

The Future of Tourism in the Alpine-Adriatic Region

International symposium in memory of Zlatko Pepeonik, 1934-2004

Hermagor, Carinthia, Austria, 22-24 October 2024

Abstracts

(by first authors in alphabetical order)

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expedition.nationalpark.2023 was the second occurrence of a three-day exchange and impulse format, led by CUAS in cooperation with the Hohe Tauern National Park Carinthia (HTNP). The transdisciplinary research format, with a six-member expedition group consisting of three local actors and three scientists, guided by a national park ranger and a research assistant, examines the tension between nature conservation and tourism in the national park community of Heiligenblut am Grossglockner. As the starting point for early mountain tourism around Austria's highest mountain and the founding location for the largest national park in the Alps, the community is also confronted with the major tourism challenges of the future. Significant challenges include regional demographic change, transformation of tourism demand, digitalization and internationalization. Two fundamental research questions guided the project: (1) What will sustainable tourism development in the national park look like in 2033? (2) What challenges exist in tourism cooperation and how can cooperation models be established? The phenomenon of tourism with its different areas of tension, the identification of polarities and the demonstration of possible future paths were discussed during visits to 10 touristic stakeholder locations. The results have been compiled in a series of monographs by means of an accompanying recording and qualitative content analysis. The transdisciplinary citizen science approach confirms that mediation is needed to bring science and practice together in order to jointly create socially robust and sustainable knowledge for the further development of the HTNP, as well as to generate a positive future perspective for the local population.

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Southeast European ski resorts, primarily in the Dinaric Alps, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, due to the low elevation. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and decreasing snowfall pose significant threats to the overall sustainability, while their offerings are predominantly based on winter tourism. These challenges demand innovative and urgent responses from decision makers and management stakeholders to ensure ski centers position on the market and increase profitability in order to leverage investments in infrastructure. This paper analyses snow depth, air temperature, and other climatic parameters to evaluate current and projected climatic trends affecting snow reliability and season length in ski resorts across several Southeast European countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. Additionally,