

## Teaching Tourism in Higher Education System

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### Summary

Trend of educational tourism emerged in Poland in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century although it is Jan Długosz (the 15<sup>th</sup> century) who is recognized to be the first Polish touring expert. Tourism of that time was first of all associated with the work of the Committee of National Education. Stanisław Staszic (the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century) and Wincenty Pol (the 19<sup>th</sup> century) were regarded to be propagators of the cognitive tourism as we understand it today.

General definition of tourism was probably formulated in the 60s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From among contemporary definitions of tourism the one given by W. Lipniacki (1979) is most frequently accepted in bibliography. W. Lipniacki defines functional, institutional and historically-sociological meaning of touring.

A broad discussion on acknowledging tourism as science was encouraged by K. R. Mazurski (1979). This author introduces the following meanings of tourism to prove that it is a branch of science: 1) didactic (teaching), 2) institutional (branch lectured at universities and dealt with in scientific institutes as a separate activity), 3) historically-sociological (branch of science comprising entire scientists' cognitive activities, tools and means as well as some social institutions called upon to do research).

A broad range of ideas in tourism enables us to distinguish its three prevailing trends: educational, administrative and social. It is the educational tourism that is of any importance in the context of the present study. In accordance with the current standards defined on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007 by a Decree of Minister of Science and Higher Education teaching tourism at Polish colleges is organized at the first degree studies in the faculty of Tourism and Recreation. Moreover, Regional Geography of Poland lectured at the same level contains a lot of recreational ideas. The above mentioned subjects comprising touristic problems are currently taught in 66 colleges which offer first degree studies of Tourism and Recreation and at 16 universities where students can take up Geography.

The analysis allows us to say that Polish academic centers (in 37 cities) create very good opportunities of studying the discussed subjects. It is possible to study Tourism and Recreation in all provinces while Geography in 11.

From among colleges teaching Tourism and Recreation non public ones which are twice as numerous as those run by state put forward a greater offer. Vocational colleges and Academies of Physical Education excel in the group of state colleges.

As far as studying Geography is concerned the situation is different. Here state colleges prevail – there are 14 of them. Geography is first of all lectured at universities.

This study does not present all opportunities of teaching subjects related to tourism. Neither does it touch the rules of master`s degree studies nor educational subjects dealt with in accordance with previous standards.