EUROPEAN COMMISSION
European Research Area

ernest
European Research NEtwork
on Sustainable Tourism

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

ANNEX II. Extension of Research Topics

Note:

The sub-topics listed in Annex II. are only examples, for this reason the project proposals research scope can address other topics, provided the subject matter of the research falls under the research pillars and fields listed under Section 3.1 Research Topics. of the ERNEST JCP & Guidelines for Applicants, and is supported by the respective regional funding programmes. Not all research topics listed below are supported by all the funding programmes, the potential participants are therefore requested to check this aspect with their funding agencies before submitting the proposal.

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Figure 2 (below)[1] illustrates the connection between the two pillars as coordinated by public government. The ERNEST project will analyse and follow this approach in the field of research on sustainable tourism in order to promote policy development in this area.
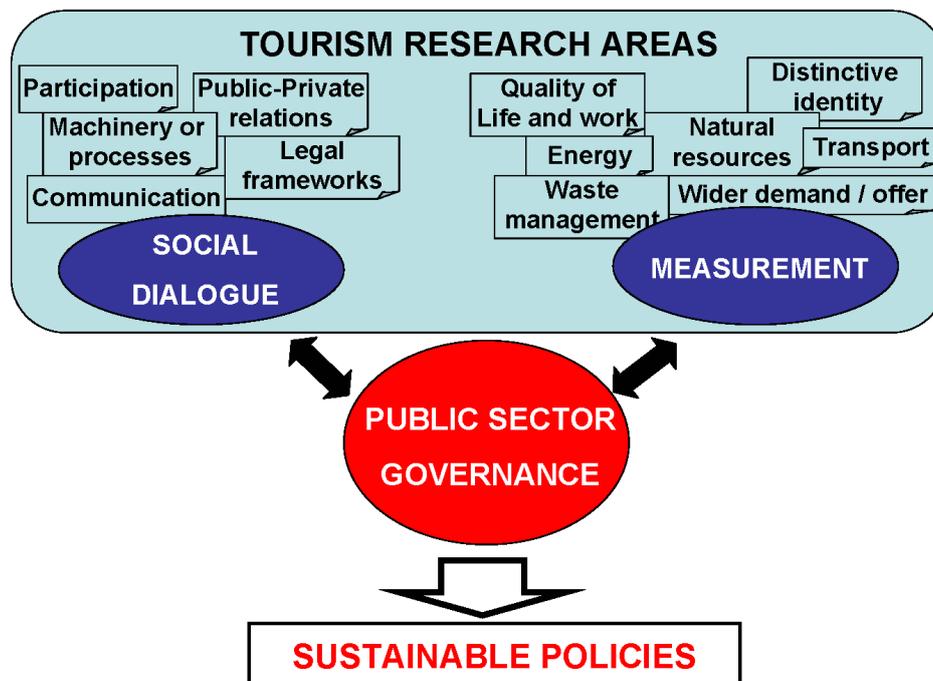

Figure 2: the two pillar approach

Impact of Transport

This means verifying the theme of mobility versus competitiveness and sustainability: the accessibility of the destinations with regard to air, railway and road transportation. It means local public transport means, low impact mobility such as cycling routes, horse riding tracks, light tourism infrastructures

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[1] ERNEST Project, annex I, Table 1: Summary of Research Areas

Quality of life of residents

In the tourist destinations the quality of life of residents is very important. Research into this field means monitoring and evaluating the possible conflicts between the two types of populations. Tourism must not worsen the quality of life of the inhabitants.

Quality of work

It is necessary to evaluate, with regard to the various tourist services, the quality and dynamics of employment, investigating the quality of employment, the respect of contracts, adequate staff training and professional update measures.

De-seasonalization

Tourist fluxes are often very concentrated in time and space. It is necessary to scientifically evaluate these dynamics in order to find ways to better distribute the tourists in time and space and promote new destinations in order to reduce the overcrowding of the well-known places.

Reduction and optimization of use of natural resources with particular reference to water

Very often, in some periods of the year, the tourists can generate problems connected with the use of resources. Water usage in tourist facilities is a crucial theme. Every type of destination has its specificity with regard to water usage: spas, islands, rural areas etc.

Reduction and optimization of energy consumption

It is important to verify the impact of tourism on energy use. This means for instance finding relations between electricity & fuel needs respectively of residents and tourists, or measuring the quality of air or putting in place energy-saving policies.

Reduction of waste and better waste management

Waste management is a very important theme. The local administrations have to face a significant increase of waste amounts in the tourist high seasons. The tourist enterprises need help in the qualification of their services. We need to raise the level of awareness of citizens, businesses and tourists with respect to appropriate waste recycling.

Active conservation of distinctive identities of destinations

The identity of the destinations is often the main driving force for tourism. Diversity originates the motivation to travel and visit other destinations. On the other hand, tourism can compromise the character and identity of the places. Measuring and preventing the loss of identity in the destinations is a challenging research theme.

Active conservation of the Cultural heritage,

Art & history destinations are potentially endangered by tourism and therefore need to be protected. Research into this theme could focus on how to measure and regulate tourist flows and tourist arrivals, and on the development of cultural heritage management models

Active conservation of the Environmental heritage,

This point is about parks, landscape, nature. It is necessary to monitor the compatibility between the wishes and lifestyles of visitors and the need to preserve these environmental resources for the use of future generations. These are very complex themes which require sophisticated research and analyses.