

Sport tourism development in Slovakia

Beáta Dobay¹, Miklos Banhidi²

¹*Selye János University, Komárno, Slovakia*

²*University of West Hungary, Győr, Hungary*

Abstract

Research into the field of sport tourism has become an actual issue in Slovakia following similar international efforts as a result of the fact that the economic effects of this subject have become more significant recently. Since 2004 we have been conducting research with the aim of better understanding the sport touristic capabilities of the country. The conclusion is that Slovakia provides good conditions both for summer and winter tourism, although results from the environmental research have demonstrated that the continuously developing tourism is not making full use of the available geographic facilities, both the providers and the tourists having limited access to information.

Through analysis of current holiday habits of the population it is clear that school educational programs have already been successful in publicising the opportunities in sport tourism. This has had a visible impact on their subsequent choices regarding tourism opportunities. Winter and summer sport camps are considered important objectives within educational programs and are significantly supported by the government.

In the sector of sport tourism however some shortcomings are noticeable. The increase in the price of the services has not always been followed by the development of the infrastructure which would guarantee a safe and enjoyable sporting experience for tourists. This tendency is clearly visible in the preferences of the adult population for summer holidays. Due to the lack of quality in Slovakia itself, people are choosing opportunities abroad instead.

Keywords: sport tourism, geographical facilities, sporting opportunities, sports, school curriculum.