



UN Tourism



Tourism Law Conference in Europe Shaping the future: Tourism Law in Europe

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Tourism Law: An Evolving Legal Discipline

What is Tourism Law?

- Set of legal institutions and rules whose creation or content has been inspired by the tourism phenomenon
- It arises as a response to the need for a legal framework to regulate the growing tourism phenomenon
- Recently recognised as a legal discipline in its own
- Complex and heterogeneous nature of the tourism phenomenon

Why is Tourism Law important?

- **Regulatory impact on tourism activities:** Tourism Law shapes how tourism activities grow and are regulated
- **Need for a unique legal framework:** Increasing tendency to unify fragmented rules into comprehensive legal framework applicable to tourism
- **Addresses key issues requiring legal action:** Tourists' consumer protection, personal data privacy and protection, overtourism, short-term rentals, tourism digital platforms and other emerging challenges.

UN Tourism plays a key role in:

- Promoting the recognition of Tourism Law
- Developing normative instruments that advocate good practices in this regulatory area (standard setting function)
- Fostering activities relating to Tourism Law (events, publications, analysis and studies)

UN Tourism – Tourism & Law Activities Overview

Key Initiatives for 2025:

- 1. Tourism Law Observatories (Resolution 757(XXV)):**
 - Operating in Latin America and the Caribbean (laDB – Decision 6(CXXII) and currently expanding to the Middle East (Decision 3(CXXIII))
- 2. International Events on Tourism Law**
 - Side event “Tourism Law and Climate Action” at COP30: Belém, Brasil | November 19-20, 2025
 - Third UN Tourism International Seminar on Tourism Law: Havana, Cuba | December 9–11, 2025
- 3. Development, Review, and Optimization of Tourism Legislation**
 - Development of a Framework Tourism Law for Andorra, aligning with international best practices on sustainable tourism.
 - Diagnostic review and analysis on regulating short-term rentals via digital platforms across selected European countries.
- 4. Postgraduate Education in Tourism Law**
 - Launch of a Master’s Degree in Tourism Law in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism of the Dominican Republic.

UN Tourism – Tourism & Law Activities Overview

Key Initiatives for 2025:

5. Academic Publications and Collective Works

- Academic Publication on the “International Code for the Protection of Tourists” (Thomson Reuters)
- “Collective Work of the Tourism Law Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean” (Fundación de Cultura Universitaria)

6. Other Academic & Institutional Collaborations

- o Paris I, Pantheon- La Sorbonne University (France)& the University of Salamanca (Spain)
- o International Forum of Travel and Tourism Advocates (IFTTA)

Tourism Law Observatories

Pioneering digital platforms, hosted by UN Tourism Secretariat, that systematically collect, organize, analyze, update and disseminate tourism laws and regulations at a regional level, with the support of a network of individual experts and academic collaborators.

Approved as a Flagship Initiative of the PoW 2024-2025 by the 25th General Assembly through Resolution 757(XXV).

Purpose

- Provide a space where tourism regulations can be compiled, disseminated, analysed and adapted to face the current and future challenges of the sector
- Aims to contribute to the progressive harmonization of tourism laws and regulations and the generation of smart regulation for tourism

Mission

- Facilitate access to information, promote regulatory cooperation and improve the governance of the regulatory process in the tourism sector
- Promote the creation of a transparent and efficient legal framework that is aligned with the realities and needs of each country, while strengthening collaboration between actors in the sector

Academic Collaborators

Tourism Law Observatories are supported by a network of academic collaborators (universities, academic experts and researchers with relevant experience in Tourism Law), selected through the Member States, who actively participate in its various activities, particularly in the compilation of the legislation for the database.

