go, how birds in breeding seasons are protected. So we want to inform them. We don't earn money by doing that.

But we want to inform the tourists about 90% of the island that is really precious and need to be protected and we want to tell them why and by giving excursions with a park ranger.

it gives them a side they can feel it they can they can touch it they can go on the mud flats and not because we want it's our our income but we want them to know how it feels to be on the mud flats and then maybe make a conscious decision and things you do or uh yeah no no what the protected nature looks like why are we doing

yeah why we're doing yeah why we're here actually yeah and lastly on that question uh where do most of the visitors come from are they dutch or do they come from other countries ah i think most of the tourists are dutch and there's also a big part of german tourists because we're quite close to the german border so people come here and

[SPEAKER_01]

How would you describe the island community and its current state? Describe by what? Is it prospering? Is it in any kind of trouble? How would you describe the island community? As my Natuurmonument perspective or my personal perspective?

[SPEAKER_03]

Please, both. That's a difficult question. I don't know, but I think my observation of it is that maybe we don't know how much we're in over our heads. So there are, I don't know the numbers, but lots of tourists come here. And boats, for example, where we came with the boat, the ferry route. Maybe you've seen it in the news, but the... How do I explain this? The ferry cannot pass at the... There's a... You go like this and then you go like this. And this part isn't deep enough to have two ferries cross each other. And it only gets more shallow by the time because it will...

The sand will get in the lane, in the trench. So that means that nature, or in my opinion, I think nature says it's enough or maybe we need to look for something else or maybe a different boat or less ferries. I don't know. I think nature is maybe telling us something. And there's a whole hassle about how we're going to do that. But because we all have different interests, the owners of the businesses say, yeah, but if we don't have tours, we don't have income. And that's bad. And I think maybe with the owners of the

business, you have to check, like, when is enough enough? Every year, do you need to make more money?

Or is there a balance point? Is there a point where we get 300,000 tourists, for example, per year and you make this much money and maybe that's enough? Do you need to get richer and richer at the expense of the island? Because more tourists also means more damage to nature. And the more tourists you get, I think there is also a change in what kind of tourists. And we get really uneducated tourists as well.

roam through the nature and they have no idea and they let their dogs let run loose well that's not allowed because dogs are a big danger for a big danger they are a threat for some plants or birds or whatever and people are like when you tell them please keep your dog on the leash because it affects nature and they're like who are you to tell me that kind of discussions

So how our community is... I think we are really divided with our interests and I think maybe our biggest interest as a community with the tourists is making money and making more and more and more money at the expense of lots of things.

as a community, I think that's different. Because if the tourists are gone, for example, in wintertime, we get together and we help each other. And you can ask your neighbor and we know each other. And, oh, my fridge is broken. Can you please help me? Because I don't know, but I can cook. So can we exchange something? And there is so much love and closeness as well to help each other as a person or as an islander.

So yeah and I think that's something really unique in this time and that's something we should contain and this island makes that possible because it's not so easy to get off so we need to help each other. So I think it depends on what you mean with community or... Yeah I think it's a great answer.

[SPEAKER_01]

I want to follow up on what you said about wanting more. Is that the case? Are there wealthy individuals here and are they still trying to get more or are they just trying to get to some level of safety, economical safety?

[SPEAKER_03]

It's not that I ask them to show me your finances, so this is more of my opinion, my perspective on this. So I don't know if they need to get to a safe or maybe they have debts and they need to get more tourists.

But I do think, and that's of course when you are a business owner, that is your, it doesn't have to be, but the goal is to make money and you can make more money also with less tourists, but you have to target the groups differently. So don't get, don't have an easy marketing strategy.

I sell something and that's for a specific target group but you can also say okay this is the group of people I have maybe I can target them differently so there doesn't have to be a second or a third boat because there are already enough tourists but you can target them differently and maybe innovate a bit more and find a niche

find a niche maybe yeah but i yeah i think um yeah maybe wanting more i talked to someone who has a business on the island and he was like yeah but i need to sell more of of of of what i what i have to give and i have to every year i have to make more money i have to have a higher higher income or something

and they had the conversation on that as well but this is totally unfunded but he didn't have a specific reason for that that's i think that's just how having a business works right in the classic economy when every year you need to get more money because then you succeed in the business it's not because they think they need but that's how that's explained to you

[SPEAKER_01]

Almost always is one of the main goals, isn't it? Just to make money. That's kind of why you're doing it in the first place. Yeah, you have to thrive, you have to grow, you have to be a bigger business. Is the number of visitors increasing? I do think it's increasing, but I don't know the numbers.

And what do you think are the best aspects of the island? And that's more personal I think.

[SPEAKER_03]

uh the best aspects well for me i came to live here two years ago so then i was 24 and i just kind of ended up here and i think what brought me here was the amazing nature the beach and the diversity in nature and plants and the quietness and the peacefulness but also the close community what i was talking about before um

how you have a place in that community, even though maybe you don't have a big group of people, you're like, oh, we think the same and we are the same, but also with the, I have friends that are 80. In the city, we would probably think, oh, you're old and I'll listen to you, but whatever, and here they are my friends and I go to dinner with them or have food or I can walk in and

And we help each other and they help me and I help them. And I think that's a really beautiful way of living together. And not looking at somebody as a person and not necessarily as an age or a job or something like that. So I think, yeah, and for sure the beach. And every day it's different. The island is different. You have a different sunset. You have a different, I don't know. Then there are strawberry or blackberries or...

[SPEAKER_01]

I don't know, I liked it. Okay, this one is more different, more technical. What are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth? What do you mean by challenges?

[SPEAKER_03]

What are the barriers to achieve innovative development and sustainable growth? What is standing in the way? I think, for starters, they maybe don't know what the possibilities are. We maybe don't have to think about sustainability and innovation. So we are not informed, or we didn't inform ourselves. It depends on how you look at it.

So I think lots of people don't have to and also there's a difference between being a business owner and making money with the one thing you have and they can make more money with that product but they just have to attract more people and they have to go in the line that they were that they were going in instead of thinking, oh, but maybe we can innovate and have a different target group or maybe sell unicyles because that's what they want or I don't know. I think the need isn't high enough to do some innovation. And also in summertime, you just work really hard. And then in

wintertime, you go on a holiday or you relax, you do all the shitty jobs that you didn't have time for in summertime because you were just going and going and going.
so yeah there's no need and also no time maybe and also no knowledge no information i think there is a i don't i don't know i'm not there but i don't think there is a group of people or the business owners that come together and say okay we have to be more sustainable because this is this is
is causing something or we're taking something of nature or maybe we have to think about it differently and yes with the boat and the ferry they have to think differently but they don't have to do it radically differently and say oh we have to do small owners and we can make like Ilya said we make our own soap so that saves us shampoo bars but we just they don't maybe think about it but I'm not a business owner
hmm

For example, because if I get it back to what my role is in this community, in the visitor center downstairs you have the shop and the shop is mainly the income of the visitor center as a company. And we as a nature preservation organization, we stand for sustainability.

want to carry that out as well to the people that come in and say oh we take us we have a voice for nature so we also don't want to sell things but we work together so that's a slow process but for the visitor center if they order something that they think is sustainable

And then I'm like, this is not at all sustainable. Have you thought about, have you really read into this project? And they're like, ah, no, but it says sustainable, so it's sustainable, right? And then a day later, they ordered stuff from China again, and they're like, oh, look how beautiful this is. And I'm like...

How can you even buy this? I know it makes you an income, and I know, but then say, it's our income, I'm sorry, but until we have a solution for more sustainable products, we're going to buy this. But they're actually happy, and look at the crap from China we bought to sell. There is no...

[SPEAKER_01]

awareness almost and they're happy to buy that shit because it has bright colors or something. What do you feel like it's very interesting right because you're doing nature reservation. Yeah. Do you feel like this kind of knowledge is not your responsibility but kind of your responsibility to bring here to the island? As an organization or for me as an individual? As an organization that cares about nature. And you sound like you believe that knowing what sustainability is would improve sustainability. Do you feel like that's something your organization should be more focused on bringing here? Like the knowledge and the...

[SPEAKER_03]

showing people how we can get the same value and and same experiences but in a more sustainable way interesting uh i think it's not i know that is as an organization it's not our main job but it can be a great side project like like freya we're doing that as well because we think it's important to think about that and it is a different way to protect the nature and make it aware and not own money at the cost of our national park but it's not our main goal our main main task is also a task that came from the government to protect this or a national park and
uh yeah don't and then there is a whole vision on how to do that and that's our main task and that's where we get the get money for and stuff like that but i think thinking about sustainability and and and innovating stuff could be a way to make people aware of what it what that what you do is at cost of the of nature if that made any sense

[SPEAKER_01]

what's interesting is you're already doing a lot of things like you have the mud flat excursions which is like what i would call sustainable tourism instead of like unleashing them with the dogs that can damage things you you organize something that shows them how we can have fun and experience new things without damaging anything and you can

Maybe that's something you can focus even more on, also in different, not just in nature maybe, but also in other types of island wizards here.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah, I hear what you say. I think we do it for tourists a lot and we tell them. And sometimes we do it for business owners that are in some projects, in the national park project for example. They had an excursion with some business owner and they tried to connect them to nature.

and and they know they know there are all people that know and love this island and they live here and they all have a favorite place at the beach in the on the east side they all have a favorite place uh and they are have a connection with this island so they and they know and they see it changing and they sit at maybe a bench at the beach and

they see a change in every year and they have been here forever so they know but still to translate that to their business I think that's sometimes difficult I don't know why because I'm not a business owner but I think you don't see their love for nature in their hotels or in their restaurants or or thinking oh we have this is enough um

[SPEAKER_01]

That's very interesting. And it's also great, or not great, but it's also fascinating when you're talking about these changes that you can see each year. Because I kind of imagine the island as a small ecosystem, right? You have the earth that's really big, and it takes a long time to see these changes. But then you have a small island like this, you can see it every year that what you do is affecting it.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah. And I think we focus on tourists, but we don't, as in the mid-flight excursions or the bird excursions, and we focus on schools, and we also focus on the school on the island to give them a nature program, but we don't really focus on...

And I don't know why, but I think it's difficult too. We don't focus on the islanders themselves. And I think that could be more of a task for the municipality in combination with us. So not together, but they can use us to make them aware.

have a vision as well if you don't have a vision I think you don't you cannot help them steer in a way you can tell them oh this is innovation and go do that but then they need to know why and where they're going and how they need to I think it's not necessarily needed maybe to have a vision but I think as a business owner you need to have they need to have a vision on where they're going with all these ideas yeah yeah very good

[SPEAKER_01]

What initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address the challenges we're talking about here with both local awareness and tourism? What's been done already? You have the excursions and such, but...

[SPEAKER_03]

Is there anything else? There's Freya now. There's Freya now. I think there are different kind of things. You have a beach cleanup.

a few times a year we organize always one at the beginning of the season but there's also a really big bit disgusting company that organized one so disgusting company

I think it's a really big building company and they do a beach cleanup. So that's maybe an initiative. And there are loads of small things. There are people that get garbage from the beach and then they make bracelets from it and they sell the bracelets, for example. That's a thing as well.

[SPEAKER_01]

So it's on big scale and on small scale. And there are probably loads more, but I can't think about it right now. What about around the islands, in the waters? Do you know of anything there? As in sustainable areas? It could be plastics cleanup or in general in the area.

[SPEAKER_03]

Well, on different islands they have different initiatives. So there is, for example, the garbage on the beach. There is a factory that you can give that garbage to. So that's plastic rope or cans or the classic beach findings that are thrown off of ships, probably. Where is this? Sorry? Where is this? I think it's on Vlieland.

So the second island of Texel and then Vlieland. Or maybe Terschelling, so the third. But it's one of the islands in this group? Yeah. And also on the other islands there is somebody that makes beer with water out of the sea, I think. Or local grown things. So there are initiatives on the other islands. How far apart are the islands? Do you know?

You cannot go like this. Yeah, that's a difficult question to answer. How far apart? Is it far? You have to go like this. So yes, if I go to... Ameland is next to us. And then you have... Terschelling. It takes me five hours to go to the island next to it. So it's quite far. Five hours.

[SPEAKER_01]

I had to ask because the part of this project that's going on in Norway, it's being done on Valir, which is a very long island group with a lot of small islands. And they're like, you can be here and then five minutes later you're on the other island. With a road between them. I was curious about...

[SPEAKER_03]

Like your connection to other similar organizations. Yeah, no, it's quite far away. But I know the municipality has all the different islands came together in like some sort of, not a Friar project, but the municipalities come together and say, okay, what can we do about sustainability? How can we, sustainability as in many different ways. And they come together and they share their ideas and stuff. Is that a meeting or a bigger project?

No, it's a meeting where the municipality comes together. Like a conference? Yes, something like that. And they also have the regio deal, so that means they have an agreement to get some sort of targets, but then you should talk to the municipality to get more.

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, we will. We touched on this, but we can see if there's more. How does the island community collaborate, like the different organizations and the locals, tourism? How does everyone collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth? I think this question and also the question before,

[SPEAKER_03]

starts with the idea that we all know that we what innovating and circularity and sustainability is and then that we also as a second step that we know on this island that we need to do that to have a sustainable island in the different way and i'm not sure if

That's the case. Yes, we know it because we're in the project and as a nature preservation organization of course we know it because we know and we see what is causing damage to the nature and we don't know concrete how we can tackle it but we know what is necessary to maintain that. But I don't think that's the case for the bigger part of the people that live on this island.

because they do what they do and they make money and that's it. And maybe they are not involved in politics or maybe they are not involved in sustainable groups. So I think this is a difficult question. Like I said, maybe there is not the knowledge yet and also not the urgency to do something about it. But that's also a great answer to a question like this.

[SPEAKER_01]

So don't feel bad if you can't answer it because it's just as good as concrete answers. You have this perspective and someone else will see something else and maybe we can pull on someone to get a change. For all we know, they might all

[SPEAKER_03]

have the awareness but maybe they don't have the time or yeah yeah exactly also it's also possible and i also don't know because i also didn't i have i have people around me that that like to we have a vegetable garden that's why i initially or it start that's why i came to this island because i volunteered at the vegetable garden and i

met people that had ideas that suit me, that I share with them. But in the community, as in, I didn't form a group that can maybe make a change or we say something to politics or on the point of

Well, we're innovating with the housing project I'm in. So we want to make small houses because there is a housing problem and there is a sustainability climate change problem. So we wanted to get those two things together and make small houses for people that don't have big families. Are these the tiny houses I heard about or just small houses?

smaller I'm not sure why but we are not really allowed to call them tiny houses because tiny houses is a is a brand and we don't necessarily want the small small really small houses but we just want one or two person houses like 60 square

meters yes meters but we also want them to be sustainable so we don't just want to put them there and have a piece of land and put six houses on them and then it's done but we also want to make them circular maybe make a community and find a different way of building so in that way i maybe found a group that wants to innovate and wants to do things differently yeah and that's a different group than the business owner i think they have their own organization and i'm not in there so and I am not a business owner. So that's a different group maybe, in a different part of the community. I know them because they all have 60 different heads and the one is the owner of the pub and we drink beers, but they also do politics. So you all meet each other but in a different way, you have different heads because you all do seven things at the same time.

That's great, though, if you can make something like that happen. Yeah. But the difficult part is to work with the municipality, actually. Because, okay, it's also a little bit difficult to form a group and have the same ideas, because we're seven people now who have different wishes. So one wants to have shared housing, and I just want a home which is sustainable, and I want to live there. And the other one, we all have...

different wishes and we need to come together and then form a group so maybe that's also a problem in this project but then also we want to work together with the municipality and they are i think reorganizing at the moment and they have a lot of new staff members as well so that's okay they have gonna have time but

The communication between the government or municipality and our project is sometimes really difficult because they want us, but there is no direct communication. Okay, I can give you this and we need this and we help each other, but they say,

we have a list of 1-200 and there are people on there that are looking for a house and we're like okay we're starting this project we're going to invest loads of time voluntarily so yes and we need a house so we want to live there and they're like oh if you're not in 1-10 you cannot we have to find a way to because yeah these 10 people why don't they get the house but you work on it so you get a free ticket but we don't get together on that and they say yeah if you're not doing it like this you cannot do it instead of

Let's talk, let's find somebody that knows more and we can sit together and you are an asset to us because it saves us time and knowledge and money probably as well. And this is a great idea, so let's do it together and see how you can make it happen. They are their own white building, but it's probably most of the time with municipalities. So that is one project that...

[SPEAKER_01]

brings more different interests or stakeholders together and kind of makes a group. Are there any groups or attempts at making groups around sustainability on the island to get that awareness out? Like Facebook or any kind of group really?

[SPEAKER_03]

I think there are, like Ilja, the elder man you saw yesterday, she has a group of friends and they come together and they think together, they share that value and they think about sustainability and they share their ideas and their knowledge and they play games together, but they don't necessarily, or maybe indirect, but

they don't necessarily say okay we think this so we're gonna make an uh we're gonna make a project or we're gonna make a campaign or so they that's just with their friend group they share ideas and of course that is indirectly goes outside and gets back here on the office or on the municipality sure but there's no no real arena for the different business owners to to discuss no i don't think changes to the environment or

No, I don't know. Maybe it's a topic sometimes that's brought in by the municipality, but there's no arena, there's no center space. For example, in Vlieland you have Lab Vlieland, it's called, and it's an experiment center on the island where they experiment how to make beer of salt water, for example, it's a center, it's a tangible place where you can go and think, oh, innovation, and you can change ideas and you know that's there and you see it. But we don't have a place like this, I think, on the island. Sounds really, really interesting.

yeah where we can get to where we get together and where we make things where we make things yeah do things do things share ideas or there's no there's no community like that or we have lectures of i don't know people this just sounds great right if if you can grab important people around the society. Just put them in one place and say, okay, we're going to make stuff again. And not only people on the island, but also with the Vrije project. Get all those teachers, professors here and give them a lecture about innovating stuff. Or making beer out of salt water. Or not flat beer. I don't know. Yeah, maybe. Sure. You can try it tonight.

Yeah, so there's no place you can go and share your ideas, I think. So maybe it's not only about forming a group, but also making a place that also looks like it's innovated, because we have the library and the Dorpshuis? Town hall. Town hall, yeah, sure. And it's a really boring, old...

I don't feel inspired by going there. It has been there like that forever and there's no money, so it's still like that. But I also think that maybe for innovative, not necessarily, but young people, can help because they have different ideas so they can help with innovating and i don't think as a as youngsters we get together and form a group yes on the beach or at the kitesurf club we meet each other and then we have ideas and we organize parties and i think there is a festival in the brewing as well but we also don't get together and think we want this and innovate we don't have a we don't have a place where we can as young people we can get together other than the bar okay yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

You're really great at partially answering the next question, but I'm going to ask anyway. How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development? What do you mean by capacity? The ability to develop. How can we increase that ability or make it stronger?

[SPEAKER_03]

Yes, I think a place that you can come together would be a great or where you can try out stuff and you can discuss or where there are lectures or i don't know a place to meet and try and maybe you want to do you also get creative so a place where you can do workshops and do pottery or do whatever making websites i don't know where you can learn stuff in your opinion who would who would get such a thing going Who or what? I think it should come from the community. Maybe... I was thinking about... Let it be a task of the municipality. But I think if the municipality says... This is what we're gonna build. This is what

we're gonna do. It's theirs. Yes, it's theirs. And maybe you feel restricted in your freedom. So I think it should come from out the community. So maybe me and a few of my friends say... Let's do this. But... i i don't know yet how to create that and and where because there's not that much space so where are we going to do it whereas and then we do need the municipality because if we have an idea make something some some hub in a way we need the municipality because they need us to help create such a space on the island and maybe give us a bit of money or stuff like that so yes but a hub i think would be a good place okay it's cool do you have anything to well

[SPEAKER_00]

I don't want to jeopardize the interview. You know, I'm just here as a translator, but from what I understand is that the main problem is a lack of incentive. Would you say that's correct? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

If there were some incentive to, for instance, get this hub of innovation going, it would have to be an internal thing.

[SPEAKER_03]

The islanders shouldn't be told. No. But I think maybe a collaboration would be even better. Because if we have an idea, let's say we have that hub, and we have an idea for business or for housing or for whatever, we do need the municipality. So just internal is also not... A collaboration would be...

[SPEAKER_01]

I think that's an amazing idea because in my experience ownership is a very important thing if you want people to start doing own initiatives and in general changing how they behave.

[SPEAKER_00]

then you need to have something, you have to own something in the thing you're trying to do. In your opinion, what would incentivize the islanders to get such a thing going? What would be the thing to get it started?

[SPEAKER_03]

Example, maybe? Like, I don't know, example as in... Leiden doet volgen, of zo, hoe gaat dat spreekwoord? When you do something... Voorbeeld, goed voorbeeld doet goed volgen. Lead by example? Yeah, lead by example. So just try it. Yeah. Make a pilot, maybe, and test it. Yeah. So, all right.

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, that's your thing. Yeah, that's our department then. If you're going to create a hub, I'm definitely there. Pass the souvenir designs and get going on the hub. I might have to write that down for the second half of the year.

[SPEAKER_03]

I'm thinking about what makes people not do that kind of stuff but I think it's always difficult because we're 950 people with different ideas with different values and we're put on an island together and then how do you when you have a project and only with maybe 50 people those 50 people are 50 people with different ideas and different values and they come together and they say we're going to do something and you need to find where their values connect so well for us in discussions is always where is your love for nature and how can we explain how the problem is affecting your love for this nature on this island how can we connect the values we share and i think that also we maybe in this community we always look for the differences and yes we can drink beer and have fun and we we dance together and then it's all good and we gossip a bit or maybe oh you have a beer and i know you so it's all good but we never thought or i i rarely talk about where do our values connect? Where do we share something? And I think maybe that's something to look for instead of where are we different? Where are you a business owner and we are a nature? Does it matter if I'm not a business owner, or am I still an important voice to the community? Exactly, yeah. So don't look, and whoa, you cheated on my wife. You had that business plan and I wanted to do that. We always look for the negative things instead of, cool, that's what you did, sure, that's your personal life, let's put that aside. What do we, how can we help? I do have to remind you of the time, because we only have 40 minutes. No.

[SPEAKER_01]

Unless you want to give us more time. How many questions do you have? We have one more question. Let's do the last question. How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals?

[SPEAKER_03]

So that would be mainland, I guess? Not necessarily. It can also be the different islands. Are they close? Yeah, close enough to do an exchange somewhere. Well, I was talking, because we went to Graal, and Enid and Ilja and Lisa and I went to Graal, and that's the municipality. Oh, in France. In France, yeah. But it was also, we spent a lot of time together, so it was a moment to connect and share ideas. So, for example, we had the idea of...

There is lots of knowledge on having a sustainable hotel, but maybe we don't know it. So why don't we get somebody in that business that is an example for how you can do it and let them give a lecture or workshop on soap bars, on water saving, on recycling and stuff, because they know, they already know. We don't have to invent it again ourselves.

so let's get those people here get them a workshop but also for chef maybe try to be more a zero waste chef but if you don't know how to do it or you have never seen it or you don't really care get a chef that already cooks zero waste get them here and do a workshop and then maybe like the mudflats you go on the mud flat and you think oh nature is really beautiful and this is rare

But with the zero waste, you get them here and maybe the chef thinks, oh, let's not throw away the leaves of the carrot, but make a pesto of it or something. And it's a small step, but it's a change in, well, lead by example again. Adds value to your hub, if you can do that. Yeah, exactly. It would be a great place

to do that in some sort of a hub. And the hub doesn't need to be a building, but it can also be an organization or a place of where you can...

Go. Gather and see new things from the outside and the inside. And facilitate that as well. Facilitate knowledge. Because if you facilitate the knowledge, they can still have ownership and see what they do with it. But then you at least, don't say you have to, say this is how you can do it if you want to. That's great. Anything to add? Anything to add?

Anything, it doesn't have to be related to any question. No, I think we had quite a few of the boxes. We didn't really hit anything to do with products. Well, this is really the Norwegian interview. You're just here for a show. At this point, yeah. That would be hard to filter after.

[SPEAKER_01]

If we recorded the entire thing kind of mixed and matched and then... It's too difficult. I understand. No, I don't think I have anything to add. Okay. No. Great. Well, cut.

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[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_00]

Okay, let's start with the first question. What is your role in the island community? I'm an entrepreneur. I have a business of my own. I have together with my husband and his sister a company. I have a family, a family of three children, my husband and I. And I think at the moment that's the role I have. I used to be working with the municipality on the Department of Sustainability, Rural Development and Housing. I did that for four years, I think, and I quit my job a year and a half ago to gain this company. We took this company over from the parents of my husband. So we only live here now for one year. And I think in some way sustainability has always had my personal interest. And I, I try to, with some friends of mine, but also with my husband and the company we have right now to daily think about how can we, with some least of effort, try and be as sustainable as possible. And also with the choices we make within the company, is there any more sustainable choice we can take now?

[SPEAKER_01]

And are the choices more focused on the farm part or more on the sleep part? Yeah, the guesthouse part. Well, the farm is mainly my husband's

[SPEAKER_00]

project company. Um, so he has his solely focused on that one. Um, and of course I think he should make more sustainable, um, effort in the farming part of the company. Um, but that's okay. Um, so the things I have, um, influence on are the, the, the guest housing and my own company. I haven't, entertainment company for events and weddings. So therefore I try to be also as sustainable as possible. And how is your role affected by the island tourism?

I think a big part of it because we have group housing so we're kind of depending on tourists for the group housing and also for the event company I have for the weddings and the events people are visiting the island because of the nature and things you can do on the beach and

So the company I have right now is solely thriving on tourism. How would you describe the island community and its current state? Like on a personal level? Like a people-people community? Yeah.

I would say there is a large group of young people and I think of young people like 25 till maybe 40 or 45 who are really trying to work hard, be entrepreneurs. Some of them have their own businesses.

there's a large group of new people who are like kind of old like the 65 year olds who had their jobs on the mainland and they sold their house and they want to be happily ever after on the island which is which is

in their favor if they work hard and they have enough money and they can buy a house here. So please let them buy the houses here. But I think the general feeling about that group is that they came here and enjoy the rest and peace of the island and they would like to preserve it as it is now.

So I think maybe that's a presumption. That's a misunderstanding. I don't know if it's true. But I think it's the feeling that lives. We have the old people who want to have the island like it was always and want to keep it that way. And they don't want new activities or new adventures.

[SPEAKER_01]

But I don't know if that is true or maybe it's just a feeling. And do you feel like the younger community is trying to innovate the island or it's just with a new look or new view? Yeah, I think so. I think so, yeah.

Nice. How sustainable do you think the tourism is now on the island?

[SPEAKER_00]

I think it is getting better every year because of regulation, but also because of the demands of the guests. So it's working both ways. So we have like the governmental rules, they get more strict every year.

So you as a company, you have to obtain the rules. And from the other side, people are more aware of environmental impact on their holidays or on their behavior in general. So like eating less meat, for example. So the demand for vegan products in restaurants is kind of growing, I think.

and of course you cannot take your own car with you so if you want to travel on the island you have to do it by bicycle which is of course really environmental friendly way of transport the buses are all electric some of the taxi companies are investing a lot of money in electric taxis which

doesn't mean that electric vehicles are the most sustainable way of transport, but that's a discussion for another time. But it shows that they are looking for a sustainable way too. Yeah. That's nice. What do you think are the best aspects of Schiermore de Koog?

To live here or to be a tourist here? Yeah, that's a good question. How do you think? To live here, I think.

To live here? Your point of view. Okay, my point of view. I like it that I can have a slow life here. Although we have to work hard when it's high season. I think because it's going like this throughout the year, up and down,

following the seasons and following the guests so in summer holiday or in summer time when the days are long and the sun is out and you have a lot of energy as you being in general then we have to work

hard but in winter time when it's like short days and slow movement and hibernation and things like that I'm pro hibernation then

I think the benefits of the islands is that you can take it slow because there is not a lot of tourism here. After the tourists go in like autumn, autumn season is still a bit high season and after that autumn holiday, end of October or the beginning of November, it just slows down everything and then people come together again for activities for only island residents, like sports clubs and things like that and cultural season. I appreciate that really highly. Also, the fact that there is nothing going on here I think for my children growing up is really like the best place to be because they can just roam free. I don't have to control them, where they are, what they do, what abouts, whereabouts. I don't follow them on their cell phone. Actually, they don't have a cell phone.

except for the oldest one because they need it for school. But I think the freedom growing up here as a kid is like the most valuable thing ever. And for me, yeah, I really like it here. Yeah. Can I ask you again about the tourism? You say you have a very...

[SPEAKER_02]

high level season where it's very intense and all that where are like tourism the whole year something you work actively actively with to bring like activities for tourism and all that like the whole year yeah um

[SPEAKER_00]

it is always a point of discussion on the island if the high season period is not too crowded so there is an amount of people we can occupy we can accommodate throughout the year but in some days maybe it is just too much. When there is a summer holiday and the weather is nice, there are a lot of people staying in the island, but also a lot of people coming by boat just for one day. I think sometimes in high season there are some days maybe we should say, wait, it's too crowded.

Please come back another day. But maybe that's just five days every year. There are some talks about in the island, maybe we should lower the pressure in the high season and try the guests to seduce them and come in another time of the year. So in November we had like this month activity where every day in November you can go on one or two organized activities and it was developed 10 years ago

to attract tourism in slow months. So I think when you look at the figures, the only slow months remaining are like January, February. Because in December you have like Christmas holidays and it's always really crowded on the island then. So I think a lot of people want to have more activities in low season, but then again, when is the time that you have time for yourself and your family to go on a holiday? So I don't know if longing the season of tourism is the solution for everybody. Yeah. Very good answer. Thank you. I didn't practice.

What are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth? I actually don't know because there is so much knowledge available worldwide Not particularly on the island. We have some knowledge on the island, but it's always about people because it's such a small community. It's never about knowledge, but it's always about people. And if you don't like the guy or the gal with knowledge, you wouldn't go there. So that's the downside of having a small community, that it's always about the people. I think there is enough knowledge.

available at every point. If you want to make an innovation in your company, you just have to grab the telephone and call someone and ask for advice. But that's my humble opinion. Sometimes it's about the money.

that people say, well, if I want to make a \$50,000, well, 50,000 euro investment, I would like to have some sort of guarantee that I can make it back in the next couple of years. But I think that's like an old economy thought.

Because I think you have to measure not only if can I get the money back in the couple of years, my investment, how is my return on investment? Is it enough for me to make the, how do you say that? profit or yeah uh the investment yeah should i should i do the investment is my is my return on investment um good enough for me to make the investment but i think also we have to look at the damage to nature or the environment when we don't take the investment. The previous owner of this company, she used synthetic cleaning stuff.

And I said, well, I want to take a look at the more sustainable cleaning stuff. But she said, yeah, well, it's a lot of times more expensive.

Yeah, I say, well, I know, but the synthetic one brings damage somewhere. There must be a reason why there is a price difference in sustainable biological cleaning supplies and artificial synthetic cleaning supplies. Because of the price difference, there must be some costs to this project somewhere else. But that doesn't...

She doesn't take that for granted or something. So I don't know. I think it's really hard to explain it in English. But if something is very cheap for us to buy, that means someone has to pay the costs for it. Like if you buy really cheap clothes,

clothes aren't cheap. So if you buy something really cheap, someone else has to pay the price for it. And it's the same with everything. It's with clothes. If you buy sustainable grown cotton or reused polyester material for your clothes, the clothes will be probably quite expensive to buy.

But if you buy new clothes from new materials, not biological, someone else, probably in like India or Cambodia or elsewhere there in the region, they have to pay the price because I can think of why would it be so cheap? So if something is really cheap, all signs must go red. Yeah.

Back to the question about what people need to make investments. I think a lot of it has to do also with regulation. If you want to make an investment in

like making your property free of gas and going full electric or something like that, then there must be some kind of security for yourself that not in three years the government make new rules about you have to pay for your use of electricity or something because then it's like the investment was not a good investment so i think clear strategy or rules or um

So that it won't be a death investment. I don't know how you put the proper translations. Yeah. But I think if the main question is what are the obstacles for people to get started? I think it's themselves. Cause you talked about like the gap between young and hungry entrepreneurs, as well as old people who's retired. Yeah.

a mix of people here so it's maybe like a crash in the yeah no i don't think that the crash is there no no because there is a about the knowledge if you if you want a backpack you have to say it because the people who come here with the money to to be uh like um

the pensionadas, we call it pensionadas, there is a lot of knowledge there. There is a lot of knowledge there. People who are 65 plus now are like the after war, second world war generation. They needed to work really hard. So a lot of them are self-made, they are mostly men, they are self-made men with big companies, they sold the companies, there is a lot of knowledge in that group. So I think the key here is to take the, unfortunately it's almost always men, I think there must be like a connection must be made between knowledge of age and craftsmanship and hard work and technical solutions and in the old man, white old man, to the young entrepreneurs who are willing to take steps into innovation. Some of the old white guys with the money they are like put aside as difficult people because they have an opinion and they don't think about doing the right path by the government. They say well we have to go freewheeling and we just have to start somewhere and Just do it. But I think they started a project some years ago where we invited all the island people with good ideas into a group and we said, let's talk about sustainability. How can we just get started with innovation and solve some really difficult problems. And it was really nice. But the government is like a slow institute and everything has to be discussed with everybody. And the white guys with knowledge, they just want speed. So that's where I think the clash is.

What do you see as the key strengths of Schiermo de Koog in promoting sustainable tourism? I think we... The biggest promo of the island is, I think, the nature. So the national park, the whole island is a national park. and the key of being almost free of cars. I think it's a real big plus for a lot of people.

I really don't know if there is one thing you should be promoting for being as sustainable as we are, because the companies on the island are not that sustainable yet. So some of them are working on their green key certificates. Some of them already have a green key certificate. So maybe we should have like a green key support group or something for entrepreneurs who want to go green key because that's like an international independent sign on how sufficient are you with your materials, how green are you, how low is your impact.

So I think maybe if you want to be promoting how sustainable you are, you should look for an international brand like that to show off your level of cradle to cradle or things like that. What initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges for sustainability? well we're not that innovative no sorry um but you have like the plug town or some yeah yeah it's a bit of innovative sustainable things and the island is driven by bicycles yeah i'm quite impressed with that when i just came here

yeah really first thing you do is like grab a bicycle bicycle and that's your yeah if you cannot ride a bike you have a problem yeah yeah we also have uh sometimes guests uh tourists from spain or or france and they can ride bicycles

but not as comfortable and confident as the Dutch people do so it's always if you see them bike it's like wobbly and really slow and with the child bike so they can reach the floor um another thing um I think um

the buses are fully electric and I think Schiemenkoop was the first municipality to have a fully electric bus contract. Of course it was only six buses but it's like benchmarking yourself out there.

I think we have some things on the island which are really, really nice. I think the buses being all electric is a good thing. I think the Pluktuin is really, really...

helping to gain confidence in this whole transition because she's a very very approachable lady as a person

She has a really strong opinion about being sustainable and about being environmentally friendly but she doesn't shovel it through your throat. She doesn't push it on you. If you want to know anything you always can come to her and contact her but she wouldn't go stand in the village with a sign and accuse you of something. So I really like her attitude in the environmental discussion. And also the Pluktuin at itself is like the Garden of Eden.

and it's like a resting point in a slow island so I think it's a wonderful place and also something good for discussing where your food should come from there is a project with the farmers on the island that they want to put down the emission of

nitrogen on the nature. And I have a strong opinion about the nitrogen deposition on nature in general, but that's also for another time. But the Dutch government came I think 10 years ago or maybe 12 years ago and said we want to buy one of your farms because we

we think that would be a solution for the nitrogen deposition. And they said, well, we're not going to let one buy out and the other six just continue happily ever after. That would be weird. So they say if we are allowed to take the money you reserved for buying out one of the farms and we turn it in something better, would you like to think with us then?

So the government really stood out and said, well, we like that idea. We're going to try that. So they're working on it now for some years. A lot of farmers, they sold a part of their cows. So there are one third less cows in the island now than there was a couple of years ago.

And they said, well, we need to obtain this level of income. But if you take out the cows, you also take out a part of the income because of the milk. So they were searching for ways to claim the same amount of income. Well, probably.

a little bit higher if there is a chance. So now they are searching with a corporation of Natuurmonumenten and the municipality of Schiemelijk Oog and also the Ministry of Economics and Agriculture and the province of Friesland. They are all together in a project and they're finding out ways to make more money

with services like green services, agriculture, nature preservation, more flowers, biodiversity, some things like that. They also are making dairy products of their own milk now and they sell it in town. At this point it is only cheese, but they want to go to daily fresh dairy also.

So you can make with the less amount of milk, the same amount of income. And I think we have like this group on the island. It's called the Fairtrade Werkgroep. And they are working at it for some years to go to restaurants and say, okay,

what kind of products do you use and can you easily flip those with more sustainable projects to support not only the multinationals but also farmers in developing countries.

The FAR trade is kind of getting less interesting because they did it for some years. So now they are focusing on the SDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations. And they are trying to make impact on some of the SDGs, the Global Goals, together with the municipality.

I literally have a pin, a button, from the SDGs, from the Global Goals, and this morning I thought, oh, maybe I can wear my button. But I forgot, and I also forgot about this interview, but now I remember, oh, I should put it on. We had like, I think the four...

saturday in september or the 24th of september is always international sustainable development goal day and for some years now i think for the fourth or fifth time we have like a market in town so everybody in the island with something going on in the scg 17 goals can go there and take their stance and you can visit them and talk about sustainability. So it's a lot of interesting corporations going down there from B2B for developing sustainable solutions. Yeah, because when you look at the Sustainable Development Goals, there are 17 goals. And when I used to work in a municipality, There's someone with a dog. Dogs are not allowed in here.

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[SPEAKER_03]

Yes, so you will be taking notes and I will ask the questions. Shall I ask in Dutch and then translate? Yes, that's fine. That's good. I will ask the questions in Dutch and then I will translate as much as I can and then we continue. Okay, the first question, or first we have a list. It is mainly about what you want to tell what you want to lose about this subject, let's say.

Because it is a very interesting topic for us. We have targeted questions, but it is also a bit like that if useful information comes in, let us know. So it's mainly a bit about what your role is within the island, within the community of the island. The role within the community, yes, we have recreation and farm here. Yes. A special roof for tourists. Yes, of course, the camping farm here.

[SPEAKER_05]

And we now have the farm with the cows, milking cows. Yes. We deliver milk to the milk factory and we let a part of it work by itself. To our own cheese, island cheese. Yes, is that new, the milk? We have been working on it for two years. Okay, that's good. Yes. And that is, I have heard since recently that you have also started a collaboration in it or not? Yes, we have a cooperation, so we have set up a cooperation. Yes, he has to facilitate it all by himself. The whole project. Yes. That the milk comes in. Yes, no, that's true. And in the end he wants cheese here in Thailand. Yes. Yes, that would be cool. Yes. And that's coming, isn't it? The first cheese is already there. Okay. Yes, we will start a milk factory here ourselves. But that is not just to make a dabel. Yes, in that sense. Because he needs all kinds of people in his factory. Yes.

Investing in a factory is there. Yes. So then that cheese becomes very expensive. And then the question is whether it is still being sold. Yes, I can imagine that indeed. It is difficult to make a brandable on such a small scale. Yes, because it is a small scale of course on the island. We are a bit involved in that. Yes. And I think that is also the case with other things.

[SPEAKER_03]

So on such a small scale, how do you make all of that into a table? Yes, yes, that's not big. So just quickly for the interview and for you to translate, I asked about your role in the island community. And you told us, of course, you have this farm, camping farm to sleep on for us. And next to that, he's also one of the farmers they told us about. One of the farmers. One of the seven farmers that are on the island. yes yeah yeah yeah with the milk cows they have and they want to make cheese like island cheese right produced completely on the island yes yes also to sell at the mainland right but you want to make it The cheese is made on the mainland now, but they want to make it so that the factory comes to Schiermonnikoog as well. But it's very hard to make a profit off of that, because it's such a small scale. So it's very hard to be profitable that way. Is that right? Yes, it's difficult to put a whole economic puzzle together. It's difficult to put the whole economic puzzle together and produce it here locally.

[SPEAKER_01]

is that because of um what is the reason for that is it because of less workplaces or people or yeah people and uh yeah we uh yeah the investering in the milk fabric would cost a whole lot yeah the investments in the factory they cost a lot yeah yeah yeah so if you would have uh

[SPEAKER_03]

Funds, if you would get investments, would it be easier? Or is that not such an easy story? Money in advance. Yes, investments. Yes, then it is easy. Okay, yes. But usually you only get 40% subsidy and the rest you have to contribute yourself. Okay, 40% subsidies and the rest you have to pay yourself. But then it is still difficult to put it around. Okay, and where is that from? Is that also money?

[SPEAKER_05]

Yes, of course. So manpower is not a problem? I think you get the people who want to do it.

[SPEAKER_03]

So he says that there's probably people that do want to work here. It's just the money that's a big problem now. The funds. To start the fabric. Yeah, the factory. Not the payment for the employees. No. It's not the payment of the people, right? No, apparently it is. Yes, on the price.

