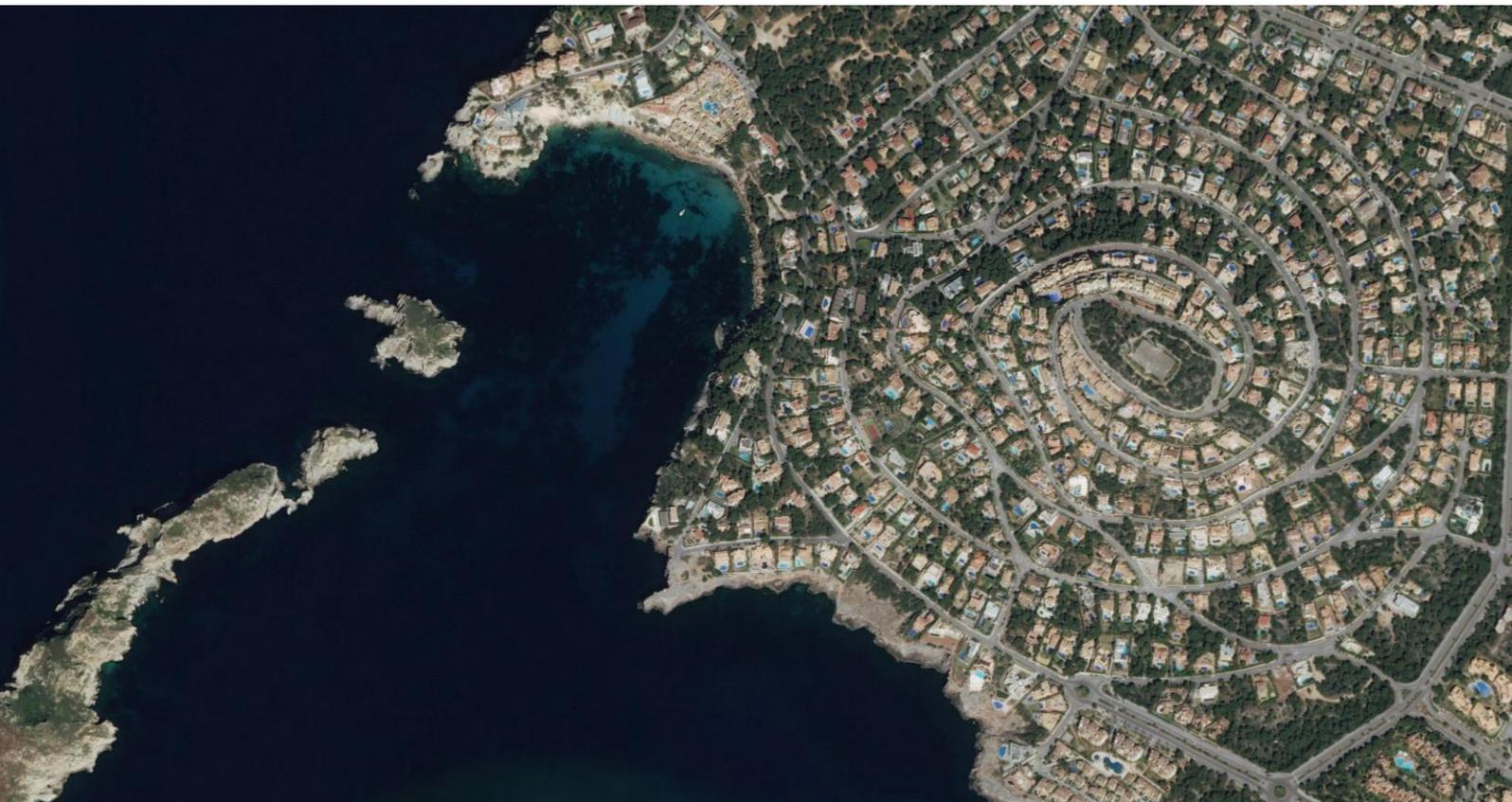


# Tourism and the environment

## Towards a reporting mechanism in Europe



### ANNEX 7. Indicator assessment TOUR004

#### Tourism density and intensity (2). Tourism intensity



Cover design: ETC/ULS

Cover photo: Coastal urbanisation in Mallorca (Spain), © Bing Maps

Layout: Francesc Romagosa (ETC/ULS)

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## Indicator name: TOUR004 – Tourism density and intensity (2). Tourism intensity

### Assessment

#### Indicator name

TOUR004e - Number of tourism arrivals per 100 residents

TOUR004f - Number of overnights spent per inhabitants

TOUR004g - Number of bed-places per 100 residents

TOUR004h - Number of bed-places per 100 inhabitants in urban areas

TOUR004i - Number of bed-places per 100 inhabitants in rural areas

TOUR004j - Number of bed-places per 100 inhabitants in coastal areas

#### Key policy question

What are the most tourism intensive regions in Europe?

#### Key message

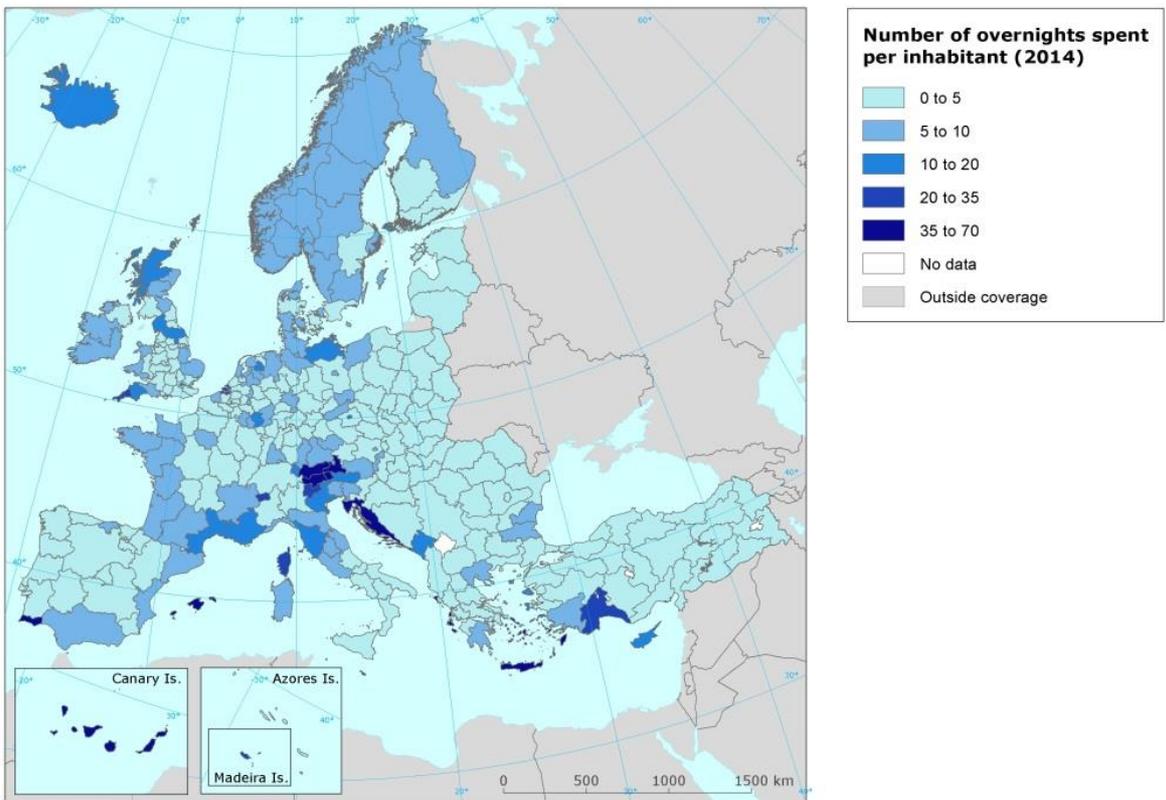
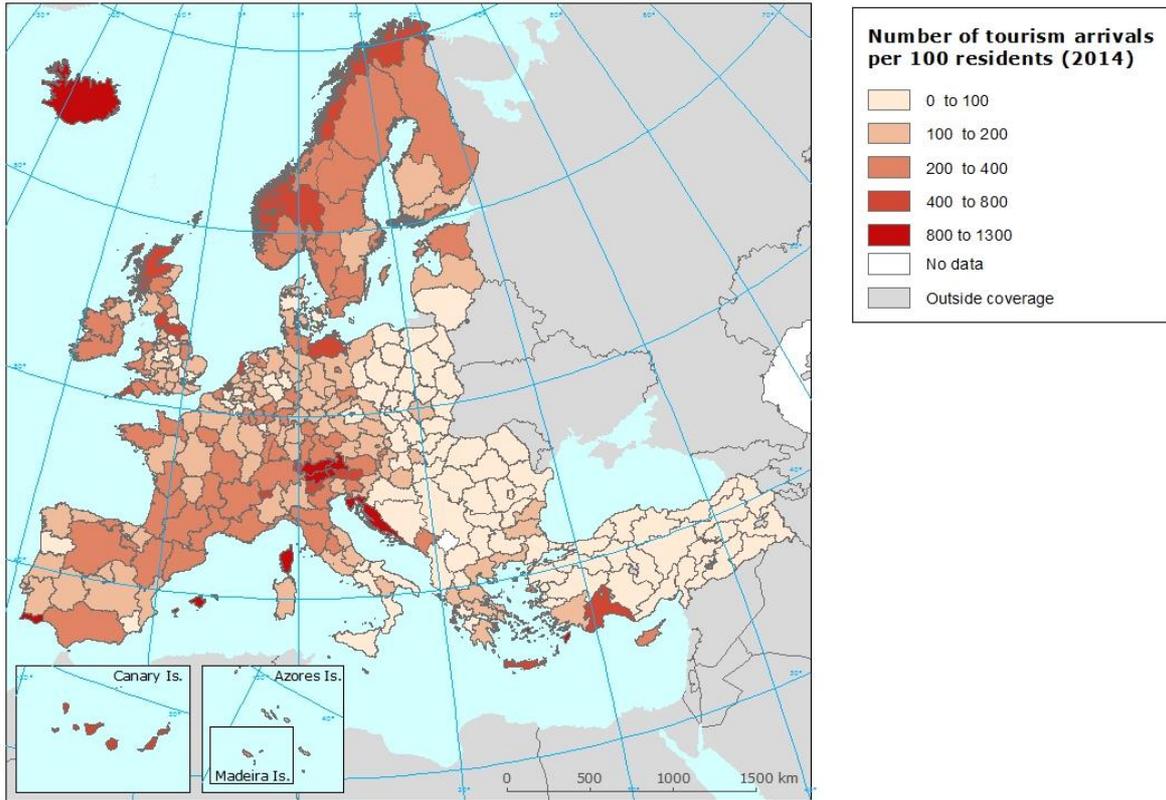
Some European regions (regardless of their specific geographical, natural and cultural context) have a high intensity of tourism arrivals and tourism overnight stays per inhabitant, showing a potential high pressure on residents' life and the local environment and resources. By contrast, other regions show a low or very low intensity.