Tourism Law Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean:

Establishment and financing:

- Established in collaboration and with the initial funding of the Interamerican Development Bank (IaDB)
- Currently financed by Uruguay and other interested Member States of the Americas through extra-budgetary contributions

Programme of Work:

- The PoW of the LAC Observatory is shaped directly by Member States of the Americas through dedicated surveys
- **PoW 2025** (with survey conducted in 2024)
 - **Main subjects:** (1) Sustainability (in its economic, environmental and social dimensions), (2) digitalization and new technologies and (3) territorial management and planning.
 - **Deliverables:** (1) Compendium of Best Practices in tourism legislation and (2) Recommendations for the development, review and optimization of tourism legislation.

Tourism Law Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean:

Key components:

- **Legislative database (Turismo LEX)** that compiles and organizes the legislation applicable to tourism in LAC countries
- **Resources and reports:** a section of reports, which includes analyses and diagnoses of the state of tourism legislation in the region, as well as resources and materials such as recommendations, model laws and publications
- **Media section:** latest news, events and initiatives in relation to Tourism Law and an interactive space dedicated to blogs and a forum where the latest issues on Tourism Law can be studied and debated
- **Interactive space:**
 - A virtual classroom providing free teaching materials and courses in the field of Tourism Law
 - A community of practice hosting working groups and thematic discussions, to exchange knowledge and good practice
- **Technical assistance:** services for the LAC Member States aimed at improving the process of drafting, implementing, and revising national tourism legislation

Tourism Law Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean:

Updates:

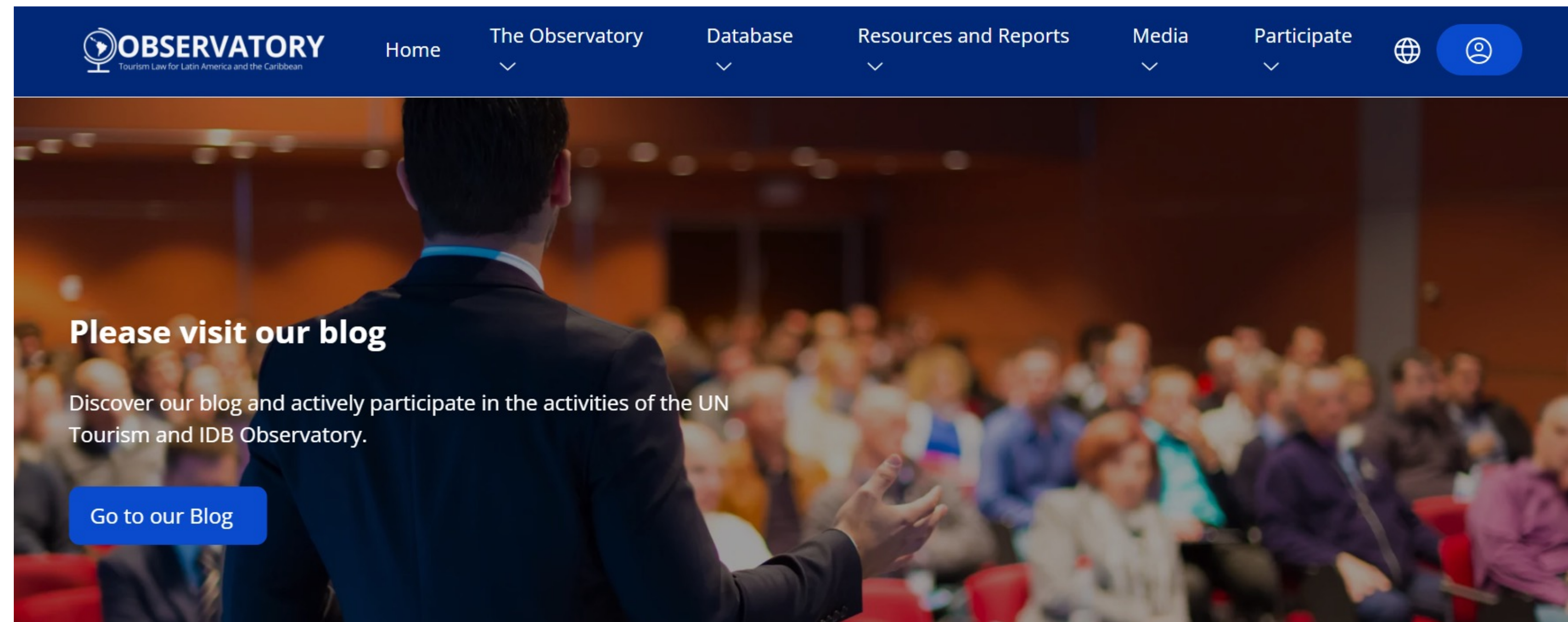
- **Turismo LEX Database**
Regularly updated with current tourism legislation across the LAC region
- **Comprehensive legal analysis**
Two comparative analysis of tourism laws in the region (both Latin America and the Caribbean) have been completed, highlighting key trends, significant developments, and identifying gaps and weaknesses within the current legal framework.
- **Upcoming newsletter**
Dedicated to news, updates, and initiatives in Tourism Law in the LAC region
- **Upcoming webinar**
Dedicated webinar for the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean to enhance their participation

