

Virtual tutoring as an emerging pre-condition for a new wave of international tourism management

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The COVID pandemic will make the World's tourism turnover plummet in 2020. Tourism was in fact worstly hit by a crisis calling for social distances. Just consider that, by WTO indexes, tourism GNP was in 2019 above 10% of the total in all leading Countries (USA, France, Spain, Italy), with a sizeable role of international incoming tourism. But also less developed areas such as Africa were experiencing a strong increase.

On the other hand, a new paradigm of tourism management is forming: virtual tutoring. For safety issues it is becoming a pre-condition for any tourism offer. Which, in other words, means that tourists must now necessarily find online interactive, operational and stimulating tools for choosing and planning their travel, as well as for monitoring it to a satisfactory completion.

Our observations originate from the EU sustainable development policies, and related educational guidelines, particularly from the work of researchers in EU supported platforms (e.g. Erasmus Smart Rural Tourism), focused on countryside-rural hosting (safer regarding distance requirements), and the development of smart (virtual, etc.) tools for the tourists' explorations. These SRT projects, are aimed basically at MOOC and lifelong learning training.

In conclusion, a virtual tools package emerging from those projects, and suitable for Africa, is designed, and connected to previous research on the communication resources for development in the Continent, which for environmental, cultural and political reasons, are always depending on satellite services (web connection in remote areas, geographical mapping, localization). An interesting list of "mature" Countries, and itineraries is finally drawn.