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**RESEARCH AND TEACHING METHODS IN TOURISM AND RECREATION:
THE 2nd POLISH CONFERENCE ON TOURISM AND RECREATION AT STATE
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES AND FACULTIES, ŁÓDŹ, 4-6TH NOVEMBER 2010**

On 4-6th November 2010, the 'Geographical Sciences' Faculty at the University of Łódź organized the 2nd Polish Conference on Tourism and Recreation at State Higher Education Institutes and Faculties, entitled 'Research and Teaching Methods (*Nauka i dydaktyka*) in Tourism and Recreation'. The conference was the second meeting of representatives from those state institutions which run tourism and recreation degree courses, and which were initiated by Prof. Grzegorz Gołębski in 2008 at the College of Higher Vocational Education in Sulechów.

The conference in 2010 was organized by the Institute of Urban Geography and Tourism, University of Łódź, which runs a 'Tourism and Recreation' course. The subject of the presentations and discussions was the study of social, spatial and economic phenomena associated with tourism and recreation, as well as teaching issues on higher education courses in tourism, tourism economics, and recreation. The title of the conference - 'Research and Teaching Methods (*Nauka i dydaktyka*) in Tourism and Recreation' - was to encourage the participants to discuss the relations between Research, teaching methods and practice in tourism and recreation. The conference was attended by about 70 participants from 31 higher education institutions. The conference academic council included Professors Grzegorz Gołębski (the chairman), Ewa Dziedzic, Włodzimierz Kurek, Stanisław Liszewski, Andrzej Rapacz, Ryszard Winiarski and Janusz Zdebski. The conference academic secretary was Dr Sławoj Tanaś and the office was managed by Margita Musiał. The organizers were helped by members of the student 'Tourism Geography Society' (*Studencki Koła Naukowego Geografów Turyzmu*), University of Łódź.

The main objectives concerned a number of topic areas including the results of research conducted at institutes and faculties of tourism and recreation,

common research areas important for the further development of these disciplines, exchange of experiences on curricular Research and teaching standards at institutions offering tourism courses, a discussion on the quality and prospects for tourism and recreation education at present, as well as a professorial meeting on the integration of research dealing with issues in tourism and recreation.

The topics discussed included the standards, quality and form of education on tourism and recreation courses, as well as educational prospects in this field, depending on the profile of the institution. Another topic related to a newly introduced course - 'tourism economics'.

The conference programme was divided into three main parts: the plenary session with a panel discussion entitled 'Tourism Studies: situated within multiple disciplines or a single independent discipline (*Nauka czy nauki o turystyce?*)', didactic sessions and academic sessions.

The conference was opened by Prof. Stanisław Liszewski, Director of the Institute of Urban Geography and Tourism, who welcomed the participants and in a short speech referred to the idea, aims and history of the conference. The next speaker was Prof. Jacek Kaczmarek, the vice-dean of the 'Tourism and Recreation' course at the University of Łódź. He presented his expectations from the didactic part of the conference.

The plenary session concerned curricular Research and the particular character of education on 'Tourism and Recreation' and 'Tourism Economics' courses, as well as on selected courses at those institutions offering an education in the field of tourism and recreation. Prof. Grzegorz Gołębski presented the ideas and curricular Research of the new course launched at the University of Economics in Poznań - 'Tourism Economics', and Prof. Bogdan Włodarczyk discussed

the special character and evolution of education in Tourism Geography, Tourism Geography and Hotel Management, as well as Tourism and Recreation at the University of Łódź. Other speakers during this session included representatives of physical education academies. A review of the approaches on educating tourism specialists was presented by Prof. Marek Styczyński from the Physical Education Academy in Poznań, and a lecture on the practical application of tourism and recreation studies was given by Prof. Wiesław Alejski from the Physical Education Academy in Kraków. Prof. Andrzej Świeca and Dr Teresa Brzezińska-Wójcik presented the special character of education and research in tourism geography at the Lublin centre.

The second half of the first day was devoted to a panel discussion, entitled 'Tourism Studies: situated within multiple disciplines or a single independent discipline (*Nauka czy nauki o turystyce?*)' The first presentations were given by representatives of three disciplines which include tourism studies: Prof. Antoni Jackowski from the Jagiellonian University Kraków (geography), Prof. Ryszard Winiarski from the Physical Education Academy in Kraków (social science) and Prof. Bogusław Sawicki from the University of Life Sciences in Lublin (environmental science). The majority agreed that each discipline dealing with tourism is distinctive, therefore it is difficult to find one single 'tourism discipline'; we should rather talk about 'tourism disciplines'.

From the organizers' point of view, the first day was a success because the panel discussion gathered many outstanding academics, including many professors from all the leading Polish state universities where tourism and recreation research is undertaken.

The day closed with the 'Manufaktura by Night' excursion to the Factory Museum and the Museum of Art, led by Dr Maciej Kronenberg a former student of tourism geography and hotel management at the University of Łódź. Following the excursion, the conference participants met for a ceremonial dinner at the Wilhelm Teschmacher Villa.

The second day of the conference was divided into two academic and two didactic sessions, with 17 presentations.

The academic sessions featured presentations by representatives of the Universities of Economics from Poznań, Katowice and Wrocław, as well as the Colleges of Higher Vocational Education from Wałbrzych and Sulechów. The presentations concerned study issues in hotel management, tourism reception, agri-tourism, tourism products, marketing and tourism infra-

structure. There were also presentations regarding tourism development in the Sudety Mountains and the evolution of the local inhabitants' attitudes in the evolution cycle of a tourism destination.

The didactic sessions consisted of presentations by researchers from the University of Life Sciences in Poznań, Warsaw University, the Universities of Economics in Wrocław and Poznań, the University of Łódź, the University of Szczecin, the Physical Education Academy in Poznań, the Technical University of Białystok, as well as the College of Hotel Management and Tourism in Częstochowa and the College of Commerce and Services in Poznań. The presentations concerned the educational offer and experience, professional competence and the preparation of students to work in tourism and recreation against staff expectations and the relation between education and practice.

After a very substantial day the conference participants visited the Geological Museum of the University of Łódź, guided by Dr Jan Ziomek the founder and manager, who provided the guests with thorough information about the exhibits. The day ended with a dinner and a social meeting.

The third and last day was also divided into academic and didactic sessions. During the first the presenters were representatives of the Colleges of Higher Education in Kalisz and Legnica, as well as the University of Economics in Katowice and the University of Łódź. This very interesting session was dominated by discussion over the physical condition of the students of tourism and recreation (the College of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska and the University of Szczecin), as well as the significance of economic and statistical issues (University of Łódź, Academy of Physical Education and Sport in Gdańsk, Pedagogical University in Kraków).

The conference was summed up by Prof. Stanisław Liszewski (on behalf of the organizers) and Prof. Grzegorz Gołembski (on behalf of the academic council). Participants received a tourist souvenir from Łódź in the form of 'Tuwim's Bench'.

Part of the conference, a monograph - 'Research and Teaching Methods in Tourism and Recreation' - under the editorship of Sławoj Tanaś has been published. The publication consists of 358 pages with 32 articles divided between two sections: 'Research perspectives in Tourism and Recreation' and 'Educational perspectives in Tourism and Recreation'. The monograph was published by the Łódź Scientific Society (*Łódzkie Towarzystwo Naukowe*).

Translated by Ewa Mossakowska