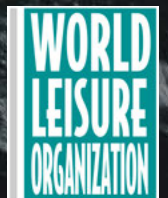


WL NEWS

ISSUE 25

SURFING THE
WAVES OF
CHANGE

MAY 2020





**Are you a
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member?
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news here!**

Editorial

Dear members, dear colleagues,

The current coronavirus crisis is giving way to largely unforeseen transformations, some of which remarkably impact the leisure field. Being aware that different regions in the world are in different stages of this pandemic, the WLO has played an active role since the first stages of it, namely in three different ways: by supporting those leading transformation, gathering information that may help make better informed leisure decisions in the future, and engaging in ongoing debates.

The launch of the call for applications for the 2020 WLO Strategic Priorities Grants (SPGs) is one of the ways in which we provide support. As a novelty in this new edition, winning projects will be awarded up to \$10,000! If you have an idea or ongoing project that promotes socio-cultural development, encourage sustainable economic growth, or improve the quality of people's lives in alignment with the WLO's mission, vision, and strategic plan, this call is for you! In addition to that, we support youth people through a series of webinar put together by the WL Youth Ambassadors Committee, bringing experts to discuss with young people on diverse leisure-related topics.

Regarding our attempts to collect information that may help the key stakeholders in the field of leisure face upcoming challenges, we present you the new WL Cities Initiative, which aims to support cities in the development of policies, actions and programs in the field of leisure, particularly before the ongoing shifts and mutations. We focus on the city level as cities and their inhabitants have been severely affected by the coronavirus outbreak. We also offer you a selection of *World Leisure Journal* articles – available with free access for a limited period of time – on cities and leisure, which provide some inputs to delve deeper into leisure policies and initiatives at the city level in the current health crisis context.

Finally, our Policy section brings you a reflection about the need to re-consider health in the context of sports events and activities, an ongoing debate worldwide. We are planning a series of topical, open discussions about important topics related to leisure. Stay tuned for more information to be coming soon!

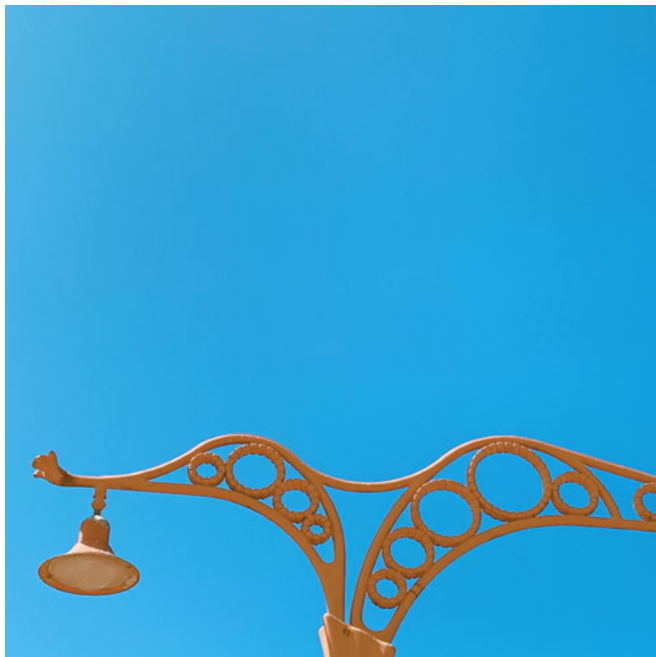
Remember that, as a WLO member, you can use the "Submit your news here" button above, or contact us at media@worldleisure.org to have your news included in upcoming issues of the newsletter WLO News.

Yours truly,

Dr. Cristina Ortega Nuere
WLO Chief Operating Officer



WLO News



WLO sets into motion its new initiative “WL Cities” with interviews with experts around the world

WLO’s newest initiative “WL Cities” aims at producing a substantial body of knowledge to support cities in the development of policies, actions and programs related to leisure offer and demand; encouraging collaboration between cities and deliver world-wide responses; promoting the exchange of knowledge, and developing a set of indicators and tools for measuring the impact of leisure related events for cities. The first step for this is the production of a report that will capture the main trends and challenges that cities face when it comes to leisure policies and programs. The report will be based on interviews with experts from different cities around the world and on a literature review on the topic.

