# Event tourism and destination marketing

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### Definitions

"Planned events are spatial-temporal phenomenon, and each is unique because of interactions among the setting, people, and management systems including design elements and the program. Much of the appeal of events is that they are never the same, and you have to 'be there' to enjoy the unique experience fully; if you miss it, it's a lost opportunity."

(Getz, 2008)

"A special event is a one-time or infrequently occurring event outside normal programs or activities of the sponsoring or organizing body. To the customer or guest, a special event is an opportunity for a leisure, social or cultural experience outside the normal range of choices or beyond everyday experience."

(Allen, O'Toole, McDonnell & Harris, 2002: 12)



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#### Tourism management and tourism studies

- Developing and promoting tourism
- Understanding travel and tourists including event tourists

#### Event management and event studies

- Design, production and management of Events
- Understanding planned event experiences and the meanings attached

#### Event tourism

- A market for event managers
- Destination development through events

#### Based on Getz 2008

Tourism potential of the events:

- 1/ Destination marketing
- 2/ Creating off-season demand to keep the businesses running
- 3/ Sustaining interest of locals and enhancing interest for visitors
- 4/ Motivate visitors to extend their stay in the destination
- 5/ Cathalyse investment in the destination infrastructure
- 6/ Enhance partnership in the destination





1/ Destination branding and marketing

- Use existing events to attract the tourism (additional visitors)
- Events designed primarily for tourists without meaning for local communities risk the danger of inauthenticity
- Badly run events with inadequate management or facilities can damage the reputation of a destination and can harm the destination brand
- As well-managed event tourism can help to regenerate urban and rural areas





2/ Creating off-season demand to keep the businesses running

- Favourable off-season conditions when airline and accommodation providers have surplus capacity and lower prices
- Helps to balance seasonal tourism flows
- Maintains the employment of seasonal workers
- Helps diversify the tourism offer for various target groups
- Offers that promote natural destinations in changing seasonal conditions
- Necessity to involve the destination stakeholders to cooordinate their event calendars to achieve a balanced offer





- 3/ Sustaining interest of locals and enhancing interest for visitors
- provide newness, freshness and change, which sustain interest in the destination
- use events to animate and interpret tangible products and attractions
- special events enrich the offer of resorts, museums, historic districts, heritage sites, archaeological sites, markets and shopping centres, sports stadia, convention centres, or theme parks





4/ Motivate visitors to extend their stay in the destination

- high potential of business tourists to incorporate tourism element in the business travel or in bringing their partner along
- stakeholders should provide the (conference, convention, congress) delegates with sufficient tourism information <u>before</u> attending the business event
- potential of hybrid tourism arrangements bleisure





5/ Cathalyse investment in the destination infrastructure

- (large) events have the potential to enhance the quality of life of the locals
- can lead to the investments in residential infrastructure of neighbourhoods
- events can encourage public and private investment in a destination
- Example: European Capitals of Culture (building cultural infrastructure in Plzeň), Commonwealth Games (regeneration of Manchester)





6/ Enhance partnership in the destination

- can lead to creation of event tourism organizational structure
- coordination of stakeholders in the destination in order to create calendar of events spread throughout the whole year
- development of event tourism strategy of the destination
- involvement of the locals to avoid tensions between tourists and local inhabitants
- cooperation vs. competition





# Supply and demand perspective

Demand side:

- Who travels for events
- Why they travel to events
- Who attends events while travelling
- When tourists make the decision to attend the event (pre-trip, during trip proportion)
- What event tourists do and why





# Supply and demand perspective

Supply side goals:

- Atract tourists (balance the seasonality)
- Serve as a catalyst (for urban renewal, for increasing the infrastructure and tourism capacity of the destination)
- Foster a positive destination image (a better place to live, work and invest)
- Animate specific attractions or areas





### Event tourism occupations

- Event coordinator
- Tourism event producer
- Event tourism planner
- Event tourism policy analyst and researcher
- Event bidding professionals
- Event services professionals





### Event tourism occupations

- Event coordinator
  - work with events in the destination to help realize their tourism potential (funding, advice, marketing)
  - liaison with convention/exhibition centres and other venues
  - liaison with sport and other organizations that produce events
- Tourism event producer
  - create and produce events specifically for their tourism value
  - stakeholder management
- Event tourism planner
  - develop a strategy for the destination
  - integrate events with product development and image making/branding





