



# INSULEUR FORUM 2023

## IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ECONOMIES OF EUROPEAN ISLANDS

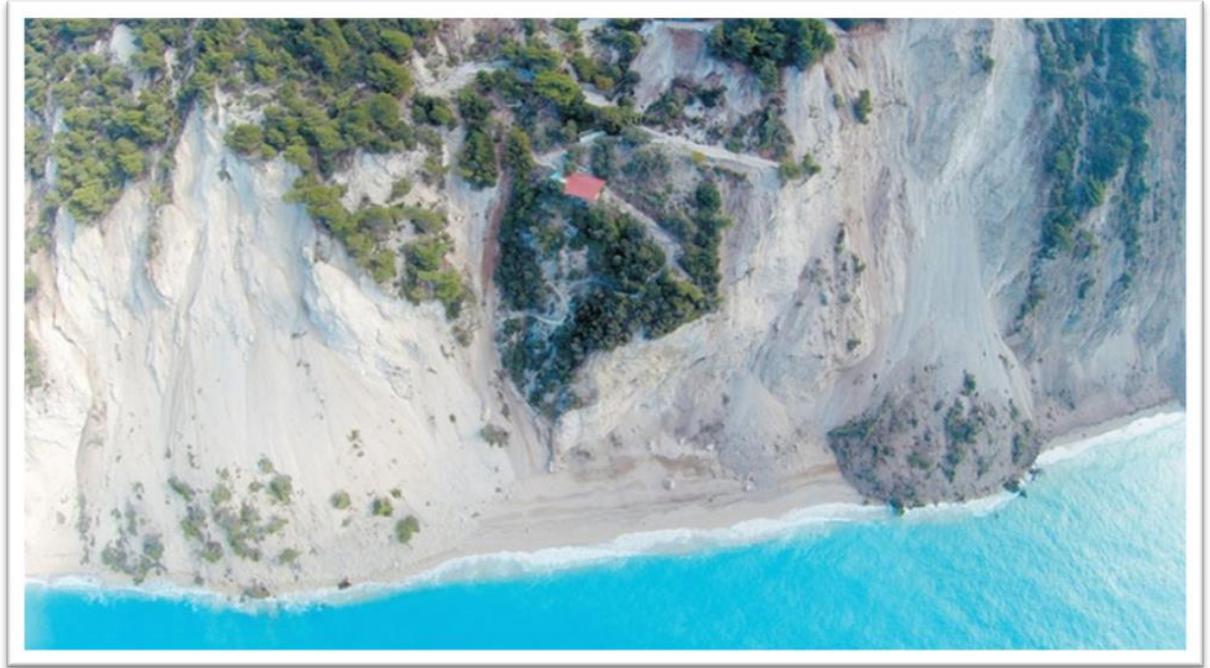
*Under the auspices of*



GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE AEGEAN AND ISLAND POLICY



UNION OF HELLENIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE



*Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center*

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

With the cooperation of



CPMR ISLANDS COMMISSION



GREENING THE ISLANDS Foundation



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# DRAFT PROGRAM

## IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ECONOMIES OF EUROPEAN ISLANDS



A Conference organized by the Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the EU (INSULEUR), with the cooperation of the Islands Commission of the CPMR, the European Small Islands Federation (ESIN), The Small Islands Organisation (SMILO), Greening the Islands (GTI), Island Innovation and endorsed by Interreg Euro-MED Mission for Natural Heritage

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 9.30am – 4.30pm

STAVROS NIARCHOS Foundation Cultural Centre

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*Interpretation in English, Spanish, Greek*



# Background document

## *1. Impacts of climate change on Islands*

European Islands, as well as Islands all over the world, are subject to major impacts because of climate change. They are among the most vulnerable regions and the first victims of climate change, which is predicted to induce shifts in temperature, rainfall and/or sea levels.

This summer has seen extreme weather events happening across Europe, from intense wildfires and heatwaves to flash floods and hailstorms.

Higher water temperatures mean marine life will be at risk, much like in the heatwaves between 2015 and 2019 when 50 species, including mollusks and corals, were significantly impacted. Decreases in water availability and crop yields, increasing risks of droughts and biodiversity loss, fires, and heat waves are some of the major consequences on Islands. These changes will have a negative impact on the well-being, health, and the socio-economic development of Islands.

Using a downscale modeling framework for different climatic scenarios going to the end of the century, it is clear that climate change will impact chains tourism, maritime transport, and electricity demand in islands.

## *2. Impacts on Insular economies, in particular tourism.*

The prevailing climatic conditions are a critical factor for the sustainability of tourist areas. Consequently, climate change will have a significant impact on tourism, the quality of the tourism product offered, and, by extension, the demand for it.

In particular, the main impacts on tourist areas, including Islands, are the rise of the sea level, the increase in temperature and the decrease in precipitation (especially during the summer season) but also the extreme weather phenomena. It is estimated that during the summer tourist season, the increase in temperature and/or the more frequent occurrence of heat waves will significantly degrade the quality of the tourism product.

At the same time, the indirect effects are also of interest, such as the effect on critical natural resources (e.g. water), the alteration of the landscape and the disturbance of biodiversity that affect the development prospects of tourism.

