

Webinar “Climate Mitigation in Tourism: Turning Evidence into Action”

8 July 2026, 10.30 CET

Webinar Summary



Transition pathway for EU tourism

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Introduction

Scope and objectives of the webinar



Target audience

T4T Stakeholder Expert Group members, Representatives from: National, regional, and local authorities, Destination Management Organisations (DMOs), Private sector and tourism businesses, Academia and research organisations, NGOs and international organisations.

Scope and objectives

The interviews supported the work of the T4T Green Subgroup by bringing together evidence and practical experience to explore how tourism destinations could move from understanding climate risks to implementing effective mitigation actions. Through focused, expert-led discussions, the interviews contributed to the development of a fact-based subgroup deliverable, showcasing practical and scalable approaches to advancing the transition towards more sustainable tourism systems. Specifically, the interviews highlighted key climate trends and risks shaping tourism across Europe, identified priority mitigation actions at destination level, and presented practical tools and methodologies that supported implementation. They also helped connect data, policy context, and on-the-ground action, while identifying barriers and enabling conditions for scaling solutions across European tourism destinations.

Agenda

10:30 – 10:33	Welcome and Introduction
10:33 – 10:43	European Perspective on Climate Mitigation in Tourism (EEA), • Interview with Julie Berckmans, Climate Risk and Resilience Expert, European Environment Agency
10:43 – 10:53	From Risk Assessment to Action – The CELTH Approach • Interview with Harald Buijtendijk, Senior lecturer and researcher at Breda University of Applied Sciences (BUas), CELTH (Centre of Expertise Leisure, Tourism & Hospitality).
10:53 – 10:57	Joint Reflection & Audience Q&A
10:57 – 11:00	Key Takeaways & Closing

Webinar “Climate Mitigation in Tourism: Turning Evidence into Action”

Speakers



Julie Berckmans,
Climate Risk and
Resilience Expert,
European Environment
Agency



Harald Buijtendijk,
Senior lecturer and
researcher at Breda
University of Applied
Sciences (BUas), CELTH
(Centre of Expertise
Leisure, Tourism &
Hospitality).



Dr. Ralf Pastleitner,
Director Public Policy, Head
of the TUI Group Corporate
Office EU
Chair of the T4T Expert
Group on the Green
Transition

