



Special Session Proposal

Insularity, Culture, and Tourism: Innovating for Sustainable Island Futures

(Despina Dimelli, ddimelli@tuc.gr, Professor Technical University of Crete

Abstract

Islands are unique laboratories of innovation, where geography, culture, and tourism intersect. Their isolation presents challenges—resource limitations, demographic shifts, climate vulnerability—yet also creates opportunities for resilient, sustainable, and culturally rich development. This session positions islands as living laboratories for inclusive, sustainable, and culturally sensitive tourism strategies, offering lessons relevant to regional development across Europe and beyond.

We invite cutting-edge research and practice-based contributions that examine the interplay between insularity, culture, and tourism. Topics may include sustainable tourism strategies, heritage preservation, climate adaptation, digital innovation, and community-driven governance. Comparative studies across European and global islands are particularly welcome, highlighting lessons that can inform policy and planning beyond the insular context.

Objectives:

- Showcase innovative approaches to sustainable tourism and heritage management in islands
- Explore socio-economic, environmental, and cultural impacts of tourism
- Promote interdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge exchange among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners

Keywords:

Insularity, Islands, Tourism, Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Development, Resilience, Innovation