“

“I think WLO could be the connector for cities, identifying through your research or your connections what topics are important to cities at any given time. I do think that analytic measurement continues being a topic for us and is always worthy of more discussion. Also, leadership and transferring of collaboration or conversation would be very helpful”

”



Serena Lusk

General Manager, Community Services, City of Richmond; interview conducted in the framework of the WL Cities Initiative.



The call for the 2020 WLO Strategic Priorities Grants is now open!

The WLO is pleased to launch the 2020 Strategic Priorities Grants (SPGs) program designed to support WLO members' projects that further the development of leisure as a means to enhance the human condition. This programme will award SPGs for up to USD \$10,000 per project, in support of leadership, advocacy, research, education, and engagement initiatives that promote socio-cultural development, encourage sustainable economic growth, or improve the quality of people's lives that are aligned with the WLO's mission, vision, and strategic plan. You can download the call and learn more about previous granted programs in the following link: <https://www.worldleisure.org/strategic-priorities-grants-spgs/>

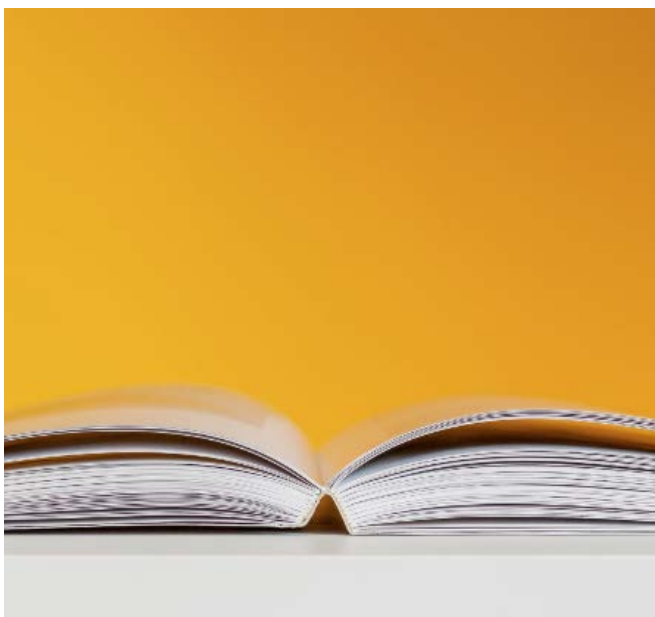
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Meet a professional around the world

As an initiative from the WL Youth Ambassadors Committee, WLO offers online forums on leisure related matters (theories & practices) for interested young people, with invited leading scholars and professionals from around the world. The online forums are free and are scheduled for about one hour (45 min. of presentation + 15 min. of Q&A), on a diverse range of topics such as leisure and well-being, or leisure and physical activity in underprivileged communities. Current online forums are happening every Wednesday, at 3PM CEST. For further information connect with: secretariat@worldleisure.org and/or follow [WLO Facebook page](#) and [WLO Twitter](#) channels. Stay tuned since more education and knowledge sharing opportunities will be organized soon!

Research



Living leisure experiences pre, during, and post COVID-19 outbreak: are there new research trends?

By Teresa Freire

Assistant Professor, School of Psychology, University of Minho (Portugal); Chair of the Leisure and Well-being SIG

In the pre COVID-19 period, we developed an intervention group program for adolescents, named "Growing-up with leisure". This program supports a positive ecological development approach that emphasizes the interaction process between the individual and her/his diverse life contexts, integrating three critical dimensions: personal, social, and places/environment. We need now to learn from this severe period of the COVID-19 outbreak to apply new leisure strategies that can replace the role of leisure in promoting youth well-being.

