



# European capital city tourism

## Report – Analysis and findings

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## Management summary

*Paris, Amsterdam and Rome lead the ranking*

**Roland Berger**  
Strategy Consultants

# European capital city tourism study: Management summary

## OBJECTIVE

- > **Tourism to capital cities is a growth driver**, outperforming both tourism to countries as a whole and GDP growth
- > The study compares the figures for **tourism in different European capitals**, looking at current status, growth and success

## ANALYSIS

- > We use **seven criteria** to evaluate tourism in capital cities: growth in overnight stays, total number of overnight stays, bed capacity growth, value creation, internationality, accessibility and congresses
- > Berlin, Stockholm and Ljubljana saw the **highest growth in the number of overnight stays** over the last five years
- > London and Paris had by far the **most overnight stays in 2010**; Berlin and Rome came fourth and fifth
- > Amsterdam and Lisbon have **most overnight stays** per inhabitant, followed by Prague
- > Amsterdam, Lisbon, Stockholm, Zurich, Vienna, Rome and Copenhagen are the top performers in terms of growth in the number of overnight stays in the last five years and the number of overnight stays per inhabitant
- > London and Prague enjoy the **longest overnight stays**
- > Ljubljana is the top performer in terms of **growth in bed capacity** in the last five years. Tallinn and Istanbul follow in second and third place, a long way behind
- > In terms of **value creation in the form of revenue per available room**, Paris, London and Rome top the ranking. Prague and Berlin come at the bottom end of the ranking
- > London and Paris lead in terms of **accessibility by air**, followed at some distance by Amsterdam and Istanbul
- > Vienna hosts the **most congresses**, followed at some distance by Paris and Berlin

## RANKING

- > To allow better **comparisons**, the cities were **split into two clusters**: Cluster 1 contains the top ten cities in terms of the number of overnight stays in 2010
- > **Paris tops the ranking in Cluster 1**, followed by Amsterdam, Rome, Stockholm, Berlin and Vienna, in that order
- > **Zurich tops the ranking in Cluster 2**, followed by Lisbon and Copenhagen



## A. Methodology and sources

*This study is based on online material, statistical data and expert interviews*

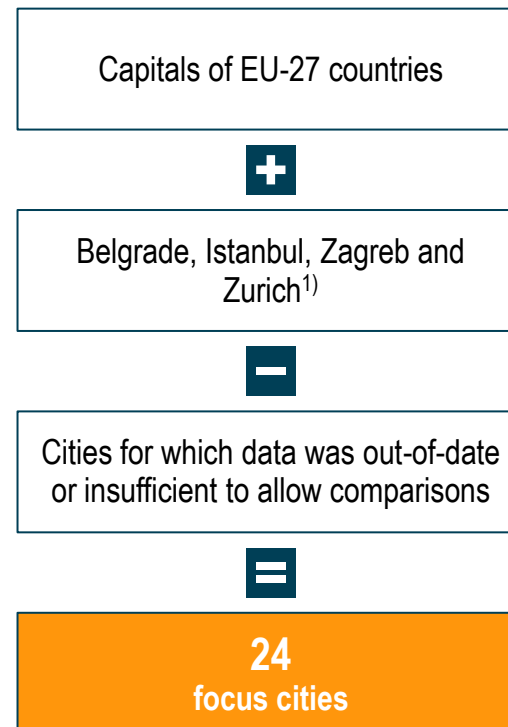
# The study analyzes 24 European cities' success in the area of tourism

## Objective and focus cities

### Objective

- > The objective of the study is to benchmark the success of European cities in the area of tourism...
- > ... and to produce findings on key developments, trends and challenges in the market

### Focus cities



1) Zurich is included as it is more significant for tourism than the capital, Bern

# The study is based on information from popular databases and interviews with experts

## Methodology and sources

### METHOD- OLOGY



### SOURCES

- |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Websites of city tourist boards and marketing agencies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ECM Benchmarking Report 2011</li> <li>&gt; Eurostat data on country level</li> <li>&gt; Intern. Congress and Convention Association (ICCA)</li> <li>&gt; International Hotel Association (IHA)</li> <li>&gt; TourMIS, statistical database for city tourism<sup>1)</sup></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Berliner Hotelverband</li> <li>&gt; Deutscher Hotel- und Gaststättenverband</li> <li>&gt; Österreichische Hotelierversammlung</li> <li>&gt; Wien Tourismus</li> <li>&gt; Roland Berger experts with relevant project experience</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Minor differences in some criteria could not be avoided – accepted for the purpose of this report</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Roland Berger</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|--|--|

1) TourMIS data lumps business and leisure together

# We use a "barometer model" to evaluate and rank cities – Similar approach to the World Economic Forum ranking

## Evaluation method

Evaluation criteria	City	Published data	Calculation	Barometer results	Criteria weighting <sup>1)</sup>	Total barometer results	Rank		
<b>I</b> Overnight stays, CAGR 2005-2010 [%]	A	7.3	City with the highest value given 100 <b>100</b>	A	60%	A:	1		
	B	3.5		B				100 x 60% + 42 x 40% = <b>77</b>	
	C	-0.5	City with lowest value given 0 <b>0</b>	C		40%	B:	2	
	D	-0.4		D					71
	E	4.3		E					61
<b>II</b> Overnight stays per inhabitant [no.]	A	6.1	Remaining values interpolated, e.g. E: (7.0-1.0)/ (13.0-1.0) x 100 <b>= 50</b>	A	40%	C:	4		
	B	13.0		B				100	
	C	6.4		C				44	
	D	1.0		D				0	
	E	7.0		E				50	
						D:	5		
						E:	3		

1) Indicative only



# We group cities into two clusters for the final ranking to ensure we are comparing like with like

## Ranking of cities in two clusters

Cluster 1	Overnight stays, 2010 [m]	Cluster 2	Overnight stays, 2010 [m]	COMMENTS
> London	48.7	> Lisbon	6.2	> Interviewees pointed out that cities generally compare their performance to a limited set of other cities > Their selection of cities for comparison depends mainly on performance, size, maturity of the tourism industry and visitor motivation > Accordingly, we grouped cities into two clusters for the final ranking > Data on revenue per available room, average daily room rate and occupancy was only available for the ten cities in Cluster 1 – the clustering means that we can analyze value creation in city tourism for this group at least
> Paris	35.8	> Budapest	5.9	
> Berlin	20.8	> Brussels	5.6	
> Rome	20.4	> Athens	5.4	
> Madrid	15.2	> Copenhagen	5.1	
> Prague	12.1	> Zurich	3.7	
> Vienna	11.7	> Oslo	3.3	
> Amsterdam	9.7	> Helsinki	3.2	
> Istanbul	9.1	> Tallinn	2.3	
> Stockholm	6.3	> Bratislava	1.4	
		> Belgrade	1.3	
		> Zagreb	1.0	
		> Luxembourg	0.8	
		> Ljubljana	0.7	



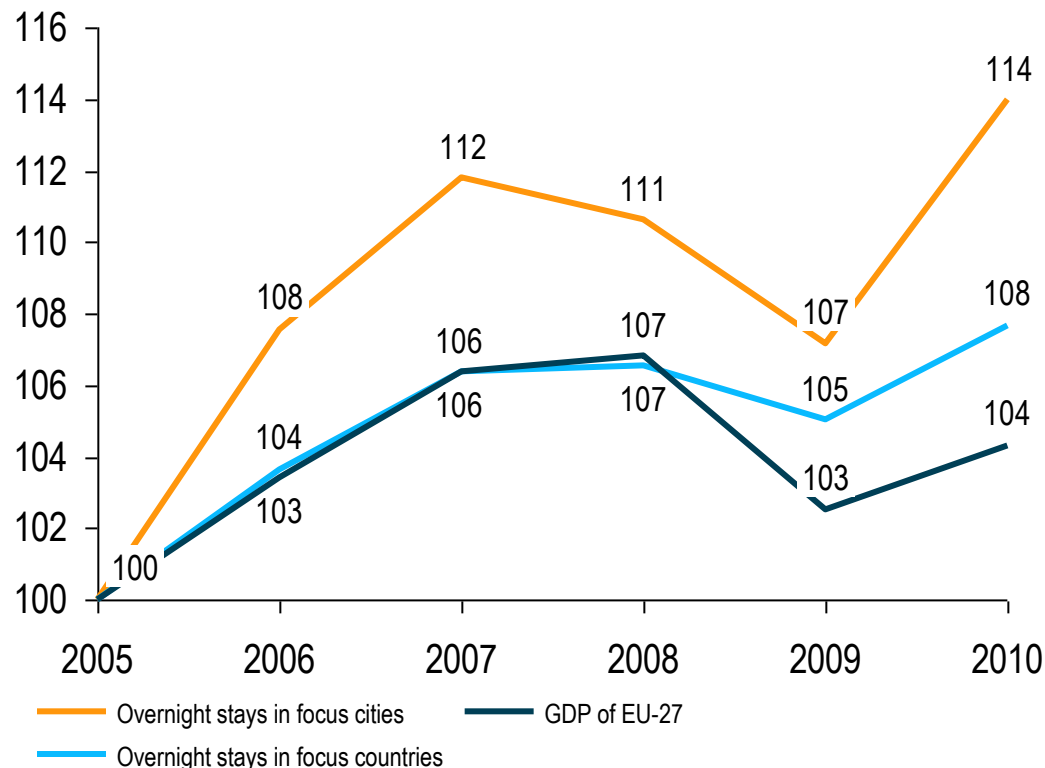
## B. Analysis and evaluation

*European capitals have been evaluated along a set of seven criteria*

# Tourism has expanded much faster than the overall economy in Europe in recent years – City tourism has performed best

## Development of the tourism industry

### City tourism, CAGR 2005-2010 [index =100]



### COMMENTS

- > City tourism **suffered less during the economic crisis** than expected
- > In the crisis year 2009, the GDP of the EU-27 fell 4.3% while city tourism decreased by just 3.5%
- > In 2010, GDP recovered slowly while city tourism **recovered fast**, with overnight stays **up 6.8%**
- > **Tourism is a key growth driver** for the overall economy. **City tourism outperforms the rest of the industry**
- > We analyze the top cities, their performance, trends and challenges in the report

