

Tourism, hiking trails and local development

Session type: Oral presentation/Panel

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The purpose of this panel is to examine the state of tourism activities related to hiking and local development. In recent years there has been an increase in the practice of hiking in rural areas. This activity has suffered transformations in recent decades moving from leisure to a tourist activity that can increase the number and period of stay of tourists generating economic benefits locally, contributing with the maintenance of young population in rural areas, job creation, rural diversification, urban regeneration and tourism development. This type of tourism is an alternative to the target areas, which can be inserted into local development strategies. In addition, we must consider the diversification of tourist activities and the pressures that go with it and its links (global-local, urban-rural). In some cases these activities radically transformed the territories becoming active agents of change at the level of environmental, economic and social development.

The panel invites papers related to these aspects as well as the relationships between tourism experiences, motivations, impacts and the hiking trails.