## **EDITORIAL**

We are pleased to introduce the Proceedings of the 27th Biennial International Congress "Tourism & Hospitality Industry 2024", hosted by the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Rijeka. The Congress theme "Trends and Challenges" underscored the dynamic and interdisciplinary nature of tourism and hospitality, encouraging authors to delve into a broad spectrum of topics.

This edition received total of 33 papers and 11 abstracts, all subjected to a rigorous double-blind review process. The manuscripts submitted for consideration addressed key areas such as tourism and hospitality management, strategic planning, workforce dynamics in tourism, marketing and consumer behaviour, sustainable tourism and the interplay between tourism and social factors. After a thorough review, 22 papers were accepted for presentation at the Congress. These papers represent a significant contribution to the field, offering fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the current challenges faced by the tourism and hospitality industry. From these accepted papers, two were selected for publication in the journal "Tourism and Hospitality Management," highlighting the exceptional quality of research presented at this Congress.

The Proceedings of the 27th Congress, "Tourism and Hospitality Industry – Trends and Challenges," include the full papers that have been carefully revised in accordance with reviewer comments. This compilation serves not only as a record of the Congress but also as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers aiming to stay abreast of the latest developments in the field. The Proceedings have been recognised by the international academic community for the relevance and importance of the topics, global contributions, research standards and consistent publication. The topics covered in the Proceedings are both timely and significant and address important current issues. It contains papers from a wide range of international authors, ensuring a rich diversity of perspectives and expertise.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the 50 reviewers whose expert evaluations were instrumental in maintaining the high standards of this Congress. Their dedication and critical insights ensured that only the most relevant research was presented. Their collaborative efforts with authors have made this Congress successful. We also extend our thanks to the organizing committee, whose hard work and dedication were pivotal in this event.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future and hopeful for continued cooperation in organizing subsequent congresses. Together, we can continue to advance the field of tourism and hospitality, addressing its challenges and leveraging emerging trends.

Thank you for your participation and support. We look forward to welcoming you to the next edition of the Biennial International Congress "Tourism & Hospitality Industry."

Editors