

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003719/25
to the Commission
Borja Giménez Larraz (PPE), Elena Nevado del Campo (PPE)
(24 September 2025)**

Subject: Continuity of the competence centre for tourism beyond 2026

The PPPA-2022-TOTOLAB ⁽¹⁾ call for proposals, a preparatory action of the European Parliament, managed by the Commission through the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency ⁽²⁾, led to the launch of the D3HUB ⁽³⁾ project. With a duration of 36 months and a budget of EUR 3 million, the project has been running since late 2023.

As a preparatory action, the aim of D3HUB is to pave the way for a future EU structural initiative by establishing a European competence centre to support tourism destinations in their strategic use of data. The centre is currently being piloted by 40 European destinations and is already providing data collection services to support decision-making and strategy development.

Funded by EU resources, the centre is operational and aligns EU objectives with local capabilities, ensuring that no destination is left behind in the twin transition.

Parliament considers it absolutely essential to maintain funding for this initiative. As the Commission is preparing a new European strategy for tourism, does it intend to ensure the continuity of the competence centre beyond 2026, as a lasting instrument aligned with EU priorities, thus securing its consolidation, and preserving the effectiveness and legacy of the EU funds invested so far?

Submitted: 24.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 December 2025)**

The Commission acknowledges the D3HUB project's significant contributions towards leveraging data for strategic development in European tourism. The initiative aligns well with the EU's goals of enhancing digital savvy and competitive sustainability in tourism.

As the project moves towards its conclusion, D3HUB is expected to mature towards self-reliance. A sustainable business plan should be submitted to the Commission, ensuring the initiative can continue its valuable work independently once the grant period is over.

The forthcoming EU strategy for sustainable tourism will address key objectives for the sector, and the Commission will comprehensively evaluate the project's alignment with future EU priorities and its potential integration as part of sustainable tourism efforts, also on the basis of the results of the open public and targeted consultation to support the preparation of the EU strategy for sustainable tourism, which are under analysis.

The preservation of the legacy and funds invested in D3HUB is a shared priority. The Commission will ensure a thorough review of the business plan presented by the project team, in line with the standards of sustainability and continued impact expected of such EU-led initiatives. The integration and evolution of this project should reflect its initial success and align with upcoming strategic objectives.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/pppa-2022-totolab-01>.

² https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

³ <https://www.d3hub-competencecentre.eu/>.