

Invitation to the HUMANITA Summit

From Visitor Impact to
Nature Protection -
Building a Human-Nature
Harmony

Dear esteemed Stakeholders, Partners, and Colleagues

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the HUMANITA Summit: From Visitor Impact to Nature Protection - Building a Human-Nature Harmony, the final conference of the HUMANITA project on [Human-Nature Interactions and Impacts of Tourist Activities on Protected Areas](#), supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027.

The conference will take place on February 24, 2026, at the EUROCENTER Office Building, Miramarska 23, Zagreb, Croatia.

The Summit will bring together stakeholders in tourism and nature protection ecosystems who are interested in exploring innovative approaches for balancing tourism development with the protection of natural heritage, and building a shared vision for sustainable human-nature harmony.

This one-day international conference will feature:

- 1 Keynote overview of the state of tourism and visitor impacts on the environment in Croatia
- 2 Expert presentations introducing the HUMANITA project, monitoring methods, conflict management, and case studies
- 3 A panel discussion on sustainable tourism and balancing visitor impact, conservation, and policy implementation
- 4 Opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange.

The Summit is intended for everyone interested in creating new narratives, “common heritage“ concept, and a sustainable approach to building a human-nature harmony, from students and young professionals, experienced experts and decision-makers, to local communities, visitors and tourists.

Please complete this form to register for the conference:

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

We look forward to your valuable participation.

Kindest regards,

The HUMANITA Summit: Organizing Committee

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TIME	TOPICS / Presentations / Discussions / Q&A
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:40	<p>WELCOME SPEECH</p> <p>The state of tourism and visitor impact on the environment in Croatia – Overview from the perspective of national and regional public tourism management organisations in Croatia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Igor Kreitmeyer, Director of the Directorate for Nature Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition of the Republic of Croatia</i> ▪ <i>Ivana Alilović, Director of Zagreb County Tourist Board</i>
9:40 – 10:00	<p>Introduction: HUMANITA - Human-nature interactions and impacts of tourist activities on protected areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Dana Sitanyiova, University of Žilina (Slovakia)</i>
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Monitoring of the environmental impacts of tourists inside protected areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Lilia Schmalzl, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (Austria)</i>
10:20 – 10:50	Coffee break and networking
10:50 – 11:10	<p>Developing innovative monitoring methods and data sets to detect the environmental impacts of tourists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Andrea Segalini / Alessandro Valletta, University of Parma (Italy)</i>
11:10 – 11:30	<p>Building engaged and responsible visitors: HUMANITA's integrated approach to environment education, awareness, and heritage narratives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Isidoro De Bortoli / Paola Menzardi, EURAC Research (Italy)</i>
11:30 - 11:50	<p>Conservation communication: Common heritage, compelling narratives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Michal Medek, Director of the Czech Institute for Heritage Interpretation (Czech Republic)</i>
11:50 – 12:50	Lunch break and networking
12:50 – 13:50	<p>PRESENTATION PANEL</p> <p>Pilot sites Action Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mala Fatra National Park - <i>Dana Sitanyiova</i> (University of Žilina, Slovakia) ▪ Karavanke-Karawanken UNESCO Geopark – <i>Urosh Grabner</i> (Austria/Slovenia) ▪ Bükk National Park - <i>Balazs Megyeri</i> (Hungary) ▪ Public Institution Kamenjak – <i>Barbara Floričić</i> (Croatia) ▪ Appennino Tosco-Emiliano National Park - <i>Francesca Moretti</i> (Italy)
13:50 – 14:10	<p>Futourist - AI platform for predictions in tourism: Best practice example of digital transformation in tourism and application of digital tools in managing and mitigating impacts of tourism on the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Domagoj Demeterfi, PhD - University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (Croatia)</i>

14:10 – 14:30	<p>Human-nature interactions and impacts of tourist activities – The case of a National Park in Croatia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Margarita Polzer, Conservation manager, National Park Mljet (Croatia)</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>Sustainable tourism: Balancing visitor impact, conservation, and policy implementation</p> <p>Moderators: Isidoro De Bortoli, EURAC Research (Italy) / Lilia Schmalzl, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (Austria)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Nella Slavica, Park director of National Park Krka (Croatia)</i> ▪ <i>Andrijana Parić, Park director of Nature Park Telaščica (Croatia)</i> ▪ <i>Tomislav Kovačević, PhD, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (Croatia)</i> ▪ <i>Ivana Alilović, Director of Zagreb County Tourist Board (Croatia)</i> ▪ <i>Michal Medek, Director of the Czech Institute for Heritage Interpretation (Czech Republic)</i> ▪ <i>Nicoletta Fascetti Leon, Ministry for environment and energy security (Italy)</i> ▪ <i>Dana Sitanyiova, Head of Department of Geotechnics, University of Žilina (Slovakia)</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<p>INTERACTIVE CLOSING PLENARY SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderator: Isidoro De Bortoli, EURAC Research (Italy) ▪ <i>Participants: all participants of the conference</i>

SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER:

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

We look forward to your valuable participation in this unique opportunity to share knowledge, connect and network, and shape the future of sustainable tourism and nature protection.

Kindest regards,

The HUMANITA Summit: Organizing Committee



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