

Port EU: Lesbos

Preliminary Project plan



VISION

We turn Lesbos into “Port EU”, from which refugees with strong competencies are sent onwards to jobs in Europe, where qualified workmanship is needed.

This provides means for less resourceful refugees.

The refugees are trained in English on Lesbos, and provided the skill set wanted in Europe to competencies non-dependent of the local language.

Port EU is financially self-sustained after a few years.

Version 1.0 - 16/7 2018

by

Society Think Tank

in cooperation with

Forenade A/S





"Europe has no reason to be afraid of the refugees.

They can be part of our communities and contribute to the economic development by paying their taxes, renting homes, the money will re-circulate in the market.

This plan can be implemented as a pilot program in Lesbos and I am sure that other regions will follow."

~ Spyros Galinos,
Mayor of Lesbos [1]

"Of all the people I talked to in Lesbos, nobody wanted to stay in Greece, and almost everyone was hoping to move on to Germany or Scandinavia.

If we allowed for identification before migrants reached the country where they want to apply for asylum, reception and integration could be planned beforehand, through perfectly legal – and most importantly safer – procedures."

~ Marika Surace,
Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights [2]

[1] http://www.worldmayor.com/contest_2016/profile-lesbos-mayor.html

[2] <https://openmigration.org/en/analyses/10-things-to-change-in-how-we-are-handling-the-migrant-crisis-in-lesbos/>



Introduction

We wish to offer our help and competencies to improve the work- and educational system for refugees. Both to refugees residing on Lesbos and those who move to the rest of Europe. We furthermore wish to increase the use of electric vehicles on Lesbos and the closest islands, as well as in Europe in general, while creating jobs in the local community.

We do this voluntarily and expect no payment, as we finance the project via sponsoring.

We represent the second largest Nordic cleaning-, care and service company, Forenede A/S (from which we have much experience of integrating refugees in the Danish and Swedish workplaces, and run refugee centers in Sweden), and the cross-political Society Think Tank (where we have much experience in solving complex societal challenges via the use of science).

We have chosen to focus our current efforts in Sweden and Greece, because these countries have handled the majority of the modern refugee-situation, and with Skaane and Lesbos especially due to their focus on welcoming refugees and integrating them, as well as their focus from these areas on promoting a sustainable use of energy.

We have access to hundreds of used electric cars, which can be renovated in Lesbos. We wish to send competent teachers, in order to use the renovation process for educating refugees as electric car mechanics and -drivers, both in Lesbos and in Europe. We also prepare the vehicles to be used on Lesbos' roads, where an electric charging-infrastructure already exists, or one can easily be established.

We are aware that this is only a small solution to a much bigger problem in Lesbos and in Europe, but we see this as a worthy contribution to the overall solution of the refugee challenges as well as local progress, and we regard it as an area where our unique assets and competencies can make a considerable difference.

About Society Think Tank and Forenede A/S



Society Think Tank (www.samfundstanken.dk/en). Society Think Tank (Danish: SamfundsTanken) is an independent and cross-political analytic center, which identifies new solutions to some of Society's greatest challenges. Society Think Tank will primarily contribute with analyses and knowledge gathering on how societal structures on the micro- and macro level inhibit or promote the individual welfare and opportunities of expression. Long term, Society Think Tank can act politically on a party- and lobby level, in order to promote the best solutions regarding a worthy society to everyone in its care.



Forenede A/S (www.forenede.dk). The Forenede corporation was established in 1959 under the name "De Forenede Rengøringselskaber A/S" by the two energetic brothers Peer and Poul Krogh. Since 1959, Forenede A/S has developed into one of the leading service corporations within the areas Facility Service and Health Care. The Forenede corporation remains in the hands of the Krogh family. Forenede A/S is the first big company to participate in the "1/1000 for Lesbos" refugee-financing program, and adds its experience in running **refugee** centers and educational programs in Sweden.



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Resume of project plan

The Greek island Lesbos (Lesvos in Greek) has become the prime staging point for integration from Syria, Africa etc. to EU, but the lack of skills for future job openings and the requirement of EUR 50,000 per year salary (per single person or family) is a huge hindrance for many otherwise capable persons and families.

Society Think Tank is a Danish professional cross-political organization from 2014, specialized in unemployment, welfare and education subjects, with a strictly scientific but also very practical perspective. We see an opening to improve the situation on Lesbos for refugees, locals and the authorities by providing education and jobs with up-cycling and using electric cars otherwise marked for scrapping.

Society Think Tank holds much of its vast experience with electric vehicles primarily from its founder Soeren O. Ekelund (www.soerenekelund.dk), who has worked with electric vehicles since 2008, in 2010-2011 took a Guinness world record with the Moto Mundo Electric World Tour, and in 2016-17 sold his last shares in the Mobility & Energy Group (www.mobilityandenergy.com) which is based on several of Soeren's companies.

The electric vehicle market is currently booming and will continue to do so in the coming decades, with all major automotive manufacturers now marketing electric cars and hybrids. The dealing of new diesel and gasoline cars is being outlawed by many European states starting from 2025-2030, and already now city centers begin closing to fossil-fuel-vehicles.

