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In order to participate in this project contact us through the email: [fastlain.algarve@gmail.com](mailto:fastlain.algarve@gmail.com) and return the contact and membership sheet that will be sent to you. After sending this information, you can register in Destinet's website (<http://destinet.eu>) and all information will be available.

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URL: <http://destinet.eu/who-who/civil-society-ngos/nature-tourism-network-algarve-region>

# FAST - LAIN

Further Action on Sustainable Tourism –  
Learning Area Innovation Networks

ALGARVE NATURE TOURISM NETWORK

REDE DE TURISMO DE NATUREZA DO  
ALGARVE

## About FAST - LAIN

FAST-LAIN - Further Action on Sustainable Tourism – Learning Area Innovation Networks – is an initiative of ECOTRANS funded by EU DG Enterprise CIP designed to set up knowledge networking processes that enable European SMEs and regions to be more sustainable and competitive.

Tourism authorities and research bodies from Germany, Spain, Croatia, France, Sweden, Norway and Portugal - with support from UNWTO, UNEP, EEA, European Travel Commission, German Tourism Association, Italian Ministry of Economic Development and a European team of experts - have contributed to the following outputs:

- an online Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tourism networking system
- a topic research framework related to sustainable tourism development
- a Tourism Learning Areas Made Easy on-line system for networking innovation processes
- regional/ national/ international stakeholder clusters focused on specific tourism themes
- a tourism development best practice transfer mechanism
- a concept for a virtual European Tourism Observatory

## ALGARVE NATURE TOURISM NETWORK

The University of Algarve, since is very beginning, set as strategic axes the research and teaching in the Tourism field. More recently developed a PhD program in Tourism. Accordingly, it is a key entity in the development of Tourism and SME's in the region with strong connections to several stakeholders.

The university supports and participates, for this reason, in the project FAST-LAIN, seeking to boost a network or a cluster of agents in Algarve with the purpose of establishing continued communication between producers of diversified tourism services that exist in the region. Besides that, the participation in this Algarve Nature Tourism Network provides access: to Destinet's website (<http://destinet.eu>) and existent information, to specialized workshops and training sessions, and to specialized knowledge from the University of Algarve through the newsletter and other forms of interaction.

The main target of this Project is SME's and other organizations/ institution. In the future, it aims to proceed with the institutionalization of the cluster and evoke the interest of stakeholders, which are relevant to the region, to assuming a shared leadership role.

## Main Goals of the FAST-LAIN Project in the Algarve:

- Create and boost the cluster of Sustainable/ Nature Tourism.
- Identify and characterize companies and institutions associated to Sustainable/Nature Tourism.
- Identify and characterize good practices in companies and institutions.
- Identify and characterize projects and initiatives that are innovative and creative within Sustainable/Nature Tourism.
- Contribute to a greater awareness of the need for cooperation and collaboration.
- Identify problems and challenges in the organization of companies along the supply chain of their products.
- Identify areas where the performance is not in an optimal level and, for this reason, there is potential for further training.
- Develop strategies of benchmarking to enrich the established practices.