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The parable of the blind men and the elephant

Each person possesses a unique perspective and a valuable contribution to make. In the parable of the blind men and an elephant, we see the power of collaboration in action.

Though each blind man could only describe a small part of the elephant based on their limited perspective, by coming together and sharing their knowledge, they were able to create a complete picture of this magnificent creature.











Dr. Ko Koens

Professor of New Urban Tourism at Inholland University of Applied Sciences Breda University of Applied Sciences University of Johannesburg Founder Expertise Network Sustainable Urban Tourism











Expertise Network Sustainable Urban Tourism











Situation

During COVID hopeful narratives of transition of tourism like regenerative tourism, but has this transition materialized?

- People say they want more travel more sustainably, but when given a choice most choose for plane travel.
- Visitor pressure high in popular tourist destinations.
- Benefits of tourism not always maximized in destinations.
- Are we ready for the next big disruption?
- · And how will current thinking and ideas help us with this?











iversity of







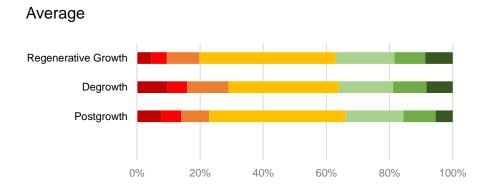




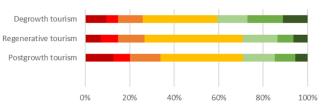


What do residents want?

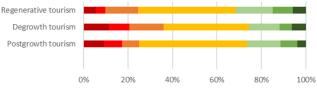
Perception of different concepts with regards to the future of tourism in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Barcelona (n = 3.063)

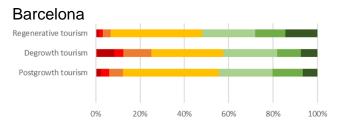


Amsterdam



Rotterdam





■1 - Very negative ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5 ■6 ■7 - Very positive



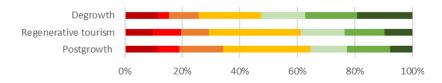




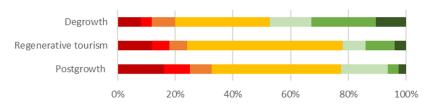


What do residents want? Further complications

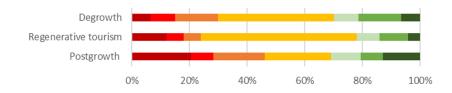
Centrum & surrounding neighborhoods (de Pijp, Oud Zuid, ...)



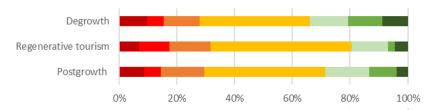
Regularly visited neighborhoods



Noord



Suburbs



■1 - Very negative ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5 ■6 ■7 - Very positive

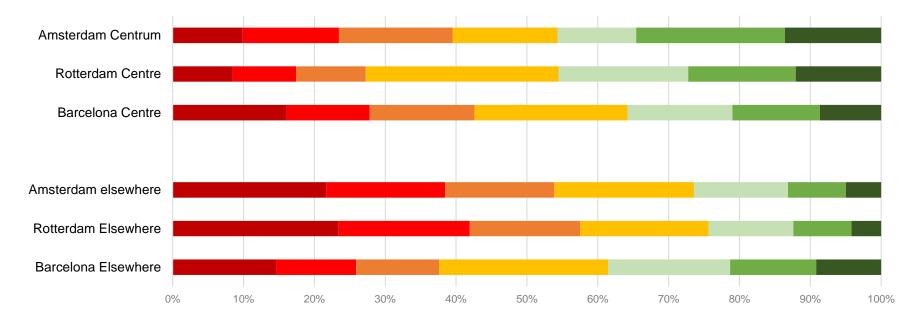






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Tourism fit with the character of the neighborhood



■1 - Very negative ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5 ■6 ■7 - Very positive



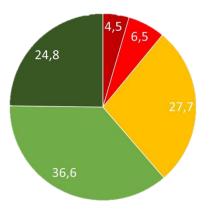


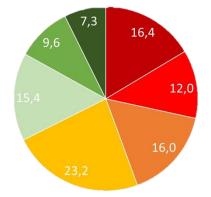
Urban Leisure & Tourism Lab Rotterdam

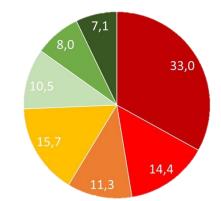


Resident engagement

I support that residents and businesses should be involved in tourism planning I am satisfied with the ways policymakers take residents' needs into account in tourism policy I have a voice in tourism development decisions







■1 - Very negative ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5 ■6 ■7 - Very positive

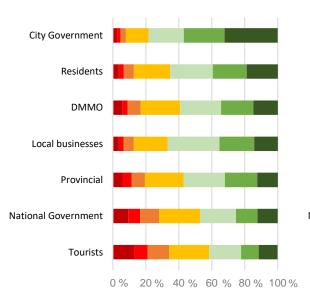




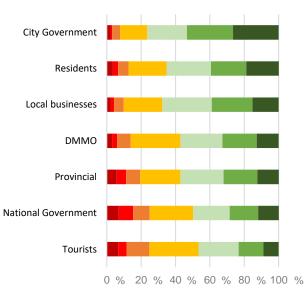


Taking the lead

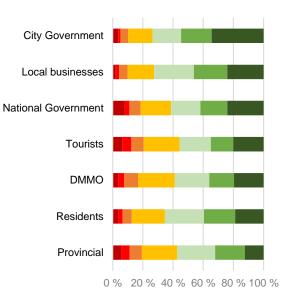
Amsterdam



Rotterdam



Barcelona



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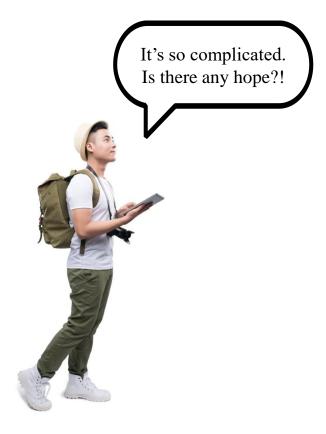


Amsterdam



Summary

- Perceptions differ between, but also within cities
- Character of neighbourhood can influence desired tourism development
- Tourism development is a joint responsibility, but city council is expected to lead
- Citizen engagement is difficult











How

- · How can we create a more sustainable tourism?
- NOT by staying too much in our own bubbles.
 - Different stakeholders need to work together.
 - Move beyond academic debates, but also dare to ask critical questions with regards to how visitor economy can improve the quality of place and quality of life for all city users.





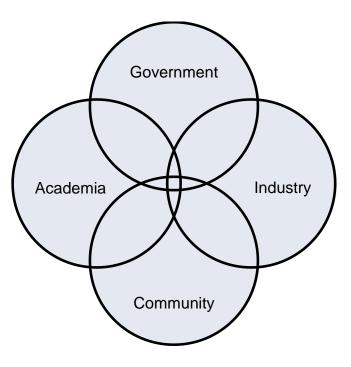






Expertise Network Sustainable Urban Tourism

ENSUT seeks to be a platform that facilitates this cooperation, with a specific focus on the quadruple helix.









Stakeholders Academia

Amsterdam



university of applied sciences

Rotterdam

Stakeholders Industry









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Stakeholders Destinations and Public Sector









Three pillars of engagement

Research

- Theoretical and Practice oriented research on sustainable tourism
- Led by research institutes, but with continuous feedback from other stakeholders
- Dutch Professor Platform Sustainable Urban Tourism already set up and received funding

Urban Leisure

Tourism Lab

metordan

Social innovations in practice

- Sharing of experiences with social innovations (best and worst practices)
- Possibly set up or connect to workgroup of advanced stakeholders (DMMOs, Municipalities, industry & others) and/or related to existing networks

Tools and techniques

- Sharing of new tools and techniques to work towards sustainable urban tourism
- Hosted on ENSUT website, all stakeholders encouraged to contribute







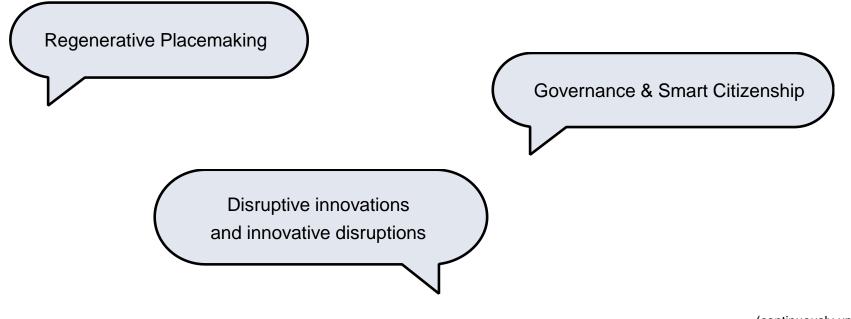
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& Tourism Lab

Rotterdam



Three main themes



ENSUT

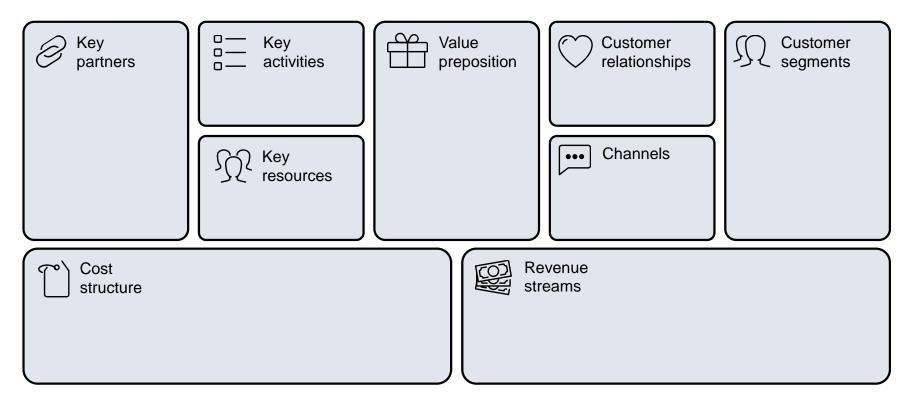




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(continuously updated)

Business model?









Goals and targets

July 2023

Clarification on governance model and ideas for business models.



Winter 2024

Winter meeting; ensure pillars of engagement are created, presentations of initial work, follow up plans.



Autumn 2025/Early spring 2026

Multi-day International conference that brings practitioners and researchers together to share and create knowledge.











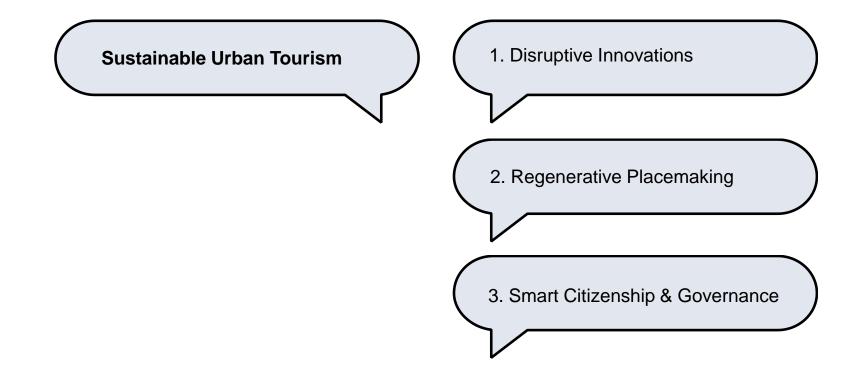








Whats next?











Products & Services



1. Capacity Building & Networking

(including events and workshops around living labs)





2. The Toolbox

3. Joint Research



















Questions?

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Thank you!









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