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## Tourism and environment. Towards a Reporting Mechanism in Europe

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### Measuring Sustainability Tourism – Opportunities and Limitations



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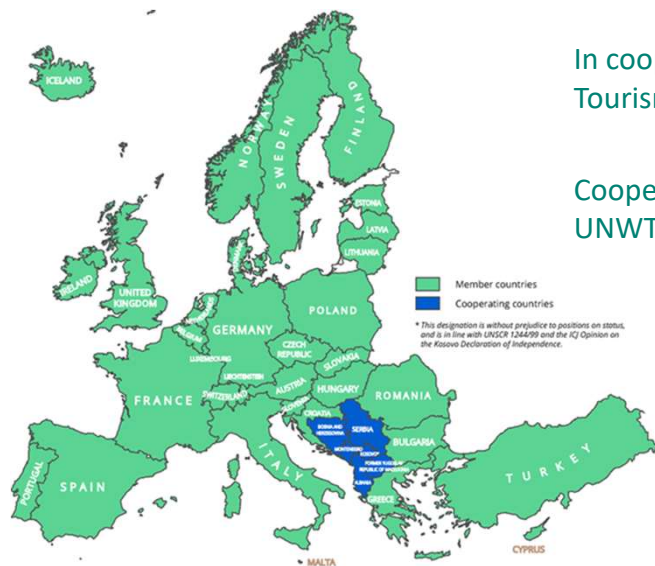
## Why?

- Europe is the world's primary tourism destination and tourism Generates 10% of EU GDP. The European Union (EU) aims to promote tourism in order to maintain the region's position as a leading destination
- Nevertheless a **comprehensive policy** reference specifically for tourism and environment doesn't yet exist.
- **Policy responses** to the sustainability challenges are **fragmented** across large areas of EU legislation.
- **Policy fragmentation** leads to problems of **data availability**, especially with regard to environmental impacts.
- However evidence base to track progress is still **fragmented!**
- Within the **core mission of the EEA**, a comprehensive picture of tourism was missing in the frame of **monitoring and informing on pressures and impacts** as well as **sustainability trends** of European industry sectors

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## A collaborative effort



In cooperation with EIONET working group on Tourism and Environment

Cooperation with other institutions: Eurostat, UNWTO, INRouTe

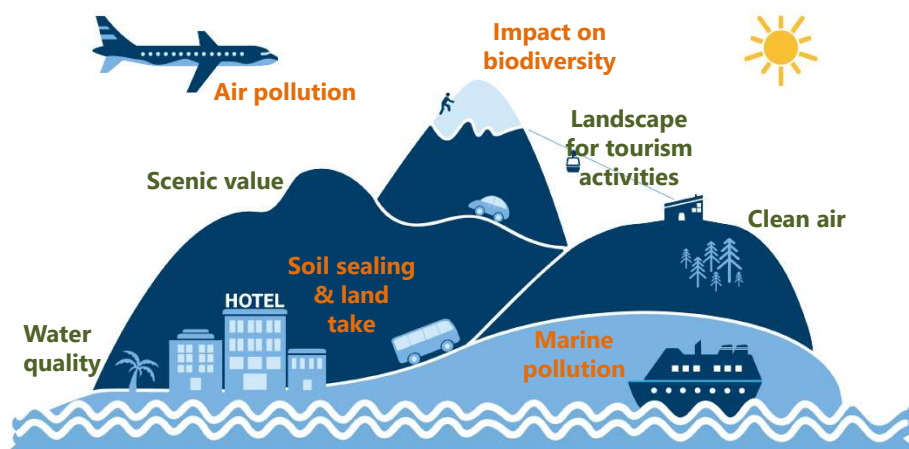
EIONET is the European Network of Environment National Agencies and Regional Environmental Centers, plus European Topic Centres (ETC).

