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Generation Z members' intentions to work in tourism in their World Heritage Site hometowns

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This study analyzes the impact of four dimensions on Generation Z's intentions to work in the tourism industry in their hometown of Antequera (Malaga, Spain) within the specific tourism context of World Heritage Sites (WHSs). We estimate the influence of young residents' perceptions toward tourism development through WHS recognition, community involvement, and place attachment on this variable, following the theory of planned behavior (TPB). A structural equation model based on variance by partial least squares, PLS-SEM, has been proposed. The results show that Generation Z's community involvement, place attachment, and positive perceptions toward tourism development directly influence their intentions to work in their WHS hometown; meanwhile, the negative perceptions toward tourism development have no direct impact on these intentions to work.

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Introduction

ne of the relevant challenges facing the tourism industry today is having a qualified and stable workforce (Goh and Okumus, 2020). Within this context, some authors consider that the sector is experiencing an exceptionally complex situation they call "the perfect storm" due to the high level of labor dependence on youth tourism. A considerable percentage of experienced workers retire as young people enter the industry. This new generation holds the foreseeable future of this vital sector in their hands, especially in terms of the global economy and development (Solnet et al., 2016).

However, the percentage of workers under the age of 25 in the tourism and hospitality industry in Spain (10.7%), according to the National Statistical Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2020), is considerably lower than the average in Europe (19.6%) and much lower than countries like the United States (33.1%) or Australia (43%) (Hotels, Restaurants, Bars, and Cafes in Europe [HOTREC], 2019). This percentage will likely increase in the coming years, due to the higher age of retirement in Spain, which seems to signal that the storm will be even more relevant with this new generation. Additionally, recent studies indicate that many young people, even those that have studied tourism, have tried to find work in a different sector (Duman et al., 2006; Solnet et al., 2012). Along these lines, Innerhofer et al. (2022) indicates the low absorption rate of tourism graduates.

What are the reasons behind Spanish youth's lack of intentions to work in the tourism industry in their WHS hometown? To answer this question, this study considers the impact of four dimensions on young people's intentions to work in the tourism industry, which is of great interest in the scientific literature. The four dimensions are residents' positive perceptions of tourism development through WHS consideration, residents' negative perceptions of tourism development through WHS consideration, community involvement, and place attachment.

The influence of residents' positive and negative perceptions of tourism on young people's intentions to work in tourism has been extensively studied in the literature (Goh and Lee, 2018; Gursoy et al., 2019). However, perceptions regarding the development of tourism through the consideration of WHSs have not been sufficiently analyzed for this age group. Other variables, such as place attachment and community involvement, have been studied as antecedents of intentions to work in the hometown although not in the tourism industry (Beccaria et al., 2021; Larkins et al., 2015). Moreover, both variables are closely related to positive and negative perceptions of tourism (Chi et al., 2017). However, the influence of community involvement and place attachment on young residents' intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown has not been specifically analyzed by academia.

Our research, based on TPB, analyzes the influence of these factors (positive and negative perceptions of tourism development through WHS consideration, place attachment, and community involvement) on their intentions to work in the tourism industry in their WHS hometown.

We also consider it relevant to analyze these relationships within the specific tourism context of a WHS. This study is specifically situated at the "Antequera Dolmens Site," which was first recognized as a WHS on July 15, 2016, the turning point for the region's tourism industry. Considerations regarding the context of COVID-19 were not included in the survey since it was validated in January 2020, and data was first gathered in February 2020, when Spain still did not have any pandemic-related restrictions in place.

The paper is organized as follows: the second section presents the theoretical background of the research; section 3 describes the research design, variables, data collection, and data analysis method; section 4 provides the empirical results and a discussion on the main findings; and the last section includes conclusions, limitations, and future research.

Literature review and hypotheses

Theoretical framework: theory of planned behavior. This study is based on the TPB (Ajzen, 1991). Although this theory has been used in the tourism industry for analysis and travelers' decision-making processes prior to visiting a tourist destination (Zheng et al., 2022), it has not been used academically for the behavioral study of young people's decisions whether or not to work in the tourism industry.

According to this theory, behaviors are a function of three basic factors: those of a personal nature (attitude), those that reflect social influence (subjective norms), and those that reflect anticipated difficulties (perceived behavioral control). In our study, the behavior we measure is young people's intentions to work in the tourism industry in their WHS hometown. Attitudinal factors are positive perceptions toward tourism development through WHS consideration and place attachment. We analyze the subjective norms through the community involvement of Generation Z. In this study, perceived behavioral control factors are given by negative perceptions toward tourism.

In order to increase the predictive capacity of the TPB, various authors have added variables to the model (Ahmmadi et al., 2021). We attempt to expand the theory in our study by analyzing a new behavioral domain (young people's intentions to work in the tourism industry) through new factors such as those discussed above.

Generation Z and their intentions to work in their hometown.

From a human resources perspective, the management, attraction, and retention of talent, especially among young people, has become a serious problem for the tourism sector (Solnet et al., 2016). This issue has been analyzed from different perspectives. Some authors emphasize the concept of meaningful work as an innovative formula in the accommodation industry (Tan et al., 2019). Others are concerned about talent management and the sense of exclusion among hotel employees (Kichuk et al., 2019). However, there are few specific studies on Generation Z entering the tourism labor market.

The generational theory distinguishes the population by age, where each interval includes all the people born in a certain 20-year period (Betz, 2019). This theory has been extensively studied and discussed as it shows the behavior and perspectives of a specific population group (Runruil-Diaz and Manner-Baldeon, 2018). This is crucial in knowing how to handle and what to offer each generational segment in different fields (Băltescu, 2019).

For this study, we use Williams and Page (2011) as a frame of reference for those who believe that Generation Z includes people born between 1994 and 2010. Generation Z, also called iGeneration, PostMillennials, and NetGeneration (Csobanka, 2016), is characterized as having integrated technology in their personal and professional daily lives, which improves their work performance. They feel confident using these tools to execute their jobs and are considered as having high technical skills since they know how to use multiple programs and applications. This generation is the most accepting of diversity (Betz, 2019) and they prefer to be their own boss (Runruil-Diaz and Manner-Baldeon, 2018).

Generation Z is currently entering the job market due to Baby Boomers retiring, leading to changes in the current work culture and environment (Goh and Lee, 2018; Randstad, 2016). One of the most significant decisions a person has to make in life is deciding which sector to pursue a career in, as it determines their

professional and personal development and the environment in which they will grow (Erdinç and Kahraman, 2012). The sector's organization and the opportunities offered by companies influence this decision. These opportunities are related to the company's disposition toward its employees, corporate culture, and company social relationships, among other factors (Pelit and Arslantürk, 2011).

There is a broad range of studies about choosing and working in a professional industry. Regarding the tourism industry, and more precisely, Generation Z's intentions to work in their hometown in this sector, the TPB (Ajzen, 1991) has been used to study this generation's attitude toward working in this industry, taking into account the opinions of other residents and the problems they may perceive regarding working in this sector (Goh and Lee, 2018). Very few studies on the tourism industry focus on this specific age cohort (Baum et al., 2016).

Their job searches are not primarily based on salary as a motivation (which is more typical of the Millennial generation). Instead, they want to be recognized in their job, work for the company's good, and have a good work environment with their coworkers (Goh and Lee, 2018). Likewise, they perceive the most value in jobs that focus on helping others or being of use to society (Vaghela and Agarwal, 2018). These attitudes toward work make this generational cohort ideal for the service sector, specifically the tourism industry (Goh and Lee, 2018).

The use of and dependence on new technologies by this cohort is of fundamental importance since they have been born and raised using technology (Prensky, 2001). This fact can be either a facilitator of procedures in the tourism field or an obstacle, depending on how these technological resources are used (Monaco, 2018).

Generation Z considers that working in the tourism industry is satisfactory and exciting, and allows them to travel (Goh and Lee, 2018), which is a factor that motivates them to work in this sector (Brown et al., 2015; Buzinde et al., 2018). However, their intentions to work in tourism in their hometown are very much determined by the actions of the companies that hope to employ this workforce (Martínez González et al., 2017).

Generation Z residents' perception of tourism and its influence on their intentions to work in the tourism industry, place attachment, and community involvement. Firstly, we describe the conceptualization of residents' perceptions of tourism development. In this sense, residents' perceptions of tourism have been a topic of study in prior research (Andereck et al., 2005; Kim et al., 2013), including articles focused on an in-depth literature review of the concept of tourism perceptions (Gursoy et al., 2002; Almeida García et al., 2015). Tourism development affects the host communities (Sharpley, 2014) and impacts them. This influence can be studied from an economic, social, and environmental perspective. Furthermore, the impact of tourism on residents has been analyzed by academics, differentiating between the positive and negative perceptions of this impact. All tourism activities have costs and benefits for these residents (Gursoy et al., 2002; Gursoy et al., 2019).

The economic benefit positively influences residents' attitudes toward tourism since it improves the local economy and creates jobs (Gursoy et al., 2002; Choi and Sirakaya, 2006; Liu et al., 2023). The economic costs of tourism are associated with increased prices (Andereck et al., 2005) and real estate taxation (Latkova and Vogt, 2012). From a social standpoint, residents value the fact that tourism positively influences the community and the services available (Andereck et al., 2005). It also reinforces cultural identity and promotes cultural protection and revitalization (Kim, 2002). Conversely, residents consider

that tourism development can increase traffic congestion and various services provided to citizens (Latkova and Vogt, 2012; Ko and Stewart, 2002), but also bring about a rise in crime rates (Deery et al., 2012) and increased waste generation (Latkova and Vogt 2012). From an environmental standpoint, some authors claim that tourism helps conserve natural resources (Andereck and Nyaupane, 2011) and improves the city (Andereck et al., 2005). Nevertheless, other authors emphasize the possibility of tourism harming the environment and increasing pollution (Ko and Stewart, 2002).

According to Jimura (2011), some studies claim that when a destination is declared as a WHS, it implies a certain degree of importance that attracts visitors, while significant investments are made to conserve the heritage. This designation can help residents maintain their cultural identity and awaken a stronger sense of place attachment for all the residents at that destination (Jaafar et al., 2015; Gursoy et al., 2002). It also offers economic development opportunities to the area, taking the local community into account and prioritizing conservation programs for the destination (Jaafar et al., 2015; Jimura, 2011). From the perspective of the 2030 agenda and its sustainable development goals (SDGs), tourism can generate value and contribute to the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources. Moreover, it can be an important tool for alleviating poverty in developing countries (Xiao, 2013), accelerating development in a sustainable and environmentally and socially responsible manner (SDGs 1 and 11), fostering partnerships to achieve goals (SDG 17) through strong institutions (SDG 16) (Hosseini et al., 2021). However, such development must be accompanied by improved services and the supervision of private initiatives (Rasoolimanesh et al.,

Very few studies focus on the perceptions of young people. This population segment has greater expectations in terms of their perceptions of the benefits of tourism development through WHS recognition (Jaafar et al., 2015), which is closely related to their expectations of job creation and the possibility of getting to know other cultures (Vareiro et al., 2011). A site declared a WHS implies a greater awareness of the importance of its heritage and helps young people recognize its value (UNESCO, 2002 cited by Jaafar et al., 2015). The importance of young people's positive perceptions of the tourism industry as future decision-makers and workers is not always taken into account (Wu and Pearce, 2013), and very few studies highlight the relationship between residents' perceptions and the sustainable development of a WHS (Jimura, 2011; Nicholas et al., 2009). This study aims to fill the gap in the literature.

Secondly, describing the impact of residents' perceptions of tourism development on community involvement is necessary. Some academics state that tourist destination residents' perceptions of the effects of tourism are a crucial factor in their participation in tourism development (Gursoy et al., 2002; Jaafar et al., 2015). Residents' perceptions of the positive or negative impact of tourism development on their hometowns influence their involvement in the development (Nicholas et al., 2009). Various studies highlight community involvement as a key to the sustainability of tourism development (Nicholas et al., 2009).

In the case of a WHS, residents play an essential role in implementing activities and maintaining the sites with this designation (Vlase and Lähdesmäki, 2023). Their involvement helps the destination's economic development through tourism development and heritage conservation, improving their living conditions (Jaafar et al., 2015; Nicholas et al., 2009), favoring conflict resolution among neighbors (Su and Wall, 2014), and promoting their traditions, values, and lifestyle (Sheldon and Abenoja, 2001). Some authors' results confirm a direct, positive relationship between young people's positive perceptions of

tourism development on community involvement in promoting and supporting a WHS (Jaafar et al., 2015). Other studies have shown that residents with a highly positive perception and a low negative perception of tourism development favor community involvement (Jaafar et al., 2015; Latkova and Vogt, 2012; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2017).

