



International Conference  
Towards Resilient Destinations

# Integrating Nature, Culture and Tourism for Sustainable Futures (NEST)



<https://conferences.ionio.gr/trd>

April 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2026

📍 Ionian Academy, Corfu

## Programme



Wednesday, April 22nd 2026


19:00-21:00 Registration - Drinks Reception

Thursday, April 23rd 2026

09:00-10:00 Registration

10:00-11:30 **Tourism Governance, Policy & System Resilience**


CHAIR: Christina Beneki  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium

 Invited Opening Talk: Blue Foundations for Resilient Destinations: Integrating Seagrass Evidence into Coastal Planning and Sustainable Tourism  
| Gwilym Rowlands

 A Satellite-Based Monitoring Framework for Marine Tourism Intensity  
| Konstantinos Vogklis, Alkmini Gkritzali, Christina Beneki

 Cultural Heritage in the Digital Spotlight: Social Media and Urban Promotion  
| Konstantinos Digkas


 The Historic Housing Stock as Tool for Climate Resilience: Opportunities and Challenges, the Case of the Old Town of Corfu  
| Angeliki Ioan. Chronopoulou

 European Framework for Sustainable Tourism Development and Proposed Local Practices  
| Evangelia Dimitriadi, Antonios Konstantinos Pagratis

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:00 **Opening - Keynote Talks: Senior Fellow Achim Steiner | Professor Dimitri Vayanos**

CHAIR: Ilias Giarenis  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium


 Keynote Talk: Opening address to the conference  
| Achim Steiner


 Keynote Talk: "The Impacts of Tourism: A Perspective from the Aegean"  
| Dimitri Vayanos

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:15 **Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Climate Resilience in Tourism**

CHAIR: Maria Argyropoulou  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium

 Invited Opening Talk: Wild medicinal plants as drivers of biodiversity and sustainability in the Mediterranean region  
| Olha Mykhailenko, Banaz Jalil, Marce Takubessi, Michael Heinrich

 Environmental Threats and Management of the Ionian Islands Wetlands  
| Dionisios Panagiotaras, Ioannis Kokkoris, Katerina Kabassi, Dionysios Koulougliotis, Eleni Gianni, Dimitra Lekka, Pavlos Avramidis

 Hybrid Yogurts for Sustainable Nutrition and Climate-Resilient Agrotourism in Mediterranean and Nature-Based Tourism Destinations  
| Eleni Sakadani, Panagiotis Kandyliis, Dimitra Dimitrellou

 Investigating ethical consumption in the hotel industry: A qualitative research approach of perceptions regarding environmental and labour issues  
| Ioulia Partsalis, Antonia Delistavrou, Irene Tilikidou

15:30-19:00

**Erimitis**

Boat trip to Erimitis Beach


*Erimitis peninsula in northeast Corfu is an undeveloped coastal area of high ecological value, hosting diverse habitats and functioning as an important biodiversity hotspot.*


Friday, April 24th 2026

09:30-10:30

**Digital Innovation & Sustainable Tourism Transformation**

CHAIR: Adamantia Pateli  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium

 **OleaAI – An Artificial Intelligence Tool for Estimating the Monumental Value of Olive Trees**  
| Konstantinos **Asiklaris**, Katerina **Kabassi**, Aristotelis **Martinis**

 **Interpretation-Led Visitor Flow Management in Historic Cities: An Agent-Based Assessment of Regenerative Access and Routing Policies**  
| Andreas **Grammenos**, Georgios **Papaioannou**

10:30-11:00


**Coffee Break**


11:00-12:40

**Parallel A: Innovation, Data & Decision-Making in Tourism Systems**

CHAIR: Naoum Mylonas  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium


 **Invited Opening Talk: The ethnobotanical knowledge of Cyprus and Greece- preserving traditional medical knowledge and reviving culture**  
| Rebecca **Lazarou**

 **Accessible information for all as a pillar of destination resilience**  
| Aikaterini **Milingou Manolakou**, Polyxeni **Moira**, Dimitrios **Mylonopoulos**

 **CORFUGEN: An Integrated Model for Resilient Island Destinations Through Culture, Sustainability, and Innovation**  
| Vasileios **Laopodis**, Sophia **Panagoulia**

 **The Council of Europe's Cultural Routes at the region of Epirus – Western Macedonia, a new tool of cultural tourism**  
| Chrysoula **Voskopoulou**

