

THE IMPACT OF VISA FACILITIES ON TOURISM SECTOR Case study for Algeria

Ass.Prof. Nadi Moufida

Lecturer "A".MEZRIGUE Achour

Assistant professor university center of
Relizane,Algeria
PhD Student at the university Hassiba ben Bouali
of Chlef,Algeria
Nadi.moufida@hotmail.fr

Lecturer & Laboratory director's globalization and
the economics of North Africa."
at the university Hassiba Ben Bouali of
Chlef,Algeria
moncef.2004@yahoo.fr

Abstract:

Requirements of visa application are considered among the criteria used by the organizations to assess countries in the field of competitiveness in the tourism sector. This latter affected the tourism sector in a positive or a negative, depending on the granting way. And this will be addressed in this article through the descriptive and analytical study, We will shed light on ways to grant the visa, as well as the level of visa requirements in advanced country and emerging country. Besides, we will display the states, each according to the way they granted visa for Algerians, and assess the freedom of movement between Algeria and Tunisia, and how it influenced the flow of tourists between them. At the end, we've revealed experience for Mauritius and The bilateral agreement between Russia, Hong Kong and China, which have adopted the principle of visa liberalization, demonstrating how it affected the tourism sector positively.

Key words: tourism, tourism competitiveness, visa requirements.

المخلص:

تعتبر متطلبات منح التأشيرة من بين المعايير التي تلجأ إليها المنظمات لكي تقيم الدول في مجال التنافسية في قطاع السياحة، بحيث هذه الأخيرة تؤثر على قطاع السياحة بشكل ايجابي او سلبي حسب طريقة منحها. و لهذا سيتم تناول في هذا المقال عن طريق دراسة وصفية و تحليلية، تسليط الضوء على طرق منح التأشيرة و كذلك مستوى متطلبات التأشيرة في الدول المتقدمة و الدول الناشئة، و سيتم عرض الدول كل حسب طريقة منحها للتأشيرة للجزائريين، كما سنقوم بعرض الدول التي ترحب بها الجزائر دون تأشيرة، و مقارنة بين تونس و الجزائر من حيث التنافسية في القطاع السياحي و قوة جواز السفر و تقييم حرية التنقل بين الجزائر و تونس و كيف أثرت على التدفق السياحي بينهما، و في الأخير قمنا بعرض تجربة جزر موريس و تجربة الاتفاقية الثنائية بين روسيا، الصين و هونغ كونغ الذين اعتمدوا على الانفتاح الدولي أي دخول بدون تأشيرة، و كيف أثرت على القطاع السياحي بالإيجاب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السياحة، التنافسية السياحية، متطلبات منح التأشيرة.

Introduction:

Tourism is a vital sector and some nations are depending on this sector to achieve economic development. They are a source of income for the national economy of many countries which represent one of the most important service exports high impact on the balance of payments components. Also, the activities that contribute effectively to increase GDP and increase foreign exchange earnings. This is why competition has become an urgent necessity for all economies, including and developing the tourism sector, in which some countries and Algeria has particular characteristics. There are several criteria which are measured in terms of the ranking of countries . Among the criteria, we find the first sub-standard organizational structure and legal which measures several indicators, including laws and regulations and legislative points. The points measured by this indicator is the requirements of obtaining a visa. In this case, The question of the present study is the following:

What is the visa requirements effect on the tourism sector?

In order to answer this question, the following hypo these have been formulated:

- **The visa requirement impacts on the tourism sector.**

Objectives of the study: The objective of the current study is:

- 1- Shedding light on the competitiveness of tourism sector , the meaning of the visa , facilities in the emerging countries and developing countries.
- 2- Showing the visa requirement to Algerian citizens and the countries welcoming by Algeria and we will compare between Algeria and Tunisia on the TTCI index and passport power finally we will study the impact of visa for free on tourist movement between Algeria and Tunisia,
- 3- Understanding the impact of the visa requirement on tourism sectors by taking Mauritius and Russian federation as cases of study.

Methodology :

The present study follows both the descriptive and analytic method, through treating the impact of visa for free on Mauritius and Russian federation, and comparing the international openness, passport power and the movement of tourists between Algeria and Tunisia.

I. A conceptual Background

1. Tourism definitions and Factors that Encourage the develop

The concept of ‘tourism’ can be analysed by considering some of the published descriptions and definitions. Chosen some definitions:

- The world tourism organization defining tourism:“the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited”¹
- Mathieson and Wall created a good working definition of tourism as “the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their normal places of work and residence, the activities undertaken during their stay in those destinations and the facilities created to care to their need.’²
- newer definition widens the scope of tourism,defining it as the set of activities performed by people who travel and stay places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year,for leisure,business and other purposes.³
- Tourism may be defined as the processes, activities, and outcomes arising from the relationships and the interactions among tourists, tourism suppliers, host governments, host communities, and surrounding environments that are involved in the attracting and hosting of visitors⁴.

Finally Three criteria are used simultaneously in order to characterize a trip as belonging to tourism. The three criteria are that the displacement must be such that⁵:

- i. It involves a displacement outside the usual environment: this term is of utmost importance and will be discussed later on;
- ii. Type of purpose: the travel must occur for any purpose different from being remunerated from within the place visited: the previous limits, where tourism was restricted to recreation and visiting family and friends are now expanded to include a vast array of purposes;
- iii. Duration: only a maximal duration is mentioned, not a minimal. Tourism displacement can be with or without an overnight stay.

