



32nd APDR CONGRESS
Sustainable Regional Development Academy
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ABSTRACTS

**Sustainable Transformation
and Spatial Interaction of
People and Places**
Urban and Rural Landscapes for
mobility, migration and tourism

Title

32nd APDR Congress – *Sustainable Transformation and Spatial Interaction of People and Places: Urban and Rural Landscapes for mobility, migration and tourism: Abstracts*

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32nd APDR Congress

Sustainable Transformation and Spatial Interaction of People and Places: Urban and Rural Landscapes for mobility, migration and tourism

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Topics

Umbrella Topic

“Sustainable Transformation and Spatial Interaction of People and Places: Urban and Rural Landscapes for mobility, migration and tourism”

Sustainable transformation of urban and rural landscapes is reshaping spatial interactions between people and places, particularly in the context of mobility, migration, and tourism. Counter-urbanization, or the reverse migration from cities to rural areas, is driven by factors such as digital connectivity, improved infrastructure, and a desire for lifestyle changes. Rural areas are adapting to accommodate this influx, developing new forms of tourism like agritourism and eco-lodges, while also experiencing challenges such as rural gentrification and pressure on local resources. The interplay between urban and rural spaces is creating new opportunities for economic diversification, cultural exchange, and sustainable development, but also raises concerns about preserving natural and cultural heritage. In order to promote the long-term sustainability of both urban and rural environments, communities and policymakers must collaborate as this transition takes place to ensure that social equity, environmental preservation, and economic growth are balanced.

General Topics

- RS01 – Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems
- RS02 – Territorial Sustainability Strategies
- RS03 – Natural environment, resources and rural development
- RS04 – Demographic Challenges, Migrations and Integration
- RS05 – Education, Skills, Labour Markets and Regional Development
- RS06 – Regions and Global Value Chains
- RS07 – Energy transition and Regional Development
- RS08 – Smart Cities, Digital Transition and AI
- RS09 – Social innovation, integration, poverty and exclusion
- RS10 – Territorial Cohesion and asymmetries
- RS11 – Governance, Leadership and Regional Development
- RS12 – Regional resilience, crises, and climate adaptation
- RS13 – Tourism, culture, sports and sustainable development
- RS14 – Territorial Responsible Marketing
- RS15 – Quantitative and qualitative methods in regional science

Special Sessions’ Topics

SS01 - Relationships between soil characteristics, land use, land cover and agroforestry practice

Vítor João Pereira Domingues Martinho

SS02 - Transforming Agribusiness: Spatial Dynamics of People, Places, and Sustainability

Ana Marta-Costa and Maria Raquel Lucas

SS03 - Desigualdades Regionais, Monitoramento e Avaliação da Política Nacional de Desenvolvimento Regional: Uma Abordagem Integrada

Bruno de Oliveira Cruz, Juliana Aguiar Melo, Flávio Oliveira Gonçalves, Luiz Abel Silva Filho and Luiz Carlos Ribeiro de Santana

SS04 - Post-2030 EU Cohesion Policy and Sustainable Territorial Planning in Portugal: Scientific Contributions to the Negotiation of European Policy Instruments

Paulo Neto and Maria Luísa Silva

SS05 - Collaborative Laboratories towards sustainability transitions responses

Joana Dias

SS06 - Industrial tourism as a sustainable alternative in urban and rural landscapes

Elaine Scalabrini and Paula Odete Fernandes

SS07 - Innovation and Sustainability in Public Administration: The Power of Knowledge Management

Ricardo Cunha Dias and Paulo Castro Seixas

[SS08 - Reimagining Rural Futures: Conservation and Regeneration through the Torrão LAB Project](#)

Frédéric Coustols and Simon Punter

[SS09 - E-Governance and Regional Development](#)

Joana Costa and Tiago Santos

[SS10 - Tourism challenges for sustainable interaction of people and places](#)

