

**Table S1.** List of the 37 selected statements included in the Q-set. Columns on the right are the composite Q-sorts with their significance level in each factor. F1-F4: significant factors (discourses) selected from the analysis (see text for factor names). \* =  $p < 0.05$ , \*\* =  $p < 0.01$ . C = consensus statements.

no.	Statement	F1	F2	F3	F4	
1	A transplantation technique that is considered the most appropriate to the transplant site should be adopted	3	2	-3 **	1	
2	The information that leads to choose the transplantation as a compensation measure should be clear and easily accessible	2	2	-3 **	0	
3	A mismatch between administrative and technical terminology exists in the EIA prescriptions that impose the transplantation	-2	0 *	-2	1 **	
4	The choice of the transplantation technique should be based on an accurate environmental study of the transplant site	3	2	0 *	2	
5	A marine protected area should be established in addition to the transplantation to assure the full restoration of ecosystem functions lost due the infrastructural works	0	0	3 **	0	
6	<i>P. oceanica</i> transplantations are not a priority for the country	-2	1	2	-3	
7	Among compensation measures, public meetings should be held to awaken the public opinion to conservation and environmental issues	-1 **	-3 **	1	3	
8	The choice of the transplantation technique should be based on the most recent scientific knowledge	2	4 **	2	2	
9	Social acceptance of the infrastructural works and of the compensation measures is a prerequisite to a good governance of the transplantation initiative	-1 **	3 *	2 *	0 *	
10	<i>P. oceanica</i> should be protected, not transplanted	1 **	0	4 **	-2	
11	<i>P. oceanica</i> is a waste	-4	-1 **	-4	-4	
12	A transplantation initiative should involve local skills, abilities, and cultural heritage	-1	0	0	-1	
13	Pilot transplantations should be realized in the identified transplant site before the start of the infrastructural works	3 **	1	0	0	
14	Monitoring outputs should be made public in an easily accessible and understandable format	1	1	1	2	C
15	A transplantation should produce easily accessible new knowledge and data	0	0	2 *	3 *	
16	Maritime infrastructural works are necessary to the economic growth of the country	-3	3 **	-3	-1 **	
17	Priority habitats as defined by the EC Habitat Directive should never be impacted by infrastructural works	2	-4 **	3	-2 **	
18	The environmental effects of a transplantation should be made public	-2 *	0	3	1	
19	EIA prescriptions should be drawn up by a multidisciplinary expert team	1	-3 **	-1	0	
20	Transplantations should be bound to the stakeholders' acceptance	-2	-3	1 **	-2	
21	The main aim of EIA should be ecosystem protection	4 **	-2 **	1	3	
22	Transplantations should always be realized by an experienced team	2	2	-1 **	2	
23	A transplant alone cannot warrant all the ecosystem functions originally provided by the damaged seagrass meadow	1	-1	2	-2	
24	The restoration of lost ecosystem functions is more important than economic convenience in the choice of transplantation technique	1	-1 **	1	2	
25	Tenders for the allotment of a transplantation initiative should not be based solely on a lowest-bid contract	0	3 **	0	1	
26	Economic development should not be subject to extreme conservation logics	-3 **	2 **	-1	-1	
27	The citizens should be fully informed about objectives, techniques, and costs of a transplantation initiative during its early stages, not merely after its completion	0	0	0	0	C
28	Links and synergies among the stakeholders directly involved in a transplantation initiative are insufficient	0 *	-1	-2	0 *	
29	Transplantation initiatives should be fully regulated	0	-2	-1	-1	C
30	The governance of a transplantation initiative should be adapted to the local socio-economic context	-1	1 **	-2	-2	
31	Transplant monitoring should be carried out by an external scientific team rather than by the one who realized the transplant	1	-2 **	0	1	

32	The creation of centers for the collection and storage of beach-cast rhizomes and seeds of <i>P. oceanica</i> is a priority	-1	-2	-2	-1	
33	Transplant monitoring should be a long-term activity	2 *	-1	1 *	-1	
34	The data collected before and after realized transplantations are not adequately organized, shared, and exploited	0	-1	-1	1 *	
35	The loss of <i>P. oceanica</i> meadows is an inevitable cost of modernization	-3	-2	-2	-3	C
36	To avoid tensions, transplantation initiatives should be based on the agreement of all (national, regional, local) political actors	-2	1 **	-1	-3 *	
37	All steps of a transplantation initiative should be traceable, clear, and accessible	-1	1	0	4 **	