Visit the Tourism Law Observatory for LAC:

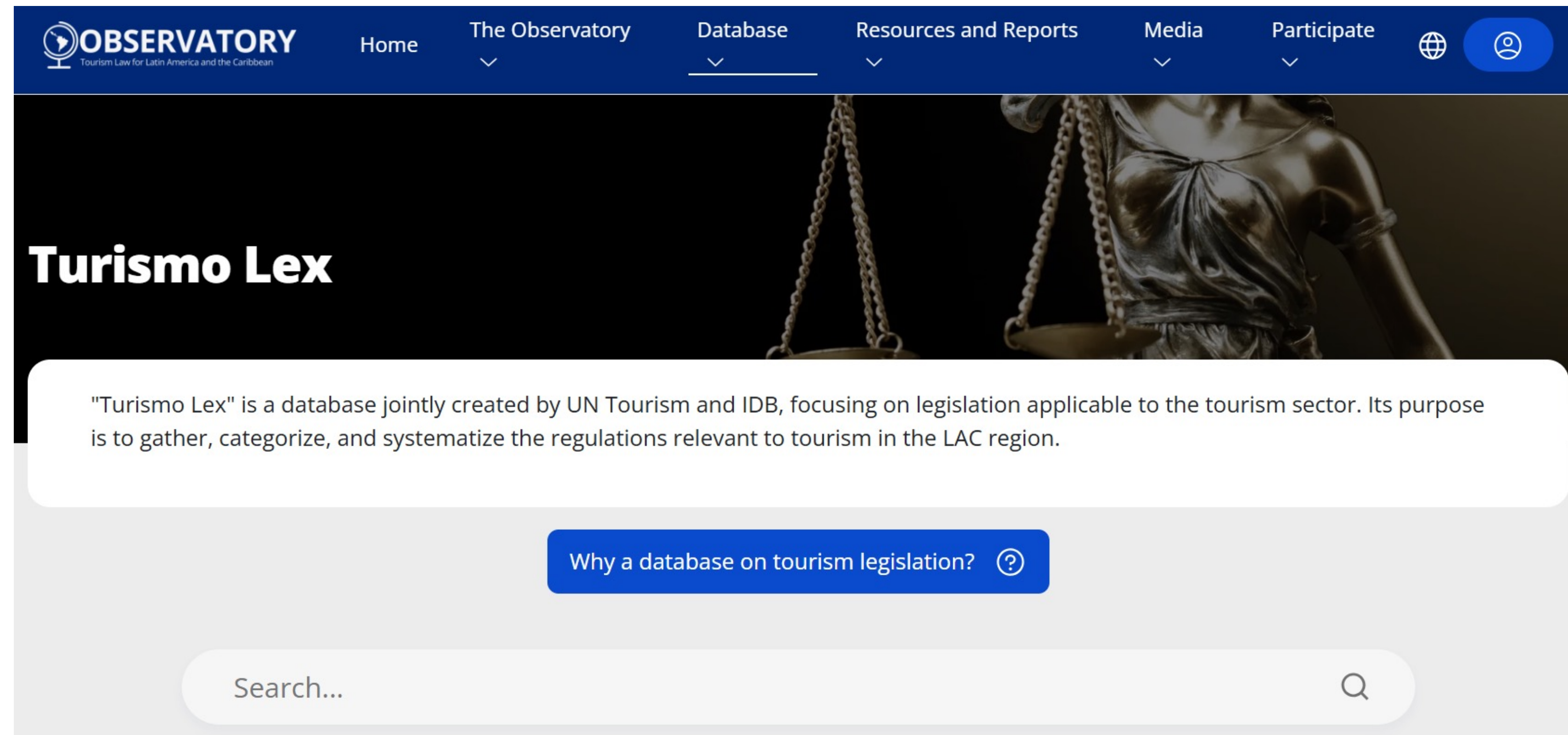
Link to the platform:

