



## September 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 the 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, has 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. On the occasion of World Tourism Day 2021 on 27 September, the following publications of the European Parliament's Secretariat provide background information and analysis.

### Re-starting tourism in the EU amid the pandemic

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

Tourism plays an important role in the EU economy and society. It generates foreign exchange, supports jobs and businesses, and drives forward local development and cultural exchanges. The coronavirus pandemic has hit the tourism sector hard. The impact on various tourist destinations in the EU has been asymmetrical and localised, reflecting differences in types of tourism on offer, varying travel restrictions, the size of domestic tourism markets, level of exposure to international tourism, and the importance of tourism in the local economy.

### EU Covid-19 certificate: A tool to help restore the free movement of people across the European Union

Briefing by Costica Dumbrava and David de Groot, European Parliamentary Research Service, May 2021

The Covid-19 crisis has had a severe impact on free movement in the EU. To address this issue, on 17 March 2021 the Commission issued a proposal to establish a 'digital green certificate' – a common framework for issuing, verifying and accepting interoperable health certificates. The certificate, adopted in June 2021, includes proof of vaccination, Covid-19 test results, and/or information that the holder has recovered from being ill with 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 Mihalis 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.

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## Further reading:

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

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

### Rapid steps towards a digital green certificate

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

### 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

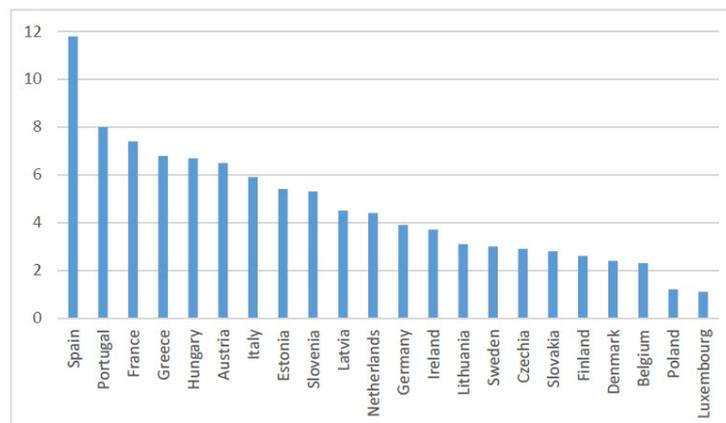
Study by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, October 2018

### 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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