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Editorial: Introduction to the International Journal of Islands Research

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About the *Observatory on Tourism for Islands Economy - OTIE*

The Observatory on Tourism for Islands Economy (OTIE) is a non-profit international organisation, founded in Palermo by public institutions, Universities, Research Centres and other international organisations, on the 2nd February 2007. The main objectives of the Observatory are to draw up annual statistical surveys and economic analysis and to produce research on tourism in the islands. OTIE activities focus on updating the database on insular tourism, carrying out studies and research, organising forums, seminars, panels on tourism where the main stakeholders in the sector are invited to exchange opinions, according to the logic of systemic sharing of tourism development, as well as scientific meetings and conferences.

OTIE as a scientific body cooperates with several international networks, as well as with universities and observatories who take part in the organisation of the International Conference for Islands Economy – ICIT.

In 2017, OTIE established the first Islands Economy Working Group - IEWG, based in Bruxelles, to raise awareness of island issues and stimulate the implantation of strategic plans for island development.

OTIE has organised training and educational activities since 2011, such as the International OTIE Summer School, involving students and teachers coming from different countries. The course has a practical orientation and is structured around theoretical lessons and practical sessions, where the students undertake project work which they present and discuss during the closing ceremony in the presence of local authorities and operators. This facilitates practical skill development and know-how and not only traditional and theoretical knowledge.

Some Participants at 11th OTIE Conference on Islands Tourism, Mytilene, Lesvos - Greece 5th–6th Sept. 2019



**The *International Journal of Islands*
Research + OTIE**

Local development is highly dependent on the tourism and travel economy, especially in fragile and remote contexts like islands. In this way travel and tourism can bring development and growth as well as negative effects on the local environment and residents. In these geographical contexts, sustainable development approaches are considered pre-eminent in order to reach the optimal development without threatening the sustainability of the destination. The aim of the International Journal of Islands Research is to promote an interdisciplinary scientific and technical exchange between international academics and experts on insular contexts.

Papers / articles include a variety of topics which are relevant for island tourism and are suited to many disciplines, including: tourism, economics, policy, environmental management, business development, and more. Although the main emphasis of the journal is on primary research articles, we also welcome relevant discussion papers, research / review pieces, working papers, case studies, management guides and reports, economic evaluations and book reviews.