

1st International Conference Green Cities 2014 – Green Logistics for Greener Cities

Urban tourism in Szczecin and its impact on the functioning of the urban transport system

Aleksandra Łapko *

Maritime University of Szczecin, Faculty of Economics and Transport Engineering, ul. H. Pobożnego 11, 70-507 Szczecin

Abstract

Urban tourism becomes one of the main functions of the cities and its importance is still growing. This is the result of, among others, increasing prosperity, as well as improvement of the mobility of societies. The cities offer a number of products aimed at tourists, the quality and attractiveness of which often determine the competitiveness of cities thus determining their development. On the one hand, intensive tourism is a favourable phenomenon associated with the activation of the local economy, but on the other hand, it can interfere with the functioning of the city. High volume of tourist traffic can also cause degradation of tourist values, thereby reducing - in the long term - the tourist attractiveness of the place.

This article analyses urban tourism in Szczecin in terms of its impact on the functioning of the city, especially in relation to the functioning of the public transport system and the supply of goods carried out in the urban tourist space.

© 2014 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the scientific committee of Green Cities 2014

Keywords: Szczecin, urban tourism, public transport; freight transport

1. Introduction

The concept of *urban tourism* defines a complex tourism system, which is focused in the urban area. It consists of all the conditions and manifestations of tourist activity occurring in this area, taking into account both the tourist attractiveness of urban space, which is one of the main conditions for travelling, forms of tourism and tourist infrastructure.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +48 91 4 809 674;
E-mail address: a.lapko@am.szczecin.pl

It is possible to develop a variety of parallel and common forms of tourism within the urban space. The main reasons for visiting the city in the spare time include (Hall, Page 2001):

- sightseeing,
- participation in cultural and sporting events,
- participation in religious ceremonies,
- entertainment,
- shopping,
- personal errands,
- visiting family and friends,
- education and participation in business meetings, trade shows and conferences.

The most important area of tourism activity within the cities is usually the central downtown district, most often covering historic neighbourhoods. Favourable elements are architectural monuments and cultural facilities concentrated in those areas, as well as the main functions of the city, which include commercial and administrative facilities, and well-developed catering, transport and accommodation services. The location of tourist areas is also associated with the distribution of hotel facilities in those areas (Kurek, 2011).

An extremely important factor for the development of urban tourism is the communication accessibility of tourist reception areas. To a large extent it determines the development of tourism, since the base of its creation is the need to travel from home to the place of tourist destination. However, the increased tourist traffic generates more demand for transport services involved not only with the movement of travellers, but also goods supplied to various commercial entities and those of HORECA sector.

Hotel and restaurant sector generates very different logistical and organizational dependencies resulting from the specificity of the particular service offered to consumers. Orders in this sector are usually small, require immediate implementation, which contributes to the low efficiency of the supply and causes an increase in the number of vehicles involved in the supply (Iwan, 2013).

On the one hand, intensive tourism is a favourable phenomenon for the city connected with the activation of the local economy, the regeneration of urban area and improvement in the quality of life of residents, but on the other hand, it is often in conflict with other functions of cities e.g. residential, industrial and medical ones. High volume of tourist traffic may contribute to the degradation of tourist values, which, paradoxically, are the purpose of visiting the city, thereby reducing the tourist attractiveness of the place. This can be summarized as follows: *tourism contains the seed of its own destruction; tourism can kill tourism, destroying the very environmental attractions which visitors come to a location to experience* (Glasson et.al).

It is necessary to develop such solutions for the transport arrangements that will allow tourists to reach the desired tourist attractions and use a wide range of service entities, while not contributing to the decline in the quality of life of urban residents and increase in the level of environmental pollution. This is consistent with the idea of sustainable tourism, which should be understood as tourism protecting and improving the chances for the future, which aims to meet the needs of both tourists and residents of places visited (Perez de las Heras 2004).

2. Urban tourism of Szczecin - characteristics of the main area of tourist activity

2.1. The main area of tourist activity in Szczecin- The City Tourist Route

Szczecin is a city situated in the north-western part of Poland, in the western part of Zachodniopomorskie province at the Polish-German border. It is the seventh largest city in Poland in terms of the population, and the third city with the largest area occupied after Warsaw and Krakow.

A characteristic feature of Szczecin, crucial for its tourist attractiveness, is the city's unique location at the mouth of the Oder River to Lake Dąbie and Szczecin Lagoon, in a relatively short distance from the coast of the Baltic Sea and Berlin. Among other Polish cities, Szczecin can be distinguished by its landscape values and numerous parks

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات