

**Committee:** Council of the European Union (EU)

**Issue:** Reducing the Environmental Impact of Over-Tourism in Europe

**Student Officer:** Kleio Zioga

**Position:** Deputy President

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## **PERSONAL INTRODUCTION**

Dear delegates,

My name is Kleio Zioga and I am currently an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student. I have the utmost honor of serving as a Deputy President in the Council of the European Union (EU) in the 6<sup>th</sup> Deutsche Schule Model United Nations 2023. I would like to welcome you all to this year's conference, as well as congratulate you for taking part in such an interesting conference, during which each of you will gain insight into important issues faced by today's society.

The first topic of our committee is: "Reducing the Environmental Impact of Over-Tourism in Europe". This study guide aims at providing you with a better understanding of this issue and helping you think of great resolution ideas, which will be discussed during the conference. This study guide shall not be your only source of information and you are all strongly encouraged to conduct further research on your own.

In my opinion, Model United Nations' benefits are not limited to the academic factor. Gaining knowledge, creating friendships, stepping out of your comfort zone, feeling confident, developing critical thinking skills are some of the various characteristics of this conference. Personally, MUN taught me how to express my opinion with valid arguments, while also being open minded.

If you have any questions regarding the first topic of our committee, please do not hesitate to contact me via email. My account is: [kleiozioga07@gmail.com](mailto:kleiozioga07@gmail.com).

I am really excited to meet you all and I am hoping for a fruitful and interesting debate.

Best regards,

Kleio Zioga

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Overtourism: “the impact of tourism on a destination, or parts thereof, that excessively influences perceived quality of life of citizens and/or quality of visitors experiences in a negative way”<sup>1</sup>. During the past decade, the issue of over tourism has made its appearance in Europe and has had various effects on numerous fields of everyone’s everyday life, such as the humanitarian, cultural, economic, social, as well as the environmental, which we will be focusing on during the conference.

The roots of this phenomenon are numerous, mostly related to technological advancements and easy access to travels, due to low-cost tickets. Filming successful and popular movies, as well as the rise of social media influencers and travel bloggers have proven to result in a dramatic rise in touristic rates in various European cities. Accessibility to various locations, due to the expansion of airlines and cruise companies, have resulted in tourism being accessible to more and more people. Lastly, the lack of policies regarding traveling and tourists’ liberties results in the lack of control of touristic activities throughout Europe.

Even though the pandemic of COVID-19 in 2020 caused a sharp decline in tourist rates all around the world, since the summer of 2021 the number of tourists visiting Europe has increased dramatically. What is interesting is that touristic rates are now even higher than pre-pandemic ones, despite the influence coronavirus had in our everyday lives.

At first glance, someone might think over-tourism has only positive effects in each nation, since it boosts its economy. However, this is not the case. Apart from the disturbance of locals’ everyday lives and traditions, over tourism has had a negative impact on the environment as well. The majority, if not all, popular tourist attractions in Europe are heavily littered by visitors resulting in the destruction of natural habitats. Plastic bottles, toxic waste, paper and food wraps are all over tourist attractions. All this waste has affected wildlife in numerous locations resulting in more than 41,000 animals being labeled as endangered species. Overcrowding in well-known locations is not rare, which also puts pressure on locals. Last, but certainly not least, the increase of tourism in Europe has also resulted in the rise of prices of basic goods, which means that locals are struggling every day to provide what is needed for their families.

It is urgent that this issue be dealt with immediately. Even though the impact of over tourism cannot be fully reversed, it can definitely be controlled and even improved in some cases. All member states shall cooperate and come up with effective resolution ideas so that the issue of over tourism can be under control sometime in the near future.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Over-Tourism

Over-tourism is often described as the gathering of a great number of tourists in a popular touristic area during vacation season. Locals usually face difficulties in their everyday lives.

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<sup>1</sup> “Overtourism”, <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284420070>

## Sustainable Tourism

“Sustainable Tourism refers to sustainable practices in and by the tourism industry. It is an aspiration to acknowledge all impacts of tourism, both positive and negative. It aims to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive ones.”<sup>2</sup>

## Infrastructure

“The basic systems and services, such as transport and power supplies, that a country or organization uses in order to work effectively”<sup>3</sup>

## Tourism Carrying Capacity

The greatest number of tourists that can exist at the same time in one specific touristic location without disturbing or causing harm to the environment or its people.

## Visitor dispersal

Solution to the issue of over tourism that has been implemented by various countries and involves tourists spreading to less popular and touristic locations aiming at the minimization of overcrowding in well-known areas.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Causes

#### Humanitarian Causes

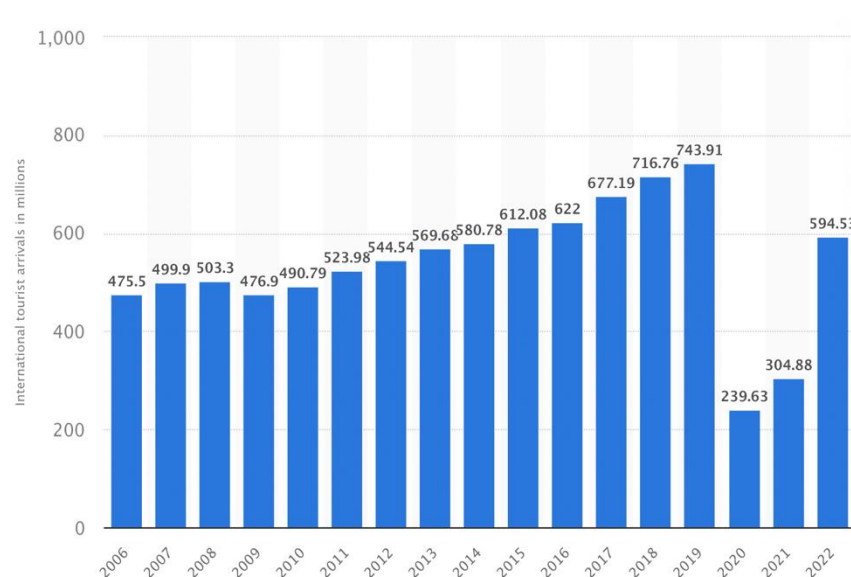
As we are all well-aware of, the human species has caused quite some issues, one of which is over tourism. The lack of respect towards both the environment, locals and their traditions are only enlarging the problem of over tourism. Tourists' carelessness towards the location they are visiting is always visible in the environment of popular places. Since over tourism is often associated with over consumption, the rise in prices of basic goods is not a rare phenomenon. Thus, local citizens are struggling more and more each year to come by with their everyday needs. Even more, tourists do not opt for less-popular locations, but prefer overcrowded, popular and advertised locations. With tourists often being characterized as 'not-eco-friendly', specific parts of each country are packed with tourists, while others keep their traditional way of living alive. A great example is Greece. Popular islands, such as Mykonos and Santorini, are in all cases filled with tourists from all around the world, while mountainous areas, such as Zagorochoria, are still not victims of over tourism. In addition to the aforementioned, tourists are travelling to their preferred locations mostly during peak-season, which is usually summer for islands and winter for mountainous

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<sup>2</sup> “Sustainable Tourism”, Global Sustainable Tourism Council, <https://www.gstcouncil.org/what-is-sustainable-tourism/>

<sup>3</sup> “Infrastructure”, Cambridge Dictionary, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/infrastructure>

locations. Thus, locals' lives are anything but stable. The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 had a great impact on the touristic field. The number of tourists while the borders were closed was dramatically decreased, however once travelling became accessible again, in June 2021, the issue of over tourism was exaggerated with almost 600 million tourists visiting Europe in 2022.

