The role of the circular economy in the EU tourism policy

CIRC-HOTEL project, 23 February 2023

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European Commission

Transition pathway is a long-term process

SWD - **21 June 2021**

Online targeted stake-holder consultation
Until 15 Sept 2021

16 workshops with stakeholders
5 Oct – 15 Dec 2021

9 meetings with MS experts, Council

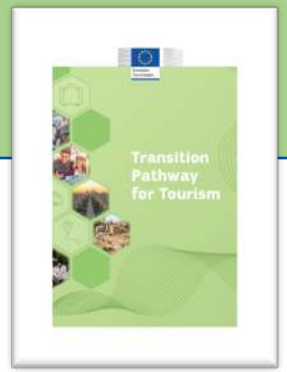
Meetings with EP, EESC

5 consultations with EC policy services

2 consultations with Industrial forum

Co-creation

Policy report Feb 2022



Available in 22 languages!

2-3 x year
Jun, Oct 2022

Publication of commitments

Call for Commitments

Opened
8 Feb 2021

Online platform

Expert groups

Sharing of best practice

First event
13 Sep 2022

Evaluation of progress

Yearly from
2023 onwards

Co-implementation

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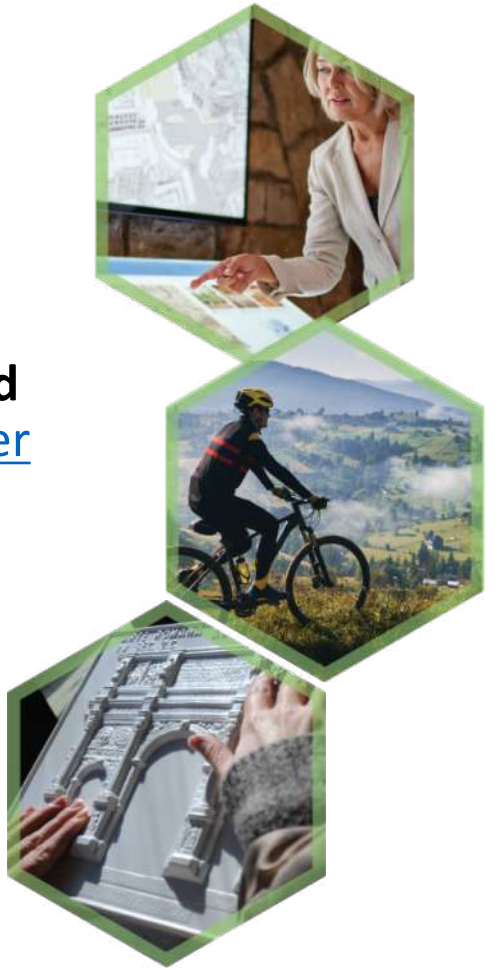
Key elements of Transition pathway co-implementation

- **Commitments by stakeholders:**
  - ✓ **Collection and publication of concrete pledges - continuous**
- **Engagement of all EU institutions and services, Member States**
  - ✓ **EU Agenda for Tourism**
- **Informal Commission expert group (stakeholder working groups) coordinated by DG GROW** *(call launched @ Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities (europa.eu), open until end February)*
- **Collaboration platform for stakeholders** *(proposals under evaluation, pilot implementation autumn 2023)*
- **Continuous communication and outreach**
- **Yearly assessment or progress**



Forming a partnership and community to work together:

Together for EU Tourism (T4T)

