

**Information provided by Romania about the following topic discussed in the
Capacity-building Programme on Tourism Statistics,
I Workshop - Vienna, 1-4 April 2008**

OUTBOUND TOURISM: Household / border surveys

1) Could you evaluate the present information available regarding flows of visitors?

We use the administrative sources - Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform - Romanian Border Police.

The publication is "International trips registered at the borders of Romania". This publication provides data on the departures of Romanian visitors abroad.

The variables are departures of Romanian visitors abroad by exit border points and means of transport.

The data does not make distinction between tourists and other types of visitors (day visitors, crew personnel, transit)

Once Romania will join Schengen area in the future (it is estimated in 2011), data provided by this source will not be available anymore.

2) About the measurement of tourism expenditure and the BoP debit side data for the "travel" item.

As in the case of credits, debits entries of Business travel are compiled taking into account:

- The individual outgoing payments above EUR 12 500 (or equivalent) related to business travel arrangements reported by the banking system on behalf of their resident customers contracting services from-nonresidents; geographical breakdown of transactions is available; amounts below the EUR 12500 threshold are estimated based on patterns observed for 2005 and 2006, before the introduction of the reporting threshold in the Romanian bop data collection system.*
- The information on credit/debit cards transactions are also reported by the banks. Due to the way of settlement, banks cannot provide geographical allocation of amounts paid by residents using credit/debit cards abroad. Geographical breakdown is estimated taking into account geo information available from Survey on Tourist Demand of Residents in Romania, conducted by NSI, which collects some details regarding countries visited by residents travelers.*

- *A rough assumption that the main part of the card payments is related to travel it is made, and therefore all the amounts reported by banks are used for compilation. No estimates of the weight of transactions not-related to travel in the total card payments are available for the time being.*

*For compilation of **Private Travel**, data reported by banks and bureaux de change have mainly been used:*

- *banks report individual outgoing payments above EUR 12 500, based on information provided by the residents customers on special statistical forms, regarding services acquired from abroad. Amounts below the EUR 12500 threshold are estimated based on patterns observed for 2005 and 2006, before the introduction of the reporting threshold in the Romanian data collection system.*
- *debit entries of the travel balance, an assumption is made on the amounts of foreign exchange spent by residents abroad. A ratio of 0.01787% is applied to the cash purchased by residents from the bureaux de change. The ratio is calculated using the findings of a quarterly survey of domestic household conducted by the NIS which are used to estimate domestic tourist demand.*

Geographical information is available for both sources.

Passenger transportation data are collected via ITRS, according to the nature of the transactions, by mode of transportation and country of destination. The statistical reporting threshold is applied.

3) Is there a clear interest in the analysis of outbound tourism?

Many external and internal users, policy makers have shown a big interest in analyzing outbound tourism.

We have to be aware the outbound tourism produces also revenues for the residence countries of tourists (e.g. expenditures prior a trip, payments made to resident carriers and travel agencies)...

4) Are there new initiatives envisaged to improve the measurement of this form of tourism?

NIS will build up a new survey only for inbound tourism:

Title: tourist expenditure of non-residents accommodated in the collective tourism establishments

Data sources: pilot survey applied to the non-resident tourists accommodated in the collective tourism establishments

Description: the survey is necessary to compile the Tourism Satellite Account and Balance of Payments

Administration

Institutional framework

Institution in charge: National Institute of Statistics

Unit responsible within this institution: General Department of Business Statistics – Department of Short Term Economic Indicators Statistics

<i>Other units and/or institutions involved: No</i>

Data dissemination

Because it is a pilot survey, we don't publish the results of this survey.

Coverage

All the non-residents accommodated in the collective accommodation establishments

Frequency: quarterly

Reference period for the first procedure: April 2008

Concepts

Specific subject: quantifying the tourism non-residents expenditure

Variables of reference: the tourism expenditure of non-residents carried out in Romania; other information necessary to better characterize the trip: country of residence, organizer of travel, main transport modality used to arrive in Romania, main reason to visit Romania.

Data Collection, manipulation/accounting conventions

Questionnaire was translated in seven languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian and Russian, based on the criteria of arrivals from origin countries.

Data collection: the receptionist (or another person from the hotel staff) distributes the questionnaires at the check-in and filled in questionnaires will be given at the check-out.

Sampling plan: information from the survey about occupancy in tourism collective accommodation establishments in 2007. We know that 2100 of total establishments accommodated over 1.5 milion foreign tourists in 2007 by residence country.

The sample is a cut – off type, with exhaustive survey for the establishments selected by a threshold:

- *We selected hotels which accomodated 950 foreign tourists in 2007 and boarding houses with over 40 foreign tourists in 2007.
The sample includes 390 establishments of total (2100)*

Coverage of selected establishments:

- *By the number of structures – 18.6%*
- *By the number of foreign tourists accommodated – 82,8%*

Observation:

Being aware of the methodological difficulties of this survey (non-responses, insincerity, the selected establishments in the sample did not register the same tourists flow as in 2007), as well as the survey is restricted only to the registered tourists in collective accommodation establishments, a great challenge will be to estimate the non-accommodated visitors in tourism establishments (either they use private accommodation or day - trippers or transit visitors).