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## EDITORIAL

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This proceedings is the result of the participants at the 7th International Scientific Conference ToSEE - Tourism in Southern and Eastern Europe: "Engagement & Empowerment: A Path Toward Sustainable Tourism," organized by the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, May 25-27, 2023.

ToSEE 2023, recognized by UNWTO, is an established conference that provides a multidisciplinary platform connecting the academic community with destination managers, the public sector, students, and experts from practice. Renowned international speakers gave the opening keynote presentations: Margarita Zaera Espinos, UNWTO - World Tourism Organisation (Madrid); Faizan Ali, University of South Florida (United States of America); Tina Šegota, University of Greenwich (United Kingdom), University of Maribor (Slovenia) and Georg Christian Steckenbauer, Deggendorf Institute of Technology (Germany).

Of the 93 abstracts originally submitted, 55 full papers were uploaded, and upon the double-blind peer review, 35 articles were published in this Conference's Proceedings. The papers were submitted by 89 authors from thirteen countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The best Ph.D. student and other congress participants' papers were awarded.

According to the main theme of the conference, "Engagement & Empowerment: A Path Toward Sustainable Tourism," and due to the great diversity of authors, the papers cover a wide range of topics, such as different sustainability issues and challenges, tourism impacts, employees, human resource management, destination management, participatory approaches, involvement of various stakeholders and their perceptions, crisis management, use of information technology in tourism and many others.

We are proud that ToSEE 2023 has achieved its goal of bringing together academics and researchers from the tourism industry to promote discourse and critical thinking about the importance of engagement and empowerment of all stakeholders in ensuring sustainable tourism.

Finally, we would like to thank all authors for their contributions and express our special gratitude to the reviewers for their valuable insights and suggestions, which significantly improved the quality of the papers.

We hope that the contributions in this Conference's Proceedings will contribute to greater engagement and empowerment that will lead us to resilient and sustainable tourism.

*Lorena Bašan  
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Daniela Soldić Frleta  
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