Territorial Sustainability and Roots Tourism

Grasso Filippo, Schilirò Daniele
Department of Economics
University of Messina
filippo.grasso@unime.it
dschiliro@unime.it

Abstract

This paper first highlights the important role of tourism in economic development, emphasizing the increasing need for tourism to adhere to principles of sustainability. Specifically, the contribution examines the topics of territorial sustainability and roots tourism. Regarding the former, this study emphasizes the unique characteristics of each territory—whether natural or economic—so that these distinct features can be leveraged, allowing citizens to fully benefit from their local environment. Regarding the latter, the study argues that roots tourism is a form of sustainable tourism. It is an act of discovery, allowing travelers to reconnect with something deeply personal—an integral part of their history, culture, and ancestral memory. The study also discusses policies for territorial sustainability and the development of roots tourism. To implement this form of tourism effectively, a clear strategy and a medium-to-long-term vision are essential. In addition, the paper highlights the importance of modern infrastructure, efficient logistics, digitalization, appropriate legislation, and collaboration with institutional partners at various levels to meet the demands of the business world. Furthermore, digitalization and the related digital transformation necessitate greater focus on adopting digital technologies, optimizing processes, and enhancing communication. It also demands that entrepreneurs and workers in the tourism sector acquire the necessary digital skills.

Keywords: territorial sustainability, roots tourism, digitalization, Italian tourism, tourism policy

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a key driver of development for the economies of many countries and is the third-largest socio-economic activity in the European Union. It generates numerous positive effects, benefiting sectors such as production, commerce, and employment. Tourism is important not only from an economic and social perspective but also due to its significant impact on the environment. The environment, along with the territory, must be protected, as they are fundamental elements for tourism and its development. However, if not managed according to the principles of sustainability, tourism can also lead to significant negative impacts.

This paper explores the themes of territorial sustainability and roots tourism, also known as return tourism. Territorial sustainability is a critical issue that seeks to promote economic, social, and environmental well-being. It involves fostering a more cooperative and balanced spatial structure, oriented toward sustainable development and effective territorial governance.

The approach to territorial sustainability emphasizes the unique characteristics of each territory—whether natural or economic—so that these distinct features can be leveraged, allowing citizens to fully benefit from their local environment. On the other hand, roots tourism, or return tourism, is an important segment of the tourism industry. It involves a personalized form of travel that enables individuals to explore and connect with their cultural and genealogical heritage, rediscovering the places of their family's origins.

The paper emphasizes the importance of roots tourism as a form of sustainable tourism, highlights the rediscovery and valorization of lesser-known territories in remote areas, and underscores the need to revitalize these territories and small villages through a sustainable tourism approach. Additionally, it addresses governance challenges related to return tourism and emphasizes the importance of both immediate and long-term strategies to guide governance. Finally, it proposes tourism and territorial policies to be implemented within a sustainable tourism framework.

2. TERRITORIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Sustainability represents an imperative that every economic and social actor must pursue. The global path toward sustainability has been outlined by the United Nations through the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—a set of 17 interconnected goals aimed at guiding global society toward sustainable development. Tourism is no exception. Sustainability is a fundamental value for both the territory and the tourism sector. According to the United Nations (UNEP, 1992), sustainability considers how humans can live in harmony with the natural world while protecting it from damage and destruction. From this perspective, sustainability can be categorized into three dimensions: an economic dimension (efficiency, growth), an ecological dimension (resource reproducibility), and a social dimension (equity). Sustainability requires the preservation of natural capital and the richness of ecosystems, which is why tourism must be sustainable (Schilirò, 2019; Grasso and Schilirò, 2023).

Amidst the various dimensions of sustainability, territorial sustainability has emerged as a complementary concept, particularly in discussions on local economic development (Carrizosa, 2005; Martínez and Tur, 2016).

1

This concept primarily considers territorial aspects, such as the use of geographic space. However, a comprehensive definition of territorial sustainability, according to Ramirez and Lizarazo, (2025) should incorporate fundamental geographical concepts, including territory, space, place, spatial differentiation, and scale. Territorial sustainability requires factors like physical and digital infrastructures to interact with "soft" and intangible elements,[1] such as environmental quality, mobility, cultural and tourist heritage, and business capacity, enabling territories to address challenges and thrive in the long term.

