

## SPECIAL SESSION PROPOSAL

Title of the Special Session
Resilient tourism territories: governance, innovation and adaptation for a sustainable future
Theme / Focus
<p>This special session aims to explore strategies, policies and innovative solutions that strengthen the resilience of tourism destinations in response to contemporary challenges, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change and extreme events</li> <li>• Pressure on natural resources and infrastructure</li> <li>• Seasonality and economic dependence on tourism</li> <li>• Overtourism and competing territorial uses</li> <li>• Digitalisation and technological transition</li> <li>• Risk, crisis and uncertainty management</li> <li>• Community engagement in destination governance</li> </ul> <p>The session seeks to promote an integrated perspective of tourism as a complex territorial system in which resilience, competitiveness and quality of life must be addressed in a holistic and interconnected manner.</p>

Session Organiser(s)		
Name	Affiliation	Email
Mário Silva	ESHTE/CITUR	mario.silva@eshte.pt
Jorge Umbelino	ESHTE/CITUR	jorge.umbelino@eshte.pt

Relevance to the Conference theme ( <a href="#">connection to the conference topics</a> )
<p>The proposed session directly contributes to several conference themes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient Economy, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</li> <li>• Collaboration, Governance and Networks</li> <li>• Technological, Engineering and Environmental Solutions</li> <li>• Regional Development and Sustainability</li> <li>• Society, Education, People and Behaviour</li> <li>• Sectoral Studies on Tourism</li> </ul> <p>By examining tourism as a driver of regional development, the session highlights the need for multidisciplinary, collaborative and innovation-oriented approaches aligned with the principles of territorial resilience and regional sustainability promoted by the conference.</p>
Conceptual Background (short framing of the discussion)
<p>Tourism destinations are increasingly exposed to a wide range of systemic risks arising from climate change, demographic shifts, health crises, geopolitical instability and rapid technological transformation. In this context, tourism resilience extends beyond the capacity to respond to shocks and crises. It encompasses the ability of territories to anticipate risks, adapt to change, learn from past experiences and transform their development models.</p>

<p>Building resilient tourism territories requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory governance models</li> <li>• Integrated spatial planning</li> <li>• Economic diversification</li> <li>• Sustainable resource management</li> <li>• Smart use of data and digital technologies</li> <li>• Stronger cooperation networks among academia, public authorities, businesses and local communities</li> </ul>
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**Session Format** (e.g., panel, roundtable, keynote session)

Roundtable

**Proposed Speakers / Participants**

Speaker name and affiliation	Short Bio (3 lines per speaker)
António Marques Vidal (APECATE)	
Jorge Humberto (ERT – RL)	
Carlos Albuquerque (ICNF – Diretor Regional LVT)	

**Description of Contributions** (what each speaker will bring / perspective)

The panel will bring together complementary perspectives from academia, public administration, industry and technology to foster an interdisciplinary discussion on tourism resilience.

- Researcher in tourism and territorial resilience
- Representative from public administration or a destination management organisation
- Tourism industry representative or business association

**Expected Outcomes** (what participants will gain from the session)

At the end of the session, participants are expected to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the key challenges affecting the resilience of tourism territories
- Identify innovative strategies and transferable solutions
- Learn from national and international best practices
- Recognise the importance of collaborative governance and community engagement
- Understand the potential of digital technologies to support evidence-based decision-making
- Foster networks among researchers, policymakers and tourism practitioners

Additionally, the session is expected to contribute to the development of recommendations for public policies and management practices aimed at creating more adaptive, inclusive and resilient tourism destinations.

**Duration** (optional)

1h30