There is (was) substantial evidence-based literature on the benefits of leisure for adolescents when considering their need for thriving and flourishing. Research contributions were until now very clear about the role of leisure in the lives of adolescents. Studies have been showing the central role leisure has on the self and identity development, or in building meaningful relationships with significant others, or still, its role as the primary source of meaningfulness in life and well-being. The emergence of the main focus on the positive development of youth put leisure as cutting-edge knowledge to a deep understanding of adolescents' needs, problems, but also potentialities and strengths. Within interdisciplinary literature, leisure has been understood as a context, an activity, or an experience. It bridges the individual with a great diversity of life contexts, making the concept of ecological self the central basis for the positive and optimal development of young individuals.

From a developmental lens, research on youth developmental processes highlighted the importance of social and interpersonal relationships, as the basis for a robust individual growth process and self-knowledge. Connections with others bring the possibility to understand the self as a singular and unique entity. Adolescents are in development, which means they are in the need to explore, know, and test the world, or build a new mindset. They need to identify themselves integrated into a world that includes others/people, things, and environments. Leisure has been conceptualized as a facilitator of self-regulation and a source of self-efficacy. Based on this, we developed scientific knowledge on the positive impact of relationships in presence, and because of this, the perils or pitfalls of uncontrolled technology that suppressed the real presence of others. How the lack of the presence of others could affect peer relations, intimate relations, family relations, learning processes, life goals, was one main research goal... we

lived the outbreak of the presence of others. It was the pre COVID-19 milestone!

Suddenly and without warning or notice, a series of events took place in the lives of adolescents. Suddenly they were living a new outbreak worldwide. This latest outbreak was one of disease highly strong in compromising health and life. Those contexts understood as crucial and necessary to make life run, disappeared: suddenly no more schools, no more friends, no more structured leisure activities outside the home, no more public spaces, no more groups or crowds. In a certain way, life was in standby (the COVID-19 period milestone). Reversely, adolescents got more and more home context, parents, family, remote or virtual activities, remote or virtual relationships, and so on in virtual life. They stopped one of the most critical tools for growth: to live outside the family, meeting new people, activities, and relationships, which means to learn autonomy, where leisure is essential. Changing the external structure (life) while changing the internal structure (the self), can damage. In the process of simultaneous changes, where the known network of contexts and experiences were supporting all developmental processes, everything has to be revisited, changed, and adapted in terms of knowledge that supports the promotion of healthy lives. Within all these changes, where do we need to replace leisure? Is the meaning of leisure in life the same? Where can we re-find leisure, where can we find it, how is it achieved, and what kind of leisure do we like? Research needs to focus on new issues and topics to re-understand the role of leisure in youth development while also re-knowing about leisure activities and related kind of involvement and consequences.

In the pre COVID-19 period, we developed an intervention group program for adolescents, named "Growing-up with leisure". This program supports a positive ecological development approach that emphasizes the interaction process between the individual and her/his diverse life contexts, integrating three critical dimensions: personal, social, and places/environment. The aim of the "Growing-up with leisure" program was to promote proactive adolescents to become agents of their development. Throughout program sessions, adolescents discuss the concept of leisure, what it means in their lives, and how they can profit from its benefits overcoming constraints and obstacles, considering their cognitive, emotional, and behavioral components of functioning. This program was designed for Portuguese adolescents from the 7th to 9th grade and integrated a total of ten weekly sessions weekly run. Results from experimental design to evaluate the program's impact showed that adolescents

improve their positive self-concept and positive leisure experiences with high levels of self-satisfaction, although worsening levels of anxiety and boredom. This program reinforced the impactful role of leisure in adolescents' lives and the impact of intervention group programs promoting positive development in adolescence.

Being leisure related to life meaning and worthy lives, and thus being conceptually associated with the concept of positive development along life span, we need now to learn from this severe period of the COVID-19 outbreak to apply new leisure strategies that can replace the role of leisure in promoting youth well-being. COVID-19 outbreak made new topics emergent and prioritized the need to re-evaluate previous empirical results about leisure experiences, positive development, and youth. The way to do it is now on the road. The new challenges this made emergent are now underknown. Intervention programs need to be reorganized, in terms of intervention goals and topics of intervention. We aim now to restructure our intervention group program as a means to re-invent a new leisure paradigm in adolescence development in particular, and also from a life-span perspective. And this will also be the aim of our SIG on Leisure and Well-being.