Sustainable tourism is closely connected to territorial sustainability. It represents a paradigm shift in the concept of tourism. The World Tourism Organization defines sustainable tourism as tourism that meets the needs of both tourists and host regions while protecting destinations and the environment and, at the same time, increasing opportunities for the future (UNWTO, 2015). This definition can be further summarized with the expression: There is only one planet—travel while taking care of it. The relationship between tourism and sustainability has been widely examined in the literature (Briassoulis and Van der Straaten, 1992; Coccossis, 1996; Weaver, 2006; Hall, 2011; Navarrete, 2016; Hall et al., 2017; Higgins-Desbiolles, 2018) and is also a crucial factor in ensuring territorial sustainability. The natural and human-altered environment of a given territory is a fundamental component of its tourism offerings. Consequently, maintaining a balanced relationship between tourism and the environment has been a significant focus of research, particularly since the 1990s.

There is a concern regarding the impact of tourism on its destinations, particularly in relation to territorial sustainability. This issue involves the carrying capacity of destinations and the need for territories to maintain their environmental and social well-being. Therefore, effective land management is essential from both a sustainability and development perspective. At the same time, tourism must account for the carrying capacity of destinations and recognize the environmental and social needs of territories for their long-term survival (Zekan et al., 2022). This interconnection between tourism and territorial sustainability ultimately leads to the concept of sustainable tourism.

Moreover, the tourism sector is characterized by the importance of collaborative relationships between various stakeholders in order to remain competitive. Therefore, competitiveness does not only concern individual companies but also extends to territories. Performance in tourism has not only an economic dimension, but also social and environmental dimensions. Thus, it is necessary to combine competitiveness with sustainability, which is mandatory in the interest of all stakeholders involved.

3. ROOTS TOURISM

Roots tourism, also known as return tourism, is a personalized segment of travel that enables individuals to explore and connect with their cultural and genealogical heritage. It is important to note that roots tourism is closely connected to the concept of territorial sustainability.

Tomczewska-Popowycz and Taras (2022) defined roots tourism as international travel to places of one's own, or one's family's, relatives', or ancestral origin, driven by sentimental or other emotional reasons, although it does not find a univocal denomination in the literature. These authors observed that the phenomenon of roots tourism has been referred to by various names, including diaspora tourism, nostalgia tourism, ancestral tourism, legacy tourism, and ethnic tourism, among others.[2] Therefore, this type of tourism involves visiting locations tied to family history or cultural origins,[3] providing a unique opportunity for personal discovery and a deeper connection with one's identity.

Roots tourism is a growing sector with a massive economic impact. As Tomczewska-Popowycz and Taras (2022) pointed out, for the countries that compile such statistics, roots tourism accounts for up to a quarter of all international visitors.

Furthermore, Thao and Bakuz (2022) explored the relationship between tourism, economic development, and human development, contributing to a deeper understanding of the role of roots tourism. Their study aimed to develop a sustainable tourism strategy that supports a comprehensive economic development plan centered on human welfare, quality of life, and sustainability. The objective was to evaluate the level of human development from a positive perspective, using economic growth and tourism as key indicators.

Roots tourism is more than just a journey; it is an act of discovery. It is a form of tourism in which the traveler, through the rediscovery of the places and landscapes of their family and ancestors, reconnects with something deeply personal—an integral part of their history, culture, and the memory of their roots. In many ways, this journey evokes a search for one's origins, a reflection on life's values, and a rediscovery of personal history and identity. Identity, cultural enrichment, and nostalgia are three key elements that characterize roots tourism.

---

[1] The relevance of digital infrastructure has become a necessary condition in today's development of the digital economy (Schilirò, 2021) and also affects tourism.

[2] Tomczewska-Popowycz and Taras (2022) identified a total of 41 different terms that have been used interchangeably—and often incorrectly.

[3] Return tourism is closely linked to migration, as emigrants and their descendants travel back to their places of origin. They visit family, reconnect with their childhood surroundings, and rediscover the landscapes, architecture, art, and culinary traditions of these territories.

2

Roots tourism is not a separate form of tourism but rather an integral part of cultural tourism. A roots tourist is not only interested in learning about their ancestors' history by visiting the places where they lived and worked but also in discovering new cultural expressions, including local traditions, crafts, and culinary heritage.

