

Basic tourism units and concepts



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Definition of a visitor

REC 93

The term visitor describes any person traveling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

New proposal

The term visitor describes any person **taking a trip** outside his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of trip is other than **being employed by or providing a paid service to a resident entity** in the place visited.

The classification of the purposes of visit

- Lack of clarity of the distinction between health purpose and leisure for “well being” activities;
- Second homes are only those owned by the household of the visitor?
- Split the “business” purpose to show separately those related to the MICE industries?
- Use of this classification in different observation procedures (E/D cards, surveys, etc...): need to unify these classifications in order to be able to relate the statistical sources.

The usual environment

- Debate around the relevance of the frequency criterion
- The case of vacation homes
- The notion of “district”: particular case of metropolitan areas
- Convenience of considering all trips outside one’s usual environment and crossing international border as tourism (provided the condition on purpose is met...)
- Combining distance with the crossing of administrative borders?

New proposals

- Identifying which are the travelers we want to exclude from visitors because they perform a paid “job” that is remunerated, directly or indirectly, by an entity resident in the country visited
- Improving the purpose of the trip as presented in UNWTO electronic discussion forum
- Refocusing the concept of usual environment