



**Interreg
North Sea**



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FREIIA



Høgskolen i Østfold

INTER - ISLAND

PRODUCT AND BRAND DEVELOPMENT

REPAIR CAFÉ NETWORK

WP4.3; ØSTFOLD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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INTER-ISLANDS PRODUCT AND BRAND DEVELOPMENT

The Inter-Island Product and Brand Proposals presented in this report have been developed within the framework of the FREIIA project (Facilitating Resilience Embracing Islands Innovation Approaches), part of the EU Interreg North Sea Region Programme.

The initiative aims to strengthen the innovation capacity and long-term resilience of small European island communities by connecting research-based understanding with the everyday realities, knowledge, and aspirations of local people.

Each proposal is rooted in fieldwork and dialogue, offering a grounded response to real challenges identified by island residents themselves. The work addresses shared concerns such as seasonal economic dependence, youth outmigration, limited housing opportunities, and the need for sustainable value creation that respects local identity and community life. Guided by design thinking and co-creation principles, the proposals combine analysis, creativity, and collaboration to generate practical, transferable solutions that emerge from, and belong to the communities they serve.

A defining strength of these proposals is their inter-island character. Instead of treating each island as an isolated case, they build on shared experiences, common challenges, and complementary strengths within the FREIIA network. This collaboration enables the exchange of ideas, models, and practices between islands such as Hvaler (Norway), Schiermonnikoog (Netherlands), Bornholm (Denmark), Koster (Sweden), Groix, and Ouessant (France). Together, these islands form a living laboratory for sustainable innovation, a space where local insight and experimentation contribute to regional learning and collective growth.

Taken together, the proposals illustrate how locally grounded innovation can advance broader European goals of resilience, inclusion, and circular transition. Each follows a shared framework outlining the target group, identified challenges and opportunities, proposed solutions, implementation needs, and expected impacts. Collectively, they embody FREIIA's core ambition: to empower islands to learn from one another, to innovate with and for their communities, and to show that genuine sustainability begins with cooperation, creativity, and care for place and people.

Among these inter-island proposals, Island Repair Café Network focuses on bringing people together to repair, recreate, and reuse everyday items that would otherwise be discarded. The concept establishes regular community cafés where residents collaborate to fix or transform broken objects into new and useful creations, guided by local craftspeople and volunteers. By combining sustainability, creativity, and social connection, the initiative turns waste into shared value while keeping practical skills alive. Through cooperation and shared learning across the FREIIA islands, the network strengthens both circular innovation and community resilience.

INTER ISLAND PRODUCT / BRAND: REPAIR CAFÉ NETWORK

INTER ISLAND - PRODUCT AND BRAND DEVELOPMENT 10.0



ISLAND & IDEA TITLE

HVALER, KOSTER, GROIX,
SCHEIRMONNIKOOG, OUESSANT, BORNHOLM

REPAIR CAFÉ NETWORK



TARGET GROUP

SMALRESIDENTS, VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS,
AND LOCAL CRAFTSPEOPLE INTERESTED IN
SUSTAINABILITY, CREATIVITY, AND
COMMUNITY LEARNING.



PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY

BROKEN OR UNUSED ITEMS ARE OFTEN THROWN
AWAY DUE TO MISSING REPAIR SERVICES. AT
THE SAME TIME, VALUABLE SKILLS ARE BEING
LOST. REPAIR CAFÉS CREATE A CHANGE TO
REDUCE WASTE AND REBUILD COMMUNITY
CONNECTION.



SOLUTION

INTMONTHLY REPAIR CAFÉS INVITE PEOPLE TO
FIX, REPURPOSE, OR REDESIGN BROKEN ITEMS
TOGETHER. EACH ISLAND ADAPTS THE CONCEPT
LOCALLY WHILE SHARING IDEAS AND DESIGNS
THROUGH THE FREIIA NETWORK.



WHAT ALREADY EXISTS?

LOSCHOOLS, WORKSHOPS, AND ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS ALREADY EXIST ON THE
ISLANDS . A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR
COMMUNITY-BASED REPAIR AND REUSE.



WHAT IS NEEDED?

BASIC TOOLS, MATERIALS, MENTORS, AND
COORDINATION SUPPORT. SMALL FUNDING IS
REQUIRED FOR EQUIPMENT, VENUES, AND
COMMUNICATION.



WHO IMPLEMENTS IT?

KOSTER: KOSTERHAVETS NATIONALPARK
BORNHOLM: BORNHOLMS GENBRUGSFORENING
HVALER: HVALER FRIVILLIGSENTRAL
GROIX: GROIX ET NATURE
OUESSANT: ASSOCIATION TROELL
SCHIERMONNIKOOG: NATURMONUMENTEN



WHEN IS IT FEASIBLE?

PILOT CAFÉS CAN START WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND
EXPAND ACROSS THE FREIIA NETWORK AFTER
TESTING AND EVALUATION.



EXPECTED IMPACTS

BEREDUCES WASTE, PROMOTES CREATIVITY AND
REUSE, AND STRENGTHENS SOCIAL BONDS
THROUGH SHARED ACTIVITY AND
INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING.



RISK FACTORS AND MITIGATION

STRATEGIES

POSSIBLE LOW ENGAGEMENT OR LIMITED
VOLUNTEERS CAN BE ADDRESSED BY
SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS, FLEXIBLE
SCHEDULING, AND SHARED INTER-ISLAND
RESOURCES.



POSSIBLE FUNDING OR BUSINESS

MODEL

REGMUNICIPAL GRANTS, EU CIRCULAR
ECONOMY FUNDS, LOCAL SPONSORS, OR
SMALL PARTICIPATION FEES ENSURE
SUSTAINABILITY AND CONTINUITY.



