

# Pollution through Tourism and the Managers' Involvement in the Ecologic Education of the Tourists

Corina Constanța Sîrbu, Tiberiu Iancu\*, Ioan Brad, Elena Peț, Sebastian Moisa, Iasmina Iosim, Claudia Sîrbulescu, Buzamăt Genoveva

*Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "King Michael I of Romania" from Timisoara, Faculty of Agricultural Management, Calea Aradului, No 119, Romania*

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## Abstract

The study regarding the tourists behavior is very important because, beside the possibility to meet new people, different cultures and to visit special places, they think they can do whatever they want when they are in vacation. This approach is wrong and has impact on the environment. From our analysis, we noticed that the positive effects on the environment are less than the negative ones and the main cause is the uncivilized behavior of the tourists. In this study, we observed that 85% of the participants are aware that, due to their behavior, the environment is polluted, and 38% admit that they threw the garbage in waters or on the ground. We consider that the tourists education is necessary in order to stop the environment pollution.

**Keywords:** pollution, managers, tourism, environment

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## 1. Introduction

In the last years, we witnessed to a development of the tourism sector determining in the same time a prosperity of the other sectors like trade and transportation. Because the requirements on the touristic market are increasing we have to be aware both of the advantages of the development of this sector and of its disadvantages because the tourism activities lead to climate changes which contribute to the global heating. The managers from the tourism sector play a very important role because the facilities they offer to the tourists have impact on the environment and therefore they have to promote the ecotourism. There are several studies regarding the tourism activities, ecotourism and management strategies in tourism. [1-3]

The ecotourism is based on nature observation, and the main purpose is to keep safe the environment and to realize a durable exploitation of the natural resources. The correct management of ecologic tourism is based on some collaboration principles [4]:

- usage of strict measures regarding the protection of the natural ecosystems,
- it is very important to have rules regarding the receiving capacity so that the tourism units not to be overcrowded,
- ecologic accommodation locations should be built for the tourists, using the ecologic materials and construction methods, using equipment which does not consume energy (hotels with alternative energy, solar panels, etc), eliminating the pollution sources.

Form the specialized literature [5,6] we noticed that there are tourism agencies specialized in ecotourism, concerned by the environment protection, usage of natural resources, which provide to the tourists guides informing them about biodiversity and environment protection measures.

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\*Corresponding author: Tiberiu Iancu, [iancutiberiu10@gmail.com](mailto:iancutiberiu10@gmail.com)

Some authors [7,8] consider that tourists choose to visit a touristic area due to its beautiful landscape, habits and traditions but also due to the quality of the environment.

## 2. Material and methods

The research method used was the sociologic investigation and the results were obtained through the survey technique. The survey had several closed questions and the sample was random.

## 3. Results and discussion

Because the pollution is one of the important aspects, which affects our life, we consider important this study and we would like that these persons questioned to be aware of this aspect and to inform their family, friends and colleagues and when they are tourists to try to pollute less.

Question: Are you interested about the pollution of the environment?

We can notice from figure 1 that over 92% of the persons interviewed answered that they are very interested about the environment pollution and only 8% of the participants are slightly interested. We can see that in the last years the population started to be aware about the importance of this aspect and try to take the necessary measures to pollute less.

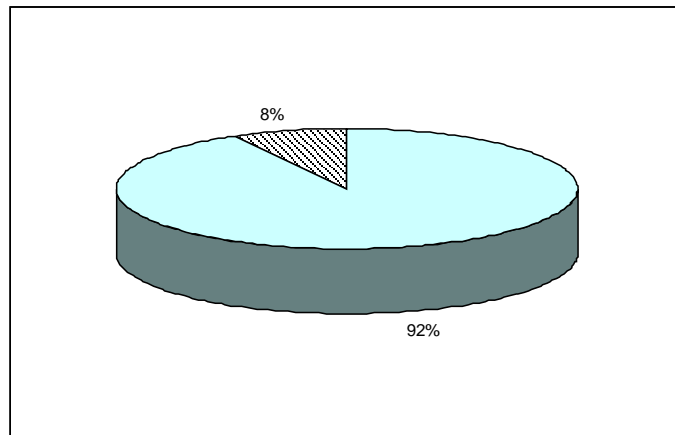


Figure 1 Frequency of the answers regarding the interest for pollution

Do you consider that tourists are the main polluters of the environment?

In figure 2 we can see that our participants answered in a proportion of 59% no, 25% yes and

16% said that they don't know which are the main polluters of the environment.