[SPEAKER_05]

So in the long term it's also paying the employees. Okay. Yes. But for now, maybe only the big investment? Yes, the big investment is actually the whole economic picture. We look at whether we make a calculation a few years in advance. Yes. And whether it is reasonable to do that investment. That's a lot of extra work. Yes. And yes, it can still be done.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah, so it's like I said, the big economic puzzle, so it's the big investment for now, but it's also paying the employees later on. It's just a whole picture that's hard to make profitable, if I understand correctly.

[SPEAKER_01]

But when we think about the environment and the sustainability, it would be the best solution, you think, is to have the whole factory here and not on the mainland and start with only cheese and not milk, if I have understood correctly. She asks if milk can be processed in a different way.

[SPEAKER_03]

Well, if you look at the sustainability, whether it matters a lot whether you are on the mainland or on the island. And indeed, you asked about the milk as well, to... Yeah, to produce cheese, not milk. Yeah, if that's... More sustainable. Yeah. That's my question. Yes. Whether it is indeed more sustainable to make cheese instead of milk. Yes.

[SPEAKER_05]

Yes, but for milk you need cheese. Yes, for cheese you need milk, yes of course. Yes, cheese takes about 10 liters of milk. Yes. And it's a bit longer to store than fresh products. Yes, of course. You can leave it on the shelf a little longer and it becomes old cheese. Yes.

[SPEAKER_03]

The price only goes up. Yes, I understand.

[SPEAKER_05]

Can I see the question? Yes, of course. Just keep on. Yes, and further, in terms of sustainability, would that make a lot of difference in terms of transport? Because now, of course, you have to take a boat. It does make a difference. We may have let the smaller part work here and the rest on a fixed wall. Okay, yes. What you can lose here on the island. Yes. That is also being investigated now.

Yes, that is also an option, because you can think that the boat is going anyway, but I don't know how much it is going. Well, if the cheese has to go that way, it has to go this way. There are also transport costs for themselves. Yes. Oh, the milk. Yes, that's right. And in such a large milk factory you can process it much cheaper, right? Yes, that is of course true.

[SPEAKER_03]

So, indeed. Less people, it's all automated nowadays. And maybe in terms of sustainability, is it even better for a small amount? For a small amount? I don't think so. No? Isn't it more sustainable, I don't know, to transport a small amount to it than to set up a whole factory here for a small amount? Yes, that's right. You have to set up the whole factory here, I think. I don't think that's the case. No.

[SPEAKER_05]

No, it's about 3 million liters of milk here in Thailand. It's just not possible. So we were discussing if it's more sustainable to

[SPEAKER_03]

put the small amount of milk, the relatively small amount of milk they produce here to the mainland, to the factory, or to make a whole factory here for the small amount of milk. Is that sustainable or not? And you told us that it might not be as sustainable to produce a whole new factory for the small amount of milk, three million liters of milk, three million liter of milk per year that they produce here. And it might not be

[SPEAKER_01]

possible also economically, but also sustainably. Yeah, but if we think because sustainability isn't only the environment, it's also the economic part and the social part. So by getting the factory here, we might start more workplaces for people. We might start a better economic yes for the island so there's other but maybe just if we just think about the environment itself maybe not but maybe if we think about the social and the economic part of it do you think? For the work environment or something? Yes it would have advantages for the work environment and maybe for the well how do you say that

[SPEAKER_03]

the self-sufficiency of the island in that way. Yes, it's just how you set it all up. Yes, so not necessarily for sustainability, but just for the people on the island it might be good. The society here. Yes, sure, but a lot of staff already comes from the fixed wall here. Yes, is that a problem? Yes, you can find very difficult workers here. Okay, yes, who live on the island.

[SPEAKER_05]

Yes, they all come from Spain and Poland. So not only from Loewersoog, but also from Northern Netherlands? No. But really nice. Yes, the hotel is also very good, you always have staff support. Yes, that's a good thing. And under the roof here on the island, that is also always difficult to find for staff. Okay. Houses.

[SPEAKER_03]

So you told us that there's a big problem also at the hotels and the other companies that there's a lot of people that come from the mainland to work and there's not that many people at Schiemenlijk Oog itself to work here and also the people that come from the mainland aren't necessarily from the north of the Netherlands they're also from Spain and from Poland you said yeah so they come from far and there's not that many people here that can work because there's

[SPEAKER_01]

Not a lot of people, right? 983 inhabitants or something. Yeah, that's not a lot of people. No. Yeah, that might be a problem too. And also, if they come from the mainland, they don't always have a good place to sleep. That's what you said. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. But how would you describe the Iceland community and its current state?

[SPEAKER_03]

How is society here at the moment? You just said there are a lot of people who come from abroad, who come from the mainland. The society, yes, the municipality, a lot of staff.

[SPEAKER_05]

A construction company, there is also a lot of staff from the fixed wall. In the catering. Also largely fixed wall. There are also a lot of cleaners, they come from the wall. Okay, yes. The house cleaners, cleaning company. Do they come for a day or do they stay a few days? They usually come for a day, they go from time to time. Yes.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yes, in that way. So they are not really inhabitants of the island. No. No, that's not really a part of the society that is here. No, a small part of it. Yes, they come and go. Yes.

Yeah, so a lot of people that work here, they come and go. For example, the cleaners of the houses and the companies, they come in the morning, probably, and then they clean and then they leave at night again. They don't sleep here. They're not a big part of the community, but I think they are necessary.

They are needed, of course. There are just too few people, maybe.

Yes, maybe. Yes, there's too little people. But do they then pay taxes to this community or to the mainland when they don't live here? Do they pay taxes to the municipality here? No, where they live, they pay the taxes. Yes, and that is of course ...

If they live in a different municipality, they pay for the municipality that they live in. What is that? The place that they live in has their own government functions and they pay to them. Okay, so they work here and get paid to work here. And then they leave their money in another place.

Yes. So there's not a circular motion at the island. Yes, that's correct. It just goes off. They live somewhere in the mainland and then they pay to the municipality there. And then they come here and they get paid to work here and then they go back to where they live again. So they are paid from here by the employers.

And where they live in other municipalities, of course, where they also pay for it. Are there other challenges in general in Schiermonnikoog when you look at sustainable growth?

Sustainable growth. Yes. Yes, energy self-sufficient or something like that, for example. Yes, we have solar panels on the roof. Oh, that's good. And a lot of hot water, solar panels. Yes, but for example, too little staff is quite a big problem, I can imagine. Yes. Are there other problems that go against growth? Growth, for example, of the factory or of the cheese factory.

[SPEAKER_05]

Yes, you are bound to the surface of the island here. Yes, I can imagine that that is a challenge. In the past, they would go into the polders once in a while, over the dikes, to lay further away. That is no longer the case these days. Is that no longer allowed or is it no longer possible? No, they have completely closed it down with nature 2000 area and regulations and laws.

[SPEAKER_03]

Ah, okay, in that way, yes. Because the Wadden Sea and the Wadden area are also part of Natura 2000. Yes, World Heritage, UNESCO, Natura 2000 area. Yes, and that may bring new rules with it. Yes, and

because of those rules you are not allowed to continue. Is the island full further? Full, yes. Full of land that is already being used, where houses are located or where... Yes.

I think that 3% is used for houses and the rest is nature. Okay, yes. 97%. You may not be allowed to come to nature with the rules. No, that's right. So it's difficult to expand as far as that is concerned. Yes. Yes. That's what it's all about. Yes. Yes. Are there any more challenges? So it's the staff that has to come from the wall for a large part? Yes.

[SPEAKER_05]

The quality needs to be improved and things like that. Good tourism. The quality of what exactly? The services. What you can offer. Yes, so the camping farm and the cheese. Yes. Yes. Better put that on the market. Yes. And is that easy? To get some more value out of it. Well, it's a process to get that going a little bit. And in operation. Yes. Not just finished.

[SPEAKER_03]

No, I can imagine that. That is also a whole process, of course. Is there anything else that is in the way? That is also the manpower. Again the same. You need to translate soon. I will translate. So what you told us is, I asked about the challenges for sustainable growth. And you told us again that there's a lack of personnel, that there's a lack of employees and that they're coming from the mainland. There's just not a lot of people.

and next to that the

It also might be a problem that the land is called Natura 2000. So that means it's categorized as protected nature. The whole sea and all the islands on there in the Netherlands is protected nature. So it's difficult to grow, for example, the farm or to build more houses maybe.

because it's a lot of nature and you can't really touch it because it's protected yeah yeah so that's uh we have the exact the same issue in an island in Norway where we also have been so it's quite interesting stuff yeah yeah i can imagine yeah and you told us that back in the day they would um get some land some extra lens to um

[SPEAKER_01]

yeah to use for the farms or for the houses perhaps but now uh because of the rules that's not possible anymore okay so there's really no there's no good possibility for to make this island a good place for new inhabitants to come because there won't be enough space that they can use to give to new people

[SPEAKER_05]

Is that also a problem when there is staff from the mainland? That, for example, not enough houses can be built where they could live? Yes, that is a bit of a problem, yes. Because of the rules that it is not allowed? Yes, it depends on how you feel about it. Most of the time, for a short time, there are seasonal workers who visit work. Yes.

[SPEAKER_03]

It's all about the summer season, of course. It will be a longer season, so maybe we can offer more nowadays. Yes, and then it might help if houses would come or where people can live, for example. So it would help if there were more houses for people from the mainland to live in.

But next to that it's also a problem that they have the summer season here. Luckily the summer is getting a bit longer, the season is getting a bit longer. But all the tourists come in the summer, so that's the big season. And then the employees from the mainland, they come for the summer and then they leave again. And that's an issue.

For the islanders. Is that a problem? I think for the category. Especially for the hospitality industry. That's the problem. Yes, because they also need people in the winter. Sometimes. In the winter they need less people, the hospitality industry. Yes, but why is it a problem that there are fewer people to work?

Yes, then you can only have the case open for a few days during the week. Then you don't have to put the staff around it. Yes, so those people actually need to keep the case closed. Yes. So for the restaurants and hotels it's a problem that there's not enough people because sometimes they have to close for a few days a week because they don't have enough people.

But what is the main strength on the island when we think about environmental tourism? Main strength? Yes, what is the strength of the island? If we look at what you said, tourism in a sustainable way. Maybe my opinion is, if I understand correctly, quite sustainable. That is the image in any case.

Is that also a power, maybe? The nature and the peace, I think. Yes, nature and the peace. Yes, small scale. Yes, small scale. And those are all forces of the island, which maybe also distinguishes it. I think so. That's what makes it special, the peace and the calmness of the island.

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, I believe that. It's a really nice place. What initiative has the island community... What have they done to... Where was I?

[SPEAKER_03]

To improve this problem, have the community done anything to work with it? Yes, they are always busy with these problems, but they just put it down with the entrepreneur who needs staff. You mean the lack of employees, right? One of those problems, lack of employees. Yes.

Yes, the municipality does nothing else. Okay, so it's up to the entrepreneur himself indeed. Yes. Okay, yes. So the municipality tells the company, the business owners, just to solve the problem themselves. They don't do anything about it. So it's the responsibility of the business owners according to the municipality.

[SPEAKER_05]

Would it help if the municipality would do something? Build houses or something? I think so. Yes. Yes. Do you have any idea what the municipality could do? Well, we have certain buildings as a destination for housing. Yes. From workers. Workers. Yes.

Also new buildings? Or are there enough buildings? Maybe there are existing buildings that people are going to use. Okay.

[SPEAKER_03]

That sounds like a good goal indeed. So you told us that the municipality could play a role in solving this problem by for example appointing buildings that already exist for people to stay in. So not necessarily new buildings, not necessarily new houses, just buildings that already exist. So what you mean is

[SPEAKER_01]

You don't really need to build new buildings at all. So you don't have to touch the nature. But you can still give more room for people by using what you already have. Yes, that's what I started with. Yes, use what you have already and that's a good start.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yes, this is also a good fix. You have already talked about it, of course. It's about the way in which the island society, let's say, the society here on the island, cooperates to work more sustainably and to work more innovatively. I think it's, for example, the cheese factory. Yes. Yes, together with the farmers. We have an association called Boeren Belang.

[SPEAKER_05]

We are all members of Zeven Boeren. Is this your own association? Did you set it up? Yes, it already exists since 1930. That's a long time ago. There used to be a sugar factory here. It was built in the early 70s.

[SPEAKER_03]

Because the farmers received more milk money from the factory in De Waal. Yes, in that way. Yes, it was safer to deliver milk there than to a factory here on the island. Yes, and do you know if that was necessary or was it just more profitable? More profitable. Yes. Yes. Because that is of course also a difference. If you have no choice, then it is of course very logical that you go there.

Yes, that's how it was. So back in the 70s, there used to be a milk factory here, but the farmers could get more money for their milk on the mainland, so they switched to going to the mainland for that.

So the milk factory stopped here. Yes, and the seven farmers that farm here on the island, they started a bond, a group, a group with rules like a bond, right? That's the word for it, if I'm not mistaken.

It's been there since the 1930s and it's still going strong today. And that's why, if I'm not mistaken, that's why you also stick together as the seven farmers and choose to do it this way instead of one having to leave. Yes. Because of the strong bond, the seven of you might stay together instead of one or two of us having to leave. That's right. Yes. Yes. So because of the strong bond,

They choose to stick together instead of having one or two farmers have to leave. Why would the farmers have to leave? Oh yeah, that's the rules in the Netherlands that you probably aren't familiar with because there's a...

Hello. We were told yesterday by Ilya, maybe you remember, she told a little bit about it. There's a lot of rules in the Netherlands around nitrogen. Because of the cows? Yeah, because of the cows, nitrogen and ammonia, they...

go up in the air and they pollute the air and if that's too much and if it's too close to a Natura 2000-gebied, too close to the protected nature, then the government lays sanctions on that and in some

cases they tell farmers to leave. They buy them out of the farm. They give them a lot of money to make them stop. And that would be the case here for one or two, if I'm not mistaken.

Yeah. One or two farmers. Yeah. And instead of, um, having one or two farmers leave, they chose to reduce the feedstock. Okay. So each, all of the seven farmers reduced their feedstock so that everyone could stay at the island. Yes. Yeah. Okay. That's environmental economy. Yes. That's a very good, uh, position. Yeah.

I think, and that's also how they started the cheese factory if I'm not mistaken. So that's how you started the cheese. Yes, we tried to get in through less cattle and cows. Yes. To get more value out of the milk. Yes, because cheese is much more valuable than milk, right? Yes, that's right. Yes.

It's a smart choice. And if you want to keep the sales going, then you have to make that margin bigger. Yes, if there is no intermediary. Yes, no intermediary in between. Yes, so not first through distribution, supermarket and then... Yes. But rather do it yourself. Yes, would there also be a store from you? There is already a store. From you too? Yes, we already have a store open.

Okay, that's good. What's the name of the store? Van Schiet. It's next to the Torksbouw. Okay, we should have seen that. We'll go there in a moment.

So they have a shop already. Yes, in town. It's called Van Schier. I'll write it down for you. We should visit it this afternoon if we have time. They have a shop. Is it only for cheese? Are they for cheese? Yes, cheese, nuts, wine. Oh yes, delicatessen. So cheese and nuts and wine. That is produced at the mainland but from here? With all the products from this island? Yes.

Yes, a bit of local products from the area. Yes, local products. So the cows are here and the cheese is made in the farmland and sold here. So the cows are here and the cheese is made in the mainland and then comes back to be sold at the store. So that's a nice addition. We should really visit. Yes, we should really visit. I get questions again.

So that's a very good initiative, I think. Yes, certainly. To work together in that way. Yes. Is every of the seven farmers in on this door? Or is it just one or two? Or all seven farmers also participate in the store? No, not two. Okay. One of them no longer has milk cows here. Okay. He's completely hidden in milking on the island. Okay.

[SPEAKER_05]

He started at Asterwal with a big company. And one of them quit with the co-operation. Okay, so with the cheese on the co-operation of himself. Yes, he is no longer a member of that. He is a five-member member. Okay.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yes, and one is still a farmer, but he is no longer a farmer. And the other is completely moved and is going to do something else. Ah, okay. And is that because of the new rules or was that already coming? Also because of the new rules. Yes. Okay. And if you were five or six, with the farmer who does not participate. If you were six, you would keep the same V as you had. Yes.

So she still had to leave one or two? I think so, yes. Okay, yes. Yes, that way. Yes. I understand him. So there's actually five farmers that's in the store as well as the cheese making. And the milk cows because one of the farmers stopped and he went to the mainland in a factory, if I'm not mistaken, a milk factory.

No, he's milking the cows there now. Oh, okay. He's just... It's getting bigger. Yes. He took the cows from here to the farm. Oh, okay. Oh, that's also a whole operation, maybe. Yes, I think so. Okay. Yes. Yes. So, one of the farmers went to the mainland to work on a bigger farm. He has his own bigger farm and he took the cows with him. And another one stepped out of the bond.

So there's six farmers now in total on the island and five of them are in on this bond where they reduce the feedstock and have the cheese store. So the five of you all also have the store together. That's right. How is that? You might get the revenue from that, but is there anyone in the store? Yes, there is staff in it. Yes, that's not one of the farmers, I guess. No, the head of the store is in it, by the way.

Oh, that's nice. So sometimes somebody of the company is in the store, but they have their own employees that work in the store. But they all get profit from the store. Is that mainly in the summertime or the wintertime? Summer and winter are open here. Both, summer and winter. But I can imagine that in summertime you have more people, more tourists coming. More turnover in the summer, maybe. That's right.

More profit in summer time. More profit. And the cheese itself, is that season based? Is it more cheese in the winter, in the summer, in the fall? Yes, cheese is produced all year round. Yes, it is produced all year round. But do you notice a difference in sales? That it sells better in the summer or not? Well, in the summer there are more tourists. Yes. So it sells better.

Yes, but for that reason, it is not necessarily a seasonal bond. No, we haven't talked about that yet. No, I don't know it that way either.

Is there a way to make the people on the island feel better? It's difficult because it's already good.

To make it even more efficient to communicate with parties that are needed. For example the municipality or maybe something of the state staff. Is there a way to do that? To improve? Yes. She has come up with something for me everywhere, I thought. Certain groups here in Thailand think about certain things.

[SPEAKER_05]

There is also an energy corporation here on the island. They look at the energy here, distribute it as much as possible so that it can be used. That is also good. So there is also an energy corporation on the island that stands for sustainable energy and looks at the way that that can be produced sustainably. So wind and water and?

[SPEAKER_02]

Windcraft, watercraft. Yes, wind energy and water energy. No, you don't have water energy yet. No, no water energy yet, but wind and solar energy. To get more energy you sort of have to have a... Yes, waterfalls. It's kind of flat here. Yes, of course they all have waterfalls, we don't have them in the Netherlands. And from Norway we have big mountains.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah, we don't have that many waterfalls. Windcraft is a thing. What other energy source do you have? Just solar panels. Wind energy is not allowed here on the island. Okay, no windmills at all? No. Okay, and what's the reason for that? Yes, we don't want that. The view. Yes, the view, in that way. I thought maybe it also has to do with nature, but...

Well, I think that's part of the natural law, that it's not allowed. Okay, so they don't have any windmills here because it's prohibited because of the... Protected nature? Yeah, either that or the view, because some people complain about them polluting the view, because you have a beautiful view here and there's windmills in front of the view.

So you're not sure if it's actually in the law or if it's just because of people don't like the view. Yeah. Yeah, because of the... Understandable. Yeah. So that's why there's no windmills, but there is sun energy. Sun energy. Yeah. So that's the main source of energy on the island. Yeah. Sun. The biggest source. Is that a big source on the island or is that... I don't know what to say.

I don't know exactly what percentage of solar energy we use here, but all the farmers have panels on the roof. Right.

Well, that was all of the questions, wasn't it? I think it was, yeah. Those were the questions. That's all we wanted to know. Okay. Thank you so much. Yeah.

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[SPEAKER_00]

Just stop. Okay. You already gave a nice example, but how does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth? Like, yeah, it was a nice example of the cheese they made together and the solution they found for it. Yeah. But are there more examples of how they promote innovative development and how there's more collaboration? Please.

[SPEAKER_06]

maybe it's also a little bit of a Dutch thing but we don't brag about things so some things like cooperation between groups especially in a small community like this we find it more like a normal thing to do so I think when you

It's not going to be an answer to the question, but when you compare the community working together on the island and compare it to a mainland, I think the cooperation between the groups here is very high. Because we are depending on each other. If we like it or not. So we have to work together.

I don't think there is like this big promo innovative thing, maybe except for then the cheese, which is like a nationwide known project. So not really, no. I think we don't do anything different or better than in the mainland.

[SPEAKER_01]

So it's always like falling all naturally for you to work together. Because you know in different island communities it's like very much like rivalry, you know. That's never been a thing around here.

[SPEAKER_06]

I don't think so, because we only have one village. So it's not like we're better than the village. It's never been like that farm and that farm. No, maybe on the personal level.

because some people you like and some people you don't. But there are seven farmers on the island and for example you all have to do the same land work as your neighbor in the same season so in autumn everybody here has to harvest their corn and when it's the nice weather everybody is going to mow their grass um and you all need the same equipment but it's like ridiculous to buy everything for yourself because 90 of the time is just standing there in your shed so my husband has like a cooperation with two other guys two other farms and they made the deal that they buy the equipment together So my husband says, well, I have a tractor. And the guy from the farm across the street says, well, I have a mower. And the guy from the next door, he says, well, I have like a, we call it a schutter. So if I drive my tractor, I'm going to count the hours I work for you and I use your hark or your schudder and we count the hours. And in the end of the year, we take measures. How many hours did you spend on the tractor? How many hours did I use my mower? And they're going to stripe all the hours. And then there's always some difference. But they don't need to have everything by themselves. So... yeah i think you need to work together also for example really really a small example sometimes the buses don't drive to Groningen city or Leeuwarden city or Dokkum city and if you need something from the vet medicines or you have to be in the hospital at some time we have like this app group on facebook especially for the island and it says oh i need to go to the hospital tomorrow in 10 but the buses don't drive who is going and can take me there and there are always like literally three people going yeah i can take you i can drive you do you need a pickup ride back home um so yeah i think that's really wonderful that's the real beauty of a small community

[SPEAKER_00]

How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development? Or is it just like you don't think they need more capacity? Yeah, what do you mean by capacity? Is it like knowledge or money or like installed PV solar panels capacity? Probably not.

[SPEAKER_01]

I think it's more like, you just talked a lot about it, we didn't set up the questions, but I think it's like, how can we communicate more with each other, all the actors and all that, but you just talked a lot about it, but can the people here on the island, um communicating better ways to like always always um i think and it is not not really nice to say but there are a lot of men talking because you talked like you spoke earlier about uh how to like drive out knowledge of the older people here who's moving here like in that way how can we improve that capacity of community with that people yeah um the thing is i think i think the the the municipality is really trying hard

[SPEAKER_06]

in the last couple of years they managed to have like a really good high quality of intelligent women with great enthusiasm but the government is I think working against itself because it's it's too slow and it has it is

the Institute to be slow, but it's really discouraging. So I think there are a lot of efforts already put in bringing people together, but I think people feel like nothing happening with all the input okay so the people with the knowledge and the entrepreneurs who are willing to do stuff they find each other in like let's go let's do this and just in a simple way not just no not a lot of thinking just go fix it

Of course, a municipality, the government cannot do that because it's the people's money. They have to make like strategies and

I don't really know what the translation is for belied. But they have to set rules. If they are to grant money to innovative projects, they have to set some boundaries to what kind of investments you can do with the community money. And that takes a really lot of time.

also as a municipality you cannot decide everything by yourself so like the people who work there cannot decide oh I want to do it like this because you also have the board the gemeenteraad and they are like the people's vertegenwoordiger they're chosen every four years we have elections they are chosen by all the

the people living on the island to represent them in the government, in the municipality. So working for the government can be very discouraging because it's so slow. It's sometimes it's slow for a reason because everybody has to say something about it. But I think that's the main frustration for entrepreneurs.

[SPEAKER_01]

Can I ask also, here on the island, do you have arenas? Do you arrange arenas for people to meet each other and communicate on problems? Workshops and all that? We started this, I think, four or five years ago now.

[SPEAKER_06]

I think we started it four years ago. We called it Sustainable Island, but then in the language of Schiennen, it was called Dursum Island. And we really wanted to bring people together and to discuss, okay, where do you want to see the island in some years? Where do we have to go?

We are not going to talk about problems, we are just going to talk about vision and wishes and dreams, where do you want to go. Then we are going to bring all that together, then we are going to ask all the technical people with knowledge, what are the boundaries, how far can we go, so we can eliminate the dreams and push a little bit down the expectations of what is possible.

But the biggest problem was Corona. So when we started it, we had these big dreams about sending newsletters every couple of months, having cafes where people could talk together about different subjects throughout the whole year, like foods and health. Because sustainability is not about energy. I think sustainability

it goes beyond that it's also financially and education and equal rights and blah blah blah like 17 sustainable development goals um but the biggest enemy was like corona because then we didn't want to stop the project but we couldn't get together so we tried to do everything online and I think we did our best because I was working at the project at the time so I say we I think we really did our best we could in the time but I think a lot of emotions get lost because of online meetings of course yeah and I think that's the biggest problem of the island is that people

Shut down ratio and get on with emotion. I think that's some problem. And now four years later, what's the situation on this project? I don't know because I quit my job. I'm just here on my island on an island. But is there still a theme? The theme from the municipality is really great. They have like two girls and a guy.

They really work hard.

In all kinds of places we made a request by the national government to gain us money for a large project and it's called PAW. The Dutch translation is Programma Aardgasvrije Wijken. So you can get money from the government to make a part of your town or part of your city free of gas.

[SPEAKER_01]

Okay. Natural gas. So they received money to try and reach that goal. What I mean like the arenas, is it still arenas? No. No? No. And why did that stop like after corona? I don't know. People were tired and...

[SPEAKER_06]

Yeah, I think people were glad to be alive. No, that sounds really hard. I didn't mean it like that. I think people were really relieved that they survived. I think that's the best word because a lot of people here are thriving from tourism.

And like there was the first couple of months of when Corona hit the Netherlands in 2020 or the whole world, people were, of course, oblivious for what the future will bring.

And some of them really got damaged a lot in their businesses. Some of them really thrived, but I think a lot of them also really were hit hard. So I think a lot of people were just glad to be business survivors.

[SPEAKER_00]

How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the island communities capacity for sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_06]

God, it's a long question. Yeah, it's like how you can contribute in improving the sustainable growth and the community. Yeah. What can you do for yourself? Yeah. Okay. So we have put solar panels on the roof for our own electricity use. We have bought a new heating system because the old one I think was really old like 25 years and it started leaking so I said just take it out. We bought a new one on natural gas because at the time we were searching for a good solution to take everything on electric, but it was leaking. So we had to buy like now. So we discussed it with our supplier and we came with the system that we are going to put a new heating system next to it. So we bought the heating system and we're going to put the same one next to it in the coming months I hope and we can feed it by heat pipes so we're going to take a heat pipe system on the roof I hope I hope we can save up to like 80 percent of natural gas just by putting heat pipes on the roof oh that's nice yeah I hope hopefully it's going to work as we want it in the cup in the last months I only ordered like the natural based cleaning equipment, like sanitaire reiniger, allesreiniger. Things we clean the place with, I want to get rid of all the synthetic stuff and put in the natural stuff.

also we try to not throw away foods so if people come here they have like large groups they buy a lot of stuff like groceries from the supermarket and there's always something left sometimes we let them throw it away but we always say up in front if they arrive here if you are leaving and you have a lot of groceries left please let it be remained in the fridge if you don't want to take it with you please take it with you if you want to because we investigate and if it's okay enough we just leave it there and so the next group can come in and we say their last group bought this this this it it was too much we put it we leave it in fridge for you to use it so they don't buy every time the same things like lemonade or mayonnaise or sugar blocks or cubes. I don't know what people buy. And they don't make the same mistake? No, I don't think it's a mistake. But when you buy like a box of sugar cubes and three people use sugar and there are like six cubes missing, please do not throw it away. Just leave it in the kitchen for the next group. So we try to stimulate people to leave the products behind and also stimulate

[SPEAKER_00]

new groups to please use the things the group therefore left. That's nice. And sometimes it ends up in my fridge. The last question. How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve more common goals? It's a bit difficult question. No, yeah, I know the question.

[SPEAKER_06]

That's, I think, not to discourage you. Probably everything we have talked about now and we've talked about in the islands, the other islands of Vyra. Vyra? Is it called Vyra? Vyra? I don't know. What's the project's name? Vryja. Vryja. Oh, Vryja. Sorry. Oh, no worries.

I think everybody is going to be really willing to help and to talk and to discuss and eventually I think it's going to end in a drawer. Because there are always some things which are general for all the islands, because that's why they are in a program together. So I think probably the other islands also have a high level of tourism, a lot of nature surrounding, depending on the mainland for a lot of them for supplies. Probably, I don't know which islands are in the project.

But I don't think there's a one-on-one solution.

But maybe it's also like the islands can learn from each other from the conclusion of the project. We had two years ago, I think, or maybe three years ago, when I was working with the municipality, we had a trip to Samseu in Denmark. Because they, a couple of years, I think 20 years ago, they won a contest by the European Union who said which community wants to be self-sufficient as soon as possible. And Samseu was like...

draining from young people and knowledge and everybody left and they said well we don't have we don't have anything to lose so let's go so we came there for just inspiration I think and it was really really nice I think it was really nice and everybody who participated thought I hope it was really nice but then you come back and it's just like

[SPEAKER_00]

your daily job day occupies everything. Yeah. Yeah. I've, uh, two weeks ago I've read the document of the Dursum Island project. Oh yeah. Yeah. So that's the example of that island was also in that. Yeah. Yeah. It's really interesting to read and the conclusion. Yeah. But maybe when they have like, uh, the Norwegian Island, uh, because I think there's a Norwegian Island because you are working and participating.

[SPEAKER_06]

Valig? Okay. Probably, maybe they have like these arenas you talked about and that would be something the community here could pick out as an idea. So maybe we should restart that. Yeah, of course. But probably everybody will be like

[SPEAKER_01]

Oh, good job for you. And then it's going to end in a drawer. Yeah. So like you say, you feel like it's not enough space to like push through. Like you say, you were in some sort and then you came back and just occupied by the daily. Yeah. Yeah. I think some people...

[SPEAKER_06]

who are willing, they take from experiences like going to Samsung what they can use in their own company. But I think like the vision and the strategy need to come from government. Like, where are we aiming at? I can do my own thing.

I can have an island on an island by myself and be sustainable by myself. And of course, if you want to start something, just start with your own attitude and your own activities and do what you can do. But like the big, major push down things like legislation and rules, it cannot come from the government. It cannot come from the entrepreneurs.

I cannot, for example, I really would wish that all my groups who are visiting here, they need to buy some supplies for themselves, like foods. But I really would like them to buy with the Pluktuin. So they don't buy, for example, buy strawberries in December. Like, why would you do that? There are no strawberries in December in the Netherlands. But I cannot, I cannot forbid them to buy off-season products. So I think I can always persuade them. I always tell my groups, we have the Pluktuin so if you want like vegetables or want to go there with the children to take some fruits I think you really should do that like as an activity I always say you should go to the Pluktuin it's really nice to go there also with the kids from the primary school but I cannot shuffle them through their throats if they don't want to go there if they don't want to buy seasoned products I cannot make them so I think one of the biggest things we can do about the Vrije project is like if we connect the five islands to be like the place to visit if you want to be happy and green I don't know if we you should really like you have always have like this top 10 islands to visit around the world and it's always like the maldives and the bali and the tuvalu i don't know beachy tropical beachy things uh maybe we should achieve something like if you are like a green loving person are you into environment you really should visit those five islands

[SPEAKER_01]

then there needs a lot of things to be done. Yeah, that's a really nice idea. And actually I have another question I thought about earlier in the interview. I don't know how many supermarkets like it is on this island. One. One? How many percentage of like all the food there is like short traveled from the island because there's so many farms here?

[SPEAKER_06]

That is a good question and that is really really a strange thing because the vegetables and the fruits from the Pluktuin are I think what I've heard because I've asked him are not allowed to be sold in the supermarket because of Dutch legislation there has to be like um control food control on everything you sell in the supermarket and there is no control on the plug time so i think they are not allowed to sell the products in the supermarket there is a large

a range of all the products in the supermarket is from biological resources or fair trade or locals from the but it's all um within chains from the big cities no no no not not not not that particularly but uh they are in in the food chain with controlled institutes so there is a like in the in the mainland not far from where the ferry departs there is this sheep sheep farm sheep farm which produces like the best cheap cheese i hate the word sheep

Cheese from sheep. And they're really cute, like this big, like a softball, big cheeses. But they are fitted into the chain. They have like a controlled quality supply for producing the cheese from sheep milk. And you can put, what's it called? Bloctile?

We can't put the fruits here in that process? I think it's too small for that. And I think she doesn't want to. Maybe it's a choice. So now she sells fruits and vegetables to passengers who come and visit and pick their own fruit. But she also sells to a lot of restaurants in town, hotel restaurants.

And they just order like, in Monday I would like to have 50 zucchinis. Or like, I would like to have 10 kilos of onions every week. So she supplies the restaurant. She just comes on the bike and like... She does everything by bike. She was riding her bike, it was an electric bike.

with the crates and she had like the bags uh but it was too much it was too much so then she's i think she started the fundraising or she did it by herself but she bought like this crate bike and buckfeet with like a big trunk in front uh also electric so okay she just put the crates in but she cycles like all around all of the island to the boat also to pick up like the the coffee residue so she has like uh oyster uh i don't know what the translation is it's in dutch it's called like mushrooms lobster oh no lobster is great also i think very nice i never eat lobster before but no it's it's like you grow mushrooms on the coffee residue

You should probably look it up because I don't know how to translate it. I've looked at it yesterday and they showed me the whole process. It's really nice to see. So she got her own fedora service around it. And in the summer holidays, every Saturday morning she is in town with a selling point.

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, when they did it.

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[SPEAKER_04]

Thank you so much. So we have had some questions to start in a few, and obviously we will probably have more questions. So could you first tell us more about yourself, about the company? Because how long are you in the Toxbar already? I guess 12 years, 11 years, 12 years. So that's what I do here. I was born on the island.

[SPEAKER_01]

I'm 42 years old now and after my studying hotel management I worked a couple of years in on the main main day but after a while after 10 years I went back to the island so I bought this bar with a friend of mine so that's already 12 years ago my name is, and yeah now i'm living here with my wife and a little kid here on the island and that's it that's nice yeah do you live close to the bar everything is close to the bottom yeah that's true that's true yeah it's five minutes walk or two minutes uh by bike yeah that's really close it's true

[SPEAKER_04]

Yeah, we're staying at the Kooiplats, which is also just 10 minutes. If you're as fast as her, though. I'm not that fast on a bike, so maybe 15, maybe 20. You all discovered the Tox Bar last night already. And also we're coming back tonight for a dinner. Yeah, exactly. Yeah, we think this is like the centerpiece bar of all the bars here. Yeah, definitely. Perfect for...

[SPEAKER_01]

for youngsters and students. Is this always a bar or another function? It's built in 1929 and it was first a hotel. That is older than China. So yeah it's a hotel and now the rooms above are for the employees so in the summer we have i think 30 40 people and you work here yeah a couple of them living on the island and the other are living upstairs upstairs yeah yeah that's good so would you say that's also your role in the tourism on this island to work to have tourists in the bar and also the disco to have good place to get altars here also yeah not everybody is happy with us but but we are focusing on young people also students and people who come to the island to have some fun yeah and do other stuff like seeing birds or yeah so but a lot of people have uh they come with the company uh one night and have uh now you've seen that yesterday so that were teachers yeah yeah they have uh all day a meeting and uh afterwards they have uh they have a party so that's uh also uh yeah here's something to do here do you think there's a lot of tourists like that on this island yeah but let's all go with with the season in summer it's it's very busy now it's september and october you can see it a little bit going down yeah yeah yeah that's it that's it actually yeah living by the season yeah yeah that makes sense and by the weather if it's now 30 degrees it's it's very busy yeah yeah but it isn't no it's close it's pretty cold i was prepared for warmer weather could be worse true so would you say the winter is much more calm yeah definitely yeah so um i think 20 25 years ago uh uh it was more more season

And then we shut down in December and we opened in March or maybe April. So everything was closed. There were no tourists at all. During this month would you do something else to earn money or you just have a vacation here? Yeah, we go on holiday when other people work. It's kind of your summer break. Yeah, winter break. Yeah, winter break. Winter break, that's a better word. yeah we have some young people working here and they're living also here they go to thailand they go to south africa they go for a month most of the time kite surfing related so that's what

[SPEAKER_04]

what a lot of people young people do yeah so there's a lot of kite surfing on the island that's cool it's pretty cool do you think that's also one of the better aspects of Schiermonnikoog to be able to do such activities outdoors yeah yeah i think it's it's it's nice for the

[SPEAKER_01]

A lot of young people, but not everybody is kiting. Of course. What do you think pulls most tourists on this island? Sorry? What do you think pulls most tourists? Attracts? Attracts people. I think it's... quite easy going so if you have a family with small kids it's nice to go there is not a lot of traffic so you can let your kids go out without be afraid of accidents the beach is nice so it's a very safe place We have a nice beach, we have nice nature and for older people it's very good to have some hiking, walking, biking. Of course, yeah. So it's also ideal for a small break, so just a weekend or a small break from Monday to Friday. So yeah, it's close to the mainland.

What do you think makes this island special from other islands? I think there are little differences I think for people from the mainland living on the island we see a lot of difference between Ameland and Schelling and Texel but I think if you go to the to the Wadden Islands they say oh wow we go to the Wadden Island we go to Schiemenkoop or we go to Ameland but if you go to the other islands you see small differences small difference in nature difference for me yeah what difference with the other islands yeah what makes this island your island yeah your island yeah I was born here, so yeah. You have a personal feeling. Yeah, I have a personal feeling, so if I was born

[SPEAKER_02]

Ameland, I guess, I love Ameland. When we were at the airport yesterday, we talked to a man who works at a shop and he asked us what we were doing and where we were from and stuff. And we were like, no, we're going on a study trip to the most difficult name of the islands. And he went Oh, yes. And I told him, what do you think of it? I asked him, and he was like, I'm kind of biased, but it's not my favorite island. And I asked, oh, not your favorite? You're biased? And he went, yeah, I was born on one of the other islands. He has the same feeling. That's funny. Yeah, it is. I mean...

[SPEAKER_04]

you are part of the community if you are born here yes yeah i think that's also something that's strong here is it yeah i think yeah it's a strong community yeah i feel like an ownership kind of owner of the island yeah no you feel like you uh ownership of the island kind of it's yours yeah yeah it's yours definitely yeah yeah that makes sense and is it also so that you know almost everyone that that lives on the island yeah yeah yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, when I was a kid I knew all the people but the last 10 years we've seen that the ageing of the people are going up so the houses for sale are very expensive so a lot of people with money are buying houses and they are not becoming not all of them becoming part of the community so they're living just two months in summer here and go back to Amsterdam or Groningen where they're living. So that's a new trend on all the islands actually. Is the local authority trying to prevent such kind of buying? Yeah, they try. It's difficult. Money is too powerful?

Yeah, and I don't know what's the word, hand having? Police kind of? Yeah, to control, the rules controlling of what's possible and what's not possible is difficult. There is a law, sometimes people have the law behind them to buy something and don't be part of the community.

so if you're retired and you're 65 and you say i wanna live for 10 years and die easily over here but i don't want to do anything on the island just live yeah that's that's that's possible and that's and that's okay for them but you you're seeing the the age of all the people are it's going up yeah yeah but if you want to have a soccer club or a tennis

field or all small sport activities, you need a small board, you need volunteers and it's all a very small group of people who are doing everything. You can't do everything. But if they are buying houses and someone is selling houses, are they selling the old houses or the new ones?

anybody leaving this island nobody coming from about uh from the mainland yeah yeah no because there must be someone sealing these houses well yeah people die yeah or want some money yeah and go uh yeah yeah if your parents lived here and you're a kid and you have your career on the mainland and uh yeah

selling houses for a million so yeah well i don't go back yeah give me the million yeah that's true do you think that's also a challenge of the island yep yeah you feel the community getting smaller uh it is getting smaller yeah but after kovit or during kovit you've seen um

You've seen a switch that there are some youngsters coming back. They were born here and did a study and they said after Covid they say well maybe it's not that bad actually on the island. It's small but we have our freedom. We don't have to live in the city and we can do what we want now.

so it's a little switch but it's not it's not still not enough to uh to fix everything no no and we need to we need workers so uh uh for for the tourism yeah and it's it's difficult in whole the netherlands and i guess also in whole europe but now we've had lots of people from spain coming to the island and if the They come with 20, 25 to the hotels with 25 people on a Spanish community on a small island.

it's quite a lot yeah it's a big group yeah it's a big group it's true yeah and uh if if they don't like they go and oh no spanish anymore but they they stay for a for a while yeah yeah and they've been study uh fb students on the universities as well so but they don't get a job in spain for proper money so they go to the hospitality in the in the netherlands it's it's weird yeah yeah immigrants from south europe yeah yeah true and they also live here then in the hotel in rooms yeah yeah like here in uh in in houses by the bought by the by the owners yeah i think it's on most of islands it's like that yeah it's true and it's it's changing now it's spanish but uh 10 years ago there are

[SPEAKER_04]

Poland or Czechia and so to make a small island with a lot of different people from abroad yeah I see so you already said that to face the challenge of having to meet people you ask people from abroad to work here are there also other actions to take people here to work here?

