
**IGU Commission
Mediterranean
Basin (COMB)**



**COMB Commission
'BASSIN DE LA
MÉDITERRANÉE'**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Prepared by

Anastasia Stratigea (Chair)

A. Membership

Current Steering Committee

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COMB counts for 231 members. Their origin country is shown in the following table:

Country	Number	Country	Number
Germany	11	Portugal	8
Spain	19	Cyprus	1
France	51	Lebanon	1
Ireland	1	Japan	4
Italy	21	Singapore	1
United Kingdom	5	Finland	2
Luxemburg	1	Australia	1
Israel	6	Hungary	1
Slovenia	3	Russia	2
Netherlands	1	Algeria	1
Serbia	1	Greece	22
Turkey	5	Not identified origin	61

B. Meetings

- a. The meetings your commission organized in 2022 with information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

2022 Centennial Congress, Paris, July 18-22

COMB has proposed a slot in the Centennial IGU Conference entitled “Mediterranean in Transition - Current Challenges and Future Perspectives”. This slot was co-organized by COMB members Anastasia Stratigea (Greece), Izhak Schnell (Israel), and Antoine LE BLANC (France). Approx. 50 participants (presenters of each session included) attended the three sessions of the slot.

2022 ICCSA (International Conference on Computer Science and its Applications), Malaga, July 4-7

COMB has collaborated in the context of the ICCSA 2022 Conference as co-organizer of two workshops, namely:

1. Workshop on ‘**Cities, Technologies and Planning**’ (CTP). The workshop was organized in cooperation with Giuseppe Borruso (University of Trieste), Malgorzata Hanz (Lodz University of Technology, Beniamino Murgante (University of Basilicata), Anastasia Stratigea (COMB – National Technical University of Athens), Ginevra Balletto (University of Cagliari) and Ljiljana Zivkovic (Republic Geodetic Authority). Attendants approx. 40 participants (presenters of each session included).
2. Workshop on ‘**Smart and Sustainable Island Communities**’ (SSIC). The workshop was organized by Chiara Garau (DICAAR, University of Cagliari), Anastasia Stratigea (COMB – National Technical University of Athens), Paola Zamperlin (University of Pisa) and Francesco Scorza (University of Basilicata). Attendants approx. 45 participants (presenters of each session included).

Activities of the

- Organization of the conference: “Water resources and

**Observatory on
Religious and
Migratory Phenomena,
coordinated by Prof.
Mauro Spotorno.**

environmental sustainability. The contribution of religious laws”, Genoa, 10-11 May 2022.

- Coordination, with Dr. Silvia Omenetto (University of Rome "La Sapienza"), of the Session "For a geography of religions in Italy between foundational narratives, critical issues and new research perspectives", Day of studies "Beyond Globalization / Narrations", Como, December 9, 2022.
- Research on territorial dynamics and sustainable development in Pantelleria. The first results will be presented by the contribution titled "A stratigraphy of the narrations of the Pantelleria territory", Day of studies "Beyond Globalization / Narrations", Como, 9 December 2022.

- b. A brief summary of the topics addressed at each meeting and the findings or conclusions resulting from the discussions if appropriate (please do not simply paste in the conference programme!). Please highlight any new initiatives and insights identified at each meeting. Note, please do not include the full conference programme but please do include a photograph or two if you have them).

**2022 Centennial
Congress, Paris,
July 18-22**

The scope of the COMB sessions was to vision a sustainable and peaceful future for the Mediterranean Region and its communities. Based on a multi and inter-disciplinary stand, the sessions illuminated distinct dimensions of such a future i.e. social, political, historical, geographical, cultural, spatial, economic, environmental, technological, etc.; attempting also to effectively merge technical and technological knowledge with socio-economic, cultural and environmental dimensions to the benefit of Mediterranean communities. Discussion on topics, related to both the land and marine environment, as essential and inseparable parts of this area, was carried out in the sessions. As such were considered topics related to the globally sustained key objectives for tomorrow cities (e.g., UN Agenda 2030, New Urban Agenda – Habitat III, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction), i.e. smart, sustainable, resilient and safe communities; issues relative to climate neutrality; socio-political changes in the Mediterranean Region; and topics related to the specific cultural reality and assets of this region and the ways these can be preserved and sustainably exploited for adding value to this future vision and ensure quality of life of their inhabitants. The sessions incorporated research work and evidence-based results and have created a fruitful interaction among researchers engaged in this particular and vulnerable spatial context of the Mediterranean Region.

