Going ‘Monocultural’, ‘Sustainable’, or ‘Integral’: Three Scenarios for the Future Development of Dalmatia, Croatia

Petra Radeljak Kaufmann

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Geography
Study area

- Typical characteristics of karst landscapes, combining three zones: island, coastal, and hinterland
- 2011: population of 855,731
- Functional and physiognomical transformation since the mid-20th century
  - Industrialisation
  - Touristic development

Fig. 1 Geographical position of Dalmatia/Southern Croatian Littoral
Fig. 2 Population number by category of settlement in Dalmatia in 2011
Source: Census in 2011, Croatian Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb

- over concentration of population and economic activities in the coastal zone
- marginalisation processes: islands and the hinterland; rural depopulation and decline in economic production
Fig. 3 Vital index, 2001 – 2011
Source: Data on births and deaths 2001 – 2011, CBS
Methodology

- Literature review
- Selection of the final set of indicators for LGUs
- Factor analysis
- Selection of potential members of the Delphi panel
- Preparation and refinement of the first questionnaire
- Second Delphi round
- Preparation and refinement of the second questionnaire
- Scenario development
- Qualitative analysis of panelists’ responses
- First Delphi round

49 statistical indicators for LGUs in Dalmatia used in the factor analysis

8 groups of variables:
- population number and structure;
- demographic dynamics;
- population activity and employment;
- socio-economic structure of the population;
- characteristics of LGU budgets;
- characteristics of tourism development;
- central services array;
- housing structure and change, and level of construction land development.

two rounds of the Delphi method
an interdisciplinary panel consisting of 19 academics and planning practitioners explored possible future developments
Results

Six factors resulted from the FA:

1. Employment and generally dynamic economic activity;
2. Negative birth-to-death rate and population ageing;
3. Increase in population number and housing, with a significant share of second homes;
4. Population concentration;
5. Tourism development;
6. Generally lower economic activity, with orientation to primary and secondary sector.
Results

- Other factors considered important by panel members for recent development of Dalmatia
  - long-term consequences of the social and political system prior to the 1990s as well as the 1991-1995 Croatian War of Independence;
  - over orientation towards the service sector;
    - ‘the collapse of industrial production due to globalisation, transition, and the defective method of privatisation brought Croatia to a situation where, not being able to adjust quickly and develop technologically, it directed its development exclusively towards the service sector, first of all trade and tourism; where it did not find strengths and possibilities to restructure its economy and turn to new (sophisticated) industries’
  - transport infrastructure development;
  - governance issues and institutional capacity;
  - impact of the world economic crisis/ recession in Croatia since 2009.
MONOCULTURE OF TOURISM

- Tourism increasingly dominant in the economic and employment structure – to a limited degree tied with local agriculture, and to a higher degree with crafts, services, and the construction sector
- Infrastructural development
- Highly seasonal way of life in Dalmatia
- No significant improvement in the employment rate and economic dynamics, especially not by 2021
- Continuation of negative demographic processes
- Increase in the number of temporary residents
- Low levels of environmental protection, as well as innovation and technology

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

- Significantly diversified tourist offerings and highly positive effects on agriculture, manufacturing, small-scale industries, trade, and various services by 2031
- Sustainable use of resources
- Infrastructural development, along with the increasingly important role of smaller and middle sized urban centres influencing more balanced and spatially dispersed development
- Still, no significant demographic improvements
- Increase in the number of temporary residents
- Higher levels of knowledge and innovation

INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

- Reindustrialisation, knowledge industries and high levels of innovation and technology
- Besides tourism, employment connected with the production, entrepreneurship, and energy sectors, especially after 2021
- Yearlong activity and employment
- Migration of highly educated workers, especially in the surroundings of larger coastal cities and functionally stronger and diversified urban centres throughout the region
- Migration of pensioners to smaller coastal centres, larger and more accessible islands and parts of the hinterland

• Scenario implications were explored in the second Delphi round
This scenario was described as a realistic trend scenario where sustainable development in all aspects comes into question.

- Problem of seasonality of activities
- Spatial planning is expected to remain subjected to short-term, profit-oriented goals

MONOCULTURE OF TOURISM

- Tourism increasingly dominant in the economic and employment structure – to a limited degree tied with local agriculture, and to a higher degree with some crafts, services, and the construction sector
- Infrastructural development
- Highly seasonal way of life in Dalmatia
- No significant improvement in the employment rate and economic dynamics, especially not by 2021
- Continuation of negative demographic processes
- Increase in the number of temporary residents
- Low levels of environmental protection, as well as innovation and technology

• Tourism as the carrier of development, with positive effects on complementary sectors
• Higher level of use of locally based products and services
• Importance of planning economic and demographic development of urban centres and strategic planning as opposed to ‘partial solutions mainly driven by private initiative’

**SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

- Significantly diversified tourist offerings and highly positive effects on agriculture, manufacturing, small-scale industries, trade, and various services by 2031
- Sustainable use of resources
- Infrastructural development, along with the increasingly important role of smaller and middle sized urban centres influencing more balanced and spatially dispersed development
- Still, no significant demographic improvements
- Increase in the number of temporary residents
- Higher levels of knowledge and innovation

Source: [http://www.odrzivitourizam.hr/default.aspx?id=89](http://www.odrzivitourizam.hr/default.aspx?id=89)
INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

- Reindustrialisation, knowledge industries and high levels of innovation and technology
- Besides tourism, employment connected with the production, entrepreneurship, and energy sectors, especially after 2021
- Yearlong activity and employment
- Migration of highly educated workers, especially in the surroundings of larger coastal cities and functionally stronger and diversified urban centres throughout the region
- Migration of pensioners to smaller coastal centres, larger and more accessible islands and parts of the hinterland

- Most panellists described this as a desirable (although least likely!) development path and opportunity for different parts of Dalmatia to use their resources
- Requires very high levels of synergy, networking and a systematic approach to development planning
- Spatial planning as one of the elements within the concept of integral planning

Source: http://www.heightsit.com/solutions/
Conclusions

• By integrating the quantitative and qualitative parts of the research, three scenarios for Dalmatia until 2031 were developed: „Monoculture of tourism“, „Sustainable tourism“, and „Integral development“;

• The implications stemming from these development scenarios are relevant not only for spatial planning, but also the wider development context;
  • Only an integral approach to development results in balanced regional and local development.
Thank you for your attention!

CRORURIS 2030
radeljak@geog.pmf.hr

This work has been supported by the Croatian Science Foundation under the project number 4513. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Croatian Science Foundation.