TERRORISM AS SECURITY CHALLENGE IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Daniel Dragičević Maja Nikšić Radić Lucija Grbić

Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this paper was to analyse the consequences faced by tourism industry as a result of terrorist activities. Terrorism can be viewed as use or threat to use violence to obtain political objective through the intimidation. Tourists become specific target of terrorist activity due to symbolic and economic value which arises from tourism. The main focus is at security obstacle as a crucial factor of tourists` choice of desired destination.

Design/Methodology/Approach – Research employed descriptive statistics, notably comparative method and correlation analysis, to estimate relationship between terrorism and tourism for selected Mediterranean countries (Spain, France, Croatia and Turkey). Yearly (1995–2016) and monthly data (2011M01 to 2016M12) was used from UNWTO, Eurostat and Global Terrorism database.

Findings – Based on conducted research, results showed a presence of small positive correlation between international tourism arrivals and total terrorism casualties for Spain and moderate negative for Turkey. Data for France and Croatia did not show any statistically significant correlation. Statistically significant negative small correlation between international tourism arrivals and terrorism incidents was determined only for Turkey.

Originality of the research – Obtained results contribute to a better understanding of linkages between terrorism and tourism as this is an important research topic, especially for such important tourist destinations.

Keywords security, terrorism, tourist arrivals, tourist destination, Mediterranean countries

INTRODUCTION

International travel and tourism is a significant contributor to economic growth and development. According to the Travel and Council (2017) annual forecast, in 2017, the total contribution of Travel & Tourism to the world's economy will grew by 3.6%. It is expected that by 2027, Travel and Tourism will support more than 380 million jobs, which will equal to 11% of total employment. Direct Travel & Tourism contribution to GDP was 3.1% of total GDP in 2016 (USD 2.306.0 billion).

Although the tourism and terrorism seem to have no similarities at all, research literature has shown different results. Acts of terror are intended to incite fear and intimidation, which makes tourism particularly susceptible to attacks (Greenbaum and Hultquist 2006), especially since tourism sites are known as "soft targets" (Tarlow 2014, 9). Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to analyse the outcomes and consequences which tourism industry has to face as a result of terrorist activities. Many scholars advocate that being safe on the vacation is an expected requirement for any visitor in

tourist destination or city (Baker 2014). Hence, within the research, the main focus is placed at security obstacles tourists face when choosing their holidays destination.

Employing yearly (1995–2016) and monthly (2011M01–2016M12) data this paper observes tourist arrivals on research sample of four Mediterranean tourist destinations (Spain, France, Croatia and Turkey). Using descriptive method and comparative methods with support of statistical data, terrorist activities contemporaneously with tourist arrivals were examined.

Starting with introduction, as preface of this research, paper follows next three sections. Literature review gives preview of the past research on this topic. Following, the methodology and data section presents obtained results of observed period. In the last section, analysed topic is concluded and further recommendations are established.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Although the phenomenon of terrorism has been studied throughout the years, the search for the adequate definition is still in progress (Schmid and Jongman 2017). However, many authors have given their contribution. Combs (2016, 10) defined terrorism as "an act of violence perpetrated on innocent civilian non-combatants in order to evoke fear in the audience". In contrary, modern tourism is theorized as the world's largest peacetime industry (Tarlow 2014). As a significant contributor to economy and development, international tourism arrivals growth outpaces the national income growth yearly (Baker 2014). On the other hand, terrorism still remains tourisms' most important challenge (Bac et al. 2015).

Security is classified among prerequisites which continuously undertake leading position when culling for holidays' destination. Unsafe or threatened environment creates negative impression of tourist destination (Richard 2003). The threat of danger that accompanies terrorism or political turmoil tends to intimidate potential tourists more severely than any other human-caused disaster (Sönmez 1998). In fact, terrorism effects on tourism are substantial (Frey 2004) and undoubtedly damaging for the image, infrastructure and competitiveness of the destination (Mansfeld and Pizam 2006, 29). Results of the questionnaire as part of Alsarayreh et al. (2010) study showed the high vulnerability of tourism on political events. Political conflicts, political instability, terrorism, resulting either from ideological or economics reasons tend to ultimately impact tourism activities. According to Pizam (1999) political motives of the criminal/violence act have the strongest effect on tourism demand.