[El Observatorio Turístico de América Latina y el Caribe | El Observatorio](#)

The LAC Tourism Law Observatory – Platform:



The Turismo LEX Database:



Thematic Office for the LAC Observatory:

Overview

- Hosted in Montevideo, Uruguay (United Nations House)
- First thematic office of UN Tourism with a specialized focus on legal aspects of Tourism Law (approved by the 122nd session of the Executive Council through Decision 6(CXXII))
- The office serves as a **collaborative hub** for LAC countries, facilitating exchange on best practices, knowledge, and innovation in Tourism Law

1st Regional Congress of the LAC Observatory “*Perspectivas Legales hacia un Turismo Sostenible*,” – Dominican Republic | July 14–16, 2025:

- Organized in collaboration with Grupo Punta Cana, QA Legal and with the support of the Ministry of Tourism of the Dominican Republic
- Main topics: legal dimensions of sustainability, land use and territorial planning, short-term rentals via online platforms, accessibility, green investments.
- Key outcomes:
 - **Member States’ Working Group on Land Use and Territorial Planning:** development of legal recommendations on land management and territorial planning as a strategic tourism resource and creation of common guidelines on the development of tourism legislation in this subject through the Observatory’s community of practice.
 - Specialized training in the private sector on international standards in accessible tourism
 - Green investment session: Financing mechanisms for inclusive, sustainable tourism

Thematic Office for the LAC Observatory:

First Academic Publication: “Collective Work of the Tourism Law Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean” (Fundación de Cultura Universitaria):

- Contributions from over 30 experts across LAC, addressing a wide range of topics explored by the LAC Observatory.
- Valuable insights into the evolving field of tourism law, drawing on the Observatory’s research, diagnostics, recommendations, and outcomes from its Regional Congress

Inauguration of the Thematic Office for the LAC Observatory (Montevideo, Uruguay- September 2024):



1st Regional Congress of the Tourism Law Observatory for LAC



Tourism Law Observatory for the Middle East

Overview

- Approved by the Executive Council at its 123rd session through Decision 3(CXXIII) and currently being established within the structure and under the funding of the Regional Office for the Middle East
- Expected to be launched at the end of 2025
- Strategic Focus
- Collaborative hub for Middle East countries, facilitating a platform for regional dialogue and allowing countries to share experiences, learn from each other, and collectively address common challenges.
- Marks a significant step toward replicating the Observatory`s model across all regions, supporting the long-term vision of a more harmonized legal framework on Tourism Law.

Key objectives

- **Development and improvement of legal frameworks applicable to tourism**, encouraging progressive regulatory harmonization in areas requiring supranational intervention.
- **Fostering regional regulatory cooperation** and effective communication among all tourism stakeholders,
- **Optimization of governance models**, by promoting the active participation of various stakeholders throughout the regulatory process.

Tourism Law Observatory for the Middle East

Updates

- Ongoing adaptation of the digital platform into Arabic
- Call for pre-selection of academic collaborators from Middle East Member States to be launched shortly
- Dedicated promotional webinar

Towards the establishment of a Tourism Law Observatory for Europe?