There is no consensus among the prior research regarding the influence of negative perceptions on community involvement. Some studies claim that residents' negative perceptions hurt community involvement (Latkova and Vogt, 2012; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2015); meanwhile, other academics argue that there is no significant impact (Jaafar et al., 2015; Gursoy et al., 2002).

Thirdly, the impact of residents' perceptions of tourism development on place attachment is analyzed. Referring to it, place attachment is a term that has been extensively studied to understand how tourists behave at tourist destinations. However, few studies develop this concept regarding the area's residents, and fewer studies discuss destinations designated as a WHS (Hoang et al. 2020). Some authors have demonstrated that negative perceptions of tourism development positively affect place attachment (Harrill, 2004; Jaafar et al., 2015). Also, young WHS residents' positive perceptions of tourism development do not directly affect place attachment, although they do indirectly through community involvement (Jaafar et al., 2015). Nevertheless, other authors like Bett (2005) contradict this finding, concluding that young people's positive perceptions affect place attachment and community involvement.

Fourthly, the impact of residents' perceptions of tourism on their intentions to work in tourism is reviewed. Accordingly, tourism companies must be aware of young people's perceptions of being part of the industry workforce, even more importantly, due to high employee turnover in this sector (Baum et al., 2016). This knowledge is essential for attracting and retaining talent (Richardson, 2009).

According to Davidson et al., (2011), generational change is one of the most important research topics for human resources management in tourism. Nonetheless, very few studies have addressed the topic of human resources in this industry, and those that have considered it focus more on the general context of tourism than on problems with the workforce in this field (Baum et al., 2016).

This younger generation is different from prior generations, as younger people are generally more interested in this field, especially since it offers them the opportunity to travel and have new experiences (Goh and Lee, 2018), which makes them more motivated to work in this sector (Buzinde et al., 2018). The low salaries are not a determining factor for them as they are motivated by the possibility of having a professional career and job satisfaction (Goh and Lee, 2018).

Hereafter, when referring to the Gen Z construct, we specifically refer to the young residents of Antequera that belong to this generation. Considering all of the above, we postulate the following hypotheses:

- H1. Gen Z's positive perceptions toward tourism development have a direct, positive influence on their intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown.
- H2. Gen Z's negative perceptions toward tourism development have a direct, positive influence on their intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown.
- **H3**. Gen Z's positive perceptions toward tourism development have a direct, positive influence on community involvement.
- **H4.** Gen Z's negative perceptions toward tourism development have a direct, positive influence on community involvement.
- **H5**. Gen Z's positive perceptions toward tourism development have a direct, positive influence on place attachment.

- **H6.** Gen Z's negative perceptions toward tourism development have a direct, positive influence on place attachment.
- H7. Gen Z's positive perceptions toward tourism development have an indirect, positive influence on their intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown through community involvement.
- H8. Gen Z's negative perceptions toward tourism development have an indirect, positive influence on their intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown through community involvement.
- **H9.** Gen Z's positive perceptions toward tourism development have an indirect, positive influence on their intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown through place attachment.
- **H10**. Gen Z's negative perceptions toward tourism development have an indirect, positive influence on their intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown through place attachment.

Community involvement in promotion and support of World Heritage Sites, and its influence on place attachment and intentions to work in the tourism industry. Regarding community involvement, it has also been conceptualized in the scientific literature as community participation. Community involvement is defined as a collaborative work process of a group of people related through interest, proximity, or situation to address a reality that affects the well-being of those people; it goes beyond community engagement (McCloskey et al., 2011). Although community involvement has been the subject of academic study since the midtwentieth century when research was conducted in sociology, such as Sower and Freeman (1958), its implication in economic development in general, and in tourism activity in particular, is more recent.

From a tourism standpoint, the concept of residents' involvement in their community has been analyzed primarily from the perspective of economic development (Ndivo and Cantoni, 2016), tourism sustainability (Li and Hunter, 2015), and a combination of both (Nyaupane et al., 2006). In the specific field of WHSs, various studies have concluded that the promotion and support of community involvement plays a decisive role in successful heritage management and tourism planning (Jaafar et al., 2015; Yung and Chan, 2011). Furthermore, this success results in meeting the needs and interests of residents (Tavares et al., 2015).

Community involvement in cultural heritage projects improves residents' place attachment, which in turn helps people develop trusting relationships and stronger connections, enabling them to appreciate and better understand the value of what they have nearby (Jaafar et al., 2015; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2013; Yung and Chan, 2011). Consequently, a community's involvement in tourism development increases their place attachment to that tourist destination (Gross and Brown, 2008). Several studies have highlighted that community involvement among young residents is crucial for the future development of these programs, creating a stronger connection with their community thanks to their playing an important role in promoting and supporting it (Jaafar et al., 2015; Wu and Pearce, 2013).

Nevertheless, the scientific literature does not explore in depth how young people's community involvement in these tourism projects influences their intentions to work in this industry. This study aims to compensate for this gap in the literature. We have therefore developed the following hypotheses based on the literature review:

- H11. Community involvement has a direct, positive influence on intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown.
- **H12.** Community involvement has a direct, positive influence on place attachment.
- H13. Community involvement has an indirect, positive influence on intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown through place attachment.

Place attachment and its influence on work intentions. Multiple terms and definitions have conceptualized a person's attachment to a particular place (Halpenny, 2010). In the specific literature on tourism, the word 'place attachment' is the most frequently used, in addition to others such as community attachment (Hoang et al., 2020) or sense of belonging as a result of this attachment (Di Masso et al., 2017).

Place attachment is considered a multidimensional construct (Ramkissoon et al., 2013) whose components refer to dependence, identity, and fondness for one's place of residence. Place attachment can be defined as an individual's cognitive and emotional connection to a specific place or environment (Low, 1992), or, in a broader sense, an effective long-term connection with a specific geographic area that inspires a sense of belonging through one's identification with the location (Hay, 1998).