2. Factors that Encourage / Prohibit the Development of Tourism:

As seen in the above section, changes of various factors, including social, cultural, political, environmental, economic and technological forces could lead to both positive and negative effects on tourism. The influences of these factors on tourism development are unique and could be different in different countries. Further explanations about their impacts on tourism and travel motivations are provided⁶ in Table 01

Table01: Factors that Encourage or Prohibit the Development of Tourism

Factors	Description
Social Factors	Demographic trends and social changes will have important impacts on the future development of the industry. The fact that people are living longer, the fall in the number of young people, the increase in one parent households, more couples choosing not to have children or delay having children. They all point to the fact that the type of travel and tourism products and services will change radically. Example: the aging population will be an opportunity for the cruise travel market where seniors are their key target groups.
Political Factors	Political factors can lead to huge impacts on tourism development. The factors are the policies in encouraging tourism activities such as investment in tourism related infrastructures, openness in travel visa applications and favorable foreign tourism investments. Finally, the political stability of the country in particular is the major factor. The political instability had resulted to serious negative effect on its' national tourism business. Many visitors decided to postpone and cancel their trips to Bangkok which finally led to severe loss of income generated by tourism businesses.
Economic Factors	Whether the global economic environment is healthy or not would affect people's intentions of travelling to other countries. People tend to spend more on travelling if they are under a favourable economic environment. For example, the appreciation of RMB to HKD has encouraged much more Mainland visitors travelling to Hong Kong since they perceived a higher value of their currency when spending their money in Hong Kong.
Cultural and Environmental Factors	A greater environmental awareness and a society that takes its health and fitness more seriously than it was in the past. This awareness has affected travel and tourism developments in the recent years. 'Green issues' such as the development of eco-tourism, green hotels and conservation of heritage sites are becoming more and more important which provide a basis for sustainable tourism development of a tourist destination.

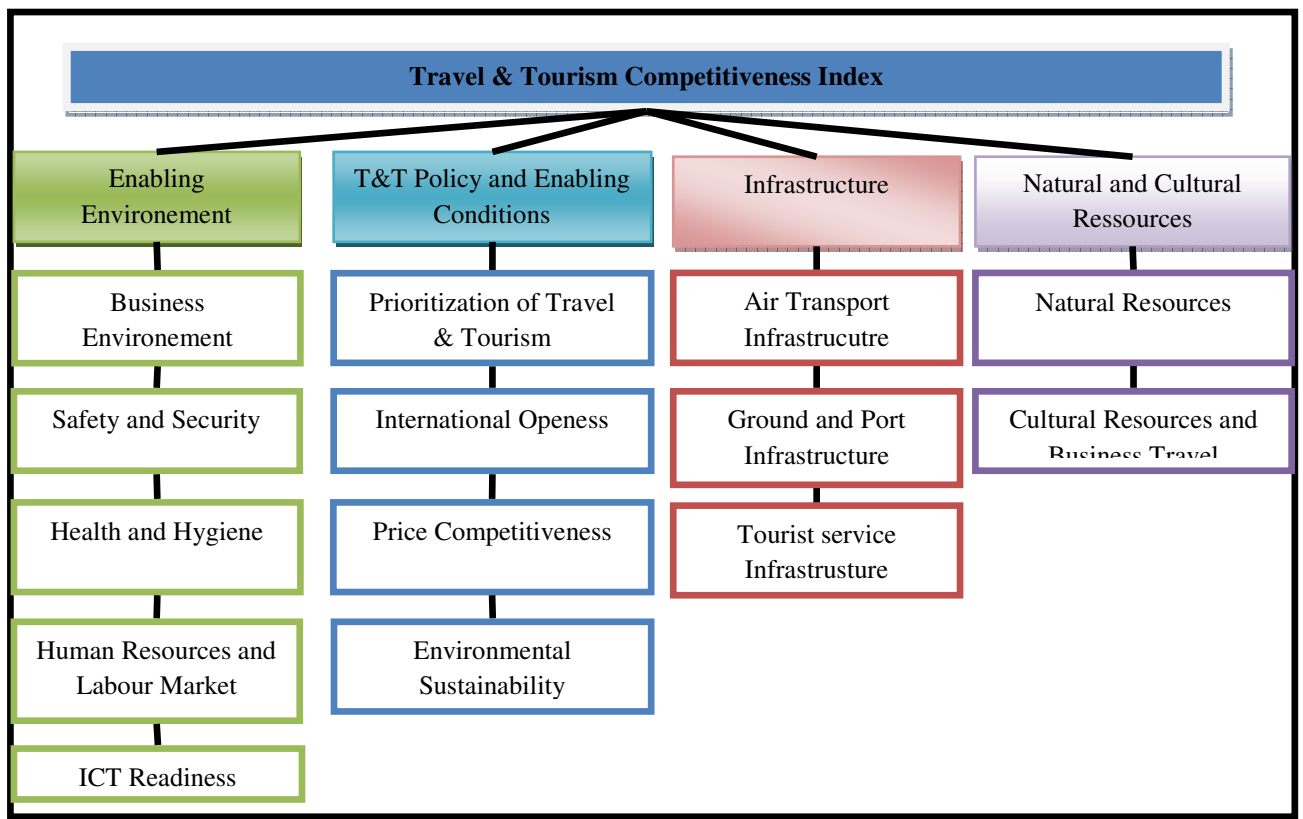
Technological Factors	Travel and tourism has always been an industry that has made extensive use of new technological equipment. Computerized reservation system (CRS), the use of computers and sophisticated databases for marketing purposes are very common among travel agencies. Increasing competition within the industry force agencies to use new technology to its fullness. Latest developments in transportation make extensive use of new technology, for example the Mainland’s High-speed Rail and the advances in aircraft design help opening up new long-haul destinations.
-----------------------	--

