

Tourism in Slovakia, especially in Small Carpathians

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Abstract:

Purpose and Originality: Article is trying to understand the touristic potential of Small Carpathians region in Slovakia. It explores the tourism of individual municipalities as well as of broader territories. The article further analyses the current status of tourism in the area under review by assessing all relevant elements such as the natural environment, cultural and historical monuments, and infrastructure.

Method: Descriptive method, content analysis of primary data and evaluation method were used in the article.

Result: Small Carpathian region in Slovakia has strong potential that individual places can become a popular tourist centres. However, the analysis showed the insufficient mutual communication at different levels in different spheres of municipalities and towns, insufficient promotion and providing low quality support services.

Limitation: The main setback of the article is lack of the comparison of different countries and even within Slovakia, the article is concentrated on Small Carpathians region.

Keywords: tourism, Small Carpathians, Slovakia, tourism potential, cultural heritage.

1 Introduction

Tourism in recent years is one of the most dynamically developing sectors of the economy. Slovakia is a country with high potential for travel tourism, who offered many historical and natural attractions.

One of the most attractive places in Slovakia is currently mountains Little Carpathians. For somebody cannot know the place for other known mainly highest peak Záruby. Cerveny Kamen castle, Plavecký castle, city Modra, offers the opportunity to spend an active free days.

Article focuses on all the attractions which towns and villages have, as natural environment, cultural - historical monuments as well as the possibilities for accommodation and meals are.

In this article, we provide not only the basic information in the field of tourism Slovakia, but also deeper focus on individual places and options for community development of villages and cities investigated area of the Small Carpathians in tourism.

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2 Protection of cultural heritage by ministry of culture of Slovak Republic

Protection of cultural monuments of the country is very important in order to preserve and explore the cultural heritage of the people from the country to foreign tourists. Slovak Republic is governed by established laws and regulations intended to protect the monuments of the country.

For more effective implementation of conservation and restoration of monuments directs the National Council Act No.49 / 2002 on the protection of monuments (as amended by Act no. 479/2005 Coll.) 19. 12. 2001 approved with effect from 1 April 2002, who made several amendments to the philosophy of protection of monuments in Slovakia. The effect of this law changed competencies of heritage authorities, which previously fulfilled the role of the advisory bodies of state authorities. Basically, conservation authorities have wide powers but they were not allowed to decide the fate of cultural monuments. The law resulted into formation of a new organization monuments - Monuments Board of Slovak Republic, legally acquired jurisdiction and became part of specialized state administration. [9]

Taking care of cultural heritage in Slovakia has not always been as widespread as at present. The occurrence of the said Act and Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic took place in a couple of changes affecting the protection of cultural monuments.

In 1951 Heritage Institute established and in 1958 the first special law on cultural heritage was adopted by. The role of the institute at the time of its creation was particularly the finalization of a national list of cultural monuments and processing inventory of monuments in Slovakia, which was published in the sixties. In 1987, the Act no. 27/1987 Coll. was accepted as the preservation of historical monuments. In December 2001 the National Council Act no. 49/2002 Coll. for Heritage Protection, which brings a number of organizational, methodological and terminological changes, particularly establishing specialized state administration in the field of cultural heritage protection, which in addition to the Ministry of Culture as the central government body is also formed by Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and Regional Monuments Boards. [10]

Cultural heritage can be protected, managed and used only in accordance with their physical, historical and cultural values of quality, including the environment to prevent his possible physical alteration, damage, theft or destruction. Conditions and methods of rescue, use and presentation of cultural heritage, scope and responsibilities of competent authorities are governed by the relevant laws protecting individual species and parts of cultural heritage.

3 Tourism - the definition and description of terms

Tourism is among the most dynamically developing sectors of the world economy. Tourism contributes to the GDP in European Union an average of 13.5%. The positive effects of tourism are reflected in the economic and non-economic areas. In the economic sphere, it is,

for example, consumption goods and services, which is reflected in the growing incomes of enterprises, regions and countries, businesses tourism creates jobs, thereby addressing the problem of unemployment. The non-economic areas, it is as the promotion of international understanding, learning about national cultures, information exchange, education and health promotion. (Jarábková, 2007)

Tourism as a concept and attempts to single definition is dated around the year 1942. During this period, provided the definition of tourism as authors Hunziker and Kapf. All definitions of tourism from various authors have two identical characteristics and it is the movement and stay.

