18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISLAND TOURISM – ICIT

October 28-31, 2026

Islands in Transition: Policy, Development and Resilience

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DATE	VENUE	CITY / COUNTRY
October 28-30, 2026	Polo Universitario di Trapani	Trapani, Sicily Island
October 30-31, 2026	Council Chamber – Municipality of Pantelleria	Pantelleria Island

TIME	TRAPANI, SICILY ISLAND
	28th October – Wednesday
19.00	***Welcome cocktail: Sicilian food tasting***
	29th October – Thursday
08.30 – 09.00	***Registration – Main Hall - Polo Universitario di Trapani – Ground Floor*** Collecting badge bags and conference materials
09.00 – 11.00	***Conference Opening – Aula Magna – Ground Floor*** *Welcome speech OTIE president* ***Giovanni Ruggieri*** *– President of OTIE - Italy* *Welcome speech from hosting Organizations* **Giuseppa Maria Castiglione** *– President of Consorzio Universitario della Provincia di Trapani - Italy* **Giorgio Scichilone** *– President Polo Territoriale Universitario di Trapani – University of Palermo - Italy* **Marcantonio Ruisi** *– Director Department SEAS, University of Palermo - Italy* *Welcome speech from Sicily Universities Representatives* **Fabio Mazzola** *– Pro-Rector for Internationalisation and Educational Planning, University of Palermo - Italy* **Marco Platania** *– Rector's delegate University of Catania - Italy* **Enrico Domenico Giovanni Nicosia** *– Rector's delegate University of Messina - Italy* **Raffaele Scuderi** *– Rector's delegate Università degli Studi di Enna "Kore" - Italy* *Welcome speech from international Universities Representatives* **Sébastien Quenot** *– University of Corsica - UNESCO Chair "Devenirs en Méditerranée" - France* **Isabelle Gardon** *– University of Corsica, International Relations Office - France* **Noel Buttigieg** *– University of Malta - Head of Department of Tourism - Malta*

	European Commission representative speech **Gabriel Onaca** – *DG REGIO, European Commission - Belgium* *Welcome speech international organizations representatives* **Michael Galea** – *President of the Gozo Business Chamber - Malta* **Héctor Fernández Manchado** – *NECSTouR Board Representative - France* **Anna Maria Pinna** – *Director, CRENoS - Italy*
11.00 – 11.30	***Coffee Break*** Refreshments and networking
11.30 – 12.00	***KEYNOTE SPEAKER*** ***Richard Butler*** *- Emeritus Professor of Tourism at the University of Strathclyde, Scotland* Evolution and Future Challenges of Tourism Discussant: Giovanni Ruggieri
12.00 – 13.30	***Plenary session - Aula Magna – Ground Floor*** **The Island Premium: A Review of the Literature** Letizia Droghetti, Serena Volo Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Faculty of Economics and Management, Italy **The Insularity of Continental Portugal** Adalberto Dias de Carvalho ISCET – Higher Institute of Business Sciences and Tourism, Portugal **Insularity Cost and the Islands' Transport Equivalent Measure in Greece** Theodore Tsekeris / Eirini Leriou Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE), Greece **Measuring accessibility within island** Vania Licio / Anna Maria Pinna University of Cagliari and CRENoS, Italy
13.30 – 14.30	***Light Lunch***
14.30 – 15.00	***KEYNOTE SPEAKER*** ***Filippo Di Mauro -*** *Founder and Chairman of CompNet & Senior Fellow at IWH-Halle* Leveraging microdata information, productivity analysis and regional perspectives Discussant: ***Fabio Mazzola -*** *Pro-Rector for Internationalisation and Educational Planning, University of Palermo, Italy*

