

live within the carrying capacity of the system which you are part of, i.e. not breaking the dynamic balances that maintain the life. In the literature, the theme of sustainability usually refers to the renewable natural resources; for exhaustible resources, rather than sustainability, it would be correct to talk about the times and conditions of the resource's optimal exploitation (Spangenberg & Valentin, 1999). To set up sustainable development strategies, it is necessary to decide what should be the level of protection afforded to the natural resources and whether there might be a form of compensation between the different types of capital. From the economical point of view, we progressively became aware of the fact that the global development considered in a classical sense (i.e. linked exclusively with the economic growth) would soon cause the collapse of the natural systems and has led to the conclusion that the development is real if only the quality of life improves in the long term, so it is not only about economy and environment, but also about social development. (Lindberg and Johnson, 1997). Therefore, a wider concept of sustainability arises, which implies the ability of a development process to sustain over time the reproduction of global capital composed of the environmental, economic and human/social capital (Lombardi, 2011).

For tourism, a sector of primary importance in our country, the debate about sustainability is recent, but if properly set, may account for the close relationship between the strategies for the sustainable development and the governance of complexity. In relation to the socio-environmental limits of a certain tourist resort, we identify the carrying capacity, which involves pervasively different aspects: economic, infrastructural, social, environmental, which can in turn give rise to different impacts.

Tourism should undertake the path of sustainability in a strong way, in order to safeguard these natural, environmental, artistic and cultural factors that form the basis of its prospects development. This applies particularly for Italy, which should do a sustainable tourism the main competitive levers of its country's system. Venice is a city that has, in addition to a large number of tourists, ecosystems and habitats of a certain fragility and where there is, at the same time, an artistic-cultural heritage of great cultural value. It should be able to promote processes of retraining and modernization which enables it to deal with the contradiction that the tourism, inevitably, brings with itself. The goal of this paper is to understand if the city is dealing with the phenomenon in a effective and sustainable way, assessing whether the actions taken so far can be considered truly effective and valid for purpose to pursuit of a sustainable tourism development. The considerations will be made by presenting the main features of the tourism demand and a focus on some aspects related to the carrying capacity and the pressure exerted by the tourism on the City