

## **Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on tourism in MENA countries: A case study of Tunisia**

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### **Abstract:**

“Tourism industry becomes more and more important in many countries. As reported in OECD, tourism industry has contributed directly to 4.2% of GDP and 6.9% to employment for its member countries”. But with the appearance of COVID-19 which is an infectious disease caused by the latest coronavirus that was discovered. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak in Wuhan in December 2019, caused 8 506 107 confirmed cases, and 455 231 confirmed deaths in 216 countries on 19 June 2020 According to forecasts by the International Labor Organization, the Covid-19 health crisis would lead to a drastic drop in international tourism revenues by 2020, which could reach \$450 billion. In this context, the new coronavirus, is likely to affect the economies of the MENA region through four main channels: directly, by contaminating populations and, indirectly, by affecting oil prices, value chains and tourism. Indeed, the risks of human contamination and the collapse of oil prices are the highest: the virus is already present in Iran and other MENA countries and since its emergence, the barrel has plunged by \$20. Hence the question arises as to its effect on the tourism sector in this region and in particular on Tunisia.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Tourism, Corporate Social Responsibility, MENA Countries, Tunisia

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