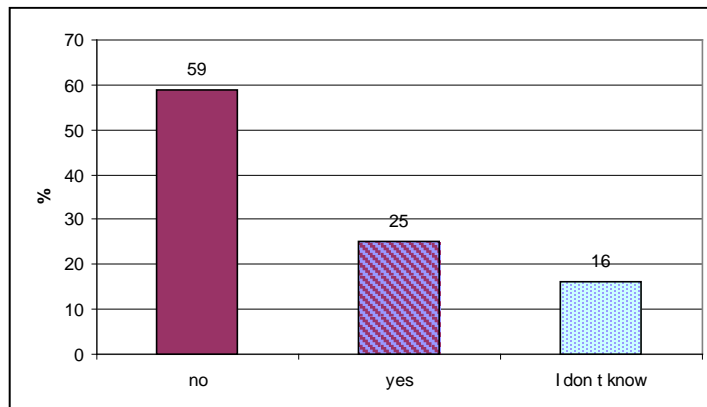
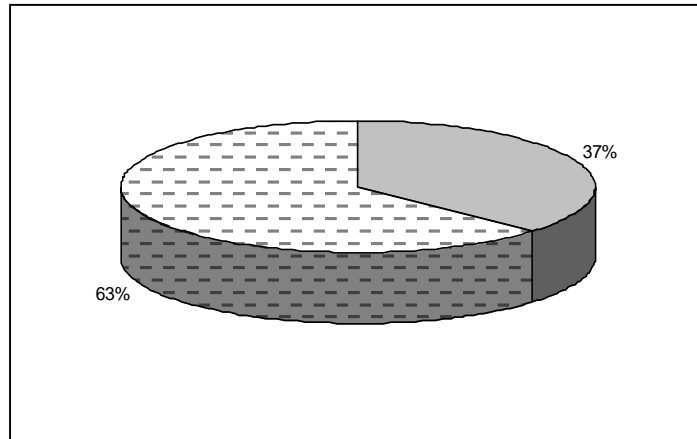


Figure 2 Distribution of the answers regarding the main polluters

Question: Do you know to which extent the managers of the hotels where you stayed were involved in the environment protection?

In figure 3 we can notice that 37% of the participants declared that the managers of the

hotels they visited are interested by the environment protection making available trash bins for recycling materials (paper, glass, metal) and 63% answered that they did not paid attention to this aspect.

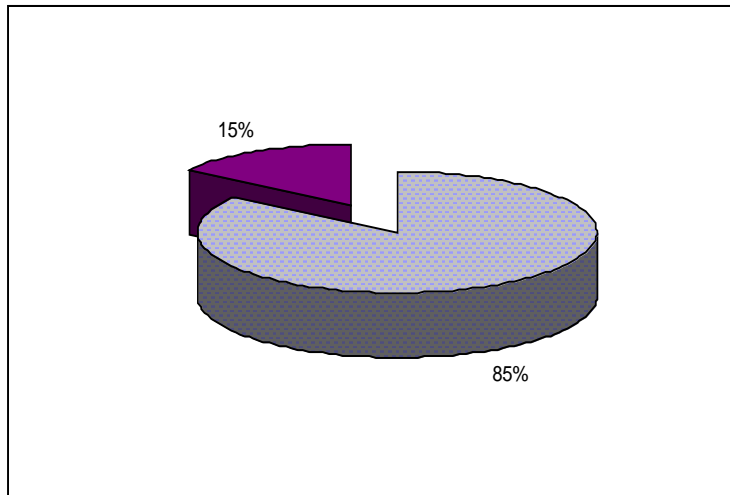


**Figure 3** Frequency of the answers concerning the managers' involvement

Next question was: Do you consider that tourists are civilized in the places they are visiting?

We can see in this study that 85% of the participants are aware that due to their behavior,

they pollute the environment and 15% of them are not aware of this aspect.



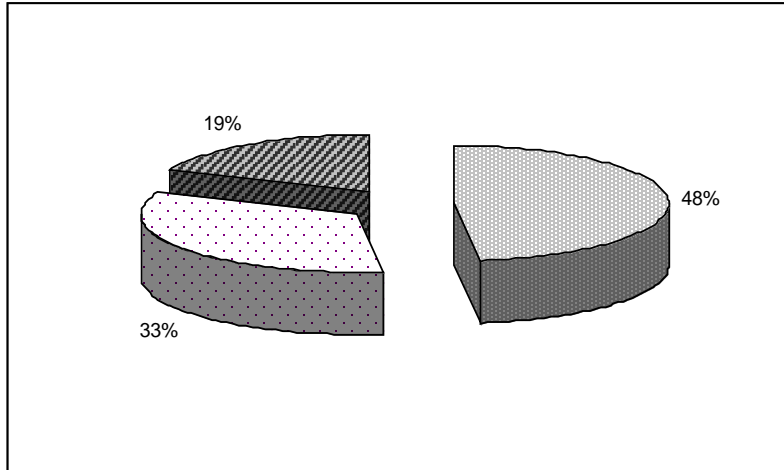
**Figure 4** Frequency of the answers regarding the tourists' behavior

Do you consider that the tourists are very involved in gathering the garbage from the places they visit? In your opinion, are the tourists polluting the water, the air and the soil?

