

EDITORIAL

The 38th issue of the *Journal of Tourism & Development* is being published in a time of economic and social recovery of the consequences brought by the COVID-19 outbreak, of which the worldwide tourism industry was not exempted from. Among the many things we have learned from this experience is the importance of scientific research and the resulting knowledge. And tourism is, unquestionably, a knowledge-based industry, where both tacit and codified knowledge (know-how and scientific, formal knowledge) creation and transfer play an important role in the development of innovation and competitiveness. Despite this, it is acknowledged that the connections between knowledge producers (universities, researchers, consultants) and tourism businesses and organisations are still weak, hampering the diffusion of relevant information and knowledge. Nonetheless, this type of linkage and cooperation has been gradually increasing, as the research system is closer to society and actively contributes to the resolution of its problems. On the other hand, organisations are less resistant to scientific knowledge, because they can foresee an effective application on their operations.

The *Journal of Tourism & Development* is, since its creation, positioned as a means to disseminate knowledge resulting from academic research, so that it can reach academics, students, businesses, and public and private organisations, publishing articles based on applied research that provides relevant contributions to the many elements of the tourism system.

This issue follows this approach. The articles published include a diversity of topics, such as service quality in education, sustainable tourism policies, COVID-19 impacts on the hospitality industry, tourism planning in coastal destinations, creativity in tourism, satisfaction with island tourism, hygiene and safety measures in food and beverage businesses, as well as approach recent dynamics in specific tourism products, namely, literary tourism, shopping tourism, events, religious tourism, geocaching, medical, and cultural tourism.

It is our objective, as an editorial project, to increase in number and diversity the readers of this journal, so that the knowledge that is created in the area of tourism and published in *JTD* is disseminated and reaches a wide audience among the different elements of the tourism system, contributing to the emergence of well-informed decision-making processes within the industry.

The continuous growth of the *Journal of Tourism & Development* in terms of submitted and accepted papers, in the diversity of themes, areas of application of the published research, and in the nationality of the authors leads us to believe that this journal's main purpose, which is to provide useful knowledge in tourism, is being fulfilled.

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