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The Impact of Tourist Activities on Low-Density Territories

Evaluation Frameworks, Lessons, and Policy Recommendations



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Transformation to Seasonal Villages: Second-Home Tourism as Initiator of Rural Diversification



Aleksandra Terzić and Biljana Petrevska

1 Introduction

The core objective of this study is to examine the process of transforming low-density rural areas from permanent to seasonal (second-home tourism) settlements. Tourism is considered a powerful tool in the substitution of an ongoing abandonment process with seasonal vitality. Small peripheral villages from Southern and Eastern Serbia (SES) were used as the case study, in line of contributing to the literature on the general phenomenon of depopulation of rural areas. Further, possibilities for prolonging rural vitality by second-home tourism expansion were examined. In this manner, the study clarifies that some peripheral villages have good preconditions for using tourism as a sort of sustainable development strategy. However, tourism development may also become an initiator of gentrification process in rural areas.

A common characteristic of rural communities is their adaptation ability concerning survival. They seem to be able to change their way of living due to the circumstances they face: income system vulnerability, resiliency, and sensitivity (Ellis 2000). So, by coping with their bare existence and searching for a way out from the economic collapse and global changes (depopulation, migration, the decline in agricultural production, unemployment, rural poverty, climate change, etc.), tourism is seen as a chance. Introducing tourism in impoverished rural

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