

ANALYSIS OF THE REGULATION OF ACTIVE TOURISM IN SPAIN

ANÁLISIS DE LA REGULACIÓN DEL TURISMO ACTIVO EN ESPAÑA

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ABSTRACT:

This study focuses on the analysis of active tourism in each autonomous region of Spain. First, the concept of active tourism is set and defined. Then, the treatment of active tourism in the European Union is looked into. Finally, the status of active tourism in each autonomous region of Spain is examined according to regional decrees that have been passed from 2005 up to the 2016.

This comparative study among autonomous regions has been approached by researching the main activities regarded as active tourism, the necessary equipment and materials to carry them out, the rights and obligations that need to be fulfilled to carry them out and, especially, the regulation spectrum concerning active tourism providers when it comes to the official permits and qualifications required for the professionalization of this particular business sector.

Key words: Active Tourism, European Union, Autonomous Regions of Spain, Regulation

JEL: L38

Resumen:

En este trabajo se analiza el tratamiento del turismo activo por comunidades autónomas españolas. En primer lugar, se procede a delimitar el concepto de turismo activo. Posteriormente, se realiza un breve estudio del tratamiento del turismo en la Unión Europea. Y, en tercer lugar, se realiza un análisis comparado territorial por comunidades autónomas españolas a través de los decretos autonómicos que han ido apareciendo desde el año 2005 hasta el año 2016.

Para la realización del análisis comparado, se estudia el tratamiento diferenciado del turismo activo en las comunidades autónomas españolas comparando tanto las actividades que lo integran, como los medios materiales necesarios para su realización, así como los derechos y obligaciones requeridos para su práctica, y, de manera especial, la regulación de las empresas de turismo activo a través de las diferentes titulaciones y cualificaciones que se requieren para la profesionalización del sector.

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Recibido: 17 de enero de 2018. Aceptado: 27 de noviembre de 2018.

Palabras claves: Turismo Activo, Unión Europea, Regiones Autónomas Españolas, Regulación.

JEL: L38

1. INTRODUCTION: SETTING AND DEFINING THE CONCEPT OF ACTIVE TOURISM

The so-called mass tourism (Shaw and Williams, 2002) has played a central role in the growth of world tourism activity since the mid-twentieth century. However, this expansion has been accompanied by multiple negative impacts, consubstantial to its development and nature. Since decade 1970 to the present time several authors point potentially negative impact of mass tourism on societies, cultures and environment (e.g.: Young, 1973; Turner and Ash, 1975; Bosselman 1978; de Kadt, 1979; Rosenow and Pulsipher, 1979 [Cited by Getz, 1983]; Hickman, 2007)

The saturation and exhaustion of some traditional destinations together with the negative impacts of tourism activity in socio-environmental matters, has contributed to the emergence of alternative tourism activities that seek an attitude / relational activity with the environments (social, cultural, environmental...) more respectful and less aggressive (Butcher and Smith, 2010).

The emergence and expansion of these new tourist activities, also responds to changes in the preferences of tourists, with a growing environmental awareness so "Tourist choices are increasingly influenced by sustainability considerations." (Prat, 2011, p. 424). In 2012 the 71 percent participants on TripAdvisor-survey 2012, said they plan to make more eco-friendly choices in the next 12 months, compared to 65 percent that did so in the past 12 months; and Fifty-seven percent of travelers said they "often" make eco-friendly travel decisions, such as their choice of hotel, transportation, or food source" (TripAdvisor, 2012). Likewise, it changes the focus on the motivation to travel toward more active, experience oriented outdoor leisure activities (Hall, 1992). Moreover, there is widespread greater commitment in protection of socio-environmental patrimony of the local communities of destination.

As well, international organizations readjust their approach to tourism activity, incorporating, in addition to the economic dimension: social, cultural and environmental, with the aim of achieving sustainable tourism development. Sustainable tourism is tourism that takes full account of current and future economic, social and environmental, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities. It is not a special form of tourism; rather, all forms of tourism may strive to be more sustainable (United Nations Environment Program [UNEP] and World Tourist Organization [UNWTO] 2005, 2012). According to Yunis (2005, p.48), the concept of sustainability and the principles that it implies must apply to all forms of tourism, whatever the motivation of the trip, the type of destinations or the activities that the tourist makes in them.

At the present time, demand for "responsible travel" registers a higher and stronger growth than demand of conventional tourism, the growing and sustained interest in tourism products and services that respect the environment and local cultures, are reflecting the changes in the consumer preferences. Chafe, Z., (2005, p.4), points "More than two-thirds of U.S. and Australian travelers, and 90 percent of British tourists, consider active protection of the environment, including support of local communities, to be part of a hotel's responsibility".

According to the UNWTO in the next decade, most of the increase in tourism revenues in the EU will come from alternative forms of tourism. Part of this increase will be the result of a greater volume of tourists, but an important part will be the result of the movement of number

of tourists between different segments of demand. These trends were already evident at the decade 1990. Eurobarometer (1998, p.9) survey pointed that scenery and natural environment came at the top factor of choice, when looking at the criteria used for choosing a destination of European priorities. Other factors were climate, the cost of travel and accommodation, and the historical interest of the place to visit.

At a global level, the popularity of alternative tourism forms increases, although a heterogeneous range of market segments converge under this rubric, among them the so-called active tourism, which UNWTO incorporates into the category of "adventure tourism". The UNWTO (2014a) defines adventure tourism as that trip that includes, at least, two of the following three elements: physical activity, interaction with the environment and cultural exchange. Within the activities developed within adventure tourism there are two categories, depending on the main activity, "soft" and "hard" but both are highly lucrative and are growing well above the average recorded worldwide for the Tourism sector. In fact, in 2012 it was estimated that the value of the adventure tourism market was about 263 billion dollars, with an average annual growth between 2009 and 2012 of almost 65 percent. On the other hand, the average expenditure of adventure tourists per trip increased, in that period, around 20 percent. (Adventure Travel Trade Association [ATTA] , 2013).

The concept of active tourism is confined to activities in the framework of alternative tourism, nature tourism and sports tourism, among other types. Hall (1992), examines three segments of tourism: adventure, sport and health tourism, he points that all involve relatively active participation, often in outdoor settings. Luque (2003) explains that the profusion of concepts that have emerged to refer to the same typology: sports tourism in nature, active tourism, adventure tourism active sports tourism or soft tourism, these are often used indifferently in many occasions despite to having different connotations, which, Bourdier (1994) says "offers the continuous transgression of particularly weak borders between the concepts of leisure, sport, travel or adventure" (Luque, 2003, p.137).

Nasser (1996, p.481), considers that the sport is part of this Active Tourism, for its essential characteristics, and reflects on the possibilities and relations of sport in the tourist field, treats sports tourism integrating it in its context (the social system of Tourism). Nasser considers that Active tourism is an interpretation that coincides with certain life habits that the tourist wishes to carry out also or especially in their excursions or vacations. In this way, Active Tourism is clearly distinguished from Conventional Tourism that is developed more passively, primarily in the area "Sun and Beach".

This tourism sector is relatively recent in Spain, where, traditionally, it has seen closely related to rural tourism (Melgosa, 1999; Lacosta, 2004; Peñalver, 2004; Moyano y Moscoso, 2006; Gonzalez, 2008; Cebrian, 2008; Araújo, Fraiz and Paül. 2012; Rivera, 2015). Strictly speaking, active tourism can be defined as the tourism subsector that involves leisure and tourist sports activities, which are carried out basically by using the resources available in a particular natural environment, namely air, land, underground, water or underwater settings, present risk (in different degrees) as a distinct feature and require certain skills and psychophysical conditions to be met. The rental of equipment itself for the development of active tourism activities can be regarded as an active tourism activity as well (Decree56/2003 of 4 February [article, section 2]).

Nowadays, active tourism also implies the diversification of the traditional tourist attractions together with the qualification of a particular tourist destination. However, due to the fact that these activities are carried out in the natural environment, there are certain elements that irretrievably come into play such as the preservation of the area, its environmental load capacity, safety and security issues for their development in public maritime and ground domains, and the professionalization of the agents involved in this sector. In this respect, and

in each autonomous region, active tourism activities are currently undergoing a recent regulation process which, in line with the general guidelines on tourism set by the European Union, is aimed at defining the regional regulatory frameworks, especially those concerning the agents who are responsible for the professionalisation of active tourism activities.

2. ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

According to the forecasts of the evolution of world tourism for 2030 the arrival of international tourists will grow 3.3 percent annually between 2010 and 2030 to reach the figure of 1,800 million. The main beneficiaries of this increase will be emerging markets whose market share will be 57 percent, to the detriment of mature destinations, as is the case in Western Europe (UNWTO, 2011).

In the European Union (EU) the number of international tourist arrivals in the year 2030 will be about 557 million tourists, with an average growth for the period 2010-2030 of less than 2 percent. Likewise, the forecasts until 2030 reflect that the EU will continue to be the main source market and will continue to maintain a high dependence on intraregional tourism (UNWTO, 2014b).

Despite the leading role that the EU plays in tourism worldwide, which has been attested by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the institutions of the Union have overlooked this sector until recently. In fact, it was not until the Treaty of Lisbon was entered into force, on 1 December 2009, that tourism was finally included as a new sector articulated in the Treaty.

According to art. 195 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the scope and capacity for action of the EU in the tourism sector is established in the following terms:

“1.The Union shall complement the action of the Member States in the tourism sector, in particular by promoting the competitiveness of Union undertakings in that sector.

To that end, Union action shall be aimed at:

(a) encouraging the creation of a favorable environment for the development of undertakings in this sector;

(b) promoting cooperation between the Member States, particularly by the exchange of good practice.

2. The European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall establish specific measures to complement actions within the Member States to achieve the objectives referred to in this Article, excluding any harmonization of the laws and regulations of the Member States.”¹

As the Treaty states, the main objective of the joined European action in this sector lies in acquiring a higher level of competitiveness. Actually, the approach adopted by the European Commission regards tourism as instrumental in the achievement of the objectives pursued in other sectors or areas of interest within the current economic strategy of the EU, while social aspects took a back seat on the grounds that “in the long term, competitiveness is closely linked to the ‘sustainable’ way in which it is developed.” (European Commission, 2010, p.7). Along these lines, the “Madrid Declaration” which resulted from the informal ministerial meeting on tourism held on 15 April 2010, acknowledged the added value of the EU action in the field of tourism “providing a worthwhile complement to action by the Member States through an integrated approach to tourism.” (European Commission, 2010, p.7).

¹ TITLE XXII, Article 195 and Article 6, letter (d) Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

This “integrated approach,” which is different from an “integral approach” encompasses 21 actions to be grouped under the following four priorities:

- 1) to stimulate competitiveness in the European tourism sector;
- 2) to promote the development of sustainable, responsible and high-quality tourism;
- 3) to consolidate the image and profile of Europe as a collection of sustainable and high-quality destinations;
- 4) to maximise the potential of EU financial policies and instruments for developing tourism.

Tourism is categorised as one of the so-called supporting competences, in which the EU can only intervene to support, coordinate or complement the action of Member States. Additionally, the actions taken by the EU in this sector must be compliant with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality while respecting the competences of Member States. As it is very accurately noted by Arcarons (2010): “In fact, the article is so very vague and imprecise that is open to be interpreted in any way that institutions deem appropriate. And this is something that many regulatory bodies of the sector are worried about”.

Having reached this point, it is certainly appropriate to recall the wake-up call made by the European Parliament when it comes to the inconsistencies found in the EU tourism policy at the heart of the European Commission. In fact, the European Parliament calls for the application of a “coordinated and integrated” approach since the decisions made on other sectors may have a significant impact on tourism.

A good example can be observed on the effects that the application of the EU Services Directive had on the tourism sector. Thus, the European Parliament has urged the European Commission to closely monitor its application by the Member States (European Parliament [EP] resolution of 27 September 2011). In addition, there are multiple connections between this application and the overall quality of the tourism sector, which proves that a more coordinated action within the EU is needed. Nevertheless, although the European Parliament has repeatedly called for specific action, in February 2014, the European Commission, instead of creating an European tourism label for quality systems, decided to submit a Proposal for a Council Recommendation on non-binding European principles concerning tourism service (European Commission, 2014).

To gain competitiveness in Europe means to acquire a higher level of quality, which implies supporting emerging sectors and having a comprehensive overview of the EU sphere of tourism. However, there is no political will to successfully face up to this challenge.

Regarding active tourism, it is only conveyed by EU institutions as mere references such as “adventure tourism” or “nature tourism” included in other common policies in a merely instrumental way. The tourism sector is heading for serious uncertainty, being entrance barriers reduced to the detriment of service quality and ultimately resulting in the loss of competitiveness of the sector due to two main reasons: the lack of European coordination in the tourism sector and the application of the EU Services Directive at the discretion of each Member State. More specifically, in the Spanish case, the competence in this regard lies with autonomous regions.

3. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE STATUS OF ACTIVE TOURISM IN EACH AUTONOMOUS REGION OF SPAIN

As stated by the Spanish Constitution, tourism lies within the exclusive jurisdiction of autonomous regions (particularly when it comes to the promotion and regulation of tourism in their territory). We can then determine that autonomous regions have the competence not only

to promote their territory as a tourist destination but also to regulate tourism related activities (Aspas, 2000; Nasarre, 2006; García, 2010; Inglés y Seguí, 2012).

More specifically, the different regulations on tourism policy passed by the autonomous regions have led the development of active tourism to be based on regional decrees (see Table 1). In fact, these decrees have regulated factors such as the qualifications required of technical staff, activity leaders, guides and instructors, the features of equipment and materials, the conditions to be met by interns and trainees or the official authorizations required for an activity to be carried out (The regulation of sports also falls within the exclusive competence of autonomous regions. See art. 148.1.19^a of the Spanish Constitution).

TABLE 1.- AUTONOMOUS REGIONS WITH REGIONAL DECREES REGARDING ACTIVE TOURISM (2016)

Autonomous Regions	Regional Decrees
Andalusia	Decree 20/2002 of 29 January, on rural and active tourism in Andalusia (Decreto 20/2002, de 29 enero, de Turismo en el Medio Rural y Turismo Activo de Andalucía).
Aragón	Decree 55/2008 of 1 April, on the approval of the regulation of active tourism providers in Aragón (Decreto 55/2008, de 1 abril, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento de las empresas de Turismo Activo de Aragón).
Asturias	Decree 111/2014 of 26 November of active tourism in Asturias (Decreto 111/2014, de 26 de noviembre, de Turismo Activo de Asturias.)
Castilla y León	Decree 96/2007 of 27 September, on the regulation of active tourism providers in Castilla y León (Decreto 96/2007, de 27 septiembre, por el que se regula la ordenación de las empresas de turismo activo de la Comunidad de Castilla y León).
Castilla-La Mancha	Decree 77/2005 of 28 June, on the regulation of active tourism providers in Castilla-La Mancha (Decreto 77/2005, de 28 junio, de Ordenación de las Empresas de Turismo Activo de Castilla-La Mancha).
Catalonia	Decree 56/2003 of 4 February, on the regulation of physical and sports activities in the natural environment in Catalonia (Decreto 56/2003, de 4 febrero, por el que se regula las actividades físico-deportivas en el medio natural de Cataluña).
Galicia	Decree 42/2001 of 1 February, on the consolidation on the area of travel agencies, tourist guides and active tourism in Galicia (Decreto 42/2001, de 1 febrero, de refundición en materia de agencias de viajes, guías de turismo y turismo activo de Galicia).
Murcia	Decree 320/2007 of 19 October, on the regulation of active tourism providers in Murcia (Decreto 320/2007, de 19 octubre, por el que se regulan las empresas de turismo activo de la Región de Murcia).
Region of Valencia	Decree 22/2012 of 27 January, issued by the Consell, on the regulation of active tourism providers in the autonomous region of Valencia (Decreto 22/2012, de 27 de enero, del Consell, regulador del turismo activo en la Comunitat Valenciana).

Navarre	Decree 288/2004 of 23 August, on the approval of the regulation of active and cultural tourism service providers in Navarra (Decreto Foral 288/2004, de 23 agosto, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento para el ejercicio de la actividad de las empresas dedicadas a la prestación de servicios de turismo activo y cultural de Navarra).
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Source: Regional Decrees regarding Active Tourism

This section therefore analyses the specific status of active tourism in each autonomous region of Spain by considering the main activities regarded as active tourism, the necessary equipment and materials to carry them out, the rights and obligations that need to be fulfilled to carry them out, especially, the regulation spectrum concerning the official permits and qualifications required in each of the autonomous regions subject to this analysis.

3.1. Main activities that are under the umbrella of active tourism

The thorough analysis of the regional decrees regarding active tourism from 2005 up to the 2015 shows that the number of activities listed has increased over time, which is explained by the emergence of new activities involving tourism and nature.

Each regional decree that regulates active tourism usually contains an annexed document including all the activities, and even their definition, which may be regarded as active tourism. (As can be seen in Table 2).

TABLE 2.- AUTONOMOUS REGIONS WITH REGIONAL DECREES REGARDING ACTIVE TOURISM (2016): MAIN ACTIVITIES OF ACTIVE TOURISM

Autonomous Regions	Regional Decrees
Andalusia	ANNEX V (Decree 20/2002 of 29 January) ACTIVITIES OF ACTIVE TOURISM 1. Mountain bike / 2. Diving or underwater activities / 3. Downhill ravines / 4. Downhill boat: / 5. Climbing / 6. River skiing / 7. Water skiing / 8. Alpine skiing / 9. Speleology / 10. Hot air balloon / 11. Heliski / 12. Heliexcursión / 13. Hidrobob / 14. Hidrotrineo / 15. Hidropedales / 16. Mushing / 17. Climbing mountaineering, mountaineering or skiing / 18. Snowmobiles / 19. Jet skis / 20. Sailing / 21. Skydiving / 22. Canoeing / 23. Quads / 24. Equestrian tourism / 25. Jumping from the bridge / 26. Jumping with elastic / 27. Hiking / 28 Surf and windsurf / 29. Off-road with motor / 30. Crossing / 31. Free flight / 32. Flight with ultralight / 33. Flight without motor.
Aragón	ANNEX I (Decree 55/2008 of 1 April) Activities of Active Tourism: 1. Underwater Activities: 1.1. Escafandrismo. / 2. Nautical activities: 2.1. Sailing (-Light sailing, Sailing or windsurfing chart), 2.2. Canoeing, 2.3. Rafting, 2.4. Hidrospeed, 2.5. Navigation to motor (nautical Ski, Walks and excursions in boats with motor, Motorbikes of water). / 3. Equestrian tourism and the like: 3.1.

	<p>Horse riding, 3.2. Walks in other animals. / 4. Cycling: 4.1. Mountain bike: 4.2. Cycling for a walk or road. / 5. Aerial activities: 5.1. Delta wing. 5.2. Paragliding, 5.3. Sailing flight, 5.4. Flight with ultralight, 5.5. Balloon flight: Air progression activity using an aircraft (hot air balloon). / 6. Mountain activities and climbing: 6.1. Mountaineering, 6.2. Canyoning, 6.3. Ice climbing, 6.4. Rock climbing and climbing wall, 6.5. Hiking, 6.6. Crossing or Trekking, 6.7. Via ferrata, 6.8. Bungee jumping, 6.9. Multi-activity circuit. / 7. Orientation activities. / 8. Speleology. / 9. Archery. / 10. Snow activities: 10.1. Alpine skiing, 10.2. Cross-country skiing: 10.3. Heliski, 10.4. Mountain skiing, 10.5. Cross country ski, 10.6. Skiing off tracks, 10.7. Excursions with snowshoes: 10.8. Mushing, 10.9. Snowmobiles:, 10.10. Ski schools. / 11. Activities with motor vehicles: 11.1. Off-road vehicle with engine, 11.2. Quads, 1.3. Other motor vehicles. / 12. Paintball and the like/ 13. Other activities in Nature: 13.1. Hunting tourism, 13.2. Fishing tourism.</p>
Asturias	<p>ANNEX I (Decree 111/2014 of 26 November) Active Tourism Activities Paragliding / paragliding / hang gliding / Ultralight / Ballooning / Bungee jumping / Bungy jumping / diving / Diving / Snorkeling / Sailing / Windsurf / Kitesurf / Surf and Paipo / Stand up paddle (SUP) / Canoeing / Canoeing in whitewater / Rafting / Hydrospeed / Sea kayak / Tourist boat trip (Nautic Tourism) / Tourist fishing from boat in sea / Tourist fishing / Water skiing / Canyoning or canyoning / Mountaineering / rock climbing / ice climbing / Trekking / hiking / Nordic walking / Via Ferrata / Speleology / Orientation activities / Mountain biking / Road bike / Horse riding / Alpine skiing / Snowboarding / Cross-country skiing / Snowshoeing / Mushing / Snowmobiling / 4x4 SUV / Off-road bikes / Quads / Buggies / Paintball / Airsoft / Archery / Tourist hunting / Adventure park / Zip line / Tibetan bridge / Canopy / Zorbing / Skateboards and water bikes / Native sports.</p>
Castilla y León	Not included
Castilla-La Mancha	<p>ANNEX I. (Decree 77/2005 of 28 June) Active Tourism Activities. Hang-gliding, mountaineering, canyoning, bungee jumping, mountain biking, bicycle touring, bodyboarding, diving, horse/donkey riding, “busbob”, canoeing, rafting, “donutski”, climbing, caving, water skiing, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, ski touring, excursions, kitesurfing, “hidrobob,” pedal boat, hydrospeed, kayaking, multi-adventure activities, flora and fauna observation, orienteering, «paintball», parascending, paragliding, Tibetan bridge, rappel, winter hiking, rowing, cultural tours, boat tours, quad biking tours, all-terrain tours, hiking, “ski bus”, snorkeling, snowboarding, surfing, windsurfing, survival sports, nature workshops, “team building,” archery, zip-lining, trekking, dog sledding, ultralight aviation, cave tours, sailing, gliding and wakeboarding.</p>

Catalonia	<p>ANNEX I (Decree 56/2003 of 4 February)</p> <p>RELATIONSHIP OF ACTIVITIES OF ACTIVE TOURISM</p> <p>Delta wing / Mountaineering / Canyoning / Benji / Bungee / Mountain bike / Bodyboard / Diving / Busbob / Canoe / Nautical chart / Cycle tourism / Donutski/Scuba/ Climbing/ Speleology/ Waterskiing/Alpine ski/Cross country ski/Ski touring/Kite Surf/Hot air balloon/Heliski/Heliexcursión/Hidrobob/Hydro pedals or skate/ Hidrospeed/ Hidrotrineo/Kayak or canoeing/Kite Surf/Mountaineering/Snowmobiles/ Jet skis/Mushing/Orientation/Paintball/Skydiving/Paragliding/ Parascending/ Tibetan bridge/ Quad/ Rafting/Rope/Snow rackets/Rowing/Horse routes or equestrian routes/Boat routes/Routes in all-terrain vehicle or 4x4/Bungee jumping/Trekking/Ski Bus/Snorkel/Snowboard/ Diving/Survival/Surfing/ Workshops of nature/Archery/ Tirolina/ All Terrain with engine/ Trekking/Candle/Via Ferrata/Visits to caves/Free flight/Ultralight flight/Wake board/Windsurf.</p>
Galicia	Not included
Murcia	<p>ANNEX (Decree 320/2007 of 19 October)</p> <p>1. Underwater activities:1.1.Scub/1.2. Snorkeling/2.Nautical activities: 2.1Sailing/2.1.1.Light sailing/2.1.2.Cruising sailing/2.1.3.Windsurfing/2.1.4.Surf /2.1.5.Motor boat routes/2.2.- Canoeing/2.2.1. Kayak/2.2.2. Canoe/2.2.3. Rafting/ 2.3.Hydrospeed/2.4.- Jet skis/2.5.-River ski/2.6.Water ski/2.7.Bodyboard/2.8.Wakeboard/2.9.Hydro pedals/2.10.Donutski /2.11.Kite surfing/2.12.Paradescending/2.13.Ski bus/2.14.Busbob/3.Horse riding/3.1 Equestrian tourism/4.Cycling 4.1.Mountain biking /4.2.Cycling 5.Aerial activities/5.1.Delta Wing/5.2.Paragliding/5.3. Sailboat/5.4.Flight with ultralight/5.5.Balloon/5.6.Heliexcursion/5.7.Skydiving/5.8.Bungee jumping/5.9.Banging)/5.10.Flight with motor 6.Mountain activities and climbing/6.1 Mountaineering/6.2.Canyoning / 6.3.Rock climbing and climbing wall / 6.4.Rappelling/6.5.Zip-line 6.6.Mountaineering/6.7.Tibetan bridge/6.8.Mono bridge/7.Walking routes/7.1.Hiking/7.2.Trekking/7.3.Didactic and interpretive itineraries/8.Orientation/8.1.Orientation race / 8.2.Orientation activity / 9.Environment and nature workshop 10.Cultural route/11.Agroactivity/12.Thematic route/13.Caving/14.Archery/15.Snow activities/15.1. Cross-country skiing/ 5.2.Cross-country skiing/15.3.Snowshoe excursions/16.Routes or excursions with motor vehicles/16.1.4x4 vehicle route/16.2 Quads/17 Circuits or programs multi-activity or multi-aventure/18.Paintball/19.Survival.</p>
Region of Valencia	<p>ANNEX I (Decree 22/2012 of 27 January)</p> <p>RELATIONSHIP OF ACTIVITIES OF ACTIVE TOURISM</p> <p>Delta wing/ Mountaineering/Canyoning/Benji/Bungee/Mountain bike/ Bodyboard/ Diving/Busbob/Canoe/Nautical chart/ Cycle tourism/ Donutski/ Scuba/ Climbing/ Speleology/ Waterskiing/Alpine ski/Cross country ski/Ski touring/Kite Surf/Hot air balloon/ Heliski/ Heliexcursión/ Hidrobob/Hydro pedals or skate/ Hidrospeed/ Kayak or</p>

	canoeing/ Kite Surf/ Mountaineering/ Snowmobiles/ Jet skis/Mushing/Orientation/Paintball/Skydiving/Paragliding/Parascending/ Tibetan bridge/ Quad/ Rafting/Rope/Snow rackets/Rowing/Horse routes or equestrian routes/Boat routes/Routes in all-terrain vehicle or 4x4/ Bungee jumping/Trekking/Ski Bus/Snorkel/Snowboard/ Diving/Survival/Surfing/ Workshops of nature/ Archery/ Tirolina/ All Terrain with engine/ Trekking/Candle/Via Ferrata/Visits to caves/ Free flight/Ultralight flight/Wake board/Windsurf.
Navarre	Not included.

Source: Regional Decrees regarding Active Tourism (See Table 1).

The first decree analysed, Decree 77/2005 of 28 June, on the regulation of active tourism providers in Castilla-La Mancha, encloses a list with all the activities, including their definition, very similar to Decree 320/2007 of 19 October, on the regulation of active tourism providers in Murcia. Decree 55/2008 of 1 April, on the approval of the regulation of active tourism providers in Aragón contains, in its Annex I, a systematic categorisation of activities listed in thirteen groups. The last two decrees, the Valencian —which was passed in 2012 — and the Asturian — which was passed in 2014 —, also contain an annexed document each where all the activities are listed. However, it can be observed that the number of activities is not the same as there are different categories and new activities that have been added. It is then advisable to add the standard phrase “other activities” to make the list as flexible as possible.

3.2. Features of the equipment and materials needed to carry out active tourism activities

When it comes to activities related to active tourism, it is safe to say that homogeneity is not one of their distinct features. Actually, there is a wide variety of options available. Although none of the autonomous regions subject to this analysis has clear specifications regarding the equipment and materials necessary to carry out these activities, there are some general rules concerning their main features and the obligations to be fulfilled by active tourism providers are also stated.

In broad terms, it can then be said that in practically all the autonomous regions of Spain, the equipment and materials required to carry out active tourism activities must be compliant with the official standards established by the competent authorities of the European Union, the corresponding Member State or autonomous region and, similarly, the safety and security of participants together with the management of foreseeable risks or emergency situations must be guaranteed. (Table3)

TABLE 3.- AUTONOMOUS REGIONS WITH REGIONAL DECREES REGARDING ACTIVE TOURISM (2016): THE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THESE ACTIVITIES.

Autonomous Regions	Regional Decrees
Andalusia	Article 29.- Information (Decree 20/2002 of 29 January) The owners of the companies that organize active tourism activities must adopt the necessary measures to guarantee that the user is unequivocally, truthfully, sufficiently and understandably informed of the facilities or services that pose a risk and of the

	<p>security measures adopted. In any case, they must record in writing before starting the practice of the activity, that users have been informed about:</p> <p>a) The destinations, itineraries or journeys to be traveled.</p> <p>b) Measures to be adopted to preserve the environment in which the activity is carried out.</p> <p>c) Knowledge that is required, difficulties that involve the practice of the activity and behaviors to follow in case of danger. Where appropriate, physical requirements or skills necessary to practice the activity and, where appropriate, pathologies that discourage their practice.</p> <p>d) Planned security measures.</p> <p>e) Materials to be used. In your case it will be necessary to specify what material is not included in the price offered, requiring an additional payment that will also be indicated. The minimum safety equipment or material will be included, in any case, in the price offered.</p> <p>f) Risk of each activity and relationship of those considered most risky.</p> <p>g) The minimum personnel of the entity for each activity that it develops and the maximum number of users of each of them.</p> <p>h) Maximum or minimum age to practice each one of the activities that are developed.</p> <p>i) The type of coverage available to the insurance arranged by the company.</p>
Aragón	<p>Article 12.-Duty of written information. Formalization of the contract. (Decree 55/2008 of 1 April)</p> <p>1. Active tourism companies must inform their clients in writing of the following points, before beginning the practice of the activity in question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Destinations, itinerary or route to be traveled, warning of the possibility of being modified by meteorological or unforeseen circumstances. -Measures that must be adopted to preserve the environment and affect it as little as possible. -Equipment and material to be used in case the company does not provide it. -Knowledge that is required, difficulties that involve the practice of activities, as well as minimum age for their practice and behaviors that should be followed in case of danger. -Need to follow the instructions of the guides and monitors in the development of the activity. -Existence of a liability and accident insurance policy. -Detailed information on the prices of the services offered. -Special conditions required for the practice of certain activities. -Existence of claim sheets. <p>2. The company will documentarily credit clients with the contracting of active tourism activities, with a breakdown of services provided and the price. The rest of the conditions may be</p>

	referred to the advertising brochures or general conditions exhibited in the establishment.
Asturias	<p>Article 15.-obligations of the tourist user. (Decree 111/2014 of 26 November)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tourist users must at all times follow the instructions received from monitors or guides, and use the material indicated by them, the employer may refuse to provide their services if these obligations are not met or the user does not meet the physical conditions required for the practice of the activity in question. 2. Likewise, they must pay the entrepreneur the price fixed for the services rendered, without the fact of making a claim exempting the payment. 3. The users will maintain at all times a conduct favorable to the conservation of natural and cultural resources of the natural environment and their personal safety and that of the rest of the users of the services offered. 4. Users will inform before the start of the activity about their physical fitness for the performance of the activity they hire. In particular, they must inform the active tourism company of any circumstance that may entail the lack of suitability of their personal conditions, or of the equipment and material provided by the user, in accordance with the information obtained in this regard under the protection of what is provided in article 14.1. 5. Users of tourist activities offered by an active tourism company may not carry them out under the influence of alcohol or any substance that may alter the normal behavior of a person. 6. The participation of minors in the activities regulated in this decree, will also require the participation in them of, at least, an adult responsible for them.
Castilla y León	<p>Article 10.- Guarantees for users. (Decree 96/2007 of 27 September)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For reasons of safety, those responsible for active tourism companies may limit or even prohibit participation in activities or in a certain part of them, to persons who do not meet the appropriate physical or psychological conditions for each type of activity and person. These limitations or prohibitions shall be reasonably founded, not constituting, in any case, an attack on the right to social integration of all persons, especially persons with disabilities. 2. In all the publicity and promotion that by any means the active tourism companies carry out, the registration number assigned by the Tourist Administration must appear in the corresponding administrative authorization. Companies must offer truthful, effective and sufficient information on the conditions of provision of their services. 3. Active tourism companies and tourist users must sign a contract, and the model established in Annex III may be used, which must include the object of the contract, with a breakdown of services and price. However, said contract may be replaced by

	<p>the delivery of a ticket or invoice provided that there are disaggregated services and prices.</p> <p>It will be noted that the user or the tourist users, if there are several, have been sufficiently informed, that they know and accept the risks involved in the activity and that they undertake to follow the instructions of the monitors, guides or instructors, in the development of the activity in question.</p> <p>4. Likewise, both in the corporate headquarters or domicile and in the place of development of the activity, the companies are obliged to always have available to the client information that refers at least to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration number with which the company is registered as an active tourism company in the Registry of Tourism Companies, Activities and Professions of the Community of Castilla y León. • Type of activities to be carried out. • Destinations, itineraries or journeys to travel. • Equipment and material that must be used, as well as what is necessary in case the company does not provide it. • Basic safety and self-protection measures, where appropriate. • Knowledge and physical conditions that are required, difficulties that imply the practice of the activity, as well as minimum age for their practice and behaviors that must be followed in case of danger or accident. • Existence of an action protocol in case of accidents. • Obligation to follow the instructions of the monitors, guides and instructors in the development of the activity. • Measures that must be adopted to preserve the environment. • Existence of an insurance policy for civil liability and accident or assistance insurance whose risks include rescue expenses. • Existence of claim sheets. • Indication of the possibility of obtaining extended information on any of the above points.
Castilla-La Mancha	<p>Article 7.- Guarantees for users. (Decree 77/2005 of 28 June)</p> <p>1. Active tourism companies must present their notice board in a visible manner and publish on their website if there is one, an informative note in which the possibility will be announced to the clients and the right to consult all the information related to the following extremes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Registration number with which the company is registered as an active tourism company in the Registry of tourist companies and establishments of Castilla-La Mancha regulated in article 13 of Law 8/1999, of May 26, on the Regulation of Tourism in Castilla-La Mancha. b) Destinations, itineraries or journeys to travel. c) Measures that must be adopted to preserve the environment. d) Equipment and material to be used in case the company does not provide it. e) Knowledge that is required, difficulties that involve the practice of activities, as well as minimum age for their practice and behaviors that should be followed in case of danger.

	<p>f) Need to follow the instructions of the guides and monitors in the development of the activity.</p> <p>g) Existence of a liability and accident insurance policy.</p> <p>h) Detailed information on the prices of the services offered.</p> <p>i) Existence of claim sheets.</p> <p>Clients will have the right to consult said information in writing prior to the performance of the activity in question, leaving the active tourism companies to provide such information at the time of their request.</p> <p>Customers must sign a statement stating that they have received such information as well as a commitment to obey the orders of the monitors in relation to the development of the activity, in accordance with Annex VI of this Decree.</p> <p>2. The contract between the company and the clients shall be executed in writing, stating the identification of the object, with breakdown of services and price, and the model established in Annex VII to this Decree may be used. The rest of the conditions can be sent to the information exposed according to the previous section.</p> <p>3. In any graphic advertising format that companies use, the registration number must be recorded as an active tourism company, with which the company is registered in the Register of tourist companies and establishments in Castilla-La Mancha.</p> <p>4. Those responsible for the company may limit or even prohibit participation in the activities planned for those persons who, as a result of their psychophysical condition, are not in a position to carry them out with the necessary security and in any case, shall be prohibited from people who show overt symptoms of drunkenness or acting under the influence of drugs.</p>	
Catalonia	<p>Article 10.- Information. (Decree 56/2003 of 4 February)</p> <p>10.1 The persons or entities regulated in this section must provide information to the persons who will practice the activity, before practicing it, on the following points:</p> <p>a) Description of the activity and physical risks involved.</p> <p>b) Description of the physical space where the activity should take place: destination and route to be traveled.</p> <p>c) Measures that must be adopted to preserve the natural environment and other elements of the environment.</p> <p>d) Equipment and material to be used.</p> <p>e) Knowledge that is required, difficulties that involve the practice of the activity and behavior to be followed in case of danger.</p> <p>f) Existence of insurance with its conditions and amounts.</p> <p>g) Emergency plan, when the activity requires it.</p> <p>h) Existence of claim sheets at your disposal.</p> <p>i) Age and minimum conditions to participate in the activity.</p> <p>j) Service sheet that must contain the price and the form of payment.</p> <p>k) Census number.</p>	

	<p>10.2 The persons and entities that routinely dedicate themselves to the organization of the activities regulated in this Decree must have available to the public the price list, the applicable taxes, the services and activities they offer and the place where they are made.</p>
Galicia	<p>Article 47.- Written information. (Decree 42/2001 of 1 February) Companies that organize active tourism activities must provide their clients with a program or informative brochure that contains in writing a clear and precise information on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Destinations, itineraries or itinerary that will be covered. -Measures that are going to be adopted to preserve the environment. -Knowledge that is required, difficulties that involve the practice of activities and behaviors that must be followed in case of danger. -Security measures planned. -Materials to be used. -Prices of the services offered, with specification of whether or not they include applicable taxes. In the latter case, they must detail the applicable percentage. -Existence of a civil liability policy, as well as the possibility of delivering a photocopy of the same to the client when he requests it from the company. -Existence of claim sheets available to customers.
Murcia	<p>Article 8.- Duty of information ((Decree 320/2007 of 19 October) 1. The companies referred to in this Decree, before starting the practice of the activity in question, must make available to their clients information on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Registration number with which the company is registered in the Register of Companies and Tourist Activities of the Region of Murcia. b) Destinations, itineraries or journeys to travel. c) Measures that must be adopted to preserve the environment, expressly informing about the environmental protection regulations that may be applicable, as the case may be. d) Equipment and material to be used in case the company does not provide it. e) Knowledge and physical conditions that are required, difficulties that involve the practice of activities, as well as the minimum age for their practice and behaviors that must be followed in case of danger. f) Obligation to follow the instructions of the monitors, guides and instructors in the development of the activity. g) Existence of liability insurance and assistance or accident insurance. h) Detailed information on the prices of the services offered. i) Existence of claim sheets available to customers. <p>2. Customers must sign a statement stating that they have received this information, as well as a commitment to obey the</p>

	instructions of the monitors in relation to the development of the activity. 3. At the moment of the perfection of the contract, the company must deliver to the user documents that certify the terms of the contract and the payment in which they appear, in detail and separately, each one of the services or concepts.
Region of Valencia	Not included.
Navarre	Article 11. Information. (Decree 288/2004 of 23 August) The companies of activities of active tourism and cultural tourism will have to provide their clients information of the following ends before the beginning of the activity: 1. Type of activity to be carried out. 2. Destinations, itinerary or route to travel. 3. Basic safety and self-protection measures when appropriate. 4. Measures for handling equipment and materials, where appropriate. 5. Instructions on respect for nature and the cultural environment. 6. Knowledge and physical conditions that are required, difficulties that involve the practice of the activity, as well as minimum age and behavior to follow in case of accident. 7. Obligation to follow the instructions of the monitors, guides or instructors in the development of the activity. 8. Existence of a civil liability policy and, if applicable, other assistance. 9. Detailed information on the prices of the activity, including all types of taxes. 10. Existence of claims sheets available to customers.
Source: Regional Decrees regarding Active Tourism (See Table 1).	

Additionally, the individuals or companies organizing these activities have the obligation to keep their own equipment and materials in a good and proper condition.

Finally, as the equipment and materials play a key role in the uneventful development of active tourism activities, the competent authorities retain the right to conduct inspections and, if appropriate, impose sanctions. It is worth pointing out that, in certain cases, such as in the Valencian case, the issues related to the equipment and materials needed were not included as a separate section but, rather, as an integrated obligation to be fulfilled by active tourism providers.

3.3. Rights and obligations required be fulfilled by participants in active tourism activities

After carefully looking into the rights and guarantees of active tourism participants, we are certain to note that they are regulated differently depending on each particular autonomous region (Table 4). Anyway, all regulatory instruments state the need to inform participants about their right to be provided with information regarding destinations, itineraries or routes, the measures to be taken for the preservation of the environment where the activity takes place, the skills and knowledge required, the main difficulties entailed by the activity and how to react to dangers, pathologies that are incompatible with the activity, planned safety and security

measures, the equipment and materials to be used, including those that may require an extra charge, the risk implied by the activity and the specification of the activities that entail a higher risk, the minimum number of instructors required for the development of the activity and the maximum number of participants allowed for each activity, the maximum or minimum age required to participate in the activities, the availability of complaint forms and the particular insurance coverage of the service provider.

If participants are under 16 years of age and they are allowed to take part in a particular active tourism activity, they will require a written permission of a parent or guardian to be handed in before the activity takes place.

At the other end of the spectrum, active tourism providers have the right to limit or even forbid the participation of certain individuals in the activities, individuals whose participation may pose a risk to safety and security or are under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

TABLE 4.- AUTONOMOUS REGIONS WITH REGIONAL DECREES REGARDING ACTIVE TOURISM (2016): RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ACTIVE TOURISM PARTICIPANTS.

Autonomous Regions	Regional Decrees
Andalucía	Article 28.- Equipment and material. (Decree 20/2002 of 29 January) 1. Tourism companies that organize active tourism activities must adopt the necessary security measures to guarantee the physical integrity of the users. 2. The equipment and material that is made available to users who practice the activities must be approved, where appropriate, by the competent bodies according to the activity and meet the security conditions and guarantees necessary for the use to which are destined
Aragón	Article 10.-Equipment and material. (Decree 55/2008 of 1 April) 1. Equipment and material that companies make available to their customers for the practice of active tourism activities must be approved or certified, where appropriate, by the competent bodies of the European Union, the State or the Communities Autonomous and meet the conditions of security and guarantees for the use to which they are intended, according to the indications of its manufacturer. 2. In case of absence of homologation and standardization, they must meet the security conditions and guarantees for the use to which they are intended according to the manufacturer's instructions. 3. The personnel of the company and all the people who participate in each activity must have the equipment and the material suitable for the practice of the activity, to guarantee their safety in the development and also to face the risks and emergencies that be predictable. The persons or entities organizing the activities regulated in this decree must supply these equipment and materials or, if they are provided by the practitioners, they must verify that they meet the necessary conditions for the practice of the activity. 4. In any case, the material must meet the conditions of conservation and security necessary depending on the activity to which they are intended and the environment where it is practiced. The businessmen

	<p>will be responsible for keeping the equipment and material in conditions of proper use.</p> <p>5. Active tourism companies must certify documentarily the homologation or certification of the equipment and material or the indications of the manufacturer relating to safety conditions and guarantees of the material.</p>
Asturias	<p>Article 9.- Equipment and material. (Decree 111/2014 of 26 November)</p> <p>1. The equipment and material that the companies make available to those who practice active tourism activities must be approved by the competent bodies, according to the activity in question, and meet the security conditions and guarantees necessary for the use to which they are destined.</p> <p>2. The companies will be responsible for keeping the equipment and material in conditions of adequate use and will appoint a person responsible for the safety of the same, for the purpose of interlocuting with the Regional Ministry responsible for tourism.</p> <p>3. The monitors or guides accompanying the clients must carry a first aid kit and a communication device to be able to give notice in the event of an accident or for any other need.</p> <p>4. Companies must conduct a self-checking review of equipment and materials used before the start of their activity period and every six months, depending on the seasonality of the same. There must be documentary evidence endorsed by the security officer about carrying out this review.</p> <p>5. Companies will be obliged to make available to the users of their services adequate protection material for the activity that will be carried out.</p>
Castilla y León	<p>Article 5.- Equipment and material. (Decree 96/2007 of 27 September)</p> <p>1. The equipment and material that the companies rent or make available to their customers for the practice of active tourism activities must be approved, where appropriate, by the competent bodies. In the absence of standardization and homologation requirements, they must meet the safety conditions and guarantees for the use to which they are intended, according to the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <p>2. In any case, the businessmen will be responsible for keeping the equipment and material in conditions of proper use and safety, and must present an annual declaration to the Territorial Service responsible for tourism, responsible for ensuring that these circumstances are met. to the model that is established in Annex I.</p> <p>3. For these purposes, the Autonomous Community will make use of the inspection and sanctioning powers provided for in Title VI of Law 10/1997, of December 19, on Tourism of Castilla y León.</p>
Castilla-La Mancha	<p>Article 5.- Equipment and material. (Decree 77/2005 of 28 June)</p> <p>(1. Equipment and material that companies rent or make available to their clients for the practice of active tourism activities must be approved, where appropriate, by the competent bodies of the European Union, the State or the Community. Autonomous In the</p>

	<p>absence of standardization and homologation requirements, they must meet the security conditions and guarantees for the use to which they are intended, according to the indications of their maker. These equipment and material may be subject to inspection by the services of the Ministry responsible for tourism.</p> <p>2. In any case, the businessmen will be responsible for maintaining equipment and material in conditions of proper use and safety.</p>
Catalonia	<p>Article 9.- Equipment and material. (Decree 56/2003 of 4 February)</p> <p>9.1 The equipment and material that the organizing persons or entities and the technical personnel employ in carrying out the activities regulated in this Decree and the one they make available to the persons who practice the activities must comply with the applicable regulations and, in their In this case, they must be approved by the competent bodies and meet the necessary conservation and safety conditions according to the activity to which they are intended and the environment in which they are practiced.</p> <p>9.2 The technical personnel and all the people who participate in each activity must have the equipment and the appropriate material for the practice of the activity, to guarantee their safety in the development and also to face the risks and meteorological changes that, of reasonably, are predictable. The persons or entities organizing the activities regulated in this Decree must supply these equipment and materials or, if they are provided by the practitioners, they must verify that they meet the necessary conditions for the practice of the activity.</p> <p>9.3 The persons or entities organizing the activities are responsible for maintaining the proper equipment and materials in conditions of conservation and proper use.</p>
Galicia	<p>Article 46°.- Equipment and material. (Decree 42/2001 of 1 February)</p> <p>Equipment and material that companies make available to those who practice adventure physical-sport activities must be approved by the competent bodies, according to the activity, and meet the security conditions and guarantees necessary for the use to which they are intended.</p> <p>The companies will be responsible for maintaining equipment and material in conditions of proper use.</p>
Murcia	<p>Article 4.- Equipment and material. (Decree 320/2007 of 19 October)</p> <p>1. The equipment and material that the companies make available to their clients for the practice of the activities object of this Decree, must be approved by the competent organisms. In the absence of standardization and homologation requirements, they must meet the conditions of safety and guarantees for the use to which they are intended, according to the manufacturer's instructions. The documentation accrediting the homologation of the material and equipment, or where appropriate the safety instructions and guarantees given by the manufacturer, will be available to the tourism inspection.</p> <p>2. In any case, the owners of the companies will be responsible for maintaining the proper equipment and materials in conditions of conservation and proper use and optimum safety.</p>

Region of Valencia	<p>Article 9. Obligations of users / clients. (Decree 22/2012 of 27 January)</p> <p>The users and clients will be obliged to comply with the instructions and instructions regarding safety, respect for the environment, and practice of the activity, issued by the monitors and managers of the companies Active tourism.</p> <p>Article 10. Rights and guarantees of users / clients</p> <p>1. Whatever the place where the activities are offered, in the publicity that is made of them, the following information must appear:</p> <p>a) Destination and approximate duration, itinerary or route to be covered or, failing that, description of the activity.</p> <p>b) General measures that must be adopted to preserve the environment, specifically informing about the particular measures that are applicable according to the place or environment in which they are developed.</p> <p>c) Recommended type of clothing, equipment and material that should be used in case the company does not provide it.</p> <p>d) Physical conditions and knowledge that are required for the practice of activities, minimum ages, as well as difficulties and degree of danger that such practice entails, and behavior to adopt in case of accident.</p> <p>e) Existence of civil liability insurance.</p> <p>f) Prices of the services offered with their corresponding breakdown, which in any case will include the applicable taxes and the fixing of the advance payment that may be agreed upon.g) Economic consequences in the event of cancellation of the activities by the company and / or withdrawal of the same by the client.</p> <p>h) Amount of the deposit that is constituted to answer for the loss or deterioration of equipment and materials.</p> <p>i) Existence of claim sheets available to clients.</p> <p>j) Any other end that by the means, materials, unique techniques used, scope, physical space or nature of the activity, must know the / users / as to develop the activity.</p> <p>k) Where applicable, maximum number of users per monitor.</p> <p>2. At the time of contracting the services or, failing that, before starting the practice of the activity in question, the active tourism companies must inform their customers in writing of the content related in the section previous.</p> <p>3. Likewise, the companies will make available to their clients in a clear and unequivocal way, before the conclusion of the contract, all the information required in articles 22 and 23 of Law 17/2009, of November 23, on the Free Access to Service Activities and their Exercise.</p>
Navarre	<p>Article 8. Equipment and material.(Decree 288/2004 of 23 August)</p> <p>1. Equipment and material that companies make available to their clients for the practice of active tourism and cultural tourism activities, must be approved by the competent bodies according to the activity and meet the security conditions and guarantees for the use of that are destined If the equipment and material is contributed by</p>

	<p>the users, the companies must verify that they meet the necessary conditions for the practice of the activity.</p> <p>2. In any case, the businessmen will be responsible for maintaining the proper equipment and materials in conditions of conservation and proper use.</p>
<p>Source: Regional Decrees regarding Active Tourism (See Table 1).</p>	

3.4. Valid permit required to qualify as an active tourism provider

Active tourism activities have been traditionally subject to different control measures by the competent authorities. However, on 12 December 2006, the Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on services in the internal market came into force with a view to address unjustified or unreasonable restrictions on the access to service activities or on the exercise thereof and the freedom of establishment. As a consequence, the autonomous regions of Spain, in line with this regulation, have tried to simplify the procedure to obtain a valid permit to qualify as an active tourism provider.

