

## **Talent based urban development post 2020**

*Title of stakeholder proposal*



### *Summary*

Tourism is one of the main cornerstones of economy. In 2017 within the European Union direct contribution from tourism to economy was 4.2% of GDP and total contribution even 9.2%.

Historically in resort territories concentrates high quality and significant cultural and natural heritage, as well significant resources are located in areas, which makes the base of tourism development.

Despite the fact that Cohesion Policy climes requirement to specialize and use the talent of the territories, current Cohesion Policy poorly solves the problems, which become challenging within resort territories according to their specialization.

Medium size cities in the European Union face the same challenges as metropolises and within limited funding conditions cities, which have been specialized as a resort cities, still mainly concentrate on developing their education infrastructure, social infrastructure, public infrastructure etc. However, resort development, as well as urban development as a whole has been planned by attracting external financing resources. The challenge is that current Cohesion Policy mainly concentrates on supporting urban problem solving, and it is a major challenge to collate current Cohesion Policy with development needs of cities according to their specialization.

Current Cohesion Policy highlights economic growth potential in industrial production, which leads to difficulties develop infrastructure and services in industries such a tourism. Thereby resort development has not been supported properly, and considering economic benefits that come out of tourism - Europe's overall economic growth is being hampered.

### *Results and expected use*

The main aim is to raise awareness and highlight potential of tourism contribution to economic growth and to define development of resort areas as one of priorities of Cohesion Policy after 2020, including:

1. Highlighting the good practice of the European Union structural funds programming period 2014-2020, where financial envelope is issued by regional centres according to their development strategies, though propose to reduce top-down approach, when integrated territories investments are planned (funding follows specialization);
2. Preparing more evidence of actual contribution to the European Union economy and proposing more support to resort territories development within post 2020 Cohesion Policy.