

COST Action CA21158

Enhancing Small-Medium Islands
resilience by securing the sustainability of
Ecosystem Services (SMILES)

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ACTION CHAIR

22/9/2022



COST Association Contact Points



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Agenda



Presentation of the Action

Discussion-Leading positions

Discussion-Work and Budget Plan (Grant period 1)

Discussion-Work and Budget Plan (Grant period 2)



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Presentation- Main goal



SMILES COST Action: CA21158

Enhancing Small-Medium Islands resilience by securing the sustainability of Ecosystem Services

Duration: September 2022 - September 2026

- Islands are isolated pieces of land ("isola effect"), limited in resources, and more susceptible to externalities
- Islands greatly depend on ecosystem services provided on their land or from the surrounding and provide important services that reach beyond their boundaries
- Despite their importance and vulnerability, research on the ES identification and supply remains limited and
- Ecosystem services (ES) assessments in islands are underrepresented



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Presentation- Objectives



Research Coordination 1	Synthesize current knowledge of the role of islands as ES suppliers by facilitating a critical assessment of our current knowledge and understanding of island ecosystems services; capacities, flows, and sustainability of ecosystem services use; and their future trends
Research Coordination 2	Convey and share knowledge among scientists, policy makers and stakeholders from different scientific disciplines, geographical regions and management contexts to understand the role of islands ecosystems services
Research Coordination 3	Develop an integrated framework to support the holistic assessment of ecosystem services in islands
Research Coordination 4	Support Science-Policy-Society (SPS) based best practices Improve understanding through cross-country and cross-sector knowledge integration towards a set of best practices to better evaluate the effects of cumulative stressors in island systems, such as climate and land use changes
Research Coordination 5	Employ participatory processes , in order to adapt, use and validate indicators and identify tipping points of island systems to be used by policy makers in local, national or international regulations about ecosystem services on small-medium islands
Research Coordination 6	Generate proposals with simulated outputs on concrete applications of nature-based solutions for the sustainable development of selected islands

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Presentation- Objectives

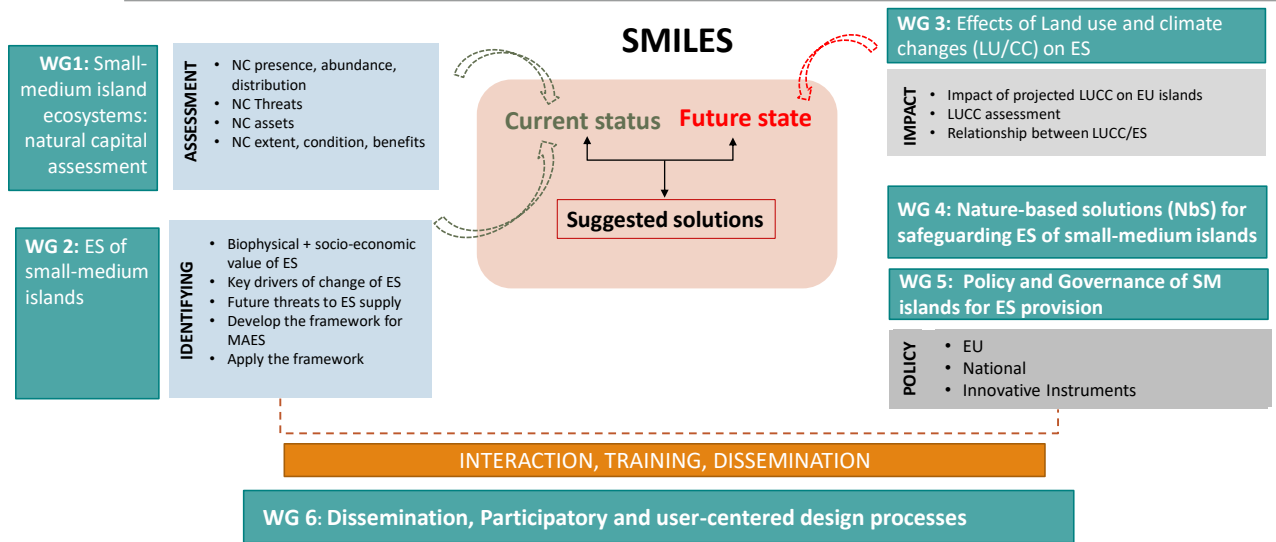


Capacity Building 1	a collaborative network of science and policy experts that can integrate scientific knowledge and policy experience in small-medium island conservation and sustainable development
Capacity Building 2	to facilitate of a cross-disciplinary research network that will integrate social & ecological disciplines aimed at scientific knowledge exchange and integration with the aim to achieve breakthroughs in island conservation & sustainable development
Capacity Building 3	to generate new career opportunities, especially for ECIs and spawn new networks; ECIs will be actively involved in all activities by taking leading roles and through STRMs
Capacity Building 4	to training for European researchers, in particular graduate students and ECIs, on relevant novel tools and methodologies on assessing and mapping ES in islands
Capacity Building 5	to provide a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange between communities of research-practice-society that will allow for inter-sectoral feedback related to the state and the future development of small-medium islands in Europe and beyond
Capacity Building 6	to develop campaigns for raising societal awareness on the network outcomes and the importance of islands across different age groups, from students to all members of society

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Presentation - Working Groups and other management roles/structures



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Presentation - Working Group 1



WG 1: Small-medium island (SMI) ecosystems: natural capital assessment

- **Objective:** evaluation of the relation between biodiversity and natural capital on SMI.
- based on the well-established **DPSIR conceptual framework**
- build a **database** on **presence, abundance** and **distribution** of insular biodiversity in Europe
- build a database current and future **threats** for island biodiversity
- perform an **assessment** of natural assets on islands
- Establish standardized Natural Capital Protocols (methodology)
- including *indicators* to assess the “properties” of natural assets.

