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**AKADEMIA KULTURY FIZYCZNEJ  
IM. BRONISŁAWA CZECHA W KRAKOWIE**

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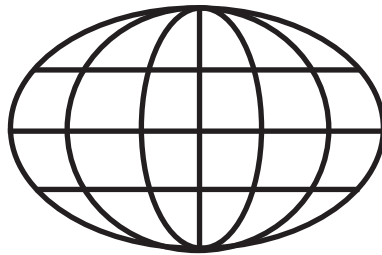
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# FOLIA TURISTICA

Vol. 65 – 2025



KRAKÓW 2025

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present another issue of our journal, in which the complexity of contemporary tourism research is demonstrated in the collected articles. This research is approached to both as a subject of theoretical reflection and as a field of empirical studies and historical analysis. This issue confirms the interdisciplinary nature of tourism studies, while also pointing out the need to combine philosophical, social, economic and institutional perspectives to better understand processes regarding the mobility, participation and organisation of tourism.

The issue opens with a unique article by **Mikołaj Madurowicz** *Dropping the Ontological Anchor, or the Flickering of Tourism*, introducing the reader to a world of profound reflection on the ontology of tourism reality. Drawing on phenomenology, the author attempts to move beyond descriptions of tourism's characteristics and instead analyse the ways in which "tourism reality" exists. The concept of its "flickering presence", revealed between subjective experience and ontological essence, makes a significant contribution to the discussion on tourism status as a subject of scientific research and can serve as inspiration for further theoretical analyses.

The next article, by **Vasylyna Petrovets** – *Finance or health? The main limitations in senior tourism in Subcarpathian Voivodeship* – takes us into the realm of research on social tourism and the activity of older individuals. Empirical research findings demonstrate that financial factors remain the most significant barrier to seniors' participation in tourism, although the influence of other factors, especially infrastructure, is also significant. The author highlights the complexity of attitudes towards senior tourism in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, contrasting residents' opinions with the actual capabilities of this group. The article makes a significant contribution to the discussion on senior policy and the design of tourism offerings that are appropriate for the needs of an aging society.

In the article *Management of Innovation in Health Tourism* – by **Monika Knefel** – the author explores the implementation of a new hemp-based pain therapeutic intervention implemented at a health resort. She not only presents the results of medical research and experiments but also emphasizes the role of innovation broker as a stakeholder integrator in the research and

implementation ecosystem. In this article, it is demonstrated how combining scientific research, health resort practice and innovation management tools can lead to the development of competitive health tourism products and build market advantages.

In their article *Sustainable Tourism as an Important Aspect of Nature and Local Community Protection in the Tatra Mountains and Podhale Region* **Matylda Awedyk** and **Natalia Ulman** address the impact of mass tourism in the Tatra Mountains and Podhale region. The authors analyse both threats to the natural environment and the social conflicts resulting from intensive tourism, indicating the need to implement sustainable development principles as a foundation for long-term regional policy.

Furthermore, **Bożena Alejziak**, **Krzysztof Borkowski**, and **Liliana Kowalczyk** present extensive, multi-year research on youth tourism at one of Poland's most important tourist destinations – Kraków. The article, *Kraków as a Destination for Youth Tourism*, offers an in-depth analysis of youth tourism in 2017-2023, highlighting changes occurring before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The developed organisational model for inbound youth tourism is a valuable tool supporting the planning of the city's tourism offerings.

In the next article *Evaluation of Long-distance Hiking Potential in Poland on the Example of the Valorization of the Szklarska Poręba - Wałbrzych Trail*, **Natalia Oniszcuk** and **Grzegorz Rachlewicz** propose a structured methodology for evaluating long-distance hiking trails, illustrated using the Szklarska Poręba – Wałbrzych route as an example. Elements of field research and point-based analysis are combined in the article, offering a useful tool both for planning infrastructure development and promoting lesser-known hiking products.

In **Marek Rutkowski's** article, *Travel opportunities to and from Kingdom of Poland during the first twelve years of the fall of the November Uprising of 1831*, a different historical perspective is offered. The author demonstrates how strict passport regulations imposed by the tsarist authorities in the 1830s transformed the Kingdom of Poland into a nearly closed space, hostile to travellers and, *de facto*, devoid of tourism. This analysis not only allows to reconstruct the realities of the era but also permits a better understanding concerning the mechanisms of mobility control and their impact on the development (or decline) of tourism.

**Magdalena Duda-Seifert** and **Janusz Łach** address cultural heritage issues in their article *Former Borderland Churches in Southwestern Poland and Their Potential for Tourism*. The authors valorize former religious buildings in the Kwisza Valley borderlands, demonstrating their diverse tourism potential and potential for use in developing local offerings based on the cultural landscape and historical memory.

The five most recent publications can be found in the “REVIEWS, COMMENTS, SCIENTIFIC CONTROVERSY, MEMORIES” section. The first is authored by **Kinga Kostrakiewicz-Gierałt**, who reviewed the book *The Potential of Nature Tourism in Poland*, highlighting its key themes, such as environmental education and tourism in urban, rural, forest and national park areas. The reviewer critically evaluates the publication, emphasizing its substantive value while also pointing to gaps and areas requiring supplementation or deepening. The next text is a conference report by **Patrycja Ozga-Gwózdź** and **Stanisław Matusik**, in which the GEOTRENDS conference is described, demonstrating the importance of international cooperation and the practical application of scientific research in the protection and promotion of geological heritage.

The next conference report by **Marcin Widomski** and **Patrycja Ozga-Gwózdź** concerns the 13<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference “Current Trends in Spa, Hotel, and Tourism”, titled “New Face of Tourism: Heritage Meets Modernity”, which brought together researchers and practitioners from Poland and abroad, representing a broad spectrum of disciplines – from economics and management, through geography and sociology, to cultural studies and information technology. The common thread among the presentations was the need to find a balance between preserving tradition and implementing innovative solutions in tourism and the hospitality industry.

A special place in this issue is occupied by a memoir, authored by **Agnieszka Niezgoda**, **Justyna Majewska** and **Katarzyna Czernek-Marszałek**, dedicated to Professor Grzegorz Gołembski, who passed away in 2025. The professor was a key figure in Polish tourism economics research – the author of several hundred publications – mentored generations of researchers and founded the so-called “Poznań School of Tourism Research”. His pioneering work on the tourism market, tourism marketing and the functioning of market mechanisms in a centrally planned economy set new directions for the development of this discipline in Poland. Equally important were his organisational, editorial and expert contributions, including his long-standing involvement in the development of the “Folia Turistica” journal.

The entire issue concludes with a tribute written by **Marek Czyż**, and dedicated to Professor Andrzej Matuszyk – the long-time editor-in-chief of our journal, to whom “Folia Turistica” owes much gratitude in terms of the journal’s academic standing and commitment to maintaining its position on the market of scholarly journals devoted to tourism. Professor was also a researcher of tourism and closely related phenomena, whose scholarly achievements and organisational work were crucial to the development of Polish tourism research. His passing leaves a significant gap in the academic

community, but his achievements will remain an important point of reference for future generations of researchers.

We hope that the diversity of analyses presented in this issue and the high scientific level of all the studies will inspire you and stimulate further research, reflection and discussion.

We wish you an inspiring read,

Patrycja Ozga-Gwóźdź and Wiesław Alejziak

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## DROPPING THE ONTOLOGICAL ANCHOR, OR THE FLICKERING OF TOURISM

*Mikołaj Madurowicz\**

### Abstract

**Purpose.** In this essay, an attempt is made to identify the modes in which tourist 'reality' exists. The aim of the reflections is therefore to outline the ontology of this 'reality', i.e. the way it exists, rather than to summarise its ontics, that is, its properties. Thus, the author tries to answer the question of "how tourist 'reality' exists?", rather than "what is it like?".

**Method.** Tourist 'reality' is analysed from a phenomenological perspective in order to identify the ways in which it reveals itself to the perceiving mind, oscillating between ontological essence and direct perception. It is assumed that the mode of existence of tourist 'reality' can be classified as a 'flickering presence', resulting from a double phenomenalisation (centripetal vs. centrifugal, folding vs. unfolding).

**Findings.** An attempt was made to identify seven modes of existence of tourist 'reality': 1. existence dependent on philosophical convention; 2. alternative (metaversal) existence; 3. existence in motion; 4. discrete (pulsating) existence; 5. intentional existence; 6. non-essential (ad hoc and situational) existence; 7. non-autonomously existence (heteronomous, derivative, not self-contained in the strict sense, dependent).

**Research and conclusions limitations.** The essay is a sort of philosophical diagnosis in the context of tourist 'reality' ontology.


**Practical implication.** The main objective of these considerations is to deepen research on tourism and create a basis for conceptualising tourist 'reality'. In the background, there is a question about the essential (core) content of tourist 'reality', which is crucial for any ontological analyses.

**Originality.** A cross-sectional interpretation regarding the ontology of tourist 'reality' is presented in the article in light of selected phenomenological traces.

**Type of paper.** Conceptual essay.

**Keywords:** tourist 'reality', tourist flickering, ontology, phenomenology.

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*Nadie es originario. Todos somos migrantes, todos llegamos del África, unos más tarde y otros menos. Lo único que sostendría la idea de humanidad es ser capaces de pensarnos en términos históricos. Todos venimos de la misma tribu; lo que define no es el origen sino la posición que ocupamos.*

Martín Caparrós [2021, p. 83]

רגליים ליהודים, שורשים לעצים

[*Trees have roots; Jews have legs*]

Isaak Deutscher

*The dethroning of the “transcendental narcissism” of the philosophizing “I” is a point of nonreturn. Letting the voices of others echo through my text is therefore a way of actualizing the noncentrality of the “I” to the project of thinking, while attaching it/her to a collective project.*

Rosi Braidotti [1994, p. 38]

## The Concept

Inquiring into the common (or any) ontology and epistemology of tourism reveals a fundamental lacuna—conceptual/philosophical and cognitive, respectively—within deeper reflection on the phenomenon. At the same time, it reflects a search for something missing or lost (as in Marcel Proust’s time), something promised or heralded (as with the Holy Grail), something rudimentary and foundational that has disappeared or been distorted (e.g. meaning), or something never present, merely postulated or tacitly assumed. The identification of such a lack, deficiency or flaw is a crucial starting point in the mind’s wanderings, since the indication of an absence or insufficient representation of something, or the formulation of a search phrase, typically signals a challenge to prevailing and established habits of thought in a given field. It also invites a new perspective on commonly recognised and accepted certainties, or the probing of familiar scientific (or non-scientific) concepts with a different intellectual instrumentarium.

Reflection on a glossary often leads to reflection on the essence of things and phenomena. A fresh look at a label can trigger a deeper consideration of the thing it denotes. Nullification—or what Edmund Husserl (1859-1938) called rejection or suspension (the well-known, albeit reworked, ancient epistemological postulate of *epoché*)—of a cognitive judgement, the silencing of a supposition or theory, the bracketing of value-laden ambitions, the questioning of terminology or discourse surrounding a selected fragment of the universe or its interpretive stratigraphy, usually ends in deeper reconstruction. It entices one to take the next step: restructuring a concrete (thought or real) entity. The oscillation between the Kantian *noumena*, i.e. things-in-themselves, and the Husserlian *phenomena* [Husserl 1913], that is, the ways in which they are revealed to the knowing mind, so the oscillation between ontological essence and direct perception may yield a new understanding of a cognitively intriguing part of the world.

Belgian philosopher Marc Richir (1943–2015), for his part, wrote about the infinite multiplication of phenomena whose mode of being is neither presence nor absence. Richir [2000] suggests that the world appears to us as a flickering presence, even elusiveness, since it is “constituted by a double movement of phenomenalisation”: a continuous becoming, for now, without a clearly defined beginning or end, and a chronic flickering “between unification (concentration, centring, consolidation, folding) and diffusion (scattering, decentring, fluidity, unfolding)” [Lorenc 2024, p. 172]; in short, between fusion and dispersion.

This rhythmic oscillation, in the context of tourism was once noted by writer Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz (1894–1980) during his Sicilian peregrinations:

The rhythm of tourism itself has changed fundamentally. In the past, they arrived by train from distant places, stayed for long periods, often spending months in a single hotel, before eventually returning home. Today, travelers come by car, staying no more than two days in one village before moving on—restless, insatiable, hectic, and of little use to the inhabitants of one settlement [Iwaszkiewicz 2009, p. 60].

In this short but bumpy exploratory passage, we will follow—more or less obviously—in the footsteps of phenomenologists of various philosophical provenances: Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Max Scheler, Paul Ricœur, Alfred Schütz, Aron Gurwitsch, Roman Ingarden, Emmanuel Lévinas, Jan Patočka, Renaud Barbaras, Françoise Dastur, Jacques Derrida, Marc Richir, Bernhard Waldenfels, Władysław Stróżewski, Józef Tischner, Franz Brentano, Edith Stein and Leopold Blaustein. However, we will treat them collectively as a wise forest of congealed yet still creatively humming giants, and will not grant the patronage of this intellectual walk to any one of them. Nevertheless, we (will) quote the ideas of five of these thinkers in particular.

A few words are due to the reader to clarify the title of these reflections. “Dropping the ontological anchor” is a deliberately ambivalent phrase, because an anchor is typically dropped to pause a voyage for a time [Fig. 1]; yet “dropping” can also mean abandoning something. In short—this double meaning is no accident and is intentionally meant to convey both a positive (i.e. stabilising, grounding) and negative (i.e. renunciatory) connotation.

It should be added that the aim is to reflect on the way tourist “reality” exists (with “reality” in quotation marks, as logicians and analytical philosophers such as Alfred Tarski would recommend). This essay concerns ontology—i.e. the mode of being—of this “reality”, not its ontics or properties. We will thus attempt to answer how tourist “reality” exists, leaving the question of what it is like to the margins. Here, an exemplification from Ewa Bieńkowska [2010, pp. 112–113] offers insight:



**Figure 1.** *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* – Rembrandt (1633).

**Source:** public domain – [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt\\_Christ\\_in\\_the\\_Storm\\_on\\_the\\_Lake\\_of\\_Galilee.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt_Christ_in_the_Storm_on_the_Lake_of_Galilee.jpg)

[accessed: 18 Jul. 2025].

The city must continually negotiate with tourism. The inhabitants are tolerant; after all, this is Italy's primary wealth. They view foreigners ironically, with superiority. [...] There is a city where one lives and dies, and where the flow of generations guarantees constancy. And a city of tourists that dissolves each evening and reappears the next morning, organising itself like bees on a mating flight. A fleeting city, existing chiefly to provide food for memory. For those who remember, the true life of Rome begins later, in memory. People arriving from elsewhere do not experience their surroundings as locals do—as a constant, busy stage of daily life. The newcomers seek a festive atmosphere. A celebration that Rome offers them, as it has done for centuries. It involves churches, palaces, fountains, ruins, and parks. [...] What we expect is an atmosphere of continuous festivity for the senses and the soul.

## The Concrete

What follows is a proposal of seven *modes* of tourist “reality” existence, presented in a discussable manner and from the perspective of a significant temporal distance, as the author of this text engaged with tourism-related issues in the strict sense in the past.

### ***Tourist “reality” exists depending on philosophical convention***

Epistemological perspective sometimes clarifies ontology. Tourist “reality” can thus, in the broadest terms, be understood ontologically in a conceptual or formal mode (commonly referred to as philosophical), a nominal mode (public, and therefore often political), and a reistic mode (empirical, functional). In each case, it appears differently: structurally or morphologically, analytically or linguistically, as event or process, plurally or substantially. The objectivist will propose a different ontology than the phenomenologist. Moreover, from the perspective of the sciences once called “concrete”, ontology is always—operationally and *nolens volens*—defined by the representative of a given field of knowledge. In geographical thought, for instance, neo-positivists, structuralists, behaviourists and humanists differently axiomatise the existence of “tourist reality” at the level of defining their research domain<sup>1</sup>. The parallel discourse of reality and intentionality consistently produces ontological interpretations that are focused more on the object or the subject of tourist acts, manifestations or phenomena.

### ***Tourist “reality” exists alternatively (in a metaversal mode)***

The ontology of tourist “reality” is also contoured by a fundamental impulse—a reason to manifest oneself in the world—that exists interpretatively and functionally alongside non-tourist or “yet-to-be-tourist” reality. The latter is regarded as primary. We are not referring to the ontology of

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<sup>1</sup> The choice of a particular metaphysical framework related to the mode of existence—not only of tourist “reality”, but of geographical “reality” more broadly—is shaped, in part, by a combination of ■ epistemological stances (e.g. chorography vs. chorology; idiographic vs. nomothetic/nomologism; induction vs. deduction; autotelic approach vs. heterotelic approach; formalism vs. essentialism vs. functionalism; explanation vs. understanding), ■ worldview positions *sensu largo* (e.g. naturalism vs. anti-naturalism; objectivism vs. constructivism; objectivism vs. subjectivism; valuative vs. non-valuative approaches to the world; holism vs. individualism), numerous ■ philosophical-methodological orientations *sensu stricto* that promote distinct explanatory patterns (e.g. classical, realist, dogmatic, scientific-neopositivist, dialectical, personalist, structuralist, critical, behavioural, humanist, liberal, radical, postmodern, “more-than-human”, feminist and empathetic-sensitive), as well as axial ■ interpretative assumptions (e.g. determinism vs. nihilism vs. possibilism; relationalism; systemic approach; model vs. metaphor), and finally ■ geographical sub-disciplines themselves—see e.g. Z. Chojnicki [2007, 2011]; M. Degórski [2024]; B. Domański [2024]; J. Kotus [2024]; A. Lisowski [2003, 2005]; M. Madurowicz [2024]; W. Maik [2012]; Z. Rykiel [2022]; I. Sagan [2008]; M. Szymkowska [2014]; P. Śleszyński [2020].

the tourist base, which we treat as derivative, but to the ontology of the tourist site (still a resource or already a value) and the tourist traffic it generates (potential or actual). This ontology may turn out to be alternative, optional, metaversal—activating a new purpose within the pre-existing one. The city first serves its inhabitants, then tourists. Exceptions exist, of course: centres that owe their existence primarily to tourism or hotels that become tourist destinations themselves—cases of transposition, where the metaverse (in its most tangible sense) supplants the original universe [Fig. 2]. Let us take examples. This metaverse is essentialised—again in an Italian setting—by Joanna Ugniewska and Ewa Bieńkowska:

... the dilemma of the traveller who, having devoured a library of books about Venice, stands for the first time on the steps of the railway station, facing the Canal Grande and the great Ponte degli Scalzi bridge spanning it. Will the greyness of theory outweigh the Faustian green of life? Can he see anything, or has the imperial map entirely covered the territory, as in Borges's story? The imperial cartographers would be the countless authors of novels, travelogues, essays—not allowing to see the city behind the commentaries, not writing about Venice but exploiting texts about it [Ugniewska 2022, p. 73].

The tourists who come here are of the kind who are in love with the city, and at the café terrace tables, surrounded by maps and guidebooks, they plan their itineraries for the afternoon and days ahead. But we know that it is not about plans—not even for Rome, not even for the immediate fu-



**Figure 2.** The square in front of Cortona town hall (2011).

**Source:** author's archive.

ture. It is about sitting and absorbing the time as it flows by, which is the most precious ore here, no matter what we do with it next [Bieńkowska 2010, p. 118].

As a formality, let us also note in the contextual margin the figure of the *simulacrum*—a creation devoid of an original—revived by Jean Baudrillard (1929–2007) [Baudrillard 1981]. Ontologically, it appears as a conceptual form unanchored in any original reality.

### ***Tourist “reality” exists in motion***

Motion—or more broadly, movement—can be understood in two distinct ways. Primarily, in the Aristotelian sense—considering dynamics as a general bundle of changes, including motion *expressis verbis* comprehended as relocation, qualitative metamorphosis, quantitative transposition and substantial transformation (that is, among other things, creation, decomposition, combustion, evaporation, sublimation, etc.). Secondly, in the Galilean sense—that is, reduced, since for Galileo, dynamics are already limited to the motion of material bodies alone. As the French mathematician René Thom (1923–2002) observes [Thom 1991, p. 7]:

although with Galileo’s mechanics we gain a precise description of the motion of material bodies, at the same time we lose all knowledge of the cause of these motions, of the stability of material bodies, of their formation and decomposition—we lose all those aspects addressed by Aristotle’s physics, which treated bodies with its own logic. With Galileo, of course, we gain in precision, but at the price of a radical divergence between mathematical formalism and the verbal formalism of natural language.

In a sense, Aristotle’s path leads us towards a cognitive idiographic perspective—one that emphasises the uniqueness, originality, specificity and distinctiveness of entities, and the differences between them—while Galileo’s legacy directs us towards a cognitive nomothetic (or nomological) view that highlights regularity, repetition, tendency and similarity.

The ontology of tourist “reality” is perhaps, *ex definitione*, a nomadic ontology, both paradigmatically and syntagmatically situated within the discourse of sedentariness and mobility [cf. Madurowicz 2006, Pisarek 2011], within the existential tension between fixed, given, inherited places and mobile, chosen, acquired or imposed ones. This discourse is elucidated by Małgorzata Czerwińska [2000] in her *Autobiograficzny trójkąt. Świadectwo, wyznanie i wyzwanie* [Autobiographical Triangle. Testimony, Confession, and Challenge]. The mode of such existence is processual, circulation-oriented and bipolar—shaped as much by rooting or entanglement as by uprooting or release. It is an existence suspended between departure and return, sublimating itself in displacement, trajectory and temporality—topics we will re-

visit shortly. The aforementioned constancy and movement of places are ultimately asymptotic: both fixedness and mobility are reduced to states of dynamic motion with varying intensities, cadences and spatial ranges<sup>2</sup>.

The constitutive feature of itinerant ontology is its spatio-temporality, conceived as a state of unstable equilibrium (in which departures and returns counterbalance each other), and its formally flexible frame of reference. It is for this reason that, beyond the tourist version, we can distinguish sub-ontologies within itinerant ontology: quasi-settler, traveller, refugee, emigrant, among others. In one archetypal variant—clearly exceeding the bounds of tourist “reality”—the aforementioned unstable equilibrium is replaced by a paradigmatic imbalance. In this context, and in reference to the second epigraph of this essay, it is worth recalling Bella Szwarzman-Czarnota’s dilemmas [2024, pp. 15-16]:

How should Deutscher’s *bon mot* be understood? Did he mean that wandering, migration and exile belong inalienably to the condition of the Jew? Is it a curse or a value, a prerequisite for development? From Abraham, who left his “father’s house” to reach the Promised Land, through the exodus from Egypt, the expulsions from Spain and Portugal, to today’s journeys to Israel, to Poland, to America in search of family histories, cultural affinities, or traces of the Holocaust, we wander, we move, we leave one place to find ourselves in another.

Voluntary wandering ontology includes the sub-ontologies of travel and tourism, while forced wandering ontology covers those of banishment, refugeehood or emigration. A slightly different approach to these themes is proposed by Rosi Braidotti [1994, p. 5], who introduces an in-depth nomadic discourse:

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<sup>2</sup> A comprehensive, partly alternative and more advanced problematisation of the mobility perspective is outlined by Karolina Koprowska [2024, pp. 25-26]; let us quote this overview *in extenso* as a possible backdrop for conceptualising tourist “reality” in the mode of motion: “[The mobility perspective encompasses] a broad range of issues: from the many forms of displacement and metaphorisation of movement that define the condition of both human and non-human actors in socio-cultural reality, to globally influenced processes and transformations that shape the contemporary geopolitical and socio-economic landscape, or impact specific cultural practices. [...] A notable example here is the revision of anthropological assumptions, moving away from the belief that cultures are embedded within fixed territorial boundaries, toward reflections on ‘shifting locations’ (Akhil Gupta, James Ferguson), or on the relationality and decentralisation of ‘terrain’ (James Clifford). The mobility paradigm challenges the theoretical and operational viability of the category of place, leading to its relativisation. It is grounded in an affirmation of space as defined by relationships of fluid and intersecting liminal positions/situations (Michel Foucault), produced through social practices and their associated conceptual and symbolic modes of representation (Henri Lefebvre), or finally shaped by the flow of people, labour, and capital, as well as by the global circulation of information, ideas, and images (Zygmunt Bauman, Arjun Appadurai, John Urry). As a result, space is no longer contained within the territorial boundaries of nation-states or ethnic groups, but instead emerges through the interdependencies and tensions between global and local phenomena”.

Though the image of “nomadic subjects” is inspired by the experience of peoples or cultures that are literally nomadic, the nomadism in question here refers to the kind of critical consciousness that resists settling into socially coded modes of thought and behaviour. Not all nomads are world travelers; some of the greatest trips can take place without physically moving from one’s habitat. It is the subversion of set conventions that defines the nomadic state, not the literal act of travelling<sup>3</sup>.

Although we will return to the question of intentionality a little later, in the context of a “moved” ontology of tourist “reality”, let us allow ourselves one more deepening and broadening of its explication—this time drawing on the reflections of the contemporary French philosopher Renaud Barbaras [2003] and his topoontological project of phenomenology. As Iwona Lorenc summarises [2024, pp. 78, 75]:

The ontological position (that longed-for certainty, the permanence of one’s own existence) towards which a being strives—at the price of separating from itself—is achieved in the movement of perpetual abandonment [...] of one’s own fragile phenomenal identity, an impermanent conformity to the ways in which the phenomenon gives/shows itself. [...] [The] intentionality of the subject, in Barbaras’s terms, is inextricably linked to the notion of movement; it is an uninterrupted negation of reality [...]. In the world, something can only obtain a place through the movement of transcending ontic terms in favour of its ontological belonging to the world. Intentionality founds the subject’s position as distinct from its natural position, its place; through the mobility of this position, the transcendental subject can participate in the world and, at the same time, depart from it. Clearly, this concept of intentionality is not about the mere spatial displacement, but about “being according to anticipation, a movement of appropriating over-taking”. The subject appropriates a part of the world while simultaneously being appropriated by it.

Would this not serve as a remarkable “ontological showcase” of the tourist as such? *A contrario*, let us enrich the problem of spatially defined identity with Ryszard Nycz’s diagnosis [2017, p. 123] referring to the condition of Polish society after the Second World War as: “a displaced, deterritorialised, and dislocated society. A society in which (almost) no one is ‘at home’, in their own place, in their own environment; a society whose members can be deprived of their place at any moment, and/or who owe their place to

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<sup>3</sup> And to elaborate further, following Rosi Braidotti [1994, p. 24]: “On a more general level, the history of ideas is always a nomadic story; ideas are as mortal as human beings and as subjected as we are to the crazy twists and turns of history. The figure of the nomad, as opposed to the exile, allows us to think of international dispersion and dissemination of ideas not only on the banal and hegemonic model of the tourist or traveler but also as forms of resistance, as ways of preserving ideas that may otherwise have been condemned to willful obliteration or to collectively produced amnesia”.

new authorities”. Barbaras’s topoontological project of phenomenology and Braidotti’s postulated nomadic state may thus prove less apt for interpreting tourist “reality” under oppressive conditions, where taming and rooting—i.e. ontological belonging to a place, even if negotiated through violence and coercion—do not generate mechanisms of differentiation and mobility [cf. Koprowska 2024, p. 11].

### ***Tourist “reality” exists in a discrete/pulsating manner***

Despite a certain permanence, the phenomenality of tourist “reality” is paradoxically subtle—discrete, intermittent, periodic, one might even say *pulsating* [see Fig. 3]. The temporary presence or activation of the essential subjectivity (in the form of a visitor or tourist), along with the transient contextualisation of reality (i.e. the manifestation of the tourist metaverse in question), testify to ontological discontinuity. This does not, however, constitute a situation semantically marked as negative. Let us recall one of René Thom’s reflections *expressis verbis* [1991, p. 94]:

[The] aim of any scientific theory is the explication of some empirical (experimental) morphology. By altering the initial conditions of a given process, one obtains within a certain spatial domain a body of empirical data—recorded as written documents, numerical tables, or photographic images. The space in which these forms appear constitutes the spatial substrate of this morphology. “Explanation” refers then to any procedure that reduces the arbitrariness of description. One need only recall the starting point of *Gestalt-Theorie* to realise that the discontinuities within morphology are precisely its most expressive—and often its most stable—elements. It may seem paradoxical that discontinuities exhibit stability, yet this is an experimental fact: as proof, just imagine e.g. the contour of a solid object, whose visible outline remains constant. From this perspective, then, the primary task of any morphological interpretation is to identify the discontinuities of the morphology and the stable components within those discontinuities.

The *caesuras* in the pulsation of tourist “reality” are precisely the discontinuities of its morphology—discontinuities that, in a way, constitute it. It is not unlikely that the ontology of tourist “reality” belongs, to a greater extent—and with all due respect to the scientific disciplines concerned with space, including the Earth science—to the group of ontologies of temporality.

If one were to classify the mode of existence of tourist “reality” according to categories of temporality, one could employ, for instance, the formal criterion of “time resistance” proposed by the philosopher Roman Ingarden (1893-1970) [Ingarden 1962, pp. 216-267; Ingarden 1987, p. 413]. This criterion could also serve to assess the stability of the “contours” of that “reality”—in this case, the temporal scope of (dis)continuity in the validity of a given morphology. In *Controversy over the Existence of the World*, In-

garden proposes existential entitlements of objects distinguished according to the criterion of temporality. Objects, things and artefacts exhibit varying degrees of susceptibility to the passage of time: from ephemeral events, through more stable processes, to “time-resistant” objects enduring in time (OETs). In this vein, let us consider the tourist “reality”, which is often conceived as a sequence of events. An event is the occurrence of a particular state of affairs or objective situation, marked by internal coherence and the presence of phases, and typically of relatively short duration; in a word—an event does not extend beyond the span of “one concrete now”. A sequence of such “nows” could constitute a distinguishable “reality”, although the order, pace, frequency and compatibility of its phases remain to be determined. Tourist “reality” is sometimes likened to a process, i.e. a phenomenon constituted by a growing totality of phases unfolding over time, in which individual phases follow one another continuously, taking place in ever-new temporal intervals. This continuous succession of phases persists for as long as the process itself takes place. In short, tourist “reality” would resemble the mode of existence of phases—that is, continuous transience—



**Figure 3.** Crab nebula and pulsar (time: 6:57 a.m., date: 20 Sep. 2021).

**Source:** public domain – Online: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crab\\_nebula\\_and\\_crab\\_pulsar\\_composite.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crab_nebula_and_crab_pulsar_composite.jpg)/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license [accessed: 18 Jul. 2025].

thus becoming constituted in the act of happening, as a continually renewed actualisation. Finally, some scholars might argue that tourist “reality” is best understood as an object enduring in time (OET) which, in turn, is capable of outlasting individual moments, existing longer than events and remaining identical (in its core content—as will be discussed below) across successive moments of its existence. In this respect, it differs from a process, insofar as it can preserve its identity and at times even render past states present again. The persistent core of a OET is, of course, not immune to change and transformation due to temporal conditions and the dynamics of the surrounding world; its boundaries are in constant flux throughout its actual existence. Let us, however, set aside the question of whether tourist “reality” can be reduced to an object.

### ***Tourist “reality” exists intentionally***

Edmund Husserl [1913] postulated that the human being exists in an “already meaningful world”, which reveals “its meaning through intentional acts of directedness towards it” [as cited in: Lorenc 2024, p. 115]. Paul Ricœur (1913-2005), in turn, refined this idea regarding the “primordial character of the subject’s belonging to the world towards which its intention is directed” with the observation: “the one who asks the question is part of the very matter being questioned” [as cited in: Lorenc 2024, p. 114; see also Ricœur 1985]. This kind of “receptive dispositionality”, stemming from the subject’s relational intentionality, is marked by anticipatoriness—that is, by meaning that is structured and legitimised through preliminary intuition and concept. Once again, let us turn to the insightful analysis of the Warsaw philosopher Iwona Lorenc [2024, pp. 114–115]:

Interpretation understood in this way—placing the interpreter *in medias res*—unfolds as an open process within the field of intersubjectively and historically interpreted culture. This is not, of course, a matter of a historically stratified layer of artefacts superimposed upon the “natural” processes of world perception, but rather of the sphere of meaning-oriented explication that is intrinsic to our being-in-the-world. In reading the “text of the world”, we come to understand our own entanglement within that text. The *Lebenswelt* is not a “collection of manipulable objects”, but “the horizon of our life and our project”<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> It is worth reinforcing the cited argument with a reflection by Tim Ingold [1993, pp. 152-153]: “For both the archaeologist and the native dweller, the landscape tells – or rather *is* – a story. It enfolds the lives and times of predecessors who, over the generations, have moved around in it and played their part in its formation. To perceive the landscape is therefore to carry out an act of remembrance, and remembering is not so much a matter of calling up an internal image, stored in the mind, as of engaging perceptually with an environment that is itself pregnant with the past”.

The final phrase ought to be treated as an epistemological lesson that scholars of tourist “reality” have yet to learn. By way of counterpoint—how sardonically Robert Byron [2014, p. 168] comments on this very intentionality:

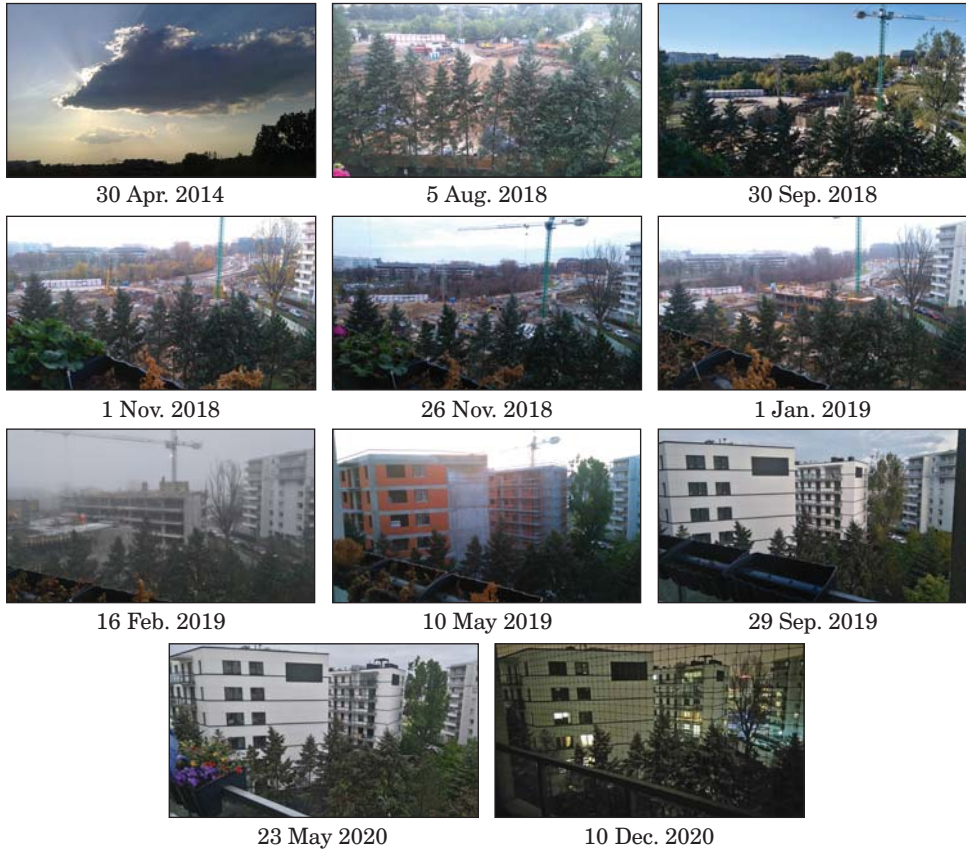
We know these modern travellers—overgrown class prefects and dreary pseudo-scientists—dispatched into the field by cliques of burnt-out civil servants to determine whether the dunes sing and the snow is cold. They enjoy unlimited funding and the backing of assorted government institutions; they reach the remotest corners of the world; and what do they contribute to the expansion of our intellectual horizons, other than to confirm that yes, the dunes do sing and the snow really is cold? [...] If I were truly wealthy, I would establish a prize for the sensible traveller: ten thousand pounds for the first person to retrace Marco Polo’s route while reading three new books a week, and another ten thousand if he drank a bottle of wine a day. Such a man would have something to say about his journey. He need not be a born observer—but at the very least, he would know how to use his eyes and would feel no urge to embellish his report with tales of thrilling adventures that never happened, or with hollow, pseudo-scientific jargon.

### ***Tourist “reality” exists in a non-essential (luxurious) mode***

Let us expand our reasoning by an argument drawn from the Kraków philosopher Józef Lipiec (1942-2024) and his *Ontologia świata realnego* [Ontology of the Real World] [Lipiec 1979, pp. 144-145, 159, 232-316]. The essential/core content of a thing or reality lies in the web of relations between stable, non-neutral, and to some extent, unchanging elements that determine the condition of a given being—in this case, tourist “reality”. It is the continuity, the persistence of the object’s essence, that determines its identity. Any weakening or interruption of that continuity results in a disruption of identity—hence, a fragmentation takes place of the being’s duration into separate stages of existence of entirely different objects. The scale of permissible change—an indicative absorptiveness of variability that does not yet translate into a disturbance of the internal order and structural cohesion of a thing, which is held together by binding relations that are as attractive as they are stabilising—is defined by a critical point. Upon reaching or surpassing this point, a transformation of the given being’s identity (phenomenon, process, or object enduring in time) occurs.

Given the modes discussed earlier, it seems that tourist “reality” is regulated by permanent critical points that transform its mode of existence not only in functional terms [*per analogiam* – see Fig. 4]. A critical point signifies a change on the structural level, a transformation of the essential/core content—that is, the deep structure responsible for maintaining the identity of things. If we are seeking a shared ontology for tourism studies—that is, for one of the domains of tourist “reality”—then we are still engaged in the

task of determining its essential/core content. Hence, at least for the time being (!), the mode of existence of this “reality” must be described as ad hoc, luxurious, situational and contextual.



**Figure 4.** Sequence of identity changes concerning the view outside the window of the author’s former flat.

**Source:** author’s archive.

A personalised borderland discourse between maintaining and losing identity, i.e. along the line of negotiating the validity of a given ontology, is articulated by Karolina Koprowska [2024, p. 17] in a variably conclusive mode:

... a dissonance between being “oneself” and being “someone else”, which may inspire at least three distinct solutions: first, a negation of the assigned identity by means of an emancipatory gesture, resulting in a sense of loss of what is retroactively recognised as its enduring quality [i.e. the essential/core content mentioned above – M.M.’s note]; secondly, an attempt to con-

front both dimensions of identity, facilitating the exposure and negotiation of cultural essentialisms, ultimately leading to a stance of distance towards any form of belonging [that is, to some extent, the nomadic state according to Rosi Braidotti – M.M.’s note]; third, the development of possibilities for integrating identity idioms through continuous translation, while preserving the “selfhood” as the centre of difference and distinctness [that is, all attempts to reconcile and harmonise differing paradigms – M.M.’s note].

***Tourist “reality” exists non-autonomously (in four-fold fashion)***

In the final ontological inquiry into tourist “reality”, let us again draw on Roman Ingarden’s argument—albeit a different one than previously employed—presented in the first volume of *Controversy over the Existence of the World* [Ingarden 1962, pp. 93-149]. Namely, this tourist “reality” exists non-autonomously because:

- First: it exists heteronomously, that is, in a non-self-contained manner—because the qualifications of tourist “reality” are ascribed to it solely from the outside, so it does not possess *raison d’être* in itself. The external perspective is epitomised here by the figure of the stranger, the temporary traveller, for whom the “reality” only then comes into being. The assumed “stranger’s gaze” is equivalently captured by the following passage [Ugniewska 2022, p. 75]:

Venice is rapidly becoming depopulated—the historic centre today has barely thirty thousand residents—yet it is filled with the shadows of famous people: Olga Rudge, the widow of Ezra Pound, lived here; Peggy Guggenheim founded her famous museum; Henry James wrote his Venetian novels; and Ernest Hemingway wrote *Across the River and Into the Trees*. It was here that Wagner died, symbolically closing the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the death of Diaghilev marked the end of the era of the Ballets Russes. While literary characters created by Boccaccio, Shakespeare, and James are no less real, it is especially the fates of Andreas Hofmannsthal and Mann’s Aschenbach that gain depth and melancholy in the context of Venice. They embody, as in the case of the protagonist of Thomas Mann’s novella, the motif of decline so dominant in the image of Venice.

- Second: it exists derivatively, in a non-primary manner—because tourist “reality” can only come into existence as the effect of something else (such as cultural heritage or tourist infrastructure); it is not self-originating. Let us illustrate this as follows [Ugniewska 2022, p. 77]:

Paradoxically, one should seek the naturalness of Venice not in its “stones”, that is, its topography and architecture, but in painting—a representation more real than the city’s illusory life.

- Third: it is not self-contained *sensu stricto*—because tourist “reality” presupposes the co-presence of the subject as a necessary condition

for being. It comes into presence only through its axiomatic recipient: the tourist. In the unreduced version, that subject is heterogeneously and dynamically conceived nomad as figuration [Braidotti 1994, p. 4]:

of a situated, postmodern, culturally differentiated understanding of the subject in general and of the feminist subject in particular. This subject can also be described as postmodern/industrial/colonial, depending on one's locations. In so far as axes of differentiation such as class, race, ethnicity, gender, age, and others intersect and interact with each other in the constitution of subjectivity, the notion of nomad refers to the simultaneous occurrence of many of these at once.

- Fourth: it is dependent—because tourist “reality” remains constantly determined and conditioned in its existence by something else (in this case, the syntagmatic axis of “here – there”). Once again, let us turn to a classic of written culture [Steinbeck 1963, pp. 171-172]:

On a certain day in the shouting springtime, great clouds of orangy Monarch butterflies, like twinkling aery fields of flowers, sail high in the air on a majestic pilgrimage across Monterey Bay and land in the outskirts of Pacific Grove in the pine woods. [...] For a long time, Pacific Grove didn't know what it had. Then gradually it was remarked that an increasing number of tourists were drawn to see the butterflies. Where there are tourists there is money, and it is a sin to let it drift away. Pacific Grove had a gravy train right in its lap. And the butterflies came free. [...] It all works out very nicely. The pageant is in the ball park and tourists can buy butterflies made out of every conceivable material from pine cones to platinum. [...] In all history there has been only one slip upblunder. In 1924, I think it was, the butterflies did not come, and the frantic town was forced to print hundreds of thousands of paper butterflies in two colours and spread them all over. Today a wise city government keeps a huge supply of paper Monarchs on hand in case tragedy should strike again

## The Coda

Let the final word in this essay be given to Iwona Lorenc [2024], as a gesture of gratitude for her recently published book *Niepewność fenomenu. Fenomenologia w horyzontach nowoczesności* [The Uncertainty of Phenomenon. Phenomenology in the Horizons of Modernity], which enabled the author of this essay to revisit—after many years—the remarkable lectures attended over a quarter of a century ago at the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw. These lectures were delivered by Zdzisław Augustynek, Andrzej Bednarczyk, Tomasz Bigaj, Tadeusz Gadacz, Józef Krakowiak, Włodzimierz Lorenc, Andrzej Miś, Mieczysław Omyła, Zofia Rosińska, Adam Sikora and Zbigniew Zwoliński, and the book allowed for

a renewed reflection on some of the issues concerning tourist “reality” discussed here. As Iwona Lorenc [2024, p. 16] notes:

The culture of late modernity is marked by an aporetic, internally antagonistic nature. What most aptly expresses this is not so much any formula of a supposed universal meaning (although even this claim has not entirely lost its relevance), but rather a peculiar dialectical play of tensions: between essence and appearance, between depth and surface, between the sensual and the rational, between communal and individualised ways of understanding and being in the world, and between ever-renewed normative projects and the experience of the radical fluidity of the cultural reality that surrounds and co-constitutes the modern individual. [...] All attempts to permanently integrate these elements into coherent wholes or to reduce the aforementioned tensions are doomed to ephemerality and dispersion.

In the light of the above, the author of this essay does not, of course, intend—on departing—to contest the postulate of seeking a shared (*sic!*) ontology and epistemology of “tourist” reality.

Dropping anchor, in the positive sense, demands considerable stamina, especially when the seabed proves to be shifting and the waters turbulent. In such cases, the act of dropping anchor must be repeated. No less effort is required in weighing the anchor when circumstances indicate it is time to seek other stable ground. Retrieving the anchor from the bottom is hardly a pleasant task—cognitively speaking as well. One may therefore wish for patience and fortitude in this endeavour.

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## FINANCE OR HEALTH? MAIN LIMITATIONS OF SENIOR TOURISM IN THE SUBCARPATHIAN VOIVODSHIP: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

*Vasylyna Petrovets\**

### Abstract

**Purpose.** The purpose of the study is to identify factors limiting participation in tourism activities and their impact among people of post-working age in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship.

**Methods.** In the research, conducted on a non-randomly selected group of 166 residents of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship from October 2022 to June 2023, a hybrid PAPI method and an author-designed survey were used.

**Findings.** The results show that financial factors (42.11%) are the most significant barriers to tourism for seniors in the region residents' opinion. Statistically significant correlations were found between demographic factors such as gender, education and place of residence, and limitations such as lack of free time or transportation ( $p=0.009$ ). In the study, differences were also revealed between opinions about seniors among residents who enjoy travel and those who participate in tourism, highlighting how demographic factors influence their travel engagement. A difference was observed between factors limiting tourist activity of respondents who like to travel and respondents who participate in tourist trips.


**Research and conclusions limitations.** In the research, only the subjective opinions are taken into account of residents from the Subcarpathian Voivodeship regarding restrictions on tourism carried out by senior citizens in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship.

**Practical implications.** A group of key factors limiting tourism among seniors from the Subcarpathian Voivodeship is indicated in the research. These findings can serve as helpful material in tailoring tourism offerings to the post-working age group from the Subcarpathian region.

**Originality.** No similar studies covering limiting factors and socio-demographic conditions of residents have been conducted in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship to date. In the study, proprietary questionnaire based on similar studies conducted in other voivodeships in Poland was used.

**Type of paper.** In the article, presented are the results of empirical research.

**Keywords:** limitations, seniors, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, tourism, Poland.

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## Introduction

Ageing and old age are becoming increasingly important topics of discussion for many authors of literature on the subject. According to the Central Statistical Office (GUS - Główny Urząd Statystyczny), Poland's population will reach 375 million in 2025 and will fall to 33.9 million in 2060, with the rate of decline continuing to increase. In addition, the CSO clarifies the concept of the post-productive age population. According to the assumptions, post-productive age persons were considered to be those over 65 years of age among men and those over 60 years of age among women. The productive age was divided into mobile (18-44 years) and immobile. The organism's ageing process is natural and physiological, however, the factors affecting it lead to a faster degradation process of the organism's structures. It is estimated that by 2060, the population of Poland will decrease by 9.6%. The number of people of working age will decrease by up to 30%, while the number of seniors will increase by approximately 11%, resulting in 10.07 million people over 65 years of age [Górna 2015; Osiński 2013; Potyra et al. 2023]. Around 25-30 years of age, a person enters a period of slow ageing of the body. This process is characterised by a progressive deterioration of organ and system functions. The body's ability to cope with injury, infection or overload decreases [Żołądź et al. 2011]. Statistical data paint a picture of a society that is progressively ageing, with a growing group of senior citizens and the elderly, necessitating research into these phenomena and a gradual reorganisation of the support services working for older people. Injuries and falls among seniors are the biggest problems affecting older people. The effects of injuries are not only limited to the somatic health aspect, but often also affect the psychological and socio-economic sphere of the senior citizen.

Biological factors are mainly related to the multimorbidity of this group, including visual, hearing and balance impairments [Wierzbicka et al. 2017]. Features of biological ageing also include changes in the anatomical and functional properties of the skeletal muscle, such as a reduction in muscle mass and strength of contraction, atrophied muscle innervation, changes in muscle fibre contractility and numerous alterations at cellular and enzymatic levels [Budzińska 2005]. Ageing has a direct impact on changing quality of life among seniors. Health-related quality of life refers to both physical and psychosocial dimensions. It is difficult to define, as it is made up of many factors such as living conditions, social and cultural needs, as well as economic situation and others [Babicz-Zielińska et al. 2021]. Tourism and recreation can improve quality of life to varying degrees, but some groups, such as seniors, may be limited in undertaking this activity. The Subcarpathian Voivodeship has significant potential for the development of senior tourism [Nizioł 2016; Zielińska-Szczepkowska 2021; Gierczak-Korzeniowska et al. 2022]. According to a report by the Central Statistical

Office (GUS) from 2024, approximately one-fifth of the inhabitants of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship were of post-productive age. Among seniors, as in the entire population, women predominated (51.7% of the total population). A 65-year-old man had a predicted 16.1 years of life ahead of him, while for 60-year-old women, the average life expectancy was 24.4 years. A larger number of seniors lived in urban areas, which results in a smaller proportion of people engaged in agricultural and farming activities [GUS 2024].

One option for spending free time away from professional duties is tourism and recreation. Centres supporting senior citizens' activities, including tourism and recreation, include the Ministry of Family and Social Policy with its Senior+, Active+ and Senior Support Corps programmes (Gierek 2023), the Local Government of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship, which implements the Social Assistance Programme for 2024-2030, the Association of Friends of the University of the Third Age with the 'Senior Healthy Be-

**Table 1.** Factors limiting tourist activity of seniors

Category	Most frequently cited reasons restricting tourist activity
Physical limitations	Bad health (chronic diseases, mobility difficulties, fear of deterioration of health under the influence of strenuous travel or due to climate change). Difficulties in overcoming the distance barrier.
Economic limitations	Low income, spending on health care, medical treatment, accumulating funds for purposes perceived as more practical, financially supporting children, grandchildren.
Social limitations	Acceptance of traditional life roles: caring for grandchildren or being ready to help in emergencies. Attachment to stereotypes ("I'm too old for this"). Responsibilities – caring for an ill family member, working on the farm, caring for the garden, involvement in community service, professional work. Difficulties in using new technologies. General low mobility due to upbringing in a political system imposing a top-down framework for the trips made, not conducive to the implementation of foreign travel. Low level of education. Lack of support from the environment, both loved ones and institutional assistance.
Mental limitations	Fear of being in a new, unfamiliar environment, including a language barrier. Coming to terms with limitations and an attitude of withdrawal, less desire to explore the world. Personality traits – introversion. Life experiences – low tourist activity in the past. Fear of travel, especially air travel.