15.00 – 18.00	***Session A – Islands development and policies - Aula Magna – Ground Floor*** ***Session chair: Fabio Mazzola*** **Structural Factors and EU Regional Convergence: Analysis Using Microdata** Sergio Inferrera, Theodore Tsekeris, Filippo Di Mauro Queen Mary College, University of London, UK; Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE), Greece; CompNet and Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH), Germany **From Urban Free Zones to Island Free Zones: supporting economic resilience in Italian minor islands** Aldo Berlinguer University of Cagliari, Department of Law, Italy **Inbound Tourism Seasonality in Two Major Italian Islands: Evidence from the Bank of Italy's Survey on International Tourism** Stefano De Cantis, Ludovica Venturella University of Palermo, Department of Economics, Business and Statistics (DSEAS), Italy **Counting Nights, Not Heads: Per-Night Yield as a Measurement Foundation for Island Tourism Policy. Evidence from Malta** JP Fabri Seed Consultancy, Malta **The tourism development trajectory of the Lofoten and Vesterålen Islands** Donka Attila, Pálinkás Tamara Kodolanyi University, Budapest; italy-slowtravel.com, Hungary **Real Estate on Mediterranean Islands: A Systematic Literature Review and Implications for the Zadar Archipelago** Marija Opačak Eror, Nikolina Jukić University of Zadar, Department of Economics, Croatia ***Session B – islands sustainability – Room 104 – 1st floor*** ***Session chair: Razaq Raj*** **The challenge of sustainability in small islands: from the CNR annual Report to the interactive Portal** Eleonora Veneri National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Italy **Cultural sustainability in UNESCO websites** Ninfa Pagano University of Palermo, Department of Cultures and Society, Italy **Anchoring Heritage through Sustainability: Multimodal Narratives of the Venetian Lagoon's Enogastronomic Identity** Daniela Cesiri Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy **Local Voices, Sustainable Choices: Stakeholder-Led Tourist Education in Small Island** Serena Biaggioli, Armando Macali, Chiara Baldacchini, Daniele Canestrelli, Giuseppina Spano University of Tuscia; Pegaso Telematic University, Italy **The Impact Size of Terrorist Attacks on Tourism Demand: Empirical Findings from a Global Meta-Analysis** Riza Bayrak, Necmettin Celik, Mahir Tosunoglu, Alper Akpinar OSTIM Technical University; Izmir Katip Celebi University; Independent Researchers, Türkiye **The Impacts of Terrorist Attacks on Tourism Demand: Empirical Findings from Türkiye** Aslı Duman, Necmettin Celik Izmir Katip Celebi University, Türkiye **Bridging Islands and Development: A Comparative Bibliometric and Network Analysis of Sustainable Tourism Research** Salvatore Iannolino University of Palermo, Department of Economics, Business and Statistics (DSEAS), Italy
20.30	***Social Dinner***

30th October – Friday	
08.30 – 09.00	***Registration – main hall - Polo Universitario di Trapani – Ground Floor*** Collecting badge bags and conference materials
09.00 – 09.30	***KEYNOTE SPEAKER*** ***Razaq Raj -*** *Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom* Analysing the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Tourism and Events: Advancing Sustainable Economic Development in Island Communities Discussant: Marco Platania
09.30 – 11.30	**Session introduction: Nikos Avgerinos** – Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Aristotle, Greece ***Session C –Identities, Cultural Heritage, Island Landscapes and Tourism – Aula Magna – Ground Floor*** ***Session chair: Razaq Raj*** **Marketing and promoting community-based tourism in mature tourism destinations - The case of Malta and Gozo, with comparative insights from other European islands** Julian Zarb, Wyem Hosni, Adnan Sayad, Milena Parunova, Yasmine Ben Douissa, Fernando Alejandro Alvarado Inca, Mariam Yahiaoui Gateway Institute of Learning, Malta **Insular Digital Cohesion: Islands, Multi-Level Governance and the "Do No Harm to Cohesion" Principle** Francesco Gangi Chiodo University of Palermo, Department of Political Sciences and International Relations (DEMS), Italy **A comparative approach to contemporary exodiglossic landscapes: Mediterranean islands between struggles for recognition and illocutionary assignment** Sébastien Quenot Université de Corse Pasquale Paoli, UNESCO Chair "Becomings in Mediterranean", UMR CNRS LISA 6240, France **From Place of Longing to Consumer Backdrop: Literary Perspectives on Island Tourism in Contemporary German-Language Literature** Katrin Dautel University of Malta, Malta **Film Tourism and Quality of Life: The Case of Kefalonia after the movie «Captain Corelli's Mandolin»** Maria Manola, Ioanna Maniou, Pinelopi Sotiropoulou, Fotini Maniou, Pantelis Gryparis, Klimis Ntalianis University of West Attica, Greece **The Bouboulina Museum in Spetses as a Cultural Hub: Cultural Entrepreneurship, Local Development and Social Cohesion** Penelope Sotiropoulou, Dimitrios Nentas, Fotini Maniou, Maria Manola, Klimis Ntalianis University of West Attica; Harokopio University, Greece **Tourism Industries in Island Economies: An Industrial Ecosystem Approach to Resilience and Sustainable Transition** Marco Platania, University of Catania, Italy Giovanni Ruggieri University of Palermo, Italy
11.30 – 12.00	***Closing Session – Conclusions and Conference Awards***

