

**#EU  
GREEN  
WEEK**

**4 June 2025**

**EU Green Week Partner Event**

# **Nexus approach and Sustainable Tourism in Europe: challenges and opportunities under high environmental pressure contexts**

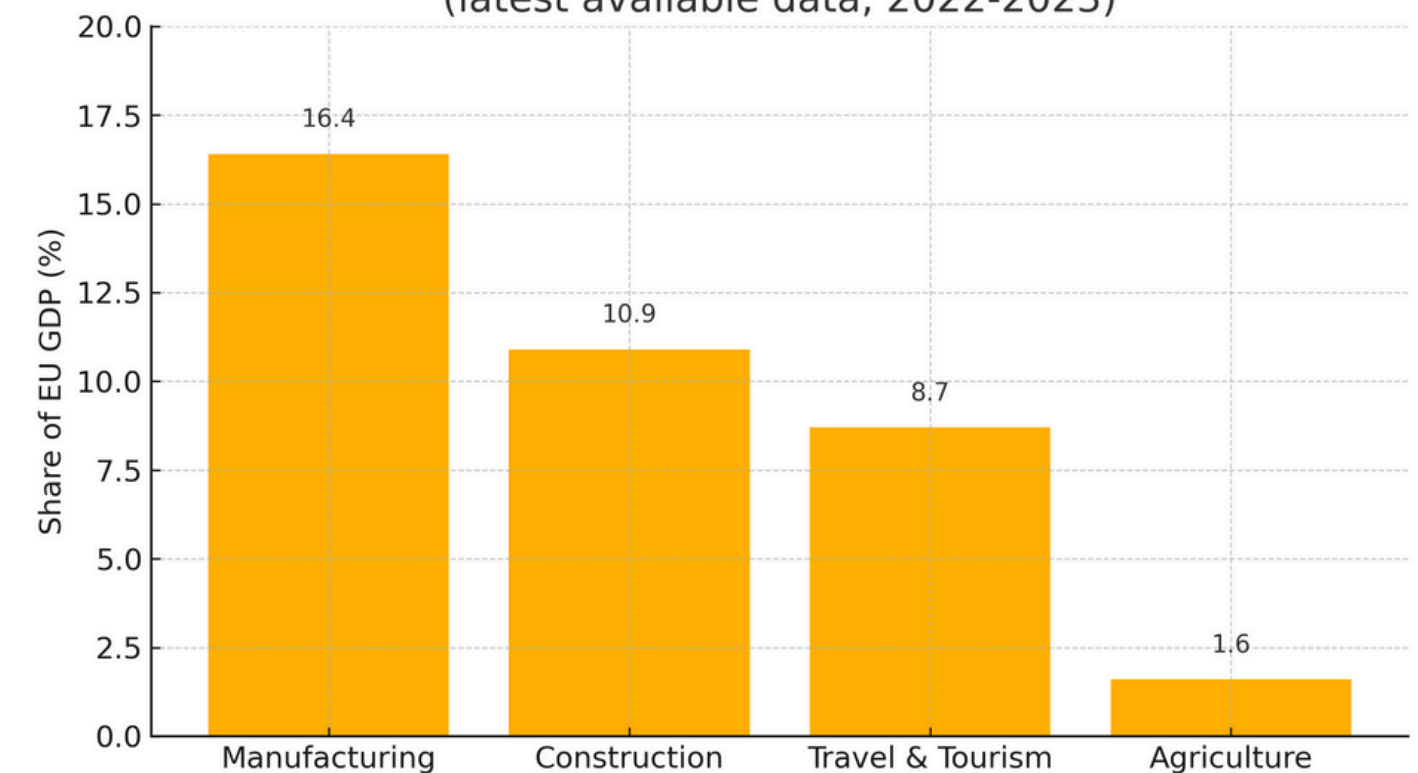
**Juliana Chediek - University of Coimbra, Portugal**



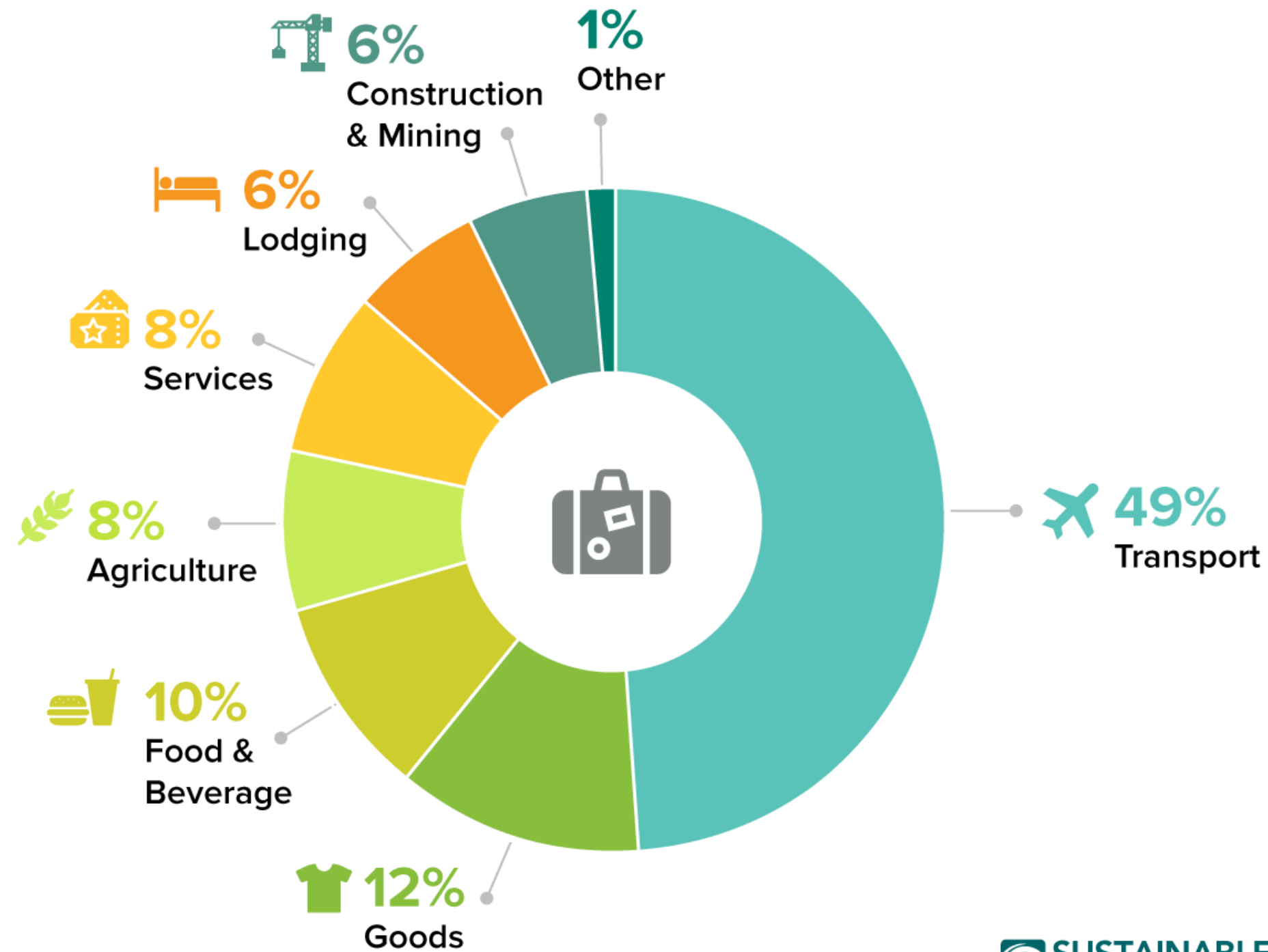
# INTRODUCTION

- **Tourism is a key sector in the EU economy.**
- **However, mass tourism has generated growing environmental pressures.**
- **Sustainable tourism is part of the EU's Green Deal and Agenda 2030.**

Economic Importance of Tourism Compared to Other Key Sectors in the EU  
(latest available data, 2022-2023)