Safety and security are so vital in tourism that the success of tourist investments depends on being able to provide safe and secure environment. Terrorist attacks against tourist sites and tourism infrastructures have long been acknowledged as having significant effects on tourism and travel behaviour (Brondoni 2016). Terrorism negatively affects tourism by changing tourist' perceptions of motives to travel (Vovk 2015). Tourist avoid the tourist areas where terrorist events have occurred and their confidence in the respective destination is being very hard to recover (Albu 2016). Uncontrollable risks,

like terrorist attacks, are perceived as more important than controllable risks (e.g. fire in the hotel) (Carballo et al. 2017)

While examining impact of terrorism and instability on the tourism industry in Egypt, Esmail (2016) indicated negative effects of terrorism. Firstly, reduction of the large labour working in the tourism sector as a result of decline in tourism numbers. Moreover, decline in the tourism income, rise in unemployment, rise of the inflation and exchange rate. This factors affected Egypt severely. Terrorism is transitory and committed terrorist acts lead to the huge loss of income for the host country (Frey 2004).

Similarly, Parida et al. (2015), applying Auto-Regressive Distributed Lag model (ARDL), concluded that there is a long-run coefficients relation between terrorism activity, exchange rate and tourist arrivals in the sample of India. The ARLD model showed the inverse relation between terrorist activity and tourist arrivals and frontward relation between economic development (per capita income) and tourist arrivals.

Llorca-Vivero (2008) stated that the most noticeable indirect aftereffect of the terrorism in the destinations is perceived risk. Therefore, reconsideration of the planned destination may occur as a potential outcome. While tourists are free to avoid destinations associated with risk, the consequences of disastrous events on tourist destinations are inescapable and can be profound (Sönmez 1998). Furthermore, Morakabati and Kapuscinski (2016) findings argue that the higher the importance to culture or nature is, the less hesitant tourist are. People are prompt to risk during visit to destination if they benefit of it gratefully.

Using panel data and time series while examining a sample of 95 destinations. Liu and Pratt (2017) observed that more politically open destinations are likely to be more volatile than the nations under the autocratic regime. On the means of the time perception, there is no long-run impact on international tourism either. Admittedly, the relationship between tourism demand, income, and terrorism were found in time series models but in limited values as well. On the other hand, short-run impacts are discerned. Moreover, countries who have a low dependency on tourism are more vulnerable to the impacts of terrorism than those who are not. Developing countries were identified as the destinations with the higher costs of terrorism (Llorca-Vivero 2008). Advanced democracy, high level of incomes and openness reduce the possibility of conflict. Therefore, from the macroeconomic standpoint, in the developed countries influence of terrorism is immaterial (Vovk 2015).

Research of Ghaderi et al. (2017) showed that changes in the level of security have a positive impact on tourist arrival to developed and negative to developing countries. Authors applied dynamic panel model based upon system Generalized Method of Moments (GMM).

Ahlfeldt et al. (2015) are the first authors who tested substitution and adaptation effects not only regarded to geographics but taking into account religious proximity, as well. To separate the effects of terrorism on tourism demand and study substitution behaviour of consumers they used a very new method, Difference-in-Difference-Approach. As a consequence of terrorist attack not only the decline in tourist numbers happens but also

there is a significant global effect in predominantly Islamic population countries. Since Islamic destinations cannot shield themselves from negative consequences of terrorism, regional cooperation in anti-terrorism policies should be introduced (Feridun 2011).

The media has a crucial role to play in promoting emerging destinations, as a consequence of vital and complex relationship between tourism and media. This industry is highly dependent by the powerful effect of the media communication because decisions made by tourists are generally based upon it. Consistent terrorist attacks damage the image of the destinations and are therefore harmful to the tourism industry, regardless of whether tourists are directly targeted or not (Van Niekerk and Pizam 2015).