[SPEAKER_01]

We started three years ago a school, hospitality school. We worked together with a normal school from Groningen, Noorderpoort College, they come one day a week to the island to give the lessons and our dream is to build a campus but we started with 10 students last year 15 and now we have 20 but we need 25 to 30 to make the

[SPEAKER_04]

To make the financial... Yeah, to be a loved candle. I see, that's actually really interesting. Let me see if I have one more question, because I think that's everything. Oh yeah? Yeah, because we had a lot of questions, but we actually talked about a lot of them already, so it's really good. It's called the Schier Academy. The Schier Academy, that's the school? Yeah. Ah, that's good.

[SPEAKER_01]

we have it also we copy it from the Ameland Academy and the Tesla Academy so there's also the Wadden Islands so yeah the same problems and the same solutions so we thought we can do that also on Schier but small but it's working

[SPEAKER_04]

yeah so okay the last question is um how can the community i mean it's a super small community but how can they better collaborate with surrounding communities to achieve goals like having more people to work here what do you mean by surrounding areas i think they mean the mainland and also people who come here a lot

[SPEAKER_01]

I mean, it's a very hard question actually to think about it, but... Yeah, it is. Yeah. Do you have an idea how to connect them? I think, like an example of the Schier Academy is such a plan. We do the marketing on the mainland to get people from the mainland

Yeah, such initiatives. Really good. I guess there should be more ideas, but I really don't know. But I do think it's true to get young people here. It's the best idea. But there is a responsibility from the government.

so we we need houses there are not payable houses that's it's coming back on all the islands actually yeah and we need a proper school so they're building a new school also for the small kids we have kids for a school for kids yeah that's the school is over there right yeah we found it yeah we were there but we need it yeah yeah but my my little daughter she's six they are

in a class of i think five that's small it's kind of like a private school it's a private school yeah almost yeah so they put uh uh three classes in one uh

room so then you have 15 yeah yeah still super small yeah i can i can tell why everyone has their own thing to do here yeah yeah it's not just living you have a responsibility to make something of the of the

island for yourself if you're not doing nothing you can say there is nothing on the island that you have to make it

You have to make it yourself. Exactly, but you don't have all the time in the world, you have to do your own thing too. So kind of developing, it's going to be difficult if you don't have any external help. And when I was a kid, long time ago, there were not many, the schedule of the ferry was not every three hours.

but now we have every three hours a ferry and there's also a quick taxi ferry so we can go to the mainland so my daughter with a friend of her going to dancing lessons on the mainland every Friday because it's not here to get one teacher over here it's very it's more expensive so yeah she likes dancing she don't want to play soccer other friends girls friends girlfriends are playing soccer but i don't talk to soccer because there is only soccer is anyone from mainland come here for the soccer lessons no no that's here yeah how big is the team the soccer team how big is the team how many children i think there are 40

[SPEAKER_02]

yeah oh that's good yeah but that's all the youth so all together yeah so from six to 18 and then we have one main uh adult team yeah yeah do you play soccer uh not anymore not anymore you you are kind of a football person i reckon so yeah ah that's cool it's cool yeah but do you have any other activities

[SPEAKER_01]

on this island for horse riding yeah we went or we buy the horses and we have gymzaal i don't know what the word is gym like that the one where the girls make the turns and stuff like that oh uh tumbling and yeah so we can do their uh badminton

and volleyball so yeah that's good that's a good yeah so on on mondays it's volleyball on tuesday it's badminton that's it but

all so small one team playing every day or every week yeah back and forth back and forth do you have any games with or like with mainland yeah with mainland only soccer only soccer yeah they go yeah they go to the mainland and the mainland is coming to here and if they go coming here also the youth they're so yeah they're making

a small trip. The adults are staying in the kooiplas for example and they go here afterwards. Fair enough. So the other teams in the other sports, they're just doing it for fun? Oh, that's fun! And do they also have communities, like verenigen? Oh yeah, veel sportverenigen. Ja, dat zijn wel verenigen.

[SPEAKER_04]

Like the clubs we were talking about earlier. Yeah, oh yeah, yeah. That's really cool. Yeah, we also were talking to Klaas and he also told us about the house problem and he also told us about the clubs. So it's really interesting to hear that the community is like that, that you feel the same things. Yeah, and that's why we're here. To see how it is. Yeah, exactly. But a friend of mine is going to play padel today. I say, I'm not here, I'm going to... I think one of you...

[SPEAKER_01]

have spoken to Max yeah he's going to Groningen today to play padel because he likes it yeah and he said well okay I don't have to work I go playing padel yeah padel is like yeah with a glass thing it's like yeah it's fun we have it in our city but expensive you go by car you go with a with a ferry just to play padel and you go for one hour and then you come back that's crazy that's funny though yeah but yeah it's a little bit more expensive to live here and you have to yeah accept that yeah and also to go to dancing lessons is it's very expensive it's not normal for normal people uh to to do to do no no it's true you have to work hard for that yeah yeah

[SPEAKER_02]

And I can tell you work hard for it. Yes. When we were here, we were here earlier this morning, we were here about 9. We saw all the people working and putting stuff into the stores and into the bars and into the restaurants and everyone's working so and getting up so early to make things go around. And it's very, I think it's charming almost. Yeah, it's really. The way everyone is

[SPEAKER_01]

They're all in, kind of. Yeah, you can see our lives, but if you were here a month ago, you've seen something different. You say, wow, lots of people, it's crowded. Yeah. And it's waiting for the ferry, so it's 10.30. Hi Niels. Hi.

and then five six of the blue buses are coming here and a couple of hundred people going right away to the to the bicycle store yeah get some bikes then after that they go here or there or there to get coffee after the coffee we go to the beach after the beach we go to have a lunch after the lunch every day it's the same at four o'clock the bus is leaving back to the to the to the ferry so before that we drink a coffee or a coke or a beer and after that uh yeah that's uh yeah that's our lives yeah yeah so we need a good good weather what do you think of the tourists dude are they nice are they yeah yeah yeah they're paying our our lives yeah of course yeah oh that's good and that's uh actually also important if older people or rich people are coming and don't want to be part of the community it's it's difficult because uh they're saying yeah we don't need a tourist we don't we just need one restaurant and a supermarket but that's not working no everything on the island needs the tourists yeah the government needs them the lighthouse needs them without accidents on the water we don't need a lighthouse we yeah that's true yeah everything has is connected to the tourists yeah yeah it's very interesting yeah no tourists no life

[SPEAKER_02]

but that's a common thing we have seen in we have been to two islands before this yeah which one it's the same it's in norway

So we've been to Skjæralden, which is one of the biggest islands we have in Norway. It's right by where we have our school, our campus. And they're also driven by tourism. But their biggest problem is it's not all year round. They only have it in the summer. So they make a lot of money in the summer.

[SPEAKER_01]

but they have to like it's probably do something yeah we do the same yeah you do the same yeah yeah it's what i said uh in what is an outkitting that's a hard word uh money from the government when

you're not working yeah oh yeah yeah we have that 30 years ago when you when the island shut down everybody is getting uh money from the government
And after that, in March, we're starting up the tourism and we don't need the money. And you pay higher tax. Sorry? And you pay higher tax. Yeah, but now we don't get the money in winters. So we have to make... The money you make in December go around the whole year. Yeah, but also we need the small money in winters. So we stay open and waiting for tourists and every...
tourist is coming, we need to make the cost go around. I can't say to the cooks and to the employees in the bar, maybe I have enough money, but I still have to pay all my employees. You cannot say to them, sorry, there were no guests, you get no money today. I need you in summer, but now you go away. That's not working. There's some change in...
doesn't change yeah that's true so that's yeah yeah but we need to make the money in summer and if it's a bad summer we yeah we see that in winters

[SPEAKER_02]

but do you feel like because i i probably probably had some bad summers do you see any difference from uh have you run the island from when the summers was bad if you understand my question yeah what's the difference between a good summer and a bad summer i understand the money what attracts the people is it the weather is it uh i don't know um

[SPEAKER_01]

are there like tourism like activities that you do that drawn more tourists to you? I think there is also a life before covid and a life after covid so during covid and after covid it was very easy to go on holiday in your own land so
then was the all the islands were very very popular because it's it's close we we didn't go abroad so then we go to the to the water island so we had we had good summers yeah and in winters we get money from the from the government so yeah we we don't complain about COVID no not at all yeah
It's almost like we're asking you to come back. You please come back. And before Covid, yeah, and that's definitely the weather. This year is not the best summer ever.
So the weather was not that good, so July was horrible. Yeah, it was so much rain, it was bad. In the islands in Norway too. Yeah, so all the hotels and all the houses you can rent were fully booked, so that's the same.
every summer it's every summer fully booked but people who are coming for one day to go to the beach they were they were not here so that's the main difference yeah that's such a big change yeah but that's the weather we yeah we can we can change but not true but not for just one summer to say we we need some yeah it's true better against climate change yeah that's that's the long that's the long term but for um yeah

[SPEAKER_04]

I can't change it for now. Perfect. Thank you so much for everything. It was a really good interview. Thank you so much for telling so much. Really good. See you tonight? Yeah, of course. Are you leaving tomorrow? Yeah, we are leaving tomorrow. And how big is the group? 25 or something? 27, I think? Yeah, something like that. And how much from Norway?

[SPEAKER_02]

We are 12 students from Norway and 3 teachers. We are with 11 students and we have 1 teacher. And I have myself 12. And you have you. And we have you. But now students from Denmark.

No, just Norway, China and the Netherlands. We can kind of represent Denmark. We're kind of Danish too. Are you going also to France? We're going to France. We just don't know the date yet. Either it's in... Also Grva. Yeah, Grva.

Yeah, it sounds like a grua. Yeah, my wife was there. She's French, so they need her for the translation. It's good. Yeah, and they've also been in Croatia. I don't remember the name.

Elbert, Linnea and Ellen was in Croatia now, not so long ago, last week or something. So we're going to two islands in France, Bra is one of them, and I think we're going to continue some work in Croatia, and we have Denmark and Sweden.

It's international, but I'm just curious. We know that we have a teacher. He's a very difficult name for someone who isn't Norwegian. I already forgot. I think it's a difficult name, but Frayais a project from Norway, or is it? No, no, no, North Sea. North Sea, so the Netherlands is probably.

The leading partner is Provincial Friesland. Provincial Friesland. Yes. Okay. Provincial Friesland, Natuurmonument is also a sponsor. VVV also does something. I don't know if they are a lot of sponsors that they just do by the word. Yes. Yes, here on Skier. Yes. Yes, but just in general. It's been going on for a year or a couple of months, people are leaving everywhere to look.

It is not only the local people who have the local language. Yes, that's right. It is indeed larger partners who do that. And Interreg-Motie is also a European funding company. So Interreg means, I'm not sure about Interreg-Motie. It sounds inter-regional. Yeah, inter-regional. It's so nice here, everyone's like, hi, hi, to each other. Yeah, I really like this as well. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

But it's European funded. Nice. Good luck with the study and with the project. Thank you. You don't have any more questions? No. No? No, I don't have any questions. And if you have any more, you can ask us later. Yes. I'm off. Yeah, of course. Thank you so much. Also, thank you for the coffee. Yeah, thank you very much. See you tonight. Yeah, see you. What time is the flight tomorrow? I think we're going back to the mainland in five, like... End of the day.

Yeah, the end of the day, kind of. See you later. See you later.

[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_00]

Alright,, what is your role in the island community? My role in the island community? I'm the owner of two companies here. So here we have the Bruxelles, Hotel Brasserie Bruxelles. And I'm the owner of the beach club Nodestrøm at the beach. And further on I'm a councillor here on the island.

[SPEAKER_01]

Okay, you're a councillor. And how is your role affected by the island's tourism? Because you're also a councillor, but also you run two businesses. Yeah. So how do you, let's say, how does your role affect the tourism on the island? Well, of course, with my hotels, I'm trying to provide a

[SPEAKER_00]

Perfect place for the tourists to come. And as a counselor, I'm also responsible for the tourism and economy here on the island. But also to make it a perfect island for the people to live.

So you have quite a big responsibility. Yeah. Nice. How would you describe the island community and its current state? It's a small community, of course. We have approximately a thousand people living here.

Well, the state of the island...

It's a relaxing atmosphere. In talks of sustainability, how is the island and its current state now?

Approving. It's always high on the agenda here. Last Tuesday we had, of course, as councillors, an update about the sustainability here on the island.

We are always involved and we're always... Is there something you've done recently to improve the sustainability on the island? Well, it's tough. It's tough. It's because you're isolated here on the island.

And before you can do anything for the island, the ideas are here. But the...

production. Yeah, exactly. It's hard. You have a lot of factors that you have to, you know, you have the cable to do from the air, from the mainland here to the island, so it's difficult. So the idea and the motivation to make it more sustainable is there, but it's hard to implement. Yes, exactly. Okay, perfect.

And what do you think are the best aspects of Shermonico?

just in general yeah just in general best uh well you have the uh well the isolation of the island is of course perfect yeah um you you live in a small community so you can always

do the things together yeah um you have the beautiful nature and it's your back garden yeah so it's lovely is it kind of like a neighborhood type of community where you help each other just a small village in the north of holland yeah that kind of thing yeah uh the best aspects in terms of sustainability what are your thoughts there um

that everyone is willing. Everyone is thinking to approve it. Even the neighbor here, a good child, they always think how can we approve and how can we make it better. But then, as you mentioned earlier, it's hard to implement. Yeah, exactly. Because all the smaller ideas have to be in one big project. Yeah, exactly.

[SPEAKER_01]

Maybe you want to ask a question? Yeah, where? This one? This one? Number four, yeah. What are the major challenges on the island community it faces in terms of development and sustainable growth? The main challenges when it comes to being innovative, but also having the sustainability in focus.

[SPEAKER_00]

It's hard to implement because you're on a remote island. Exactly. But is there any other factors? The people that live here. Yeah. Yeah. One person is very keen on building a windmill. Yeah. And the other one is saying, no windmills! Okay. Yeah. So lots of voices to respect. Exactly. Yeah. Like in the last... election time here on the island we also had a little bit of a problem because there were anonymous briefs into the mailbox of the councillors and it was also it was a big thing not that big for me but elephant skin uh but uh some people are very hurt by it you know and they are threatened by uh by uh males or by just papers into them into the door and um i also said in the newspaper the folks grant one of the biggest newspapers here in the netherlands of course we have 950 counselors yeah Everyone has an opinion. When you live in Amsterdam and you make a decision and Hans in one neighborhood says, I disagree and the mayor is like, he doesn't care, she's a bitch. Then we say, we don't know it. But we all know the people. That makes it difficult.

[SPEAKER_01]

And that makes the bribing even more serious, because it could be someone you know. Exactly. That's interesting. It's trust. You know, you try to figure out who it is, but you can't accuse them. Yeah, exactly. Okay, so it's also the politics side of it. Exactly, yeah. Lots of voices to respect. Absolutely, yeah.

[SPEAKER_00]

Also, you have here the center of the village, like here in my hotel. I want solar panels on my roof, but it's not possible because you're protected. The area is protected. So you can't do anything before, because then the site of the village will be changed. So no solar. But I think, well, it's a good idea to improve it, but it's not possible. And then people are thinking, well, maybe we can do it in the gardens in the back of the houses. And then they say, well, it has to be out of sight. Interesting. So every improvement...

[SPEAKER_01]

has always conditions. That makes it hard and difficult. What do you think is the solution to combine these solutions together and create a common agreement? Let's say the solar panels.

[SPEAKER_00]

More flexibility. That will be much easier. For example that I can put my solar systems here on the roof, make a heating pump in the garden, all that kind of things. Because the challenge is everything is getting more expensive. Also the energy is getting more expensive and the environment is going down. What is more important, that we save the environment or that when you walk around here and you see only beautiful houses? What do you think is the solution to get this island to think in a more flexible way? Or is it not possible?

Well, the island is flexible. I noticed already because people always say, well, we want to put the solar here on the roof. But it's the main institution. So the province government and the Dutch government are saying, well, we decided we want to keep it.

[SPEAKER_01]

Do you feel like there's, let's say, old people are more traditional and they don't want example solar panels and building stuff? No, they want it also. Okay. Yeah. So age has nothing to say, it's more like personal opinion. Exactly. And like, you know, Natura Monumentum. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_00]

Natuur Monumentum is a group that has an opinion. De gemeente has an opinion. De Provincie has an opinion.

They communicate together but they don't get solutions. They need to make a choice. Exactly. It's like the environment or the site. Exactly. So they don't come to an agreement and then nothing happens. The municipality says we want a solar park for example in the dunes. And the natural monument says no, not in the dunes.

[SPEAKER_01]

And then the community says, oh, then we'll build them here outside the village, on the south side of the village. And then the farmers say, no, we don't want it. So many people involved. There's also a lot of territorial disputes. Exactly. That's interesting. When it comes to promoting sustainable tourism, what are some of the key strengths of this island?

[SPEAKER_00]

Fairtrade but also we're a national park so we promote nature but we also try to give the companies here on the island a lot of space to improve themselves. For example, the ferry. The ferry, the concession is coming up now in 2028, 2029. We can also give the ferry company the conditions to make it sustainable. Don't go on a diesel. We live on a beautiful island.

Good conditions here. It's beautiful. But when you arrive with the ferry and the smoke is coming out of the ferry... Yeah, it kind of ruins it all. Yeah.

So the nature of the island is kind of like the main selling point for tourism? Absolutely, yeah. There are so many selling points, of course. You have Lauersoog, Lauersmeer. It's a national park. You have the World Heritage here with Badasee. And you have a national park here. So it's all combined. It's a perfect place. So the nature in itself is really promoting sustainability. Excellent. Okay. Excellent. Nice.

[SPEAKER_01]

We talked about some of the earlier challenges with the flexibility and people voicing their opinions.

[SPEAKER_00]

Has the island community done any initiatives to address these problems? Or is it just like a problem no one talks about, but everyone knows about? The island is working on it, of course. You know, we have the project with No Gas, BLA. But it's also extended into...

gas-free island. Sometimes you have to push the people also a little bit to make it work. There's a lot of no knowledge to make your house more sustainable. Then they think that it's going to cost a lot of money.

[SPEAKER_01]

But they don't know that you get a lot of money from the government to make it sustainable. So maybe what you might need is more information on how sustainable works. Exactly. Communication is key. Yeah, communication is key. Yeah. Okay, so the problem seems to be in the communication, then. Well, yeah. And also the information exchange, because it's different. Yeah. Yeah. All right.

[SPEAKER_00]

Well, the communication, sometimes it's good. You know, we have the green letter. You have the blue letter from the municipality that says what is happening here in the municipality. uh what uh what is happening if there's decisions made by the counselors or anything like that and you have the green paper it's about sustainability but the frequency could be a little bit more higher because i had to ask for it also make it happen you know send it around but there are also group meetings and you get an invite at your home address. Sometimes it's very difficult to make people enthusiastic about it. Sometimes it's very dry. And how many people go to the meetings when they get invited? Sometimes, depending of course which neighborhood is invited, but sometimes 20-25 people. But it's always the same group. Yeah, that's the problem. You have to get the whole island together.

[SPEAKER_01]

So the problem might not be sustainable and that part, but pushing it forward because... Make it more interesting. Make it more interesting. Yeah. Yeah. Make it so that people see a reason to be sustainable. Yeah. And not just think of it as sustainable green emission. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. Not my backyard. Yeah. Okay. Yeah. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_02]

I have the same problem. Do you want to ask this? Number six. How does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_01]

You have the meetings where you talk about sustainability, but do you have any collaborative work where the whole island goes together and pushes this initiative and you talk about this and this and this?

[SPEAKER_00]

There's not big energy here. I heard the ones from the Natuurmonumenten, they say they have like some days when they clean up the beach. Yeah, exactly. You have the beach clean up days. But also last Saturday you had the Global Goals Market. So it's in the middle of the village, of course, there on the square.

People walking by and they just stop that what's happening here and that's how they interact. Yeah That's very good. Yeah, you think that's a Lottery and all that kind of thing. Yeah make it fun for the people there. Exactly. Yeah interesting to go. Oh, hey, what's that? Yeah
If I'm going to a meeting and I only hear from you have to put solar system on your room and it's gonna cost you that much money, then I'll pick it. No way for sale. But if you get information on what you get in return and the long-term effects... Make it a little bit more fun. Yeah. Yeah. Make it more entertaining. Yeah. So make it appeal to more people. Exactly. Yeah. Okay.
but it's also the the difficulty is um i also get it once in the meeting we have a community that drives on tourism yeah yeah you know people work in hotels people work um in building construction company the small young families you know and they have to make a choice between heating pump or solar system or new shoes and clothing for the children yeah exactly
And what choice are you making then? Because the income from those people is not that very high. Tourism is not one of the biggest sectors.

[SPEAKER_02]

the world and does it depends on if it's in the summer season or in the winter season like uh well the people that live here aren't are of course uh whole year living here so they're they're they have a steady income yeah yeah but the island itself is uh heavily summer season island yeah from what i've heard yeah so not a lot of tourists in the winter okay

[SPEAKER_01]

So you get a lot of money in the summer and then it's not as much the rest of the year. Exactly. Yeah. So you have to dispose the money evenly. Okay. Yeah. And that can be a challenge. Yeah. Yeah, of course. But the people that work here full time, they get the same income in July as in December. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_00]

The incomes are not that high when you're working as a waitress in a bar or in a restaurant and your partner is working as just a regular cook, chef. Then you have an income from 4,000 and you have to pay the rent and you have to make sure that your children

[SPEAKER_01]

when you have two children, that your children are in the clothes, and they have to go to school, and you want to go on a holiday, and you, well, sometimes you want to go out for dinner. Yeah. So a lot of priorities. Exactly. And often so sustainability comes down on the list, because it's not as important. Yeah. But that's understandable. Yeah. 100%. Yeah.

When it comes to development, how do you think the island community can improve its capacity? You talked about flexibility and that it might be difficult to push initiatives because everyone has an opinion to voice. But do you see any other solutions to, let's say, raise the development scale of this island? Yeah, it should be done in big projects. Yeah?

[SPEAKER_00]

don't go to the the people that live here and ask them but make it a bigger project like a big solar park or i'm always keen on well windmills

we discussed that then last tuesday they said well if you have a solar park for five acres yeah then you need two big windmills 125 meters to make it the whole island no gas and no electricity energy neutral yeah um but

Look further than that. In my opinion, you can say, well, we have the windmill parks here on the North Sea. Give two of those windmills to Schimmelkoog, that we have our own energy. Yeah, to fix the problem there. Or you have Lauwenshoog. It's an industrial area.

put two windmills over there big sign on it like this windmill gives a thousand households on the island their electricity yeah and that means money saved yeah yeah it makes the problem bigger because now it's only on the island so yeah that's

[SPEAKER_01]

We have to make the problem bigger for us. So it's more about seeing it from a bigger picture and maybe source work from the outside. Source work together instead of only streaming the car. So basically including more outside partnerships.

[SPEAKER_00]

Sixteen years ago gas was invented of course, well it was not invented, it was already in the ground. We discovered the gas to heat up the houses and to cook on it. But then also the government made sure that there was an infrastructure with gas. Make sure that also the infrastructure for sustainable energy is there.

put it on the unresponsibility of the people themselves. Yeah, that's a good one. So it has to be a governmental initiative. Exactly. Yeah, because now people don't want to be sustainable because it's too much work, it's hard to implement, and it's too expensive. It doesn't seem interesting. Yeah, well, it is expensive, but also when you want the money from a government subsidy,

[SPEAKER_01]

It's a very difficult road that you have to walk before you get the money from the government. Speaking of, you called it subsidies? It's the same in Norwegian, subsidie. Does the Netherlands government, have they done anything for this island?

[SPEAKER_00]

any subsidiary to promote sustainable growth? Yeah, well we have the PAW, Proef Aardgors Freie Wijk. So that part of the island built around the 60s, 1960s. They want to make it gas-free. So there's a big power of money, 5 million euros is reserved to make that part of the island, of the village, no gas. And what does the community think of that initiative? Oh, well, they're very happy with it. They're positive? Yeah, positive, absolutely. But still, the communication has to be improved. You know, I live there also. Yeah, there were four or five times a meeting, but it's always on the time that I'm working. Hard to come. And when I'm at home, I think, well, I know the story already. Yeah. So maybe lots of talk and not so much doing. Yeah, it should be more like we want this and this is how we're going to help you. Yeah.

Not like, what do you want? No. We give these tools to make it happen. And these are your benefits. Maybe a little bit more pushy instead of talking about it.

[SPEAKER_01]

So more doing. Exactly. Interesting. So let's go. Stop talking. So how can you and your organization, let's say this cafe and your two businesses, contribute to enhancing the island's community's capacity for sustainable growth? What can you do to make this island and its capacity for sustainable growth bigger?

[SPEAKER_02]

You alone and your businesses, what can you do specifically for the sustainability on this island? I think you said before, solar panels and that kind of stuff, it needs to be...

[SPEAKER_00]

But also the communication with your guests, that's also very good. What I did, I already did some things here to make it more sustainable, like the heating.

The heating is always on 12 degrees in the room. You can see it over there. I think behind you, you have the knob. The people can heat up themselves, but we also communicate by them, like, don't put the heating too high. When you leave, put the heating down.

be careful it's also in the hotel information don't take too long showers only when the towels are on the floor we replace them yeah because we don't want that we don't have to wash them if you stay longer when you when you're staying here for two nights what is a little bit the uh you can see here two nights and when you stay longer for like four or five nights and you want to change your bed sheets about the environment and but we're willing to help you yeah but let us know yeah we're not doing it one time you know all that kind of things but also uh

the food that we're buying and the drinks that we're buying. Is it biological? Is it biological meat? Is it biological fish? You know? Okay. But do you inform your guests about that? Well, we try as much as we can. With the rooms, yes. But here in the restaurant, it's very difficult. How so? Why is it difficult? Because you give them a lot of information on the menu. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

And they just want to eat. They don't want to be overloaded with information. But you could have, for example, a business card where you say that we do this for the sustainability. And you could make your restaurant sustainability as a selling point, I think. Because it's quite trendy and it's going to be even more important in the future to be sustainable. Of course, yeah. If you and your business can be one of the, let's say, pioneers that promote it, I think that's a really good selling point. Yeah, of course it is. It is.

[SPEAKER_00]

But also I had, once I had a sunscreen here in the front, but it was not possible and I had to go away. The screen door is terrible. But there were also heaters. I took them away and I also bought heaters to put on the sunscreens here on the parasols. But I thought, no, no, just blankets, better. Yeah, cool.

[SPEAKER_01]

Or put on your jacket if you want to sit outside. Nice. How can the municipality help businesses as yours with sustainable tourism? Are there any initiatives from the municipality to help you becoming more sustainable? Or is it purely your own initiative?

[SPEAKER_00]

I get a lot of help, absolutely. Also, the companies that provide me give me information about sustainability. But also, I choose the companies that work on a sustainable way.

I think you should inform your guests about that. Because I think that's a huge selling point. Exactly. You know, my biggest supplier is Bitfood. And we're also talking with Bitfood as island entrepreneurs about delivery electric. So no more big diesel cars here on the island.

[SPEAKER_01]

And we're promoting them also to be more environmental friendly. It seems like you're definitely doing a very good thing and you're in the right direction. Yeah. But how can you bring the others to think the same as you? That might be the problem. Yeah. Okay.

How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals? Because there are two or three surrounding islands. Yeah, you have one German island, of course. Yeah, and five Dutch.

[SPEAKER_00]

Do you talk with other islands at all? Yeah, once a year the councillor groups, well I'm talking now as a councillor, we're meeting on one of the islands. We're two days together and the sustainability of the environment is also every year on the program.

so we talk about it and what is other islands doing to improve it and how far are they and but also we go to the mainland to check projects what is happening there okay so you have quite a good overview of what is happening around you yeah but all this talking with the other islands have you seen any actual progress

Or is it more like talking, not so much doing? Well, it's also a little bit of competition. That we say, oh, Avalon is doing that. Why aren't we doing that? We want to be more ahead of Avalon or the other islands. Of course, we had a goal.

It was 2020 that we want to be energy-neutral islands. We didn't make it. We're not going to make it in 2025. So it's a good goal. We were very good in the progress, but we didn't make it. And we were way ahead of the other islands also. But now the other islands are coming by.

And even go, yeah, they're more ahead. Like Ameland has a solo park at the airport. They're doing biochemical, how do you call it, biophagista.

Biofuel? No. Well, it's that you put the shit of the cows in the tank and the gas. Methane gas. Yeah. Yeah, to run the buses and stuff. Yeah. But also for your household to heat up the house. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

as an alternative for regular gas, natural gas. In Norway, or at least in Oslo, almost all of the buses now run on biofuel from trash and from cows. Exactly. That's a good initiative. Absolutely. But we also have ones that they want to build one here.

[SPEAKER_02]

Yeah, to make the progress going. Here at the ferry, with them still, people. Yeah, but that's the problem, because Skimmelenkog is the smallest island of the five. So I think Ameland, they have a lot more space, or they have an airport and that kind of stuff. For them it's easier to improve the solar. Exactly, yeah.

[SPEAKER_00]

And again, Natuur Monumentum is also very responsible for everything outside the village. And they want to keep it like it is, because it's a national park. Yeah. Okay. So there's a lot of aspect of protecting nature, but also trying to staying sustainable with energy, and that could be a... Yeah. Yeah.

We became a national park in 1989. But they're still holding on the rules that made in that period. But we're now 30 years further on. So a little bit more. 35 almost. Go with the time.

yeah yeah so they're still caught in the old times with an old mindset old fashion yeah yeah but we agreed that you know we keep the island as national park for nature yeah fauna flora you know and keep it growing but we're in another phase of time yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

It's also in life, you know. In life you also have to make decisions. Because things happen in your life. You're on crossroads. So you have to make a decision if you go to the left or to the right. A lot of companies die out because they don't follow up with time. Because they want to stay through the record. And it's really understandable because it's what holds you here and it's tradition. So...

[SPEAKER_00]

That makes a lot of sense. As a company I have to improve and I have to watch the trends. What is happening? What is happening in Amsterdam? What is happening in New York? And you can implement it in your company. But that's the government and all the organizations that are responsible for the nature and for the environment they have to be flexible also yeah to check the trends yeah they stay behind yeah we had a once we had a meeting uh it was a couple of minutes just before the summer recess uh also about sustainability and we as a party we said we have to start yeah We can't wait till new improvements. You have to start somewhere. Because the development of projects is going so quickly. They invent something to make it more sustainable, but one month later there's a new improvement.

But you can't wait for that new improvement. It's the same with the cars. If you buy a car, two months later they invented new things to make the car more easy to drive.

You bought a car. If you waited for it, it's not possible. You don't drive, then you bike. Okay. So there's a lot of new thinking, but also a lot of old thinking. And they're contradicting. Yeah. Also, Amelande and the other islands are not handcuffed by Natuur Monumentum National Park.

they can do a lot more. They go to the gemeente and say we want to build a solar park. Then the gemeente checks it and it goes in the environment, the bestemmingsplan. Do you know the bestemmingsplan? They check the bestemmingsplan. Okay, it's okay. Here we check the bestemmingsplan. But then Natuurmonumenten says, well, if not in our backyard and then the national park thinks about something about it and then...

You have the participation of the people who live here, and the sudden plan is gone. Nothing happening. So Naturmonumentum has the final say in everything, though. Yeah. So if they don't agree, nothing happens. Exactly. They're responsible for the outing of the island. How can you change Naturmonumentum's view of things? Kick them out, bro. Well, they... How can you change it? Do you want a coffee or something else? No, thank you. Beer, wine, gin, tonic. We can't drink beer. Gin, tonic. He's just kidding. No, it's fine. Thank you. Thank you, Antoine. How can you make them... I think they have to make a mind change. Yeah. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

That's easier said than done. I know. I know. I work with people every day. One of our teachers is from Notre-Dame-aux-Montagnes, isn't she? No, she's not a teacher, but...

[SPEAKER_00]

She's the boss of Natuur Monumenten. Yeah. Ainit. Ainit? Ainit. Oh, fun girl. Yeah, she's enjoyable. So it's fun that we're working to be more sustainable. But also we have Ainit who doesn't want to do any action improvements. Ainit is also, yeah, she's responsible here. But the communication also between the gemeente and Natuur Monumenten by Ainit is very...

very tough okay yeah yeah you heard about the yellow uh signs uh here on the island oh i had bites like the in the field like yeah yeah it's a really like um

They put the signs here everywhere, big yellow signs, so it's like a flashlight. And it stands, well, you can't do this, you can't do that, you can't do that. Groups above the 20 persons, they have to counsel first natural monuments before they go into the nature.

You know, and that gives a lot of friction. Also with the people who live here on the island. So there were two guys who went on a night survival and took away 28 of those signs. And they're caught. But it's good that they're caught because now the communication is ongoing again. That the gemeente can say, look what you did.

It's not good. People here on the island are not happy with it. So make sure that the things that you do, that the people on the island also can agree and live with. Yeah. So it all starts with communication.

Exactly. If you don't have proper communication. Not human dimension is also a little bit like the ruler of the island. They think they're the ruler. Yeah. So...

But it's a tough organization. They have to be more flexible to improve here.

[SPEAKER_01]

I wouldn't think that since we're working with them on this project that they were so I wouldn't think that they were so harsh on implementing new sustainable ideas considering they're part of this project where the whole goal is to be more sustainable and to bring yeah yeah yeah it's kind of different pulse of things yeah they say this but they do this yes what's going on there yeah

that's your job yeah that's why you're here find it out yeah i'll try yeah one more day and i'll figure it out uh that was all the questions we had yeah very good i think we had a really good conversation thank you so much

At least I figured out a lot more than I thought of the island and especially Naturmonumentum. It's a good thing about my position of course here. But I think now we have a better overview of what the

actual problems is and where the challenges lie. And that makes it easier to improve them when we know where the problem is. That's why we talk to a lot of people.

[SPEAKER_00]

everyone has other points to get to the point um everyone is willing but there are too many parties yeah in full restrictions restrictions but the parties and all the parties have their own restrictions and that makes it difficult to

Continue to grow. Yeah. Yeah, so no one agrees to anything because everyone has a small opinion here and there Yeah, and we all do. Yeah, we all do respect each other's opinions. Yeah, nothing happens. Exactly Okay to make sure that's my opinion. Yeah. Yeah, it's not that We go to Well, we find out this and then you say but we are communicating together. Yeah, but yeah It has to be actually there should be one party above it and then with all the the ideas and all the parties can bring in what they need and what their uh belonging yeah what their interests are yeah and then the party above it

[SPEAKER_01]

They can do it. Yeah. And no one from Matyrmyn Mountain should be in the party because they destroy everything, it seems. Yeah, a neutral party on top that makes it work. That's a good idea. I think that would be good to implement more sustainability and to create more flexibility. It seems like that's what this island is missing. Because all the parties now, maybe five parties,

[SPEAKER_00]

You have the Centrale, you have Natuurmonumenten, you have De Gemeente, you have National Park. I think there's still someone else, but they talk to each other. You know, National Park is talking to Natuurmonumenten, Natuurmonumenten with De Gemeente, De Gemeente with De Centrale, Centrale with National Park. And they're talking, talking, talking, but it doesn't go any further than that.

[SPEAKER_01]

Shorter lines. Yeah. Cool. Well, that was quite an eye-opener and a really good conversation. Thank you so much. Thanks. I'm willing to help. Yeah, very well spoken, and you gave us really good insights, so we're thankful for that. And that concludes the interview.

Audio-recording-2023-09-28-114741.txt

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[SPEAKER_02]

Very nice. And the first question is, what is your role in the island community? We are tourists. Where are you from? Tourists from? Amersfoort. Amersfoort, okay. Pretty deep into the Netherlands. Yes, very nice. In the middle. Have you been here many times before? No, first time. First time, okay. Very nice. And what would you describe the island community in the current state? Very nice, friendly, quiet. What do you think are the best aspects of Kjærumannikog? I think nature.

[SPEAKER_00]

nature yes yes i see i see um yes and the very uh white beach very large oh i like that in the nature we made uh with bicycles and walking we are also always cycling yes

[SPEAKER_03]

I know it's crazy and I can't believe it. I know it's crazy and I can't believe it. I know it's crazy and I can't believe it.

[SPEAKER_02]

Maybe they understand, otherwise I can translate. So if you have any difficulty with the question, just say it. What are the major challenges in the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth? I have no idea. We've been here for four days.

[SPEAKER_04]

what the community does and so on, we don't know. We are just simple tourists. It's more about what you see. For example, what I told you about all the souvenirs, for example, here in the Pepepe, all made in China. And then, if you know that, then you're like, oh wow, that's not that good. Because you come here... Yes, because many things...

[SPEAKER_00]

Yes. Not all of them of course. Many souvenirs are things. I looked for my grandchildren and I saw Oer. I know it because I'm a member of Natuurmonumenten. But it's many things. I think the children play once and then it's

It's gone. Gone, ready, and then it's... So I didn't buy anything because I thought they like it for one or two times and then you throw it away, I think. So I don't want to buy it. And we don't want to buy things we can't... Things you throw easily away, we don't want to buy them. So that's why.

[SPEAKER_02]

But that's the purpose. That's a very good answer. Do you have any solutions from the place you're from? It can be anything from any solutions. What they do in the place where we live. Yes, and mainly sustainability.

[SPEAKER_00]

okay now what i think is here good is for the bicycles very good and electric cars and the buses very good um and what can i say about our city

[SPEAKER_04]

is there something in Amersfoort that is already like oh wow the whole city in the city is beautiful yes but more like yes so like for example maybe there's a subsidy on um on electric cars in Amersfoort for example there are also but that's in whole uh Netherlands

[SPEAKER_02]

I don't think there's one thing I can say. How do you think the island community do you think they are good to promote sustainability?

On the island? I don't understand the question. Do you think the island and the governance... They can better promote this island? Yeah, or the sustainability on the island. Can I read the question? Maybe I can... Which one is it? This one. How should I...

[SPEAKER_03]

Yes, it shows the island clearly that they are green. That you really see actively when you come here as a tourist. Well, the electric things, but also the rubbish.

[SPEAKER_00]

cleaning up the rubbish yes but also the glass here the paper there yeah but it's everywhere yes not everywhere no no and they have um for the people who live here and the containers with the key are passed to open it so they

[SPEAKER_01]

other people don't can throw everything away we saw that yeah but i think that's because they have to pay for it yeah i think yeah okay um and one of the other questions is um

[SPEAKER_02]

How do you think the municipality can help businesses with sustainable tourism?

How do you think the people who run the island, the politicians, can help businesses? That's one example of helping them with sustainable tourism.

give them money to expand their offerings and subsidies for sustainable development I haven't seen a lot of solar panels

[SPEAKER_01]

Solar panels. Solar panels is something national, not from just a small community.

[SPEAKER_00]

What I did like was everywhere on the island there are places to where you can fill your bottle with drinking water many many spots everywhere that's very good yes a green solution so you don't have to buy plastic bottles everywhere you can fill your own bottle

yeah that's very nice what we saw and also very uh at the other side also they have um

And those are things the municipality takes care of. Yes. So that's very good. And what can they do better? In four days you can't say what they have to do or whatever.

[SPEAKER_04]

We go around the island, we walk, we go with a bicycle. For tourists it's of course harder to think about. You live on the island, you see problems every day and you think of innovations. But are there any solutions in the town where you're from?

[SPEAKER_02]

where the politicians have made a decision to make the city better that you think they could implement in on this island yes um what can they use so it's so different yeah it's very different i believe this has 900 inhabitants and armsworth has 170 000 so

[SPEAKER_00]

Is this a lot of tourists in Amersfoort? Yes. What kind of tourists is it? From everywhere. From South America to Spain. Not only Germans. In the north we only have Germans. No, it's from everywhere. And I work in the zoo from Amersfoort as a volunteer.

and when i worked there the first years we didn't have many tourists but they have now many tourists also after corona of course so they come especially for the zoo also but also for the city city yeah it's a nice nice inner city i like it very nice yes um now yeah

I have no idea what they can implement here What they do in Amersfoort is for instance now they make the pipe, the riolering Yes, the sewer system Yes, they have two ways now

One is for the rainwater. They use it for gardens. The people and the rainwater pipe don't go to the place to make the water, to clean it, because that's too much work. And they have a pipe for the toilets and everything and that goes to the special cleaning system but the other with the rain water is faster to use because it's not so

i don't think they have it here so that's perfect that's what we're looking for i mean that's very good because in our we we live in an older house and also in the uh the older uh

streets yes they also are that's changing now this is a big project yeah and they also have all everywhere places where the water can collect when there is many water this is a special for the environment this is changing they have places where the water because it's a little bit yes yes then the water can in the body some kind of body and then it can slowly go into the ground so they have that's also something that they do in the city now and when because it's very dry they have many attention for rain

Now, to collect rain from these things, so we have also one. So it's mainly rain water, regenton, and then we use it for the garden. It's like a storage, warrior rain water. Water storage.

