

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

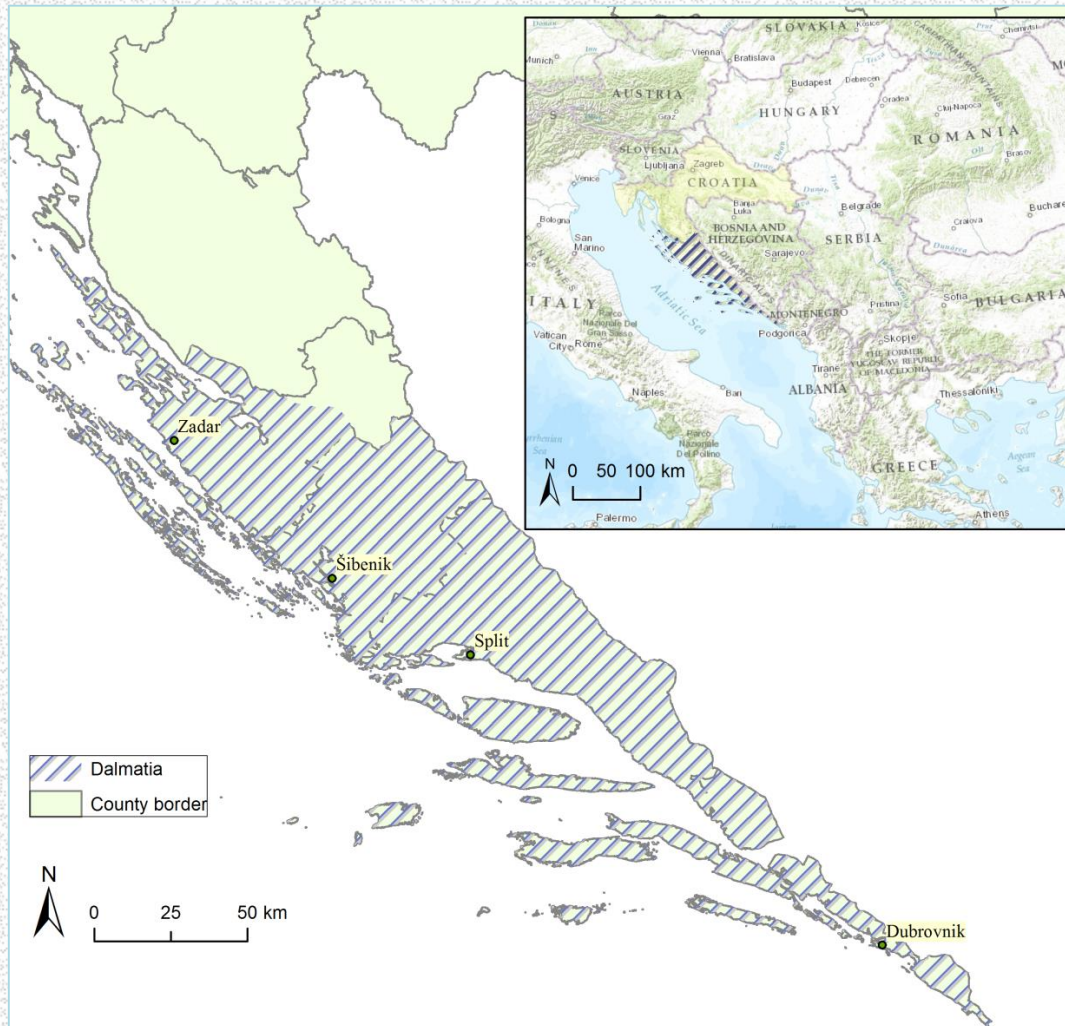
