

EDITORIAL

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ItFits - Tourism and Sustainability International Conference

<http://www.itfitsumbria.com/it-fits-conference.html>

Almatourism continues with this third special issue to offer its support to conferences and events devoted to tourism and sustainability.

This issue is developed in collaboration with the Italian Forum on Tourism and Sustainability (ItFITS). ItFITS is an annual event that promote academic research focused on the links between tourism and sustainability. Scholars and practitioners take part to the forum in order to discuss and together identify best practices and new solutions for a more sustainable tourism industry. ItFITS is supported by Italian University of Foreigners of Perugia and the Italian Centre for Advanced Studies in Tourism (CST), one of the best-established tourism management school since 1982.

The edition 2014 has been organized from the 8th to the 10th of May in Assisi (Italy). During the forum, invited speakers and participants had the opportunity to discuss about accessibility, sustainability and innovation as core elements for tourism policies. Within the Forum, the 8th of May has been organized an International Conference. It has been to occasion to receive contribution from scholars operating in different areas of the world. Best practices, case studies and theoretical contributions have been presented during this academic day. It has been the occasion to analyze contributions based on different perspectives, different cultures, different local approaches. The call for papers invited the Authors to submit research studies focused on sustainable destination development and planning, rural tourism and ecotourism, sustainable business development, new theoretical perspectives on sustainable tourism, case studies and best practices in sustainable tourism governance, policy strategies and management.

The emerging findings highlight the heterogeneity and extent of the general topic. Few articles have been selected as best presentations. An interesting

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article introduced the concept of “shared living”. Travelers around the world should be able to interact with local people and engage with the community. A new vision of accommodation has been proposed highlighting the fact that living with locals enrich the travel-related experience and help to create a more sustainable trip. Another contribution proposes an innovative approach towards the introduction of an up-to-date sustainable development philosophy founded on the principles of combination and balance of common and individual interests on multilateral perspective. Following the suggestion that the local development is based on the integration of the tourism industry with the whole economy, an additional research study shows how the rural tourism help local community through facilitating local products’ consumption. Other contributions explained the importance to guarantee a sustainable approach within the whole tourism industry, from suppliers to buyers to customers. Deterritorialization and reterritorialization have been considered as effective resources for a sustainable socio-economic development. An interesting focus on dismissed industrial area and their second tourism-related life has been presented.

The above-mentioned research studies represent just a part of the discussed topics. This issues is including a selection of presented papers. Scholars and practitioners can now access to it and improve their knowledge about the relationship between tourism industry and sustainability issue.