

Beata Meyer

Introduction

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

INTRODUCTION

An increase in the number of tourists and tourist travels, now ongoing for decades, has produced multiple and far-reaching results. They are direct or indirect, of diverse intensity and concern the socio-economic system and the natural environment in their entirety. An effect the easiest to identify is the economic benefits achieved not only by enterprises involved in the processes of tourist service, but also (or even mainly) by tourism regions. The obviousness of positive effects of tourist arrivals contributes to treating tourism as an area development standard, one which mobilizes this area's competitive position (or allows for maintaining a high one) among other areas. Nowadays, the majority of areas (both urban and rural), regardless of its nature or dominant function, uses tourism as an element of their development strategy recognizing that it is simply a developmental opportunity, and regardless of objective local determinants. The wide range of relations between tourism and human/society, economy, spatial systems, and the natural environment spurs the development of research areas in many fields of science, at the same time creating favourable conditions for interdisciplinary research.

The "Tourism Economic Problems" series published within the *Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego* (The Scientific Journal of Szczecin University) presents the research findings and achievements of scientists from the Polish and foreign scholarly centres. The layout of the journal enables the presentation of studies on a diversity of problems related both to the theoretical issues of tourism as examined from the point of view of various fields of science and to the determinants and effects of tourism development on the economic plane, the latter including the tourism service market, functioning of tourism enterprises, tourism development over the world and regional problems of tourism development. The current issue of the journal presents the "tripartite" image of tourism, i.e. its theoretical aspects, its service market, and the regional problems of tourism development.

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