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## Conceptual approach

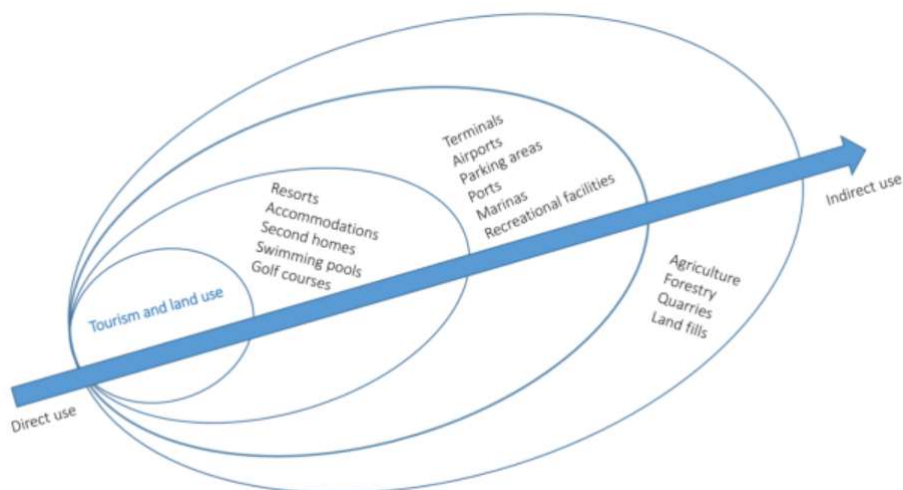
EEA frames tourism as a land and sea dependent socio-economic sector and in this sense LAND has multiple values (functional/operational and attractiveness) for tourism. Tourism is a driving force determining pressures and impacts, land take and land use changes.



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## Tourism as a land use dependent activity



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## A systematic approach: indicators

- Use existing data
- Ensure continuity (regular update)
- Learn from national initiatives

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## A sytematic approach: indicators

Driver indicators	Pressure indicators	State indicators	Impact indicators	Response indicators
D1 - Tourism arrivals D2- Overnights spent at tourism accommodation establishments D3 - Seasonality of tourism D4 - Tourism related modes of transport D5 - Tourism related modes of transport (I): Airplane D6 - Tourism related modes of transport (II): Cruises	P1 - Tourism density P2 - Tourism intensity P3 - Occupancy rate in tourist accommodation establishments P4 - Most attractive places P5 - Tourism and leisure pressure on protected areas P6 - Water abstraction by tourism	S1 - Bathing water quality	I1 - Spatial impact of tourism facilities (I): Golf courses I2 - Spatial impact of tourism facilities (II): Marina ports I3 - Spatial impact of tourism facilities (III): Ski resorts	R1 - Percentage of destination that is designated for protection R2 - Tourism enterprises using environmental certification / labelling R3 - Blue Flags for beaches and marinas

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## A sytematic approach: indicators

ETIS European Tourism Indicators System for sustainable destination management (EC)

- Management tool
- Self evaluation
- Different scale
- Complementary

transport

D5 - Tourism related modes of transport (I): Airplane

D6 - Tourism related modes of transport (II): Cruises

places

P5 - Tourism and leisure pressure on protected areas

P6 - Water abstraction by tourism

Impact indicators

I1 - Spatial impact of tourism facilities (I): Golf courses

I2 - Spatial impact of tourism facilities (II): Marina ports

I3 - Spatial impact of tourism facilities (III): Ski resorts

Response indicators

R1 - Percentage of destination that is designated for protection

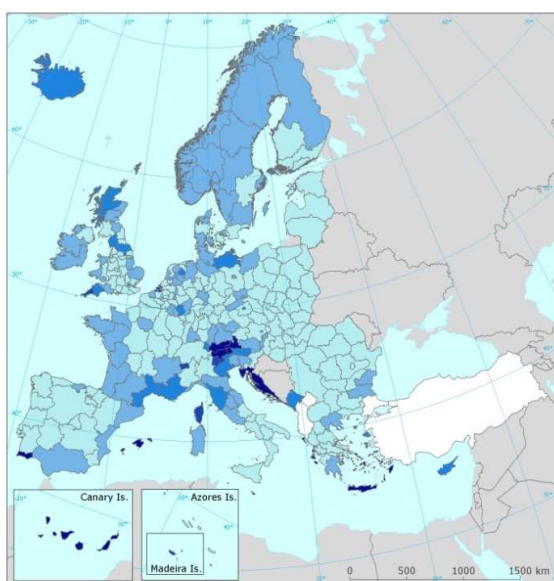
R2 - Tourism enterprises using environmental certification / labelling

R3 - Blue Flags for beaches and marinas

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## How to deal with scales and aggregated information?



