

EDITORIAL

Why do we need the Tourism Journal CACTUS or an Argument for the Tourism Journal CACTUS?

A few years ago, the members of the Department of Tourism and Services have decided to make an important step in the research activity by founding their own research centre for the tertiary sector studies – services and tourism, in particular – with the purpose of reflecting our studies and of contributing to the growth of the prestige of the scientific research from Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies.

The Academic Centre for Research in Tourism and Services – CACTUS – meets the current trends in international scientific research where the subject of services and tourism is approached in various studies, international projects, and well-known conferences, doctoral or postdoctoral research as well as in the syllabus of the universities – Bachelor or Master's Degree programmes.

Even if our research centre is newly founded, the research studies and results of its members are not new, and the proof is represented by the successes of our colleagues obtained at well known international conferences (in France, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia but also the USA or Japan), in national or international research projects (along with important universities from Europe), as well as other types of international acknowledgment as publishing articles in quality and well appreciated journals from the USA, Japan or European countries. The quality of our activity was also appreciated through invitations for some of the members of our department in the councils of some doctoral schools from abroad or in evaluation commissions for tourism-related PhD thesis in Italy, France, and Sweden.

At the same time, our collaboration with the business environment, materialized in the active participation in tourism events (including fairs, forum, conferences), as well as the involvement in some tourism strategies on a national level represent other acknowledgments of the professional quality and research potential of the members of our department.

If the preoccupations for the tourism and services research are justified by the current needs of the economy and higher education which are committed to a qualitative transformation, the desire to materialize these aspects in an own publication has been carried out with the help of the *Tourism Journal CACTUS – journal for research, education, culture and soul*. We think that this title reflects our passion for tourism, for quality education, for study, for everything that is valuable in the Romanian culture, for tradition, history, art, passion which we intend to send to our students, partners, collaborators, and all specialists.

The journal is intended not only for the Romanian academic or research field but also for the international one, and the business environment or the local or central administrations, with which we always wanted to have tight connections, for the field of applied research, tourism and services counselling in general, for the common use, but in particular for students who are the future specialists.

The content of the journal will provide the dissemination of the results of our research, together with the ones of our students or PhD students, but at the same time it will allow the presentation of the research of other specialists from Romania or abroad, with a high qualitative level. We would like to encourage exigency and value, to increase the prestige of the Romanian tourism research and education, to support the international cooperation in the field of research by creating new research networks, new partnerships in projects, and new experience exchanges of the researchers.

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