**Source:** own research based on E. Grzelak-Kostulska, B. Hołowiecka, G. Kwiatkowski.

cause Active' programme, and the 'Pro Carpathia' Association. Activating and integration trips are organised as part of the activities of the Universities of the Third Age in Rzeszów, Łańcut and Stalowa Wola, among others, as well as numerous rural housewives' clubs and church organisations (Szluz 2024). In their research, E. Grzelak-Kostulska et al. [2011] divide all factors limiting the tourist activity of seniors into several groups: physical, economic, social, and mental limitations, providing an elaboration for each of them (Tab. 1).

Health is, in the individual and social senses, one of the overriding values (at least in the sphere of declarations). However, no less significant (especially in the sphere of motivation) are autotelic values, which go far beyond the sphere of health concerns. Equally important are issues related to experiencing pleasure, passion and joy brought by movement and active recreation [Kowalska et al. 2015]. For example, active tourism is practised as part of physical (motor) recreation. When describing physical recreation, the following characteristics can be mentioned: activity, voluntariness, disinterestedness, pleasure, which define the wide social range of this phenomenon [Karaś et al. 2021; Herbert et al. 2022]. According to Kwilecka & Kunicki [2015], barriers to physical recreation originate from cultural, economic, intellectual and psychological factors. In the research by Ossowski et al. [2012] and Li et al. [2016], it was shown that financial or leisure barriers are among the most well-known constraints, as they strongly influence seniors' decisions to travel.

Despite many unfavourable changes, both in the purely physical (biological) and psycho-social spheres of seniors brought about in old age, viewing the ageing process solely through the prism of what is lost is a serious misconception that should be combated [Kowalczyk-Anioł, 2011]. Overcoming financial barriers and those caused by a lack of free time is a very difficult matter, as it requires long-term, systematic influence on people's consciousness, eliminating old habits and customs, replacing them with new ones. These must go far beyond just this barrier and involve overcoming other constraints. Only such measures can multiply the effectiveness of promoting physical culture and a physically active lifestyle [Kowalska et al., 2015]. The increase in the length of human life and in the proportion of senior citizens living to a very advanced age, the gradual improvement in their state of health enabling them to remain fit and functionally independent for a long time to come should be seen as an achievement of modern civilisation. This will be all the greater if we learn to use it in a valuable way [Kowalczyk-Anioł, 2011]. Broadly defined limiting factors such as physical, economic, social and mental create opportunities for the development and modernisation of the tourism industry. In research by Stanimir & Przybysz [2024], it was shown that companies from the tourism sector, including those from the Subcarpathian Voivodeship, perceive demographic changes related to the ageing of society and actively respond to them.

## Study aim

The main research problem is the increasing tourism movement of people in the post-working age group. In addition, the adaptation of the tourism offer to the changing socio-demographic conditions of the population living in the region of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship. The aim of the study was to identify the factors limiting tourism activities and their impact among people of post-productive age in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship in residents' opinions. Research questions: 1. Which factor most restricts seniors from engaging in tourism activities?; 2. What is the difference between those who are interested in travelling and those who participate in tourist trips? The research was also aimed at testing the relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of Subcarpathian Voivodeship residents and opinions about limiting factors. Two hypotheses were used to test the relationship: H0 – Opinions about limiting factors are not dependent on socio-demographic characteristics; H1 – Opinions about limiting factors are dependent on socio-demographic characteristics. In addition, the correlation between socio-demographic characteristics of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship's residents and opinions about limiting factors was tested. Two hypotheses were applied in testing the correlation: H0 – Opinions about limiting factors do not correlate with socio-demographic characteristics; H1 – Opinions about limiting factors correlate with socio-demographic characteristics.

## Material and methods

The research material consisted of Subcarpathian Voivodeship residents' opinions on factors limiting tourism activity in the post-productive age group in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship. The PAPI (Paper and Pencil Interviewing) and CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) subjective method on a randomly selected sample group were used in the study. Non-random sampling by age category was also implemented among residents of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship. A survey questionnaire was used as a research tool, comprising a part of questions concerning the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and a part with a modified Likert scale. The study involved 179 people of various ages from 18 to 65+, who expressed their opinions on the limitations of tourism activities for seniors. The 166 correctly completed survey questionnaires were qualified for statistical analysis. The online survey system "Microsoft Forms" was used in the research, and survey questionnaires were printed on A4 sheets. In addition, the University of the Third Age was involved in the research by providing a survey questionnaire to senior students.

## Statistical analysis

To analyse the results of the study, the author used Microsoft Excel 2016 and Statistica 13.3 statistical analysis software. The group of respondents was characterised in terms of descriptive statistics by calculating the following indicators: Abundance (n), Median (Me), Dominant (D), Dominant Count (Dn), Lower Quartile ( $Q_1$ ), Upper Quartile ( $Q_3$ ), Quartile Interval (IQR) and Quartile Deviation (QD). Response variants were coded according to numerical ranks in ascending order (response variant a) = 1; b) = 2; c) = 3; d) = 4; e = 5; f) = 6). Standardisation of the results by means of weights assigned according to gender was used in the study, and GUS data from 2023 on the gender of the inhabitants of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship were applied in the calculations. The relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of residents and opinions about limitations was verified using Pearson's  $\chi^2$  dependence test for non-parametric data ( $p < 0.05$ ) with Yates correction. The result was calculated using the formula:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{(|O_j - E_j| - 0.05)^2}{E_j} \quad (1)$$

where,

$\chi^2$  – Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test;

$O_j$  – abundance observed for the group;

$E_j$  – abundance expected for the group;

– 0.05 – Yates correction.

Subsequently, Spearman's non-parametric R correlation coefficient ( $p < 0.05$ ) was used to test for correlations between socio-demographic characteristics of residents and opinions related to limitations. In interpreting the result of Spearman's R, correlation strength was applied for  $|r|$  0.00-0.10 - no correlation; 0.10-0.39 - weak correlation; 0.40-0.69 - moderate correlation; 0.7-0.89 - strong correlation; and 0.9-1.00 - very strong correlation. The type of correlation was determined by  $r > 0$  - positive correlation;  $r = 0$  - no correlation;  $r < 0$  - negative correlation [Schober et al. 2018]. All results are presented using multivariate tables.

## Results

After initial verification, 166 questionnaires were qualified for statistical analysis, including 106 (63.86%) from women and 60 (36.14%) from men. Descriptive statistics on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, grouped by gender, are presented in Table 2. In Table 2, it is shown that both 75% ( $Q_1 = 3.00$ ) of the female respondents and 75%

( $Q_1=3.00$ ) of the male respondents had at least a high school education. The highest number ( $D=2.00$ ) of respondents in the study had incomes between 1,000 and 3,490 PLN·month<sup>-1</sup> brutto. Among both the male and female respondents, 25% ( $Q_1=1.00$ ) were rural residents. On the other hand, among residents of large urban areas, a higher percentage of the respondents were women ( $Q_3=4.00$ ). However, the largest proportion of respondents ( $D=2.00$ ;  $Me=2.00$ ;  $\pm 1.5QD$ ) were from cities of up to 50,000 inhabitants (Tab. 2).

**Table 2.** Description of the group in terms of sociological and demographic characteristics by gender

Variables	Females							
	n	Me	D	Dn	Q <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>3</sub>	IQR	QD
Education	106	3.00	3.00	47	3.00	4.00	1.00	0.50
Income	106	2.00	2.00	46	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.00
Size of residence	106	2.00	2.00	31	1.00	4.00	3.00	1.50
Variables	Males							
	n	Me	D	Dn	Q <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>3</sub>	IQR	QD
Education	60	3.00	3.00	26	3.00	4.00	1.00	0.50
Income	60	2.00	2.00	17	2.00	3.00	1.00	0.50
Size of residence	60	2.00	2.00	23	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.00

**Note:** n – Abundance; Me – Median; D – Dominant; Dn – Dominant count; Q<sub>1</sub> – Lower quartile; Q<sub>3</sub> – Upper quartile; IQR – Quartile Range; QD – Quartile deviation.

**Source:** own research.

The result of Pearson's  $\chi^2$  dependence test with Yates correction ( $p<0.05$ ) is shown in Table 3, as well as and Sperman's R correlation coefficient ( $p<0.05$ ) between the socio-demographic data and the respondents' declarations of interest in travelling and active travelling. It is noted that 92.77% of respondents are interested in travelling, while a slightly lower percentage (86.75%) take an active part in travelling. Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test indicated a statistically significant ( $p<0.05$ ) dependence between respondents who take active participation in travel ( $\chi^2=17.45^*$ ), while the results of Spearman's R test showed no correlation between the values. The correlation coefficient test for non-parametric data suggests a statistically significant correlation ( $p<0.05$ ) between size of residence and interest in travelling ( $r=-0.16^*$ ) and active travelling ( $r=-0.18^*$ ). The correlation is weak ( $0.1<r<0.39$ ) and proportionally negative ( $r<0$ ). No correlation was found between the other socio-demographic characteristics, i.e. gender, education and income, and interest in travelling or active participation in travels.

**Table 3.** Statistical significance for the correlation coefficient between demographic data and respondents' declarations about travel

Variables	Interested in travelling		Active participation in travelling	
	n = 154 (92.77%)		n = 144 (86.75%)	
	Pearson's $\chi^2$	R Spearman's R	Pearson's $\chi^2$	Spearman's R
Sex	1.08	0.08	0.95	0.08
Education	2.24	-0.10	1.98	-0.10
Income	7.56	-0.06	17.45*	-0.09
Size of residence	5.68	-0.16*	6.79	-0.18*

**Note:** \* – statistically significant result at  $p < 0.05$ .

**Source:** own research.

In Table 4, opinions are demonstrated regarding the impact of various limiting factors on seniors in according to Subcarpathian Voivodeship residents. In this table, it is shown that the financial factor has the greatest impact on taking up tourism activities, accounting for 24.85% of the respondents believing it has a very high impact and 40.00%, a high impact. Next, on a similar level are the limiting factors responsibilities (12.20% – very high impact; 28.66% – high impact) and lack of time (12.00% – very high impact; 26.83% – high impact). Factors that did not influence seniors' decisions include other limiting factors not mentioned in the questionnaire (59.15% – no influence) and a limiting factor related to the lack of a means of transport (45.12% – no influence). Among the respondents, 36.59% think that health problems of seniors have no influence, and 17.07% believe that they have very little influence on the decision to participate in tourism. Only 6.71% said that health problems have a very high impact on senior travel.

**Table 4.** Opinions about the impact of limiting factors on the group of traveling seniors in undertaking tourist activities

Modified Likert scale	FP	LOT	HP	LOC	LOMT	RES	OTH
No impact	16.36	24.39	36.59	33.54	45.12	21.95	59.15
Very low impact	8.48	14.02	17.07	21.34	16.46	9.76	14.63
Low impact	10.30	22.56	25.00	23.17	19.51	27.44	19.51
High impact	40.00	26.83	14.63	15.24	14.63	28.66	4.88
Very high impact	24.85	12.20	6.71	6.71	4.27	12.20	1.83

**Note:** results are presented in %. FP – financial problems; LOT – lack of time; HP – health problems; LOC – lack of companionship; LOMT – lack of means of transport; RES – responsibilities; OTH – other limiting factors.

**Source:** own research.

In Table 5, on the other hand, the results of Pearson's  $\chi^2$  with Yates correction test ( $p < 0.05$ ) between socio-demographic variables of respondents and opinions on seniors' limitations in tourism are shown. It is demonstrated that the limiting factors related to lack of companionship ( $\chi^2 = 27.99^*$ ) and lack of means of transport ( $\chi^2 = 34.40^*$ ) are dependent on incomes. This relationship is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). Also observed was a dependency between lack of time and incomes ( $\chi^2 = 33.22^*$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ) and a dependency between financial problems as well as size of the residence ( $\chi^2 = 26.63^*$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ). Other combinations of socio-demographic characteristics with limiting factors showed no relationships.

**Table 5.** Statistical significance for the correlation coefficients between demographic data of respondents and opinions about limiting factors in the group of traveling seniors

Variables	FP	LOT	HP	LOC	LOMT	RES	OTH
Sex	-0.12	0.00	0.00	-0.08	-0.08	-0.01	0.06
Education	-0.17*	-0.17*	-0.06	-0.10	-0.27*	-0.13	-0.14
Income	-0.18*	-0.10	-0.06	-0.20*	-0.25*	-0.04	-0.09
Size of residence	-0.25*	-0.17*	-0.10	-0.14	-0.24*	-0.08	-0.19*

**Note:** \* – statistically significant result at  $p < 0.05$ . FP – financial problems; LOT – lack of time; HP – health problems; LOC – lack of companionship; LOMT – lack of means of transport; RES – responsibilities; OTH – other limiting factors.

**Source:** own research.

The results of Spearman's R correlation coefficient test for non-parametric data are given in Table 6. It is demonstrated that all of the statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) correlations observed are weak ( $0.1 < r < 0.39$ ) and proportionally negative ( $r < 0$ ). A statistically significant correlation ( $p < 0.05$ ) was observed between education and financial constraints ( $r = -0.17^*$ ), lack of time ( $r = -0.17^*$ ) and lack of means of transport ( $r = -0.27^*$ ). In addition, a weak ( $0.1 < r < 0.39$ ) and proportionally negative ( $r < 0$ ) correlation was noted between education and duties ( $r = -0.13$ ) and other factors not mentioned in the questionnaire ( $r = -0.14$ ), but it was not of statistical significance ( $p > 0.05$ ). A statistically significant correlation ( $p < 0.05$ ) was also observed between income and financial constraints ( $r = -0.18^*$ ), income and lack of companionship ( $r = -0.20^*$ ) and income and lack of means of transport ( $r = -0.25^*$ ). In contrast, the size of place of residence does not correlate ( $r < 0.1$ ) only with constraints related to responsibilities ( $r = -0.08$ ). Statistically significant correlations ( $p < 0.05$ ) were seen between size of residence and financial constraints ( $r = -0.25^*$ ), lack of time ( $r = -0.17^*$ ), lack of means of transport ( $r = -0.24^*$ ) and others not mentioned in the questionnaire ( $r = -0.19^*$ ). In contrast, the weak ( $0.1 < r < 0.39$ ) and proportionally

negative ( $r < 0$ ) correlations between size of residence and health problems ( $r = -0.10$ ) and lack of companionship ( $r = -0.14$ ) did not show statistical significance ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Table 6.** Result of Spearman's R correlation coefficient between socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and opinion about limiting factors of seniors

Variables	FP	LOT	HP	LOC	LOMT	RES	OTH
Sex	2.72	3.57	2.87	2.35	2.06	1.09	2.10
Education	17.89	17.95	12.03	27.99*	34.40*	15.96	9.58
Income	25.19	33.22*	16.80	25.38	16.42	15.49	10.03
Size of residence	26.63*	24.82	16.54	23.16	22.19	25.24	25.01

**Note:** \* – statistically significant result at  $p < 0.05$ . FP – financial problems; LOT – lack of time; HP – health problems; LOC – lack of companionship; LOMT – lack of means of transport; RES – responsibilities; OTH – other limiting factors.

**Source:** own research.

Additionally, similarity was observed in Pearson's  $\chi^2$  dependence test with Yates correction and Spearman's R correlation coefficient test for non-parametric data regarding the cases of dependency and correlation of financial problems with size of the residence ( $\chi^2 = 26.63^*$ ;  $r = -0.25^*$ ) and lack of means of transport and education ( $\chi^2 = 34.40^*$ ;  $r = -0.25^*$ ). The result of both the dependency and the correlation is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Discussion

The main aim of the study was to identify factors limiting seniors in making decisions related to tourism on the example of residents from the Subcarpathian Voivodeship. A similar aim was pursued by Grzelak-Kostulska et al. [2011] in their study entitled "*Problem aktywności turystycznej seniorów*" [Eng. The Problem of Seniors' Tourism Activity; orig. text in Polish]. In collecting respondents' opinions on their individual behaviour and views, the authors of the study used a similar survey method in the PAPI technique – Paper and Pencil Interview – as the authors of present research. Questionnaire interviews for the 2011 study were conducted in several towns of different sizes and in rural areas of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship. The author of the present study carried out an interview in a similar manner in areas of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship with the additional use of the CAWI method. In the analysis of the results, the author also considered the division between those interested in travelling and those active participate in travelling. In addition, a modified five-point Likert scale was applied in present survey questionnaire. When describing the limiting factors that

make travelling difficult for seniors in the research by Grzelak-Kostulska et al. [2011], the following barriers were taken into account: finances, lack of time, health problems, lack of companionship, lack of means of transport, responsibilities, other and lack of obstacles. Identical factors in addition to lack of obstacles were considered in the present research. Using a five-point Likert scale, it was possible to determine the degree to which seniors were restricted by a specific barrier, which was crucial in verifying the research objectives. Financial problems were perceived as one of the most important limitations to undertaking tourism activities among Polish seniors in studies by various authors [Bał 2011; Gryszel et al. 2012; Dubińska 2015; Szpara 2015; Zielińska-Szczepkowska & Samusjew 2015; Bielecka & Parzonko 2016; Zawadka 2016; Zawadka 2019]. In the study by Grzelak-Kostulska et al. [2011], the financial problems were also the most influential, as in present study (64.85%). In second place were health-related problems in the study by Grzelak-Kostulska et al., and responsibilities as well as lack of time in the present research. In third place was the barrier related to lack of companionship in both studies.

The issue regarding the influence of economic factors on people's participation in undertaking tourist travel is obvious and considered one of the most important [Głabiński, 2020]. In the study by Taloş et al. [2021] on Romanian seniors, a significant positive relationship was exhibited between preferred holiday period and income level, which shows that seniors with progressively higher incomes went on holiday in the more expensive months of the year and closer to the peak tourist season. A high percentage (48.3%) of those choosing the off-season months for holidays were those earning less than 1,000 (€205) RON·month<sup>-1</sup> and 39% of those earning between 1,000 (€205) and 2,000 (€410) RON·month<sup>-1</sup>.

In our study, a statistically significant, weak correlation was found between seniors' lack of time and the size of their place of residence ( $r=-0.17^*$ ), which may be due to a lower burden of household chores for those living in larger urban areas. These burdens include household chores, i.e. raising livestock, including cows, sheep, chickens, horticulture and agricultural activities, which largely satisfy seniors' need for physical activity, as described by Duck et al. [2019] in their study. On the other hand, Gao et al. [2014] highlighted the relationship between education level and willingness to purchase a mode of transport. In their research, a statistically significant correlation was observed between low level of education and willingness to purchase a means of transport, which is confirmed in present study - as the level of education increases, the influence of the limiting factor related to the lack of a means of transport decreases ( $r=0.27^*$ ). The correlation in present research is also statistically significant.

Considering health status, on the other hand, publications by authors Hunter-Jones & Blackburn [2007] and Hillman [2013] indicate that tour-

ism activities have a positive impact on seniors' subjective self-assessment of health status, as well as on life satisfaction and overall quality of life. This relationship is in fact bidirectional, as the health status of older people influences decision-making related to travel destinations and the forms of activities undertaken at the tourist destination. People who evaluate their health well are more likely to succumb to push motivations. In contrast, those with a poorer assessment of their health, among whom mobility limitations are most important, choose trips that are closer in distance and those that require less physical exertion or forgo trips altogether [Głabiński 2020]. Another study by Stanimir & Przybysz [2024] was conducted not among a group of seniors, but among a group of 47 exhibitors at a travel fair in Wrocław. The results were analysed using the SAL (Association and Link Analyses) technique. Indicated was the significant influence of limiting factors on the decision-making of senior citizens, such as those regarding health problems or limited mobility. Also, the desire to stay at home among the group of people interested in tourism but not travelling was one of the main factors, in addition to insecurity having key influence on the uptake of tourism activities. In present study, it was shown that constraints related to health problems were at the top of the limiting factors having very little (17.07%) or no influence (36.59%) on tourism. In a study by Tiamiyu [2021], conducted on a sample of 195 Malaysian seniors with potential knowledge of booking systems, e.g. Airbnb, the aim was to find a correlation between motivations (intrinsic and extrinsic) and behavioural actions of an older tourist in booking accommodation. The study supported the hypothesis that a sense of connectedness among older tourists may lead them to use Airbnbs more frequently.

The majority of authors studying the issue of limiting factors among seniors, as well as the author of the thesis, use a survey questionnaire as a tool to elicit responses from the sample group. This is justified by ease of reaching the study group and clarity when conducting this research among seniors.

## Conclusions

1. Residents of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship responded that there are fewer seniors actually actively participating in traveling than those interested in traveling.
2. Financial problems restrict the practice of tourist activities among seniors in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship to the greatest extent.
3. Other factors not mentioned in the survey questionnaire have the least impact on seniors' travel.

4. Financial problems are dependent on, and correlate with, the size of place of residence. Financial problems decrease when the size of the residence increases. The result is statistically significant.
5. Lack of means of transportation is dependent, and correlates with education. Lack of means of transportation decreases when education, income and size of city of residence increase. The result is statistically significant. However, there was no statistically significant correlation between lack of means of transportation and income and size of residence.
6. Lack of companionship decreases when income increases. The correlation is statistically significant, while there is no statistically significant dependence.

Research limitations: In the research, only the subjective opinions of residents of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship are taken into account regarding restrictions on tourism for senior citizens in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship.

In order to better illustrate the problem, it is necessary to continue research among a larger group of residents from the Subcarpathian Voivodeship. In addition, research should be conducted directly and exclusively among people of post-productive age residing in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship.

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# PRODUCT INNOVATION MANAGEMENT IN HEALTH TOURISM – THE CASE OF CANNABIS THERAPY IN THE R & D IMPLEMENTATION AND DEPLOYMENT PROCESS – GOOD PRACTICES


*Monika Knefel\**

## Abstract

**Purpose.** The objective of the article is to present good practices in the field of cooperation involving an innovation broker within an innovation ecosystem, which resulted in a joint research initiative implemented as an R&D project. The implementation of this initiative was a response to a market need in the area of pain treatment using cannabis. The aim of the article is to promote cooperation between science and business; at the same time, it constitutes a case study and allows to highlight a research gap concerning how to connect ecosystem stakeholders in order to create new value through effective management of the product innovation creation process in health tourism. The outcome of this cooperation was the commercial implementation of research results in the form of a product innovation—cannabis therapy as a method of pain treatment using cannabis at a health resort. In the article, it is demonstrated how innovation was managed throughout the entire process, from conducting research and developing a health tourism product to the stage of its commercialisation.

**Method.** The research methodology applied in the project was based on the use of a comparative research method, involving two equal groups—a study group and a control—comprising a total of 200 participants. Laboratory test results of biological material (blood and urine), treated as objective data and collected before and after participation in the therapy, were subjected to quantitative statistical analysis. In addition, subjective assessments of pain intensity were analysed and also subjected to quantitative statistical analysis. Based on the obtained conclusions and observations, innovative therapeutic solutions were developed, prototyped and tested in the form of cannabis-based pain therapy. The second layer of the article constitutes a case study illustrating how an interdisciplinary team of experts, by combining their experience under the coordination of an innovation broker, developed and implemented a new health tourism product on the market.

**Findings.** The results of the research and development (R&D) work allowed for positive verification regarding the research hypotheses and the development of a new health tourism product. The analysis of the implemented outcomes concerning the innovative cannabis therapy in health tourism demonstrated its effectiveness in improving patients' health by reducing musculoskeletal pain and increasing patient satisfaction. It was also confirmed that the introduction of innovation in the form of new complementary products, as examples of good practices, generates measurable economic and social benefits, as evidenced by the positive research results. Furthermore, the effects of the innovation broker's role in the industry was demonstrated in the study. This involves integrating the potential of ecosystem participants and creating new value.

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**Research and conclusions limitations.** Limitations in research and inference were related to constraints arising from project implementation rules and the COVID-19 pandemic period. The comparative method does not account for all possible contextual variables, which may limit the validity of the conclusions.

**Practical implications.** The research results were introduced to the market as *Cannabis Therapy*, contributing to increased competitiveness of the spa facility and differentiating its offer in the market. The findings also demonstrate how the actions of an innovation broker can support the development of the industry and the participants of the innovation ecosystem.

**Originality.** The originality of the research lies in introducing an innovative approach to health tourism through the use of cannabis therapy as a complement to traditional spa treatments. The approach combines R&D results with practical solutions that address the growing demand for natural treatment methods while taking current legal regulations, industry standards and market trends into account. It also promotes cooperation and joint activities among innovation ecosystem participants in the process of creating innovations.

**Type of work.** This publication is part of Research and Development project No. RPSW.01.02.00-26-0025/18 entitled “*Improving Quality of Life by Reducing Pain Levels in Degenerative Diseases of the Spine and Peripheral Joints*”, carried out at TERMA Słowacki Resort Medical SPA in Busko-Zdrój<sup>1</sup>. The project was implemented under the Regional Operational Programme of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship for 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund. In this article, the results of R&D activities are presented in the context of developing and commercially implementing innovative solutions in health tourism, as well as examples of good practices.

**Keywords:** innovations in tourism, innovation broker and innovation ecosystem, research and development, sulphide waters, cannabis therapy

## Introduction

In recent years, we have witnessed the dynamic development of health tourism as one of the most promising segments of the tourism sector. In response to the growing needs of aging societies and the demand for treatment methods based on natural resources, an initiative was undertaken to develop innovation in health tourism. Innovation management is a key element of the operations performed by contemporary enterprises, particularly in the context of the health tourism sector. Innovation management encompasses the entirety of management methods and instruments aimed at fostering and sustaining innovative as well as creative attitudes among employees. It is defined as an organisational capability to effectively manage innovation and changes within its systems. Innovation management is associated with planning, organising, leading and controlling individual activities that together constitute the innovation process. It includes core management functions such as planning, decision-making, organising, leadership, motivation and control. Effective innovation management also requires the designation of managers responsible for the implementation process, ensuring appropriate information flow and coordination across different management levels [Kokot-Stepień 2017, pp. 222–225].

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The primary objective of innovation management is to provide an economic entity with a competitive advantage through the introduction of new solutions [Kokot-Stepień 2017, pp. 227–228]. Innovation management is focused on managing the entire innovation process, understood as a sequence of interactions beginning with idea generation, followed by implementation and dissemination of ideas (product, technological, market and organisational), accompanied by specific internal and external socio-economic effects [Pirnar 2024, 395], including cooperation with an innovation broker.

The role of the innovation broker in managing product innovation—particularly in the context of health tourism and innovation ecosystems—is crucial and multidimensional. The innovation broker acts as a connector, catalyst and distributor of information, leading to effective collaboration and the creation of new value.

Cooperation with an innovation broker—as a person integrating information on ongoing research and its potential with the needs of entrepreneurs in the health tourism industry for new and innovative solutions—resulted in the establishment of collaboration with the scientific community and another enterprise engaged in the processing of industrial hemp. In this context, innovation management in the tourism and health sector gains particular importance, encompassing the entire process from idea generation, through the achievement of successive levels of technological readiness (TRL), to the market introduction of research results. This approach aligns with the broader framework of smart specialisation policies [Knefel 2024, p. 105] and knowledge-based economy.

### **Theoretical framework for innovation management in health tourism**

Innovations in the health tourism sector are no longer merely an add-on to core services, but have become a key element of competitiveness. Health tourism represents a rapidly developing segment of the tourism market, integrating elements of medical, recreational and wellness services. In the academic literature, it is defined as a form of travel undertaken to improve physical or mental health, often through the use of medical services, alternative therapies, rehabilitation as well as wellness treatments [Lubowiecki-Vikuk 2018, p. 17].

Unlike traditional forms of tourism, innovations in health tourism primarily concern the health-related offer—its quality, therapeutic effectiveness and potential for personalisation—rather than the travel experience itself. The development of new products and services in this sector therefore requires the integration of medical, technological and managerial knowledge.

The concept of innovation is defined in two ways. The first perspective emphasizes the tangible dimension of innovation as an outcome in the form of a new product, service, production method or model of business organisation. The second perspective highlights innovation as a processual sequence of events, beginning with the emergence of an idea, followed by research and development and design, and concluding with production and dissemination [Sopińska 2013, p. 1]. Thus, innovation is of dualistic nature, which is also reflected in the description of both the creation process and the outcome in the form of a new therapy, understood as innovation management.

Innovation management, which constitutes a key source of competitive advantage for contemporary enterprises regardless of their size or sector, is based on an understanding of the dual nature of innovation—both as a process and as a result. The classical definition of innovation formulated by Joseph Schumpeter, which serves as a theoretical foundation for economics, focused on the tangible dimension of innovation, encompassing a broad range of changes, from the introduction of new products and technologies to new sales methods, the use of raw materials or organisational modifications [Szymańska 2015, p. 1009].

The theoretical approach to innovation, continued by researchers such as Rosenberg, Drucker and Gault, has evolved from simple linear concepts to complex network-based systems. Early models, dating back to the 1950s, were linear in nature and assumed that innovations were either “science-pushed”, where progress resulted from basic research, or “market-pulled”, responding to identified consumer needs. It was soon recognised, however, that a unilateral linear approach was insufficient. New-generation models were proposed, beginning with coupling models, which assumed interactions and feedback loops between individual elements (science, the market and enterprises). Subsequently, in response to the growing complexity of the environment and the need for continuous adaptation, integrated and networked systems emerged, characterised by flexibility and ongoing responsiveness to consumers [Szymańska 2015, pp. 1010–1012].

Over the past decade, approaches emphasizing openness and user participation have gained particular importance. The concept of open innovation, introduced by Henry Chesbrough, assumes that companies should actively seek ideas and solutions not only within their organisations, but also in the external environment, among partners, institutions and customers [Pirnar 2024, p. 395]. This model depicts innovation as a process in which new ideas originating both inside the firm and from its surroundings lead to the creation of new products or markets. Complementary to this approach is the model of user-driven innovation (UDI), which emphasizes that consumers play an increasingly significant role in shaping market offerings by actively participating in the creation of the products and services they purchase [Szymańska 2015, p. 1011].

In economic literature, innovativeness is recognised as a driving force of development and a key factor of competitive advantage in the tourism market. Despite the dynamic growth of the sector, there is a noticeable shortage of scientific studies in which innovation in health tourism is addressed. Research on innovation in tourism, initiated by authors such as A.M. Hjalager, is relatively young [Godlewski 2021, pp. 82–83]. Existing analyses of health tourism are often empirically oriented, while holistic conceptual studies remain scarce. An introduction to innovation issues in health tourism can be found in the works of Panasiuk, Panfiluk and Szymańska [Panasiuk 2016, pp. 24–25; Szymańska 2017, p. 567]. Innovations in tourism services inherently overlap, encompassing product, process, marketing, organisational and social innovations [Panfiluk 2017, p. 115].

Innovation theories in tourism assume that the key source of competitive advantage is no longer solely the attractiveness of a destination, but rather the ability to offer comprehensive, high-quality services that respond to the growing health needs of society [Czerw 2010, p. 25]. One contemporary theoretical approach is the tourism innovation model proposed by M. Knefel [Knefel 2018a, p. 216], which emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary expert teams in creating innovation in health tourism as a smart specialisation. This model integrates knowledge from medicine, biotechnology, physiotherapy and innovation management, creating space for research and implementation cooperation at the intersection of science, business support institutions and enterprises [Dryglas et al. 2019, p. 55].

Innovations based on research results not only enhance the effectiveness of therapeutic services but also contribute to local economic development and strengthen the brand of health tourism destinations [Kachniewska 2009, p. 113]. The effective development and commercialisation of innovation—from seeking inspiration, identifying market needs and gathering information on existing cooperation potential, through securing research funding, obtaining necessary permits, conducting patient-based research, analysing results, testing and prototyping new therapies, developing patient service models and implementing technologies supporting service personalisation—constitute key challenges for contemporary organisations. Innovation in this sector involves not only technology but also the ability to adapt, integrate knowledge from various disciplines and create value for the patient-customer. Innovation management in health tourism is a process that requires not only technological progress but also effective management of the conceptualisation and execution of R&D activities through to implementation. It involves skilfully combining interdisciplinary medical, managerial, economic, social and tourism-related knowledge [Alejziak 2022, p. 198; Lubowiecki-Vikuk 2018, p. 20].

However, a significant research gap has been identified concerning the role of the innovation broker in managing innovation in the health tourism

sector, particularly in the context of promoting cooperation between science and business. More specifically, this gap relates to how stakeholders within the innovation ecosystem can be connected in order to create new value through effective management of the product innovation creation process in health tourism.

Through effective cooperation with an innovation broker within the innovation ecosystem, the potential of its participants was integrated, generating added value in the form of a new therapeutic treatment. Consequently, the role of the innovation broker 2.0 also includes co-creating solutions, participating in the development of research concepts, their implementation, statistical analysis of research results and involvement in the commercialisation process [Knefel 2018b, p. 133]. Thus, the innovation broker's role encompassed accurate identification and analysis of problems, selection of an interdisciplinary expert team and effective utilisation of knowledge, which helped eliminate existing technological barriers and led to the preparation of a patent application [Knefel 2018a, p. 216]. Moreover, effective management of the innovation creation process made it possible to achieve a synergy effect in the creative search for methods to modify treatments, as well as develop new treatments and cosmetics based on cannabis.

Innovations in health tourism are characterised not only by innovative approaches to treatment methods, including openness to entirely new therapeutic directions previously absent from traditional spa offerings, but also by the search for new active ingredients and ways of utilising natural resources (such as peloid mud or medicinal waters), as well as the inclusion—examined in this study—of industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L., cultivar Glyana). The research covered, among others, therapies supporting the treatment of civilization-related diseases, neurodegenerative conditions and psychosomatic disorders associated with musculoskeletal pain.

An important aspect of innovation in health tourism is its social dimension. Therapeutic programmes implemented within health tourism contribute to tangible improvements in the quality of life of patients and participants, positively affecting their physical and mental well-being. Notably, treatments included in comprehensive health programmes demonstrate high effectiveness based on scientific research results, making them a valuable complement to traditional spa-based therapeutic stays.

The economic and business context of implementing innovation in health tourism is also worth emphasizing. The development of modern health services generates new jobs—not only for specialists in medicine, physiotherapy and psychology, but also for support, administrative and technical staff. This results in a diversified labour market that is attractive to individuals with varying levels of education and professional competencies. In the long term, innovative health tourism can become a significant factor in the socio-economic development of regions where health resorts operate, contrib-

uting to revitalisation, increased investment and enhanced attractiveness of local health and recreational service offerings [Dryglas 2023, p. 5].

In innovation management within the health services sector, international standards and innovation readiness assessment tools also play an important role. Of particular significance is the Oslo Manual [OECD & Eurostat 2018, p. 21], which classifies innovations according to their nature and indicates that product-process innovations are the most desirable in health services. Innovations resulting from R&D activities have the potential to significantly expand the range of health tourism services.

Innovation management in health tourism is closely linked to knowledge management—both explicit and tacit—held by numerous interdisciplinary actors within the innovation ecosystem [Knefel 2018b, p. 137]. However, the condition for their market success is not only effectiveness but also the ability to transform research results into a market offer that responds to needs and solves identified problems. In health tourism, product innovations (e.g. the introduction of new treatments or changes in accommodation services) and process/managerial innovations are dominant [Panfiluk 2016, pp. 66–67]. In terms of directions for developing innovative services and business models that account for sustainable tourism progress [Niezgodna 2008, p. 84; Lubowiecki-Vikuk 2020, p. 13], it is particularly important to expand services that integrate elements of medicine, wellness and natural bioactive resources—such as industrial hemp.

## Research methodology

As part of the project research described in this article, the research methodology was based on the implementation of research and development (R&D) activities supported by comparative studies. As part of the project, innovative modifications of treatments involving new therapeutic solutions were developed and patented as an invention (P418153 “Method for reducing hydrogen sulfide release from sulfur baths”, for which exclusive rights were granted under Patent No. 234306). Subsequently, the method underwent a medical experiment conducted on patients under the supervision of the Medical Bioethics Committee in Kielce.

The comparative study involved conducting a comparative analysis regarding two groups of 100 patients each (200 participants in total), differentiated by sex and age, ranging from 40 to 75 years, all diagnosed with degenerative diseases of the spine and peripheral joints. At the recruitment stage, patients completed an initial questionnaire and underwent a medical consultation. Based on the diagnosis and clinical indications, the physician qualified patients for participation in the study and randomly assigned them to either the study or the control group. Contraindications included,

among others, oncological episodes within the previous five years, as well as acute inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract. The structure of the groups is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Group structure

<b>Group characteristics</b>	<b>Study group</b>	<b>Control group</b>
Sample size	100	100
– Women	69	61
– Men	31	39
Mean age [years]	60.5	60.4
Mean body mass [kg]	78.3	80.2
Mean height [cm]	166.3	165.8
Mean BMI [kg/m <sup>2</sup> ]	28.3	30.2

**Source:** authors own elaboration.

Patients in the study group participated for two weeks in spa-based therapeutic treatments supplemented with industrial hemp, whereas the control group received standard treatment methods. In the study, the effectiveness of two therapeutic programmes was assessed: traditional rehabilitation methods and innovative methods using hemp. The latter included baths in hemp infusions, massages with hemp oil, drinking cures in the form of hemp tea, and sulphide baths with hemp oil and plant-based glycerine according to a patented formula. The objective was to determine which method more effectively reduced pain symptoms.

The research gap concerning the subject of the study related to market innovation, as the therapeutic properties of industrial hemp are approached with caution and hemp had not previously been used in spa medicine. Only preliminary indications could be found in the scientific literature [Kaniewski et al. 2017, p. 141; Wiczorek et al. 2022, p. 3].

The research hypotheses formulated during the R&D process assumed that the application of the new therapy would reduce perceived pain by 25-50% within 2-3 weeks of treatment. In addition, a reduction of metabolic and inflammatory factors in the blood by 10-15% was anticipated. The research results confirmed these hypotheses, indicating the effectiveness of the proposed innovations.

In both groups, treatment effectiveness was assessed using standardised pain scales: VAS, Laitinen and WOMAC [Głowacka 2023, pp. 120–122], as well as through subjective evaluations of the treatment and its outcomes. Additionally, laboratory tests were conducted, including measurements of uric acid, glucose, lipid levels and inflammatory markers. After completion of the therapy, its effectiveness was evaluated through questionnaires, pain scales, functional

tests and laboratory analyses. Development work also included the formulation of recommendations for the implementation of the new therapy, its testing and validation in real-world conditions. The results were implemented as a new service offering—“Hemp Therapy”—which contributed to increasing the competitiveness of the facility and the personalisation of health services.

The research faced limitations, including those related to prevailing project implementation regulations and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected accessibility and conditions for conducting the studies. Despite these obstacles, the results positively confirmed the effectiveness of the developed methods, paving the way for further advancement of modern therapies and solutions in health and health tourism.

### **Research results – new treatment directions in health tourism as a result of R&D implementation**

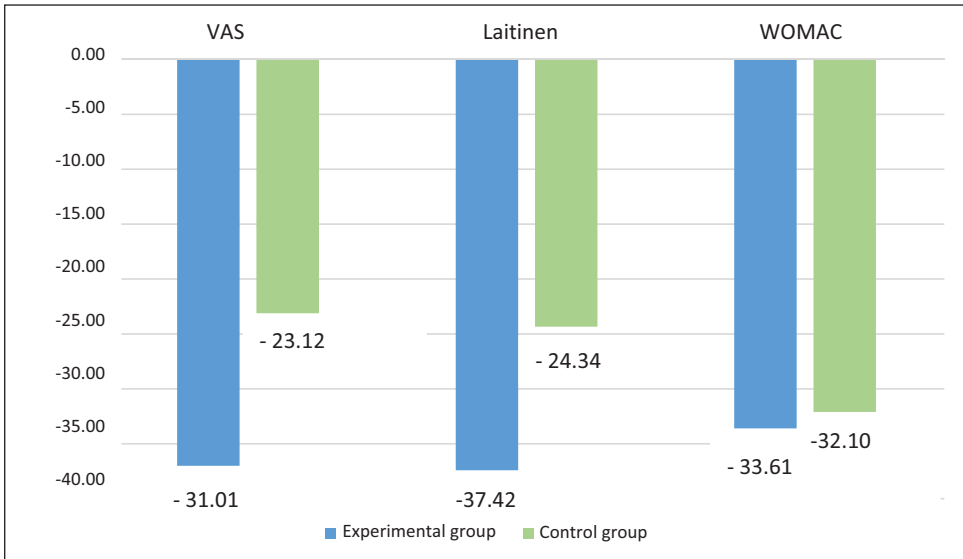
The use of properties related to industrial hemp—particularly in pain relief—as a complementary element to traditional therapeutic methods in health tourism, resulting from research and development (R&D) implementations, significantly enhances the attractiveness and effectiveness of the provided services.

Hemp is a plant with a long history of medicinal use, accompanying humanity for approximately 12,000 years. Around 10,000 years ago, it was already employed for therapeutic purposes, including treatment of malaria, constipation, muscle pain and other pain-related ailments [Kaniewski 2017, p. 141; Wieczorek 2022, p. 2].

The health-promoting properties of industrial hemp (fibrous hemp) arise from the presence of various cannabinoids, including cannabidiol (CBD). Cannabinoids have proven analgesic effects [Kaczmarczyk-Sedlak 2017, p. 9], which were utilised to reduce pain perception in degenerative diseases of the spine and peripheral joints. A pain reduction of 25-50% was demonstrated in the research for the experimental group after the first stage of testing, and in some cases, even over 50% after the second stage, as assessed by the VAS, Laitinen and WOMAC scales.

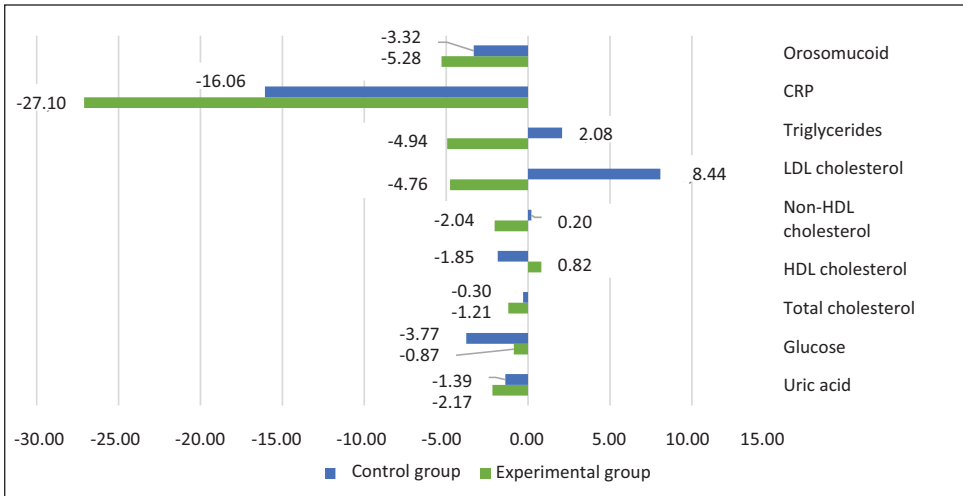
The average pain reduction in the experimental group was 2.65 points on the VAS, compared to only 1 point in the control group. On the WOMAC scale, the pain score decreased by 15.31 points in the experimental group, versus 11.49 points in the control group. On the Laitinen scale, the reduction was 2.59 points in the experimental group and 2.12 points in the control group. These data are illustrated in percentage terms in Figure 1.

Importantly, the therapeutic effect persisted longer in the experimental group compared to the control group. The most effective treatments were hemp baths, sulphur baths with the addition of hemp oil and crenotherapy combined with manual techniques such as massage with hemp oil.



**Figure 1.** Level of pain reduction according to different scales in the experimental and control groups.

**Source:** own elaboration.



**Figure 2.** Percentage change in laboratory test results after therapy.

**Source:** own elaboration.

In addition to analgesic effects, industrial hemp exhibits a range of other beneficial properties, such as anti-inflammatory activity. In the study, a decrease was recorded in the average CRP level (an inflammation marker) by 27.1% in the experimental group, exceeding the assumed minimum reduction of 10-15%. CBD also demonstrated efficacy in treating psoriasis,

confirming its significant anti-inflammatory potential, as well as its role in bone tissue regeneration and repair. Sulphur baths supplemented with hemp oil facilitate sulphur absorption into the body, which is a key component in the formation of chondroitin sulphate in joint cartilage. This accelerates bone regeneration and repair processes.

In the study, further confirmed was the therapy's positive effect on metabolism. Sulphur baths with hemp oil, as well as baths and crenotherapy with hemp infusions, beneficially influenced cholesterol, triglyceride and orosomucoid levels. A reduction in uric acid levels was also observed, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Moreover, improvements in mental health and overall quality of life were noted. Enhanced quality of life was reported in 90% of participants in the experimental group, with 42% experiencing significant improvement and 48% slight improvement. Patients reported increased satisfaction, improved comfort in daily functioning and reduction or alleviation of symptoms.

The industrial research and development work was aimed at acquiring new knowledge and skills and to develop a new therapeutic programme, which is crucial for innovation. The obtained results not only positively verified the research hypotheses but also formed the basis for the development of new, innovative therapies in health tourism, particularly in pain management and enhancement of patients' overall quality of life. The next stage involved their successful commercialisation.

### **Best practices, barriers and challenges in the market implementation process**

In the process of implementing innovations in health tourism, it is essential to apply best practices that help eliminate barriers and respond to the evolving challenges of the market [Nieżgoda 2019, p. 293]. Especially during the initial phase, it is crucial to closely monitor the effectiveness of individual marketing communication tools and to develop the most effective actions. Equally important is grounding promotional messages on key hooks, while simultaneously listening to and responding to customer needs [Misner 2016, p. 92]. Innovation brokers play a significant role in this process, as they connect and integrate the innovation ecosystem by providing information on potential collaboration opportunities, initiating cooperation among representatives of different environments, and facilitating interactions within the sector, for example, between enterprises [Dryglas et al. 2019, p. 55].

An interesting example of best practice in implementing innovations in health tourism is the development of a hemp-based peeling product, an original cosmetic-therapeutic item used both as an alternative to therapy in a preventive capacity or as its complement [Rab-Przybyłowicz 2014, pp. 32-33].

The hemp peeling was created based on an analysis of the biological properties of hemp seed oil (*Cannabis sativa* L.), which contains, among others, vitamin E—a potent antioxidant—as well as vitamins A, D and K that support epidermal regeneration and skin immunity, phytosterols that reinforce the skin’s lipid barrier and reduce inflammation, and unsaturated fatty acids with regenerative properties for the skin. Additionally, hemp cake contains magnesium, zinc, calcium and iron. The combination of these properties acts multidimensionally: exfoliating dead skin cells, improving microcirculation, moisturizing and regenerating the skin, and providing anti-inflammatory and soothing effects. The hemp peeling exemplifies best practices where science, nature, and customer needs converge in an effective market implementation, enhancing interest in the offered innovation.

An innovative approach to service design may also be based on the creation of so-called micro-brands of a given destination [Kachniewska 2014, p. 28], which leverage local resources and knowledge to create a unique value proposition [Alejziak 2021, p. 522]. An example of good practice in this regard is the implementation process based on the coherence and comprehensiveness of the overall message and the perception of the offer. Therefore, parallel activities were undertaken to develop formulations for a line of hemp-based cosmetics under the proprietary brand “Konopny Zdrój.”

Therefore, parallel efforts were made to develop formulations for a line of hemp cosmetics which serve as an attractive complement to the offer, functioning both as an extension of therapeutic effects and as prevention or a gift, encouraging customers to become brand ambassadors.



**Figure 3.** Example of good practice.

**Source:** <https://konopnyzdroj.com/> (accessed 15 May 2025).

Despite numerous positive examples, the innovation implementation process faces various barriers. Among the most significant are social stereotypes and concerns about psychoactive effects associated with therapies, treatments or cosmetics. Hence, education and popularisation of natural treatment methods, including those using hemp-based products, are vital—yet represent a considerable challenge for those involved in introducing new therapeutic programmes.

## Conclusion

The successful implementation of innovations resulting from R&D activities in the health tourism sector requires not only appropriate organisational and financial preparation, but also cross-sectoral cooperation, openness to change and a willingness to take risks. These factors are crucial for achieving a sustainable competitive advantage and improving the quality of treatment as well as patient satisfaction. The dual nature of innovation management is presented in the article, illustrating both the initiatives of the innovation broker in fostering ecosystem cooperation and the R&D implementation process leading to the commercial deployment of a product.

### Theoretical implications

The research contributes to the advancement of theoretical knowledge in several areas:

- 1. Innovation management and the innovation ecosystem:** The article constitutes a case study in which a research gap is revealed related to connecting ecosystem stakeholders in order to create new value through effective management of the product innovation process in health tourism.
- 2. Innovation modelling in health tourism:** The study aligns with the latest theoretical approaches, such as M. Knefel's innovation model, which emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary expert teams in creating innovation in health tourism as a smart specialisation. This model integrates knowledge from medicine, biotechnology, physiotherapy and innovation management.
- 3. Filling the research gap:** The originality of the research lies in introducing an innovative approach to health tourism through the use of cannabis therapy as a complement to traditional spa-based treatment methods. To date, there has been a clear shortage of scientific studies on innovation in this sector, and market innovations involving the therapeutic properties of industrial hemp had not been applied in spa medicine.

4. **The role of the innovation broker:** In the study, it is demonstrated that innovation brokers play a key role as intermediaries between ecosystem actors and as distributors of information on potential collaboration, particularly between scientific institutions and business entities.

### Practical implications

The implementation of R&D results has significant and tangible implications for practice:

1. **Effectiveness and market differentiation:** The implementation of cannabis therapy as a product innovation in health tourism demonstrated its effectiveness in improving patients' health by reducing musculoskeletal pain and increasing patient satisfaction. The commercial deployment of research results in the form of "cannabis therapy" contributes to enhancing the competitiveness of the health resort and differentiating its market offer.
2. **Social and economic benefits:** The introduction of innovations in the form of new complementary products generates measurable economic and social benefits. The development of modern health services creates new jobs and may become an important driver of socio-economic development in regions where health resorts operate.
3. **Recommendations for innovation management:** It is recommended to support the creation and development of innovation ecosystems that foster cooperation between scientific institutions and enterprises, which can significantly accelerate the commercialisation of research results. Moreover, an innovative approach to service design may be based on the development of so-called destination micro-brands that leverage local resources and knowledge.
4. **Practical barriers:** Managers implementing innovations must address barriers such as social stereotypes and concerns about the psychoactive effects of cannabis-based products. Therefore, education and the promotion of natural treatment methods are of key significance.

### Limitations and directions for future research

During the project implementation, certain limitations were encountered, which provide a basis for defining future research directions:

1. **Research limitations:** Limitations stemmed from project implementation requirements and challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected research conditions. The comparative method used did not account for all possible contextual variables, which may have limited the validity of the conclusions.
2. **Directions for therapy development:** The positive research results obtained provide a foundation for the development of new, innovative

therapies in health tourism, particularly in the area of pain management and improving patients' overall quality of life.