OTIE
OBSERVATORY ON TOURISM IN THE EUROPEAN ISLANDS

Università degli Studi di Palermo
Polo Territoriale Universitario di Trapani

RESEARCH VISIT TO PANTELLERIA ISLAND	
13.30	***Departure from Trapani by hydrofoil***
16:00	***Arrival in Pantelleria Island***
16.15	***Transfer to the hotel and luggage drop-off***
16.45	***Hotel check-in and guided tour of the island by bus***
20.00	***Dinner***
	31st October - Saturday
09.30 – 10.00	***Welcome Session*** Coffee and networking
10.00-10.15	***Welcome Address by the Mayor of Pantelleria***
10.15 – 11.00	***Lessons Learned from the Trapani Conference*** ***Policy implications of selected papers and brief reflections*** Moderator: Prof. Giovanni Ruggieri
11.00 – 12.00	***Insularity: Constraints and Perspectives*** A panel discussion featuring distinguished international scholars and experts, exploring the challenges, constraints, and future development perspectives of island territories. **CHAIR** ***Filippo Di Mauro*** - Founder and Chairman of CompNet & Senior Fellow at IWH-Halle **DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS** **Gabriel Onaca** – *DG REGIO, European Commission - Belgium* ***Richard Butler*** – *University of Strathclyde - Scotland* ***Razaq Raj*** – *Leeds Beckett University - United Kingdom* ***Giovanni Ruggieri*** – *University of Palermo - Italy* ***Fabio Mazzola*** – *Pro-Rector for Internationalisation and Educational Planning, University of Palermo - Italy* ***Theodore Tsekeris*** – *KEPE - Greece*
12.00 – 13.00	***Light Lunch and networking***
13.00 – 16.00	***Tour of Pantelleria Island***
Afternoon/Evening	***Departure***

ORGANIZATION

WEBSITE	EMAIL	CONTACT
www.otie.org	info@otie.org	Mobile: +393513064307

ICIT 2026

18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISLAND TOURISM - ICIT

28–31 OCTOBER 2026 · TRAPANI & PANTELLERIA, SICILY

ORGANIZED BY

OTIE
OBSERVATORY ON TOURISM FOR ISLANDS ECONOMY

INSTITUTIONS · PARTNERS · NETWORKS

Università degli Studi di Palermo
Polo Territoriale Universitario di Trapani

COSSYRA
COMUNE DI PANTELLERIA

Rotary Club Pantelleria

dSEAS

TUD DUBLIN
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

anr UNITI

Reti

Consorzio Universitario della Provincia di Trapani

INSULEUR
NETWORK OF INSULAR CHAMBERS OF THE E.U.

Municipality Aristotle

KEPE
CENTRE OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

IWH-CompNet
The Competitiveness Research Network

Corso di Laurea Magistrale
TOURISM SYSTEMS AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

LANZAROTE
A UNIQUE ISLAND

Università degli Studi di Messina

GBC
THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

CPMR ISLANDS COMMISSION

anr

NECSTouR
European Regions for Competitive and Sustainable Tourism

ISOLA DI PANTELLERIA PARCO NAZIONALE

Università di Catania

Camera di Commercio Cagliari - Oristano

LA ROTTA DEI FENICI
Cultural route of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE