

# Exploring Domestic Tourism in the Nordics 2022 – Survey results

20.04.2023

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## **Table of Contents**

01	General information about the survey
02	Key results
03	Background information
04	Domestic tourism in general
05	Impacts of the pandemic
06	Development of domestic tourism



#### General information about the survey

This is a results report of a survey conducted as a part of the project **Exploring Domestic Tourism in the Nordics**. The project was financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers and coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland.

The survey was directed at tourism companies and organisations in all the Nordic countries and autonomous areas. The main aim was to explore how the tourism sector enterprises and other organisations in different Nordic countries see the potential and future of domestic tourism and what kind of support they need in order to better operate in the domestic tourism market.

The survey was conducted as an internet questionnaire that was distributed with the help of stakeholders in different countries and in social media groups. The survey link was shared in the countries' tourism networks (for example, through the DMOs and business support organisations). The link was also distributed in social media through paid for marketing targeting tourism industry actors. Additionally, since the initial distribution gave low number of responses in some countries, additional responses were also collected from an internet panel where the survey was directed to people working in the tourism sector. The survey was open for responses from November 2022 to January 2023. The survey received in total 480 responses (distribution via link: 295 pcs, panel: 185 pcs).

The focus of the survey was to map the needs of enterprises regarding domestic tourism, emphasising an explorative approach; therefore, representative sampling was not the key priority while conducting the survey. The results should be viewed as the opinions of the collected sample of people working in the tourism industry, and they are not representative of the whole tourism industry. In particular, the low number of responses from Denmark, Norway and the autonomous areas must be taken into account when interpreting the survey results.



## **Key results**

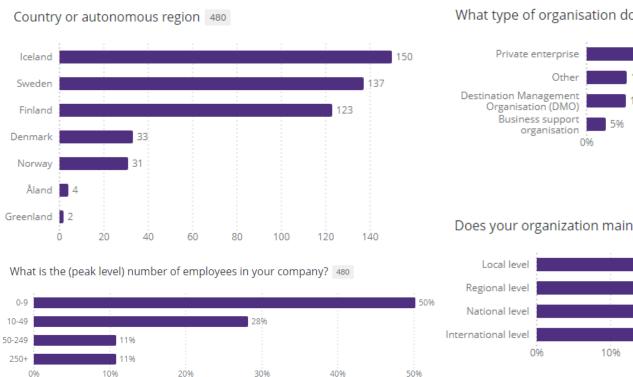
34 %	expect the <b>share of domestic tourism of their revenue to increase in the next three years</b> . 20 % expect the share to decrease.
73 %	are <b>interested in attracting more domestic tourists</b> in the future. 9 % are not interested in that.
43 %	have <b>created</b> , <b>developed or received useful practices to enhance domestic tourism in their enterprise</b> or organization during the pandemic.
44 %	think that marketing campaigns to increase domestic tourism would benefit the domestic tourism in their region. Additionally, opportunities to collaborate and network with other businesses and developing the local infrastructure, transportation, and accessibility were seen as beneficial by many (both 40 %).
<b>51</b> %	think that <b>the most significant pull factors for domestic tourism</b> in the next three years is <b>the increase of interest in nature tourism destinations</b> . Also, <b>the increase of interest in sustainable and responsible modes of tourism</b> is strongly considered as a pull factor (49 %).



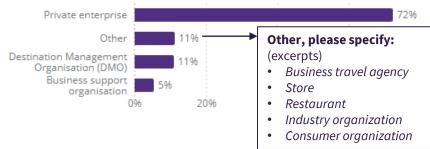
# **Background information**



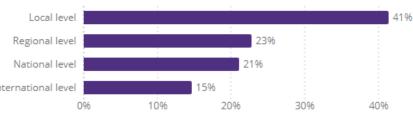
### **Background information**







#### Does your organization mainly operate on 478





## **Background information – By country**

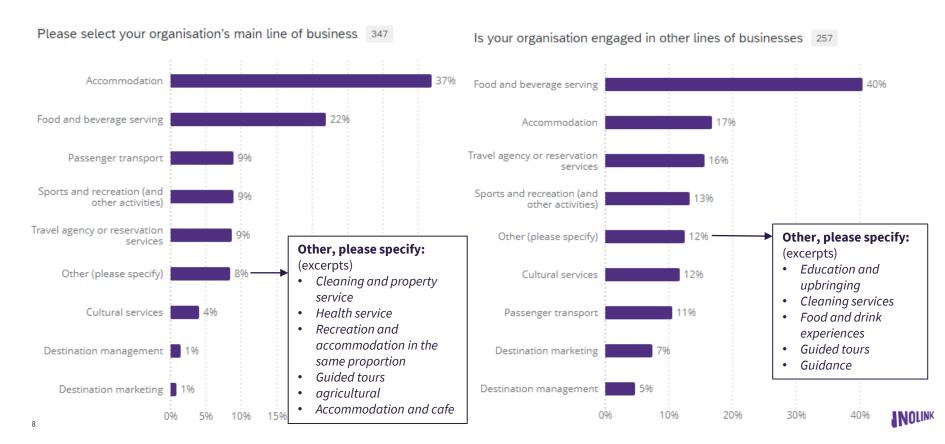
Does your organization	Iceland	Sweden	Finland	Norway	Denmark
mainly operate on	(n=150)	(n=137)	(n=123)	(n=31)	(n=31)
Local level	49 %	<b>51</b> %	25 %	42 %	29 %
Regional level	21 %	19 %	<b>30</b> %	19 %	23 %
National level	18 %	16 %	27 %	19 %	32 %
International level	12 %	14 %	18 %	19 %	16 %

What type of organisation do you	Iceland	Sweden	Finland	Norway	Denmark
represent?	(n=150)	(n=137)	(n=123)	(n=31)	(n=33)
Private enterprise	80 %	74 %	67 %	71 %	61 %
Other	9 %	11 %	18 %	6 %	0 %
Destination Management Organisation (DMO)	7 %	14 %	8 %	19 %	24 %
Business support organisation	5 %	1 %	7 %	3 %	<b>15</b> %

What is the (peak level) number of employees in your company?	Iceland (n=150)	Sweden (n=137)	Finland (n=123)	Norway (n=31)	<b>Denmark</b> (n=33)
0-9	71 %	35 %	<b>51</b> %	39 %	27 %
10-49	23 %	<b>39</b> %	20 %	32 %	<b>36</b> %
50-249	4 %	14 %	11 %	13 %	24 %
250+	2 %	12 %	<b>17</b> %	<b>16</b> %	12 %



## **Background information**



## **Background information – By country**

Please select your organisation's main line of business	Iceland (n=120)	Sweden (n=101)	Finland (n=82)	Norway (n=22)	<b>Denmark</b> (n=20)
Accommodation	40 %	42 %	38 %	27 %	0 %
Food and beverage serving	6 %	27 %	27 %	59 %	35 %
Passenger transport	<b>17</b> %	2 %	7 %	0 %	<b>15</b> %
Sports and recreation (and other activities)	8 %	10 %	10 %	9 %	5 %
Travel agency or reservation services	14 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	30 %
Other (please specify)	9 %	9 %	10 %	0 %	5 %
Cultural services	6 %	5 %	1 %	0 %	5 %
Destination management	0 %	3 %	1 %	0 %	5 %
Destination marketing	0 %	1 %	2 %	0 %	0 %

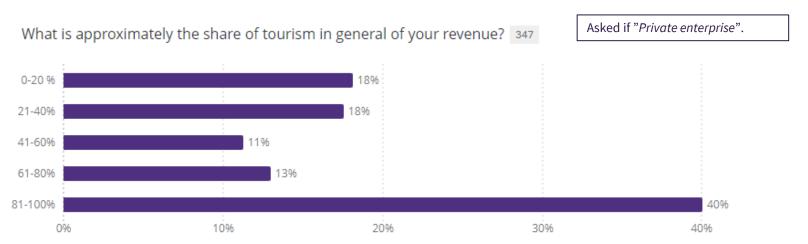
The top 3 of each country highlighted in green.



## Domestic tourism in general



## The share of tourism in general

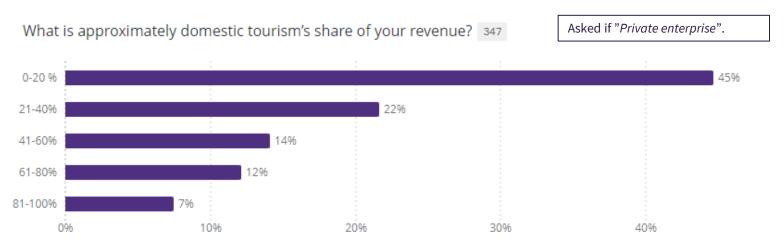


Dy country	Iceland	Sweden	Finland	Norway	Denmark
By country:	(n=120)	(n=101)	(n=82)	(n=22)	(n=20)
0-20 %	3 %	25 %	27 %	32 %	20 %
21-40%	5 %	19 %	26 %	41 %	30 %
41-60%	8 %	18 %	7 %	5 %	20 %
61-80%	8 %	16 %	18 %	0 %	20 %
81-100%	<b>75</b> %	23 %	22 %	23 %	10 %

By operating	Local level	Regional level	National level	International level
level:	(n=139)	(n=71)	(n=78)	(n=57)
0-20 %	24 %	10 %	19 %	12 %
21-40%	14 %	31 %	17 %	11 %
41-60%	10 %	18 %	8 %	11 %
61-80%	13 %	7 %	13 %	21 %
81-100%	39 %	34 %	44 %	46 %



#### The share of domestic tourism

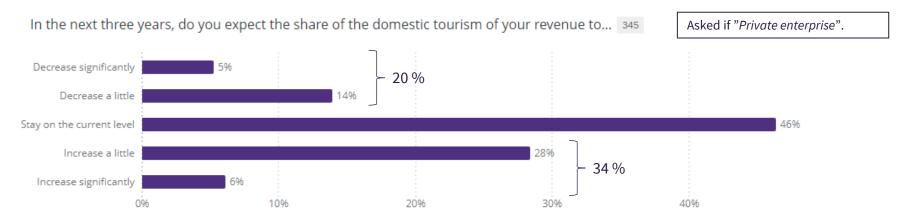


Py country	Iceland	Sweden	Finland	Norway	Denmark
By country:	(n=120)	(n=101)	(n=82)	(n=22)	(n=20)
0-20 %	<b>72</b> %	27 %	28 %	41 %	45 %
21-40%	19 %	30 %	17 %	23 %	15 %
41-60%	6 %	21 %	16 %	18 %	20 %
61-80%	2 %	18 %	20 %	5 %	20 %
81-100%	2 %	5 %	20 %	14 %	0 %

By operating	Local level	Pegional level	National level	International level
level:	(n=139)	(n=71)	(n=78)	(n=57)
0-20 %	55 %	37 %	38 %	39 %
21-40%	27 %	25 %	14 %	16 %
41-60%	11 %	23 %	8 %	21 %
61-80%	4 %	7 %	23 %	23 %
81-100%	4 %	8 %	<b>17</b> %	2 %



## **Expectations regarding domestic tourism**

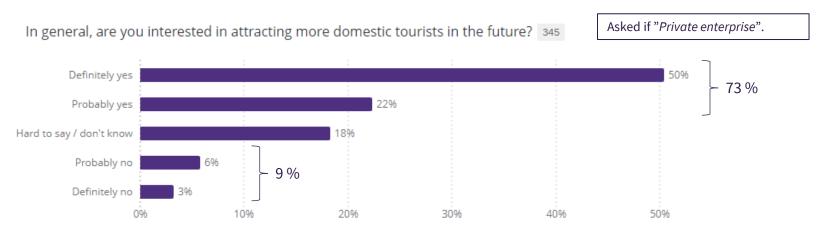


By country:	Iceland	Sweden	Finland	Norway	Denmark
	(n=120)	(n=101)	(n=80)	(n=22)	(n=20)
Decrease significantly	8 %	4 %	1 %	9 %	5 %
Decrease a little	8 %	14 %	14 %	23 %	40 %
Stay on the current level	56 %	46 %	38 %	41 %	40 %
Increase a little	22 %	<b>32</b> %	41 %	23 %	10 %
Increase significantly	7 %	5 %	6 %	5 %	5 %

By operating level:		•		International level
	(n=138)	(n=70)	(n=78)	(n=57)
Decrease significantly	8 %	7 %	0 %	4 %
Decrease a little	<b>17</b> %	<b>19</b> %	8 %	9 %
Stay on the current level	49 %	39 %	50 %	47 %
Increase a little	22 %	33 %	31 %	33 %
Increase significantly	4 %	3 %	12 %	7 %



## **Attracting more domestic tourists**



By country:	Iceland (n=120)	Sweden (n=101)	Finland (n=80)	Norway (n=22)	Denmark (n=20)	By operating level:	Local level (n=138)	Regional level (n=70)	National level (n=78)	International level (n=57)
Definitely yes	47 %	<b>56</b> %	<b>51</b> %	<b>50</b> %	42 %	Definitely yes	49 %	55 %	54 %	43 %
Probably yes	23 %	15 %	29 %	18 %	32 %	Probably yes	17 %	25 %	24 %	29 %
Hard to say / don't know	16 %	23 %	15 %	23 %	16 %	Hard to say / don't know	24 %	8 %	18 %	18 %
Probably no	10 %	1 %	5 %	9 %	5 %	Probably no	7 %	10 %	1 %	5 %
Definitely no	4 %	<b>5</b> %	0 %	0 %	<b>5</b> %	Definitely no	4 %	1 %	3 %	5 %



# Please describe the three most typical preferences for domestic tourists in one or two words:

The most mentioned words by country.

#### Iceland (n=128):

- Gott/Góða/Góð/ Góðan (n=52)
- Þjónustu / Þjónusta (n=28)
- *Verð* (n=20)
- Náttúra / Náttúru (n=17)
- Afþreying / Afþreyingu (n=15)
- *Mat* (n=13)
- Ódýrt / Ódýra (n=13)
- Veður (n=10)
- Gistingu (n=10)
- *Upplifun* (n=10)

#### Sweden (n=90):

- Mat/ Matupplevelser (n=23)
- Natur/ Naturupplevelser (n=16)
- Bra/God/Gott (n=15)
- *Upplevelse* (n=8)
- *Prisvärt / Pris* (n=8)
- *Dryck* (n=7)
- Service (n=7)
- Evenemang (n=5)
- *Kultur* (n=4)
- Kvalitet (n=4)

#### **Finland** (n=99):

- *Luonto* (n=28)
- Hinta / Edullinen / Edullisuus / Hinnoittelu (n=18)
- *Hyvä / Hyvät* (n=15)
- Rauha / Rauhallisuus (n=13)
- Elämykset / Elämys (n=13)
- Helppous / Helppo (n=13)
- Palvelut/Palvelu (n=10)
- *Ruoka* (n=9)
- Aktiviteetit / Aktiviteetti (n=8)
- *Sijainti* (n=6)

#### Norway (n=22):

- *Opplevelse* (n=5)
- *Mat / Spisegjester* (n=5)
- Natur/ Naturopplevelser (n=4)
- *Lokal* (n=2)
- *Pris* (n=2)

#### **Denmark** (n=23):

- Natur/Naturen/ Naturoplevelser (n=8)
- Kultur/ Kulturoplevelser/ Kulturarv (n=6)
- Mad (n=4)
- Gode / God (n=4)
- Outdoor (n=3)
- Afslapning (n=2)
- Oplevelser (n=2)
- Tryghed (n=2)



# Impacts of the pandemic



## Impacts of the pandemic

Asked if "Private enterprise".

In comparison to time before Covid-19 pandemic, what is the situation in your company now? 343



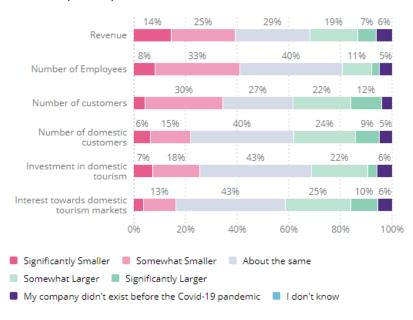


In comparison to time before Covid-19 pandemic, what is the situation in your company now?

Iceland (n=119):

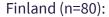


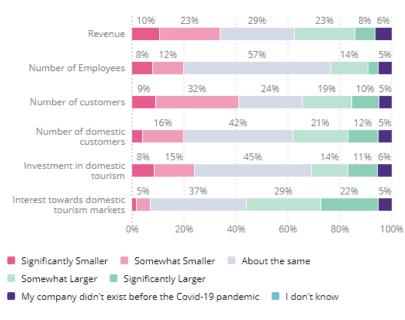
#### Sweden (n=100):





In comparison to time before Covid-19 pandemic, what is the situation in your company now?





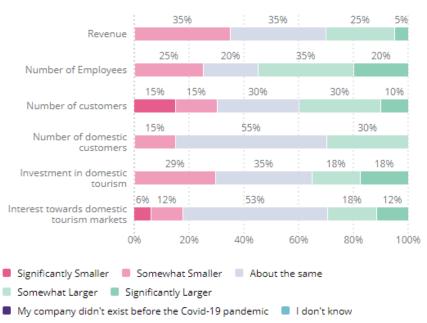
#### Norway (n=22):





In comparison to time before Covid-19 pandemic, what is the situation in your company now?

