Multi-level governance for regional tourism development

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Multi-level governance....

an arrangement for making binding decisions

engages a multiplicity of independent but interdependent actors – private and public

operates across different territorial levels

continuous deliberation / implementation

no exclusive policy competence at any level

Schmitter 2004
EVOLUTION OF MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

From top-down governance....

- Central government
- Firms
- Local authorities
EVOLUTION OF MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE
....to multi-level relationships....
EVOLUTION OF MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

...and the involvement of new actors
TYPES OF MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

Uncoupled
• mutual adjustment
• autonomy of actors
• institutional competition
• executive dominance

Loosely coupled
• cooperative adjustment
• institutional diversity
• network relationships
• voluntary negotiation

Tightly coupled
• joint decision-making
• institutional homogeneity
• multilateral negotiation

Where does the governance of tourism fit?

Adapted from Benz (2012)
MLG AND TOURISM

Complex challenges…

• multiple policy fields
• economic, social and environmental perspectives
• different geographies
• diverse actors (multinationals ↔ family-owned SMEs)
• mix of public and private interests (and partnerships)
• dynamic environment – rapid adaptation to changing context

How to become inclusive AND sustainable?
SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF TOURISM

Managing vertical and horizontal relationships through

- planning frameworks
- strategies
- contracts
- networks
- partnership agreements

What works in different contexts? At different scales?
PROMOTING THE REGIONAL EMBEDDEDNESS OF TOURISM: WHAT IS EFFECTIVE?

- regional integration strategies?
- specialisation vs diversification?
- institutional leadership & capacity-building?
- developing regional linkages (direct/indirect)?
- knowledge flows?
- innovation systems?
- community/citizen engagement?
Thank you for your attention

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References


Slide 8: Examples of the different MLG tools can be found in: OECD (2012) *Tourism Trends and Policies 2012*, OECD Paris (Chapter 1).