3. **Development of ecosystem cooperation:** Further strengthening of cooperation involving innovation brokers is recommended, especially in their role as connectors between ecosystem representatives from science and practice.
4. **Interdisciplinarity of projects:** Interdisciplinary projects integrating health, tourism, management and technological knowledge should be further developed, as innovations based on research results increase the effectiveness of therapeutic services and strengthen the destination brand.

Innovations that combine natural elements with modern scientific knowledge and technology represent a distinctive advantage in the increasingly demanding health services market.

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# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF NATURE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY PROTECTION IN THE TATRA MOUNTAINS AND PODHALE REGION

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## Abstract

**Purpose.** The study objective was to analyse and assess the role of sustainable tourism in natural environment protection and supporting the local community in the Tatra Mountains and Podhale region.

**Method.** Four research methods were employed in the study: participant observation, a diagnostic survey with 350 respondents, interviews and a review of source materials to ensure a comprehensive analysis and methodological triangulation.

**Findings.** Excessive anthropopressure may threaten the environment of the Tatra Mountains, while mass tourism in Podhale may negatively affect the local population. In the research, these effects have been suggested, highlighting conflicts between tourists and residents.

**Research conclusions and limitations.** Qualitative methods may be subject to researcher bias. Measuring the precise impact of anthropopressure requires long-term ecological studies, limiting conclusion accuracy. This is partially mitigated by the combined use of surveys, interviews, and observation.

**Practical implications.** The findings support sustainable tourism policies, helping authorities balance tourism with environmental protection and local well-being. In this study, data for conservation programmes and ecological monitoring are also provided.


**Originality.** Unlike broad studies on sustainable tourism, this research is focused on an ecologically sensitive region and both environmental and social conflicts arising from mass tourism are examined.

**Type of paper.** Research article, case study.

**Keywords:** sustainable tourism, Tatra Mountains, anthropopressure, conflicts, environmental protection.

## Introduction

Tourism in protected areas such as the Tatra National Park plays a crucial role in the economic development of the Tatra and Podhale regions. However, its intensification comes with numerous environmental and social challenges. The increasing number of tourists, inappropriate travel practices and lack of awareness regarding sustainable tourism can lead to environmental

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degradation and negatively impact the local community. Therefore, proper management of tourist traffic is essential to ensure a harmonious coexistence between the tourism sector and the protection of the natural environment.

The aim of this article is to analyse and assess the impact of sustainable tourism on the natural environment and the local community in the Tatra and Podhale region. Specifically, the study is focused on evaluating the actual effects of tourism on the natural environment and local residents, as well as identifying the challenges and opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism in this area.

To highlight the scale of the issue, the relevance of the topic and the challenges faced by environmental protection authorities and those responsible for maintaining quality of life in seasonally visited locations, in this study, the following research questions are explored: What is the actual impact of sustainable tourism on the natural environment and the local community in the Tatra and Podhale region, and what are the challenges and opportunities for its development, considering the specific characteristics of this area?

The study is based on the hypothesis that excessive anthropogenic pressure poses a significant threat to the natural environment of the Tatra Mountains, while mass tourism in popular tourist destinations within the Podhale region may negatively affect the local population. The detailed hypotheses formulated in this study are as follows: inappropriate hiking tourism may have a negative impact on the terrain and fauna of the Tatra National Park, many tourists may not comply with the regulations of the Tatra National Park, some tourists visiting Podhale may show little interest or respect for the local population, tourists staying in Podhale and the Tatra National Park may have limited awareness of sustainable tourism.

Given these concerns, this study aims to contribute to the discussion on how to develop and manage sustainable tourism in a way that minimizes its negative effects while supporting environmental protection and local socio-economic growth. Understanding these dynamics is essential for shaping policies and strategies that promote long-term sustainability in the Tatra and Podhale region.

## **Literature review**

Tourism has become a dominant sector of the global economy, significantly influencing social behaviour, the natural environment and cultural life [Kurek 2012]. Over time, traditional passive tourism, commonly referred to as the 3S model (sun, sea, sand), has gradually been replaced by the 3E model, which emphasizes excitement, entertainment and education. This shift presents an opportunity to integrate tourism with ecological education, fostering a greater

sense of responsibility towards natural, social and cultural environments [Alejziak 2000]. However, the rapid development of tourism has also led to unintended consequences, making sustainable management a necessity rather than a choice.

The relationship between tourism and the environment is complex and interdisciplinary. It falls within the scope of tourism geography, which examines socio-cultural, economic, environmental and regulatory aspects of tourism [Kurek 2012]. Within this field, two primary approaches emerge: sociological, which is used to assess tourism's impact on society, and geographical, which is assumed to examine the spatial distribution of tourism, tourist attractions and tourism-induced environmental changes. These perspectives highlight the need for sustainable practices that allow tourism to thrive while ensuring minimal environmental degradation [Alejziak 2000].

The rise of mass tourism in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century brought about environmental concerns, leading to the emergence of sustainable tourism as a countermeasure. Sustainable tourism, also known as alternative or ecological tourism, gained recognition in the early 1980s as a response to uncontrolled tourism expansion in environmentally sensitive areas [Kurek 2012]. The World Tourism Organization (WTO), along with the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), defined sustainable tourism as a form of tourism that meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while ensuring that future generations can also meet their needs. It takes economic, social and aesthetic demands into account, while preserving cultural integrity, ecological processes, biodiversity and environmental stability. Similarly, the Federation of National Parks and Nature Reserves defines sustainable tourism as that which is developed and managed in a way that allows all tourism activities based on natural and cultural heritage resources to continue evolving sustainably [Kurek 2012].

Sustainable tourism is not a specific type of travel activity but rather a method of managing and organising the tourism industry in a way that minimizes its negative impact. It is built on four fundamental pillars: environmental, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional sustainability [Blamey 2001]. The foundation of sustainable tourism lies in the principles of sustainable development, which emphasize environmental protection, cultural heritage preservation, and respect for local communities. To address the negative impact of mass tourism, new strategies have been developed to integrate tourism with local communities and the natural environment [Gołembski 2002]. Recognising the challenges of implementing sustainable tourism, the Sustainable Tourism Development Group was established, leading to the creation of Agenda 21 for Travel and Tourism, in which key priorities for responsible tourism development are outlined [Kurek 2012].

Various forms of tourism can be observed in the Tatra and Podhale region, with hiking and skiing being the most popular. Other forms include cultural, religious and nature-based tourism, such as ecotourism, which emphasizes environmental awareness and respect for local communities [Kurek 2012]. Ecotourism, which emerged in the 1970s and 1980s, is often associated with nature-based travel and aims to have minimal environmental impact while fostering appreciation for local culture and ecosystems [Kowalczyk 2010]. Guided nature tours and educational programmes in the Tatra National Park promote sustainable travel by providing structured opportunities for visitors to engage with the environment while learning about protection efforts.

Cultural tourism—another significant form of travel in the region—involves exploring local traditions, folklore and historical landmarks, aligning with sustainable tourism by fostering appreciation and preservation of regional heritage [Kurek 2012]. Ethnic tourism allows visitors to experience the daily lives of indigenous Podhale communities, promoting cultural exchange and deeper engagement. Meanwhile, hiking tourism remains the most widespread form of tourism in the Tatra Mountains, necessitating management strategies to prevent trail erosion and habitat destruction [Zarzycki 2007]. Ski tourism, particularly downhill skiing, poses significant environmental threats. Improperly planned ski resorts contribute to deforestation, soil erosion and habitat destruction [Skawiński et al. 2007].

The relationship between tourism and the environment is bidirectional. While nature attracts tourists, its degradation diminishes tourism's long-term viability [Krzyszowska-Kostrowicka 1997]. As tourism infrastructure expands, conflicts between recreation and environmental protection intensify. Among



**Figure 1.** Erosion of hiking trails and overcrowding.

**Source:** author's own work.

the most pressing environmental threats caused by tourism in the Tatra National Park are littering, water contamination, destruction of plant and animal habitats, erosion of hiking trails (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2), overcrowding, unregulated infrastructure development and deforestation [Kowalczyk 2010; Mason 2003].

Environmental degradation can be categorised based on frequency and severity, and the direct effects are shown in the table below (Tab. 1).

Coppes and Braunisch [2013] investigate where and why tourists leave designated trails in the Black Forest (Germany) during winter. They analyse environmental factors influencing this behaviour, such as slope, forest type and the presence of information signs. Based on this, they develop spatial models to predict potential conflicts between tourist activity and the protection of wildlife species such as the capercaillie and red deer.



**Figure 2.** Erosion of hiking trails and overcrowding.

**Source:** author's own work.

**Table 1.** Direct effects of environmental impact

PRIMARY	SECONDARY
changes in water resources	decline in productivity
air quality changes	decline in landscape attractiveness
changes in soil parameters	other non-material effects
changes in the biosphere	

**Source:** Local and Global Environmental Threats' (Course of A. Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Jaskiewicz M., 2023).

Several strategies can mitigate tourism's environmental impact. Environmental education is fundamental in raising awareness about responsible tourism [Weaver, 2006]. Educational programmes in the Tatra National Park include workshops, social media campaigns and interactive learning initiatives. Volunteer programs allow tourists to participate in protection efforts, such as litter collection and trail maintenance.

Tourism diversification encourages alternative activities such as visiting cultural sites to reduce pressure on natural attractions [Sharpley 2002, Weidenfeld 2018]. Limiting visitor capacity in fragile ecosystems helps control overcrowding and preserve natural resources [Eagles et al. 2002]. Selective pricing policies, such as increasing fees during peak seasons, discourage mass tourism while funding protection efforts [Kotler 1994].

An important aspect of sustainable tourism management is demarketing, which involves discouraging excessive tourist influx by redirecting visitors to alternative destinations, promoting off-season travel and de-



**Figure 3.** Clear guidelines on responsible practices.

**Source:** author's own work.



**Figure 4.** Clear guidelines on responsible practices.

**Source:** author's own work.

veloping interpretive centres where visitors can experience natural sites without physically entering them [Kotler 1994]. Another method to manage tourist behaviour is through educational interventions such as distributing brochures at entry points to the park, providing clear guidelines on responsible tourism practices and engaging tourists in conservation activities (Fig. 3, Fig. 4).

Marketing campaigns that promote environmentally responsible behaviour, as well as practical interventions such as placing bottle recycling stations at park entrances, may further support preservation efforts [Borkowski 2021].

In the literature, it is indicated that sustainable tourism is essential for balancing economic growth, environmental protection and local community well-being. In the Tatra and Podhale region, addressing tourism's environmental impact requires multi-stakeholder collaboration, including national park authorities, local governments and tourists themselves. By adopting strategic tourism management practices, the region can ensure long-term sustainability while preserving its unique natural and cultural heritage. The implementation of sustainable tourism principles requires an ongoing commitment to education, infrastructure planning and responsible visitor management, ensuring that both the environment and communities that depend on tourism can thrive in the future.

## Method

The objective of this study is to analyse and assess the role of sustainable tourism as a key factor in natural environment and local community development in the Tatra and Podhale regions. With growing concerns over mass tourism and its consequences, it is crucial to explore how sustainable tourism can serve as a viable alternative that supports both economic prosperity and environmental integrity. By identifying the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable tourism, the aim of this research is to provide insights into the most effective strategies for ensuring the long-term well-being of both the natural environment and local population.

A fundamental aspect of this study is the research problem, which addresses the real impact of sustainable tourism on the natural environment and local communities. The following research questions are posed: What is the actual impact of sustainable tourism on the natural environment and the local population in the Tatra and Podhale region, and what challenges and opportunities exist for the development of this form of tourism, given the specific characteristics of this region? This inquiry is highly relevant in the context of increasing anthropogenic pressure on protected natural areas. The findings aim to support decision-makers, conservationists and local businesses in adopting more responsible tourism policies.

The research is based on the hypothesis that excessive anthropopresure may pose a significant threat to the natural environment of the Tatra Mountains, while mass tourism in popular tourist reception areas within the Podhale region may negatively affect the local population. Several specific hypotheses are further explored in the study: (1) inappropriate hiking tourism may have negative impact on the terrain and wildlife in the Tatra National Park, (2) a significant number of tourists may not comply with the park's regulations, (3) visitors to Podhale may demonstrate little interest in and respect for the local community, and (4) tourists in the Tatra and Podhale region may exhibit a low level of awareness regarding sustainable tourism practices. These hypotheses provide a framework for understanding the broader implications of tourism in the area and identifying areas for improvement.

To achieve these objectives, a combination of research methods are employed in the study that allow for a comprehensive evaluation of sustainable tourism in the Tatra and Podhale region. The first method used is participant observation, which involves engaging directly with the social environment being studied. This method enables the researcher to register behaviours and tourism-related processes firsthand [Frankfort-Nachmias, Nachmias 2001]. Given that the author actively participates in sustainable mountain tourism, personal experiences and field visits to the Tatras have contributed valuable insights into the research problem. Additionally, diagnostic surveys using questionnaires are incorporated to collect data from a broad population. This method is particularly effective in gathering public opinions and perceptions on sustainable tourism-related issues [Pilch, Bauman 2001]. In this research, a survey was conducted among 350 respondents who had visited the Tatra National Park at least once. Statistical analyses were performed on the collected data, considering various demographic and behavioural factors to provide an accurate assessment of tourists' attitudes and awareness.

The demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in Tab. 2.

**Table 2.** Demographic characteristics of respondents (n = 350)

Feature	Categories	Percentage (%)
Gender	Female	56
	Male	44
Age	18-25	22
	26-40	38
	41-60	28
	60+	12
Education	Secondary	30
	Higher	70

Place of residence	Urban	65
	Rural	35
Frequency of visits to the Tatra Mountains	Once	18
	Occasionally (2–3 times)	42
	Regularly (every year)	40

**Source:** author's own study, 2024.

Another method utilised is diagnostic survey through interviews, which involves direct conversations with selected respondents to gain deeper insights into their experiences and perspectives [Kvale 2009]. An interview was conducted with an experienced Tatra Mountain guide, Jan Krzepowski-Sabała, who provided expert insights into tourist behaviours, environmental concerns, and the effectiveness of current sustainable tourism initiatives in the region.

A key component of the research is the review of source materials, which involves analysing various documents and publications to support the study with both theoretical and practical information. The examined materials include literature on marketing, geography, tourism, sports, and psychology, as well as scientific journals, statistical reports, online resources, radio broadcasts, articles and regulatory documents. To strengthen methodological reliability and reduce potential researcher bias, this study is based on the triangulation of multiple data collection techniques, including qualitative and quantitative approaches.

The study also benefits from professional training courses completed by the authors, which provide additional expertise on the subject. These courses include Sustainable Tourism, organised by the Wrocław Academy of Business in Applied Sciences, and Local and Global Environmental Threats, offered by Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The knowledge acquired from these training sessions enhances the depth of analysis and supports the research methodology with specialised insights into sustainable tourism challenges and solutions.

By employing a diverse range of research techniques, in this study, we seek to provide a thorough assessment of the role of sustainable tourism in the Tatra and Podhale regions. Through observations, surveys, interviews and literature reviews, the research aim is to identify best practices and propose strategies that can help mitigate the negative impact of tourism, while promoting environmental protection and local community development. Ultimately, the findings of this study aim to contribute to the ongoing discourse on sustainable tourism and support the implementation of policies that ensure a harmonious balance between tourism growth and ecological responsibility in one of Poland's most treasured natural landscapes.

## Results

Tourism plays a crucial role in the economy of Podhale, bringing economic benefits while potentially impacting the natural environment and local communities. The Tatra National Park, one of the most visited protected areas in Poland, attracts millions of tourists each year. The aim of this study was to assess whether tourism development in the region aligns with the principles of sustainable development. The research included surveys conducted among 350 tourists, field analysis and an interview with Tatra guide Jan Krzeptowski-Sabała, providing a comprehensive image of the situation.

The most frequent responses gathered from the survey regarding environmental behaviour and awareness are summarised in Tab. 3. These include issues such as trail erosion, pollution, disregard for park regulations and limited knowledge on sustainable tourism.

**Table 3.** Summary of selected survey results

Question/Issue	Most frequent responses	Percentage (%)
Did you notice signs of trail erosion?	Yes	68
Did you notice litter on the trails?	Yes	65
Did you leave designated trails?	Yes	42
Did you feed wild animals?	Yes	25
Were you aware of the drone ban in the park?	No	15
Had you heard of “sustainable tourism” before?	No	60
Do you believe your behaviour affects the environment?	No	45
Do you think protecting local culture is important?	Yes	85
Do you know basic elements of Highlander culture?	No	37
Do you believe tourist crowds affect local life in Zakopane?	Yes	78

**Source:** author’s own study, 2024.

Visual evidence supports these findings. As shown in Fig. 5, many frequently used trails—such as Kasprowy Wierch and Gąsienicowa Valley—are visibly eroded, often exceeding five metres in width. In Fig. 6, the trampling of vegetation in resting areas and at popular viewpoints is illustrated.

Tatra guide—Jan Krzeptowski-Sabała—emphasized that uncontrolled tourist traffic contributes to the destruction of unique plant and animal species. He also noted that during the summer season, crowding on trails, such as Giewont, poses risks to both visitors and the ecosystem.



**Figure 5.** Example of excessive use and lack of compliance with designated routes.

**Source:** author's own work.



**Figure 6.** Trampling of vegetation in resting areas.

**Source:** author's own work.

The impact of mass tourism extends beyond the natural environment. This can be seen in the fact that 78% of surveyed residents indicated that excessive crowding in Zakopane during the tourist season is a major issue. Traffic jams, rising housing prices and the commercialisation of Highlander culture are common concerns. Many tourists do not consider local culture

a key part of their experience, focusing primarily on nature and treating traditions as a background for photos. According to Krzeptowski-Sabała, fewer visitors show genuine interest in the region's history and customs.

These findings indicate that mass tourism in the Tatras poses significant challenges for both the environment and the local community. Addressing these issues requires targeted educational campaigns, improved visitor management and stricter enforcement of park regulations.

## Discussion

The findings of this study on the impact of sustainable tourism on the natural environment and the local community of Podhale and the Tatra Mountains fit into a broader academic discussion regarding the consequences of intensive tourism in protected areas. It is essential to compare the obtained results with previous studies conducted by both Polish and foreign authors to better understand the scale of the problem and potential solutions.

One of the key conclusions of this study was that mass tourism leads to the degradation of hiking trails in the Tatra Mountains. These findings align with the research conducted by Zarzycki [2007], who analysed the impact of excessive tourist traffic on mountain trails and identified significant erosion, particularly in summit and valley areas. Similar phenomena were described by Fidelus [2014], who demonstrated that in the Western Tatras, the intensive use of trails results in severe soil degradation.

The analysis of tourism's impact on aquatic ecosystems revealed that Tatra lakes, such as Eye of the Sea, Black Pond from Rysy, and the Gašienicowa Valley lakes, are particularly vulnerable to pollution caused by tourists. Similar conclusions can be found in the research by Skawiński, Matuszyk, and Pociask-Karteczka [2007], who emphasized that mountain waters in national parks are highly sensitive to chemical changes caused by skincare products, such as sunscreens and soaps. Likewise, Senetra et al. [2020], in their research conducted in the Valley of Five Polish Lakes in the Tatra Mountains, found that tourist presence near mountain lakes leads to increased levels of organic pollutants and eutrophication, negatively affecting aquatic biodiversity.

Littering along hiking trails, identified in this study as one of the primary issues, is also confirmed in other Polish and international analyses. Niezgoda [2006] noted that the waste problem in Poland's national parks has been escalating annually, especially during peak tourist seasons. Similar results were presented by Eagles, McCool, and Haynes [2002], who examined the impact of tourism in Yellowstone National Park in the United States and found that inadequate waste management policies result in long-term environmental damage.

The effect of tourism on the fauna of the Tatra National Park was another crucial aspect of the analysis. In this study, it was shown that feeding wild animals leads to behavioural changes and dependence on human presence. Similar findings were reported by Krzeptowski-Sabała [2024], and Krzymowska-Kostrowicka [1997], who observed that wild animals increasingly migrate towards mountain shelters in search of food, causing ecosystem imbalances. In the research conducted in the Swiss Alps by Storch et al. [2017] it was also demonstrated that excessive human presence disrupts the behaviour of chamois and marmots, forcing them to change their migration patterns and activity levels.

In this study, it was also revealed that tourism negatively impacts the local community of Podhale by raising real estate prices and overcrowding Zakopane during peak seasons. These results are consistent with the findings of Kowalczyk [2010], who observed that the rapid development of tourism in mountain regions leads to economic and social inequalities, particularly among residents of cities with high tourist inflows. Similar problems have been reported in popular Alpine resorts. Perdue, Long and Gustke [1991] found that introducing tourism limits and regulating short-term property rentals could help mitigate overcrowding and housing issues.

The low level of ecological awareness among tourists, identified in this study, is also supported by findings in the literature. Kurek [2012] pointed out that environmental education in Poland remains insufficient, leading tourists to be unaware of the negative consequences of their behaviour on nature. Similar conclusions were drawn by Weaver and Lawton [2007] in their research on tourism in Australia's national parks. In their study, it was shown that while visitors express a willingness to protect nature, they often lack the knowledge and tools to consciously change their behaviour.

In the study, it was confirmed that mass tourism in the Tatra Mountains and Podhale presents significant environmental and socio-economic challenges. The high volume of visitors contributes to trail erosion, vegetation loss, water pollution and increased waste accumulation. Wildlife is also affected, with species such as chamois and marmots altering their natural movement patterns due to human presence. Beyond the environmental impact, tourism influences the local community by increasing the commercialisation of regional culture, creating overcrowding in Zakopane and driving up real estate prices. These factors make it increasingly difficult for residents to sustain their traditional way of life.

A comparison with previous studies allows to highlight that these issues are not unique to the Tatra region. In research conducted in other mountain areas, such as the Alps, Pyrenees, and the Rocky Mountains, similar negative impacts of excessive tourism have been documented. The literature review confirms that sustainable tourism management strategies, including visitor limits, educational campaigns and stricter environmental regulations, are es-

essential to mitigate the adverse effects of tourism. However, in Poland, such measures remain in the early stages of implementation and require comprehensive policies as well as enforcement mechanisms to be effective.

The findings emphasize the urgent need for regulatory and educational interventions to promote the sustainability of tourism in the Tatra Mountains. Managing visitor numbers should be a priority, as implementing restrictions in sensitive areas could significantly reduce the ecological footprint of tourism. Other mountain regions, such as the Swiss Alps and U.S. national parks, have successfully introduced pre-booked entry passes and controlled access to high-traffic trails. Similar strategies in the Tatras could help prevent excessive crowding and environmental degradation.

Another critical aspect of sustainable tourism is strengthening environmental education. In the study, it was revealed that a majority of tourists lacked an understanding of how their behaviour affects the fragile mountain ecosystem. Targeted awareness campaigns, interactive information boards and social media outreach could help modify tourist habits. Addressing the issue of waste management is also crucial, as the volume of litter along trails continues to increase. The presence of more disposal points, stricter enforcement of littering fines and incentive-based programmes that encourage visitors to carry out their own waste could significantly reduce pollution.

Tourism's impact on wildlife is another pressing concern. Feeding wild animals disrupts their natural behaviours, leading to dependence on human-provided food and changes in migration patterns. Stronger patrolling in sensitive zones, combined with stricter penalties for violating protection rules, could mitigate these disruptions. Preserving the local culture and community well-being is equally important. In the study, it was indicated that mass tourism often prioritizes commercial attractions over authentic cultural experiences, reducing the visibility of traditional Highlander heritage. Policies supporting local businesses over large-scale tourism corporations and regulations on short-term rentals could help maintain the region's cultural identity while ensuring fair economic opportunities for residents.

It is important to note that this study was limited to a single region and relied primarily on self-reported data. As such, the results should be interpreted with caution and viewed as exploratory rather than definitive.

While this study offers valuable insights, further research is needed to refine solutions for sustainable tourism in the Tatra Mountains. Longitudinal studies tracking environmental changes over time would provide a clearer image of how different management strategies impact ecosystem health. Analysing past and present erosion rates, pollution levels and wildlife activity would enable the development of more targeted conservation policies. Determining the carrying capacity of the Tatra ecosystem is another essential area of study. Establishing the maximum number of visitors the region can support without long-term damage is critical for designing effective tourism regulations.

Future research should also be carried out to assess the effectiveness of educational interventions in changing tourist behaviour. Experimental studies measuring how awareness campaigns influence visitors' ecological awareness could help determine the most impactful approaches. Additionally, studies on the economic impact of sustainable tourism policies would be valuable in balancing protection efforts with the needs of local businesses and residents. Research into the effects of visitor limits, short-term rental regulations and financial incentives for sustainable businesses could provide key insights for policymakers.

Comparative studies with other mountain regions could further enhance knowledge on best practices for sustainable tourism management. Research on the Swiss Alps, Canadian Rockies and Spanish Pyrenees could offer valuable strategies adaptable to the Tatra Mountains. Learning from the successes and challenges of other protected mountain areas would allow for better-informed decision-making and policy development.

The study results and their discussion in the context of global research indicate that unsustainable tourism poses a serious threat to the natural environment and cultural heritage of the Tatra Mountains. However, effective management strategies—such as visitor limits, improved waste management, stronger wildlife protection policies, and expanded environmental education—can help balance tourism with and the protection needs of the local community. Implementing sustainable tourism principles requires collaboration between policymakers, local authorities, businesses and tourists themselves. The Tatras and Podhale region are among Poland's most unique and valuable natural treasures and urgent action is needed to preserve them for future generations.

The future of tourism in the Tatra Mountains depends on developing a balanced approach that prioritizes both environmental protection and local economic sustainability. If comprehensive measures are not taken to regulate tourist activity and protect the ecosystem, the region may face irreversible degradation. Therefore, research and policy development should be focused on creating a harmonious coexistence between tourism, natural environment and local communities, ensuring that the Tatras continue to be a thriving destination both ecologically and economically.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, the findings of this study confirm the results of numerous previous works regarding the impact of mass tourism on the natural environment and local communities. They indicate that trail degradation, water pollution, litter accumulation, wildlife disruption and the socio-economic consequences of tourism are challenges not only for the Tatra Mountains

but also for other mountain regions in Poland and worldwide. The key solutions include implementing effective mechanisms to regulate tourist traffic, educating visitors and promoting sustainable tourism practices to reduce the adverse effects of tourism while preserving the unique character of mountain regions.

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## KRAKÓW AS A DESTINATION FOR YOUTH TOURISM. ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

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### Abstract

**Purpose.** The aim of the study is to present research on tourist traffic in Kraków in the years 2017-2023, with particular emphasis on the segment of school youth, which constitutes a specific group of buyers creating tourist traffic, especially accenting such aspects as: the organiser of the trip, travel companions, length of stay in Kraków, place of accommodation and means of transport.

**Method.** Multi-year empirical research was conducted by the Inter-University Team of Experts on behalf of the Małopolska Tourism Organisation. The used research methods include direct interviews, then obtaining data from teleinformatic data warehouses (so-called big data collection) – DMP Selectiv, Selectiv DSP – in accordance with the RTB methodology and analysis of existing data (desk research). The developed research tools are universal and can be used for all types of tourist destinations.

**Findings.** A model of incoming youth tourism to Kraków was developed, taking such categories as the organiser of the trip, travel companions, length of stay in Kraków, place of accommodation and means of transport into account. A comparative analysis was carried out in such aspects as: domestic youth vs. foreign youth, women vs. men in domestic and foreign terms. The above categories were analysed using division into periods: before the COVID-19 pandemic (2017-2018), during it (2019-2021), and after its end (2022-2023).


**Research and conclusions limitations.** The presented research results concern young people organising tourist trips to Kraków in the years 2017-2023.


**Practical implications.** Formulating specific conclusions and presenting a model based on empirical research concerning incoming youth tourism to Kraków, which may be useful for local authorities in order to better prepare the tourist offer for the discussed age group.


**Originality.** Despite the fact that tourist traffic research has been conducted in Kraków since 2003, studies on incoming youth tourism are completely omitted. Therefore, this is the first original study in which a dynamic model is presented of incoming youth tourism to Krakow over a period of seven years, considering critical events occurring at that time (the COVID-19 pandemic).

**Type of paper.** In the article, presented are several years of empirical research results with very high reliability.

**Keywords:** youth tourism, Kraków, organisational aspects.

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## Introduction

Youth tourism, due to its wide range of forms, is an important component of properly organised free time for young people, including the realisation of individual needs and interests of young people. In developed countries, children and youth are considered the most active group in terms of tourism [Herman et al. 2015]. A similar trend is also noticeable in Poland [Wartecka-Ważyńska 2002, Żelazna et al., 2013; Włastowski et al. 2016; Błaszczak 2017]. The most active group with regard to tourist mobility is school youth [Łaciak 2002; Richards et al. 2003; Alejziak 2008; Parzych 2010]. According to numerous forecasts, children and youth tourism is recording an increasingly significant increase in popularity. This is due to the fact that it gives young people the opportunity to develop their own personality, change their lifestyle, regenerate psychophysical strength, rest and relax [Gierczyk, Ocieczek 2001; Gralak, Kacprzak 2012, p. 103]. It is usually carried out as institutionally organised and independent trips [Alejziak 2008; Łaciak 2011]. Tourist trips were and always will be, as Podemski [2007, p. 38] emphasizes, a significant event in the life of an individual, because each trip is a confrontation with otherness, a change of the previous environment.

Faracik [2011] wonders whether children's and youth tourism is included in the main trend of tourist phenomena with possible emphasis on some of its aspects, or whether it is diametrically different from tourism of other social groups, constituting a separate trend of tourism. In explaining the problem, researchers dealing with the above area draw attention to the main features distinguishing the entity of this tourist movement, such as: dependence on parents (legal guardians), compulsory schooling, having a lot of time, cognitive curiosity, openness to novelties, the desire to meet new people and maintain friendships within peer groups [Alejziak 2011; Faraciak 2011; Żelazna et al. 2013; Błaszczak 2017]. Analysing the above features, Faracik [2011] assumes that, on the one hand, due to its specificity, children's and youth tourism is clearly different from adult tourism, but on the other, it is often in this social group that all civilizational changes taking place in the modern world are most visible. In the author's opinion, children's and youth tourism is a kind of "barometer" of changes and transformations that take place, among others, under the influence of civilization development, technical and technological progress, and the widely advancing processes of globalization. According to Rifai [2010], today's generation of young people is better informed, more mobile and adventurous than ever before. Young people have been recognized by the United Nations as the main force for development and social change, and this also applies to tourism. Youth travel is one of the most promising paths towards a more responsible and sustainable tourism sector.

Children's and school youth tourism is widely described in publications [Denek 2000; Wartecka-Ważyńska 2007; Łaciak 2011; Żelazna 2012; Górską-Warsewicz 2013; Żmudzki 2013; Tomczykowska 2014; Błaszczak 2019; Alejziak 2008, 2020; Stolarczyk et al. 2024], mainly from the perspective of pedagogical, patriotic and tourist aspects, as well as the market, defining children and youth as a very important target. Although this is not a wealthy group, due to its high mobility and mass nature, this tourism constitutes an important branch of the tourism industry, influencing the development of local and national economies. Unfortunately, there is a lack of precise data on youth tourism. This results from the fact that in the majority of statistical studies, as Seweryn [2015] emphasizes, teenage tourists who travel with their parents are not specified in the market segmentation. Moreover, a large group of young people organise trips on their own, which means that they escape statistics [Alejziak 2008, Błaszczak 2017]. It is estimated that young tourists (aged 15-25) constitute 23 percent of all travellers (296 million travelers). According to estimates by the World Youth Student & Educational Travel Confederation [see: <https://www.wysetc.org/research/the-power-of-youth-travel/>], the current global youth tourism market is worth \$345 billion. According to data from the same organisation, over 60 percent of governments around the world predict a continuous and significant increase in youth tourism, which is the result of the rise in the availability of products and services for young people.

A special place in tourist travel is occupied by Kraków, which is one of the cities with long traditions in this area, and its origins date back to the Middle Ages. At that time, it was the centre of political, cultural and religious life in the country, and the city was a destination for representatives of various social groups from Poland and abroad. However, the development of tourism in the current sense can only be discussed from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. It was then that Kraków became an important centre of Polishness, attracting Poles from all partitions, who came to the city for patriotic reasons (the so-called period of national pilgrimage). In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Kraków grew into an international tourist centre, and incoming tourist traffic became mass [Mika 2022]. Tourists are attracted by the city's centuries-old history, rich cultural and religious heritage, accumulation of monuments, developed academic life, as well as the image of the city as the spiritual and cultural capital of the country and *Genius loci* ("spirit of the place"), ingrained in the public consciousness [Pawlusiński et al. 2011].

In the created Krakow Development Strategy, the importance is emphasized of the city as a metropolitan area [Parysek 2005; Liszewski 2009; Faraćiak 2011], which determines its social, economic and cultural development. Attention is also drawn to the fact that Kraków is in a group of cities such as Barcelona, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Nice, Strasbourg and Zurich, i.e. cities that occupy a very high position on a global scale and have a wealth of activ-

ities that ensure a high quality of life [Krakow Development Strategy. Here I want to live. Krakow 2030]. In the document Sustainable Tourism Policy of Krakow for 2021-2028, it is shown that tourism is an important sector of Krakow's economy, playing a significant role in the development of the city. Its impact is visible in budget revenues, the number of jobs, the percentage share of GDP and in the process of building the city's brand, where an essential role is played by tourist traffic studies that have been systematically carried out since 2003 [Borkowski et al. 2023]. In the developed Reports, presented are interesting data in various contexts, such as the volume of tourist traffic over the analysed years, socio-demographic profiles of visitors to Kraków, the purposes of visits to Kraków, Kraków's tourist offer, the expenses of guests visiting the capital of Małopolska, subjective components of CRM and loyalty decisions of visitors to Kraków, attractions of the Kraków reception area, and declarations of return visits to Kraków in the following year. However, the above components of the study are presented collectively, without taking market segmentation into account, where one of the most important target groups is youth, who due to the amount of free time (vacation, holidays, Christmas breaks, etc.), are – to a large extent – one of the most important groups that create tourist traffic in the region. Adolescents are of particular importance, as they can implement very diverse forms of tourism, such as school trips, trips with parents, independent trips and others. Understanding the needs and behaviours of adolescents as creators of tourist traffic is also important due to the ageing of Europe, which is why they constitute one of the most important groups in the discussed area.

Since studies on incoming youth tourism to Kraków, which should be clearly emphasized, are completely ignored, then having rich data resources in the form of several years of research, it seems that it is worth getting to know at least selected aspects of the organisation of tourist trips to Kraków for adolescents, both domestic and foreign. The conducted analyses have both cognitive and application significance in the field of servicing tourist traffic of this very significant segment on the market of tourist services in the capital of Małopolska. The conclusions drawn based on the collected data may be important in the creation of an urban tourist product, which is the metropolis of Kraków, and an offer that considers the needs of young tourists in terms of preparing appropriate tourist infrastructure, which will certainly increase the competitiveness of the region [Dąbrowski et al. 2006; Zawada 2014]. Cities have always been the destination of tourist trips, but it was not until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that visiting them became a mass phenomenon. The growing importance and popularity of tourism in cities is reflected in research and the increasingly rich literature on the subject devoted to this issue. The above form of tourism is defined by the concept of “urban tourism”, i.e. a type of tourist travel, the exclusive or largely dominant destination of which are cities [see, among others, Mikos von Rohrscheidt 2008; Law

2002; Maitland, Ritchie 2009; Niemczyk, 2010; Heeley 2011; Majewska 2011; Spirou 2011; UNWTO 2012; Zabińska 2013; Zmysłony 2013; Richards 2014; Zmysłony 2015; Ziółkowska-Weiss, Żemła 2018].

Moreover, the great value of this study lies in the fact that the research on tourist traffic in Kraków presented in it has been conducted systematically using the same method and the same research tool since 2003.

## Method

Taking the above considerations into account, the aim of this study is to present a fragment of research on tourist traffic in Kraków in the years 2017-2023, with particular emphasis on the segment of youth as an important group creating tourist traffic in Kraków.

**The general aim** is to diagnose the organisational aspects of youth tourist trips to Kraków in terms of such aspects as: the organiser of the trip, company during the trip, length of stay, place of accommodation, means of transport, as well as to determine the differences in the above categories in the context of: domestic vs. foreign youth, women vs. men in domestic and foreign terms, taking the specificity of the periods into account: before the COVID-19 pandemic, during it, and after its end. Characterising the above categories may cause better adaptation of the tourist product for the discussed segment.

**The cognitive aim** of this study is to learn about the needs in the field of organising tourist trips to Kraków for young people, to learn about the differences in the needs of domestic and foreign youth, related to their gender, and to determine the dynamics of changes in the discussed categories.

**The practical objective** of this study is to formulate specific conclusions and present a dynamic model based on empirical research regarding incoming youth tourism to Kraków, which may be useful for local authorities in order to better prepare the tourist offer for the discussed age group, taking various variables into account. Kraków, as a modern metropolis, vibrant with culture, should be open and friendly to visiting young people, which should further be clearly emphasized in the Kraków development strategy.

In connection with the above, the main problem was formulated as follows: What are the organisational aspects of tourist trips to Kraków by domestic and foreign youth in the years 2017-2023? In order to clarify the main problem, several detailed questions were asked:

1. Who is the most frequent organiser of youth tourist trips to Kraków?
2. How long do young people stay in Kraków?
3. What accommodation facilities do young people use during their stay in Kraków?

4. What means of transport do young people most often use when organising tourist trips to Kraków?
5. What is the difference in the organisation of tourist trips to Kraków based on the gender of the respondents?
6. What is the difference in the organisation of tourist trips to Kraków before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic?
  - To diagnose the above problems, research on tourist traffic in Kraków conducted since 2003 by the Małopolska Tourist Organisation on behalf of the Kraków City Office was used [Borkowski et al. 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023]. Due to the extensiveness of the performed research, this study covers the years 2017-2023. Taking various events affecting tourist traffic into account, the authors of the article aimed to not only show the organisational aspects of youth tourist trips to Kraków, but also the impact on youth tourist traffic of various critical events such as the pandemic related to COVID-19 and the outbreak of war in Ukraine in 2022. According to analyses conducted by Sztuk [2021], the effects of the pandemic most severely affected regions visited by large numbers of foreign tourists, to which the offers of urban centres were adapted. Consumers, influenced by fear of rapidly changing entry regulations to individual countries, delayed the purchase of tourist packages and airline tickets until the last minute [e.g. Roman et al., 2021; Wen et al., 2021; Wiskulski 2020, Zhu et al., 2020; Gałazka 2024]. This was influenced by both restrictions imposed by the governments of individual countries and the personal choices of tourists who preferred trips to regions where the number of infections was lower [Wiadomski 2020]. At the same time, as indicated by UNWTO research [2022], young people travelled more willingly and more often during the pandemic than older people. The issue concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourist behaviour has occupied an important place in research to date. The significance of this issue is indicated, among others, by: reviews and assessments of scientific studies conducted so far regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism (Gössling, Schweiggart, 2022; Gössling, Scott, Hall, 2021; Hall, Scott, Gössling, 2020; Huang, Wang, 2022; Niewiadomski, 2020; Pahrudin et al., 2022; Panasiuk, 2020; Utkarsh, Sigala, 2021; Yang, Zhang, Rickly, 2021; Zopiatis, Pericleous, Theofanous, 2020 et al.) [cf. Matczak, Ciapa 2023, K. Asan 2021; G. Richards, W. Morrill 2021]. For this purpose, analyses were carried out taking three periods into account:
    - before the pandemic, 2017-2019;
    - during the pandemic, 2020-2021;
    - after the pandemic, 2022-2023.

The key role here is played by various data collection methods [Borkowski et al. 2022]:

1. **The first** is the method of conducting direct interviews, where research surveys were collected in electronic form using tablets, assuming the acquisition of a minimum of 2,600 surveys [Borkowski 2019; Mazurek-Łopacińska et al. 2018]. The research was carried out in communication terminals, such as railway and bus stations, airports, as well as facilities and places constituting tourist attractions. The list of these places was established by experts based on information obtained from Kraków of the broadly understood tourism sector. The survey covered people visiting Krakow, referred to in the UNWTO statistical recommendations as tourists (having at least one overnight stay) and one-day visitors who came for the following purposes: cognitive, recreational, professional, religious, family, health and other.
2. **The second** method obtaining data from the teleinformatic data warehouse (so-called big data collection) - DMP Selectiv, Selectivv DSP<sup>1</sup> - in accordance with RTB<sup>2</sup> methodology. The number of tourists and one-day visitors was estimated on the basis of on the number of mobile phone users registered in the GPS coordinates of the city of Kraków. The division of tourists into domestic and foreign was made based on the country in which the mobile device visiting Kraków is most often registered.
3. **The third** method is analysis of existing data (desk research) used by the Inter-university Team of Experts of the Małopolska Tourism Organisation since 2003, based on publicly available data, especially from the Central Statistical Office. These are data from the Regional and Local Data Bank and announcements, bulletins, electronic publications (including archival data) available on the GUS website.

## Presentation of research results

During the study on tourist traffic in Kraków in the years 2017-2023, 1,834 individuals aged 15 to 19 were selected from the surveyed group of respondents, including 68.65% of domestic youth, and 31.35% of foreign youth. From the point of view of diagnosing tourist traffic generated by young people coming to Kraków, the following organisational factors are of significance:

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<sup>1</sup> Selectivv DMP – Data Management Platform (data warehouse). The Selectivv DSP platform is used to purchase advertising space in the mobile channel in accordance with RTB methodology.

<sup>2</sup> RTB is a model of buying advertising space in real time, based on advertiser bidding. The RTB system automatically selects the advertiser who offers the highest rate for displaying the ad.

- organiser of the trip: independently, school, parish/church, travel agency, friends, family, other institution;
- company: none, organised group, friend(s), family, friends and family;
- length of stay (has significant impact on the development of tourist services, e.g. accommodation, catering, transport, etc.). The basic classification of tourist trips according to their duration is as follows [Dziedzic 2015]:
  - without overnight stay – trips;
  - short trips – 1-3 overnight stays;
  - long trips, holiday trips – at least 4 overnight stays;
- place of accommodation: hotel, motel, guesthouse, excursion house, youth hostel, campsite/campground, hostel, apartment, health resort, holiday resort, with family, with friends, Pilgrim's House, own house/apartment, other facility, private accommodation/couchsurfing;
- means of transport: regular bus, tourist coach, minibus, train, car, charter plane, LCC plane, traditional airlines, other.

The above categories determine the possibility of implementing a stay at a given destination and preparing an adequate offer meeting the needs of young tourists.

In the analyses, it was assumed that the needs related to the organisation of tourist trips to Kraków from the point of view of domestic and foreign youth may differ slightly, therefore, the analyses of the above factors were conducted taking the above two groups into account separately.

### ***Model of organisational aspects regarding tourist trips taken by domestic youth to Kraków***

#### **Trip organiser and company**

In the conducted research, it is shown that tourist trips to Kraków in the years 2017-2023 were organised **independently** by more than half of adolescent domestic youth. The largest number of people organised their arrival to the capital of Małopolska in this way between the years 2019-2020 (77.04%; 75.42%), the smallest in 2021 (40.83%), and 2023 (50.66%). During independent trips, the companions in all the years analysed (2017-2023) were most often, with minor exceptions, friend(s), whose company was quite often supplemented by family members, usually people of a similar age. A significant group of young people came to Kraków alone, which is particularly visible in the years 2017-2019, i.e. before the pandemic (54%; 23%; 18%), and after its end (36.00%; 41.00%). During the pandemic, solo travel was preferred by approximately every tenth respondent.

**Family** was ranked second as the organiser of tourist trips to Kraków in the analysed years (2017-2023) for approximately every tenth respond-

ent (with minor exceptions). However, its greatest role can be noticed during the full pandemic, when one in five young tourists took advantage of its offer (2021: 23.08%). Outside this period, the largest number of people utilised the family's offer in 2019, i.e. before the pandemic (12.59%), and after the pandemic, in 2023 (7.24%), but as can be seen, these groups are several times smaller. During the above-mentioned trips, the travel companions were most often family members (close and distant) and occasionally friend(s) (especially during the pandemic).

Young people also organised trips to Kraków together **with friend(s)**. Their travel companions were most frequently friend(s), but occasionally, they also comprised family members (mainly during the pandemic).

A significant role of **school** as an organiser of youth tourism was noted in 2018, where every fifth respondent took advantage of its offer, and in 2022-2023, where approximately every tenth respondent took part in school tourism. These were always trips in an organised group, sometimes accompanied by parents (probably as group guardians) and friends.

### **Length of stay**

The length of stay of domestic youth in Kraków is quite diverse. The majority of the surveyed individuals (almost half) in the analysed years (2017-2023) in the capital of Małopolska carried out **one-day trips** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 46.26%). The largest group in this category was recorded after the announcement of the pandemic in Poland in 2020 (63.20%), while the smallest in 2022 (38.10%), i.e. after its end.

**Short-term trips** (1-3 nights) in the analysed period were preferred by approximately one-third of the surveyed youth ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 34.90%). Interestingly, the greatest number of people took such a long trip before the pandemic in 2017 (45.10%) and during it in 2021 (46.90%). After the end of the pandemic, the groups were much smaller (2022: 32.20%), sometimes even twice as small, which was recorded in 2023 (22.00%).

In the years 2019-2023, less than every fifth surveyed person participated in **long-term trips** (4 nights and more) ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 18.86%). However, interestingly, after the end of the pandemic, an upward trend could be seen in the preference for such long trips, which were carried out by every third young tourist in 2022 (29.70%) and 2023 (28.80%). On the other hand, in the years before the pandemic and during its course, the groups were much smaller (2017: 19.90%; 2018: 22.60%; 2019: 17.60%; 2021: 12.50%), sometimes even by more than half. The lowest percentage was recorded in 2020 (6.90%). Analysing the length of tourist trips to Kraków by gender of respondents in the years 2017-2023, it can be seen that more men than women preferred one-day trips ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = M: 48.27%; F: 41.84%), where the largest group was recorded in the year the pandemic was announced (2020: 63.60%). Interestingly, the group of women for that year was also the larg-

est over the analysed years, reaching the highest percentage (63.00%). Outside this period, the largest group of men taking one-day trips was recorded in 2023 (56.90%) and 2019 (59.00%). In turn, women more often preferred short-term trips in the analysed period ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 38.24%; M: 33.20%). In the years before and after the pandemic, this was approximately every third respondent. The group of men taking this type of trip was quite diverse.

Women and men participated in **longer trips** (4 nights and more), to a similar extent ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 19.94%; M: 18.47%). However, interestingly, in both groups for 2022-2023, an upward trend is visible (F: 34.20%; 28.40%; M: 22.20%; 29.20%) compared to previous years (e.g. 2019: F: 17.40%; M: 17.90%).

### Accommodation

The preferred place of accommodation for the largest group of domestic youth coming to Kraków in 2017-2023 was **a hotel** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 29.91%). However, the use of the above facility was quite diverse. The greatest number of individuals used this option before the pandemic in 2018-2019 (49.60%; 50.0%) and after its end in 2022 (45.20%). In 2023 (26.40%), interest in the above facility decreased in favour of other options. The fewest number of people stayed at a hotel in 2017 (6.70%), while during the peak of the pandemic (2021), no one used this option.

Another quite clear trend is staying **with a family** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 11.51%). However, the largest number of people used this option during the pandemic in 2021 (23.70%) and 2020 (12.40%), but as can be noted, the group was half the size. After its completion, i.e. in the years 2022-2023, less than every tenth young tourist coming to the capital of Małopolska took advantage of this offer (8.90%; 9.20%).

A similar situation applies to accommodation **with friend(s)** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23=11.34%). It can be seen that approximately every tenth young tourist took advantage of the above offer in the years 2019-2023 (11.10%; 18.00%; 15.80%; 11.30%; 11.50%), with particular distinction being made during the pandemic (2020 and 2021), when the highest percentage rates were recorded. In the remaining years 2017-2018 (5.90%; 5.80%), only a few respondents used the above option.

Every tenth person spent the night **in their own apartment** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23=10.10%). The percentage rates obtained here are quite diverse, but it can be seen that the largest number of respondents took advantage of this option in 2020 (23.60%), i.e. the year the pandemic was announced in Poland. In 2018-2019 (10.60%; 14.70%) and 2023 (11.50%), this applied to approximately every tenth young tourist. In the remaining years, this option was used sporadically.

Other accommodation facilities were rarely used and their average use in 2017-2023 was: hostel 7.92% (significantly only 2017 and 2021), apart-

ment 5.70%, youth hostel 4.53%, pilgrim's house 3.17%, motel 2.96%, guest-house 2.93%, excursion house 1.59%, health resort 1.07%, campsite 0.79%, holiday home 0.49%, private accommodation 0.00% and other facilities 2.50%.

Another interesting issue was to determine the differences in preferences for choosing accommodation **by gender**. To establish this, the average of percentages obtained in the years 2017-2023 was calculated. They show that both women and men in the analysed years preferred to stay at a hotel to a similar extent ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 30.34%; M: 30.29). In turn, women more often stayed with family ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 13.73%; M: 9.23%), while men stayed with friend(s) ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 10.57%; M: 11.97%).

Other accommodation facilities were used much less often, but here too some differences can be noticed. More women stayed at apartments ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 6.91%; M: 4.43%), youth hostels ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 5.26%; M: 3.23%), private accommodation/couchsurfing ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 4.86%; M: 3.13%), holiday resorts ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 0.69%; M: 0.30%) or other facilities ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 3.01%; M: 1.99%). In turn, men preferred staying overnight in their own house/apartment more frequently ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 8.61%; M: 10.84%), at a hostel ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 6.27%; M: 8.30%), motel ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 1.33%; M: 4.93%), boarding house ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 2.80%; M: 3.59%), pilgrim's home ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 3.01%; M: 3.54%), tourist hostel ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 1.14%; M: 2.07%), health resort ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 0.71%; M: 1.21%) or campsite/ tented field ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 0.80%; M: 1.00%).

### Means of transport

In the years 2017-2023, domestic youth most often travelled to Kraków **by car** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 43.95%) or **by train** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 23.80%). However, some differences can be noticed here. Namely, in the years 2017-2019, rail transport was used more often ( $\bar{x}$  17-19 = 39.70%) than by car ( $\bar{x}$  17-19 = 26.33%). In the remaining years, however, it was the other way around. Trips to Kraków were frequently often made by car ( $\bar{x}$  20-23 = 46.88%) than by train ( $\bar{x}$  20-23 = 29.65%).

