

The Algarve's Commission for Regional Development and Coordination (CCDR) is organising a debate on tourism with other European regions at its auditorium in Faro on July 4

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The Algarve's Commission for Regional Development and Coordination (CCDR) is organising a debate on tourism with other European regions at its auditorium in Faro on July 4.

Part of the planning stage for the National Strategic Reference Framework 2014-2020 (QREN), the event will focus on solutions for the development of the Algarve's business sectors under the guidelines of the European Union's Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3).

The debate, which will be simultaneously translated into English and Portuguese, will be attended by the Portuguese Secretary of State for Tourism, Adolfo Mesquita Nunes; the manager of the Operational Programme Algarve 21, David Santos; the president of the Algarve Tourism Board, Desid?rio Silva; and a wide panel of specialists from other European regions.

One of such experts is Philip Cooke from the University of Cardiff, Wales, who is also an advisor for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy. Cooke works closely with the Portuguese government to find solutions for the country as part of RIS3.

One of the requirements imposed by the RIS3 guidelines is a mandatory regional innovation plan focused on results. The philosophy behind this EU project is to use the regions' resources to create added value and new products, which will increase competitiveness and the regions' notoriety at an international level. The final goal of the project is to create qualified jobs that are sustainable in the long-term.

As the country's main tourism region, the Algarve "must find an adequate way of forcing interactions in the chain value of traditional business sectors through its main activity, tourism," said the region's CCDR in a press release published on its website.

According to the CCDR, this is why one of the main topics of the debate will be the relation between tourism and traditional sectors, as well as the solutions found by other regions with a similar business fabric as the Algarve's. The event will also see the presentation of international projects, namely from the IT and communication fields.

Attendance is free. Registrations can be made at CCDR's website.