Committee on Social Policies of Tourism

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Who are we?

The Committee on Social Policies of Tourism (CSPT) is part of the working groups of the International Social Tourism Organisation (ISTO).

It was formed in April 2019 and its purpose is to provide a forum for debate, interaction and proposals with regards to social policies of tourism in order to enable public authorities and other relevant bodies to better understand existing mechanisms, to assess their strengths and weaknesses and to promote their use.

This bulletin is elaborated to provide you with some interesting and updated tourism insights.

For more information about ISTO's working groups [click here](#).
Introduction

During the last ISTO's General Assembly (October 2019) preliminary results of the research on social policies of tourism in Europe were presented.

Using information provided by Eurostat (2018) it was possible to identify links between the data presented and the social policies of tourism studied.

Brief summary of the Committee's presentation in the last General Assembly

- There are important levels of domestic tourism in European countries.
- For European countries the average travel outside Europe is around 10%.
- A trend was identified: the smaller the country, the more holidaymakers leave the country. For example:
  - In Luxembourg only 0.7% of the population stays in the country for the holidays, and 81.5% travels within Europe; while 17.9% does it outside Europe.
  - In France 81.3% of the trips are domestic; 13.0% is within Europe; and 5.7% has a destination outside Europe.
  - In Germany 43.3% of the population does domestic holidays; 41.3% travels within Europe; and 15.4% of the population travels outside Europe.
Brief summary of the Committee's presentation in the last General Assembly

It is possible to identify some correlations with social tourism. 12 out of the 27 European countries considered by Eurostat do not have policies of social tourism. Although, some of them have social tourism programs or actions in place.

Social policies of tourism vary from country to country. They can be studied according to their:
- Level: national or regional.
- Responsible authority.
- Target groups.
- Program/action objective.
- Funding scheme: subsidies can focus on the person, an organization or buildings.

Why research about social policies of tourism?

This research is important and should be considered as an iterative process that will allow to:
- Identify potential ISTO members that would strengthen the network and provide it with more influence due to its wider representation power.
- Analyse the different concepts and meanings used with regards to social tourism across countries.
- Refine definitions in the long term.
- Understand the development of social tourism policies.
What is the share of people going on holidays in Europe?

Information provided by Eurostat
January 2020
Participation in **tourism for personal purposes**

% in relation to total population of the country

The map shows the **share of the population** that went on holidays - meaning for personal purposes for a minimum of 4 nights - **in Europe during 2018**.

**Top 10 European Countries**

- **Norway**: 82.74%
- **Switzerland**: 80.86%
- **The Netherlands**: 75.46%
- **Finland**: 70.13%
- **Sweden**: 68.03%
- **Germany**: 65.95%
- **Czech Republic**: 60.18%
- **Slovenia**: 59.46%
- **France**: 58.76%
- **Ireland**: 57.90%

82.74% of Norwegian citizens went on holidays during 2018; while, only **11.04% of Romanians** did.

**Source**: Eurostat (2020)
In comparison to 2017, Estonia and Germany show the highest increase of people going on holidays.

In Estonia, 11.71% more people went on holidays in 2018; while in Germany 4.51% more did.

On the contrary, Luxembourg and Denmark had the highest decrease between 2017-2018.

30.69% less of Luxembourgers went on holidays in 2018, whereas 11.90% less of Danish did.

For more information [click here](#).