Many authors have argued the bad consequences of terrorism on tourism through media coverage. Baker (2014, 59) claims that "volatile relationship between tourism and terrorism is magnified by the media in a manner to cloud actual probabilities of being targeted by terrorists". Frey (2004) recognizes tourists as "easy targets" who are able to effortlessly attract attention from the media. The bombing, shooting and kidnapping in tourist destination appeals and has huge resonance in media. (Korstanje 2018) emphasizes that the ignorance at media communication is used for terrorism to instil fear. Moreover, effect of attention and interest in contest of mass media not only raises risk perception of the individual but contributes to greater involvement of tourists with the buying decision, regarding information search (Seabra et al. 2014). Media also has great impact on the policy measures taken to secure tourists at tourist destinations (Hall 2002).

2. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

For the analysis of the connection between tourism and terrorism, this paper has chosen following Mediterranean countries: France, Spain, Turkey and Croatia. Country abbreviations use ISO ALPHA-3 Code. Comparative method used annual data from 1995 to 2016 while in detail correlation analysis employed monthly time series data from 2011(1) to 2016(12). Due to data limitation authors have chosen tourism arrivals as demand indicator for the tourist destination. This variable has been obtained from Eurostat ("Eurostat database / Tourism", n.d.) and UNWTO database ("UNWTO / Tourism Statistics", n.d.). Comparative analysis of tourism data is based on total tourism arrivals in all commercial accommodation services (NACE_R2, I551-I553), while in correlation analysis on inbound tourism (data limitation). Inbound tourism is defined as "activities of a non-resident visitor within the country of reference on an inbound tourism trip" (UNWTO 2017, 13). Monthly data for international tourism arrivals (arr) has been obtained from Eurostat.

Data for variable terrorism (*terr*) was taken from Global Terrorism Database (GTD) ("Global Terrorism Database", n.d.). The GTD defines a terrorist attack as "the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation" (START 2017, 9). Two types of variable were chosen for terrorism. First, total incidents (*terr_inc*) which include overall incidents that happen in observed country (successful and unsuccessful attacks, ambiguous cases, may or may not fulfil one or all of the three Criteria). Second, total terrorism (*terr_tot*) which includes total casualties (both injuries

and fatalities) but only for the cases which meet all three Criteria, include successful attacks and exclude ambiguous cases.

3. RESULTS

Comparative analysis of tourism data showed increasing trend in the number of total arrivals in selected Mediterranean countries. France (FRA), Spain (ESP), Turkey (TUR) and Croatia (HRV) make up, on average (1995–2016), 44% of overall tourism arrivals in European Union (without Ireland). In mentioned period France constitutes, on average, 21.7%, Spain 15.8%, Turkey 4.5% and Croatia 1.7%.

Table 1: Tourism total arrivals in selected countries from 1995 to 2016 (in thousands)

Year	FRA	ESP	TUR	HRV	FRA, ESP, TUR, HRV % of EU 27 + Turkey
1995	97,416	41,550	9,642	2,611	39.1%
1996		42,977	12,294	4,186	
1997		45,522	17,093	5,585	
1998	100,870	50,149	15,284	5,852	41.7%
1999	104,875	63,788	12,677	5,127	43.5%
2000	114,111	74.360	15,660	7,136	45.0%
2001	117,986	76,028	16,528	7,860	46.5%
2002	118,063	76,131	17,789	8,320	46.6%
2003	116,021	79,898	17,421	8,878	47.1%
2004	120,304	83,734	20,707	9,412	47.2%
2005	125,301	87,559	23,411	9,223	45.2%
2006	124,402	99,841	23,467	9,655	46.6%
2007	127,005	102,151	26,833	10,352	45.8%
2008	126,256	100,156	24,934	10,454	45.1%
2009	124,040	93,674	26,527	10,271	44.1%
2010	125,706	98,801	29,754	10,604	45.0%
2011	148,801	103,084	33,614	11,456	48.8%
2012	148,917	100,410	36,183	11,835	45.7%
2013	152,572	101,673	38,283	12,433	45.9%
2014	151,957	107,545	40,901	13,128	54.4%
2015	156,278	114,449	43,360	14,343	53.9%
2016	156,014	123,542	36,945	15,595	52.9%