Actually, according to our research findings, there are autonomous regions where an ex ante control is established, mainly in the form of an authorization, while some others prefer an ex post control. For example, Decree 77/2005 on the regulation of active tourism providers in Castilla-La Mancha and Decree 55/2008 on the approval of the regulation of active tourism providers in Aragón (art.4) belong to the first group, as they require applicants to hold an authorization prior to the exercise of the service activity and the company needs to be registered in the corresponding register of tourism companies and establishments. Likewise, Ex officio registration by the competent authority is also an option once the authorization has been granted (See art. 3. of Decree 96/2007 of 27 September, or art. 13 of Decree 320/2007 of 19 October).

The application must be decided by the competent authorities and the applicant must be notified within three months (or six months in the case of Galicia). Otherwise, inactivity on behalf of the regional government may be deemed as positive administrative silence.

Catalonia and Navarra position themselves halfway as the aforementioned authorization is replaced by the compulsory registration of service providers in a specific census or register, respectively.

In the case of Catalonia, the organisation of physical and sports activities in the natural environment requires individuals and companies to be registered in the census of organisers of physical and sports activities in the natural environment (Censo de organizadores/as de actividades físico-deportivas en el medio natural). Once they are registered, the Catalan Sports Council, the corresponding competent authority, will send an ex officio notification to the relevant tourism institutions so that they are included in the register of tourism of Catalonia (Registro de Turismo de Cataluña, RTC). The requirements to be met are very similar to the aforementioned, although there is no stated procedure regarding the registration in the census (Decree 56/2003, art. 3.1.).

In the case of the Chartered Community of Navarre, companies and natural persons must register in the register of tourism of Navarre (Registro de Turismo de Navarra), in the section of regulated tourist activities, prior to the exercise thereof. The documents required are similar to those required in other autonomous regions (Decree 288/2004, article 5).

However, when it comes to Andalusia, the authorization is replaced by a statement of responsibility, which helps to speed up the process in favour of entrepreneurs and service providers (Decree 20/2002 on rural tourism and active tourism in Andalusia, art. 23.1. b, Decreto 20/2002 de Turismo en el Medio Rural y Turismo Activo de Andalucía, art. 23.1 b). In

this autonomous region, it is compulsory to apply for the registration in the register of tourism of Andalusia (Registro de Turismo de Andalucía, RTA). The application must be decided by the competent authorities and the applicant must be notified within two months. Otherwise, inactivity on behalf of the regional government may be deemed as negative administrative silence.

Similarly, in the case of Asturias, as stated in article 5 of the new Decree on active tourism passed in 2014, a statement of responsibility is also required.

3.5. Qualifications and professional accreditations required to work in active tourism.

All Spanish autonomous regions require active tourism staff (such as activity leaders, guides or instructors) to hold qualifications or specific professional accreditations to ensure mastering of the corresponding activity in active tourism. However, there are also some differences among autonomous regions.

In the Spanish autonomous regions of Galicia, Castilla La Mancha and Murcia, it is required that the staff (activity leaders, guides or instructors) hold a sports degree specializing in the corresponding activity (Spanish Decree 42/2001 for revision of the regulation of travel agencies, tourism guides and active tourism in Galicia; article 45.1 and article 12 of the Spanish Decree 77/2005 on the regulation of active tourism providers of Castilla La Mancha).

It is in the autonomous region of Aragón where the issue dealt with in this paragraph has been addressed more specifically; not only because of the recent character of the regulation (Spanish Decree 1363/2007 of 24th October, establishing the general regulation of sports teaching under special regime, currently in effect), but also because of its content. Said regulation refers to the concept of a responsible sports technician (who does not necessarily have to be present during the performing of the activity and who shall be the person responsible for the planning, control, follow up and assessment of the activity), who serves as support for activity leaders, guides or instructors. In any case, it is compulsory to hold a sports technician degree or a higher sport technician degree specializing in the corresponding sport or activity. In the event that the staff do not hold a valid sports degree (there are some degrees which have not yet been approved by an appropriate decree to regulate the validity of the certificates and teaching programmes), then those certificates issued by the University or through Vocational Training programmes related to the corresponding activity or sport shall also be accepted (article 9 of the Spanish Decree 55/2008 on the regulation of active tourism providers of Aragón and Spanish Decree 320/2007 of Murcia).

In the Spanish autonomous region of Asturias it is required to hold an academic certificate in sports. After having established this as a requirement as described above², it is also required that “those instructors or guides with different specific training to the corresponding formal training shall provide a certificate of at least 350-hour practical training awarded by a competent institution”. It is assumed that this is intended to serve as a possible solution for those people who, despite having worked regularly in the tourism sector, do not hold a valid certificate, since if understood differently, the autonomous region would be indirectly promoting the hiring of staff without a valid academic degree, which is precisely the opposite to what the above-mentioned decree aims at.

² More specifically, article 8.2 establishes that “activity leader or guides shall hold the qualification of sports technician (técnico deportivo) or higher sports technician (técnico deportivo superior) specializing in the corresponding field, in compliance with the provisions established in the Spanish Royal Decree 1913/1997, of 19th December, or the regulation replacing it, or those qualifications awarded by the University or obtained through formal Vocational Training programmes which are related to this field.”

The active tourism decree of the autonomous region of Navarre simply requires activity leaders, guides and instructors to hold the certificate required by the existing legislation and to hold the certificate of lifeguard or first aid awarded by a competent institution.

The regulation of active tourism providers in the autonomous region of Castilla y León is an extremely detailed one since it establishes the appropriate qualification, either awarded by a university or by a Vocational Training programme, required to work as an activity leader, guide or instructor. In this sense, the qualifications required are Licenciado en Ciencias de la Actividad Física y el Deporte (five-year university degree in Physical Activity and Sport Science), Licenciado en Educación Física (five-year university degree in Physical Education), Diplomado en Educación Física (three-year university degree in Physical Education), Maestro, especialidad en Educación Física (university degree in Primary School Teaching specializing in Physical Education), Técnico en Conducción de Actividades Físico-Deportivas en el medio natural (technician in instruction of physical-sports activities in the natural environment), Técnico Deportivo (sports technician degree) or Técnico Deportivo Superior (higher sports technician higher degree) specializing in the appropriate field and the qualification of Monitor de nivel (Level activity leader) and Coordinador de nivel (Level coordinator) awarded by the competent institution regarding youth issues. It is thus understood that it is necessary to hold an official sports-related qualification. From our point of view, the only controversial aspect would be the lack of specialization of those people holding certain degrees of general character when organizing and monitoring the activities involved in active tourism. In this sense, let us take the example of a surfing instructor who holds a degree in Primary Education Teaching specializing in Physical Education but who has no knowledge of surfing.

To conclude, it is also worth mentioning the regulations on active tourism established both in the autonomous region of Andalusia or in Barcelona.

In the autonomous region of Andalusia, it is especially interesting how all references to qualifications or necessary training to work offering services in the field of active tourism are left out of the regulation³ due to a rather radical interpretation of what is understood as services liberalization. Therefore, it is worth highlighting the laxity present in the new version of the decree on active tourism of Andalusia regarding the professional qualification of people working in active tourism, as if simply information and a solid coverage were enough to ensure the provision of a professional service to potential users. In this sense, the concepts of active tourism technical managers and activity leaders are eliminated and these are replaced by provisions like “qualified staff shall be hired for the development of each activity” (article 23.1c, establishing the necessary requirements to develop active tourism activities in Andalusia), a much wider duty of disclosure for providers with regard to their clients and a much more specific regulation of the liability insurance.

Anyway, it might be useful to assess whether a surfing school or a diving school would be left out of the scope of application of the decree in this autonomous region even when these schools develop activities which may be potentially considered as active tourism activities. On the one hand, it is obvious that these schools teach the corresponding sport, since it is very difficult to think of learning to surf or scuba dive in without being taught. Nevertheless, the renting of material without offering lessons would actually be exclusively considered tourism services. On the other hand, it would be a shame if these schools were left out of such an attractive field with such potential as it is the field of active tourism.

