

ISLAND COUNCIL FOR LOCAL DIALOGUE AND GOVERNANCE

QUESSANT



ISLAND & IDEA TITLE

QUESSANT

ISLAND COUNCIL FOR LOCAL DIALOGUE AND GOVERNANCE - EMPOWERING INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING ON QUESSANT TO ENHANCE CIVIC PARTICIPATION, INCLUSIVITY, AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP OF DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES THROUGH THE CREATION OF A FORMAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY STRUCTURE.



TARGET GROUP

ALL ISLAND RESIDENTS
YOUTH AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS
LOCAL BUSINESSES AND PRODUCERS
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES
CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS



PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY

QUESSANT FACES A GAP IN STRUCTURED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING. ESTABLISHING A FORMAL ISLAND COUNCIL CAN BRIDGE THIS GAP, FOSTER DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION, AND ENSURE THAT POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT REFLECT THE NEEDS AND IDEAS OF DIVERSE COMMUNITY SEGMENTS.



SOLUTION

ESTABLISH AN "ISLAND COUNCIL" AS A FORMAL LOCAL ADVISORY BODY MADE UP OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS.



WHAT ALREADY EXISTS?

HIGH LEVELS OF COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND PRIDE IN NATURAL HERITAGE
EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS (E.G. USHANT ISLAND NATURE RESERVE)
AD HOC CONSULTATIONS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS
INTEREST FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES
WILLINGNESS AMONG RESIDENTS TO ENGAGE WHEN OFFERED STRUCTURED INVITATIONS



WHAT IS NEEDED?

APPROX. €12,000 STARTUP BUDGET
MUNICIPALITY SUPPORT AND FORMAL RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL'S ADVISORY ROLE
TRANSPARENT ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK
OUTREACH MATERIALS IN FRENCH AND BRETON LANGUAGES
TRAINING FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT FACILITATORS



WHO IMPLEMENTS IT?

FREIA AND PARTNER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
MUNICIPALITY OF QUESSANT
RESIDENTS
LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS AND NGOS
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND SCHOOL NETWORKS



WHEN IS IT FEASIBLE?

PLANNING & OUTREACH: SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2025
INITIAL COMMUNITY MEETING: DECEMBER 2025
WORKING GROUP FORMATION & ELECTIONS: JANUARY 2026
ISLAND COUNCIL LAUNCH: FEBRUARY 2026
MONTHLY MEETINGS BEGIN: MARCH 2026 ONWARD



EXPECTED IMPACTS

EFFICIENT USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES THROUGH INCLUSIVE PLANNING
CIVIC TRUST, YOUTH INCLUSION, GREATER EQUITY
INPUT ON CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
DEMOCRATIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATORY CULTURE



RISK FACTORS AND MITIGATION

STRATEGIES

LOW TURNOUT OR TRUST → DIRECT MAIL INVITATIONS, PUBLIC LAUNCH EVENT, INCLUSIVE FACILITATION
DISENGAGEMENT OVER TIME → ROTATING ROLES, TANGIBLE OUTCOMES, VISIBLE IMPACT STORIES
DOMINANCE BY A FEW VOICES → BALANCED REPRESENTATION, OPEN FEEDBACK CHANNELS
MISALIGNMENT WITH MUNICIPAL PLANS → EARLY AGREEMENT ON ADVISORY STATUS AND COLLABORATION



POSSIBLE FUNDING OR BUSINESS

MODEL

FRENCH RURAL DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE FUNDS
EU CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INNOVATION GRANTS
MUNICIPALITY CO-FINANCING
PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT FROM CIVIC EDUCATION NGOS
VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION AND IN-KIND SUPPORT



SUGGESTED NEXT

STEPS

GAIN MUNICIPAL APPROVAL FOR ESTABLISHING THE ISLAND COUNCIL
DEVELOP INCLUSIVE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN (MAIL, POSTERS, SCHOOL AND NGO NETWORKS)
FACILITATE FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING TO FORM WORKING GROUPS
ORGANIZE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION PROCESS PER GROUP
PREPARE MONTHLY AGENDA TEMPLATES AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS
LAUNCH FIRST ISLAND COUNCIL SESSION IN EARLY 2026

Island: Ouessant (France)

Title: **Island Council for Local Dialogue and Governance** - Empowering Inclusive Decision-Making on Ouessant to enhance civic participation, inclusivity, and local ownership of development initiatives through the creation of a formal community advisory structure.