Specific authors have confirmed that when a location is declared a WHS, there is an increase in the sense of belonging or attachment to the place and the community, to the point that residents may want to start a business there and live their entire lives at that location (Han et al., 2020). This place attachment makes individuals feel that their needs are the same as those of the general community and that they share the same history and heritage (Chi et al., 2017). These studies have also confirmed that the most recent arrivals and young people develop place attachment more quickly if tourism is highly developed. Therefore, place attachment, perception of tourism, and community involvement are closely related (Chi et al., 2017). However, we have not found articles that relate the dimension of place attachment (or similar to a sense of belonging or community attachment) to intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown. Therefore, considering everything mentioned in the literature review, we believe that this study would not be complete without confirming the existence of a significant relationship between the two constructs.

Therefore, in an attempt to fill this gap in the scientific literature, we propose the following hypothesis:

H14. Place attachment has a direct, positive influence on intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown.

Methods

Data collection, participants, and sample. The inclusion criteria for this study were that participants had to be residents of the municipality of Antequera and between the ages of 16 and 26 (Generation Z). The raw data was culled from surveys from February to May 2020. Three professionals were involved in the pre-test: one specialized in youth employment, one in recruitment in the tourism sector, and one academic researching youth employment in the tourism sector. We included their suggestions and required changes made to the final questionnaire. The questionnaire was translated into Spanish by a professional translator. It is a convenience sample, and the responses were collected using Google Forms. The survey was anonymous and complied with ethical standards.

G*Power 3 free software (Faul et al., 2009) was used to determine the appropriate sample size. With a configuration of a small to a medium effect size of 0.05, a significance of 5%, a statistical power of 90%, and in terms of the number of predictors the endogenous variable receives (with a maximum of four predictors of the construct of Gen Z's intentions to work in their WHS hometown), the resulting appropriate sample size was 313 participants. In our case, out of 366 collected responses, after filtering for outliers and inconsistencies, 315 valid responses formed an appropriate sample.

Indicators and constructs. The questionnaire includes 25 indicators (Table 1) and five constructs: two independent predictor constructs positive perception of tourism development (POS), negative perception of tourism development (NEG), and three endogenous constructs Generation Z's community involvement in tourism (COMM), place attachment (PLACE), and their intentions to work in their WHS hometown (WORK). We used the same measurement scales validated by Jaafar et al., (2015) except for intentions to work adapted from Goh and Lee (2018). However, factor analysis was calculated to validate each construct using SPSS software for the multiple items associated with each construct. Negative perceptions were not validated for this construct, and two of the five items were eliminated.

Finally, the descriptive measurements of the observable indicators are displayed in Table 2. The skewness coefficients exceed ± 1 , indicating that the data is not distributed according to a normal distribution.

Methodology and data analysis. This study uses partial least squares – structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM). SmartPLS software (Ringle et al., 2015) executed analyses. Moreover, considering that these are behavioral constructs, we opted to use consistent PLS (Dijkstra and Henseler, 2015) and to obtain a large sample size for the measurement models. Nevertheless, anticipating the data from the results, no possible solution was obtained through bootstrapping, indicating that the common factor hypotheses are not fulfilled. According to particular academics (Rigdon et al., 2017; Sarstedt et al., 2016), the construct is a composite of various indicators more than a common factor, which justifies the use of PLS-SEM. Academic manuals using this methodology (Hair-Jr et al., 2017; Hair et al., 2019) and recent manuscripts recommend a series of requirements for evaluating a path model, e.g., Benitez et al. (2020).

Moreover, the indirect effects and type of mediation analysis are also interesting. The mediator analysis is described by various academics (Cepeda et al., 2017; Nitzl et al., 2016) within the context of PLS-SEM. Firstly, the significance of the indirect and direct effects is analyzed to determine whether there is mediation and the type of mediation — either complementary or competitive, or full or partial (Zhao et al., 2010). In addition, the magnitude of the variance accounted for (VAF) to measure how much the indirect effect represents the total effect in terms of proportion (or percentage) is also classified: under 20% there is no mediation; VAF between 20% and 80% is partial mediation, and over 80% is total mediation (Hair-Jr et al., 2017).

Research results and discussion

Profile of participants. Concerning the participants' descriptive profiles, women account for 67.6% of the respondents, while 32.1% are men, and only one listed their gender as other. The average age is 21.7 years, and the standard deviation is 2.645 years. Forty-six participants (15%) are 16-18 years old, which, according to Spanish law, is the age when they are eligible to enter the job market (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2020) and focus their studies on the economic sector they like the best; 101 respondents (32.1%) are 19-21 years old, and 168 (53.3%) are between the ages of 22 and 26, young people that are about to start working or are already working after studying university degree programs or completing vocational training. It is essential to clarify this information to relate this data to intentions to work in the tourism industry in the WHS hometown. The majority of participants (56.8%) have a university degree or higher level of education; meanwhile, 35.6% have high school examination qualifications or similar education (vocational training) in

Table 1 Des	cription of indicators.
Indicators	Description
1.1 POS1	I feel proud of Antequera's recognition as a World Heritage Site
1.2 POS2	The standard of living in Antequera has improved since it was declared a World Heritage Site
1.3 POS3	Infrastructure and services, such as public transportation, kiosks, etc., have improved since the Dolmens site was declared a World Heritage Site
1.4 POS4	The city's recreational offerings have improved since it was recognized the site as a World Heritage Site
1.5 POS5	Employment in Antequera has increased since it was recognized as a World Heritage Site
2.1 NEG1	The increase in the presence of tourists in the city has disrupted the sense of normalcy in the city
2.2 NEG2	The designation of the Dolmens as a World Heritage Site has brought problems to the citizens of Antequera
2.3 NEG3	The conservation and protection of the Dolmens site is not my responsibility
2.4 NEG4	Antequera needs more conservation measures to protect against the increasing tourism
2.5 NEG5	The designation as a World Heritage Site has contributed to prices increasing in Antequera
3.1 COMM1	I need to promote the Dolmens site as emblematic of Antequera
3.2 COMM2	I want to promote the Dolmens site with videos and photos on social media, posters, or any other tool
3.3 COMM3	I would like to join in on activities that are important for the promotion of the Dolmens site
3.4 COMM4	I think that young people should actively support tourism in Antequera
3.5 COMM5	Since the declaration of the World Heritage Site, I have felt driven to participate in cultural and recreational activities related to the World Heritage Site
4.1 PLACE1	I will live in Antequera when I finish my studies
4.2 PLACE2	I will start a business in Antequera when I finish my studies
4.3 PLACE3	I will work in Antequera when I finish my studies
4.4 PLACE4	I am proud to live in Antequera
4.5 PLACE5	I will live the rest of my life in Antequera
5.1 WORK1	Working in the tourism sector in Antequera as a World Heritage Site will allow me to meet people from different parts of the world, and I would learn a lot from them (personal enrichment)
5.2 WORK2	I love working in Antequera as a WHS with tourists seeing their smiles and their appreciation after I have completed my service; it's rewarding
5.3 WORK3	Working in the tourism sector in Antequera as a World Heritage Site offers me the opportunity for each workday to be different, and that makes it interesting
5.4 WORK4	It's a dynamic industry (in Antequera as a World Heritage Site); in other words, trends in tourism are constantly changing, as well as tourism-related technology and new methods of providing services for tourists
5.5 WORK5	There is such a great variety of job positions in this industry (in Antequera as a World Heritage Site) there's a good chance of finding one that's right for you
Source: Prepared b	y the authors.