# Carbon Footprint of Global Tourism

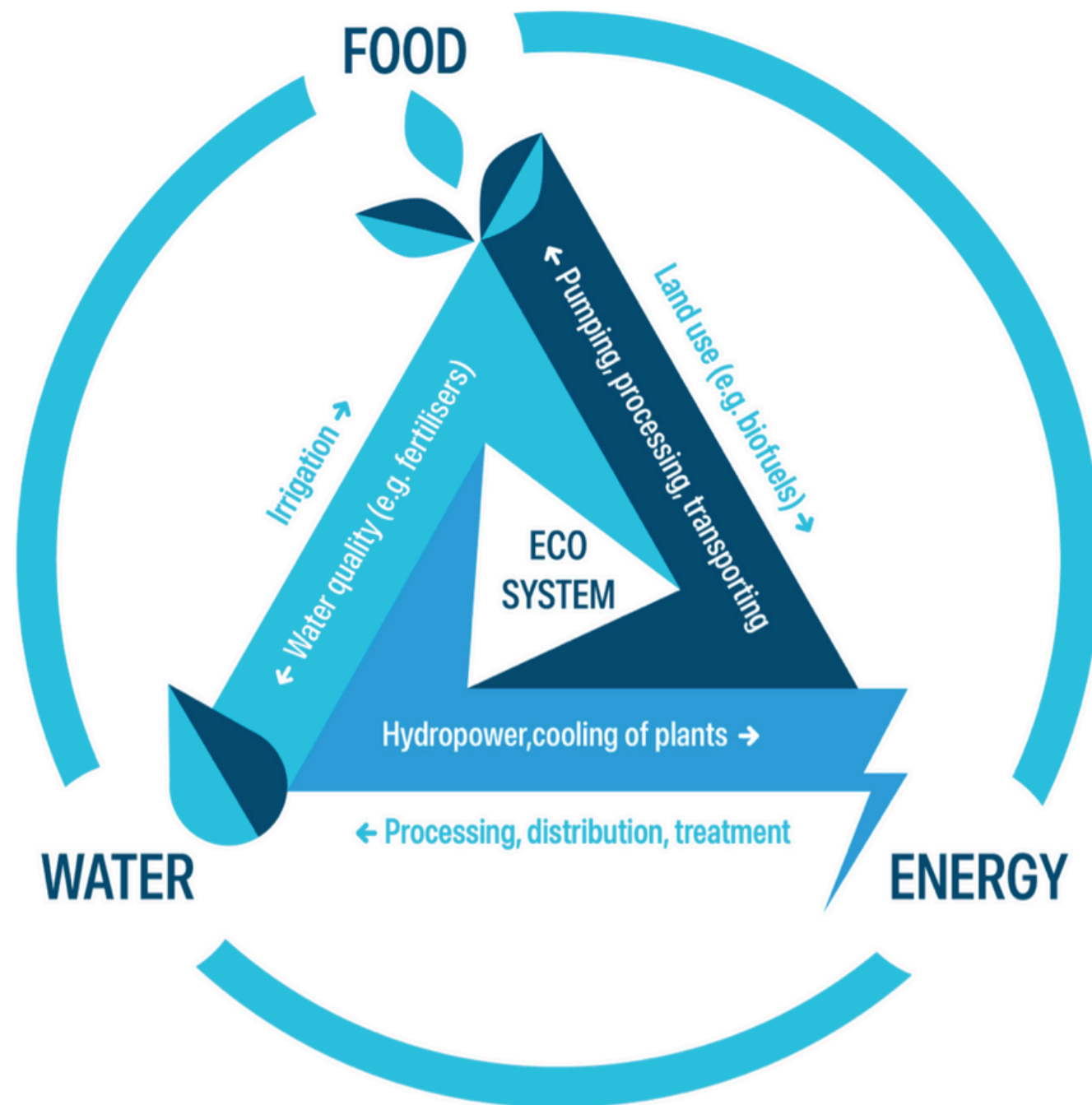


**SUSTAINABLE**  
TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL



**#EUGREENWEEK**

# RESEARCH OBJECTIVE



**To analyze how the Nexus approach (water–energy–food) can support more integrated and effective sustainable tourism policies in the EU.**

## WHY THE NEXUS APPROACH?

- Traditional sectoral policies often produce trade-offs.
- Nexus offers a systemic view of resource interconnections.
- Enables synergistic solutions in high-pressure contexts.



# KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

- Water scarcity during peak tourist seasons.
- Energy overconsumption and seasonal demand spikes.
- Food supply dependency and food waste.
- Waste generation and wastewater discharge.
- Air and water pollution, especially in coastal and urban destinations.
- Ecosystem degradation and overburdened infrastructure.



## EU POLICY FRAMEWORK

- European Green Deal
- EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism 2030
- Water Framework Directive
- Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Integration gaps between sectors remain.

## METHODOLOGY

- Document analysis of EU policies.
- Literature review on Nexus and sustainable tourism.
- Case studies of high-pressure regions in the EU (e.g., Mediterranean, Alpine, coastal zones).



## FINDINGS

- Limited Nexus integration in current EU tourism strategies.
- Promising local pilot initiatives (e.g., circular tourism, water reuse).
- Governance fragmentation limits systemic responses: tourism is a complex and multi-stakeholder activity

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Foster cross-sectoral planning at local and EU levels.
- Promote Nexus-based indicators in tourism monitoring.
- Strengthen policy coherence among water, energy, food, and tourism sectors.
- Encourage pilot projects and knowledge sharing.

## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

- Nexus is a valuable lens for addressing tourism-related pressures: Incorporate Nexus principles into EU tourism and environmental law through cross-cutting instruments.
- Amend or reinterpret existing directives to explicitly consider tourism-related impacts and interdependencies.
- Develop binding guidelines or soft law instruments (e.g., communications, recommendations) to support member states in aligning tourism policies with Nexus thinking.
- Support pilot regulatory sandboxes in high-pressure tourist areas to test Nexus-aligned planning and legal innovations.

THANK  
YOU

[juliana.chediek@student.uc.pt](mailto:juliana.chediek@student.uc.pt)



INSTITUTO JURÍDICO  
FACULDADE DE DIREITO  
UNIVERSIDADE DE  
COIMBRA

#EUGREENWEEK