

rhetorics of their social and cultural difference are constructed by themselves and outsiders to make sense of, and legitimate, outside entrepreneurs' monopoly in local tourism economy and the lack of career aspirations among the indigenous people.

THE ROLE OF LOCALLY PROVIDED SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST IN DELIVERING SPATIAL JUSTICE

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The main role of any regional policy (e.g. cohesion policies of the European Union) is related to the reduction of inequalities between different areas in terms of social and economic opportunities. Inequalities might be interpreted as signs of injustice among members of the society. The concept of social justice is largely built on the interrelated notions of fairness, solidarity and cohesion, and it expresses the need of equity within the society in terms of wealth, opportunities and privileges. Social processes and characteristics are always spatial ones too, thus spatial features might also contribute to evolution or development of just and unjust conditions. In this way, spatial justice by representing the spatial dimension of social justice, is related to the just distribution of resources, opportunities and power relations between social groups and spaces.

An essential question related to social/spatial justice is how members of the society can access services (of general interest). Different territories might face different levels of injustice regarding the availability, affordability of and access to services of general interests. At the same time, the provision of basic services could significantly contribute to goals of spatial justice by mitigating effects of these differences. How different types of services could serve as effective instruments in delivering justice is widely depend on the way they are provided and are adapted to local facilities.

As a part of the RELOCAL Horizon 2020 research project which focuses on resituating the local in cohesion and territorial development within the European Union, the paper aims at assessing the role of locally provided services of general interest in promoting spatial justice in European countries by reviewing policy documents and using case study materials carried out within the project. This goal is also driven by the intention of identifying local-level bundles of services that promote spatial justice and actor groups that are central to their provision.

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Special Session: Supporting Success in Regional Settlements

AMENITIES AND THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF NEW ZEALAND CITIES

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As a contribution to the “Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities” National Science Challenge (NSC11), our focus is on what characterises “better towns and cities”. Specifically, we analyse which factors attract people and firms (and hence jobs) to different settlements across New Zealand.

Using theoretically consistent measures derived within the urban economics literature, we compile quality of life and quality for business indicators for 130 ‘cities’ (i.e. settlements) from 1976 to 2013, using census rent and wage data. Our analyses both include and exclude New Zealand’s three largest cities (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch). Places that are attractive to live in tend to be sunny, dry and near water (i.e. the sea or a lake). Since the mid-1990s, attractive places have also had relatively