



SMILES Cost Action Was There!

Irene Christoforidi¹, Savvas Zotos², Charitini Pantagaki³, Haroula Vamvouka¹, Michelle Cowley-Cunningham⁴

¹ Department of Agriculture, Hellenic Mediterranean University, 71410 Heraklion, Crete, Greece

² Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Open University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

³ Department of Biology, University of Crete, Greece / Natural History Museum of Crete, University of Crete, Greece

⁴ DCU Business School, Dublin City University, Dublin 9, Ireland



Where?

SMILES Cost Action CA21158 participated at the Event "Fascination of Plant Day" at Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU), Heraklion, Crete, Greece (18th May 2025). The Event took place in the Experimental Farm of HMU and comprised 37 activities, 124 researchers and 2,500+ participants. Local communities embraced this Event, participating in several activities, aiming to inform them about their local flora and ecosystems. The Experimental Farm of HMU consists of an area of 45 ha and is covered with Mediterranean and subtropical crops, greenhouses, experimental fields, and a botanical garden...

Who?

SMILES Cost Action was represented by Dr Irene Christoforidi, Charitini Pantagaki and Haroula Vamvouka. Event participants engaged with "Fascination of Plant Day" activities, and were informed about Ecosystem Services (ES) and Mediterranean ecosystems across the islands.



How?

- SMILES Comic was translated to Greek and distributed to the children and teenage participants.
- They were informed about the local ecosystems of the Greek island, Crete.
- Additionally, young participants painted the most important ES for their island in a participatory painting, according to their own perceptions and perspectives.



Stay tuned! More events soon...

Young participants described how they were made more aware of the Ecosystem Services on the Cretan island. They enjoyed the activities and remarked that SMILES Comic presents an interesting and fun "Treasure Hunting of Scientific Knowledge". More SMILES Events are coming! Stay tuned!