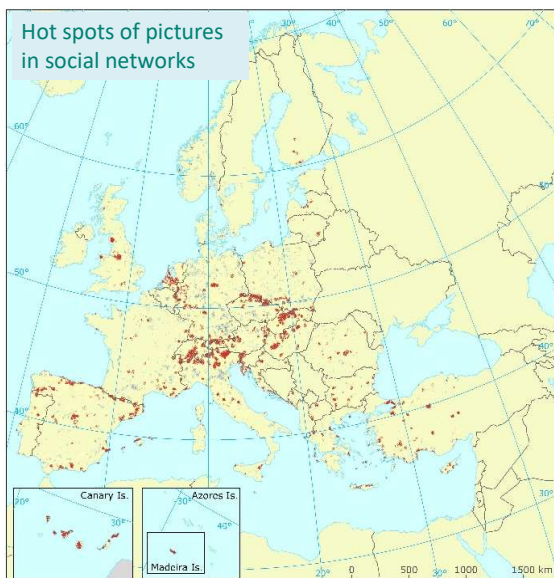
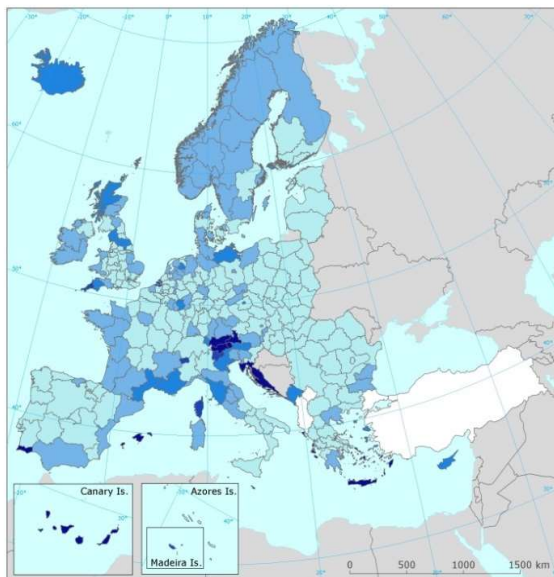
Number of  
overnights spent  
in tourist  
accomodation  
establishments  
per inhabitat

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## How to deal with scales and aggregated information?



## Integrating different type of data sources

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## Golf courses: what has been lost?



Type of land cover lost by new developments within 1000 m distance from golf courses

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## Golf courses: different patterns

	Golf courses	Average size (ha)	Land take (00-06)	Land take (06-12)
<b>Spain</b>	605	31	22%	7,50%
<b>UK</b>	1156	96	0,76%	0,45%

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## Challenges

Need to collect data and develop methodologies to **isolate tourism contribution** to environmental pressures deriving from waste production, water consumption, land take, air and noise pollution by different means of transport (out of available European statistics).

**Low stocktaking of environmental aspects** of tourism by the respective institutions responsible for the sector at national level in member countries.

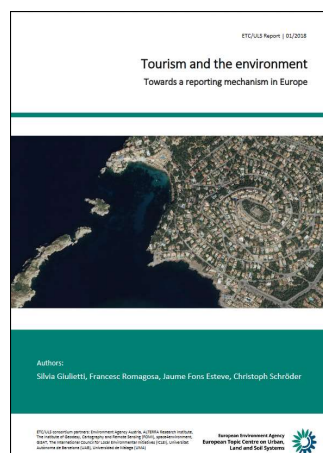
Scarce rate of adoption of **strategies/plans for monitoring environmental performance** of the sector and impacts of tourist flows, despite governments' investments in attracting more and more tourists in certain destinations.

## Opportunities

- Downscaling statistical data
- Integration of big data
- New data from Copernicus (e.g. data at higher resolution for the first 10 km of the coast)

## Next steps

- Published report (2018)
- EIONET working group
  - SOER 2020
  - Roadmap beyond 2020



[https://uls.eionet.europa.eu/Reports/TOUR\\_index\\_html](https://uls.eionet.europa.eu/Reports/TOUR_index_html)

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Thank you for your attention!



space 4 environment



I.C.L.E.I.  
Local  
Governments  
for Sustainability

umweltbundesamt

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