

EMD

EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY
IN MY COUNTRY

As part of the
European Maritime Day
in my Country

CAPRAIA SMART ISLAND

hosts

THE PILOT PLATFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN SMALL ISLAND COMMUNITIES

Capraia island
20-22 May 2025

A joint initiative of BlueMissionMed,
SMILO and Chimica Verde Bionet



 Funded by
the European Union



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EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



Capraia Smart Island 2025 will host the **Pilot Platform for Sustainable Mediterranean Small Island Communities**, a **joint initiative by Chimica Verde Bionet, SMILO, and BlueMissionMed**. This event brings together key players to explore and scale innovative solutions that strengthen the resilience and sustainability of small Mediterranean islands.

These islands are at the front lines of climate change, facing several threats like coastal erosion, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events. At the same time, their unique character and vulnerability make them ideal testing grounds for pioneering sustainability strategies. The Pilot Platform Initiative will **showcase successful pilot projects, highlight community-driven approaches, and create opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration** between local authorities, researchers, investors, and civil society.

The **EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”** is central to this transformation, driving research, innovation, and cooperation to restore marine and freshwater ecosystems. **BlueMissionMed**, coordinated by the **National Research Council of Italy (CNR DSSTTA)**, works to bring this vision to life in the Mediterranean. **SMILO** shares these goals, supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management on small islands worldwide. The **Pelagos Initiative** strengthens protections for the Pelagos sanctuary in line with its management plan, while **Erasmus+** enhances education and training for sustainable blue growth. The event is also backed by the **International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN)**, which promotes maritime safety and environmental protection. **Chimica Verde Bionet** have long been promoting sustainability-focused initiatives, hosting annual events dedicated to small island resilience. Building on this strong foundation, Capraia has been chosen as the 2025 venue for the Pilot Platform, offering an ideal setting to advance sustainability solutions and foster collaboration.

By equipping **Mediterranean small island communities** with the **tools, knowledge, and connections** they need, this event aims to support **islands’ transition to sustainability**, demonstrating how **resilience, cooperation, and shared expertise** can drive the **ecological transition** for a healthier Mediterranean Sea basin.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Venue: Sala Ipogea, Via Dè Mari, 22, Capraia

20 May: Day 1 - Islands’ Forum & Capraia Sustainable Island Management



08:00 Departure from Livorno by ferry. Tickets available at [biglietteria Toremar](#) (Via del Molo Mediceo, 12, Livorno). Boarding starts 60' in advance.

10:45 Estimated time of arrival in Capraia

12:30-12.50 Welcome & introduction

- Lorenzo Renzi, Capraia Mayor (tbd)
- Giampiero Sammuri. Tuscany National Park (tbd)
- Francesco Petracchini, Director of the Department of Earth System Science and Environmental Technologies, National Research Council of Italy (CNR-DSSTA)
- Sofia Mannelli, Chimica Verde Bionet
- Maxime Prodromides, SMILO president

13:00-14.00 Lunch

14:15-15.30 Islands Forum

15:30-18:00 Island Visit: discovering Capraia's sustainable management & challenges (*with the participation of local stakeholders*)

Visits: (maximum 20 people/group)

- Desalination plant & water fountains and botanic path & biodiversity conservation in Capraia
- Botanic path & biodiversity conservation in Capraia & agriculture experience (through former prison areas)

19:00 Sharing Island cultures, food tasting & meeting with the inhabitants

21 May: Day 2 - Sea Conservation & Sustainable Tourism

BlueMissionMed Support Program Desk will be available all day



Chair: CNR, BlueMissionMed

9:00-9:15 Keynote: Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Risk for Mediterranean Small Island, Fabio Trincardi, Senior Consultant in Marine Geology Sealaska

9:15-9:30 Keynote: The EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, Elisabetta Balzi, EC DG RTD

9:30-10:30 Solutions' Forum, Blue Sustainable Tourism & Sea conservation. Chair: SMILO

- Lavezzi case, OEC Corsica (tbd)
- Blue Tourism, Giulia Balestracci
- Fighting against plastic waste pollution, Sylvain Petit, Remedies
- Carrying capacity, Porquerolles example (tbc)
- The role of Aids to Navigation related to safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment, IFAN

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:15-12:15 Solutions' Forum, Eco-Ports Chair: SMILO

- Port-Cros electric boat experience (tbc)
- ECOcean
- Capraia electric boats eng. Company, Leonardo Spacone
- Other solutions (tbc)

12:15-12:30 Q&A session

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Parallel tables: What are the obstacles & needs for small islands sustainable transition?