Discussion on the COMB proposed theme was deployed in three Conference sessions – two F2F and 1 virtual –, incorporating presentation of 12 papers in total.

**2022 ICCSA
(International
Conference on
Computer Science
and its
Applications),
Malaga, July 4-7**

1. Workshop on ‘Cities, Technologies and Planning’ (CTP).

Two sessions were organized in the context of this workshop, incorporating presentation of 8 papers. Key issues in the discussion were focused on the recent development of technology and its applications in urban contexts and small urban constellations, assessing both the potential as well as the fragility of those left behind such developments. Discussions have gone through a variety of topics of concern in the urban environment, namely social, environmental, economic, risk management, territorial inequalities, mobility, sustainability, participatory planning, resilience, etc. and the potential of technology in coping with current challenges of such environments.

2. Workshop on ‘Smart and Sustainable Island Communities’ (SSIC).

Two sessions were organized in the context of this workshop, incorporating presentation of 8 papers. The focus of discussion comprised current challenges of insular communities as fragmented and disadvantaged geographical territories. Specific emphasis was placed on advantages of such regions, mostly associated with land and underwater cultural heritage, social values, traditions, linkages to the sea etc. as well as with current challenges related to clean energy, waste management, Integrated Land and Marine Spatial Planning, land use changes and coastalization due to tourism, etc.

c. The meetings or other events you plan to hold in 2023 and later years, including locations, dates, and the topics/themes to be addressed.

**2023 -
Collaboration
of COMB in
the context of
the “Ocean
and Seas in
Geographical
Thought”, IGU
Thematic
conference,
Milano, June
6-7**

COMB collaborates with a number of IGU Commissions in the context of the above Thematic Conference (<https://igu-chg-2023.unimib.it/>). Additionally, by this chance, it has proposed a joint session with COM16.20 on “Geography of Information, Innovation, and Technology” entitled: “Current and emerging challenges and prospects in the Mediterranean coastal and marine scenery”. Specific, but not exclusive topics, of this session are:

- Current and emerging challenges in the marine environment in general (e.g. other European or world seas) and the Mediterranean in particular (climate change, maritime energy infrastructures, competing maritime uses).
- Sustainable blue economy.
- Maritime Spatial Planning Coordination with land-based spatial developments at various policy making levels.
- Governance aspects in the marine environment.
- Land marine interaction (ports, fishing, tourism, energy, etc.).
- Smart and sustainable island communities ICT-enabled and integrated approaches of land and maritime spatial and developmental planning.

- Coastalization and touristification trends in coastal and insular regions – impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Sustainable and resilient exploitation of underwater cultural heritage Unveiling historical trails of the European seas.
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and their applications in coastal and marine space in pursuing sustainability and resilience concerns (e.g. smart ports, marine surveillance, smart marine traffic management).

**2023 ICCSA
(International
Conference on
Computer
Science and its
Applications),
Athens, July 3-
6**

Previous collaboration in the context of ICCSA is continued in 2023. In this respect, Chair of COMB, Anastasia Stratigea (National Technical University of Athens) in cooperation with the Univ. of Aegean, Dept. of Geography, will be the Local Organizers of ICCSA 2023. In addition, they will co-organize the following workshops (already accepted):

1. Workshop on ‘**Cities, Technologies and Planning**’ (CTP). The workshop will be organized in cooperation with Giuseppe Borruso (University of Trieste), Malgorzata Hanz (Lodz University of Technology, Beniamino Murgante (University of Basilicata), Ginevra Balletto (University of Cagliari) and Ljiljana Zivkovic (Republic Geodetic Authority).

Discussion themes

Open Government; Open Data; Resilient cities; Smart cities and Sustainable Urban Development; GIS-based mobile applications for Smart Cities; Planning 2.0; Planning 3.0; Participation 2.0; Urban social networks, Urban sensing; E-democracy, E-participation, Participatory GIS; Technologies for e-Participation, policy modelling, simulation and visualisation; Second Life and participatory games; Social networks and collaborative/participatory approaches; Ubiquitous Computing Environment - Urban computing - Ubiquitous-City; Neogeography; Collaborative mapping; Geotagging; SDI and Planning; VGI VS SDI; Volunteered Geographic Information; Crowdsourcing; Ontologies for Urban planning; City Gml; Geo-applications for mobile phones; Web 2.0; Web 3.0; Wikinomics, Socialnomics; WikiCities; WikiPlanning; Maps mash up; Tangible Maps and planning; Risk assessment & Emergency management; Resilient cities; Renewable Energy for Cities and Smart grids; Augmented Reality; Complexity assessment and mapping; 15-minutes city; Urban data spaces; Digital Twin City.