[SPEAKER_02]

Yes, because the environment is changing so these are things they do in the city already. That's a very very helpful answer. Those are answers we want to hear. And to finish up, do you have any propositions on how the island community can collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals. So if you say this island and the mainland, I don't know if they're the same region or not, but do you think it's a way that they can collaborate to achieve common goals that they have in common?

[SPEAKER_01]

Maybe it's the other islands, because this island I thought it was from Groningen, but it's Finland. But we have visited all the islands and also in Germany, the islands there.

[SPEAKER_00]

I think they have to work together much more because they have the same problems with the same opportunities of the same tourists. I think there is more than with the mainland. That's a very good answer.

Thank you. You're welcome. That was very, very nice. Thank you. Good luck with your project.

Audio-recording-2023-09-28-120906.txt

[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_03]

So, the first question is, what is your role in the island community? Well, I just live here. I work five days at Vierdames. And I go to school here. But when I'm off, I'll be in Groningen. Cool. Nice. Yeah, you're also living in Groningen. We're from the Hansen. Oh, okay. Nice. Yeah.

And how is your role affected by the island tourism? Well, it's a really small community here. Everyone knows each other and everyone knows each other's name, but to be honest...

i don't do anything next to working here so i yeah for me it's just only work and school some people are like other roles yeah but what do you think like about is it much tourists or is it yeah yeah much tourists in the summer it's like really really busy on the island and um in the winter it's like nothing i can close the restaurant at nine sometimes yeah

So tourism has really an effect on your work here? Yeah, really. The island is mostly just tourists. Tourists who come here every year or every vacation. Which period do you like the most? The busy or the middle or the winter? I think the winter. The people who live here and the people who work here are more close to each other. So it's a really nice vibe.

[SPEAKER_01]

You have more the closer community when you are only with the island people. You grow up here?

[SPEAKER_03]

I come here for like four years now. And I live here now one and a half years. And then you're coming from Groningen? Yeah. So you're not working or there's no work yet? No, no, no. I just do my studies here. Forest. Yeah, forest for...

[SPEAKER_01]

with children, right? No, no, no, it's responsible for the hostess. Oh. Hospitality. Ah, hospitality studies. Yeah, I think that hospitality is the good strategy. Yeah. Yeah, cool. I don't know, the sustainable tourism? What is it? Yeah, is it like, do you think that it's like sustainable, like

[SPEAKER_02]

Do you know the word sustainable? Yeah. Like, do you think it's... Can the island... I don't know how to say it, but can the island be living by only the tourism at the summer? Or do you think it should be more tourists in wintertime too? I think in the wintertime too, yeah. Yeah. It's like... So now it's not the best...

[SPEAKER_03]

time no i only have these two people and they are living off they're sleeping in a hotel 12 and usually in the summer it's like i'm already full yeah yeah okay but are they making like here on the island are they making enough money in summer to like survive the winter time oh yeah of course it's not a problem that tourism is so low no it's not a problem but it would be convenient yeah yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

Okay, cool. I think it's a good question. How would you describe the island community and its current state?

[SPEAKER_03]

Like I said, like a little close family. Everyone knows each other. Everyone knows what you're doing. Like if I sneeze my nose, everyone on the island will know. Sometimes it's nice, but sometimes it's too close, you know? Yeah. So, I don't know.

And what was the other question? And its current state. Right now, everyone is coming down from summer. It wasn't that busy this summer, but there was a lot to do and everyone is just coming down from it, taking a rest.

Is it like elderly people or also a lot of young people living here? Mostly old people, but they all have children and they all grew up here. And most of them like to stay on the island, go to Groningen for school. But most of the island people are older.

And they will never leave the island. No, they just stay here. Is it like easy as younger people like when you decide to live here for the rest of your life, is it easy to get a house or apartment or something? No, it's really expensive also. Most apartments or like houses are like traditional island houses. So you have to pay like

a lot of money to get there and also like when you work on the island you get like a house with all the co-workers you work with so everyone who is not from the island goes into that house ah personnel charge yeah yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

So you're like sleeping somewhere with your colleagues and a lot of people? Yeah. Oh, cool. Small community. Small community. Is it nice or do you like to have your own house? I would like to have my own house. More private. Yeah, more private and like, I don't know.

[SPEAKER_03]

more clean yeah and it's also maybe a logical decision for younger people to go to Groningen because then they can have their house maybe a little bit more private life then yeah yeah yeah but sometimes

like uh i know a few people come here just to move like have a rest from the city life and just slow down here and make money and then go back maybe sometimes yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

Nice. What do you think are the best aspects of Simon & Co? Probably nature.

[SPEAKER_03]

and how it's like when you go to the beach you feel like you're on the edge of the world like you see a big sea in front of you you know that there's so much more than just a small village yeah i think that's i think that's the biggest one being alone on the beach maybe yeah with the music on yeah is the feeling stronger after tourism time for you yeah yeah yeah

It feels like you're all alone. Sometimes it's nice, sometimes it's difficult. When I go to the beach, I feel like, oh, okay, I can take a rest. Yeah. Slow down. How is it by the beaches when it's tourist season? Is it crowded? When there are tourists? Yeah. We have a few beaches. And most of them are all packed with people. Yeah, I get it. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

are there some hide and secret beach places where you can go without the tourism doesn't know yeah yeah yeah that's my secret i want to tell you no i didn't ask you but i was like i i know it like i'm coming more often on the spelling yeah and i know like the island people really know the places like nobody knows i'm going there and the alone time is still there even in high season

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah, I have a few places. Yeah, that's really good to have, I think. Nice. And are you doing a lot with nature? Do you walk? Yeah, usually I do, but this time I'm really busy with work and school also. Sometimes I don't have the time, but yesterday I went for a walk to thank the people. Thank you.

[SPEAKER_01]

You can see the whole island. What are the major challenges the island community face in terms of innovation, development and sustainable growth? It's a very hard question, but what they're asking, what can the island do better with being more sustainable and more innovative?

[SPEAKER_03]

Um...

Do you have an example of what the island can do to get more tourists at winter time? Yeah, well, we have some like events, like music and yeah, just mostly music. So then there are a lot of people here. It starts next week. So that's what they do. Yeah. And then like every month, one thing.

So maybe when they want to have more people in the low season, they can do it more often? Yeah, I think so. More events and like... I don't know, some restaurants are like only based on the summertime, like at the beach or something. You can make something so nice out of it that you don't... I don't know what to do, but...

[SPEAKER_02]

It can be better. So you think the main problem is that it's not a tourist season at winter time? No, that's really a problem. And do you have an opinion about sustainable growth? How they can be more sustainable, maybe, on the island? Since you said that it's many old people, how can the island work to get more young people to live here?

[SPEAKER_03]

uh actually i don't think they can to be honest we have like the studies what i told you about yeah academy and like uh people my age go there to get the degree and then leave but that's it yeah you can if you're young like me you can't stay in the island because there's nothing it's like work and and you have to put bar which is like yeah

It's not that nice to live here when you're younger. No. But do you think people like move back when they're done studying? Or do they stay in the cities? I think they stay in the cities. I think that's more like a personal reference. If you like to be more quiet you can go here of course. But most people like when you're 20 or... I don't know. Yeah. It's not the place for you.

[SPEAKER_02]

because we had the same project in Norway and one of the problems there is like people move from the island to study and don't come back because of the high prices the lack of work they don't have anything to do there after the studies so they go to study and they stay and they want the people the young people who goes out to study back again but then you have to have like workplaces or houses and apartments and that could be a big problem because then you get the what should we call it the old wave where it's only old people living here yeah you get more the conservative way of living

[SPEAKER_03]

It's also hard to make changes in sustainability when there are only old people living, maybe you mean? Working place is not a problem here. No? I have to say it's really expensive to live here. This bar is the only grocery store we had. Really expensive. And a small amount of products you have there. I think that's something they can work on.

[SPEAKER_01]

And what did I say, like the houses and everything. Yeah, so expensive. Maybe when they have cheaper houses or a nicer place, then more people are staying and then it's getting also nicer to be here with younger people. Maybe a bigger store and like, yeah.

[SPEAKER_03]

and when you have more younger people then there are also coming more stuff like maybe an extra bar yeah yeah like it's a little bit like to hang out places outside or something we don't have it no like we can't hang outside if we want to so we have like this one uh like farm for children that's for children if you want to like smoke something or something you know you can't do it it's always the pizza or something yeah

[SPEAKER_02]

Yeah, I don't know. We already talked about this. Yeah, we already talked about five. You can skip it. No, wait.

Do you think it has been any things the island have done already to implement innovation and sustainable growth? Like I said, the studies that I do.

[SPEAKER_03]

They have like a few art projects that people come for. Mostly young people they want to see. And also the events for the music and everything. It's like really young musicians who do it. So that's really nice. Cool.

[SPEAKER_01]

And you can skip to the next question. And one more following up on that one. Do you see, like, is there something more... Are they doing something more sustainable than they did before? You were saying you are four years here now? Yeah. Did they make some changes, like, on the plastic problem or clothing? No.

[SPEAKER_03]

We have, like, people don't make, like, do everything in a bin. Everything is really clean. Everything is going in the trash, in one big trash and not separately. Yeah, well, you know, people when they walk here, they don't want to throw stuff on the floor because it's also just really big nature here. Yeah. So that's really nice and we have like in the summer we have on Thursday a really big market where we sell everything that you're like clothes or anything that you want to sell. So I think that's really good. But that's a lot of second hand. Yeah. Yeah. Really. It's good. Yeah. So that's really nice. Yeah. Six then.

[SPEAKER_01]

How does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth? So where can you find that?

[SPEAKER_02]

innovation and sustainable growth, I think? Is it like some group that works with it or can you find any information about those teams on the internet for this island?

[SPEAKER_03]

For an example, the market, do they promote it or is it just only the people who live there know about it? No, they promote it sometimes. When you walk through the village you see it already. Like posters. I think it's also on Instagram, but I don't know. And we have like this kind of paper called Liedje Polen, which means small island in the original language. There's like the whole planning on the table. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, this is some kind of newspaper. Yeah, I can show you. They're there. We're there. Yeah, six.

[SPEAKER_02]

Do we want to ask Cole? Yeah, I think so. But if she has answered anything before, we can like... Skip it. Yeah. Oh yeah, we already did. How do you think the internet community can react? They don't need to know what we talk about when we don't ask her anything.

[SPEAKER_01]

sorry it's okay i think we also saw it laying like in the yeah

[SPEAKER_03]

farm thing where we are sleeping now. What does the market have a name? Struunmarkt. It's kind of Frisian. I think it's still like in Frisian or like islanders. That's what they call it. Some version of Frisian.

[SPEAKER_01]

Is everybody speaking it? No, there are like, I think, three persons who actually speak Estonian. Oh, really? Oh, it's not that much anymore. No, not anymore. Let's see. How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development? I think how they can make bigger groups connected to each other to make improvements. Bring people together. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_03]

Mostly we just come together after work, everyone. Everyone I know, they come to the cook's bar after work. And they just... Like I said, it's going to be just a small little family. But if you want people... You can go if you want. Of course.

[SPEAKER_01]

We have only two questions left, so we don't make it so long. So the Tux Bar is a good place to talk with each other. Yeah, a really good place. Everyone knows it, everyone knows where it is. Not even high season.

[SPEAKER_02]

I'm writing it in Norwegian. I'm writing it in Norwegian. Yeah, but I'm kind of impressed by the system. The Remarkable? You're impressed by this? Yeah. I saw it before, but not like this. Use it for everything. We need to get her name. Just so tweet me.

It's anonymous when we get the transcription, but before that, so that they know that we have interviewed someone, we need a name so they can just list it off. You can just ask at the end of it. Do we need to say we are in the with? No.

The system in this app is pretty amazing. It's like the teacher gets who sent it. And then he's like, OK, Sophie, this is your interview. And then I get the script. And then I can take out and mark the best things.

[SPEAKER_01]

Cool. And use it for data. Cool. One moment. It's really nice. It's just young so we can do it in English.

[SPEAKER_02]

It was good. Why do you think it's named The Four Ladies? I'm gonna say. Sorry? Why do you think it's named, why the wine was named? Oh, The Four Ladies? Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

Because it's set up by four ladies. The owner is named Max, and he's not a lady. Maybe Max had four ladies. In some cultures, it's okay. When I get the script, I'm going to erase all the things we said. Okay, what?

[SPEAKER_02]

That's gonna stay there. The Norwegian people are amazing. Before we start, what is the name of this place?

[SPEAKER_03]

The four ladies. The chef here, he has a wife and three children. Three girls. About his four ladies. They are known on the island. Then you were right. She said, maybe the boss are like four ladies. Something like that. Almost.

It's like the most asked question I get on the day. Really? Or like, are you one of the four ladies? No, I'm not. Here are the questions. I think we only have a few left. Just take this and this.

[SPEAKER_01]

Because we talked about this. Oh, the eight also. How can you and your organization contribute to...

[SPEAKER_02]

What can you add to the innovation?

[SPEAKER_03]

sustainability of the island as a company. I think that's what they mean. We have like this organization, it's called De Pluktuin. Yeah. Oh, we went there. Yeah, you went there? Yeah. That's cool. Yeah, it's really cool. We have like the coffee grounds. We collect it and give it to them. Yeah. So I think that's one of the For the mushrooms. Yeah, for the mushrooms. Yeah. So that's, and we get the Ushashana from there. Oh, really? So it's like a tray. What are you making with it? Don't ask me.

Like pasta and sauces and everything. I don't know, you should ask the shop. And we also separate plastic and everything from the green stuff. I think that's the thing. The wall actually...

[SPEAKER_01]

Do you think you can do more here in the company? Do you have some ideas about that or talk with colleagues or the boss?

[SPEAKER_03]

We usually leave some of the lights on at night and we don't use it. You see that wooden thing on there? It's a box to put on the wines so they keep cool and we don't have to put on the refrigerator. And I said that we should do that.

[SPEAKER_01]

Oh, cool. We probably can do more, but I don't have any examples. But you always can do more. How can the municipality help businesses with sustainable tourism? to help companies offer more sustainable tourism. Thank you. Or make maybe sustainability more easy for companies. To be honest, I don't know.

I'm not the creator of that.

Like I said, only old people. We talked about the grey wave from the terrorists. And they were like, grey wave? What kind of... Yeah, the old people with grey hair. Oh, grey wave! It was kind of fun. What was your question? Do you think that... Yeah, about the... They can make it easier or help you with it? To be honest, I don't know. Actually, I...

i i want to give you an answer but i really don't know i think that can also be an answer because like when you are saying like oh you don't know anything more to do or something then there is maybe something to do with that that there can be more knowledge about sustainability or more like maybe more um more conversations yeah more conversations and more like events to go to yeah learn about it and everything

because i don't know like more younger people don't know anything about it so i like the honest questions just say you don't know okay last but not least how can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve the common goals

[SPEAKER_03]

Well, like I said, the studies, it's coming from North Port. So they started this to have more people on the island for work and more younger people on the island. So I think that's really good. Yeah, that's cool. Yeah. I think they can also give more like workshops or like more stores. I don't know. I don't know.

[SPEAKER_01]

Maybe also the thing you said, like, maybe better collaborate that you know what other islands are doing with sustainability. Yeah, I think that, yeah. I think you all have, like, the same challenge. Like, I'm coming a lot to Schelling and they are also having their challenges. But I think it's for all the five islands. You are all like small communities. You all want to be sustainable and protect your nature. So why...

[SPEAKER_02]

Did you not collaborate with them? Did you not make workshops together? I think you're so right. And that's what they're trying to do now with islands from different countries. Because now they are kind of working with the same problems in Norway, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden. So if we have more knowledge about other islands, you can improve on differences.

[SPEAKER_03]

If you see other aspects from the other islands, I think it's worth reading on. I think that's it. Yeah, me too. Okay. I think so. Thank you.

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[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_01]

My role is here on the island. I am a cafeteria owner.

[SPEAKER_06]

And I'm actually the only real cafeteria here. For the people of eating and drinking comfort food. So he's owner of the snack bar on the island. The one and only snack bar on the island. And he makes sure everybody can get easy comfort food here around the island.

[SPEAKER_01]

He's also very aware and busy with

[SPEAKER_06]

Thinking about better ways to package the food in a more sustainable way. That's very nice. Very good. And a follow-up question to that. How has your role been affected by the island's tourism? You can translate that. What effect does tourism have on your career?

[SPEAKER_05]

I assume that a lot of tourists come to you? 65% of the people who come to me are tourists. The rest are locals. I have to translate this correctly.

[SPEAKER_06]

What is the... How do you describe the community here on the island at this moment? How would you describe that? Are there conflicts on the island? Is everyone living harmoniously? We spend a lot of time together. We look after each other, we take care of each other.

[SPEAKER_01]

We also work a lot together as a company. And that is also necessary, because you are only a small island in which a lot happens. If you don't do that, you will get all small islands and you will not work together. So you have to work together.

[SPEAKER_06]

So they work together. Everybody in the community works together as much as they can. They help each other as much as they can. Because if they don't, they have small islands everywhere. So if there's competition happening everywhere and they don't help each other,

[SPEAKER_01]

There are coming smaller communities on the island. That's very nice. I'll stay here for a while. My wife is taking away an order. We have a large group of fries and snacks. They bring it to the...

Eureka, and then she comes back. But if there are people, I must help. Oh, sure. No problem. Of course, of course, of course. If you need us to help, we can help. Of course. What do you think are the best aspects of Gier Monaco? Schier Monaco. Gier? Schier. Gier? Schier? You know the S? S?

I think we have a real green community.

People are coming all over the country to take some time for themselves and I think we are

[SPEAKER_06]

One of the first islands who is busy with... How do you say that in English? Sustainability. Thinking about sustainability and to become more sustainable. Schiemen en Kogen is also one of the islands that wants to become autarkies.

So it's one of the islands that wants to become 100% independent. So no more gas heaters, everything electric, everything on solar panels, everything. And that's also part of the Freya project. I think it's the real best aspect at the moment.

[SPEAKER_05]

And a relevant question to that. What are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_01]

We're looking for two things, I think. For the best way to get the... For the best way to make it more sustainable and prevent from the greenhouse gas, is Momentum.

We do take into account our guest who also comes here. You don't know how the guest reacts. You don't know how the guest is in his hair, do and leave. What kind of waste they left behind, for example. He thinks easily. And that is very easy, yes. And we also try to convey that to our guests. Here we are. This is what we want to be. Think about it.

[SPEAKER_06]

I think that's the right answer to your question. They are trying to show the tourists that are coming here what they are busy with, what their goals are on Schiemen en Koog, becoming more sustainable. And trying to enlighten them on this path Schiemen en Koog is on. Because most of the time tourists are thinking just like, oh who cares, I'm on holiday, I'm not gonna...

To preserve the island as much, I'll just throw my trash in the nature. But that's what they're trying to...

People are lazy people. People are lazy, yes. Yes. What do you see as the key strength of Sarir? Sarir...

[SPEAKER_05]

Srir Monaco in promoting sustainable tourism. What is the key factor? Yes, what at this moment?

[SPEAKER_01]

are the strong points in Schiemen & Koog's promotion? How do they bring it out? What are the best points in it now? At the moment you have a lot of stores and companies that are mainly focused on putting good products in there.

In addition, you also notice that we often participate in the cleanest beach. The cleanest nature, everything together. So hello!

And that is often communicated and that is getting better and better. The municipality itself also had a Global Goals Market last week, in which it is also very clear what is possible in the sustainability of your home and the sustainability of

[SPEAKER_06]

products that you have here, that you see here. Okay, so what the multi, what was it again? The municipality does here is promote innovative and initiatives so like they organize clean up the beach day and they organize they give out subsidies to for homes to make your home greener like isolate your home better or so no they're very though those are the the strong points of the municipality of Simonico they're trying to

[SPEAKER_05]

Yeah, organize as much events and green ideas. People can participate. Yeah, they promote it very well. Okay. Yeah, we're halfway, so... Ten minutes. Yeah, I think we have... Yeah.

[SPEAKER_01]

And afterwards lunch. And afterwards lunch.

[SPEAKER_02]

But is it possible to pause it, do you think? I don't know, because this doesn't look like a very safe recording device. I need to have it in flight mode when I record. I got it.

[SPEAKER_01]

So, I have to go back for three minutes. In three minutes there is the croquette. Do you know what a croquette is? Croquette? Croquette? Oh yeah, that's a Dutch thing. Sounds very familiar, but... No? I've never seen it before. It comes from France. What does it consist of? Croquette? It's meat packed in a...

[SPEAKER_06]

Crunchy outer layer. It's like a sausage, but then a crunchy sausage with soft meat on the inside. I think I actually ate it on the way here. But that tasted like peanut butter.

[SPEAKER_01]

I don't know, it looks like fried peanut butter. If you are ready, I make a croquette for you. Oh, that sounds very nice. Two typical Dutch snacks is a frikandel. Yeah, frikandel, that's better. And a croquette. Frikandel is horse meat, right?

No, not in this one. It's just like a stick. It's a real sausage, but it's fluffy. Fluffy stick, it's so good. And croquette is... another story. We'll talk about that later. We talked about the...

[SPEAKER_05]

the challenges the island community had and the strong points. But what initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges to the community or the tourists, if you understood? Let me rephrase. It's being asked what the... What initiatives have the communities on the island already taken in the past

[SPEAKER_01]

To bring these points forward. In the past, what kind of initiatives? I think that in the past a lot has been tried in the small, but never gone further outside. So on a small scale? Yes, for example every entrepreneur for himself.

But not as a collective saying, we have to do something with this. The project of a natural gas-free island, for example, is one of the things that is quite big to be really busy with. I think that in the past, yes, it did happen in the small, but too little to...

But now it really plays out and now people have more feelings about it. So that's getting better now? Yes, certainly. The meetings are also big now, so the understanding of islands is big. In the past there were a lot of initiatives from smaller communities or one business owner on the island.

[SPEAKER_06]

But they stranded pretty quickly because they were done on small scale. And now what they do better now is do everything, the new initiatives collectively with everybody on the island and try to implement it with each other to get more success. And also like the getting rid of the gas all the we cook on gas yes to to get rid of that that's like a thing that was done collectively with each other

[SPEAKER_01]

Yes. And as a supplement to that, for example, seven years ago, next to the fire, a plowing garden came. Yes. And in the beginning everyone had something like, what is this, what is happening here? But she, the idea of the plowing garden here is mainly

The people and companies involved in the garden to get what is needed, but also to keep it affordable for people. If you have a slab and you have 5 euros for it, and you have that, then you give them 5 euros. But if I only have 1,50 euros, then you give them 1,50 euros. And that was a difficult process. I made a documentary series about it and that's really fun.

I know that too. And now I notice that a lot of people go there to give that feeling that you can eat a lot closer. Instead of just getting everything out of the supermarket. We went there yesterday, it was really nice to see. Also the Coffee Dick. Did you see that?

[SPEAKER_06]

She was a year old. Oh! They ate a cake yesterday and we fell into it, indeed. And then it was like... Oh! Oh! Oh! No, nice. No, Janneke. Yes. Yes, nice woman. And the coffee pot, that's the coffee pot from the boat, we use to let the paddles grow out. Very... And I use the oyster swamp for my... Yes, for potatoes

and stuff. We've heard that before. Look. Yes, yes, the advertisement, that... Okay. Yes. Very nice. Okay, so... I'm going to do it again. Yes.

To add on to what he just said, one of these initiatives that is now a really good success is the self-pluktuin, which means like pick-it-by-yourself garden here on the island. So it's like a really big garden where they grow all these vegetables so it's all not from the supermarket and people all over the island can just go there and

pick their own like their vegetables by yourself what they want and then pay the amount what they want so like if you can miss five euros you just pay five euros but if you have a small smaller wallet you can just pay 150.

and they also now already there they use the coffee grounds from the boat because like a lot of people on the boat coming here drink a lot of coffee and they use coffee grounds they they use it at the garden and they put they put stuff in it and grow shrooms out of them

Which is, and those shrooms, they let those shrooms grow out of the coffee grounds. They put some seeds in it and it works really well. And those shrooms are already, like for example, Henk here. He buys those shrooms back from the South Park garden and puts them in one of his dishes.

[SPEAKER_01]

So it's a very sustainable initiative. Because you said the boat gave the coffee grounds. Yeah, mostly the boat. Yeah, the boat is the most, but most of my colleagues are having coffee machines and They also have, but there are four or five bigger places where they have. They get it from every Wednesday and Friday. Do you sell coffee here? Yes, but a little bit. But is that the initiative who you think have worked the best or the most?

Or is it another initiative who you think have done very well? No, I think at the moment this is one of the initiatives that is working the best for the horeca. The restaurant owners. Otherwise they throw it away and now they give it to the plug town.

And they turn it into new products. There are some restaurants who say, listen, in the summertime we don't have time for it, but in the wintertime we will have. They are also thinking what's possible. Moving on. How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development?

[SPEAKER_06]

What could the island community do at this moment

[SPEAKER_01]

to do this even more, this kind of initiative. I gave a very enthusiastic answer and that's actually the only thing I can say. Cooperate. We have to look for each other to achieve a goal somewhere, to work that out. Because only in small pieces it doesn't work anymore. We can cooperate a lot and well, but in some areas we can't.

And this is one of those events that we really want. But we are also all small islands, a piece of government, municipality, province, entrepreneurs, islanders. Throw that together once. And in the end I think the goal is to get something for the future together.

[SPEAKER_06]

So short answer, working together and then to fill that on. Talking about the smaller islands again, like politics, restaurant owners, multi... I still don't know the word.

The municipality, they live and work in different areas and fields, but if you put them all together and let them work together, and the self-club time with the coffee grounds, for example, is the perfect example of it. Working together shows that that's the solution to become a more sustainable island.

[SPEAKER_05]

Yes. And a somewhat similar question. How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the island's community capacity and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_06]

Do you have any ideas how you can contribute with your snack bar to new ways to be greener here on the island? How can I contribute?

[SPEAKER_01]

Yes, I can. Look, I use oil for frying, but my colleague uses it, my other colleague uses it, they all use it. And they all get it from separate companies. One of them ensures that it comes back in the biodiesel, the other ensures that it comes back in cosmetics.

Everywhere it is used for something, or it is removed. But if we could say together that we use it as one supplier, one of which we are sure that we can do something with, that is something that I have been doing for a very long time, but I would like to see that everyone would do that.

I have, for example, frying pans that are either made of cardboard or sugarcane. I see that there are even more companies that have that, but also still use plastics. Why not just have one point where that comes from and make sure that you can do something with it. I think, for example, sugarcane is a beautiful product that you could reuse everywhere.

[SPEAKER_06]

That's nice, that's good to hear. So that's what I'm really working on. Let me translate, because that's a lot. Okay, so one of his ideas is now all the cafeteria or restaurant owners, everybody uses oil to bake or fry their..

stuff, food, but they all have different receivers for the old oil. So one puts it in lipstick, cosmetics, the other, like they're all different businesses that they give their old oil to.

So a better solution, Henk, would be to collectively say, hey, let's bring all our oils or give all our oils to the same company, one and the same company, and do something with all that oil together instead of all giving it to different parties.

Next to that, another thing Hank does and is very aware of, he uses boxes for fries made of cardboard. I don't know what the word is. I'm going to translate it really quickly.

[SPEAKER_01]

Thank you very much. May I ask you to stand here?

[SPEAKER_06]

So next to putting his fries and his snacks into cardboard boxes, he also uses sugar cane boxes. Made from sugar cane. And he thinks that's a really nice material to use because it's very sustainable. But yeah, he also...

feels that some of his colleagues working in the restaurant business still use plastic boxes to put their fries in. And yeah, that's just not that good. So also that is a thing they should talk about collectively. Maybe get one supplier for the whole island, all sugar cane, and that you can also have, that you have a really big residue stream of all those boxes, which you can, I've already talked about the frieze boxes and the fat. Well...

[SPEAKER_01]

Look, we are dependent on suppliers who will come here. And of course I can't force everyone to do the same supplier. But it would be nice if you have a place where all suppliers will come, in which you will make sure that you

So to add on what I previously said,

[SPEAKER_06]

all those all the suppliers of all those different materials needed for this for this matter in the restaurant business they use all different suppliers and of course henk kant to make other restaurant owners choose the same supplier. But it would be nicer if they all use the same supplier because all those trucks delivering these needed products to the island all come in trucks on the boat. All...

[SPEAKER_01]

It's not good for the environment, all those trucks on the boat. One truck would be better than multiples on the boat. I have one thing that is important. Very nice! If we have a festival here, or music or something like that, then it is often the custom to still do it in glass.

Or from the municipality and the government it is said that it is no longer allowed, it is dangerous. So what happens? You have to look at a replacement. A replacement can be plastic, but then I think something has to go over it. So it can be insured that it is a kind of station money. Yes, it brings it back. But you often have hard cups and soft cups for example. Soft cups are used once and then you cut that fine and then it's broken. And what happens then?

Yes, throwing and... I would see if you as an islander, and now that is not regulated, now no one knows how that is, but you would have to make one island cup. You can say, look, that's an island cup, you can actually use it for everything. You can use it for TKW coffee with me, for TKW coffee for someone else, but also for a festival. That you just say for a festival, we have thousands of those cups.

Now we put it there and then you can just do everything. And those weeks can cost quite a bit. Yes, because then people will fit in better. But then people will fit in. That's a good idea. But that's more the idea. That's island wide, you can do that. For your festivals, for your cozy moment on the dike.

[SPEAKER_06]

On the beach. If you know how many people look at the sunset here in the evening and take their own look and still stay there. Okay, so another idea Henk has is to give a little bit of backstory on it. The

Netherlands has a new rule where when you get a takeaway coffee somewhere, you have to pay for the cup.

So you can bring your own cup if you buy takeaway coffee. And on festivals, there's festivals here on the island. And at festivals you have different kinds of cups. You have the soft cups, you drink once out of them, you throw them on the ground. People stand on them. Not very good for the environment. You also have hard cups. Same issue.

So the idea Henk has is like design a cup, like an island cup, which can be used during festivals, multiple festivals, but also just in the regular day to day. So when you come to the halte and you get a coffee, you can put your coffee in that cup. But also when you have a festival, that like all your drinks can be put in that cup so it will be regulated because now there's no rules about using cups on the island and all the organized organizations just choose something and that's not good for the environment so having an island cup would contribute in that that's a very good idea and a lot of people now we have a cup for

[SPEAKER_01]

It's called Rock on the Place. And there was a logo of that restaurant on it. And in the other festival, in summertime or something, they have also, no, just one, Schiemener Koog. And also, what Henk said,

[SPEAKER_06]

Like a lot of people watch the sunset go down on the island on the beach at night. And then they bring just a can with drinks and then they leave it behind on the beach. And that's just not good for the environment. But if you have an island cup which you paid already an X amount for to have that cup. You're gonna be more aware of taking your cup with you because it's your own. That's true. So very good idea. Really nice.

[SPEAKER_05]

Very good. And how do you think the municipality can help businesses with sustainable tourism?

[SPEAKER_06]

This was also a very difficult word for me. How can the municipality help the companies on the island to achieve the green goals here on the island? So for example your ideas, how can the municipality help to realize those ideas? I think that in this...

[SPEAKER_01]

I think that a stimulus from the municipality is certain. But where it always comes down to, I have been in the Aardgas Free Island project for a while. If I have to add six meetings, To only be able to talk about what is possible and what everyone thinks of. It makes no sense. I stepped out of it. That's why I stepped out of it. That's why I'm sitting on the sidelines. If you want something, you have a clear plan. And not like, how do you like this, how do you like that. No, this is our plan. And there are a number of things that have to go on. For example, the cups. But how they will look like, that's not important. Something has to come. So be clear in how you are going to communicate. And

make sure that you really have something in mind before you start presenting things. Repeat, adjust and present again. No, that doesn't work. And that has to come from the municipality.

[SPEAKER_06]

What does that have to do with? Both, from both the municipality and the community. So, clear communication is key. So the municipality, for example, Henk was in the getting rid of the gas project. But he had to attend six meetings where they discussed it, only discussed it. They didn't do anything, they only discussed it. So Henk is more, he says like, I'm more for actions, taking actions. If you want something, for example the Island Cup, make sure the idea is already very clear, so you can present it, people can say yes or no, and then

[SPEAKER_01]

Is that over in English?

And is it English, like having an ear on your mug? Yeah, right? Yeah, an ear. An ear or no ear, no problem. But if you want it, you must say, yeah, I want the ear. But if you say on a festival, I don't want the ear, okay, no problem. But it's not at the moment. We will have a cup. And if there is something, then you can communicate with everyone. This is it, and this will be it for...

One, two, three, four, five years. Oh man, what a very good idea. I like that one very much. I'm coming to the TV in a bit. Yes, you can do this yourself with the community. Yes, that's possible. Super good idea. Yes. I'm in for it. Me too. Yes. Totally fun.

[SPEAKER_05]

How do you think the island community can better collaborate with surrounding communities and or in other regions to achieve common goals?

[SPEAKER_06]

How can the communities on the island better cooperate with communities in the area? So, for example, the Netherlands itself, the mainland, Friesland, Groningen, or the other islands. To achieve goals. I think that we... You can only achieve goals by

[SPEAKER_01]

to do things together with a lot of people, often. We don't have a different neighborhood here or a different environment than just the island. And the direct thing that matters most are all the other four Wadden Islands. So a lot of cooperation is already being done in that. And for that, I think we have to work even more on the idea of

How are we going to tackle that? For example, we are the first water island that thinks and talks about greenhouse gas. So that's why you're a priority. But that's also a bit of what fits into the island.

In the island of Schiemenekoog? Yes, the island of Schiemenekoog. If you look at Terschelling, Terschelling is more of an expatriate island. So they have a very different goal for this solution. Okay. But do you also have ideas about how to work better together? Between the islands, if we're talking about islands. Every month there is an island consultation on a municipal level. Why don't you take this with you on that level? It's fine, it's not directly part of politics, but it's part of it.

But especially look for nature monuments, one of the largest on each island. Let it also be part of the community. And let it also say, hey, we can maybe do more from here. Because you have the people like in nature monuments and municipalities, you need to get some things together. Okay.

[SPEAKER_06]

This is a long one. Mostly the islands, because the islands are more likewise as Schiemen en Koog. But most of the time Schiemen en Koog has been the runner up in being or being first in having good ideas, like green ideas.

And monthly there is a meeting between all the islands on a multi...

What do you think?

[SPEAKER_05]

Yeah, because... If I understood right... Sorry? If I understood right, it's to meeting politicians from different islands. Meeting different politicians. But it's strictly politicians. No, no, no. Also try to do it on more... Yeah, try on...

[SPEAKER_06]

try to do it on business level. Because they don't do it on business level right now? No. So it would be nice if the restaurant owners from Schiermonacoop would communicate with the ones on the other islands to see if they have already solutions for other things. They can exchange information and knowledge. So working together. That would be very nice. And one of the

[SPEAKER_01]

One of the most important things, and then I'll go back to the 90's, is... In the Netherlands, in advertising, a better environment starts with yourself. I don't know if you say that, I don't know what age you are. I'm 24. I'm 40. A better environment starts with yourself. That was the slogan of the government of that time. There was a commercial in the 90's.

[SPEAKER_06]

And the slogan was a better... A better environment. A better environment. One second, I'm going to translate. Okay.

[SPEAKER_01]

A better environment starts with yourself. In other words, if everyone can hold on to that thought, then it is also easier to come to a certain point, idea, or execution of an idea.

[SPEAKER_06]

Because if I want to, but they don't need it, I pay 500 euros per year extra for natural monuments, then it's over. Then it doesn't work. So everybody should be stimulated and take responsibility to do it themselves. Because if Henk wants to do it, that's really good. But the neighbor can say, no, I don't feel like taking action.

[SPEAKER_05]

I'll just pay a couple hundred euros extra to not have to think about sustainability. But it's a very easy thought of course. And to finish up, do you have any extra thoughts, any extra ideas that you want to communicate out in the project?

[SPEAKER_01]

Maybe he has ideas about our projects, or other ideas for Schiemenkoog himself. Or just things you want to say. You mean for the VVV? No, for his project, but also for ideas that could help the island. I think I've said a lot of things, and I'm already working on that myself.

To get it right.

So I think it's a difficult one. I understand. No, but it's more like, what else can we do? Well, one, two, three, nothing. I think I've said a lot of things that I think it would be nice if we could achieve something together, on a small piece of ground, where it seems very easy to achieve something, but sometimes it just doesn't work. And I think, yes, why?

Why don't we buy all the fat together? For a brand that has been used for a while. Or that is green and has been made in a good way. You still have colleagues who fry with solid fat. I don't think that's necessary anymore. But for the rest...

[SPEAKER_06]

He has no further ideas, but to repeat it again, for example what he was telling about using the same supplier for oils.

Some of his colleagues in this branch are still using solid fats in the fryer. And that's not from this day and age anymore, in this opinion.

[SPEAKER_05]

Yes, working together. I think that's the clue of this interview. No, thank you. This was very, very, very helpful. Yes, very many good ideas. I want to thank you. Yes, thank you very much. Thank you. Very good, thank you very much. And you also wanted to have some fried fat, you said? Well, if I think about it, I think maybe that's not very convenient, but we could also get fried fat in Groningen. You can stop it.

Audio-recording-2023-09-28-132054.txt

[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_00]

Our first question is what is your role in the island community here? I am one of the about 900 inhabitants and I see my role just as an inhabitant of this beautiful island and I see my role also as

Telling people who come here from the mainland to tell how beautiful this place is, how beautiful it is living on such an island. And how many beautiful things you can find on the beach. And you live here for

a long time on the island? I was born on the island some time ago. And then you can live here till you are 16. Then there is no possibility for education anymore.

And then you have to move to the mainland. My parents looked for a family on the mainland where I lived during the years I was studying. And afterwards, after studying, going to work on this island, everything is connected with tourism. So anything else you want to do, you have to stay on the mainland. So we lived for 25 years over there.

and worked there, got married and children and things like that. And afterwards, when the children were grown up, we came both back to the island again. And how is your role affected by the island tourism? I do many excursions with people who are interested

in plants, in birds, in the island itself, bicycle tours, go to the mudflats with people and school children, and tell about it, show them it, things like that. That's my main role here. How would you describe the island community and its current state? It's a small community,

People know each other for a large part, especially in my case I know the elderly people because they lived in the same time as I was living here on the island. Afterwards many people came new and some I know but not everybody because there is much circulation of people working here on the island. And do you feel connected to older people or just the tourism?

[SPEAKER_01]

No, to most people living on the island, but also to the tourists. At least the tourists who are more or less interested in the island. Do you know anything about sustainable tourism? Do you see the change to more sustainable tourism?

[SPEAKER_00]

um just a part of the people are interested in that i think and yeah like everyone who reads the newspapers and listens to the tv you hear about

things like that, sustainability and things like that. And we have sun panels on our roof to make our own electricity, we have our own hot water system, things like that. And we have no car on the island, you don't need one. Just bike and walk. What do you think are the best

The best aspects of this island are the enormous biodiversity. We have more than 750 species of plants, 10 species of orchids for instance. We have more than 300 species of birds. And the biggest part of the island, the eastern half,

is almost pure nature without any human interference. And that's the most beautiful thing of this island. It's a very natural island, especially the part to the east. And do you think other people know that that's

so special and appreciate it that much? Some people know and some don't. But many people who come here

come here because of the quietness, the beautiful nature and things like that. And when you want to go feast, you have to go to a few islands more to the west. And the people who live on the islands, do they know the importance of the biodiversity? Not everyone. No, there are people I never saw on the beach. And I come very often on the beach.

What are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth? The most important thing in my view is that we do not get more and growth is not a word connected for me with this island.

And that's because growth means more tourism, and more tourism means less quietness, less... you know, things like that. In my opinion, we have enough tourists, everyone can live very good from them, and we don't need more. And going up in quality is okay, but...

When you leave everything loose, tomorrow they start building five new hotels. So that's what we don't want. Oh really? Yeah, many people want to stay here, to live here. And the government of the island

[SPEAKER_01]

says we have such a number of beds where tourists can sleep and we want to keep it that number and don't put it up. And if you look because you're a lot of in the nature and on the beach how do you think of pollution of the environment? People who come here are in general

[SPEAKER_00]

They like the island and they don't pollute it. Compared with other places when we come, we see here hardly any pollution. And sometimes with northerly winds things come from the sea, but that's not from the tourists from the island or something like that. So you think that's already on a high level? That's here on a quite high level, I think, yeah.

What do you see as the key strength of Schimmel en Koog in promoting sustainable tourism? Is there anything Schimmel en Koog is promoting? Schimmel is a very natural island and we like tourists to experience that. To go out on a bicycle and walk and see all those beautiful plants and birds and everything.

initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges to become a sustainable island? Well like I think everywhere in the Netherlands you can get money to make your house more sustainable in terms of energy and that's what

Are there people in the community here who are working together to make it more sustainable? Yeah, there's a small group of people who tell it to the people on the island and you can call them if you have any questions about things like that. That's what's happening.