# We analyze the cities along seven different dimensions

## Evaluation criteria

Dimensions	Selected benchmarking criteria	Period	Weighting cluster 1 [%]	Weighting cluster 2 [%]
<b>I</b> GROWTH IN OVERNIGHT STAYS	CAGR for overnight stays	2005-2010	20	30
<b>II</b> NUMBER OF OVERNIGHT STAYS	No. of overnight stays relative to inhabitants	2010	10	10
<b>III</b> GROWTH IN BED CAPACITY	CAGR for bed capacity	2005-2010	15	20
<b>IV</b> VALUE CREATION	Revenue per available room	2010	20	n.a.
<b>V</b> INTERNATIONALITY	Share of European tourists	2010	5	5
	Share of non-European tourists	2010	5	5
<b>VI</b> ACCESSIBILITY	Number of direct flight connections	2011	15	20
<b>VII</b> CONGRESSES	Number of congresses	2009	10	10
			<b>Σ 100%</b>	<b>Σ 100%</b>

### COMMENTS

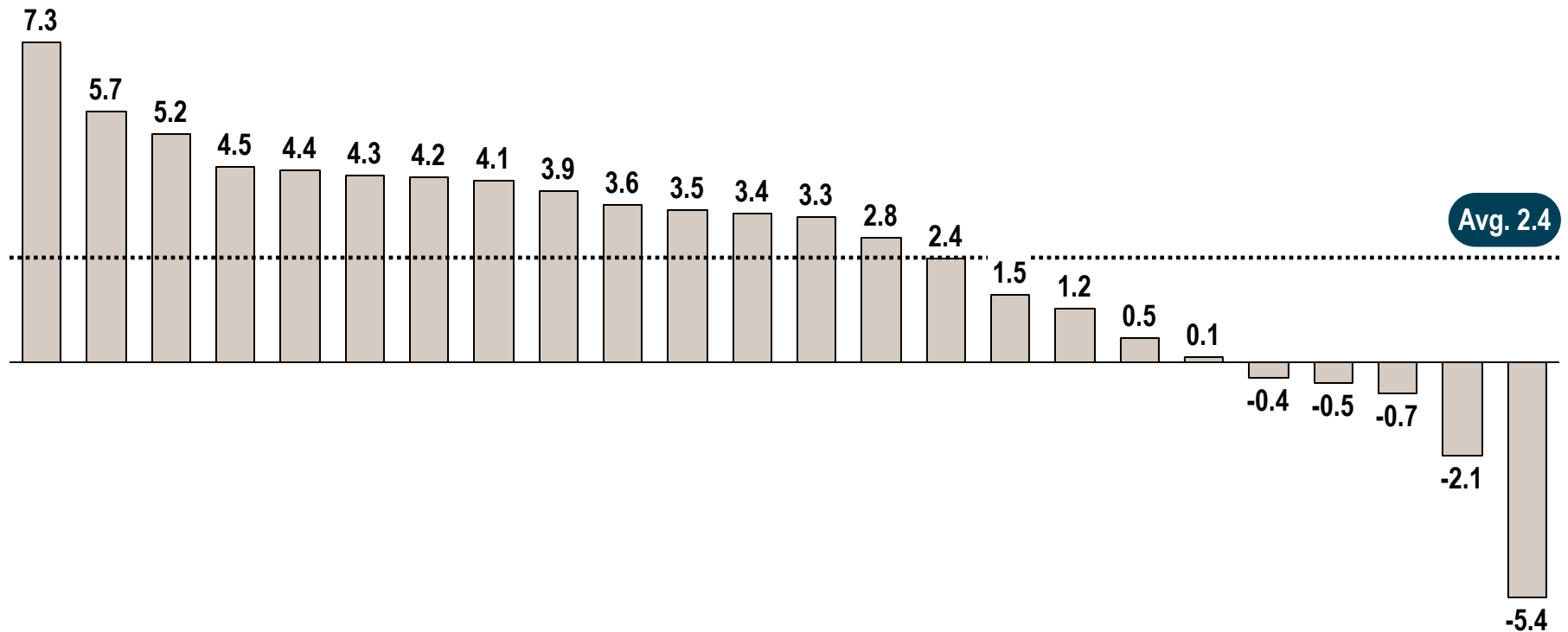
- > The different dimensions selected for the evaluation are well balanced
- > The growth in the number of overnight stays is used as the key criterion; increasing this figure is the overall goal. The current number of overnight stays is also included as otherwise mature markets would be at a disadvantage
- > Due to limited data, revenue per available room is used for Cluster 1 cities only

**I-III** Criteria for all cities

**IV-VII** Criterion for Cluster 1 cities only

# Berlin, Stockholm and Ljubljana enjoyed the biggest increase in the number of overnight stays in the last five years

Growth in the number of overnight stays, CAGR 2005-2010 [%]

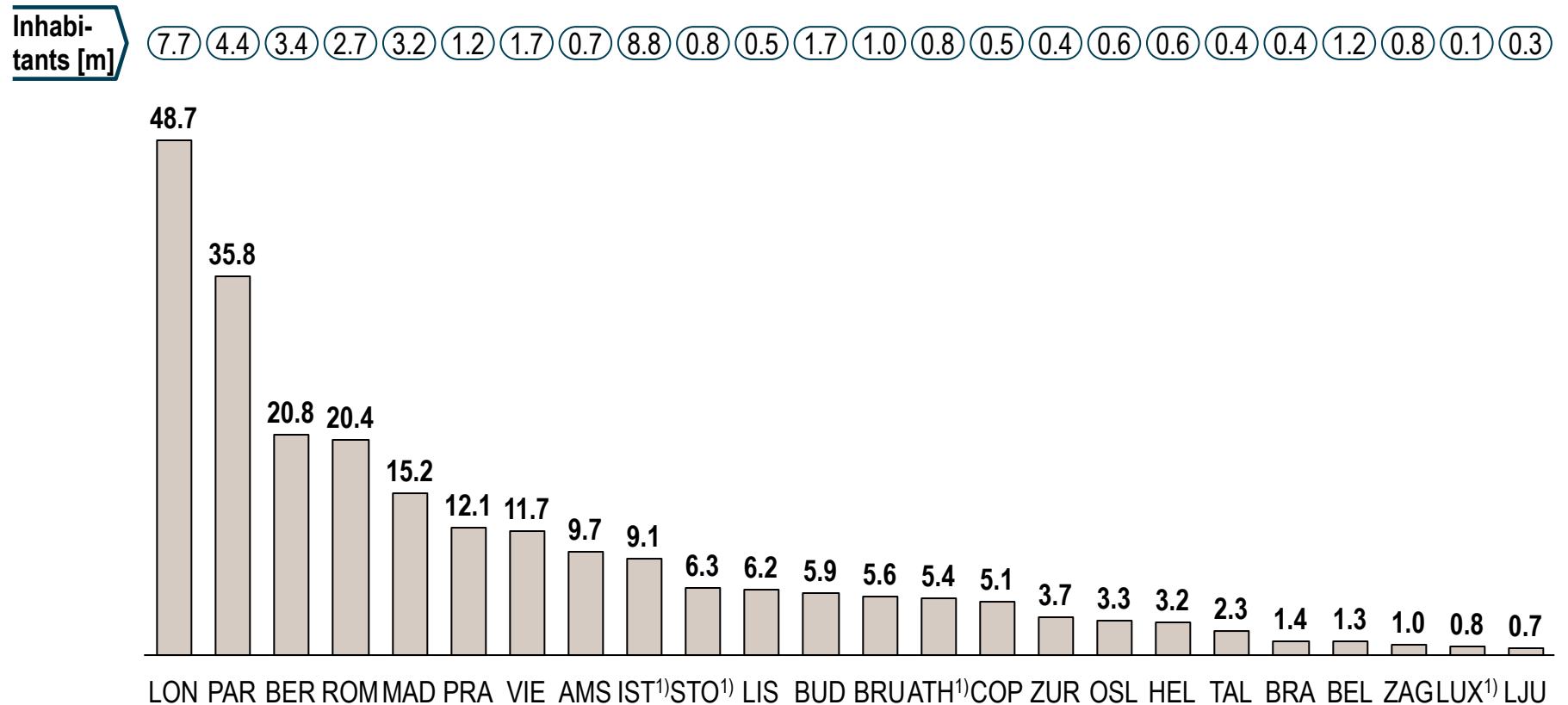


BER STO<sup>1)</sup> LJU HEL MAD VIE ROM ZUR LIS BRU AMS TAL OSL COP ZAG PRA PAR BRA LUX<sup>1)</sup> IST<sup>1)</sup> LON BEL BUD ATH<sup>1)</sup>

1) 2005-2009 only

# London and Paris had by far the most overnight stays in 2010 – However, some cities are much bigger than others

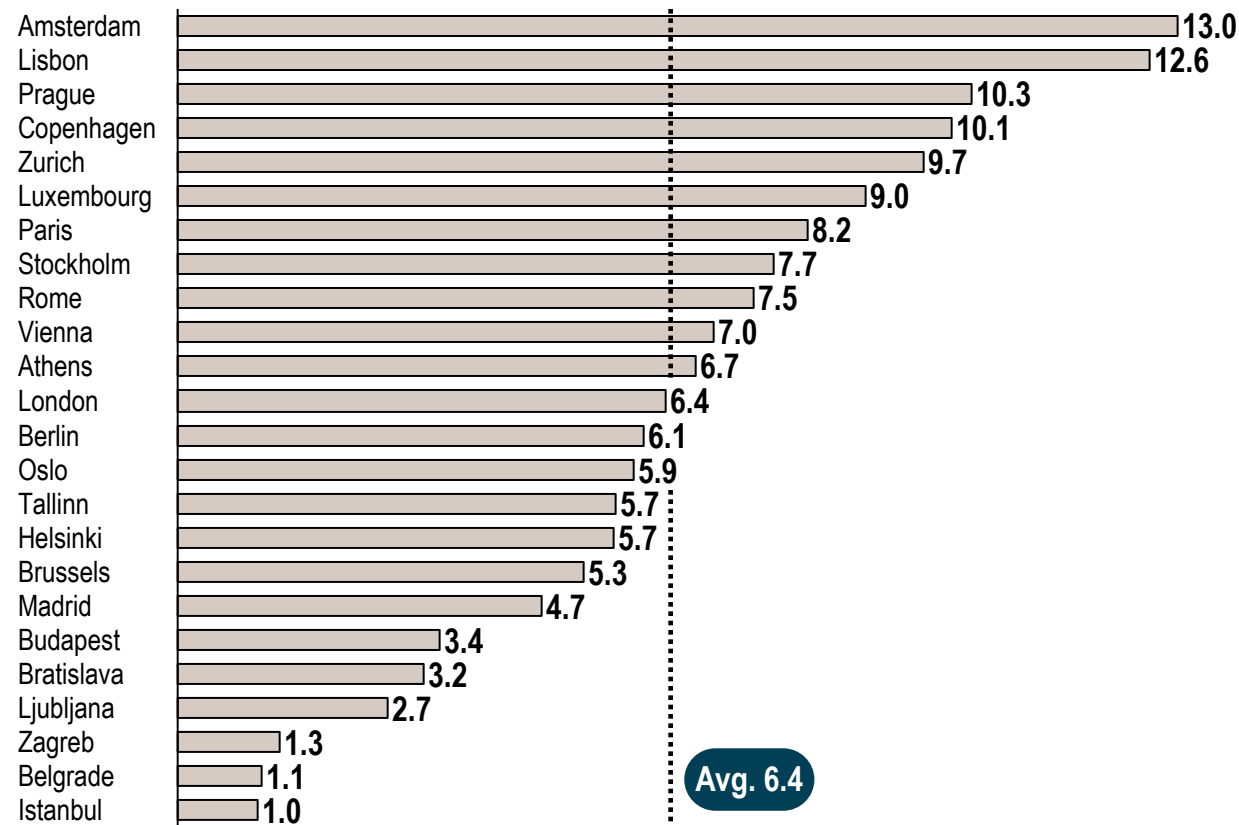
Number of overnight stays, 2010 [m]



1) 2009

# Amsterdam and Lisbon had the most overnight stays relative to the number of inhabitants

Overnight stays per inhabitant, 2010



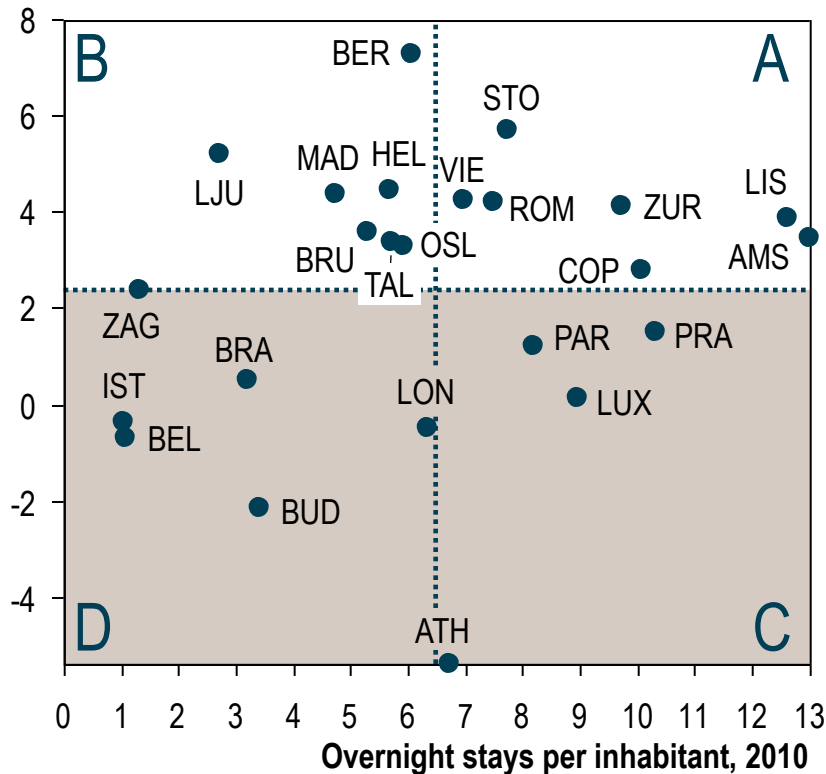
## COMMENTS

- > Amsterdam and Lisbon had by far the most overnight stays relative to the number of inhabitants
- > The number of inhabitants can be hard to define as it depends on how the area of the city is defined, however it gives the figures more context
- > Prague was the best performer in CEE
- > Most CEE countries have a below-average number of overnight stays per inhabitant

# Amsterdam and Lisbon are the top performers – Large number of overnight stays today and strong growth since 2005

## Current volume and growth matrix

CAGR for overnight stays 2005-2010<sup>1)</sup> [%]