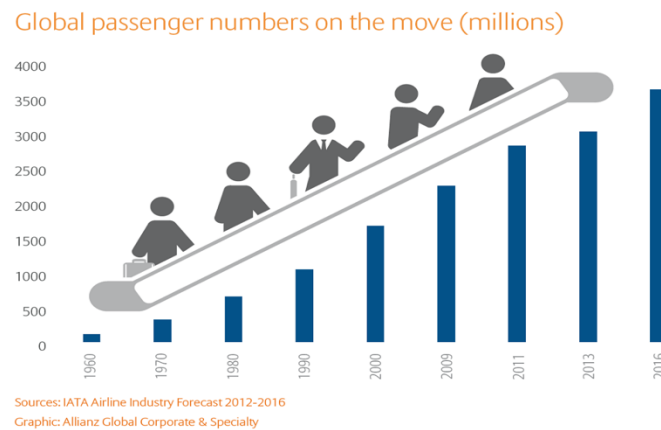


**Figure 1: Pre-Covid, during-Covid and post-Covid touristic rates<sup>4</sup>**

### Economical and Technological Causes

The prices of tickets of airlines and cruises, as well as the technological advancements that characterize the 21<sup>st</sup> century are some additional causes of over tourism in Europe. Generally, easy access to traveling boosts touristic rates each year. However, ticket prices are constantly falling allowing more and more people to visit their dream locations. This might have positive effects as well, but it has also resulted in the extreme rise of tourists in specific locations per year and thus over tourism. In addition to the affordable tickets, travelling has become safer during the past couple of decades. Transportation companies take all the measures deemed necessary in order to ensure the safety of their passengers, as well as the avoidance of tragic events and accidents. The technological advancements have definitely helped specialists and mechanics ensure the safety of all passengers. Thus, not only has travelling become more affordable and accessible to everyone, but the dangers that come with it are minimal, if none.

<sup>4</sup> "Number of international tourist arrivals in Europe from 2006 to 2022", Statista, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/273598/international-tourist-arrivals-in-europe/>



**Figure 3: Global passenger numbers on the move<sup>5</sup>**

## Effects

### Humanitarian Effects

Local residents of touristic areas have been complaining for years about tourists' unethical, disrespectful and disruptive behaviors both towards the country's history, culture and heritage and towards the people there. Locals have expressed their disturbance multiple times during the past years via activism and protests. For instance, activists used graffiti outside Barcelona's football club's stadium and delivered their message: "Tourism Kills Neighborhoods". Tourists completely ignore locals' needs and habits, which results in them suffering during peak season. Many of them are struggling to come by too, since prices in touristic areas are constantly rising and making it hard for locals to afford basic goods and services. Over tourism also creates the right conditions for employers to take advantage of adolescents wishing to have a job during summer holidays. The majority, if not all of them, get overworked to a great extent, since they work at least eight hours a day for approximately three months with very few days-off and low salaries. The most well-known example of exploitation of young workers, also known as cheap labor, is Italy, and more specifically the touristic locations, where workers work for long hours under unpropitious, unhealthy and disruptive conditions, while also not getting the payment they deserve. Housing shortage is another issue that comes with over tourism and is mostly noticed in small areas that are not designed to welcome large amounts of tourists, such as Dubrovnik in Croatia. The number of hotel rooms and Airbnb's is not nearly enough for the extravagant number of tourists that visit Dubrovnik each year. More specifically, in 2019 Dubrovnik welcomed 1.5 million tourists, which resulted in extreme housing shortage, since accommodation was not available.

### Environmental Effects

However, over tourism's effects are not limited to humanitarian, but are also extended to environmental, which this study guide is focusing on. During the past decades

<sup>5</sup> "How aviation safety has improved", Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty, <https://www.agcs.allianz.com/news-and-insights/expert-risk-articles/how-aviation-safety-has-improved.html>

