

The stakeholders of Social Tourism and Fair and Responsible Tourism merge at international level

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International Social Tourism Organisation

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The 26th World Congress of ISTO/OITS, the International Social Tourism Organisation, which was held in Zagreb, Croatia from 18-21 October, was the occasion for a major evolution in the scope of action of the organisation.

After 18 months of reflection and consultation with its members and partners, ISTO/OITS has decided to open its scope to stakeholders of Fair and Responsible Tourism. This resulted from the merger of ISTO/OITS and EARTH, the European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality, unanimously approved by the General Meetings of the two organisations in Zagreb.

The ISTO/OITS becomes the common house of all who share the vision of a Tourism for people and communities, with a view on development and sustainability.

Therefore, in an international framework, we want to reach the following double objective:

- Promote the development of Tourism for All, around the concepts of accessibility and inclusion.
- Promote and support the different forms of tourism that can be identified under the terms of responsible, solidarity, fair or community-based tourism.

Through this development, we can pursue with three goals:

- Adapt to an already very present reality in some parts of the world - particularly in Latin America and Africa - that places these different forms of tourism in a common vision of local development, social inclusion, respect for cultures and the environment.
- Extend the political weight and awareness of the new organisation to serve the double objective expressed above.
- Sharing our financial, technical and human resources and strengthen our network members, including geographically.

The new ISTO/OITS invites actors of Social Tourism as well as those of fair and responsible tourism, wherever they are in the world, to gather around our values and shared objectives in order to be more effective, and to raise our voices and develop the humanist vision of tourism that we promote.