³ Spanish Decree 80/2010, on simplification of administrative procedures and modification of several other decrees in order to adapt to the Law-Decree 3/2009, of 22nd December 2009, which also modifies several laws in order to implement the transposition into Andalusian regional laws of the Directive on Services in the Internal Market.

We understand that this represents an incomplete solution. It would have probably been much better to maintain the training requirements for activity leaders which existed before, together with the possibility of recognition of those qualifications or training certificates from other Member States of the European Union as long as there exists an equivalence of credits and contents. This apparently solved issue is present again in article 31 which refers to Andalusian Sport Federations. Within a conventional framework, these federations shall offer counsel to active tourism associations regarding issues such as homologation of equipment and material, as well as “provide companies with qualified staff who will develop the functions established by regulation.”

Again, this vague concept of “qualified staff” replaces a more precise concept present in the previous version of the decree as “technical managers and instructors”. We do not understand how, theoretically, training becomes the role model to follow, but these ways are finally adopted in practice.

In Catalonia, the decree probably shows the most modern approach on the issue of qualification of the staff working in active tourism since it is considered a sport activity performed in the natural environment; thus promoting professionalism in this field. In fact, it is suggested that “the increasing public interest on sports and the strong influence of sport activities in health and safety of people who practice sports makes it necessary to establish a regulation for the exercising of sports-related professions. This is even more necessary in a field such as the field of sports in which, even though there exist several qualifications of different nature, the exercising of professional activity is normally carried out by people who lack the minimum specific formal training”.

Besides, and more specifically regarding the field of sport activities in the natural environment, which is the matter at hand, it is also mentioned that “the field of sports practiced for recreation or with esthetic, tourist, health or other analogue purposes offers an extraordinary field for professional action. There are several factors which constitute causes for the proliferation of professionals in this field. The spreading of the idea of sport for everybody and the incorporation of several population groups to the practice of physical activity, as well as the increasing interest of former sportspeople to take up sports again in their adulthood constitute some of the causes. In this sense, the progressive increase in the practice of adventure or risk sports or sports in the natural environment, and the phenomenon of body appreciation following esthetic or health reasons, have led to the proliferation of a wide variety of professionals which requires urgent regulation. This is why the Law serves as recognition and regulation of the professions of animators or sport instructors, which also has great tradition in the field of sports. The qualifications required for the exercising of these professions are also different according to the different material fields of action provided for in the Law.”

In this sense, the Law recognizes and regulates the professions of physical education teachers, animators or professional sport instructors, professional trainers and sport managers. In addition, potential professions such as animators or professional sport instructors and sport managers are also considered⁴. The former are those who “allow to exercise functions of sport instruction, training, animation, physical conditioning, improvement of physical condition, control and other analogue functions regarding people who are learning and who practice certain sport, as long as the sports practice is not intended to serve as preparation for sport competition.”

As for the concept of sports manager, it is defined as the profession which allows the exercising of different functions in centres, services and sports facilities, both state or private, applying knowledge and techniques from sport science. Said activity, which may also include

⁴ Spanish Law 3/2008 on the exercise of sport-related professions in Catalonia

management functions in some cases, does not require physical presence of the sports manager while the sport activity is being performed. This activity, if carried out in places or spaces which may pose an inherent risk such as water, snow, the mountain or other elements or places of the natural environment, will require the five-year university degree in Physical Activity and Sport Science or the corresponding new undergraduate program, including training or experience in the corresponding activity. Therefore, it is obvious that Catalonia has promoted vocational training programs in the field of physical and sports activities carried out in the natural environment.

Therefore, in the autonomous region of Catalonia, the provision of services related to sport activities in the natural environment requires professionals with official qualifications. On this issue, and in order not to negatively affect the free movement of people within the European Union, article 15 of the Spanish Law 3/2008 on the exercise of sport-related professions in Catalonia under the title “recognition of qualifications obtained in other states” establishes that “the recognition of qualifications entitling for the exercise of professions awarded in Member States of the European Union or in states where the free movement of workers, freedom of establishment and freedom of professionals to provide services is applicable, is subject to the regulations of this recognition”.

In conclusion, and without denying the recognition of official foreign qualifications, it is obvious that it is necessary to hold some kind of official qualification in order to exercise the professions in the field of active tourism.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Active tourism constitutes a new concept because it includes different activities as they appear, together with the needs of their users. In fact, even though there exist several interpretations of this new concept, we may state that it basically includes two types of activities: on the one hand, tourist sports and leisure activities carried out with the resources offered by the natural environment (air, land, underground, water or underwater settings). On the other hand, those activities which pose an inherent risk and require certain expertise and psychophysical characteristics to be performed. Therefore, both the activities and those who practice them, are the elements which really determine what we understand as active tourism.

After having analyzed how the different Spanish autonomous regions understand and regulate active tourism, since the year 2005 until the present time, we can conclude that autonomic Decrees on active tourism constitute the best reference to understand what is currently happening in Spain regarding active tourism activities and their regulation.

The study of the different Decrees in each autonomous region shows the lack of national coordination, not only because each has been published independently in a different moment, but especially because the approach to address active tourism, in most cases, differs among autonomous regions both regarding the type of activities included and also regarding the applicable legislation to exercise and regulate active tourism activities.

With regard to activities associated to active tourism we can state that the different Decrees of the autonomous regions have gradually included new lists of activities as these new activities appear. The most relevant case is that of Asturias in 2014 and Valencia in 2012, where activities have been included under the title “modalidades similares” (similar forms of activities).

However, there exists more consistency regarding the material and equipment necessary to carry out tourism activities: almost in all Spanish autonomous regions it is simply required that the equipment and material is homologated by competent institutions (European Union, national government or autonomous region). In addition, in certain cases, such as that of the

autonomous region of Valencia, the issue of the equipment and material does not appear as an individual and separated section but it is included within the obligations of those providers managing active tourism activities.

After an in-depth analysis of the rights and guarantees of users of active tourism activities in each autonomous region, we can also conclude that its regulation shows great regional differences. There is no homogeneity or a pattern to follow, except in very special cases (such as regulations establishing age requirements), but these are not relevant in a joint study.

Besides, it is worth highlighting that active tourism activities have been traditionally subject to several controls from the competent authorities; however, the implementation of the EU Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and the European Council (on the Services in Internal Markets, aimed at the eradication of unjustified or unreasonable restrictions to access the provision of services and the freedom of establishment) has led autonomous regions to be the ones to simplify administrative procedures regarding the corresponding required qualification. More specifically, from our analysis, we can conclude that there is a group of autonomous regions which require an *ex ante* control (especially through the concept of authorization) and other autonomous regions which prefer an *ex post* control

Regarding the regulation of providers linked to active tourism activities we may conclude that Spanish autonomous regions share the requirement of demanding the staff an official qualification or a specific training accreditation which ensures mastering of the corresponding active tourism activity (activity leaders, guides or instructors). However, there also differences among autonomous regions: in Galicia, Castilla La Mancha and Murcia it is specified that the staff must hold a sports qualification specializing in the activity. In Aragón the Decree is much more specific since it establishes the concept of a responsible technician who supports activity leaders, guides or instructors. In addition, it is provided that it is obligatory to hold the degree of sports technician or higher sports technician specializing in the activity. In the case of Asturias, de Decree establishes the requirement of an academic sports-related degree. The Decree on active tourism of Navarre simply requires that activity leaders, guides and instructors must hold the qualification required by the existing corresponding legislation and to hold the certificate of lifeguard or first-aid awarded by a competent authority. Finally, the regulation of active tourism providers of Castilla y León is a very detailed one since it determines the appropriate qualification, awarded by the university or by a Vocational Training program, which is required to perform the position of activity leader, guide or instructor. Nevertheless, it is worth highlighting the case of two autonomous regions on this matter:

In Andalusia there appears a radical interpretation of what is understood as services liberalization since all references to qualifications or necessary training to work offering services in the field of active tourism are left out of the regulation. On the other hand, in Catalonia the decree probably shows the most modern approach on the issue of qualification of the staff working in active tourism since it is considered a sport activity performed in the natural environment; thus promoting professionalism in this field. In this sense, the Decree recognizes and regulates the professions of physical education teachers, animators or professional sport instructors, professional trainers and sport managers. In addition, potential professions such as animators or professional sport instructors and sport managers are also considered.

Finally, it is worth proving the existence of a wide variety of approaches among the regional decrees analyzed, which leads us to suggest the need to establish legal and economic instruments in order to standardize the regulation of active tourism, at least within the Spanish national territory.

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