Source: Personal, social and humanities education section, Education bureau ‘tourism and hospitality studies’ hong kong, June 2013, p15, Retrieved 26/09/2016 from http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/nss-curriculum/tourism-and-hospitality-studies/Tourism_English_19_June.pdf

3. The Competitive in the tourism sector:

The TTCI has been developed within the context of the World Economic Forum’s, The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index aims to measure the factors and policies that make it attractive to develop the Travel & Tourism sector in different countries⁷, the figure 02 illustrate the composition of TTCI.

Figure 02: Composition of the four sub-indexes of the TTCI



Source: World Economic Forum, ‘The Travel & Competitiveness Report 2015’, Geneva 2015, p04

The Figure above summarizes the structure of the TTCI, and it based on four sub-indexes which are :

- Enabling Environment;

- T&T Policy and Enabling Conditions;
- Infrastructure;
- Natural and Cultural Resources.

These sub-indexes contain pillars which are in the total 14 pillars, and every pillar contains indicators, but we will focus on the T&T Policy and Enabling Conditions, specially the seven pillar international Openness defined by: “Developing a competitive T&T sector internationally requires a certain degree of openness and travel facilitation. Restrictive policies such as cumbersome visa requirements diminish tourists’ willingness to visit a country, and indirectly reduce the availability of key services. Components measured in this pillar include the openness of the bilateral air service agreements which the government has entered, which impacts the availability of air connections to the country, and the number of regional trade agreements in force, which proxies the extent to which it is possible to provide world class tourism services”⁸. This sub-indexe contains three indicators, as following:

- a. Visa requirement;
- b. Openness of bilateral Air Service Agreements;
- c. No. of regional trade agreements in force.

4. Visa requirements :

Visa policies are among the most important governmental formalities influencing international tourism. Only half a century ago, travel was heavily impacted by customs regulations, currency exchange limitations, and visa formalities. A great deal of progress has been made in their facilitation, which has contributed to the remarkable growth of the tourism sector. The multilateral agreements that mutually exempt all or certain categories of travelers from the visa requirement are particularly noteworthy. However, despite the progress made, current visa policies are still regularly mentioned as inadequate and inefficient, and are thus acknowledged to be an obstacle to tourism growth⁹. Visas requirements are part of a country’s tourism competitiveness environment. Achieving a balance between other policy considerations and the opportunity to attract more high spending visitors from main sources of inbound tourism can be assisted by an indicator that assesses a country’s visa requirements, the costs and potential effects on tourism competitiveness¹⁰.

Visas are used for different reasons¹¹:

- They serve to ensure security;
- to control immigration and limit the entry,
- duration of stay,
- or activities of travelers;
- to generate revenue and apply measures of reciprocity;
- and to ensure a destination’s carrying capacity and control tourism demand.

Travelers see visas mainly as a formality that imposes a cost. If the cost of obtaining a visa—either the direct monetary cost imposed in the form of fees or the indirect costs, which can include distance, time spent waiting in lines, and the complexity of the process— exceeds a threshold, potential travelers are simply deterred from making a particular journey or choose an alternative destination with less hassle. This finding is not new. It is interesting in this context to note that, in 1963, the delegates of 87 states agreed, at the United Nations Conference on International Travel & Tourism in Rome, that **“Governments should extend to the maximum number of countries the practice of abolishing, through bilateral agreements or by unilateral decision, the requirement of entry Visas for temporary visitors”**¹².

II. Visa facilitation in Advanced economies and Emerging economies

1- Visa facilitation: Visa openness is about facilitating free movement of people. It is about getting more people mobile, to carry out their business easily, spontaneously, quickly, with minimum cost. That applies whether you are a businessman or woman, a student or researcher, a cross-border trader or entrepreneur, reuniting with friends and family or just travelling to visit the sights¹³.

The following table shows the visa in Advanced economies and Emerging economies but we explain the Index categories¹⁴:

- **Visa required:** means a visa has to be obtained before departure and is not an eVisa
- **Visa on arrival:** means a visa has to be obtained on arrival in the country. This includes filling out any visa forms, paying the visa fee if applicable and receiving a visa in a travel document.
- **No visa or visa free access:** means that there is no visa needed either before departure or on arrival, with no entry authorisation required to enter freely into the country. Entry procedures still need to be complied with – these can include filling out entry forms and receiving an entry stamp.
- **e-visa**¹⁵: apply online on per country basis ,after approval, you get a "reference number", airline checkin counters and immigration need online lookup to verify your visa, visa is printed on plain piece of paper easy to forge as no security features.

Table02: visa in Advanced economies and Emerging economies

	Openness ^a	No visa	Visa on arrival	E-visa	Visa required ^b
		% of world population affected by visa policies			
Advanced economies ^c	28	25	0	5	70
Emerging economies ^c	33	17	18	6	59

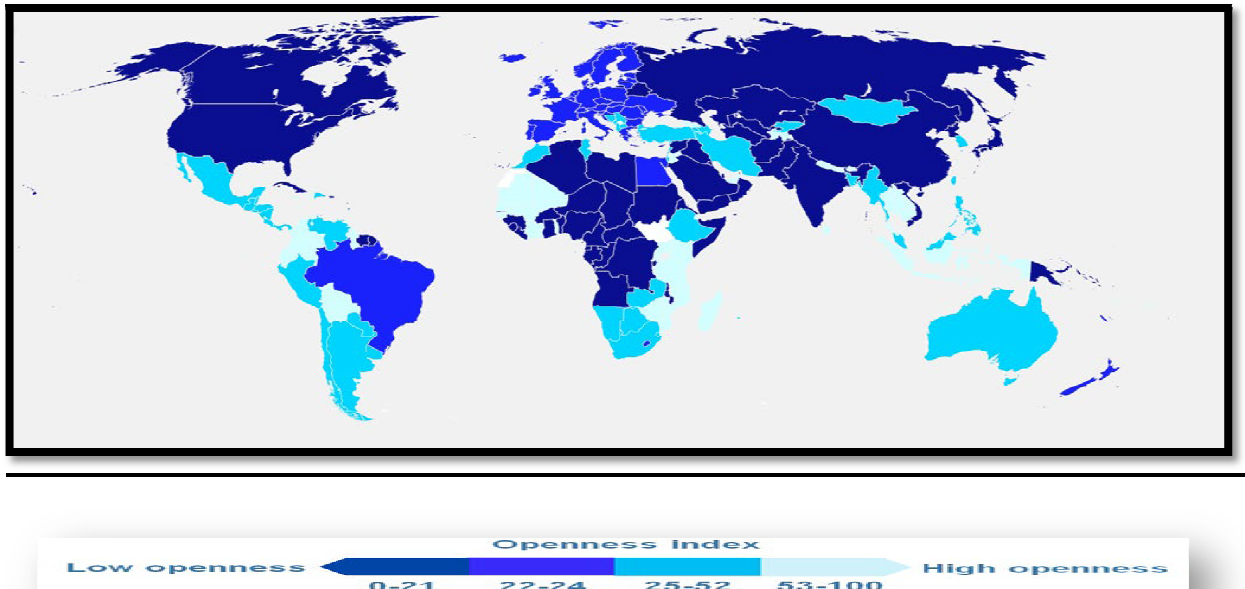
- a) Scores range from 100 to 0; the higher the score, the better. Openness indicates to what extent a destination is facilitating tourism. It is calculated by summing the percentage of the world population exempt from obtaining a visa with the percentages of no visa weighted by 1, visa on arrival weighted by 0.7, eVisa by 0.5 and traditional visa weighted by 0. For the (sub)regional totals, the percentages of the four different visa categories and the resulting openness score represent the averages of economies in that group (where destination economies are weighted by natural logarithm of the population size (i.e. In (1,000 population)) in order to take into account differences in destination size).
- b) Traditional visa means that a visa has to be obtained prior to departure and is not an electronic visa (eVisa).
- c) Advanced economies and emerging economies classifications are based on the International Monetary Fund (IMF); see the Statistical Annex of the IMF’s World Economic Outlook of April 2012, p. 177, at www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/01. Of the 195 destinations analyzed in 2014, 39 are classified as advanced economies and 156 as emerging economies

Source: tourism organization UNWTO' visa openness report 2015'January 2016 p 11

In 2015, emerging economies continue to be, more open in terms of travel requirement than advanced ones. When travelling to an emerging-economy destination, on average, 59% of the world's population needs a traditional visa while 6% requires an eVisa. In contrast, 70% of the world population needs a traditional visa, and 5% an eVisa, when visiting advanced economy destinations. The example of the emerging economies implementing eVisa policies shows that modern technology is becoming more interesting for destinations as a practical technique to improve visa policies towards more source markets, often requiring limited investment in the necessary resources and infrastructure. Especially for smaller countries with limited capacities, this presents an option to handle the growing number of international tourist arrivals. Moreover, full visa exemption remains a policy more implemented by advanced economies (25% versus 17%), whereas in emerging economies, obtaining a visa on arrival remains much more common. In 2015, 18% of the world population can travel to emerging economies with a visa on arrival while only 0.4% can travel with this type of visa to advanced economies.¹⁶

2- Progress in visa facilitation : Notable progress has been made in the area of visa facilitation in recent years. While at the beginning of 2008, destinations requested an average of 77% of the world's population to apply for a traditional visa prior to departure, this percentage decreased to 61% in 2015. A total of 54 destinations significantly facilitated the visa process for citizens of 30 or more countries between 2010 and 2015, by changing their visa policies from "traditional visa" to either "eVisa", "visa on arrival" or "no visa required". Destinations, when reviewing their visa policies, tended to thoroughly review and introduce changes. Out of the 7421 total improvements between 2010 and 2015, 6357 were done by those countries that significantly changed their visa policies¹⁷. The following figure shows the Tourism visa openness index by country:

Figure n 03 : Tourism visa openness index by country, 2015



THE IMPACT OF VISA FACILITIES ON TOURISM SECTOR Case study for Algeria

Note: The higher the score, the better. Openness indicates to what extent a destination is facilitating tourism. It is calculated by summing the percentage of the world's population exempt from obtaining a visa, with the percentages of no visa by 1, visa on arrival weighted by 0.7 and eVisa by 0.5 and traditional visa weighted by 0.

