

INTRODUCTION

In the post-industrial stage of social development, the dominant role in the activation of labour resources is played by the service sectors, with the tourism sector among them. The pace and the level of its development are largely dependent on the financial resources of the population, which, according to its inclinations, can allocate some part of the financial surplus for engaging in various forms of tourism. The level of tourism infrastructure and the quality of its services are also major features in this respect.

The immensity of tourist traffic is considerably affected by economic situation, which has an impact on increasing or limiting the size of financial streams flowing to households. It is becoming noticeable in the diversification of intensity of incoming tourism in the European Union countries, in which the crisis had an influence on the household resources to a variable extent (S. Kurek, P. Waclawik). New forms of organization have a special significance in the development of the tourism sector, owing to which the tourism offer is becoming wider and its quality is improving (V. Székely), as well as the development of agritourism enterprises takes place (S. Dorocki, A.I. Szymańska, M. Zdon-Korzeniowska) or integration of travel reservation system of airlines and railway lines is introduced (A. Delekta).

An important role in the intensification of the tourist traffic is played by the level of land infrastructure, which changes along with the social potentials of cities (P. Raźniak), or the quality, accessibility and the level of air infrastructure (K. Ziółkowska-Weiss).

Improving the local appeal for the tourist traffic is also impacted by searching for new attractions, e.g. by appropriate development of post-industrial lands of the bankrupt coal mining sites (Ł. Gawor, A. Szmatloch, P. Dolnicki).

The organisation of tourist traffic and the adaptation of the infrastructure should take into account also the disabled and the growing population of the elderly whose number shall be increasing along with the processes of demographic ageing (M. Popiel).

The utilization of the existing tourism sites, discovering the new potential ones, and the forms of their development require an adequate level of educating the new personnel, as well as legal regulations in connection with the professions related to the organisation and the operation of the tourist traffic (W. Warcholik).

We hope that the presented works shall not only extend our knowledge on tourist attractions, but will also contribute to the treatment of this sector as a crucial factor for the activation of local labour resources, as well as a potential source of financial supply of the local systems.

While recommending the next volume of *Studies of the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society* to the attention of our readers, we would like to encourage your cooperation, and look forward to comments and suggestions, whose purpose is to improve the quality of subsequent volumes of the Journal.

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