Current Eurostat initiatives on sustainability of tourism

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Overview: two Eurostat initiatives

1. Accounts-based: Nature-based tourism in context of ecosystem accounts

2. Indicators-based: indicators on sustainability of tourism
1. Nature-based tourism for ecosystem accounts

- Eurostat is proposing a new mandatory European environmental account on ecosystems
- An extension of the 6 existing European environmental accounts with 3 new accounts
  - Ecosystems
  - Forests
  - Environmental subsidies

Commission proposal of 22 July 2022
Ecosystem services

1. **Nature-based tourism-related services**
   - reported in number of overnight stays in hotels, hostels, camping grounds, etc. that can be attributed to visits to ecosystems.

2. **Crop provision**
3. **Pollination**
4. **Wood provision**
5. **Air filtration**
6. **Global climate regulation**
7. **Local climate regulation** (vegetation regulating climate in urban areas)
Compilation guidelines in preparation

Eurostat and a task force preparing compilation guidelines:

• Measurement of overnight stays in hotels, etc.
• Step 1: Collect tourism statistics
• Step 2: Isolate the ecosystem contribution
• Step 3: Attribution to ecosystem types (cropland, grassland, forests, rivers, lakes, coastal beaches, etc.)
• Voluntary indicators too: local visitors and same-day visitors
Also ecosystems extents and condition

- Ecosystems extent (coverage)
- Ecosystems condition (quality of ecosystems)

This initiative will re-use existing tourism statistics and put them in context of their links with ecosystems benefits and condition.
2. Indicators on sustainability of tourism

- Develop a system of the compilation of indicators measuring the sustainability of tourism, including its effects on the environment
- Consultations with Eurostat working group on tourism statistics ongoing, to reach a set of consensus indicators
- First tentative draft set of potential indicators broken down under headings
  1. economy (monetary indicators, volume/flows indicators),
  2. labour market,
  3. social & cultural (other than labour market),
  4. environmental,
  5. digitalisation
Examples starting point discussion

3.1.1. *Economy - monetary*

- Share of tourism in the economy (tourism direct GDP as share of total GDP [TSA])
- Tourism direct gross value added (basic prices) [TSA]
- Internal tourism consumption [TSA]; of which
  - inbound tourism expenditure,
  - domestic tourism expenditure
- International position, from the travel item of the balance of payment [BOP]
  - debit, credit, balance
- Expenditure on tourism trips made by residents [TOUR_TRIPS]
  - expenditure on tourism trips made by residents (total, split by domestic, outbound)
  - average expenditure per trip made by residents
  - average expenditure per night during trips made by residents
3.3. Social and cultural impact (non labour market related)

- Annual number of tourism trips made by residents [TOUR_TRIPS]
- Annual number of nights spent during trips made by residents [TOUR_TRIPS]
- Participation in tourism by residents, share of the population [TOUR_PARTIC]
- Average number of tourism trips per resident (tourism trips divided by in-scope population) [TOUR_TRIPS, POP]
- Average number of tourism trips (for personal purpose) per resident participating in tourism [TOUR_TRIPS, TOUR_PARTIC]
- Number of nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, in relation to the local population [TOUR_OCC, POP]
- Number of nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, per km² [TOUR_OCC]
- Tourism concentration: share of LAUs (in area) accounting for x % of tourism flows in terms of nights spent (alternative: share of tourism flows accounted for by the top x % LAUs (in area) [TOUR_OCC or CETOUR]
- Seasonality in tourism demand [TOUR_TRIPS]:
  - share of number of trips in July+August in the annual total
  - dispersion measure for nights spent by month (eg. similar to Gini coefficient)
  - each time for the total and domestic and outbound trips separately
Examples starting point discussion

3.4. Environmental dimension

- Share of trips with car or airplane as main means of transport; share of trips by train [TOUR_TRIPS]
  - total, and split by domestic and international trips
- Bathing water quality – share of bathing waters with ‘excellent quality’ (annual, by country) [EEA]

To be further explored:

- Share of protected areas or nature/national parks (e.g. Natura2000) in total land area [tbd]
- Air emissions (1000s tons) for greenhouse gases, by tourism industries (condition: available at granular NACE level in the countries) [Environmental statistics, SEEA]
- Waste generation, by tourism industries (condition: available at granular NACE level in the countries) [Environmental statistics]
- Number or share of eco-labelled facilities (in tourist accommodation)
- (longer-term target) Exploiting links between TSA and SEEA
Tentative next steps for indicator list

• Q1/2023: revise the proposal,
  • defining a first set of indicators
  • identifying needs for additional, ad-hoc data transmission of existing data
  • designing a release format / dissemination

• Q2/2023:
  • first release of experimental datasets.

• 2024:
  • pathway for deepening and widening the indicators set
Thank you