By integrating aspects of experiential tourism, roots tourism combines the emotional and personal dimensions of travel with learning and immersion in local identities, all while respecting the environment and supporting sustainable practices. As De Marchi and Mingotto (2016) underlined, roots tourism constitutes an experience with a high emotional content. This phenomenon has both economic and anthropological implications and offers an experience that extends beyond traditional tourism (Grasso and Schilirò, 2021). In recent years, roots tourism has increasingly attracted the interest of scholars.

Roots tourism is inspired by eco-sustainability and should leverage digitalization to enhance small villages and rural areas, promoting sustainable development. This type of tourism includes the renovation and restoration of abandoned houses and infrastructure while supporting local suppliers of products and services and safeguarding the environment and natural resources.

Digitalization is a key factor in the implementation of roots tourism. As Schilirò (2022) pointed out, the digitalization process is rapidly evolving, reshaping the way value is created and exchanged. Tourism is inevitably part of this transformation and cannot afford to be left behind. Moreover, roots tourism can greatly benefit from the growth of the digital economy, allowing villages and small towns to gain visibility on the international tourism scene through the potential of digital platforms. However, this requires appropriate skills and investments in digital infrastructure.

3.1. ROOTS TOURISM IN ITALY

In recent years, an increasing number of foreign tourists have been choosing Italy as a destination not only to admire its beauty but also to reconnect with their roots. Descendants of Italians who emigrated around the world—children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—return to their places of origin to reestablish their bond with family history. This growing form of tourism, known as "roots tourism," has become a strategic asset for the national tourism sector, supported by a steadily expanding network of museums, associations, institutions, and businesses dedicated to welcoming these travelers. One of the most fascinating aspects of roots tourism is food and wine, a fundamental part of identity for those seeking to rediscover their origins. Cuisine is culture; it is memory. Italian food and traditional Italian restaurants serve as important points of reference for these travelers.

The roots tourist returns to their family's country of origin, driven by a deep cultural and historical interest, as well as a desire to reclaim the traditions of the territory—ultimately becoming its "Ambassador in the world."

Roots tourism is, therefore, a growing phenomenon that presents significant opportunities for the tourism sector. In Italy, it is beginning to develop further, thanks in part to initiatives by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aimed at promoting and showcasing the country's many villages to expatriate communities abroad. 'Italea' is one of the key projects of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This project is dedicated both to those who already know their Italian origins and want to organize a trip to discover and rediscover the places, tradition, customs and culture of their ancestors, and to those who need to identify them, and who will be able to make use of a network of reliable genealogists ready to guide them along this fascinating path in search of their roots. Italea's territorial network extends across all Italian regions to inform, welcome, and assist roots travelers, providing comprehensive support throughout the journey and aiding in the organization of a tailor-made trip based on each individual's specific needs and expectations (Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale, 2023).

The reason behind these projects by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the growing interest in roots tourism is that six million Italians live abroad—a number that rises to 80 million when including those of Italian origin and their descendants. This total reaches 260 million when also considering relatives with kinship ties, those who speak Italian, or those who, for various reasons—such as work—feel a strong connection to Italian culture.

Moreover, several European countries, including Spain, Ireland, Germany, and Poland, have already been paying special attention to their emigrants and encouraging them to return, whether for visits or to resettle in their country of origin.

Italy has over five thousand municipalities with fewer than two thousand inhabitants. Many of these small municipalities are true villages, particularly in the regions of Southern Italy, and are unfortunately experiencing depopulation—if not already abandoned (Grasso and Schilirò, 2024). Iavarone (2021) emphasized that, given this reality, a strategy centered on roots tourism is more relevant than ever, as the bond connecting millions of Italian expatriates to the many villages and towns across the country remains strong today. In this regard, Ferrari and Nicotera (2024) have highlighted the unique characteristics and needs of the roots tourist and emphasize the importance of targeted marketing strategies that consider the motivations, expectations, tastes, and preferences of this demographic. Roots travelers—emigrants and their descendants—who seek to reconnect with their homeland, exhibit highly specific characteristics and needs. These require targeted marketing strategies that account for the motivations, expectations, tastes, and preferences of the demand: a

3

form of tourism that connects territories and memories, experiences and emotions, and, in an authentic way, brings together people, places, and culture.