Key: As of 2015, a revision of categories took place to see how openness is spread out globally relative to the world's 2015 average openness. The openness index was sorted and grouped in 4 categories including an equal number of countries in each group. The lighter the colour of the country in the map, the more open it is.

Source: world tourism organization UNWTO' visa openness report 2015'January 2016 p 12

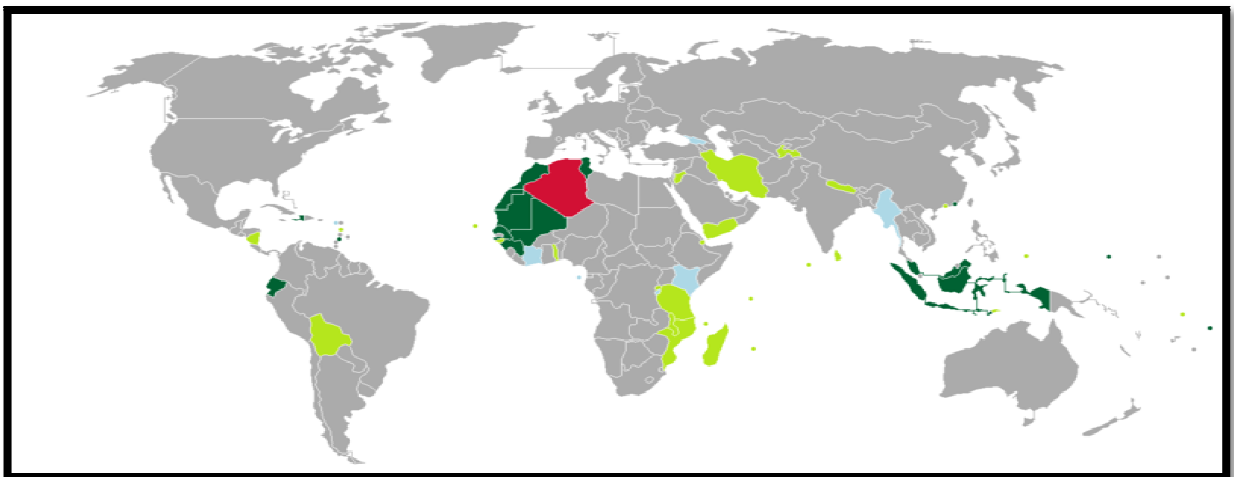
In 2015, destinations around the world still require on average approximately two thirds of the world's population to obtain a traditional visa prior to departure. Some 18% of the world's population is able to enter a destination without a visa, while another 15% can receive a visa on arrival and 6% is able to obtain eVisas¹⁸.

- Visa exemptions are most common in the Caribbean (41%), Central America (31%) and in North-East Asia (30%);
- Visa on arrival policies are comparatively common in East Africa (52%), South-East Asia and South Asia (both 33 %) as well as West Africa (32%);
- eVisa programmes are particularly popular in South Asia (18%), South-East Asia (11%), as well as Oceania and the Middle East (both 10%);
- Traditional visa requirements are most prevalent in Central Africa (92%) and North Africa (84%), and North America (83%), followed by the four European subregions, Southern Africa and the Middle East (all higher than 70%).¹⁹

III. Visa requirements in Algeria and comparison between Algeria and Tunisia in TTCI and passport power:

1. **Visa requirement in Algeria:** The following figure illustrate Visa requirements for Algerian citizens in all the world .

Figure n04 : Algerian visa requirements map



■ Algeria ■ Visa free access ■ Visa on arrival ■ eVisa ■ Visa required

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Maps_showing_visa_requirements Retrieved 02/07/2016

Based on Figure 4, we've divided the states according to visa requirements for Algerian citizens, whether how to navigate without a visa or a visa on arrival to the country or out of the way to get it online as the below table .

Table n 03: visa requirement for algerian citizens

Visa not required or visa free access		Visa on arrival				E-visa
Benin	Mauritania	Bangladesh	Timor-Leste	Comoros	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Hong kong	Micronesia	Kenya	Togo	Djibouti	Mozambique	Turkey*
Ecuador	Morocco	Lebanon	Tuvalu	Madagascar	Nepal	
Syria	Mali	Cambodia	Uganda	Rwanda	Nicaragua	
Senegal	Malaysia	Cape Verde	Yemen	Maldives	Palau	
Tunisia	Indonesia	Zimbabwe	Seychelles	Dominica	Tanzania	
Palestinian territories	Haiti	Guinea-Bissau	Iran	Jordan	Ghana	
Guinea	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Samoa	Tajikistan			

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the following source <https://www.passportindex.org/comparebyPassport.php?pl=dz&s=yes> Retrieved 17/01/2017

This table shows visa requirement for algerian citizens , the countries in which Algerians travel to without obtaining a visa whereas the majority of these countries are neighboring countries such as Tunisia and Morocco, and the staying length also differ in the country in which obtained Algerian visa for ,like in Ecuador, Haiti , Morocco and Tunisia ;the period up to 90 days for Indonesia and for Malaysia up to 30 days, and for Turkey, to obtain a visa it can be gotten online but only for the Algerians who have more than 35 years old and less than 18 years old may get their one month period²⁰, but to visit sri- lanka, visa online can be obtained without condition ,and the 30 countries which Algerians obtained a visa upon arrival to, is considered one of the ways that facilitates mobility process between states, the countries that have not been mentioned in the table are states which require obtaining a visa and then passing by their consulates, and the procedures vary from state to state from paying dues until extending the period of obtaining a visa in order to reach weeks or months.