Note: EU 27 – all European Union countries except Ireland (no data); available data for Cyprus 2000–2016, Denmark 1996–2016, Estonia 2001–2016, Malta 2004–2016, Sweden 1996–2016, United Kingdom 1995–2013.

Source: UNWTO, Eurostat

Criteria for choosing selected countries was geographical area, as well as their high percentage share of total tourism arrivals in European Union. Terrorism incidents in the observed country were another criterion. According to mentioned criteria, Croatia should not have been chosen. The reason for choosing Croatia (only 1.7% of overall tourism arrivals) was the highest average annual growth rate of tourism arrivals among selected countries and the fact that there are no notable terrorism incidents in this country. So in its simplest way, Croatia can be viewed as a "safe" benchmark.

As mentioned Croatia has the highest average annual growth rate from 1995 to 2016 (8.9%) followed by Turkey (6.6%), Spain (5.3%) and France (2.3%).

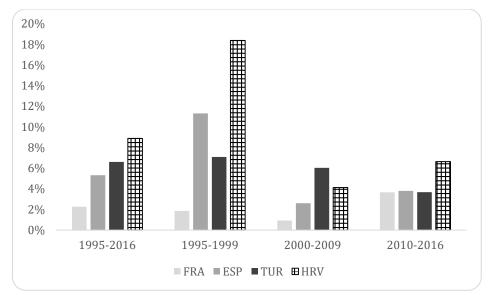
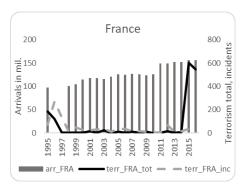


Figure 1: Average annual growth rate of tourism arrivals in selected countries

Source: Authors' calculations

Figure 1 shows dynamic growth of tourism arrivals in Croatia (18.4%) and Spain (11.3%) from 1995 to 1999. There was a slowdown in average annual growth rates from 2000 to 2009 and recovery from 2010 to 2016. In the last observed period, Croatia has grown on average 50% faster than its Mediterranean competitors (France, Spain and Turkey).

Figure 2: Tourism arrivals and terrorism in France and Spain from 1995 to 2016



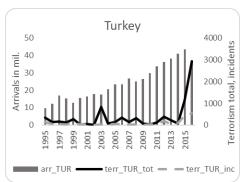


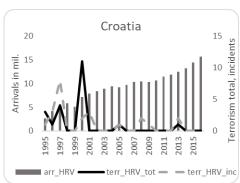
Note: arr - total tourism arrivals; terr_tot - total casualties (injuries and fatalities); terr_inc - overall terrorism incidents.

Source: UNWTO, Eurostat, GTD

From 1995 to 1997 France has recorded 471 terrorism incidents which is higher than 1998 – 2016 period (453 incidents). Former period has 307 casualties and latter 1,257. In 2015 and 2016 there where 1,147 casualties (73% of analysed 1995–2016 period) and there is a -0.2% decline in total tourism arrivals in 2016 compared to 2015. Spain has recorded 66% of terrorism incidents in 1995 – 2001 period with 447 casualties. The decline in total tourism arrivals was registered only in 2008 (-1.9% compared to 2007), 2009 (-6.5% compared to 2008) and 2012 (-2.6% compared to 2011). From 2008 to 2012 there were 113 casualties (4.1% of 1995–2016) and 62 recorded incidents. In 2004 Spain had 2002 casualties (72% of 1995–2016) due to terrorist attacks but it seems that this didn't had any major effects on tourism since total tourism arrivals rose by 4.6% in 2005.