the number of animals that have gone extinct has risen dramatically. Today more than six hundred vertebrate species are believed to have gone extinct, due to harmful human behavior. However, numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations, such as World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Eurogroup for Animals and many more, are making great progress towards protecting endangered animal species and ensuring the safety of their natural environment. Despite the effort, thousands of animals have been injured, tortured, or even killed, due to incidents related to over tourism, such as fires, zoological parks, logging. Lakes, parks, forests, rivers and seas are all heavily polluted by tourists' littering and harmful behaviors towards the environment, which do not only result in the destruction of the ecosystem but in the demolition of touristic locations' natural beauty as well. It is now no rare phenomenon seeing turtles in the island of Zakynthos being trapped inside plastic wraps. The extreme consumption of energy and products leads to the depletion of natural resources. Let's not forget that the minimization of resources is one of the most serious issues faced by today's society. Usage of natural resources, such as the sun, water, wind, is suggested by specialists. Although many still opt for the classic, old-fashioned sources of energy, for instance diesel, methane, lignite, and are turning down eco-friendly energy resources. The effect frequent transportation has on the environment shall not be ignored. The majority of public transportation vehicles produce large amounts of carbon dioxide resulting in the creation of the greenhouse effect ("the way in which heat is trapped close to Earth's surface by "greenhouse gases."<sup>6</sup>). Root of all the aforementioned environmental issues is the lack of respect from tourists towards the environment. Their carelessness towards the ecosystem results in the destruction of the world's natural beauty causing various problems that are not limited to the environmental aspect.

A great example of a location that has deeply suffered from all the environmental effects of over tourism is Venice, Italy. Venice is undeniably over-tourism's biggest target. In 2022, almost nine million tourists visited Venice, which came with detrimental consequences both for humans and the environment. Many say Venice cannot be saved, since it is believed by many scientists it will have disappeared underwater as early as 2100. Despite the great attempts to put an end to or even minimize the sinking of Venice, no results have been noticed and the inversion of the sinking is now considered impossible.

However, coping with the issue of overtourism and its effects on the environment has been proven to be difficult in various cases. Many countries have faced resistance from local economies, which depend on tourism. Apart from the disadvantages of overtourism, it is important to mention that it has boosted local economies, created more job opportunities and brought more profit to local businesses. Thus, the government's attempts to minimize tourism, which are highly likely to disrupt local economies, are not always desired or accepted by locals. Another issue is governments' priorities. Even though, assistance from the government is always needed when dealing with overtourism, many officials focus on other issues that are thought to be more important. Thus, the issue of overtourism is usually neglected and its effects are becoming more and more visible.

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<sup>6</sup> "What is the greenhouse effect?", NASA, <https://climate.nasa.gov/faq/19/what-is-the-greenhouse-effect/>

Many specialists have suggested “green alternatives” in order to minimize the environmental effects of overtourism. For instance, the creation of environmental parks is highly recommended, since they are a safer alternative to zoological parks, where animals are not in their natural habitat and have very limited space. Another proposal is the use of electric cars that do not produce CO<sub>2</sub> and thus do not contribute to the expansion of the greenhouse effect. Lastly, the usage of more eco-friendly resources, such as the sun, wind and water, were proposed, due to their longer life span. It is easy to notice that over-tourism’s effects on the environment are numerous and quite serious. Thus, it is important for all EU countries to cooperate in order to protect nature from the adverse results of over-tourism.

### MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

#### Italy

Two of the most popular areas in Italy are Venice and Rome. As a “well known ancient civilization and Renaissance splendor”, Italy welcomes approximately 65 million tourists a year. According to the national bank, tourism is 13% of the country’s GDP, which means that the country is dependent on tourism, and 21 tourists account per inhabitant. Locals have complained multiple times tourists’ unethical behaviors, since disrupting locals’ and disrespecting ancient monuments is now no rare phenomenon. One of the most adverse environmental effects is the sinking of Venice, which has been taking place for numerous decades and has caused many concerns. Thus, Italy has taken multiple measures to deal with over tourism. For example, in Portofino 275€ fines are given to tourists blocking traffic and in Venice 250€ fines to tourists eating in archeological sites. Fines are given for other unethical and illegal behaviors as well, for instance walking in flip flops in archeological sites or sitting on the Spanish steps in Rome.