#### Key assessment

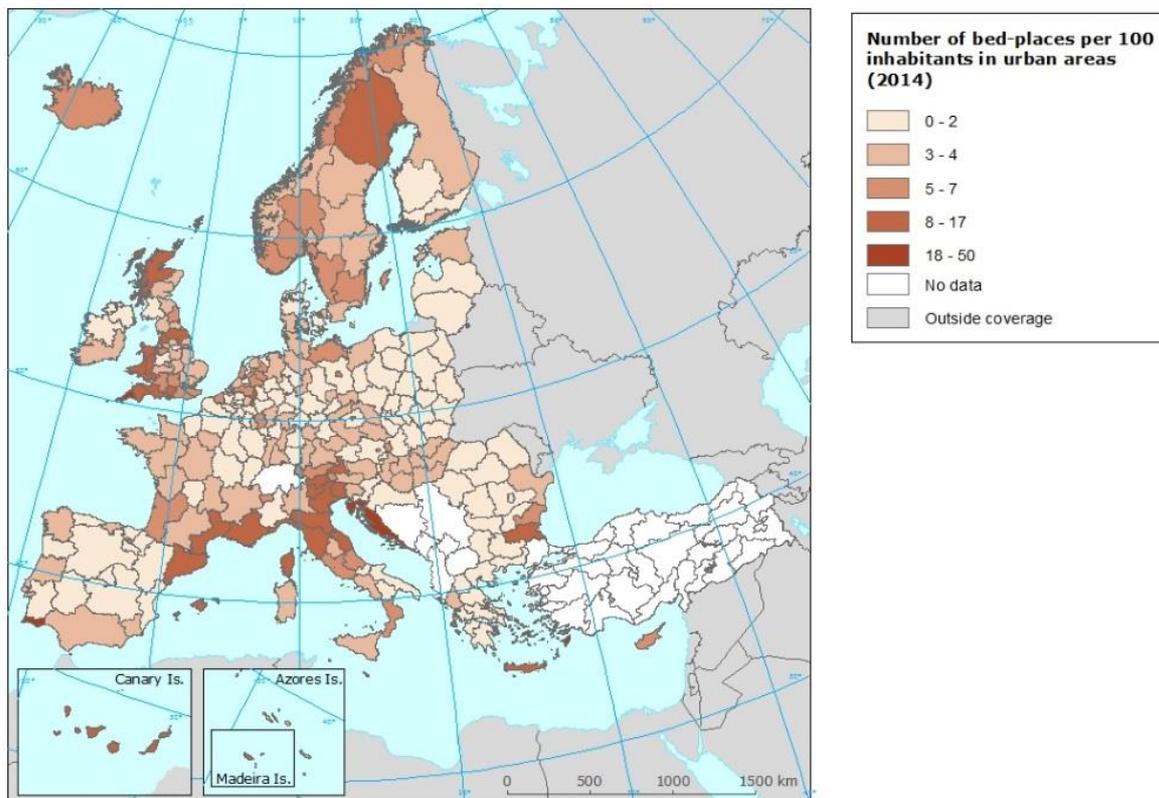
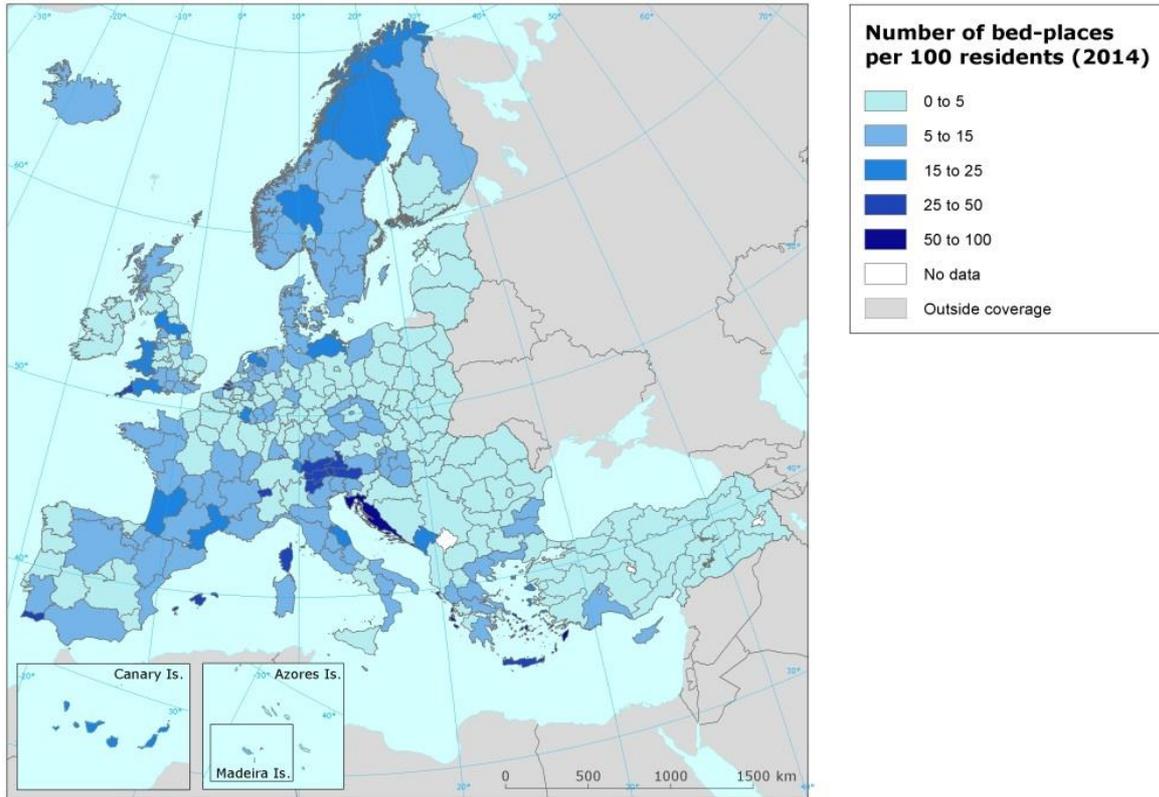
In the case of the number of tourism arrivals per 100 residents, there is a low number of regions that have more than 400 annual arrivals. These regions are from different geographical contexts (e.g. the Balearic and Canary islands in Spain; Corsica in France; several Greek islands, Algarve in Portugal; the coast of Croatia; some Italian and Austrian Alpine regions; most of the Norwegian regions; Cumbria, North Yorkshire, Cornwall and Highlands in UK; Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Germany; Iceland, among others). These are considered to be high-intensity regions. At the other end of the scale, Lithuania, most part of Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, southern Italy, and Turkey, are examples of territories that have less than 100 annual tourism arrivals per 100 residents, showing a low tourism intensity or pressure. The other regions and countries (most of them in Western and Nordic Europe) show an intermediate situation, with an average of 100 – 400 tourism arrivals per 100 residents. In the case of annual overnight stays per inhabitant at regional level, when analysed in relative terms, not big differences can be appreciated in relation to the number of tourism arrivals.

