

# COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

## BORNHOLM



### ISLAND & IDEA TITLE

BORNHOLM

COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION - BUILDING A CROSS-SECTOR PLATFORM FOR ISLAND SOLUTIONS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT INNOVATION, STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS, AND CREATE COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY



### TARGET GROUP

STUDENTS & ENTREPRENEURS  
PUBLIC SECTOR ACTORS & CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS  
ARTISANS  
SMES & RESEARCHERS  
YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS



### PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY

BORNHOLM HAS MANY CREATIVE ACTORS AND PUBLIC INITIATIVES, BUT INNOVATION EFFORTS ARE OFTEN FRAGMENTED AND SILOED  
COULD UNLOCK SYNERGIES, SUPPORT SOCIAL INNOVATION, AND EMPOWER STUDENTS AND LOCALS TO CO-CREATE ISLAND SOLUTIONS



### SOLUTION

ESTABLISH AN "ISLAND INNOVATION PLATFORM" BASED IN AN ACCESSIBLE LOCATION ON BORNHOLM  
HOST HACKATHONS, CO-CREATION LABS, AND STUDENT-LED PILOT PROJECTS  
SHARED WORKING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPACE  
A TESTBED FOR CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION



### WHAT ALREADY EXISTS?

ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM AND INNOVATION ACTORS (BORNHOLMS ENERGI & FORSYNING, BRIGHT GREEN ISLAND)  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE INTEREST IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS VIA FREIIA  
EXISTING LOCAL VENUES AND STRONG DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE



### WHAT IS NEEDED?

A DESIGNATED COLLABORATION SPACE (RENOVATION OR RE-USE)  
MANAGEMENT AND FACILITATION TEAM  
ANNUAL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES  
INVESTMENT IN DESIGN TOOLS AND WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT  
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPALITY AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS



### WHO IMPLEMENTS IT?

STUDENTS (FREIIA, UCPH)  
MUNICIPALITY OF BORNHOLM  
LOCAL AND REGIONAL INNOVATION ACTORS  
ASSOCIATIONS AND SMES  
EXTERNAL RESEARCH AND EU PARTNERS



### WHEN IS IT FEASIBLE?

PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING: AUTUMN 2025  
SPACE PREPARATION AND PILOT EVENTS: SPRING 2026  
OFFICIAL LAUNCH: AUTUMN 2026



### EXPECTED IMPACTS

GREATER COOPERATION, CO-CREATED SOLUTIONS  
BOOST IN INNOVATION CAPACITY AND LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
HANDS-ON INNOVATION FOR STUDENTS AND YOUTH  
FOCUS ON CIRCULAR AND GREEN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



### RISK FACTORS AND MITIGATION

#### STRATEGIES

LOW PARTICIPATION → INVOLVE COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ACTORS IN PROGRAM CO-DESIGN  
FACILITY COSTS → USE EXISTING PUBLIC SPACES, PURSUE EU RENOVATION GRANTS  
FRAGMENTATION → SECURE LONG-TERM FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS



### POSSIBLE FUNDING OR BUSINESS

#### MODEL

EU INTERREG (INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS, CIRCULAR ECONOMY)  
NATIONAL DANISH INNOVATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
CSR PARTNERSHIPS (ENERGY, DESIGN, MOBILITY SECTORS)  
EVENT-BASED REVENUE AND MEMBERSHIP MODEL



### SUGGESTED NEXT

#### STEPS

PRESENT CONCEPT TO MUNICIPALITY OF BORNHOLM AND INNOVATION STAKEHOLDERS  
CONDUCT A "NEEDS AND SPACE INVENTORY" OF SUITABLE LOCATIONS  
LAUNCH CO-CREATION PROCESS FOR PROGRAM DESIGN  
IDENTIFY INITIAL PILOT THEMES (E.G. CIRCULAR TOURISM, TRANSPORT, EDUCATION)  
PROTOTYPE FIRST EVENTS AND COLLABORATIVE PILOTS IN 2026

Island: Bornholm (Denmark)

Title: **Collaboration and Innovation** – Building a Cross-Sector Platform for Island Solutions designed to support innovation, strengthen partnerships, and create collaborative capacity across Bornholm.

