



Tourism, Smart Specialization and Sustainable Development

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Message from the Guest Editor

This special issue addresses the role of tourism within strategies of smart specialization and its implications on the sustainable development of destinations, regions and/or countries. The concept of smart specialization inspired the formulation of regional innovation policies currently implemented in regions of the European Union (2014-2020), emphasizing the importance of endogenous resources and existing capabilities in each territory. This approach aims at exploring the regional variety of each economy in order to develop inter-sectorial relations, potentially generating spillover effects of innovation processes. Thus, the concept of smart specialization may be applied in other geographical contexts, not being limited to the European area. As an activity that mobilizes contributions from different economic sectors, tourism may play a central role in smart specialization strategies, by exploring those sectorial interconnections and potential innovative approaches to the utilization of local resources.





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