by Susanne Kraus-Winckler, HOTREC President





#### **Vision**





#### **Mission**

- Represent and champion the hospitality industry's interests towards the EU and international institutions, as well as to all kind of relevant stakeholders;
- Foster knowledge sharing and best practice among its Members, in order to further promote innovation;
- Act as a platform of expertise for the European hospitality industry.



## **HOTREC** at a glance

- Umbrella Association of Hotels, Restaurants and Cafes in Europe
- 44 National Associations, among which UPUHH
- 30 European countries
- The voice of the hospitality industry at EU level



#### A key pillar of the EU economy:

- 1.9 milion businesses
- 90% micro enterprises
- 460 billion EUR contribution to economy (3.7% of EU GDP)
- 126 billion EUR to government treasuries (70 bn of VAT)





3rd largest socio-economic activity with tourism

#### **Tourism continues growing - UNWTO**

- 2017: + 7% worldwide
- 1.3 billion international tourist arrivals in the world
- 537 million arrivals in the EU
- 8% growth in Europe
- Europe currently most dynamic growing market



#### Strong challenges: context

- Difficulties in attracting the workers and retain them
- Average job vacancy rate in the EU (1.7%)
- Average job vacancy rate in accommodation + food service sector:
  - 3% Belgium
  - 4.2% Germany
  - 7.4% Greece
- There are thousands of unfilled jobs in the hospitality sector!





## **Strong challenges: context**

- Seasonality
- High fragmentation of the sector (SMEs)
- Perception that the sector is not a good career choice



#### Strong challenges: solutions

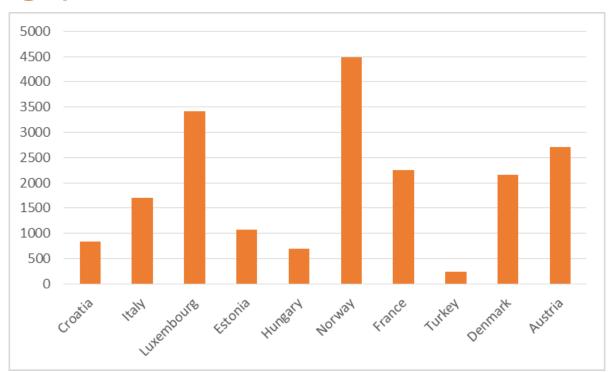
- EU + national funding → massive trainings
- Promotion of career development
- Quality + cost-effective apprenticeship schemes + VET
- Promoting existing tools: European Hospitality Skills Passport
- Facilitation of the transition from education to work
- Early detection of emerging skills
- Promoting the image of the sector

#### What about salaries?

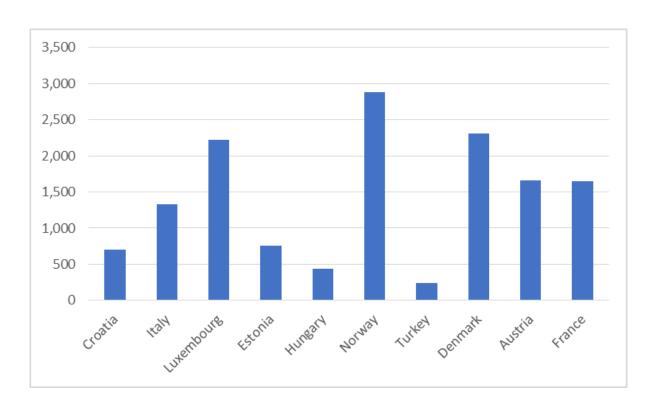


- On behalf of UPUHH, HOTREC deployed a survey on salaries in the hospitality sector (October 2018)
- 10 different countries replied

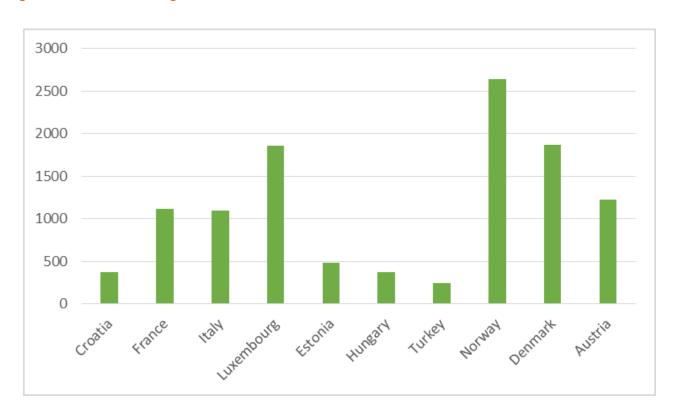
# Net salaries in the whole economy (average)