On its part, intensity of tourist accommodation in relation to population (bed-places per 100 residents) is relatively high (more than 25 bed-places per 100 residents) in very few European regions (Cornwall in United Kingdom, Algarve in Portugal, Balearic islands in Spain, Corse in France, Valle d'Aosta, Trento, and Bolzano/Bozen in Italy, Ionia Nisia, Kriti, and Notio Aigaio archipelago regions in Greece, Tirol, Kärnten, and Salzburg in Austria, and Zeeland in the Netherlands). The other regions show a lower intensity level, although with different degrees. However, differences can be seen if the analysis considers only urban areas, rural areas, or coastal areas inside each NUTS 2 region.

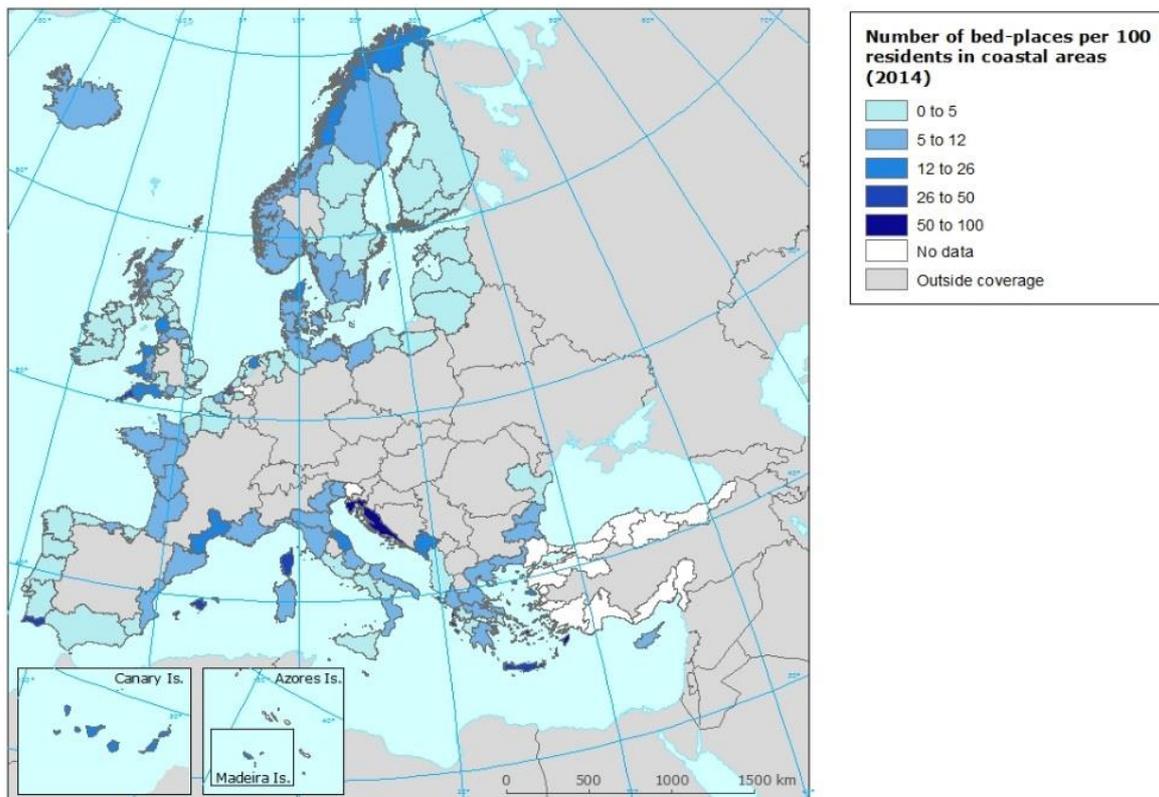
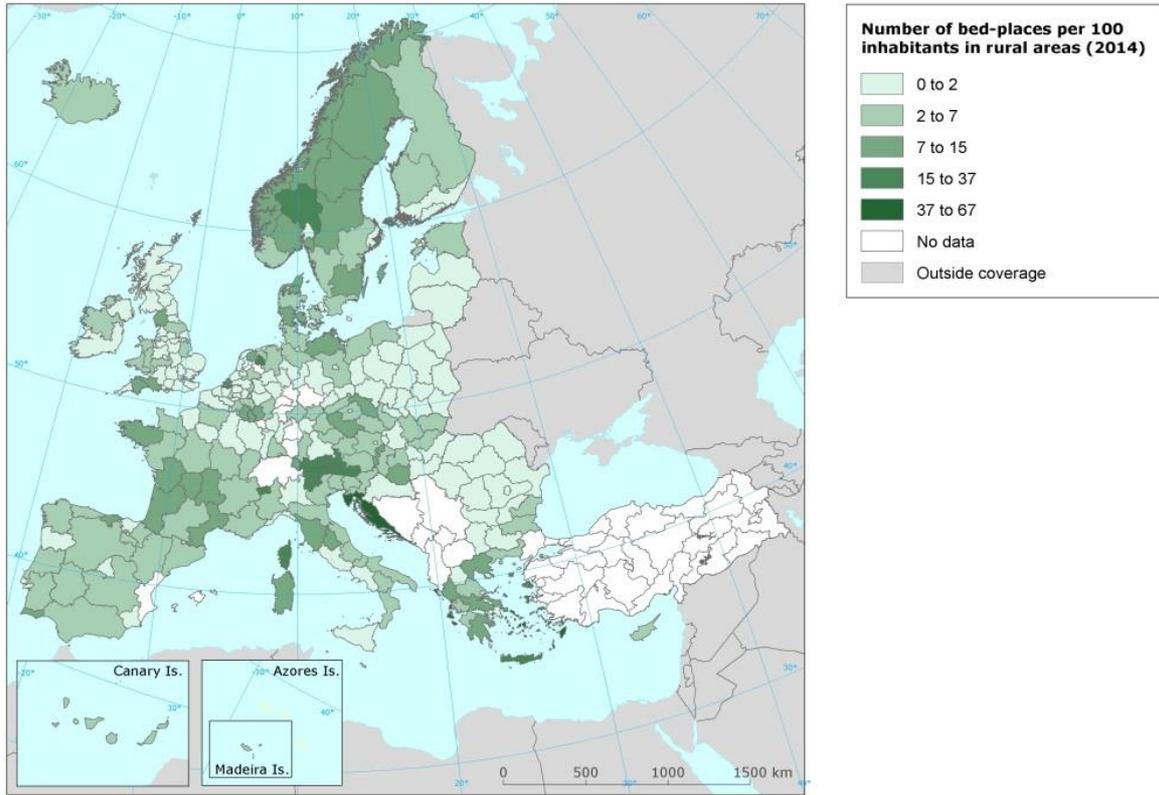
# Tourism and the environment. Towards a reporting mechanism in Europe