#### Greece

Apart from Mykonos, Santorini and other well-known islands, Rhodes, infamous for its Ottoman structures, is facing the impacts of over tourism on a large scale as well. In 2022, there was a 13% increase in the number of visitors and the digit is expected to keep growing during the next couple of years. Locals claimed that the issues concerning them the most are waste management, destruction of natural resources, as well as economic issues, due to the rise of prices of goods. As it has been mentioned by specialists, due to the size of Greek islands, it is impossible for them to welcome so many tourists without other problems rising.

#### Croatia

Croatia is well-known for Dubrovnik, where there are 36 tourists per inhabitant. Apart from being a well-known cruise ship destination, Dubrovnik has become popular to the world after a successful series was filmed there resulting in tourists being interested in visiting the castles where the scenes were shot. What is more is that Dubrovnik has been characterized multiple times as the “most over touristed” location in Europe, which has caused disturbance to locals, since their everyday lifestyle has changed dramatically, and cultural heritage is now

under threat. Even though, tourism is a great source of income for many families, there is uncontrollable amount of waste throughout the touristic cities.

### Spain

After Barcelona attracted 7.4 million tourists in 2012, while having a population of 1.6 million, Spain became one of the European countries mostly affected by overtourism. Even though, the pandemic of 2020 affected Spain's touristic rates on a large scale, in 2022 the effects of over tourism became pretty visible again and the government put restrictions on tours in the city center of Barcelona, since locals were not hesitant to express their annoyance regarding tourists' disrespect to the culture via vandalism, activism and protests. Barcelona is heavily polluted as well, which is also proven by the 3,500 deaths that were caused by air pollution.

### France

The biggest concern regarding over-tourism in France is the environment and the effect tourists have on the entire ecosystem. In 2019, 218 million tourists were welcomed in the country and, as the "most romantic destination" on a worldwide level, the number of tourists still remains big. Paris is the most visited city with Lyon and Marseille following. One in ten residents work in the touristic field, which accounts for more than 200,000 locals' income being dependent on tourism. The river Seine is heavily polluted, which is also proven by the "1.9 million cubic meters of untreated wastewater" that was noticed in 2022.

### Netherlands

With 20.1 million tourists arriving in the Netherlands in 2019, the effects of over tourism were fast to become visible, especially in Amsterdam, which is the most visited city. The touristic factor was affected by the pandemic of 2020 on a large scale and since a great deal of locals' economic status depends on tourism, many had a hard time while trying to make ends meet. It is important to mention that the air quality is below the recommended with a PM2.5 concentrations.

### United Nations World Tourism Organisation

UNWTO is an agency that focuses on the "promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism" and has made great efforts during the past years to fight against over tourism. It was created in 1975 and ever since has taken important actions to ensure both touristic growth and environmental stability.

### World Travel and Tourism Council

It is also known as WTTC and is a non-profit international organization that aims at raising awareness regarding the importance of tourism on a global scale. The economical effects of over tourism and travels are in the spotlight of the organization. More specifically, overcrowding, taxation and policies are some of WTTC'S main focuses. It is believed to be one



of the largest economic sectors and the research WTTC has conducted has been proven to be quite helpful for tackling the effects of over tourism.

## **BLOCS EXPECTED**

### **Bloc 1**

This bloc should include the countries mostly affected by the issue of over tourism in Europe. More specifically, the most popular touristic countries with a high number of visitors each year should cooperate in order to come up with great resolution ideas. Some of these countries are: Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Croatia, France, Spain and more.

### **Bloc 2**

Countries that are not really popular to tourists and are not directly facing the impacts of over tourism should work together to find solutions to over tourism in Europe in this bloc. For example, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Estonia and other countries are not strongly affected by the consequences of over tourism, since they welcome a small number of tourists each year.