## CONCLUSIONS

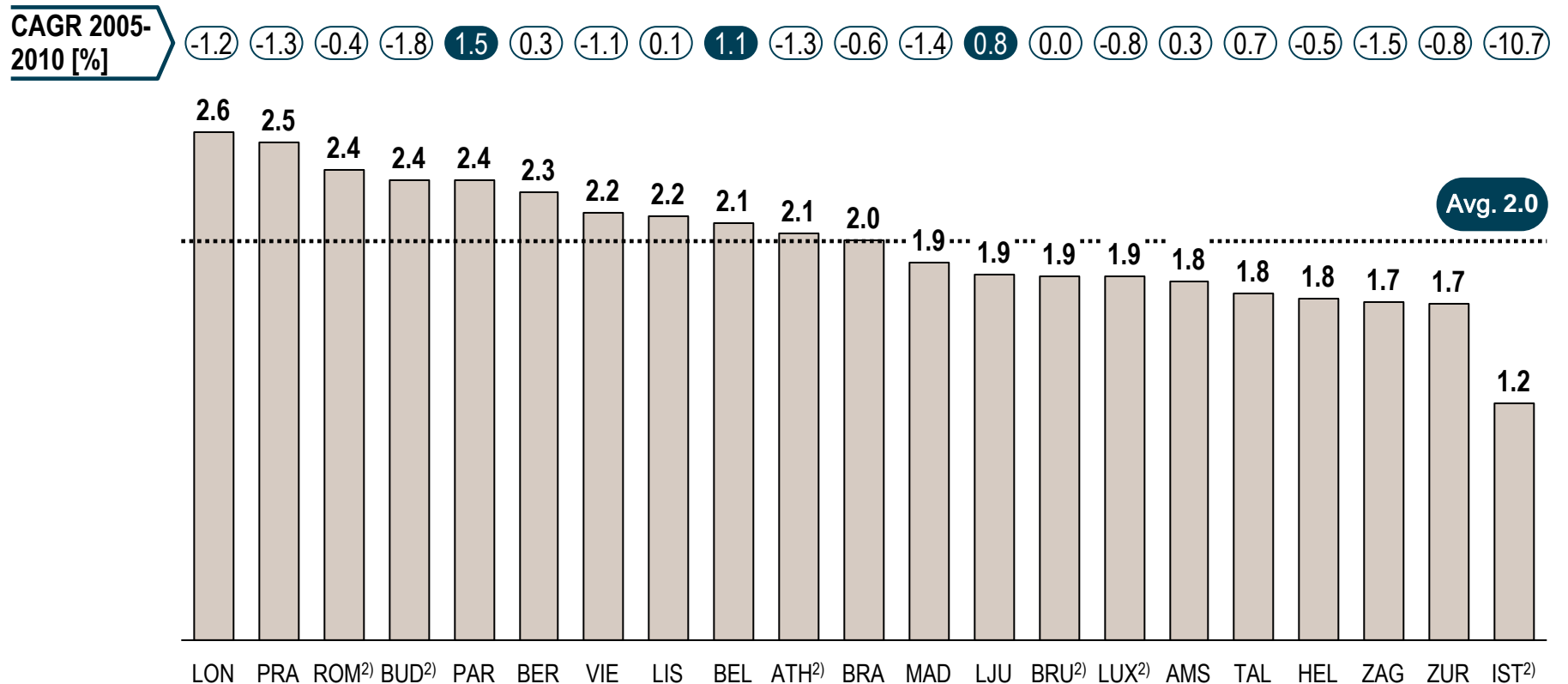
- A STARS** – Above-average number of overnight stays per inhabitant and above-average growth
    - > Amsterdam, Lisbon and Stockholm are top performers
  - B HIGH POTENTIALS** – Relatively small number of overnight stays but above-average growth
    - > Berlin, Stockholm and Ljubljana have the strongest increase in the number of overnight stays – Berlin is well on its way to joining the "stars"
    - > Ljubljana shows positive growth, but current volumes are still low
  - C FOLLOWERS** – Above-average number of overnight stays but below-average growth
    - > Paris, Prague & Luxembourg have had below-average growth since 2005
    - > Athens has the lowest CAGR of the focus cities
  - D LAGGARDS** – Below-average number of overnight stays and below-average growth
    - > Belgrade and Budapest risk losing ground to other cities if no action is taken
    - > Need to identify reasons for poor performance
- ..... Average

1) 2005-2009 only for Athens, Istanbul, Luxembourg and Stockholm



# Overnight stays per arrival are low in city tourism – Even small increases here help draw people away from the well-beaten path

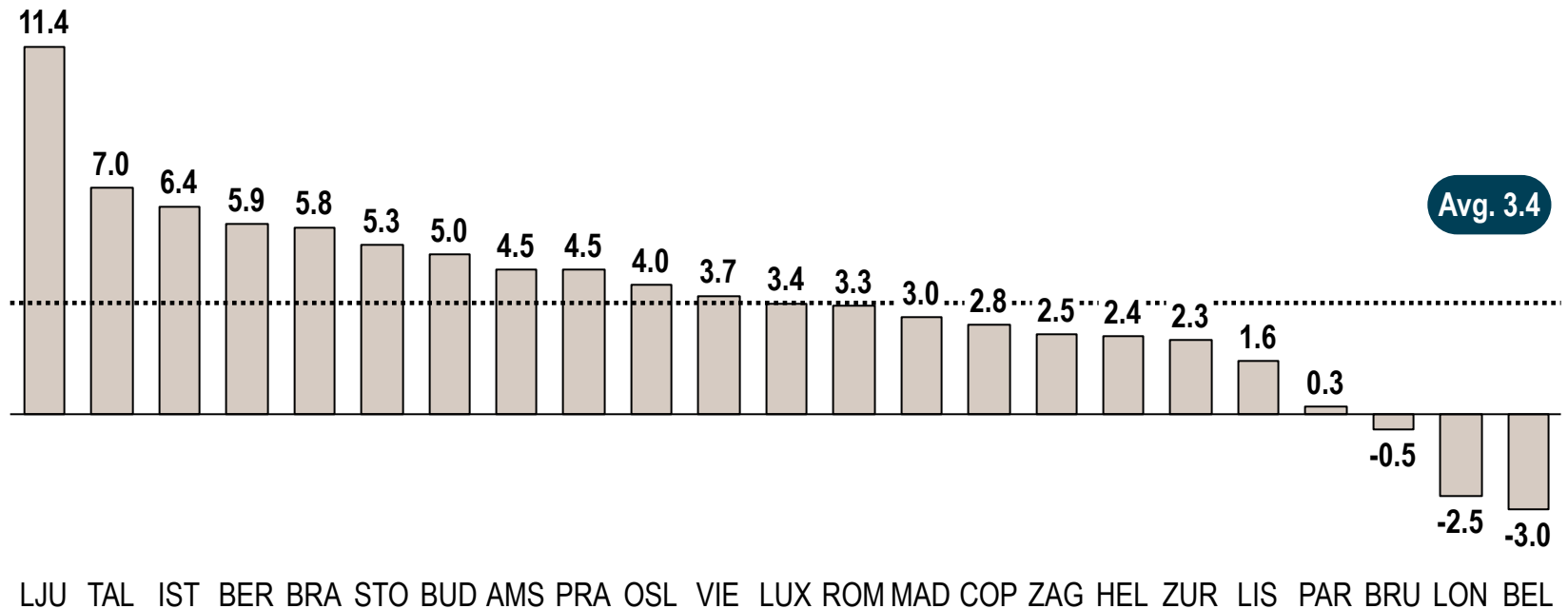
## Overnight stays per arrival<sup>1)</sup>, 2010



1) No figures available for Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm 2) 2005-2009 only

# Ljubljana shows outstanding growth rates in bed capacities over the last five years – Good indicator of market trust by private investors

Bed capacity, CAGR 2005-2010<sup>1)</sup> [%]

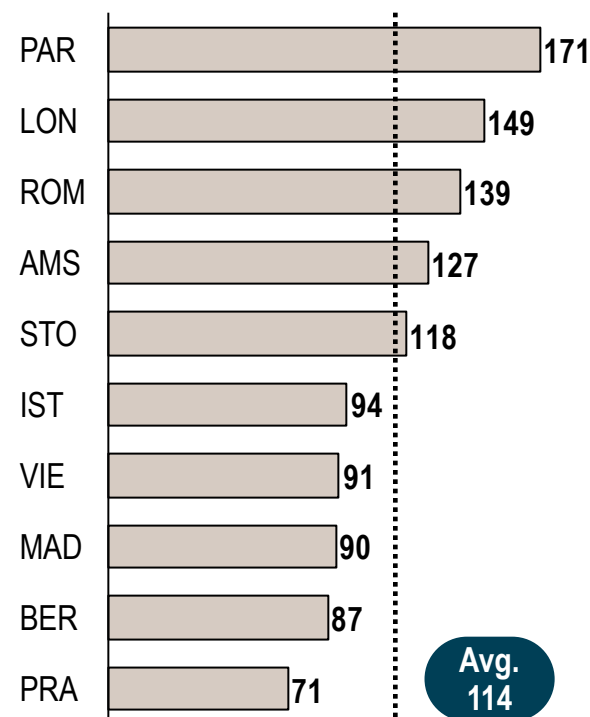


1) No data for Athens; 2005-2009 only for Bratislava, Brussels, Budapest, Istanbul, London, Luxembourg and Stockholm

# Paris and London achieve the highest revenue per available room for Cluster 1 cities

## Revenue per available room (RevPAR)<sup>1)</sup>

Revenue per available room, 2010 [EUR]

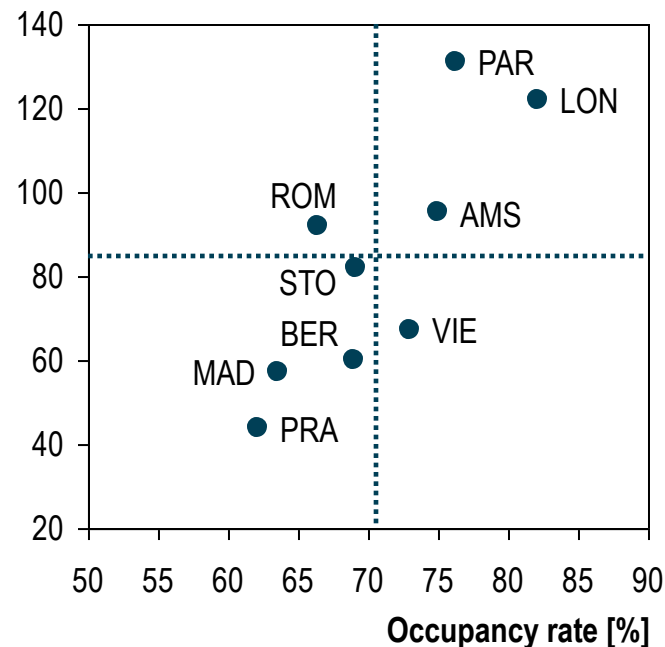


..... Average

1) Comparable data available for Cluster 1 cities only; For Istanbul only RevPAR 2009 available

Avg. daily room rate and occupancy rate, 2010

Average daily room rate [EUR]



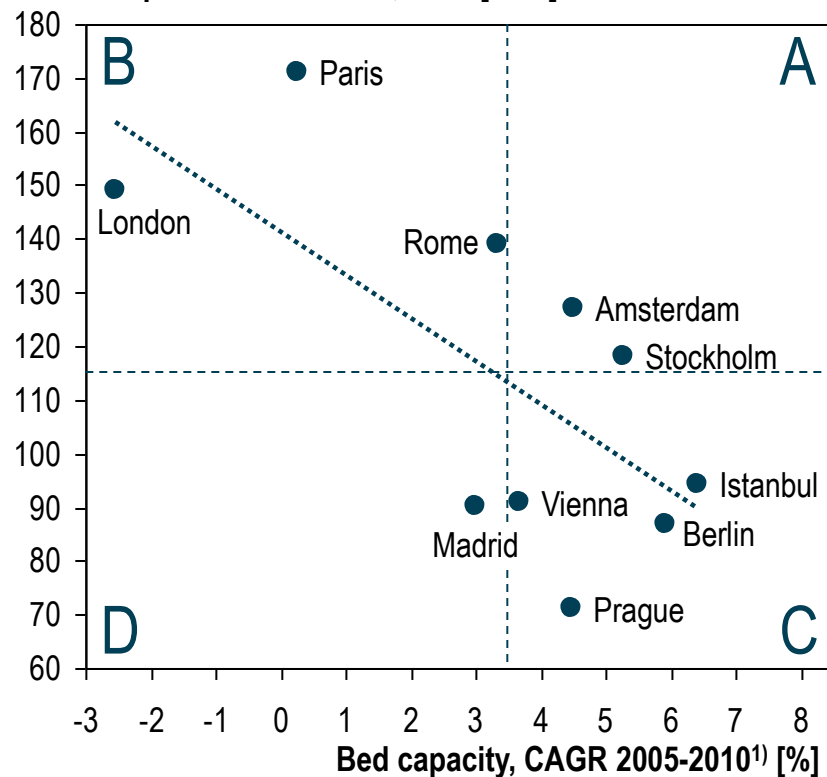
## COMMENTS

- > RevPAR is calculated by multiplying the average daily room rate by the occupancy rate
- > Paris and London achieve highest RevPAR among Cluster 1 cities, with both the highest room rate and highest occupancy rate
- > Clear positive correlation between occupancy rates and room rates
- > Prague, Madrid and Berlin have both below-average room rates and below-average occupancy rates – need to examine possible reasons, e.g. oversupply of hotel beds

# Increasing bed capacity is not always a sign of good prices and occupancy levels

## Revenue per available room (RevPAR) and changes in bed capacity

Revenue per available room, 2010 [EUR]



..... Statistical correlation

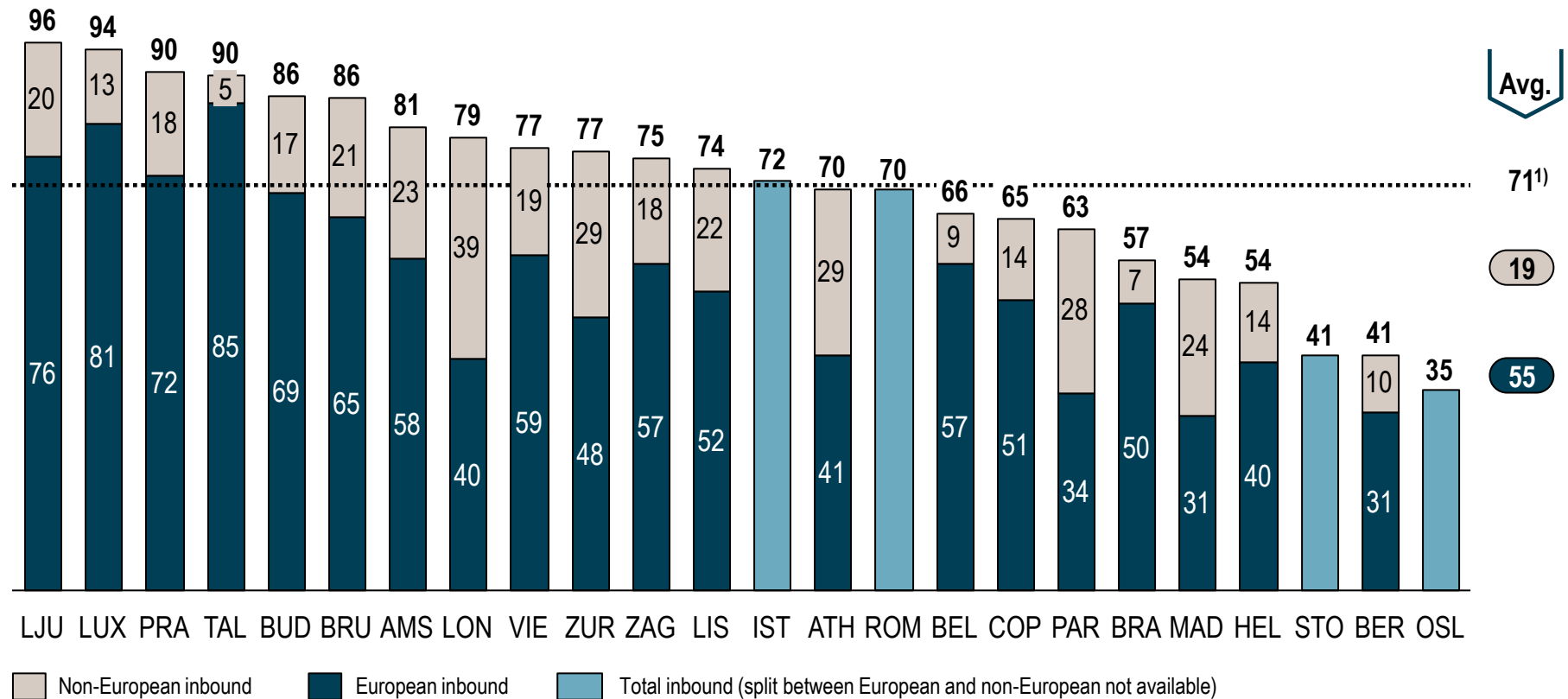
1) 2005-2009 only for Istanbul, London and Stockholm

## CONCLUSIONS

- A STARS** – Above-average increase in bed capacity and above-average revenue per available room  
 > Amsterdam, Stockholm are the top performers, with both high RevPAR and strong capacity growth
- B CASH COWS** – Above-average RevPAR but below-average capacity growth  
 > In London, bed capacity has been falling over the last five years; in Paris, it remained almost static
- C QUESTION MARKS** – Above-average bed capacity growth but below-average RevPAR  
 > Risk that revenue per available room will fall further as bed capacities rise  
 > However, if there is sufficient demand for the new capacity, significant potential for positive development exists
- D LAGGARDS** – Below-average growth in bed capacity and below-average RevPAR  
 > Madrid is below-avg. in terms of both capacity growth and RevPAR  
 > Need to find out why

# Share of international overnight stays indicates the diversification of a city's tourism markets – Significant differences between cities

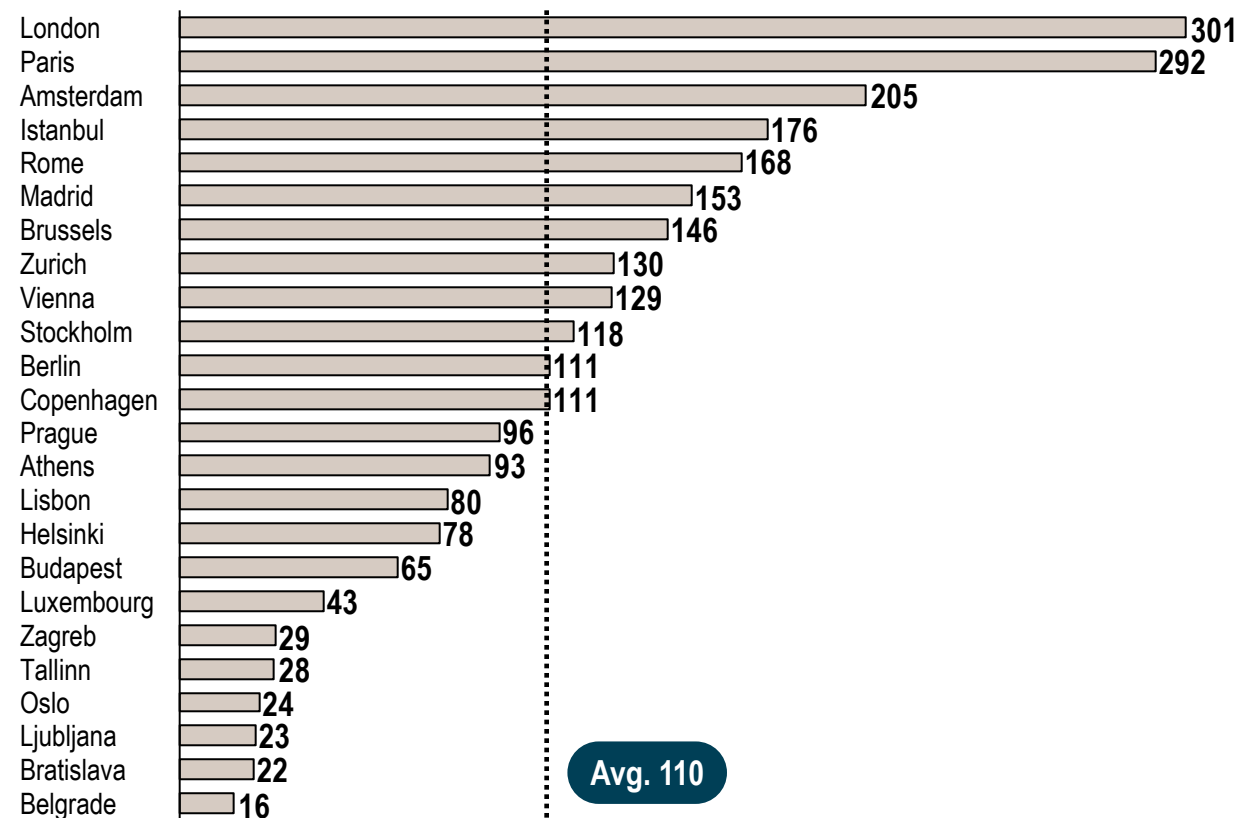
Share of inbound overnight stays, 2010 [%]



1) Including Istanbul, Rome, Stockholm and Oslo, for which the split between European and non-European was not available

# London and Paris are by far the most accessible cities in Europe for tourists arriving by air

Number of direct flight connections<sup>1)</sup> [flight schedule for summer 2011]



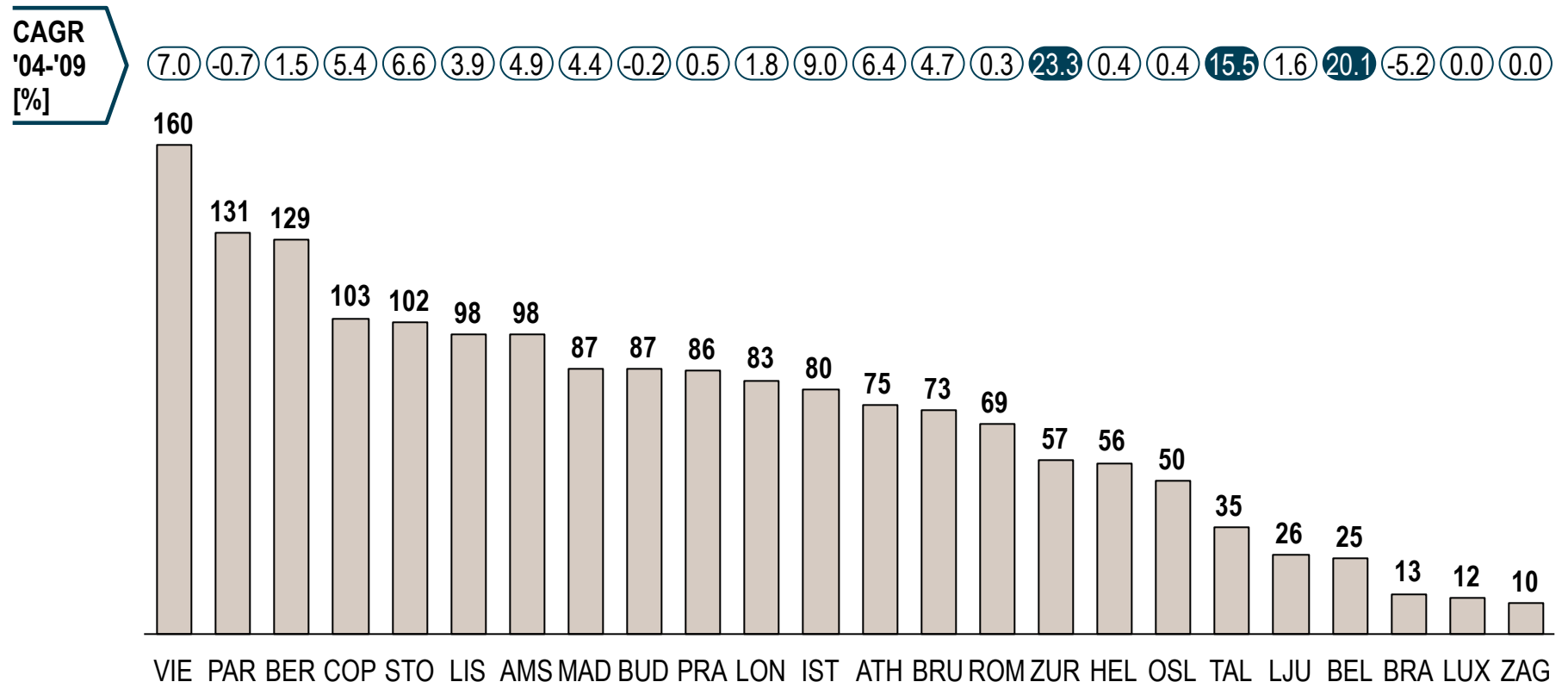
## COMMENTS

- > Low-budget airlines with more affordable tickets have been a crucial growth driver in city tourism
- > The increasing significance of accessibility by air is a risk factor for cities not located close to international hubs
- > Apart from offering tax incentives, it is difficult for cities to increase the number of flight connections they have

1) Destinations connected with at least one direct flight per week

# Vienna is the clear leader in congress tourism in Europe, followed by Paris and Berlin

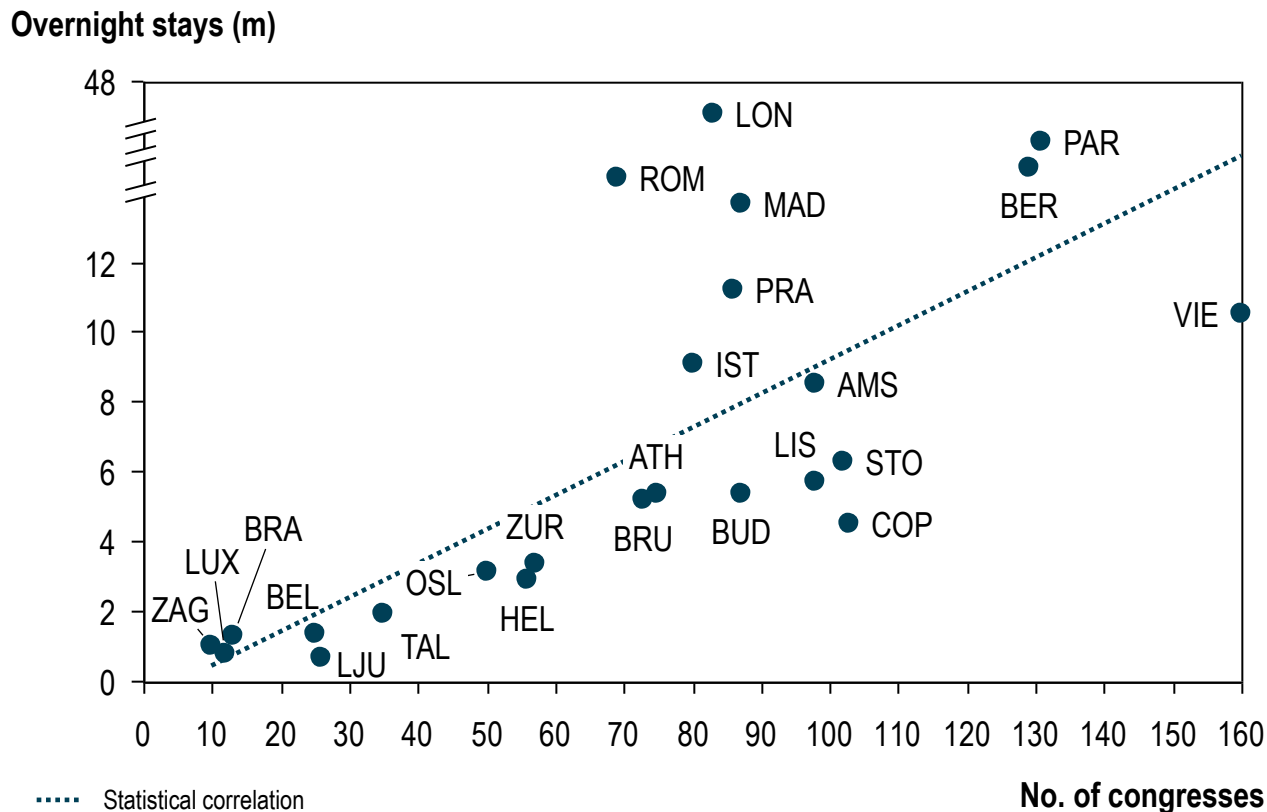
No. of congresses hosted<sup>1)</sup>, 2009