Furthermore, the strategy upon which roots tourism is based must materialize into a governance system capable of supporting local development in a stable and lasting way. As Gabrieli (2014) wrote, return tourism is predominantly international and directed toward smaller, often unknown centers. It could foster the emergence of new destinations and contribute to the economic development of certain territories through increased consumption of local products and the use of local services and infrastructure.

Moreover, roots tourism is a form of sustainable tourism because it does not invade areas where tourism already has a significant impact or where overtourism phenomena are present. On the contrary, it aims to enhance small centers where the presence of visitors could trigger virtuous processes of rethinking and regenerating the territory, potentially saving it from oblivion and abandonment.

4. POLICIES FOR TERRITORIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ROOTS TOURISM

Policymakers and local governments must consider and support changes on the supply side, which involve the organizations and strategies of tourism companies, as well as on the demand side, which relate to tourists' choices and behaviors. These changes require the implementation of appropriate measures to address longstanding structural gaps that have left many territories lagging behind.

The first step in a policy for territorial sustainability is environmental protection and resource management. Protecting territories must be a priority, as they are highly vulnerable to sudden climate changes. Efforts in infrastructure, digitalization, bureaucracy, transportation, and the promotion of territorial image are also essential. Additionally, digitalization is crucial for both companies and destinations involved in roots tourism. National and local governments should incentivize the adoption of digital technologies, provide financial support for digital infrastructure, and commit to fostering digital skills education. Reducing bureaucracy is another key factor in facilitating the transformation of territories, while always ensuring the protection of the environment and natural resources in line with sustainability principles.

Roots tourism requires effective governance, as it is closely linked to territorial sustainability. In fact, it is a form of sustainable tourism that does not encroach on areas already significantly impacted by tourism. On the contrary, it aims to enhance small centers, where the presence of visitors could initiate virtuous cycles of territorial revitalization, ultimately saving these areas from neglect and abandonment.

The implementation of territorial policies related to roots tourism requires a careful analysis of data, a process that digital technologies can support. This is essential to enable local administrations to better manage territorial policies. In particular, the initiative taken by local administrations in numerous villages, from Piedmont to Sicily, to facilitate the targeted disposal of historic real estate—such as selling abandoned houses for 1 euro—is highly significant. Houses for sale for 1 euro are almost always privately owned. Uninhabited houses and properties are generally donated to municipalities.[4] The latter, through a public procedure, sell the property for the symbolic sum of 1 euro. When purchasing the property, the new owners must commit to several obligations: they must draft a renovation and feasibility plan for the property's restoration and enhancement, cover notary fees for registration, transfers, and land registry, and commence work within two months of obtaining all necessary permits. To ensure the security of the purchase, the local administration requires buyers to obtain a three-year surety policy, which is reimbursed upon its expiration. Additionally, new owners are often required to preserve the original external facades, contributing to an aesthetic and beautification project that maintains continuity with the existing architectural style of the area and supports territorial sustainability (Gasso and Schilirò, 2021).

This initiative aims to prevent the depopulation of villages and small towns, restore historic buildings, and, more broadly, preserve the cultural and territorial heritage. It represents an important opportunity for small municipalities to regenerate abandoned minor centers and repopulate these areas.

Since the tourism product is traditionally recognized in the literature as one of the most complex products—requiring the coordination and harmonious integration of services offered by numerous companies from diverse sectors—a useful and relevant tool is the 'network contract.' In Italy, this regulatory instrument was introduced in 2009 (Law 33/2009), aimed at offering companies across all sectors a flexible method of collaboration, with a wide margin for formalizing relationships. The network contract in the tourism sector appears to be a relevant tool and an effective driver for the development of the destination, as well as for the competitiveness and valorization of the territory (Pedrana and Bizzarri, 2012; Del Baldo, 2014). It seems to be the first regulatory tool capable of offering companies engaged in collaborative activities the possibility of maintaining the widest

---

[4] In many cases, the legitimate owners are unknown, as heirs may be scattered across the world. Most of these properties are dilapidated or unsafe, requiring extensive renovations. The primary motivation for private individuals to donate/sell these uninhabited houses and allow local administrations to facilitate such initiatives is to relieve themselves of the burden of ownership. These houses are often in a state of abandonment, and by getting rid of them, owners are no longer responsible for paying taxes and duties typically imposed on them, nor do they risk incurring penalties for non-payment.

