

Sub joint project
PRICE COMPARISON OF FERRIES IN THE BALTIC SEA
2009

Introduction

The European Consumer Centre (ECC) Network consists of centres in 29 European countries. The Network is co-financed by the European Commission (DG Health and Consumer Protection) and respective national authorities.

Context

As many ferries cross the Baltic Sea the European Consumer Centers of the countries bordering the Baltic Sea decided to compare the prices of ferry connections in May and June 2009. Special attention was turned to possible price differences for the respective countries and possible discrimination as regards the ability to book cross-border. Therefore, every ECC from a country bordering the Baltic Sea took part in the project.

Participating ECCs

ECC Germany (Kiel)
ECC Lithuania
ECC Poland
ECC Sweden
ECC Latvia
ECC Estonia
ECC Denmark
ECC Norway
ECC Finland

Criteria




As regards the realisation of the project, the following criteria were established:








- a) The respective two ECCs had to agree on one connection and one company (e.g. for a connection between Germany and Lithuania the ECCs had to agree on one connection (Kiel-Kleipeda) with one company).
- b) The respective ECCs involved had to agree on one date when the evaluation takes place. Also, the date chosen for the imaginary trip had to be the same.
- c) Four different categories of passengers were established:
 - 1) Family (2 adults + 1 child (16 yrs) + 1 child (9 yrs)), return ticket, car (compact van)
 - 2) Student, one way
 - 3) Couple (40-50 yrs), return ticket, no car
 - 4) 1 disabled person + 1 adult, return ticket, car (medium-sized vehicle)
- d) Further aspects were taken into account:
 - 1) Support for disabled persons
 - 2) Discounts for students and pensioners
 - 3) Possibility to travel with pets

Conclusions

When the ECCs started to compare the prices they faced some problems. It turned out that the criteria of the price comparison were pretty numerous which made the performance of the project quite complicated. However, in general, no major price differences were discovered. Furthermore, no indication for possible discrimination as regards nationality of customers was detected.

More detailed information about the respective connections you can find here:

COMPANY	DIRECTION OF FERRIES	PARTICIPANT ECCs	CONCLUSION OF THE PRICE COMPARISON
 Websites: Germany: https://booking.dfds.it/lisco/ideutsch Lithuania: www.dfdslisco.lt	Klaipeda-Kiel	Lithuania - Germany	No price differences
	Kiel- Klaipeda		
 Websites: Sweden: https://booking.dfds.it/lisco/lsvenska Lithuania: www.dfdslisco.lt	Klaipeda – Karlshamn	Lithuania - Sweden	Only very slight differences in price (except for first category)
	Karlshamn - Klaipeda		
 Websites: Germany: www.colorline.de Norway: www.colorline.no	Kiel – Oslo	Germany - Norway	Different currency (www.banktip.de for 18 May 2009) Denmark more expensive
	Oslo-Kiel		
 Websites: Germany: www.scandlines.de Denmark: www.scandlines.dk	Gedser – Rostock	Germany - Denmark	Different currency (www.banktip.de for 6 May 2009) (on Danish side it was not possible to book student-category, only 1 person incl. car; therefore category 2 for Denmark more expensive)
	Rostock - Gedser		
 Websites: Germany: https://booking.dfds.it/lisco/ideutsch Latvia: https://booking.dfds.it/latvijas	Lubeck – Riga	Germany - Latvia	Almost no differences as regards the price, only Germany twice slightly cheaper
	Riga - Lubeck		
 Websites: Germany: www.stenaline.de	Kiel – Goteborg	Germany - Sweden	Sweden always significantly cheaper
	Goteborg - Kiel		

Sweden: www.stenaline.se			
 Websites: Sweden and Latvia: www.tallinksilja.com	Riga – Stockholm	Latvia - Sweden	Sweden slightly cheaper but no major differences
	Stockholm - Riga		
 Websites: Sweden and Estonia: www.tallinksilja.com	Stockholm – Tallinn	Sweden - Estonia	Price difference varies (except for the student connection, all prices for Sweden were cheaper, but not on a significant scale)
	Tallinn - Stockholm		
 Websites: Denmark: www.stenaline.dk/faerge Sweden: www.stenaline.se	Varberg – Grena	Sweden - Denmark	Different currency (www.banktip.de for 20 May 2009) , Denmark slightly more expensive than Sweden
	Grena - Varberg		
 Websites: Poland: www.polferries.pl Sweden: www.polferries.se	Ystad – Swinoujscie	Sweden - Poland	No price differences
	Swinoujscie - Ystad		
 Websites: Poland: www.polferries.pl Denmark: www.polferries.dk	Copenhagen – Swinoujscie	Denmark - Poland	No price differences
	Swinoujscie - Copenhagen		
 Websites: Denmark: www.dfdsseaways.dk Norway: www.dfdsseaways.no	Copenhagen – Oslo	Denmark - Norway	Different currency (www.banktip.de for 5 May 2009), no statement possible, difference of prices
	Oslo - Copenhagen		
 Websites: Finland and Estonia: www.tallinksilja.com	Helsinki – Tallinn	Finland - Estonia	Price difference varies (except for the student connection, all prices for Finland were cheaper, but not on a significant scale)
	Tallinn - Helsinki		
 Websites: Sweden: www.vikingline.se Finland: www.vikingline.fi	Helsingfors – Stockholm	Finland - Sweden	Price difference varies (all prices for Finland were cheaper, but not on a significant scale)
	Stockholm – Helsingfors		
 Websites: www.finnlines.com	Helsinki – Travemünde	Finland - Germany	Price difference varies (the prices for Germany were cheaper (except the price for 1 disabled person + 1 adult), but not on a significant scale)
	Travemünde – Helsinki		

			significant scale. The price for couple of people (40-50 yrs) was the same.
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