2. Workshop on ‘**Smart and Sustainable Island Communities**’ (SSIC). The workshop will be organized in cooperation with Chiara Garau (DICAAR, University of Cagliari), Paola Zamperlin (University of Pisa), Francesco Scorza (University of Basilicata) and Yiota Theodora (National Technical University of Athens)

Discussion themes

- Exploration of current national and international initiatives, knowledge and practice on the topic of smart and sustainable islands’ development.

- Identification of strengths and structural weaknesses of various types of island regions.
- Exploration of the use of technological advances for establishing strong links among productive sectors in insular communities and creating value chains as a driving force for adding value to the economy and society of island territories.
- Potential smart applications for serving environmental, societal and sectoral needs and goals of island regions, with special emphasis on smart governance and spatial data management for place-based decision-making and monitoring of spatial dynamics in island contexts.
- Integrated participatory planning in island regions as an essential tool for setting up effective strategies and related policy paths for sustainable and resilient resource management and more promising future developmental trails of island communities.
- Delineation of practical or theoretical guidelines or strategies for establishing smartness in “fragile” insular spatial contexts, also in terms of mobility and distributive logistics.
- Consideration of technology at the service of islands’ sustainability, resilience, cultural development, citizens’ empowerment and engagement, strengthening of identity and social ties, etc.

C. Networking

- a. Means, if any, by which your commission has collaborated with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces during 2022.

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- b. Collaboration, if any, with other international, intergovernmental, or inter- and multi-disciplinary bodies in 2022.

Collaboration in the context of the International Conference on Computer Science and its Applications (ICCSA) 2022, COMB as a co-organizer of two workshops on “Cities, Technologies and Planning” (CTP) and “Smart and Sustainable Island Communities” (SSIC), Malaga, July 4-7.

- c. Cooperative efforts, if any, with the International Science Council (ISC) and the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) programs, etc.

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D. Publications

The list of publications pertaining to the COMB themes, authored or edited by members of the COMB members, that were presented in meetings or sessions organized or endorsed by COMB, is presented below.

a. Special Issues, books and articles published in 2021-22

Spotorno, M. and Tarantino, D. (2021). *Migrants and the challenge of the faith: identity and adaptation*. Publisher PM edizioni, 2021, ISBN 8831222279, 9788831222273.

Stratigea, A. and Koplin, M. (2021), *Indulging in Preservation and Sustainable Management of Land and Maritime Cultural Resources in Current Times*, Special Issue, *Heritage*,

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/heritage/special_issues/land_and_maritime_cultural_resource_s.

Brocada, L., Mangano, S., Panizza, E., Piana, P., Primi, A. and Spotorno, M. (2022), Hidden geographies of the Ligurian islands between landscape conservation and tourist enhancement. Paper presented at the UGI Congress, Paris, July 18-22.

Desille, A. (2022). Local immigration policies in Israel: the paradox of autonomy. *Territory, Governance and Politics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2022.2114535>.

Desille, A. (2022). Border regions, migration and place-making: the case of Trás-os-Montes in Portugal. *Cidades, Comunidades e Territórios*, No. 44, 1-18, <http://journals.openedition.org/cidades/5434>

Desille, A. & Sadi-Ibraheem, Y. (2021). It's a matter of life or death: Jewish migration and dispossession of Palestinians in Acre (Israel). *Urban Planning*, 6(2), 32–42, <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v6i2.3676>.

Spotorno M. (2022), *Il Marocco e la sfida religiosa dei nuovi flussi migratori*. In R. Carpi (edited by), *Algebar – Il canneto editore*, Genoa.

Stratigea, A. and Chen, J. (2022), *Coping with Coastal and Maritime Sustainability Concerns in the Mediterranean*, Special Issue, *Ocean and Coastal Management Journal*, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/ocean-and-coastal-management/special-issue/10D695QM9KQ>.