4

organizational flexibility and margin of choice regarding the degree of formalization of their relationships. In addition to the tax incentives available to companies, the network contract provides the opportunity to form a collective entity to pursue a common goal and carry out joint activities aimed at enhancing innovation and the competitiveness of its members. After several legislative interventions aimed at refining the initial proposal of Law 33, the 'network contract' has spread significantly in Italy. Barzolai and Moretti (2019), in their national survey on the operation of networks, particularly regarding structural choices, identified 649 networks in the tourism sector, of which 624 are 'contract networks'.

CONCLUSIONS

Tourism will increasingly need to be based on the principle of sustainability. Travelers will seek more natural, mindful, sustainable, social, and healthy travel experiences while respecting local territories, including their natural, historical, and artistic environments—and, by extension, their sustainability. Greater attention will be given to the emotional experiences of tourists rather than to material and physical attractions. Leading travelers' desires will be self-care, meaningful and empathetic interpersonal relationships, and the search for destinations that offer immersion in nature and personal heritage, as seen in roots tourism, all in the pursuit of a serene yet stimulating experience. Within these practices and perspectives, tourism becomes sustainable and ensures territorial sustainability.

Roots tourism, as highlighted in our contribution, is a form of sustainable tourism. To achieve it, a clear strategy and a medium-to-long-term vision are essential. Additionally, modern infrastructure, efficient logistics, digitalization, adequate legislation, and institutional partners at various levels who can meet the demands of the business world are necessary. Access to credit should be based on models that consider the realities of local territories, rather than standardized ones. Furthermore, the digital transformation—accelerated globally by the COVID-19 pandemic—has led to the rise of the digital economy, requiring increased attention to the adoption of digital technologies, processes, and communication. This transformation also demands that entrepreneurs and workers in the tourism sector possess the necessary digital skills (Schilirò, 2021).

In conclusion, having a strategic vision that promotes the tourism development of a territory while ensuring sustainability means recognizing that tourism is an economy of movement and relationships, one that produces experiences and meanings, generates value and wealth, and, at the same time, respects the environment, natural resources, and the heritage of history, art, and nature in local territories. Furthermore, sustainable tourism conveys messages and proactive content that make the destination attractive without damaging the environment.

Roots tourism and the development of small villages connected to it are part of the strategic vision for sustainable tourism and territorial sustainability.

REFERENCES

Briassoulis, H., Van der Straaten, J. (1992). *Tourism and the Environment. Regional, Economic and Policy Issues*. Dordrecht, Springer.

Carrizosa, J. (2005). *Desequilibrios Territoriales Y Sosteniblidad Local. Conceptos, metodologías y realidades,* Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Instituto de Estudios Ambientales, 1. ed., Bogotà.

Coccossis, H. (1996). Tourism and sustainability: perspectives and implications. In G. K. Priestley , J. A. Edwards, H. Coccossis (ed), *Sustainable Tourism?: European Experiences*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp.1-21.

De Marchi, D., Mingotto, E. (2016). Turismo delle origini. Quadro preliminare delle potenzialità in Italia. In IRSS (a cura di), *XX Rapporto sul Turismo Italiano*, Firenze, Mercury, pp. 589-596.

Del Baldo, M. (2014). Contratto di rete e turismo: la collaborazione aziendale come driver della competitività del settore e del territorio. Un'analisi delle prime esperienze, *Rivista di Scienze del Turismo*, 5 (1), pp. 71-116.

Ferrari, S., Nicotera, T. (2024). *Turismo delle radici. Strategie e politiche di marketing*, Milano, EGEA Bocconi Editore.

Gabrieli, M., 2014. Il turismo delle radici come risorsa di un territorio. Il caso di "ItalianSide.com". In *Rapporto italiani nel mondo 2014*, Todi, Tau Editrice, pp. 317-324.

Grasso, F., Schilirò, D. (2021). Per un turismo sostenibile: il Turismo di ritorno. Aspetti socio-economici e politiche turistico-territoriali. *Turistica. Journal of Italian Tourism*, 30(4), pp. 23-35.

Grasso, F., Schilirò, D. (2023). Tourism, Environment, and Sustainability. In E. G. Popkova, (ed) *Smart Green Innovations in Industry 4.0 for Climate Change Risk Management*, Cham, Springer, pp. 11-25. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-28457-1_2

Grasso, F., Schilirò, D. (2024). Marketing di prodotto e strategie di branding nel turismo. In R. Guarnieri (ed) *Economia, territorio e azienda. Edizione 2024*. Roma, Aracne, pp. 111-128.

