


# Climathon

Greece-Japan islands

## Climathon on Sustainable islands in Greece and Japan 2022

 28-30 September 2022

 Athens University of Economics and Business,  
Room Δ4, Athens, Greece (4th floor of Derigni wing)

## PRESS RELEASE



### Organizers



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Islands are social-ecological systems with unique characteristics shaped by their often-extreme remoteness from mainland areas. Many islands host unique and highly endemic ecosystems that have evolved over millennia. Similarly, many islands are homes to very distinct cultures and social systems, containing local communities that have strong values and sense of place. Indeed, islands are considered hotspots of biocultural diversity.

However, islands also face very pronounced demographic, socioeconomic and environmental change that affects their social-ecological components and gives rise to very interconnected sustainability challenges.

*This first cross-continental Climathon seeks to enhance sustainability in the face of change in islands of Greece and Japan.*

Climathon on Sustainable islands in Greece and Japan is co-organised by the Research Laboratory on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability ([ReSEES](#)) at Athens University of Economics and Business ([AUEB](#)), the Institute for Future Initiatives ([IFI](#)) at the University of Tokyo, the Alliance of Excellence for Research and Innovation on Aephoria ([AE4RIA](#)), [EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece](#) and the Sustainable Development Unit at Athena Research Center ([SDU-ATHENA RC](#)).

It took place in parallel to the “Greece-Japan Sustainable Island Symposium” from 28<sup>th</sup> of September until 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The format was hybrid with some teams working remotely in Tokyo (Japan) and the rest online and in person at Electra Palace and at Athens University of Economics and Business in Athens – AUEB (Greece).

### The Challenge:

"Enhancing sustainability in the face of change in islands of Greece and Japan"

Each team has been expected to develop a 3-5 min presentation and either propose:

- a niche solution for a single small island in Greece or Japan (if it targets a very specific local challenge or reflects a unique local context), or
- a solution with a broader applicability for multiple islands of Greece or Japan (if it targets a more generic issue).



Figure 1 - Climathon team working on their solution



Figure 2 - Climathon team working on their solution together with Maria Loloni (Mentor)

The teams started working on their ideas on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of September either at the venue of the Symposium or online. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of September, the teams located in Athens gathered in AUEB and finalized their presentation with the support of the mentors. Those located in Japan had 1:1 sessions with the mentors using zoom aiming to get feedback on their work. Finally, on the same day, all teams had the opportunity to present their solutions to the Jury either live or online in 3-5 minutes and respond to their questions.



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Figure 3 - First team from Japan (Jie Su, Lam Huynh and Jessica Posterari) presenting their solution to the jury

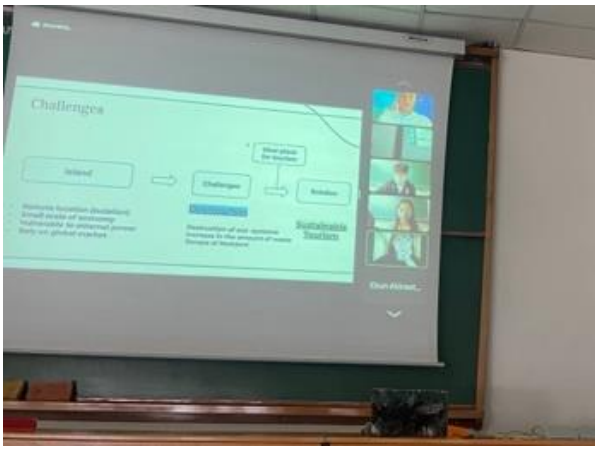


Figure 4 - Second team from Japan (Ahn Jihyun, Yui Ichinose and Jiho Jeon) presenting virtually their solution to the jury

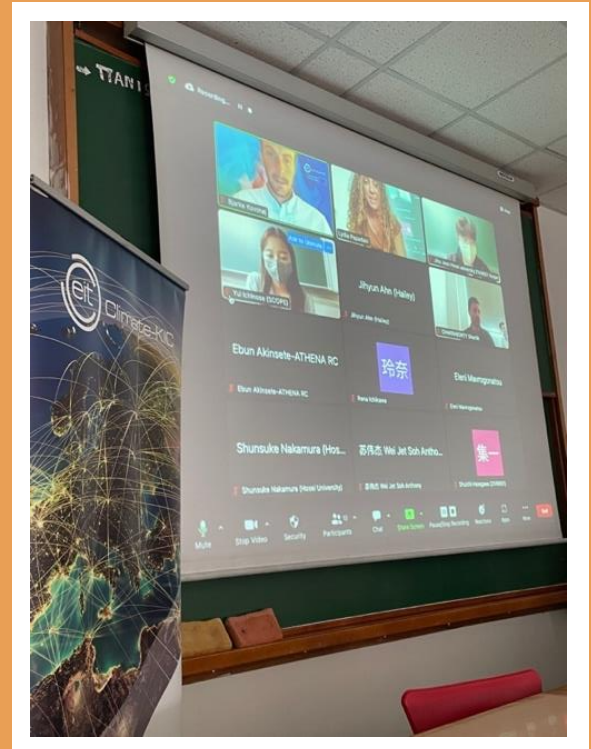


Figure 5 - The jury asking explanatory questions to the teams



Figure 6 - Third team from Greece (Frantz Dhers, Eleni Mavrogonatou and Gregorios Plemmenos) presenting their solution to the jury



Figure 7 - Fourth team from Japan (Wei Jet Soh, Shuichi Hasegawa, Rena Ichikawa and Shunsuke Nakamura) presenting virtually their solution to the jury

# THE WINNERS

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The Jury scored the ideas based on five criteria, namely, innovativeness, impact, realism, existence of a solid business model and understanding the budgetary needs & growth potential. The team that scored higher to these criteria and hence, won this Climathon was the team "Back to the future". The members of the team were: Frantz Dhers, Eleni Mavrogonatou and Gregorios Plemmenos. They won a € 100 gift card from PLAISIO (sponsored by University of Tokyo), while all participants got souvenirs (sponsored by EIT Climate-KIC Greece Hub).



Figure 9 - From left to right: Frantz Dhers, Dr Shamik Chakraborty, Lydia Papadaki, Eleni Mavrogonatou, Dr Alexandros Gasparatos, Gregorios Plemmenos and Dr Ebum Akinsete.

*"Our main goal is to close the knowledge gap between generations for sustainable cultivating local products of a specific region. Our project focus on the citrus cultivation and to bring back the sustainable ways of growing and cultivating citrus farms. This project will activate the civil and local society to seek for the sustainable ways of growing the citrus farms and will also enhance the local circular economy. As more young people will involve in this process, this will eventually lead young people gradually deciding to stay on the island of Chios and the problem of ageing population to fade away."*

Find more on the official page of Climathon on Sustainable islands in Greece and Japan 2022 , on the social media of Climathon Greece on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and on [AE4RIA Page](#).

# MEET THE TEAM

# Climathon

## Greece-Japan islands



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