

Brussels, 2 June 2008

**To the member organisations of EFFAT active in the social tourism sector in Europe**

**To the member organisations of BITS and other organisations active in the social tourism sector in Europe**

**Subject: Study on employment in the social tourism sector in Europe**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Bureau of Social Tourism (BITS) and the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT) have joined forces to carry out a study into employment in the social tourism sector in Europe.

Social tourism – i.e. programmes, projects and campaigns that aim to ensure the right to holiday and access to tourism to all population groups, including young people, families, senior citizens, low-income earners and individuals with limited physical capabilities – is an important sector that creates many jobs. We would like to know more about it.

That is why the objective of the study, which is being funded by the European Commission (DG Employment and Social Affairs) is twofold: 1) identify the importance, type, employment conditions and vocational qualifications required in the social tourism sector, and 2) make recommendations about workers' needs to adapt, technological innovations and different jobs in the sector.

The two main components of the project are a survey of social tourism players and relevant trade union organisations within the European Union (EU) and a conference where the findings of the study will be presented.

The survey will actually be carried out by Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Tourisme, Territoires Sociétés (LITOTES) at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), which has prepared a two-part questionnaire.

The first part (Section A), targeting organisations active in the social tourism sector nationally, regionally and locally, aims to draw up an overview of social tourism and the jobs it creates in each country, focusing specifically on accommodation.

The second part (Section B) focuses specifically on managers of social tourism accommodation (holiday centres and villages, inns and welcome centres for young people, campgrounds, etc.) and aims to drill down deeper into employment-related information for each accommodation facility.

Hereunder you will find links to the online questionnaire. Please fill it in by **20 June 2008**.

**Section A** (organisations active in the social tourism sector)

<http://webserv.ulb.ac.be/quest/quest?questionnaire=tourisme-social-A-en>

**Section B** (social tourism accommodation facilities)

<http://webserv.ulb.ac.be/quest/quest?questionnaire=tourisme-social-B-en>

Attached you will also find a printable version of the questionnaire which can be filled in and returned to:

IGEAT (ULB)

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We would also like your cooperation in transmitting this information to the relevant individuals within your organisation and in the accommodation facilities within your organisation so that they can fill in the questionnaire.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact BITS ([cebelanger.bits@accg.be](mailto:cebelanger.bits@accg.be)) or EFFAT ([k.howald@effat.org](mailto:k.howald@effat.org)).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Norberto Tonini  
President, BITS

Harald Wiedenhofer  
General Secretary, EFFAT