- From the table below we showing Algeria welcoming countries, that mean the countries can enter to Algeria without a visa.

Table04: Algeria welcoming countries (visa-free)

Libya	Mala ysia	Mali	Mauritania
Morocco	Seychelles	Tunisia	Yemen

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the following source <https://www.passportindex.org/comparebyDestination.php?p1=dz&p2=0&p3=0&p4=0&s=yes> consulted page 21/01/2017

The table 4 shows that Algeria receives eight countries, where most of them are neighboring countries, that's what explains the requirements visa difficulties to enter in Algeria, what caused an impact on tourists entry from different nationalities, where to have a visa it must be passed by the embassies and the consulates also paying dues what extends the period of procedures, whereas Algeria took the rank 96th out of 104 ranking list²¹(contries ranked by how many passports they accept visa-free,with visa on arrival).

2. Compare of visa requirement in tourism competitiveness and power passport between Algeria and Tunisia :

- To understand more the indicator of tourism sector competitiveness and the power of the passport for Algeria internationally, we will take table 05 which shows us the competitiveness index detail of the international openness and the visa free and the power of the passport, taking in parallel Tunisia as a comparative country according to its competitiveness position in the area.

Table 05 : The detailed components of international openness in Algeria and Tunisia and the index of the powerful passport

	Algeria	Tunisia
	The power of the passport	
Individual Passport Power Rank(199countries)	165	125
Countries are welcomed*	08	93
Visa-Free Score(visa for free+visa on arrival+EV)	47	61
Visa for free	17	32
Visa on arrivel	30	29
	TTCI 2015	
The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2015 Ranking	123	79
T&T Policy and Enabling Conditions(rank out of 141)	135	50
International Openness (score 1worst-7best)	1.51	2.4
International Openness rank (out of 141)	137	103
	Indicators	
Visa requirements value (0–100 best)	2.0	23
Visa requirements rank/141	135	72
Openness of bilateral Air Service Agreements value (38-0)	6.3	10.2
Openness of bilateral Air Service Agreements rank	121	74
No. of regional trade agreements in force value	2.0	6.0
No. of regional trade agreements in force rank	113	74

Source:Prepared by the researchers based on the following sources:

- world Economic Forum,"The Travel & Competitiveness Report 2015",p329
- world Economic Forum,"The Travel & Competitiveness Report 2015",Op.Cit.73
- <https://www.passportindex.org/comparebyDestination.php?p1=dz&p2=tn&s=yes>
- <https://www.passportindex.org/byIndividualRank.php>

The arrangement of the powerful passport of countries is made according to the number of countries that allows for those who have the passport the liberty of entering without a visa ,and from table 05 we noticed that Algeria took the rank 165th internationally out of 199 countries from the side of the power of its passport whereas Algerian people can travel to 47 maritime countries with no complications concerning entry visa where 17 countries of it allow the entering of the Algerian citizens without passing by embassies and the consulates ,and the 30 other countries demand an entry via, until 2016, Algerian citizens had visa-free or visa on arrival access to 47 countries and territories, ranking the Algerian passport 89th in the world (tied with the Central African Republic, Haiti, Madagascar and Rwanda) according to the Visa Restrictions Index..While Tunisia took the rank 125th out of 199 , where the Tunisian can enter to 61 countries divided between (32 free visa and 29 visa on arrival).and for the impact of the visa on Algeria as well as Tunisia ,we found that Algeria is welcoming 8 countries to enter to its frontiers without a visa ,and this is the reason that impacts on the tourism sector where it took the rank 123rd in the competitiveness report of the tourism sector and this indicates to the weakness of competitiveness sector ,while Tunisia is welcoming 93 countries's citizens out of 199 what makes it takes the rank 72nd internationally in the requirements visa index of competitiveness index in the tourism sector.

- **comparison of the tourism fluxes between the two countries**

- To illustrate the importance of visa openness, the following table shows the number of Algerian tourists coming to Tunisia and Tunisians, the number of tourists coming to Algeria:

Table n 06: the tourist flow between Tunisia and Algeria in 2014

Entries 2014		Released in 2014(خروج 2014)	
Log Tunisians to Algeria	473 956	Log Algerians to Tunisia	1 235 449

Source: The Ministry of urban development, tourism and traditional crafts ;Algeria

In addition to other variables structure with tourism infrastructure and associated tourist visa services play an important role in facilitating mobility across countries and increase the flow of tourists can be seen in Table Algerians who moved in 2014 to Tunisia by air sea or land ratio. Mobility is the largest in the land acquired mobility like Tunisia along the lines of Morocco as a result of the closure of the border between the two countries, but this does not prevent the transmission of approximately 37961 Algerians and this is without the trouble of obtaining a visa. Tunisia is considered as the most attractive country for tourists Algerians and as a result the possibility of movement to the country without a visa and it suffices only to present a passport in order to show that you are Algerian and this is for Tunisians as well.

