9.2.1. Reconciliation and mirror studies, cross country comparability and bilateral data exchanges

Refer to Feasibility Study 3.b Coherence

Bilateral reconciliation studies or mirror studies could also be conducted in countries that use MPD as a data source. It is assumed that outbound of country 1 to country 2 should be equal to inbound of country 2 from country 1. Reconciliation is aimed to explain if there are discrepancies between the bilateral inbound and outbound tourism statistics of partner country, for example, by identifying methodological differences. However, even if both countries use the same methodology and refer to international guidelines, there are still other reasons for such differences.

Basic procedures for bilateral reconciliation may include the following activities:

1. Setting the objectives of the reconciliation activity;
2. Establishing a common conceptual framework for reconciliation purposes;
3. Examining the differences in data and methodology; and
4. Formulation of conclusions of the reconciliation.