### Event tourism occupations

- Event tourism policy analyst and researcher
  - work with policy makers to facilitate event tourism
  - conduct research (e.g. feasibility studies, demand forecasting, impact assessments and performance evaluations)
- Event bidding
  - bid on events
  - develop relationships leading to winning events for the destination
- Event services
  - provide essential and special services to events (e.g. travel and logistics; accommodation and venue bookings; supplier contacts)





Events can be classified based on variety of approaches, the following approach distinguishes the events based on their form (irrelevant of their purpose):

- Cultural celebrations
- Political and state
- Arts and entertainment
- Business and trade
- Educational and scientific
- Sport competition
- Recreational
- Private events





# Typology of events - examples

Cultural celebrations

- Festivals
- Carnivals
- Commemorations
- Religious events

#### Political and state

- Summits
- Royal occasions
- Political Events
- VIP visits





# Typology of events - examples

#### Arts and entertainment

- Concerts
- Award ceremonies

#### Business and trade

- Meetings
- Conventions
- Consumer and trade shows
- Fairs
- Markets

(Getz 2005)





# Typology of events examples

Educational and scientific

- Conferences
- Seminars

Sport competition

- Amateur/professional
- Specator/participant

(Getz 2005)





# Typology of events examples

Recreational

- Sport
- Games for fun

**Private Events** 

- Weddings
- Parties
- Socials

(Getz 2005)





Events can be classified based on variety of approaches, the following approach distinguishes the events based the portfolio:

- 1/ Occasional mega events
  - high tourist demand and high value
  - defined and analyzed in terms of their tourist attractiveness and related image-making or developmental roles
  - Typically global, bid to win it
    - Olympic Games,
    - FIFA World cup,
    - EXPO





- 2/ Periodic hallmark events
  - high tourist demand and high value
  - "...event that possesses such significance, in terms of tradition, attractiveness, quality, or publicity, that the event provides the host venue, community, or destination with a competitive advantage" (Getz 2005, 16)
    - Oktoberfest,
    - Notting Hill Carnival,
    - Carnival in Rio
  - can't exist independently of host community





- 3/ Regional events
  - periodic and one-time
  - medium tourist demand
- 4/ Local events
  - periodic and one-time
  - low tourist demand and low value
  - some of regional and local events have tourism potential, but some are not interested in tourism
  - preserving cultural authenticity and local control vs. tourism goals and risk of McDonaldization

(Getz 2005)





### Impacts

Impacts of events on the destination where they are held can be identified in number of contexts:

- Economic
- Commercial
- Social and environmental
- Psychological
- Political

Hall (1992:8), Skoultsos and Tsartas (2009)





### Economic impacts

#### Positive

- Increased expenditures
- Creation of employment
- Increase in labor supply
- Increase in standard of living

- Increased prices during the event
- Real estate speculations
- Failure to attract tourists
- Inagequate estimation of the costs of event





# Commercial impacts

#### Positive

- Increased awareness of the destination
- Creation of new infrastructure with tourism potential (accommodation, parking, attractions)
- Increase in accessibility

- Poor reputation if the organization or facilities are inadequate and prices too high
- Negative reactions from existing enterprises due to the possibility of new competition for local resources





# Social and environmental impacts

#### Positive

- Increase in permanent level of local interest and engagement in types of activity associated with event
- Strengthening of regional values and traditions

- Commercialization of activities which may be of a personal or private nature
- Modification of nature of event or activity to accommodate tourism
- Potential increase in crime
- Overburdening of the destination and using up the local resources





# Psychological impacts

#### Positive

- Increased local pride and community spirit
- Increased awareness of nonlocal perceptions

- Culture shock
- Increased tensions and hostility between the locals and tourists





# Political impacts

Positive

- Enhanced international recognition of the destination and and values
- Development of skills among planners and destination management stakeholders

- Economic exploitation of local population to satisfy ambitions of political elite
- Distortion of true nature of event to reflect elite values
- Use of event to legitimate unpopular decisions
- Legitimation of ideology and socio-cultural reality





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