



RHGT, Vol. XI, Issue. 21-22, pp. 111-112

## BOOK REVIEW

### **MOLISE-MONTENEGRO CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION**

Edited by SARNO, E., Aracne Editrice Int.Le. S.R.L.,  
2015, Ariccia, Rome, Italy, 240 pages

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The book entitled *Molise-Montenegro Cross-Border Cooperation*, edited by Emilia Sarno in 2015, represents a valuable scientific contribution in the field of historical geographies and related disciplines with its content focused on the recent issues of cross-border cooperation and international relations of national neighbourhoods concerning local and regional economic development. In the light of this introduction, the volume introduces two important regional entities, with Molise and Montenegro in-depth analysed through the lens of economic development and social and economic cooperation, aiming the economic growth of the regions. The book is structured in four sections, each of them being oriented on thematic scenes of territorial and economic issues of the regions. The first section introduces issues in territorial reading unveiling the most important geographical features from land and people to nature and demography. Against such a background, topics on regional nature and environmental features are presented both in their evolutionary status as well as in their whole, with particular aspects on the regional demographic structures and mobility investigated in-depth. These issues and their related processes and consequences are particularised for both Molise and Montenegro regions in a comparative manner. The second part of the book introduces economic issues with an agro-food sector in Molise and Montenegro. The authors pays special attention to topics such are the agro-food services, the farm sector and food industry. Furthermore, the sectors of crop production, viticulture, apiculture and meat productions are also revealed based on empirical data from the both analysed regions. The studies also highlight the main local cultures in these economic sectors in this part of Europe from traditional activities to the present economic preoccupations in the field. The section provides a critical observation on the importance of agro-food cultures and

economies both in the local and regional development and in territorial cooperation between the regions with similarities in their agricultural background due to the specific natural conditions of regional environments, and differences occurring through the local cultures of the investigated regions.

The third part of the volume highlights the tourism sector evolution and development in Montenegro and Molise region. Using empirical analysis, the first chapter of the section unveils the natural tourism potential and the field of tourism development in Montenegro. Furthermore, strategies and regional policies in regional economic development and problems occurring in the tourism economies and the trends of tourism sector are investigated based on particular indicators such as GDP, employment rates, investments etc. On the other side of the research, local tourism economies in Molise region are brought to the fore through the field of rural tourism issues applied at the local scales. Particularly, the study concerns the relation of the rural spatial features and landscape and the rurality index as well as its importance in the local tourism development. As such, issues of agro-tourism and rural tourism itineraries are raised to provide new alternatives for local rural economic development. The final findings of the authors argue that rural tourism in Molise is not fully expressed at the local and regional scale.

The fourth section of the book is dedicated to particular scenarios for regional cooperation starting from the historical and geographical contexts, to the common factors of the regions and to the new visions in regional cooperation through the rural potentials of the regions. The final shared perspective concludes that the way forward in regional development is based on tourism sector and its opportunities offered by the local cultures enhanced by geographical and historical values of the regions. The two appendixes of the research, together with the graphic material (maps, figure, tables) used in the book aim to complete the theoretical vision of the authors arguing the statements launched in the study. Based on a complex and mixed-method approach, the study represents an important accomplishment in the field of European regional cooperation fitting properly in the contemporary context of regional cooperation capitalizing cultural, historical and geographical features of the regions.

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