**Tourism a vehicle of development? A regional approach**

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1. More and more authors and practitioners are focusing on the competitive destination and not competitive countries.''
2. Each region needs a development strategy. What is a strategy? Regional economic policy is usually presented under two headings : (a) objectives, and (b) instruments. A third, equally important, aspect is, however, the strategy of regional development
3. In outlining a strategy, choices have always to be made. This brings us to the dimensions of a regional strategy, a central point of strategic thinking. For tourism four dimensions are very important: sectoral choice; concentration; 'Work to the workers' or 'workers to the work and the Porter model
4. In regional development theory great emphasis is placed on the basic/non-basic approach, a distinction being made between basic and non-basic activities. Tourism is  a basic activity.
5. Comparative advantages of tourism and international trade theory
6. Economic disadvantages of  tourism
7. Tourism as a strategy of regional development. Assuming that the necessary attractions are available in a country or destination, can tourism be a vehicle for development? A distinction should be made between rich regions (countries) and backward regions (countries).
8. The European Commission recognizes the role of tourism in regional development

If ‘tourism’ is the right strategic development choice for the region, this is not yet a for success in the sense of (a) value added creation for its population and (b) sustainable development. A tourism destination functions in a world of globalization and competition. A destination should respect a number of basic rules of competitiveness.