



Illegal Tour Guiding and Travel Agency Activities: Current Status of Inspection and Regulation in Türkiye

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Abstract

This study aims to examine illegal guiding activities in Türkiye and evaluate the effectiveness of Union of Turkish Tourist Guides Chambers (TUREB) inspections conducted to prevent such activities. Using document analysis technique, a qualitative research method, the field inspection reports conducted by TUREB between 2018 and 2023 were analyzed. The findings reveal that illegal agency and unguided tour activities were the most common violations during this period and that these violations increased every year. As a result of the analysis, the most recurring violations between 2018 and 2023 were found to be 'unlicensed agency activity', 'unguided tour activity' and 'unlicensed (illegal) guiding activity'. It was also observed that the current penalties and inspections are not deterrent, indicating the need for more effective regulations. This study has a unique value as it draws attention to the inadequacy of the measures taken against illegal guiding activities in the Turkish tourism sector and sheds light on future regulations. In addition, some suggestions such as the development of mobile license monitoring systems and whistleblowing mechanisms are presented to prevent illegal guiding activities.

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