preparation for a university degree or vocational training, and 7.6% have only completed primary education (Table 3).

Results of the variance-based structural equation model. Regarding the measurement model, outer loadings achieve the threshold of 0.7. To evaluate the reliability of the construct, we calculated Cronbach's alpha, Dijkstra-Henseler's rho (RhoA), composite reliability (CR), and the convergent validity through the average variance extracted (AVE), achieving the thresholds required (Table 4).

The Fornell-Larcker criterion (1981), the heterotrait-monotrait ratio of correlations, HTMT (Henseler et al., 2015) (Table 5), and the examination of cross-loadings (Table 6) are the approaches for assessing discriminant validity in variance-based structural equation modeling and meets the required thresholds. Thus, we can conclude that the measurement model meets the requirements established by the criteria mentioned above and is sufficient.

Before evaluating the structural model, it is necessary to check whether severe multicollinearity exists among predictor constructs. Also, the model's predictive power and, finally, the significance and importance of the standardized beta coefficients (standardized inner weights, usually beta coefficients) and the effect sizes (f²), must be measured (Table 7).

Referring to the collinearity analysis among the predictors, the variance inflation factor (VIF) value threshold under 3.3 (Kock, 2015) has been established, meaning that the multicollinearity between constructs is not severe. The obtained VIF values do not

indicate severe multicollinearity between the predictors, in this case, composites. The effects size f^2 are included, revealing that the higher value concerns the community involvement in intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown.

The model's explanatory and predictive power can be evaluated using two criteria: the coefficient of determination R^2 and the Q^2 coefficient Stone-Geisser, respectively. The minimum recommended value of $R^2 \ge 0.1$ (Falk and Miller, 1992) was met. However, these coefficients are weak for community involvement $(R^2 = 0.196)$ and moderate for place attachment $(R^2 = 0.293)$ and Gen Z's intentions to work in tourism in their WHS hometown $(R^2 = 0.296)$ according to the thresholds (Hair et al. 2019). On the other hand, concerning the Stone-Geisser coefficient, after applying an omission error of 6, the crossed-validated redundancy value obtained reveals that it is not a predictive model (Hair-Jr et al. 2017).

Figure 1 depicts a graphic representation of the path diagram for the estimated model. Meanwhile, Fig. 2 depicts the five two-path mediated and two three-path mediated effects.

All the constructs have a direct, positive influence on intentions to work in the tourism industry in the WHS hometown. The greatest strength of the direct effects when explaining intentions to work comes from the largest coefficient – in this case, community involvement ($\beta = 0.366$, p < 0.05) – while positive perceptions ($\beta = 0.135$, p < 0.05) and place attachment ($\beta = 0.137$, p < 0.05) are equally relevant, with a similar magnitude. In the case of negative perceptions, the direct effect on intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown is not

Table 2 Descriptive analysis of indicators and outer loadings. Min. Max. Mean Std. Dev. Skewness **Kurtosis Outer loadings Items** Stat. Stat. Stat. Stat. **Statistic Statistic Statistic** >0.7 5 1.218 -0.8320.356 0.881 NFG1 315 2.67 NEG2 315 1 5 1.51 846 4.926 2.077 NEG3 315 5 2.08 1.212 -0.2070.885 1 5 NEG4 315 1 3.66 1.026 -0.008-0.58NFG5 315 5 272 1 101 -0.450.348 0.695 1 PART1 315 1 5 3 37 1 191 -0.659-0.3970.793 PART2 315 1 5 3.00 1.209 -0.818-0.0170.891 5 315 -0.576PART3 1 2.81 1.176 0.198 0.875 PART4 315 1 5 3.95 .933 -0.21-0.6330.745 PART5 315 1 5 2.46 1.189 -0.6370.451 0.746 5 PLACE1 315 1 2.77 1.352 -1.0710.181 0.906 PLACE2 315 1 5 1.97 0.367 1.151 1.06 0.762 5 2.74 -1.035PLACE3 315 1.349 0.207 0.897 PLACE4 315 1 5 4.06 .998 0.248 -0.9020.729 315 1 5 2 59 1333 -0.9010 394 0.909 PLACE5 POS1 315 2 5 4.64 .673 4.243 -2.085POS₂ 315 1 5 3.40 1.049 -0.324-0.3490.788 5 POS3 315 3.13 1.027 -0.303-0.0970.800 1 POS4 315 1 5 2.73 1.275 -1.0770.189 0.809 POS5 315 5 2.99 1.020 -0.3240.055 0.796 WORK1 315 1 5 3.76 1.106 -0.022-0.740.797 315 5 -0.817WORK2 1 3 13 1206 -0.1040.873 5 WORK3 315 1 3.21 1.141 -0.482-0.2690.901 WORK4 315 1 5 3.52 1.035 -0.159-0.4890.827 5 WORK5 315 2.91 1.029 -0.1750.15 1 0.724 Valid N 315

N sample size, Min. minimum, Max. maximum, Stat. statistics Source: Own elaboration from Ringle et al. (2015).

