



Sports tourism and pandemic: the case of the Tor des Géants

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Abstract

The Tor des Géants is considered the toughest trail-running race in the world. It develops on the mountain paths of the Aosta Valley, for a total of 330 km, with a total positive difference in height of 24,000 meters. Founded in 2010, the competition has met with growing international interest: while 150 people pre-registered in 2010, the latest editions registered about 3000. Over the years, Tor des Glaciers, Tot dret and the Passage au Malatrà have been added to the Tor des Géants, always belonging to the same organization.

In 2020, due to Covid-19, none of these races took place. The restrictive measures established by the various governments did not allow the Tor promoters to guarantee health safety to each individual competitor, his companions, volunteers, tourists and the entire Aosta Valley community, which lived in close contact with the race, in the ten years in which it took place.

This contribution aims to investigate to what extent the current pandemic conditions negatively the Aosta Valley sports tourism, especially in relation to the event which, in recent years, has been a vector of aggregation and mass participation, as far as concerns athletes, fans and enthusiasts, both as regards the extraordinary organizational structure, in which the numerous volunteers engaged in the refreshment stations for the athletes played a fundamental role.

Keywords: Tor des Géants, aggregation, distance, Covid-19, sports tourism;

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