



UNWTO

STATISTICS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

2 – 5 December 2008, Vienna, Austria

ROMANIA

Diana CUCU
Liana ICOB
Cristian DIACONESCU
Cristi FRENȚ

National Bank of Romania
National Institute of Statistics
Ministry of SMEs, Trade and Tourism
National Institute of Research Development in Tourism



OUTBOUND TOURISM

Wednesday, 3 December

OUTBOUND Tourism Statistics – 2 components

1. The NIS quarterly carries out **Survey on Tourist Demand of Residents in Romania (ACTR)**, which measures in principle resident tourism demand.

- ☐ Household survey conducted according to the EU directive 95/57 on tourism statistics;
- ☐ Among variables collected: tourism expenditure relating to domestic and international trips of resident household, during reference quarter;
- ☐ Initiatives taken for improvement of data quality obtained via survey - the sample drawn for 2008 survey was redesigned (improved) in order to better cover households travelling abroad;

2. Balance of Payments Statistics - Travel

Data compilation of Travel in the current system is based on IRTS:

- ☐ individual outgoing payments above EUR 12500 (or equivalent) made by the banks on behalf of their resident customers (travel agencies, individuals etc)
- ☐ transactions below the threshold estimated based on patterns observed for 2005 and 2006
- ☐ information on credit/debit cards transactions reported by banks
- ☐ estimation of cash amounts spent by residents during their travels abroad (based on cash purchased by residents from the bureaux de change)

OUTBOUND TOURISM

Wednesday, 3 December

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

In EU, Regulation (EC) No 2560/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2001 on cross border payments in euro in the Community is in a process of updating

New proposal - starting with January 1st, 2010 the reporting threshold will be raised from EUR 12,500 to EUR 50,000 for individual cross-border payments reported by banks;

Important consequence for data collection in the field of services – **big loss of information**

Travel will be one of the most affected items in the BOP, after the introduction of new exemption threshold (estimation: 39% from actual transactions in terms of value will be lost; approx. 80% in terms of numbers)

Measures envisaged to improve the data quality of Item Travel, in the absence of banking data:

One option: to use a household survey measuring the expenditures of resident travelers

Concrete: the existing household survey conducted by the NIS on *Survey on Tourist Demand of Residents in Romania (ACTR)*, which measures in principle resident tourism demand

The survey results have been studied from couple of years by the BOP compilers and compared with the BOP historical data, in order to set the survey the primary source of data for Travel – debits in the BOP

In the BOP compilers point of view, the questionnaire needs to be updated, in order to meet BOP requirements:

- strictly identification of expenditure of residents traveling abroad from the expenses of residents traveling within the country;
- passenger transportation to be separately identified, from tourism expenses of residents traveling abroad.

OUTBOUND TOURISM

Wednesday, 3 December

Meetings between NSI experts and central bank statisticians took place this summer on the redrafting of the survey questionnaire;

Conclusion:

- The EU Directive 95/57 on tourism statistics is also in a process of updating by EUROSTAT;
- In 2009 it is expected the questionnaire to be revised and standardized for all EU countries;
- The statistical requirements for compilation of Travel (Debits) will be rediscussed as soon as the new methodology proposed by EUROSTAT will be available;
- In the meantime, bilateral data provided by EUROSTAT on an annually basis, are used as an alternative data source for checking Travel debits in the Romanian balance of payments;
- The comparison continued during the second quarter 2008, reconciliation between data recorded under Travel Debits in the Romanian BOP and first 7 partner countries (recipient countries) has conducted on bilateral basis.