

AN ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL TOURISM IN CASTILLA-LA MANCHA (SPAIN)

The impact of the European Rural Tourism Development

Programs LEADER and PRODER

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The Spanish rural tourism sector has grown considerably in recent years on both its supply and demand side. Much of this growth can be attributed to the effects of the European rural development programs that support this type of initiative. In the same line, public programs designed to boost the development of rural areas are particularly important in Castilla-La Mancha (Spain). This region is currently facing important socio-economic changes that will undoubtedly determine the future of its rural areas. Thus, the current study analyzes the impact of the EU's rural development programs LEADER + and PRODER II on rural tourism in the region of Castilla-La Mancha. For the empirical analysis, this work uses LEADER + and PRODER II investment figures for the programming period 2002-2006.

KEYWORDS: rural development; rural tourism; LEADER + and PRODER II.