

Call for Applications

Training School on enhancing the knowledge base of ecosystem services in small and medium island environments 27–28 September 2025 | Samos, Greece

The training school is organized within the **SMILES COST Action** (CA21158) “Enhancing Small-Medium Islands resilience by securing the sustainability of Ecosystem Services”



Are you engaged in island-relevant research or policy and eager to explore interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability and disaster risk reduction? Apply now to join a dynamic 2-day Summer Training School, organized under the **SMILES COST Action**. This training offers a platform for hands-on learning and exchange on the role of ecosystem services (ES) in small and medium islands (SMIs) which are unique environments that provide critical ecological, cultural, and economic benefits both locally and beyond. Participants will be introduced to core theoretical foundations, practical tools, and field-based applications of ES assessments. The training aims to explore how the ES concept can be applied to safeguard critical ecological, cultural, and economic benefits through integrated, cross-disciplinary methods in island contexts.

Topic overview

The training will combine **lectures, hands-on tools, fieldwork, and collaborative workshops**. Sessions will be led by international experts and feature practical applications of ES assessment methods and mapping tools. The program will include:

- ES frameworks in small-medium islands
- Islands' values of nature and their contributions to people
- Mapping and assessing methods for island ES
- Hands-on training of ES mapping tools (e.g. InVEST and PPGIS)
- Fieldwork for data collection in island environments

Eligibility Criteria

The application is open to:

- **Early-career researchers** (at least MSc level, and preferably with a maximum of 10 years experience post-degree) in environmental sciences, geography, ecology, and sustainability studies.
- **Policy-makers** and **practitioners** working on island conservation and management.
- **NGOs, stakeholders, and community representatives** from island regions.

Those of you who are interested in applying:

- Must be engaged in **island-relevant research or practice**
- **No prior experience** with ecosystem services is required
- **Must have prior knowledge** of basic spatial data analysis and GIS
- Ensure **geographic diversity** is represented

Participation Details

- The training will take place **in person** in **Samos, Greece**, on **27–28 September 2025**.
- Participants are required to **bring their own laptop** for hands-on exercises.
- **Financial support** is available through the **SMILES COST Action** for **15-20 selected participants**. This includes:
 - Up to **€700** for **long-distance travel** expenses
 - A **daily allowance of €199** (for up to 3 days), which covers **accommodation and meals**

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit their application by **16 August 2025** via the following online form:

[SMILES Training School 2025 | Application form](#)

Timeline

- Opening of applications: **17 July 2025**
- Application deadline: **16 August 2025**
- Notification of selected participants: **23 August 2025**