This new scenario of life of the COVID-19 pandemic period showed we only knew part of reality. Despite all the scientific knowledge, we could not understand the human experience in its full potential and capacity for successful or unsuccessful adaptations. Research is now in a severe outbreak, one of the unknown bits of knowledge on human functioning and leisure experience. In line with this, we need to start a new era of leisure research and methodologies to capture what is new or what needs to be rebuilt in life and positive leisure science (the post COVID-19 period milestone).



Leisure and Well-being Special Interest Group (SIG)

The WLO Special Interest Group (SIG) on Leisure and Well-being aims at looking into the diverse fields and dimensions of well-being within leisure contexts and related human experiences, anchored in the psychological perspective of optimal human functioning. In this new century, well-being is considered a major topic for individuals and societies. Its relevance to improving worthy lives is recognized worldwide by academics and practitioners. On its turn, studies in the leisure field have been showing the key role of leisure in generating individual and social well-being. By bridging leisure and well-being, we aim to make this SIG an arena to improve evidence-based knowledge on human thriving, and thus contributing to the field of leisure research, education, knowledge transfer, and advocacy.

Read more and join the SIGs here!

Industry



activities such as travel, transport, accommodation, food, recreation on land and water, culture or nature," the Commission states in the introduction to the document. "Directly and indirectly, tourism contributes close to 10 per cent to EU GDP and has made the EU the world's leading tourism destination, with 563 million international arrivals and 30 per cent of global receipts in 2018. For many Member States, European regions and cities, tourism is a key contributor to the economic and social fabric".

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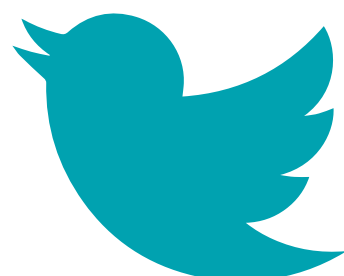
EU launches plan to refloat 'vibrant European tourism ecosystem'

By Tom Walker

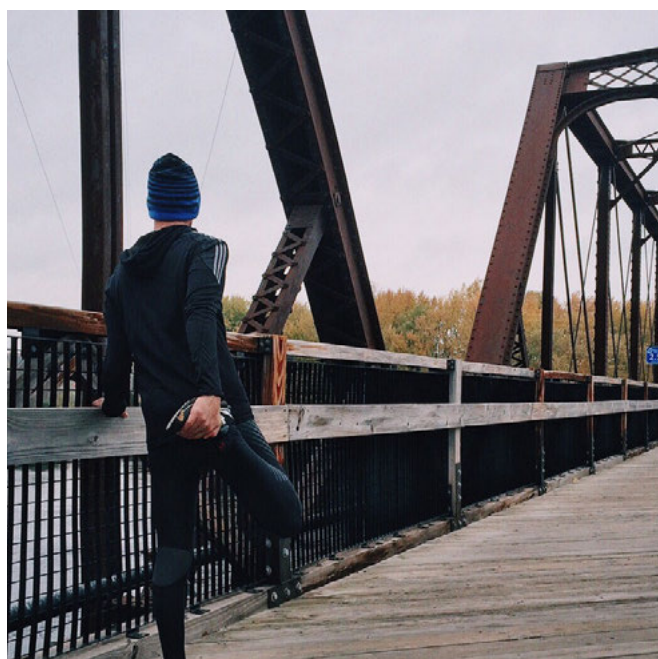
The EU is proposing a series of continent-wide actions, ranging from the lifting of internal border controls and restoration of transport services to a scheme which would see vouchers offered to passengers and travellers as an alternative to reimbursement for cancelled package travel and transport services. It will also look to offer specific guidance for the resumption of tourism services – and for health protocols in hospitality establishments. In a document, entitled *Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond*, the European Commission sets out the framework for the return of tourism and for the sector to resume businesses "in line with epidemiological and public health criteria".

