



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



### Special Session Proposal

#### Small Tourism Communities in Transition

Andrea Omizzolo, [andrea.omizzolo@eurac.edu](mailto:andrea.omizzolo@eurac.edu), Eurac Research

Philipp Corradini, [philipp.corradini@eurac.edu](mailto:philipp.corradini@eurac.edu), Eurac Research

#### Abstract

The tourism sector often generates significant economic and social benefits to a large number of communities independently of size and geographical location. Yet, it has also been accounted responsible for negative environmental, social and even economic impacts. Furthermore, the tourism communities in Europe and around the world are facing large-scale social, economic, political, environmental, and technological changes, bringing new and often unseen challenges, threats, and opportunities.

The impacts of climate change, the pandemic, and the Russia's war in Ukraine have increased the urgency for these communities to become more aware of the situation, facing the needs to transition and adapt to new conditions, increasing their socio-economic and ecologic resilience to enable retaining their quality of life and their attractiveness for residents and tourists.

Among the communities related to the tourism sector, the smaller or marginal ones are often the most exposed to the negative consequences of these megatrends and critical events because they generally have less capacity and financial means. Some negative impacts could even be deadly for them. Activating transition socio-economic and ecologic transition processes could be a lifesaving choice.

The session aims to explore the multi-dimensional implications of megatrends in small Tourism Communities, the challenges and opportunities related to dedicated transition processes. The sessions' chairs welcome contributions on analysis of recent tendencies and challenges, theoretical approaches and practical activities discussing the ways in which these communities should or are adapting their economy and society, new interesting methodologies, presentation and analysis of best and worst practices.