

**The “Tourism Studies in the Mediterranean Region” Book Series launches  
its first volume:**

**Post Covid-19 tourism: a pathway towards sustainable development in the  
Mediterranean region**

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**Call for paper**

The 21st century will be remembered as the century of the Covid-19 pandemic, a catastrophic event that is having a devastating impact on the lives of all humanity. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (2020) argues that “tourism is one of the most affected sectors”, being highly vulnerable to disturbances caused by natural and human made events (Ma et al., 2020; Butler, 2017; Laws et al., 2007; Ritchie, 2004, 2009).

According to Rogerson and Baum (2020) the COVID-19 epidemic is generating profound changes in both the demand and supply of tourism. On the one hand, concerns about personal health and safety become accelerating factors in the decision-making process of tourists. On the other hand, the blockage of flows, the closure of borders, travel and mobility restrictions, and social distancing, is putting the tourism organizations in front of an unprecedented challenge in a very short time, requiring a revision of their business models (Bartik et al., 2020). At the same time, as some authors underlined (e.g. Sigala, 2020), if the tourism crisis is a result of the pandemic, the uncontrolled development of tourism has contributed to the current disease: the high level of global interconnections, the huge production of pollution and waste, the adoption of the values of capitalism in the decision-making process of people and companies, as well as in political formulations, have amplified the effects of the pandemic on the tourism sector at global level. In this context, the Mediterranean region is among the most affected by the crisis. In this region, is essential to start a process of redefinition and re-thinking of the future of tourism, in order to remain competitive in the global scenario (Ateljevic, 2020; Baum & Hai, 2020; Bianchi, 2020; Romagosa 2020; Tomassini & Carvagnaro 2020; Carr, 2020; Higgins-Desbiolles, 2020).

Two opposite approaches have been proposed in the scientific literature as strategies to overcome the crisis.

Some authors (Gössling et al., 2020; Hall et al., 2020) focus on the importance of being resilient, in order to return to the pre-crisis situation, “as normal”. This approach highlights the role of governments and the need of political interventions, without any commitment from stakeholders to sustainable climate change mitigation requirements.

On the contrary, some authors affirm that the pandemic has contributed to the growth of a “global consciousness” in harmony with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Galvani et al.,

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2020). According to this approach, the crisis can be viewed as an opportunity to better address the objectives of inclusion, sustainability and responsibility.

Embracing this perspective, the Mediterranean region should consider this historical moment as an opportunity to redesign a new model of tourism development and prepare tourism recovery plans taking into account also sustainable goals coherently to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987, p.43).

The need to reconsider the future development of tourism opens up to aspects of sustainability that can now play a key role, such as the reduction of pollution, the attention to the ecosystem and biodiversity, the use of natural resources, etc. Rogerson & Baum (2020) point out that a transformation of tourism in this direction implies a commitment of all actors to equity (Benjamin et al., 2020), a research towards transformative e-tourism (Gretzel et al., 2020) and the absorption of different cultural values that guarantee development at community level (Carr, 2020).

The need to redesign tourism has also imposed to reconsider the role of scholar and researchers in contributing to re-orienting tourism by generating new knowledge on the sustainable use of available resources and by promoting new ideas, models, approaches and paradigms (Gursoy & Chi 2020; Ramagosa 2020; Sigala, 2020).

### ***Objective of the 1st Volume***

**Starting from these assumptions, the aim of the first volume of the book series “Tourism Studies in the Mediterranean Region” is to offer critical perspectives on sustainable development in the Mediterranean countries and islands and provide ground evidence about how sustainable development research and practice can support the “new normal” of tourism and the structural transformation of the sector that is needed in light of the pandemic disease. The focus will be on the future shape of tourism after the COVID-19 and the new evolutionary trajectories of this sector both at the level of business and at the level of destinations towards more resilient and sustainable tourism economies.**

### ***Recommended topics***

The book will be focusing on the following topics:

- ✚ New Business Models for Tourism Sustainable Development
- ✚ Green Strategies and Circular Economy in Tourism industry
- ✚ E-tourism, Smart Tourism Destination and Smart working in the New Normal Tourism
- ✚ Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Management for sustainable development
- ✚ New Normal Strategies, Policies and Decision Making Processes
- ✚ Destination Crisis and Disaster Management for Sustainable Development
- ✚ Tourism Marketing and New tourism experience design
- ✚ The Assessment of the Impacts of Sustainable Tourism Development



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### ***Submission procedure***

The editors invite to submit original and unpublished papers from a wide range of disciplines and we especially appreciate interdisciplinary works based on different research areas. We would like to invite the submission of conceptual papers as well as empirical studies that are both qualitative and quantitative in nature as well as that adopt different theoretical perspectives

Potential authors should provide an abstract (max 500 words) detailed enough to provide a clear idea of the content of the full paper. They should also provide a short bio of max 100 words (job title, department, university name, university location plus any research interests or recent publications). Please note that abstract acceptance does not guarantee publication of the submitted manuscript. All manuscripts will be subject to a double-blind peer review process (e-mail to: [roberto.micera@ismed.cnr.it](mailto:roberto.micera@ismed.cnr.it); [piera.buonincontri@ismed.cnr.it](mailto:piera.buonincontri@ismed.cnr.it); [luisa.errichiello@ismed.cnr.it](mailto:luisa.errichiello@ismed.cnr.it)).

### ***Important dates***

The publishing calendar is the following:

- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021: submission of long abstract according to this structure: purpose – study methodology – findings – originality – limitations - implications (max 500 words) with a short bio (max 100 words).
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021: notification about the acceptance abstract
- 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021: full paper submission
- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021: notification about the acceptance and reviews (double-blind)
- 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021: submission of the final version
- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021: publication in the book