Overview

- For the Member States of the Region of Europe,
- Replicating the Observatory's model in Europe, with the necessary adaptations (French translation and extension of the capacity of the legislative database)
- Approved as a Flagship Initiative of the PoW 2024-2025 by the 25th General Assembly through Resolution 757(XXV)
- Hosted as a Virtual Hub and/or UN Tourism Thematic Office (legal framework 740(XXIV))

Strategic Focus

- Collaborative hub for **European countries, both from EU** and non-EU, facilitating a platform for regional dialogue and allowing countries to share experiences (e.g. Tourism Act on Sustainable Destination Management – Croatia; STRs regulation), learn from each other, and collectively address common challenges.
- Supporting the long-term vision of a more harmonized legal framework on Tourism Law at a global level

International Seminars on Tourism Law

Global gatherings for the promotion and development of Tourism Law

- **Annual meeting:** Prestigious platform that brings together leading tourism law experts, policy makers, academics and practitioners from the public and private sector from all over the world every year
- **Global Impact** Contribute to progressively strengthen and harmonise an international legal framework in tourism and promote inclusive, sustainable and up-to-date policies and regulations

Main objectives

- **Debate and deliberation:** On the latest developments and challenges in Tourism Law.
- **Knowledge generation:** To promote new perspectives in tourism law.
- **Sharing best practices:** In the development of regulations for a more ethical, sustainable and accessible tourism.

Editions:

- I. First edition: “International Code for the Protection of Tourists”, Salamanca (Spain) – 2023
- II. Second edition: “Sustainability and Universal Accessibility: a Tourism Law Perspective”, Córdoba (Argentina) – 2024
- III. Third edition: “Challenges of Tourism Law.”, Havana (Cuba) – from 9 to 11 December 2025 – SAVE THE DATE!

In-depth exploration of legal challenges and developments in the tourism sector:

- Territorial planning (coastal area)
- Short-term rentals offered through online platforms
- Foreign investment in tourism
- Artificial intelligence and others!

I International Seminar on Tourism Law – Salamanca, Spain (2023)



II International Seminar on Tourism Law – Córdoba, Argentina (2024)



COP30 Side Event on “Tourism Law and Climate Action”

Overview:

- 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (Tourism dialogue programme)
- Belém, Brazil | 19–20 November 2025
- Organized by UN Tourism, powered by the LAC Tourism Law Observatory

Thematic Sessions:

1. **“Tourism Law in the age of climate crisis: advancing climate action through tourism legislation”**
 - Exploring opportunities and challenges in advancing climate-responsive tourism laws; and
 - Integrating the Glasgow Declaration’s action plans into national frameworks.
2. **Strengthening Tourism Legislation for Climate-Resilient Land and Sea Management**
 - Focus on incorporating sustainability and climate considerations into land and sea planning through effective tourism legislation.
 - Support the ongoing work of the LAC Tourism Law Observatory through the community of practice

COP30 Side Event on “Tourism Law and Climate Action”

Objectives and Outcomes:

- Highlight the role of Tourism Law in accelerating climate action
- Support the work of the LAC Tourism Law Observatory
- Foster collaboration and knowledge exchange across countries

Tourism Law Activities in Europe

Development of a Tourism Framework Law for Andorra

Overview

- Establishment of a clear and comprehensive legal framework aligned with international standards and best practices on sustainability and digitalization
- Addresses Andorra's specific needs and peculiarities

Key components

- Drafting the **Tourism Framework Law for Andorra**
- Developing **a set of Recommendations** to promote inter-institutional coordination and support effective implementation.

