

ESIN & CE4EUI Programme

Houtskär, Finland | 22–25 September 2026

Tuesday 22 September

Arrival and transport

Buses from Turku to Galtby / Näsby / Mossala

There are three alternatives:

Galtby – Ferry harbour in Korpo. Take the ferry independently to Houtskär, where we will meet you.

Näsby – Get off the bus in Näsby. The event venue is within walking distance.

Mossala – Get off the bus in Träsk, where we will meet you.

19:00 | Dinner

Beer at the local pub Sybarit

Wednesday 23 September

Joint CE4EUI & ESIN Seminar

08:00–09:30 | Breakfast

09:00–09:30 | Registration and welcome coffee

09:30–10:00 | Participatory check-in: Where is your island on the map of Europe? What are your sustainability challenges?

10:00 | Opening of the event

Martina Cannata, Clean energy for EU Islands Secretariat (3E)

Sandra Bergqvist, Chair of the Finnish Island Committee and Member of the Finnish Parliament

10:15 | Tourism that Serves Local Communities

This first part of the seminar explores how tourism can be shaped to benefit local communities, the archipelago and long-term sustainability. Rather than focusing only on growth, the discussion highlights how tourism can support local well-being, identity and environmental balance, with regenerative thinking as part of the approach.

Benjamin Donner introduces the theme and presents Pargas as a unique archipelago city, including its Archipelago Programme and its work on local development and tourism.

Benjamin Donner and Robin Reuter then share a joint perspective on Pargas as an archipelago municipality, followed by a deeper look at tourism within the Habitability framework. Robin presents the Habitability indicator for tourism and the results from Pargas.

The seminar concludes with insights from the Danish Habitability project, presenting early results related to tourism and local quality of life from a comparative perspective.

11:00-11:30 | Coffee break

11:30-12:45 | World Café Workshop 1 - Tourism growth vs island resources

12:45-13:45 | Lunch

13:45-14:45 World café Workshop 2 - Sustainability challenge

14:45 | Greening Ferry Transport in Finland

In this session, Ilmari Viljanen presents Finland's approach to reducing emissions from ferry traffic, highlighting concrete actions, innovations and lessons learned.

The presentation explores how Finferries is advancing the transition towards greener ferry operations, including electrification, energy efficiency and sustainable solutions for archipelago transport.

15:15-15:45 | Coffee break

15:45 | Panel discussion: Can a decarbonised transport sector be a driver for sustainable tourism?

This session provides an overview of current trends and developments in ferry traffic across Europe, including changes in demand and infrastructure and the transition towards more sustainable and energy-efficient operations.

A panel discussion with CE4EUI members follows, offering insights from different regions and perspectives and exploring future challenges and opportunities for ferry transport in supporting connected and resilient coastal and archipelago communities.

16:30 | Good Examples from Around Europe

Participatory check-out:

- Reflection on the day
- Invitation to share one idea to take home, one future collaboration, one action to explore

17:00 | Seminar ends

17:15 | Optional Guided Walk with Ulla Mattsson-Wiklen

Led by Ulla Mattsson-Wiklen, this optional walk offers stories and insights into local history and life in the archipelago. Drawing on her experience, the tour may include themes such as emigration to America, maritime life and archipelago women, as well as stories about local buildings, people and the history of Näsby.

19:00 | Dinner

For starters crayfish and snaps with pickled fish and a local treat from all joining countries.

21:00 | Sauna

Thursday 24 September

08:00 | Breakfast

09:00 | Joint Site Visit to Houtskär

Bus departure from the campsite. The visit is hosted by Magnus Sundman.

The guided visit includes the local voluntary fire brigade (FBK) and its rescue boat, as well as a visit to the village school. Participants will have an opportunity to exchange experiences with the school community and discuss themes such as sustainability and life in the archipelago.

The programme also includes a stop at the grocery store museum in Björkö, hosted by Siv.

The visit concludes with lunch at restaurant Sybarit.

Lunch | Sybarit

13:00 | ESIN returns to the campsite / CE4EUI meeting ends

13:15 | Island Matters in Finland

In this session, [**speaker**] presents key issues affecting island and archipelago communities in Finland.

The presentation highlights current challenges, policy priorities and opportunities for strengthening the vitality, accessibility and sustainability of island regions.

13:45 | The Road Ahead: Future Directions for the EU Island Strategy

This session looks ahead to the future development of the EU Island Strategy, focusing on key priorities, policy needs and next steps for strengthening island and archipelago regions across Europe.

Invited speakers include representatives from the European Parliament, Finland and the North Atlantic, together with Alexis Chatzimpiros from Samsø Energy Academy, Denmark. The panel will bring together different perspectives on how EU policy can better support island communities, resilience and sustainable development.

The session concludes with a forward-looking discussion on collaboration and concrete next steps.

Moderator/Host: Ivan Matic´

15:00 | Coffee break

15:30 | ESIN Programme

15:30 | Welcome to our Dutch representatives and roundtable

Updates from each ESIN member country.

16:15 | ESIN and Our Own Strategy

Discussion on ESIN's future direction and priorities.

17:30 | Programme ends

18:30 | Festive Dinner

First course

ESIN history between courses

Main course

Reflections by former Chair Bengt Almqvist

Dessert

21:30 | Music by the Aspö Folk Musicians and local performers

Friday 25 September

08:00–09:30 | Breakfast

09:30 | ESIN Annual General Meeting (AGM)

11:00 | ESIN Board Meeting

11:30 | Lunch

12:40 | Departure and Visit to Korpoström

Chartered bus from Näsby via Korpoström.

Visit to Korpoström, including a presentation of the centre's activities, a guided tour of the exhibition and Knattelab, followed by a discussion and exchange of experiences over coffee and sandwiches.

Option 1 – Continue to Utö

18:15 | Ferry to Utö

Option 2 – Return to Turku

14:10 | Commuter bus from Houtskär to Turku

17:30 | Arrival in Turku