International association of experts tourism AIESA defines tourism as a set of relationships and phenomena arising from the travel and stay of persons if the stay is not connected to a permanent establishment and implementation of employment. The team of Slovak authors defines tourism as "a set of activities in a particular environment to meet the needs of people related to travel outside their place of residence, irrespective of whether the reason for their travel is relaxing or irregular duty or Business".(Jarábková, 2007)

According to Preobrazhensky, one of the founders of geography tourism, tourism is complex socioeconomic phenomenon, which cannot be determined unambiguously. This term is simultaneously expressed by the following definitions:

- a special kind of migration of the population, who studies demography, geography
- population and related sciences;
- sector of the economy, which is one of the socio-cultural spheres of meeting
- needs of the population, studying her economics and economic geography;
- way to spend free time outside the permanent place of residence, they studied sociology
- geography and tourism. (Mariot 1983)

According to Otruba tourism in its broadest sense includes all forms travelling at home and abroad for the purpose of rest, recreation, learning new, entertainment, culture and sports, the stay of visitors is reflected in economic life of the visited sites. (Krnáčová a al., 2005)

4 Slovak republic and tourism

Slovakia as an independent republic was established 1.1.1993. According to the statistical office had to 30.9.2009 5, 421,937 inhabitants. With its area of 49035square kilometres, compared with other states between small countries. Slovakia is administratively divided into 79 districts, 138 towns and 2,883 villages. 2 of which are large cities - Bratislava and Kosice. The city has more than 57 percent of the population.

Slovakia occupies part of Carpathian Mountain Area, south of the Carpathians is Pannonian Basin, along the Danube stretches Danubian Plain, the east stretches Eastern Slovak Lowland.

The northernmost point of Slovakia is Babia Mountain in the Orava region, southernmost point near Patince in Komarno, in the westernmost Záhorská Ves and the easternmost point of Slovakia is located in New Sedlica. From Záhorská Ves after Nova Sedlica Slovakia is 428 km. Slovakia heights range from 94 m asl in Kline over Bodrogom to 2655 m asl High-Gerlach High Tatras.(Linhart, 2006)

Slovakia is a landlocked country, located in Central Europe. It borders with Hungary, with which it has the longest border at 679 km, with the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria and Ukraine, with which the shortest border line at 98 km.

In terms of the position of the neighbouring states Slovakia offers possibilities for different combinations of customers, allowing know the whole Central European region. It is a natural crossroads Network West - East and North - South and good communication is available. In terms of transport facilities it is part of the Western European motorways, which extends through Austria to Bratislava. It is also very convenient highway connection Bratislava - Prague. Air is a convenient opportunity arrival through the airport in Bratislava, Vienna and Budapest. In terms of domestic traffic is not very well connected.

It is necessary to invest in construction of highways and roads, road signs and directions revitalization stations. Just poor quality infrastructure, weaker tourism services and insufficient promotion of attractions are often Slovakia becoming a transit country in which the visitor does not remain longer.

It is endowed with many tourist attractions. So far, Slovakia is discovered and registered 1,200 caves, of which 12 are open to the public. Between the most important caves are: cave Driny, Harmanecká cave, Bystrianska cave, Ice cave, Demänovská cave of liberty, Važecká cave, Belianska cave, ice cave, Aragonite cave, Gombasecká cave, Domica, Jasovská cave. (<http://www.ssj.sk/jaskyne/spristupnene/>)

Although Slovakia is a small country has nine national parks and 14 protected landscape areas, which entails the most valuable of Slovakia nature. National parks of Slovakia are the High Tatras, Low Tatras, Big Fatra, Small Fatra, Slovak Paradise, Slovak Karst, Muran Plateau, Pieniny and Poloniny national park. More than 40% of the Slovak territory is covered by forests. Numerous mountain ranges with distinct segmentation and diversity of mountainous terrain attract more and more visitors. A specific area of peculiar geological and morphological peculiarities, climate, flora and fauna of the national parks. In many places can admire the unspoiled nature, intact civilization influences. (Linhart, 2006)

The most important and oldest cultural and historical monuments in Slovakia include castles, palaces and manor houses. Slovakia is among the countries with the greatest number of castles in Europe. There are 425 and 180 mansions castles, together with a castle ruins. Castles originated from the 13th century, initially to protect the territory from enemies. They guarded the entrances to cities and important trade routes.