In figure 5, we can observe that 48% of the participants answered the air, 33% answered the

soil due to the garbage left behind and only 19% answered the water.

Even if the answers were different, the tourists should gather the garbage because it gets into the soil and water; they should give up their cars and make the visits using the public transportation or the bicycles.



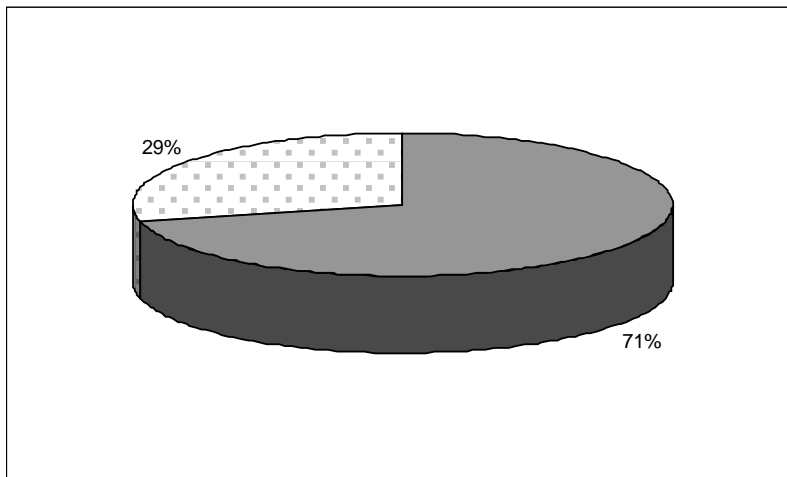
**Figure 5** Distribution of the answers concerning the garbage gathering

Do you consider that by creating modern conditions for the tourists, the managers from tourism pollute the environment?

By analyzing the answers, we noticed that 71% consider that the managers pollute the environment by creating modern conditions and to

face the completion, and 29% answered that they don't know.

The managers should store the recycling and non-recycling materials according to the European Union standards, avoiding in this way the environment pollution.



**Figure 6** Managers' pollution by offering modern conditions to the tourists

Analyzing the answers, we can see that 62% of the participants over 40 years are aware about the impact of uncivilized behavior on the environment

and 38% of the participants over 18 years admit that they have an uncivilized behavior by throwing the garbage in the waters or on the soil.

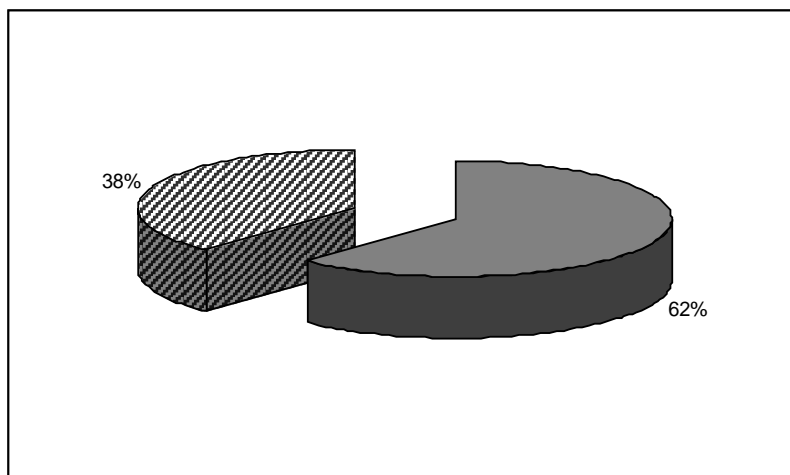


Figure 7 Frequency of the answers depending on the age of the participants

### 3. Conclusions

The pollution is one of the phenomena that should concern us whether we are tourists or simple citizens.

From this study, we noticed that 85% of the participants are aware that due to their inappropriate behavior they pollute the environment but it is not enough if they do not take the measures to minimize this aspect which affects our lives.

The tourists should understand that all the outdoor activities determine environment changes.

The managers should store the recycling and non-recycling materials according to the European Union standards, avoiding in this way the environment pollution.

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