European Islands, Development and the Cohesion Policy: A Case Study of Kökar, Åland Islands

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Abstract: A European Union initiative is seeking ways of determining the development potential of Europe's lagging regions, which include various islands. On the basis of the policy review, methodology and data collected by the ongoing EUROISLANDS project, this paper presents Kökar (population: 262), the easternmost municipality of the Åland Islands, as a prototype archipelago that is seriously challenged by its size and multiple peripherality. It reviews the state of its social and transportation infrastructure, and of its human and financial capital. While the situation is serious, there are opportunities for branding, for developing associated economic activity, as well for appealing to a new wave of residents.

Keywords: EUROISLANDS, Åland Islands, attractiveness, European Union, Finland, islands, Kökar, peripherality, Sweden
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