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## Introduction

Nowadays, tourism is a prominent sector of economy, influencing the financial contribution to the budget of many countries; it also spurs the development of regional and local structures. This results in the intensification of spatial competition between spatial structures of various range, with regard to attracting potential tourists. Competition manifests itself through the growing attractiveness of leisure activities, and also through the possibility to discover natural, cultural, urban, architectural, and religious phenomena, as well as the opportunity to improve health. In this respect, apart from price offer, efforts to increase the innovativeness of tourism services play an important role. Geographical space differentiated in terms of its attractiveness and infrastructure in the area provide many opportunities for the development of tourism, which necessitates actions designed to raise the appeal of the areas for a particular type of tourist. This is why research in this field is important and contributes to the better understanding of the tourism sector development and its effectiveness. The main research trend includes papers by various authors, which present research results demonstrating selected aspects of tourism service innovations in diversified national and regional structures.

S. Dorocki, M. Zdon-Korzeniowska and A. Delekta address the issue of tourism attractiveness of French regions. They describe the main trends of spatial changes regarding the increase in standard and quality of accommodation facilities, as well as discuss tourist flows. T. Kirillova analyzes the potential of tourism services in the Irkutsk region and emphasises that the costs of using those services are diversified; she also outlines the prospective development directions for various kinds of tourism. J. Ustupski presents a number of empirical examples of actions aimed at raising the quality of tourism objects and increasing accessibility, classified according to the listed kinds of tourism innovations. K. Ziółkowska-Weiss addresses the issue of converting historical objects into hotels and discusses the results of tourists' evaluation of this undertaking. A. Tokgözlü, K. Temurçin and K. Uysal provide the analysis of winter tourism, the level of tourism infrastructure in and accessibility of Davraz Mountain tourist centers in the context of climate conditions. P. Dolnicki and Ł. Gawor present touristic value of selected Spitsbergen regions, as well as their accessibility through different means of transport. R. Retinger and A. Urbańska discuss

the factors influencing the development of sea ports in the Caribbean, the economic potential of those sea ports and innovative actions designed for increasing their competitiveness. W. Wacholik and K. Leja present urban games as a new form of increasing tourism attractiveness. They provide examples of urban games organized in Krakow, underlining their educational value. K. Ziółkowska-Weiss analyzes the organization of the golf and recreation complex in Krakow, the clients attending this facility and types of events, as well as conducts SWOT analysis of the company. E. A. Rush carries out analysis of water management issues regarding the Angara River and its significance for economy, while N. Batsun addresses the issue of evaluating natural resources rehabilitation costs.

The question of didactic process innovation is discussed in the paper of W. Osuch, in which the author presents the evaluation of didactic competence and interpersonal communication of geography teachers that was conducted by third-year geography students undergoing a teaching practice in secondary and upper secondary schools. The journal ends with an article by D. Nowotnik, which discusses the diversification of permanent spatial migrations of people in cities and municipalities from 1995 to 2010.

We are aware that the presented papers do not exhaust the complex issue concerning innovativeness in tourism activity, which should continue to be studied. We will gladly promote new concepts and presentations of diagnostic studies, which should serve as the means of creating research methods and rational management theories of various kinds of tourism developing in different spatial structures.

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