Table 3 Descr	iptive sociodemograp	hic.	
Category		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	16-18	56	15.30
	19-21	118	32.24
	22-26	192	52.46
Sex	Woman	245	66.94
	Man	120	32.79
	Other	1	0.27
Education level	High Education	202	55.19
	High School or similar	63	17.21
	Primary	34	9.29
N (original samp	ole size)=366		
Source: Own elaborat	ion from SPSS.	·	

significant (β = 0.056, ns). Table 8 shows the analysis of the significance of the different effects and final decision.

Next, we will analyze the significance and relevance of the direct and indirect effects. Concerning direct effect, all hypotheses are supported except for H4 (negative perceptions have no impact on community involvement). And pertaining to indirect effects, H7, H9, and H13 are significant, and mediators are all partially collaborative. However, the indirect effect of negative perceptions on intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown (H8) and on place attachment (H10) are not significant; then, there is no mediation in these cases. Additionally, community involvement and place attachment are partial collaborative – complementary – mediators between positive perceptions and intentions to work in tourism. Community involvement mediates between positive perceptions and place attachment. Finally, place

attachment is a partial collaborative mediator between community involvement and intentions to work in tourism. Whether the direct, total indirect, or total effects are significant or not, the decision about hypotheses and the type of mediation are displayed in Table 3. Lastly, in relation to total effects, they highlight the relevance of community involvement and positive perceptions followed by place attachment on intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown, being the smallest positive effect of negative perception (see Fig. 3).

Conclusions

Theoretical implications. This study contributes to filling the gap of in-depth research that analyzes the workforce in the tourism industry (Baum et al. 2016). It also responds to the need for future lines of research as proposed by various authors. Firstly, it aims to define the characteristics of the young people that will replace the older workers retiring from the tourism industry (Solnet et al., 2016). Secondly, it analyzes Generation Z's overall intentions to work in the tourism industry in their hometown without the bias of conducting specifically tourism-related studies (Goh and Lee, 2018). Thirdly, it highlights the need to better study the perceptions of young residents in the development process of a destination, particularly those designated as a WHS (Jaafar et al., 2015). This study responds to this and other questions based on an innovative model that explains the joint influence of the constructs of residents' perceptions of tourism, community involvement, and place attachment on young residents' intentions to work in the tourism industry in their WHS hometown.

On the other hand, our research enriches the scope of application of the TPB, confirming that attitudinal factors such as a positive perception of tourism development and place

7

Table 4 Item reliability. Internal consister	ncy reliability and converger	t validity.			
Constructs	Factor Loadings (Min.; Max.)	CA > 0.7	RhoA > 0.7	CR > 0.7	AVE > 0.5
Positive perceptions toward tourism development	(0.788; 0.809)	0.789	0.789	0.857	0.549
Negative perceptions toward tourism development	(0.695; 0.881)	0.397	0.402	0.767	0.397
Place attachment	(0.745; 0.891)	0.877	0.876	0.912	0.877
Community involvement	(0.729; 0.909)	0.85	0.85	0.894	0.850
Gen Z's intention to work in tourism in their WHS hometown	(0.724; 0.901)	0.872	0.877	0.907	0.872

CA Cronbach's alpha (Cronbach, 1951), RhoA Dijkstra-Henseler rho (pA) (Dijkstra and Henseler, 2015), CR Composite reliability (Werts et al., 1974), AVE Average variance extracted. Obtained from the *95% Confidence Intervals. Source: Own elaboration from Ringle et al. (2015).

Fornell-Larcker and HTMT Co	riterion				
Constructs	Positive perceptions toward tourism development	Negative perceptions toward tourism development	Place attachment	Community involvement	Gen Z's Intention to wor in tourim in their WHS hometown
Positive perceptions toward tourism development	0.799	0.635	0.556	0.516	0.445
Negative perceptions toward tourism development	0.373	0.793	0.478	0.322	0.351
Place attachment	0.480	0.296	0.844	0.464	0.404
Community involvement	0.439	0.219	0.411	0.812	0.554
Gen Z's intention to work in tourism in their WHS hometown	0.383	0.227	0.369	0.494	0.827

Cross Loading	g criterion				
	Constructs				
Indicators	Positive perceptions toward tourism development	Negative perceptions toward tourism development	Place attachment	Community involvement	Gen Z's intention to work in tourism in their WHS hometown
1.1 POS2	0.788	0.255	0.450	0.418	0.284
1.3 POS3	0.800	0.400	0.351	0.260	0.338
1.4 POS4	0.809	0.284	0.376	0.372	0.332
1.5 POS5	0.796	0.263	0.340	0.334	0.269
2.1 NEG1	0.321	0.881	0.251	0.253	0.198
2.5 NEG5	0.270	0.695	0.220	0.060	0.162
3.1 PLACE1	0.377	0.313	0.906	0.323	0.304
3.2 PLACE2	0.419	0.256	0.762	0.350	0.315
3.3 PLACE3	0.385	0.273	0.897	0.336	0.323
3.4 PLACE4	0.454	0.106	0.729	0.374	0.298
3.5 PLACE5	0.377	0.297	0.909	0.343	0.311
4.1 PART1	0.361	0.119	0.354	0.793	0.329
4.2 PART2	0.351	0.168	0.311	0.891	0.410
4.3 PART3	0.317	0.191	0.338	0.875	0.419
4.4 PART4	0.340	0.169	0.363	0.745	0.480
4.5 PART5	0.409	0.236	0.296	0.746	0.349
5.1 WORK1	0.240	0.075	0.211	0.359	0.797
5.2 WORK2	0.275	0.199	0.367	0.450	0.873
5.3. WORK3	0.272	0.209	0.318	0.454	0.901
5.4 WORK4	0.311	0.132	0.232	0.359	0.827
5.5 WORK5	0.454	0.280	0.356	0.396	0.724

attachment influence the decisional variable (intentions to work in the WHS hometown). The community involvement variable is also confirmed as a factor of subjective norms. However, negative perceptions of tourism have not been determined to be a factor of perceived behavioral control.