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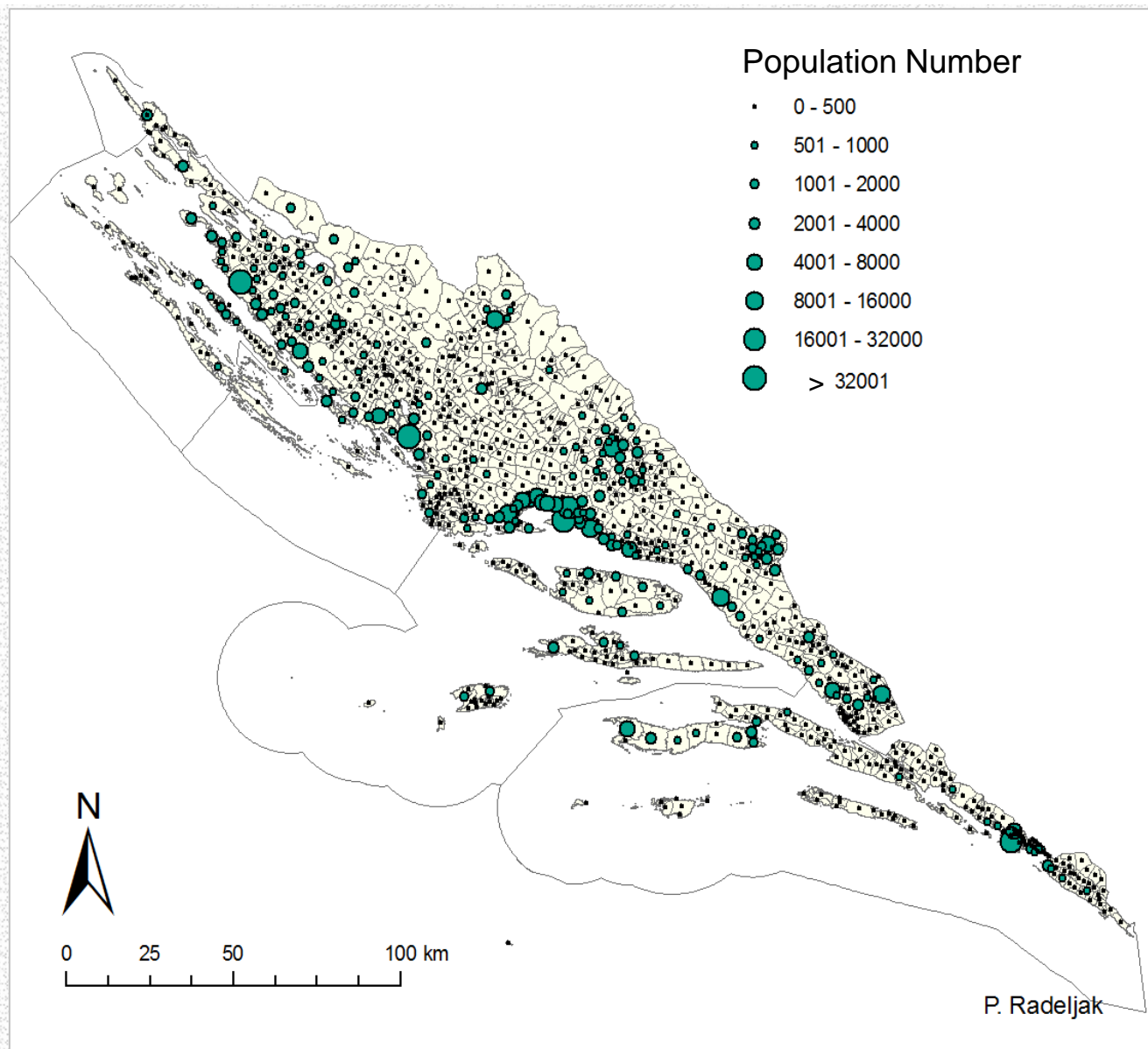