Moderator: BlueMissionMed; Rapporteurs: CNR, MedWaves

Conclusions by Rapporteurs

15:15-16:30 Pelagos Sanctuary - Discovering solutions in Capraia

15:15-16:15 Visit of the port:



- Analysis of the activities envisaged by the Pelagos Project on the reduction of waste produced by tourists arriving at the port of Capraia
- Pelagos Initiative Delivery of electric dinghy to moorers in the port of Capraia
- Other sustainable activities at the port (100% renewable energy system, tbd)

16:30-18:00 Additional tours:

- Mariculture/Sea tour by boat (limited seats, tbc)
- Sustainable agriculture, visit to farm with a walk of at least 6 km with park guide (tbc)

19:00-20:00 Visit to Church of Sant'Antonio. The historic relationship between the Abbot of Lerins and the island of Capraia: Meeting with the Abbot of Lerins who returns to Capraia after 1500 years.

22 May: Day 3 – Supporting Sustainable Mediterranean Small Island Communities

8:00-8:45 Yoga session at the Port's Tower

Chair: CNR, BlueMissionMed

9:30-10:30 National Initiatives for Islands Sustainability and Sea Conservation

- Regione Toscana, Gennaro Gilberti, Dir Agricoltura
- Italian protected Areas, Maurizio Burlando, PNAT Director
- Lampedusa Pilot, Francesco Picciotto, Direzione Ambiente Regione Siciliana,



- Internationalisation of the Biodiversity Gateway, Marta Curiotto, CNR ISMAR
- How to Empower Energy Transition in Small Island, Eros Manzo, CNR DSSTA
- Sustainability and Conservation, Stefania Valentini, Federpesca
- Direzione Agricoltura e Sviluppo Rurale in Regione Toscana, Marco Ferretti, dirigente

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:45 BlueMissionMed think-tank to scale up solutions across Mediterranean Small Islands in the framework of the EU Mission Ocean and Waters

- CapiMed+, Ignasi Mateo Rodríguez, MedWaves
- Financing solutions for Ocean & Waters Sustainability, Alberto Terenzi, Submariner, BlueMissionBanos
- Funding global activities the protection of the marine environment, IFAN (tbd)
- Enhancing Cooperation between Northern and Southern Mediterranean Islands, Rym Benzina, President of La Saison Bleue
- Living Lab, ENoLL (tbc)
- System of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas, Carole Martinez, MedPan

12:45-13:00 Towards UNOC3: One Island, Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic for the UNOC (online, tbc)

13:00 Closure of the event

13:30 Lunch

15:30-17:00 Optional visit to the Info Point of the National Park + boat visits (depending on capacity)?

17:15 Departure towards Livorno by ferry

20:00 Estimated time of arrival in Livorno



During the event, the organizers will hold a special reading session of the book **“Our Blue Treasure”** by Susanna Albertini and Valentina Vavassori (BlueMissionMed) with school children from Capraia at the local library (May 22, morning).

Developed by the BlueMissionMed project, **“Our Blue Treasure”** is an engaging and educational book designed to foster ocean and water literacy among children aged 6 to 10. Already translated into nine languages, the book serves as a valuable tool to inspire the next generation in protecting our marine and freshwater ecosystems.



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Co-organisers:

Chimica Verde Bionet, Capraia island, Italy
SMILO – Small Islands Organisation, France
BlueMissionMed CSA



The event is organized thanks to the support of:

National Research Council of Italy (CNR)
ERASMUS+
PELAGOS INITIATIVE
International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN)



Under the patronage of:



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