

**April 2021**

The Covid-19 crisis has dramatically affected the tourism sector, with unprecedented effects on jobs and businesses. To alleviate the economic and social impacts on a sector that represents around 10 % of EU GDP, the EU and national governments took immediate action to support and encourage re-activation of tourism. The broader impact of the pandemic has both forced and inspired a fundamental rethink on the future of tourism. Demand for domestic and regional tourism, often in rural areas and based on outdoor activities, have increased in the wake of the crisis. Many stakeholders, including the European Parliament, support the development of sustainable tourism, with a greater focus on reducing the environmental footprint of the sector and on introducing new digital services. This Topical Digest offers a selection of European Parliament research publications addressing various aspects of relaunching tourism.

### Rapid steps towards a digital green certificate

*'At a glance' note by Maria Niestadt, European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2021*

To help to restore free movement of people in the EU, the European Commission presented a proposal to create a 'digital green certificate' on 17 March 2021. The certificate, which has been welcomed with enthusiasm by stakeholders from the tourism sector, would provide proof that a person has either been vaccinated, received a negative test result or recovered from Covid-19.

### Relaunching transport and tourism in the EU after COVID-19

*Study by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, February 2021*

The repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic on the EU transport and tourism sectors are severe. This study provides policy recommendations to address the challenges emerging from the crisis.

### What if AI-powered passenger locator forms could help stop the spread of Covid-19?

*'At a glance' note by Mihalīs Kritikos, European Parliamentary Research Service, December 2020*

As decisions about who should get tested in an airport are important from public health and privacy perspectives, contact tracing and targeted testing based on AI-powered PLFs should be subject to thorough validation and accountability requirements so as to gain public trust and acceptance.

### EU tourism sector during the coronavirus crisis

*Briefing by Maria Niestadt, European Parliamentary Research Service, July 2020*

This briefing summarises the situation regarding travel restrictions, impact on tourism and EU level support during the initial phases of the coronavirus crisis.

### Tourism sector: EU funding to cope with the coronavirus crisis

*'At a glance' note by Vasileios Margaras, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2020*

This note sought to outline EU funding possibilities for tourism-related businesses and other support measures to help in relaunching tourism.

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## Further reading:

### Smart villages: Concept, issues and prospects for EU rural areas

Briefing by Ana Martinez Juan and James McEldowney, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2021

### The future of regional airports: Challenges and opportunities

Briefing by Maria Niestadt, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2021

### Exceptional coronavirus support measures of benefit to EU regions

Briefing by Vasileios Margaras, European Parliamentary Research Service, December 2020

### Cultural tourism out of confinement

'At a glance' note by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, European Parliamentary Research Service, July 2020

### Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond

'At a glance' note by Maria Niestadt, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2020

### EU rules on vouchers offered to passengers and travellers

'At a glance' note by Maria Niestadt, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2020

### Covid-19 and the tourism sector

'At a glance' note by Maria Niestadt, European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2020

### European tourism: Recent developments and future challenges

Study by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, October 2019

### Overtourism: Impact and possible policy responses

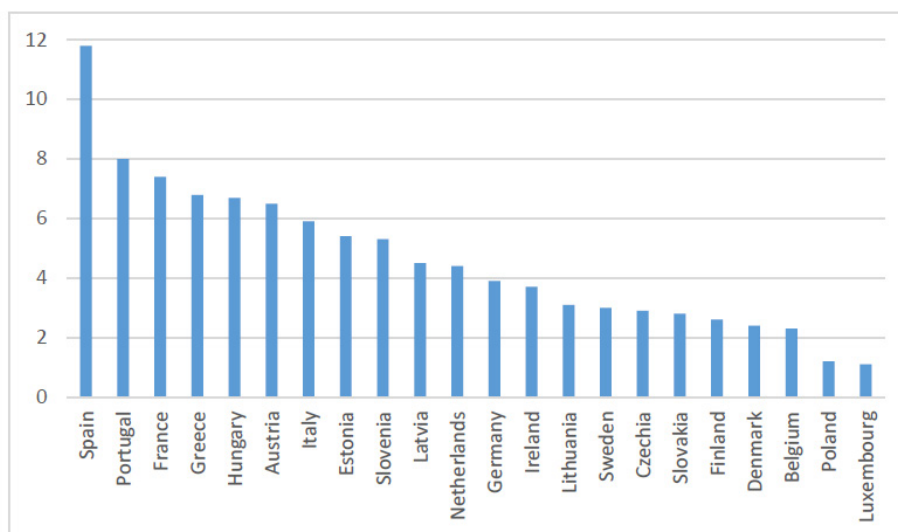
Study by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, October 2018

### Sustainable tourism: The environmental dimension

Briefing by Vivienne Halleux, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2017

## EPRS graphics

Tourism's direct contribution to GDP (as %) in selected EU countries



Source: [OECD](#), 2020.

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