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THE 26TH FIELD SEMINAR *RESEARCH WORKSHOPS ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF TOURISM*, SPAŁA, 23-25TH SEPTEMBER 2010

The 26th Field Seminar 'Research Workshops on the Geography of Tourism' took place from September 23-25th, 2010 in Spała (Łódź *Województwo*) and opened a new era in the organization of the oldest tourism conference in Poland. The new supervisor of the seminar was Prof. Włodarczyk from the University of Łódź, replacing the late Prof. Dziegieć who had coordinated the conferences jointly with Prof. Stanisław Liszewski from the very beginning. The next change concerned the conference venue. The team from the Tourism Geography Department, University of Łódź, who organized the research workshops, decided that the meetings would be permanently moved to the University of Łódź research centre at Spała. A new element on the seminar agenda was a theme-based session to replace the terminology session. The chosen topic was 'Polish Tourism in 1989-2009: theory and practice'. For the first time in the history of the workshops, the organizers decided to publish the presentations as a separate monograph whereas before it had been possible to publish them in 'Turyzm'. Finally, for the first time, the workshop programme formed a part of the World Day of Tourism celebrations, organized in Spała by the Regional Tourist Organization (*Regionalna Organizacja Turystyczna*) of Łódź *Województwo*, and called 'Tourism and Biological Diversity'. The other elements of the seminar remained unchanged. Traditionally, the workshops were above all a forum for presenting the results of current tourism research at different research centres in Poland and abroad.

The seminar was opened by Prof. Włodarczyk who greeted the participants, briefly mentioned the main aims of the conference and presented new suggestions regarding the organization of the subsequent seminars. The first session consisted of four presentations: first,

Dr Potocki (University of Economics, Jelenia Góra) presented the conclusions of his post-doctoral dissertation on the significance of the tourism function in the development of the trans-border region of the Sudety Mountains. Next, Dr Derek (University of Warsaw) spoke about the tourism-induced transformation of cities in the context of turning a typical industrial city into a city of entertainment. The third presentation by Dr Szpara and K. Skala M.A. (College of Computer Science and Management in Rzeszów) referred to the main theme of the workshops and concerned changes in tourism in the Podkarpackie *Województwo* in 1989-2009. In the last presentation of the first session, K. Krzesiwo M.A. (Jagiellonian University in Kraków) talked about the main problems of ski tourism and tourism development in the Polish part of the Carpathian Mountains.

The second day consisted of three further sessions. Session II started from a presentation by A. Stasiak (College of Hotel Management and Tourism in Łódź), and concerned the regional tourism development strategies devised and used by local authorities at different levels in Poland. The lecture had been prepared in cooperation with Dr Rochmińska. Next Dr Zmysłony (University of Economics, Poznań) talked about the functioning of tourism partnerships in Poznań, formed on the basis of the pricing policy followed by the different partners operating on the tourism market in this city. The third concerned the role of local government and the tourism industry in creating the system of tourist information in the Zachodnio-Pomorskie (West Pomeranian) *Województwo*. The authors of this presentation were Dr Milewski, Dr Pawlicz and A. Gardzińska M.A. (University of Szczecin). The first session of the second day of the conference ended with a presentation by

M. Malarz M.A. who discussed the changes in the process of making hotel reservations resulting from the new forms of booking.

The next session included three presentations: in the first Dr Latosińska (University of Łódź) discussed changes in the tourism function of Spała, co-authored by M. Żak M.A. (University of Łódź). In the next, M. Pabich (Spatial Planning Office in Łódź) discussed the tourism development plans in Łódź *Województwo* while the last during the third session concerned the tourism recorded in 2009 in different *powiats* of Łódź *Województwo* and its presenters were Prof. Włodarczyk and Dr Szafrąska (University of Łódź).

The fourth session was the last on the second day. The first presentation by J. Śledzińska (Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Society (PTTK) Main Board of Directors) concerned the development of marked tourism trails in Poland over the last 20 years. The topic of PTTK activity was continued in the next presentation, in which Dr Tanaś (University of Łódź) focused on the role of active tourism in the development of modern tourism. This was followed by a presentation on Polish tourism for the elderly, recently supported by the EU program, Calypso, by Dr Kowalczyk-Anioł (University of Łódź). At the end of the session, Dr Awedyk (Academy of Physical Education in Poznań) talked about Polish tourists travelling to exotic destinations.

After the lunch break the participants went on a trip around Spała and sailed down the River Pilica, both events being parts of the World Day of Tourism celebrations.

The third day of the seminar included two workshop sessions. The first started from a presentation by B. Piziak M.A. (Jagiellonian University) on tourism in the Polish-Slovakian border area. Next, Dr Miedziński (Pomeranian Pedagogical Academy) presented changes in spa and recreational tourism in Kołobrzeg in the

last 20 years. The sixth and last session of the conference was held after a discussion and a break and was started by Prof. Erdavletov (State University in Alma-Ata - Kazakhstan) who spoke about tourism development in Kazakhstan. After that Ł. Quirini-Popławski M.A. (Jagiellonian University) presented the present functional and spatial problems of the Ukrainian spa of Truskawiec. A. Zienkiewicz M.A. presented an evaluation of the tourism attractiveness of the geographical environment in the context of tourism development in the *gmina* of Stężycza in the Kaszubian Lake District. At the end of the last session Dr Makowska-Iskierka presented some issues on the spatial consequences of developing tourism activity in the rural-urban fringe zone of Łódź in 1989-2010.

After the workshops finished, Prof. Włodarczyk thanked everyone for their participation, summed up the seminar, and presented the preliminary ideas for the next conference.

The 26th Field Seminar 'Research Workshops on the Geography of Tourism' hosted 38 participants from 14 academic centres in Poland, represented by seven Polish Universities (University of Łódź, University of Warsaw, Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań and University of Szczecin), one foreign university (State University in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan), two universities of economics (Poznań and Jelenia Góra), one pedagogical university (Pomeranian Pedagogical Academy, Słupsk), the University of Life Sciences, Poznań, the Academy of Physical Education, Poznań, as well as three private colleges of higher education (College of Tourism and Hotel Management, Łódź, College of Computer Science, Rzeszów and College of Economics, Bydgoszcz). The seminar was divided into six sessions comprising 21 presentations. It was supervised by Prof. Bogdan Włodarczyk, and the secretary was Dr R. Wiluś.

Translated by Ewa Mossakowska