IV. The successful cases that affected facilitation to obtain a visa in the tourism sector

1. Mauritius in the top 10 of the most visa-open countries in Africa²²

The case stories of Mauritius island state, In recent years, Mauritius has adopted open visa policies and smart travel solutions for visitors from the world in an effort to promote tourism, attract investment and boost the competitiveness of their economies.

The Mauritius took the rank 29 as the most powerful passport where its citizens are able to enter 118 countries without neither a visa or a visa on arrival ,and it is the second in Africa²³

▪ **Economic Impact Of Visa Openness**

Mauritius has benefitted from its open visa policy, which supports its business friendly environment and competitiveness in services, from tourism to finance and investment.

▪ **Tourism**

Mauritius is in the top 10 economies worldwide that priorities travel and tourism the most, according to the World Economic Forum's *Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2015*.

As a result of greater openness, African travellers made up over a quarter of visitors to Mauritius in 2014. Gross earnings from tourism totalled 1.24 billion USD in 2014 . The country's infrastructure investment supports its open visa policy — its airport featured in the top 10 World's Best Airports for under 5 million people in the World

▪ **Investment**

Greater visa openness forms part of Mauritius' Africa strategy, which aims to promote the country as a gateway for investment into the continent.

There are over 20,000 global business companies registered in Mauritius. The country is ranked number one in Africa in the World Bank's *Doing Business 2016* and in the Global Competitiveness Index 2015-2016. The Africa Centre of Excellence, the Board of Investment of Mauritius' one-stop shop on investment opportunities in Africa, provides real-time information for business ventures .The platform now has 7000 users, nearly two-thirds from Africa and outside the continent.

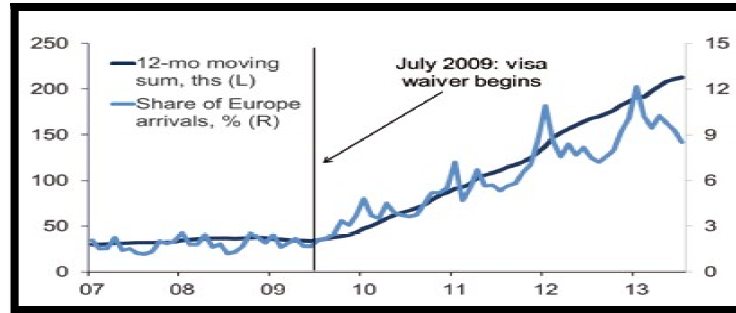
▪ **Financial Services**

Since the late 1990s, the government's partnership with the private sector has supported growth in financial services by having a practical and fluid visa regime for business people to enter easily. When a financial institution sponsors a business contact, a simple letter facilitates entry. The country's financial sector is home to many international banks, which are part of a total of 23 banks on the island with combined assets of USD 38.5 billion in 2014.

2. Russian Federation and Hong Kong, China visa waiver for short trips (2009)

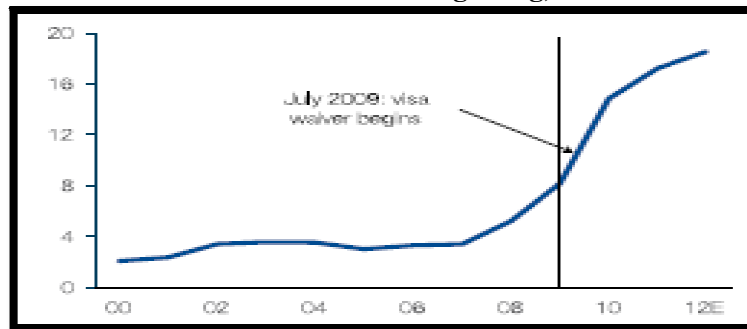
The figures 5 and 6 below show the waves of arrivals between Hong Kong, China and Russian federation:

Figure 05 :Arrivals to Hong Kong, China from the Russian Federation



Source: UNWTO / WTTC • The Impact of visa facilitation in ASEAN member states, january 2014,p14

Figure 06 :Arrivals to the Russian Federation from Hong Kong, China Thousands



Source: UNWTO / WTTC • The Impact of visa facilitation in ASEAN member states, january 2014,p14

In July of 2009, the Russian Federation and Hong Kong, China implemented a bilateral agreement to waive visa requirements for short duration visits for both leisure and business trips.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the abolishment of visa requirements was expected to facilitate tourism between the Russian Federation and Hong Kong, China. From Hong Kong, China’s perspective, the agreement offered convenience to its residents and facilitated access to one of the largest countries in the world with abundant natural resources, a rapidly growing economy, and rich cultural heritage. Visitors from both destinations were allowed to enter the other without any visa for a stay of up to 14 days .The impact of the waiver was evident immediately in both destinations. In Hong Kong, China, arrivals of Russian visitors began to increase sharply by the end of 2010. Arrivals from the Russian Federation increased 133% from 2008 to 2010, and have continued to increase in the years since. The volume of arrivals to the Russian Federation from Hong Kong, China jumped 184% from 2008 to 2010. Growth in visitors to the Russian Federation far outpaced overall growth in visitors from Hong Kong, China to other destinations. The removal of visa requirements clearly boosted bilateral travel in both directions²⁴

According to the figures 05 and 06, we can notice from the previous analysis that :

- Arrivals from Russian federation to hong kong and china have increased in 2013 to almost 200%
- Arrivals from hong kong and china to Russian federation have increase in 2012 to almost 19 thousands.

