**Territorial Reputation Management** 

### Integrating Online Marketing Tools into Reputation Management

### Best Practices around the World & The Case of Athens



orld Communication Foru 2012





## Why branding matters?



#### **For Tourists:**

Because they would choose a destination brand only when they can trust it.

#### **For Destinations:**

Because a trusted brand brings about tourist loyalty.

Source: Brand Knowledge, Trust and Loyalty { A Conceptual Model of Destination Branding/ Cathy Hsu Liping - A. Caiy

### FACT #1

"Countries are judged by what they do as they have always been, and not by what they say". Simon Anholt

### FACT #2

## **Perception** is more **Powerful than Reality.**





### "No single national stakeholder has control over all of the factors that affect a country's reputation"

Source: ETC/UNWTO Handbook on Tourism Destination Branding

Can you successfully brand an entire destination?

### At least most of us agree on that:

## destination branding seems to be working within tourism

# The Challenge

2.00



	2
SEARCH	

Conference & Incentive Travel

HOME	NEWS	FEATURES	PICS	C&IT TV	FORUMS	JOBS	DESTINATION
Venues	Busines	s People	CSR	Events	Dest	inations	

#### Visit Britain fears Olympic tourism could be jeopardised after 34% budget cut

TOM HALL, 20 October 2010

Be the first to comment on this article

Visit Britain is to review its Olympic tourism strategy after the Government reduced its four-year Olympic budget by 34%.



### The New York Times

#### A Tourism Office Falls Victim to Hard Times



## Destinations × Flights × Cruises × Hotels × Travel Advice × Photos D

#### States cut back on efforts to draw tourists



#### Reprints & Permissions

Fewer state and local governments are urging Americans to "come and visit us" — just as more people say they're hitting the road or are ready to go.



advertising and other promotion and support to try to lure tourists and their vacation dollars, the U.S. Travel Association says.

About 20 states have cut spending in the past year on

That includes states that depend heavily on tourists' dollars such as Hawaii, Washington, New York, South Carolina and Arizona.

One state — Washington — has shut down its tourism promotion office after lawmakers couldn't come up with the \$2 million they usually spent to attract visitors.

Arizona Office of Tourism

Many states are slashing their tourism budgets, moving from national advertising to target market

#### Italy is closing down Italian government tourist board offices



Image via blogspot.com

BY ELISABETH LANG, ETN | DEC 16, 2010

ITALY (eTN) - Due to more the line of the Italian State Tourist closing its iconic Germar Munich (the Berlin office 2009).

Only two weeks ago at t reception held on Decen Munich, ENIT director Le Campanelli annouced th office will continue its wc close down. Now, only tw he sadly had to distribut

0 111		_					
d pre	Budget	cuts	hurt	promotio	on of A	msterda	m
urist	-			•			
rmar							
ffice	A	<b>T</b>	T. C.	- H 0	2011		

office Amsterdam Tourist Information • May 9, 2011



DutchAmsterdam.nl — The Dutch tourism industry is alarmed at budget cuts of  $\in$  10 million for the promotion of the Netherlands abroad.

Last Friday the Dutch cabinet announced that starting in 2015 the Netherlands Board of Tourism & Conventions (NBTC) will receive  $\in$  5.8 million in yearly subsidies from the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Currently the organization received  $\in$  16,6 million, about as much as the tourist sector itself contributes to the promotion of the Netherlands.



The budget cuts are part of a larger program of cuts covering all aspects of Dutch society in an effort to combat lingering effects of the recent economic crisis.

#### Big Impact on Tourism in Amsterdam

## Destinations are shifting ad dollars online and away from offline media.

# online budget = more than 50%

## R.O.I.

### more critical today than ever before.

## What destinations should do?

## They need to go

MONTH

CLAN

YEAR

## back to the future

HOUR



## aiming to achieve Service Excellence

## and become the stage manager

## not just a good promoter..



# 

## **Destinations** will need to:

Do less and enable more **Develop and share the tools Promote less, and attract more** Focus on partnerships, development, management and innovation Need to make their declining marketing resources, used jointly and deliver more tourism spend

### Destination Marketing is much more than just promoting a destination

## **Reputation Management** Visit Florida – 'Florida Live"



## Reputation Management Lower Manhattan



Get the most out of Lower Manhattan this summer

Experience Lower Manhattan as you explore original cobblestone streets that make way for contemporary architecture and lush landscapes along the New York Harbor. This is your invitation to discover—or rediscover—Lower Manhattan and all its history, culture, dining, shops and hotels.

Lower Manhattan

new tour itineraries, special offers at local hotels, multimedia advertisements, and discounts at shops, attractions, and the new "Downtown Culture Pass"

Enjoy special weekend hotel rates with late checkout and a complimentary Downtown Culture Pass\* Individual restrictions may apply.\*\*

HROUGH SEP

Major Campaign spotlighting the area's remarkable recovery in the nine years since the 9/11 attacks

## **Reputation Management** Iceland & the Volcano Ash Crisis



The campaign showed the rest of the world that Iceland is still a safe place to visit and since the volcano eruption began only a small percentage of the country has been affected by the ash.

