



## The Regional Director for Europe

Prof. Dr. Volodymyr Velikocchiy

RDEU/25/AP/md/2020

Dean

Faculty of Tourism

Madrid, 22 April 2020

Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian

National University

Ukraine

Dear Dr. Velikocchiy,

The World Tourism Organization is striving very hard to support Governments and the tourism sector in particular, in addressing the enormous impact that the accelerated spread of the Coronavirus is having in the daily lives of people throughout the world.

As informed by the UN Department of Global Communications: “According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), an unprecedented number of children, youth and adults are not attending schools or universities because of COVID-19. Governments in 73 countries have announced or implemented the closure of educational institutions, and 56 countries have closed schools nationwide, impacting over 516.6 million children and youth. “We are entering uncharted territory and working with countries to find hi-tech, low-tech and no-tech solutions to assure the continuity of learning,” said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. “As countries try to prepare their response, international cooperation is vital to share the most effective approaches and support students, teachers and families.”

We need to ensure that no one is left behind. But we can only achieve that if we act now, together, collaborating in the spirit of solidarity around common goals. This is a shared challenge and everybody must be part of the solution, and we consider that you/your institution can help in this process and the Organization very much appreciates the tourism-related courses that your University is offering as part of its curricula.

**World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) - A Specialized Agency of the United Nations**

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As you know, tourism is uniquely placed to lead future recovery. Our sector will provide the jobs people need to bounce back and will drive economic growth that will help whole communities and countries to recover.

To be ready for the future, it is indeed essential to make sure education plays its role in achieving the skill-set required to confront present and future challenges and to ensure tourism remains a driving force for the employment of many in the world.

It's for this reason that UNWTO has committed to identify the most relevant online Education and Training courses available in Europe and pledge for them to be part of our "offer" for free tourism education services to the world, on both our unique UNWTO Online Academy Platform and the UNWTO Academy section. With the confidence that you also share our vision, we would be immensely grateful if you could:

- Identify/select and share the links of open and free-of-charge courses you can offer, MOOCs, webinars and other education / training material you may have in tourism and already on your Learning Management System (LMS) or your Virtual Learning Environment (VLE),

We strongly encourage you to participate in this international cooperation initiative and look forward to hearing from you on this matter urgently.

Please accept, dear Dr. Velikocchiy, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Alessandra Priante