This change of curve about arrivals show the importance of bilateral agreement to waive visa requirements and that encourage tourism sector.

Conclusion :

The study concluded the importance of facilitating the granting of a visa for the improvement of the tourist image of the state open requirements and to increase the flow of tourists between the countries, and for this we see that it is better for Algeria to facilitate the visa for the states where the 08 countries can have access visa for free and 93 countries can enter Tunisia visa for free. This particular openness of countries will enhance and help the global tourism demand source, like European and American countries, such as France, Italy , United Kingdom, United states of America and Canada, to increase the flow of tourism revenue from foreign exchange and thus contribute to reducing the deficit in the balance of payments. and because of their importance , it also attracts foreign investment like Mauritius island experience and create new jobs and contribute to the raising of the Gross domestic product.

Results:

- The requirement visa index in Algeria is very weak, what made it uncappable to bring foreign tourists ,where the process of having a visa pass by complicated steps ,as result it effects negatively on the tourism sector in Algeria .
- The requirement of having a visa in Tunisia has been effected positively because of the possibility of the entry of 93 countrie’s citizens without neither a visa nor a visa on arrival .
- The openness of the visa in Mauritius islands remains to a positive effects on both of tourism and financial sector.!
- The bilateral agreement between Russia, Hong kong and China to remove the requirements visa had positive effect on the tourism sector

References:

- ¹ World tourism organization, "tourism satellite account", capacity building program, asia, manila, philipines, 4-6 july 2011 p02 retrieved 05/02/2017 from http://statistics.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/unwto_tsa_1.pdf
- ² Charles rawding, keeping butler on the beach: embedding tourism in modernity , Retrieved 29/06/2016 from www.geography.org.uk/download/GA_PRGTIPGTE07Rawding.ppt visited page 29/06/2016
- ³ Karatzoglou Benjamin & spilanisloannis "the integration of activity-based management in the construction of a destination environmental scorecard" page 01 Retrieved 26/09/2016 from http://www.aegean.gr/lid/internet/elliniki_ekdosi/TEL_DIMOSI/KLUWER%20Karatzoglou.pdf
- ⁴ Charles R. Goeldner & I.R. Brent Ritchie, "Tourism ,principals ,practices,philosophies" John wiley & sons, INC, Canada, 2009, p06 Retrieved 29/06/2016 from http://shora.tabriz.ir/Uploads/83/cms/user/File/657/E_Book/Tourism/Tourism%20Principles%20Practices%20Philosophies%2011th%20ed%202009.pdf
- ⁵ <http://www.psscive.nic.in/pdf/nvqef/cbse/CBSE%20Class%20IX%20Travel%20&%20Tourism/Class%20IX%20Introductio n%20to%20Tourism-I.pdf> Retrieved 29/06/2016

⁶ Personal, social and humanities education section, Education bureau "tourism and hospitality studies" hong kong, June 2013, p15, Retrieved 26/09/2016 from http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/nss-curriculum/tourism-and-hospitality-studies/Tourism_English_19_June.pdf

⁷ Jennifer Blanke, Thea Chiesa "The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013: Reducing Barriers to Economic Growth and Job Creation"; World Economic Forum, Geneva, 2013, p04

⁸ World Economic Forum, "The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2015", Geneva, 2015, p 07

⁹ Jennifer Blanke, Thea Chiesa "The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013: Reducing Barriers to Economic Growth and Job Creation", Op.cit p49-50

¹⁰ Alain Dupeyrask Neil Mac Callum, "Indicators for Measuring Competitiveness in Tourism" A Guidance documents", OECD Tourism Papers. 2013/02, OECD publishing, p31

¹¹ Jennifer Blanke, Thea Chiesa "The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013: Reducing Barriers to Economic Growth and Job Creation", Op.Cit p50

¹² DIRK GLAESSER JOHN KESTER, "Visa Facilitation: Stimulating Economic Growth and Development through Tourism, The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013", World Economic Forum; 2013 p49-50

¹³ African development bank, "Africa Visa Openness Report 2016, visa openness index", Cote d'Ivoire, 2016, p08

¹⁴ African development bank, "Africa Visa Openness Report 2016, visa openness index", Op.Cit, p10

¹⁵ R RAJESHKUMAR, "e-visa-an essential component of facilitation", ICAO regional seminar on MRTDs, biometrics and border security, ZIMBABWE, 27-29 November 2012, p002

¹⁶ tourism organization UNWTO' visa openness report 2015 'January 2016 p 12

¹⁷ tourism organization UNWTO' visa openness report 2015, Op.Cit p p 4-5

¹⁸ tourism organization UNWTO' visa openness report 2015, Loc.cit.

¹⁹ tourism organization UNWTO' visa openness report 2015, op.cit p13

²⁰ <http://www.luxuryistanbul.com/pageDetails.aspx?id=9#ixzz4XkZrceZT> Retrieved 02/02/2017

²¹ <https://www.passportindex.org/byWelcomingRank.php> Retrieved 25/01/2017

²² African development bank, "Africa Visa Openness Report 2016, visa openness index", Op.Cit p19

²³ <https://www.passportindex.org/byIndividualRank.php> Retrieved 25/01/2017

²⁴ UNWTO / WTTC • The Impact of visa facilitation in ASEAN member states, January 2014, p14