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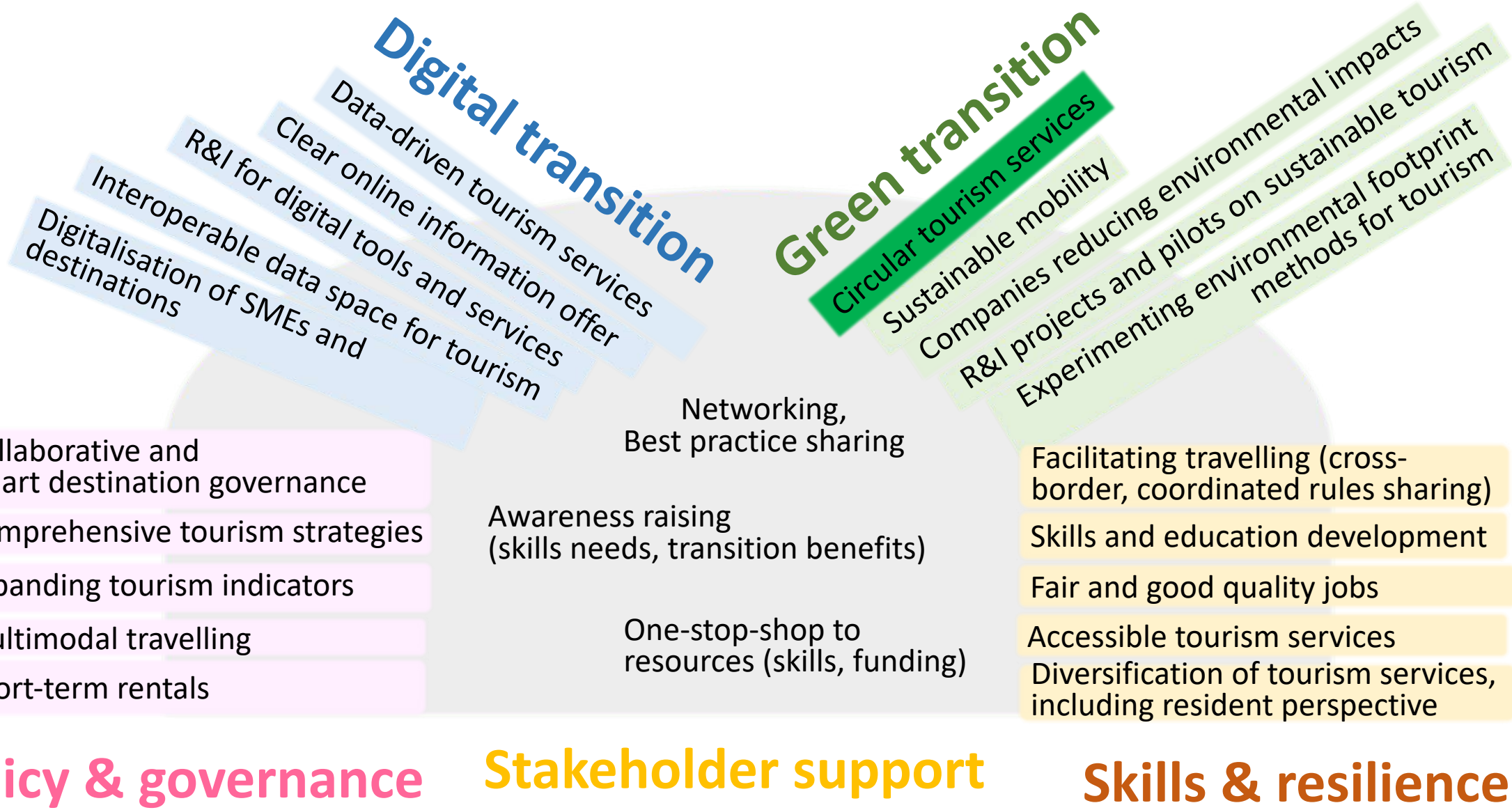
Continuing pledge collection

- **260 published pledges** on 25 topic areas, 142 committed organisations from 30 countries
- Maintaining the online call for commitments continuously open at https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Together4EUTourism
- Continuous follow-up and feedback on pledge proposals with 2-3 yearly cut-off dates for publication: next pledge publication –March 2023
- Latest published pledges and commitments available at: Commitments and pledges for the transition of EU tourism (europa.eu)
- Everyone can send new pledges, extend and update their proposed and published pledges

70 actions grouped under key topic areas



Green transition actions:

Sustainable mobility – transport companies reduce GHG, sustainable mobility plans, increasing use of sustainable modalities

Circularity of tourism services – reducing environmental footprint of food services, reducing waste, increasing water efficiency, energy efficiency, use of renewable energy

Supporting SMEs towards green practices – EMAS, EU ecolabel and other EN ISO 14024 type ecolabels, using EU Green public procurement criteria

Including key sustainability indicators on destination level to a harmonised tourism data collection framework – linked to revising European tourism statistics

R&I support for models and transferable practices for sustainable tourism

Establishing **large-scale pilots on sustainable tourism**, e.g. on islands and remote regions, including outermost regions

Promoting the use of **Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint (PEF and OEF) methodology** and development of sectorial category rules for tourism ecosystem

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Circular economy actions for tourism:

What else Commission is doing?