[SPEAKER_01]

Because you have some, for the plug time, some new things that grow up and are really popular. You think that are nice ways to show... Yeah, that is a very good thing on the island. Can I just jump in with a question? Because we talked about growth and some questions over there.

[SPEAKER_02]

But you say growth would not necessarily be the right thing for Monaco. But we can always be better. Is that something you see as something this island is good to initiate?

[SPEAKER_00]

project to be better and develop more sustainable better solutions. Yeah, but that's not more than on the mainland. I think you might feel about the same. From the community you get tips to make sustainable your house and things like that.

[SPEAKER_01]

We have hardly any cars, so many people are moving, walking and biking. How does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_00]

How do they cooperate, the companies and the stakeholders of the island? Is it on synergies here? The only example I know is the farmers, about two years ago, they already went down with their number of cattle. Because now,

the milk is taken twice a week to the mainland in a tank car produced over there and then it comes back with a ferry to sell here okay so now they got a subsidy money from the province to make to

make products of their own milk here on the island. It's not yet built, but they are going to do that. And they already went down about 30% with their number of cows. And that's also necessary because of the CO2, especially in a very vulnerable area like this island. That's one example I know. Quite interesting. And are there more?

[SPEAKER_01]

ways to collaborate with each other to come up to that idea or is it difficult to say? I don't know any other. How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development? So what does it need to get more sustainable? What do you think is the next step? Or is it just going to a good

[SPEAKER_00]

way already? Many people have difficulties to pay for make their house more energy sustainable. So that's an important thing I think many people will then do a bit more. But on the other hand I don't know other possibilities.

[SPEAKER_01]

How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the island community capacity for sustainable growth? So what's your role in it? How can you? Yeah, only do sales, things like that, as I told. And next month we get a heat pump extra. That's what we can do. And also informate the people.

nature here. But that's what we normally do. How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve their sustainable goals?

[SPEAKER_00]

Can we work together with other islands? Yeah, the community does that. They have regular talks with the other islands, what problems do they have, and then they try to learn from each other. But I don't know a real example. That's fine. These were the questions that we had. But I have a question about

How clean do you think the beaches are? Are they really clean here? The beaches here are really clean because mostly it is westerly wind and then everything drifts to Norway.

No, the sailors are more aware of not to put everything in the sea they don't use. And formerly, 20, 30 years ago, there was a lot more on the beach than nowadays. A lot more, yeah. You can see very, very well. And initiatives to reduce plastic bags, do you think that projects are helping the nature here? Yes, of course, because the plastic bags on the beach are all from

[SPEAKER_01]

all over the world. And everything to do against it is good. And also the boats that sail over the islands and then are crashing all the containers into the sea sometimes.

[SPEAKER_00]

That's another problem. Is it a big problem? As we saw in 2019, that's a big problem. 350 containers almost went down here in the sea with everything in it. Some months ago a ship went in flames because of the cars. It was loaded with cars and it went in flames just in front of the island.

It went good, but it could also have been very, very bad. Because the Wadden Sea is a very vulnerable area to pollution. So you have to be really careful. Yeah, and the government, in my opinion, has to say you have to go further on the sea and then... But they try to get as close as possible because it takes time to go further and time is... Burning. For sure, for sure.

[SPEAKER_02]

Yeah. That's really interesting. I think we're done there. Yeah. Thank you for your time. No problem. And your attention. And good luck with your project.

Audio-recording-2023-09-28-133451.txt

[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_00]

So, what brought you to this island? Yeah, that's what I was saying. A present from our son is bringing us here for a couple of days. What information did you have coming to this island? I am very interested in nature and what it all has to do with it. That's why we like to go to the islands.

[SPEAKER_03]

She likes just the nature, about the green tourism we talked about earlier today. And that's why she chooses to go to these islands, but also other islands in Germany as well. All Europe.

[SPEAKER_00]

Yeah, all Europe, so everywhere. But all, just only for nature, let's say. So it really goes for nature. Yes, absolutely. Because I like to see the flowers and the plants and make the pictures. I make pictures from it. And because I like it. The silence. The silence. Yes, because it's now September. Yes, exactly. It's a calm season. Not a lot of tourists come around this time of the year.

[SPEAKER_01]

but you're saying you you have been visiting a lot of other islands also in in holland in holland yeah do you think um what do you what do you think uh what do you think is different here than other places when it comes to sustainability ah that is um that's my husband

[SPEAKER_03]

It's a project, a five-year project. Not only an engineering project, it's also international. It also has to do with the municipality here in Zwemmende Kogel, Friesland, Groningen and so on.

[SPEAKER_01]

Hans is coming from Norway, he is a good student. You guys are with 10 people. It's actually a big EU project, but they are using students to do analysis. From the university you are here. Paid by the university. It's nice to go to school in Norway.

by the university, by the EU. By the EU? Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Where did you get money from, the EU? Yeah, that's how it works. So our goal is to help small islands in Europe. These small islands? Yeah, this and Valle in Norway and some islands in France, some in Denmark, some in Sweden, become more sustainable or take better care of the islands. This whole area, this UNESCO area, right? Yeah. Yeah, and you heard about the green transition. Yeah. Yeah, of course But it's harder for like smaller islands to move fast Towards the green transition. So this might be a start how they can Go this is project from this province to get Schiermonago best promoted

[SPEAKER_03]

This morning we went to Natuur Monumenten. We had an interview this morning.

[SPEAKER_01]

And we are gathering all this information together. It's your project, I have another side project. But the thing is to use this information to come here again. And then we have found some gaps in the collaboration in the island. And then we can get those actors from the island to collaborate better for the best for the island. And now you have some questions for the tourists.

better in English. No, no, no. But what's the next question? Yeah, I was asking about you since you travel a lot around. Yeah. What do you think is special about Schiermonnikoek? Because we have never been here. Ah, right. We have been in the other islands. We have lived here in this province of Friesland for 22 years. Right. But we never visited Amersfoort.

[SPEAKER_02]

So that's why we are here now. We are curious. But we like the islands, we like the islands very much. Also when we go abroad to Croatia or Spain, we like the islands. Do you think there is anything special about, I don't know how long you've been here, but is there anything special about how they manage this island? No idea.

Right there, no problem. I think they do very much, but when you see the two monuments and they try to get the wood, the trees to have more open fields, more sand fields to sustain this island.

[SPEAKER_03]

Because this island is moving eastwards. All the islands are moving eastwards. And you can help to cut down the trees. That's what you meant. Like nature management. They cut down the trees because they grow in the dunes.

[SPEAKER_02]

And then the dunes get lost because of the trees. Right, so they're like fighting the birds. So they're looking for volunteers. You can help here. Yeah, of course. You can cut some trees. Yeah, of course. Yeah, I could, I could. And maybe you can use the wood. For a good cause. But in Norway, they use the wood

for heating. Yeah, right. And that is not the nature. No, no. But Norway has a lot of oil. Yeah. It's not natural, it's not green. No, it's not. So, what is it about...

[SPEAKER_01]

It's about the government. The oil and the gas fields. They put all the money in Norway. Not in the EU. Keep the money in the country. I'm actually from Iceland.

For Iceland? Where you have the volcanoes? Yeah, I have volcanoes. I don't know how I can sell volcanoes yet, but one day, maybe. But Iceland has a lot of tourists going to Iceland. We have one million tourists in a year, and there are 380,000 people living on the island. So three times the population in one year. And every year it's more. But is Iceland promoting the tourism? Yeah, it is. They need money.

It's terrible. So many.

but it's melting down in iceland iceland yeah maybe yeah but it's coming more volcano so we are getting higher up as well i guess yeah you get mountains yeah so it goes up and down i guess our next question yeah yeah i don't think i have any more questions at this point okay okay uh i just need you to

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Audio-recording-2023-09-28-133706.txt

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[SPEAKER_00]

There you go. Just clickbait, okay? I don't speak very well English. Oh, but it's okay because we're not... Okay, so maybe I struggle with some words, so I'm going to explain them to you. You listen to me. I didn't know how... I don't know how to speak either, so it's okay. Don't worry. It's fine. Okay, so you're a tourist. You don't live here? No. And you've never been here before? No, first time. Okay. For a few days. Two days, right? Mm-hmm.

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, I'm staying just two nights. What are your plans here? Just looking around. I mean, as a tourist, I'm just looking here. Yeah? Yeah. Biking. Maybe. Just go biking. Yeah, I don't want to rent a bike because it's not worth it just for... I'm just today, so... Oh, you're not renting a bike? No, I'm not. I just walk. Oh, wow. But that's a lot. It's not that far. I mean, I used to walk, so it's not that far. It's like 20 minutes. It's not that much.

What made you come exactly here? Like, why? Have anybody been here before? Yeah, I have a friend that went here. I haven't had the opportunity to come here before, so it was like some friend of mine is working here in a hotel. Oh, really? And he said to me, you want to visit me? Of course you want. So I just took the ferry by myself. How fun! Only he's working now, and I just...

chilling around and seeing the city, well city, town it's so nice here little town yeah it's so cute yeah it's super cute it's like everywhere here in netherlands is cute you think? every town is cute here especially here yeah

[SPEAKER_00]

It's maybe hard to answer this question, but how would you describe the Iceland community in its current state? Wow, that's tricky. How do you feel like the community is? It's pretty nice. I mean, I'm always looking at everyone, it's just saying hi to me. It's like, oh...

[SPEAKER_01]

so nice and they were in the ferry they helped me with something and i think they will because you had some difficulties with well i was like i want to go upstairs the ferry to see the sea and i was like i couldn't open the door so they helped me that out they're very helpful yeah they're helpful and they're always nice and so far i just saw nice people i mean there is no trouble here in fact i saw a car a police car it was like thinking

They don't really need a police car here. I think there's not a lot of police now. There is not. It's so small. I mean, it's like a retirement home. That's a good one. Okay. Okay, we can't ask this question. No, you can. You think?

[SPEAKER_02]

What do you think are the best aspects of Schiermenekoog? So far, what do you like the most? What do you notice from Schiermenekoog? From the citizens. They are nice, polite. They are so quiet. I really like quiet people. There is no noise here. I just spent the morning. And away from the people, there are also other things you noticed?

[SPEAKER_01]

everything is clean so I really noticed that everyone is like careful with their trash something is good there you think so you walked on the beach yeah yeah a little bit just this morning and everything was clean oh really that's good okay

[SPEAKER_00]

Let me see. A lot of these questions are like for people that maybe have been here for a couple of days. Who are working here, have a business. Have you seen any major challenges on the Iceland community in terms of innovation, development and sustainable growth? Or no? How can you ask me that when I've been spending just one day? Maybe you've seen anything, I don't know.

[SPEAKER_02]

maybe that you've thought like um like it can be small things like you get some uh related with environment right if you think about that maybe that people or you you buy something and it's in a lot of plastic or um yeah i don't know i think like little small things that you think they could do this better

[SPEAKER_01]

I don't know, I mean... It's difficult, right? I understand. Right, so far everything is fine. Maybe the ferry is a little... Do a lot of pollution, the ferry. So I was concerned about that because the ferry was huge and there was so many... There was little people. Little people, yeah. Yeah, I mean, there is not a lot of people, so that... It's so big for that place. Right. Exactly, just for the cars, I mean. I was really concerned about that, I mean, yeah.

[SPEAKER_02]

So the community, I noticed that this was like a little box with books. Oh really? Yeah, like to share with the neighbors. You can take some. I think so, that's great. That's so kind. Yeah, it's very friendly. You trust a lot of each other. You haven't seen it in Groningen yet? There's a lot, I think. You can google it as well, like libraries.

[SPEAKER_01]

Also I saw they had like plastic bags for the for the poops of the dogs like able for everyone like you can take them and just for cleaning for not leave the poop there. Next to the trash cans or something. Yeah I think so yeah. And you think that's good or? Maybe for the plastic no because there's a lot of plastic there but it was good because in my time at least people do some of that some of them yeah some of them no so it's maybe

[SPEAKER_02]

it's good to make them take the shit exactly yeah they are so kind it's good that you noticed that that's uh that's a small things yeah so so far i don't know what to answer okay you have to take this one because i don't know how to say the name what do you see as the key strengths of schiemenekoog in promoting sustainable tourism

[SPEAKER_01]

I mean everything here is or bus or cycle or bike I mean there is there's I don't see cars here so that must be something but the bikes are they it's electric right or electrical there are electrical bikes and you don't have an electrical bike really you said you have an electrical bike

[SPEAKER_02]

No, because then it's not heavy to bike. Yeah, that's why. You had the... I didn't understand why it was... No, it's not electrical. I swear to God. I was like sweating. Yeah, but it's not electrical, your bike. So your is electrical. No, mine is not.

[SPEAKER_00]

I have the most simple bike and you have the things to make it a bit lighter. But I'm wondering then, the electrical bikes, how do they get the energy? Is it from the sun? I think it was for charging the bikes. It was?

[SPEAKER_01]

little green spaces but I think there's also for cars because there are cars and they are on green energy from the but the way here in the bus I saw the bus is also electric right really yeah I saw a lot of wind generators of energy yeah but the way to put the bus to a ferry and I think Oh, underway from Groningen to Laursilk. It was like out of wind generators, so maybe they use that energy for the bikes and the buses. So I don't think it's a bad thing to use.

[SPEAKER_00]

nice no i think with electrical energy that you can always take it from somewhere or green so i don't know how to answer because it was a good question a good answer sorry okay i don't think we have any others because the others are like

[SPEAKER_02]

Maybe, because it's still a very open question. But if you're thinking of a small island and developing more sustainable things, what aspects of the island could be made more sustainable?

[SPEAKER_01]

so maybe the boat or something that the boat is concerning me because it's too big for that little people i mean there is not that much for the amount of huge ferry yeah uh this is one concern another one is that i don't notice uh there is different trash

[SPEAKER_02]

also in Groningen, in the city

in the fabric the oh okay one so that's a thing we do also in the Hans Hogeschool we have separate trash yeah I know the paper ones yes and there are there a lot but it's more to make ourselves conscious but because in the end

all the trash comes together it's like why no but it's because the fabricants they are separating it either way they have a very good methods of separating it yeah I didn't know that yeah so now you know more things I don't know maybe the furnace can go with the wind

[SPEAKER_01]

yeah you know what I mean but further maybe in the store or yeah thinking of souvenirs well just the first store I went it was a spa the supermarket I think it's the only like actual supermarket here And, well, I saw a lot of plastic, yeah, but everywhere. Yeah, it says everywhere. Everywhere. The souvenirs, it wasn't that bad. I mean, I was in other countries and the souvenirs were pretty bad. At least here, like, postcards and, you know, it's like, it's not that, that, that. I mean, I spent one day in... I don't know how it's called because that names are so tricky but it's like in the Netherlands near to Groningen there is one town with boats that you cross oh yeah you know okay there was a lot of souvenirs that are white a lot of unnecessary souvenirs there that I wouldn't buy oh yeah so this is not I don't think this is like and you went to the VVV for the souvenirs or what souvenir shops did you go to uh in that town or here here here just so with the spar was oh yeah yeah and this part like there's like just the caissons um yeah the postcards that's the spar that's yeah it's not a souvenir i don't even have

time yeah now i was planning to go back to the city and see around okay i think we got something do you have anything else to the air is clean here it's very nice to breathe like it's clean there is no noise it's super silent noise is like a kind of pollution so for me at least so it's quiet here so it's fine It's nice, right? Everyone is so kind here. I feel like everyone is minding their own business. Kind of. Yeah, I saw a lot of people taking care of the gardens and taking care of the houses. It's like nothing else to do. Basically. It's a dream town. Do you have any more questions? I don't. Do you? No, I don't. Well, then we're done. We can wrap up.

[SPEAKER_00]

we're done okay that was not too hard questions no it wasn't okay i think it really was interesting answers and you notice

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[SPEAKER_01]

So it doesn't matter to us who gets the information, we just need the information. And what kind of school are you actually? I do industrial product design in Groningen. And what school are you from? Innovation and project management is the name of the line. So in Frederikstad in Norway.

[SPEAKER_00]

What is your role on this island? I'm a tourist. You're a tourist? Great! We needed a tourist. You were a lawyer? Yeah. What brings you to this island? It's a holiday. Just a week off.

[SPEAKER_02]

To the island, the island is always good Next to the beach, fresh air Space A bit too many people here Next year I will go to another island Oh really, already too many right now? No, this is my second I went to Vlieland last year It was much better than this one

Yes? Yeah, too many people here. Too many. Okay, you think it's too many people here. Yeah, too many. But in summer time or in winter time? Oh, now as well. I came here last weekend and it was full, full of people. Okay. Maybe because of the weather as well. Yeah, of course, the weather and people go for a day ride.

it's only a short trip from the mainland to here so you can do it all for a day and the other islands will take a longer trip so people just come so often just for one day but this island they do so there is more people here there is only 950 people living here And there are only maybe 2000 a day coming to visit It's too much A day? It's too much In the high season I think You see how many ships are coming Ships are full That's a lot So people come here just for a day and visit and go back or do they work here? Just for a weekend or a day because it's only 45 minutes from the mainland to here

[SPEAKER_00]

So it's like a day trip When you live in the north of Netherlands then it's okay for a day trip While the other islands are not Are you still recording? Yeah

uh i only forgot that one yes the settings yeah um but how would you uh describe the island uh or the community um what how would you describe the island community and its current state uh in its current state the people or the island the community the community

[SPEAKER_02]

I don't know the community because I've been here for a couple of days Yes, but how do you experience it? But the people I've met are very friendly and easy and calm and easy to make contact with Tourists as well as locals you've met I haven't spoken to many tourists I've only spoken to locals So

But they are all very friendly and always you can talk to them, have time for you Yeah, it's okay What do you think is the current state of the sustainable tourism? Or how sustainable is the tourism on this island in your opinion? Well, it needs tourism There is nothing else here There are seven farmers and the rest is tourism But is that sustainable in your opinion? Yeah, I think so

[SPEAKER_01]

the islands are still very full thank you they make their money with tourism a lot of Dutch people come here yeah that's true but in the way that the way that tourism is here is that sustainable in European because of course you can also fly to

[SPEAKER_02]

wherever, Thailand in summer time People shouldn't be flying anymore so you better take a boat to your own country so when the sun is shining you can also, whether you are here or in Spain or Greece you better stay here

I haven't flown for 5 years and we have nice summers nowadays a bit too hot maybe because of the climate but it's nice to be here Do you think that the summers are longer now? Do you think that is a strength for the tourism here? I don't know how many people really

I recognize that as they just enjoy it, people just enjoy it, nice summers, nice long summers and that's it But what do you think is the best aspect of this island? The nature. The nature, environment, the free space outside of the village. No cars, at least not of non-residents. That's a big positive aspect of this island.

Still too many buses I think. Freeland is much better, next year I go to Freeland. What makes Freeland better?

it's it's cozier it's it's it's just about just as big as this island almost but in a way I think it's cozier I've never been so no no you should try next year you live there yeah I've lived there for six years so yeah good to hear yeah

No, this is a good island What the big positive thing about this island is you can cycle around everywhere and when you go cycle that way or that way, well best that way in the east way of the island after 10 minutes you don't see anyone anymore, you are just alone especially in the weekend and you like that feeling of being alone in nature

What are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth? Many, many challenges. Like everywhere in the Netherlands, we need houses. Houses? Houses. There's few houses. Yeah, little houses.

for all the people we have so that's also for the islands an incentive so there's a lot of nature but how long can nature withstand the need to be housed to build houses that's a challenge I hope the nature wins because nature is important

also the sea is a challenge, the sea takes away a lot of beach every year so the government has to pull sand back on the beach to preserve the island if you don't do anything then in a couple of years the village will be close to the sea so that's the challenge, but mostly just too many people too many people everywhere

[SPEAKER_00]

Not just here, everywhere. Norway as well. People want to live, people want to ride, people want to recreate. There is too little space for all those needs. Is there something you think the community here should have done differently to keep sustainable tourism to a good level? Anything that could have been different?

I don't know really what you mean by that question. Like the sustainable tourism or the tourism needs to be sustainable. That's a given. For the income of the island, they need it. Yeah. But is there anything the island community should have done differently to keep the tourism alive, but also think about the environment?

[SPEAKER_02]

Well, the people don't have anything to say about it. It's the government and the nature organizations that are, they own a lot of space on the island. People living here, the individuals, the community. But the government has also a lot of space in the east and the west. And you see, yesterday there was a protest over there. Were you here yesterday? Yes. There was a protest outside, sitting in the field out there.

Oh yes, I did see that, yeah That was a protest against nature organizations to fence off nature environments so people cannot enjoy, it's good of course because nature needs to be preserved but the people are not allowed in it anymore so that's a challenge of course if people come here on one hand to enjoy themselves and recreate and enjoy the free space and the openness and the animals and on the other hand it's best not to go there with all of us because then nature will fade away What's your opinion on that? Where do you stand? It's difficult perhaps

I think sometimes it's a bit too much fenced off I think Too much? Too much fences too much kept away from tourism I think people need to be able to walk in the field and enjoy the openness but there's also economic thing those organizations they sometimes get subsidized to preserve nature and then

to be able to do that they shut it off so people can't be people with dogs are not allowed in it but sometimes that's good because there's animals that needs to be kept away from the animals from dogs but this is a challenge I don't know exactly where I stand I like to enjoy the outside yeah but on the other hand I don't like everybody else to enjoy it with me you know so because it will yeah it will be damaged paradox in that way yeah yeah

[SPEAKER_00]

That's the paradox of all the islands here. Of all the nature also in the Netherlands itself. Do you know about any initiative that the island has undertaken in the past to address these challenges? No, I'm sorry, I don't know. You don't know? No, I'm not informed about any initiative from this island. Do you know anything about how the island collaborate with other communities to promote innovative development and sustainability? Yeah, they do with the other islands. All those islands, they work together on that point. They do that? How? By their government, by their local authorities.

[SPEAKER_02]

Yeah, I know they do that. They have the same goal, the same issues to challenge. What is the goal? The goal is to preserve the islands and preserve the tourism on the islands but also to defend the islands against all those negative challenges. That's the main goal for all those islands. five six islands so they have almost the same goals yeah and the same challenges as well they do yeah for a part and it's also there's the five islands but there's also some sand things and then then they come the german islands they also have the same same problems to challenge yeah of course absolutely

[SPEAKER_00]

That was all the questions I had. Are they the same as the file? Yeah, some of them. But I think there are two more questions in the file. I can look at the file. The topic is of course sustainability and trying to improve and preserve what the island already has and what can be better. By doing that we have to talk to everybody. In that respect I'm only a tourist. I know a little bit about But you are the reason why this island is still alive, right? Because of the tourists. So of course we need a tourist point of view. I have some questions right here. Maybe these two? No, those I have asked.

[SPEAKER_02]

yeah yeah it's a question here about what your organization can do but you you don't have a business here i do i do you do you have a business on the island oh okay i'm a lawyer that works for the government as well my government is the ministry of infrastructure Okay. And my organization has the task to, what I just said, to preserve the islands from being swashed away in the sand, in the water. Because the sand, my organization takes care of enough sand again on the beaches to preserve the beaches from the water The area, the sea on that side and the sea on that side is my organization is the government over there But how do you I am just curious, how do you do that? Constructors to dig the sea. The ways of the boat. depth deep enough so if you don't do anything the depth will come up and the boat is not able to come anymore so that's what we do on that side and on that side we take care that the beach that is swept away with the water is brought back up again if we don't do that the beach would be gone

[SPEAKER_01]

Yes, and is that, in Dutch, is that the digging out of the waterways? Yes. Okay, we also do research on that, so that's interesting. Yes, that's a task of Rijkswaterstaat. I work for Rijkswaterstaat. Yes, in that way, yes. Ministry of Infrastructure, Rijkswaterstaat. Yes. Rijkswaterstaat controls the Wadden Sea and the North Sea around those islands. So we dig and we bring sand up. Yes, but I think that's a different material, right? The sand you bring up is not the same as the digging you do.

[SPEAKER_02]

We do it there, in the Vargheulen. And sometimes that sand is of good quality to bring back as beach sand, of course you can do that too, but other than good energy... I'm not sure what bagger is in English, but it's like...

[SPEAKER_01]

The bottom of the ocean, the very clay-like part with a lot of organic structures in there. And they take it away from the root of the boat, the waterway. They take it away so the boat can keep on going to the mainland and back. And then sometimes the sand is good enough to put it on the beach again, but sometimes it's not. And then it gets recycled into biofuels, for example. So there is a circular motion here?

[SPEAKER_02]

I don't know exactly what color it is on that side sometimes, and it also depends on the constructors that work for Rijkswaterstaat because sometimes they already have sand from another project they can bring on It's not really a circular system Could it be? It could be What would have to be improved?

[SPEAKER_00]

for it to be a full circular motion It has to be the same quality Is there something we can do to improve the quality of the mud? That's beyond my knowledge, I really don't know Then you should ask Rijkswaterstaat Yeah, that's a good one We actually have an interview tomorrow with

[SPEAKER_01]

The Bagger. Mister. The Baggeraar. Gerard Buining, I believe. Gerard who? Buining, I thought. Is he from Rijkswaterstaat? No, that's the Baggeraar from the island. He works at the Bagger depot. Oh, he's from Vandelee. I don't know that. Are you going to take it? No, I only know that he works here at the Bagger depot where it is dried before it is transported to... Oh, okay. He knows a lot more about Vandelee. There is also a national information line from Rijkswaterstaat, you can also ask.

Okay, I'm going to write that down as well. If it's on the internet, we'll find out. I'll translate it. Thank you. There's an information number you can call from that organization where I work. Oh yeah. And they can answer all your questions. That's very nice. I was just saying that we have an appointment tomorrow, but probably the religious students will be gone by then. But the Dutch students, we have an appointment with the...

[SPEAKER_02]

The one, the contractor that does the taking of the ocean floor? Yes, the bagger. And then he brings it to the bagger depot. And they dry it there. Yes, Van der Lee bagger here, that is the contractor. Yes, I know all those people, I can always give you their numbers. But I will give the national number, 0800 8002. That is the national line for Rijkswaterstaat. And you can ask any questions there. Yes, I wrote it down, handy, thank you. Thank you so much, the line for calling for information. Yes, because the Wadden Sea, there are several receivers around the Wadden Sea, and there is another one over there. I also heard from Van der Meulen, or is that another one? Yes, now Van der Lee is here. I also saw a paper there. Van Oort is there sometimes, I don't know. Eemschils van der Lee, Noordzee, Weer van Noord, I think. Okay, I wrote it down. Then ask all those people. I know the contracts are a bit off, but I know the quality of the sand, you don't have to tell me. No, no, that's fine too. We'll find out tomorrow. Do you still have time to ask all that? Because those are good information numbers, right? Yes, sure. Yes, the project is still four years old. We're on it for another 20 weeks and then a new group will come. Oh, okay. Well, interesting. Yes.

[SPEAKER_00]

Yeah, so the project, I told her, will continue for four years. But we're the first group doing this, at least in the Netherlands. Yeah, we already started in Norway. So we're in phase two on Valir, an island in Norway, and now we're starting phase one here. And also we have an island in England and two islands in France we're going to.

and what's pretty cool actually is that the challenges we were talking about now about this island and the island groups here is this have a lot of similarities to the problems we have on Valer in Norge so um and that's kind of cool so hopefully we will find a gap um somewhere and improve the gaps and yeah uh make it better yeah let's hope

But our main goal is to help the islanders help themselves, give them the resources and kind of an overview of the challenges and the improvements that can be done and make them do it themselves. But we are here to kind of, I don't know what the word is in English, but kartleggen in Norsk.

[SPEAKER_01]

uh to yeah make make a like a big picture yeah make them see the bigger picture yeah yeah it's about circular economy and uh self-president height in dutch as well yeah i hope i've helped you you did yes thank you very much thank you very much i think we know what we need to know

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[SPEAKER_00]

Question two. How would you describe the island community and its current state? On here, I don't really know the island community that good. I think it's really small. I would never choose to live on

Schiermonnikoog, I think, because it's like really small. It's like a small village, but you also don't really have the escape of going to a city or something.

Like on Terschelling, it's much bigger. It's the other island. I would choose to live there, definitely. But those are there. The problem is that there are a lot of old people and the young people are not staying because the houses are too expensive there's not a lot to do and they have some very good festivals but now because of the older people they cancel it because mostly the older people are like in the board of the of the island like it's not called a board but yeah the head people yeah it's like also all the people so they don't see the value of the cool things for younger people and then they cancel it but like yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

young people are going away there and it's like they need them also with tourism so yeah and we just skip that because you're tourists so I don't need to follow every question but the next what do you think are the best aspects of here this island yeah of course nature

[SPEAKER_00]

and when you go here for one day it's all very close so you can see the whole island in just one day i went here also with friends my erasmus friends and we choose this island because we could show like and the water sea and the northern sea and it's very easy to see everything so i really like that one yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

And it's always very... What do you think about like the... What should I call it? Like the stores and is it like... If you need something, do you find it in the stores? Or are they smaller than it should be? I think this bar is quite small and also expensive. Especially for younger people. But for one day I am not...

[SPEAKER_00]

also expensive for me yeah for everybody it's expensive for all the islands and island people yeah yeah so yeah i think it's also affects the living here and you don't have like when you live in a city you also have like the market so you can go on sunday you go to your market yeah you don't really have it there So it's really rare to choose, not a lot of things to choose. Do you think they have a sustainable tourism? Yeah, I think they have. Already that they are involved in the Vrija project, they are open to being sustainable. And I think that's always the beginning.

[SPEAKER_01]

like being open for it and it's always a transition so it's difficult to to change things of course yeah but do you think like the people being here only in the summer and not in the winter do you think it's like can they live by it or is it too little should it be like tourism in the winter too

[SPEAKER_00]

Yeah, maybe a little bit more. Not as much as in summer. Because also the island community likes their rest in winter. Because in summer it's so busy. They are just not doing the administration and stuff in

summer. Because they are just working all day, seven days in a week. So the winter time is in that case really good for them. They go on holidays in the time in winter hours.

[SPEAKER_01]

in October. So in that case maybe not too busy, but a little bit more could be good. Question four. Do you see any major challenges combined with these two themes?

[SPEAKER_00]

community, you know, development and sustainable growth. Do you see any challenges? Yeah, I think it's again the older people, the conservative people who really wants to have like that the island is staying like it is and there are going to be not that much changes in it.

And when younger people are moving away because the houses are too expensive, then that case also never really changing. But what I also see in the other culture on the other islands, it's really, they are already their whole life used to living on an island. That they are, it's a big difference with the mainland that they are so used to nature and protected.

Like when people on the mainland are biking to school, they throw sometimes trash in nature and you wouldn't see it here. I think naturally they are already a little bit used to sustainable and development in that case. Yeah. And you don't have that much options for innovating. Like there are not big companies or something. I think that's also a challenge.

[SPEAKER_01]

I'm just going to take some notes. Yeah, it's okay.

[SPEAKER_00]

Yeah, but you can take the five. What initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past? Well, I think the collaboration between VVV and Sur Monumenta.

in one building, they are doing a lot of sustainable stuff, having a lot of good products. In that case, they are doing a lot. For the moment, I don't really know it.

maybe some stores there are like a lot of local stores a lot of locals making stuff and selling it in the stores so it's already kind of circular

And the plug time is also a good example for it. They are getting the coffee dregs or the coffee stuff from all the restaurants and they collect it and they make new stuff with it. I think also some restaurants are taking like vegetables and stuff from them. It's also kind of a circular thing to do. Six.

I think it's kind of already naturally always collaborating here. Because when you only have like 300 or 400 people, like the girl already told in the morning, you only have to sneeze and everybody knows it. So I think it's maybe already kind of naturally going.

But I think they're not really in the promotion part, but maybe more talking together about sustainability. I think they can solve maybe some problems with that.

So not only communicate in the bars, but also have moments with all the restaurant owners. And maybe with someone who has a lot of knowledge about sustainability. Maybe some workshops where you have someone who tests something and where others can work together to find a solution. Some brainstorm moments or maybe you can change all together then something. And not doing it one by one.

Yeah I think make it much easier for younger people to live here.

[SPEAKER_01]

That's the answer I wanted from the girl we were interviewing earlier today. Because I asked so many follow-up questions and she never said it. And I was like, oh, can't you just say it? I'm going to give you the answer. Yeah. Can improve the capacity for it. Yeah. I think younger people are bringing new innovations. And they are studying also.

[SPEAKER_00]

Like you can see it already in our studies, but we are also now graduating and all are graduating. We have five projects and all is about sustainability. Yeah. Because it's the problem from now. Yeah. So I think when you have younger people, you have like, yeah.

And there's also a big difference on the islands after the Covid time. Because a lot of rich people normally were going with the plane to far places, to other countries. But in Covid time it was not possible. So a lot of rich people from the Netherlands were going to the islands. And now it's still much popular for them.

[SPEAKER_01]

Because they were like, wow, why are we always going in the plane? Because we also have like very nice places in the Netherlands. Yeah. So, yeah, I don't want to say that we need to again the COVID time. No, but maybe some of the things that happened with the COVID could be like it gave something to the islands and maybe you can use that strategy as like, yeah. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_00]

I know what you mean. But we don't want another round with COVID. No, no. For sure. No, of course not. Maybe there's some mechanism in it you can use. Yeah. How can you promote the island by also richer people? Because they also told us here in the back end that now the richer people are also buying the sustainable stuff because it's like more expensive. Yeah. But they have the money. So they buy it.

[SPEAKER_01]

Which are we on? Eight. Because it's about a company. Yeah. But how can you as a tourist do something for this? Ah, yeah. I think maybe as a tourist you need to like be you need to think a little bit different. Maybe you should ask for, okay, if I buy this, where does it come from? Like do stuff like that.

I think that is the way you can do it as a tourist. Let people think about what they are selling. And maybe if people want to buy something that comes from here, it can be a bigger market for stuff like that.

[SPEAKER_00]

I think it's always good to plant your sustainable seeds everywhere with questions and making people aware. I mean all the other people also doing it and they're hearing 20 times per day what is this material oh is it plastic oh then i don't want it then they also get like oh people don't want plastic anymore they want something sustainable and then stores are changing by

their customers it's always the case and if you like go to place as a tourist and they are like okay this soap take the soap yeah this soap is made from the flowers on the island okay

[SPEAKER_01]

Great, I'll buy it. I think everyone needs to change to that. I think we answered that question really good. And the last one. I think we have...

[SPEAKER_00]

We haven't talked about that now. No, we didn't. I think an island is quite fast isolated because of the seas around. And in some way it's really logical.

But in the other way, you are together the Wadden Island place. And because they're all like very communities, I don't think Schiermannekoog is really much communicating with the other islands. Like Enid is going to a lot of islands and she is getting information everywhere and maybe she is spreading it. I think it can be nice to have like younger people from all the different islands bring them together and have a conversation or

some talks or a brainstorm and just show each other what they are doing like on Terschelling but also on some other islands they have very good stuff what they are doing and I think the other islands can learn about it sometimes it's so simple it's just not putting plastic bottles on table but just glass and fill them yourself with sweet water that's one thing some restaurants are doing on Terschelling and I'm like Why is not everybody doing it? Why are we shipping water in bottles to an island? Because there is just sweet water under the island. So why would you do that? I think they can... Improve together. Yeah. If they just talk, start the conversation. Yeah. Yeah. I think it's maybe starting there, putting people together. Maybe it's already happening, but I never really heard a lot about it. No.

I think the collaboration with schools from Groningen, from the north part of the Netherlands, is already a good start in it.

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[SPEAKER_01]

Okay. The first question. What is your role in the island community? My role in the island community is... I am an islander. And I live my whole life here on the island. And I've got two businesses in the... In the horeca? Yeah, horeca. In? In horeca, yeah.

hospitality, restaurants. This is the Berkeplas and on the other side is the Halt, it's a cafeteria. I organize a darts tournament every year.

I am a member of the board of one of the political parties here and most of all I'm islanding. How is your role affected by the island tourism?

I live from the tourism. I always say 100% of the islanders live from tourism. Because when there wasn't tourism, there wasn't businesses who need people that work there.

And when there wasn't tourism, there wasn't a mayor, there wasn't a government here on the island. So everyone is depending on the tourism. So basically the community that lives here now is based on tourism? Yeah. Right. How would you describe the island community and its current state? And its current state...

We're very bonded, it's a close community. My personal opinion is with that there are more and more people from the mainland that come to live here and I think it's not a positive

development because they have a total different mindset about Schiermonnikoog than the islanders who live here their whole life. This is what we talked about with Tara as well this morning. What do you think differentiates the islanders from the people coming from the mainland?

People from the mainland have lots of money. We have to work for our money, so development of the island is very important.

That doesn't mean that we need to overcrowd the island, but the people who come here to live, they all want peace, quiet, no tourism.

Every facility here on the island that we've got is based on that there are tourists. Even the school. so without tourism there isn't a village so even those people with lots of money that come here haven't got a place to live then all right right yeah because they are coming in buying houses and they can just do their business on the other side and yeah okay right yeah

How would you describe the current state of sustainable tourism on the island, when you think about sustainability? I think we're on the start point of

sustainability, tourism. I think we can do a lot more effort to bring it to a higher level than we already are. When I see to my own business, I think we are on a good path, but we are not

We're not on the point where I want to be. We're closing, but we're not on the level where I would like to be at this moment.

[SPEAKER_02]

that all has to do with we got two corona years so there wasn't the income and when there's no income i can't invest so yeah because sustainability is you know this three dimension of the social sustainability and the economical sustainability and then the environment yeah if you don't have the economics uh you can't say that it's it's it's uh yeah it's all linked together yeah yeah yeah

So you have some goals, but you're moving towards them? Yeah. Still recovering from corona, I guess. What do you think are the best aspects of the best...

[SPEAKER_01]

Aspects? The best points, yes. Our island, it's unique. We're in a unique piece of the world, the Wadden Sea. Our nature is unique.

And I think the community here is something that's unique.

There isn't a place in the Netherlands where you can leave your door open the whole year. There are two weeks a year that I lock my door at home. And those are the two weeks that I'm on holiday. And further on, my door is always open. And my bike...

That's what I said. I think the key is rusted in the log. And I think that is one of the most unique things we've got here on the island. It's like going back in the 50s.

[SPEAKER_02]

What are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovation and sustainable growth? On Schoenenkoog you've got the municipality.

[SPEAKER_01]

the government and we've got the national park and between those two there is war is a big word but it isn't close and I think that that is one

One aspect, we need to work together, but the distance between the nature organization and the government needs to be closed. So we are one again. In terms of communication, we need to understand each other. We need to speak the same language.

[SPEAKER_02]

So then you're thinking about the government on the island and the nature monuments. What do you see as the key strengths of Sir Monacoog in promoting sustainable tourism? The key strengths?

[SPEAKER_01]

I think the key strength we haven't got at this moment. The only thing we can promote now is how beautiful our beach is, how nice our nature is, but those are things

Yeah, they're for ages here. I think we need to cooperate with all the commercial aspects and the government and the nature organizations

And we need to make a good sustainable tourist product for the next decades. And what we now do is... a goal here, a goal there, but we need to bind it to make it our goal and not just the goal of Natuurmonument, or just the goal of the hospitality and leisure here on the island. We need to make it one.

[SPEAKER_02]

My next question will then be, are there any arenas where the different parts of the island come together and speak? Like the ones who have restaurants and the government and... The government and restaurants are... Next week we are back on... There's two meetings a year.

[SPEAKER_01]

where the measurement and government are talking together. And then we speak of what happens. We evaluate the past tense and we speak to each other from we would like to go that way.

the government, the commerce and the nature organization, there was a meeting

But that isn't that good anymore. And that is something we need to work on. Not only we as businesses, but government and the nature organizations. We need to speak the same language again. Because without each other, Schiemen de Koog is nothing.

Schiemelijke Hoog is something because we can do it together and without each other it's just an island. So as I understand it you want like all the parts of the situation to start talking together and speak the same language.

[SPEAKER_04]

And tell each other why are we doing things the way we do. So explain to each other why do we do it. We all got different perspectives of the situation. And that's why all these aspects come together, but they need to speak together. I think that's what you mean. Right.

[SPEAKER_01]

What initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges? There are some, like we call it in Dutch, proefballonnetjes. It means we make a sample and then it's over.

Good afternoon, this is Roland. Good day. Yes?

No, no, no, no. There is no negative swimming advice. What it says at the Berkenplas is that there is a warning for swimming jerks. Yes, on all three of the entrance roads of the Berkenplas is the sign. Yes, yes, but it's just a lot of azyne smear. That is really one of the best methods. Just like they do with mugs and things like that.

Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.

And then we make a plan and then the plan lands and comes under in the drawer and we wait, we wait, we wait and then it's almost a date that we told each other then the plan has to be working.

And then there is someone who says, oh, yeah, I've got a plan here. Why haven't we done anything about it? And that is...

I think Schiemen de Koog is trying to invent the wheel every time on its own. Are you thinking about the government? Yes, but not only the government. Also with the businesses.

We are too proud to ask advice on another island or on another place in the Netherlands or invite someone who already invented the wheel. And I think that is a pity that we does not use

[SPEAKER_02]

expertise from others to get our goals here. So it's like you make plans but there is no action at the end. Who is supposed to take the action? Who is managing the plans? That's the question.

