



# SMILES Conference

**Islands at a Crossroad:  
Rethinking Ecosystem Services in  
Small and Medium-Sized Islands**

 24-25 June 2026

 COST Association, Brussels

## Conference Programme



## WEDNESDAY 24 June

9:00-9:15 Registration & Welcome

### Session 1. COST Action SMILES Chair: Ioannis Vogiatzakis

9:15-9:30	Estelle Emeriau - Ioannis Vogiatzakis	Introducing SMILES
9:30-10:00	Panos Panagos	ES and status of soil in European islands
10:00-10:30	Bart Veys	The role of COST in the wider R&I landscape
10:30-11:00	Faduma Ali	Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

11:00-11:20 *Coffee break*

### Session 2. Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Chair: Mario Balzan

11:20-11:40	Emilio Padoa-Schioppa	A Metadatabase for Natural Capital of small and medium size Islands: challenges and perspectives
11:40-12:00	Ioannis Vogiatzakis	Island Natural Capital an integrated assessment
12:00-12:20	Valia Drakou	The role of islandness in shaping nature's contributions to people
12:20-12:40	Roxanne Lorilla	Reframing ecosystem services for island social-ecological systems

12:40-14:00 *Lunch*

### Session 3. Land Use and Climate Change Chair: Emilio Padoa-Schioppa

14:00-14:20	Aris Moustakas	Climate and land use change impacts on island ecosystem services: A systematic literature review
14:20-14:40	Nazli Demirel	Uncertainty in Island-based Ecosystem Services and Climate Studies
14:40-15:00	Aris Moustakas	The land use-climate change-biodiversity nexus in the perceptions of European islands stakeholders
15:00-15:20	Maurici Ruiz	Land Cover Change Dynamics in European Islands: Ultraperipheral vs Peripheral Regions (1990-2018)

15:20-15:40 *Coffee break*

15:40-16:00	Thomas Vyzikas	Opportunities within MSCA Staff Exchanges
16:00-16:20	George Kefalas	Identifying Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in Island Contexts: Challenges, Data Gaps, and Spatial Constraints
16:20-16:40	Émilie Favaro	Experimental reintroduction of hatchery-reared giant limpet <i>Patella ferruginea</i> : A potential solution for the conservation of this endangered species in the Mediterranean.

16:40-18:00 **Management Committee and Core Group Meeting**





# Thursday 25 June



9:00-9:10 Registration & Welcome

## Session 1. Policy and Governance

Chair: Valia Drakou

9:10-9:40	Theo van der Sluis	The nature restoration regulation, restoration plans and its relevance for island ecosystems
9:40-10:10	Anders Iversen	A Water Resilient Europe with good ecological status, nature-based sponge measures, and free-flowing rivers
10:10-10:40	Sergiu Didicescu	Networking for knowledge exchange and innovation in remote areas
10:40-11:00	Quentin Groom	Building Plant Conservation Knowledge in Montserrat

11:00-11:20 *Coffee break*

## Session 2. Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Chair: Aris Moustakas

11:20-11:40	Balzan Mario	A Global Compendium of Nature-based Solutions in Small and Medium-Sized Islands: Spatio-temporal trends of socio-ecological impacts
11:40-12:00	Zorica Srđević	Expert Priorities for Nature-based Solutions in SMIs Contexts: Findings from a Delphi Study
12:00-12:20	Ling Yang	Designing Water-Smart Nature-based Solutions for Climate-Resilient Island Ecosystems
12:20-12:40	Astghik Sukiasyan	Application of Machine Learning Techniques for Nature-Based Solutions in Ecological Modelling

12:40-14:00 *Lunch*

## Session 3. Natural Capital, Tourism and Spatial Planning

Chair: Irene Christoforidi

14:00-14:20	Fotis Xystrakis	Assessing the relationship between natural capital and tourism pressure on a priority habitat type in a small-medium Island
14:20-14:40	Valentini Stamatiadou	A Spatially Explicit Cost-Benefit Framework for Marine Spatial Planning: Evidence from the Greek Islands
14:40-15:00	Kristina Košić	Tourism as a driver of economic growth of islands- challenges and sustainability
15:00-15:20	Mauro Fois	Linking stakeholder perceptions of environmental pressures to impacts and governance in European islands

15:20-15:40 *Coffee break*

## Session 4. Sustainability, Well-being and Island Futures

Chair: Mart Külvik

15:40-16:00	Aleksandra S. Dragin	Well-being of island youth in a changing climate: promise or peril?
16:00-16:20	Iván Cortés	Assessing the sustainability of key ecosystem services on islands in terms of water and economic balance: the case study of Menorca
16:20-16:40	Irene Christoforidi	Utilization of Native Cretan Plants as Sustainable Low-Input Floriculture: Implications for Ecosystem Services in Island Systems
16:40-17:00	Pinar Gültekin	Assessing Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Management Approaches on Gökçeada (North Aegean)

17:00-17:30 Discussion and Closing Remarks