Peer Learning Round Tables

Cluster 2: Prosperity

Building back innovative, inclusive and sustainable economies and providing decent and productive jobs for all

Session 2-3

Transforming Tourism for a sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive post COVID-19 world

Thursday, 11 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Guiding questions for round table

Question 1

What policy developments and instruments have proven most effective in contributing to more sustainable and efficient use of natural and cultural resources and accelerating SDG progress? (e.g. circular economy, green innovation, digitalization measures…) What are the reliable and effective methods of measuring the implementation of these policies?

Question 2

What coordination mechanisms and other actions exist to ensure coherence of policies? How policy cooperation among countries in the pan-European region can be enhanced to facilitate the green recovery of the sector and the transition into more sustainable tourism development?

Question 3

Small businesses, vulnerable groups (including but not limited to minority groups, youth and women) are among the most at-risk categories. How to best incorporate gender responsive policies to build back innovative, inclusive and sustainable economies and to provide decent and productive and sustainable jobs and employment opportunities for all vulnerable groups?

Policy actions for discussion

Policy action 1

Strengthen coordination, policy coherence and partnerships at all levels along the tourism value chain to transform tourism, measure and report the sector's progress towards achieving the SDGs, climate and biodiversity targets.

Policy action 2	Mitigate the negative social and environmental impacts and economic risks of tourism, to achieve SDGs targets and to address the needs of the local population, visitors, the industry, workers, especially of MSMEs, and vulnerable groups as well as to build resilience to future environmental and health crisis.
Policy action 3	Accelerate the transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns and the uptake of nature-based solutions, use of renewable energy sources and other measures that support climate action and environmental sustainability, including in the transportation sector.
Policy action 4	Increase sustainable finance and investment to strengthen capacity, skills and initiatives across the tourism value chain and among its actors to apply circular, innovative and digital solutions for achieving the 2030 agenda.

Moderator

Moderator	Alessandra Priante, Director, Regional Department for Europe at World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and Bruno Pozzi, Director, Europe Office, UNEP

Background

Tourism is closely linked to several SDGs and its significance both in terms of potential and risks to sustainable development is high in many countries of the UNECE region. The sector is critically important for the world economy; in 2019 the sector accounted for some 330 million jobs worldwide, equivalent to one in 10 jobs globally. While tourism is directly reflected in the targets of three SDGs (8,12,14), it can contribute to all of them. For example, nature-based tourism contributes to reducing poverty (SDG1) and inequalities (SDG10) through employment and its value chain linkages in local economies; climate action (SDG13); biodiversity conservation and natural and cultural heritage (SDGs 11 and 15) - while providing livelihoods and empowerment for women, rural communities and indigenous peoples. The tourism sector has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis has exposed the existing vulnerabilities of many tourism destinations. In our world that continues to use natural resources unsustainably, the crisis offers an opportunity for transformation with a focus on building more resilient communities and businesses through innovation, circularity, digitalization, sustainability, and partnerships. The planning and monitoring of recovery and related investments by the public and private actors are critical in steering tourism models into sustainability and capturing opportunities for biodiversity conservation, climate action and circular economy. Coherence of policies, inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation of various actors are key to transforming tourism.

Organizers

Lead organizer   United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

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