This special issue of the Journal of Tourism and Development includes selected papers submitted to the INVTUR 2021 International Conference. The 5th edition of the conference was hosted by the University of Aveiro, between the 6th and the 7th of May, 2021, and was organized in cooperation with several foreign partner universities. The objective of the conference was to fuel discussion and to induce new approaches and emerging paradigms on how tourism could effectively attain sustainable development. The conference also intended to share and apply scientific knowledge into practice that impacts the transformation of destinations.

The conference was organized in 2 plenary sessions, with 10 keynote speakers, and 56 parallel sessions, with a total of 280 presentations, and offered a wide choice of topics to choose from. Five hundred and thirty-six works were submitted from authors from 45 countries. More than 800 people registered to attend the conference. A selected number of papers are published in this special issue, that includes two volumes, of the Journal of Tourism and Development, while the remaining papers will be published in a book of proceedings with ISBN. All submitted papers were subject to a double-blind review.

INVTUR 2021 aimed to provide an interactive, dynamic and international platform for academics and practitioners to discuss how to enhance research applications and knowledge management through partnerships. Debates among tourism businesses and organizations took place, with the aim of bridging the gap between academics and practitioners. Participants had the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with various stakeholders, including academic researchers, industry professionals, and governmental entities, through dialogues on how to better use research outputs for the benefit of the industry. INVTUR 2021 is a product of the involvement, participation, and encouragement of numbers of colleagues from all around the world.

The Journal of Tourism and Development is the main publisher of the papers submitted to the INVTUR 2021 International Conference. The Journal is the official partner of the Conference, and will always have in mind to offer a privileged stage for mature and young researchers to meet, interact and feel confident to publish their work!

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