#### Denmark (n=20):

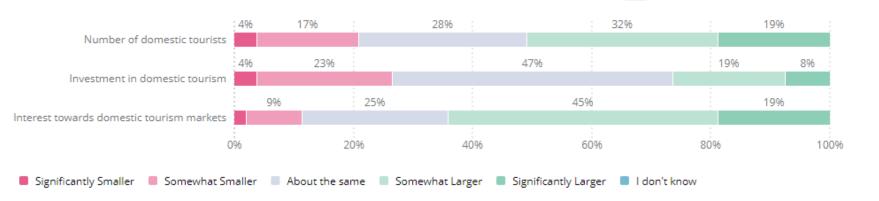




### Impacts of the pandemic

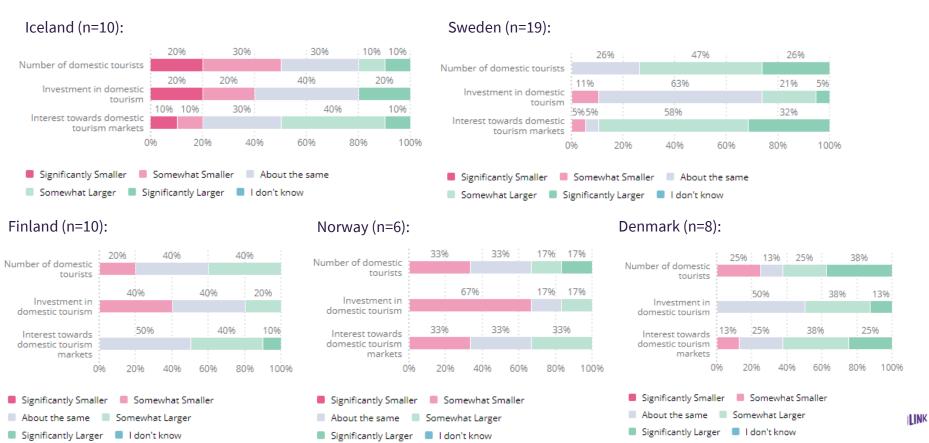
Asked if "Destination Management Organisation (DMO)".

In comparison to time before Covid-19 pandemic, what is the situation in your region now? 53





In comparison to time before Covid-19 pandemic, what is the situation in your region now?



## Useful practices to enhance domestic tourism

During the pandemic, have you created, developed or received useful practices to enhance domestic tourism in your enterprise or organization? 480



By country:	Iceland (n=150)	Sweden (n=137)	Finland (n=123)	Norway (n=31)	<b>Denmark</b> (n=33)
No	64 %	61 %	50 %	45 %	48 %
Yes	36 %	39 %	<b>50</b> %	<b>55</b> %	<b>52</b> %

By organisation type:	Private enterprise (n=347)	Other (n=54)	Destination Management Organisation (DMO) (n=53)	Business support organisation (n=26)
No	59 %	70 %	34 %	50 %
Yes	41 %	30 %	66 %	50 %



# If yes: What kinds of practices have you created, developed or received? (excerpts)

#### **Iceland**

- New services that appeal to locals
- Greater automation of work processes
- More highland hikes for Icelanders, packages with accommodation with us and food and a hike for 1 day.
- Organized domestic tours
- Virtual tours are still in development
- The owners of the company used the time to expand the company, which is now being completed. With expansion, products such as beer scrub and kelp scrub are added, as well as the company establishing a brewery. The accommodation is now bigger and the spa facilities are also expanding considerably.

#### **Sweden**

- Faster product development mainly for nature tourism. Closer dialogue with housing facilities in terms of product development
- Digital marketing
- Advertising
- Through associations and new friends, my network of contacts expanded.
- Local offers

#### **Finland**

- availability of disinfectant at the entrance and COVID testing.
- Downsizing of staff
- More Self-service
- Wider local cooperation.
- Content for domestic tourism, targeted promotion of domestic destinations
- Denmark
- Quality
- Strengthened my company's social media
- Partnerships and company agreements with large companies in Denmark
- Norway
- We invest much more and market ourselves much more on sustainability and climate friendliness. I see that this is something that many people are interested in, and we believe that it is something that everyone must show in the future.
- We have created packages and adopted a more appropriate booking system



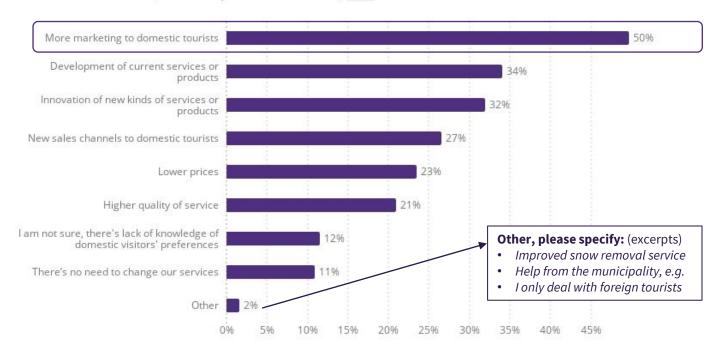
# Development of domestic tourism



#### Meeting the needs of domestic tourists

How do you think the offering of your company could be developed to better meet the needs of domestic tourists? (Choose up to 3 alternatives) 320

Asked if "Private enterprise".





## Meeting the needs of domestic tourists

How do you think the offering of your company could be developed to better meet the needs of domestic tourists?

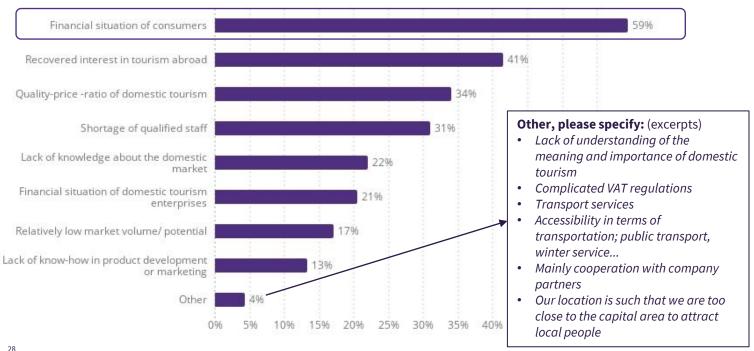
By country:	Iceland (n=117)	Sweden (n=96)	Finland (n=66)	Norway (n=19)	Denmark (n=20)
More marketing to domestic tourists	52 %	50 %	45 %	47 %	45 %
Development of current services or products	32 %	32 %	41 %	21 %	45 %
Innovation of new kinds of services or products	27 %	25 %	<b>45</b> %	26 %	45 %
New sales channels to domestic tourists	28 %	25 %	24 %	47 %	15 %
Lower prices	23 %	25 %	18 %	26 %	<b>35</b> %
Higher quality of service	12 %	<b>30</b> %	21 %	21 %	<b>30</b> %
I am not sure, there's lack of knowledge of domestic visitors' preferences	<b>17</b> %	8 %	11 %	11 %	0 %
There's no need to change our services	15 %	10 %	6 %	0 %	15 %
Other	3 %	1 %	0 %	0 %	0 %

By an avating levels	Local level	Regional level	National level	International level
By operating level:	(n=132)	(n=65)	(n=65)	(n=56)
More marketing to domestic tourists	55 %	46 %	45 %	46 %
Development of current services or products	33 %	32 %	35 %	38 %
Innovation of new kinds of services or products	23 %	<b>45</b> %	28 %	43 %
New sales channels to domestic tourists	<b>29</b> %	22 %	<b>31</b> %	23 %
Lower prices	20 %	34 %	15 %	25 %
Higher quality of service	17 %	15 %	25 %	30 %
I am not sure, there's lack of knowledge of domestic visitors' preferences	11 %	14 %	14 %	7 %
There's no need to change our services	13 %	9 %	11 %	9 %
Other	2 %	2 %	2 %	0 %



## The most significant challenges

In your opinion, which are the most significant challenges for domestic tourism in the next three years? (Choose up to 3 answers) 468





## The most significant challenges

In your opinion, which are the most significant challenges for domestic tourism in the next three years?

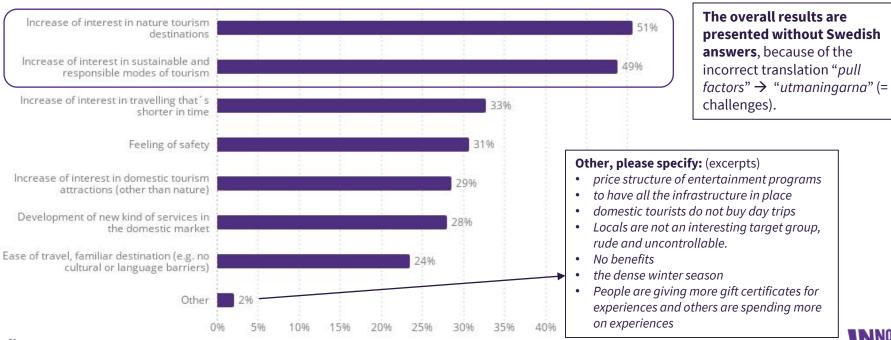
Ducauntuu	Iceland	Sweden	Finland	Norway	Denmark
By country:	(n=146)	(n=133)	(n=121)	(n=29)	(n=33)
Financial situation of consumers	38 %	68 %	79 %	62 %	42 %
Recovered interest in tourism abroad	<b>51</b> %	40 %	36 %	34 %	30 %
Quality-price -ratio of domestic tourism	40 %	24 %	37 %	34 %	<b>39</b> %
Shortage of qualified staff	23 %	31 %	40 %	<b>38</b> %	24 %
Lack of knowledge about the domestic market	30 %	22 %	14 %	14 %	27 %
Financial situation of domestic tourism enterprises	18 %	21 %	17 %	24 %	<b>39</b> %
Relatively low market volume/ potential	24%	11 %	16 %	17 %	15 %
Lack of know-how in product development or marketing	16 %	11 %	12 %	7 %	<b>21</b> %
Other	7 %	2 %	2 %	10 %	6 %