Figure 3: Tourism arrivals and terrorism in Turkey and Croatia from 1995 to 2016





Note: arr – total tourism arrivals; terr_tot – total casualties (injuries and fatalities); terr_inc – overall terrorism incidents.

Source: UNWTO, Eurostat, GTD

Compared to other analysed countries, Turkey has the highest number of casualties and terrorism incidents. From 1995 to 2016, due to the terrorist activities, Turkey had 7,897 (55% of analysed countries) casualties and 1,980 incidents (64% of analysed countries).

In 2015 and 2016 there were 961 incidents with a total of 4,073 casualties (51% of 1995–2016 period) which resulted in decline of total tourism arrivals in 2016, compared to 2015, by -14.8%. Croatia had the smallest number of terrorism casualties (21) and incidents (23). In this sense, Croatia can be viewed as a safe country. Total number of tourism arrivals grew constantly with an annual average rate of 8.9% (1995–2016).

To see whether there is some kind of connection between terrorism and tourism correlation analysis was employed on monthly data from 2011 to 2016. Calculated Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) measures the strength of the relationship between x and y. Two sets of data were used. International (inbound) tourism arrivals (arr) data was chosen as dependent variable while casualties ($terr_tot$) and terrorism incidents ($terr_inc$) as independent variables. Tourism arrivals where seasonally adjusted (sarr) by using Census X-12 methodology. The null (H_o) hypotheses is $H_0: \rho_{xy} = 0$ and alternative $H_1: \rho_{xy} \neq 0$.

In a first set, a Pearson's correlation assessed the relationship between international tourism arrivals and total terrorism casualties (both injuries and fatalities) for Spain (ESP), France (FRA), Croatia (HRV) and Turkey (TUR). Overall (available) N was 72 for all countries except Turkey (N=60) which did not have data for 2011 period. A small positive correlation was determined for Spain, r(70) = 0.206, with little evidence against H_0 (no correlation), at p < 0.10. This means that higher values of international tourism arrivals are related to higher numbers of terrorism casualties. This conclusion about positive correlation between terrorism and tourism is in line with research of Goldman and Neubauer-Shani (2017). Data regarding Turkey shows moderate negative correlation indicating, at p < 0.01 with very strong evidence against H_0 , that the lower numbers of international tourism arrivals are associated to the greater number of terrorism casualties. Similar results can be viewed in Raza and Jawaid (2013), Llorca-Vivero (2008) and Esmail (2016).

Table 2: Correlation coefficients between international tourism arrivals and total casualties

	sarr_ESP	terr_ESP _tot	sarr_FRA	terr_FRA_ tot	sarr_HR V	terr_H RV_to t	sarr_TUR	terr_T UR_t ot
sarr_ESP	1							
terr_ESP_tot	0.206*	1						
	(0.083)							
sarr_FRA			1					
terr_FRA_to			0.0693	1				
			(0.563)					
sarr_HRV					1			
terr_HRV_t ot					-0.146	1		
					(0.221)			
sarr_TUR							1	

	sarr_ESP	terr_ESP _tot	sarr_FRA	terr_FRA_ tot	sarr_HR V	terr_H RV_to t	sarr_TUR	terr_T UR_t ot
terr_TUR_to							-0.460***	1
							(0.000)	
N	72		72		72		60	

p-values in parentheses

Note: sarr_ - seasonally adjusted values of international tourism arrivals; terr_tot - total terrorism (both injuries and fatalities).

Source: Authors' calculations

The case of France and Croatia does not show any statistically significant correlation between total terrorism and international tourism arrivals.

In a second set, a Pearson's correlation assessed the relationship between international tourism arrivals and total terrorism incidents for selected countries (table 3). Statistically significant relationship between international tourism arrivals and terrorism incidents was determined only for Turkey. There was a negative small correlation, r(58) = -0.249, with little evidence against H_0 (no correlation), at p < 0.10.