Every fifth respondent travelled **by tourist bus** in 2017-2023 ( $\bar{x}$  2017-2023 = 21.45%). The largest number of people used this option in the period after the end of the pandemic, i.e. in 2022-2023 (21.30%; 21.60%). In the period prior to the pandemic, this means of transport was used to a varying extent. This option was implemented very little during the pandemic in 2020-2021 (2.30%; 3.33%).

Based on the average percentages obtained in 2017-2023, certain differences in the choice of means of transport **by gender** can be observed. It turns out that women preferred to travel to Kraków by car more often than men ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 37.74%; M: 33.20%), while men chose to travel by train more frequently ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 30.00%; M: 32.05%).

Other options were chosen less often. About every tenth woman and man came to Kraków by tourist coach ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 12.05%; M: 14.00%) and by regular bus ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 10.76%; M: 9.93%). As can be seen, the preferences in choosing the above category were similar.

Women occasionally, but more often than men, used transport by minibus ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 2.46%; M: 3.57%) or by plane using traditional airlines ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 2.98%; M: 1.68%). Men, on the other hand, more often preferred LCC planes ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 3.68%; M: 4.42%) and other means of transport ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 0.93% M: 0.99%). However, no one came to Kraków by charter plane ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 0.00%; 0.00%).

### *Model of organisational aspects regarding tourist trips taken by foreign youth to Kraków*

#### **Trip organiser and company**

Analysing the structure of organisers of tourist trips taken by young people from abroad to Kraków in the years 2017-2023, it turns out that most often (similarly to domestic youth), they organised trips **independently**, which concerns over every third respondent ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 36.14%). Occasionally, the groups were even larger during the pandemic in 2020 (44.00%), and after its end in 2023 (47.06%). During trips organised independently, travel companions in all the analysed years 2017-2023 were most often, with a few exceptions, friend(s) and family members (probably peers). Some came to Kraków alone, which was particularly visible in the years before the pandemic in 2017 (51%) and after its end in 2022-2023 (63.00%; 38.00%). During the pandemic, solo travelling was rare or never preferred.

An important place in the group of organisers of tourist trips to Kraków in 2017-2023 is occupied by **family** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 17.22%), which ranked second. However, the largest number of people took advantage of its offer in 2021, i.e. at the peak of the pandemic, and this concerned every fourth respondent (24.00%). A similar situation occurred in 2023, when traveling with the family was also very popular, although the motives for undertaking such travel may have been slightly different. During the trip, the travel companions were most often family members, sometimes friends, especially during the pandemic.

The organisers of trips to Kraków were also **friends** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 13.77%). The largest number of people took advantage of their offer in 2020 (32%) and 2022 (20.00%), and the fewest in 2017-2018 and 2023 ( $\bar{x}$  = 5.71%). The travel companions were usually friends, sometimes family members, especially in 2019 and 2021. This trip was sometimes organised, which was visible in the 2018-2022 period.

The significant role of **the school** is noted only for 2017-2019 ( $\bar{x}$  17-19 = 33.60%) and 2022 (20.00%). During the pandemic, school tourism was not very often organised (2020: 8.00%; 2021: 4.41%), which could be particularly seen in 2021. These trips were always organised in the company of friends (especially during the pandemic).

### Length of stay

The length of stay of foreign youth in Kraków is quite diverse. However, the largest number of surveyed people (over half) in the analysed years (2017-2023) completed **long-term trips** to Kraków, lasting 4 nights or more ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 50.87%). The greatest number of people in this category was recorded before the pandemic in 2019 (70.10%) and then after its end in 2023 (64.70%), the least during the deep pandemic, i.e. in 2021 (5.30%).

Every third respondent in the years 2017-2023 took a **short-term trip** (1-3 nights) ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 30.91%). Most people took this type of stay during the pandemic ( $\bar{x}$  20-21 = 47.30%), significantly fewer in the remaining years. Before the pandemic, this concerned approximately every third respondent ( $\bar{x}$  17-19 = 31.40%), while after its end, more than every tenth ( $\bar{x}$  22-23 = 13.80%)

**One-day trips** in the years 2017-2023 enjoyed varied interest ( $\bar{x}$  17-23=18.20%). Most young people took part in them in the years 2021-2022 ( $\bar{x}$  21-22 = 42.80%), i.e. in the year of the deep pandemic and immediately after its end.

Analysing the preferences of **women and men** regarding the length of a tourist trip to Kraków in the years 2017-2023, it can be seen that more women preferred longer trips of 4 days or more ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F: 57.30%; M; 53.11%), while more men preferred one-day trips ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = M: 17.97%; F: 14.30%). Short-term trips in both groups enjoyed similar interest ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = F; 28.40%; M; 28.91%).

### Accommodation

The preferred place of accommodation for the largest group of domestic youth coming to Kraków in the years 2017-2023 was a **hotel** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 39.43%). However, the use of the above facility was quite diverse. In the period before the pandemic ( $\bar{x}$  17-19 = 48.40%) and after its end ( $\bar{x}$  22-23= 44.80%), approximately half of the surveyed individuals used hotel accommodation. During the pandemic, every fifth respondent stayed at a hotel ( $\bar{x}$  20-21 = 20.60%). However, it is worth noting that during the deep pandemic (2021), no one used the above facility.

About every tenth respondent stayed **with family** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 11.24%). Most people used this option during the pandemic (2020: 23.50%; 2021: 17.00%) and in 2022 (14.30%). In other years, the number of people who used this option was much smaller (sometimes even three times lower).

**Apartment accommodation** was also used frequently ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 10.80%) and its highest value was reached during the 2021-2022 pandemic (17.60%; 25.00%). However, in other years, it was much less frequent.

Less than one in ten respondents spent the night at a **hostel** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23=7.77%), but this option was usually preferred in 2017-2019 ( $\bar{x}$  17-19 = 14.73%) and in the main period of the pandemic (2021: 10.20%). In 2022-2023, no one took advantage of this opportunity.

The possibility of staying overnight **with friends** was used to a similar extent ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 7.57%). Similarly to the above, people most often stayed overnight with friends during the pandemic (2020: 11.80%; 2021: 23.90%) and immediately after its end (2022: 9.50%). In other years, a negligible number of people took advantage of this opportunity. In 2023, however, no one stayed overnight with friends.

The remaining accommodations were used sporadically. Their average use in the years 2017-2023 was as follows: motel 5.30%, in private accommodation/I use couchsurfing 4.67%, in my own apartment 2.71%, guesthouse 2.13%, youth hostel 1.99%, pilgrim's house 1.61%, excursion house 1.43%, health resort 1.11%, holiday home 0.44%, campsite 0.44%, and other facilities 1.36%.

Another interesting issue was to determine the differences in preferences for choosing accommodation based on **gender**. For this to be established, an average was calculated with reference to the results obtained in the years 2017-2023, which show that women stayed in a hotel more often (F: 40.74%; M: 38.99%), with family (F: 12.13%; M: 10.33%), in an apartment (F: 11.59%; M: 10.31%), with friends (F: 10.23%; M: 6.91%), at an excursion home (F: 2.11%; M: 0.59%), or holiday resort (F: 0.60%; M: 0.23%). Men, on the other hand, stayed at a hostel more frequently (F: 7.59%; M: 8.29%), at a motel (F: 5.44%; M: 5.63%), private accommodation/using couchsurfing F: 3.61%; M: 4.44%), a guesthouse (F: 1.59%; M: 2.81%), in one's own home (F: 1.16%; M: 3.27%), at a youth hostel (F: 1.90%; M: 2.14%), health resort (F: 0.00%; M: 1.74%), a pilgrim's home (F: 1.09%; M: 1.66%), at a campsite/campground (F: 0.30%; M: 0.59%) or in other facilities (F: 0.00%; M: 2.04%).

### Means of transport

Foreign youth in the years 2017-2023 most often came to Kraków **by LCC plane** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 32.89%) or **by traditional airline plane** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 24.24%). Since 2020, an upward trend has been noticeable, resulting in the fact that in 2023 more than half of the respondents (55.60%) arrived in Kraków by LCC plane.

About every tenth respondent came to Kraków **by tourist coach** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 14.79%), which is particularly visible in the years 2018-2019 (25.60%; 29.60%) and in 2022 (20.00%). The next means of transport was a **car** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 10.64%), which was used by the largest number of people dur-

ing the deep pandemic (2021: 31.71%), while after its end, by only a few (2022: 4.00%; 2023: 5.60%). A similar group came to Kraków **by train** ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 9.14%), but over the analysed years, it was used with variable interest. Train transportation was used sporadically in 2019 (1.00%) and 2023 (5.60%), while in the remaining years, it was used by approximately every tenth young tourist (2017: 10.50%; 2018: 12.60%); 2020: 12.50%; 2021: 9.76%; 2022: 12.00%).

Other means of transport, such as a regular coach ( $\bar{x}$  17-23 = 7.31%), were used much less frequently, but most people implemented this form in the years 2019-2022 (over every tenth respondent). A minibus, charter plane or another means of transport were used occasionally.

Based on the calculated average results obtained in the years 2017-2023, certain differences in the choice of means of transport **by gender** can be noticed. It turns out that women preferred to travel to Krakow by plane via traditional airlines more often than men (F: 24.99%; M: 23.17%), by train (F: 13.89%; M: 10.65%), car (F: 13.89%; M: 10.51%), regular bus (F: 8.33%; M: 5.70%), and by charter plane (F: 0.40%; M: 0.31%). Men, on the other hand, travelled by LCC plane more often (F: 29.33%; 30.72%), tourist coach (F: 9.30%; M: 17.90%), minibus (F: 0.23%; M: 0.31%) and other means of transport (F: 0.11%; M: 0.40%).

## Discussion

Research on tourist traffic conducted in Kraków over the years 2017-2023 shows certain trends and preferences among both young tourists from Poland and abroad. There are some similarities in the components of trips, however, it should be noted that in most criteria, young domestic and foreign tourists should be analysed as two separate groups constituting the target segment.

In the case of the domestic market, we are dealing with young people who mainly organized their trips to Krakow **independently**, without using the help of educational institutions or other organisations, which is related to the development of new technologies, the ability to independently package services, search for information, compare offers and use various applications. However, the main criterion was low price, high quality, bypassing intermediaries. Travel companions were most often acquaintances/friends, as well as family, although the share was definitely smaller than in the case of friends. At the stage of adolescence, the peer group is of decisive importance, which is a very significant development factor in the social sphere and plays an integrative role. The above aspects are also confirmed in the research conducted by Alejziak (2008; 2010; 2011), who showed the educational aspects of trips organised independently in the process of self-educational

tion, making a comparative analysis of the tourist activity of Polish youth in the years 2002-2008 and analysing incoming tourism to Kraków in 2008.

There is no doubt that for Polish youth, Kraków is an attractive place for a one-day trip, usually without using accommodation services. On average, more than one-third of young tourists decided on a **short-term stay** (1-3 days), sometimes referred to as a city break, i.e. short-term, usually weekend trips to cities that gained popularity in the 1990s as a result of the development of low-cost airlines (Prylińska et al. 2009; Iwanicki et al. 2019). Similar groups were diagnosed by Łaciak (2011) who conducted research on the participation of Polish youth in tourist trips for the years 2006-2010.

Over the analysed years, specific preferences regarding accommodation were also visible. In almost every year, young people chose **hotels**. The exception was 2021, when accommodation with family and friends or apartments was preferred, but used less often before and after the pandemic. Comparing the obtained results to those achieved in the research by Alejziak (2010), which concerned the tourist activity of Polish youth in the years 2002-2008, a very large change in preferences regarding the place is visible accommodation. While in the years 2017-2023, hotels rank high among all accommodation facilities (used by every third respondent, on average), in the years 2002-2008, only less than every tenth respondent used the above facilities for domestic trips. This also applies to incoming tourism to Kraków in 2008 (6.5%). At that time, more people spent the night at a youth hostel (every third 27.5%), more than every tenth at a tourist hostel (15.7%) and with friends (13.1%) (Alejziak 2011). In turn, in research conducted by Łaciak (2011) on the participation of Polish youth in tourist trips, it was shown that in 2010, during long-term trips, every fourth respondent used a room at a guesthouse (26%), approximately every tenth a guest room (15%), camping cottages (9%) and holiday resorts (9%). On the other hand, the largest group (every third) (34%) stayed overnight with relatives or friends. The above indicates that as a result of the increase in society's income, improvement in household finances and quality of life, there is a visible change in preferences of adolescents towards using accommodation facilities of a higher standard and quality of services.

Analysing **the means of transport** used in tourist trips to Kraków by domestic youth, it turns out that the largest number of people came to the city by passenger car and this applied to all the years analysed. Next in line was rail transport and tourist coach. Interestingly, similar results were obtained by Alejziak (2010) analysing the tourist activity of Polish youth in the years 2002-2008. In turn, in the case of the analysis of incoming tourism to Kraków in 2008, certain differences are visible due to the greater variety of means of transport used (coach, car, minibus, train). Cars were used much less often (every fifth respondent), but in the case of rail or coach transport, the obtained results were similar. Additionally, every fifth person also came here by bus (Alejziak 2011). Additionally, from the research conducted

by Łaciak (2011, pp. 37-38, 47), it can be concluded that the main means of transport for young people participating in trips organised independently, without intermediaries, was a car (72%). In contrast, for participants of trips organised by travel agencies, schools, workplaces and social organisations – a coach was most popular (61%). In 2010, during trips lasting 2-4 days, young people most often travelled by car (57%). Train travel was less common, while coaches and scheduled buses were used more frequently.

Analysing the preferences of domestic youth coming to Kraków for tourism, it is clear that young people who could be considered a group not belonging to the wealthy use tourist services of a higher standard and pay a lot of attention to comfort during a trip. In the case of the domestic market, we are dealing mainly with one-day visitors, however, if someone decides to stay in Kraków longer, they usually use hotels, which typically provide a higher level of comfort. The results of the study also showed that there are no major disproportions in the case of preferences of women and men. The distribution of answers provided by both groups was similar. In all cases, a lot of attention was paid to standard and comfort. It should be noted that the group of tourists and one-day visitors from Poland was characterised by relatively low sensitivity to pandemic factors clearly visible only in 2021, comparable to the UNWTO research [2022], in which it was demonstrated that young people travelled more willingly and more often during the pandemic than older people. The organisational elements and components of the trip underwent minor changes that did not disrupt the patterns formed in pre-pandemic times.

**Foreign respondents** exhibited a number of aspects also showing that one of the main criteria by which they were guided was the standard of services and comfort. It is important that this group was more sensitive to changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2017-2019 and 2022-2023, more than every third foreign respondent organised a trip to Kraków independently. School also played a similar role in this period, with the exception of 2023, when the above category was not examined. Family tourism also played a significance role in the analysed period, because it was the family that organized the trip to Kraków for almost every fifth young tourist. Comparing the obtained results to the research on tourist traffic in Kraków in 2008 conducted by Alejziak (2011), many similarities can be observed, mainly concerning the organisation of the trip to Kraków on their own (21.5%) and school tourism (27.7%). The only difference is the fact that significantly more individuals used the organisation of the trip to Kraków by a travel agency (21.5%) compared to the years 2017-2023, when its role was very small.

The company during the trip in the years 2017-2023 was mostly an organised group. From 2020, a change towards independent organisation of trips to Kraków began to assume shape and continued until 2023. Differences are also visible in the selection of company during the trip. The organ-

ised group was replaced by friends and family, and trips began to take on a much more individual and private nature. Comparing the results in the years 2017-2023 to 2008 (Alejziak 2011), one can notice significant similarities in the choice of company during trips to Kraków, where the organised group (52.3%), friends (23.1%) and family (15.4%) also dominated.

Foreign youth came to Kraków for a longer stay, which included a minimum of four nights. Only in 2021 did the length of the visit to the capital of Małopolska decrease to a range of 1 to 3 days. The general comparison shows that women preferred longer trips than men. In 2008, longer trips to Kraków were also most often preferred (Alejziak 2011).

The most frequently chosen accommodation facility by foreign youth in the years 2017-2023 were hotels, and in this respect, even the pandemic did not have a major impact. The only change occurred in 2021, when apartments were most often rented during their stay in Kraków. Comparing the obtained results to 2008, it turns out that the largest number of young tourists from abroad also preferred staying in a hotel (over every third respondent), with the difference that they also used inexpensive accommodation facilities such as a hostel (every third respondent) and a youth hostel (every tenth) (Alejziak 2011). In the years 2017-2023, these facilities had little significance in the structure of preferred accommodation for foreign youth.

A large difference was noted in relation to domestic youth regarding the preferred **means of transport**. It is important that foreign tourists often had to cover much longer distances on the way to Poland, which is why they most often chose LLC planes or traditional airlines. In the years 2018-2019, a tourist coach was also a popular means of transport. Foreign youth are usually perceived as tourists with better financial conditions compared to the domestic market. This is confirmed in choosing individual organisational elements of the trip. The priority is the speed of travel and comfort and this has not changed, in principle, since 2008, when also the largest number of young tourists used air transport to travel to Kraków. The remaining tourists, i.e. approximately one in ten, used cars, coaches and trains (Alejziak 2011). It follows from the above that despite the passage of almost a decade, the preferences of young foreign tourists have not changed.

Although differences between tourists and one-day visitors from Poland and abroad are visible, there is no doubt that Kraków is becoming an increasingly attractive destination from the point of view of youth tourism. The presented results show certain changes that have made young people choose this region when independently organising individual trips in their free time. The wide availability of various types of tourist services allows for the free organisation of trips and the possibility of choice. It should be noted that the approach of young people to the organisation of tourist trips has changed, where low price is not an important criterion for choosing a means of transport or place to stay. The segment in question is interested

in higher standard services provided by facilities such as hotels or apartments. Analysing the respondents' responses, it can also be concluded that Kraków as a tourist destination is an excellent place for the integration of peer groups, because young people primarily visit the city with acquaintances and friends. Taking the presented aspects of organising tourist trips to Kraków into account, attention should be paid to preparing the tourist offer in such a way that it meets the needs of young tourists and one-day visitors, who focus primarily on a higher standard and comfort. Since most of these are trips organised independently in the individuals' free time, the travel plan may differ significantly from trips organised institutionally (school, church, travel agency). In this context, young people are attracted more by the wide range of entertainment and atmosphere of the place than by visiting monuments and learning about the history of the city. Traveling in a peer group makes young people want to experience something exceptional, which will allow for the creation of shared experiences and strengthening relationships between individual group members.

### Summary and conclusions

Children's and youth tourism is an important element of tourist traffic in an area where visiting large cities has become particularly fashionable. Kraków occupies an important place due to its history, cultural and natural values, *genius loci*. In the classification of the tourist product, Kraków ensures the fulfilment of very diverse needs. From the point of view of adolescents, the need to spend free time with peers or the people closest to them outside their place of residence is particularly important (Biegańska et al 2014). In order for young tourists to fulfil their own needs, cities must have the necessary material background, i.e. tourist infrastructure (Gryszel 2001, pp. 28–29; Timothy 2011; Marciszewskiej 2010, p. 70; Global Report..., 2012; Bajgier-Kowalska, Tracz, Wałach, 2016). However, this particularly applies to cities for which its sites have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (Borg, Costa, Gotti, 1996; Cuccia, Rizzo, 2010; Cellini, 2011). These cities must have, among others, very good communication accessibility, developed accommodation, catering, entertainment and sports infrastructure that meets the needs of young tourists. Considering the fact that youth travel is one of the dynamically developing areas of tourism in the world [Global Report on the youth travel 2016, p. 5], and the uniqueness of Kraków in terms of tourist attractiveness (on the UNESCO World Heritage List), an important aspect was to learn about the preferences of young people regarding the organisational side of incoming tourism to the capital of Małopolska. The obtained knowledge will certainly contribute to better preparation of a tourist offer taking the preferences and expectations of adolescents into account.

**Table 1.** Organiser vs. company during tourist trips of domestic youth to Kraków in 2017-2023

Row labels	1 Alone	2 Organised group	3 Friends	4 Family	5 Family and friends	1 Alone	2 Organised group	3 Friends	4 Family	5 Family and friends	Sum of rows	[%]	Percentage structure of trip organisers in 2017-2023
PL – domestic	247	189	493	314	16	20%	14%	41%	23%	2%	1,259	100%	
<b>2017</b>	68	28	54	34		37%	15%	29%	18%	0%	184	100%	<b>14.61</b>
1 Independently	68		42	16		54%	0%	33%	13%	0%	126	100%	68.48
2 School		11				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	11	100%	5.98
3 Parish/church		4				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	4	100%	2.17
4 Travel agency		4				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	4	100%	2.17
5 Friends			12			0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	12	100%	6.52
8 Family				18		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	18	100%	9.78
9 Other institution		9				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	9	100%	4.89
<b>2018</b>	44	63	118	54	7	15%	22%	41%	19%	2%	286	100%	<b>22.72</b>
1 Independently	39	5	89	33	6	23%	3%	52%	19%	3%	172	100%	60.14
2 School	1	45	13			2%	76%	22%	0%	0%	59	100%	20.63
3 Parish/church		7				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	7	100%	2.45
4 Travel agency		4				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	4	100%	1.40
5 Friends			14			0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	14	100%	4.90
7 Workplace			1			0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	1	100%	0.35
8 Family	3	1	1	21	1	11%	4%	4%	78%	4%	27	100%	9.44
9 Other institution	1	1				50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	2	100%	0.70
<b>2019</b>	20	8	61	41	5	15%	6%	45%	30%	4%	135	100%	<b>10.72</b>
1 Independently	19	3	53	26	3	18%	3%	51%	25%	3%	104	100%	77.04
2 School			1			0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	1	100%	0.74
3 Parish/church		4				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	4	100%	2.96
5 Friends			6		1	0%	0%	86%	0%	14%	7	100%	5.19
8 Family	1		1	14	1	6%	0%	6%	82%	6%	17	100%	12.59
9 Other institution		1		1		0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	2	100%	1.48
<b>2020</b>	22	10	92	51	4	12%	6%	51%	28%	2%	179	100%	<b>14.22</b>
1 Independently	17	5	75	35	3	13%	4%	56%	26%	2%	135	100%	75.42
2 School	1	2				33%	67%	0%	0%	0%	3	100%	1.68
5 Friends	2	3	12			12%	18%	71%	0%	0%	17	100%	9.50

6 Internet portal				1		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	100%	0.56
8 Family	2		4	15	1	9%	0%	18%	68%	5%	22	100%	12.29
9 Other institution			1			0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	1	100%	0.56
<b>2021</b>	23	18	56	72		14%	11%	33%	43%	0%	169	100%	13.42
1 Independently	12	8	27	22		17%	12%	39%	32%	0%	69	100%	40.83
2 School		1		2		0%	33%	0%	67%	0%	3	100%	1.78
3 Parish/church		1	2	3		0%	17%	33%	50%	0%	6	100%	3.55
4 Travel agency	2	1	3	2		25%	13%	38%	25%	0%	8	100%	4.73
5 Friends	6	2	13	13		18%	6%	38%	38%	0%	34	100%	20.12
7 Workplace		1	2	3		0%	17%	33%	50%	0%	6	100%	3.55
8 Family	3	3	7	26		8%	8%	18%	67%	0%	39	100%	23.08
9 Other institution		1	2	1		0%	25%	50%	25%	0%	4	100%	2.37
<b>2022</b>	40	32	46	36		26%	21%	30%	23%	0%	154	100%	12.23
1 Independently	39	3	33	20		41%	3%	35%	21%	0%	95	100%	61.69
2 School		11				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	11	100%	7.14
3 Parish/church		8				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	8	100%	5.19
4 Travel agency		1	1			0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	2	100%	1.30
5 friends	1		11	1		8%	0%	85%	8%	0%	13	100%	8.44
7 Workplace		9				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	9	100%	5.84
8 Family			1	15		0%	0%	6%	94%	0%	16	100%	10.39
<b>2023</b>	30	30	66	26		20%	20%	43%	17%	0%	152	100%	12.07
1 Independently	28		34	15		36%	0%	44%	19%	0%	77	100%	50.66
2 School		18				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	18	100%	11.84
3 Parish/church		7				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	7	100%	4.61
4 Travel agency		1	1			0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	2	100%	1.32
5 Friends	1		30	2		3%	0%	91%	6%	0%	33	100%	21.71
8 Family	1		1	9		9%	0%	9%	82%	0%	11	100%	7.24
9 Other institution		4				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	4	100%	2.63
Total:											1,259	100%	100%

**Reference:** Own study based on the report “Tourist Traffic in Kraków”, research carried out in 2017-2023, K. Borkowski, T. Grabiński, R. Seweryn, L. Rotter, L. Mazanek, E. Grabińska, Małopolska Tourism Organisation, Kraków.

**Table 2.** Organiser vs. company during tourist trips of foreign youth to Kraków in 2017-2023

Row labels	1 Alone	2 Organised group	3 Friends	4 Family	5 Family and friends	1 Alone	2 Organised group	3 Friends	4 Family	5 Family and friends	Sum of rows	[%]	Percentage structure of trip organisers in 2017-2023
Foreign	64	197	145	162	7	8%	37%	25%	29%	2%	575	100%	
2017	22	47	8	44		18%	39%	7%	36%	0%	121	100%	<b>21.04</b>
1 Independently	22		1	20		51%	0%	2%	47%	0%	43	100%	35.54
2 School		31				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	31	100%	25.62
3 Parish/church		4				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	4	100%	3.31
4 Travel agency		6				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	6	100%	4.96
5 Friends			7			0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	7	100%	5.79
7 Workplace		1				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1	100%	0.83
8 Family				24		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	24	100%	19.83
9 Other institution		5				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	5	100%	4.13
2018	7	89	70	50	4	3%	40%	32%	23%	2%	220	100%	<b>38.26</b>
1 Independently	6	2	38	25	2	8%	3%	52%	34%	3%	73	100%	33.18
2 School	1	74	17			1%	80%	18%	0%	0%	92	100%	41.82
3 Parish/church		1			1	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%	2	100%	0.91
4 Travel agency		6	5	1		0%	50%	42%	8%	0%	12	100%	5.45
5 Friends		2	9	1		0%	17%	75%	8%	0%	12	100%	5.45
6 Internet portal				1		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	100%	0.45
8 Family			1	20	1	0%	0%	5%	91%	5%	22	100%	10.00
9 Other institution		4		2		0%	67%	0%	33%	0%	6	100%	2.73
2019	5	34	24	34	2	5%	34%	24%	34%	2%	99	100%	<b>17.22</b>
1 Independently	1		11	17	1	3%	0%	37%	57%	3%	30	100%	30.30
2 School	1	31	1			3%	94%	3%	0%	0%	33	100%	33.33
4 Travel agency				2		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	2	100%	2.02
5 Friends	1	1	7	1	1	9%	9%	64%	9%	9%	11	100%	11.11
7 Workplace				1		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	100%	1.01
8 Family	1		4	13		6%	0%	22%	72%	0%	18	100%	18.18
9 Other institution	1	2	1			25%	50%	25%	0%	0%	4	100%	4.04
2020	4	1	13	6	1	16%	4%	52%	24%	4%	25	100%	<b>4.35</b>
1 Independently			6	4	1	0%	0%	55%	36%	9%	11	100%	44.00
2 School		1	1			0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	2	100%	8.00

5 Friends	2		6			25%	0%	75%	0%	0%	8	100%	32.00
6 Internet portal				2		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	2	100%	8.00
8 Family	2					100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2	100%	8.00
2021	17	14	21	16		25%	21%	31%	24%	0%	68	100%	11.83
1 Independently	3	2	9	7		14%	10%	43%	33%	0%	21	100%	30.88
2 School		1	2			0%	33%	67%	0%	0%	3	100%	4.41
3 Parish/church	3	1	1			60%	20%	20%	0%	0%	5	100%	7.35
4 Travel agency	2	2		1		40%	40%	0%	20%	0%	5	100%	7.35
5 Friends	2	3	3	3		18%	27%	27%	27%	0%	11	100%	16.18
7 Workplace	1	2	1	2		17%	33%	17%	33%	0%	6	100%	8.82
8 Family	6	3	5	3		35%	18%	29%	18%	0%	17	100%	25.00
2022	6	8	7	4		24%	32%	28%	16%	0%	25	100%	4.35
1 Independently	5	1	2			63%	13%	25%	0%	0%	8	100%	32.00
4 Travel agency		2				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	2	100%	8.00
2 School	1	4				20%	80%	0%	0%	0%	5	100%	20.00
5 Friends		1	4			0%	20%	80%	0%	0%	5	100%	20.00
8 Family			1	3		0%	0%	25%	75%	0%	4	100%	16.00
3 Parish/church				1		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	100%	4.00
2023	3	4	2	8		18%	24%	12%	47%	0%	17	100%	2.96
1 Independently	3		1	4		38%	0%	13%	50%	0%	8	100%	47.06
4 Travel agency		1				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1	100%	5.88
5 Friends			1			0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	1	100%	5.88
8 Family				4		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	4	100%	23.53
9 Other institution		3				0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	3	100%	17.65
Total:											575	100%	100%

**Reference:** Own study based on the report “Tourist Traffic in Kraków”, research carried out in 2017-2023, K. Borkowski, T. Grabiński, R. Seweryn, L. Rotter, L. Mazanek, E. Grabińska, Małopolska Tourism Organisation, Kraków.

**Table 3.** Length of adolescents' stay in Krakow for 2017-2023 period

Age	N	1 day – without accommodation	1-3 nights	4 > nights	Total
15-19 y.o.					
2017	284	26.40%	41.90%	31.70%	100.00%
Domestic	122	41.00%	45.10%	13.90%	100.00%
F	50	26.00%	54.00%	20.00%	100.00%
M	27	33.30%	48.10%	18.50%	100.00%
Foreign	112	10.70%	33.00%	56.30%	100.00%
F	68	8.80%	30.90%	60.30%	100.00%
M	44	13.60%	36.40%	50.00%	100.00%
2018	376	26.60%	35.10%	38.30%	100.00%
Domestic	195	43.60%	33.80%	22.60%	100.00%
F	127	44.10%	33.90%	22.00%	100.00%
M	68	42.60%	33.80%	23.50%	100.00%
Foreign	181	8.30%	36.50%	55.20%	100.00%
F	108	7.40%	38.00%	54.60%	100.00%
M	73	9.60%	34.20%	56.20%	100.00%
2019	228	29.80%	30.30%	39.90%	100.00%
Domestic	131	48.10%	34.40%	17.60%	100.00%
F	92	43.50%	39.10%	17.40%	100.00%
M	39	59.00%	23.10%	17.90%	100.00%
Foreign	97	5.20%	24.70%	70.10%	100.00%
F	50	8.00%	22.00%	70.00%	100.00%
M	47	2.10%	27.70%	70.20%	100.00%
2020	98	56.10%	31.60%	12.20%	100.00%
Domestic	87	63.20%	29.90%	6.90%	100.00%
F	54	63.00%	27.80%	9.30%	100.00%
M	33	63.60%	33.30%	3.00%	100.00%
Foreign	11	0.00%	45.50%	54.50%	100.00%
F	4	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	100.00%
M	7	0.00%	57.10%	42.90%	100.00%
2021	121	43.00%	47.90%	9.10%	100.00%

Domestic	64	40.60%	46.90%	12.50%	100.00%
F	24	37.50%	54.20%	8.30%	100.00%
M	40	42.50%	42.50%	15.00%	100.00%
Foreign	57	45.60%	49.10%	5.30%	100.00%
F	38	34.20%	57.90%	7.90%	100.00%
M	19	68.40%	31.60%	0.00%	100.00%
2022	138	38.40%	29.00%	32.60%	100.00%
Domestic	118	38.10%	32.20%	29.70%	100.00%
F	73	37.00%	28.80%	34.20%	100.00%
M	45	40.00%	37.80%	22.20%	100.00%
Foreign	20	40.00%	10.00%	50.00%	100.00%
F	6	16.70%	0.00%	83.30%	100.00%
M	14	50.00%	14.30%	35.70%	100.00%
2023	149	45.60%	21.50%	32.90%	100.00%
Domestic	132	49.20%	22.00%	28.80%	100.00%
F	67	41.80%	29.90%	28.40%	100.00%
M	65	56.90%	13.80%	29.20%	100.00%
Foreign	17	17.60%	17.60%	64.70%	100.00%
F	4	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%	100.00%
M	13	15.40%	15.40%	69.20%	100.00%
Sum:	1394	33.80%	34.50%	31.70%	100.00%

**Reference:** Own study based on the report “Tourist Traffic in Kraków”, research carried out in 2017-2023, K. Borkowski, T. Grabiński, R. Seweryn, L. Rotter, L. Mazanek, E. Grabińska, Małopolska Tourism Organisation, Kraków.

Table 4. Accommodation for young people coming to Kraków in 2017-2023

Age 15-19 y.o.	N	Hotel	Motel	Guest-house	Excursion house	Youth hostel	Camping site	Hostel	Apartment	Health resort	Holiday resort	With family	With friends	Pilgrim's house	Own house/apartment	Other facilities	Private accommodation/couch-surfing	TOTAL
2017	223	22.4%	1.3%	6.7%	2.7%	9.4%	0.4%	23.3%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%	7.2%	4.9%	2.2%	3.1%	0.9%	13.5%	100.0%
Domestic	119	6.7%	2.5%	11.8%	1.7%	16.0%	0.8%	23.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	9.2%	5.9%	0.8%	3.4%	1.7%	15.1%	100.0%
F	81	8.6%	1.2%	8.6%	1.2%	18.5%	0.0%	21.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	9.9%	7.4%	0.0%	3.7%	1.2%	17.3%	100.0%
M	38	2.6%	5.3%	18.4%	2.6%	10.5%	2.6%	28.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.9%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	10.5%	100.0%
Foreign	104	40.4%	0.0%	1.0%	3.8%	1.9%	0.0%	23.1%	1.9%	1.0%	0.0%	4.8%	3.8%	3.8%	2.9%	0.0%	11.5%	100.0%
F	64	45.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	3.1%	0.0%	15.6%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	1.6%	4.7%	3.1%	0.0%	14.1%	100.0%
M	40	32.5%	0.0%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	35.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	5.0%	7.5%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%	7.5%	100.0%
2018	223	52.4%	7.3%	2.1%	0.7%	3.1%	0.0%	9.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	7.2%	4.2%	0.5%	5.9%	0.0%	7.1%	100.0%
Domestic	198	49.6%	7.5%	1.8%	0.9%	4.0%	0.0%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.3%	5.8%	0.4%	10.6%	0.0%	4.4%	100.0%
F	128	50.7%	4.8%	1.4%	0.7%	5.5%	0.0%	6.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.9%	6.2%	0.7%	10.3%	0.0%	4.1%	100.0%
M	70	47.5%	12.5%	2.5%	1.3%	1.3%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	5.0%	0.0%	11.3%	0.0%	5.0%	100.0%
Foreign	191	55.6%	7.1%	2.5%	0.5%	2.0%	0.0%	12.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	5.1%	2.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	10.1%	100.0%
F	114	52.8%	8.0%	2.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	15.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	2.4%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	11.2%	100.0%
M	77	60.3%	5.5%	2.7%	0.0%	5.5%	0.0%	8.2%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	5.5%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.2%	100.0%
2019	230	49.7%	2.5%	2.8%	0.9%	3.4%	0.6%	4.4%	9.7%	0.0%	0.3%	7.8%	7.2%	1.3%	8.8%	0.0%	0.6%	100.0%
Domestic	132	50.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	1.6%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.9%	11.1%	2.1%	14.7%	0.0%	1.1%	100.0%
F	92	48.1%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	8.4%	10.7%	3.1%	13.7%	0.0%	1.5%	100.0%
M	40	54.2%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	6.8%	11.9%	0.0%	16.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Foreign	98	49.2%	4.6%	6.9%	2.3%	7.7%	0.8%	8.5%	10.0%	0.0%	0.8%	7.7%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

F	50	47.8%	3.0%	4.5%	3.0%	6.0%	0.0%	11.9%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.4%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
M	48	50.8%	6.3%	9.5%	1.6%	9.5%	1.6%	4.8%	11.1%	0.0%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
2020	115	33.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	2.8%	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	14.2%	17.0%	0.9%	19.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Domestic	102	31.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	3.4%	10.1%	0.0%	0.0%	12.4%	18.0%	0.0%	23.6%	0.0%	100.0%
F	63	25.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	7.8%	0.0%	0.0%	15.7%	15.7%	0.0%	31.4%	0.0%	100.0%
M	39	39.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	13.2%	0.0%	0.0%	7.9%	21.1%	0.0%	13.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Foreign	13	41.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	17.6%	0.0%	0.0%	23.5%	11.8%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
F	6	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
M	7	36.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	9.1%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
2021	136	0.0%	3.0%	4.9%	4.9%	1.8%	2.4%	11.6%	19.5%	0.6%	2.4%	20.1%	20.1%	2.4%	4.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Domestic	71	0.0%	2.6%	5.3%	6.6%	1.3%	2.6%	13.2%	13.2%	1.3%	2.6%	23.7%	15.8%	3.9%	5.3%	0.0%	100.0%
F	29	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	3.6%	0.0%	3.6%	7.1%	17.9%	0.0%	3.6%	32.1%	17.9%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
M	42	0.0%	4.2%	4.2%	8.3%	2.1%	2.1%	16.7%	10.4%	2.1%	2.1%	18.8%	14.6%	4.2%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Foreign	65	0.0%	3.4%	4.5%	3.4%	2.3%	2.3%	10.2%	25.0%	0.0%	2.3%	17.0%	23.9%	1.1%	4.5%	0.0%	100.0%
F	40	0.0%	2.1%	4.2%	6.3%	4.2%	2.1%	10.4%	22.9%	0.0%	4.2%	16.7%	20.8%	2.1%	4.2%	0.0%	100.0%
M	25	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	10.0%	27.5%	0.0%	0.0%	17.5%	27.5%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	100.0%
2022	191	43.4%	3.4%	1.4%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%	2.1%	6.2%	1.4%	0.0%	9.7%	11.0%	6.9%	2.1%	9.0%	100.0%
Domestic	165	45.2%	2.4%	1.6%	0.8%	0.8%	1.6%	2.4%	4.8%	1.6%	0.0%	8.9%	11.3%	8.1%	1.6%	8.9%	100.0%
F	108	42.0%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	3.7%	6.2%	2.5%	0.0%	11.1%	11.1%	6.2%	1.2%	9.9%	100.0%
M	57	51.2%	2.3%	0.0%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	11.6%	11.6%	2.3%	7.0%	100.0%
Foreign	26	33.3%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	9.5%	0.0%	4.8%	9.5%	100.0%
F	8	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
M	18	42.9%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	14.3%	100.0%
2023	171	31.1%	5.8%	0.0%	1.0%	6.8%	0.0%	1.0%	2.9%	4.9%	0.0%	8.7%	9.7%	5.8%	10.7%	5.8%	100.0%
Domestic	153	26.4%	4.6%	0.0%	1.1%	8.0%	0.0%	1.1%	2.3%	4.6%	0.0%	9.2%	11.5%	6.9%	11.5%	6.9%	100.0%

F	68	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	2.5%	0.0%	10.0%	5.0%	7.5%	0.0%	10.0%	7.5%	100.0%
M	85	17.0%	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.4%	0.0%	6.4%	0.0%	17.0%	6.4%	0.0%	8.5%	17.0%	6.4%	21.3%	4.3%	4.3%	100.0%
Foreign	18	56.3%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	6.3%	100.0%
F	5	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
M	13	50.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	8.3%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	8.3%	100.0%
Total	1,289	33.1%	3.4%	2.6%	1.6%	3.7%	0.7%	7.7%	7.3%	1.1%	10.7%	0.5%	10.7%	10.6%	2.9%	7.9%	2.2%	4.1%	100.0%

Legend:



Legend:



**Reference:** Own study based on the report “Tourist Traffic in Kraków”, research carried out in 2017-2023, K. Borkowski, T. Grabiński, R. Seweryn, L. Rotter, L. Mazanek, E. Grabińska, Małopolska Tourism Organisation, Kraków.

**Table 5.** Means of transport for young people to Kraków in 2017-2023

TRANSPORT	Regular bus	Tourist coach	Other	Minibus	Train	Car	Charter plane	LCC plane	Traditional airlines	%	N
<b>2017</b>	12.1%	9.7%	2.1%	3.5%	30.4%	15.9%	0.0%	13.5%	12.8%	100.0%	289
PL	17.1%	10.3%	3.4%	5.7%	43.4%	18.3%	0.0%	1.1%	0.6%	100.0%	175
F	19.4%	10.5%	3.2%	4.0%	44.4%	18.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	124
M	11.8%	9.8%	3.9%	9.8%	41.2%	17.6%	0.0%	3.9%	2.0%	100.0%	51
Foreign	4.4%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	10.5%	12.3%	0.0%	32.5%	31.6%	100.0%	114
F	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	11.4%	0.0%	37.1%	37.1%	100.0%	70
M	4.5%	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%	22.7%	13.6%	0.0%	25.0%	22.7%	100.0%	44
<b>2018</b>	10.2%	24.2%	0.2%	4.7%	23.6%	17.2%	0.6%	9.4%	9.8%	100.0%	488
PL	11.4%	23.1%	0.0%	7.0%	32.2%	25.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	100.0%	273
F	9.8%	21.2%	0.0%	6.5%	32.6%	28.8%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	100.0%	184
M	14.6%	27.0%	0.0%	7.9%	31.5%	19.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	89
Foreign	8.8%	25.6%	0.5%	1.9%	12.6%	6.5%	1.4%	20.9%	21.9%	100.0%	215
F	9.5%	17.5%	0.8%	1.6%	15.9%	6.3%	0.8%	19.8%	27.8%	100.0%	126
M	7.9%	37.1%	0.0%	2.2%	7.9%	6.7%	2.2%	22.5%	13.5%	100.0%	89
<b>2019</b>	11.8%	15.7%	0.4%	0.9%	25.3%	24.5%	0.4%	12.7%	8.3%	100.0%	229
PL	12.2%	5.3%	0.0%	1.5%	43.5%	35.1%	0.0%	0.8%	1.5%	100.0%	131
F	10.9%	6.5%	0.0%	1.1%	38.0%	42.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	100.0%	92
M	15.4%	2.6%	0.0%	2.6%	56.4%	17.9%	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%	100.0%	39
Foreign	11.2%	29.6%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	10.2%	1.0%	28.6%	17.3%	100.0%	98
F	18.0%	26.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	10.0%	2.0%	26.0%	16.0%	100.0%	50
M	4.2%	33.3%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	10.4%	0.0%	31.3%	18.8%	100.0%	48
<b>2020</b>	8.7%	2.6%	0.0%	4.6%	22.6%	52.8%	0.0%	6.2%	2.6%	100.0%	195
PL	8.2%	2.3%	0.0%	5.3%	24.0%	59.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	100.0%	171
F	9.3%	1.9%	0.0%	5.6%	22.4%	59.8%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	100.0%	107
M	6.3%	3.1%	0.0%	4.7%	26.6%	59.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	64
Foreign	12.5%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	4.2%	0.0%	45.8%	20.8%	100.0%	24
F	14.3%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	14.3%	100.0%	14
M	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	40.0%	30.0%	100.0%	10
<b>2021</b>	11.43%	4.17%	1.39%	0.0%	26.39%	31.94%	0.0%	15.28%	9.29%	100.0%	289
PL	12.50%	3.33%	0.00%	0.0%	23.33%	40.00%	0.0%	10.00%	8.33%	100.0%	279
F	10.00%	4.76%	2.38%	0.0%	28.57%	26.19%	0.0%	19.05%	13.33%	100.0%	119
M	14.29%	8.82%	0.00%	0.0%	17.65%	33.82%	0.0%	19.12%	4.76%	100.0%	160

Foreign	10.29%	9.76%	0.00%	0.0%	9.76%	31.71%	0.0%	26.83%	10.29%	100.0%	10
F	12.20%	7.41%	0.00%	0.0%	29.63%	37.04%	0.0%	7.41%	9.76%	100.0%	4
M	7.41%	6.43%	0.71%	0.0%	22.14%	32.86%	0.0%	17.14%	11.11%	100.0%	6
2022	5.8%	21.2%	1.1%	0.0%	25.9%	37.0%	0.0%	3.7%	5.3%	100.0%	189
PL	6.1%	21.3%	1.2%	0.0%	28.0%	42.1%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%	164
F	5.6%	20.4%	0.9%	0.0%	27.8%	44.4%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	100.0%	108
M	7.1%	23.2%	1.8%	0.0%	28.6%	37.5%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%	56
Foreign	4.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	4.0%	0.0%	20.0%	40.0%	100.0%	25
F	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	12.5%	0.0%	25.0%	50.0%	100.0%	8
M	5.9%	29.4%	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	17.6%	35.3%	100.0%	17
2023	4.1%	19.9%	0.6%	0.0%	18.1%	41.5%	0.0%	9.4%	6.4%	100.0%	171
PL	4.6%	21.6%	0.7%	0.0%	19.6%	45.8%	0.0%	3.9%	3.9%	100.0%	153
F	10.3%	19.1%	0.0%	0.0%	16.2%	44.1%	0.0%	4.4%	5.9%	100.0%	68
M	0.0%	23.5%	1.2%	0.0%	22.4%	47.1%	0.0%	3.5%	2.4%	100.0%	85
Foreign	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	0.0%	55.6%	27.8%	100.0%	18
F	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	40.0%	20.0%	100.0%	5
M	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	61.5%	30.8%	100.0%	13
ΣΣ											1.850
Final average:	9.2%	13.9%	0.8%	2.0%	24.6%	31.6%	0.2%	10.0%	7.8%	100.0%	

**Reference:** Own study based on the report “Tourist Traffic in Kraków”, research carried out in 2017-2023, K. Borkowski, T. Grabiński, R. Seweryn, L. Rotter, L. Mazanek, E. Grabińska, Małopolska Tourism Organisation, Kraków.

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## EVALUATION OF LONG-DISTANCE HIKING POTENTIAL IN POLAND ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE VALORISATION OF THE SZKLARSKA PORĘBA-WAŁBRZYCH TRAIL

*Natalia Oniszczyk\*, Grzegorz Rachlewicz\**

### Abstract

**Purpose.** The aim of this article is to develop a framework methodology for valorising long-distance hiking trails in Poland and to assess their comparability and promotional potential, focusing on the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail as a case study.

**Method.** A mixed-methods approach was used, including literature analysis and field research: full on-foot traversal, photographic documentation, GPS measurements, and interviews with tourists, guides and PTTK representatives. Trail length, difficulty, tourist infrastructure and natural as well as cultural values were assessed. SWOT analysis and a nine-criteria point-based valorisation system were applied.

**Findings.** The Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail (111 km, 5-6 days to conquer) is low in difficulty, well connected by transport, moderately attractive culturally and naturally, with limited accommodation and water points. The valorisation system allows objective assessment and comparison of long-distance trails, highlighting potential improvements such as minor route adjustments, infrastructure expansion and promotion of attractions.


**Research conclusions and limitations.** The case study design limits generalisability to all Polish long-distance trails. The results may be influenced by regional specificity, tourism development as well as local cultural and environmental conditions.


**Practical implications.** The methodology supports planning long-distance hikes, infrastructure development and promotion of lesser-known trails. The point-based system helps tourists select routes suitable for their condition, time and interests.

**Originality.** Comprehensive valorisation of a relatively unknown trail is presented in the study. Combined are assessment of difficulty, natural and cultural attractiveness and infrastructure accessibility, distinguishing it from prior studies focused mainly on popular routes.

**Type of paper.** Empirical research was carried out in the form of a case study with elements of trail valorisation methodology.

**Keywords:** hiking, long-distance trails, the Sudeten Mountains, natural and cultural values.

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## Introduction

The rapid development of hiking tourism became noticeable as early as the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, resulting from its mass popularisation in Eastern European countries. At that time, it was one of the cheapest and most accessible forms of active leisure [PTTK 2009]. Over time, its popularity grew even further, closely linked to the expansion of hiking trail networks in various parts of the world [Mayer et al. 2021, pp. 1-2]. To this day, hiking remains associated with numerous advantages, including low organisational costs and the possibility of engaging in it year-round [Kaganek 2009, pp. 108-111]. In numerous studies, the positive impact is highlighted of hiking tourism on the economic development of mountain regions and the livelihoods of local communities [Hasan 2024, pp. 15-33; Lukoseviciute et al. 2022, pp. 366-393; Vidović et al. 2019, pp. 382-397].

Among the areas that offer opportunities for various forms of recreation, mountain regions are considered the most attractive [Kwaśna et al. 2016, pp. 4-15]. Infrastructure that facilitates hiking is also a crucial factor from the tourist's perspective [Grobelyny et al. 2010, p. 321]. One of the key aspects of planning a hiking trip is determining the length of the chosen routes [Basil 2023, pp. 283-284]. In Poland, there is no official classification into short- and long-distance hiking trails. It is difficult to compare Polish trails in terms of length with those in North America—the historical homeland of multi-day hiking marathons—or with trails in other parts of the world [Happ et al. 2021, pp. 2-5]. For instance, one of the most popular long-distance trails in the USA—the Appalachian Trail—stretches over approximately 3,500 kilometres [Hardiman et al. p. 27], whereas the longest hiking trail in Poland—the Main Beskid Trail—is 519 kilometres long [Majcher-Łoś et al. 2010, p. 461].

For the purpose of this study, a short-distance trail is defined as a marked, one-day hiking route, traversed at an average walking pace or one that average hikers can complete within up to three days without requiring any special physical preparation or equipment. Such trails are a maximum of 50 km in length. A medium-distance trail is a marked route that typically takes four to five days to complete and ranges from 51 to 100 km. Long-distance trails are marked routes that require hikers to have special physical preparation and appropriate gear, and which take at least six days to complete. Any trail longer than 100 km is classified as a long-distance trail. This classification assumes that the longer the tourist engagement in achieving a given goal, the higher the level of tourist competence required, which narrows the number of potential users. Based on this definition of long-distance trails, there are over 90 such routes in Poland. The longest ones include the Main Beskid Trail [*Główny Szlak Beskidzki*] (519 km), the Main Sudeten Trail [*Główny Szlak Sudecki*] (444 km), and the Carpathian Bor-

der Trail [*Szlak Graniczny Karpacki*] (425 km). The main aim of this study was to develop a valorisation framework for long-distance trails in Poland, focusing on their comparability and potential for promotion among tourists. Although the issue of tourist trail valorisation has been addressed in the literature from various perspectives [e.g. Rohrscheidt 2008, pp. 17-32; Mróz 2017, pp. 94-130], specifically covered have not been selected multi-day hiking trails, their parameters, natural and cultural appeal or the possibility of comparing their characteristics.

For a detailed case study, a relatively unknown trail in Lower Silesia was chosen – the green trail from Szklarska Poręba to Wałbrzych. Long-distance trails have diverse origins. It is important to note that the trail analysed in this study—the route from Szklarska Poręba to Wałbrzych—was not originally perceived as a long-distance trail. Instead, it came into being somewhat incidentally, through the combination of several independently marked routes established at different times. These segments were planned by various designers who never intended to create a continuous thru-hike route. This distinguishes it from the established long-distance trails mentioned earlier, such as the Main Sudeten Trail [Potocki et al. 2007, pp. 201-203]. The choice also aimed to promote the natural and cultural attractions along the route. Based on a wide range of source materials and field research, the trail's course and infrastructure were thoroughly examined. The objective of this research was to propose changes that could also be applied to promote other long-distance trails in Poland. Furthermore, the study contributes to the selection of criteria aimed at objectifying the assessment of a trail's characteristics in terms of hiking effort and tourist appeal.

## Research methods

To achieve the stated goals, a diversified set of methods was used, encompassing both desk-based and field research. Using available maps and online resources, data on long-distance trails in Poland were collected and analysed to create a reliable catalogue. Field activities were focused on a detailed investigation of the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail, including a full on-foot traversal of the route and the creation of comprehensive photographic documentation.

During the field study, special attention was given to the following aspects:

- the actual route in the field compared with data from printed and online maps;
- the condition of trail infrastructure, including potential overnight accommodation sites;
- transportation accessibility;

- the condition and functionality of railway stations along the trail;
- availability of food and outdoor gear supplies;
- quality of mobile and Internet <https://iszkowski.eu/internet-czy-internet-connectivity>;
- presence of cultural landmarks near the trail;
- identification of particularly hazardous locations, such as steep slopes, other terrain-related obstacles and segments running along public roads.

Researchers used online maps and a GPS device, which made it possible to obtain precise geographic coordinates for locations where route adjustments are recommended. This data proved highly useful for producing maps of the trail and for marking proposed changes. The photographic documentation included landscape panoramas, trail markings, cultural elements and tourist infrastructure. An interview method was also applied, enabling the collection of information on public awareness of the trail's route and appeal – gathered from tourists, mountain guides and representatives of Lower Silesian branches of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (PTTK). Evaluation of the natural, cultural and touristic values, as well as issues related to the trail's functionality, was conducted using SWOT analysis based on the collected research material.

Treating the described trail as a case study, a valorisation method was used to assess the difficulty and appeal of each daily segment. This allowed for the development of a metric enabling comparison of long-distance hiking trails across different mountain regions of Poland. The method considered standardised criteria such as trail length, elevation change, transportation accessibility and tourist infrastructure.

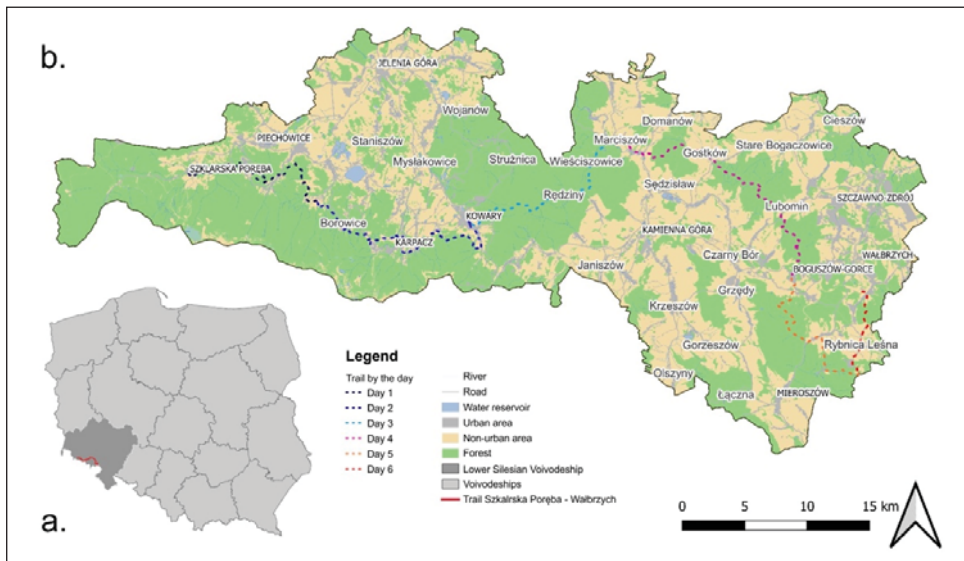
## **The Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych Trail**

The Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych hiking trail (Fig. 1) is 111 kilometres long. The route passes through four Sudeten Mountain ranges: the Karkonosze Mountains, Rudawy Janowickie, the Wałbrzyskie Mountains and Kamienne Mountains [Dziadek 2018, p. 1]. The trail is clearly marked with green signage, making navigation easy for users. The average time needed to complete the trail ranges from five to six days.

This trail is well-suited for beginner hikers due to its gentle ascents and the relatively high density of urban centres along the route, which allows for overnight stays without needing equipment such as a tent, tarp or hammock. The total elevation gain along the trail is 4,457 metres, while the total descent equals 4,618 metres (Fig. 2). Each day, the trail passes through small towns where food services are available. As a result, there is no need to carry large food supplies, which significantly reduces backpack weight.

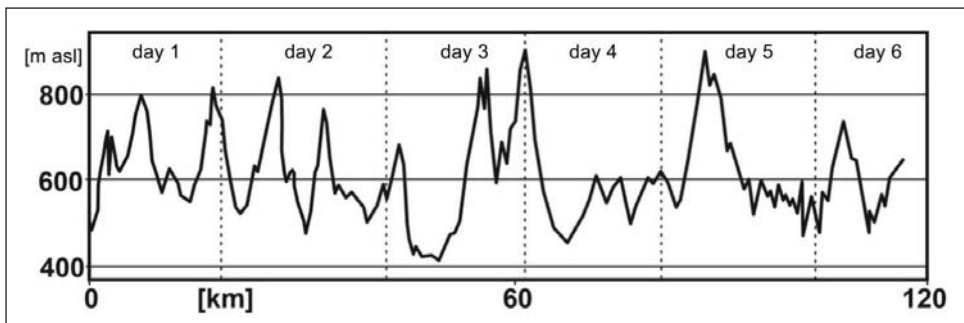
To facilitate easier analysis of the trail's individual segments, it has been divided into six sections, corresponding to a six-day hike.

The first section, 18 kilometres long, leads from Szklarska Poręba to the village of Przesieka (Fig. 3a). The total elevation gain is 820 m, and the total descent is 886 m. Initially, the trail is well-marked and passes several food service points. After leaving the dense urban area, the route continues along a narrow path bordered by the Kamienna River on one side and various rock formations on the other. It passes by attractions such as the Red Cave [*Czerwona Jama*] and Szklarka Waterfall, both of which are worth



**Figure 1.** Location of the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail in Lower Silesian Voivodeship (a) and its course divided according to individual days of the hike (b).

**Source:** own elaboration.



**Figure 2.** Elevation profile of the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail, divided according to the proposed hiking days.

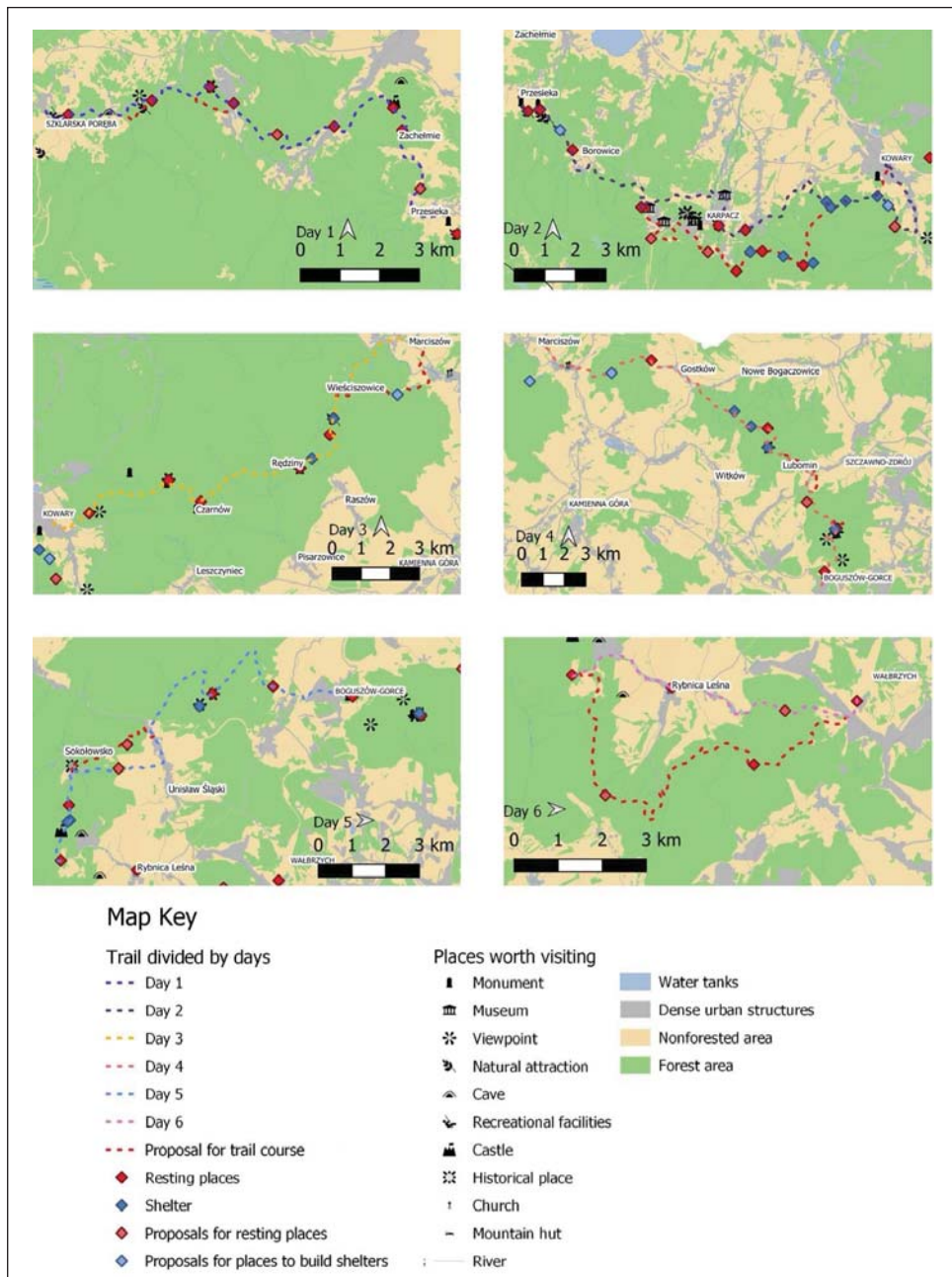
**Source:** own elaboration.

marking on trail maps. The trail then approaches Michałowice, where hikers find the first well-equipped rest area—a square with tables. Near Mount Żar, the trail enters Karkonosze National Park. It passes close to one of Lower Silesia's popular tourist attractions – Chojnik Castle. Descending from Mount Żar to Przesieka, there is another rest area with tables near Iron Bridge [*Żelazny Most*].

The second day begins in Przesieka and leads to Kowary. This segment is 24 km long, with a total ascent of 834 m and descent of 977 m. The first major rest area is located by Podgórna Waterfall. Another nearby attraction worth marking on the map is the Myja Cascades. The trail to Wang Church in Karpacz runs mostly through forest or rocky paths. In Karpacz, it is strongly recommended to change the trail's current route, as it follows a paved road for 7 km. An alternative route would begin on the blue trail through Karpacz, then switch to the yellow trail near the Multimedia Karkonosze Museum, and finally join the Tabaczana Trail. In its current form, the trail then heads towards Jedlinka. Along this route, there are four fire pit areas and shelters. There are also shops, a post office and public transportation stops. On this day, it is worth visiting the Wild Waterfall [*Dziki Wodospad*] and the gravity anomaly site in Karpacz.

The third day begins in Kowary and leads to Marciszów, covering 19 km. The total elevation gain is 870 m, and the descent is 914 m. The trail leads towards Skalnik in the Rudawy Janowickie Mountains. This peak should be highlighted on the trail maps due to its spectacular viewpoint. After descending from the Great Knoll [*Wielka Kopa*], the route continues towards the Colourful Lakes [*Kolorowe Jeziorka*]. Near Blue Lake [*Błękitne Jeziorko*], an alternative trail route is recommended that leads past nearby adits. From the village of Wieściszowice, the trail can join the red trail, which is safer for tourists and allows to avoid hiking along the asphalt road.

The fourth day of the trail leads from Marciszów to Boguszów-Gorce. This is the longest segment of the trail, at 27 km. The total elevation gain is 1,072 m, and the descent is 952 m. It begins at the train station in Marciszów. After a few kilometres of easy walking on asphalt, the trail reaches Boberek stream. The village of Gostków may be a disappointment for hikers as there are no food service points available. After crossing the road and leaving the village, the trail leads into the protected landscape area of the Tri-Hump Massif [*Góra Trójgarb*]. The trail to the summit follows alongside various cross-country skiing routes marked by parallels. The summit is well-equipped for tourists, featuring two covered shelters, numerous benches, fire pits, trail signs and a lookout tower. From Lubomińskie Saddle [*Lubomińskie Siodło*], the trail descends along a very narrow path filled with fallen trees and roots. In Lubomin, the trail follows a busy road for



**Figure 3.** Maps of daily trail sections, indicating their routes, land use, points of tourist attractions and elements of infrastructure.

**Source:** own elaboration.

1 km. The route then continues to Mount Chełmiec, where there is a mountain hut, a tourist shelter, fire pits, and the massive Millennium Cross [*Krzyż Milenijny*]. The summit also features a stone lookout tower from 1888. Along the route from Chełmiec to Boguszów-Gorce, there are fourteen stations of the Mining Toll Trail [*Droga Krzyżowa Górników Trudu*] a unique pilgrimage route in Poland built to honour miners. In Boguszów, the trail passes through the town centre, where several restaurants and grocery stores are available.

The fifth day of the trail leads from the town of Boguszów-Gorce to the Andrzejówka mountain hut. The distance to be covered is 17 km, with a total ascent of 721 m and a descent of 462 m. The route initially follows a paved road and then climbs steeply uphill, reaching the summit of Dzikowiec after about an hour. It is worth marking on maps that a viewpoint tower and a ski lift are an approximately 15-minute walk from the summit. After descending from Dzikowiec and passing over the Sokółka summit, it is advisable to reroute the green trail to follow the yellow one towards Sokołowsko and Radosno Castle. This adjustment allows hikers to avoid a busy road. Upon reaching Sokołowsko, the trail passes through its eastern part and continues along a nature path with 12 educational stops leading to the Andrzejówka mountain hut. Along this section from Sokołowsko to Andrzejówka, there are two tourist shelters. It is also worth considering a route adjustment through the centre of this historic town, passing by the Grunwald Sanatorium—one of the oldest facilities of its kind in Poland.

The sixth day is the shortest of the entire hike. It starts at the Andrzejówka mountain hut and leads to the Wałbrzych Główny railway station. The distance to cover is 8 km, with a total ascent of 140 m and a descent of 427 m. After leaving the mountain hut, the trail follows an asphalt road without a sidewalk. Along the way, it passes the Melaphir Mine. Upon entering Rybnica Leśna, there is a 17<sup>th</sup>-century church dedicated to St. Hedwig of Silesia. From this point, the trail continues along the asphalt road without a sidewalk until the village of Kamionka. When the trail intersects with the black trail, it heads towards the Black Crossroads [*Czarny Rozdroże*]. This section follows a forest road, which is steep and rocky in places, and continues until the Wałbrzych Główny railway station. The green trail on this day follows along the asphalt road for 5 km. It is worth considering an alternate route that would lead from the Andrzejówka mountain hut via Klin, Jeleniec and Borowa. Then, following the black trail, the yellow one appears and takes us to the very end. If this alternative route is chosen, along the way, Borowa summit will be encountered, with a viewpoint tower and the New Dwór Castle.

## **SWOT Analysis of the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych Trail**

SWOT analysis is a technique that allows for the proper organisation of previously gathered information [Nowicki 2015, p. 326]. It is a process that covers four areas: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Each of these elements enables the evaluation of both external and internal factors, allowing for detailed strategic analysis of a research subject. The gathered information can be used to prepare a development strategy, including for a tourist product, such as the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych hiking trail.

The strengths of the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail that can positively influence its further development are:

- **universality:** the trail passes through areas that are of tourist interest due to their natural and scenic qualities. It is also located in close proximity to larger towns, where tourists can purchase items such as food.
- **accessibility:** the trail begins and ends in cities that can be accessed by public transportation from various parts of Poland. Along the route, there are bus stops and train stations, allowing tourists to choose sections of the trail they would like to walk.
- **diverse landscape:** the trail passes through various but not particularly high mountain ranges. This provides tourists with the opportunity to become familiar with not only the diverse geological structure of Lower Silesia but also the history of each place visited.

The weaknesses or characteristics that could negatively affect the development of the trail are:

- **limited accommodation infrastructure:** there are only a few accommodation options directly along the trail, and a noticeable lack of campsites and shelters.
- **large amounts of asphalt sections:** here are many sections with an asphalt surface, which is particularly inconvenient for long-distance hikers who walk large distances each day.
- **untapped cultural potential:** there are many interesting cultural sites along the trail that, with proper preparation and inclusion on maps, could form an interesting part of the tourist offer, potentially encouraging tourists to hike the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail.

Identifying opportunities is a crucial element of SWOT analysis, which helps to pinpoint factors and strategies that could assist the development of the trail. The main opportunities identified include:

- **promotion of the Lower Silesia region:** the development of the trail, which passes through interesting elements of the region, could serve as an advertisement for the area, especially considering the growing popularity of hiking tourism.

- development of the trail as a tourist product: the creation of a comprehensive tourist product, the expansion of infrastructure and proper signage of attractions near the trail could positively influence the number of tourists interested in hiking the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail.

Threats are an important element of the analysis, allowing for the identification of risks and barriers that could negatively affect the development of the trail. The most significant threats include:

- destruction of infrastructure: due to the proximity of urban centres, there is a risk of damage to infrastructure elements (shelters, informational signs).
- overgrowth on the trail: the trail is not frequently used, and some sections are starting to become overgrown, which could affect the safety and comfort of hiking.
- forgetting the trail: a lack of promotion of the trail in the region could lead to its marginalisation and being forgotten by tourists.

The results of SWOT analysis for the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych long-distance trail indicate its potential as an attractive long-distance route. To fully utilise its features, it would be highly beneficial to expand infrastructure, increase promotion and introduce minor modifications to the route. This would allow the inclusion of selected tourist attractions located near the trail, which could enhance the appeal of particular sections for visitors. These could include, for example, the Red Cave [Czerwona Jama], Szklarka Waterfall, PTTK Kochanówka Mountain Hut, the Golden Viewpoint [*Złoty Widok*], Chojnik Castle, Podgórna Waterfall, the Multimedia Museum of the Karkonosze Mountains, the remains of the former village of Budniki, the observation tower near the summit of Dzikowiec, and the historic Grunwald Sanatorium.

A salient issue that has been identified on the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail pertains to the inadequate access to drinking water. Presently, hikers are only able to refill their bottles in towns, which are often too distant for hikers to reach during extended stages. To address this, straightforward measures could be implemented, such as the installation of water taps at existing shelters or rest areas. The installation of a public water fountain in the village of Gostków, an area devoid of commercial establishments, would further enhance water accessibility. Collaboration with local authorities and PTTK could facilitate regular maintenance and facilitate the incorporation of these facilities into the existing trail infrastructure. The enhancement of water availability has the potential to significantly elevate the level of comfort and safety experienced by hikers.

Creating a coherent tourist offer and tourist product – “Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych Trail”, incorporating selected landscape and cultural elements, could lead to an increase in interest in the trail and also help in promoting Lower Silesia.

## **Proposal for Scheme of Long-Distance Trail Valorisation**

Long-distance trails are becoming increasingly popular among tourists. However, not every tourist knows which trail would be best for them. A lot depends on what one expects from a particular trail. The most important features that promote hiking tourism include: expansive viewpoints, variation in the environment, contrasting landforms, symmetry and asymmetry, as well as dynamics and statics in the landscape, the vividness of landscapes, unique acoustic phenomena and the need to overcome elevations [Deja 1986, pp. 107-108]. In response to the growing popularity of long-distance hiking, an attempt has been made to create a valorisation scheme for Polish long-distance trails. The goal is to assist tourists in choosing a specific trail or conducting their own ranking of trail attractiveness.

The valorisation is based on points assigned to a given trail in specific categories. The selected categories consider both objective challenges to overcome (such as length, elevation gain), tourist infrastructure elements (accommodation and catering facilities), as well as a set of attractions that can diversify the hike.

Nine criteria were considered for the valorisation:

1. Trail length – a long-distance trail is defined as a trail over 100 km in length.
2. Elevation gain – on long-distance trails, elevation gain is often more significant than the distance itself when planning daily segments. The number of ascents and descents is crucial as ascents can significantly increase the time needed to cover a distance.
3. Cultural attractions – this criterion considers the number of cultural attractions along the trail or within a radius of up to 300 metres. These include castles, palaces, museums, archaeological reserves, open-air museums, historical-military sites, martyrdom sites, pilgrimage sites and sacred buildings.
4. Natural attractions – this criterion looks at the number of natural features along the trail or within a radius of up to 300 metres. These include geological monuments, unique landforms, caves, waterfalls and other natural points of interest.
5. Viewpoints – the criterion evaluates the viewpoints marked on the tourist map or identified directly in the field, including lookout towers.
6. Trail accessibility – this is assessed based on the availability of public transportation points such as railway stations and bus stops along the trail, which allow tourists to pause or restart their journey.

7. Accommodation facilities – this category considers the availability of private accommodations, campsites, hotels, hostels, shelters, guest-houses and vacation homes along the trail.
8. Dining points – this includes restaurants, bars, and grocery stores along the trail.
9. Water collection points – the availability of designated and prepared water collection points along the trail is an important element that can enhance the tourist value of the trail.

A debated issue is determining the ranking of each criterion in the final assessment of the trail's tourist attractiveness and selecting how to present the results depending on the range of values for each indicator in its variability. This procedure can be validated after evaluating a larger number of examples using the same method. For the studied long-distance trail from Szklarska Poręba to Wałbrzych, the values for each criterion were summarized for each day of its traversal (Tab. 2).

In summary, for the Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail, the evaluation of each criterion (on a four grade scale from 0 to 3) is as follows: in terms of length, it requires minimal effort and preparation (2/4); in terms of elevation, it is a low-effort ascent (2/4); cultural attractiveness is moderate (2/4); natural attractions are minimal (1/4); the number of viewpoints is highly attractive (3/4); trail accessibility with PKP connections is good (5/6); medium accessibility to accommodation facilities (3/4); medium accessibility to dining options (3/4); and unfortunately, zero availability of water collection points.

**Table 2.** Evaluation classes of criteria for trail valorisation and results of individual values for the long-distance Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail

<b>Criterion name, proposed classification:</b>	<b>Obtained data</b>
Trail length – “0” – up to 10 km – part of the day's hike, arrival or departure – “1” – 11–20 km – a walk requiring no significant effort or physical preparation – “2” – 21–25 km – moderate walking effort – “3” – >25 km – high walking effort	Day 1 – 18 km / 6 hours Day 2 – 24 km / 8 hours Day 3 – 19 km / 6 hours Day 4 – 27 km / 9 hours Day 5 – 17 km / 5 hours Day 6 – 8 km / 2 hours Total – 111 km / 36 hours; average – 18.5 km / 6 hours
Elevation gain – “0” – up to 200 m – minimal uphill effort – “1” – 201–500 m – slight uphill effort – “2” – 501–1,000 m – moderate uphill effort – “3” – over 1,000 m – significant uphill effort	Day 1 – 820 m ascent / 886 m descent Day 2 – 834 m ascent / 977 m descent Day 3 – 870 m ascent / 914 m descent Day 4 – 1,072 m ascent / 952 m descent Day 5 – 721 m ascent / 462 m descent Day 6 – 140 m ascent / 427 m descent Total – 4,457 m ascent / 4,618 m descent Average – 743 m ascent / 770 m descent

Cultural Attractions on the Trail – “0” – 0–1 – no or minimal attractiveness – “1” – 2–4 – moderate attractiveness – “2” – 5–9 – high attractiveness – “3” – >9 – very high attractiveness	Day 1 – 3 attractions Day 2 – 3 attractions Day 3 – 1 attraction Day 4 – 5 attractions Day 5 – 2 attractions Day 6 – 1 attraction
Attractiveness of the trail in terms of natural values – “0” – 0–1 – no or minimal attractiveness – “1” – 2–4 – moderate attractiveness – “2” – 5–9 – high attractiveness – “3” – >9 – very high attractiveness	Day 1 – 3 attractions Day 2 – 4 attractions Day 3 – 1 attraction Day 4 – 0 attractions Day 5 – 0 attractions Day 6 – 0 attractions
Number of viewpoints along route – “0” – 0–1 – no or minimal attractiveness – “1” – 2–4 – moderate attractiveness – “2” – 5–9 – high attractiveness – “3” – >9 – very high attractiveness	Day 1 – 5 viewpoints Day 2 – 3 viewpoints Day 3 – 10 viewpoints Day 4 – 9 viewpoints Day 5 – 4 viewpoints Day 6 – 0 viewpoints
Accessibility of trail by public transportation 0 – no connection 1 – train or bus stop	Day 1 – 1 Day 2 – 0 Day 3 – 1 Day 4 – 1 Day 5 – 1 Day 6 – 1
Number of accommodation facilities – “0” – no facilities – “1” – 1–4 facilities (limited choice) – “2” – 5–9 facilities (average choice) – “3” – >9 facilities (wide choice)	Day 1 – more than 10 Day 2 – more than 10 Day 3 – more than 10 Day 4 – 2 facilities Day 5 – more than 10 Day 6 – 1 facility
Number of dining points – “0” – no facilities – “1” – 1–4 facilities (limited selection) – “2” – 5–9 facilities (moderate selection) – “3” – >9 facilities (wide selection)	Day 1 – more than 10 Day 2 – more than 10 Day 3 – 7 facilities Day 4 – 4 facilities Day 5 – 2 facilities Day 6 – 1 facility (Andrzejówka Shelter, same as previous day)
Water supply points for tourists • “0” – no points • “1” – 1–2 points (low availability) • “2” – 3–5 points (moderate availability) • “3” – >6 points (high availability)	0 points for every day

**Source:** own elaboration.

A comparison with other long-distance trails in Poland was made by considering the individual categories, where a numerical scale was used for criteria such as trail length, travel duration, total elevation gain and the number of daily segments (Table 3). Comparison of the analysed trails provides a general insight into their difficulty levels and allows for creating

**Table 3.** Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych trail compared to selected mountain and upland long-distance trails in Poland (own elaboration based on Supergan 2021)  
 Ranking based on the total points considering average segment length and average elevation gain (Table 2), as well as additional category for number of daily stages (<5 – 0; 6-10 – 1; 11-20 – 2; >20 – 3)

Name of the trail	Length	Hiking duration	Daily stages	Total ascents	Total points/ Rank position
1. Szlak Wyżynny – Upland Trail	156 km	39 h	5 days	1 300 m	3/5
2. Centralny szlak pieszy Roztocza – Central Roztocze Hiking Trail (Blue Trail)	190 km	48 h	6 days	1,800 m	4/4
3. Główny Szlak Sudecki – Main Sudeten Trail	444 km	150 h	19 days	14,900 m	6/2
4. Szlak Szklarska Poręba-Pasterka – Szklarska Poręba-Pasterka Trail	388 km	125 h	18 days	12,800 m	6/2
<b>5. Szlak Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych – Szklarska Poręba-Wałbrzych Trail</b>	<b>111 km</b>	<b>36 h</b>	<b>6 days</b>	<b>4,600 m</b>	<b>4/4</b>
6. Szlak Orlich Gniazd – Trail of the Eagles' Nests	164 km	50 h	7 days	2,600 m	4/4
7. Główny Szlak Beskidzki – Main Beskid Trail	500 km	165 h	24 days	21,600 m	7/1
8. Mały Szlak Beskidzki – Little Beskid Trail	134 km	50 h	8 days	6,000 m	4/4
9. Szlak Tarnów-Wielki Rogacz – Tarnów-Wielki Rogacz Trail	184 km	67 h	10 days	8,100 m	4/4
10. Szlak Trzech Pogórzy – Trail of Three Foothills	130 km	43 h	5 days	3,900 m	5/3
11. Szlak Graniczny (Karpacki) – Carpathian Border Trail	425 km	140 h	21 days	15,000 m	7/1

**Source:** own elaboration.

a ranking of long-distance mountain trails in Poland. It should be emphasized, however, that the perception of these features is largely subjective and depends on individual tourist preferences. Differences in perception may arise from personal expectations related to terrain challenges, landscape features or the availability of tourist attractions.

### **Summary and conclusions**

Both in Polish and international literature, there is no universal definition of long-distance hiking trails, and their understanding depends on various factors, including social and environmental aspects [Breejen 2007, p.1417; Supergan 2021, p. 10; Molnar 2022, pp. 245-246]. For the purpose of this work, a classification was created dividing trails into short-, medium- and long-distance categories, taking the total distance to be covered into account, as well as average travel time (considering mountain conditions, including the total elevation gain) and the division into daily stages of the hike.

The analysed trail from Szklarska Poręba to Wałbrzych could serve as a good model example for proposing a scheme to assess the difficulty and tourist attractiveness of long-distance trails. A highly useful tool in planning long-distance hikes could be the creation of universal criteria to evaluate each hiking trail. Such criteria might include: length or travel duration, the latter being especially important when dealing with significant elevation gains in mountainous areas, as well as quantifying the concentration of natural and cultural attractions, and aspects of tourist infrastructure. An increasing number of tourists are moving away from short, one-day mountain hikes in favour of long-distance trails.

It is not always possible to delve into the details of each hiking trail. Often, only descriptions of the most popular trails can be found in the online space, which are subjective accounts of hikes rather than objective and systematic trail evaluations. For those planning a long-distance hike, the created evaluation scheme could prove highly useful. It would allow tourists to choose a trail suited to their needs and capabilities, considering various aspects such as their physical condition, available time and the number of natural or cultural attractions along the route. Perhaps, therefore, it is worth considering incorporating the proposed indicators when presenting long-distance trails in tourism apps and mapping portals.

The possibility of experiencing adventure, being in close contact with nature and escaping from crowded urban areas are significant motivating factors for embarking on long-distance trails. Furthermore, there is an increasing number of studies in which the social dimension of long-distance hiking is highlighted, not only focusing on the physical journey but also on

interactions with like-minded individuals [e.g. Goldenberg et al 2014, pp. 44-45; Lum et al. 2019 p. 2].

In recent years, there has been a dynamic increase in the number of hikers on long-distance trails, with growing interest in this type of activity, especially within mountain communities in Poland, as it has been practiced abroad for several decades [Terry; Vartabedian 2013, p. 345]. On social media platforms, such as the “*W Sudety z plecakiem*” [Backpacking in the Sudeten Mountains] or “*Jadę w góry*” [I’m Going Hiking] groups, posts titled “I walked the Main Beskid Trail - GSB)/Main Sudeten Trail - GSS and it gave me” appear several times a week. Users encourage and motivate each other to embark on long-lasting hikes. The thru-hiker community, made up of individuals traveling long-distance trails, is still growing, and current trends do not indicate that this will change in the near future.

In the ranking of long-distance trails in Poland, leading positions were occupied by classic routes with established reputation, such as the GSB and GSS. For beginners, however, tackling a trail of 400-500 km is definitely too much. Therefore, it is also worth promoting shorter long-distance trails. The Szklarska Poręba to Wałbrzych trail, with changes to some sections, the expansion of infrastructure in its surroundings, and appropriate promotion, has the potential to become an attractive long-distance trail.

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# TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES TO AND FROM THE KINGDOM OF POLAND DURING THE FIRST TWELVE YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF THE 1831 NOVEMBER UPRISING: PASSPORT ISSUANCE AND TRAVELLER CONTROL

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## Abstract

**Purpose.** The article focuses on exploring the possibilities of traveling outside the Kingdom of Poland and entering its territory in the period following the fall of the 1831 November Uprising. The issue is examined through the perspective of: a) defining the administrative and legal frameworks for obtaining passports, permitting departure from the country; b) attempts to introduce passport-related facilitations for selected social groups; c) increased surveillance of travellers arriving in the Kingdom.

**Method.** The historical research method was conducted employed content analysis of archival source materials as well as contemporary periodicals, in which government decrees were printed.

**Findings.** As a result of the extremely restrictive passport policy imposed by tsarist authorities in the subjugated Kingdom of Poland during the 1830s, the Kingdom itself effectively became a closed territory with limited accessibility. The occupying authorities' policies not only severely restricted opportunities to travel abroad, but also stifled travel into the Kingdom. Consequently, nearly all travellers were treated there as suspicious individuals requiring surveillance. This transformed the Kingdom of Poland into a territory largely "hostile to travel and travellers", where tourism, in practice, became non-existent.


**Research and conclusions limitations.** A potential limitation of the study lies in its focus on the legal-formal aspects of the issue, primarily due to the lack of preserved data illustrating the actual scale and nature of travel to and from the Kingdom of Poland during the analysed period. This approach, which inherently emphasizes the intentions and objectives of the authorities in implementing post-uprising passport policies, allows for a comprehensive analysis of the issue from a strictly legal perspective.

**Practical implications.** The conclusions drawn from the analysis may contribute to understanding the timeless mechanisms by which non-democratic authorities (for instance military regimes) exert arbitrary control over cross-border travel processes.

**Originality.** The article is entirely original, both in its presentation of sourced data and in its synthesizing, as well as in generalising conclusions.

**Type of paper.** The article is based on archival research conducted within: a) government/ministerial records, and b) periodicals publishing administrative decrees of the era.

**Keywords:** travel, passports, law, Kingdom of Poland, Tsarist Russia, passport policy.

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## Introduction

Following the fall of the 1831 November Uprising, the Kingdom of Poland underwent a profound transformation under tsarist authorities, marked among other things by the imposition of stringent passport regulations aimed at consolidating political control over society and restricting mobility of the Kingdom's citizens. The post-uprising period saw the near-total closure of the Kingdom's borders, driven by a rigorous passport policy that centralised authority in the hands of Russian military officials, notably the Warsaw Governor-General: Jan count de Witte. Initial measures, such as the Provisional Government's decree of November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1831, formally reinstated pre-revolutionary passport regulations, while in reality introducing stark limitations: passports were issued exclusively to individuals unaffiliated with the uprising, and pro-Russian provincial administrative commissions and tsarist military commanders enforced layered bureaucratic hurdles. The process was further complicated by fees, surveillance and requirements for detailed documentation, effectively treating all travellers as potential threats. Despite sporadic attempts to alleviate restrictions for select groups – for instance, as students seeking education abroad – these concessions remained tightly controlled, requiring direct imperial approval and underscoring the regime's prioritisation of security over mobility. Additionally, extremely strong scrutiny was applied to individuals entering the Kingdom, particularly from France and other European states, as it was outlined in field marshal Ivan Paskevich's decree of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1833, which mandated detentions, escorts to Warsaw and rigorous visa checks to prevent the influx of - from the Russian point of view – dissidents/prospective fighters for Polish freedom, or perhaps just “unwanted” individuals.

In this article, the author seeks to unravel the legal and institutional frameworks that governed cross-border mobility in the Kingdom of Poland during the 1830s (and perhaps in some cases, the early 1840s), examining how tsarist authorities instrumentalised passport regulations to enforce travellers control. By interrogating the interplay between restrictive policies, limited exemptions, and surveillance practices, the aim of the text is to widen the scope of research on the mechanisms of Russian authoritarian governance in subjugated Poland and their impact on local societal mobility. Furthermore, its objective is – while emphasizing the originality of its archival findings – to reshape narratives of state power in partitioned Poland.

## Literature and sources

The subject of legal conditions related to crossing borders and travelling outside the Kingdom of Poland after the fall of the November Uprising (in the 1830s) have not yet been comprehensively studied in a scholarly man-

ner. The phenomenon of regulating travel to and from the Kingdom of Poland has not been addressed even in latest publications on the history of Kingdom of Poland in the Paskevich era [Mażewski, ed. 2015]. The same refers to the “acknowledged” books on the history of tourism [Kulczycki 1977; Gaj 2006].

However, there are some publications on the protection of borders and border guides. One should note here the monograph in late 90-ties of 20<sup>th</sup> century, in which the borders and their protection throughout almost the entire history of Poland (966-1996) are comprehensively described, thus also referring to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century [Dominiczak 1997]. In the article published in 2013, some issues on crossing borders in postrevolutionary Kingdom of Poland were also briefly touched upon in the text [Stenger 2013]. Also, in 2006, an article was published in which sources were addressed related to the history of the border guard of the Kingdom and their activities (within the territory of one voivodeship, later gubernia: Lublin) from 1837 to 1848 [Osiński 2006]. Finally, in 2014, a very thorough monograph was published on the Russian border guard in the Kingdom of Poland, but its main text was focused on the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the period leading up to the outbreak of World War I [Latawiec 2014]. In this publication, however, also briefly mentioned is the period of interest to us as well as travel across borders at the time. On the other hand, in 2003 the legal aspects of permanent migration from the Kingdom of Poland were described [Kowalski 2003]. In two modest articles, some information has also been delivered on the formal aspects of the migration process (including of course the conditions of issuance of passports) in the Kingdom of Poland during the time of our interest [Rutkowski 2021, 2022]. Nevertheless, the authors of these works did not deal with short-, but rather “long-term, or rather permanent travelling” legal conditions. In the aforementioned publications, only marginally addressed was the subject of this article, i.e. the possibilities of travelling abroad from and to the Kingdom of Poland in the early post November Uprising period, which seems to fully justify undertaking this research topic.

The archival materials researched for the purpose of this article are mostly kept in Warsaw’s Central Archives of Historical Records (CAHR). These are the fonds depicting the activity of the Administrative Council [CAHR in Warsaw, the Administrative Council of the Kingdom of Poland 1815-1867], and the Second State Council [CAHR in Warsaw, the Second State Council of the Kingdom of Poland, 1833-1841]. The sources are supplemented by information published in the columns of selected issues of the local periodical from Mazovia, recognised as the most representative official newspaper of the era [Official Gazette of the Mazovia Voivodeship]. Some additional archival data were also available from another periodical, this time printed at the tsarist capital [Petersburg Weekly]. In the case of these

two magazines, their issues are kept in Warsaw University Library (where the author researched them), but they are also available online.

The archival materials undeniably form the foundational basis for the development of this article's content.

## Research method

The general scarcity of references in the scientific literature on the history of passport issuing and thus, the possibilities of travel both beyond the borders of the Kingdom of Poland and from abroad to the heart of the country in the period after the suppression of the November Uprising has made it unconditionally necessary to rely on the detailed examination of preserved archival and press material in research endeavours. Therefore, the use of research methods and techniques appropriate for historical research has been widely implemented, based on evaluating sources from the epoch.

## Findings

When outlining the conditions of both foreign travel from the Kingdom of Poland and the possibilities of entering the country in the 1830s, three main issues were taken into account: a) changing formal aspects of passport issuance for foreign travel; b) possibilities of granting special passport privileges; c) process of controlling individuals entering the Kingdom of Poland. Each of these "travel policy" aspects of pro-Russian and Russian authorities in the post-uprising Kingdom is presented in separate parts of the article.

### *Issuance of passports for foreign travel*

In the very early period following the fall of the 1831 November Uprising, the legal regulations concerning border crossings in the Kingdom of Poland were formally governed by the provisions issued many years ago, namely on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1815, in the so-called Constitutional Period, by the Tsarist and Royal Governor, General Józef Zajączek [OGMV, no 28, April 2nd 1832, p. 310-311]. However, new regulations regarding the acquisition of passports, issued shortly after the installation of (pro)Russian authorities in subdued Warsaw on September 16<sup>th</sup> 1831, significantly contributed to increased control over individuals who decided to travel abroad. As the authorities of that time, with a certain pride, explained the matter, "a higher degree of caution was exercised in the matter of passport issuance" [CAHR in Warsaw, the Second State Council, f. 103, p.12] which, in practice, initially resulted in the near-total isolation of the country from the external world.

At the beginning, the emergence of this tendency was not so obvious, even if it was distinctly indicated by the decree issued on November 6<sup>th</sup> 1831 by the so-called Provisional Government of the Kingdom, presided over by the Russian autocrat Fedor Engel, concerning precisely the issuance of passports and the crossing of state borders. To be exact, on that date, the then central Warsaw authorities either officially established or rather confirmed the pre-revolutionary regulations pertaining to “[...] the issuance in the traditional manner of passports for travel abroad [...]”. Nonetheless, elaborating on the entire issue, the Provisional Government, in the preamble to its decree of November 6<sup>th</sup> 1831 recalled the fact that certain regional Russian military commanders (i.e. the heads of the tsarist occupying forces, stationed in the respective provinces of the Kingdom) had continuously been issuing passports and so-called tickets, which enabled travel to Russia and to other foreign “great powers”, despite the fact that the war had only recently been concluded. As the pro-Russian authorities emphasized, the aforementioned practice applied solely to persons “[...] residing [during the uprising] peacefully in their homesteads [...]” [OGMV, No. 13, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1831, pp. 159-160].

Moreover, this circumstance became the rationale for the civil authorities of the Kingdom to undertake the “passport” legislative initiative. As is expressed explicitly in the text of the decree of November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1831, the President of the Provisional Government, Fedor Engel, after having familiarised himself with the situation, decided to refer the matter of regulating passport issuance to the commander-in-chief of the Russian First Active Army, Ivan count Paskevich, with a request for the issuance of binding directives on the subject. Consequently, after obtaining preliminary instructions from the Russian Field Marshal, it was decided in November of 1831 that “[...] in order to restore order and tranquillity throughout the Kingdom [...]”, the provisions concerning the issuance of passports for persons wishing to travel from the Kingdom to the Russian Empire and vice versa, as well as to all other European countries, which had been valid previously, should be reinstated.

Despite these lofty declarations, the decree of the Provisional Government nevertheless recalled the decision of the pre-revolutionary Administrative Council (the then government of the country) of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1830, No. 24 074, which had not been implemented by outbreak of the Uprising on November 29<sup>th</sup> 1830, prohibiting the issuance of passports by District Commissioners (i.e. at the level of county authorities) on specially provided forms. Moreover, in November 1831, it was stipulated that from this moment onward, the physical acquisition of passports could take place only in the General Department of the Police in Warsaw.

According to the provisions of the new statute in the post-uprising realities, passports and certificates authorising foreign travel were to be issued, in the first stage, by individual Provincial Commissions, and then certified

by the Russian military commanders stationed in those provinces. The privilege of obtaining a passport authorising foreign travel was granted in the decree of November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1831 – exclusively to selected groups of residents of the Kingdom of Poland. The authorisation to apply for a passport henceforth was to concern citizens: a) who were not participants in the “recent disturbances” (i.e. the November Uprising) and who “[...] had not taken up arms against the legitimate authority”; b) who had not served in the Polish Army fighting against tsarist Russia [in the original text: “in the rebellious army”] and had not whatsoever actively participated in the revolution; c) who, although having participated in the “events” between the years 1830-1831, could not be held liable before the authority governing the Kingdom after September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1831; d) and finally, those citizens who, in accordance with special orders or regulations issued by the Russian occupying authorities, did not have a direct interdiction against leaving their place of residence or traveling beyond the borders of the Kingdom.

All persons who had not committed the “offenses” specified in the above points a)–d) could, however, at least in principle, theoretically receive a passport authorising foreign travel, at least from the perspective of the (pro-Muscovite) authorities. Even the citizens who had committed the described “offenses” might have hoped to obtain a passport “by way of [tsarist] grace”, provided they submitted an appropriate application to the general assemble of the Provisional Government, the outcome of which depended on an individual governmental decision.

It was simultaneously evident to the Provisional Government that persons upon whom a formal prohibition against entering the borders of the Kingdom of Poland had been imposed were generally unable to cross the Polish state line. At the same time, the decree of November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1831 maintained the general pre-revolutionary “passport principles” with respect to persons arriving from Russia and other states into the Kingdom of Poland. Namely, every such arriving person was required, when crossing the border, to present a formally issued passport and to submit himself to the customary inspection. Also, as it turned out from the formal statement of the Provisional Government dated as of November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1831, Field Marshal (named also by tsar the Prince of Warsaw now) Ivan Paskevich, decided to first consult the commander-in-chief of the First Active Army in the Belarus-Lithuania region, General Fabian von Osten-Sacken, concerning the determination of the conditions regarding transit requirements for persons travelling from the territory of Russian Empire to the Kingdom of Poland. There was no doubt in this regard that the residing in Warsaw Paskevich expected that a clear decree would be issued by von Osten-Sacken in this matter, instructing-in advance-all interested persons “strictly and exactly” to comply with the instructions to be issued by General Fabian von Osten-Sacken, or even directly sent from St. Petersburg.

The described decree of the Provisional Government from November 6<sup>th</sup> 1831 was subsequently disseminated among the representatives of the Kingdom's civil administration by means of a rescript issued by the Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police, dated November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1831 (No. 7504), which was then made public through publication in the official Provincial Journals [OGMV, No. 13, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1831, pp. 160-161].

Thus, the most significant aspect concerning travel and passport matters established by the decree of the Provisional Government dated November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1831 (or, more precisely, essentially formulated by Field Marshal Paskevich, allegedly jointly with General von Osten-Sacken) was that-as it had already been apparent before the outbreak of the November Uprising, as evidenced by the decree of the pre-revolutionary Administrative Council of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1830, No. 24074-it was decided to significantly restrict the freedom to obtain passports, particularly through the obvious narrowing of the legal entities entitled to such powers. There was also no doubt that the politically motivated restrictive limitations regarding access to passports authorising foreign travel, although very clearly and decisively delineated could, in individual cases, be rescinded on the basis of a decision by the Provisional Government.

In the meantime, almost simultaneously with the termination of the period of the Provisional Government's authority in the Kingdom, and just prior to the reactivation of the Administrative Council in late March 1832, tsar Nicholas I issued a decision (which was subsequently communicated by Field Marshal Ivan Paskevich on behalf of the outgoing Provisional Government) that determined the new rules applicable to the issuance of permits for travel abroad. The relevant provisions were subsequently made public by a decree of the ministry-the Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police-dated March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1832, No. 2355/1444. In that decree, it was clearly indicated that all citizens of the Kingdom who wished to travel abroad "for important reasons" (with the legislator not even specifying what those reasons might be) could count on obtaining passports authorising border crossing only "[...] after a closer verification of their conduct [...]". Such a privilege could be granted solely to those applicants who "[...] did not appear suspicious in any forbidden respects" [OGMV, No. 28, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1832, pp. 310-311].

The above statement served as confirmation of previously expressed reservations, with the additional consequence that now the possibility of granting permission to travel, even in the manner of an "exception", on the basis of an individual decision by the central civil authorities of the Kingdom, was abolished.

This possibility was additionally blocked through formal-institutional measures. Namely, pursuant to the decree of the Administrative Council of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1832, persons intending to obtain a passport authorising

travel outside the Kingdom were required to submit their application exclusively at the office of the Russian Governor-General of the Capital City of Warsaw, Jan (Ivan) count de Witte (the son of the last Polish commander of the Kamieniec Podolski fortress). Simultaneously, the provincial authorities received instructions that any requests concerning the issuance of documents authorising foreign travel were to be transmitted directly by these governmental agencies to the office of the Warsaw Governor-General [CAHR in Warsaw, the Second State Council, f. 102, p. 59]. Consequently, the this military Governor-General of the Capital City of Warsaw – as the sole authority entitled to issue passports for foreign travel as well as even for travel within the entire Kingdom – now possessed “very extensive” knowledge regarding the purposes of travel undertaken by the citizens of the Kingdom.

The powers granted to Jan de Witte in the scope of passport issuance were enormous. The justification or rather pretext for their significant consolidation and gradual expansion was the fact that as recently as of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1832, the Capital of Warsaw Governor-General had submitted a request to the tsar’s governor in the Kingdom, Ivan Paskevich, for the formal process of passport issuance in the Kingdom to be excluded from the reach of the local police. As a result, at the session of the Administrative Council on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1832 (the same session during which Jan de Witte was recognised as the only authority entitled to issue passports), the “delays” in issuing passports for persons wishing to travel abroad, who had previously been required to initially apply in Warsaw at the Directorate General of the Police, were examined.

As might have been expected, the Field Marshal ultimately accepted the position taken by the capital’s Governor-General, issuing at the Council’s forum a decree from which it followed that-with the aim of “shortening the waiting time for those wishing to travel abroad”-the applications were to be formally addressed directly to the office of General Jan count de Witte, “[...] who, after obtaining the necessary information and orders from the governor, could issue such passports” [CAHR in Warsaw, the Administrative Council, f. 23, pp. 815-816]. This way, the domestic “Polish police” were effectively eliminated from the process of issuing passports in the Kingdom. Ultimately, on 30 June 1832, Ivan Paskevich decided to transfer all activities related to the “dispatch” of passports to the office of the Warsaw Military Governor-General [CAHR in Warsaw, the Administrative Council, f. 24, pp. 735-736].

Although, it soon became apparent that Jan de Witte, in the execution of his extensive passport duties, continued to encounter various obstacles. In this connection, on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832 he issued proclamation No. 899, in which it was indicated that “[...] numerous residents of some provinces, having an essential need to travel [...] to foreign states, were arriving with

certificates issued by mayors or town presidents, without the attestation of District Commissioners and Provincial Commissions, thereby exposing themselves to the risk of refusal [of obtaining passports]”. The above indicated that the only person in the then Kingdom legally entitled to issue passports was compelled to insist upon the necessity of a verification process involving at least two nominal lower steps prior to the examination of the passport applications in the office of the Governor-General.

In view of these recurring “oversights”, at the beginning of July of 1832, de Witte strictly ordered that all mayors, presidents and town officials be provided with clear instructions to unconditionally inform all persons seeking “passport certificates” that they must obtain confirmation of those certificates from the appropriate District Commissioners, for the purpose of further applying for a so-called “presentation” before the proper Provincial Commissions.

