



***Special Session (SS04) on:***

***Sustainable development of the Islands between tradition and innovation***

**Organizer:**

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**The aim and scope:**

The session will host contributions aimed at understanding the factors that influence the ability of the Islands to react, and pro-act, to the socio-economic transformation generated by the technological revolution 4.0. The focus will be on the ability to reconcile spiritual traditions and the impact of technological innovations according to creative resilient models of sustainable development that allow them to reap the great benefits of a structural transformation of the territories without losing their distinctive and qualifying features.

On the Islands, specialization in the traditional sectors of the economy, from manufacturing to tourism, as well as the policies adopted at the local level, can make innovation an engine of development and recovery in cases where exogenous shocks affect the normal dynamics of local economic systems.

The new technological revolution brings great transformations in society, in lifestyles and in production methods, generating new ways of creating added value. This allows traditional sectors to find new opportunities for revitalisation, even in response to unexpected shocks, such as COVID-19. In this way, even peripheral or rural areas can enhance their traditions, making them, through innovation, a driving force for the development of their economic systems. This allows to formulate growth scenarios and proposals for capitalization (economic, social, environmental) able to give centrality to the "genius loci".

Contributions will be hosted related to studies, projects and proposals on the following topics:

- Tourism, culture and local development;
- Innovation, creativity and local entrepreneurship;
- Globalization, value chains and local production systems;
- Labor, welfare, personal services and social policies;
- Infrastructure, transport and local development;
- Welfare, transition to clean energy, environmental and social sustainability;
- Eco-innovation for sustainable tourism;
- Environmental protection and research, in particular protection and conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity;

Furthermore, Island models of endogenous growth may be analyzed and identified key drivers of "territorial resilience", as well as the policies and governance structures that can best initiate and/or facilitate change.

**SUBMIT ABSTRACT**