

## Methodological note

# GUIDANCE ON COMPILING TOURISM STATISTICS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RUSSIAN MILITARY AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

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12 SEPTEMBER 2022

*This note has been subject to consultation of the members of the Working Group on Tourism Statistics*

## Background

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, tourism statisticians – in particular from countries close to Ukraine – consulted Eurostat on the methodological impact on tourist accommodation statistics that the NSIs collect, compile, process and transmit pursuant to Regulation (EU) 692/2011 concerning European statistics on tourism.

The questions related mainly to the treatment of refugees who are temporarily hosted at tourist accommodation establishments.

Eurostat communicated closely with the countries concerned (in particular Romania and Poland) in the week following the military aggression, and shared the guidelines with all tourism statistics contacts in the ESS.

This methodological note summarizes those exchanges.

It deals on the one hand with the treatment of refugees in statistics on occupancy of tourist accommodation establishments, and on the other hand with the impact of presence of refugees on statistics on capacity of tourist accommodation establishments.

## Treatment of refugees in statistics on occupancy of tourist accommodation establishments

Due to the situation in Ukraine, refugees who flee from the war are in some cases temporarily hosted at accommodation establishments that are in-scope of tourism statistics.

Eurostat confirms that **refugees should be excluded from tourism statistics and not considered as guests in the context of tourism statistics when they stay at a tourist accommodation establishment:**

- Paragraph 2.46 of the International Recommendation for Tourism Statistics ([IRTS 2008](#)) states that *“For refugees or displaced persons, with no place of usual residence, their place of stay is considered to be their usual environment so they are not visitors either.”*
- Similarly, the Eurostat [Methodological Manual](#) for Tourism Statistics mentions in paragraph 2.4.1 that the overnight stays of non-tourists (e.g. refugees) should be excluded in principle.

However, from a pragmatic point of view, it is possible that not all service providers (hotels, etc.) are able to distinguish tourists from non-tourists. Nevertheless, at least the instructions / recommendation to the reporting units should be to exclude refugees from the accommodation occupancy data, to the extent possible.

## Impact of presence of refugees on statistics on capacity of tourist accommodation establishments

The question is raised whether an accommodation facility that reserves a number of beds to host refugees, should also reduce the number of beds accordingly, when calculating capacity data or occupancy rates.

Eurostat confirms that, ideally, the beds that are not available for tourists have to be excluded from the denominator when calculating the occupancy rates.

However, this is not easy for the respondents: perhaps they can distinguish between tourists and refugees for the arrivals and the nights spent, but it can be complicated to keep track of the available beds (e.g. some beds are kept available, but refugees find another solution in the end). Furthermore, and considering that outside the peak season most accommodation facilities are not fully used, removing beds used by refugees from the base for calculating (tourism) occupancy rates, introduces the risk of inflating the occupancy rates because of taking out beds occupied by refugees that would otherwise have been empty.

From a pragmatic point of view, it makes sense to give such recommendation to the respondents, or to give this guidance when they explicitly ask how to treat these beds in the occupancy rates. It does not make sense, however, to impose this. In case the NSI suspects that the situation affects the figures, it is recommended best to report this in explanatory notes, footnotes, metadata.

Regarding the accommodation capacity data, Statistics Poland reported having included a

temporary question in the accommodation surveys asking for the number of bed places reserved for refugees (and not available for tourists), besides occupancy related questions asking for the number of refugees in the accommodation facility and the number of nights spent by these refugees.

## Related guidance notes

- [ESA 2010 guidance note on classification of Ukrainian refugees in national accounts](#)
- [BPM6/ESA 2010 guidance note on classification of Ukrainian refugees and statistical recording of cross-border transactions related to the Ukraine](#)

## Contact

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