

**INTERRELATION OF MARITIME SECURITY  
AND ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, FOOD,  
INFORMATION, AND ENERGY SECURITY  
OF THE BALTIC-BLACK SEA STATES**

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**MARITIME SECURITY AS A PREREQUISITE FOR TOURISM  
RECOVERY IN POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES:  
KEY CHALLENGES AND COMMON FEATURES**

**МОРСЬКА БЕЗПЕКА ЯК ПЕРЕДУМОВА ВІДНОВЛЕННЯ  
ТУРИЗМУ В ПОСТ-КОНФЛІКТНИХ КРАЇНАХ:  
КЛЮЧОВІ ПРОБЛЕМИ ТА ЗАГАЛЬНІ РИСИ**

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Maritime security – including the protection of sea lines of communication, ports and coastlines, demining activities and responses to hybrid threats – is a prerequisite for tourism recovery in conflict and post-conflict regions. The Baltic–Black Sea region, the Eastern Mediterranean (Cyprus) and the Indian Ocean (Sri Lanka) all conceptualise the sea simultaneously as a trade corridor, a security space and a tourism resource; however, armed

conflicts, sea mines, piracy, hybrid attacks and the militarisation of coastal zones reduce the attractiveness of these countries for tourists. In many parts of the world, war or protracted political conflict has undermined the image of destinations as safe resorts, leading to a decline in tourist flows and investment, as well as the destruction of parts of the tourism infrastructure, while at the same time generating demand for “post-conflict” tourism as an instrument of economic recovery.

The key challenges facing such countries or regions include security risks, economic problems (destruction or degradation of tourism infrastructure) and socio-political factors such as the buffer zone in Cyprus, the occupied territories of Ukraine and ethnic tensions in Sri Lanka. Maritime security is therefore a fundamental condition for tourism revival: without guarantees of safe navigation, demined sea areas and the protection of port and coastal infrastructure, it is impossible to generate a stable flow of tourists to the Black Sea, Cyprus or Sri Lanka.

At the same time, tourism in post-conflict states can serve as an instrument of reconstruction and peacebuilding, provided that economic growth is combined with social inclusion. Tourism is an important sector for the economic recovery when it comes to post-conflict regions and it contributes to job creation, new investments and destination branding [1; 2]. The countries that will be analyzed in this study are Cyprus, Ukraine and Sri Lanka, which present post-conflict contexts. Cyprus experienced political division after 1974 (split into middle Cyprus-Turkey) affecting the political governance and destination image [3]. Before the division the Cyprus division, the island had experienced rapid tourism growth, with arrivals from all over the world that increased from 25,700 in 1960 to approximately 264,000 in 1973 (Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre) [4]. Even though there was a recovery in the southern region of Cyprus, the northern part has remained constrained by the limited recognition of the infrastructure challenges, which highlight the long term impact of the division of tourism productivity [5]. Ukraine, on the other hand, is facing an ongoing war, which has disrupted the infrastructure and the international arrivals, but researchers still believe in the potential for tourism to help in the recovery of both financial and psychological [6]. Sri Lanka recovered from a civil war that lasted for three decades (1983–2009) and later on the Easter attack in 2019 is using tourism as a reconstruction and community empowerment, even though the tourism productivity after the war has been facing challenges of militarisation and local exclusion [7]. This study adopts a productive perspective and will try to examine how tourism contributes to economic recovery and business resilience in post-conflict settings. These three countries were chosen because each one shows a different kind of conflict and recovery or potential recovery. Cyprus has a long-lasting political

divide, Ukraine is in the middle of an active war, and Sri Lanka has ended its civil war but is still facing new problems. Looking at all three helps us compare how tourism recovers at different stages and under different types of government.

In summary, in all of the countries under consideration, dark tourism – understood as visiting places associated with traumatic events and wars – has emerged and continues to develop as a distinct form of tourism. In these contexts, dark tourism functions as a tool both for economic revitalisation and for the construction of collective (national) memory.

It should be noted, however, that the expansion of dark tourism in post-conflict countries generates a number of moral and ethical challenges, which necessitate a specific approach to tourism planning and management. Such an approach is required to maintain a delicate balance between the commercialisation of dark-tourism experiences and the preservation of ethical norms and social sensitivity in post-conflict societies.

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