The results of this study show how young residents' positive perceptions of tourism development have a direct, positive

influence on community involvement, which confirms the findings of authors (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2017; Latkova and Vogt, 2012; Ko and Stewart, 2002). In contrast, the direct effect of Generation Z's negative perceptions of tourism development through WHS consideration on community involvement is not significant. These results are in line with the conclusions of Gursoy et al. (2002) and Jaafar et al. (2015). These perceived costs

samples, percentile configuration, one-tailed. Source: Own elaboration from Ringle et al. (2015)

Table 7 Measures of model's explanatory and predictive power and inner variance inflation factors. **Dependent Constructs Explanatory and predictive** Inner variance inflation factor Effect size f^2 **VIF** ≤ 3.3 power R² Minimum cutoff Q² (Predictive Constructs Constructs $R^2 \ge 0.1$ if $Q^2 > 0$) 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4. Community Involvement 0.196 Weak 0.122 Small 1.161 1.161 0.185 0.004 0.293* Place Attachment Moderate 0.189 Small 1.376 1.166 1.245 0.111 0.018 0.066 Gen Z's Intention to Work in tourism in 0.296* Moderate 0.183 Small 1.529 1.187 1.326 0.017 0.004 0.144 0.019 1.414 their WHS hometown Note: 1. Positive perceptions toward tourism development; 2. Negative perceptions toward tourism development; 3. Place Attachment; 4. Community Involvement. *p < 0.05. Test by bootstrapping 5000

4.3 PLACE3 4.2 PLACE2 4.4 PLACE4 0.897 * 4.1 PLACE1 0.762 0.729 4.5 PLACES 0.906 1.2 POS2 0.909 0,293 5.1 WORK1 4. PLACE 0.788 1.3 POS3 ATTACHMENT 0.329 0.800 1.4 POS4 + 0.809 0.137 * 0,797 5.2 WORK2 1.5. POS5 0.135 1. POSITIVE 0.121 * PERCEPTIONS 5.3. WORK3 **TOWARD** 0.901 0.296 TOURISM 2.1 NEG1 0.240 * DEVELOPMENT 0.827 0.415 0.056 5. GEN Z'S 5.4 WORK4 INTENTION 0.724 TO WORK IN 0.366 * TOURISM IN THEIR WHS 5.5 WORK5 HOMETOWN 0.695* 2. NEGATIVE 0.064 PERCEPTIONS (ns) TOWARD 3.5 COMM5 2.5 NEG5 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT 3.4 COMM4 0.875 0.793 3. COMMUNITY 0.891 INVOLVEMENT 3.3 COMM3 3.1 COMM1

Source: Prepared by the authors based on Ringle et al. (2015). Note: Not significant; *, p < 0.05.

Fig. 1 The estimated model path diagram. This illustration provides the outcomes derived from SmartPLS.

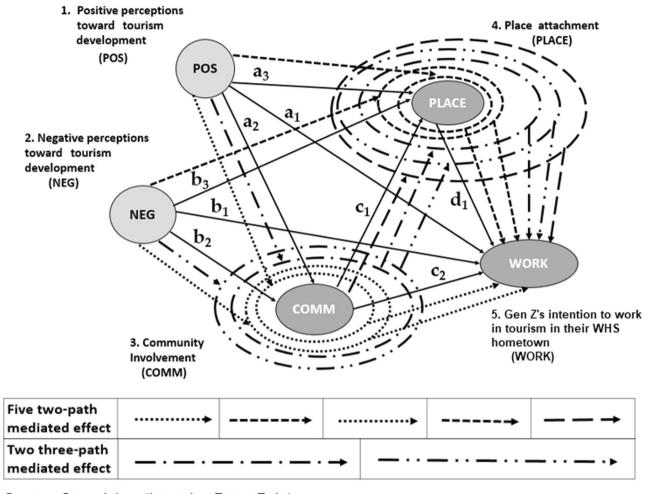
3.2 COMM2

may be mitigated by the importance of the community's place in improving the local economy. Consequently, residents may underestimate the cost and overestimate the economic gains. However, there is no unanimity in the direct effects of negative perceptions on community involvement. The results are contradictory, as some academics reported negative direct effects (Latkova and Vogt, 2012; Nicholas et al., 2009; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2015); meanwhile, there is no significant influence by other authors according to our result. Therefore, although residents are aware of the costs associated with tourism development in their community, it does not impede them from actively participating in their commitment to the community in promoting and supporting Antequera as a WHS.

This analysis is also intended to shed some light on discrepancies among the scientific community regarding the influence of residents' perception of tourism on place attachment. It shows how young people's positive perceptions of tourism development have a direct, positive effect on place attachment, creating a sense of belonging, which is in line with conclusions by Bett (2005) and contradicts the claims of Jaafar et al. (2015). Nevertheless, we agree with these authors about the indirect influence of positive perceptions on place attachment through the mediating role of community involvement.

In terms of the influence of young people's perceptions of tourism on their intentions to work in the sector, this study concludes that their positive perceptions of tourism development have a direct, positive impact on their motivation to work in the tourism industry. In contrast, their negative perceptions do not have any direct effect.

Regarding the positive effect of negative perceptions of tourism development on place attachment, this finding sheds light on the existing discrepancies in the scientific literature, aligning with



Source: Own elaboration using PowerPoint.

Fig. 2 Visualization of mediating effect on the path diagram. This illustration shows the five two-path mediated and two three-path mediated effects.

Jaafar et al.'s (2015) position. This fact is particularly significant as young residents, who are more attached to Antequera, perceive tourism development more negatively.

With regard to indirect effects, positive perceptions affect positively intentions to work in the WHS hometown through place attachment and community involvement. Also, community involvement impacts positively on intentions to work through place attachment, and positive perceptions influence place attachment through community involvement. However, place attachment and community involvement do not mediate between negative perceptions and intentions to work in tourism. Also, community involvement does not mediate between negative perceptions and place attachment. These indirect results represent an important advance in the scientific literature in this industry, given the lack of specific prior studies that analyze these relationships or consider destinations that have been declared a WHS. The direct, positive influence of beneficial perceptions of tourism is in line with evidence from specific studies like that of Goh and Lee (2018), which shows that Generation Z considers it exciting to work in the tourism industry, bringing them closer to new cultures and experiences (Buzinde et al., 2018).

We believe that one of the reasons why negative perceptions do not directly influence the intentions to work in the tourism industry in the WHS hometown may be because there is no perception of tourism as a threat (as shown in the descriptive analysis of the variables of this construct). Nevertheless, there is an indirect influence through place attachment. The reason may lie that this

variable (place attachment) is influenced by negative perceptions and other constructs (positive perceptions and community involvement) that have a greater effect on the mediating variable.

