

NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES 2022

FOCUS SESSIONS - FS

FS-IC01

ROOTS TOURISM AND AUTHENTICITY AS TOOLS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION IN INLAND VILLAGES

Keywords: Roots Tourism; Cultural Tourism; Sustainability; Ghost Villages; Authenticity.

Development problems do not affect only third world countries. Even in western economies there are isolated and less developed inland areas and small towns and villages that often suffer from unemployment and depopulation. For these areas, some forms of sustainable tourism could represent the driving productive sectors, especially if they are developed along a path that does not have a negative impact on the local socio-cultural and economic fabric.

In a panorama of this type roots tourism seems the right target to address to. It is a macro-segment of heritage tourism that includes different forms of vacations by people who are part of ethnic minorities or communities afflicted in the past by large outgoing migration. They want to know their homeland of origin, repossess their roots and experience the lifestyles of their country of origin, so they visit these places, meet relatives and friends, buy traditional local products and food and try to live the atmosphere of those places. They try to experience authenticity and local lifestyle feeling part of the community. This desire, if well satisfied, could become the instrument to favour sustainable tourism development, also thanks to the spread of sharing economy.

The session welcomes theoretical or case studies based in-depth contributions on these issues.

CHAIRS

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