But there is a lack of mechanics and drivers skilled in electric cars, due to conservatism within the business. This can work to the advantage of refugees, if they can come with expert skills in repair, maintenance and optimal use of electric vehicles to a market that truly needs them. The workshop environment has little need for writing in Danish or English, while it will gain from the refugees' generally good verbal and reading English skills. And the salary of skilled car mechanics reaches the EUR 50,000 point in many European countries.

Teaching refugees about electric car maintenance and repair, and giving them a job relating to it, thus makes a lot of sense both from a humanitarian perspective and a business perspective.

And it also makes sense from Lesbos' own perspective: Lesbos had, before the refugee crisis, a policy of becoming a Green Island. As such Lesbos has already been prepared with electric vehicle infrastructure and renewable energy sources in 2010-2015, which means that they have been at the forefront - but also sadly that they are now behind the latest charging technologies.

This means that Lesbos, also due to its small size (approx. 40 x 40 km), is very suitable for electric cars produced in 2010-2015 with ranges of 50-100 km, and a few examples of newer cars and charging infrastructure might be added to ensure refugee students on the island know these as well.

Society Think Tank has been offered 1300+ electric vehicles of various brands and models from the 2010-2015 period, which can be shipped to Lesbos and used to teach repair and maintenance. The vehicles can be taken over almost for free, since they were otherwise due for recycling at a cost of EUR 500-3,000 each to current owners. Society Think Tank has previously bought and sold batteries and electric busses in a similar fashion. We estimate that around 1/3 of the vehicles are in - or can be returned to with spare parts from the rest - a working condition, so they can begin to service Lesbos as taxis and similar service vehicles, after this has been taught to the refugees as well. Some vehicles might also sold to third party organizations after repair or otherwise contribute to the project.

We want to use the combination of teaching refugees and being part of creating a 'green island' on Lesbos,



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to attract humanitarian tourists from Scandinavia, a cooperation Michael Krogh (minority owner of Forenede A/S) has already secured with Spies Rejser. This, together with Scandinavian humanitarian organizations such as Engineers Without Borders International and foreign aid organizations, gives us a lot of skilled but free labor to feed the project.

With this setup we will be able to attract massive amounts of positive PR, so we hope that some of the automotive manufacturers will not only grant us the vehicles for free, but also help with paying half the transport costs to figure prominently in the PR. There are other and perhaps better options for bargaining with the PR, such as enticing banks that need a humanitarian branding to participate with more funds.

Forenede A/S – the second biggest Nordic cleaning, nursing and service company, having great experience with integration of refugees in the workplace in Denmark and Sweden, and running refugee centers in Sweden – is the first company to join the ‘1/1000 for Lesbos’ campaign, which will finance much of the Port EU project; Forenede A/S has pledged 1/1000 of its yearly profits to the campaign and will during late 2018 and early 2019 also work for many of their employees to join with 1/1000 of their wage as tax deductible donations. Society Think Tank will work to spread the campaign to many other companies.

For costs which are not covered elsewhere, we will seek subsidies from Danish employment and innovation programs, as well as grants from refugee-focused foundations. For these purposes the Port EU project will be established as its own legal entity, separate from all participating parties and governed by a neutral board.

In addition we will coordinate with the Lesbos municipality, the Greek government and a range of charity organizations already present on Lesbos, to ensure efficient coordination and support wherever possible.

Next step is to get a much greater understanding of the exact conditions, infrastructure, government and manpower available on Lesbos (among the refugees as well as local populace and likely foreign volunteers), the conditions and manpower available to prepare and transport the donated electric vehicles at their points of origin, and the exact conditions of the available electric vehicles.



Competence overview

Society Think Tank contributes/has connections to

Project developers; Danish
Project managers; Danish
Society analysts ; Danish and Swedish
Society planners; Danish and Swedish
Electric car suppliers; German, French, Italian and Japanese.
Electric car experts; Danish, Greek, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Swiss, Italian, Japanese
Electric car mechanics; Danish, Greek, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Swiss, Italian, Japanese
Electric car charging infrastructure experts; Danish, Swedish and German
Photographer of pictures and video; Danish
Web development and maintenance; Danish
Experts in fundraising; Danish
Gathering companies who enter financially into '1/1000 for Lesbos'

Forenede A/S contributes/has connections to

Administrators; Danish
Refugee educational-competencies; Swedish
Refugee-camp building- and management competencies; Swedish
Car fleet experts; Swedish

Michael Krogh (co-owner of Forenede A/S) contributes/has connections to

Marketing people and project developers; Danish
Project managers in Greece; Greek
Administrators in Greece; Greek
Lawyers in Greece; Greek
Accountants in Greece; Greek
Greek/English translators; Danish

Task division pt.

Society Think Tank

- Applications for Innobooster (NOT EU DP, it takes too long and is too administratively cumbersome).
- Final negotiation with automobile suppliers, Peugeot, Mitsubishi and Citroën among others.
- Contact to repair shops in Lesbos
- Contact to mayor in Lesbos
- Contact to refugee-camps in Lesbos
- Contact to refugees with asylum in Lesbos
- Contact to taxi- and bus companies in Lesbos
- Contact to approval authorities for vehicles in Lesbos
- Contact to relief aid groups and volunteers acting operating in Lesbos
- Contact to immigration authorities in the EU

Forenede A/S

- Awaiting board meeting in August

Michael Krogh (co-owner of Forenede A/S)

- Get a first impression of the situation among the local population in Lesbos in July via associates on site