This study also supports the finding that community involvement in promoting and supporting a WHS has a direct, positive influence on place attachment, thereby confirming the results of numerous prior studies (Jaafar et al., 2015; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2013; Gursoy et al., 2002; Nicholas et al., 2009; Yung and Chan, 2011). Thus, aspects such as territorial intelligence become a key tool to promote sustainable and balanced tourism, taking into account the needs and aspirations of local communities and contributing to the socioeconomic development of territories in harmony with their identity and heritage (Llanez Anaya and Sacristán Rodríguez, 2021).

Nevertheless, the lack of prior studies on the influence of community involvement on intentions to work in the tourism industry in the WHS hometown makes these findings especially relevant. Community involvement has the most relevant total effect (direct and indirect) of all the constructs that influence intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown. This strong relationship may be because young people actively promote and support the WHS, gain in-depth knowledge of the associated tourism development, and are more in tune with the appeal and excitement of working in this sector.

Practical implications. Generation Z is entering the job market, and this will be a determining factor for the future of the tourism

I	Path	Direct Effect	Sig	Decision	I	Path	Total Indirect Effect	Sig	Decision	Type mediation	VAF	Total Effect
도	POS→WORK	0.135*	Yes	Supp.	Н7	POS→WORK	0.211***	Yes	Supp.	Part. Collab.	0.610	0.346***
£ 7	POS+COMM	0.415*	Yes	Supp.	9	304 Id. 20d	**	1 >	1 0		1 0	0.415***
2	rOs√rEACE	0.529	מט	onbp.	È	TO3→TLACE	000	מט	onbb.	collaborative	0.304	0.479
H2	NEG→WORK	0.056 (ns)	%	Supp.	8	NEG→WORK	0.042	%	Reject	No mediation,	ı	*860.0
							(ns)			only direct		
4	NEG→COMM	0.064 (ns)	٥ Z	Reject		1	ı	1	1	, ,	ı	0.064 (ns)
9	NEG→PLACE	0.121*	Yes	Supp.	H10	NEG→PLACE	0.015 (ns)	°Z	Reject	No mediation, only direct	ı	0.136*
=	XAOW_MMOO	****	>	Ö	ij	MW WWO DEK	**	>	S	effect Dartial	0.082	****
			5		2		0.00	5	odpp.	collaborative	0.00	0.00
H12	COMM→PLACE	0.240***	Yes	Supp.			1	1	1		1	0.240***
H14	PLACE→WORK	0.137*	Yes	Supp.		1	1	1	1	1	1	0.137*

industry (Solnet et al., 2016). Nevertheless, the scientific literature has found that young people from other cohorts (such as Millenials) have certain reservations about working in this sector (Duman et al., 2006). This study presents decisive evidence regarding the variables that serve as a means for this collective to want to work in this industry, enabling tourism companies and public institutions to make decisions to encourage the incorporation of young talent.

From this perspective, public institutions should take action for young residents to form positive perceptions of the area's tourism development. Improving these residents' quality of life and their pride in achieving the distinction as a WHS will considerably influence their positive perceptions of tourism development activity, resulting in greater intentions to work in the sector in their WHS hometown.

Public organizations and tourism companies should collaborate with young people from Generation Z to actively promote and support WHSs. On the one hand, these actions will increase their desire to work in the tourism industry and, on the other, increase their sense of belonging as a result of place attachment with Antequera, which will once again increase their desire to work in tourism.

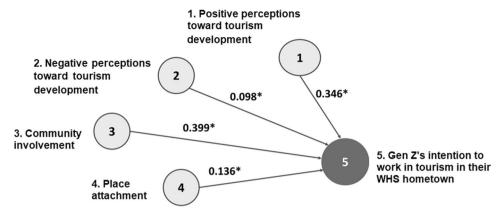
The confirmation that community involvement positively influences intentions to work in the tourism industry in the WHS hometown, and that this is the construct with the biggest effect on this desire, brings to light a series of significant challenges for public-private collaboration in the field of tourism.

Consequently, local public institutions have to find the most appropriate communication links with these young people so that any activity associated with promoting the cultural heritage of Antequera will reach the largest possible number of people enabling them to participate. Furthermore, these institutuions should aim for a high degree of the involvement of these young people beyond merely attending these activities, instead also actively connecting people to develop these activities. The impact will be even greater if companies in the sector get involved in these activities through sponsorships or patronage. Similarly, it is crucial for private companies and tourism institutions to actively collaborate, to avoid tourism development leading to Generation Z forming negative perceptions of this sector. Conservation measures will be essential to protect the heritage site and the environment.

Lastly, recruiters and talent managers in the tourism industry should plan young people's professional careers by emphasizing the industry's dynamism and associated emotions and experiences to attract Generation Z. We also believe that tourism companies' participation in talks and debates with young students about professional opportunities in the tourism industry will be a determining factor. They should also be involved in training programs, including professional internships associated with tourism and specific courses taught in public and private institutions.

This study reveals various limitations and lays the foundations for future research. Firstly, the data refers to cross-section data. So, it would be advisable to conduct a longitudinal analysis over time to see how these perceptions evolve. Secondly, the data was collected right before the onset of COVID-19 and its associated consequences for Antequera as a WHS tourist destination.

Future research lines. Therefore, future studies need to replicate this study in other WHS destinations. Also, it is recommended to expand the field of research, analyzing the antecedents of intentions to work in tourism in the WHS hometown. It would also be interesting to use post-COVID-19 information to track the evolution of young people's intentions to work in the tourism



Source: Own elaboration using PowerPoint . Note: p < 0.05.

Fig. 3 Total effects on the final endogenous variable. This nomogram despicts total effects on Generation Z's intention to work in tourism in their WHS hometown.

industry. Finally, we recommend expanding the number of variables that influence their desire to work in tourism, such as personality or the corporate social responsibility of the tourism companies that currently offer work to Generation Z.

Data availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available upon request from the authors.

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Author contributions

All authors contributed equally to this work.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Ethical approval

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. The study was approved by the Ethical Committee of Experimentation of University of Malaga-CEUMA- (No.109-2023-H).

Informed consent

The objectives and methods of the study were fully explained to the participants and electronic informed consent was obtained.

Additional information

Supplementary information The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-02349-8.

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