1) Most recent year with comparable data is 2009

# A significant correlation exists between the number of congresses hosted and the number of overnight stays

Correlation between congresses and overnight stays, 2009



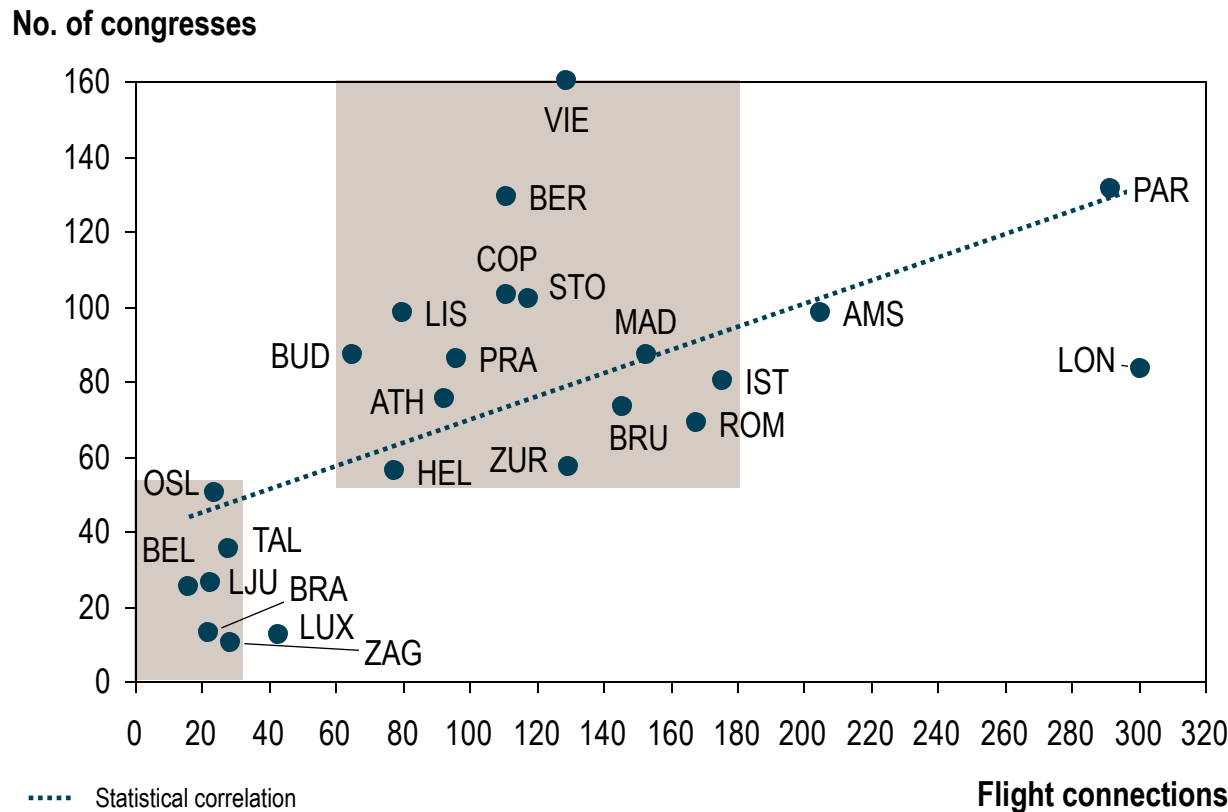
## COMMENTS

- > In 2010, for the third year in a row, Vienna hosted the largest number of congresses
- > Other CEE capitals have a very small number of both congresses and overnight stays
- > The correlation reveals that congresses are a strong driver of tourism



# Good accessibility by air is a prerequisite for being a successful congress location

## Correlation between direct flight connections and congresses<sup>1)</sup>



### COMMENTS

- > A significant correlation is found between flight connections and number of congresses
- > The analysis shows that fewer than 60 direct flight connections means insufficient accessibility and congress numbers are significantly lower
- > From 60 to 180 connections, the criterion of accessibility is met – most successful congress destinations fall into this group
- > Additional connections above 180 do not correlate with a significant increase in congresses

1) Number of direct flight connections [flight schedule for summer 2011]; most recent year with comparable data on congresses is 2009

# Paris and Amsterdam score best – Rome, Stockholm, Berlin and Vienna follow, neck and neck

Results of the ranking<sup>1)</sup>

1	Paris			5	Vienna	
2	Amsterdam			7	London	
3	Rome			8	Madrid	
4	Stockholm			9	Prague	
5	Berlin			10	Istanbul	

1) Cluster 1 cities

# Paris and Amsterdam score best – Rome, Stockholm, Berlin and Vienna follow, neck and neck

Evaluation of Cluster 1<sup>1)</sup> – barometer (100 = best performer)

Evaluation criteria	Overnight stays, CAGR	Overnight stays per inh.	Bed capacity, CAGR	RevPAR	Non-domestic share	Non-Eur. share	Accessibility	Congresses	TOTAL
City/weight [%]	20	10	15	20	5	5 <sup>2)</sup>	15	10	
1 Paris	22	60	31	100	45	64	96	68	61.6
2 Amsterdam	51	100	79	56	81	46	53	32	60.6
3 Rome	60	54	66	68	59	n.a. <sup>2)</sup>	35	0	51.6
4 Stockholm	80	56	87	47	0	n.a. <sup>2)</sup>	11	36	51.5
5 Berlin	100	42	94	16	0	0	7	66	49.2
5 Vienna <sup>3)</sup>	61	50	69	20	74	31	16	100	49.2
7 London	0	44	0	78	77	100	100	15	45.4
8 Madrid	62	31	62	19	27	48	28	20	38.6
9 Prague	26	78	78	0	100	28	0	19	32.9
10 Istanbul	1	0	100	23	62	n.a. <sup>2)</sup>	39	12	31.8

1) Top 10 cities in terms of absolute number of overnight stays 2010 – clustering enables better benchmarking

2) Where the non-European share was not available, the criterion's percentage weight was distributed equally among the other criteria for calculating the total result

3) Berlin's score is 49.25, Vienna's 49.16


















# The barometer is based on the results of the evaluation

## Evaluation of Cluster 1 – summary of results

<b>Evaluation criteria</b>	<b>Overn. stays, CAGR [%]</b>	<b>Overn. stays per inh. [no.]</b>	<b>Bed capacity, CAGR [%]</b>	<b>RevPAR [EUR]</b>	<b>Non-domestic share [%]</b>	<b>Non-European share [%]</b>	<b>Accessibility [no. dir. flights]</b>	<b>Congresses [no.]</b>
<b>City/weight [%]</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1 Paris</b>	1.2	8.2	0.3	171	62.9	28.4	292	131
<b>2 Amsterdam</b>	3.5	13.0	4.5	127	80.9	23.1	205	98
<b>3 Rome</b>	4.2	7.5	3.3	139	70.0	n.a.	168	69
<b>4 Stockholm</b>	5.7	7.7	5.3	118	40.9	n.a.	118	102
<b>5 Berlin</b>	7.3	6.1	5.9	87	40.9	9.9	111	129
<b>5 Vienna</b>	4.3	7.0	3.7	91	77.3	18.8	129	160
<b>7 London</b>	-0.5	6.4	-2.5	149	79.0	38.7	301	83
<b>8 Madrid</b>	4.4	4.7	3.0	90	54.4	23.8	153	87
<b>9 Prague</b>	1.5	10.3	4.5	71	90.3	17.9	96	86
<b>10 Istanbul</b>	-0.4	1.0	6.4	94	71.5	n.a.	176	80

# Zurich wins the Cluster 2 ranking ahead of Lisbon and Copenhagen

Results of the ranking<sup>1)</sup>

1	Zurich			8	Oslo	
2	Lisbon			9	Budapest	
3	Copenhagen			10	Athens	
4	Brussels			11	Luxembourg	
5	Ljubljana			12	Zagreb	
6	Helsinki			13	Bratislava	
7	Tallinn			14	Belgrade	

1) Cluster 2 cities

# Zurich, Lisbon and Copenhagen top the ranking for Cluster 2 cities

Evaluation of Cluster 2<sup>1)</sup> – barometer (100 = best performer)

Evaluation criteria	Overnight stays, CAGR	Overnight stays per inh.	Bed capacity, CAGR	Non-domestic share	Non-European share	Accessibility	Congresses	TOTAL
City/weight [%]	30	10	20 <sup>2)</sup>	5	5 <sup>2)</sup>	20	10	
1 Zurich	90	75	36	69	100	88	51	72.7
2 Lisbon	88	100	32	64	69	49	95	68.7
3 Copenhagen	77	78	40	49	38	73	100	67.9
4 Brussels	85	36	17	84	65	100	68	66.8
5 Ljubljana	100	14	100	100	62	5	17	62.3
6 Helsinki	93	40	37	31	37	48	49	57.2
7 Tallinn	83	40	70	90	0	9	27	51.9
8 Oslo	82	42	49	0	n.a. <sup>2)</sup>	6	43	45.9
9 Budapest	31	20	55	85	50	38	83	44.8
10 Athens	0	49	n.a. <sup>2)</sup>	58	100	59	70	42.8
11 Luxembourg	52	68	44	98	34	21	2	42.3
12 Zagreb	73	2	38	67	56	10	0	37.9
13 Bratislava	56	18	61	37	10	5	3	34.4
14 Belgrade	44	0	0	51	17	0	16	18.3

