



CALL FOR PAPERS

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND COVID-19: CURRENT AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Venue: “Mother Teresa” University, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

20 November, 2020

www.unt.edu.mk

The crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus has overshadowed existing migration debates but still it is inseparably linked with movement. The COVID-19 pandemic has unprecedented impact on human mobility in general. Various measures were implemented to respond to the virus and lessen the spread of the virus including lockdown, travel restrictions and border closures. Large numbers of migrants were stranded or forcibly returned to their country of origin. While lots of sectors such as agriculture faced with lack of workers. Many families could not reunite due to travel restrictions. Lockdown measures provoked closures of businesses and unemployment. Thus, remittances from large diaspora communities outside the region declined. Remittances are an important source of financing in low- and middle-income countries and without them the education, health and lives of families in countries of origin are under threat. Another issue that migrants faced during this period is information flow. Due to language and cultural barriers their access to information was limited. Moreover, COVID-19 provoked blame, fear, hate speech and discrimination of migrants. Migrants were particularly vulnerable to stigma and xenophobia, and often accused as responsible for spreading the virus. In sum the pandemic brought into focus the vital role that migrants play in our societies and raised questions for more effective migration governance.

This conference welcomes research papers on topics related to migration with particular emphasis on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, such as, but not limited to:

- *Protection of human rights, safety, and wellbeing of migrants*
- *Access to health care services for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers*

- *Economic impact on migrants*
- *Virtual education of migrants during the pandemic*
- *Diaspora and remittances during COVID-19*
- *Public discourse and response to COVID-19*
- *Migrants and media coverage*
- *Information and communication systems providing migrants with information on COVID-19*
- *Migrants social inclusion and integration*
- *Migration and Xenophobia*

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & DEADLINES

- 25 October 2020:** Abstract submission. Abstract of a maximum 300-words, Arial 12-p, should be sent to migration@unt.edu.mk . Please include paper title with all authors, affiliations and contact details. The abstract should clearly state the rationale, methodology, results and conclusions.
- 07 November 2020:** Abstract acceptance notification
- 20 November 2020:** Conference dates
- 25 December 2020:** Publication of Conference Proceedings' Book
- 24 January 2020:** Full paper submission deadline (maximum of 12 pages; Times New Roman; 12 p; 1,5 space). The accepted papers will have the opportunity to be published in the **South East European Journal of Sustainable Development (SEEJSD)**.
- Agenda of the conference will be published in due time at:** <http://migration.unt.edu.mk>
- Logistical details:** Participants can choose between attending the conference in person and presenting virtually. The travel and accommodation costs are to be covered by the participants, while the organizers will provide conference materials and coffee breaks.

** The conference will be held in English. No simultaneous interpretation from and into English or other languages will be provided. All papers presented at the conference must be original and not simultaneously submitted to another conference.