

# **Tourism as an opportunity for intercultural competence development**

**Živa Čeh**

*ziva.ceh@turistica.si*

## **Abstract**

This paper represents the search for connections between tourism, culture and intercultural competence development. When encountering other cultures, we are offered countless opportunities to develop our intercultural competence. However, we have to be aware of the fact that without motivation and openness, such encounters will not contribute to our intercultural skills development. Tourists and students of tourism frequently travel to other countries, but tend to spend time abroad in the company of their compatriots or other foreigners staying in that country. As a result, they do not spend much time with local inhabitants. Students often take part in different student exchange programmes and stay in other countries for longer periods of time. Nevertheless, if they are not motivated and open they may not contribute to intercultural competence development at all. The paper intends to offer several models of intercultural competence and insight into its development. This could be a modest contribution to the fact that in the future people should not be travelling to other destinations, but to other people.