"The months to come should not be lost for the vibrant European tourism ecosystem covering a range of

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Policies



Re-defining health in sports activities?

Are we in a moment where we need to re-consider health in the context of sports events and activities? The last two months, there have been several interesting developments worth considering. To answer the challenge sports events organisers are faced with within the context of the health crisis, the World Health Organization (WHO) published in April an interim guidance document [considerations for sports federations/ sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19](#). But there is a need also for a healthy sector. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a few days ago an [aid package](#) to cover part of the costs of the postponed Tokyo Games, but also support the Olympic Movement per se. Sports will be definitely needed in a post-coronavirus world. IOC and WHO signed in May a new [Cooperation Agreement](#) as a commitment

to promoting healthy lifestyles and grassroots sports activities worldwide. And since sports happens to a large extent in cities, it is worth making reference to the recently published [Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning](#) WHO and UN-Habitat sourcebook, designed as a tool to stakeholders to incorporate health considerations in city planning frameworks and practice.

It is impossible nowadays to write a piece on leisure policies without having the COVID-19 setting in mind. As the pandemic continues to impose the importance of safe distancing in all activities of human life, sports events and activities are largely affected. Are we in a moment where we need to re-consider health in the context of sports events and activities?

Major sports events around the world are in the process of re-starting or have been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But still, for sports events organisers, the coronavirus presents a new challenge. Although it is a sector in which risk management training and evacuation exercises had been part of the game, the focus had primarily been on risks imposed by severe weather conditions, terrorist-related incidents or crowd management issues. A pandemic or a global public health crisis was not at the forefront. Until today, while any policy measures announced for the sector have either been sporadic and not coordinated and no golden answer is at sight, a reliable reference for sports events organisers is the interim guidance document published by the World Health Organization in April including [considerations for sports federations/ sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19](#). The document addresses issues such as developing a risk-assessment process, identifying mitigation activities and making an informed evidence-based decision on hosting any sporting events. Further advice of the WHO concerning potential adaptations to the organization of mass gatherings is expected, while

guidelines are being produced at the national level and should be consulted as well.

It goes without saying that the overall sports industry is severely affected. The International Olympic Committee announced a few days ago an [aid package](#) to cover part of the costs of the postponed Tokyo Games, but also support the Olympic Movement per se, including the International Federations (IFs), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the IOC-Recognised Organisations. This comes a few weeks after IOC President Thomas Bach addressed a letter to the Olympic Movement entitled "[Olympism and Corona](#)" in which he calls for solidarity, creativity, determination and creativity.

Sports – today more than ever – are necessary for all people. IOC and WHO signed in May a new [Cooperation Agreement](#) demonstrating their shared commitment both to promoting healthy society through sport in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 3 ("Good health and well-being") and to contributing to the prevention of non-communicable diseases. Part of the new agreement is the promotion of healthy lifestyles and grassroots sports activities worldwide, as well as the fight against physical inactivity.

This agreement comes in the same time as a new sourcebook by the World Health Organisation and UN-Habitat published this month. [Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning](#) is designed as a tool to assist national governments, local authorities, planning professionals, civil society organizations and health professionals, by helping to improve planning frameworks and practice through the incorporation of health considerations, at all levels of governance and across the spatial-planning continuum. And how can we talk about healthy cities without putting at the heart of the discussion policies for sports and well-being activities?

“ ”



"I have joined the WLO because I want to know, research and follow leisure trends and topics. Indeed, as a researcher I would like to join a conference or publish a paper in the future, make contacts and networking. In those aspects, WLO could be really helpful. Also, it is prestigious to be part of this community".