Maria do Rosário Borges, Joana Lima, Jaime Serra and Noemi Marujo

[SS11 - Public places transformation for sustainable urban landscape](#)

Rui Florentino, Gilberto Carlos and Isabel Vaz de Freitas

[SS12 - New Rurality and the Future of Rural Territories](#)

João Almeida, Diogo Pinto and Fernando Belezas

[SS13 - The Spatial Dimensions of Decarbonisation: Challenges and Pathways for a Low-Carbon Future](#)

André Alves, Sofia Simões and Nuno Marques da Costa

[SS14 - The New Challenges and Strategies for Resilient Territories: Migration, Tourism and Wildfire Risk](#)

Ana Gonçalves, Diogo Miguel Pinto, Sandra Oliveira and André Samora-Arvela

[SS15 - Viticulture and Social Dynamics: Labor, Immigration, and Sustainability](#)

Ana Marta-Costa and Alexander Cornejo

[SS16 - Territorialization of Public Policies: Challenges and Opportunities in Low-Density Territories](#)

Bernadete Bittencourt and Ana Rita Pereira

[SS17 - Turismo & Promoção da Sustentabilidade de Áreas Rurais?](#)

Maria Lúcia Pato and Ana Mafalda Matias

[SS18 - Empreendedorismo e Inovação em Áreas Rurais – que Futuro?](#)

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[SS19 - Enhancing Intangible Heritage in Cross-Border Territories: A Transdisciplinary Approach](#)

Tiago Fernandes, Ana Sofia Coelho, Bernadete Bittencourt, Jean Mercereau and Márcio Ribeiro Martins

[SS20 - Green Transition, Digitalization, and AI for Sustainable Transformation: Data-Driven Solutions for Mobility, Migration, and Tourism in Urban and Rural Landscapes](#)

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[SS21 - Tourism, Migration, and Social Sustainability](#)

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Congress Venue

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Abstracts

Ordered by ID number

CHARACTERISING INDUSTRIAL TOURISM IN THE CROSS-BORDER REGION: PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

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Abstract

Purpose | Industrial tourism is an emerging sector highlighting the historical industrial landscape, fostering regional development, community revitalisation, and heritage preservation. Factories, mines, and transport infrastructure can be transformed into museums and interactive spaces. Industrial tourism can also include tours of active industrial sites where production remains the primary focus (Friel et al., 2024; Yan et al., 2024). In this context, this study aims to characterise the industrial heritage of the cross-border region, namely in *Terras de Trás-os-Montes* (Portugal) and *Castilla y León* (Spain), in the Douro River region, aiming to showcase opportunities for cross-border tourism development.

Methodology/Approach | Firstly, a database was drawn up with the industrial heritage of the two regions under analysis. To do this, a form was drawn up based on previous documents and validated by the team of a project related to industrial tourism. From October 2024 to March 2025, the form was sent to 22 municipalities in Portugal and 80 municipalities in Spain. Ultimately, 1079 industrial heritage sites were registered and statistically analysed to determine their characterisation.

Expected Results | Of the 1079 industrial heritage sites, 247 are in Portugal, and 832 are in Spain. The heritage elements were categorised and most related to transport infrastructure (31%), wineries (23.6%), food industries (20.5%), and hydraulic heritage (9.3%). These characteristics align with the attractions offered in the two regions surrounding the River Douro. Portugal presents more transport (34.6%) and wineries (22.7%), and Spain to wineries (26.7%) and food industries (25.1%). It is also clear that most

(47.3%) of the heritage sites identified are prepared to receive visitors. This study shows that the categorisation of heritage reflects the richness and historical diversity of the region. Among the main types of heritage identified are wineries, illustrating the strong wine-growing tradition of the Douro River, and transport infrastructure, namely old railway stations and bridges, which highlight witness to the impact of industrialisation on regional connectivity. There are also hydraulic structures, such as water mills and historic dams, which show how water resources have been used for industrial activity over the centuries.

Keywords | Industrial tourism, industrial heritage, cross-border region.

References

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