Moderator

Transition pathway
for EU tourism

Webinar in numbers



173 Registrations



81 Participants

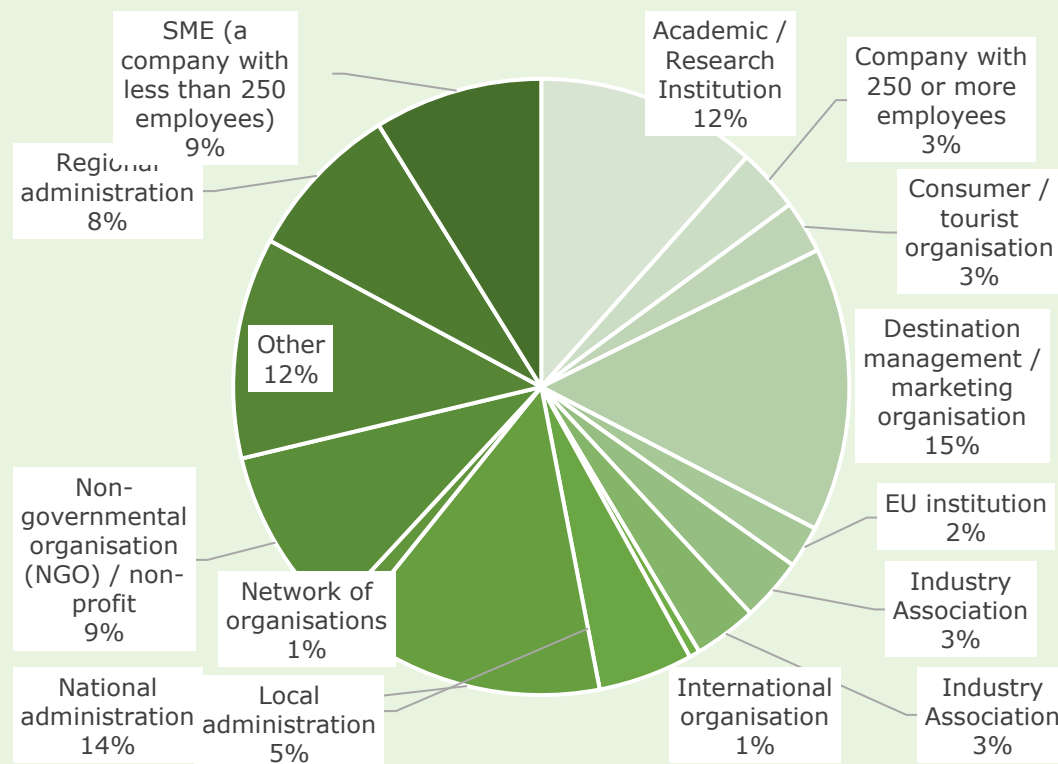


Participants **from 24 EU MS** countries



2 Speakers

Participants' Organisations



Results of the post-webinar survey



90% of the respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with the webinar.



80% of the respondents found that the webinar provided useful information.



80% of the respondents feel that they have obtained a better understanding and knowledge of the topic after attending.

Key discussion points

Representatives from **European Environment Agency and Breda University of Applied Sciences / CELTH** discussed the following:

1

Interview 1: "European Perspective on Climate Mitigation in Tourism (EEA)"

- Julie Berckmans from the European Environment Agency **opened the discussion by highlighting that climate change is no longer a future concern for tourism destinations but a reality already affecting how destinations plan, invest, and operate.** The discussion explored the most pressing climate risks facing destinations across Europe over the coming years and reflected on the growing availability of climate data and evidence. While participants agreed that access to information has improved significantly, they also acknowledged that many destinations continue to face challenges in translating complex climate evidence into practical decisions and concrete mitigation measures. The importance of strengthening resilience while supporting the transition towards more sustainable tourism models was underlined throughout the discussion.

2

Interview 2: "From Risk Assessment to Action – The CELTH Approach"

- Building on the European perspective, Harald Buijtendijk from Breda University of Applied Sciences and CELTH **focused on the practical steps destinations can take to move from climate awareness to implementation.** Particular attention was given to the role of tools such as the RiskScan in helping destinations understand their risk exposure, identify investment priorities, and develop targeted responses. Drawing on practical experiences from destination pilots, the discussion highlighted the importance of turning assessments into action, aligning stakeholders around common priorities, and ensuring that limited resources are directed towards measures capable of delivering meaningful results.

Conclusion

1	Climate change is no longer a future challenge for tourism destinations; it is already reshaping where, when, and how people travel across Europe.	
2	Rising temperatures, water scarcity, wildfires, coastal erosion, and decreasing snow reliability are becoming key factors influencing destination competitiveness and long-term viability.	
3	The gap is no longer between data and knowledge, but between knowledge and implementation. Many destinations understand the risks yet struggle to translate evidence into action.	
4	Climate resilience requires a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures, ranging from infrastructure upgrades and coastal protection to visitor flow management and tourism diversification.	
5	Reducing dependency on seasonal tourism models and expanding year-round tourism offers can significantly strengthen destination resilience.	
6	Data and risk assessments are most effective when they support real-world investment decisions and provide clear guidance for destination managers and policymakers.	
7	Tools such as the Destination RiskScan demonstrate the value of integrating climate hazards, destination vulnerabilities, and tourism sector resilience into a single decision-making framework.	
8	Successful climate action depends on collaboration across the entire tourism ecosystem, including public authorities, tourism businesses, local communities, researchers, and citizens.	
9	Building resilience is not only a climate issue but also an economic and competitiveness imperative for Europe's tourism sector.	

Thank you!

The document has been prepared for the European Commission in the context of the project "Stakeholder Support Platform" in accordance with the signed contract No EISMEA/2025/OP/0031. This report reflects the views and results of the discussion between the tourism stakeholders and do not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission. The action recommendations, however, do not necessarily represent the position or endorsement of all stakeholder groups nor the position of individual Member States or the European Commission.