



ISLA INNO
VATIVO



precovery labs

“Journey to an Island of Innovation”

Session as part of the Smart Island World Congress (23rd of April from 18.00h to 19.45h)

Join us as we go on a journey to an island of innovation. **Marilinda Croes** of the *Isla Innovativo* initiative will elaborate on Aruba’s innovation movement which has culminated in the recent appointment of a national Chief Innovation Officer. She will present how the movement was sparked, the ambitions on which it is built (*Purpose Driven Economy, Learning Society, and Vibrant Innovation Ecosystems*) and what the next steps are with key stakeholders. **Arno Boersma** (*UNDP Centre of Excellence for SIDS*) and **Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy** (*Precovery Labs*) will reflect on what this means for the sustainable development and resilience of islands. The session will be moderated by **Neesham Spitzberg** (*IFC*). Come learn from the movement and leave with actionable insights for your own innovation journey.

Session Agenda:

- 18:00 – 18:10 Opening and Introductions (10 min)
by Neesham Spitzberg, International Finance Corporation
- 18:10 – 18:50 Interactive presentation: the Isla Innovativo initiative (40 min)
by Marilinda Croes, Isla Innovativo Aruba
- 18:50 – 19:05 Reflections from a Sustainable Development perspective (15 min)
by Arno Boersma, UNDP Centre of Excellence for SIDS
- 19:05 – 19:20 Reflections from a Resilience perspective (15 min)
by Stewart Sarkozy, Precovery Labs
- 19:20 – 19:45 Panel discussion and Q&A (25 min)
moderated by Neesham Spitzberg

Marilinda Croes is a dedicated economist and environmentalist who believes in building a sustainable world in every sense of the word. Her current interests lie in data analytics (for finance), the future of work, new economic systems, and how innovation can work for the well-being of all the citizens of the world. She has been part of the Aruba’s Isla Innovativo initiative from the start.

Arno Boersma is the Manager of the UNDP’s Aruba Centre of Excellence (COE) for the Sustainable Development of SIDS. The COE finds and spreads good examples from islands to islands in areas of sustainability, resilience and innovation. Arno previously worked for the World Bank, L’Oreal, Squarewise and Heineken. From the ‘One Happy Island’ of Aruba, he works for one happy planet, by bridging islands of knowledge.

Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy is Senior Advisor & Director of the Island Resilience Initiative for the Global Island Partnership, in partnership with his organization, Precovery Labs. Precovery Labs is a hub for sustainability, resilience and precovery implementation and storytelling. He is also Senior Advisor at 100 Resilient Cities.

Neesham Spitzberg is a Senior Program Manager at the World Bank Group’s International Finance Corporation (IFC). Her current focus is on designing experiences which enable knowledge exchange to maximize the quality and impact of IFC’s work. She is an agricultural economist by training, with operational policy background in financial sector development.