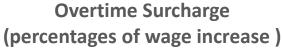


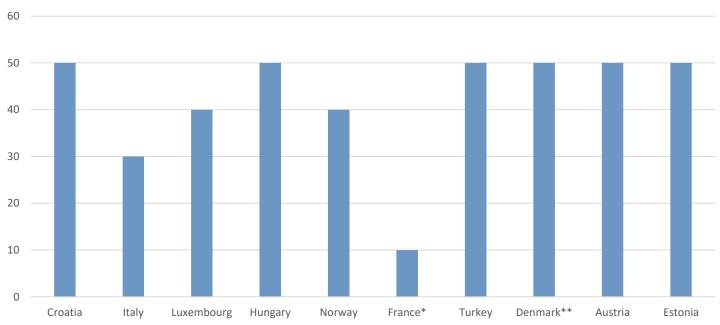
# Net salaries in the hospitality sector (average)



## Minimum Salaries in the hospitality sector net (in euros)



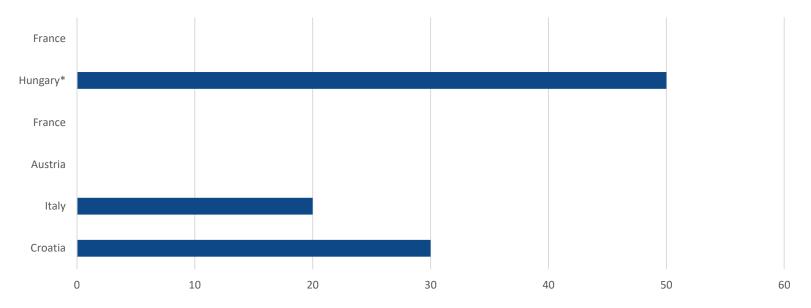




\*10% from 36th to 39th hour, 20% from 40th to 43th hour, 50% beyond

<sup>\*\*</sup>First 2 hours: 50%; over 2 hours - 100%; after 24:00 - 50%

Surcharge for work on weekend (percentages of wage increase compared to standard wage)

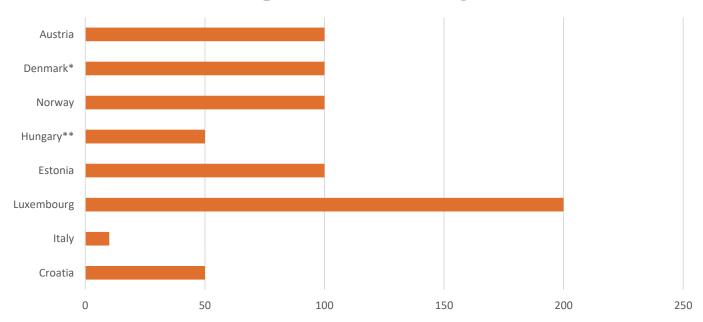


<sup>\*100%</sup> if there is no extra free day

<sup>\*\*</sup>Denmark uses lump sums (not percentages): Saturdays (2.50€/h); Sundays (3.42€/h) - so not included chart

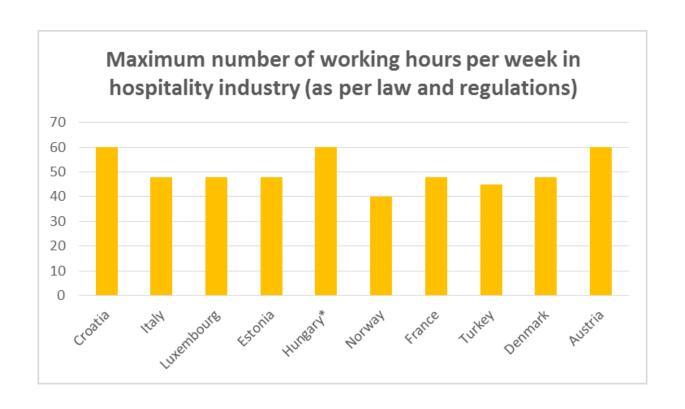
<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Norway uses lump sums (2.4€ net per hour) – so not included chart

Wages for work on holiday (percentages of wage increased compared to standard wage)



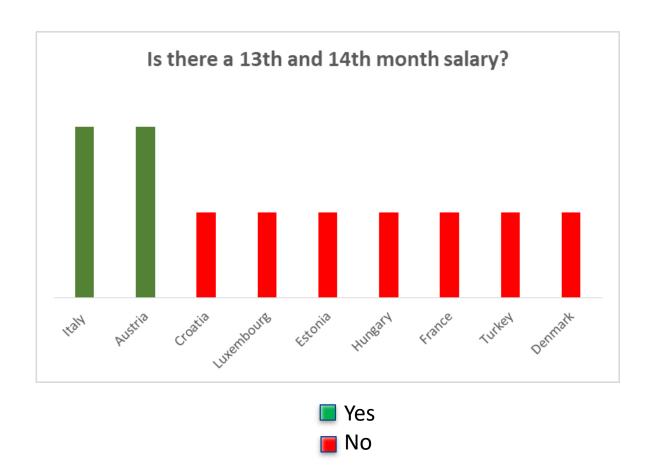
<sup>\*150%</sup> for chefs, waiters and service employees

<sup>\*\*100%</sup> if there is no extra free day



<sup>\*</sup>daily limit 12 hours







Is there financial support to seasonal workers and for hotel companies who employ such seasonal workers?

#### Only Croatia replied yes:

- A permanent seasonal worker is a measure aimed at giving financial support for workers who are employed only during the season and the second part of the year are not employed
- The measure is available to employers from all activities that during the year have periods of reduced volume of work due to the seasonal characteristics of the business
- <u>To Employer:</u> 100% of the cost of extended insurance for the first 3 months, and in the next period of up to 3 months, 50% of the extended insurance
- To the Beneficiary: the financial assistance shall be paid for a maximum of 6 months of extended pension insurance in the amount determined on the basis of the calculation of unemployment benefit, and up to 70% of the average salary paid in the economy of the Republic of Croatia for the first 90 days and 35% for the remaining period



What is the standard number of working hours per week in hospitality industry (as per law and regulations)

- All countries replied 40 hours
- Exception: Turkey 45 hours

Do the state or region make subventions to hotel companies (employers) in hospitality industry for construction of accommodation for seasonal workers?

All countries replied negatively



## Measures for employment promotion in hospitality industry (incentives for employment – for hotel companies)

- <u>Denmark</u>: applied for funding from a government sponsored programme to initiate a campaign with the aim of promoting vocational education and branding of the industry
- <u>Austria</u>: The work programme of the government includes combating the shortage of skilled workers
- France Taxation on providing accommodation
- Croatia Permanent seasonal worker



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Do HOTREC member associations implement any measures for improving working conditions in hospitality industry?

Or any measures related to decreasing tax burden in hospitality industry?

- <u>Croatia</u>: negotiations with the Government about reduction of the VAT rate + reduction of taxes on salaries paid by the employer with the intention of reallocating those funds to workers
- Luxembourg: the lowest social security tax contribution of the EU: 25,2% in total
- <u>Estonia:</u> discussions with government representatives on reduction VAT on accommodation + study "Impact of the reduced VAT rate on accommodation facilities for the competitiveness and sustainability of the tourism sector"

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- Norway: Campaigns with focus on preventing sexual harassment in the hospitality industry + working with the questions regarding tips and registration/taxes
- <u>Denmark</u>: Working towards lowering energy costs for hotels

#### Austria:

- Reduction of VAT on overnight stays from 13 to 10 percent
- Creation of practical working time regulations (12 hours/day and 60 hours/week)
- Combating the shortage of skilled workers
- Easier permits for accommodation establishments with up to 30 beds



#### **Conclusion**

- The sector provides milions of jobs + contributes to the growth of the EU economy
- The image of the sector is under negative pressure should be promoted
- The average net salary in the hospitality sector varies substancially from country to country (not comparable) – competition for labor throughout Europe but also worldwide – Labor Crisis!!
- With the exception of the limit of working hours per week, each country applies their own national legislation on the topic
- Employers should motivate employees to build up their careers in the sector by proposing trainings and career steps
- Best practices to be shared and implemented

