Destination development and food: Can it work?

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Abstract
Local participation is an often agreed upon criterion and an essential condition for development and sustainability of any "new" form of tourism. Yet, it is the combination of the words "local" and "participation" that paradoxically implies that local residents are being so often left out of the planning, decision-making and managing of tourist development. Indeed, many have failed to understand the social structures that affect the outcome of participation.

This issue is important to have in mind if we truly wish to embrace and develop local food production and tourism in the social setting of socio-economically challenged areas, such as the north-eastern parts of Gothenburg.

By departing from the experiences of the ongoing project "Urban Rural Gothenburg", this presentation takes in both tracks into account: the benefits of food tourism and the area’s many assets, but also the challenges these assets may entail due to the area’s specific socio-economic characteristics.

"Urban Rural Gothenburg" is a three-year (2017-19) EU-sponsored project for sustainable development with the overarching aim to create improved conditions for green innovation and green business development between the city and the countryside.

Keywords
[food] [destination development] [green business] [co-creation] [urban-rural] [Gothenburg]

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