



Special Session (SS02) on:

Creative tourism and local/regional development

Organizers:

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The aim and scope:

Even if the concept the concept of Creative Tourism emerged twenty years ago, the definition of what is Creative Tourism keeps being discussed and different approaches to it are available. Having born in the in late 1990s, it developed rapidly. This rapid evolution was due to the fact that it has emerged from a very open, flexible, and local context design, enabling the development of personal capacity, authentic experiences, and involving local culture and populations. This new approach to tourism envisages bringing together local people, their habits and their practices in real and everyday context to the heart of the tourism experience provided to visitors and, as such, looks to be a promising path towards local and regional development. This keeping in mind, one can wonder if Creative Tourism can really be a lever for development and sustainability. From the literature available, we have to conclude that most of the authors that have been making research on Creative Tourism take its beneficial impacts on territories as a kind of “belief”. Such effect is not granted as beneficial impacts on communities’ wellbeing do not result just from the kind of resources explored or from the participation of members of the community on the products/services supplied.

The thematic session seeks submissions that attempt to address the following key issues, including (but not limited to) the following themes:

1. The debate on the concept of Creative Tourism;
2. Good and not so good practices in Creative Tourism;
3. Co-creative tourism experiences;
4. Motivations and profiles of creative tourists;
5. The role of communities and of other stakeholders in putting in practice Creative Tourism experiences aiming to enhance local and regional development;
6. Is Creative Tourism an opportunity for tourism development of small cities and low density territories and for sustainability?
7. Future challenges for Creative Tourism.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT