

The role of security and the permeability of borders in Danube cruise tourism

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Abstract

Cruise tourism has witnessed dynamic development over the last twenty years, which was only disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This trend is the reserve of the observed decline in freight transport, which has mitigated the low rate of waterway utilisation. The Danube-Main-Rhine is the most important route for European river cruise tourism. Danube river cruise traffic doubled between 2002 and 2011, and has been growing steadily ever since. In 2020, the pandemic triggered a 90 % drop in passenger traffic, due mostly to the overwhelming share of guests belonging to the senior citizen category and many overseas passengers traveling to Europe by air.

The steady improvement of the security situation in the region and European integration have been the key underlying conditions for the development of Danube navigation. The changes implemented from 2019 and their effects reveal the critical role of the freedom of entry and movement between countries in the sector. The goal of the presentation is to demonstrate this last assertion.

Keywords: Danube, Danube navigation, borders, security