

Island Tourism & the pandemic from a global perspective

Helping Islands to elaborate Tourism Recovery Plans

GTI Webinar - 5th June at 2pm (CET)

“The interrelationship between climate, environment, public health and a covid-19 resilient tourism; the way forward.”

Mr. George Kremlis,

*Honorary Director of the European Commission, in charge on behalf of DG ENV of circular economy and islands. Honorary President of Circular Economy & Climate Change Institute.
President of the Circle the MED Forum.*



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1. Islands are more vulnerable to climate change

(Sea level rise is expected to lead to the submergence of several islands, coastal erosion and saline water intrusion, impacting natural habitats)

2. Islands are more vulnerable to pandemics

(Insularity handicaps: isolation , insufficient public health services with limited capacity, insufficient transport connections, no benefit from economies of scale)

3. Environmental degradation & climate change can lead to pandemics

(Climate change scenarios include a change in the distribution of infectious diseases with warming and changes in outbreaks associated with weather extremes)

4. Covid-19 Resilient tourism

- a) At the destination
- b) At the resort/hotel (specifications)

- **Cleaner, non-toxic environment.**
 - *Reduction of toxic substances in the construction of facilities, food preparation, cleaning of premises, disinfections, etc.*
- **Climate change mitigation.**
 - *Measures to reduce greenhouses' gas emissions, especially CO2 (improving heating and cooling systems in the facilities), methane (avoidance of gas leaks, avoidance of decay of materials, landfills), chlorofluorocarbons (suitable air conditioners, sprays, etc.)*
- **Co-existence of tourism with RES.**
 - *Installation of wind turbines and photovoltaics in suitable areas, production of biogas derived from biowaste, installation of RES parks (wind, photovoltaic, hydroelectric), in the wider touristic area.*
- **Energy saving, use of appropriate materials**
 - *Design based on the minimization of energy needs, use of bioclimatic architecture.*
 - *Use of cold materials and suitable nanotechnology materials.*
 - *Material selection protocols during the construction and operation of tourist units, based on the minimization of the carbon footprint.*
- **Adaptation to climate change**
 - *Various modifications of the construction and operation of the tourist facilities, adaptation to the expected gradual climate change (sea level rise, average temperature rise) or possible changes in weather conditions (heat waves, fires, floods, disease outbreaks, etc.)*

- **Control of Level and quality of noise**, distance and operation rules to ensure tolerable noise levels.
 - *Suitable insulation.*
 - *Monitoring and restriction of noisy activities, microclimatic design for outdoor areas.*
- **Conservation of water resources**
 - *Water saving practices in the uses of water supply, irrigation, cleaning, accommodation, etc.*
 - *Use of desalination water (as far as possible by using RES).*
 - *Reuse of biologically purified wastewater or already used water (ex. "greywater").*
 - *Exploitation of rainwater.*
- **Protection of water quality**
 - *Careful use of fertilizers and pesticides.*
 - *Use of appropriate systems (desalination, softening, chlorination, etc.) for the supply of good quality drinking water in common areas, reduce the use of bottled water.*
 - *Use of appropriate and environmental friendly water disinfection techniques to protect public health.*
- **Preservation of coasts / beaches**
 - *Prohibitions, restrictions, controls to ensure the ecological life of coastal habitats (ex. rare flora, nests of sea turtles, care for the protection of sand dunes).*
- **Protection-improvement of natural and cultural landscape**
- **Promotion of circular economy practices**
 - *Dealing with the difficulties arising from the intense seasonality of waste in tourist areas.*

- **Ecological management of the natural landscape during the construction and operation of the facilities.**
- **Preservation of local biodiversity.**
 - Respect for the socio-cultural authenticity of the touristic destinations
 - Preservation of their tangible and intangible cultural heritage and their customs or traditions, while contributing to intercultural understanding and tolerance.
- **Promotion of quality tourism for high incomes**
 - Facilitate the transition of tourists to distant quality destinations
 - Detailed information on the ways in which foreign tourists can travel to any remote quality destination (ex. small islands)
 - Development of innovative activities with minimization of environmental impacts (ex. underwater tourism, underwater museums, diving parks on selected beaches)
 - Elegance and durability of public infrastructure
- **Increasing the sense of security of tourists**
 - Strict observance of traffic rules, safety protocols of activities, intense care for the health of tourists, on-site health care provisions and, access to a hospital.
- **Promotion of alternative forms of tourism** (ex. religious, conference, ecological, hunting, fishing, agricultural, gastronomic, etc.)

Circle the Med - 2nd online debate

"Is COVID-19, our chance for Cleaner Energy and Climate Neutrality?"

June 12th 2020 (15:00 Brussels, 16:00 Athens)



RENEWABLE ENERGY



Mr. Samuele Furfari

Professor of the geopolitics of energy at Université libre de Bruxelles



Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni

Senior Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Climate Action - Union for the Mediterranean - UfM

Moderator:



Mr. George Kremlis

President of the Organizing Committee of the Circle the Med Forum, Honorary President of the International "Circular Clima Institute" of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO)



Mr. Markos Damasiotis

Head of the Development Programmes Division of the Hellenic Center for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES) member of the Board of



Mr. Gianni Chianetta

Chairman Global Solar Council and Vice President and Head of International Affairs of ItaliaSolare, also Founder & Director at Greening the Islands



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