

ISSN 2384-9398

GeoProgress Journal

Volume 10, Issue 1, 2023

SUSTAINABILITY AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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at University of Eastern Piedmont
Via Perrone 18 – 28100 Novara, Italy

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In copertina: Isole Borromee, Lago Maggiore (Italy).

ISSN 2384-9398

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.20373/2384-9398/10.1.2023>

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GeoProgress Journal (ISSN 2384-9398) is an open access e-journal submitted to a double-blind peer review (www.geoprogress-edition.eu). It is edited by Geoprogress (non-profit association) in line with its strategic objective to increase and disseminate knowledge in order to contribute to the progress of humanity (www.geoprogress.eu).

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Table of contents

Editorial Note.....	9
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ARTICLES

Analysis of the implementation of the performance based navigation for a more efficient and sustainable air transport <i>Matteo Ponziani</i>	13
Wine tourism and eco-friendly development <i>Viviana D'Aponte</i>	33
Sustainable health and wellness tourism in the Alps: a dialogue between nature and psychology <i>Stefania Cerutti, Paola Menzardi, Elisa Bacchetta</i>	45
The contribution of proximity forest tourism to community building and development <i>Maria Giuseppina Lucia, Francesca Silvia Rota</i>	65
Tourism and cultural heritage in the urban transformation of Naples <i>Giorgia Iovino</i>	87

Editorial Note

The year 2023 begins with the prospect that universities and research centers will return to normality, with research activities and scientific meetings resuming pre-pandemic rhythms and methods. The Geoprogress initiative of the Italian Tourism Days and the 21st edition conference, held on 27 and 28 October 2022 in Novara and Verbania, has highlighted this possibility. The conference saw good attendance in-person, with over 20 scientific contributions presented, reaching the level of pre-pandemic editions.

Some of the English-written contributions are of interest to a transnational audience, which is why they are published in this journal. They raise awareness of Italian research on tourism, a vital production system for the development and progress of local communities.

The GeoProgress Journal returns to publishing at least five articles. In this issue the focus is on tourism or topics important for its sustainable development and progress. Matteo Ponziani's article discusses air transport, a crucial sector for long-distance tourism and ecologically sustainable development. It will have to change significantly and probably continue to shrink to address the energy and ecological crisis. Ponziani focuses on Air Traffic Management as a medium-term solution, analysing the environmental and economic benefits of Performance Based Navigation to optimize aircraft routes and air transport efficiency worldwide.

Four articles follow on the Italian tourist offer, three of which deal with ecologically sustainable types of growth potential in the country, while the last one highlights culturally based development strategies and practices, using Naples as a case study.

Viviana D'Aponte's article focuses on wine tourism, which offers development opportunities and sustainability characteristics to destinations outside traditional tourist circuits, including previously disadvantaged inland areas.

Stefania Cerutti, Paola Menzardi, and Elisa Bacchetta discuss the possibilities of growth of tourism and local development that can derive from outdoor experiences. The article presents some pilot experiences conducted in the high Ossola valleys in Piedmont Region, based on a renewed approach to health tourism that combines outdoor experiences' psychological impact with sustainable tourism's role in enhancing alpine territories.

Maria Giuseppina Lucia and Francesca Silvia Rota's article on proximity forest tourism analyses how the touristic exploitation of forests and other wooded lands can contribute to community building and local development, using the case of the protected area "Bosco della Partecipanza" of Trino in Vercelli Province.

Giorgia Iovino's article on "Tourism and cultural heritage in the urban transformation of Naples" critically evaluates the complex Italian tourist offer and its problems, especially in Naples. The article investigates some of the bottom-up experiences, with the aim of evaluating whether and to what extent these initiatives can generate territorial welfare, combining economic development with social identity and practices by urban dwellers.

Francesco Adamo