

# Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Sustainability, Development, and Culture in the Mediterranean and Beyond

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<https://doi.org/10.70908/2232-6022/18.5-7>

The Mediterranean region, with its rich cultural tapestry and diverse socio-economic dynamics, continues to provide fertile ground for interdisciplinary academic inquiry. In this issue of our International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies, we are pleased to present a collection of six papers that each contribute unique insights into the pressing challenges and opportunities facing Mediterranean societies today. Ranging from rural tourism and climate change to urban flood management and post-pandemic media consumption, these articles reflect the breadth of inquiry necessary to understand and shape the region's future.

## CULTURE AND TOURISM:

### MUSIC AS A RURAL CATALYST

The paper by Govedarica et al. explores an overlooked dimension of rural tourism: the role of musicians as cultural agents and drivers of regional development. By positioning musicians not just as entertainers but as integral parts of local identity and economic revitalization, this research stimulates the discourse on cultural tourism. In the context of Mediterranean rural areas, where depopulation and economic stagnation are common, this paper reveals how music and local cultural assets can become important tools for community building and sustainable tourism. The authors advocate for strategic integration of musicians into tourism development plans, urging policymakers to harness their cultural capital more effectively.

SPORTS DECISION-MAKING:  
INSIGHTS FROM SERBIAN GYMNASTICS

- [6] From cultural tourism to athletic cognition, Kolar et al. delve into the realm of decision-making in sports, specifically analyzing how gymnastics coaches in Serbia navigate complex choices. This study provides critical insights into the cognitive and contextual factors that influence coaching strategies. It combines elements of psychology, pedagogy, and sports science to construct a picture of how high-stakes decisions are made in elite sport settings. Given the increasing professionalization of sports across the Mediterranean region, the paper contributes to an understanding of how knowledge, intuition, and experience intersect in high-performance environments.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT  
IN THE PETROLEUM SECTOR

The work of Ahmed Aly et al. shifts our attention to the industrial and environmental sphere, examining the Egyptian petroleum sector's capacity for climate change management through a knowledge management lens. The authors develop a valuable framework for evaluating how effectively organizations collect, share, and apply climate-related knowledge. By focusing on a high-emissions industry within a vulnerable region, the study presents both a diagnostic tool and a call to action. The findings emphasize the importance of embedding knowledge-driven sustainability strategies in corporate and governmental frameworks, particularly in sectors with significant environmental footprints.

YOUTH, MEDIA, AND POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY  
IN MOROCCO

The Covid-19 pandemic has left deep psychological and societal imprints, particularly among the youth. In their paper, El Attari et al. examine how Moroccan youth consumed media during and after the pandemic, offering a critical post-crisis analysis. Through surveys and behavioral data, the study highlights the change in media habits, perceptions of information credibility, and broader societal anxieties. This work not only contributes to the global literature on after pandemic times but also highlights the unique cultural and informational landscape of North Africa. Policymakers and educators can draw from this



research to develop more effective youth engagement and media literacy programs in the wake of future crises.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION: A MEDITERRANEAN  
IMPERATIVE

[7]

Finally, Fabian et al. tackle one of the most enduring challenges in the region: economic integration. The authors provide a thorough examination of the barriers and opportunities for greater economic cooperation among Mediterranean states. From trade and infrastructure to regulatory harmonization, the paper argues that deeper economic integration is not just beneficial but essential for the region's stability and prosperity. By comparing different integration models and examining case studies, the authors present a persuasive case for renewed political commitment to regional cooperation in an era marked by geopolitical uncertainty and economic fragmentation.

CONCLUSION: TOWARD A HOLISTIC VISION

Collectively, these papers underscore the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing the Mediterranean region's complex challenges. They invite us to consider how cultural identity, scientific innovation, governance, and regional solidarity intersect in shaping resilient futures. As editors, we are proud to host these important contributions and hope they inspire further research and collaboration across disciplinary and national borders.