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## Specifications

### Indicator definition

The indicator shows the social intensity of tourism demand. Data is based on the number of official total annual tourism arrivals (subindicator 1), total annual tourism overnight stays (subindicator 2), and bed places in tourist accommodation establishments (subindicator 3) per each NUTS 2 region in relation to the number of inhabitants of that region). It is presented respectively as 1) number of tourism arrivals per 100 residents, 2) number of overnight stays per inhabitant, and 3) number of bed-places in tourist accommodation establishments per 100 residents.

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### Rationale

This indicator is highly relevant since it shows the relative importance of tourism demand in each territory in relation to its inhabitants (pressure indicator). Tracking the number of tourists and (especially) overnight stays in a destination is also a way of measuring the relative impact of tourism on residents' way of life, local environment and resources. Despite the difficulties of quantifying the real impact of tourism on the environment, any increase in the number of tourists and people in a certain area undoubtedly has an impact on environmental variables such as waste generation, water consumption and energy consumption (in terms of volume and local level), as well as air quality affected by local transport pollution.

### Policy context

EC and national policies on tourism and sustainable tourism.

### Methodology for indicator calculation

Indicator is developed by calculating the ratio of number of total annual tourism arrivals divided by inhabitants and multiplied per 100 (TOUR004e), number of total annual overnight stays divided by inhabitants (TOUR004f), and number of bed-places in tourist accommodation establishments divided by inhabitants and multiplied per 100 (TOUR004g, h, i, and j), all of them at a NUTS 2 scale. Numbers are expressed as annual tourism arrivals per 100 residents (TOUR004e), annual overnight stays per resident (TOUR004f), and number of bed-places in tourist accommodation establishments per 100 residents (TOUR004g, h, i, and j).

### Data specifications

Data comes from Eurostat (tour\_occ\_arn2; tgs00111; tour\_cap\_nuts2; tour\_cap\_nuts2c; tour\_cap\_nuts2d).

### Data sets uncertainties

Data only takes in consideration official commercial establishments. It does not cover other types of tourism accommodation (B&B, sharing economy establishments, second homes, etc.).

### Ownership and contacts

ETC/ULS.

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