## **Reputation Management** Vancouver – Stanley Cup Riots



A community blog called <u>This is Our Vancouver</u> was erected carrying the message "The actions of a few aren't a true reflection of our city". Developed by DDB Canada in partnership with Tourism Vancouver, the portal aggregated photos, videos and stories from across the internet and social media channels and encouraged people to contribute their take on what best defines the city.

### Integrating Online Marketing Tools into Reputation Management

## The Case of Athens

## more than just an economic crisis

## social stability under threat

no public funds available

## continuous negative exposure,

### Reuters

#### BREAKING NEWS DECISION DAY IN GREECE Govt. votes today on plan to cut spending & raise taxes CNN on twitter.com/CNN and twitter.com/CNNbrk 7:03 AMET



## Greek debt crisis: Athens protests continue into night





## however..

# in every crisis lies opportunity.
## Reputation Management This Is My Athens



## Stage One: Setting the Goal

"to engage local people, showcase the everyday life in Athens, promote a flavour of true experiences and an alternative image of the city through the integration of online/offline marketing methods".

## Stage Two: Plan & Develop the Program

### **PHASE ONE**

### create the largest photo collection of Athens ever made.



### **PHASE TWO**

## Launch a volunteers visitor greeters program



## Stage Three: Engage & Support



## Listen to the (Athens) Locals





## Engage Local Audience via paid, earned & owned channels



### Breathtaking Athens (All about Travel / Visit Athens )

It may be cold today, but it's always a perfect time for a strolling through Athens!



This is Athens thisisathens.org

Upload images of your own favorite places in the city and contribute in creating the largest photo collection ever made for Athens. Let the whole world know: This is Athens!

14,954 Impressions · 0.10% Feedback

Like · Comment · Share · January 26 at 3:54pm

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 3:54pm

15 people like this.

Write a comment...



### Breathtaking Athens (All about Travel / Visit Athens )

Welcome to Athens! Would you like to visit a special neighborhood bakery and try that delicious homemade pie, a great restaurant to enjoy that "must-try" Greek dish or a tiny shop for special handmade souvenirs? Then, you need an Athens Local to guide you!

Click on http://bit.ly/thisisMYathens, sign up for our "This is MY Athens" visitor greeter program & make our Athens, yours!







### Breathtaking Athens (All about Travel / Visit Athens )

Breakfast at Plaka, swimming in Vouliagmeni, souvlaki at Monastiraki, frappe near to Acropolis, drinks at Glyfada and a yummy hot dog at Mavilis sgr. Onl an Athens Local knows how to spend a great day in Athens. Sign up now @ http://bit.ly/thisisMYathens for "This is MY Athens" Greeter Program!



### Wall Photos

24,481 Impressions · 0.15% Feedback

- Unlike · Comment · Share · August 26 at 2:09pm
- You and 35 others like this.
- Q View 1 comment

Write a comment...

## Provide Support via offline visitors services



## PHASE THREE Monitor & Evaluate

### Set KPIs

- # of requests
- **# of Athens Locals**
- # visitor satisfaction survey results
- Web & SM Metrics
- media coverage

### Evaluate Results 5.000+ photos 350 Athens Locals so far.. Hundreds of Visitors Requests..

## Stay Relevant



Breathtaking Athens (All about Travel / Visit Athens ) An interesting analysis of the "riots" in Athens from The Independent.



Disbelief and anger in the cradle of western democracy -Europe, World - The Independent

> www.independent.co.uk Number 23 Stadiou Street was once an elegant, cream-painted 19thcentury villa close to the centre of Athens. It now stands, shabbly, on one of the many fault lines in the Greek capital.



5 9 people like this.



Jeffrey Doonan Good article, provides a fair analysis of the situation and it is the first time I have read a balanced piece about what is, and is not, happening here in Athens in the

media in a long time. Bravol



Breathtaking Athens (All about Travel / Visit Athens ) The protesters turn a two block radius into a war zone while allowing their great uncle to still enjoy his black coffee at a cafe a block away! Interesting views from BBC News - Greek protests: Eyewitnesses



BBC News - Greek protests: Eyewitnesses otesters have taken to the streets of Athens, Greece. They are testers nave taken to the speets of athers, Greeke, They baiging against government cuts to take the country's

07 May at 14:44 - share 3 people like this.

### **Breathtaking Athens** – **Real Time Tourist Safety Information**

## To Sum Up...

## We cannot control everything being said about the destination's brand

but by actively listening to visitors & locals feedback and the use of online channels for promoting and distributing positively charged content

## We can better manage the destination's reputation.

"The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear" Socrates



# Thank You <u>Gestination consultants</u>

www.aboutourism.com

@about\_tourism

www.aboutourism.wordpress.com