- **Separating bio waste**. According to the **EU waste framework directive, by 31 December 2023, all member states, citizens and businesses**, including large and small HORECA establishments, will have to separate their biowaste for collection.
- **Reduce packaging waste, reuse and recycle. Proposal for a revision of EU legislation on Packaging and Packaging Waste:** reduce the generation of packaging waste, boost the use of reusable packaging (reuse and refill), make packaging fully recyclable by 2030.
- **Developing Product Environmental Footprint Category rules for hotel accommodations**. Upcoming a call for tenders on a new project by DG GROW: "*Development of Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCRs) and acquisition of relevant EF compliant datasets for hotel accommodation sector*".
- **New landing page for the tourism sector** will be **published soon on the EMAS website** (www.emas.eu)

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More to support green transition: studies, projects

- Study "Unbalanced tourism growth at destinations (overtourism)", Sept. 2022
- Joint Research Center study "**Assessing existing ecolabels schemes for the tourism accommodation sector in the EU27**" - internal JRC report and follow up
- Relevant **COSME / SMP projects** for green transition:

✓ "*Boosting sustainable tourism development and capacity of tourism SMEs through transnational cooperation and knowledge transfer*" (COS-TOURCOOP-2019-3-01). 6 ongoing projects (up to 36 months): EU ECO-TANDEM, CENTOUR, ETGG2030, SUSTOUR, TOURISME and TOURBAN, ca. 490 SMEs are benefitting

✓ Call on "Sustainable growth and building resilience in tourism – empowering support to SMEs to carry out the twin transition" (SMP-COSME-2022-TOURSME),

✓ Call for 'Grants for stakeholders to improve measurement of food waste and help implement food waste prevention in their operations and organisations': hospitality and food services to improve measurement of food waste and help implement food waste prevention

- **New!** thematic **partnership on Sustainable Tourism under EU Urban Agenda**

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Funding sources for transition?

- Tourism can be supported under **15 EU funding programmes**: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/funding-guide_en, e.g.
  - Research and Innovation projects under Horizon Europe
  - Skills support under Erasmus+
  - Creative Europe Programme for culture
  - Cohesion policy funds, European Regional Development Fund -- specific objective for sustainable tourism
- Support and technical assistance to SMEs under **Single Market Program - SME pillar**
- Currently **open EU funding opportunities**: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search
- **NextGenerationEU & RRF**: national support under National recovery and resilience plans (15 MS)
- **EU Technical Support Instrument** (7 MS)
- **Support mechanisms for SMEs**: EEN, European Cluster Collaboration platform, Digital Innovation Hubs, EIC accelerator, YourEurope portal, …
- **Support for destinations**: European Destinations of Excellence Awards (EDEN), Smart Tourism Capitals awards

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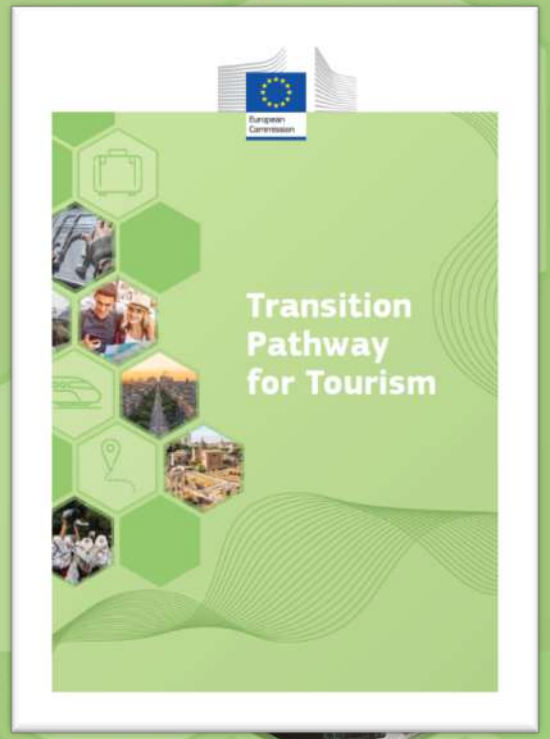
Thank you!

EU-TOURISM-PATHWAY-2030@ec.europa.eu



Together for
EU Tourism