Museums and galleries own precious collections of cultural heritage of the nation and the state. In Slovakia, there is 70 museums and 19 galleries and more than 100 other exposures commemorative rooms and open-air museums. With its diverse focus and orientation clarify issues related to the development of society and culture in our country. (Slovak Republic, 2009)

Slovakia is on the UNESCO list of monuments registered 7 - 5 Cultural and 2 natural. The first three locations in Slovakia in the list of World Heritage – Banska Stiavnica, Spis castle and Vlkolinec were recorded in 1993. The fourth and fifth site is the historic core of the town Bardejov and eight wooden churches. Slovakia-Hungarian project Caves of Slovak and Aggtelek Paradise was adopted in 1995. The last natural monument registered on the World Heritage List is Bukovske forests in the Eastern Carpathians. (UNESCO heritage).

The mentioned facts are clear signals for a possible economic, economic, social development resulting from facilities still above facts. Their use in Slovakia is the insufficient level. The result of non-use and unrealized offered potential and existing infrastructure and superstructure as a basis for a positive environment of tourism and its progress compared to the level of tourism in neighbouring and for us readily available countries can for example decrease in the total number of tourists, restrictions on foreign investment and lack of interest of foreign investors in doing business in Slovakia, low incomes.

Table 1 shows that major countries of origin of tourists in Slovakia between 2003 and 2008 according to the order: Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Hungary and Austria. These are primarily countries with which the neighbours.

Table 1. Tourists in Slovakia by the country of origin

Country	Number of tourists					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Czech	469 991	419 273	424 900	455 381	490 986	537 180
Poland	215 383	179 078	198 479	224 159	243 917	308 437
Germany	175 746	188 067	194 158	190 422	176 059	164 694
Hungary	100 546	111 065	121 615	121 981	93 979	90 123
Austria	51 365	55 609	55 630	60 560	62 661	62 052
Italy	37 996	50 201	59 344	60 971	58 184	54 722
Great Britain	26 062	34 349	51 720	63 137	63 193	66 628

Source: www.economy.gov.sk/pk/480-2007-1000/ma.htm

5 Analysis of tourism in the Small Carpathians

The Small Carpathians are together with Austrian Hainburger Berge (Hainburghills) a landscape unit Fatra-Tatra area. The highest peak is the peak Záruby- 768 m asl. It is a modest highlands zone of about 100 km in length. Small Carpathians begin on the Danube in Bratislava (strip of territory north of Devin by Bratislava castle hill) and extend to Nove Mesto nad Váhom. A significant part of the central seat of the saddle Baba mountains. In 1976, they were declared a protected landscape area with a flat 64,610 hectares. Geomorphological are divided into: Devin Carpathians, Pezinske Carpathians, Carpathians and Brezovske Čachticke Carpathians. (Szomolányi a al., 1986). Defined researched area is just Pezinské Carpathians.

The Small Carpathian area has the environment with strong potential in different aspects of the economic development. Tourism as one of the possible directions of such development is under Small Carpathian space an integral part. Based on various present facts, which are designed and conceived at different levels can raise the importance of tourism to a higher personality, character level. The basis for such an understanding of this area are already initial positional information and the convenient location close to the capital city as well as the proximity of the border with the three neighbouring countries - Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary.

The Small Carpathian region in particular its eastern part is one of the best wine sites in Slovakia, with a long tradition of wine-growing, cradle-known wine brands, whose reputation goes beyond the borders of Slovakia. And where there is good wine is also good will, pleasant atmosphere and harmonious life, which are clear signals for tourism development in this area. (www.mkvc.sk)

5.1 The basic characteristic of the western part of the Small Carpathians

The precise demarcation is necessary to determine the territory on the map. Demarcation of the reference area on the east side of the Little Carpathians form the cadastral areas of a city. The southern border is formed by the cadastral areas of Borinka Marianka and around Stupava. Northern boundary cadastral area of the village Cerová. Common border study area on the west side and the east side of the Small Carpathians mountain ridge forms.

From the geomorphologic point of view is the area bounded on the west Borski lowlands, it forms the eastern border mountains back Pezinské Carpathians. Pezinské Carpathians within the Small Carpathians are geomorphological unit as defined precisely in the municipalities selected according to such criteria. Entire territory quite deeply affects the PLA Little Carpathians. In connection with the capital it allows part of the territory just interfering in the PLA Little Carpathians use the rich network of tourist footpaths and paved forest roads suitable for cycling.