Silvia María González, PhD. in Leisure
and Human Development,
University of Deusto

Network

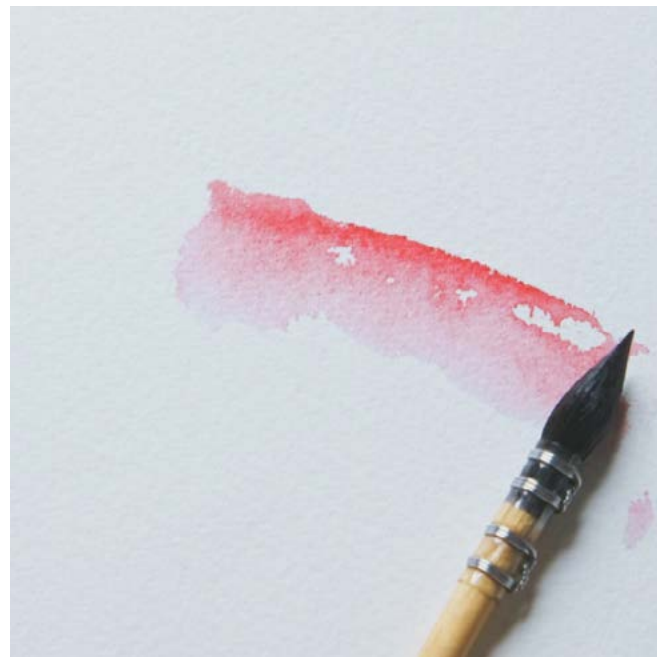


UNWTO releases a COVID-19 technical assistance package for tourism recovery

Source: [UNWTO](#)

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has released a [Tourism Recovery Technical Assistance Package](#) to offer guidance to Member States in response to COVID-19. The package is structured around three main pillars: economic recovery, marketing and promotion and institutional strengthening and resilience building. With tourism among the hardest-hit of all sectors, UNWTO has identified three possible scenarios for the months ahead. Depending on when restrictions on travel are lifted, international tourist arrivals could decline by 60-80% in 2020. This could translate into a decline in export revenues from tourism of between US\$910 billion to US\$1.2 trillion and place 100-120 million jobs directly at risk. The social ripple effect is also feared to be at least equally challenging for many societies the world over.

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UNESCO celebrates the power of art and education across the globe

Source: [UNESCO](#)

As the world begins to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, UNESCO is spotlighting the incredible power and resilience of human creativity during the 2020 [International Arts Education Week](#). The annual event, which falls every fourth week of May, takes on new meaning this year, as 90 percent of the world's student population, or 1.6 billion learners[1], are affected by school closures; heritage sites and cultural institutions such as museums, theatres and cinemas are closed, and artists are struggling to sustain their livelihoods. More than ever, arts education is being recognized as a key part of a comprehensive education. Arts education advances learning outcomes and helps learners build new skills. In times of crisis, arts education is particularly valuable, inspiring creativity, even in confinement, providing psychological support, and building connections between people and communities.

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Countries start lifting restrictions on exercise and sport under COVID-19 lockdowns: how do they compare?

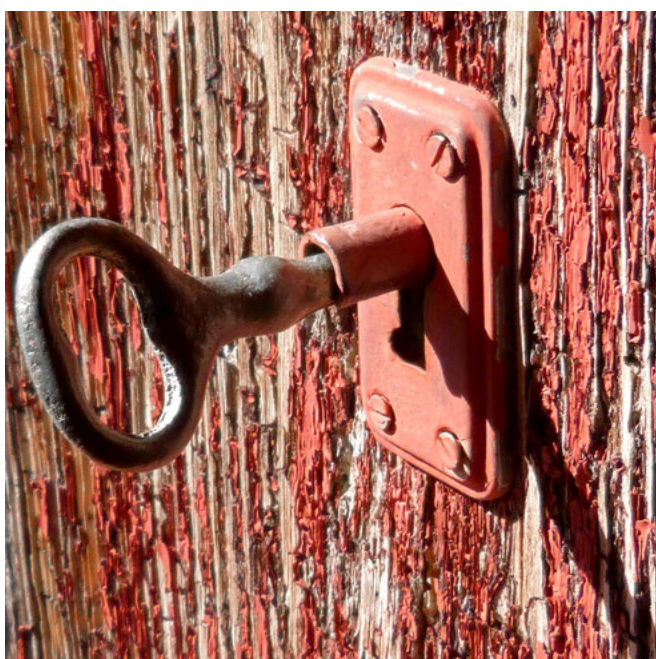
Source: [International Sports and Culture Association \(ISCA\)](#)

