

**Methodological, Developmental and Managerial Issues Regarding the
Implementation of the Laboratory of Tourism on the Region of the South
Aegean**

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to present the methodological, political and developmental problems which derived from the research, implementation and monitoring of the Observatory of Tourism in the South Aegean Region. Firstly we present the main actions and sub actions which were included in the Research proposal which was funded by the Region: creation of mechanisms of observing and monitoring Tourism Development in the Region (Tourism Observatory, Scientists Think Tank), drafting of an integrated plan of alternative tourism in the Cyclades Region, managerial and monitoring mechanisms of the Region regarding the Observatory. Secondly we underline and discuss the Methodological, Developmental and Political frameworks on which the implementation of the project was based: methodology related to that of UNEP and the BLUE PLAN 'S and using the Sustainable Tourism development variables and indexes, a developmental framework based on Local Governance

mechanisms such as a DMO and the cooperation with the University of the Aegean as the experienced stakeholder in Tourism and Islands Development and the political framework which was based on two axes : the MOU signed between the Region, the UNWTO and the University of the Aegean. Finally we point out the problems and constraints which occurred during the implementation period and after, namely: the difficulties in the implementation of the methodology to the specific characteristics of the region, the uneven involvement of the local government and the region's authorities, the lack of a "culture of cooperation" among the local stakeholders and the different approaches among the local stakeholders, the central state and the research team.

Keywords: Observatory of Tourism, sustainable tourism in islands, local governments, methodological procedures, political procedures, UNWTO