The Warsaw Governor-General unambiguously stated that without obtaining such confirmation from the relevant District Commissioners, all interested individuals wishing to obtain the “presentation” required for the issuance of a passport would not be processed favourably, and that “[...] they would be held accountable for it by themselves”. Simultaneously, de Witte instructed that the applicants be universally informed that, as of early July of 1832, they were no longer required to appear in person at the office of the Warsaw Governor-General for the purpose of obtaining a passport, explaining that “[...] since, once the District Commissioner has completed all formalities, passports are received on the spot through the county military governor” [OGMV, No. 45, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1832, p. 933]. In this manner, the Russian military occupying authorities identified the principal source of frequent refusals in the issuance of passports authorising foreign travel in lack of proper common knowledge on how to proceed with applications.

Despite the formal assignment of the ultimate responsibility for the issuance of passports to the office of the Warsaw Governor-General, the Government Commission of Internal Affairs, of Spiritual Matters and Public Enlightenment, which replaced the formerly existing Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police, on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1832 issued rescript No. 6 447/18232, in which the ministry informed about the scope of responsibilities that still remained with that institution in the field of passport affairs.

The ministry was primarily concerned with those issues associated with the need to resolve the numerous problems “[...] arising from the new passport arrangements”. Fundamentally, this was a reaction to the letters, inquiries and complaints received both from the border guards and customs offices, as well as from the persons themselves crossing the border. As it turned out from the decree of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1832, the main task now assigned to the Government Commission of Internal Affairs in passport matters was, first and foremost, to verify whether “[...] abuses occurred in the issuance of

passports”. Consequently, in response to the numerous inquiries and complaints, and with a view to retaining some measure of influence over passport affairs, the Government Commission of Internal Affairs, of Spiritual Matters and Public Enlightenment also requested the Kingdom’s Administrative Council to maintain the ministry’s “passport secretary” on its payroll – a certain Muller, with an annual salary amounting to approximately 3,000 Polish zlotys. Simultaneously, the Government Commission of Internal Affairs proposed that the fund allocated for the maintenance of officials (civil servants) responsible for issuing passports authorising travel abroad, which was generally assigned to the office of the Warsaw Governor-General, be reduced by the amount of 3,000 Polish zlotys (with the deficit to be supplemented from the stamp duty fund, which was generated from the fee charged for the possibility of drafting legal acts or submitting petitions on officially sanctioned paper) [CAHR in Warsaw, the Administrative Council, f. 24, pp. 737]. Even in view of the “transfer” of the final stage of the passport issuance process to the disposition of the representative of the Russian military authorities, the civil Ministry of Internal Affairs continued, in the summer of 1832, its efforts to retain at least partial control or oversight over the entire process of issuing the relevant documents.

Further significant changes in passport regulations occurred in the Kingdom of Poland approximately two years later, namely on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1834. On that date, the tsarist Viceroy in the Kingdom, Field Marshal Ivan Paskevich, signed decree No. 481, issued “[...] with respect to the applications submitted [for passports] for travel abroad [...]”. That decree was subsequently made public by means of a rescript from the Government Commission of Internal Affairs, of Spiritual Matters and Public Enlightenment on February 17<sup>th</sup> of the same year (copies of that decree were also issued by the Russian military commanders of all the provinces of the state, or their aides).

As it turned out, the decree of Ivan Paskevich from February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1834 specified the principle of submitting applications for passports to Russia, as well as to other states, “[...] no other way than through the local authority”. Applications for passports were required to contain a number of detailed data. It was, of course, necessary to specify who was applying for the passport, to which destination and for what duration the applicant intended to travel abroad. The application was also required to include information regarding the number of borders to be crossed during the journey (both on the outbound and return trips). It was explicitly stated that without the inclusion of any of the above-mentioned details, the authorities were absolutely prohibited from accepting applications for passport issuance.

Referring to the very procedure of issuing passports, the statute of February 1834 explained that upon receipt of a passport application, the local authorities were obliged to immediately commence its formal processing, i.e. to forward the entire documentation together with the attached stamp

fee to the military governor of Warsaw. What in principle was self-evident, as all these offices were required to attach to a passport application a physical description of the applicant, as well as, if applicable, of any persons accompanying him/her on his foreign journey. An indispensable element of the passport application continued to be the formal “certification of the conduct” of each interested person “[...] during the most recent disturbances in Poland”, along with an official, formal statement attesting to the absence of any contraindications to travel.

We also learn from the statute of early 1834 that after the passports were issued by the military Governor-General of Warsaw (Jan count de Witte), they were to be issued “without delay” to those persons who applied for them. To avoid unnecessary loss of time, the applicants were given the option of personally collecting the issued passports at the (Warsaw) passport department. However, the availability of this option was conditioned upon the requirement that the applicant first submit a personal request to the Warsaw Governor-General, to which, as a rule, all legally prescribed “certificates” from the local administration were to be attached, as well as the applicable stamp fee. It was hardly surprising that the possibility of personal passport collection was provided exclusively for those residents of the Kingdom who “[...] submitted a certificate from the authority, convincing that they were indeed the persons on whom that authority had previously made a research”.

Importantly, for each planned border crossing using the issued passport, the statute of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1834 imposed on the applicant a fee in the amount of 6 zlotys. The explanation provided for the imposition of this specific levy by the Russian authorities, which appeared both astonishing and indicative of an advanced concern for the financial condition of the state, was as follows: “[...] since a stamp fee amounting to 6 zlotys is charged for a passport intended for a single journey, ensuring state revenue requires that an applicant seeking a passport for multiple journeys pay 6 zlotys as many times as he intends to travel abroad with that same passport” [OGMV, No. 127, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1834, pp. 266-268].

Apart from the obvious difficulties in obtaining a passport and the imposition of a surprising fee for each individual border crossing, it is noteworthy in this case that the Russian Empire was treated as a country to which, in the mid-1830s, it was extremely difficult to gain access from the Kingdom of Poland. For the same rules applied here as for travel to other states, despite the fact that it was generally extremely difficult at that time to formally leave the Kingdom for travel purposes.

The above discussed decree was soon supplemented as a result of another initiative by Jan count de Witte. Namely, despite the fact that the “visas for passports” for civilians departing from Warsaw were initially handled by the commander of the Parade Ground, in June 1834 the Warsaw Military Governor-General approached field marshal Paskevich a proposal to change this

state of affairs. Consequently, following the proposal of Jan de Witte, the visa procedure for passports for civilians departing from Warsaw was, according to Ivan Paskevich, “[...] deemed to be obstructive and superfluous” [OGMV, No. 146, July 7<sup>th</sup> 1834, p. 1021]. Thus, by virtue of the decree of Field Marshal, from the summer of 1834 the police authorities of the capital were to undertake the visa procedure for passports for civilians leaving that city, while military personnel were still required to have their passports verified by the local commander of the Parade Ground. This decree was made public by means of a rescript from the Government Commission of Revenue and Treasury on June 21<sup>th</sup>, 1834. On this basis, once again-albeit to a limited extent-the national Polish police were re-integrated in the performance of activities related to the passport procedures during the summer of 1834.

Moreover, in 1834, there occurred yet another-this time extremely significant-change in the implementation of the procedure enabling citizens of the Kingdom to travel abroad.

Namely, although up until the turn of the years 1833/1834, all passports were still issued upon the submission of an individual application (a request) by the relevant Provincial Commission to the office of the Warsaw military Governor-General, in 1834 the Russian military commander for the Kraków province-as the sole representative of the local military authority located outside the capital of the Kingdom-now possessed the right to issue permits for the travel of residents of “his” province outside the Kingdom, which of course meant that he was granted the privilege of issuing passports, although on a local scale only. In practice, this referred to the need to make numerous decisions regarding the granting of the right to possess passports for the local community, as the residents of that area of the country were then-most of all-frequently traveling to the Free City of Kraków. The corresponding decree was issued by the Administrative Council on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1834 [CAHR in Warsaw, the Second State Council..., f. 103, p. 13].

The legal regulations described so far, regarding the issuance of passports to persons wishing to travel outside the Kingdom of Poland were apparently considered by the tsarist occupying authorities of the Paskevich-era Kingdom to be sufficiently appropriate or effective for the period of the late 1830s/early 1840s, so that, at least in their view, no changes were necessary. It was not until nine years later, on March 9<sup>th</sup> 1843, that Aleksander Pisarev (then Military Governor-General of Warsaw, as well as the chief director presiding over the Government Commission of Internal Affairs, of Spiritual Matters and Public Enlightenment), on the orders of the Kingdom’s Viceroy, mandated the public dissemination of information regarding the introduction of some new procedures for issuing passports for foreign travel, the purpose of which was to expedite the entire process.

As it soon showed up, from that point onward both the gubernatorial administrations and the provincial military commanders (it should be noted

here that, following the administrative reform in 1838, the provinces of the Kingdom were replaced by gubernias, as well as the districts by counties) were instructed that upon the receipt of any application for a passport for foreign travel at their offices, they must immediately inform the appropriate (gubernatorial) military commander. These commanders, in turn, were to promptly submit their opinions on the matter to the chief director of the Government Commission of Internal Affairs, of Spiritual Matters and Public Enlightenment (General Pisarev). Simultaneously, the decree of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1843 provided that the military commanders and the civil gubernatorial administrations were allowed a period of no more than twenty days to gather all the information required in the passport issuance process. The chief director presiding over the Government Commission of Internal Affairs confirmed that applicants were also permitted to submit complaints regarding any undue delay in the process that exceeded the fixed twenty-day period. At the same time, both the military commanders and the civil gubernatorial administrations were obliged to inform the applicants of the specific time-frame “[...] within which they would be presented for obtaining their foreign passports” [Petersburg Weekly, No. 22, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1843, p. 134].

***The possibility of repealing the restrictive passport policy in 1832. The issue of potentially granting special passport privileges to individuals traveling for educational purposes***

In the early period following the fall of the November Uprising, the local pro-Russian authorities encountered difficulties in determining the conditions according to which those wishing to pursue education abroad might travel. The question of whether passports should be issued to young persons intending to study abroad was raised during the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Provisional Government on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1832 (through the formal submission of a ministerial inquiry in writing) by the Russian, Aleksander count Stronogov who, at that time, headed the Governmental Commission of Internal Affairs and Police. The matter under discussion concerned the formulation of an appropriate course of action for the ministry in the eventuality of receiving further passport applications from “[...] the youth demanding to receive an education abroad”.

In its response, the Provisional Government referred to Emperor Alexander I's decree dated as of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1822, by virtue of which every young man desirous of leaving the country to study at foreign universities (in the original, “scientific institutes”) – “[...] in the skills and fine arts” – should, in principle, apply for personal permission from “the Emperor and King” through the then Government Commission of Spiritual Matters and Public Enlightenment. The government further stated on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1832 that, until the relevant imperial decree was amended, “[...] the duty of the national

authorities is its absolute enforcement". Consequently, the governmental body resolved to instruct both the Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police and the Governor-General of Warsaw, Jan count de Witte (the official charged with the issuance of passports), that with respect to all applicants seeking passports for the purpose of acquiring a university-level education abroad, the regulation dated April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1822 should continue to be applied; that is, such persons should be referred to the Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police, which was then responsible for forwarding the applications to the monarch, residing personally in St. Petersburg.

Nevertheless, the matter of permission for foreign travel for prospective students originating from the Kingdom did not conclude there. Upon receipt of the aforementioned decision, the Chief Director presiding over the Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police – count Strogonov, pointed out that in the interim – especially after the Polish side's defeat in the war of 1831 – the legal conditions for submitting applications to travel abroad for the purpose of pursuing a university education had "changed". Aleksander count Strogonov noted that in the period preceding the outbreak of the November Uprising, the (Alexandrian) University of Warsaw operated and taught "[...] where anyone wishing to attend foreign scientific institutes could obtain a desired certificate within the country". The minister, with particular emphasis, stressed the alteration of this situation after September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1831 when – following the closure of the University of Warsaw – there emerged, more evidently than before, "the need to facilitate the possibility of obtaining education abroad". The Director presiding in the ministry, count Strogonov, underscored forcefully that such facilitation of travel abroad and the pursuit of studies therein should primarily concern the future practitioners of legal and medical sciences, whom he regarded as indispensably needed "for the country" in the future.

Taking note of the observations raised by the Chief Director presiding over the Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police, the Provisional Government resolved to forward these matters to Emperor Nicholas I. Simultaneously, the government requested that the Emperor clarify, under such circumstances, to which foreign universities "[...] the youth intending to study medicine and law will be permitted to go" [CAHR in Warsaw, the Administrative Council, f. 22, pp. 507-511].

***Control of individuals entering the Kingdom of Poland. Decree of Field Marshal Ivan Paskevich of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1833 on establishing strict surveillance over persons arriving from abroad***

Following the suppression of the November Uprising, the tsarist authorities in the Kingdom of Poland were concerned not only with monitoring the international travels of its inhabitants but also with controlling individuals

entering the state from abroad. As a result, the Tsarist viceroy in Poland, field marshal Ivan Paskevich, deemed it necessary to “establish stricter supervision over persons arriving from abroad”, issuing decree No. 1264 on May 11<sup>th</sup> 1833, which outlined highly detailed regulations for controlling any personal entry into the Kingdom. This decree was promptly published for public notice by the Government Commission of Internal Affairs, of Spiritual Matters and Public Enlightenment on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1833 – which was an exceptionally swift dissemination, occurring just four days after the viceroy’s decision.

According to Paskevich’s directive of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1833, the paramount measure in passport control for incoming travellers was the imposition of stringent, continuous surveillance over those arriving from one specific country: France. This applied regardless of whether the travellers were foreigners or Polish nationals. Enhanced scrutiny was mandated for individuals arriving from France without a visa from the Russian envoy in Paris stamped in their passports. Such individuals were to be immediately detained at the border and, after crossing, escorted directly to Warsaw to present themselves before the office of the military Governor-General of the capital, Jan count de Witte, for further interrogation.

Travellers arriving at the Polish border with passports issued in France but visaed by Russian consuls or diplomatic representatives in third countries (other than France) were exempt from mandatory escort to Warsaw. Instead, border passport services instructed them to travel personally to the capital city, though they remained obligated to report to the Warsaw Governor-General. Additionally, their passports were annotated with a restriction stating that “until presenting themselves in Warsaw, they were prohibited from residing anywhere within the Kingdom”.

These regulations extended beyond travellers from France to include those arriving from territories such as Baden, Belgium, Bavaria, Flesing (Vlissingen?), Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Hanover, Hesse-Kassel, Nassau, Saxony, Switzerland, Württemberg, as well as some Italian states. Under article 3 of the May 11 1833 decree, Polish citizens returning to the Kingdom from these regions with passports lacking visas from Russian diplomatic missions were also to be escorted “under guard” to Warsaw. Even those with visas issued by Russian diplomats outside their country of origin (e.g. “not by local but by other diplomatic officials”) were required to personally report to count de Witte. However, certain categories of travellers from Württemberg and Baden were exempted from these rules. To prevent the influx of “malicious or suspicious individuals”, border officials were instructed to meticulously verify all passports, including physical descriptions of the travellers.

Field marshal Paskevich by no means limited the control restrictions solely to travellers heading to the Polish Kingdom. He extended them even to

individuals merely passing through Poland en route to the Russian Empire. In May 1833, he introduced a rule requiring citizens of European states to mandatorily stop in Warsaw while in transit for detailed passport inspections. An exception was made only for citizens of Prussia and Austria who, “[...] having arrived in the country [Poland] with official passports [...] wished to proceed to Russia, provided they already possessed official passports previously issued for that purpose [...]” A different approach was taken for those passing through the Kingdom who intended to later travel to the imperial capital of Saint Petersburg. These individuals were obligated to apply separately in Warsaw for this “privilege” through a formal written request.

Having outlined these new regulations for controlling travellers entering the Kingdom, field marshal Paskevich resolved to strictly enforce the proper implementation of his decree. Consequently, his chancellery disseminated the contents of this order not only through standard procedural channels but also by directly addressing authoritative letters to: a) Governor-General of Warsaw Jan count de Witte; b) Roman Fuhrmann, presiding director in the Government Commission of Revenue and Treasury; c) all Russian military commanders stationed in the Kingdom’s provinces. The Government Commission of Internal Affairs further circulated the decree to regional civil authorities (mostly to voivodeship commissions), mayors, municipal leaders, customs offices, border guards, and district commissioners, who bore particular responsibility for enforcing the regulations of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1833 [OGMV, No. 88, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1833, pp. 629-630].

### **Detailed discussion on conditions of travelling in the post-uprising Kingdom of Poland**

#### ***The overall horizon regarding the possibility of travel issues in the subjugated Kingdom of Poland***

As evidenced by the above presented description of the diverse conditions governing the “issuance” and distribution of passports in the Kingdom of Poland following the suppression of the November Uprising, this practice became an evident tool of both political and cultural control over the local society. From the introduction of initial measures, through subsequent reforms by pro-Russian authorities, to the gradual tightening of complex administrative procedures, the passport became an “instrument” enabling strict surveillance over citizens deciding to undertake foreign travels.

In the first phase of the passport system’s reorganisation, the ostensibly minor amendment to regulations in November 1831 fundamentally aimed to restrict freedom of movement. Decisions made by the Provisional Government under the leadership of Russian bureaucrat Fedor Engel (nota-

bly rather diligent and impartial in his actions), in collaboration with military decision-makers from the tsarist (First) Active Army, introduced rigorous criteria for granting documents authorising foreign travel. The authority to issue passports was concentrated in the hands of select institutions, and every citizen had to undergo a multi-tiered verification process, the primary goal of which was to eliminate individuals deemed a threat to “public order” or – above all – those openly participating in anti-Russian fight and uprising. In practice, the introduced regulations explicitly stipulated that the “privilege of traveling abroad” belonged solely to those who had not participated in the uprising and did not exhibit “rebellious attitudes”. As a result, the occupying authorities effectively isolated “suspicious individuals” from any possibility of free departure out of the country.

In terms of political conditions, the introduction of strict passport regulations stemmed from the need to strengthen control over citizens and limit external influences, particularly from the so-called “Great Emigration” members, cantered mainly in France. The pro-Russian authorities controlling the post-uprising Kingdom of Poland utilised passport procedures as a political tool, enabling them to monitor and restrict the flow of individuals, thereby preventing the development of “revolutionary thought”. This system was simultaneously an element of repressive policy and an attempt to maintain a distinct “Russian order”, aligning with the broader, long-term goals of the occupying administration to “merge both nationalities into one”.

Regarding administrative practices of this time, it is evident that the passport issuance system was characterised by multiple overlapping verification layers and the involvement of both civilian and military authorities. The procedure required gathering extensive documentation, including certificates of “conduct” issued by local authorities, as well as obtaining clearance confirming no objections to departure. Over time, timid attempts to streamline the system emerged, such as eliminating excessive verification stages (as deemed by the Russians themselves) and gradually- although incompletely-excluding certain institutions, such as the Polish national police, from the decision-making process. Legislative changes, such as allowing personal collection of passports or shortening decision wait times, also reflected authorities’ efforts to improve efficiency. These reforms, while offering some relief and hope for a more liberal approach, were limited in scope and proved relatively short-lived. Regardless, despite numerous streamlining efforts, the passport acquisition process remained highly complex.

For the pro-Russian regime, the “passport tool” held immense significance. Control over cross-border movement in the subjugated Kingdom allowed not only strict monitoring of potential threats from a society deemed inherently rebellious but also facilitated the gathering of intelligence on travel plans, which could-and likely was-exploited for espionage

purposes (e.g. through the involvement of tsarist consuls scattered across Europe, who were responsible for visa approvals). Centralising passport issuance under designated officials, particularly in the Warsaw office of Governor-General Jan count de Witte, exemplified the deepening of administrative control. This was accompanied by significant, disproportionate financial burdens imposed on holders of passports issued by the Russian rulers of the Kingdom, such as fees for both the document itself and each border crossing. For citizens, this meant a series of restrictions. The introduction of strict criteria, high fees and multi-stage administrative procedures hindered legal foreign travel, effectively reducing—if it was possible to reduce it any further—freedom of movement. Individuals suspected of anti-government activities or those who had participated in the uprising were practically denied passport access, further intensifying feelings of personal freedom restrictions and marginalisation within the state system.

***Analysis of the initiative undertaken by the Government Commission of Police and Internal Affairs dated March 1832***

It is especially necessary to analyse the March 1832 initiative of the Warsaw based Government Commission of Internal Affairs and Police, which signalled a selective yet notable attempt to depart from the extremely restrictive passport policy introduced – while initially maintaining formal adherence to “pre-revolutionary” regulations – by Russian authorities in the Kingdom of Poland, ruling here after the November Uprising. Its initial goal was to enable Polish youth to study abroad. From a political perspective, despite the visible primeval tendency to restrict free movement, a degree of flexibility emerged within the Kingdom’s Provisional Government, driven by the need to support the country’s scientific development. Influenced by proposals such as those raised by count Stroganov (surprisingly enough of Russian nationality), the government sought in March of 1832 solutions to allow young scholars of law and medicine to study abroad, although such an allowance of course had to operate within the framework of clearly defined tsarist decrees, significantly limiting the initiative’s feasibility.

During attempts to resolve the issue, the administrative complexity of passport procedures became apparent. Most of all, the 1822 ordinance—although entirely mismatched with the realities of the subjugated state—remained a reference point, forcing applicants to comply with outdated rules. Consequently, potential solutions proposed by the ministry and the Provisional Government, while theoretically expressing a desire to facilitate educational travel, remained dependent on approval from central tsarist authorities, resulting in limited implementation capacity. This administrative

practice, rooted in a hierarchical power structure with the Moscow tsar as the final authority, maintained strong central control over local initiatives.

For the pro-Russian regime, the significance of these measures lay in addressing the dilemma of preserving a uniform passport policy that served not only to control citizens but also to maintain the educational status quo, while introducing certain exemptions for select population categories. Authorities, while attempting to support grassroots educational initiatives for the Kingdom's youth, could not relinquish overarching control over granting foreign travel permits. At least theoretically, the proposed changes could have offered Polish students a potential opportunity to pursue education abroad. However, the process of applying for an educational passport remained fraught with formalities.

The final possibility of implementing the Provisional Government's declared intent to facilitate educational travel was thwarted by the lack of a clear response from tsar Nicholas I. The post-uprising authorities' general intention to support scientific development by easing passport restrictions thus remained entirely at odds with practical implementation, as the Petersburg bureaucracy (with the monarch himself at its head) showed insufficient interest in furthering this policy direction.

***The importance of Ivan Paskevich's 1833 decree on introducing stronger control over persons crossing borders and entering the country***

The content of field marshal Ivan Paskevich's decree from May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1833 reveals the complex structure of passport control imposed by Russian administration on the Kingdom of Poland after the November Uprising, extending this time to individuals entering the country. This act not only detailed strict surveillance principles for foreign arrivals but also reflected the deep distrust of tsarist authorities towards travellers, particularly those from France and other European states. Politically, these regulations aimed to maximally restrict the movement of individuals who could threaten the stability of Russian rule in the Kingdom. France, as a country with strong revolutionary traditions and home to many Polish political refugees, was treated with particular suspicion. From this perspective, surveillance over travellers from France (and elsewhere) was an element of repressive policy towards the Kingdom, intended to prevent Poles from contacting liberal and revolutionary circles in Europe.

Administratively, the decree on controlling incoming individuals introduced a complicated passport verification procedure, involving both border guards and central authorities in Warsaw. Travellers without proper authorisation from Russian diplomatic representatives were either escorted under guard to Warsaw or, in milder cases, required to personally report to

the office of Governor-General Jan count de Witte. These measures significantly prolonged entry procedures, causing delays and complications for travellers.

For the regime, Paskevich's decree held fundamental importance as another tool to strengthen control over the Kingdom of Poland. It enabled the tracking and neutralisation of potential political opponents at the border-crossing stage. Moreover, extending control to individuals merely transiting through the Kingdom to the Russian Empire underscored Warsaw's role as a key filtering point for travel within the Romanov state.

For the Kingdom's citizens, these regulations meant further restrictions on mobility and an intensification of fear and uncertainty. The prospect of detention and escort to Warsaw could deter even legally compliant travel. The system clearly favoured citizens of Prussia and Austria, who alone were exempt from mandatory Warsaw checks if possessing proper documents. The decree also included exceptions for select travellers from Württemberg and Baden, likely for pragmatic diplomatic reasons. However, these exceptions were marginal compared to the overall rigor imposed on arrivals.

Regarding the regulations' effectiveness, there is no doubt their goal was to create a tight control barrier, which was largely achieved. The decree was swiftly disseminated to various administrative bodies, both military and civilian, suggesting an efficiently functioning repressive structure. The result was further isolation of the Kingdom of Poland from the West and the reinforcement of a police state.

Ultimately, the tsar's governor decree of May 1833 embodied a policy of strict control over the Kingdom of Poland, designed to limit foreign influences and counter potential threats to tsarist authority. In practice, this meant severe travel restrictions not only for Poles but also foreigners. These regulations not only hindered international contacts but also symbolized the gradual erosion of the Kingdom's autonomy as a territory under direct tsarist administrative control.

***General conclusions concerning influence of the occupying authorities' passport and crossing borders policy as well as their traveller control on the possible development of tourism in the Kingdom of Poland***

The overall intentions of the pro-Russian regime, as revealed in the analysed documents, indicate a strong desire to control both population movement as well as information regarding the mobility of citizens. The occupying authorities sought to build a system that responded not merely through restrictive travel document issuance, but also addressed the political, administrative and financial needs of the subjugated state. While these intentions aligned with maintaining "order and security" in the conquered

territory, their feasibility and effectiveness were limited by procedural delays, ambiguities and inter-administrative coordination challenges. Reform attempts aimed at increasing system efficiency were largely driven by the need to expedite procedures and address citizens' complaints. The passport system introduced after September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1831, functioned most of all as an effective barrier to free citizen movement. In practice, the era's administrative and political conditions meant only a select group of citizens – those not associated with rebellious activities – could obtain passports. Such restrictions discouraged spontaneous travel or tourism development, as access to “foreign countries” depended entirely on regulatory approval.

A comprehensive analysis of the issue reveals that the passport system in the Kingdom of Poland in the immediate aftermath of the November Uprising was an overt instrument of political pressure and control, with the occupying administration using strict procedures to limit residents' freedom. Although gradually modified, this system remained tied to contemporary political conditions and regime needs. Ultimately, both authorities' intentions and their real effectiveness were shaped by dynamic political processes and societal reactions, rendering the passport system a constant subject of criticism and reform attempts. Viewing the case in the context of tourism development, it is clear that the quasi-independent state treated foreign travel primarily as a matter of security and control rather than a means to foster “tourist activity”. In practice, numerous restrictions were aimed not only at monitoring citizens but also to discourage mass travel, which could hinder population flow control. Passport acquisition difficulties, stemming from bureaucratic complexity and strict criteria, unquestionably limited residents' ability to travel freely. Consequently, the introduced passport system significantly stifled tourism as a socio-economic phenomenon, rendering it marginal and reserved for the few meeting the regime's stringent requirements.

It is worth noting here, that a special case within Paskivich's “passport policy” was occupied by educational travel, in which case – while declarative opportunities for foreign study existed – they required special tsarist permission, greatly complicating “education travel” beyond the Kingdom's borders. Meanwhile, the Provisional Government lacked real capacity to alter this policy, despite attempts to ease it. What is more, debates over student passports revealed the tsarist administration's reluctance to relax regulations, even as the need for specialists - particularly in law and medicine - was acknowledged. Therefore, from a tourism development perspective, this situation reiterates that in the 1830s-1840s, foreign travel from the Kingdom was primarily administratively regulated. Strict rules made leisure or exploratory travel practically impossible, hampering broad tourism development and restricting social mobility and access to foreign academic centres.

Finally, the most characteristic aspect of travel to the Kingdom was the Russian authorities' approach to foreign arrivals, as outlined in field marshal Paskevich's May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1833 decree. As it was stated above, the individuals without proper passports, especially those from France or other European states (such as: Belgium, Bavaria, Switzerland or Italian states) faced stringent checks. In some cases, arrivals were even immediately detained at the border and escorted to Warsaw for interrogation. In this context, discussing free movement or tourism development in the Kingdom of Poland is particularly challenging. The Russian administrative apparatus treated visitors as potential political threats, discouraging both Poles and foreigners from traveling to the Kingdom. Harsh passport regulations and police surveillance fostered an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear, likely deterring potential travellers. Notably, controls extended not only to "permanent entrants" but also to transit travellers to Russia. Mandatory stops in Warsaw for additional passport checks prolonged journeys and added complications, rendering the Kingdom's route less attractive to foreigners.

Consequently, travel to the Kingdom of Poland during this period bore no relation to modern tourism. Conditions for recreational or educational travel were absent. This, for instance, resulted in the clear fact that after the November Uprising, no tourist guidebooks on Warsaw were published until the dawning of rule of the new tsarist ruler, Alexander II (Franciszek Maksymilian Sobieszczański, 1857). The Kingdom became a closed, inaccessible zone where travel was not a voluntary activity but a necessity fraught with risks and obstacles. Strict Russian control policies stifled travel to the Kingdom and negated tourism's regional development. Travellers were treated as suspicious subjects requiring surveillance, not guests contributing to local economic vitality. Restrictive passport policies and suspicion of foreign contacts isolated the Kingdom, rendering it hostile to visitors and nearly closed to international influences.

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## FORMER BORDERLAND CHURCHES IN SOUTHWESTERN POLAND AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR TOURISM

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### Abstract

**Purpose.** The purpose of this article is to assess, on a preliminary basis, the tourist attractiveness of the sacral structures of a relic transborder region along the Kwisa River in the Lowersilesian province of Western Poland.

**Method.** The study methods comprised desk research including a literature review and analysis of historic maps, supported by observation by authors, while the valorisation of churches was carried out by means of the *point-based capability evaluation*.

**Findings.** The inventory and assessment guidelines for churches as cultural assets for tourism have been presented. As a result, seventeen former borderland churches are analysed in the relic borderscape of the Kwisa Valley in the Lower Silesia. Their general assessment is provided together with a more specific comparative analysis which results in denomination of four classes of tourist attractiveness and proposals for development of a tourist product.

**Research and conclusions limitations.** The research is limited to the case study, and the spatial and historic attributes of the structures concerned. In the future, this theme can be further elaborated together with wider economic and social environments and implications.

**Practical Implications.** The outcomes of the paper can be used by local authorities of the territory under research to consider for future tourism planning purposes.

**Originality.** A case study of the relic borderscape is discussed in this study, resulting in the present religious landscape using the well-acknowledged method of valorisation.

**Type of paper.** This is an article presenting the results of empirical research based on a case study.

**Keywords:** borderscape, rural areas, cultural tourism, heritage, border and escape churches.

### Introduction

There is a growing literature on the importance of borders and borderlands as tourist destinations [Gelbman and Timothy 2011]. Especially interesting is the notion of borderlands understood as the portion of land surface influenced by the presence of an international boundary [Dell'Agnese and

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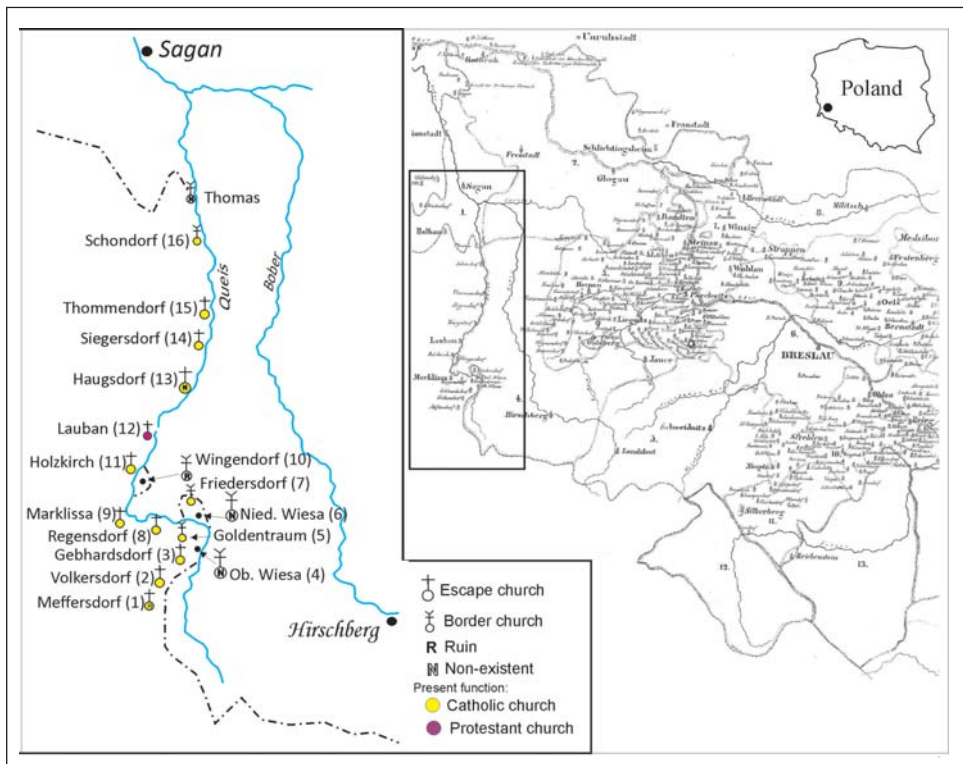
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Amilhat-Szary 2015; Dołzbłasz 2017]. As long as the populations on the two sides of a border are different, or at least develop within different cultures, economies and political regimes, they form varying cultural landscapes. Sometimes the proximity to the borderline provokes forming of unique socio-economic environments, depending on the differences between two entities [Gelbman and Timothy 2011]. To discuss the unique cultural heritage and landscape formed in this process, the more recent term *borderscape* was used by Harbers [Dell’Agnese and Amilhat-Szary 2015]. *Borderscapes* thus represent distortions imposed by the limits of sovereignty on the physical management of the land. Their ongoing transformations stimulate diachronic perspectives which, in turn, help to understand the development of “borders as landscapes” in space and time [Wille 2022]. Churches are one of main representations of rural built heritage of such a landscape since they are both important landmarks of a cultural landscape and also repositories of communal and personal history.

On the other hand, borderlands nowadays often constitute outermost rural regions which do not have much resources for economic development. However, especially in recent years, border cooperation has been thriving in Europe and tourism has become one of the proposed solutions. When the latter is the case, the features that used to be a disadvantage, such as lack of industrial development or multicultural heritage, often offer tourists a sense of differentiation. As a result, rural areas in Europe look for ways to use local culture resources to encourage development of tourism as a kind of alternative strategy [Kneafsey 2000]. Several relict boundaries have also become significant attractions [Timothy 2000]. However, the issue of how to assess the value of such assets for tourism has not received sufficient attention so far [Duda 2014].

Silesia used to constitute the borderland between Poland, Czechia, Moravia, Lusatia and German-speaking countries, and so it has been influenced by different political entities during hundreds of years. Its borders shifted and both its economy and culture became susceptible to external forces [Orzechowski, Przybytek and Ptak 2008]. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this region absorbed one of the largest spiritual and social movements of modern history—Reformation—resulting in the majority of its inhabitants turning to Protestantism in a short period, between 1520 and 1540 [Mazurski 1995]. However, when Silesia came under the rule of catholic Habsburgs in 1526, the Counter-Reformation soon resulted in persecutions of Protestants within its territories, and finally, the Treaty of Prague in 1635 gave them the limited choice either to convert to Catholicism or to flee the Habsburg country [Szczepankiewicz-Battek 2005b]. The devotees to the new religion were forced either to emigrate to countries such as Saxony or Poland or to practice their faith in secret. The representants of the latter group living next to the border started travelling across it to take part

in religious observances. To answer their needs, new temples were built in the borderlands of Silesia, the first one in 1645 in Szlichtyngowa, the town founded by Protestant refugees in neighbouring Poland [Eberlein 1901; Szczepankiewicz-Battek 2014]. The majority of such borderland churches within the southern-eastern part of Protestant Saxony functioned along the border on the Kwisa River until 1741, when Silesia was incorporated into Protestant Prussia and the new law offering full denominational freedom to its inhabitants was issued, bringing the repressions to the end. When about 300 years later almost the whole former Silesian territory was transferred to the socialist state of Poland resulting from the treaty at the end of the



**Figure 1.** Location of the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century borderland churches acc. to the historic sources and their actual state and denomination.

Polish geographical names: 1 – Pobiedna, 2 – Wolimierz, 3 – Giebułtów, 4 – Wieża Górna, 5 – Żłotniki Lubańskie, 6 – Wieża Dolna, 7 – Biedrzychowice, 8 – Stankowice, 9 – Leśna, 10 – Jałowiec, 11 – Kościelnik, 12 – Lubań, 13 – Nawojów Łużycki, 14 – Zembrzydowa, 15 – Tomisław, 16 – Ławszowa, 17 – Luboszów  
Breslau – Wrocław, Sagan- Żagan, Hirschberg – Jelenia Góra.

**Source:** authors' elaboration based on the map *Das Evangelisch Schlesien in Folge der Altranstadtlichen Convention* [Evangelical Silesia as a result of the Transylvanian Convention], 1707, author Edward Anders, in: *Historischer Atlas der Evangelischen Kirchen in Schlesien* [Historical Atlas of the Protestant Churches in Silesia], Glogau 1845 (in German).

second world war, the border was moved about 40 kilometres to the West. The territory on both banks of Kwisa River became Polish, and new settlers – Catholics arrived, while the material heritage of former German state was treated as a ‘dissonant heritage’<sup>1</sup> and some of former Protestant churches fell into disrepair. Now this is the territory of three administrative units of Lubań, Lwówek and Bolesławiec counties within Lower Silesian province, which do not border directly with Germany but are within the vicinity of 50 kilometres to the border.

The area covered by a research has an important geographical clue. It is the Kwisa River Valley, spreading along the river constituting left-bank tributary of the Bóbr River which is 127 kilometres long. Its sources are located on the north slopes of Wysoki Grzbiet in the Izery Mountains in the Western part of the Sudeten Mountains. Then it runs north leaving the mountain region near Pobiedna and entering hilly area of the Izerskie Foothills. Near Gryfów Śląski (former Greiffenberg), it turns west and then to north-east close to Leśna (Marklissa) (Fig. 1). The river flows downstream through the Silesian-Lusitan Lowlands. The area of research covers its valley within both the Izerskie Foothills and the Silesian-Lusatian Lowlands. The valley is wide and has an extensive system of accumulative-erosive terraces. In foothills there are three of them: of 6-8, 4-6 and 1-2 metres high [Szałamacha 1984], while in the lowland section, the valley is built from four terraces of 20-35, 10-12, 5 and 1-2 metres high, consecutively [Milewicz 1969, 1976; Kural 1971].

The authors of this paper use a case study of Lower Silesia western borderland to discuss the scientific procedure of evaluation of one unique type of churches for tourism. The aim of the article is to make an inventory of these rare and unique representations of the relic borderland and to propose the procedure of assessing the value of these historic religious structures for tourism development.

## Literature review

The theme of borders and borderlands has been attracting attention of political geographers since the 90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among different approaches, the one accepted for the needs of this paper comes from works of Dolff-Bonekämper, describing a *borderland* as a portion of land surface influenced by the presence of an international boundary. The idea of the land-

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<sup>1</sup> Tunbridge and Ashworth understood the “dissonance in heritage” as the “discordance or lack of agreement”; In this case, it meant that both the distrust of new inhabitants and the policy of the state encouraged the reluctance to recognise and respect the German heritage; J.E. Tunbridge, G. J. Ashworth. 1996. *Dissonant Heritage. The Management of the Past as a Resource in Conflict*, Wiley, Chichester.

scape of such a region, called a *borderscape*, corresponds to the classic approach popularised by Carl Sauer in Anglo-American cultural geography as an objective set of forms [Wille 2022].

Religious landscape developed on the basis of sacrum constitutes an important part of the rural landscape. Since religion acts as a very specific area of culture [Dawson 1959], it influences both the intangible and tangible elements of a landscape [Myga-Piątek 2012a, 2012b, Jackowski 2003]. Polish research within the field of both sacral and religious landscapes has so far involved not only real (material) approach, following the classical thought of Sauer, but also semiotic and aesthetic ones. Apart from these three main research areas, other less common ones include methodological studies such as historical-conservation ones [Czwojdrak and Kopaczyński 2010], evolutionary – functional or intangible – semiotic [Duda-Seifert and Mikołajczak 2014]. The research upon evaluation of attractiveness of religious structures for tourism conducted within the geography of tourism and presented below can be attributed to the real approach [Duda-Seifert and Łach 2011; Myga-Piątek 2012a; 2012b].

The unique group of former borderland churches in the Lower Silesia region as a case of the sacral landscape has, so far, attracted very little attention of researchers and if so, they present different approaches. There were few German scientists who devoted their works to this specific topic throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century [Eberlein 1901; Grundmann 1970]. The Polish art historian Paweł Banaś researched former Protestant architecture in Silesia region [1966, 1971], as well as historian of art Jan Harasimowicz [1986], followed by two geographers Krzysztof R. Mazurski [1989a; 1989b; 1990a; 1990b; 1995; 2002; 2014] and Joanna Szczepankiewicz-Battek [2005a; 2005b; 2010; 2015]. More recently, it has also been the German Association of Silesian and Upper Lusatian Museums that carried out a project devoted to Silesian border and escape churches and supported a series of publications [Dannenberg et al. 2012; Dannenberg and Donath 2016; Donath 2016]. However, there is still a scarcity of detailed research regarding such a specific group of churches that are relics of the former borderlands, especially in the context of cultural landscape. The idea to consider them as a potential tourism resources was also only vaguely hinted to date [Szczepankiewicz-Battek 2010].

The valorisation of cultural tourism resources can be determined using notions of age, rarity, stylistic expression, etc. [Angelevska-Nadjeska 2014; Vervloet 2007]. One of the methods used in the literature is *point-based capability (grading points) evaluation* [Duda 2014]. The assessment must be based upon selection of criteria that would allow to evaluate the educational, scientific and aesthetic rank of the churches considered. In the paper, certain procedures of assessment are proposed, partially referring to the existing literature [Ballinger 2012; Brilha 2016; Duda 2014; Duda-Seifert 2015; *Heritage...*2006; McKercher and du Cros 2002; Priskin 2001].

## Methods

In the context of the literature review presented above, it is the aim of this study to assess the value of former borderland churches for cultural tourism. The authors believe that these structures constitute rare and unique assets that can be used to enrich the tourist offer of a rural peripheral destination. The procedure and assessment methods elaborated in the study can also be treated as a proposal for general tourism planning needs. While the tourism development strategy should include: inventory, assessment, conservation, interpretation, promotion and monitoring sites (Brilha 2016), only the two first stages are discussed in the study.

In the paper, first an inventory of the specific group of former borderland churches in the Kwisa Valley region was created, followed by their valorisation for the needs of potential tourist development. Cultural attractions, such as churches, when valued and appreciated, can be turned to heritage, since this notion covers historic sites and built environments providing a narrative for historical development [ICOMOS 1999]. Therefore, the authors decided to make an inventory of all former borderland churches, including the ones that have been demolished. Research of primary and secondary sources provided important contextual information. The literature and lexicons of architecture monuments, together with an official register of protected monuments (*Rejestr...*), were used as secondary sources. Sources included maps and historic photographs. Historic photographs were obtained online ([www.glogow.pl/okolice](http://www.glogow.pl/okolice); [dolny-slask.org.pl](http://dolny-slask.org.pl); [www.dokumentyslaska.pl/epitafia](http://www.dokumentyslaska.pl/epitafia); [www.heimatarchiv-lauban.de](http://www.heimatarchiv-lauban.de)). Analysis of changes in structure and land-use within settlements was conducted utilising historical German maps from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (*Messtischblatt* sheets) and Polish maps from 1962-65. Field research made it possible to verify the location and current condition of the churches and included interviews with local activists and priests. In this process, both the location in relation to the morphological structure of the River Kwisa valley and their scenic value were defined [Myczkowski 2015, Myga-Piątek et al. 2015].

The second phase of research consisted of sorting the data, creating the procedure method and identifying the values of churches for tourism purposes. Valorisation is conducted by means of one of the methods of this kind, namely *point-based capability (grading points) evaluation*. This method consists in assigning individual features an appropriate number of points, determined by the chosen scale of values which allows for bringing a “common denominator” of different phenomena and for receiving a synthetic evaluation [Duda 2014; Galiński et al. 2013; Milenkowski et al. 2016]. Each of the evaluated structures was analysed using three large categories and within each subsequent criteria (see Tab. 1). The structure was graded separately in each criteria according to the intensity of the given phenomenon (Tab. 2).

**Table 1.** Assessment categories, criteria and point grading for border and escape churches under research

Cultural tourism indicators	Assessment category	Criteria	Number of points			
			0	1	2	3
A. Cultural significance	Design (artistic value)	a. Stylistic qualities based on time of construction and state of preservation	Completely destroyed	Ruins; Lack of stylistic uniformity; 20 <sup>th</sup> cent.	19 <sup>th</sup> cent. classicist, neo-gothic	Baroque; 18 <sup>th</sup> cent.
		b. Overall shape	Lack of both	Lantern above the nave or derelict tower	Tower	-
		c. Interior furnishing and decoration from 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Lack of details of artistic value	One or two historic pieces	At least three pieces <sup>1</sup>	-
	Contextual value	d. Historic landscaping	Lack of additional elements	Renaissance or baroque tombstones or epitaphs outdoors	-	-
B. Landscape or landmark determiners	Visual properties of location	e. Morphological location	Valley bottom	Plateau	-	-
		f. Visual contact with river	No	Yes	-	-
		g. Location in relation to settlement	In centre	On peripheries	Scattered	-
C. Access	Ease of access	h. Location in relation to road	Local road	Main road	-	-
		i. Tourist trail	No	Yes	-	-

<sup>1</sup> other elements such as: galleries, altar, organs, pulpit, watch, bell, portal, polychromes.

In the process, cultural significance is believed to be the core category from the point of view of cultural tourists interested in history and art. Within this category design – artistic values were assigned the highest value (up to three points) dependent on the style and age. In this case, the four oldest baroque churches seem to possess the largest potential due to their stylistic uniformity. Additional features of their outdoor design, such as a lantern or tower, were subscribed an additional one or two points, respectively (Tab. 1). Original epitaphs or tombstones often wearing original signatures being the ‘witness’ of former Protestant pastors or church mem-

bers, displayed either on the outside wall of the church or on the wall surrounding the area, were called to bear contextual value and were assigned an additional point.

The second category in the valorisation procedure was called landscape or landmark determiners and they are used to establish visual properties of location. Morphological location on the plateau was given higher value than valley bottom because of its dominant position within the landscape. An additional point was added when the River Kwisa could be seen from the church vicinity, as the landmark symbolising former border line. Location versus settlement was understood as the rule that the more peripheric the position of the church, the more characteristic it is for the history it witnesses and more dominant in the landscape (Fig. 3).

The third category of assessment for tourism involved the ease of access, meant as the location of the church with regard to roads and tourist trails (Tab. 1).

## Findings

Seventeen former borderland churches in the River Kwisa Valley were identified (Tab. 2). The majority of them were so-called escape churches, which means they had older Catholic roots, but were turned to serve Protestants as their adherers changed faith, and so they were adapted to fulfil new religion standards and often rebuilt to enhance the capacity (Fig. 3). Seven churches were termed in the literature as border churches built from scratch and serving the needs of both the Habsburg subjects crossing the border to fulfil the religious observances and new immigrants settling down in the area [Grundmann 1970; Mazurski 2002; Szczepankiewicz-Battek 2015]. Four from the group were destroyed; however, according to the authors, they can still constitute an asset for cultural tourism as their setting can offer the opportunity to develop the interpretation on-site discussing their turbulent past. Out of eleven still functioning churches, only one – in Lubań – now serves the same Protestant denomination as in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Out of the group of seventeen, four churches were destroyed, while two others are derelict (Jałowiec, Pobiedna). Another one was exchanged with a completely new church after WW2, which means that it is almost deprived of the value of originality and artistic quality (Zebrzydowa). Six churches underwent serious renovation or rebuilding works during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but still three from that group maintain enough stylistic uniformity to offer high aesthetic quality (Ławszowa, Tomisław, Wolimierz). Four churches have kept their general design from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, mainly in baroque style (Biedrzychowice, Giebułtów, Leśna, Stankowice). The highest

**Table 2.** Results of evaluation regarding tourist potential of borderland churches in the Kwisa River Valley

No.	Church location	Type	A. Cultural significance				B. Landscape			C. Access		Total score	Class of attractiveness
			a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i		
1	Pobiedna	E	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	5	III
2	Wolimierz	B	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	9	II
3	Giebułtów	E	3	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	13	I
4	Wieża Górna	E	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	IV
5	Złotniki Lubańskie	B	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	7	III
6	Wieża Dolna	B	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	4	IV
7	Biedrzychowice	B	3	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	12	I
8	Stankowice	E	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	9	II
9	Leśna	E	3	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	11	I
10	Jałowiec	B	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	III
11	Kościelnik	E	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	I
12	Lubań	E	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	7	II
13	Nawojów Łużycki	E	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	6	IV
14	Zebrzydowa	E	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	8	III
15	Tomisław	E	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	I
16	Ławszowa	B	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	9	II
17	Luboszów	B	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	IV

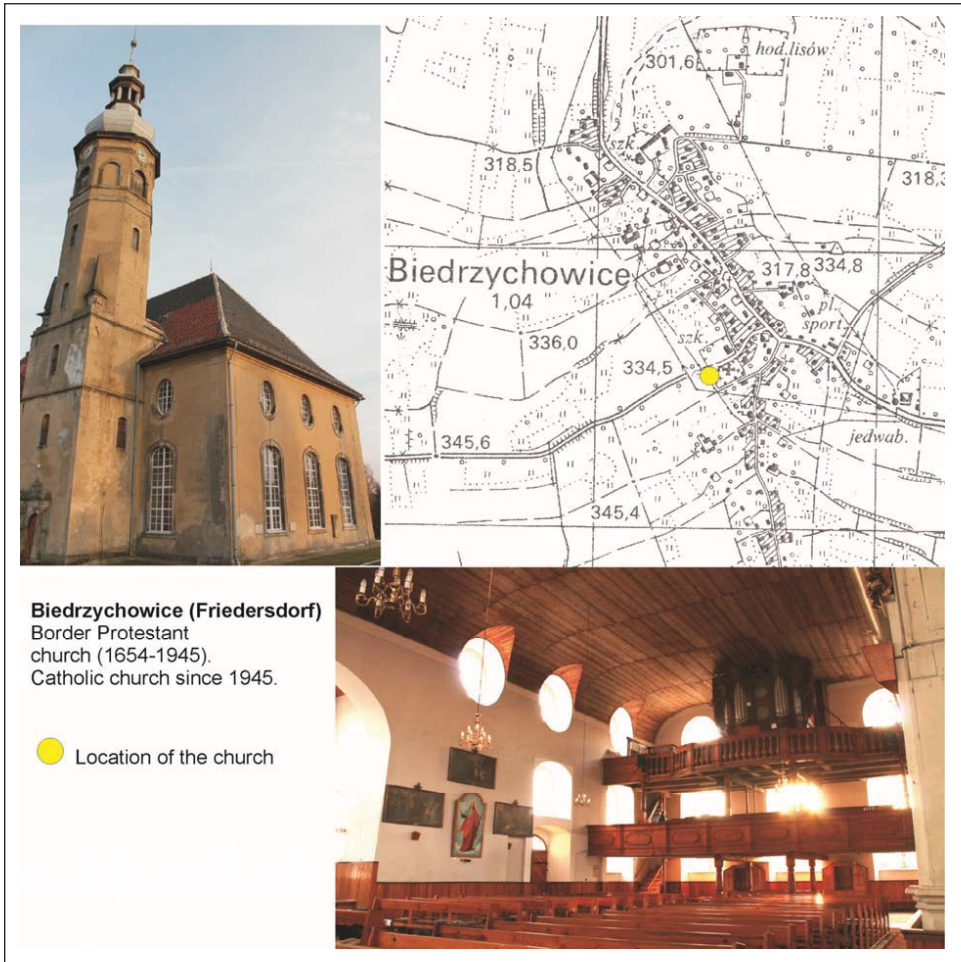
The number in the table corresponds to the number on the map presented in Figure 1.