# Study area



- 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



- 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. 2 Population number by category of settlement in Dalmatia in 2011  
Source: Census in 2011, Croatian Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb



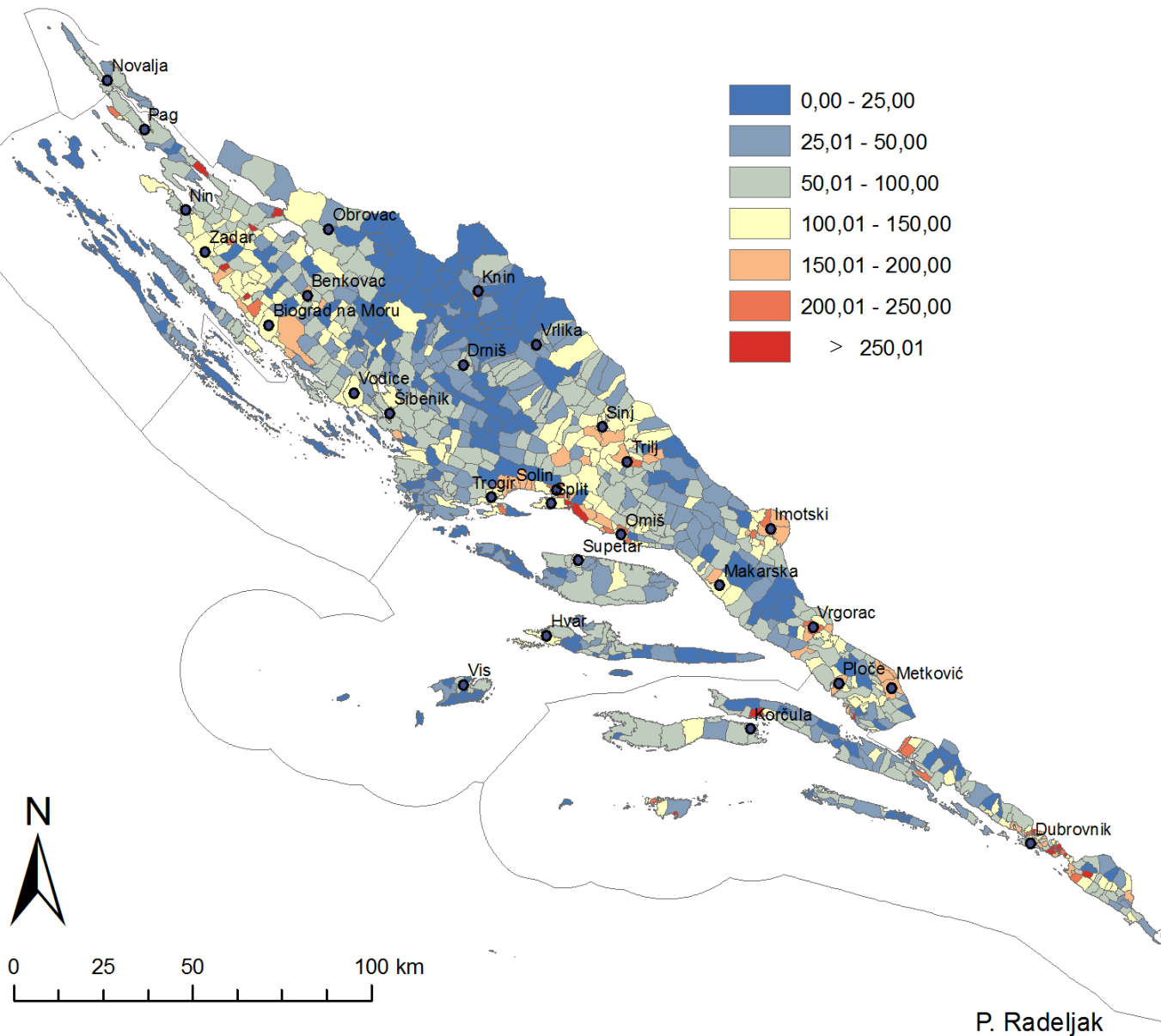
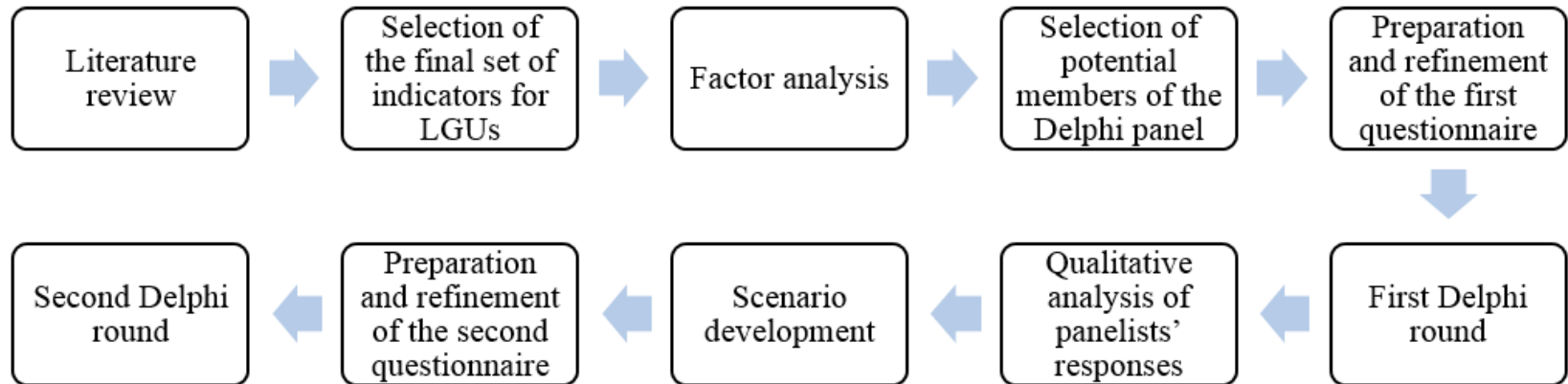