[SPEAKER_01]

Yeah, they're pointing to each other.

When you point, nothing will happen. So when you say from Roland, you should do it, and I say from now on, he should do it, and he says, yeah, then the circle is round, but nothing happens. It's very similar from the island we were doing this in Norway. It's like the same problems. It's interesting.

[SPEAKER_02]

Well, it's good to hear that it's not just Schietman de Kool. But it's a little bit different because it's like a little bit of the opposite. It's a lot of people from the town living there or from the cities with money. So...

[SPEAKER_01]

And they don't want anything new there. They don't want all the tourism. It's nearly too much tourist for them. They don't want all the tourists because they want to have the island for themselves. Yeah. So that's... It's when we're not watching out, then it will happen here also. Yeah, right, right, right. It's just like you got it on Schild, one of the German water islands. Yeah.

It's the same there. Houses are sky high in price. Just rich Germans are coming to live on the island and the original inhabitants, they live on the mainland and they come with the boats every morning. They put a store open and they leave on the end of the day back to their home on the mainland. It shouldn't be like that.

No, when we are not watching out for it, it will happen here. Yeah, if you let it free for 30 years.

And we try to prevent it by saying when a house is 475,000 euros, then you can buy it when you're not living here, when you're not working here. We're not careful.

What happened here. And so when a house is under that amount of, then you need to be, you must live here, you must work here, you must have an economic binding with the island.

But yeah, when people got big, lots of flats, they can buy everything. And when a house costs 500,000 euros, it doesn't matter. That is true.

[SPEAKER_00]

How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development? How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development?

[SPEAKER_01]

We need to try to get the faces the same.

the same answer as the last question. We need to bind together and look the same way, talk the same language and put our shoulders under it and go for it. Just like we did 100 years ago. Do you have any ideas about how that can be managed?

[SPEAKER_04]

How can you get all the people to... You can give the example of the cheese. The example of the cheese. All the farmers. The cheese farm pool. That's the story. They all worked together. And now we're looking at the factory for making the cheese. That's a wonderful story. A success story. And... And...

It would be very nice if that type of story could work for the leisure. Maybe it's about creating these ecosystems with different companies on the island working together. Yeah. With the same, what you're saying, with the same language. Yeah. Do you have any more ideas about how this can be managed?

[SPEAKER_01]

get rid of all the new islanders. Well, not all, because there are some who speak the language, but there are loads of who doesn't speak the language and are on the island only for themselves and not for the community. And when you live in such a small community,

it's very needed to work together to face the problems together and of course not every problem you can face in the same language because you think it's red and I think it's black but together we can make it green right and

[SPEAKER_02]

There are too many islands on this island. How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the island's community's capacity for sustainable growth? Then I just see to my own business.

[SPEAKER_01]

What I already do for sustainability and then it's in most in the environment sustainability. I made a circle of 70 kilometers around my business, around the Berkeplas.

And I try to get as many products as possible in the 70 kilometers. For example, my croquettes, they're from Ameland. It's our neighbor island.

The beef croquettes are made from beef from cows who are living in the nature of Ameland. So it's all small. In Ameland it's 35 kilometers. It's all locally produced? It's all locally. And then it comes here and we sell it.

[SPEAKER_02]

And they taste super. I think I have to try it afterwards. Croquette, it's real Dutch. Yeah, I have said to myself after I came here, I'm going to try every croquette I come over. Every time I see croquette, I have to buy it. Yeah, it's real Dutch.

[SPEAKER_01]

Maybe we can introduce it in Norway. Yeah, maybe. It's the next big thing. Norway. Lillehammer is in Norway? Yeah, it's in the middle of the country. My friends of mine have their little pancakes in Lillehammer. Oh, cool. So they're baking Dutch pancakes in Lillehammer. All right. Awesome. I have to try that. What's their name?

Yeah, the business is called Lidle Bankenhuis. Lidle Bankenhuis, yeah. I'll look it up for you later on. For example, my oil, where we fry the fries in, I send it to a company who makes diesel of it.

yeah yeah and my my car it's a diesel car and i love my diesel car is um riding on that diesel and there um because i use that diesel my car is producing

89.3% less CO2 than when I buy other diesel. So my car is as clean as an electric car. Right, probably cleaner.

Yeah, but that is just the discussion. Because my car, when they're down and out, he can be recycled for 95% electric car. Well...

With a little bit of luck, 65%. There's always 35% of battery and stuff. But that is just... Who are you talking to? How can the government help businesses with sustainable tools?

That is a good question. It's not helping. We need to walk together in the path to sustainability tourism. Because we need to do it together.

And what is helping? You can say they need to, when I've got a good plan, then they have to say, yes, okay. But the government has also to think about...

Is it in the rules? So I can have a very good plan for sustainability, for that tourism. But when it's not compatible with the rules in the Netherlands, then I can say from the government has to...

has to say yes, but they can't. So what we need to do is we need to work together. Everything has to do with walking together, speaking the same language. When I come and I've got a very great plan and they have to say from, not from, no, it can't of yes it can oh yeah when it yes can then then it's okay but when when there is no they have to say from well we have to see if we can make it make make the plan yeah um work work

[SPEAKER_02]

Within the laws and within the rules. Yeah. Thank you. Do you have anything that the government can directly do to solve the problem of people not speaking the same language? Is it something the government can, you know, do some action to get people to start speaking the same language as you wish?

[SPEAKER_01]

No, I haven't got the answer for that. And that's because the island is in so many different islands and we need a very good skipper to connect those islands again.

I can easily say we need a new mayor. Maybe that will help. I can easily say we need to get rid of Natuurmonumenten. Maybe that will help.

Then is the next question, what is coming back for it? When we get rid of our mayor, there comes a new mayor. And is that the mayor who can connect us? Probably, but probably not. It's 50%. And that is just like the mayor we've got now. It's 50%. It will work or it will not work.

I think it's going to be very hard to do it, to say from, oh, we need to do it like this. It's a process, I think. My political party, we called Samen, and Samen means together.

Samen? Samen. It means together.

We do it together. Normally, when a party wins the elections, they come with a plan, this is what we're going to do. We did it. There are three parties on the island, and we invited the other two parties, come sit at our table, what do we want for the island? And we made a plan together.

And I think that is how we need to do it. We need to play, in Dutch you say, open cards. But we need to... Open cards? Yeah, open cards. We need to throw all our cards on the table and be fair and honest to each other. Transparent. Yeah.

And that's the only way I think it's going to work here. And that means the government, we as businesses, but the nature organization like Natuurmonumenten needs to play open card also.

And now we've got some parties on the table and they're playing poker. And they say yes, but in the end it was no. But we need to make it transparent. And that is...

[SPEAKER_02]

how it can work. Be honest. How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals?

[SPEAKER_01]

In some points we are already doing that. We've got a small government here. It's so small that all tasks of the government are not

We got not the capacity to do it all of ourselves. So the finance, for example, is in Noite Est Friesland. It's a larger community. Larger organization. And larger organization. And they do the finance for our little business.

and we work together with the other islands in Waddenraad, the Wadden community. Because there are aspects who are not only on Schiermer de Koog but are on Ameland, Schelling, Vlietland and Texel the same. So it's better to do that together.

than do it alone. Because when you're together there is a bigger fist you can make. So the start of that is already

It's there. And how can we do it more? Don't be afraid to ask the neighbor, I've got a problem, how would you fix it? Because maybe the neighbor got the solution.

And don't think, well, we've got to do it ourselves, because then instead of one week, it takes a year before we get a solution. And maybe the solution is at our neighbor's doorstep.

So we don't, we mustn't be afraid to ask for help. Outside of Schimelenkoog. Outside of Schimelenkoog, but inside Schimelenkoog, the different islands, Natuurmonumenten can always ask the gemeente, the government,

from how would you do that? And then there is a dialogue and maybe in that dialogue you can solve the problem.

[SPEAKER_04]

So different organizations on the island should and outside of the islands should work together. Work together, ask for help and see over the border of the island. See outside of the border of the island. See further than the border. As you describe it now, it's like the situation is people are like holding their pride and their secrets and their problems and everything for themselves.

[SPEAKER_01]

instead of just opening their arms. That is what I think. Then I get you right. Yeah, that's interesting. I'm finished with the questions. If you have something to add or ask? No, I think I was very complete. And I was nervous because we had to do it in English. You speak good English. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_02]

Well, he can understand, so that's important. Yeah. I think it was great. Yeah. Yeah. Well, yeah. I guess.

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[SPEAKER_01]

Alright, we're started. Just gonna ask you a couple questions about your stay at the island so far. You've been here for seven days, right? Yeah. What kind of activities have you done so far? A lot of walking on the beach, cycling, exploring the nature. And was it because of the nature that you came here in the first place? Yes, and the quietness. Okay.

So you appreciate the nature aspect and the quietness of it. Yeah. Right. Have you seen any aspects of sustainability on the island so far? In terms of how some of the business operates? I think the main aspect is that you don't see a lot of cars. Yeah? Not a lot of...

The buses drive on electricity, I think, not bicycles. So that's the main thing you see. And for the rest, not really, though. And in, like, horeca, things like restaurants, cafes, do you... Have you noticed anyone that's like, wow, this is... It says that it's sustainable in some kind of way, and you thought to yourself, wow, this is sustainable. Not a lot, no. So only transportation-wise. Yes.

But I mean that is a huge step towards a greener future is to cut down on transport. And I've seen like at the Horeca you still have to pay for like plastic cups and stuff. So it's still plastic but you have to pay like a small tax on it. Yeah and also a plastic bag fee at the store. Yeah. Glenn, do you have been to the Baken? Yes.

Did you see anything there about sustainability? I saw a few products they sell that are sustainable. But a lot of stuff they sell is also still like Chinese stuff, cheaper stuff.

Did you buy anything yourself? No. Would you have bought anything that's sustainable from the island if it was more expensive than a similar product from China? Yes, yes. Okay, so you would support the island's move to a more sustainable future. Yes, also because I spoke to different persons on the island that work here. They want the island to be more sustainable, so I support that, yes. Who did you talk to? Some people that work in...

one of the restaurants okay nice and you're staying here with your family right yeah so we're quite a big group yeah yeah and you rented a room at near the beach yeah yeah how was the sustainable aspect there or was it any sustainable aspect not really that no just a regular hotel room kind of yeah just like i'm used to yeah

And would you have paid more to stay in a more sustainable accommodation? I guess it depends on the way they are more sustainable. If they put a lot of effort in, of course you're willing to pay more. But if it's just like small things to do to be a little bit more sustainable.

[SPEAKER_00]

they still use like a lot of plastic or a lot of trash and then the question is whether that's worth to pay for. And the activities that you have to do recently, do you want to... I don't know my question anymore.

[SPEAKER_01]

Some of the activities that you've done here, would you want to do them again if you came back to a similar island? Was it something that was like, wow, this is really fun and the whole family loved it? Yeah, the most things were obviously cycling, walking. It depends on the nature. If the nature is beautiful, then it's nice to walk. And the Natuurmonumenten, they organize some trips, like go on a bus to the nature, that kind of stuff.

Did you think about that kind of trips? I thought about it, but I just did everything on my own. I've been here one time before, so I know a bit where to go. Especially asking local people where to go. They give you a lot of tips. So you've been there before. What made you come back?

[SPEAKER_00]

the quietness and the peace on the island. And did you prefer going yourself, do sustainability reasons or it's for your own? No, it's just for my own.

[SPEAKER_01]

Let's review the island as a whole community. Do you see that there's a lot of sustainable initiatives here? Or is it more just like a regular town? Well, you see some solar panels on the roof, for example, that obviously is a lot more sustainable. But like I said, I talked to some locals and one of them is part of the local authority.

and they said they are pushing for more sustainable things on the island but it's hard because of the regulations and the permissions you need to get so for example in the city center you can't have any solar panels that can be seen from the street so that makes it quite difficult to be more sustainable in some ways

Yeah. And do you see difference between the first time you have been here and the time now? The first time I've been here was a few years ago, then I didn't see the solar panels. But like you don't really see a lot of things. The island is really, I think it's important to not touch the looks of the island. And I think you are...

[SPEAKER_00]

on vacation you're really focused on the to relax and that kind of stuff and you don't think about yeah sustainability a lot yeah actually i mentioned yeah

[SPEAKER_01]

Would you be annoyed if the town pushed the sustainability narrative on you? And they were like, this is sustainable, this is sustainable, wow, look at this, we do this and this. Would you be annoyed or would you think, oh no? In a way, it depends on in which manner they would push it. But in a way, I think if you want to be completely sustainable, you shouldn't go on holiday. So in that case, the island is really dependent on tourists. So if they push tourists to be more sustainable, in a way that would be more expensive for tourists or uncomfortable, then obviously it wouldn't be great for them. Yeah, so they shouldn't lose their main base, let's say tourists, to instead push sustainability. Yes, if they can push for sustainability in a way that it doesn't affect the tourists, then it would be great. Do you see any possibilities that the island could push the sustainability while still keeping tourists attracted?

Yeah, I think there are definitely possibilities. The question is whether you can do it without really affecting anybody else on the island. Obviously, tourists can be affected and they might be okay with it, but also locals have to be okay with it. We talked to some people earlier and they said that the ferry out, that should be run on electricity or biofuel because now it's running on diesel.

And if you have 100,000 people here coming on a diesel ferry every summer, it kind of ruins the sustainability of the whole island. Would you agree that it could be useful to have an electric ferry, for example? Yes, of course, if that's possible, it would be a great solution. But with this, it's the same, like I talked to the guy who was in the local authority, and he said that...

They have talks about theory going on electricity, but it's hard because the question is whether the boats can be as big. They might have to go more often and it causes some difficulties. And nowadays the boat is...

[SPEAKER_00]

not that expensive but maybe later on in the future it will be an electric boat and the price maybe is a little bit higher do you still want to come to Schiermonnikoog if the prices of the ferry are

[SPEAKER_01]

higher well it obviously depends on the way the prices change if for example the price is double it would be quite a lot but if it's just like 50 cents more expensive yeah yeah that's doable so okay out of the um activities not in um according today in nature

Monumentum, but the activities in town, thinking of as restaurants, cafes and shops, is there a good selection of things to do or is there not that much to do in town? I think there's quite a lot to do, but it's more for the people that enjoy the quietness, the peacefulness. There are not a lot of extreme activities to do. Perhaps on the mainland you have more options, but

for in terms of the places where you can have a drink or the hotels it's quite a lot yes so it's not it may not be the best suitable island for young people who want to party and have fun yeah what are some type of things this island could do to attract young people want to party and have fun

I think that's a hard question because there are definitely possibilities. They can do more activities that young people might like. Perhaps have more clubs or bars.

But the question is whether that fits the image of the island and the way they attract tourists. Yeah, and it's also an island that's very seasonally based. In the summer they get a lot of tourists, in the winter it's seemingly no one. So how do you operate a club in the winter when it's no one coming to it? Yeah, that's the question.

All right, thank you.

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[SPEAKER_02]

And then we'll record and the data won't be used for anything else except from science. So we can start by going through who you are. What are your role on this island? Within the municipality? Yes. Sure.

[SPEAKER_04]

start. My name is and I'm policy advisor here on sustainability and housing and development of the And for sustainability it's from circular economy to the generation of renewable energy and all kinds of things.

[SPEAKER_02]

the same, because we're both working on sustainability and housing together. And I also maintain the real estate from the municipality. If you could walk me through it, what is a typical project for you? You said you do housing and sustainability. What are you concretely doing?

[SPEAKER_04]

A lot. Well, firstly, we're doing a project at the moment for getting the isolation and heating of houses here from... Ah, welcome. Hi. Hi,

[SPEAKER_02]

We have already started just by introducing ourselves. I just said a word and then it took my mind. Introducing themselves and right now they're just telling us what they concretely do in their jobs. So the isolation and heating of the houses without natural gas is one of the projects.

[SPEAKER_04]

And I think for housing we have some rules about how we divide the houses between the people. Divide houses? Yes, like the selection for who gets the house.

Yeah, for the social housing part. Social housing... What's social housing? Really? Yeah, if you rent a house, but it's from a social corporation, so it's not for profit, but... Okay. We have, I think, 150 houses. That are owned by a municipality? No, not by a municipality, by Wofriesland, who is the corporation. Ah, okay. Yeah.

people with lower lower incomes yeah so the the prices are also lower but we as a municipality um made the rules uh who gets to go first when uh yeah when a house opens up because is it an issue here that is a few houses yes yeah yeah so that's why this project is a project to help with that

Yeah. Well, it's not really a project, I guess. It is just we want to divide the houses where it's when you have a family that they can go first to a house with multiple bedrooms. And when there's just one person, you can go to a studio or something. Yeah. Yeah. All right. Very exciting.

How is your role affected by the tourism on this island? Well, I guess in housing, the tourism is kind of a threat because houses are getting more expensive because people would like to come here on vacation. and they also want maybe their own house to do so so sometimes they will buy houses for very high prices because they can afford it and then only be here for like four weeks in a year and these houses are empty basically and meant for people to live here but it's not being used that way

I think for sustainability also the tourism has a really high demand for energy. Because you see the peak in use of energy in the summer and in the weekends because there are a lot of tourists in them. And this is also the case for the water usage. Water usage? Yes, because I think tourists use more water than regular persons because they're on a holiday and don't really think about it as well.

which also don't necessarily pay for it. Yes, that's true. So you'll really see all the graphs with the peaks in usage of that. And right now we're really going towards the

yeah the breaking point of that we have too much uses of water and we don't have a permit to go above that so it's interesting to see how we can decline the uses of tourists on that part and i think that's maybe also the case for electricity yeah okay so um tourism kind of affects the island

by energy usage, both water and electricity? Yes, because normally you only have a village of a thousand people and with all these tourists who are really using a lot of energy, although we don't really have that many people living here. But do the economic trades or the money going in by the tourists, conquer the energy usage? I think most of the money that is coming from the tourists is going to the companies, the restaurants and the hotels and everything, so maybe they can cover their electricity costs, but it's still a lot. I think it would be good if we tried to let the tourists see that they can also use less electricity or water when they are here because it's more sustainable. And I think the prices for us to go energy neutral are way higher than if we only had our own village. But these tourists and these companies are not paying for the extra energy cables or the windmills or that kind of stuff.

[SPEAKER_02]

But if you had to describe the community state right now, what would you describe it as? If you think about the water system, the tourism and just how is the state right now? I don't know. I don't think there's a lot of attention for

[SPEAKER_04]

using less energy or using less water there was like 20 years ago there was a campaign on all the islands saying in the showers and everything like don't use so much water but it's not really no I think the people that rent out their houses for example because of the high energy prices they started having some measures like that you can't put the knock higher than a certain temperature and I think people get more aware but I don't really feel like it has made a huge shift yet, no. It's more like the little things and people like to eat local or maybe have some shops, tourist shops here that are circular but like the really big change hasn't happened yet. What do you think are the best aspects of this island?

Well, I think, well, nature, but that's probably what everyone says. Quiet nature and, um, yeah. No, it's also been like the cosiness of the center here. It's really attractive to tourists and to the people that live here as well. Yeah. I've heard that before too. And maybe some, some sparks like, uh, on the beach and in the, in the water.

[SPEAKER_02]

But I think that's more upcoming, that people are coming here to do water sports. What are the major challenges that the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_04]

I think one of the first challenges is maybe the price of being sustainable in energy but also in circularity. It comes with a cost price that's higher than the normal stuff, I think, for the first time. Do you know why that is? Well, because it takes investments from people and it may get rewarded with first you have to do an investment and

Some people are wary of doing that kind of stuff, I think. And is that different on an island than on the mainland, do you think? Maybe on the mainland. In rural areas they have more economic strength for

themselves, I believe. Here you have, I think, two or more groups. You have rich people that can afford it, I think, but you also have people working in retail or in hotels or that kind of stuff. I don't think they can really afford it from their own money. And everything here is more expensive than on the mainland. Because you have to get stuff here and everything is more expensive. Just a fun fact, it's still cheaper than in Norway. So we go around, oh it's so cheap. But we earn less money as well. We should be here.

[SPEAKER_02]

But what do you see as the key strengths of this island when it comes to promoting sustainable tourism?

[SPEAKER_04]

I think maybe because we're like a small community, we can be like a pilot for the rest of the Netherlands and maybe we can achieve goals a little bit easier because we're small and less people. And we're in an environment where you can promote being sustainable, I guess, with all this nature around us. You can very well. The story is easy to be told. Because it comes naturally. You go to a place that's nature. You want to take care of it. So you take care of the other stuff as well. It's easy to tell to people. And also people are coming in one way. They're coming with the boat. So you can filter that and take them from there to the journey to the rest of the places they go to. And that's different than from the mainland, I think.

[SPEAKER_02]

Yeah, absolutely. And also, I've heard that from several people now that many places on this island are protected, that you can touch them. And that also is to be able to have as much tourism as you have. Uh, but at the same time, uh, protect the nature. That is a great picture for sustainable tourism, I think. Uh, but it's your opinion. It was just a plug for going. Yeah. Do you think it's easier to promote a sustainable way of living or sustainable tourism, uh, on this island because it's such a small community and people might be more willing to stand up for their island.

[SPEAKER_04]

in such a way? Go the extra mile? I think it really depends on the people. You have some people that come and live here and they are coming and living here because they are maybe a little bit different than from the mainland, so they are more interested in these kind of topics. But generally, I don't know if that is the case. No.

maybe before I started working here I would expect it to work like that but I think we experienced that it doesn't necessarily work like that. How does it? Because people are, because we're very small everyone knows each other and that could mean that you are you can reach out quickly to everyone but they also are reaching out to each other so if some persons are not on the same page they will talk to each other um like the same day and then before you know it there is another story being told in the bars and in the restaurants and rumors yeah yeah it's it's really difficult to uh yeah If that happens, there's nothing you can do as a municipality because from the beginning you have to tell a good story. And hope it stays the same every time somebody retells it. What initiative has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges?

I think reaching out to the government, like the national government, to point out these issues we're having and they support us most of the time with money or advice. I think that's one way that all the islands are doing.

it like that, yeah. What sort of advice does the government from the mainland? Just like experts on different topics that come to us and help us out because also right here we're working with like 25 people to do everything and so we are working for like three different topics and we can't know everything. No, of course. Yeah.

So what are the challenges you might be getting advice on from the national government? Like heating of the heating system for example there's like a group of people from every municipality working on that but we have maybe some more help from the advisors from the government for us

I think also on keeping the housing prices under wraps. We had some advice on that as well. How do you want to do that? It's very complicated. I really don't know how to explain it. The municipality would have the

the grounds on which the houses are built we would keep that and get some percentage of that word every year from the people that live there and there are also a lot of restrictions on the house itself so it stays more or less the same price and if you buy it and you sell it again you'll get only like maybe 20 000 euros profit of it

[SPEAKER_02]

So inflation, is that a word? Inflation. Inflation is something else. That word. It's kind of to stop that. It can't happen here in the same degree as it does on the mainland. Well, that's the purpose of this. It's not really happening right now.

But you cannot stop it all the way, but you can slow it down. Manage it a little bit, yeah. How does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth? Collaborate with other communities maybe? Communities outside of the islands you mean? Either within the island or outside.

[SPEAKER_04]

Well, that's a good question. Well, the other islands. Yeah, we have a lot of contact with the other islands on these subjects. We're also doing projects from next year on on these subjects together with money from the municipalities, the local regions and also the national government. With the other islands, what is the agreement? How do you collaborate? Well, we chose five different aspects of keeping the islands liveable.

Livable. Livable, yeah. So one of that is sustainability and also one of that is circular economy. And then we just thought out I think like which projects should be under that and these projects we enroll on all of these islands together.

I had a question. My notebook started talking. Is there a name of the corporation between these islands? It's the Wadden Contour and the Wadden Islands. The Wadden Islands. But this is a regional deal. That's what the money will come from over the next few years. Okay, so collaboration between the Wadden Islands.

Because we also have an office in Harlingen where there are people working especially for Samenwerkingsverband.

to get us all together yeah but okay so what is the main goal between the islands when you talked about sustainability and circular economy what is the main goal yeah well i think the sustainability is to get the islands from the natural gases and to make them more self-sufficient as well yeah but main goal of this program is basically well what you said

stay livable because when everything gets expensive but also maybe heating of the houses but also the houses themselves we were staying behind then and in the end it could happen that our

It's just like tourists coming here and nobody's living here because you cannot afford it. So that's the main goal to prevent that from happening because that's what's happening on some islands in Germany. And people are going there in the morning to work in the restaurants and then go back in the evening to go home and there's nobody living on the island anymore.

And we're also focusing on the part that you have enough stuff here, like the doctors, school, all the most important parts of your life. But how can we improve that? What is the plan? People want to live here, that's not really the problem, I think. They just have to have space for everything.

maybe for teachers we are looking at places that they can stay while they work here if they live in the mainland so it becomes easier for a teacher to teach here because now you have to wait like three years before you have a house so if the school needs a teacher it's kind of a problem if there's not a teacher on the island already and then well

If the school disappears because there are no teachers, then families will disappear because there's no school and so on and so on. And I think it might be different with some other islands in the Friday Project that we don't have a problem with people wanting to come here. Because a lot of people want to come here and live here. And also like a lot of teachers, a lot of doctors, that's not really the problem. It's just the housing for them.

[SPEAKER_02]

but if space is kind of the main issue but large areas on the island can't be touched because they're protected it's really hard and I don't really know if space is the only problem because if you're looking from above I guess to the amount of houses we have

[SPEAKER_04]

I think the main issue is that many houses are not being used by people who live here permanently. No, it's vacation houses. So that's also a big problem. So in summer time there are many people here and the stores are running great.

the economy is good and then in the winter it's not as good. Well there are still a lot of people I think here in autumn and maybe also in the winter these times. And there's like enough money to go around I think to keep it open all year and that's not really the problem. Because many of the houses here

[SPEAKER_02]

are inhabited by people who don't live here permanently and these people probably don't work here either. So they don't pay taxes to this island? Not in the way that normal people do, no. Sometimes they do and they don't really care but then still there's a house being used by two people maybe from

[SPEAKER_04]

I don't know Amsterdam or something and one of them is still being registered in Amsterdam and one is registered here so in our books they are living there was one person living in that house but we know they're not living here but that's very difficult to prove that people are not living here permanently so yeah and that house should have been a teacher's for example yeah does the municipality sometimes buy houses back

No, because we had it the same as Ameland. They have a lot of houses. They are their own. We had that in the past, but we sold everything to the corporation because we couldn't manage it with our small team of people here.

So we don't buy houses. Does the corporation buy houses back? No, I think the case of buying houses back that are maybe used otherwise in a faulty way. I think we did this maybe 30 years ago, but the national government didn't really approve of it because we are meddling in the markets.

[SPEAKER_02]

Even if we would want it, I don't think we could. How do you think that the island community can improve its capacity for development? I think maybe if the island community itself

[SPEAKER_04]

would be would consist of more like young people or families it would give a more mental space and also space and time to work on more volunteering projects or different developments what is the age of the people living here like mainly you know it's best well it's mostly above 50 i would say yeah yeah and people are also coming in here when they are retiring so it's our own uh inhabitants are growing older but also older people from the mainland are coming here to spend their old days yeah so it's uh yeah then it's going very quickly yeah so with more young people

[SPEAKER_02]

like in 20s, 30s, starting to begin with their own family. Those are kind of the main groups you would want. Yeah. To start the growth. And I think they have a lot of ambitious ideas to do on the island and they also do it sometimes. But it could be more. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_04]

and also I think maybe a problem for the municipality that we don't really have enough space for these kind of projects to work out because if someone wants to do something they maybe need like I don't know a space to build something we don't really have it at this moment so that makes it very difficult to get your projects really up and running at this moment yeah

[SPEAKER_02]

So every time you have an idea to start with something, there's something else that stops it? Often it's the space.

[SPEAKER_04]

You just don't have that much space. So if you have like... How to make more space. Yeah, if you have like one thing, you can build something. A company wants to go there. Maybe you want to build houses

there. Maybe a station wants to go there. Maybe we need it for clean energy. Yeah, there are a lot of questions for this space. How can you and your organization contribute to enhance the island community's capacity for sustainable growth? That's a long question. To enhance the sustainable growth. I think we should inspire people and we're doing that a lot. I think this year, because the project has started. I think we can also inspire the companies more. Maybe by sharing best practices among the people from the island or maybe bring inspiring projects from elsewhere here. And maybe also facilitate them by helping them find funding or that kind of stuff. find funding? Yeah, for like if they want to do something on the circularity from their hotel for example, they probably need some loans to get it done because they don't have the money themselves. Yeah. And maybe we can advise them on that. Yeah. Right. How can the How do you pronounce that word? Municipality. The municipality helps businesses with sustainable tourism. I don't really know yet. I guess the same as your answer before. Inspire and funding. Bringing people together as well. I think from the Friar project we're now doing that a little bit. And I hope that helps somehow. And make it easier for them to take steps in a more sustainable business, I guess. Yeah. Well, that's the main goal. Yeah. We try. But... How much, like...

[SPEAKER_02]

I don't like the word power, but how much power do you have to influence the businesses and the mainlanders?

[SPEAKER_04]

Well, I think the municipality has power on lots of different levels. So we have money so we can subsidize something. We also are in control of a lot of the permits. So if people want to, for example, have a solar field, we can say no, we don't want it because it doesn't suit here or that kind of stuff. So we can also be of positive influence and say yes you can do it and maybe capacity with thinking out about problems advising about that i think we have a lot of power in that sense do you in some sense now um what's the word when you um

[SPEAKER_02]

like not congratulate but when you if a business wants to start up with something that's more sustainable do you kind of profit that or give them uh something like a price that's good we want this um there's a there's a way more better word in origin i just no no i think we thought about that before

[SPEAKER_04]

Because for the global goals, the sustainable development goals, we are starting some things like a market in which the people can show what they do and then we say proudly that they are on the island and work on a lot of stuff. We also talked about maybe if you want to get one entrepreneur and give them some kind of prize, but I don't think that would be very good for the community. Maybe not. Because they wouldn't be happy if they wouldn't get a prize and the other one would. But some type of maybe giving them some more recognition might help I think. Maybe not a prize but a different type of stimulation to do sustainable acts. I know in Norway we have the government is giving out

[SPEAKER_02]

money basically to people who follow these sustainable rules. Incentives? I have no idea. Maybe. And that has made most business owners aware of the issue of the environment and also has hired sustainable managers and people who are in charge of everything to get appreciation from the government and also money. Yeah, I think for the businesses we're still working on that. We didn't really start this up.

[SPEAKER_04]

The national government is also developing all kinds of programs to guide municipalities and help them to start with these businesses.

become more sustainable so next year there will be this program where companies and business can get an advisor who will guide them through everything they can do on sustainability for free and we could combine that with funding or something like that to get them started but right now we're not really focused on it yet. It's also difficult because right now the energy capacity is not really good on the island so people can't go from the natural gases to electricity for example because they have to get more electricity then and they are not allowed by the network manager right now. So it's difficult. I understand.

How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals? What are the plans? I think we are already collaborating a lot with this Regio deal. We worked it out very carefully so we really know what our goals are and our challenges. For the municipality or for the community? Yeah, I think municipality. I saw on the other island, they had like a corporation of the companies and organizations, not only from that island but from all the islands together. I think that might be interesting to have because then maybe on the other islands some restaurants or hotels are really stepping forward and doing circular stuff and that might be very interesting for us and we could exchange a little bit more because then you have more companies because we we don't really have that much here and they are also not with that much people in their company so it would be just nice to exchange that i think

[SPEAKER_02]

That was the last question. Thank you very much

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[SPEAKER_03]

Okay, what is your role in the island community? Well, I'm an alderman, so I'm part of the government of our community. I don't know what I have to add there.

I'm not sure either. You're free to say what you want. Yes, but I think that's the role I play mainly on the island. That's the role of Elderman. We make the decisions and we prepare the decisions that councils can make. How is your role affected by tourism?

Everything is affected by tourism here because tourism is a big part of our lives and our economy. So we're somehow all affected by tourism.

has on the one hand you have to have a structure in your community that contributes to the tourism and that is like the

Things like you have to have good roads, it has to be nice to be here, you have to put the trash from all the tourists, you have to get to the mainland as well, all practical things like that. In summer, in July, in August, we have like guards on the beach that watch the tourists, so we have a lot of things we organize in our community that are part of that tourist industry, if you wish. On the other hand, we get income from the tourists as well. Our inhabitants live by tourism, but we also get something that's called the tourist tax and from that tourist tax we by those things we need to have for the tourists, yes. So, and your role specifically?

In tourism. I don't have a big part in tourism. I have, as an elder man, I have social work, secularity. So that's, again, trash from the tourist is part of the secularity. I have energy. What else? movements, like the ferry and the buses. Like you've been working on today. Yes, like I've been working on today. So it's all affected by tourism in some way, but I don't have the economics and tourism is not part of my...

[SPEAKER_00]

I understood. I don't know how it will translate in the airport. We go through them so if it's not perfect we will understand some of it. How would you describe the island community and its current state?

[SPEAKER_03]

I think our island community is a close community. We have a few people short of a thousand inhabitants. That's a small community and I think the basis of that community is very close. What you see is that you also have a lot of people who work in tourism and they change. Sometimes people stay for a few months, sometimes they stay for three years, sometimes they stay for long periods. get married, have kids and become a real part of that community. Also we have since I think seven years, maybe a bit longer, we have more inhabitants that buy houses so they migrate to the islands when they're like 50, 60 years old and they have They are going to retire, have a bit of money, sell their house, buy a house here and go live on the island. So you have basically a lot of different groups together on the island. I think that especially the people who stay for a long time somehow always integrating the society are asked to do the volunteer jobs or help with something so that it's basically especially in winter time a very nice place to live.

[SPEAKER_00]

You have the mixed ages as well? Yes. It's mainly old. This is a community that is...

[SPEAKER_03]

It's getting old quick and quicker than in other parts of the Netherlands. And it's because people, the base population was already a bit old. They get old here and they migrate here when old. To retire. Yes. So you have like triple migration.

Yeah, we call it vergrijzing. I don't know if there's a term for that. Aging. Yes. If that's a term that's used. It's similar in Norway. The elders, they move to the islands for peace and quiet. Yes. And the younger people are sometimes a bit...

don't feel understood because they have to work hard they do work hard and there's not a lot of things organized on the island for the young people so sometimes that's hard it's it's the talks talks bar is very nice but what we see is that sometimes it's also a bit concerning because when all you do is meet in the bar all you do is drink and uh

[SPEAKER_00]

A lot of people here drink a lot and that's not a good thing. Not all of the time, every day, yes. And if we go into your field, which is circularity and sustainability, can you tell me about how tourism here is sustainable or is not sustainable?

[SPEAKER_03]

Oh, that's a good question. Per definition, I don't think that tourism is very circular because you have to get a lot of things to the island that you don't have on the island. This island really is a monoculture when you look at economics. So you just have tourism and a bit of farming and that's it. and in the old days when you used to have a community that would also provide for itself, it would grow its own food and vegetables and things like that and we do that like for a few percent and that's because of the garden here on the island that has beautiful crops and that's new also. So I don't think that tourism is that sustainable. It adds to the footprint of the island.

Just look at the energy you need for all the tourism. Yes, that's a negative footprint. I think we are... We have little, small things we do on the island, like we have the water fountains. We believe in Holland, here on the island anyway, that we don't like the little plastic bottles like that, because it adds to the plastic. So we installed those on the island.

Some group did, there's a very active group here, it's an SDG group from the Sustainable Development Goals together with FERI who has a CO2 compensation fund and they used the money to install these on the island, the community.

It does the maintaining and things like that, so it's a cooperative initiative. And that's a small example of how we are trying to get that little bit of circularity back.

Also we do a lot with the waste on the island. We collect all the waste and we separate just three things. One is the paper and the paper on the island is gathered by our local football club and a soccer club and they collect it for many many years and they pay everything they need to do. They pay with the price of the paper they sell. So that's a Does the paper waste itself? Does that go back to mainland? Yes, it does go back to the mainland, yes. And they get a price for that. And with that, they, for instance, pay for... Our teams always have to go to the mainland to go to the games. And they pay for that with the paper that they collect year round.

The other thing we are circular in are the... We collect grass and the clippings of the bushes and the trees and we collect them and what we're going to do with that is that we sometimes
Now we're going to make compost. Yes. Yeah, you know about that. So that's another thing we separate and try to have more circular. When we cut trees, normally we use them, we get them to shredder and use the shredded chips somewhere in paths and things like that. But to make compost of it is even better because it adds to the
the ground gets better. The other thing we collect is glass. Glass we collect separate and the other waste all goes together in underground
Bins, containers, yes. And they all go to the mainland. But we have a contract with OMRIN. And OMRIN is very good in their circularity. So they, I think that 95% of their waste is recycled in their plant, actually. And they make like
green glass out of the diapers and the plastic is all recycled on the other side of the road. We feel that having a recycling company that does such a good job is better than to do it yourself.
That's mainly the circularity on the island. The other thing that's really circular on the island are the islanders themselves. They recycle a lot. When they have something they don't use anymore, we have a Facebook group that's called the Giveaway Corner.
And we give all kinds of stuff away and it works as well. It's very nice. Yeah, that's nice. We have a similar thing called finn.no, which is find where you can sell or give away your used items. Yes, that's the same. And what you see here is a lot of people who in this time of year,
I have time to go through the house and check if something doesn't fit anymore or isn't used anymore. And you see all kinds of stuff and there's always someone who can use it or reuse it. It's nice. It's nice. Very nice. Yes. Anything else you'd like to add? Oh, I don't know. No, I think those are the main things. At the moment, I can add one more thing. It's water. We have like water and compost as well. We have like a subsidized arrangement for our inhabitants that they can buy. They get a small amount of money when they themselves buy like
And it's raining.
oh yes grain collection vessel yes and the same with very good the same with a compost bins i think so so we try to incentivize the use of search yes yes and iphone myself it's perfect because and the water is very good for the gardeners as well for the plants inside the house and yeah
right so so you might not drink it but you can use it for we don't drink it but i i use it always for for the plants or sometimes for other things yes yeah that's nice yeah yeah
Okay, we'll move on then. Yes. What do you think are the best aspects of this island? I don't want to butcher the name. The best aspects, I think nature is stunning here. I think we're very lucky people that within 10 minutes we're on the beach. We can take a swim in summer. We have like the best Sunrises and sunsets you can imagine and I think that's very nice. I like being a part of a small community where the sense of community is important. I like that as well.
For such a little community there's a lot of culture here as well. Like the music festival we have next week is a very big festival. We have two big classical musical festivals. So there's basically a lot to do here on the islands and I like that very much. Nice. They took me for a bike ride.
Up around the sandbags and the bunker. Very nice. It's so stunning, isn't it? And it's so easy to get around because it's very flat. It's very flat, yes. We were on the French island and we had just regular bikes. We're Dutch, we can bike. Like this. I had to get off the bike sometimes.

[SPEAKER_00]

It's different. It is very different, yes. What would you say are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_03]

On the one hand we have little room to build and that's concerning houses but it's also concerning workshops, things like that. We have very little space for that, for energy as well. Everything here has a destination, destination perhaps not the best word but

Yeah, its purpose has already been determined. Yes, yes, yes. So you have the village, there's no room in the village to build, almost none. You have the farmlands, there's no room to build on that as well. And you have nature and there's no room to build on that as well. It's a reserve. Everything is reserved. I think that's a big, big challenge because when you have space or something that isn't used, you get innovation. And we lack innovation because we lack space. Sometimes maybe a bit of knowledge.

could be um and i think water and energy will be our biggest how did you call it um obstacles challenges yes yes challenges let's say challenges so uh space energy and uh and water and water yes yes yes what about uh what if you're built up or down

Yes! That would be very interesting, yes. No, you're absolutely right. If you build up, you have You have more space. A little bit more space. Yes, you have. We are not used to build up. So if we build up, I think we have like a landscape committee in Holland who judge the things you want to build. I'm curious how they would feel about that. But if everything else is not possible, it is a good solution to look at. You also mentioned knowledge. How do you think the awareness of sustainability is in the community?

I think there is some, but I also think that we could use more knowledge. Basically, people who live here are on the island like 90% of the time, 10% they have off, they want to use to spend holiday with their kids and won't share knowledge with other companies who are nearby and maybe think of something innovative. So I think it's always difficult to have innovation on the island. People are busy and when you're busy you don't have time to innovate. Innovation takes time.

Relaxed mind and contemplation, innovation are going hand in hand. We talked a little bit about sustainable tourism.

