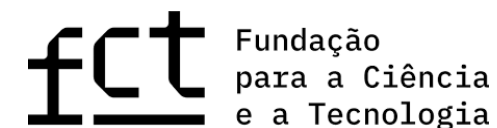


Exploring the role of lifestyle migrant entrepreneurs in the creation of sustainable rural tourism activities in the Algarve

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Title: Exploring the role of lifestyle migrant entrepreneurs in the creation of sustainable rural tourism activities in the Algarve

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Proposal and Originality

This presentation reports on some of the findings of the ongoing, exploratory T-rELMA (Tourism-related Entrepreneurial Lifestyle Migration in the Algarve) research project, financed by the FCT. The particular focus of this paper is on the type of tourism activities, products and experiences envisaged and created by lifestyle migrant entrepreneurs (LMEs) and how they may contribute to, and impact on, the sustainable development of tourism in rural spaces in the Algarve.

Methodology

The findings discussed are based on in-depth interviews with 36 lifestyle migrant entrepreneurs across the inland Algarve region, representing a range of nationalities and businesses including accommodation units, campsites, wellness retreats, nature-based tourism and F&B.

Results and Implications

The emerging findings suggest that the activities of LMEs have the potential to impact positively on the sustainable development of both tourism and rural spaces, namely through the creation of small-scale businesses which contribute to the supply of appropriate and increasingly sought-after rural tourism experiences as well as to the settlement of people in areas previously characterised by dwindling and ageing populations. However, this potential is hindered by a lack of networking, communication, support and cooperation among all the stakeholders involved.

Research Limitations

As a qualitatively-driven study, the findings may not be representative of all LME activity in the region, making generalised conclusions difficult to arrive at.

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