By organisation type:	Private enterprise (n=336)	Other (n=54)	Destination Management Organisation (DMO) (n=52)	Business support organisation (n=26)
Financial situation of consumers	58 %	61 %	67 %	54 %
Recovered interest in tourism abroad	40 %	37 %	44 %	<b>62</b> %
Quality-price -ratio of domestic tourism	35 %	<b>37</b> %	27 %	31 %
Shortage of qualified staff	27 %	30 %	<b>52</b> %	42 %
Lack of knowledge about the domestic market	22 %	33 %	12 %	23 %
Financial situation of domestic tourism enterprises	20 %	28 %	17 %	23 %
Relatively low market volume/ potential	18 %	<b>17</b> %	19 %	8 %
Lack of know-how in product development or marketing	11 %	13 %	23 %	19 %
Other	4 %	6 %	6 %	0 %



### The most significant pull factors

In your opinion, which are the most significant pull factors for domestic tourism in the next three years? (Choose up to 3 answers) 336





### The most significant pull factors

In your opinion, which are the most significant pull factors for domestic tourism in the next three

years?

Purcountrus	Iceland	Finland	Norway	Denmark	Sweden
By country:	(n=147)	(n=119)	(n=31)	(n=33)	(n=131)
Increase of interest in nature tourism destinations	<b>50</b> %	<b>54</b> %	45 %	45 %	34 %
Increase of interest in sustainable and responsible modes of tourism	45 %	<b>54</b> %	52 %	52 %	41 %
Increase of interest in travelling that 's shorter in time	29 %	34 %	42 %	33 %	30 %
Feeling of safety	28 %	38 %	26 %	21 %	21 %
Increase of interest in domestic tourism attractions (other than nature)	33 %	24 %	29 %	30 %	28 %
Development of new kind of services in the domestic market	<b>33</b> %	21 %	19 %	<b>39</b> %	37 %
Ease of travel, familiar destination (e.g. no cultural or language barriers)	22 %	26 %	19 %	24 %	23 %
Other	4 %	1 %	0 %	0 %	6 %

Groups of at least 5 answers are included in the tables.

The Swedish answers are also included in the table.

The results are not comparable due to a translation error in the Swedish form.

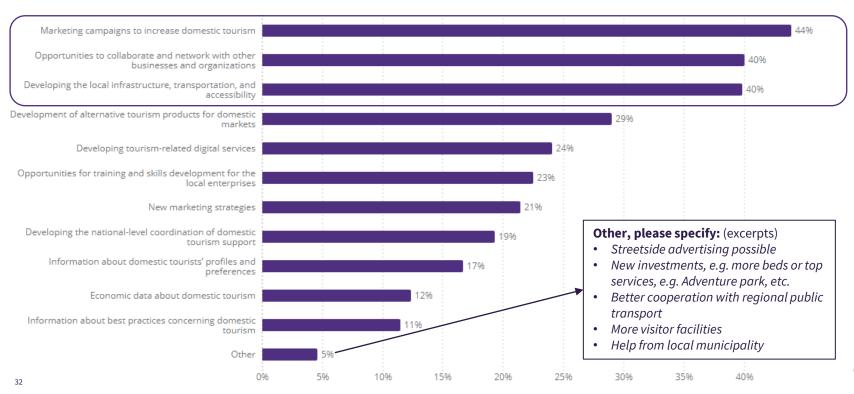
By organisation type:	Private enterprise (n=242)	Other (n=39)	Destination Management Organisation (DMO) (n=33)	Business support organisation (n=22)
Increase of interest in nature tourism destinations	51 %	46 %	48 %	59 %
Increase of interest in sustainable and responsible modes of tourism	46 %	<b>56</b> %	<b>55</b> %	<b>55</b> %
Increase of interest in travelling that 's shorter in time	30 %	38 %	<b>45</b> %	32 %
Feeling of safety	29 %	<b>36</b> %	30 %	36 %
Increase of interest in domestic tourism attractions (other than nature)	28 %	23 %	36 %	<b>36</b> %
Development of new kind of services in the domestic market	28 %	28 %	30 %	27 %
Ease of travel, familiar destination (e.g. no cultural or language barriers)	23 %	<b>33</b> %	18 %	18 %
Other	3 %	0 %	0 %	0 %

The Swedish answers are not included in the table.



#### **Beneficial factors**

What would benefit domestic tourism in your region? (Choose up to 4 answers) 462





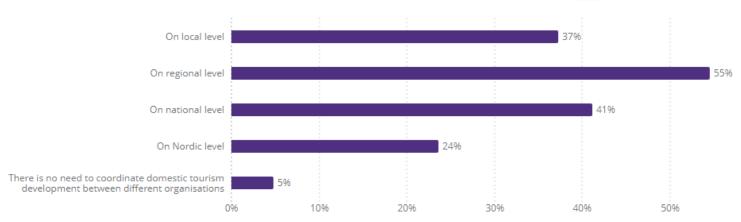
#### **Beneficial factors**

What would benefit domestic tourism in your region?