Table 3: Correlation coefficients between international tourism arrivals and total incidents

	sarr_ESP	terr_ESP_i	sarr_FRA	terr_FRA_ inc	sarr_HR V	terr_H RV_in c		terr_ TUR _inc
sarr_ESP	1							
terr_ESP_i nc	0.0846	1						
	(0.480)							
sarr_FRA			1					
terr_FRA_i nc			-0.0781	1				
			(0.514)					
sarr_HRV					1			
terr_HRV_i nc					-0.146	1		
					(0.221)			
sarr_TUR							1	
terr_TUR_i nc							-0.249*	1
							(0.055)	
N	72		72		72		60	

p-values in parentheses

Note: sarr_-seasonally adjusted values of international tourism arrivals; terr_inc - total terrorism incidents. Source: Authors' calculations

^{*} p<0.10 ** p<0.05 *** p<0.01

^{*} p<0.10 ** p<0.05 *** p<0.01

The case of Spain, France and Croatia does not show any statistically significant correlation between international tourism arrivals and total terrorism incidents.

CONCLUSION

This paper analysed the potential threats of terrorism on tourist destinations. There is an established relationship between violent (terrorist) acts and the intensity, expanse, and duration of the effect on tourism. In that regard tourist destinations, i.e. tourists become specific target of terrorist activity. Reviewing the statistical data and using correlation and descriptive statistics notable relationship between terrorism and tourism was detected. Tourism arrivals, total and international (inbound), were chosen as a proxy for tourism demand while terrorism casualties and terrorism incidents as proxies for terrorism. Research sample consisted of four Mediterranean tourist destinations – Spain, France, Croatia and Turkey.

Yearly comparative analysis from 1995 to 2016 showed overall increasing trend in the number of total tourism arrivals in all selected countries. Trend was the strongest in Croatia with annual average growth rate of 8.9%. Decline in total tourism arrivals, in analysed compared to previous year, was determined for France (2016), Spain (2008, 2009, 2012) and Turkey (1998, 1999, 2003, 2008, 2013, 2016). From 1995 to 2016 total of 12,263 casualties and 3,598 terrorism incidents was recorded in comparative set. Structure revealed Turkey to form 64% of total casualties and 55% of terrorism incidents.

A Pearson's correlation was chosen to investigate the relationship between international tourism arrivals and terrorism casualties/terrorism incidents based on monthly data from 2011 to 2016. Statistically significant positive correlation, between international tourism arrivals and total casualties, was determined for Spain (0.206) and negative one for Turkey (-0.460). Existence of correlation between international tourism arrivals and terrorism incidents was obtained only for Turkey (-0.249).

Tourism is perceived as economic driver of many economies and as such understanding and preventing possible security treats is paramount for every country. Although the ambiguity about this topic is present among authors, there is no doubt that potential risk significantly impacts tourists' behaviour. This paper contributed to the body of existing knowledge regarding the connection between terrorism and tourism. Importance and sensitivity of tourism necessitates further research in this area, especially for policymakers and their policies regarding security in a country.

Research conducted indicates the need for preventive action and continuous investment in the safety of the destination, thus preserving the image of a safe destination. Looking to the future, and bearing in mind the example of Turkey, only safe tourist destinations can expect further growth of tourist arrivals.

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Daniel Dragičević, PhD, Assistant Professor

University of Rijeka

Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management Department of Micro- and Macroeconomics

Primorska 42, P.P. 97, 51410 Opatija, Croatia

Phone: +385-51-294683

E-mail: danield@fthm.hr

Maja Nikšić Radić, PhD, Assistant Professor

University of Rijeka

Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management

Department of International Economics and Development

Primorska 42, P.P. 97, 51410 Opatija, Croatia

Phone: +385-51-294716 E-mail: majanr@fthm.hr

Lucija Grbić, Student

University of Rijeka

Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management Primorska 42, P.P. 97, 51410 Opatija, Croatia

Phone: +385-23-327814 E-mail: ps22670@fthm.hr