

Small travel businesses such as hotels, restaurants and other tourism services are about to get connected to travel agencies and tour operators in source markets through a pan-European online platform – [TOURISMLink](#). The European Union-funded TOURISMLink project will enable an active exchange of information and will integrate with other large tourism service distribution platforms. No travel business need be left out of the global digital supply chain!

Here's what's been going on.

PROJECT NEWS

TOURISMLINK INTRODUCED TO TRAVEL AGENTS IN GREECE AND ROMANIA

The TOURISMLink platform was presented to travel agents at the Romanian Travel Fair, in Bucharest, and at the office of the Hellenic Association of Travel & Tourist Agencies (HATTA) in Athens. Travel agents asked some tough questions but the outcome was positive and the “by the industry, for the industry” approach was approved of. Training days will now be set up with the help of local tourist organisations as TOURISMLink continues its pan-European rollout.



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INDUSTRY NEWS



GAP IN THE MARKET FOR CHILD-FRIENDLY TRAVEL SAY TOURISM INSIDERS

Today's attention-challenged kids are bored by the beach, according to a new survey. Eye rolling and private thoughts about spoilt children aside, if buckets and spades will no longer cut muster, what will? We asked a specialist travel agent and a family of consummate travellers for their thoughts. Is there really a gap in the market for child-friendly tours, hotels with features to keep the kids happy, and trips tailored for teenagers?

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PACKAGE HOLIDAYS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Almost half of all UK adults who booked an overseas break in the last year did so as part of a package deal, according to research by ABTA. The good news is, travellers still love package holidays. However what people want is changing. We took a look at the evolution of the package tour and threw out some predictions about what the future holds. Competition for travel agents comes in changing forms but, with the right tools, the future looks bright.

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