In this context, the geographical location and the specific characteristics of the site often have a decisive role, as its exposure and sensitivity to the effects of climate change can vary significantly. There will probably be positive effects as well, as for example the lengthening of the tourist season, which will certainly affect in turn the supply of tourism, but also the demand.



### **3. Factors of vulnerability**

To estimate island vulnerability, we should use a set of features that are expected to have a strong influence on the effects of climate change on insular biodiversity. Vulnerability to the three threats mentioned above is estimated by considering the following factors: sea level rise, shift in temperature and rainfalls.

There is a significant relationship between climate change and tourism demand in both the long term and the short term. Assessing the relationship between climate change and tourist arrivals for Islands should be a complementary experience as well. Assessing the relationship between climate change and tourist arrivals for Islands should also be another criteria through which the impact of climate change is analyzed.

Islands' representatives should ask the European Commission to analyze how they can become climate-resilient communities by 2050, fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

This analysis should provide a way forward indicating where to focus to avoid imminent losses in Islands. This shows the need to move from a global analysis to a local level of analysis thus monitoring the status of local populations and identifying those species that are under threat, studying ways to avoid their extinction.

Measuring the vulnerability of each island is a first step towards a risk analysis to identify where the impacts of climate change are the most likely and what may be their consequences on biodiversity.

### **4. European and National Policies on climate Adaptation**

The European Commission adopted its new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change on 24 February 2021. The new strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.

The Strategy has four objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.

Under Action 1 of the EU's Strategy on adaptation to climate change (COM(2013)216), in collaboration with the Member States, the Commission developed an 'adaptation preparedness scoreboard'. Using the scoreboard, the Commission prepared country fiches on each Member State in an iterative consultation process.

This scoreboard offers an excellent understanding of potential climate impacts on the EU islands located in different regions (Cyprus and Malta; Baltic Islands, Balearic Islands, Sicilia, Sardinia, Corsica, Crete, Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands and French West Indies).



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# Draft Program

December 1st, 2023



09.00 - 09.30 Registration of participants

09.30 -10.00 Welcome Session

**Joseph Borg**, President of INSULEUR, President of Gozo Business Chamber

**Panagiotis Agniadis**, General Secretary, Union of Hellenic Chambers

**Ioannis Voutsinas**, President, Professional Chamber of Piraeus

**Dimitris Lemonakis**, BoD member, Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Piraeus

**Manos Konsolas**, President, Special Permanent Commission of Regions, Greek Parliament

**Emmanouil Koutoulakis**, Representative of the Greek Prime Minister

10.00 - 10.15 **Key speaker: Professor Dr. Theocharis Tsoutsos**, Director, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Lab, School of Chemical & Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete

10.15 - 11.15 **Panel 1. The voice of Islanders**

Moderator: **George Assonitis**, Member, Technical Committee of INSULEUR

- **Claudia Guzzon**, Executive Secretary of the Islands Commission, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- **James Ellsmoor**, CEO, Island Innovation (*online*)
- **Gaetano Nastasi**, Board Member of the chamber of commerce of Cagliari-Oristano & **Gianluca Cocco**, Regione Autonoma della Sardegna
- **Maxime Prodromides**, President, The Small Islands Organisation (SMILO)
- **Eleftherios Kechagioglou**, President, European Small Islands Network (ESIN), President HSIN, EU Climate Pact ambassador (*online*)
- **Jorge Veiga França**, President, Câmara de Comércio e Industria da Madeira, Vice-President INSULEUR

11.15 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 **Panel 2. National, regional and local Policies on climate adaptation. Are Islands taken into consideration in the elaboration of these Policies?**

Moderator: **Evangelos Myrsinias**, Vice-President of INSULEUR



- **Emmanouil Koutoulakis**, Secretary General of the Aegean and Island Policy, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, *“Sustainability, Resilience and Adaptation: An overview of national initiatives for the Greek Islands”*
- **Prof. Ioannis Chatjigeorgiou**, Rector of the National Technical University of Athens, *“Interreg Euro-MED Mission for Natural Heritage contributing to climate change policies”* (Vera Bougiouri)
- **Giovanni Satta**, Regione Autonoma della Sardegna
- **George Vassilopoulos**, ex-Mayor of Ithaca

**13.00 - 14.45 Lunch break**

**14.45 - 16.15 Panel 3. Climate change: what the EU is doing.**  
*Moderator: Nick Tsipiras, Treasurer of INSULEUR*

- **Josianne Cutajar**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Ioannis Vardakastanis**, President of the ECO Section, European Economic and Social Committee
- **Ioannis Sakiotis**, Representation of the European Commission in Greece, Team leader, Political reporting and media DG COMM
- **Alison Gilliland**, Dublin City Councilor, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and Delegate to COP28 (*online*)

**16.15 -16.30 Conclusions**

- **Gianni Chianetta**, Chair, Greening the Islands Foundation

**20.30 Official Gala dinner (on invitation)**

**December 2nd, 2023**

**Day trip/Study visit in Aegina, Argosaronic Gulf**



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\* *INSULEUR GA [for members only] will take place on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 08.30 - 09.30 am at the SNFCC*



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