1. Target group

All island residents. Youth and student representatives. Environmental and cultural organizations. Local businesses and producers. Municipal authorities. Civil society groups.

2. Problem and Opportunity

Ouessant faces a gap in structured community involvement in public decision-making. Despite strong local identity and environmental awareness, limited civic platforms exist for ongoing, representative dialogue. Establishing a formal Island Council can bridge this gap, foster democratic participation, and ensure that policy and development reflect the needs and ideas of diverse community segments.

3. Solution

Establish an "Island Council" as a formal local advisory body made up of elected representatives from thematic working groups. Key features:

- Send all residents a formal invitation by mail to join an initial community meeting.
- Create thematic working groups (e.g., environment, infrastructure, youth) for residents to self-select into.
- Elect two representatives per group to serve on the Island Council.
- Host monthly Island Council meetings with rotating facilitation.
- Use digital tools (website, social media) to publish minutes, gather feedback, and announce agendas.
- Empower the council to advise the municipality on development projects, environmental strategies, and cultural initiatives.

4. What already exists?

- High levels of community identity and pride in natural heritage
- Existing environmental and cultural organizations (e.g. Ushant Island Nature Reserve)
- Ad hoc consultations and community events
- Interest from local authorities in participatory processes
- Willingness among residents to engage when offered structured invitations

5. What is needed?

Approx. €12,000 startup budget (meeting logistics, communication materials, facilitation training)

Municipality support and formal recognition of council's advisory role
Transparent election and governance framework
Outreach materials in French and Breton languages
Training for elected representatives and student facilitators

6. Who implements it?

FREIIA and partner university students (design, coordination, digital tools)
Municipality of Ouessant (official recognition, logistics, support)
Residents (working group participation, elections, council engagement)
Local associations and NGOs (mobilization, capacity building)
Youth representatives and school networks (youth council integration)

7. When is it feasible

Planning & Outreach: September – November 2025
Initial Community Meeting: December 2025
Working Group Formation & Elections: January 2026
Island Council Launch: February 2026
Monthly Meetings Begin: March 2026 onward

8. Expected Impacts

Economic: More efficient use of local resources through inclusive planning
Social: Strengthened civic trust, youth inclusion, greater equity
Environmental: Community-led input on conservation and sustainable development
Educational: Democratic skills development and participatory culture

9. Risk Factors and Mitigation Strategies

Low turnout or trust → Direct mail invitations, public launch event, inclusive facilitation
Disengagement over time → Rotating roles, tangible outcomes, visible impact stories
Dominance by a few voices → Balanced representation, open feedback channels
Misalignment with municipal plans → Early agreement on advisory status and collaboration

10. Possible Funding or Business Model

French rural democracy and local governance funds
EU Civic Participation and Social Innovation grants
Municipality co-financing
Partnership support from civic education NGOs
Volunteer contribution and in-kind support

11. Suggested Next Steps

- Gain municipal approval for establishing the Island Council
- Develop inclusive outreach campaign (mail, posters, school and NGO networks)
- Facilitate first community meeting to form working groups
 - Organize democratic election process per group
- Prepare monthly agenda templates and digital platforms
- Launch first Island Council session in early 2026

Municipality's Facilitating Role (RUDDER Framework)

Leadership: Endorse and institutionalize the Island Council in local governance structures.

Connector: Help connect thematic working groups with relevant municipal departments.

Facilitator / Creator: Support facilitation training and resource provision for meetings.

Provider: Offer meeting spaces, staff support, and public communication tools.

Ambassador: Promote Ouessant as a model for rural participatory democracy.

Leverage / Capitalize: Use the Island Council to inform development strategies and strengthen community initiatives.

Network Orbiting: Share insights with other island municipalities in France and the EU.

Procurement Trendsetter: Embed community consultation into public procurement and service design.

Stakeholder	Role in project	Interest / Motivation
Students (FREIIA, partner universities)	Process design, facilitation, digital tools	Governance innovation, democratic learning
Municipality of Ouessant	Recognition, logistics, support	Transparent governance, trust-building
Local residents	Working group members, voters, advisors	Voice in decisions, ownership of future
Environmental and cultural NGOs	Partners, trainers, content providers	Conservation advocacy, cultural vitality
Youth and schools	Council participants, group leaders	Civic education, youth inclusion
Community organizations	Mobilization, promotion	Stronger networks, social cohesion