B – border church, E – escape church.

artistic value displayed by furnishing or portals is presented in case of four churches (Biedrzychowice, Giebułtów, Kościelnik and Leśna). There are baroque altars, polychromes, portals, organ fronts and nobleman oratories or galleries (Fig. 2). Eight churches, including the one in Zebrzydowa, have towers which dominate the building and add to its artistic value, while three others have lanterns, and from one derelict church, the tower is all that is left (Pobiedna). They usually form silhouettes dominating on the left bank of the river on over-flooding high terraces within the distance of between

ten to 600 metres from the modern river bed. So-called contextual value added by epitaphs or tombstones from the epoch are prominent at nine locations (Biedrzychowice, Giebułtów, Tomisław etc.).

Therefore, such a distinctive group of churches can support creation of the “Borderland Churches of the Kwisa Valley” tourist product, which could promote rural communes along the river. Its main axis could be formed by the cultural thematic tourist trail which would follow the river flow. There could be three variants of the trail, proposed for tourists travelling by car,

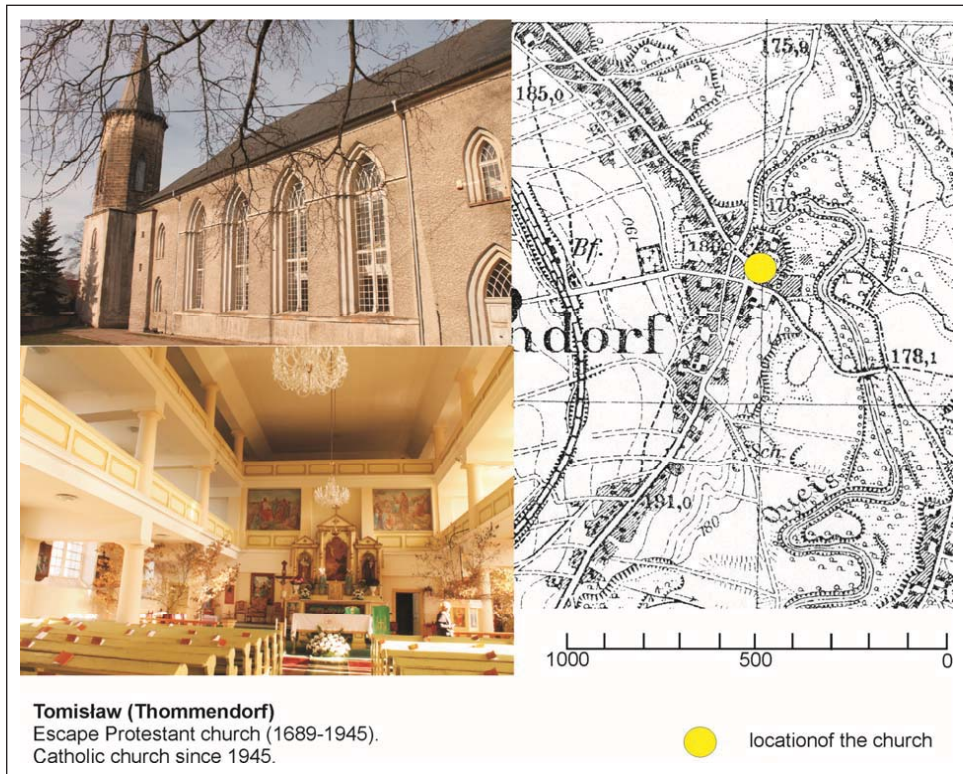


**Figure 2.** Biedrzychowice (Friedersdorf) Church as a representative of the first-class category, being a typical example of a border church built on the western periphery of an old settlement in 1654-56 as a wooden one, rebuilt in Baroque style in 1722-24. It has original galleries, ceiling, altar, organs, polychromes. A baroque bell tower dominates from the north western side and there are portals and epitaphs on the outside wall.

**Source:** authors' elaboration based on the “Topography map” sheet of Węglińiec from 1980.

by bicycle and on foot. They could link different set of churches depending on their recognised value as described by the class of tourist attractiveness. Additionally, different functions and services could be ascribed to them, also based on the classification.

The first class (I) recognised in the research includes five churches of the highest value considering artistic and contextual (historic) aspects. Their position is strengthened by interesting placement in the scenery of the hills bordering the river valley that allows for their visual dominance in the landscape. They constitute a rare example of the historic cultural landscape and offer the highest potential for future tourism development – the example being the church in Biedrzychowice (Fig. 2) or Tomisław (Fig. 3). Therefore, they could form the main nodes for the cultural route of the val-



**Figure 3.** Church in Tomisław (Thommendorf) – classified as first-class – being an example of an escape church – located centrally in the settlement probably already in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, turned to Protestant denomination, and was enlarged in 1689-90. It was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century after a fire. Free-standing bell tower from 1699 adds to its silhouette, galleries inside are characteristic for a Protestant church. Many epitaphs on the surrounding wall add to its contextual value together with a specific “Bolesławiec Gate”, which served Protestants arriving from distant Lowersilesian settlements to take part in religious observances.

**Source:** author’s elaboration based on *Messtischblatt* sheet of Siegersdorf 1888.

ley. Their accessibility (opening hours), information provided on boards with QR codes, or even the guiding opportunity, should be ensured by communes, regional governments and church cooperation. Four of them are located in the upper part of the valley closer to the Izery Mountains, which means that they could also pull away some tourists from the main destinations in the mountainous region towards rural areas in the north direction. However, the fifth one (Tomisław), lies further to the north in the less visited part of the province which belongs to the Bory Dolnośląskie area (Lowersilesian forest) in the Silesian-Lusitian Lowlands (Figs., 1 and 3). This offers an attractive option for attracting tourists to these less distinctive area.

The second class of attractiveness (II) relates to churches of medium historic and artistic potential for cultural tourism development (Fig. 4). Their state of preservation is either good or only sufficient. Three out of four have towers while the fourth one has a small turret on the roof of the nave (Stankowice). Some original stone elements of the building (Lubań), or internal structures such as galleries (Ławszowa), or furnishing and epitaphs (Stankowice, Wolimierz) have survived. Their value is enhanced by location within the River Valley high over-flooding terrace. In the case of

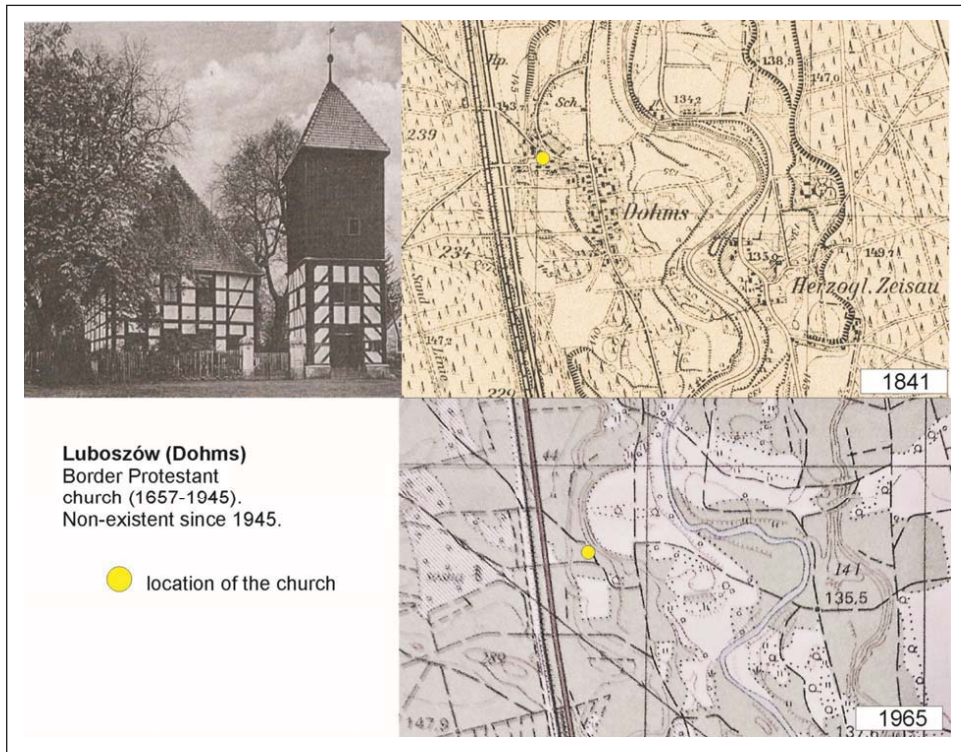


**Figure 4.** The church in Ławszowa (Schondorf) represents the second-class category. It is a typical example of locating a border church on the western bank of the Kwisa River as opposed to the old right-bank settlement, with an old Catholic church. It is originally wooden, and was rebuilt in classicist style in 1823. The is a bell-tower from the south.

**Source:** authors' elaboration based on *Messtischblatt* sheet of Klitschdorf, 1889.

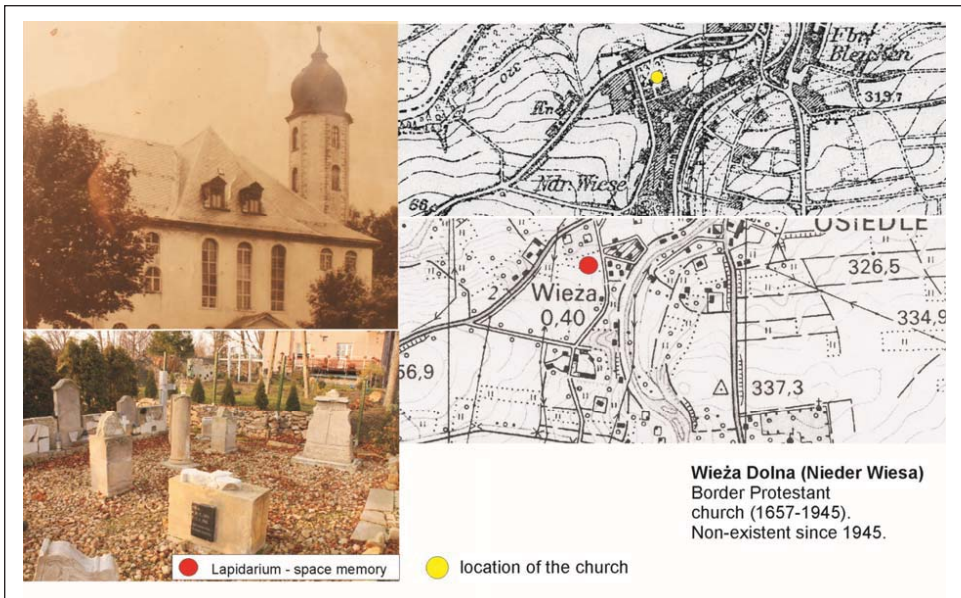
creating a cultural thematic route of the Valley, they could offer some forms of interpretation, i.e. additional information based on selected history topics or workshops. One of them is located the furthest to the north from the group and could attract tourists following the thematic route and area product to the less visited parts of the province (Figs.1 and 4).

The third class (III) encompasses churches of smaller historic and artistic potential in a bad state of preservation, whereas the fourth class (IV) indicates the sites of former Protestant churches. Class three represents low cognitive value and is mainly recorded in historical photographs and cartographic maps, as churches are rebuilt (Zebrzydowa, Złotniki) or in ruins (Jałowiec, Pobiedna). However, even in case of the fourth class, their value should not be neglected since the inclusion of information boards or a signage of a place can still turn them into tourist attractions (Figs. 5 and 6). There are together eight churches in both III and IV classes (Tab. 2).



**Figure 5.** The site of the former church in Luboszów (Dohms) representing the fourth-class group, located on the left bank flooding terrace of the River Kwisa. Neither the church nor the whole settlement of the village exist any longer. The only opportunity for its use in cultural tourism is to turn the it into a memory site.

**Source:** authors' elaboration, based on Messtischblatt sheet of Neuhammer 1887 and "Topography map" sheet of Iłowa 1966.



**Figure 6.** The site of the former church in Wieża Dolna is another example of the fourth-class group. Collection of tombstones from the nearby Protestant cemetery has been placed on the opposite plot and can serve as a basis for interpretation by tourists.

**Source:** authors' elaboration based on *Messtischblatt* sheet of Greiffenberg 1887 and "Topography map" sheet of Gryfów Śląski 1980.

These two groups constitute about half of the sample, which proves rather poor preservation status of the former borderland churches in general and the importance of the highest care about the remaining "witnesses" of turbulent history, including the search for new uses such as a tourist one. The third class churches could eventually be skipped on the main cultural route by road but still included in both bicycle and on-foot ones and used therefore to enrich local tourist products for people who stay in the area. They could offer information on boards and via QR codes, and it seems that the fourth class churches could be used more targeting bicycle tourists due to their relatively secluded location.

## Discussion

The case of former borderland churches is itself quite unique; however, it can form a part of a broader context of analyses regarding the value of sacral landscapes for tourism [Duda-Seifert, Rogowski and Góralewicz-Drozdowska 2010; Łach 2011; Łach 2019; Łach et al. 2022]. The paper is focused on the process of both inventory making and assessment proce-

ture which are required in the tourism development strategy [Angelevska-Nadjeska 2014; Ballinger 2012; Brilha 2015]. It can be referred to other studies on sacral landscapes or borderscapes especially and the schemes for evaluation of resources and planning for tourism [Dolzblasz 2017].

The methodology partially uses existing approaches; however, it is adapted towards specific features of churches in a rural landscape and still it counteracts the attitude presented by some researchers questioning the need for selection and culling [Jones 2007, Vervloet 2007]. Nonetheless, the methodology follows the general idea proposed by others [Roca and Oliveira Roca 2007], although some features have been skipped, such as rarity or scientific value, while others strengthened – as in case of artistic and aesthetic values [Brilha 2015].

The uniqueness of the phenomenon of borderland churches can be conceived as an element of building the region territorial identity according to Roca and Roca's concept [2007]. This means that the potential can be used also in order to position the region as a distinct cultural destination in the future. However, as suggested by Vervloet [2007], the further process of planning should also include participation of the local communities and governments in determining the prospects for economic development, the essence of which may be cultural tourism. This is especially important in the situation where due to the mass migration following the change of political territories after WW2, new inhabitants transformed former Protestant churches into Catholic ones, which supported the continuity of the sacral zones within the landscape. However, in some cases, both churches and settlements were turned into derelict zones. Evaluation and potential use for cultural tourism purposes can therefore sustain local communal memory and support economic and social regeneration, in that way, becoming an attractive strategic option for rural areas [Augustyn 1998, Bunkse 2007, Holland, Burian and Dixey 2003, Kneafsey 2000]. Determining the cultural value of the escape and border churches inscribed in the landscape of the valley may constitute a substantive basis for the creation of an independent, unique tourist product called "Borderland Churches of the Kwisa Valley" based on the cultural route as it was already done in case of wooden churches [Duda-Seifert et al. 2010] or cultural pilgrimage routes [Duda 2014].

## Conclusions

The group of former borderland churches has become the subject of the analysis as a unique phenomenon and witness to the rich history of the region. First, based on historical maps and field research, seventeen former border and escape Protestant churches of the Kwisa River Valley have been defined,

followed by the proposal of the scoring method approach, which resulted in four classes according to their tourist attractiveness. Division of churches into classes dependent on their value could form the main idea for the structure of the area product, in this case, “The Borderland Churches of the Kwisa Valley”, based on linear products such as road, bicycle and foot tourist routes. Therefore, both inventory making and the valorisation process can help design the strategy for tourist product development of a rural area, while gathered information let us recognise its main features, which can be further used in the interpretation for cultural tourism needs, including:

- offering insight into history of religion, including geography of religion;
- explaining more general questions of minority vs. majority in a society, including the aspect of tolerance;
- analysing specific features of religious architecture, especially Protestant churches interiors with galleries, and history of adaptations towards new observance requirements;
- landscape features with church silhouettes dominating on the left bank over-flooding high terraces within the distance of between ten to 600 metres from the modern river bed, with a remote plateau ridge, together creating a picturesque morphological structure.

However, the actual tourist use of these structures and sites is very limited because of:

- a lack of any signage in relation to border or escape churches, except small information boards next to three of them;
- limited accessibility since this requires individual contact with a priest in the case of functioning churches, while in case of ruins, they are camouflaged by vegetation.

Still, as far as accessibility is concerned, the churches are located close to public roads (within distance of up to 200 or 300 metres), and there are parking lots next to functioning churches. Additionally, tourist hiking trails pass by eight, and thematic trails by two of the churches.

Therefore, the evaluation process, resulting in the selection of four classes of tourist attractiveness regarding the former borderland churches in the Kwisa River Valley, is made to serve specific purposes. It could be used for future planning of tourism development in the area which is peripherally situated and rural. Inventory and valorisation are only the first steps which could lead to the strategy of tourism development. Therefore, the study is a proposal for evaluation of cultural heritage as a resource for tourism development. Both theoretical studies on the methodology and deeper qualitative research on the case, including an ethnological approach and analysing local inhabitants knowledge, memory and relation to the churches in the Kwisa River Valley, should follow.

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**REVIEWS, COMMENTS,  
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**REVIEW OF THE BOOK BY  
JULIA WOJCIECHOWSKA-SOLIS, AGATA KOBYLKA,  
MARIUSZ CIEŚIELSKI AND NATALIA KORCZ,  
"THE POTENTIAL OF NATURE TOURISM IN POLAND"**

***Kinga Kostrakiewicz-Gieralt\****

The book entitled "The Potential of Nature Tourism in Poland", was published by the Wrocław University of Economics Publishing House in 2024. In the publication, the theoretical foundations of nature tourism are presented, and its selected forms characterised. Aimed at a wide audience, the book is recommended to both researchers and those interested in nature tourism. The reviewed monograph has a concise and unified structure, divided into eight chapters.

In the first chapter titled *Nature Tourism – Contemporary Directions of Development*, the Authors present various definitions of the term "nature tourism", they further analyse its impact on the environment, present the forms and functions of nature tourism, and discuss the conditions for the development of nature tourism in Poland. The second chapter — *Environmental Education as a Factor in the Development of Nature Tourism* is fo-



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cused on the concept of environmental education, its formal and legal foundations, and its practices in natural areas. In the third chapter, entitled *Nature Tourism in Urban Areas*, the prospects and barriers to the development of nature tourism in cities are addressed. The fourth chapter *Nature tourism in Rural Areas*, the importance is discussed of natural heritage in increasing tourist attractiveness, forms of nature tourism are characterised, and presented are the operation of thematic villages based on nature motifs and selected activities in educational farms. In the next chapter of the monograph titled *Tourism and Education in National Parks*, the natural values of national parks in Poland are touched upon, as well as their accessibility, tourist and recreational development, and also educational resources and offerings. In the following chapter — *Monitoring the Recreational Use of Natural Areas by the Public*, the authors focus on presenting the objectives of monitoring and the tools used for its execution, as well as examples of its application, and the practical use of obtained data. The seventh chapter, *The Recreational Function of Forests – the Potential of Forests to Provide This Function and Public Preferences*, is focused on the natural potential of forest areas. Methods for assessing the ability of forests to fulfil recreational functions are characterised, and addressed is the issue of preferences regarding the recreational function of forests. In the final chapter, this is *Forest Bathing – Immersion in Nature for Physical and Mental Health*, the authors underline the significance of these practices in disease prevention, as well as in supporting treatment and rehabilitation.

### Reflections on the book content

Due to the fact that the book has been subjected to editorial review, I present below only reflections that arose during reading the monograph. The first chapter, titled *Nature Tourism – Contemporary Directions of Development*, was developed based on extensive literature regarding the subject. However, I believe this chapter has two shortcomings. In subchapter 1.1, *The Concept of Nature Tourism*, the difference between “nature tourism” and “ecotourism” (and perhaps also “sustainable tourism”) should be more clearly articulated, drawing on available publications. Furthermore, subchapter 1.3 — *Forms and Functions of Nature Tourism* — lacks a discussion concerning contemporary forms of nature tourism, such as floristic and faunal expeditions (journeys), plant and animal observation combined with wildlife photography, polar tourism or geotourism. It should also be added that some of the above-mentioned activities were mentioned in subsection 1.1. Subsection 1.4 — *The development of nature tourism in Poland* — in turn, has been developed in an accessible way and the main factors in the development of nature tourism in Poland are presented, i.e. environmental values, economic factors,

nature conservation policy and interest in active recreation. Taking this into consideration, according to the majority of authors cited in the first chapter, as well as many other researchers, the motive for pursuing nature tourism is to expand and supplement knowledge about both animate and inanimate natural objects, and it is fully understandable to include a chapter on environmental education at the beginning of the monograph. In subchapter 2.1. — *The Concept of Environmental Education*, the authors clearly discuss the various methods of environmental education in Poland, ranging from “outdoor” through “nature and forestry”, “forest”, and “sustainability” to “urban forestry” education types. At the same time, they rightly emphasized the importance of formal education implemented in teaching and educational activities from preschool to doctoral studies, and also appreciated the significant role of informal education conducted by various entities such as non-governmental organisations, botanical and zoological gardens, as well as youth organisations. In subchapter 2.2., titled *Formal and Legal Foundations of Environmental Education*, regulations concerning environmental education conducted within the framework of sustainable development policy are comprehensively and chronologically outlined. In Subchapter 2.3. — *Practice of Environmental Education in Natural Areas* — active and passive forms of environmental education are clearly and comprehensively presented. Furthermore, the authors emphasize the role of tourists’ environmental awareness in decision-making and actions aimed at protecting nature and the environment.

Many researchers note that nature tourism does not have to be practiced exclusively in natural areas, but also in transformed or even artificial ones, such as botanical gardens, quarries, mines or palace parks. This justifies the inclusion of the following chapter in the monograph, *Nature Tourism in Urban Areas*. In subchapter 3.1. titled *Urban Areas as a Sustainable Area*, aptly described are the fundamental challenges related to sustainable development in cities, such as waste management, transport and uncontrolled suburbanisation. At the same time, the importance is emphasized of maintaining urban greenery, which serves as a space for recreation, and pro-ecological activities consistent with the *green city* concept. In subsequent subsections, the authors draw the readers’ attention to the diverse forms of urban greenery and their significance in the development of nature tourism (3.2. *The Role of Urban Green Spaces in the Development of Nature Tourism*) and, on the other hand, point out its numerous limitations related to the urban environment (3.3. *Barriers to the Development of Nature Tourism in the City*). I believe that subsection 3.2 lacks a broader discussion of the role (including cognitive function) that arboreta and botanical gardens, which house plant collections from around the world, play for visitors. I think that botanical gardens, in particular, of which there are only a few in Poland, deserve a more detailed description, especially since their tourism potential is still emphasized in the literature on the subject. In my opinion, the chapter *Nature Tourism in Rural Areas* on the potential of rural areas for the

development of nature tourism is well-planned and well-prepared. The authors provide a comprehensive discussion regarding the importance of natural heritage in enhancing tourist attractiveness, promoting sustainable tourism development and raising environmental awareness of both residents and visitors to rural areas (4.1. *The Importance of Natural Heritage in the Development of Tourism in Rural Areas*). This is followed by a detailed presentation of various forms of tourist and recreational activities, as well as practical examples of promoting natural values in rural tourism (4.2. *Forms of Nature Tourism in Rural Areas*). Subsequent subchapters provide a detailed discussion on the operation of nature-themed thematic villages (4.3. *Nature-themed Thematic Villages*) and educational farms (4.4. *Nature-themed Activities in Educational Farms*).

Given that nature tourism is primarily achieved through communing with nature in naturally valuable areas, and thus unaltered by humans, I consider the fifth chapter, titled *Tourism and Education in National Parks* to be the most valuable. First, the authors present the history of establishing national parks in Poland in an accessible manner, using synthetic tables and clear illustrations, and identify the main natural values of each (5.1. *Natural Values of National Parks in Poland*). They then characterise tourism in the context of seasonality, opportunities for various forms of tourism and transport accessibility (5.2. *Making National Parks Accessible to Visitors*). Furthermore, they comprehensively discuss tourism and recreation development (5.3. *Tourism and Recreation Development in National Parks*), as well as forms of nature education as well as the use of modern methods and tools in promotion and communication with tourists (5.4. *National Parks' Educational Resources and Offerings*). At the same time, I believe that an important addition to the aforementioned chapter would be to identify national parks that form part of biosphere reserves approved by UNECSO under the Man and Biosphere (MaB) programme, as well as other protected areas of international significance, such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites (which the authors mention in chapter four). Furthermore, it would be desirable to characterise other forms of nature conservation, such as reserves, landscape parks and protected landscape areas, in terms of their natural values, educational offerings and accessibility. It should also be noted that areas contributing to the European Natura 2000 network, established to protect exceptionally valuable plant, animal and fungi habitats and/or rare wild bird species, attracting a wide range of ornithologists, entomologists, botanists and nature enthusiasts, are particularly worthy of discussion. Moreover, I believe that it would be good to present the potential for nature tourism of at least selected forms of nature conservation occupying smaller areas represented by natural monuments (single creations of living and inanimate nature or groups thereof), documentation sites (e.g. fragments of geological formations), ecological sites (remnants of ecosystems significant for maintaining biodiversity) and natural and landscape complexes (valuable fragments of the natural and cultural landscape).

The authors of the monograph devote considerable attention to the natural potential of forest ecosystems, their broadly defined recreational function and monitoring tourist traffic. Information on this topic is included in the chapters: *Monitoring the Recreational Use of Natural Areas by Society*, *The Recreational Function of Forests – the Potential of Forests to Provide This Function and Public Preferences*, and *Forest Bathing – Immersion in Nature for Physical and Mental Health*. The lack of even a brief description concerning the most important forest communities in Poland, represented by deciduous forests (hornbeam-hornbeam forests, oak forests, beech forests, riparian forests, alder forests), coniferous forests (pine forests) and mixed forests, leaves something to be desired. A discussion on the habitat conditions shaping the development of these phytocoenoses, identifying the most important stand-building species and the animals that inhabit them, as well as a presentation of the distribution of individual forest types in Poland, would undoubtedly enrich the chapter on the recreational function of forests (presenting, among other things, research conducted in various types of forests). The aforementioned discussion would be particularly valuable for readers unfamiliar with the basics of phytosociology. It should be noted here that characterising the potential for nature tourism of other ecosystems of scientific and educational value, such as sandy and calcareous grasslands, wet meadows, peat bogs and aquatic and waterside plant communities, would also be equally important. These plant communities are frequent destinations for floristic and faunal excursions and are also a venue for other forms of tourism, as emphasized by the authors in the monograph's 'Summary'.

Furthermore, in my opinion, the book lacks information on the nature tourism potential of even selected elements of inanimate nature, such as those represented by landforms shaped due to orogenic movements, wave action and river activity, as well as glacial, aeolian and karst processes. Also omitted is the existence of geoparks established in locations with unique rock formations, mineral deposits, caves and other inanimate natural sites of unique value and representative of the geological history of a given region. These sites are both excellent locations for Earth science education and tourist attractions. I believe that a study on the potential of nature tourism in Poland should include a discussion of selected geoparks (especially those included in the UNESCO network).

### Summary

In conclusion, despite my critical remarks, I believe that the book *Potential for Nature Tourism in Poland* contains valuable information and can serve as a source of knowledge, especially regarding topics related to environmental education, the natural potential of national parks, the recreational func-

tion of forests, as well as issues related to nature tourism in urban and rural areas. At the same time, due to the shortcomings highlighted in the review, I sincerely hope that another updated edition of the monograph, expanded with essential content, will be published soon, and I strongly encourage the authors to do so.

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Julia Wojciechowska-Solis, Agata Kobyłka, Mariusz Ciesielski, Natalia Korcz (2025), *Potencjał turystyki przyrodniczej w Polsce [The Potential of Nature Tourism in Poland]*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu, ISBN 978-83-68394-00-9

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## REPORT FROM THE GEOTRENDS 2025 CONFERENCE – 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOHERITAGE & GEOTOURISM, WROCLAW, 23-26 SEPTEMBER 2025


*Patrycja Ozga-Gwóźdź\*, Stanisław Matusik\*\**

The fourth edition of GEOTRENDS – International Conference on Geoheritage & Geotourism took place in Wrocław and the Sudetes Mountains from September 23-26, 2025. Organised by the Institute of Geography and Regional Development of the University of Wrocław in cooperation with the Polish Geographical Society (Wrocław Branch), the Polish Society for Quaternary Research (POLQUA), the Committee on Quaternary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Wrocław Branch), and the INQUA Loess and Pedostratigraphy Working Group, the event brought together researchers, practitioners and geotourism enthusiasts from Europe and around the world (Poland, China, Iran, Serbia, Turkey). The conference was held under the honorary patronage of the directors of three institutions closely associated with the protection of the natural and geological heritage of Lower Silesia: Bartłomiej Jakubowski (Stołowe Mountains National Park), Andrzej Raj (Karkonoski National Park), and Dr. Maciej Zathy (Institute of Territorial Development, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences).

Wrocław, which has long served as an important centre for geotourism research, once again became a venue for the international exchange of experiences between scientists, representatives of nature conservation institutions, tourism organisations and local governments.

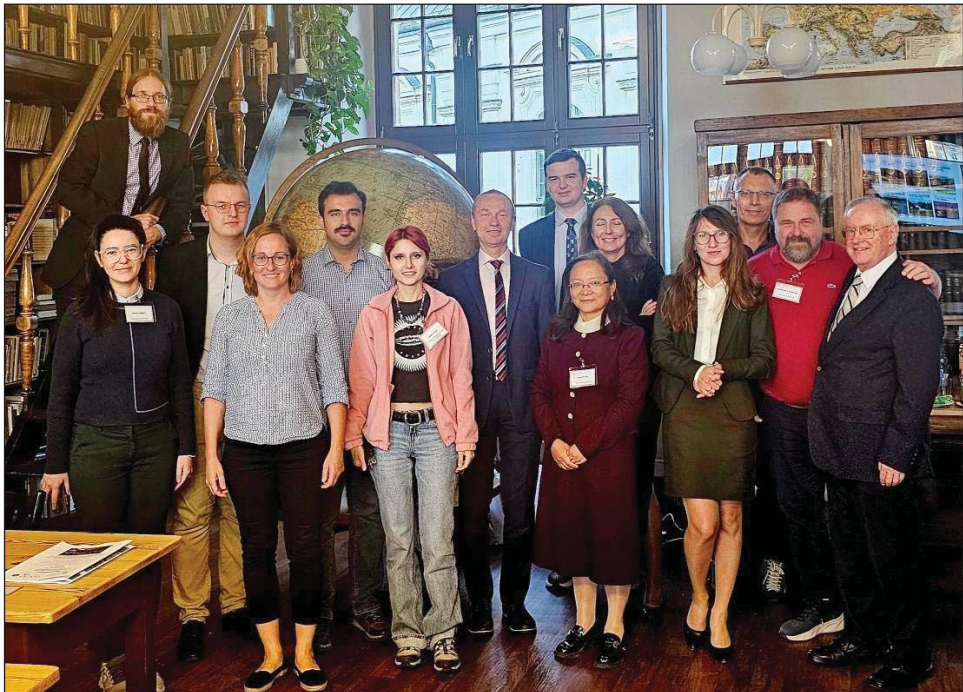
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The conference was officially opened (on September 23<sup>rd</sup>) in the Library of the Institute of Geography and Regional Development by representatives of the University of Wrocław: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Widawski, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Regional Geography and Tourism; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mateusz Strzelecki, Ph.D., Vice-Dean for Research Projects at the Faculty of Earth Sciences and Environmental Management; and Prof. Robert Szmytkie, Director of the Institute of Geography and Regional Development. In their presentations, they welcomed guests from Poland and abroad, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of the conference and its importance for the development of contemporary research on geoheritage, geotourism and environmental education.

In the plenary session, which opened the main sessions, four presentations were given, which set the main themes for further discussions. Professor Slobodan B. Markovic's team presented an integrated approach to the assessment and valuation of glacial geosites in Montenegro, demonstrating their potential for the development of sustainable tourism. The research group led by Dr. Krzysztof Widawski discussed the accessibility of geotourism for people with disabilities, using the Złoty Stok mine as an example, pointing out the need to combine social and infrastructural aspects in plan-



Participants of the GEOTRENDS 2025 conference in the historical hall of the University of Wrocław Library against the background of the largest globe in Europe.

ning geotourism offerings. In his presentation, Dr. Damian Werczyński highlighted the practical application of the region's geological heritage in tourism development and cooperation between local communities. The authors presented the activities of the Local Action Group – the “Szlakiem Granitu” (Granite Trail) Association, underlining how geological and landscape resources can become a catalyst for sustainable rural development, job creation and the promotion of regional identity. This initiative was cited as an example of effectively combining science, education and practice in building local brands based on geoheritage. The discussion following the session revealed the convergence of research issues from various backgrounds – from geologists to specialists in accessibility and heritage management.

In subsequent sessions, dozens of papers were presented, grouped into five thematic sessions. The first two sessions, devoted to geoheritage management in various regions of the world, showcased a broad spectrum of approaches to the protection and promotion of geosites – from the concept of a geopark in Spitsbergen, through the issue of extreme weather phenomena in the context of geotourism in the Middle East, on to the presentation of numerous local initiatives in Poland. Presentations on the social aspects of geotourism – the activities of older people and the implementation of virtual solutions for people with mobility limitations – generated particular interest. The presented examples allowed to demonstrate that geotourism is becoming an increasingly inclusive field, combining science, education and social integration. The third session was focused on mining heritage as a potential resource for the development of geotourism. Speakers presented, among others, the following: the possibilities of revitalising mining dumps in the Ruhr region, the landscape transformation of the “Babina” mine in western Poland, and the process of valorisation regarding post-mining areas in the Leszczyna region, within the Land of Extinct Volcanoes. In these presentations, highlighted was the enormous educational and tourist potential of post-industrial sites, which – if properly accessible – can become new spaces for experiencing geological heritage.

The fourth thematic session was devoted to loess landscapes, discussing the significance of regions in Serbia, the Netherlands and Poland in research on loess geoheritage. Speakers emphasized the need for broader use of geomorphological interpretation in field education and the to develop forms of geotourism aimed at the youngest participants – the example of the so-called “tiny feet on a big hill” from Serbia showed how learning can be combined with play and environmental education. In turn, in presentations devoted to Polish loess areas, including the Kazimierz Landscape Park, the importance of geotourism in landscape protection and shaping pro-ecological attitudes was emphasized.

The fifth, final session provided a broad forum for presenting diverse forms of geotourism. The discussed topics included the geolapidarium in Toruń as an example of popularizing knowledge about the origins of erratic



Participants of the GEOTRENDS 2025 conference in the Aula Leopoldinum of the University of Wrocław [photo by Dr. Aneta Marek].

boulders, the geomorphology of Mount Ślęza as an inspiration for creating cultural and geological narratives, and the concept of geotourism holidays in Slovenia from the perspective of Polish travellers. Presentations on the Polish-Czech border regions and the Barycz Valley allowed to highlight connections between landscape, culture and local identity, presenting geotourism as a tool for regional integration and cultural education.

The proceedings concluded with a lively discussion summarizing the results of each session, accenting the importance of interdisciplinarity and collaboration between scientific institutions, national parks, local governments and local communities. The participants agreed that geoheritage research must be coupled with the practical application of scientific findings in tourism and nature education. The scientific portion was followed by a group tour of Wrocław, led by Dr. Włodzimierz Ranošzek, an employee at the Institute of Geology and Regional Development, and a gala dinner in the historic city centre. These events fostered deeper integration among the international research community, which began with a bonfire in the gardens of the University of Wrocław Meteorological Observatory on the evening preceding the conference opening.

The conference culminated in a two-day field trip entitled Geoheritage of Lower Silesia, held on September 25-26. The participants had the opportunity to visit the most interesting geosites in Lower Silesia and the Sudetes, including Wilcza Góra nature reserve in Złotoryja, Wielisławskie Organs, Kamieńczyk Waterfall and the Podgórze Uranium Mine in Kowary. The programme also included a visit to the Sudety Educational Centre in Dobków and Karkonosze National Park Information Centre in Karpacz, where examples of modern forms concerning the dissemination of geological and ecological knowledge were presented. The fieldwork session perfectly complemented the on-site sessions, providing practical insight into the topics discussed during the scientific sessions.

The GEOTRENDS 2025 conference once again confirmed that geotourism is becoming one of the most dynamically developing research areas in Earth sciences. The Wrocław meeting provided a platform for exchanging experiences between representatives of various disciplines – from geology and geography to tourism, education and nature conservation – and provided impetus for further international research collaboration. The enormous commitment of Dr. Krzysztof Widawski and Dr. Krzysztof Kołodziejczyk, as well as the team of academic and administrative staff from the Department of Regional Geography and Tourism at the University of Wrocław, deserves special mention. The high scientific level of the papers, excellent organisation and extensive fieldwork programme made this event one of the most important scientific meetings devoted to geoheritage and geotourism in Poland in 2025.

The detailed conference programme is available at: <https://igrr.uwr.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/sites/297/2025/09/Geotrends-2025-program.pdf>




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## REPORT FROM THE XIII INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE CURRENT TRENDS IN SPA, HOTEL AND TOURISM "NEW FACE OF TOURISM: HERITAGE MEETS MODERNITY" KRAKÓW, 10 JUNE 2025

*Marcin Widomski\**, *Patrycja Ozga-Gwóźdz\*\**

The 13<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference "Current Trends in Spa, Hotel and Tourism" titled "New Face of Tourism: Heritage Meets Modernity", took place in the historic Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University on June 10, 2025. The event brought together numerous researchers and industry experts from Poland and abroad, creating a forum for discussion on contemporary trends in tourism, hotel management and the spa sector. The meeting provided a forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences on the relationship between cultural heritage and modernity in tourism, with the primary goal of analysing the challenges posing the industry in the face of increasing digitalisation, climate change and dynamic socio-cultural transformations.



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The conference was hosted by the Jagiellonian University, specifically the Institute of Entrepreneurship at the Faculty of Management and Social Communication. The event was held under the patronage of the Wrocław University of Economics and Business and international academic institutions: the University of Silesia in Opava, the University of Economics in Bratislava, and Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. Supporting entities included the Kraków Convention Bureau and the Critical Heritage Studies Hub. The conference was also held under the patronage of the Mayor of Kraków, Dr. Aleksander Miszański, Ph.D..

This year's Current Trends in Spa, Hotel and Tourism conference, dedicated to contemporary tourism and hospitality, continued the tradition of scholarly reflection on how cultural heritage, the foundation of tourism's identity, can contribute to its modern face. Participants included representatives of numerous disciplines—from economics and management, through geography and sociology, to cultural studies and information technology. A common thread among all the presentations was the need to find balance between preserving tradition and implementing innovative solutions in tourism and hospitality management.

The conference aimed not only to discuss current trends but also to deepen reflection on sustainable cultural heritage management in the face of increasing digitalisation. The organisers emphasized the need to preserve the authenticity of cultural communication while simultaneously addressing the needs of the modern tourist, increasingly seeking personalised and interactive experiences. Thematic sessions addressed a wide range of issues, including the impact of technological innovations on heritage promotion, reputation management in the digital environment, shaping tourist experiences in the virtual world, and the importance of sustainable development in destination management strategies. The honorary patronage of the rectors of leading universities from Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as the Mayor of Kraków, highlighted the prestige of the event and the significance of international cooperation in tourism research.

The conference was officially opened by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Aleksander Panasiuk, Ph.D., D.Sc., and the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Adam Jeziński, M.A., who, in their introductory remarks delivered in the historic Aula of the Jagiellonian University's Collegium Novum, emphasized the need to reinterpret the concept of heritage in the context of contemporary global challenges. The first plenary session, chaired by Prof. Michał Żemła, began with a paper by Prof. Adi Weidenfeld titled "Iconisation and Iconicity of Heritage and Historical Structures: a Tourism Comparative Perspective". The speaker analysed the phenomenon of "iconisation" regarding heritage in tourism, underlining the process of its symbolic simplification in commercial spaces. Next, Prof. Tatjana Pivac presented a paper entitled "The ECoC as an Instrument of

Cultural Transformation”, in which she explored the role of the European Capital of Culture programme in transforming the identity of cities such as Maribor, Rijeka and Novi Sad. These presentations inspired a discussion on the limits of authenticity in the processes of tourist use of heritage and the impact of cultural policy on the image of cities.

In parallel sessions, participants addressed issues combining law, technology and culture in the context of developing contemporary tourism. During the “Technological and Legal Conditions of the Development of Tourism and Hospitality” session (moderated by Pavlína Pellešová), regulatory issues and the importance of technological innovation in the hotel sector were addressed. Eva Zabudská and Kristyna Pompurová inaugurated the panel with their presentation “Forming *Consumer Decisions through Online Communities on the Example of Slovak Travel Agencies*”. Piotr Gryszel and René Petráš presented a comparative analysis of hoteliers’ liability under Polish, Czech and Slovak law, while Adam Jezierski presented online reputation management strategies in Polish hotels. In the work by Ewa Wszendybył-Skulska and Anna Mazurkiewicz-Pizło, the challenges of implementing modern technologies in heritage hotels were explored, highlighting the need to maintain balance between authenticity and innovation. The their paper, Katarzyna Trybuś-Bukowiecka and Andrzej Rapacz explored the influence of social media on consumer decisions regarding hotel services. These discussions emphasized the growing role of digital communication in building trust and competitiveness for tourist facilities.

The parallel session, “Heritage and Modern Technologies in the Development of Cultural and Urban Tourism”, chaired by Vanda Maráková, was focused on the relationship between tradition and modernity. The session opened with a presentation by Branislav Ockaik and Vanda Maráková, “Tourism Competitiveness and Cultural Resources in the European Union”. The next speakers were Beata Paliś and Magdalena Sawczuk, who investigated the functioning of museums in the metaverse. Anna Poreda discussed culinary heritage in the gastronomic offerings of hotels in Poland, while Marzena Markowska-Iskierka addressed the issue of unusual hotels. Agnieszka Niezgoda and Ewa Markiewicz presented a paper on the significance of education in the development of religious tourism, while Agata Niemczyk and Renata Seweryn prompted reflection and discussion on sources of information about city break destinations.

The afternoon session, devoted to tourism in times of uncertainty, was also divided into two parallel sessions. During the session “Development of Tourism in Times of Uncertainty, Including Climate Change” (moderated by Ewa Wszendybył-Skulska), the impact of climate change on tourism economy was discussed. Joanna Nowicka was the first speaker, presenting the topic “Ecology and tourism in Wałbrzych – Cooperation for Sustainable Development”. Marzanna Lament and Vanda Maráková presented

an analysis concerning the economic impact of climate change on the tourism industry in the European Union. Leszek Butowski and Łukasz Quirini-Popławski's work was focused on tourist destinations as complex adaptive systems, while Błażej Suproń and Natalia Znamierowska discussed the importance of tourist numbers and length of stay in accommodation facilities for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in EU countries. Patrycja Brańka and Bernadetta Zawilińska highlighted the potential of utilising natural assets and local products to build the competitiveness of protected areas.

A parallel session, "Contemporary Trends in the Development of Eco-, Agri- and Spa Tourism" (moderated by Piotr Gryszel), was conducted to underscore the significance of rural and spa tourism as elements of sustainable regional development. Joanna Zielińska-Szczepkowska was the first speaker, presenting current trends for tourism development in rural areas. Agnieszka Brelik discussed the economic importance of ports on the Polish coast, while Michał Roman addressed the issue of care farms, taking Dutch roots and Polish experiences into account. Monika Wojcieszak-Zbierska presented the opportunities and threats facing care farms in Poland. The Kraków Association of Farmers' Association (AKF) was represented in this session by Patrycja Ozga-Gwóźdź, who presented her work on "The Spa Attractiveness of Voivodeships in Poland, Considering the Location of Spa Resorts", and Karina Przybyło-Kisiełewska and Zygmunt Kruczek, who discussed "The Importance of Recreational and Sports Services for the Attractiveness of Spa Resorts. Expert Assessment". The closing session allowed to emphasize that tourism of the future requires a new development paradigm based on the integration of technological advancements with the protection of cultural heritage. The need to develop international standards for the protection of cultural assets in the digital space and to intensify inter-university collaboration was highlighted.

Following the presentations and discussions, conference participants were treated to attractions prepared by the organisers, showcasing Kraków's tourist potential. Guided tours were offered to the Jagiellonian University Collegium Maius Museum, the Jagiellonian University Pharmacy Museum, and the Living *Obwarzanek* Museum, where participants could try making their own delicious symbol of Kraków (that is, a Polish-type pretzel).

The conference culminated in a gala dinner at "Galiczyjska" restaurant. This less formal gathering provided an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and new perspectives. The shared meal contributed to establishing new contacts and cementing existing academic relationships.

The conference organisers encouraged participants to publish their research results in prestigious academic journals, such as *Studia Periegetica*, *Prace Naukowe UE we Wrocławiu*, and *E&M Economics and Management*. This initiative aims to further integrate the tourism research community and disseminate the latest research findings. It was pointed out that con-

temporary tourism as an academic field is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary, combining elements of economics, sociology, cultural studies and information technology.

The conference “Current Trends in Spa, Hotel, and Tourism – New Face of Tourism: Heritage Meets Modernity” proved to be an event of significant academic and practical significance. Participants emphasized that the future of tourism depends on skilfully combining heritage values with the potential of innovative technologies, marketing tools and modern management strategies. The conclusions from the conference indicate that the concept of sustainable development cannot be viewed solely in ecological terms – it also encompasses the social and cultural dimensions, in which preserving the identity of places and their intangible values plays a key role. Thus, the conference in Kraków became not only a forum for knowledge exchange but also a space for dialogue between tradition and modernity – a dialogue that will define new directions for the development of European tourism in the coming decades.



Photo of the conference participants in the Collegium Novum Auditorium.



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## IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR GRZEGORZ GOŁEMBSKI (1947-2025)


*Agnieszka Niezgoda\**, *Justyna Majewska\*\**,  
*Katarzyna Czernek-Marszałek\*\*\**


On May 28, 2025, Professor Grzegorz Golembki, one of the most distinguished researchers of economic phenomena related to tourism, passed away. Tourism was his passion, both in its scientific and economic dimensions, and in its practical, sightseeing aspects. His dedication to this passion translates into his outstanding scientific and teaching achievements, resulting in the authorship of several hundred scientific papers, the promotion of numerous generations of researchers, and, above all, his contribution to the creation of the so-called "Poznań School of Tourism Research", renowned in the academic community.

Grzegorz Golembki was born on May 24, 1947, in Poznań. He graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> General Secondary School and in 1965, began studies at the Faculty of Trade and Commodity Science at the Higher School of Economics [Wyższa Szkoła Ekonomiczna w Poznaniu] a continuation of which is the Poznań University of Economics and



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Business. In 1969, he obtained a master's degree in economics and began his academic career by joining the team of researchers at the Institute of Economics of Commodity Trading, headed by Professor Zbigniew Zakrzewski. In 1970, he began doctoral studies, which he culminated in defending his doctoral dissertation entitled *Znaczenie ruchu turystycznego dla działalności handlu detalicznego* [The Importance of Tourism for Retail Trade] prepared under the supervision of Professor prof. Ryszard Gałęcki. This led to the awarding of a doctoral degree in economics by the Council of the Faculty of Trade and Commodity Science at the Higher School of Economics. It is worth noting that in 1973, this was one of the first doctoral dissertations in Poland devoted to the economic issues of tourism development.

Dr. Grzegorz Gołębski's academic interests were focused on the effectiveness of economic processes in tourism, which, at the time, required openness, courage and a fresh perspective in research. Reflections on the role of the market in economic processes related to tourism led the young researcher to groundbreaking conclusions in Poland at the time. This is exemplified by the words from his 1979 book titled *Rynek turystyczny w Polsce* [The Tourist Market in Poland]: "These reflections support the thesis that greater independence is needed for economic entities operating in the tourism market by limiting the prescriptive management system and changing tourism planning methods" (p. 7). In the handbook *Ekonomika turystyki* [The Economics of Tourism] (1980, Poznań Academy of Economics Publishing House) Dr. Grzegorz Gołębski expresses bold views for the socialist era: "The diversity of ownership forms strengthens the role of the market system in decision-making in tourism. [...] Based on the considerations presented so far, we can conclude that the market system prevails in decision-making by economic entities in tourism" (p. 98).

The author further explored the determinants of tourism market development, including the introduction of marketing, which resulted in a habilitation thesis entitled *Warunki zastosowania marketingu w turystyce w gospodarce centralnie planowanej* [Conditions for the Application of Marketing in Tourism in a Centrally Planned Economy]. Based on this thesis, after a colloquium in 1981, the Council of the Faculty of Production and Trade Economics at the Poznań University of Economics and Business (as of 2008, earlier, the Academy of Economics in Poznań) awarded Grzegorz Gołębski a postdoctoral degree. In addition to his work there, Professor Grzegorz Gołębski conducted research at the Poznań branch of the Institute of Tourism (IT) from 1983 to 1988, serving as head of the Department of Economic Problems of Tourism. As part of his work at the Institute of Tourism, he served as a member of the Editorial Board responsible for economic publications, a member of the IT Scientific Council and of the Program Council, as well as editor of the IT quarterly *Problemy Turystyki* [Problems of Tourism].

A crucial role in Professor Grzegorz Golemski's academic work was played by the Institute of Tourism's assignment to coordinate research within the Central Fundamental Research Programme, entitled *Turystyka jako czynnik rozwoju społeczno-gospodarczego* [Tourism as a Factor in Socio-Economic Development]. This was the first time that research in the field of tourism had been so concentrated, enabling the integration of the entire scientific community.