[SPEAKER_00]

What do you see as the key strengths of this island in promoting sustainable tourism? We talked to the Natur... Majolijn. Majolijn, yes. And she mentioned some of the excursions they do to see these mud flats and such. Yes. Are there other such things that you do that could be considered

[SPEAKER_03]

to raise awareness awareness in tourists or yes our tourists are very aware of the um of the beauty of the island and

also sometimes more aware of the need of circularity than we are. For example, behind you, you see a photograph and that's our mayor in the middle with a major and she's standing between loads of plastic rubbish and that's because of the MSCA Zoe, there was a ferry and who had containers and all those containers that broke open and washed over over the Wadden Islands, Schiemenkoog as well. It was a complete mess. It was like you got 40 stores and put them on the beach. It was madness. And plastic everywhere. Really, really, really, really bad. and within a day there were like so many tourists on the island to help so it was a really um I found it very emotional to walk with all these people on the beach and then turn around and see nothing anymore. It was just the beach we got clean and not the oceans because in the oceans there's a lot of trash as well. But the power of the people and the love of those people for our island, that's incredible. So I think that the tourists on this island are aware of our nature and are very aware of sustainability and i think if you want to help or want to promote something like that on the island i think that would be fertile grounds yes yeah and the other thing is the Natuur Monument had an excursion in a while i love that excursion and had a discussion about plastics, about microplastics, and the amount of microplastics they discovered in a type of seagull, I don't know the name of the seagull, it's a stern, so we probably can't translate that, but it's a small bird that just is on the sea most of the time and eats only at sea so everything in the stomach of that bird comes from the sea and they research that bird and see how much plastic is in their stomachs after they die of course and by that they can predict how much plastic is in the sea and how much plastic is in our ecosystem and they did an excursion about that and that that is really they do that a lot with did that a lot with our school children and the other excursions at school children we always tell about the plastics and a lot of people here in the island as well as the children but here the inhabitants as well always work walk with a bag in their pocket and when they go for a nice walk on the beach and they find something they just collect it and at the end of the walk they put it in the bin and that's great yeah everyone is helping yes yes and we have a few um organized beach cleanup days as well lots of people come here clean up the beaches that's that's wonderful yeah yes very nice yes it's very so there is ecotourism on the island as well yes i might have to um reformulate this next question so i have to think a little bit

[SPEAKER_00]

We were talking about the challenges like space and water and the knowledge. What initiatives has the island taken so far to help these challenges?

[SPEAKER_03]

The water initiative, we're just thinking and talking about that at the moment and what we see is that it's part of the Friar project as well. What we see is that there's a lot of knowledge about water in all the different places and we want to combine that knowledge and make like a water plant for Schiemende Koog so we can, well, produce water for the future. So that's water. For energy, we made a big study about energy, about how much energy we're going to use, how much energy we can

get on the island and how much we have like a cable to the island that provides energy and a cable actually two cables and we also make energy on the islands mainly on the roofs of farms but all of the energy goes back into the system so it's not used locally it's just

It goes back and forth. Energy is a problem in the Netherlands. Not just here, but in all kinds of places.

There's a big station near Dokkum on the mainland that has to be rebuilt. And if that's rebuilt, our energy will be better. Our energy flow will be better.

Do you mean more stable? Yes, more stable, yes. It's like the peaks are... And because we...

When we have lots of sun we have high peaks when we deliver back and sometimes when we have lots of tourists we have high peaks of use. We made a big study if that station near Dokkum is rebuilt, if we are fine or need to make adjustments to a system or a cable or things like that. We've done that and it looks very good if an energy company does what it's supposed to do. So we now have a time path like in a few years then the station will be okay, so we'll be okay, so we can have

like we can think about our energy now when we want to provide for ourselves so maybe build like a solar field again space is a problem there but we can like a council our council can say well we want a sun field or we want a sun field and we want a windmill windmill can be a problem as well because all the birds yeah but

we can first say, well, we want sustainable energy and then look if it's possible. If it's not possible with birds and things like that, don't do it. So none of us will, but you can investigate that. So we can now make a

plan, try to make a plan, an energy plan for the next couple of years. So that's where we're at. And that's a slow moving process. It's a painstaking, slow moving process because everybody wants to get our own energy or make their own energy at the moment and it's at the moment it can't be done because our system is too weak and because of regulation so yeah it's a it's journey yeah yeah it takes time yeah

It takes a lot of time, yes. And that's sometimes very frustrating. How does the island get its water?

That's a good question. We have dunes and our dunes are like a natural filtration system. Below our island we have a

a sweet water bubble and that's perfect because if you have that you can pump up the water and get it through a filtration system we have a filtration system here on the island so it's really beautiful it's very good water because we need very little additions or chlorines or things like that it is very tasteful but Also in summertime we have lots of tourism and we have like lots of water use. Water use is getting bigger, people get outside showers, have small swimming pools in their yards, things like that. So we can tell in the summertime that it's getting

My opinion is that we're nearing the edge. I'm not quite sure about it. We have to hear that from the water company as well, but I'm quite sure of it.

Nature needs a lot of water as well so if you use too much water you will negatively affect nature so we have to be very very careful with that. The French islands we went to, one of the islands used

Once too much water in the sweet water bubble, what happens then is you can't replenish it because the salt water gets out. You won't get a sweet water bubble anymore. It's a one-time thing, so you have to be very careful about it.

But at the moment we have very nice wood. Yes. Is there a plan for...? Not yet. And I think we should have a plan for it. Yes. Yes. That's interesting. I've never heard of these bubbles before. No, no, no, no, no. You have a lot also in

[SPEAKER_00]

in the mainland it's only here it floats on salt water so that's that's cool that's really cool all right next question how does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainability or sustainable growth sorry how does it collaborate oh that's i think it's a very especially the the business owners and the

[SPEAKER_03]

I don't think there's much regulation at the moment for sustainability. I think we try to, like the farmers, we have subsidies also. The government gives money if you put solar panels on your own farming roofs for instance and the same with with other businesses you get but i don't think there's much regulation about to to ensure that businesses sorry um

[SPEAKER_00]

Do you know how businesses on the island collaborate? How do they work together? Are there arenas, places they can communicate?

[SPEAKER_03]

three, I think, forms of collaborations on the island, from the businesses. First you have the FEFEFE and FEFEFE is the Tourist Information and what it has on the island is members and you can be a member if you have a business or you can be a member if you have like a house for rent or things like that so they have a lot of members and they're all actually business owners or owners of apartments so that's a very they have like twice a year i think they have like a meeting with all the members so that's a very good thing to be That they're united. Thank you. I'm getting tired, so my English words are disappearing in my head. The other thing they're united in is the... The Horeca stands for the hotels, the restaurants and the bars. So a service. Yes. And they're united on the island. And you also have like the businesses themselves have like an own club as well. And they're united as well. So they unite very good.

[SPEAKER_00]

yeah interesting yes but there's no uh like conferences or otherwise uh talks on how how to actually innovate and and uh not that much succeed in success sustainable growth no no not that much no no

[SPEAKER_03]

Now, what we did a few years back, we made a vision on tourism, and we made the vision on tourism with members of the VVV, members of all the things I just mentioned. And it was mentioned there, how are we, but not...

a really thorough like how are we gonna do it and how are you gonna do it the goals the goals are there yes so that that's not the strategy but not the strategy yet no no so so i think um we need the strategy yeah at the end yeah

Because I think on the one hand, like I said, with OMRIM, we have a great partner because 95% of our waste is recycled. So that's very good.

Beyond that, we don't do that much. And we decided, I think two years ago, that we want to do more with circularity in our own building. So when we build, it has to be partly circular as well. That's leading by example. Of course. Yeah, I think this...

[SPEAKER_00]

goals and I think Freyja is going to be so good for these communities in that way because you can see how effective it can be to just meet and talk and share and not just between countries but also businesses just get talking and

[SPEAKER_03]

Yes, I agree. And we have also, it's called the Wadden Deal. We have, with the other islands, we have put money together and tried to make certain things happen on all of the five islands at the same time by collaboration. So Clarity is

also part of that program. So what we do here, we want to bring back to our Wadan Deewa as well. So it won't affect just us, but it will be a learning process for all of the animals. That's great. So, yeah. Okay.

We have three more questions. Do we have time? Yeah, sure.

How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development? Used to high fiber diet and now it's all starches. Oh, okay. I think that's a difficult question. Absolutely. Yes. Yes. I'm not sure yet. No? No. No. No.

Any ideas or personal opinions on what could be important to increase capacity? I think we first have to increase knowledge. I think you should start with knowledge and start from there. When you know what you need to innovate, then you can act on it. Yeah.

Yeah, and I think maybe what we need is a place as well. That's what I hear from like, we have like this beautiful old man here on the island who have like a circular cafe where they mint things. You can go there every Tuesday morning and they mint things like your, when you have like a ring.

iron and your socket isn't good anymore, you just take it to them and they mend it for you. And I spoke to them a few days back and they said we love what we do but when we go to the library and then once a week we're there and put something over the table so we can mend things and bring all our tools and It would be so good to have a place to store this and maybe do this more often or teach. So I think a physical building can help us well. But then again, the space. That's an interesting one. There was something we discussed during the previous interview as well. A hub for teaching people about it and trying stuff out.

[SPEAKER_00]

Getting together, talking, learning and doing things was her proposal. Okay, well, we'll move on. That's a great idea, I think. How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the islands capacity for growth? What's your contribution? Well, I think

[SPEAKER_03]

being part of things like Faraya Helps, so that. I think we can play a role in getting people together and organising events and also when

We need room or space or things like that. And that becomes obvious. We're also responsible for the planning. So we can take a role in that as well. Yes. And the sharing of knowledge with the other islands as well. I want to add a question to your previous answer about this hub or meeting physical building.

[SPEAKER_00]

Who do you think would have the responsibility to be the initiative taker?

[SPEAKER_03]

the one who takes the initiative to make that and it can be all sorts of things like what you see now is that Rijksuniversiteit of Groningen and Hanse work together a lot and get the knowledge to our island and you're part of an interaction between those and the Rijksuniversiteit has a building on the island so that building could be

the hub you want there's a place there and and it's used for it's a biology field lab at the moment it's very much used so yeah but it can be also a place maybe for something bigger and and

Because when we have to rent a location for an event, we can do that. Our council house here is always open to certain events.

When necessary, we rent the Dorpshuis, that's in the middle of the town, or the Stag, that's more there. We have all sorts of rooms we can rent to bring the people together, we do that a lot, but have a hub full-time.

Well, I wish we would have a hub somewhere, the room to make a hub like that. But if it's a school or a university driven, then maybe a university should provide it.

It's difficult. Yeah, it's a difficult question because it would be very nice if that would happen, that like the Rik would say, well, sure. We have lots of students who want to learn about this thing. We have like a place here and we have like an island that needs it. Come over.

I would like really like that yeah but right now we're um co-working with Natuur Monumenten to facilitate this so yeah with a little help of the other partners like De Hanze and De Rug so it's a co-creation I think that's good as well let's see

How can the municipality help businesses with sustainable tourism? So the service businesses like the hotels and the restaurants. It's a difficult thing as well because in Holland we very much feel like our businesses have their own responsibility as well and like when you look at

energy we try to help them with advice but businesses have to do it themselves and like we they have like the garbage again we collect that and they have to pay but we collect that and separate it but

I think it's difficult to say to businesses you have to recycle, you have to, you want them to want it for themselves. And I think that's perhaps the thing you need to do, explain that

our water can be a problem and that they need water so we have to make perhaps a campaign about water and ask them to use less water or reuse water but we can only do that by

trying to convince them or subsidize them so they can make the step towards sustainability. I really agree. You can't force this kind of change. And it's temporary. You will just go back to what you used to do. Yes, yes, yes, yes.

[SPEAKER_00]

Okay, last question and then you're free. How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals? So there's the thing going on with these guys now and us, but... I think that's a good start. Also, again on Ile de Croix in France,

[SPEAKER_03]

They have like 18 islands collaborating and once a year they have like an island festival. And the island festival has a theme and all the, or not all the islands, but some of the islands go to somebody else's island.

and exchange knowledge and party it's a very good combination for islanders so i think things like that could help as well organize it yeah get people to the islands yeah

Is there a collaboration with the other islands around? There is. There is a collaboration. We don't have like parties. The council members come together once a year and it's two days and always on one of the islands.

And we exchanged a lot of ideas during that period. And also we have a sport week. No, it's not a week, it's a weekend, sorry. And it's been like, I think it's been there like for 30 years now and always on one of the islands there's a sport weekend. The islands compete with each other on

[SPEAKER_00]

in soccer, running, like kitesurfing, things like that. Island Olympics. Island Olympics, yes, yes, yes. And how about the challenges in the green transition? Do you share about how you...

[SPEAKER_03]

tackle the challenges with the other islands or yes like on the municipality yes Lisa works for for instance works with the other advisors from the other islands so they work together very much and we do also and it's also again part of the regio deal from the water islands so yes

Are their challenges similar? Some of them are, some of them are not. The thing that we have in common is that we're all far from the mainland.

where other communities can interact with other municipalities on energy level, we cannot. We can just communicate with ourselves so we can't share energy or get the peaks to flatten with other communities and in some parts of the Netherlands that's already going on with

For example, for bakers that bake at night and other businesses, here on the island there's no escape and that's the same on the other islands. And we have like an old network here on the island so it has to be renewed as well to modern standards with solar panels and a warm to pump system.

Yeah, I understand. Good luck with that word. It's a difficult one. Yes, it is a difficult one. The inside, I think they're called space heaters. Yes, but also the ones that are standing on the outside and converting the sun. Oh, okay.

the solar power, they convert the solar power. That's like a big pump. That's like a big pump that gets the water through. Interesting. Probably a lot of different technologies there. There is, but it's commonly used. It takes up a lot of energy as well. So this is a solar panel thing?

It's combined with solar panels, often combined with solar panels. Instead of gas heating, you use a pump. Okay. Interesting. Yes. Not very relevant, but interesting. Electricity instead of fuel. Yes.

[SPEAKER_00]

Okay, that's about it, I think. If you don't have anything to add? No, I think we covered very much. Okay, thank you. Thank you.

Audio-recording-2023-09-28-153946.txt

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[SPEAKER_03]

Is life more expensive here? Yeah, definitely. Because, well, the supermarket is more expensive. Yeah, but if you earn more? Well, maybe, I guess, because you also have to travel from here to the mainland, you have to take the ferry, you have to pay for that, and it's getting more expensive every year, so I guess that's... And you have to... Sometimes you have to...

Like when you're getting a new couch or interior or something, it all has to come from the mainland and it has to be transported over here. And most businesses on the mainland ask for an extra fee too.

[SPEAKER_01]

So what does that mean for people that live here? Say in your social housing, do they save less or do they live with older furniture? How does it pan out? I don't really know if they do that. Also our social housing in the rest of the Netherlands is limited to an amount of

[SPEAKER_02]

money you earn yeah with us it's not the case okay so even if you get a million dollars every year yeah uh you just get the social housing if you're eligible for it yeah so the social housing is also mainly used to attract like the the teacher or something to the yeah yeah and also because they're not really and there's another another option yeah yeah so if you would uh but i don't really feel like people live have less expenses because they maybe they just save less that would be the case I think you also I think have different kind of expenses because you don't really have that much to do here so on the main end you would maybe do real other stuff with your money

You can read more or drink more. Yeah, you drink more here. I don't think people are eating and drinking less here. No, that's not the case. They're spending their money. Yeah, in different ways, I think. More on the same... I can imagine that you spend less on your car. Yeah. Yeah, some people don't have a car. Some people do, then you also have to pay for the garage. Or you pay for the...

way to get here and back that's also expensive yeah some people only have a car on the mainland you can yeah yeah i have only a car and you live here yeah but i have to have to pay for the parking spot in uh yeah you rent here yes okay you too uh well i live on the mainland but i went here oh okay okay

[SPEAKER_03]

But would it be positive or negative if the ferry was free? For inhabitants, really. I don't know. For cars, I think you don't want that because then everyone would take their car here and it's not necessary and you don't want cars on this island. But maybe for...

for the people it makes it especially for people who don't really earn a lot because they're working in the restaurants and the bars maybe it would make it easier to because it also sometimes means people are because of the ferry not attending to some health care we don't have here say it was postponing to go to the hospital for some reason return anything like that because it's you have to take the ferry and come back yeah

[SPEAKER_00]

I just know that in Norway, the new government has said that we want all ferries to be free in Norway. For everyone? For everyone. Not cars, I think, just people. I haven't read the whole script. But I think that the main reason they want to do that is so people will use the islands more.

I think. I don't think we want more tourists. No. Maybe not. So here it's not, that wouldn't be like a solution. No. But maybe for inhabitants it makes it easier to go and pick stuff up that you don't have here. Yeah. What are your restrictions on incentivizing things like if you want people, can you incentivize people to do more electric

[SPEAKER_02]

that they buy electric cars, for instance, here on the island? We don't have it yet. The national government has that, of course. We are looking to get an emission-free zone on the island, with actually the whole island. So if we do that, we might have to incentivize it, yeah. And if we can do it, I think you can, if you just make a subsidy. You can have local subsidies on that, and that is...

we couldn't do it i think it's possible but we have to have money what um what are the what are the connections of this island to the mainland uh and i mean uh infrastructure wise you have two electricity cables yes yeah and at least one water water oh no no no no no no no no no no no no no no no no

[SPEAKER_03]

Gas? Gas pipes, yeah. One or two? I think two, because if one gets broken, you need another one. It's the same for electricity also. You're using one and the other one is just there for... And the other one is not used? No. Okay, so the capacity that you're now at is also because you only use one cable. Kind of, but they can't really do it another way. They are... Prohibited by the law.

[SPEAKER_02]

But also there are like the spandex problems with the cable, like technical problems with the cable, so we can only use half of its capacity right now. So it can actually use only 25% of the cable that is actually lying there. Of everything. And Suez? Is there a Suez connection? Suez is on the island, right?

[SPEAKER_01]

So no water, no sewage, electricity, gas, and data. We have that as well. Oh, also two. I don't know, there are two of those. Don't know. Maybe one. And the gas pipe comes from the mainland, there's no gas coming from other directions, from oil, gas? No. Are there connections between this island and the other islands? No. Okay, so there's no grid.

[SPEAKER_00]

Those were my questions, I guess. Yeah. I've got a lot out of this. Thank you very much.

Audio-recording-2023-09-28-154154.txt

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[SPEAKER_03]

It's the 28th of September and we are together with at this, what's it called this place? Family Restaurant Hedlantai. We should maybe come here. So what's your role in the island community?

[SPEAKER_02]

I have my own business on the Schiemle Cove, but also I'm in the community council from Schiemle Cove. And how is your role affected by the island tourism? My role in tourism, yeah. How does it affect you? Yeah, it's my bread winning.

Very much so. Yeah, so you are dependent on it? Absolutely, yeah. I think 90% of Schiemen de Kolk is depending on tourism. Yeah, okay. It's not direct, not all direct, but indirect also, because the building, the installation company, they all have a right to be here because of the tourists. Yeah.

I understand. And how would you describe the island community and its current state like now? How is it now here? No, it's good. We miss on Schiemenekog young adults. It becomes lesser and the elderly become more. So that's a little bit difficult because we all have

A lot of volunteers work, like freelancers. I know Free Will is Arbeider, but it was in Norsk, so you're working for... Yeah, and the Sea Rescue, the Fire Department, it's all voluntary.

Even the fire department? Even the fire department, yes. There are one or two from Schiemeneko who are not voluntary, but the rest is all voluntary. There are some 20 people in the fire department. Okay.

Interesting. They call it voluntary but not voluntary. So they have to learn everything what...

A professional fire department also needs to know. How is the current state on sustainability? It's getting better, but tourism and sustainability, it's difficult to combine. But it's getting better.

Well, how does it look like now, if you would describe it as, what do you see now, the current state or like? Well, we're on our way, but, and especially the hotels and the restaurants, they can do perhaps a little bit more. Lando Vittimares, where you went, they are very good to do so. They also have the green key, and we also have the green key, but that's one

R2 from the 20s and 30s. What do you think are the best aspects of Tjernakopp? It's cozy, the nature, the environment, the beach. That's all the best aspects. Are there some other things you would put in, like the people?

[SPEAKER_03]

of course the people, but I don't think the tourists come for the people, it's because it's rust and nature. What are the major challenges of the community faces in terms of innovation development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_02]

The Isle of Schiemle-Kolk wants to be self-sustainable in 2030, but there are some difficulties in. Because if you want it, that's no problem. Tuesday evening we had a conversation with the community council. 2030 it's possible but then we have a windmill. We have to need a windmill because only of some it does work. The solar energy alone is not enough and it doesn't always shine enough for Schiemeneko. Like today. What do you see as the key strengths in Schiemeneko in promoting sustainable tourism? I don't know. I think Schiemeneko, it sells itself. It tells itself by the nature and what about circularity, I don't know. We always said in 2030 we want a windmill. Let's see that you have a windmill because they can see that you are... Sorry for my English. No problem. The tourists can see the windmill on the island.

[SPEAKER_03]

then they see that you are working on being more sustainable. So it kind of affects the way they see the island. They are conscious that you are working on it. What initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges that you had? If you look back or now lately or...

[SPEAKER_02]

Have there anything that, oh, you've seen that, oh, this we've solved? Yeah. One of the major problems in the old town of Schiemenekoop, it's monumental status. So when you have some house like that, you can't put them full with solar. What they did, and that's called a postcode rose. Yeah. I tried to understand what that is. Yeah. I'll explain, then I hope you understand it a little bit. They rent a roof from a farmer. And then the people who can't put the solar panel on their roof, then they can buy the solar on the roof from the farmer. Oh, I see. So he rents out his place. Yeah, yeah. And then they can produce their own electricity, say, and that's called a postcode. Postcode, that's a... Postcode. Postal code, yeah. Zip code. Zip code, yeah. So that's one of the things that you already solved, kind of, now. Not enough, but it's one of the things that's, yeah. Is there something else that you would add? Yeah, the local swimming pool is... Normally they heat swimming pools with gas or that's... And this year it became with a warm water pump. Okay, warm water pump.

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah, two I think, but yeah. You're trying at least. We try, yeah. How does the island community collaborate, how do you say, to promote innovative development and sustainable development? Do they have any kind of partnership or...

[SPEAKER_02]

I don't think they promoted themselves, but yeah, we're in UNESCO World Heritage and we are a national park, so... Was it something that you applied for or was it that UNESCO came to you? No, I don't think we applied it for itself, but at the bigger Warranty from Netherlands, I think, yeah, they, yeah. Okay. Yeah.

at national park that we applied for himself okay but that was in 1989 so yeah it's a long time ago yeah okay um how do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development

Good, but difficult question. I think they have to work together with the islands and not just particularly the Dutch islands, but also some like this and the German islands. When you are together, you are stronger, but you can learn from each other.

[SPEAKER_03]

Like this project. We in Holland say you don't have to invent the wheel twice. How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the island's community's capacity for sustainable growth? Can you do something? Can you affect something? I hope so.

[SPEAKER_02]

Is there some ways that you think, okay, we can change something? We're growing in it, of course, but I was one of the first who separated our restaurant.

You started to separate the trash from different kind of plastic and... Yeah, that's right. We have four organic glass, paper... Okay. And paper... Cardboard, maybe, or paper... Cardboard, plastics. Yeah. Yeah. And now there are...

[SPEAKER_03]

mostly everybody takes part in it. So you influence them much? Yeah, I like to hope so. How can the municipality help businesses with sustainable tourism? Can they do something?

[SPEAKER_02]

Yeah, of course they can do something about it, but the community is like 980 persons. Tourism is more than 350,000 a year. What the community does is mostly let the tourists see how it works and try to take them along with it.

You know what I mean? Yeah, like get involved with them? Not just involved, but also... Like for example the buses, there are electric buses. So perhaps they think, okay, there are electric buses on Schiemmergau, perhaps it's something for us too. I see, yeah. Kind of inspired and... Yeah, that's, yeah. Yeah, okay.

[SPEAKER_03]

take them take them along with it yeah yeah okay um and how can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve the common common goals yeah again i think talk communicate a lot with the other islands and with other people let them see where you stand for let them know where you stand for and try to be proud of it yeah it's also a difficulty sometimes yeah actually this is my all the questions i had but i had one more that i always think is quite interesting is if there were no limits no No hinders, no obstacles, whatever. What would you wish for? If you could have anything for yourself or for the community, what would you would like to have here? Whatever. Yes. Five wives. No, no, no, no. In the community, five of 600 people,

[SPEAKER_02]

of this age okay like young people young people now not just the men of course but that's a it's a big wish yeah and is there something else that would you like oh this would be nice nicer roads or whatever you can be as creative as

[SPEAKER_03]

I'm very content, man. So more younger people. Yeah, yeah. And if you could

[SPEAKER_02]

Think of a way, how would you get them here? Is there like, is it jobs that needs to come here or is there something else? There are plenty of jobs. Yeah, okay. But the housing, that's a big problem. Okay, housing. And not just for Schiemen en Koolhaas and Groningen. But that's a big problem. And the price. Yeah, also, yeah, yeah. The nice and big houses, they, 750,000, a million. And then when elderly people from the mainland, they buy it, and then we can't buy it anymore. But they have the money, so the prices go higher and higher. But in the community council, we're working on that, but it's difficult. Yeah, I can imagine. It's very difficult. Okay. Yeah, thank you. I think this is all I had.

[SPEAKER_01]

Also thanks to my translators. And I'm sorry, but... Do you have anything too? Any questions or add-ons or whatever? What's on your mind? We're dealing with the waste stream. What's your biggest waste stream from this restaurant? It could be anything. It could be paper, cardboard, plastic, but also coffee, which you might keep.

[SPEAKER_02]

And what I already said about my coffee jug and things like that. That goes in separate containers with us. That goes to biogas installations and things like that. Really something that I have the feeling that it will not be reused. This is really plastic and tin. That is actually still a bit of the difficult part.

[SPEAKER_01]

Do you have any ideas of what you can do with the waste cleaners?

[SPEAKER_02]

Well, just like I said about the plastic, you can make new things out of it. And then you really have to think about the insertion of the fire tower. I think that's a very good one. If you see that stuff for a double in the first row, all from China with AliExpress and I don't know what else. There is really a lot of profit there.

You do know that 5 or 6 years ago, there was a disaster with the containers for everything you saw on the beach. This is all the cheap plastic junk that comes with it. Unbelievable. By the way, do you have any that is doing glass here? Like glasses, blowing glass, you know, making... No, no, no, no. Because you have a lot of sand. Yes, yes, yes.

[SPEAKER_03]

Because I predict that we have a lot of them. Yeah, I know it. And they are selling the special handmade stuff to Michelin restaurants all over Norway and other countries. That's a good idea. Because it's artisan work. Yeah. Okay, I'm just going to stop this. Thank you.

Audio-recording-2023-09-29-104123.txt

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[SPEAKER_05]

Okay, so we only have nine questions and then some other questions. I hope that's not too much. Maybe it's okay. Okay, so the first one is what is your role in the Iceland community? The Iceland community? Well, I think it's already quite unique that someone from their mid-20s and 26 moves back to the island. They just want to live here and want to live in nature and

[SPEAKER_04]

That being said, I just wanted to see whatever the island would lead me to and I've always been dreaming about having this particular company. So once I got it, I was like, okay, now everything falls into place and maybe my role here as an entrepreneur in this beach pavilion can help me to increase the island and maybe shift a bit of tourism before here I've been working two years at the tourist information office to see if I could maybe shift something like get less grey people and more green people if you if you never meet do you think it's shifting no no no no no I think yeah I'm hardly shifting I think there's much more to gain when it comes to getting more but now it's of course a lot of breaks but like in summer yeah I think the islands are quite popular and yeah but all the other islands have their unique selling point like um has some campsites which are Idiots. They have some campsites that really attract youngsters. Mr. Grumpy. Phew. It's morning. Yeah, it's morning. It's still morning. And now he's wagging his tail. Son of a bitch. But yeah, I think Schiemenikoog is such a unique place when it comes to kite surfing, especially it's like the most epic spot I've ever seen in Holland. And I think there's just a lot to gain if you want to get more active. Outdoor people. I think yeah, it would be perfect to get it that as you think it's better here than on the other Yes, like for the window. Well, it's just Enthusiastic about this, but there's a sandbank like about

500 meters from the shore and the Waves break over there. So it's like completely shallow and in the back is massive wave. So it's like the perfect spot you have two sides and where you can ride. So what is the concept of this place exactly? Right now it's not vodka so it's not we aren't a restaurant or a bar whatsoever we are a kiosk so it's like we have pretty much the same requirements as a supermarket and that's quite hard to work with especially if you want to keep your footprint little because everything I'm selling has to be pre-packed so there's a lot of plastics there's a lot of that's one of the obligations yeah yeah yeah it has to be packed it has to be packed So if it's produced on the island or something and you just get it from one granny. That's what I would love to have in the future. You have to put it in plastic. And I can put it in plastic. The company that is selling to me, they have to put it in plastic and label everything and put the ingredients on. Okay, fair enough. But for example, if I want to sell some local cheese, I think you've seen the cheese shop. it's really popular it's really good cheese but if i want to sell it here i have to make them pre-pack it in plastic and then i can sell it well if i just have like this massive piece of cheese here and i can just slice them off if anyone wants it i'm already reducing so much plastic that's with pretty much everything like cookies i can't get a cake and slice a piece off and hand it over no it has to be packed in plastic So I think that's the biggest con of this concept. But the reason everything has to be pre-packed is that we don't have any electricity or streaming water. We don't have anything. Okay, that's good. So we keep our... No electricity? No, nothing. And how do you deal with the heat? in the winter or yeah we're closing um tomorrow we're having our final day no you're really yeah yeah it's a seasonal seasonal spot okay yeah so we build it up in uh april and we're finished on the 30th and now we're breaking it up again it goes away completely yeah yeah everything how do you do with the cold drinks and stuff We have 17 fridges, but we use frozen water bottles that we change every other day. Oh, you? Yeah, to keep the fridges cool. So they aren't plugged in. That's smart. It's smart, but it's bullshit. I mean, we have to do it because we're selling cool drinks. But in the future, I would love to have maybe a small windmill on top because, well, the solar system is working, but on an island, on the beach, it's more likely you have stable wind and stable sun the whole season through. But they don't want windmills here, right? Yeah, no, so that's going to be a thing. Maybe they would agree on a tiny one, but there must be a way to gain permanent electricity, not permanent, but just stable electricity. Would be nice, yeah.

[SPEAKER_05]

Okay, how do you think your role affected... No, sorry. How is your role affected by Iceland tourism? By tourism? I live on tourism. Oh, you do? Yeah, yeah. I think compared to the last couple of years, the last seven years I would say,

[SPEAKER_04]

I got a lot more local people coming here. They didn't come here at all because they didn't like the concept. But what was the concept before? It was similar, but really commercial. There was no proper atmosphere, no decorations. You couldn't even sit inside. So everything that's here, this is what I want. And this is what I want outside as well. And he just wanted it plain.

So yeah, people came here, never musical, no decorations, no blankets on a cold evening where people sit on it. So it's, yeah. It's not very welcoming. No, so now, and I think it's a big thing that locals are like, oh, there's a young local girl coming back, oh, we should support her. And then they realize, oh, it's quite cool what she's doing, oh, what's happening here, and then they come back. But 90, 95% is tourists. Yeah. Yeah. Okay, interesting.

[SPEAKER_05]

How would you describe the Iceland community and its current state? Can you talk a little bit more about sustainable tourism and stuff? Yeah, I think it's quite divided, which is always a thing in tourism, because mass tourism is just becoming a thing.

[SPEAKER_04]

there are a lot of people coming here but it's so hard because we have a lot of woke people coming who are walking the beaches and cleaning it up and then you turn your head to the other side and you see someone burning it down a diaper or something i'm like what what are you what so it's uh okay yeah that's just my annoyance about the local of a local source oh yeah he's catching flies quite stupid but i don't know he's cute yeah and i think we actually need them to to make a change because we are a really small community on the island especially the green part so it's it's good to promote that and to make it um

to involve tourists that they know oh we're going to a green island and we could actually participate in that and i think there's a good market for it as well but yeah i think there's a shift needed and that's all you started at the tourist office you tried to make younger people come yeah well i was in also in the marketing team and it's mainly focused on the older people because they just they spend money they spend money as easy as that like if you want to attract people like us we won't pay 500 euros to get into a shitty apartment for a weekend that's not we don't have the money and

Let us do. But I think that's maybe not even the biggest thing. I think we could just create a much more clearer image of the island instead of, oh, you can just walk there beautifully. Well, there's so much more to do. It's just we have to promote that.

oh yeah you can walk on the beach but you can also walk in the forest and if you're done walking in the forest on the beach go to the dunes like yeah well we know that by now so you want to like be better at uh marketing yeah i think it could be interesting to iceland right yeah yeah

to show the people how green we really are and how funny it is for younger people. What was your question exactly? I'm gonna see if I can answer it or not. How would you describe the Icelandic community and its current state? Yeah, it's divided. There's a lot of people who want to have solar system on their roofs, but I think the municipality... I'm gonna need you for this one, this is just your... I'm gonna write that one down. They might be pushing it on some parts, like for example the farmers, they are really willing to get more diverse and maybe even biologic one day, but

On the other hand, the gemeente, you know the word by now, is kind of pushing them to get, okay, you can't have any machines anymore that are not on electricity in 2030. Yeah, get us a nice idea, but that's only six years from now, and it's going to be a whole lot of money. And if we just cut it up, like, okay, this

is doable, and not like, this is our idea, and this is what we're going to do. I think if the gemeente introduces...

their green plants more gradually into the community yeah the whole community would be more interested on participating instead of like what no what are they doing we can't do that it's too fast and too much yeah yeah because that's what happened with the farmers right yeah there were seven yeah and uh

they had to quit their cows yeah and then they decided to work together with the cheese yeah yeah which is really a good idea it's really nice yeah yeah yeah i think it would be perfect if there would be more companies that closed on the island like there's seven farmers who are having milk cows if we just reduce it to two we can get the whole island milk and cheese and if we get another two for meat and another two for

[SPEAKER_03]

whatever yeah yeah but you think the island is open to work more together yeah i think so please in between between yeah maybe there are sometimes there's a lack of trust between people but it's i think that's quite common in the in a place yeah i heard there were some uh there was uh like the with the green uh of all

There was a maler who made compost. You put it on top of the land. When they had been over...

There was so much that they said like oh you can give the farmers can get it for free But the owner of the company didn't want that so he stopped And now the farmers are buying their compost from elsewhere it's so weird And you have to ship the green trash

[SPEAKER_04]

and you have to pay for that it's so weird farmers are actually paying tons of money to ship cow shit to the mainland because we have too much shit and then too little compost like what the fuck are we doing yeah it's very weird okay

[SPEAKER_05]

What do you think are the best aspects of Iceland? You can walk here beautifully.

[SPEAKER_04]

I just really love the outdoor life here. Whether it's walking, hiking, swimming, kitesurfing. I have my own horses here, so it's a lot of beach rides. And I really love that aspect. But on the other hand, I really love that we're such a small community. And if we just get onto the same page with each other, what the fuck can we achieve? Basically on the same island. What do you think is needed to get on the same page?

That's a good question. I'm wondering, I have no idea actually. I think that people, like the islanders, are quite often like, oh no, don't let the community hear it, because they might not like it, and they might not, and they might not, so a lot of... But it's true, there are some things, also like the dry wood, they give it to the...

[SPEAKER_03]

Gemeentewerf. And they should ship it to the land. And people have to buy the wood to make campfires again. But the man from the Gemeentewerf, he says, no, we're not gonna do that.

[SPEAKER_04]

I just put it in one container and you can take it. And people can just take it out. Yeah. That's nice. That's nice. But you have to be a bit like work outside of your... Yeah. Yeah. And that's a shift because we could be the perfect example of a community. Yeah. And of...

sustainability and we can achieve pretty much fucking everything because we are this small like how hard can it be if we can do it here where the fuck can they yeah that's and that's that's quite motivating on one hand because

It's good to be able to participate in that, but I'm not sure how to be able to participate, because... They should change their mindset, first of all. Yeah, yeah, yeah. But it's good, like, especially with Freya now, and since I'm having Padri, I'm having more contact with the gemeente, so it's easier to...

see where I can help or affect. But I can imagine that if you aren't in touch with the community, it's quite hard to see how you can help and where you can help and what you're actually doing.

Instead of some random project just pops up again and people read about it in the Dorpsbode. Our tiny newspaper comes along every month. Because nothing happens in it. Every month. So you think people would want to help more if they knew more about it? I hope so. I think so. Because if they read it in the paper it's more like...

yeah i think it should be like small understandable steps that people directly see what they profit what they profit from yeah how can they profit because especially during summer time everyone is busy around here i know no one who works less than 40 50 hours a week really because tourism all the money that can be made during the year has to be made during the summer and in winter time everyone is just like but i think the seasons are getting longer now right yeah

yeah yeah they are yeah not yeah just depending on the weather then and a lot of grey people but just so i think it's also since corona that people are coming more yeah yeah i think it's this was the first year that people actually left of that it was really really quiet on the island and i think because people just the weather was not good the weather wasn't good and people are allowed to go to

Yeah, so I think they all thought like yeah fuck this what are we going to France or So you don't really have tourism in the winter time We do have some tourism. Yeah

but you can you could walk it's not uh for hours and not see anyone yeah all right like in january there were times that there including the islanders maybe 500 600 people on the island yeah good luck finding them

Would you like to have tourism all year? No. Really, why? I think as a community we couldn't. I don't know how we would be able to be our best version, which everyone is in the summer, if we don't have our winter nap. I think it's really needed. Yeah, because you work so much in the summertime.

mainly relying on mainly we're for a big part relying on students who are coming to the island to work here so we wouldn't be able to serve all the tourists we would have the whole year round without the students because then everyone is working like 12 hours a day a lot of people from

[SPEAKER_05]

abroad, Ukraine or something, right? Yeah, we do have, I think we have two families or so. Oh yeah, that's okay. Okay, so you kind of answered this question, but what are the major challenges the Iceland community faces in terms of innovation development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_04]

Yeah, I think that's the balance between motivating people and putting people under pressure. As soon as you put people under pressure, especially in the north of Holland and especially on this island, people are like, yeah, no, no. I think they want to feel like they...

They can say it themselves. And they just want to know how it affects them. People are quite... I wanted to say selfish. I'm not sure if that's fair to say. But people want to know how they benefit. Instead of looking at a bigger picture. Like, hey, yeah, well, it doesn't...

cost me anything it doesn't gain me anything but it doesn't cost me anything and maybe in the long term it will just make things better i think that's where the focus should be and where it is now so that's yeah i think that's a con from this community that people just want to know how it helps them directly i think that's for everyone yeah yeah but it's so

[SPEAKER_05]

If we just have a broader focus, that's different. Do you want to take this one? No, you? Shall I take this one? You have to help me with the island name. But you say the island. I can say the island, yeah. That's good. What do you see as the key strengths of the island in promoting sustainable tourism? Good question.

[SPEAKER_04]

a good question quite difficult key string yeah it's a it's a like for now or in the future both

The key strength, yeah, I think it's what I said, because we have... Just the people from random beer brands stopping in all day, every day. Oh, I want you to sell my beer, I want you to sell my beer. Oh, really? Something goes for you? Yeah, it's like... Dating, I'm just... It's fun. Hi! Hi!

The key strings, okay. Well, like I said, I think because we're such a small community and such a small island, we can just create an image quite faster than maybe in other places. And it's also what I said to some people of the gemeente, like with Paul III, we could so easily create an off-grid parade horse. Yeah. What we're doing on the island should be what we're doing on a small scale compared to the rest of the land. But it's easier to just start here. This is a complete plain place where we don't have any electricity, no streaming water, nothing. So if we can show how to live off grid here, then we could expand that into the island into the mainland, into wherever the fuck we want. So I think that's a great strength that everything is so small, like it's doable. And then you can just try things on a small scale and then expand it. So I think there's a lot of openings for that.

[SPEAKER_05]

Does it answer your question? Yeah, I think so. What initiatives has the Iceland community undertaken in the past to address these challenges?

I have no idea. You don't know? I have no idea. No? That's okay. That's an answer. Don't worry. Okay, so how does the Iceland community collaborate to promote innovation? What? Innovative. Yeah, innovative development and sustainable growth. I don't think they promoted enough. No?

[SPEAKER_04]

No, but maybe I'm not just focusing on it enough, that it's just passing by. I don't know if they're promoting it to the islanders. But maybe that says enough, then it's maybe not a good way of promoting. Yeah, right. Because if I'm thinking about it, I mean, we're in a Project Freya, but...

Further, I didn't really hear about it. I didn't know Schiemen en Koog was already very far in becoming autarkies. It was very new for me. Yeah, I get that. Why is it far? Well, I think we could get it even further if we divide the community into sections, like if you approach the horeca businesses in a certain way. get them on the same page and if we get the souvenir shops and everything into one group and the people actually can brainstorm together into their own branch and see how they want to increase durability but I think the key is that there should be conversations yeah yeah yeah definitely in between yeah yeah and I think if you put everyone into the same room like farmers the supermarket beach pavilion then everyone's like yeah okay kind of stays in the middle and if you divide it He never catches anything. He's just trying. But if people are there with the people from their own branch, I think it's easier to get people involved. Because me, if I'm sitting here with another one with the same... And maybe you feel more comfortable.

If you feel like, oh, but they're doing that already now, we should do it better or something. You kind of also push each other upwards. And I think that's a very important part too. During the winter I'm going to the mainland to visit other beach buffalions or other companies who don't have any electricity or whatever to see what they're doing. That's smart. But it would be nice if..