By country:		Sweden (n=132)		Norway (n=31)	Denmark (n=33)	By organisation type:	Private enterprise	Other	Destination Management	Business support
Marketing campaigns to increase domestic tourism	49 %	39 %	49 %	42 %	27 %		(n=330)	(n=54)	Organisation (DMO) (n=52)	organisation (n=26)
Opportunities to collaborate and network with other businesses and	43 %	32 %	40 %	48%	<b>52</b> %	Marketing campaigns to increase domestic tourism	43 %	50 %	38 %	54 %
organizations Developing the local infrastructure,	<b>52</b> %	33 %	35 %	39 %	30 %	Opportunities to collaborate and network with other businesses and organizations	38 %	41 %	54 %	31 %
transportation, and accessibility  Development of alternative tourism	35 %	21 %	31 %	23 %	30 %	Developing the local infrastructure, transportation, and accessibility	39 %	46 %	37 %	42 %
products for domestic markets  Developing tourism-related digital services	24 %	24 %	27 %	32 %	6 %	Development of alternative tourism products for domestic markets	30 %	30 %	17 %	38 %
Opportunities for training and skills development for the local enterprises	20 %	24 %	20 %	23 %	27 %	Developing tourism-related digital services  Opportunities for training and skills	22 %	28 %	31 %	27 %
New marketing strategies	17 %	27 %	19 %	26 %	24 %	development for the local enterprises	21 %	20 %	27 %	<b>42</b> %
Developing the national-level coordination of domestic tourism	22 %	18 %	17 %	23 %	18 %	New marketing strategies Developing the national-level	23 %	17 %	25 %	4 %
support	22 70	10 70	11 /0	25 70	10 /0	coordination of domestic tourism support	18 %	19 %	23 %	23 %
Information about domestic tourists' profiles and preferences	13 %	20 %	18 %	6 %	15 %	Information about domestic tourists' profiles and preferences	15 %	17 %	21 %	31 %
Economic data about domestic tourism	5 %	21 %	9 %	6 %	24 %	Economic data about domestic tourism	10 %	22 %	19 %	8 %
Information about best practices concerning domestic tourism	12 %	9 %	12 %	16 %	15 %	Information about best practices concerning domestic tourism	11 %	13 %	13 %	8 %
Other	7 %	5 %	4 %	0 %	0 %	Other	5 %	4 %	6 %	4 %

## **Coordinating domestic tourism development**

Do you think domestic tourism development should be coordinated between different organisations? 462



By country:	Iceland (n=141)		Finland (n=119)	Norway (n=31)	Denmark (n=33)
On local level	28 %	49 %	33 %	55 %	31 %
On regional level	55 %	50 %	66 %	48 %	38 %
On national level	38 %	37 %	<b>45</b> %	45 %	47 %
On Nordic level	30 %	20 %	20 %	29 %	13 %
There is no need to coordinate domestic tourism development between different organisations	9 %	5 %	2 %	0 %	6 %

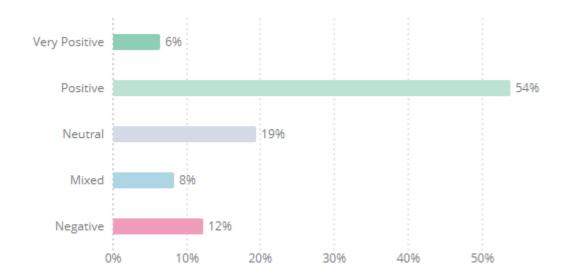
By organisation type:	Private enterprise (n=330)	Other (n=54)	Destination Management Organisation (DMO) (n=52)	Business support organisation (n=26)
On local level	37 %	41 %	37 %	36 %
On regional level	54 %	56 %	51 %	64 %
On national level	36 %	50 %	57 %	<b>56</b> %
On Nordic level	21 %	33 %	25 %	28 %
There is no need to coordinate domestic tourism development between different organisations	6 %	4 %	2 %	0 %



# How do you see the potential of domestic tourism in the Nordic countries?

**Sentiment analysis** classifies responses automatically to positive, neutral, negative or mixed classes.

The model is trained on a large and diverse set of real experience data to substantially increase classification quality and minimize uncertainties when the sentiment is not expressed as strongly / clearly. Classification is automatically made by artificial intelligence (other response languages than English have been automatically translated).



#### **Very positive / positive:** (excerpts)

- It is a market that has great potential, especially in relation to ski holidays
- Good opportunities for nature tourism
- Good potential. There is much that is not found in other countries. No need to go far. Comfortable.
- Domestic tourism have a positive potential in nordic countries in light of their appetite to explore nature

#### **Very negative / negative:** (excerpts)

- The biggest threat is the economic situation
- Expensive vacations in Norway
- Not the best possible



## Thank you!

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