## **TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF EVENT</b>
1 November 1975	UNWTO is established
9 April 2003	1 <sup>st</sup> conference on climate change and tourism organized by UNWTO
18 May 2018	Policy paper by TRAN(Committee on Transportation and tourism) is introduced
November 2018	UNWTO report: "Understanding and managing urban tourism growth beyond perceptions" is published
March 2020	Borders shut down, due to Covid-19
20 October 2022	Global INSTO meeting, sustainable tourism is discussed
January-December 2022	Europe welcomes almost 600 million tourists

## RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### EUROPARC'S REPORT ONM SUSTAINABLE TOURISM 2015

In 2015, EUROPARC's final report regarding sustainable tourism was published. The federation is the representative body of Europe's protected areas and has made great progress towards ensuring the safety of the ecosystem. The report included various recommendations to STWG (Sustainable Tourism Working Group), focusing on the creation of the Charter Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2021, which included sustainable financing, cooperation, introduction of new methods and many more. In the report, there were multiple recommendations for the charter strategy and action plan 2021, which focuses on partnership and the protection of nature, cultural heritage and tourism altogether. The importance of educating people was also stressed, and more specifically the sufficient training of staff working in the environmental field, while the creation of a common platform for all organisations that are involved in green tourism was strongly supported.

It was also mentioned that there were significant problems in communication that can be solved by improving marketing, for instance creating a logo and providing "attractive visitor information". The main focus of the report was the charter strategy and actions 2021, for which the development of new principles and methodologies are undeniably needed. More specifically, monitoring, evaluating and cooperating were promoted, and the recommendations were well-thought, innovative, creative and, most importantly, ensured the safety of the ecosystem. The report was not ignored, in fact a great number of the recommendations has been applied, for instance there has been great progress towards informing people regarding sustainable tourism through social media and other social platforms. The report overall was quite effective, since it mostly included recommendations that were easy to apply. There is still room for progress in the field of sustainable tourism, however this report was an amazing start towards achieving all goals.

### 2019 UNWTO REPORT ONO OVER TOURISM

*On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, UNWTO published the report: "Over tourism? Understanding and Managing Urban Tourism Growth Beyond Perceptions: Case Studies,"* focusing on the city of Berlin. Strategies that were introduced in America, Asia, the Pacific and Europe are mentioned in the study. The previous study, that was published back in September of 2018, focused on how the issue can be dealt with in densely populated areas, while also considering the welfare of tourists and locals. The study showed that not all nations can deal with over tourism by using the same strategy, since for each location solutions must be particular. It was mentioned that the most important measure is the "dispersal of visitors within the city".

The report definitely helped specialists gain insight into the issue of over tourism, which will hopefully result in coming up with solutions being easier. The dispersal of visitors is a measure of great significance that will be implemented by various nations. However, it is important that all the aforementioned suggestions be applied shortly so that over tourism does not make its appearance in other countries as well.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### Italy's initiative

As it has been previously mentioned, Italy is one of the European countries suffering more from the direct impacts of over tourism both on the environment and on the locals. Thus, in 2022 various measures were introduced and implemented in order for the government to be able to control the issue to a certain extent. For example, Costiera Amalfitana, one of the most well-known areas of Italy, has been protected by policies and legal frameworks that have been implemented. More specifically, "Decreto Legislativo 42/2004" protects the coast and its natural beauty, while also acknowledging its importance. Amalfi is protected by the Urban Territorial Plan, as well, which focuses on the recognition of the area's culture and history, according to UNESCO.

Venice is one of the most famous touristic locations on a worldwide level, which also makes it one of the cities suffering the most from the environmental effects of over. Scientists support that Venice could completely disappear as early as 2100. In 2021, large cruise ships were completely banned, while a "detourism campaign" was introduced urging tourists to visit other areas as well. A "reservation and ticketing system" was also introduced that same year. A great number of tourists have been penalized for unethical behaviors, such as being topless in front of important landmarks, having picnics in archeological sites and many more.

All the aforementioned measures are well-thought, effective, helpful and will hopefully result in tackling the effects of over tourism in Italy during the couple of next years. However, there is definitely room for improvement, since touristic rates keep rising dramatically every year.