1) Top 11-24 cities in terms of absolute number of overnight stays 2010 – clustering enables better benchmarking

2) Where bed capacity CAGR or the non-European share was not available, the criterion's percentage weight was distributed equally among the other criteria for calculating the total result

# The barometer is based on the results of the evaluation

## Evaluation of Cluster 2 – summary

<b>Evaluation criteria</b>	<b>Overnight stays, CAGR [%]</b>	<b>Overnight stays per inh. [no.]</b>	<b>Bed capacity, CAGR [%]</b>	<b>Non-domestic share [%]</b>	<b>Non-European share [%]</b>	<b>Accessibility [no. direct flights]</b>	<b>Congresses [no.]</b>
<b>City/weight [%]</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>
1 Zurich	4.1	9.7	2.3	76.7	29.0	130	57
2 Lisbon	3.9	12.6	1.6	73.7	21.6	80	98
3 Copenhagen	2.8	10.1	2.8	64.8	14.1	111	103
4 Brussels	3.6	5.3	-0.5	85.8	20.7	146	73
5 Ljubljana	5.2	2.7	11.4	95.6	19.8	23	26
6 Helsinki	4.5	5.7	2.4	53.7	13.8	78	56
7 Tallinn	3.4	5.7	7.0	89.7	4.8	28	35
8 Oslo	3.3	5.9	4.0	34.8	n.a.	24	50
9 Budapest	-2.1	3.4	5.0	86.4	17.0	65	87
10 Athens	-5.4	6.7	n.a.	70.1	29.1	93	75
11 Luxembourg	0.1	9.0	3.4	94.4	13.0	43	12
12 Zagreb	2.4	1.3	2.5	75.4	18.3	29	10
13 Bratislava	0.5	3.2	5.8	57.5	7.3	22	13
14 Belgrade	-0.7	1.1	-3.0	65.8	9.0	16	25



## C. Conclusions

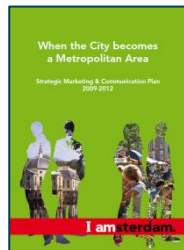
*City tourism is a key growth driver for the economy and professional strategy development is a key success factor*

**Roland Berger**  
Strategy Consultants



# City tourism strategies are available online for just 7 of the 24 capital cities in the study

## Tourism strategies available online<sup>1)</sup>



**AMSTERDAM**  
2009-2012

**Strategic marketing & communication plan**

- > SWOT
- > Tourism product development
- > Strategy and objectives
- > Marketing tools
- > Financial framework



**BERLIN**  
2011

**Tourismuskonzept Berlin**

- > SWOT
- > National/international benchmarks
- > Visitor structures, market segments
- > Strategic targets and actions



**HELSINKI**  
2011

**Helsinki's tourism strategy**

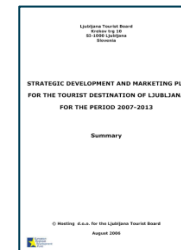
- > Strategic targets
- > Tasks
- > KPIs



**LISBON**  
2011-2014

**Turismo de Lisboa strategic marketing plan**

- > Vision and ambition
- > Objectives
- > Positioning/branding: markets, segments, products
- > Implementation programs



**LJUBLJANA**  
2007-2013

**Strategic development and marketing plan**

- > SWOT
- > Quantitative and qualitative objectives
- > Positioning, branding, selling proposition
- > To-do's, responsibilities, timing



**LONDON**  
2009-2013

**London Tourism Action Plan**

- > Balanced scorecard: objectives, KPIs, actions
- > Strategic framework with regional targets
- > Strategic priorities
- > Action plan/timing



**VIENNA**  
2010-2015

**Tourismuskonzept 2015**

- > Trends and key success factors
- > Markets and competitors
- > Targets, positioning and image
- > Actions and stakeholders
- > Marketing concept

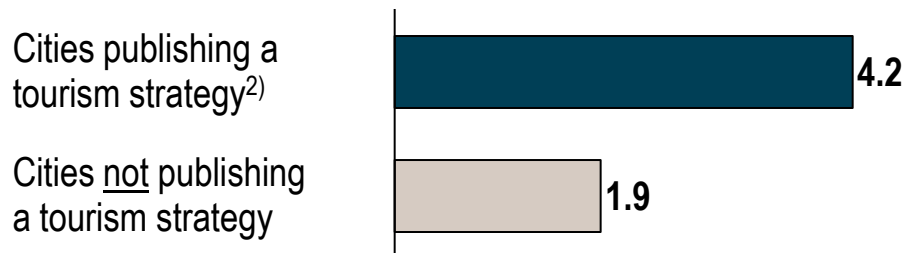
1) It is assumed that if a city has a professional tourism strategy, it also makes it available online

# Cities with a professional tourism strategy show stronger growth in the number of arrivals and overnight stays

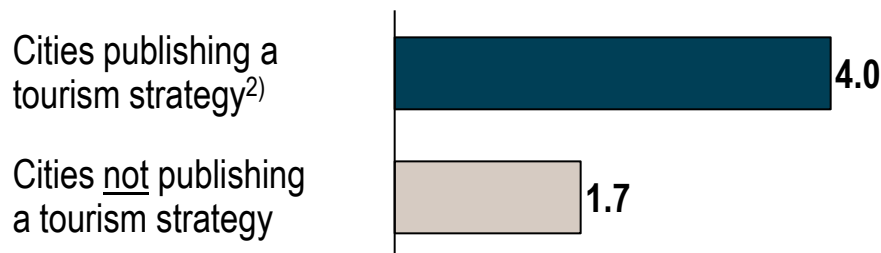
## Impact of a professional tourism strategy

### Growth of tourism – CAGR 2005-2010<sup>1)</sup> [%]

#### ARRIVALS



#### OVERNIGHT STAYS



1) Luxembourg 2005-2009, Athens 2005-2007, Rome arrivals 2005-2009, Istanbul overnight stays 2005-2009

2) Amsterdam, Berlin, Helsinki, Lisbon, Ljubljana, London, Vienna

### COMMENTS

- > Only 7 of the 24 focus cities publish a tourism strategy online
- > Berlin, Lisbon, London and Vienna had professional tourism concepts even before 2005; for Ljubljana, the first document available is from 2007; for Amsterdam and Helsinki, the year the first document was published is not available
- > Cities publishing a tourism strategy show stronger growth in the number of arrivals and overnight stays
- > Publishing the strategy is essential for successful communication with stakeholders
- > Developing and communicating a professional strategy is an area with a large upside potential for most cities in the study

## Conclusions (1/3) – Capital city tourism is a key growth driver



- > **Capital city tourism significantly outperforms** GDP development both in times of crisis and recovery
- > There is a **negative correlation between bed capacity growth over the last five years and RevPARs**, except in Amsterdam and Stockholm
- > There is a clear **correlation between the number of congresses hosted by a city and the number of overnight stays**
- > **60 flight connections** appears to be the minimum required to attract a significant number of congresses
- > A surprising number of capital cities **do not publish a tourism master plan** – only 7 out of the 24 focus cities do publish such a plan
- > Cities **with a published tourism master plan** have growth rates in arrivals and overnight stays of **around twice as much** compared to those not publishing a plan
- > Capital city tourism **is a key driver of growth** and should be **exploited accordingly**

## Conclusions (2/3) – Growth needs to be managed well in order to be sustainable



- > In general, cities should **publish better data** – professional, focused and up-to-date statistics are not universally available
- > Some cities that have a large number of overnight stays compared to the number of inhabitants need to **manage potential friction between local residents and visitors** – marketing tourism within the country itself is increasingly important to keep local residents happy and prevent them feeling like they are living in a zoo
- > Many cities are trying to **encourage repeat visits** and attract tourists away from the city's main attractions to **other parts of the city**
- > **Developing infrastructure** is a key element in the strategies of successful cities
- > Changes in bed capacity are a measure of the success of the city's image and trust by investors – however, **excessive growth generally results in low RevPAR** for hotel operators and can threaten the survival of their business

## Conclusions (3/3) – Coordination and professional management is a key success factor



- > On average, 29% of overnight stays relate to domestic tourism, 55% to other European visitors and **19% to non-European visitors**
- > The share of non-European guests is a good indicator for the city's global attractiveness and resistance to local/regional crises – **diversification of visitors**
- > The **organizational structures** for managing city tourism vary – Berlin has a highly professional DMO<sup>1)</sup>: a public private partnership with a significant share of funding generated by profit-oriented activities
- > The **main barriers to cities developing a tourism strategy** are the uncoordinated involvement of a large number of stakeholders, too little responsibility assigned to the relevant body, excessive political influence and self-satisfaction regarding current performance
- > Capital city tourism offers a **large upside potential in most European countries**

1) Destination Marketing Organization



**It's character  
that creates  
impact!**

**Roland Berger**  
Strategy Consultants