### 1. Target group

Students, entrepreneurs, public sector actors, civic associations, artisans, SMEs, researchers, youth organizations.

### 2. Problem and opportunity

Bornholm has many creative actors and public initiatives, but innovation efforts are often fragmented and siloed. There is limited infrastructure for cross-sector collaboration and few neutral arenas for long-term project development. Creating a structured platform for collaboration could unlock synergies, support social innovation, and empower students and locals to co-create island solutions.

### 3. Your solution

Establish an “Island Innovation Platform” based in an accessible location on Bornholm. It would:

Offer shared working and project development space

Serve as a testbed for cross-sector collaboration (municipality, NGOs, businesses)

Host hackathons, co-creation labs, and student-led pilot projects

Facilitate innovation programs focused on circular economy, mobility, health, and education

Create a permanent anchor point for EU-funded innovation on Bornholm

### 4. What already exists?

- Entrepreneurial ecosystem and innovation actors (Bornholms Energi & Forsyning, Bright Green Island)
- Public-private interest in circular economy
- Academic collaborations via FREIIA
- Existing local venues and strong digital infrastructure

### 5. What is needed?

A designated collaboration space (renovation or re-use)

Management and facilitation team

Annual program of activities

Investment in design tools and workshop equipment

Framework agreement with municipality and educational partners

## **6. Who implements it?**

Students (FREIIA, UCPH) – pilot concepts, community engagement  
Municipality of Bornholm – strategic facilitator and infrastructure partner  
Local and regional innovation actors – program development  
Associations and SMEs – contributors and co-creators  
External research and EU partners – knowledge sharing

## **7. When is it feasible?**

Planning and partnership building: Autumn 2025  
Space preparation and pilot events: Spring 2026  
Official launch: Autumn 2026

## **8. Expected Impacts**

Social: Greater cooperation, co-created solutions  
Economic: Boost in innovation capacity and local entrepreneurship  
Educational: Hands-on innovation for students and youth  
Environmental: Focus on circular and green project development

## **9. Risk Factors and Mitigation Strategies**

Low participation → Involve community and local actors in program co-design  
Facility costs → Use existing public spaces, pursue EU renovation grants  
Fragmentation → Secure long-term framework agreement with key stakeholders

## **10. Possible Funding or Business Model**

EU Interreg (innovation ecosystems, circular economy)  
National Danish innovation and rural development funds  
Regional development programs  
CSR partnerships (energy, design, mobility sectors)  
Event-based revenue and membership model

## **11. Suggested Next Steps**

Present concept to Municipality of Bornholm and innovation stakeholders  
Conduct a “needs and space inventory” of suitable locations  
Launch co-creation process for program design  
Identify initial pilot themes (e.g. circular tourism, transport, education)  
Prototype first events and collaborative pilots in 2026

## Municipality's Facilitating Role (RUDDER Framework)

Leadership: Position Bornholm as a collaborative innovation island; appoint innovation liaison.

Connector: Link local actors with students, researchers and external partners.

Facilitator / Creator: Support physical space development and program infrastructure.

Provider: Offer access to public buildings, logistics, and pilot support.

Ambassador: Promote Bornholm's innovation platform in national and EU networks.

Leverage / Capitalize: Use the platform to attract further EU funding and new pilot projects.

Network Orbiting: Join Nordic and European innovation ecosystems.

Procurement Trendsetter: Enable project-based procurement models supporting early-stage collaboration.

Stakeholder	Role in project	Interest/Motivation
Students (FREIIA, UCPH)	Co-creators, event hosts, researchers	Learning, innovation practice, networks
Municipality of Bornholm	Strategic facilitator, space provider	Local innovation, project coordination
Local SMEs and entrepreneurs	Program users, pilot testers	Business development, co-creation opportunities
NGOs and civic actors	Partners and contributors	Mission impact, cross-sector work
Innovation clusters / researchers	Program partners, content providers	Regional collaboration and testing
EU and Nordic networks	Partners and funders	Strengthen island innovation and resilience