Four Pillars

1. **Sustainability** – Promotion of environmentally sustainable practices and conservation of natural and cultural heritage
2. **Digitalization** – Fostering the use of new technologies and innovation in the sector
3. **Training** – Promotion of training, employment and economic and social development in local communities
4. **Competitiveness** – Enhances Andorra's competitiveness as a tourist destination and strengthening confidence in the sector

Development of a Tourism Framework Law for Andorra

Objectives

- Ensuring sustainable, competitive, and environmentally conscious tourism development in Andorra
- Serving as a reference for other member states in the development and optimization of tourism legislation

Updates

- Final phase of implementation: draft Law was completed and presented in July 2025 to stakeholders from both the public and private sectors.
- Currently undergoing a participatory consultation process
- Final version is expected to be submitted to the national parliament for approval by the end of 2025.

Integrating Positive Experiences and Legislations for Regulating Online Short-Term Rentals Platforms

Overview

- Diagnostic review and evaluation of existing legal and regulatory frameworks governing **short-term rentals and accommodation services, offered by hosts through online platforms**, in selected European countries
- Knowledge-sharing virtual events aimed at disseminating findings and best practices with **a special focus on the needs of Southeast European destinations**

Geographic Focus

- Selected European countries: **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro** and **Serbia**
- Special focus on Southeast Europe

Key Activities

- Analyse existing laws and regulations related to short-term rentals offered through online platforms
- Review mechanisms to monitor compliance with applicable legislation when operating across borders in EU and non-EU countries
- Identify and evaluate positive experiences and best practices, as well as loopholes of the current legal frameworks
- Organize knowledge-sharing virtual events to disseminate findings and facilitate regional dialogue (by the end of 2025)

Integrating Positive Experiences and Legislations for Regulating Online Short-Term Rentals Platforms

Expected Outcomes

- Support harmonized and effective regulation of the online short-term rental sector
- Encourage regional cooperation and knowledge exchange

Updates

- First phase of implementation: ongoing diagnostic review and assessment of existing legal and regulatory frameworks
- A structured questionnaire has been distributed to participating governmental focal points, selected academic experts, and stakeholders.
- Purpose: identify regulatory gaps, share experiences, and foster legislative development and harmonization in this evolving area.

Other Collaborations on Tourism Law

Strategic academic collaboration

- Paris I, Pantheon- La Sorbonne University (France)& the University of Salamanca (Spain)

Key initiatives

- **International PhD Programme in Tourism Law**

Currently working on creation of PhD programme to promote specialized education, training, and research in the field of Tourism Law with the University of Salamanca and the University of La Sorbonne

- **Academic Publication on the “International Code for the Protection of Tourists” (Aranzadi LA LEY)**

Based on contributions from panellists at the 1st International Seminar on Tourism Law, organized in collaboration with the University of Salamanca.