On Saturday 2 May, [adult residents in Spain stepped outside to exercise](#) in parks and public spaces for the first time in seven weeks. This is one of the most publicised milestones in a week that saw governments around Europe and other parts of the world lifting restrictions on exercise and sport under the COVID-19 lockdowns. ISCA puts the spotlight on the status of physical activity and sport across Europe and beyond in this exclusive mapping by country. Drops in COVID-19 infection and hospitalisation rates in countries such as Denmark and Australia prompted the first steps to reopen sport and recreational activities, starting with non-contact sports and outdoor exercise in small groups. The Australian government's "[Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment](#)", published on 2 May, underlines Australia's beloved community sport as a public priority, with a comprehensive overview of plans to re-start 49 sports over three phases.

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Publications



FREE ACCESS WL Journal articles on leisure and cities

In this issue we present you a new selection of articles on leisure and cities published in the *World Leisure Journal*: "[Rebranding Hong Kong 'Green': the potential for connecting city branding with green resources](#)", by Chung-Shing Chan and Lawal M. Marafa (2014); "[The 'leisure city': what are we talking about?](#)", by André Thibault and Marc-André Lavigne (2014), and "[Destination: Europe 2020 transforming parks to promote cities as valuable tourist destinations](#)", by Attila Barcza and Locsmándi Szabolcs (2017). We thank our publisher Taylor and Francis for making these available with free access throughout July. Enjoy your reading!

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Launch of UNESCO Report on museums around the world in the face of COVID-19

Source: [UNESCO](#)

UNESCO launched a new Report on Museums Around the World in the Face of COVID-19, fruit of an international survey targeting museums, culture professionals and Member States. This Report, presenting a first evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 across the museum sector, sheds new light on the key trends of the world's museums, their reaction in the face of the crisis, their capacity for resilience, and the challenges of accessing culture.

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Opportunities



Call for PAPERS – *World Leisure Journal*: Special issue on Benefits and Threats of Travel and Tourism in a Globalized Cultural Context (Extended deadline: 30th July 2020)

This special issue of the *World Leisure Journal* will focus on travel and tourism in an international context. Recent decades have witnessed tremendous increased international and domestic travel in an increasingly globalized world. A steady growth of the industry has led to many threats and negative impacts globally. This special issue will cover empirical research (both qualitative and quantitative), and systematic reviews. Examples of evidence-based practice pertaining to tourism are also encouraged. All submissions will be peer-reviewed. Studies focusing on the relationship between leisure and tourism, as well as tourism from

the global perspective and in non-dominant contexts (such as for example social tourism, volunteer tourism) are particularly sought. Potential authors are strongly encouraged to contact the Guest Editor, [Professor Carolin Lusby](#), to discuss potential submissions to assure topics fit the special issue. The submission deadline has been extended until Thursday, 30th July 2020.

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UNWTO – Job opportunity: Deputy Director at Regional Department of Europe (Deadline for applications: 7th June 2020)

The Regional Department for Europe is responsible for the coordination, follow-up and reporting of the activities undertaken in the European region. Throughout continuous relations with each and every Full, Associate and Affiliate Member in the European region, the department ensures a geographic partition of UNWTO activities. The department also establishes and maintains relations with non-Member States and other stakeholders, in order to integrate them within the Organization. The deadline for applications is 7th June 2020. Interested applicants are requested to complete the [Online UNWTO Personal History Form](#). Further information on the specific tasks and application requirements for this role can be found [here](#).

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Check the open call for nominations for 2020 WLO Awards!



