

Sunset Tourism for the Rebirth of Shrinking Cities

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Abstract : Albania is suffering a continuous shrinking of its population and demographic distribution that faces all the problems connected with age increase. The paper examines the case of Gjirokastrë, a city in the south of Albania that, despite having a UNESCO label as a world heritage site, is experimenting with the same shrinking phenomenon. The paper analyses in detail the current situation and propose an interdisciplinary approach based on smart technologies and sunset tourism to restart Gjirokastrë's economy and invert bad demographic trends. The proposed approach needs to review the current urban planning, reshaping and connecting some areas. It also proposes a smart city architecture to support this process.

Keywords : smart city, sunset tourism, shrinking city, Gjirokastrë

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