



Territorial resilience of intangible cultural heritage during COVID times. A case of study of bullfight in Spain

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The COVID 19 pandemic have had a dramatic impact in the world, with hundreds of millions of infections and millions of deceases. Besides the loss of human lives, the pandemic has affected many economic activities, although with an unequal effect. For example, the touristic sector experienced a brutal impact, with an initial shock of over 75% of international arrivals and global losses of over 2 billion dollars and over 100 million jobs in danger.¹

In the same vein, the cultural sector has also been severely affected by the pandemic, with a further impact in specific sectors that were already on a downward trend before 2019, such as intangible cultural activities, which mostly could not take place due to gathering restrictions.

Spain has been one of the countries with a stronger impact of the pandemic, with 12 million cases and over 100.000 deaths.² Due to the economic specialization in touristic activities, the economic downturn in the country was particularly severe. Similarly, some cultural activities in the country were almost blocked for sanitary restrictions. In this work, we analyse the effect of the COVID pandemic on bullfight festivals in Spain, using a resilience analysis. While the dramatic decline in the number of festivals was mainly due to sanitary aspects, the recovery can be associated to many other factors, including the diverse cultural strength of this activity over the different regions, and also economic and political factors.

The paper studies the heterogeneous evolution of bullfight festivals in Spain from a resilience point of view, considering territorial factors and the diversity in the type of festivals.

¹ Figures from UN World Tourism Organization (www.unwto.org).

² Source www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/.