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Upcoming events



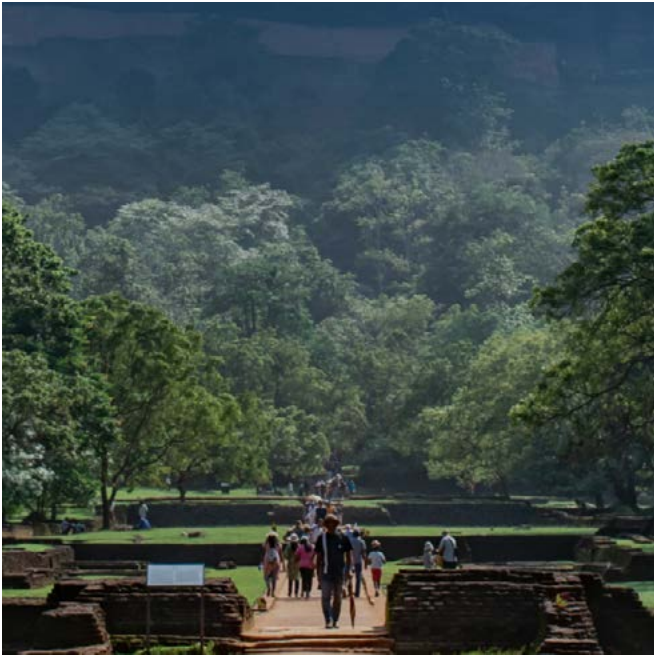
Responding to the global COVID-19 crisis: the training on illicit trafficking of cultural property in Africa going online

Source: [UNESCO](#)

The UNESCO Dakar Office, in partnership with the WCO et INTERPOL, is organizing an online training workshop from June 2020 to build the capacities of museum/heritage professionals as well as law enforcement and security forces including customs and police in six countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Senegal. This training is part of a programme to strengthen mechanisms to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property in Africa, which has been under way since 2015. The review of the actions implemented by the UNESCO Dakar regional office to date highlights the need to consolidate the cooperation mechanisms between the various key actors involved in the fight

against illicit trafficking of cultural property while maintaining an inclusive and non-sectoral approach. For this reason, the Dakar office, in partnership with the WCO, INTERPOL and Senegal, is organizing an online training workshop that will bring together customs, police and museum professionals in order to harmonize the levels of knowledge between actors and to stabilize an effective and operational co-ordination network between the different services at the national and regional level.

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32nd joint meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 29 June - 01 July 2020)

Source: [UNWTO](#)

The 32nd Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia (32nd CAP-CSA) & UNWTO Regional Conference will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 29 June - 01 July 2020. The 32nd CAP-CSA Joint Meeting which is UNWTO's principal annual event in the Asia-Pacific region will be attended by participants from UNWTO Member States, UNWTO Affiliate Members and international and regional organizations. Key topics this year will include: UNWTO's Programme of Work for the Region; Tourism and Ethics; SDGs; and other statutory issues related to the UNWTO Asia-Pacific Member States. The [registration](#) deadline is 5th June 2020!

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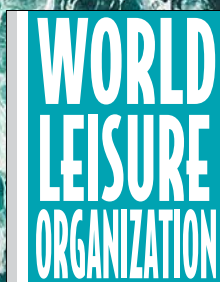
Encounter



Encounter with... Dr. Bree Hayes, on integration of leisure practices and much more!

Dr. Bree Hayes is an organizational consultant and counseling psychologist. For the past 25 years, she has worked with organizations all over the world helping them to achieve their business imperatives through developing their human potential. The WLO itself has been fortunate to count on Bree's generous contribution over the past years, particularly for the development of our last strategic plans, together with Dr. Richard Hayes. This conversation happened in October 2019 during the WL Expo in Hangzhou. Bree shared her views on some latest trends in the field of leisure such as the increasing age diversity among people practicing leisure, or the integration of leisure forms in a single practice or space. Click play to learn more from and with Bree!





WORLD LEISURE ORGANIZATION (WLO)

World Leisure Organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of New York in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 1990.

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