

# The role of local councils: Tourism-related Entrepreneurial Lifestyle Migration in the Algarve

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### **Proposal and Originality**

The aims of this paper are to identify and account for local public policies and measures from municipalities that might provide economic, legislative and operational backup to support businesses operating in the tourism service sector owned and run by Lifestyle Migrants entrepreneurs (LMEs) who have moved to the rural areas of the Algarve (Portugal). This paper is part of the FCT financed research project T-rELMA (Tourism-related Entrepreneurial Lifestyle Migration in the Algarve).

### **Methodology**

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the Algarve municipalities' heads of tourism or business, focusing on the councils' awareness of foreign entrepreneurs with tourism related business in the area, and impacts on the local community and the support the municipalities provide.

### **Results and Implications**

Although it is often claimed that entrepreneurship can play a key role in the sustainable socioeconomic development of rural areas, as long as stakeholders (public and private enterprise, local populations and tourists themselves) work together to cooperate in this goal, evidence from the interviews shows 1) lack of knowledge about LMEs; 2) lack of data on their respective businesses; 3) lack of departments and specific measures to support migrants settling and starting their businesses.

### **Research Limitations**

More interviews could have been conducted with heads of the 'juntas de freguesia' who are closer to the demands and needs of the local rural communities.

### **References Version APA 6th or 7th Edition**

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