Associate Professor Grzegorz Golemski had already joined the international research movement in the 1980s, conducting research in collaboration with centres in Vienna, Breda, Rome and the USA. Beginning in 1983, Grzegorz Golemski engaged in collaboration with business practice, which resulted in conducting empirical research, primarily within enterprises. During this time, he prepared reports commissioned by the Central Committee for Tourism, Orbis, and the Poznań Voivodeship Office. As a result of the commitment to cooperation with practice and the implementation of scientific studies into practice, Grzegorz Golemski was appointed to the GKT Expert Team responsible for shaping the economic and financial system in tourism and entrusted with the function of chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Expert Subcommittee of this team.

Collaboration with the practice resulted in broader activities regarding the development of the tourism market. In 1988, Grzegorz Golemski founded the *Progres* [Progress] Trade and Service Company, one of whose activities was the development of foreign inbound tourism, primarily from the United Kingdom. From 1992 to 1994, he was co-owner of BGM, which served as the representative office of the Berlin Trade Fair in Poland, and from 1994, he was the CEO and proxy of D.C. Design East, a company owned by American capital. From 1995, he combined his directorship with academic work, first as an assistant professor and then, from 1996, as a professor at the Poznań Academy of Economics.

In September 1999, Professor Grzegorz Golemski took over the Department of Tourism from Prof. Ryszard Gałecki, shaping its distinctive academic profile, defined by two parallel specialisations: tourism enterprise management and regional aspects of tourism development. He devoted his book titled *Przedsiębiorstwo turystyczne w gospodarce wolnorynkowej* [Tourist Enterprises in a Free-Market Economy] to the tourism enterprise as a fundamental link in the tourism supply system. The book was published in two editions in 1997 and 1998 by the Poznań Academy of Economics Publishing House. In this publication, the Professor noted the need to ensure the future of resources, which in later years, became fundamental to the concept of sustainable development: "In the micro- and macro-spheres, both similar and completely different general rules operate. What we must take into account on both the macro and micro scale is the limited nature of resources" (p. 5).

As part of his research on the links between tourism and spatial management, Professor Grzegorz Gołębski, from 1997, led a research team at the Poznań Academy of Economics, a member of the consortium that won the tender for the PHARE-funded project *Analiza stanu istniejącego i możliwości rozwoju turystyki oraz badania marketingowe turystyki przyjazdowej w regionach przygranicznych* [Analysis of the current state and development opportunities for tourism, as well as marketing research on inbound tourism in border regions]. Based on this research, Grzegorz Gołębski edited the book *Regionalne aspekty rozwoju turystyki* [Regional Aspects of Tourism Development] (1999), which constitutes a new regional trend in tourism development research in Poland and one of the first attempts in Poland to “develop a methodology directed towards regional attractiveness for tourism investment purposes” (Liszewski, 2000, p. 210). The Professor not only points out that “when determining the attractiveness of areas, one should take into account tourist attractiveness (tourist values, environmental condition and protection, communication accessibility) as well as attractiveness for investors (service and technical infrastructure, population relations, municipal finances)” (1999, pp. 48-49), but also indicates and empirically verifies the methodology for determining this attractiveness. In 1999, by decision of the Scientific Research Committee, a research grant was launched entitled *Turystyka jako czynnik rozwoju regionalnego w województwach nadmorskich* [Tourism as a factor of regional development in coastal voivodeships], also under the supervision of Grzegorz Gołębski.

The result of this work was a co-authored monograph entitled *Metody stymulowania rozwoju turystyki w ujęciu przestrzennym* [Methods of Stimulating Tourism Development in a Spatial Approach] (2002), prepared by a team of economists who addressed the spatial issues of tourism, thus emphasizing the interdisciplinary dimension of tourism, for which geographical space is the main plane of human activity. As stated by Prof. Stanisław Liszewski in his review: “For the first time in Polish tourism literature, a work has been published in which the authors comprehensively discuss and present a set of diverse methods that can be used to determine the possibilities of tourism development based on selected examples” (2003, p. 148).

Professor Grzegorz Gołębski’s commitment to regional issues is reflected in his leadership regarding the development of tourism in the Wielkopolska Voivodeship Development Strategy in 1999-2000. In 2000, Grzegorz Gołębski celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his academic career. That year, he received the academic title of Professor from the President of the Republic of Poland.

During his subsequent tenure as head of the Department of Tourism, a significant role in research was played by a multi-year collaboration (2002-2009) with the Department of Strategic Management, Marketing, and Tourism at the University of Innsbruck (Institut für Strategisches Management,

Marketing und Tourismus, Universität Innsbruck) (Austria). As part of this collaboration, Professor Grzegorz Gołembski served as the research coordinator for the Polish side. A significant result of this comprehensive study on the determinants and effects of tourism development and collaboration with researchers from leading research centres in Poland was the publication of a monograph entitled *Kompendium wiedzy o turystyce* [A Compendium of Tourism Knowledge] by the PWN Scientific Publishing House, edited by Grzegorz Gołembski in 2002 and 2009. The issues raised in this publication cover a very wide range of issues, but Professor Gołembski pointed to what he considered an important economic perspective: “Until recently, tourism was viewed primarily through the prism of human regeneration and the need for workplaces to provide recreation. The changes that occurred after 1989 have led to tourism being increasingly perceived as an economic phenomenon” (2002, p. 9).

Professor Grzegorz Gołembski was the originator and initiator of the Tourism Experts’ Council [Gremium Ekspertów Turystyki], the first edition of which took place in 2003 to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chair of Tourism at the Poznań Academy of Economics. Then, as now, the Council brings together many eminent scientists, representatives of the business world, tourism organisations, as well as government and local government bodies. It is not only a regular conference but also an important event integrating the worlds of science and practice in the field of tourism development. The Professor also initiated the second regular scientific event – the National Conference of Departments and Institutes of Tourism and Recreation at State Higher Education Institutions, which has become a forum for exchanging experiences among tourism researchers representing various scientific disciplines.

Professor Grzegorz Gołembski’s international conference activity is impossible to measure. In addition to the previously mentioned stays abroad in the 1980s, his foreign visits intensified after he was accepted in 1987—being one of the first Poles—as a member of the oldest international association of scientists and practitioners in the field of tourism, the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism (AIEST – the Association Internationale D’Experts Scientifiques du Tourisme), based in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

In 2000, Professor Grzegorz Gołembski became a member of the Tourism and Travel Research Association. In 2005, during its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in Bruges, Belgium, he became a member of the international scientific organisation - Tourist Research Centre (TRC), which organises annual meetings devoted to methodological issues in tourism research. In subsequent years, representing Poland and Central and Eastern Europe at the TRC, the Professor presented the results of tourism research at TRC Meetings in various European countries, including Tours (France), Bolzano (Italy), Kiel (Ger-

many), Vienna (Austria), Bodrum (Turkey), Bern (Switzerland), Athens (Greece), Lyon (France), Helsinki (Finland), Lisbon (Portugal), Stockholm (Sweden), and others. He also participated in world congresses, actively engaging in the work of the prestigious international organisation - AIEST, including: in the Netherlands, Germany, Greece and on other continents: in Thailand, China, Morocco and Macau.

The Professor was highly valued among this international group of researchers and experts in the field of tourism. The fact that many of them appreciated Professor Golembki, recognising his contribution to science as a researcher of economic phenomena concerning tourism in Poland, but also his unique personality and character, demonstrates the great respect he gained over the years of collaboration. Emphasized was “his valuable contributions to the progress and research of tourism economics” (Smeral, 2025) and the fact that the Professor “reactivated tourism research in Poland”, being a “very dedicated TRC member” (Norbert Vanhove, WES Research & Strategy, Belgium), who “always asked very insightful questions” and had an excellent analytical brain (Allan Williams, Surrey Business School, UK). Paying tribute to the Professor, TRC and AIEST members pointed out that “he was an exceptional tourism researcher and observer of socio-economic changes” (Egon Smeral, MODUL University Vienna, Austria), “very instrumental in developing tourism studies in Poland over the last 20 or so years”, emphasizing that “his legacy will last for a long time” (David Airey, University of Surrey, UK). Professor Thomas Bieger (St. Gallen University, Switzerland) stresses the specific role of Professor Grzegorz Golembki, pointing out that “he has important merits for the time of economic transition of Poland and linking colleagues from the former East to the West”, and that he learned a lot from him, calling the Professor “an important mentor to many and also an important contributor to the Poznań University of Economics and Business in Poland”. Prof. Harald Pechlner (EURAC, Italy, Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt, Germany) also highlighted that Professor Golembki “was a connective personality between eastern, central and western European counts”. He has been remembered by Dr. Philippe Callot, Ph.D. (ESCEM Business School, Tours, France) as „not only rigorous in his work, but also a joyful and humorous humanist” and he “recommend everyone draw inspiration from his scientific rigor”. His “meticulous research insights and his ready willingness to share and openly discuss them” (Sophie Elias-Varotsis, MMTC, France), as well as “his passionate research attitude” (Stefano Dall’Aglio, ECONSTAT, Bologna, Italy) were also noticed and appreciated. Professor Peter Bjork (HANKEN School of Economics) holds “the utmost respect for remarkable contributions” of Professor Grzegorz Golembki, and was “especially impressed by his profound knowledge of Finnish history, which left a lasting impact” on him. In the memory of Prof. Mara Manente (International Centre of Studies on

the Tourist Economy, CISET, University of Venice, Italy), the Professor was “an extraordinary person, brilliant, generous and kind”. She admits: “as one of the most important voices in tourism studies, he made an incredible contribution to our field”. Above all, she values the “„human being behind the scholar: a true friend, full of warmth, humour and wisdom”, as well as “his value as a scholar and the deep respect he inspired in students and colleagues alike”, which she experienced personally at the university in Poznań. Professor Jan Vidar Haukeland (Institute of Transport Economics, TØI, Norway) “will always have the best memories of Professor Grzegorz Gołembski and his hospitality, friendliness and fantastic sense of humour”. Professor shared with him “his deep insights in Polish history and the political problems at the time”.

The Professor’s membership in AIEST and TRC is a testament to the international recognition of his scientific achievements, where he was perceived as an ambassador for Polish tourism research. Professor Barbara Marciszewska expressed this opinion about the Professor in the “Laudation on the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Professor Grzegorz Gołembski’s Work” (2016, pp. 61-62): “The Professor’s work on international forums demonstrates his ability to popularise such a multifaceted and complex subject as tourism [...]. This ability is only attainable by those who possess ‘that something’, something that is intangible, indefinable, yet felt and perceived by others. The Professor possesses ‘that something’ – a talent for speaking about phenomena and processes in tourism with extraordinary ease and simplicity, which in the language of economics is no easy task. Therefore, academic interaction with the Professor is an honour and a unique learning opportunity” (p. 62).

The Professor’s international activities included not only numerous presentations at international conferences and scientific congresses, but also scholarly exchanges, particularly evident in inviting the most distinguished researchers specialising in the economics of tourism to the Poznań University of Economics and Business and participating in joint research. He was a close friend to his colleagues and even travelled with many of them.

The Professor’s scholarly work is reflected in several hundred scientific publications and has been recognised through various awards. Professor Grzegorz Gołembski received, among others, the Silver and Gold Cross of Merit, the Medal of National Education, the Honorary Badge for Merit to Tourism from the Minister of Sport and Tourism and the Minister of Economy, as well as the Honorary Badge of the Wielkopolska Voivodeship Board and the Minister of Sport and Tourism’s Diploma for Outstanding Teaching Achievements.

Professor Grzegorz Gołembski’s work also reflects his concern for educating personnel in the tourism-related economic sector. In his work with students, who, it is worth noting, greatly appreciated and liked him, and he

placed great importance on imparting knowledge as well as developing skills tailored to the needs of the labour market. Thanks to his initiative, in 2009, the Poznań University of Economics and Business submitted an application to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education to offer a unique programme in tourism (*gospodarka turystyczna* [Tourism Economy]).

His retirement in 2017 did not interrupt the Professor's research and teaching activities. He continued to prepare and publish scientific papers in Polish and English, and shared his experience and knowledge during lectures and seminars at the WSB University (now Merito University) (2021-2025) and the University of Zielona Góra (2017-2020). The Professor was previously associated with the Vocational Higher Education School in Sulechów (2007-2017), where he served as director of the Institute of Tourism and Recreation. He also taught at Warsaw Academy of Tourism, Food and Hospitality (current name: Vistula School of Hospitality) (1996-2007).

During his professional career, Professor Grzegorz Gołembski supervised several hundred master's and diploma theses, as well as 15 doctoral theses. However, his concern for the young faculty did not end with the process of preparing theses for promotion. He believed that the measure of a professor's greatness was not so much their achievements, but the faculty they were able to nurture and promote. In this context, it is worth noting that a significant number of the Ph.D. students he promoted continue their research at various universities in Poland. The Professor always supported his mentees. This support motivated them to pursue academic and personal development, greater perseverance, scientific inquisitiveness and consideration of the broader perspective. The Professor constantly encouraged efforts and inspired research. At the same time, he was able to empower others. He was a keen observer and knew his colleagues and mentees. He was interested not only in their academic work but also in their personal lives. He believed that this translated into the results of their professional work. Therefore, whenever he noticed discouragement, doubt or fear in someone, he tried to strengthen them with conversation and positive energy, which the Professor never lacked. All of this came naturally to him, almost effortlessly. Moreover, his ability to speak with a strong, distinctive voice full of charisma made him even more difficult to ignore. In his interactions with colleagues, mentees and students, the Professor always demonstrated attentiveness, a sense of responsibility and respect for them, while his sense of humour could brighten any conversation, even on difficult matters. He was an exceptional leader – one who brought people together and built a team. It was gratifying to see how genuinely happy he was for the development of his younger colleagues. Professor Gołembski was an invaluable teacher, mentor and master, one who will be remembered for a lifetime.

Professor Grzegorz Gołembski had a great sense of duty, caring for the development of his staff, but also for his own academic development. Profes-

sor Henryk Mruk, who knew Professor Gołembski from their common student days, wrote in his laudation – *Na wspólnym naukowym szlaku z Profesorem Grzegorzem Gołembskim* [On a Common Scientific Trail with Professor Grzegorz Gołembski] (2016, pp. 65-66) that “The Professor utilised his own abilities perfectly. He skilfully supported them with intelligent work. Being strong, he could help others, and he always did so brilliantly. [...] He developed his organisational talents superbly. He expertly established and maintained contacts [...], prioritising relationships and social bonds over the accumulation of material goods”. The Professor often spoke out on important matters. He was decisive, and if specific principles of action were established in advance, he never agreed to compromise. This earned the respect of those who worked with him.

Professor served on the editorial and scientific boards of numerous scientific journals, beginning with his support for the journal “Problems of Tourism”. Since 2014, he was a member of the Scientific Council of the *Folia Turistica* journal and actively supported the development of the journal, ensuring its high standard and position among specialist scientific journals in the field of tourism.

His practical interest in tourism was reflected in his dream trips and his independent organisation. One of the Professor’s fulfilled dreams was a trip around the world, and his other journeys covered almost every continent. He was fascinated by Asia and South America. Searching for Polish traces, he travelled to Siberia and the area around Lake Baikal, and in Nepal, apart from the standard exploration of the country’s history and culture, he overcame the rigors of trekking around Annapurna. Using his knowledge and experience, he organised an expedition through South America, visiting Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. Professor Grzegorz Gołembski was a lover of meeting people and the world. He was an individualist who, while spending most of his time among people, loved solitary hikes. He demonstrated a passion for nature, as well as literature, geography and Polish history.

He compiled his adventures and reflections from his travels into two volumes of his autobiographical story, *Przez życie i świat* [Through Life and the World] (2019, 2023, “Proksenia”). In them, Professor Grzegorz Gołembski recounts the origins of his passion for travelling, his student expeditions, his friendships, and his perseverance, summed up by these words: “Of course, the winds of human fate toss us around in ways we cannot control, but we can never give up. I wanted to share what I have practiced in life, and what makes this struggle easier – this love of nature, which has shaped my personality and allows me to maintain inner balance” (2019, p. 235). The unforgettable author also shares reflections and memories of hard work, academic successes and fulfilled dreams.

His reflections can be a guide for friends and students: “Life moves at a lightning pace, although the pace is not the same for different people.

Those who experience it often complain that life is slipping through their fingers, but the intensity of life gives a person a sense of fulfilment, moments of rest give a person a sense of greater satisfaction, and contrary to appearances, a person retains a sense of youth for longer, not only physically and biologically, but above all mentally” (2023, p. 237).

In the first volume of his story, he included words he often recalled in private conversations: “A person is a seed in the desert of life (...). In life, extraordinary coincidences occur, events that we in no way expect – events that can determine a person’s fate” (2019, p. 98). We are pleased and proud that an extraordinary coincidence allowed us – the Professor’s colleagues – to meet him, learn from him and work with him.

Professor Grzegorz Gołębski is buried at Górczyński Cemetery in Poznań.

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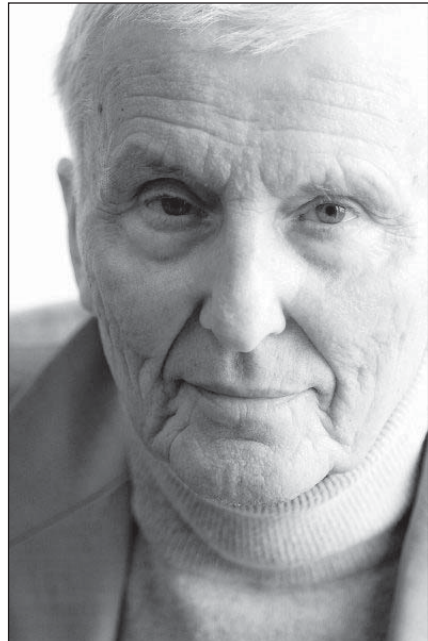


## IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ANDRZEJ MATUSZYK

*Marek Czyż\**


Born January 20, 1936 in Tarnów, Andrzej Matuszyk was the firstborn son of parents, both of whom were teachers. His mother, Józefa née Duliban, was an elementary school teacher, while his father, Augustyn, was a vocational teacher (gardening). He had four siblings.

In 1949, the family moved to Tymbark in the Limanowa district, where his father obtained a position a job at the newly established Cooperative High School of Processing and Horticultural School (2<sup>nd</sup> degree), under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform. This institution trained staff for the well-known Fruit Processing Plant, among other entities. He completed primary school and spent most of his youth there. He received his secondary education at Jan Długosz High School No. 1 in Nowy Sącz and passed his secondary school final exams in 1953.



Professor Andrzej Matuszyk  
(photo Piotr Drożdż)

The same year, he began studying at the Faculty of Journalism at the University of Warsaw, briefly interrupting his studies after three years in 1956. He resumed his studies in 1957, majoring in Polish philology at the Faculty of Philology and History of the Higher Pedagogical School (WSP) in Kraków. In 1961, he obtained a master's degree on the basis of his thesis *Twórczość liryczna Marii Pawlikowskiej-Jasnorzewskiej w latach 1922-1939* [The Lyrical Works of Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska in the Years 1922-

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1939], written under the supervision of Dr. Stanisław Sierotwiński. In addition to his studies, he also developed an interest in the world of mountains and mountain tourism. His favourites at that time were the peaks of the Beskid Wyspowy and the nearby Gorce mountains surrounding his hometown, and later the peaks of the Tatra Mountains.

From 1961 to 1969, he worked as an assistant and then as a senior assistant at the Department of Polish Literature at the Higher School of Pedagogy in Kraków. During this time, he completed a one-year teaching internship at Secondary School No. 8 in Kraków. In 1969, he assumed the position of head of the Library of the Institute of Polish Philology at the Higher School of Pedagogy in Kraków, which he held until 1975. At the same time, as an academic teacher on a so-called “contract basis”, he taught classes at this university in the field of Old Polish literature, the history of children’s and youth literature, as well as ancillary sciences of the history of literature. Between 1975 and 1977, he continued his professional career as a senior assistant at the editorial office of *Bibliografia turystyki polskiej* [Bibliography of Polish Tourism] at the Kraków branch of the Warsaw Institute of Tourism. At the same time, he taught classes on art and culture, ethnography, and the history of tourism at the Institute of Tourism Services of the University of Physical Education (AWF) in Kraków.

During this time, his passion for the mountains grew stronger and evolved towards “climbing sports”. He joined the Kraków branch of the High Mountain Club. In the spring of 1967, he enrolled in a fundamentals climbing course (aka rock climbing) organised by the club. The course was led by Mirosław Bądryński, and the instructors included Andrzej Semenowicz, Adam Uznański, Andrzej Skwirczyński and Kazimierz Ciochoń. After several weeks of classes in the Podkrakowskie Rocks area, he completed the course and became a supporting member of the club. During the rock climbing course, he met Leszek Zabdyr, who became his frequent climbing partner in the following years. In July of the same year, they both completed the second-level programme, commonly known as the Tatra course, which took place at Hala Gąsienicowa. In 1968, after his first independent season in the Tatras, during which he and Zabdyr climbed numerous routes, he became a member of the club. Among those routes were: the Schiele route on Żabi Niżny, the “classic” route on Mnich, Staszł’s route on Zadni Granat, and Stanisławski’s route on the western wall of Kościelec. Accompanied by his brother Robert, he completed two routes on the southern wall of Zamarła Turnia – the “classic” route and the “Pietsch edge”. After subsequent independent summer and winter seasons in the Tatra Mountains, he became a full member of the club in 1971.

The completion of two long routes in the vicinity of Morskie Oko was the culmination of his first winter mountaineering season (1968/1969) – the right pillar of Cubryna and the Niżnich Rysów depression (with Zabdyr and instructor Janusz Baryła). For him, the summer season of 1969 was a lost one.

Apart from a few easy “warm-up” climbs in the Rybiego Potoku Valley, he was unable to do anything more. He had suffered a minor accident on the eastern wall of Wysoka in the Slovak Tatras, which prevented him from continuing his mountaineering activities. At the end of the 1970/1971 winter season, together with Leszek Zabdyr, he climbed the middle of the 600-metre cliff of the northern wall of Kopa Kieżmarska in the Kieżmarska Valley and made the first winter ascent of the north-west face of Koza Turnia from the Jagnięca Valley. In the summer of 1971, accompanied by L. Zabdyr, he repeated “Variant R” on the eastern face of Mnich, the right pillar of the south-eastern face of Młynarzowe Widel and the right pillar of the south-eastern face of Ciężka Turnia (second ascent). In March 1972 (in winter conditions), together with Andrzej Heinrich, he made the first winter ascent of the route up the wall of Wyżniostawiański Kocioł in Wołowy Grzbiet. In April of that year, together with Ewa Urbanik, his future wife, he led a new route in the middle of the western wall of Zadnia Soliskowa Turnia from the Furkotna Valley. The summer season of 1972 was a successful one for him. Accompanied by Jacek Jasiński, he repeated several demanding routes, including the Nyka and Popka route on the eastern wall of Mniszek and the Łapiński and Paszucha route on Kazalnica Mięguszowiecka. Together with Ewa Urbanik and Władysław Wisz, he climbed the so-called “Puškaš pillar” on the 300-metre cliff of Galeria Gankowa. His summer successes continued into the winter season. At the end of December 1972, together with J. Jasiński and Andrzej Pawlik, he conquered the 900-metre northeast pillar of Mięguszowiecki Szczyt Wielki. Completing this route in winter was a significant sporting achievement at that time. In mountaineering circles, he was nicknamed “Father”.

He also climbed beyond the Tatra Mountains. In 1973, he took part in a sports and exploration expedition led by Adam Krawczyk of the Kraków Academic Mountaineering Club to the Spitsbergen mountains (Hornsundtindu region). Together with Czesław Jakiel, Bernard Koisar and Ryszard Dyga, he made many first ascents there.

In February 1974, he was invited to an integrated winter camp at Morskie Oko led by Janusz Kurczab, an outstanding mountaineer and Himalayan mountain climber. The results achieved at this camp opened up the possibility of participating in the key trips of the High Mountain Club – events for the staff financed entirely by this organisation. At that time, together with Zabdyr, he conquered the Korosadowicz route on Kazalnica Mięguszowiecka, which became his “passport” for a trip to the Central Caucasus (Adył-Su region) mountains in the summer of the same year. Led by Janusz Hierzyk, this was the central training camp of the Polish Mountaineering Association (the transformation of the High Mountain Club into the association mentioned above took place on March 3, 1974). During this camp, together with Jerzy Łabęcki and Tomasz Czarski, he climbed the Paramuda route on Tiu-Tiu-Baszy (4,460 m above sea level), rated 5A on the Russian scale.

The following year, he became a member of a mountaineering expedition aimed at becoming the first Polish ascent of the highest peak in the Hindu Kush – Tirich-Mir (7,706 m above sea level) – a mountain that had been of interest to Polish mountaineers for many years. The expedition was organised by the High Mountain Club of Kraków and the Tri-City, led by Jerzy Wala—an expert on these mountains. The summit was attacked via the “Norwegian route”, but due to the death of one of the participants—Andrzej Jankowski—the expedition was cut short after reaching an altitude of 7,550 m above sea level.

In 1977, he took part in the PZA sports camp in the Adyl-Su region of the Central Caucasus for the second time. Together with Alicja Bednarz and Ryszard Kozioł, he made the first Polish ascent of the east face of Donguz-Orun (4,452 m above sea level) via the “Moscow” route and the first ascent (via a new route) of the north-east couloir on Sullukolbashi (4,260 m above sea level). In 1979, he participated in an international mountaineering camp—initiated by the then PZA Training Commission, of which he was a member—in the mountains of Mongolia. In the Monch Hair-han region, he made many ascents of the local four-thousanders.

He used the knowledge and experience he had gained during his climbs and expeditions in his training work. He obtained the rank of assistant mountaineering instructor in 1971, mountaineering instructor in 1974, and senior mountaineering instructor in 1976. In the same year, he completed a two-year, part-time mountaineering instructor course at the University School of Physical Education in Kraków and received a second-class mountaineering instructor diploma. As a trainer, he conducted practical sessions (in the Kraków Valley Landscape Park) and theoretical sessions as part of rock climbing courses organised by the Kraków Mountaineering Club. As well, he conducted summer and winter courses in the Tatra Mountains organised by the PZA Training Commission, which took place in “Betlejemka” – the Central Training Centre of the Polish Mountaineering Association in Hala Gąsienicowa. At the turn of the 1970s and 1980s, he was a lecturer and instructor of courses for future instructors, including at the extramural Mountain Climbing Trainer College at the University School of Physical Education in Kraków (1978). He introduced many new enthusiasts to the world of climbing and mountaineering.

Parallel to his teaching activities, he held a number of organisational positions in the Kraków Mountaineering Club and the Polish Mountaineering Association, primarily related to teaching mountaineering. Between 1972 and 1980, he was a member of the Board of the Kraków Mountaineering Club. He served as the chairman of the Training Committee. Between 1976 and 1980, he was a member of the Training Committee of the Governing Board of the Polish Mountaineering Association. Between 1976 and 1985, he worked for the Kraków Interclub Examination and Qualification Committee in the field of mountaineering.

In December 1977, he received a job offer at the newly established Mountaineering Department at the University of Physical Education in Kraków, which he accepted with great pleasure. As a scientific, research and teaching institution, the department was part of the Institute of Physical Education and Sport at the Faculty of Physical Education. Its founder and first director was the well-known mountaineer, vice-president and chairman of the PZA training committee—Dr. Ryszard Koziół. In his first year as a senior assistant, in addition to teaching classes, A. Matuszyk was the organiser and instigator of the Student Research Club at the Mountaineering Department. Its activities brought measurable results in the form of creating a mountaineering micro-environment among university students. A little later, it also brought scientific results—the creation of many master's theses related to the mountains.

In 1980, he defended his doctoral thesis with honours, prepared under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kazimierz Toporowicz, Ph.D., on the subject of *Wartości estetyczne przyrody Tatr w „Ziemiorodztwie Karpatów” Stanisława Staszica jako składnik genezy ideologii taternictwa* [The aesthetic values of the Tatra Mountains in Stanisław Staszic's "Ziemiorodztwo Karpat" by Stanisław Staszic as a component of the genesis of the ideology of mountaineering], published five years later by the University of Physical Education in the 'Monographs' series under the altered title *U źródeł ideologii taternictwa. O wartościach estetycznych przyrody Tatr w „Ziemiorodztwie Karpatów” Stanisława Staszica* [The Sources of the Ideology of Mountaineering. On the Aesthetic Values of the Tatra Mountains in Stanisław Staszic's "Ziemiorodztwo Karpatów" (the Earth-Birthing of the Carpathians)]. In the same year, he was promoted to the position of assistant professor. When R. Koziół became deputy director of the Institute of Physical Education and Sport in 1981, he took over the management of the Mountaineering Department (after name changes: in 1991, the Department of Mountaineering and Qualified Tourism, and in 2019, the Department of Mountaineering and Outdoor Sport), creating, on his own, the organisational, scientific and educational profile of this unit. Exerting a profound influence, he headed the unit for thirty years, until 2011.

During this time, due to the educational background of its head, the department's scientific activity was focused primarily on the humanistic problems of climbing sports, but also included the theory of climbing training and the methodology of climbing instruction. With the significant participation of A. Matuszyk, the department organised or co-organised several conferences and scientific symposia, especially in the initial phase of its operation: "Mountaineering in Scientific Research" in 1978, "Mountaineering Didactics" in 1982, and "Polish Mountaineering Exploration of the Hindu Kush" in 1985. In terms of teaching, the Department's staff conducted compulsory and optional classes for students of physical education (tourism and recreation,

school tourism, sports of their choice – rock climbing, hiking camp) and tourism and recreation (children’s and youth tourism, instructor specialisation – rock climbing). Since 1999, following the amendment of the Physical Culture Act, the Department, together with the AWF Staff Training and Education Centre in Krakow, he also co-organised courses for the degree of sports instructor (in sport and high-altitude climbing, high-altitude skiing, and cave mountaineering) for members of the Polish Mountaineering Association, the Tatra Volunteer Rescue Service, the Polish Army, and the general public. The professor was one of the lecturers always sharing his knowledge and experience, and since 2006, he co-created their programmes.

In 1983, he married Ewa Urbanik (née Konieczna, 1940-2003), his companion on many of his mountaineering expeditions, a graduate of the University School of Physical Education in Wrocław and a member of the Kraków Mountaineering Club. Their son, Bartosz (born 1971), graduated from the Faculty of Forestry at the Kraków University of Agriculture in 1996.

Andrzej Matuszyk’s main scientific interests were focused on the humanistic, psychosocial and historical aspects of climbing sports. He was also the author of numerous studies, essays and articles on topics related to outdoor sport and tourism, especially mountain tourism. He published his works both in the specialist press (such as “Taternik”, “Taterniczek”, “Gacek”) and in popular science and scientific publications (such as “Wierchy”, “Kultura Fizyczna”, Physical Education and Sport, Scientific Journals of the University of Physical Education – *Studies in Sport Humanities, Folia Turistica*). He also collaborated with the editorial teams of the *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* [Polish Biographical Dictionary], *Encyklopedia Krakowa* [The Encyclopaedia of Kraków], and *Mala encyklopedia sportu* [The Small Encyclopaedia of Sport], for which he prepared a number of entries—primarily biographical—related to mountaineering, the Tatra Mountains and Zakopane. His presentations at scientific conferences have resulted in chapters in monographs and collective works, as well as publications he edited. In the 1990s, he collaborated as an editor, publisher and consultant (including on Edward Whympers’ *Zdobycie Matterhornu* [The Ascent of the Matterhorn]) with the Krakow-based publishing house AT, publishing domestic and foreign mountain literature. From 1997 until his death, he was a member of the editorial board of the annual *Wierchy* journal, which has made a significant contribution to the development of Polish mountain culture.

In 1998, he obtained his postdoctoral degree on the basis of his dissertation *Humanistyczne podstawy teorii sportów przestrzeni (na przykładzie alpinizmu)* [Humanistic Foundations of the Theory of Outdoor Sports (Mountaineering as a Case Study)] at the Faculty of Physical Education, University of Physical Education in Kraków. In 2001, he was appointed the title of Associate Professor at this university. From 1999 to 2004, he served as deputy

director for science at the Institute of Tourism (later the Institute of Tourism and Recreation) at the University of Physical Education in Kraków. Between 2001 and 2018, he also worked at the University College of Tourism and Ecology in Sucha Beskidzka as an associate professor.

In 2005, he was appointed editor-in-chief of the “Folia Turistica” journal, published by the Institute of Tourism and Recreation at the University of Physical Education in Kraków since 1990. He took over the journal on the back of fifteen years of achievements and an established publishing profile presenting the phenomenon of tourism from an interdisciplinary perspective. Nevertheless, the journal was beset with problems primarily resulting from insufficient financial resources for regular publication, remuneration for reviewers, attractive graphic design, and other areas. He recognised “the need to increase professionalism in the technical process of editing the journal, but also to raise its substantive and scientific level”. He also faced new regulations issued by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW), which significantly raised the requirements for scientific journals. His personality and talent for winning people over resulted in “Folia” gaining loyal ranks of supporters, collaborators and reviewers. In order to make the journal more attractive, he increased the frequency of publishing “monographic” issues. He ensured that the journal appear regularly and transformed it into a biannual publication. With the enormous support of the editorial secretary, Dr. Sabina Owsianowska, he placed “Folia” on the Ministry of Science and Higher Education’s list of top-rated journals, receiving the maximum number of nine points in the parametric evaluation system for journals (in the field of social sciences) in 2010. This, along with the fact that “Folia Turistica” has been registered in Index Copernicus International since 2008, undoubtedly contributed to raising the prestige of the journal and consolidating its leading position among domestic scientific journals in the field of tourism. Professor Matuszyk edited a total of 14 issues of the journal, from No. 16/2005 to No. 29/2013. From 2014, he was a member of the editorial board of the journal, and since 2023, an honorary member.

As an authority in the field of mountaineering, he also authored reviews of the first two volumes of *Wielka encyklopedia gór i alpinizmu* [The Great Encyclopaedia of Mountains and Mountaineering] (2001, 2005), a monumental work by Małgorzata and Jan Kiełkowski, published by STAPIS in Katowice.

In 2010, he published the work *Myśli o górach i wspinaniu. Sentencje – refleksje – obrazy* [On Mountains, Climbing: Quotes – Reflections – Images] for which he had been collecting materials for several decades. In a sense, it is his *magnum opus*, or perhaps his “profession of faith”. In this compilation of over a thousand creatively arranged quotations from people connected with mountains and climbing, the author expressed his own thoughts on mountains and mountaineering through the voices of others.

Professor Matuszyk supervised six doctoral dissertations and 195 master's theses. He was extremely open, kind, cordial and empathetic in relationships with his students and colleagues. He made sure that what he taught in his lectures—"tourism with a human face"—was not just an empty phrase. A man has passed away who, as he himself said, was driven to the high mountains not by love, but by pure sporting ambition. However, through his achievements, he was seen by his fellow mountaineers as one of those who "saw in climbing things more important than just sport and success"!

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- Pedagogiczna refleksja o turystyce na łamach czasopisma „Folia Turistica” (1990-2018)* [Pedagogical Reflections on Tourism in the “Folia Turistica” Journal (1990-2018)], [in:] “Folia Turistica” 2019, Vol. 50(2), pp. 267-286 (in Polish).

## REVIEWERS IN THE YEAR 2025

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13. Prof. dr hab. Marek Kazmierczak (Poznan University of Physical Education, Poland)
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32. Dr Mateusz Rogowski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland)
33. Dr Tomasz Wałek (University of Physical Culture in Krakow, Poland)
34. Dr Piotr Zawadzki (Wroclaw University of Economics and Business, Poland)
35. Dr hab. Dominik Ziarkowski, prof. UEK (Krakow University of Economics, Poland)

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## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

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### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS PREPARING ACADEMIC ARTICLES

1. The Editorial Office accepts for publication only original empirical and review papers that address tourism from interdisciplinary points of view, such as theory of tourism, cultural anthropology, philosophy, sociology, geography, law, psychology, history, economics, management, and marketing.
2. Submitting a paper for publication is construed as transferring the copyright to the Editorial Office. This means that neither the paper nor a part of it can be published in other journals or digital media without the Editorial Office's written permission.
3. The article should be prepared according to the "**Instructions for authors preparing academic articles**", found below. Otherwise, the article will be sent back to the Author(s) for correction.
4. Do not provide personal data or any other information that could enable identifying the Author(s). Instead, provide personal data in a separate **Author Form**, available on the Journal's website, and submit it together with the article.
5. The paper, together with a filled Author Form, should be submitted to the Editorial Office's e-mail address: **folia.turistica@awf.krakow.pl**.
6. The Editorial Office will not accept papers that show signs of scientific dishonesty, such as *ghostwriting and honorary (guest) authorship*, for publication. The Editorial Office will disclose any recognized cases of dishonesty; this includes informing institutions employing authors, scientific associations, etc.
7. All papers are reviewed by at least two independent reviewers (the review form is available on the Journal's website) and maintaining full anonymity. In other words, a double-blind review process will be implemented; otherwise, the reviewers are obliged to sign a declaration that there exists no conflict of interests between them and the authors of the paper. The Editorial Board will accept the paper for publication or reject it based on the reviewers' opinion. This procedure is in accordance with guidelines provided by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.
8. The Editorial Office reserves the right to modify the style makeup of submitted papers.
9. The author of the paper will receive an electronic version of the Journal issue in which the article was published, free of charge.

## Instruction for Authors Preparing Academic Articles

### I. PREPARING TEXT

1. The volume of submitted papers should not exceed 20 pages of normalized manuscript, i.e., 40,000 characters (one author's sheet).
2. Text files should be created in the Word 6.0-XP editor in DOC format.
3. Page setup:
  - paper size: A4;
  - margins: all margins 2.5 cm;
  - line spacing: 1.5.
4. Title: use 14-point Times New Roman font, bold. Capitalize the entire title. Insert a 14-point line of space following the title.
5. Abstract in English: between 1500 and 2000 characters (including spaces); use 10-point Times New Roman font.
6. The abstract should comprise the following, clearly separated (presented in the form of a list) parts:
  - Puropse.
  - Method.
  - Findings.
  - Research and conclusions limitations: comment on the representativeness of your research and its potential limitations due to cultural, environmental, geographical, or other conditions.
  - Practical implications.
  - Originality: describe how your research (results and opinions) differs from other publications on the subject.
  - Type of paper: specify whether your article presents empirical research or theoretical concepts or whether it is a review, a case study, etc.
7. Key words: 3-6. Insert a 12-point line of space following the key words.
8. The paper should include elements listed below. Titles of elements may be changed if justified by content. Furthermore, especially in the case of review articles, the paper may have a more complex structure, i.e., it may comprise more elements or have a given element subdivided further (such as the Literature Review section).
  - A) For empirical papers:
    - **Introduction** (subject of research, aim of the article, and justification of the aim),
    - **Literature review** (a review of Polish and foreign publications presenting the aim of the article and describing current knowledge on the subject matter),
    - **Method** (aim of empirical research, research hypotheses and questions, and a description of methodology and how the research was conducted)
    - **Results** (research results, including the answers to the research hypotheses and questions),
    - **Discussion** (a discussion of the study results in view of results obtained by other authors in Polish and foreign publications on the subject matter),
    - **Conclusions** (conclusions from the study results and their discussion, including practical implications and suggested directions for further research on the subject),
    - **References.**
  - B) For review papers:
    - **Introduction** (subject of research, aim of the article, and justification of the aim),
    - **Literature review** (a review of Polish and foreign publications related to the aim of the article describing current knowledge on the subject matter),
    - **Discussion** (a discussion of current knowledge on the subject matter, including critical analysis based on Polish and foreign publications),
    - **Conclusions** (conclusions from the discussion, including its practical implications and suggested directions for further research on the subject),
    - **References.**

9. Headings of each part of the paper: use 12-point Times New Roman font, bold, centered. Number the parts with Arabic numerals. Insert a 12-point line of space following each heading.
10. Running text: use 12-point Times New Roman font and 1.5 line spacing. First line indent: 1 cm. Use tools available in the editor to format the text rather than the space bar, as using space bar makes markup and typesetting difficult.
11. Do not use the bold face, capitals, and underlining in the text. Italics should only be used for titles listed in the footnotes and the References section and for letter symbols in the running text. Insert a space after punctuation marks, not before them.
12. Use an en dash (–) to indicate breaks in a sentence and between numbers that denote close values not provided precisely (such as time periods); do not use a hyphen (-) or an em dash (—). Examples of use:
  - “Secondly – as tradition dictates – every student should wear formal attire tomorrow”.
  - “The years 1914–1918, or the times of World War I, is an extremely important period in the history of Europe”.
  - “Relevant information can found on pages 12–24 of the aforementioned publication”.
  - Most waters in the area of Wysowa belong to the sodium-bicarbonate type and have a high concentration of carbon dioxide.
13. Footnotes can be used (sparingly) to complement the running text: use 10-point Times New Roman font with 1.0 line spacing.
14. References in the running text should be formatted according to the Harvard System (i.e., provide the last name of the author of the quoted or referenced publication, the year of publication, and the page or pages you refer to in square brackets within the running text). Do not place a comma between the name and the year. If two or more publications are referenced in the same parentheses, separate them with a semicolon.
15. The References section, located at the end of the article, should only include texts that are quoted or referred to in the article. References should be given in an alphabetical order with full bibliographic descriptions. Guidelines for and examples of bibliographic descriptions can be found in Part III of these instructions.

## II. PREPARING TABLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Tables and illustrations (figures, charts, and photographs) should be included in separate files and described in detail. Mark their locations in the running text through centered titles, as in the example below:

**Tab. 1.** Tourist activity inhibitors  
**Tabela 1.** Inhibitory aktywności turystycznej

2. The entire article should use the division into tables and figures (i.e., everything that is not a table, e.g. charts, diagrams, or photographs, is considered a figure). Refer to figures in the abbreviated form (“Fig.”).
3. Place titles of tables above tables, and titles of figures below figures.
4. Write the titles of tables and figures in 10-point Times New Roman font.
5. Under each table/figure provide its source (using 10-point Times New Roman font).
6. Figures should be scanned at a resolution no lower than 300 DPI (optimal resolution is 600 DPI) and saved as line art files in TIFF format.
7. Charts should be created in black. Gray tints or textures are allowed.
8. Digital photographs should be saved in TIFF or JPEG format at full resolution. Do not use compression.
9. If the article includes figures, tables, etc. taken from other academic papers, the author is obliged to obtain a reprinting permission. The permission should be sent to the Editorial Office together with the article and other attachments.

## III. PREPARING THE REFERENCES SECTION

1. The References section, located at the end of the article, should only include texts that are quoted or referred to in the article. References should be given in an alphabetical order with full bibliographic descriptions.
2. References to papers of different types should be prepared according to the guidelines below. Note that all references should be provided in a single list (the division into types, found below, is meant only to provide examples of referencing different sources).
3. For two or more papers written by the same author and published in the same year, add subsequent lowercase letters to the year, as in: (2014a), (2014b), etc.
4. List Internet sources (webpages) for which the appropriate elements of a full bibliographic description cannot be provided in a separate Internet Sources section. The list should provide URL addresses of the referenced webpages in alphabetical order, described as in the following sample:
  - <http://www.unwto.org/facts/eng/vision.htm> (08.09.2014).
5. For articles to be published in the English issues of the Journal, provide English translations of the titles of non-English publications (in square brackets), as in the following sample:
  - Winiarski, R., Zdebski, J. (2008), *Psychologia turystyki* [*Psychology of Tourism*], Wydawnictwa Akademickie i Profesjonalne, Warszawa.

### Sample references to different types of papers in the References section

#### A. Books:

Urry J. (2001), *The tourist gaze*, Sage, London.  
 McIntosh R.W., Goeldner Ch.R. (1986), *Tourism. Principles, Practices, Philosophies*, John Wiley & Sons, New York.

#### B. Edited books and joint publications:

Ryan C., ed., (2003), *The Tourist Experience*, Continuum, London.  
 Aleziak W., Winiarski R., eds. (2005), *Tourism in Scientific Research*, AWF Krakow, WSIZ Rzeszow, Krakow-Rzeszow.

#### C. Chapters in edited books and joint publications:

Dann G.M.S. (2002), *Theoretical issues for tourism's future development*, [in:] Pearce D.G., Butler R.W., eds., *Contemporary Issues in Tourism Development*, Routledge Advances in Tourism, International Academy for the Study of Tourism, London, New York, pp. 13-30.

#### D. Articles in scientific journals:

Cohen E. (1979), *A Phenomenology of Tourism Experiences*, „Sociology”, Vol. 13, pp. 179–201.  
 Szczehowicz B. (2012), *The importance of attributes related to physical activity for the tourism product's utility*, „Journal of Sport & Tourism”, Vol. 18 (3), pp. 225–249.

#### E. Articles in trade magazines and trade newspapers:

*Benefits tourism not OK* (2014), [in:] „The Economist”, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

**F. Papers without a stated authorship, including research reports  
and statistical yearbooks:**

*Tourism Trends for Europe* (2006), European Travel Commission.

*Tourism Highlights. 2010 Edition* (2011), UNWTO.

**G. Legal acts:**

*Act on Tourism Services, of 29 August 1997*, Dz.U. of 2004, No. 223, item 2268, as amended.

**H. Publications available on the Internet:**

*International tourism on track to end 2014 with record numbers*, <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2014-12-18/international-tourism-track-end-2014-record-numbers> (20.12.2014).

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS PREPARING ACADEMIC REVIEWS AND POLEMICS

1. Only original reviews of Polish and foreign monographs, academic articles, and handbooks, as well as other types of academic and didactic papers, such as research reports, doctoral theses, and habilitation theses, will be accepted for publication.
2. The Journal publishes reviews of papers on the theory of tourism, as well as papers that address tourism from the viewpoint of cultural anthropology, philosophy, sociology, geography, law, psychology, economics, management, marketing, and other academic fields and disciplines.
3. Submitting a paper for publication is construed as transferring the copyright to the Editorial Office. This means that neither the review nor a part of it can be published in other journals or digital media without the Editorial Office's written permission.
4. The article should be prepared according to the **"Instructions for authors preparing academic reviews and polemics"**, found below. Otherwise, the article will be sent back to the Author(s) for correction.
5. The review should be submitted to the Editorial Office's e-mail address: folia.turistica@awf.krakow.pl.
6. The Editorial Team reserves the right to modify the style makeup of submitted reviews.
7. The Author of the review will receive an electronic version of the Journal issue in which the review was published, free of charge.

### Instruction for Authors Preparing Academic Reviews and Polemics

1. Text files should be created in the Word 6.0-XP editor in DOC format.
2. Page setup:
  - paper size: A4;
  - margins: all margins 2.5 cm;
  - line spacing: 1.5.
3. Name of each Author: use 12-point Times New Roman font, bold. Insert a 12-point line of space following the name(s).
4. Provide each Author's academic degree or title, affiliation (i.e. name of the institution represented by the Author, in this order: university, faculty, department, etc.), phone number, and e-mail in a footnote. Footnote formatting: use 10-point Times New Roman font and 1.0 line spacing.
5. Samples of title formatting:
  1. REVIEW OF "INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ORGANIZATIONS" BY WIESŁAW ALEJZIAK AND TOMASZ MARCINIEC.
  2. AN OPINION ABOUT "POLAND'S MARKETING STRATEGY IN THE TOURISM SECTOR FOR 2012-2020".
  3. RESPONSE TO THE OPINION...
 etc.
6. Title: use 14-point Times New Roman font, bold. Capitalize the entire title. Below the title, provide a full bibliographic reference for your article, including ISBN and the date of submission to the Editorial Board.
7. Format the titles of responses to reviews or other forms of academic polemics according to the guidelines above (e.g. Response to the Opinion...).
8. Insert a 14-point line of space following the title.
9. Headings of each part of the review (if appropriate): use 12-point Times New Roman font, bold, centered. Number the parts with Arabic numerals. Insert a 12-point line of space following each heading.

10. Running text: use 12-point Times New Roman font and 1.5 line spacing. First line indent: 1 cm. Use tools available in the editor to format the text rather than the space bar, as using space bar makes markup and typesetting difficult.
11. Do not use the bold face, capitals, and underlining in the text. Italics should only be used for titles listed in the footnotes and the References section and for letter symbols in the running text. Insert a space after punctuation marks, not before them.
12. Use an en dash (–) to indicate breaks in a sentence and between numbers that denote close values not provided precisely (such as time periods); do not use a hyphen (-) or an em dash (—). Examples of use:
  - “Secondly – as tradition dictates – every student should wear formal attire tomorrow”.
  - “The years 1914–1918, or the times of World War I, is an extremely important period – in the history of Europe”.
  - “Relevant information can found on pages 12–24 of the aforementioned publication”.
  - “Most waters in the area of Wysowa belong to the sodium-bicarbonate type and have a high concentration of carbon dioxide”.
13. Footnotes can be used (sparingly) to complement the running text: use 10-point Times New Roman font with 1.0 line spacing.
14. Illustrative materials (tables and figures) should be formatted according to the same guidelines as academic articles (see “**Instructions for authors preparing academic articles**”).
15. References in the running text should be formatted according to the Harvard System (i.e., provide the last name of the quoted or referenced publication, the year of publication, and the page or pages you refer to in square brackets within the running text. Do not place a comma between the name and the year. If two or more publications are referenced in the same parentheses, separate them with a semicolon.
16. The References section, located at the end of the article, should only include texts that are quoted or referred to in the review. References should be given in an alphabetical order with full bibliographic descriptions, prepared according to the same guidelines as for academic articles (see “**Instructions for authors preparing academic articles**”).

*Folia Turistica* is a specialist forum for exchanging academic views on tourism and its environment, in its broadest definition. It is one of Poland's leading academic periodicals, published continuously since 1990. The magazine publishes articles in the field of tourism studies, from a broad interdisciplinary perspective (humanist, economic, geographical/spatial, organizational, and legal issues etc.). Apart from articles presenting the results of empirical research, the journal includes original theoretical, overview, and discursive pieces. The separate headings contain research reports, announcements, and bulletins, reviews of academic works, information on conferences and symposia, and discussions and polemics.

*Folia Turistica* is indexed in the ERIH Plus (European References Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences), Information Metrix for the Analysis of Journals (ICDS for 2021 = 4,5), and Index Copernicus International (ICV for 2023 = 100.00). It is also indexed on the Polish Ministry of Education and Science List of point-bearing academic publications. In the parametric system of evaluating academic work, authors and the institutions they represent receive 40 points for publishing works in the journal.

