



Committee: UNWTO
Topic: Visa and border restrictions
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The World Tourism Organization is the United Nations organization responsible for sustainable, and universally approachable tourism. The most urgent issues confronting tourism are acknowledged in UNWTO's guidance mission, along with every industry's potential facing them, and promote higher positive impact, such as the convenience that organized traveling presents for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 160 Member States are involved in this organization, not counting the affiliate members that add up to 500 representing industries from private sectors such as tourism associations and educational institutions. (UNWTO, n.d.)

Visa has always been a crucial commodity for traveling and tourism, the visa is an official document used to legally enter a country for a certain time. Many types of visas depend on the cause of requesting it.

Visas are the main factor in border security, this document not only prevents illegal immigration to a country but also helps to check and regulate the flow of passengers in or out of a country.

According to preliminary research published by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as well as the World Travel and Tourism Council, Visa procedures in the 20 nations with the largest economies in the world, which are called the "G20" nations, could boost foreign people arriving by 122 million, tourism export growth by 206 billion, and employment generation by 5 million of jobs by 2015.

Most governments view the movement of individuals across borders as having both benefits and drawbacks. On one hand, even if globalization is unlikely to benefit all nations equally, they embrace the economic gains that are normally associated with such movements in the form of tourism, commerce, and foreign capital investment. On the other hand, they worry about the cross-border movement of people for security concerns and out of concern that tourists may become undocumented immigrants. The right to govern and impose restrictions on who enters the territory of a nation-state is part of national sovereignty, which has historically been considered inherent in the very character of sovereignty. The ability of national governments to enforce their right to limit mobility has possibly been eroded by internationalization, but it has not.

A foreigner who wants to visit a country with visa restrictions must apply for a travel visa, which is often only valid for a limited time. Some tourists will be stopped from applying for a pass to enter the target country due to financial and non-financial expenses to get their visa. The biggest advantage of having a visa limitation is that they may see beforehand who wants to enter their territory before the person even gets to the border, in addition to any cash made by the visa charge. These restrictions can help by protecting their land from terrorists, potential illegal immigrants, and criminals, among others who can potentially put that country in danger, those who have an invalid visa, would not be allowed to go in. (PASSPORT INDEX, n.d.)

It has been found that the average negative impact of visa requirements on a country's internal mobility is 29% with a higher impact for nations with nearly visa-free travel. Visa restrictions impede tourism inflows from the affected country by about 20%.

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency is in charge of overseeing operational relations among EU member states (Frontex). Frontex's main responsibility is to plan cooperative actions to support the EU Member States in controlling migrant flows at their external borders.

Countries with the highest rejection rates to visa solicitations:

- Sweden had a 30.6% rejection rate.
- Norway rejected 26.2%.
- France had a 21.1% rejection rate.
- Denmark had a rejection rate of 21.1%.
- Belgium denied 20.4%.

Countries with the lowest rejection rates to visa solicitations:

- Latvia only had a 3.5% rejection rate.
- The Czech Republic rejected 3.3%.
- Lithuania denied 2.8%.
- Slovakia had a 2.7% rejection rate.
- Luxembourg only rejected 1.2%.

(Reeler, 2022))

According to the report, 110 million of more than 650 million foreign visitors who traveled to G20 countries by 2011, required a visa, and millions of others were discouraged from visiting due to the price, processing times, and complexity of acquiring visas. As a result, the UNWTO and WTTC recommend extensive visa reforms, such as the better transmission of information, simplification of the current visa application

process, differential treatment to encourage tourist travel, the implementation of e-Visa systems, and the creation of regional agreements for visa enablement.

Additionally, illegal immigrants must think that the benefits of immigration outweigh the danger of being scammed. Unauthorized immigration human trafficking into the United States is a 3 billion industry every year. A highly skilled human trafficker also known as a “Coyote”, aids about 75% of unauthorized immigrants in crossing the border. On one hand, a Coyote can care about their client’s well-being, on the other hand, others may steal from them, assault them physically, demand more money when they transport them, rape the women, penalize those who didn’t afford to pay, or even ditch them.

Since visas have been advancing significantly, most governments grant visa free-mobility only very selectively. Visa restrictions have reduced the number of foreign investments and bilateral trade; Bilateral trade is the trading agreement between two nations, it increases trade and economic growth. (the balance, 2022)

Border restrictions have been changing over the years depending on the country, an example nowadays in border restrictions is COVID-19, which most countries can be very strict on depending on the vaccination process to avoid contact with this virus.

Rules and regulations are adapted depending on the nation to suit the political aims of the nation-states, who face unwanted immigration.

Temporary visits to a country are not considered immigration. (Böcker et al., n.d.)

Visas represent travel to a nation, and as additional restrictions are imposed, this travel eventually declines. Bilateral trade agreements also assist countries to improve commerce and economic growth.

These requirements have an impact on a nation, so solutions must assist these requirements to promote tourism.

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