Fig. 3 Vital index,  
2001 – 2011  
Source: Data on  
births and deaths  
2001 – 2011, CBS

# Methodology

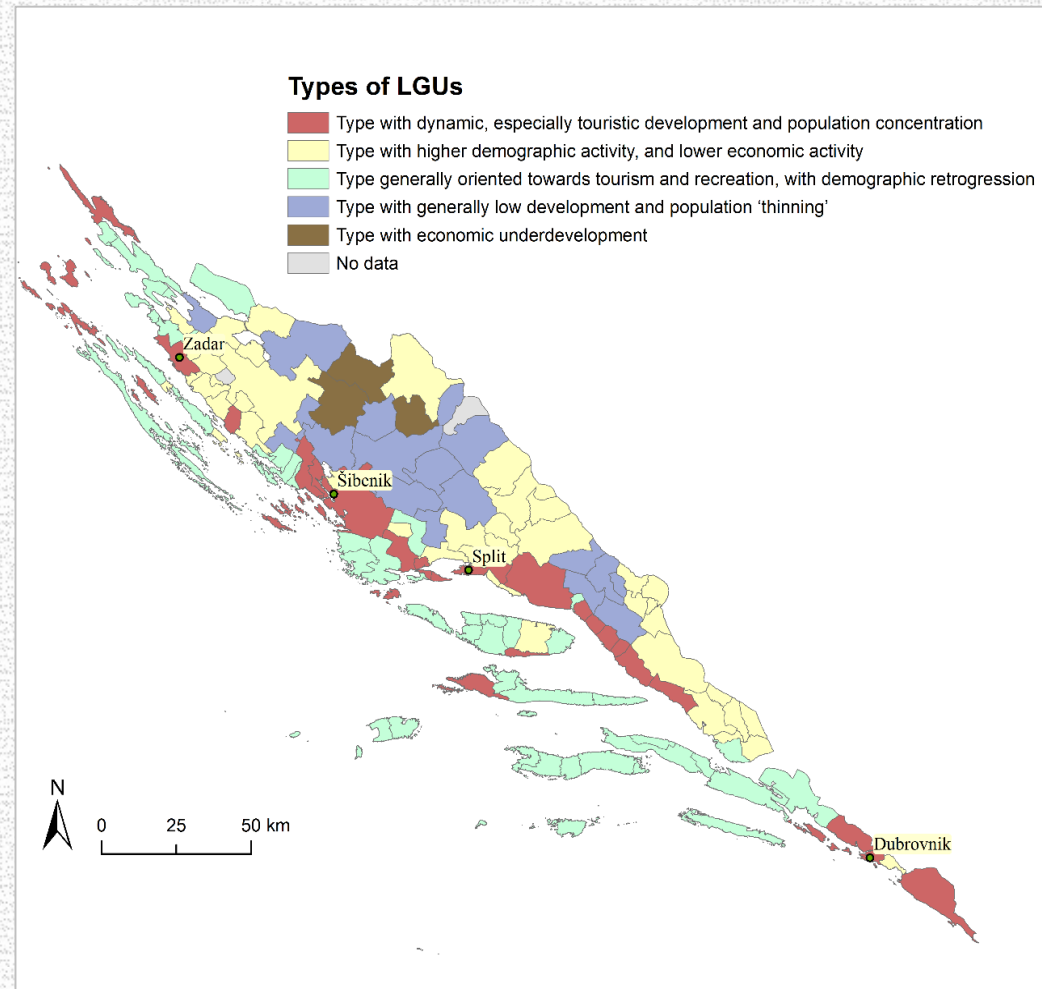


- 49 statistical indicators for LGUs in Dalmatia used in the factor analysis
- 8 groups of variables:
  - population number and structure;
  - demographic dynamics;
  - population activity and employment;
  - socio-economic structure of the population;
  - characteristics of LGU budgets;
  - characteristics 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



## MONOCULTURE OF TOURISM

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- Infrastructural development
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- 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

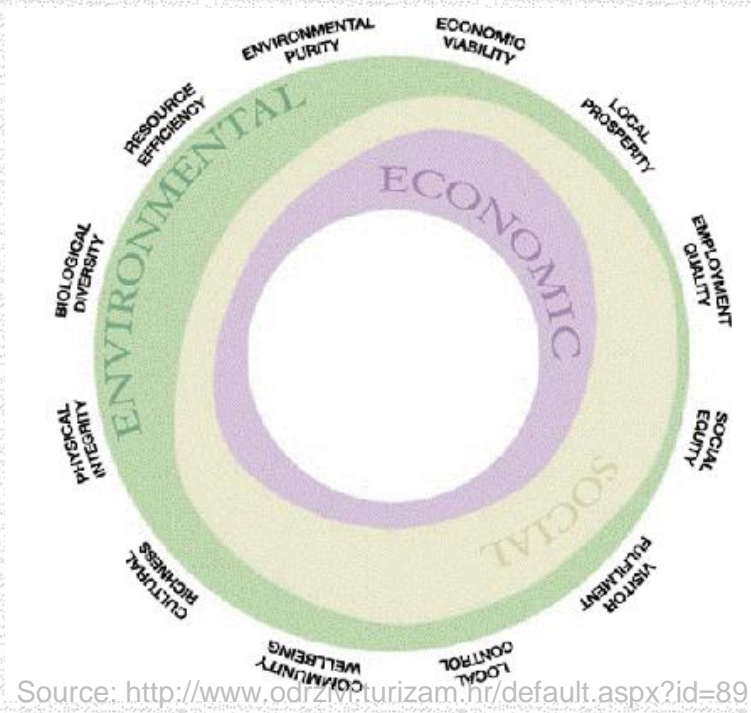


Source: <http://www.dugirat.com/novosti/76-gospodarstvo/17283-dugoročno-pogled-na-turističke-investicije>

- 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'

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- 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





# 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!

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