The government is with me on that, but I'm having conversations planned with it to discuss my plans for everything, so maybe they will. I think just bringing smaller groups together with the same focus or the same goals, then it's going to be easier to actually... I think so, I hope so. Great. because in the end everyone wants to talk about their own branch like I can sit with a farmer and we can discuss like oh yeah how green can we be and it's always going to be different because they're already doing different things than I am so they feel like they're pushing more and I'm like what but I can do more and you're always comparing your own stories and if you're all into the same story then you can

[SPEAKER_05]

How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the Iceland community's capacity of sustainable growth?

It's hard questions, isn't it? They took so long. Yeah, I know. I'm just picking out some words. We just got this interview with all the questions, so it's kind of new to us too. That's why I'm struggling a little bit. No, that's okay. Do you understand this? My only worry is that I'm just giving bullshit answers because I just get distracted from that. Don't worry. Like I said, I think...

[SPEAKER_04]

If you put Paldria as a parade horse. I want a boegbeeld. Like if you get the ship of sustainability. I don't know what else we could make. Yeah, the carpooler or something maybe.

I think that could be my role into this whole green future on the island because I'm really willing to see what's going off-grid and everyone tells me just get your cables and make sure that you do have electricity but there could be another way and I want to focus on the off-grid because I think it's more suitable. And to set an example. Parade paardje? Parade paardje.

I don't know what I mean. No, but that's what you have to translate for your... I don't even know if it's... Do you think there's an... I think it's a very, like, Dutch... Yeah. So many hard words.

Monique... Monique... Monique... Monique... Monique... Monique... Monique... Monique...

[SPEAKER_05]

I'm embarrassed. Why? It's hard work. It's good to know. We're learning every day. Okay, so how can the municipality help businesses with sustainable tourism?

[SPEAKER_04]

Money. Money? Yeah, I think so. Yeah, it's needed. I think it's needed. Like, if I want to work out all my plans on sustainability, I'm gonna need a shitload of money. Yeah, of course, yeah. And that's just, yeah. And I'm not saying that the municipality should give it to me, but there must be some funds and some way to motivate people. Don't you also think that, or is it not the municipality who does that, like the requirements you have to do, that you think they should receive those requirements? Yeah, that would be very useful if they would. And I get that it's not like maybe their requirements. Maybe there should be a new way. Yeah.

Yeah. Same things about hygiene, but then a different way. Yeah. Yeah. If you know what I mean. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, I get you. Yeah, and I think that that is going to be really helpful if they...

go sit with the entrepreneurs that want to get more green and not like okay what are the things you're struggling with what are you facing what do you need how can we solve it like not we as a government but we humanly together like yeah is there a solution and how can we

[SPEAKER_05]

how can we help each other yeah kind of yeah yeah this actually leads to the next question and it is how can the iceland community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions regions regions it's the last one oh my god what achieve i don't know what is this

regions yeah to achieve common goals but you talked about like maybe uh just basically help each other communicate better and find each other's problem that people maybe can yeah i think what do you think i'm not sure what happened with the main day over the past i don't know how many decades yeah but i feel like there's not a lot of trust between the locals and the government no and i think that

[SPEAKER_04]

If people realize that we fight on the same page and that they aren't here to punish us if we aren't green or if we aren't doing things. But there's just space for conversation. I think that's gonna help a lot. Whose fault is that? Yours, right? Yours of trust. Yeah, so whose fault is it?

I don't know. I don't know. I don't want to point fingers, but... It just starts... Yeah, it just starts... You should record it, huh? You should get in a fight. I forgot. No, I think it's just a... As a start-up, you need to... A missile working. Yeah. Like, there's something happens, something, and then... Oh, yeah, they tell

something to the gemeente, and the gemeente responds in a certain way, and then, okay, next time, if I won't get the permission or I won't...

They won't respond in the way that I would like to. The next time, I just won't say it. And then if the gemeente finds it out, they're going to be even more cranky about it. Like, hey, you're doing this kind of thing without discussing it. And then...

[SPEAKER_05]

Yeah, I think... Positivity. Yeah, we just rebuilt the truth. It's positive, right? The track is positive. And everybody minding their own business too. I think that's the main thing. Minding their own business, but also being positive to everything and just help each other. Instead of talking down about... Yeah, and maybe there should be more limits.

[SPEAKER_03]

coming from the government like especially have you been to the tourist information office yet yeah have you seen how we have we uh at least i yeah yeah we are doing a project for our school yeah and uh you have heard about it as well yeah so we want to make at least one of the souvenirs made from a local material and also

[SPEAKER_04]

Locally manufactured. Have you seen what I'm selling here? I don't think we have them here now. You're black. I don't know. No, I'm going to get it for you. Is it a bracelet? I'm going to get it for you. The bracelet? He's my camera man for now. Hello. His mom makes these bracelets from fish roe. I think I've heard about it. Sailing lines, kite surfing lines. Yeah.

Everything that she finds on the beach, she took them away. So we're trying to get those small things. Are they getting sold a bit? They do get sold a bit. Quite a bit. We also have them over there, two huts. further down at the beach, but they don't sell over there nearly as well as they do here. Oh, nice! But we're selling it for 2 euros, so it's like she doesn't want anything for it, she just feels... she's just too sweet, so she likes to be able to help and to keep the beach and she... well, she thinks I should have to profit, so we agreed on selling it for 2 euros per piece, which is just fun for tourists to... oh, it's just a 2 euro thing and...

[SPEAKER_01]

And she's living on this island as well? No, they do have a holiday home here. Only on weekends really. And only in the summer too. My dad is here quite often, but my mom...

[SPEAKER_03]

Not nearly as much, but she likes to keep herself busy with making the bracelets and such. Yeah, but if you look into the tourist information office, everything they sell is fucking crap. Everything is plastic, and if you... And almost everything is from China, and the things that are... Some things are local, and some things like the plush knuffels, they are durable, they are sustainable, but...

[SPEAKER_04]

it's still like trash yeah yeah yeah well so is this quite literally but it's very yeah yeah okay but yeah well for example those uh recycled prusa animals that there is okay fair enough then at least there's a thought behind it

It's a better option, but I think it's not good enough. It's not good enough. But I think maybe the government should put more limits into this. It's fun getting all those shit kind of things from China over here, but no. You think it should also be less options? Yeah.

Yeah, as long as people are offering this random throwaway shit, people will keep buying it. But they want it because it's of course for making money.

Yeah, we had an example during our previous meeting with about an office portal? Yeah. I was like, what is that? A dish wash brush? No. Are you washing your dishes with not a sponge? Yeah, I understand. We had that at the... Yeah, I understand, yeah.

It's a very Dutch thing. It is. We also have it in Norway. I feel like more people use sponges. It's a thing, I don't know why it's not even handy. They're selling the plastic cheap one next to the wood sustainable one.

Which is more expensive. Which is more expensive, but fuck it, then people should bring their own if they don't want to spend the money. And I think the municipality can actually say to the SPAR, we don't want you to sell those throw-away plastic things anymore. Same for straws, same for balloons, we don't do that on our island. If you really want to use that here,

You bring it your own. And how do you think people get to know that? You don't think about those little things. No, and I think we should because the little things are the easiest things to adjust. Just like bringing your own bags to the supermarket. Yeah, like how hard was it to get used to pay 10 cents for a...

[SPEAKER_03]

People are like, oh no, I don't want to pay money for my bag, and now it's... You know it's 60 cent now? 60? At the overtime for a plastic bag, yeah. To cry! But it's good! Yeah, it's good, yeah. Yeah, it's to cry for, but it's good. That's why I really don't want to bring my own tote bag. We pay maybe about one euro. For a plastic bag?

[SPEAKER_05]

It's different from the shop, like maybe let's say around... But at the market you still get it for free. No, we have to buy it at the market, yeah.

So we always bring with our shopping bags to the market. Always. It's so expensive. Yeah, but that's good. Like if you make it expensive enough, people still have the option to buy it. Yeah, of course. I never go out to buy food without any shopping bag. Never. But that's so good. Yeah, it's good. You can see like results. Yeah. It's good. Absolutely. It pushes. Yeah, it is. I agree.

[SPEAKER_04]

That was the interview. Are you having other stops, other interviews planned? Not today. No, not really. Are you staying much longer on the island? No, we're leaving around 5. Today? That's a pity. How did you like the island? Did it feel like you could explore some things? Absolutely. I think it's beautiful. It's very peaceful here. I have a lot of stress in a college like Norway.

[SPEAKER_03]

It was very good for me to come here and just relax my mind. It was very comfortable. And you live in Groningen? Yes.

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[Automatic captions by Autotekst using OpenAI Whisper V3. May contain recognition errors.]

[SPEAKER_01]

Tell us maybe some more. A little introduction. I'm , I'm years old. I've been living on the island for 12 years now. I've always worked in a hotel or restaurant business and started my own company here now three years ago and the idea of what is the name is actually something else literally translated is that yeah we want because what means something yeah but it's also the name of the where we went yesterday on the mudflats of the Wadden Sea so it says something about the location but also about the concept and the name of the ocean and Anders means something else different and the whole idea of that is that I wanted to

change some things in the standard restaurant concepting instead of continuing it and of course there was a little delay because of the corona the corona period but we

I would like to work with products, ingredients from the island or if not possible from the sea of course, but not only the Valencia in the North Sea and not fish caught in South of Europe or Asia or something like that.

shrimps from Vietnam for instance and that should be so we are actually trying to go back to basic for the restaurant because normally you eat and serve or work with the products which is given to you by nature because of the seasons

So that's the whole idea. And I cannot say we can put that through for 100%, but even if we can... If you don't know anything, just say it in Dutch and translate it. That's fine.

I'm looking for the words but also trying to tell what I wanted to say. It's like also

Make the people aware of why we eat strawberries in January. It's not logic. It's not given to us by nature, but we created a supply because we want to eat strawberries all year long.

That's very nice. Or bananas. That's a nice insight. Therefore we want to make short logistic movements. combine logistic movements or get the fruit and vegetable from the island. Oh, you get the fruit from the island. Very nice.

So that's a little bit about the concept. Yes. And about me. Thank you. I can tell a whole lot more about that. Oh, nice to hear. I think this is for now the most interesting part for you to know. It's a very solid introduction. And then the first question. Can you tell us about your role on the island community? My role?

Well, my wife is from the island, so I met her here years and years ago. But actually we moved to Leeuwarden, a city in the north of Friesland, and came back later on when we had little children, because my wife wanted to go back to the island, because she feels safe here.

So we did that and I was already working in a hotelery restaurant. So I came here as a restaurant manager in town. So mainly my role is working here. But we also set up some events for the tourists on the island. Like for instance the November Rommelmaand.

It's a hiking tour which goes along several restaurants on the islands. So you get a map, you start here, you end there and in between you get small dishes on different restaurants. That's very nice.

So you actually have a sort of meal which is served to you by different restaurants. That's what I did, was one of my roles to develop that.

I was in the board of the tourist information center for three years. I'm at the search and rescue team now here next to my work here well that's about the things I

[SPEAKER_06]

I'm giving to the island. Very nice. And how is your role affected by the island's tourism? Sorry, can you repeat that? And how is your role affected by the island's tourism? What have the tourists for influence on the role of the island? Well...

[SPEAKER_03]

um it's not an easy question i never thought about it well for example we went to the snack to the halter yeah and he told us yeah okay so 65 of all the people coming here are tourists yeah so mainly i um serve the tourists here that's one of the things yeah that's that that's true i think uh

[SPEAKER_01]

The percentage here is even more. More like 85 or 90%. But that's also why I...

thought about the future was being to be good here on the island because I was working in the tourist industry and you know that there's only a small community and the rest of the people about 300,000 or name a number is coming from

from a different place in Holland, Europe or somewhere around the world. So actually, I think about everything you do is based on what the tourists are looking for. Yeah, that's true. Or coming for. So I think if...

If we were not a tourist destination, there wouldn't be that many restaurants, there wouldn't be that many hotels, there wouldn't be so many people working.

in an industry which is actually based on tourism. The influence of the tourists is it, actually. If there wasn't this much tourism on the island, I don't think...

my menu would be like what it is now. Is it influenced by the tourists? The menu? Yeah. I cannot tell you directly what it would look like. Can you give us an example? Did you put things on the menu? For example,

A German dish for example because there are a lot of Germans here? No, maybe some drinks but Germany is a country where they ask for totally different drinks like cola and orange mixed and beer with Sprite and beer with cola.

They mix everything. Apple juice and water. And they give it a name. And everybody was thinking... You don't know what you're talking about. What is it? Yeah. What is, like, Appelschorle? Appelschorle? Yeah. But I have it on the menu now. Because I don't want to say, what's that? No.

And it's good, but... You tried it? Yes, it's made of biological grown apples mixed with sparkling water. Something typical of Germany. But for instance, I think in the northern part of Holland there are not that much vegetarians or people who eat vegan.

Our menu is based on some meat dishes, a lot of fish dishes, but also a lot of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Because I think this is where we're heading. We're heading to...

to a meat culture where we will eat less meat, less fish and more and more vegan alternatives, which is good I think.

I also like a nice piece of fish and a nice piece of meat, but I don't have to eat that seven days a week.

Yeah, that's true. And that's typical Northern Netherlands. We are not like Amsterdam. There's a total different eat culture in the center of Holland. For instance, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague.

[SPEAKER_03]

When I did my internship in Amsterdam, people were weird at me that I took sandwiches with me for lunch. Because in Amsterdam they don't do that. They have quinoa and weird stuff. But for Northern people were just more... I don't know if it's correct English, but sober.

Northern people are not sober in the sense of we don't drink. Not that, but sober in the sense of just act normal. Just don't do any weird stuff. It's actually based on a lot of people in the agrarian industry or farmers.

[SPEAKER_01]

The wife at home makes a sandwich, puts it in a box and you go on the tractor and mow it along. It's very normal in Norway. We always have a lunchbox at school. But in Amsterdam it's influenced by a lot of different cultures, trends like drinking soya milk, oat milk, oat milk.

Starbucks companies. I don't know if there's a Starbucks, yeah, in Groningen. And there were perhaps, maybe, but. Yeah, well, yeah. So in the north, there's also less people living there. So less different cultures. Where I come from, we used to eat potatoes. All week. Potatoes all week.

Meatballs and vegetables. And nobody says, let's make pasta carbonara. So I think the culture of the real inhabitants of Schiemener Goch

would be more close to that. And the things we serve is to make it attractive for the tourists.

But where are the most of the tourists from? Are they German, are they from Amsterdam, or the south, or the center? I don't have a good answer for that. I think there has been some studies done by Wagenborg, the ferry company, and I think they have the most actual data, because they can see where their bookings are coming from.

I would say it's 70% Dutch, 20% German, 3% Belgian. Are also people from the island coming here?

Sorry? Are also like inhabitants of the island coming here?

To eat. Yes, more and more. Yes, of course. I believe that your business is...

based on what other people say about you. Because if they rent a bike in town and ask for, well, should we eat? You want, of course, you want them to say, go to what others say. Have a nice view, have a nice menu, nice people. And that's also for the hotels and apartments or whatever...

So you help each other a lot in that sense. Yes. The other companies on the island. Yes, yes. If people ask you, what should we do on this island? Where should we go to? That's, I think, one of the most...

ask questions and you tell them to go on a bike trip around the island, go to the lighthouse, go to the bunker, go to the beach or look at a colleague restaurant which you think they have an interesting menu or go to the pluktuin where the vegetables are grown.

[SPEAKER_06]

We did all those things. We did good tours. Go to the stock bar. We also, yeah. Go to a hotel from the waves. Very nice. And a bit of another question. How would you describe the island community and its current state? Can you explain that?

What is the current situation of the community? If you could kind of describe the situation that the community has right now. How is the community and the situation with the community on the island at the moment?

[SPEAKER_02]

How are the mothers? This is a bit of a difficult question, but are there frictions on the island? Are there examples of good cooperation or things that could be better? How is the situation with the community at the moment?

[SPEAKER_01]

I'm quite neutral about that. But I have, because I work a lot here to start my, to grow my own company, and I'm actually on an island on the island, so what happens over there, I'm not always aware of that, but of course I speak to a lot of colleagues or neighbors, friends, I think we are doing quite well with each other and there are no real conflicts. Perhaps you heard about a few guys who took the signs. No? No. This is going to be funny. This is a little anecdote. The island is... Unattended. Unattended?

[SPEAKER_03]

Nobody watches here on the island. Nature is controlled by Natuurmonumenten. So Natuurmonumenten, the organization that is leading this, they have to watch. They watch over the island and what happens. Specifically the nature.

[SPEAKER_01]

They look about the things which you should do with the nature on the island and what you shouldn't do.

They placed signs with rules. You shouldn't go outside of the path. You shouldn't go with larger groups. You shouldn't make noise or put your waist there. But some things are...

logic, common sense. But they thought about placing signs on every corner of the street and along every path into the nature. And a lot of inhabitants, people on the islands, looked at it. That's not a good idea. And they said it wasn't a good idea. But a few weeks ago, a few guys, two brothers, they were going out at night and they took all the signs, all of them, about 100, 120. And they put them in the shed, but they were caught. They were caught by the police.

brought to prison in Leeuwarden so that's quite that's quite an adventure and it's it's one of the things on the island there's always because you are such a small community always I cannot tell you

Everything is under the focus, under the binoculars. Everybody watches each other, everybody judges each other. I see, I see. So there are always, even we are quite well with each other, there are always groups. So we are on this side, you are doing that. I'm not okay with that side.

But I think it's quite normal and even very mild because I've been on an island like Ameland where you have a few villages and that's a true battle. Between the villages. Between the villages or it used to be, I don't know when it was the last time but because you have different

Beliefs, like religion. Different religions. And here we are... You live in one village and you have to be open for each other. You have to be tolerant.

What do you think are the best aspects of Schier Monaco? Oh, you're doing great. He's learning. The best aspects? Well, I think it's very authentic. In a way, because it's... You have islands in the Netherlands, in the Baltic Sea.

But not all the islands are free of cars. No cars are allowed here. Only for locals and local companies. Or companies that have to have a permit to bring stuff here. For example food and stuff like that.

It has a kind of atmosphere of silence and quietness. Peaceful. Peacefully, yeah. And that's what makes Geschieden Monaco, Geschieden Monaco. I think that's for people who come for instance from Amsterdam, Utrecht, that's what they are

searching for to get away from their busy lives and go to synagogue and come for a peacefully and quiet surrounding. Very nice.

[SPEAKER_06]

What are the major challenges of the island community? How can I say it? It's a bit shorter. What are the major... Which one? This one. What are the major challenges the island community face in terms of...

[SPEAKER_03]

What are the major challenges the island community faces in terms of innovative development and sustainable growth? I think the first one is transport.

[SPEAKER_01]

Trans. Because we... All the things, a lot of things, except for the vegetables and fruits from the Pluktime, we have to get from abroad. The mainland. And it has to come by ferry.

It's the only but not the most sustainable way of transporting. Also it's a little bit under pressure because some organizations don't want to let the ferry go as frequent as some people want to. Because this is also a large natural area.

nature area. Nature area, yeah it's a lot of nature area which you the ferry comes the water has to be deep enough to go through so you have to dig out the water and so it means a lot for the nature area.

Do you have any solutions for that already? That you think about those things? I was in a project for a while. We haven't been active for the last year.

We were thinking about combining transport, so I have a restaurant, a Torch Bar has a restaurant, Hotel van der Werf has a restaurant and during summertime everybody's busy and

And their main purpose is to get their own stuff. But in wintertime, when we are all not that busy, perhaps instead of four boxes, I order just one. But we can perhaps take a truck and put the box on the box bar as well. So there are not four separate trucks coming there? No.

Because there are three different suppliers for restaurant goods. And we spoke about combining those things or... Going to the same supplier? Well, no, not the same transport, but transport it.

Oh, so the supplier is not the same as the transport company. Well, normally it is, but in wintertime it would be easier if they put the supplies on Lauwershoog instead of bringing them with their own truck to every destination. But you can also put it on Lauwershoog and put it in over in one truck and then drive around the islands with one truck instead of three trucks. Okay, but going to the same supplier? Sorry, did I ask it? That's not an option, that everybody goes to the same supplier. Of course, it would be an option, but that's not what everybody's okay with.

We also spoke about this subject with, this is one of the island transporters and he is looking at trucks, electric trucks or hubs, smaller hubs, vehicles to

We were here I think last year or even longer ago with small robot carriers container boxes driven by GPS coordinates and so you can put a box in there and takes off of the boat and drives to your restaurant.

[SPEAKER_06]

That could be the future. That's very interesting. But do you have the different businesses on the island, restaurants and all of that, do they have a common platform where they could discuss the different opinions, solutions? Yes. There are a few platforms.

[SPEAKER_01]

the most council, the municipality. That's for politics, right? Yeah, but it's also a platform, I think. Yeah, of course, of course. And next to that we have...

[SPEAKER_02]

A club of entrepreneurs.

[SPEAKER_06]

And the names for anything? So like a club for all the people that have own businesses. Yeah, I see. Is that being used like regularly? Do you use it often to discuss different solutions, come up with different propositions?

[SPEAKER_01]

Or is it very still, very quiet? It's actually quite quiet. It's more like you can share things, ideas. It's not really based on innovation or...

There's also a club of Koninklijke Horeca Nederland, which is an organization for restaurant owners, hotel keepers.

I think that is more driven by innovation and also innovation based on sustainability.

But are they active on the island? Yes. We gather, I think, one or two times a year, but there's a group where they put out little things about development. Yeah.

[SPEAKER_03]

So there's not really, if I understand correctly, there's not really a big drive active on the island to talk about ideas or act on ideas. There's a lot of, not really conflict, but more, maybe there's a will, but not really, not a lot happening.

[SPEAKER_06]

It's just once or twice a year we talk about it, but not... At least that's what I hear from this. So that there could be more action taken. Have there been any ideas who you've finished and went through it and made into reality? From any of those organizations or platforms?

[SPEAKER_01]

Difficult. I don't have an example of that at the moment. It's more like there's an idea, like for instance the project of the transport. Some people were talking about that and a few people were getting enthusiastic about the idea and then you form a little project group and and go ahead with that with the project and that's a little bit um the whole idea of the island i think that have small project groups which are doing small things but to be honest i think everybody is quite busy with running their own business of course i think busier than people on the mainland because here we have to keep the wheel spinning with all the other things going on like politics, the board membership of several sports
Yeah, sports. Everybody is doing a lot of things next to their core business. Yeah, I see. Interesting. What do you see as the key strengths of Schiavo Monaco in promoting sustainable tourism?

[SPEAKER_06]

Again, I can say the key points. What do you see as the key strength of the island in promoting sustainable tourism? Which one? This one. What do you see as the key strength?

[SPEAKER_02]

What is the strongest point of Schiemenkoog in promoting green tourism? What are the good things that Schiemenkoog shows to tourists?

[SPEAKER_01]

I think, for example, that the bus is fully electric. For example, the buses here are all electric. Next to that, of course, everybody is biking and hiking. What else?

I think that's one of the key things.

I cannot think about any other. It's hard when you live on the island, everything looks normal. When you're not from here, it's like, wow, this is all different from... I think there are a lot of chances, but I also think there's not a lot of... I think the island, in a way, is quite a sustainable community. And what are those chances you just suggested?

the chances actually are I think looking at from a different perspective

Because I just told you I'm busy with the restaurant and I'm doing my own thing and I don't have lots of time to think about developing the sustainability of the island. I think there is a chance to do the things better. Yeah, of course.

But definitely you need to come together and find and choose the people who are willing to do that and looking at it from another perspective. I think for instance the garbage from the island, it's now There's no real good system for separating your garbage. So green waste and plastics and paper, it's not being separated. Yes, paper is separated, glass is separated, but I think in every house there's only one box.

to separate your waste. So that's a chance to improve. Everywhere in the rest of the world and in Holland people are separating their waste. And we do we it could be better i think yeah i see and for here for the restaurant we um we separate the green waste it goes it goes to a company who takes it from here and it goes to a stage with a place where they make a bioware yeah

Re-food. Oh yeah, refood. So they turned what we saw yesterday, refood, the containers where the fry oil, the fire oil was in, they turned it into new fuel. But also the rest of the green waste, so the food, the vegetable, everything, goes in a separate container and it's being used for producing biogas.

Biogas. Very nice. And then we, of course, we separate the glass and the paper. So I think the companies are...

The system for the companies is more based on sustainability than it is for the local inhabitants. What initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges? Well, there is... Sorry, can you repeat that?

[SPEAKER_03]

what initiatives has the island community undertaken in the past to address these challenges what challenges do you mean so like sustainable challenges okay yeah yeah so for example an example we heard before uh the coffee grounds from the vagabond yeah they uh the self per time collects them yeah and makes out of those coffee grounds uh

[SPEAKER_01]

Oyster mushrooms. And as you said earlier, one of the challenges was transport. So have the community done anything to address these problems? Well, we are working with a project group for that. Also, of course, we speak about this subject also on

political based discussions with the ferry company and there's some projects going to get rid of the gas yeah that project yeah

Very nice. But that's not specifically for the companies, but it's more for the immigrants. Yeah, I see. I actually live in one of the streets where they want to make a pilot for doing the project. Quitting the gas. So it's undergoing the project. Very nice.

But I think a lot of that project needs to be pushed by giving money, money, money, money. That's not what I think, but apparently it's needed to push people in a way when you have a little bag of money to stimulate.

[SPEAKER_03]

Are they the politicians who have started this project? How do these projects start up? Does somebody just say, hey, I have an idea, bring it to the council and then make a project group out of it? I think there are some people at the council

[SPEAKER_01]

overviewing the situation and looking at opportunities and subsidies, projects and then looking at it and tell us to say well this is actually an interesting thing, we want to try

We don't have the people to run the project, which is of course a problem. It's also kind of logical to just have a small community here. So they usually take a company from the mainland who runs the project.

[SPEAKER_03]

For example, the project you told about the gas, you were in that project group? No, not for that, but I'm living in the street where they want to run the pilot.

[SPEAKER_01]

But you did other projects for the island. How do these projects come to fruition? How do they start up and how does that work? I think it usually starts with enthusiastic people who want to use their time and energy to start things up.

And then you just start talking about it. Yes, yes. And then an idea comes. Then you bring it to the gemeente? No, not always the gemeente, but depending on what the project is. Sometimes you talk with...

colleague who run their own business sometimes you talk with the tourist information center which is also everybody is a member of the tourist information center at least all the companies so it's a large community to work with other people

[SPEAKER_06]

Do you have any knowledge if it's a person or a group who have a job to proactively find these solutions or these ideas? Or is it people who do it out of free will? I think it's a combination of that.

[SPEAKER_01]

it starts with people initializing things out of free will and then if you need you need some things or knowledge or mostly then you come to a company who has

[SPEAKER_03]

as a profession or... Okay, so the project groups... You have an idea and you want to start your project group.

Is it being funded by the council or by somebody else? Or is it just, oh, I have an idea, I make a group with people who are also enthusiastic and we work on this idea and not knowing if it will turn out into something. We have an organization on the island, it's called MAPS, Marketing and Activity Platform Schiemelijk Oog.

[SPEAKER_01]

And every company, which is mostly a member of the Tourist Information Center or the Koninklijke Horeca, they all put a little donation to the maps. And actually it's under the name of promotional fee.

So we donate a promotional fee and so we have a little pot of money, a sack of money and when there's a project you can take your project plan and say I need money. I want to start kids animation and you can go to the board and bring your plan and they will look at it and say this is not for own commercial use, this is for the island company. So there is

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah, because you told us about the bag of money. Of course, totally understandable. So is there a connection maybe between things not going as fast, like the chances you talked about, and subsidies, the money from the mops? For example, if there would be more money,

[SPEAKER_01]

Would people be more eager to work on these projects? I don't know. I think the system is okay. On the scale of the island, I think it's quite okay. We don't need...

I think we don't need more money, we don't have more money. No, but is that a possible factor that keeps innovation growing? No, I don't think so. I don't think it's... perhaps it's not the best...

It's meant for other purposes. It's not for sustainable projects or sustainable ideas. I think when I have a very good idea, like for instance getting energy from the tide.

um and i think it's it is actually is an idea if i would go to the council and say um can we can we look at it i think there will be uh an opening for for um looking at that at it and and perhaps there's also money uh to uh

[SPEAKER_03]

to check in there, it's a possibility. So it's mostly run by enthusiasm from people that see the, yeah, okay.

[SPEAKER_01]

interesting yeah very very insightful yeah but uh as i already said i'm i'm on an island on an island so i don't know no sure but there's also a lot of things i think pending and and where people are working on at the council or uh

maybe uh that you don't know about at the province the province or uh yeah um we also have um the better skip of course uh the two monuments uh they are all uh under uh

[SPEAKER_03]

Yeah, so the government. Natuurmonumenten is a association. Natuurmonumenten is the biggest organization on this island that takes the lead in things. How does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_06]

Well, he actually told us right now. We already went a little bit too fast, I think. Yeah, that's true. Can you ask it once again? How does the island community collaborate to promote innovative development and sustainable growth? That's through these councils and organizations. How do you think the island community can improve its capacity for development?

[SPEAKER_01]

Improve the capacity for development. I think there should be more cooperation perhaps with the Provincial Free Slalom.

[SPEAKER_03]

So the province of the Friesland, like the main province. Because these islands belong, or not belong, but they're part of the province of Friesland. So the Friesland, the main province, where they're, collaborate more with them, that province. Yeah, okay, okay.

[SPEAKER_01]

Because you have literally a group of people who are acting on Schiemere Goog. But all the knowledge and innovation about innovation, sustainability, you have to get it somewhere else. So you have to get it on the main one.

I think if there were a better cooperation, you can lift on perhaps projects which are already pending. Maybe that's an opportunity. Yeah, that's true. Okay, that sounds very good.

[SPEAKER_03]

And that's also what this is about. This is exactly the project, looking into collaborating between different countries, different universities. Yes, of course. I think that's in general. When I have a good idea, or I think something would be a good idea,

[SPEAKER_01]

good innovation for my company or for making the company more sustainable, the first thing you look at is Google. Is that the idea already exists or what can I compare to this idea? You don't have to reinvent the wheel if somebody else already did it. That's true.

[SPEAKER_06]

How can you and your organization contribute to enhancing the island's community capacity and for sustainable growth?

[SPEAKER_03]

What can you contribute to the island? You or your company, what can you contribute to the island and the growth on the way to the Autarkie of Schiemerkoog?

[SPEAKER_01]

Now, what you see is when I...

started this company and I think I was one of the last starting restaurant businesses. When you start things up with different ideas about where you should get your food from or about putting together your menu assortment of drinks. When you take another way of getting there, it starts to make people think about the whole idea of what a restaurant should be. One of the first things I did when I started here,

I think in a way it was dangerous to say that we are offering a lot of vegetarian and vegan food.

Because people were thinking, what is he doing? What is he doing? Why is he... And the thing they remember when you say something like that is that you are only vegetarian. You can only get vegetarian food there. Make it bigger, make it look bigger. Yeah.

For instance, I would tell you we have a lot of alcohol-free drinks. The things people remember is they don't serve alcohol. Yeah, that's true.

Sometimes that's sad. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes, and it was not the The message I would was bringing at that moment, but that's the thing people Read or remember about it and in in a way it's also have been good for me because when I

When I tell people we work a lot with food from the plug town, that's also a thing they remember. Oh wait, they are doing things differently. They work with biologically grown food from the island. And that's the thing you want them to remember.

Yeah, of course. Very nice. How do you think the municipality can help businesses with sustainable tourism? The governance. I think they can feed us with information and ideas which are already taking place somewhere else. Because not everyone with their own business on Schiemener Goch is looking to things which are happening in other parts of Holland or Europe. Maybe when you turn on the television and you see, bring on the IDs, but that's not the question. The question was what can Mr. Ponte do. I think this is a very good idea. Yeah, of course.

[SPEAKER_03]

because like of course that's how i see it if you it's very good that people come up with ideas and then take it to the council and then try to act upon it make a group but then yeah but i i think i think i think there there maybe there is uh i think there is um there should be there should be uh one person uh

[SPEAKER_01]

one person in the council or municipality which is your contact person and which it should be a full-time job I think which goes to other companies and speaks about this the whole idea of making your company more sustainable. And I think there is some person, I don't know who it is,

He never came to me like, I'm going to help you. But there is. I think there is. I think he or she is working at the council and planning a lot of things. But it would be more easier when somebody comes to you and says, can I help you? It would fit more with the island if it would be more...

[SPEAKER_03]

How do you say it in English? Approachable. Yeah, approachable. More approachable. That would be nice. Because like everybody here helps each other very easily and everybody has different multiple tasks on the island. But like the council maybe acts like it's just like on the mainland. There's more people, so...

[SPEAKER_01]

Take care of everything for instance. You want to interview me and talk about this subject Somebody calls me. Can I take your time? Can we drink a cup of coffee and have this conversation? if people with

Those intensities would do it the same way. You were getting there somewhere. That's why you guys came all the way from Norway to do this in person. The reality is that the people who are doing that job, they really are there, but they are invisible.

Yeah, you can't see them. No, because they are looking at the bigger picture. And that's okay, but if you want to really help people, I think you have to more loosen the idea of only looking at the bigger picture, because I think everybody knows what the bigger picture is. Yes, of course. That's a nice idea. That's a very good idea. But it is a person...

At least you think it's a person who works that job. Yes, yes, yes. I already contacted a lady on the council's committee for looking at the... I know there are plans about this building, about this location. Your restaurant? Yeah, yeah. Made by the...

Yeah, because this building is rented from the council and so they are planning some service or what do you call it? Renovations. That are they more like...

This is going to happen or are they like cool? Well, they have plans and they have made money to do those things. And we speak about that actually next week.

Because I wrote them an email. I want to know what's happening. I want to know what it's about and what is it meaning for me. We are now cooking on gas still. We want to make a transition to cooking on induction for electric.

But we need the infrastructure to be ready for that. I cannot go to a warehouse and say, give me a new induction stove which I can cook my food on. Because when I do that, I need...

2,700 of kilowatts, I think. That's higher rates. Yeah. Okay. So that's happening. But I have to go to them instead of they are coming to me. And that's the whole thing that's missing, I think. Do you think they involve you enough in the planning of things that...

Because they make a lot of plans, but do you think you're involved enough? No, I think I'm not involved enough. That's why I think the most entrepreneurs are doing things very quickly. And the council is not that quickly, which is two different worlds, perhaps. But if I have an idea, I...

I write it down and I look at it and I talk to perhaps one or two or three of my staff members and let's do it. Let's do it. And depending on what the plan is, we do it tomorrow, next week or next month.

yeah next year yeah but that's not how it works on a council and which is which is logical because they are looking at the bigger plan do you feel like but I would I would be I would think if I can save water energy or

[SPEAKER_06]

look at small solutions or you can already do things. We have a subject which is called organization development and we had a pilot of this project on Valer

and then we learned that we should look at the island like a whole organization and in that subject we learn how important involvement is because important involvement is sharing of knowledge and then you can make better decisions who are more

You get all the different perspectives and all the different knowledge to make better decisions. Because if the accountants sit up here and make decisions for all the people down here, but they never listen to any of them, decisions won't be very good because they don't even have the knowledge of the things they're making decisions for.

[SPEAKER_01]

That's why I asked about enrollment because I think it's very important that they do and if they don't they shouldn't. But you have for instance we have about thousand inhabitants. Everybody has their own ideas and thoughts about

sustainability and you have to get to the the key motivation of every person to get them motivated of course for the for me for instance is like having an image of being a sustainable restaurant for somebody else it can be they can be driven by money

You approach somebody and tell them, you can save a thousand euros in a month with getting solar panels. So you have to motivate every person in his own way, I think. And that's what I think is missing. When you only look at the bigger perspective, some people get lost in the ideas and thoughts of doing it on a larger scale. They want to be... They need help with the little things and the things that are interesting for them. Yeah, of course, of course. That's very interesting.

How can the island community better collaborate with surrounding communities and regions to achieve common goals? Yeah, I think we already talked about that in a way of using the... Yeah, but maybe they want other water islands or... Do you have ideas about that too? But then again, then you go... to the bigger picture, but I think there is more knowledge in the larger organizations than we have here on the island. Yeah, I think that's very clear. But then again, you should approach people in a personal way.

I think that's a very good idea. So I think we should not look to the mainland, but we should bring the mainland here. On a personal scale.

[SPEAKER_03]

yeah i think that yeah that's the the conclusion of this interview i think yes or the theme of this interview yeah like get information from everywhere yes keep it personal on a personal level yeah i think i think that would really be uh um

[SPEAKER_01]

a good job. If you can work for an organization like the Provence Friesland and you go to every company and say, can we drink a cup of coffee and can I help you with improving your sustainable solutions? Yeah, that sounds like a really good idea. I like that very much.

And then it will stay that way. Free of will. No strings attached. I think that would have been a very good initiative. And I think there's a lot of money available to do things like that. And you can really help people and speed up the project in a way. Yes, very much.

And if they come to me, I would say to my colleagues in the institute, I had a very interesting conversation. Yeah. Okay.

[SPEAKER_06]

But before we finish up, I just want to give you the opportunity if you have any ideas, if you have any thoughts, any insights that you want to share. Other than the questions, of course. Doesn't need to be anything, of course. No, I cannot think about something that maybe...

[SPEAKER_03]

about my project what i told you about maybe you have some ideas about that you know maybe some residue streams or you have a residue stream yourself because you don't use or know about something on the island which can be used for uh for our souvenirs hmm

[SPEAKER_01]

The first thing I was thinking when you told me about the project... What about the shells? Seashells. Seashells. Okay. I'm gonna write this down. One second, don't wait that quick. Okay.

[SPEAKER_03]

seashells. But is it a problem? Is seashells a... No, it's not a problem. It's not particularly a waste of... Because we want to produce something. The project is we are looking for a stream here on the island which can be used to make souvenirs out of. And then my follow-up question is, that's it. Do you have somebody who could maybe make... I have a great idea. Sorry. Okay, no, sure.

[SPEAKER_01]

All the people who come here... What, Logan? Yeah?
They all have shoes. Shoes. Used shoes. They put in a bin. And it goes... To the omrind. Yeah. Used shoes. That's a really good one. Used shoes? Yeah. Used shoes. You know that... We have a... You have the tide here, eh? Yeah. So now the tide is high. Yeah. So you can go up in your ship and go to the mainland. In... now or now in five hours six hours yeah the tide is low so yesterday we mud walked yesterday oh yeah yeah we have a nice video to show you i haven't been listening yet very good but you can um but the people use their old shoes for mud walking
And the shoes, I think about 80-90% of the shoes are all put in a bin. Nobody wants to take them back, they're dirty. Thrown away. But of course, what they do with...
with old life-saving jackets and suits for firemen and also the KNRM, the search and rescue team. These suits are being reused and they make handbags or key cords or all that sort of things.

[SPEAKER_03]

I don't know what you can make out of a pair of old shoes, but... No, no, you can do... Laces, you can use the laces. No, but like you can shred material to just caudals and then make stuff out of it again. Add stuff to it and then you have a... 3D print. 3D print, yes. We do a lot of 3D printing. Okay.
And do you maybe know about, like, we look into companies, for example, Vodka, they, in the summertime, they're very busy, but in the wintertime, they probably have, they're not that busy. So we're also looking for companies or people on the island. Maybe you know some people who are probably good candidates to start making, if we find a production process and the materials, start making these souvenirs so they can be sold at Faye Faye. Of course, it's an extra job next to your regular job, but maybe seasonal work.

[SPEAKER_01]

start making these souvenirs yeah because it has to like the the i have a colleague who has 13 3d printers okay but like it isn't for hobby of course i don't know it's uh it's it's uh it's uh

No, it's his business. Here on the island? No, he works here. He's working here, but he has a company, it's called the Koekenbakkers. And they print malls for gingerbread cookies. They're going all around the world to give workshops. That's why they have 13 3D printers. They print day and night.

[SPEAKER_03]

Small company in Leens called Koekenbakkers. Of course we look into Friesland and Groningen as well. Social work places. Because those are the perfect places to make souvenirs. But they don't have it on the island. Maybe we can let the older people...

[SPEAKER_01]

But there are a lot of groups like that. Like Repair Café. Here on the island? Yes, Repair Café, Schilderclubje, things with older people. I can already see that they're going to make souvenirs for the VVV during the coffee. That would be fantastic. Repair Café. And what else are there? Schilderclub. Yes, for instance.

[SPEAKER_03]

Okay, nice. These are all ideas I didn't hear before. Because now our main residue streams are Mayafal mowing grass and this afternoon we're gonna fill up some buckets with mud and clay from here. What about the beer docks?

Aluminium... But that's not really a problem, I think. No, no, no. It's being recycled and there's station money. Not on the lamps, but... Yeah, okay. No, it's not a problem. I agree with that, but... It would be nice to tackle a problem.

[SPEAKER_01]

Or another problem, but stuff that's not being used. That would be nice. A real problem is the dark shit. What can you make out of that? I don't know. I have to look into it. Or cigarettes. Cigarettes. Filters. Yeah. Okay. I personally think that's a problem. Yeah, that's true. Yeah. Cigarette filters.

[SPEAKER_04]

If you don't know anything more people on the island, then I think we'll work on the interview. This was very helpful.