Hall, C.M. (2011). Policy learning and policy failure in sustainable tourism governance: from first- and second-order to third-order change? *Journal Sustainable Tourism,* 19 (5), pp. 649-671.

https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2011.555555

Hall, C. M., Gössling, S., Scott, D. (2017). *The Routledge Handbook of Tourism and Sustainability.* Abingdon-on-Thames, Routledge‒Taylor and Francis.

Higgings-Desbiolles, F., 2018. Sustainable tourism: Sustaining tourism or something more? *Tourism Management Perspectives*, 25, pp. 157-160. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tmp.2017.11.017

Iavarone, S. (2021). Turismo delle radici e altri fenomeni di consumo. Futuri filoni di ricerca. I borghi in via di spopolamento come possibili destinazioni per la ricerca di radici e identità. In S. Ferrari e T. Nicotera, *Primo rapporto sul turismo delle radici in Italia. Dai flussi migratori ai flussi turistici: strategie di destination marketing per il richiamo in patria delle comunità italiane nel mondo*, Milano, Egea, pp. 196-198.

Martínez, A. F., Tur, J. N. (2016). Planeamiento territorial sostenible: un reto para el futuro de nuestras sociedades; criterios aplicados, *Cadernos Metrópole*, 18 (37) (2016), pp. 743-763. 10.1590/2236-9996.2016-3706

Martini Barzolai, M. Moretti, A. (2019). Il contratto di rete nel turismo: scelte organizzative e valutazione della performance. In E. Becheri, A. Morvillo (ed), Roma, *XXIII Rapporto sul Turismo Italiano*, pp.1-9.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (2023). Roots Tourism, Roma. https://www.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari-e-visti/italiani-all-estero/turismo-delle-radici/

Navarrete, D. M. (2016). Tourism and Sustainability. In H. Heinrichs, P. Martens, G. Michelsen e A. Wiek (ed), *Sustainability Science. An Introduction*, Cham, Springer.

Pedrana, M. e Bizzarri, C. (2012). Le reti di impresa per lo sviluppo di nuove forme di turismo e il loro impatto sul territorio. In V. Della Corte, M. Ruisi, (ed), *Imprese e reti per lo sviluppo imprenditoriale del territorio*, Roma, Aracne, pp. 57-76.

Ramirez, M. A., Lizarazo, I. (2025). Geographic perspectives on sustainability: Towards a conceptual framework, *Environmental Development*, 53, 101121, pp. 1-20.

Schilirò, D. (2019). Sustainability, Innovation, and Efficiency: A Key Relationship. In M. Ziolo e B. S. Sergi (eds), *Financing Sustainable Development*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, pp.83-102.

Schilirò, D. (2021. Digital transformation, COVID-19, and the future of work, *International Journal of Business Management and Economic Research*, 12 (3), pp. 1945-1952.

Schilirò, D. (2022). Digital economy and digital transformation. In E. G. Popkova (ed) *Digital Technologies for Entrepreneurship in Industry 4.0*, Hershey, IGI-Global Scientific Publishing, pp.26-42.

Thao, H. T. P., Bakucz, M. (2022), The impact of growth in tourism on economic and human development – incorporating a systematic literature review, *Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism*, 13(1), pp. 287-299. doi:10.14505/jemt.v13.1(57).26

Tomczewska-Popowycz, N., Taras, V. (2022). The many names of "Roots tourism": An integrative review of the terminology, *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management*, 50, pp. 245-258.

UNEP, 1992. *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, New York, United Nations. http://environmentandhumanrights.org/resources/Rio%20Declaration.pdf.

UNWTO, 2015. *Making tourism more sustainable - a guide for policy makers*, Paris, United Nations Environment Program. http://www.unep.fr/shared/publications/pdf/dtix0592xpa-tourismpolicyen.pdf

Weaver, D. (2006). *Sustainable Tourism: Theory and Practice*. Oxford, Butterworth Heinemann.

Zekan, B., Weismayer, C., Gunter, U., Schuh, B., Sedlacek, S. (2022). Regional sustainability and tourism carrying capacities, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 339, 130624, pp.1-11. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.130624

6