SUGGESTED NEXT

STEPS

DENTIFY PILOT ISLANDS, HOST THE FIRST CAFÉS,
COLLECT EXPERIENCES, AND SHARE DESIGNS AND
METHODS THROUGH THE FREIIA NETWORK TO GROW
THE INITIATIVE ACROSS ALL PARTNER ISLANDS.

Islands: Hvaler, Bornholm, Ouessant, Koster, Groix & Schiermonnikoog

Title: **Repair Café Network**



1. **Target group**

Local residents, craftspeople, students, and community volunteers interested in sustainability, creativity, and hands-on learning. The initiative also targets municipalities and local organizations seeking to reduce waste and strengthen social engagement.

2. **Problem and opportunity**

Many islands face growing waste challenges and limited access to repair services. Items that could easily be fixed or reused are often thrown away, and valuable practical knowledge is being lost as older generations retire. This creates an opportunity to combine environmental action with community interaction transforming waste into shared value through repair, creativity, and collaboration.

3. **Your solution**

The Island Repair Café Network establishes regular community-based “repair cafés” on the islands. These are open events where residents bring broken or unwanted items to repair, repurpose, or transform together with local mentors. Participants learn practical repair skills and explore creative upcycling, turning broken objects into new, useful, or decorative items. Each café becomes a local hub for learning, reuse, and circular creativity, while a shared FREIIA network connects the islands to exchange ideas, tutorials, and best practices.

4. **What already exists?**

Each island already has schools, local craftsmen, community centers, and volunteers that can serve as hosts or mentors. There are also relevant precedents in community recycling initiatives and skill-sharing networks that demonstrate the feasibility of small-scale circular projects.

5. What is needed?

A simple organizational framework for scheduling and promotion, a small pool of shared tools and materials, and volunteer coordination. Basic funding will be needed for venue rental, safety equipment, and communication between participating islands.

6. Who implements it?

The initiative can be coordinated by municipalities or local NGOs, supported by schools, cultural centers, and environmental groups. The FREIIA network facilitates knowledge-sharing and ensures visibility across partner islands.

7. When is it feasible?

The project can start within six months as a pilot on one or two islands. After initial testing and feedback, the concept can be replicated across the FREIIA network with joint events such as “Circular Week” or “Repair Month.”

8. Expected impacts

The Island Repair Café Network is expected to generate both environmental and social benefits. Environmentally, it will reduce waste, extend product lifespans, and promote reuse. Socially, it will strengthen community ties, create new meeting spaces, and encourage intergenerational learning. It also fosters local creativity and pride, positioning the islands as examples of circular innovation in practice.

9. Risk factors and mitigation

Potential challenges include limited participation, lack of volunteers, and coordination difficulties. These can be mitigated through community outreach, collaboration with schools and local organizations, and clear scheduling. A rotating volunteer system and shared resources between islands will maintain activity and continuity.

10. Possible funding or business model

Funding may come from municipal environmental budgets, EU circular economy programs, and local sponsorships. Donations, small participation fees, or community fundraising can cover material costs and support long-term sustainability.

11. Suggested next steps

The next steps involve identifying pilot islands and local partners willing to host the first repair cafés. An inter-island working group should be formed to coordinate shared materials, tools, and communication. Once the pilot events are completed, experiences and designs should be documented and shared through the FREIIA network. A follow-up phase can then expand the concept to all partner islands, creating a permanent inter-island network for repair, reuse, and creativity.

STAKEHOLDER MAP

KOSTER

Local Government	Strömstad Kommun
Local Coordinating Body	Koster Framtid AB
Local Coordinating Body	Kosterhavets Nationalpark
Local Venue	Hembygdsförening
Local Venue	Gästhamnen
Local Education	Koster Skola

GROIX

Local Government	Commune de Groix
Local Coordinating Body	Groix et Nature
Local Coordinating Body	Association Économique de l'Île de Groix
Local Venue	Salle des Fêtes
Local Education	École Publique de Groix

BORNHOLM

Local Government	Bornholms Regionskommune
Local Coordinating Body	Bornholms Genbrugsforening
Local Coordinating Body	Borgerforening
Local Venue	Kulturhuset i Rønne
Local Venue	Bornholms Folkebibliotek
Local School	VUC Bornholm
Local School	University of College Copenhagen (Campus Bornholm)

OUESSANT

Local Government	Commune d'Ouessant
Local Coordinating Body	Association Troell
Local Venue	Sport Ouessant Spa
Local Education	Middle School De L'île d'Ouessant
Local Education	L'ecole D'Ouessant

HVALER

Local Government	Hvaler Kommune
Local Coordinating Body	Hvaler Frivilligsentral
Local Venue	Hvaler Samfunnshus
Local Venue	Hvaler Kulturhus
Local Education	Hvaler Ungdomsskole

SCHIERMONNIKOOG

Local Government	Gemeente Schiermonnikoog
Local Coordinating Body	Natuurmonumenten
Local Venue	Dorpshuis Ons Centrum
Local Venue	Informatiecentrum Het Bakken
Local Education	SWS 'Yn de mande'
Local Education	Inspecteur Boelensschool

ROLE DEFINITIONS

- **Local Government** - Provides administrative approval and initial funding.
- **Local Coordinating** - Organizes events and recruits volunteer fixers and mentors using its community network.
- **Local Venue** - Provides the primary physical location for the repair cafés.
- **Local Education** - Provides the primary physical location for the repair cafés.