DELIVERABLES

1. Small-medium island inventory on natural capital (M.12)
2. Published paper on the assessment of biodiversity and natural capital (M. 36)
3. A short cartoon on small-medium islands natural capital

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Presentation - Working Group 2



WG 2: Ecosystem Services of Small-medium islands

Objective: overview of the status & trends in European island ES

- Compile **existing data** on the biophysical and socio-economic value of ecosystem services
- Identify the **key drivers of change** for ES
- Explore **future threats** and **opportunities** to ES supply
- Develop sustainable strategies to **protect** and **enhance** ecosystem services linked to human well-being
- A **framework** (including indicators) for **assessing** and **mapping** regulating and provisioning ES
- **Conceptual framework** for **cultural** ES on small-medium Islands
- **Implementation** of the framework (case studies)

DELIVERABLES

1. Paper on global systematic review of ES methodological approaches (M.15)
2. A paper on the proposed framework for assessing ES (M.24)
3. Case study papers (at least 4) implementing the developed framework (M.45)
4. Policy brief of the proposed methodology and the main outputs/conclusions (M.48)

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Presentation - Working Group 3



WG 3: Effects of Land use and climate changes (LU/CC) on ES

Objective: assess projected global change impacts on European islands

- **Perform** an integrated LU/CC assessment on European islands
- **Evaluate** the relationship between LU & CC interaction and ES provision in European islands
- Integrated assessment of projected global change impacts on ES

DELIVERABLES

1. Paper on challenges and perspectives of CC projections for islands (M.21)
2. Paper on SSPs for small, medium islands (M.33)
3. Paper on Integrated Assessment of global change on ES supply (M.45)

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Presentation - Working Group 4



WG 4: Nature-based solutions (NbS) for safeguarding ES of small-medium islands

Objective: promoting NbS to pursue an economic development whilst providing co-benefits to biodiversity

- NbS societal challenges can be tackled whilst avoiding/mitigating negative impacts of stressors that threaten ES of SMI.
- **Participatory work** (practitioners and stakeholders)
- **Open access inventory** of NbS with environmental and socio-economic benefits
- **Evaluate** the effectiveness, feasibility, acceptance, and cost and benefits of NbS

DELIVERABLES

1. Paper presenting methodology and results from NbS inventory (M.24)
2. Paper assessing co-benefits arising from NbS implementation in small islands (M. 45)

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Presentation - Working Group 5



WG 5: Policy and Governance of Small-Medium Islands for ES provision

Objective: Identification of key aspects of major policy instruments that reflect island sensitivity and contribute to building future island resilience.

- Provide recommendations on how to improve policy instruments
- Emphasis will be given on the interaction of policies across and within different administrative levels and sectors (multi-governance approach)

DELIVERABLES

1. Report of EU policy assessment (M.24)
2. At least 3 Papers on selected case studies (M. 30)
3. Review article on innovative instruments for island-related resilience through policy building (M. 45)

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Leadership Positions (as in 1/01/25)



Chair

- Ioannis Vogiatzakis (CY)

Vice Chair

- Mario Balzan (MT)

**CORE GROUP
(CG)**

Working Group Leaders

- WG1: Emilio Padoa-Schioppa (IT)
- WG2: Eangelia (Valia) Drakou (GR)
- WG3: Aristides (Aris) Moustakas (GR)
- WG4: Mart Külvik (EE)
- WG5: Sonia Quiroga (ES)
- WG6: Irene Christoforidi (GR)

Grant Awarding Coordinator

- Xana Alvarez (ES)

Science Communication Coordinator

- Irene Christoforidi (GR)

Working Groups Participation (as in 1/01/25)



Number	Title	Leader	No. participants
1	Small-medium island ecosystems: natural capital assessment	Prof Emilio Padoa Schioppa	101
2	Ecosystem Services of Small-medium islands	Dr Evangelia Drakou	158
3	Effects of Land use and climate changes (LU/CC) on ES	Dr Aristides Moustakas	164
4	Nature-based solutions (NbS) for safeguarding ES of small-medium islands	Prof Mart Külvik	134
5	Policy and Governance of Small-Medium Islands for ES provision	Prof Sonia Quiroga	90
6	Dissemination, Participatory and user-centered design processes	Dr IRENE CHRISTOFORIDI	77

Number of COST members represented: 30

Number of ITC countries: 18