*Figure 4: Venice is sinking<sup>7</sup>*

### Croatia's attempts

Croatia is another country popular with tourists coming from all around the world, which is also proven by the approximately 11 million tourists that are welcomed each year. In January of 2017, after the advice from UNESCO regarding Croatia's World Heritage Status, 116 surveillance cameras were installed in the Old Town to control the number of tourists entering and exiting. Cruise ships can transfer up to 5,000 passengers every day and departure

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<sup>7</sup> "Italy's plan to save Venice from sinking", BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220927-italys-plan-to-save-venice-from-sinking>

and arrival times are specific and not subject to change. Croatia is hoping that this measure will result in the limitation of the number of tourists by a fifth. In interviews, local residents have expressed their annoyance towards tourists who do not respect their culture and everyday lives. Many of them even stated that it has now become difficult to move around town on a daily basis or even cover basic needs. Even though there is still a lot of room for improvement, Croatia's first steps towards tackling over tourism are easy to implement and will hopefully help officials deal with the dangers of over tourism.

### **European Parliament Resolution of 2021 on sustainable tourism**

The 2021 resolution on sustainable tourism must be one of the most innovative ones so far. The main focuses were responding to the coronavirus pandemic, introducing new policies on national level, transitioning to sustainable tourism and organising future tourism. With a total of 78 clauses, the resolution was analytical, detailed and covered every aspect of sustainable tourism. Regarding the pandemic, the emergency of the issue was stressed, since as it was mentioned, it is important for all measures to be implemented shortly by all member states. The creation of campaigns and crisis management mechanisms, the provision of economical aid to the ones working in the tourism industry and the lifting of restrictions regarding post-covid travelling were some of the most important recommendations. As for the legal frameworks, the creation of a short-term solution, the cooperation amongst countries and the provision of support to enterprises were some of the suggested measures. Financial support from the E.U., funding from nations towards protecting cultural heritage, implementation of the cultural routes program was mentioned in the transition sector. The section of the future of tourism mainly focused on the cooperation amongst nations and the advancements of technology in the next years.

### **EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR TOURISM 2030**

The agenda was introduced in December of 2022 and focuses on green tourism. It was mentioned, that the covid pandemic deeply affected the European Parliament's attempts to transition to sustainable tourism, while the war between Russia and Ukraine influenced accessibility to travel. Thus, the protection of tourism is now of vital importance. The agenda focuses on the creation of policies, the minimisation of waste, the advancements of technology, with the help of which people can be informed and educated on sustainable tourism, and the inclusion of all (elderly, disabled) in the touristic field. There are great expectations for this agenda and results are to be noticed in the near future.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Creation of policies**

The implementation of a legal framework with effective and well-thought measures is of great importance when it comes to dealing with over tourism and its effects. Just like many countries have done, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, introducing strategies, both on national and international level, will undeniably reduce visitor's illegal and unethical behaviors towards locals, architecture and, most importantly, the environment. A tax legislation, which has

already been introduced in some locations, could even be launched to control the amount of tourists visiting Europe.

### **Advertise alternative destinations**

Usually overcrowding is caused by a great number of tourists gathering in one specific area, which has been over-advertised. However, by introducing new, less-crowded locations to tourists and promoting them through social media platforms, visitors can become familiar with these areas as well and visit them instead of the over-advertised ones. This way balance between touristic and non-touristic areas can be achieved without locals' economic status being deeply affected. This shall not only be pursued on national, but also international level.

### **Visit touristic areas off-season**

As expected, mountainous areas are visited during winter and coastal areas during summer. However, tourists can be encouraged to visit locations off-peak season, when there is no overcrowding or housing shortage caused by visitors. Even though the experience will not be quite the same, it will be just as memorable. Thus, tourists can enjoy their vacation without disturbance from others, while also protecting the cultural heritage, locals and, of course, the environment.

### **Cooperation with non-EU organs**

Collaboration with organisations that protect the environment and others that promote tourism could be proven quite beneficial when it comes to ensuring the safety of the environment, while also not neglecting the importance of the advancement of tourism. Greenpeace, WWF (World Wildlife Fund), EEA (European Environmental Agency), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and other agencies and organisations can ensure the safety of the ecosystem, while UNWTO, WTTC, ETC (European Travel Commission) and HOTREC ("umbrella association" for Hotels Restaurant Cafes) focus on welcoming visitors.

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