- **Students’ visit at UN Tourism HQ (Master du Droit du Tourisme – June 2023)**

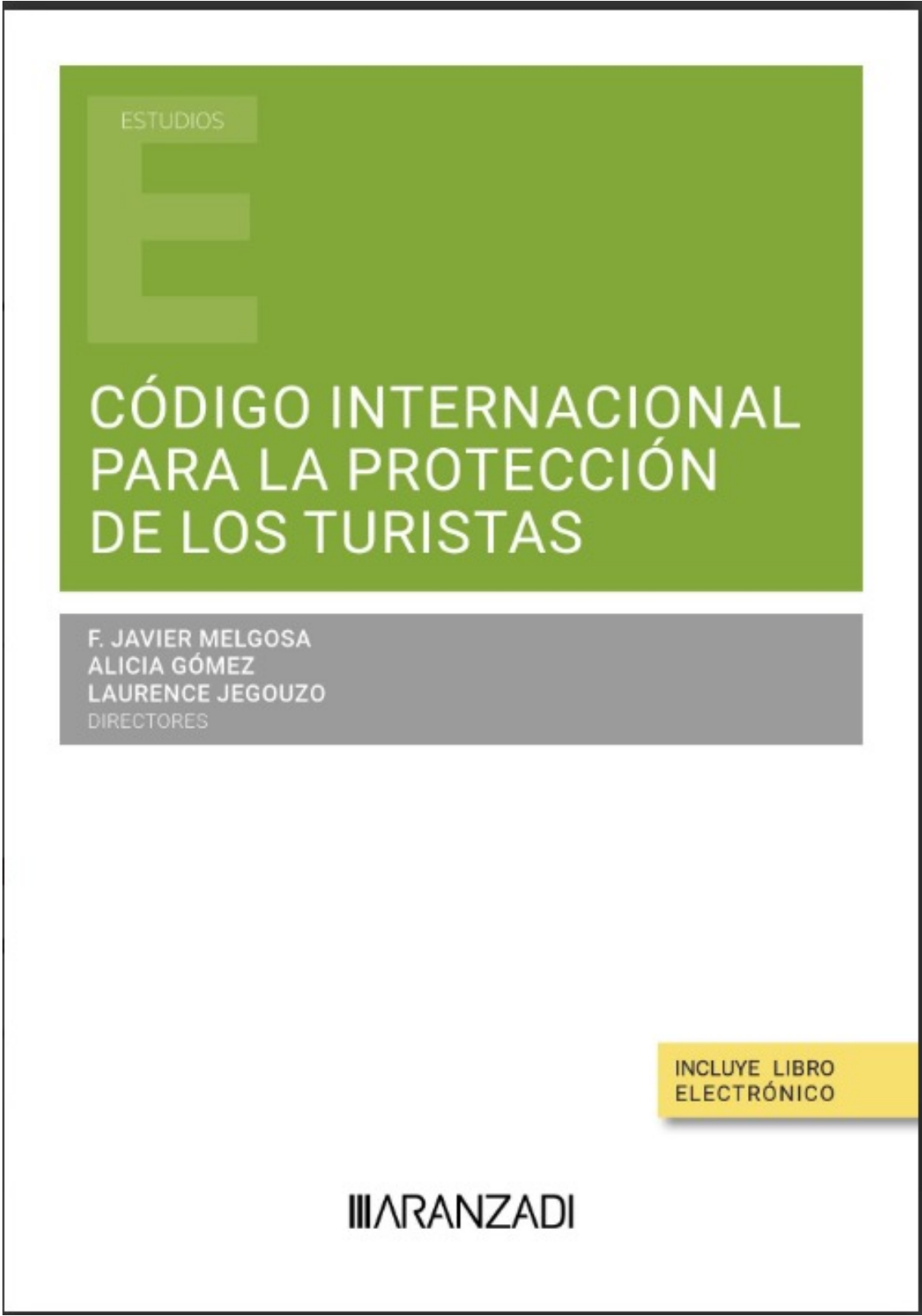
- **Participation in the annual Tourism Law Conferences organized by La Sorbonne University**

– Participation in academic discussions on trending topics in tourism law.

– Previous editions:

- June 2023 at Panthéon - La Sorbonne University, Paris (France) « 20 ans de Droit du Tourisme et des Transports »
- June 2024 at Panthéon - La Sorbonne University, Paris (France) « Aspects Juridiques du Surtourisme »
- June 2025 at Pantheon - La Sorbonne University, Paris (France) « Le Droit du Tourisme et de la Mer »

Academic Publication on the “International Code for the Protection of Tourists:



Other Collaborations in Tourism Law

Strategic institutional collaboration

International Forum of Travel and Tourism Advocates (IFTTA)

Aims and scope

- Exchange of information on the aspects of Travel and Tourism Law.
- Promotion of Travel and Tourism Law knowledge, education, and training.
- Collaboration on resources of Travel and Tourism Law information (statutes, case law, etc. worldwide);
- Collaboration on the establishment of common legal standards for the Travel and Tourism Industry.

Key areas of cooperation

- Collecting, organizing, analysing and disseminating tourism regulations worldwide, particularly through the UN Tourism's Law Observatories
- Development of normative and regulatory frameworks related to travel and tourism at the national and international level
- Cooperation in areas of education and training, including, but not limited to, activities such as joint conferences, seminars, meetings and similar.

Thank you !

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