The total area is 382 km² as the total surface area of all villages representing that territory. Total population, which permanently inhabit investigated territory, according to official data of the Statistical Office 26654 residents. Density of population per 1 km² is 70 people.

It is important to mention that in the restricted area is the cadastral area Turkish top, which is under the administration of the Ministry of Defence. It is a military training area within the military district Záhorie. This space is for an ordinary person freely temporary and can move in it. By the time training is guarded and into the area where the training takes place directly input is strictly prohibited.

The first reference to individual municipalities ranges from early 13th century to the 16th century. The oldest villages are Jablonové and Kuchyna, first mentioned 1206, while the youngest municipalities are Sološnica first mentioned in 1520 and the municipality Rohožník in 1504. At the proposal of the Ministry of Economy in 2003-2004, the new regionalization of tourism in Slovakia was developed. It was based on Slovak territory divided into 21 regions. City Stupava falls under this regionalization in the Danube region with significant summer seasonality and supra-regional importance (Linhart, 2006).

The villages and towns combining their historical development, which is then reflected in their parallel culture. A common feature, characteristic for the unprofessional public for municipalities is their relationship to wine. This also applies to Záhorie region.

For comparison, the west side of the Small Carpathians has a number of villages and towns the same, i.e. 14. The total area of the examined area is 371.7 square kilometres as the total surface area of all municipalities representing this area. Total population, who reside permanently explored territory, according to official data of the Statistical Office of 31.12.2009 is 51236 inhabitants. Population density per 1 km² is 138 people.

5.2 The natural potential of the western part of the Small Carpathians

Small Carpathians belong to the Alpine-Himalayan system. Under this system they are part of the subassembly Carpathian sub-province Inner Western Carpathians. Small Carpathians as a separate regional unit can be divided into several units lower order.

They are: 1. Devínske Carpathians, 2. Pezinské Carpathians, 3. Brezovské Carpathians, 4. Čachtické Karpaty. Examined territory belongs just to Pezinské Carpathians. Form part of the Small Carpathians between Lamačská gate and Brezovský Carpathians. On the west side these include Homolský Carpathians, Kuchynska Visoka, Stupavské, Plavecke Podhradie and Podhradie. (Szomolányi, 1986).

The Small Carpathians between the Danubian Plain and the Záhorská lowland lifted morphologically very significantly and the foothills they emerge about 450-550 meters. The highest amount of mountain range reaches a peak in the central part of frame with a height of

768 m asl. Today surface ductility Small Carpathians is the result of prolonged exposure geomorphologic processes and the interaction of endogenous and exogenous forces strongly affected by the geological composition of the mountains. Today, the final form of the mountain range is the result of Neogene movements of the earth.

Except platforms are the most common form of mountain valley. Valleys are oriented mostly perpendicular to the mountains and only a few go parallel to the mountain range. They are mainly karst valleys Borinská creek, wet valley over Plavecký Mikuláš and other valleys, especially in karst areas.

The so-called Small Carpathians Karst producing a set of karst mountains, occupy a total of 170 to 180 km². The main karst areas to the west, Záhorská part of the Small Carpathian Mountains are beautiful Borinský and Plavecky. In them they are represented by the surface but also underground karst phenomenon, which just for tourism offers in the appropriate use of possible tools for its development. (Szomolányi, 1986).

On the western part of the Small Carpathians is a cave Deravá skala, dark rock cave, Plavecká cave, small caves along the creek Borinská like Zbojnica cave.

The Deravá skala is located on the right side Mokra valley below the platform Javorinka 561 m asl. in the administrative area Plavecký Mikuláš. It created in the Middle Triassic limestones Choč Nappe frost weathering. About 10 m above the creek is the entrance to the cave. It has the shape of a massive overhang and consists of a 26 m long and 15 m wide portal hall with poor decor. In addition to the geomorphological significance it has a great archaeological value. It was inhabited by man as early as the Paleolithic period. It is part of National Nature Reserve Kršelnica and in 1994 was declared a natural monument. Decree of the Regional Environmental Office in Bratislava declared in 2008 to open to the public. (<http://www.sazp.sk>)

The dark rock cave is located east of holey rock on a steep slope Wet valley. It's sandwiched river-cave with a length of 40m, the horizontal course of the valley below cliffs without stalactite decoration. It is known mainly findings of cave bear bones. He formed alternately corrosion, erosion, mechanical weathering and filling. The cave is an important archaeological and now also characterological site. The cave was discovered findings documenting settlement in Paleolithic and osteological material Pleistocene fauna. Access to the cave is very simple. Directly in Plavecký Mikuláš starts green trail, which includes the top end of the village becomes a nature trail continued Wet valley. On both caves alert notice boards. (<http://www.sazp.sk>)

The Plavecká cave is below Plavecky castle (240 m asl.) in the administrative Village Plavecke Podhradie. Gradually in the Middle Triassic limestones of Choč water created fissure-rútivá 125 m long cave with decorations significantly broken down. It was described in 1885, but the first map was drawn up in 1815. Before the first World War it was the

initiative of count Palffy made available. At present, however, inaccessible. It is an important habitat of numerous colonies of bats.

Plavecky karst was declared as protected area within the NRP Roštún. Roštún is an older name for calcium salts. Lime belonging to the area of municipality Sološnica as the third highest peak of the Small Carpathians to 752 m asl. It offers a magnificent view. The very top of the rocky cliff from which one can see the second highest peak of the Little Carpathians high (754 meters). ([Http://www.sazp.sk](http://www.sazp.sk))

Borinská caves along the creek - Cave in Lower attacked

This area is located east of the village Borinka (Pajštún) and occupies the western slopes of the nature reserve drop-offs (523 m asl). Adjacent to the Črveny and Zbojnicky stream. SPR part of the cave in Lower attacked. The area is located in Borinská Karst and consists of steep slopes with rocky walls that are broken at some places into ravines and ridges. Formation of caves in this area is related to the erosive action of water flows flooded down from crystalline. In addition to the major geomorphologic values, there is also significant flora area. There are Marianka fragrant (*Asperula odorata*), unguates European (*Asarum europaeum*), spurge prerastlíkolistý (*Euphorbia bupleurifolia*), Aaron spotted (*Arum maculatum*), enchanter common (*Circaea lutetiana*) sanicle European (*Sanicula europaea*), impatiens drowsy (*Impatiens noli -Tanger*) and others. The most valuable plant species is deer tongue Fern (*Fhyllitis scolopendrium vulgare*), which occurs on vertical limestone walls. The Small Carpathians to another location has not yet been identified. ([Www.skonline.sk](http://www.skonline.sk))

Geological structure of the mountain range determines the presence and nature of climbing terrain. The most extensive terrains are located in the central part of the mountain facing west.

The castle rock Pajštún is climbing above the village Borinka on extremely strong limestone rock. Sometimes, there are climbers Rock climbing-hosted race.

The Jastabie rock above the village Sološnica has in the area more than 40 routes and variants described. In the past, Jastrabie rocks and the whole ridge of Little Vápenná was closed for hiking and mountaineering.

The Plavecky castle rock, which was created as a rocky ridge Plavecký castle. Rocks in Mokra valley they are visited by the left and right side of the valley.

5.3 The natural potential of the eastern part of the Small Carpathians

One of first natural wonders of the territory is Driny cave, which is 680 meters long, of which 410 meters is accessible. The cave spaces prevailing fissure corridors, which are decorated with rich sinter filling. Typical feature are sinter curtains with indented facing. There are also represented sinter waterfalls and flows, pagoda-like stalagmites, stalactites and pools. It was discovered in 1930 and for the public is made available since 1935 (Jastrabík, 1975).

Another dominant feature, which can be visited and the natural potential of the Valley Hlboča in the village Smolenice.

The natural dominant features and attractions that offer the potential for tourism development and are formed due to geological developments are in addition to the cave and some others. It is Rock area near the village of Modra example. Yew rocks, further Hajduk, Hemlock, Driny Lošonský grove, and Rock Valley Hlboče eye.

The Yew rocks are located north of the town of Modra, near the recreation area Sands, at an altitude of 450-550 m as significant, sometimes punctuated by rocky ridge formed by basal brownish with grey quartzite and lower Triassic. The rock formation was declared natural site. It is interesting that the rocks are very resistant rocks - quartzite, with most rock formations in the Small Carpathians is of calcareous origin. The name is derived from rocks tree yew, which in this area rarities. The Yew rocks are the only place in the Small Carpathians, where they took TIS. In close proximity is located Astronomical and Geophysical Observatory of Comenius University, which is the largest, oldest and most modern after renovation and functional telescope in Slovakia. (www.skonline.sk)

The Hlboča Valley is known for its occasional waterfall, only in the Small Carpathians. Hlboča valley with an area of 123 ha was in 1981 declared a national nature reservation. It has a length of about 1 km and in its upper part is already said the only waterfall in the Small Carpathians height of about 9 m. Most of the year, however, the water from the waterfall lost in the depths of the Smolenice karst. Visitors can observe the beauty in snowmelt and after heavy rain especially in the spring months.

From the above mentioned facts clearly see that the whole territory on the west and on the east side of the Small Carpathians have been only natural view of the many tourists make an offer.

What is important in the development of tourism using the natural environment must be proceed in keeping with the conservation criteria and, of course, legislative provisions. The result of long-term economic uncoordinated human activities and, therefore, activities in the field of tourism, no consideration of landscape protection and nature conservation and protection of natural resources can and unfortunately also leads to deterioration of natural values and the environment. Every development, not only in tourism from the use of the natural environment, but also in any field brings with it many consequences.

In terms of tourism development is the spatial allocation of legislative protected areas as well as a review of the country in terms of land-ecological importance of supporting the premise. Sufficiently allows orientate overall trends, products offered for tourism development in the country in environmentally valuable and interesting sites where potential visitor will find recreation and relaxation. It is very important to proceed in the implementation of each project sensitive to the natural environment which Small Carpathians offer. The only positive impact on the natural environment, the development of tourism has is maintaining cleanliness in the

villages and their surroundings, especially along hiking trails and centres of natural attractions that the other part will be for this very reason in excess attacked pollution.

Other positives that come with tourism already brings social or economic nature in the form of inflow of funds into the region, but also increase environmental education among the population, support the creation of new industries or recovery of original craft industry.

Despite the fact that tourism in the area of the Small Carpathians, not even from afar did not use its potential, its negative effects may manifest. The actual processing project documentation, the declaration area as protected, installation of information boards and demarcation of borders - these are just the first steps to ensure protection. While it would in principle be natural processes in these areas occur spontaneously, it is necessary sometimes to guide their development.

6 Analysis of cultural-historical potential

Artificially - created conditions for tourism created by human activities. Typical for them point spread. In the studied area on the west and east side of the Little Carpathians they are located both in the urban as in rural cadastral areas of villages and towns. When analysing the artificially - created localization assumptions tourism distinguishes Krnáčová a al. (2005) three subgroups assumptions:

- material culture - historical assumptions.
- intangible cultural - historical assumptions.
- cultural - social events.

Material historical and cultural assumptions are very closely linked to the historical and cultural development of the communities studied. Registry of cultural monuments is controlled by Act no. 49/2002 on the protection of monuments, which regulates conditions for the protection of cultural monuments and historic sites and Monuments Fund defines as a set of movable and immovable property as national monuments(www.pamiatky.sk).

Intangible cultural-historical monuments, which include “zvykoslovné”, visual arts, music and Slovak folklore also makes the development of tourism. Despite the fact that these sites almost completely disappeared from everyday life, you need to consciously maintain through various organized events. When analysing this type of artificial assumptions of tourism as an important show place with created conditions for their development. They are mainly museums, site of ethnographic festivals and events, cultural - social clubs and groups. (Krnáčová a al., 2005)

Cultural and historical potential for tourism development can be considered all the castles in the area (Fort Molpír, Bely Kamen, Ostry Kamen Cerveny Kamen, Smolenice castle). Its current attractiveness, however, varies considerably due to their upkeep, respectively lack of upkeep. From that it reflects the possibility of supporting a variety of actions that can be

performed directly at the castle. Currently they meet such a possibility only castle Cerveny Kamen and Smolenice. It is a village, located on the east side of the Small Carpathians in what has when compared with the western side of the Small Carpathians great advantage. Its atmosphere but have also kept castles, or for their attractiveness rather preserved remains of the castle. We can therefore conclude that the castles in this area as a cultural and historical potential to have a huge impact, given their number, which is a rare phenomenon.

7 Possibilities for tourism development in Small Carpathians

The designated area has all the prerequisites for this to happen in the future a popular tourist destination. Tourism in each of the communities can build and improve on the existence of facts like:

- interesting natural environment
- cultural heritage
- assumption area for cycling
- conditions for farm tourism
- the annual organization of cultural events
- position the potential and availability of capital.

"The potential of the country for tourism in geographic investigations can be seen as a term which always refers to a territory and expresses the capacity of the area provide conditions for tourism development "(Marion, 1983). Each of the villages as a centre of tourism represents a whole and in terms of subscriber tourism are its objectives. Tourists looking for a place where they could spend their free time by him desired effect. After your stay at the site valuable local tourism through complex services, which were offered during his stay. We offer in different villages thus forming a collective package of services, which must be able to reach potential visitors, and of course it must also convince their qualities.

Some municipalities (Smolenice) have established a Commission of trade and tourism. It is intended to develop tourism, which can be achieved through better promotion of cultural and natural beauty, the resort offers. Its members are mainly local entrepreneurs, who obviously have a strong interest in improving the tourism. Pre future it is important that each municipality had an interest to establish a tourist information office that the tourists offering information about local activities. Pre offered development opportunities in communities that undoubtedly have, it is important to perceive the community or group of communities as a whole, a product that has a tourist offer and sell in the most interesting package. It is not enough to promote itself beautiful nature or cultural monuments. Total product should be made to make it engaging for tourists in every season. Of course, for geographical location and natural environment investigated area is significant that development can be expected mainly in the summer months, but needed a product can be created so that it will be intriguing to potential visitors at any time of the year. To such a state it would be reached, if the individual components of the community at every level began to cooperate together. Every

entrepreneur in the tourism village and the village itself is keen to increase their business revenues in the industry. Each business component also depends on the behaviour of their partners as providers of ancillary services, but also by their competitors. For this reason, it is important to have a dialogue that results would be a plan to sell the most interesting tourist everything the village has to offer. This plan should be developed at various periods during the year and for different lengths of stay of tourists in the village.

8 Conclusion

The Small Carpathians as a whole have enough potential to develop tourism. This also applies to municipalities located in them. They can become a popular tourist destination not only within the region. Its location, which is characterized by the proximity of the capital of the Slovak Republic of Bratislava and the proximity of district and regional towns, as well as their location in beautiful natural surroundings and close proximity to the highest parts of the Small Carpathians, is directly attuned to making tourism in every Of the studied municipalities either in the west or in the East of the Small Carpathians are the basic pillars. This fact is demonstrated not only by the positional potential and the natural environment, but also by the presence of a relatively large number of cultural and historical monuments in this area.

Some municipalities are slowly starting to realize their potential. For example, the development of Dolný Záhoria's tourism development strategy, the use and approval of co-financing of the Marianka Promotion project from European funds to attract visitors and raise awareness of Marian attractions. It is important that similar intentions remain not only in the theoretical plane but also slowly fall into the practical plane. There are still many changes that must be made by each government as well as by society as such. The basis will be a change in the thinking of residents and owners of tourism facilities. It would be very useful if they started to communicate and find common solutions.

In order to attract more tourists, it is very important for individual cultural and historical monuments to be gradually reconstructed and for individual tourists to create an interesting program for the tourist participant by creating complementary activities so that the visit to the village does not become too static.

The impact of cultural - historical and social developments should be the main consequence of the variety in the overall supply of tourist opportunities in the compared territories.

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Povzetek

Turizem na Slovaškom, zlasti v Malih Karpatih

Namen in izvorni prispevek: Članek analizira turistični potencial območja Malih Karpatov na Slovaškom. V članku je predstavljena turistična aktivnost nekaterih občin, kot tudi širših območij. Članek razvoj turizma na analiziranem območju umešča v naravne, kulturne in zgodovinske danosti in dostopnost turistične infrastrukture.

Metoda: Članek se naslanja na opisno metodo, kombinirano z analizo vsebine in deloma evalvacijsko metodo.

Rezultati: Območje Malih Karpatov na Slovaškem ima močan turistični potencial, kjer lahko posamezna naselja postanejo priljubljeni turistični centri na podlagi potencialne ponudbe. Hkrati pa je analiza pokazala na nezadostno medsebojno komunikacijo med različnimi akterji, nezadostno promocijo ter nerazvite podporne storitve.

Omejitve: Ključna omejitev članka je omejenost na malokarpatsko območje na Slovaškem ter posledično omejena sposobnost primerjave tako v okviru Slovaške kot v mednarodnem okvirju.

Ključne besede: turizem, Mali Karpati, Slovaška, turistični potencial, kulturna dediščina.

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