



ATRE
ACT FOR A
RESPONSIBLE
EUROPEAN
TOURISM

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME NATURAL EVENTS HOW TO MITIGATE TOURISTIC CO2 IMPACTS AND ADAPT TO THE CURRENT SITUATION, STARTING FROM THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

As European actors, active in the field of sustainable tourism, we have noted the great connection between climate change and current extreme natural events. As tourism operators and travelers, we can implement some specific actions, starting from enhancing our awareness and continuing with mitigation, reduction, contribution, and adaptation activities.

There is a connection between climate change and extreme events, that can no longer be denied. There is a cause - effect relation between global warming and natural disasters such as floods, which recently hit regions such as Emilia-Romagna in Italy last May or Belgium with 39 deaths in July 2021, episodes of drought which increase in intensity and duration (including in winter) in a large part of Europe, forest fires, particularly in Greece and France in 2022; not to mention heat waves from the month of April in Spain and this summer throughout the northern hemisphere with more than 100°F in the western United States, 48°C announced in the shade in Sardinia on Tuesday July 18, 2023 and the closing of the Parthenon in Athens in reasons for the high heat in Athens.

Scientists studying climate change have been warning about these risks for years. As early as March 2012, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with the publication of the "Report Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation" underlined that **natural climate variability and climate change of anthropogenic origin can influence the intensity, the spatial extent and duration of some extreme climatic events.**

In recent years in Europe there have been phenomena of coastal erosion, lack of snow in winter even in the high mountains, melting of glaciers, pollution of rivers, and the phenomena already mentioned such as floods, droughts, and the consequent forest fires. **All these phenomena have an impact on our holidays, on our being tourists or tour operators, guides, hotel managers and so on.**

The list of extreme events that has been happening in the past two years in Europe continues to grow, and for all of those reasons the ATRE - low carbon travel - project has been developed to contribute to a more sustainable tourism. Nowadays tourism produces as much as 8% of the world's CO2 emissions. This number must be radically lowered, and this is why the tourist economy must certainly change shape, transform, adapt. **The ATRE project has the objective of spreading knowledge on environmental issues, providing friendly tools to monitor the carbon footprint, and indicating simple practices to reduce the environmental impact through 3 digital tools: an online app, a game and a guide.**

So, what are the actions we suggest taking?

First, get informed and study to discover how to act in your own small way. For example, it is important to know how **to measure** your own CO2 emissions. Some platforms can help you, such as [Carbon Footprint](#), [GreenTripper](#) and others!





**ATRE
ACT FOR A
RESPONSIBLE
EUROPEAN
TOURISM**

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Reducing your CO2 emissions is essential, but how can we do so for example during our summer holidays? We can choose to use means of transport such as bicycles or trains instead of the car; we can book green hotels or restaurant and accommodation facilities that adopt sustainable practices, install renewable energy systems, LED lighting, water reducers and much more; we can use glass bottles or flasks instead of plastic bottles, prefer km0 menus or organic products menus; we can choose beaches or naturalistic tours, where owners or guides take care of nature and pay attention to biodiversity. Small gestures can have a big impact!

At the same time, it is possible to decide, as individuals or as companies, **to contribute to climate solidarity initiatives** such as planting trees or financing specific sustainable projects to compensate part of the CO2 produced.

Finally, it is necessary to find strategies **to adapt** to the change already underway. Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate actions to prevent or minimize the damages they can cause or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. An example is experiencing the mountains differently as tourists. If there is not enough snow for alpine skiing, it is better to focus on a different but equally interesting kind of mountain touristic experience, such as trekking, walking under the stars, eno-gastronomy tasting and a lot of other low environmental impact activities. For touristic guides, adapting can mean understanding how to deal with emergency situations, while for a restaurateur it can mean using ingredients that don't require a large amount of water and encouraging a diverse diet richer in plant-based and organic foods.

Nowadays it is important that all of us in our own small way, both as travelers and as tourism entrepreneurs, begin to implement some or perhaps all of these steps: **awareness, CO2 reduction, contribution and adaptation** to slow down, reduce or interrupt the devastating consequences of climate change. Through our project we have already involved different European tourism entrepreneurs, called **Ambassadors**, to follow those steps. If you also are a tourism entrepreneur, join us and become a low carbon travel ambassador. If you, instead, are a traveler, you too can help build a better future by taking action for a more responsible tourism! Keep this in mind when planning your future holidays, it all starts with small gestures.

Follow our project and [VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to know more.