 **The Right to Housing Through Industrial Heritage: Adaptive Reuse Strategies in Corfu**  
| Symela **Iliadou**, Stavros **Vlivos**


 **Mapping the Pulse of Authenticity: A Temporal "Destination Uniqueness Index" based on Activity Taxonomies and AI-Driven Analysis**  
| Sofia-Maria **Poulimenou**, Konstantinos **Vogklis**, Minas **Pergantis**, Ioanna **Mazi**, Varvara **Garneli**, Elizabeth **Filippidis**, Anastasios **Manos**, Ioannis **Deligiannis**


11:00-12:40

**Parallel B: Interpreting Heritage: Education, Inclusion & Visitor Experience**

CHAIR: Katerina Kontopanagou  
Ionian Academy - Conference Room

 **Integrating Cultural Narratives and Predictive Thinking in Adult Education: Framework and Instructional Design**  
| Vasiliki **Drosou**, Agnes **Papadopoulou**

 **Gamified Media Literacy as an Innovation for Resilient Tourism Futures: Educating Young Learners to Detect Tourism-Related Fake News**  
| Androniki **Koutsikou**, Andreas **Kanavos**, Nikos **Antonopoulos**

 **When Educational Accessibility Becomes Tourism Innovation: Adapting Inclusive AR Heritage Tools for Diverse Visitors**  
| Stefanos **Papadopoulou**, Polyxeni **Kaimara**, Varvara **Garneli**, Konstantinos **Vogklis**

12:45-14:30

**Lunch Break**

14:30-15:45

**Parallel C: Cultural Heritage, Identity & Place-Based Tourism**

CHAIR: Andreas Kapetanios  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium

 Invited Opening Talk: "Water Monuments as 'Usable Past': Lessons in Resilience from the Thirsty Island of Aigina"  
| Irene Polinskaya

 Regional Folk Museums of Limited Scale: Can they serve as Cultural Assets for Sustainable Tourism Development and Resilience?  
| Foteini Tsakmaki, Aikaterini Konstantina Kontopanagou

 Post-Byzantine Monastic Centers Beyond Established Routes: From Spiritual Networking to Sustainable Resilience  
| Maria Gkina, Aikaterini Konstantina Kontopanagou

 Military tourism in Kalpaki of Epirus, as a geopolitical vector of soft power projection and an enabler of sustainable development  
| Dimitrios Katiniotis, Miltiadis G. Botsis

 Expanding Tourism Policy as a Negotiated Instrument of Soft Power: Applying the NEFTOUR Framework to Greece - China Bilateral Cooperation  
| Maria Tatsi, Miltiadis G. Botsis


14:30-15:45

**Parallel D: Integrating Nature, Culture & Policy: Pathways to Resilient Tourism Futures**

CHAIR: Michael Heinrich  
Ionian Academy - Conference Room

 Invited Opening Talk: "The value of visiting wild spaces for mitigating shifting baseline syndrome"  
| Ian Thornhill

 Ethical AI-driven UX in online travel agencies: A pathway towards resilient destinations  
| Sofia Alexandra Pachoumaki, Nikos Antonopoulos, Naoum Mylonas, Andreas Giannakouloupoulos

 Digital Deepening Experiences for Cultural Heritage as Drivers of Sustainable Development: Case Studies from the Region of Peloponnese  
| Vasileios Papadopoulos, Ioannis Poullos

15:45-16:15

**Coffee Break**

16:15-17:30

**Keynote Talks: Leading biographer Jenny Uglow | Professor Ian Goldin**

CHAIR: Simon Karythis  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium

 Keynote Talk: "Edward Lear in Corfu – no place in the world is so beautiful"  
| Jenny Uglow

 Keynote Talk: "Resilient Tourism for Resilient Economies and Sustainable Societies"  
| Ian Goldin

17:45-19:00

**Round table discussion titled "Integrating Nature, Culture and Tourism for Sustainable Futures"**

CHAIR: Drummond Bone  
Ionian Academy - Auditorium

*Members of the round table: Lee Durrell, Charalambos Voulgaris and Dr. Halla Hazelrigg Bates more to be confirmed.*

 Roundtable: Integrating Nature, Culture and Tourism for Sustainable Futures  
| Halla Hazelrigg Bates, Lee Durrell, Charalambos Voulgaris

**Organizers**



Department of  
**History and  
Digital Humanities**  
Ionian University



**Supporters**