

## Tourism in Belarus: Accommodation and Households Surveys

Natalia Bokun

Belarusian State Economic University, Belarus, e-mail: [nataliabokun@rambler.ru](mailto:nataliabokun@rambler.ru)

In recent years, the growing number of destinations worldwide has opened up and invested in tourism turning it into a key driver of socio-economic progress. Tourism is a complex phenomenon which is becoming one of the world's largest economic activities. International tourist arrivals have increased from 25 million globally in 1950 to 1,323 million in 2017. International tourism receipts earned by destinations worldwide have surged from US \$ 2 billion in 1950 to US \$ 1,340 billion in 2017. Strong outbound demand from both traditional and emerging markets fuelled growth in global receipts, which follows the positive trend recorded in international tourist arrivals (+7%). In Belarus tourism contributes directly around 2.5% of GDP, rising to 6% if indirect impacts are also included. Export revenues from tourism amount to approximately US \$ 700-800 million annually, equivalent to 1.5-2 % of total exports of goods and services. In 2017 11.1 million people visited Belarus.

The national System of Tourism Statistics (TS) as part of the National System of Statistics is viewed as basic framework for coordination of statistical information on tourism as product by all types of stakeholders. The TS is a set of interconnected components comprising statistical sources, households surveys, tourism industry entities surveys, administrative records, balance of payments, National accounts, specific tools used at different stages of process (concepts, databases).

Nowadays the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus does preparatory work on development of tourism satellite account. In 2017 Methodological Recommendations for construction of Tourism satellite account (TSA) were adopted. Since 2017-2018, the first tables of this account are calculated. TSA is formed once in two years. The main instrument for formation of TSA is a system of different surveys, including entities, households, accommodation samples. The experience of their use indicated the appearance of a range of problems: priority of a "tourism module" as part of multipurpose survey (for example, Sample Survey of Households Living Standards), localization of the sample, non-responses (30-40%), high level of errors, the need for carrying out of additional special surveys.

This paper has the next parts: 1) tourism in the world; 2) tourism in Belarus: main indicators, trends, problems; 3) tourism households surveys; 4) accommodation surveys; 5) surveys in the informal sector. The use of special mini-surveys, quasicausal samples, increase of sample size of accommodation surveys, improvement of existing questionnaires, development of a system of interconnected tourism households surveys, of which in the informal sector, will provide more detailed and reliable tourism expenditures and receipts indicators, allow to calculate a set of sustainable development indicators for tourism (driving forces, pressure, state, impact and others).

**Keywords:** satellite account, tourism, indicators, households survey, establishment survey, sample, informal sector, accommodation.

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