Lagarias, A., Zacharakis, I., Stratigea, A. (2022). Assessing Coastal Urban Sprawl and the “Linear City Model” in the Mediterranean – The Corinthian Bay Example. In: Gervasi, O., Murgante, B., Misra, S., Rocha, A.M.A.C., Garau, C. (Eds.) *Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2022 Workshops*. ICCSA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Vol. 13378, pp. 439–456, Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-10562-3_31

Koutsis, D., Stratigea, A. (2022). Locus of Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP): A Data-Driven, Place-Based and Participatory Planning Perspective. In: Gervasi, O., Murgante, B., Misra, S., Rocha, A.M.A.C., Garau, C. (Eds.), *Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2022 Workshops*. ICCSA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Vol. 13379, pp. 686–702, Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-10545-6_46

Koutsis, D., Stratigea, A. (2022). Spatial Integration of Land and Underwater Cultural Heritage for leveraging Local Development – The Leros Example. In (pp. 60-75), In S. Anagnostou, V. Gavalas & G. Korres (Eds.), *Spatial Planning, Cultural Heritage and Local Development” Theory, Methods, Practices and Case Studies*, ISBN: 978-618-00-4005-0 (in Greek).

Stratigea, A., Alexopoulos, A., Sapounas, S. and Bistaraki, A. (2022), *Coping with COVID-19 Pandemic in Greece: A Joint Effort at the National and Urban Level*. In C. Nunes Silva (Ed.), *Local Government and the Covid-19 Pandemic - A Global Perspective* (pp. 363-404) (Chapter 15), Springer Cham, ISBN 303091111X, 9783030911119, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-91112-6_15. (Paper presented in the 2021 IGU Conference, Istanbul).

Lagarias, A. and Stratigea, A. (2022), Coastalization Patterns in the Mediterranean: A Spatiotemporal Analysis of Coastal Urban Sprawl in Tourism Destination Areas, *GeoJournal*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-022-10756-8>.

Koutsis, D., Lagarias, A. and Stratigea, A. (2022), Evidence-Based Exploration as the Ground for Heritage-Led Pathways in Insular Territories: Case Study Greek Islands. *Heritage*, 5, 2746. <https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage5030143>.

Koutsis, D., Lagarias, A. and Stratigea, A. (2022), Coping with Global and Insularity Challenges in Small and Medium-Sized Mediterranean Islands: Towards Sustainable, Resilient and Heritage-Led Future Pathways in Greek Insular Territories, Paper presented at the IGU Centennial Congress, Paris, July 18-22.

Lagarias, A., Zacharakis, I. and Stratigea, A. (2022), Unsustainable Coastal Urban Sprawl Patterns and the Emerging “Linear City Model” in the Mediterranean Region – The Corinthian Bay Example. Paper presented at the IGU Centennial Congress, Paris, July 18-22.

Lagarias, A., Zacharakis, I. and Stratigea, A. (2022), Assessing the Coastal vs Hinterland Divide by Use of Multitemporal Data: Case Study in Corinthia, Greece. *European Journal of Geography* (EJG), 13, 2, pp. 1-26, DOI <https://doi.org/10.48088/ejg.a.lag.13.2.001.026>.

Leka, A., Lagarias, A., Panagiotopoulou, M. and Stratigea, A. (2022), Development of a Tourism Carrying Capacity Index (TCCI) for Sustainable Management of Coastal Areas in Mediterranean Islands – Case Study Naxos, Greece. *Ocean & Coastal Management Journal* 216, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2021.105978>.

Garau, C., Desogus, G. and Stratigea, A. (2022). Monitoring Sustainability Performance of Insular Territories against SDGs – The Mediterranean Case Study, *Journal of Urban Planning and Development*, 148(1), Doi: 10.1061/(ASCE)UP.1943-5444.0000809.

b. The current (accurate) URL of the commission’s website.

COMB is currently in the process of establishing a new website.

E. Archival Contributions

Materials and publications transmitted to the IGU archives by your commission. Copies (soft copies if appropriate) of all newsletters, monographs, special journal issues, etc. should be sent to the IGU Secretary-General upon publication for transmission to the archivist. Photographs from your meetings, field excursions, or other events that you are willing to share are especially gratefully received and will be included in the IGU e-Newsletter.