

Summary

The dissertation focuses on social, political and economic issues related to interwar tourism within the tourist boundaries of the Polish Western Beskids. The area marked out by Mieczysław Orłowicz was used as a reference point of the implementation of the assumptions included in the research analysis; as part of the concept of a regional division of the Polish Carpathians from the viewpoint of tourism (1938). The chronological frame of the dissertation covers the period from 1918 to 1939, when the foundations of the country's tourism industry were being laid under the independent Republic of Poland.

As for the main purpose of this dissertation, included highlighting the multidimensional aspects of the phenomenon that is the subject of the research. In this regard, the activities carried out by the educational authorities and institutions were discussed, which included the organizing summer camps for young people. In addition, important initiatives implemented by the government and numerous organizations supporting tourism have been taken into account. As well as the legislative solutions, a wide range of activities focused on tourism development were identified, which was reflected both in the expansion of infrastructure elements and in investment plans. An important part of the dissertation was the analysis of tourist attendance in the Western Beskids, which also constituted an attempt to outline the type of tourism and the attractiveness of particular mountain regions.

The structure of this dissertation consists of four chapters, which have been divided into subchapters. Chapter 1., *Characteristic of the region*, provides a theoretical introduction to the dissertation theme. It contains information on the geographical conditions of the research area, as well as the regionalization concepts, administrative division, and selected examples of pre-war tourist and sightseeing literature. Chapter 2., *Forms of interventionism by governmental and non-governmental bodies in the development of tourism in the Western Beskids*, discusses initiatives for the development of particular forms of tourism, concepts for improving the tourism industry, activities and projects related to nature protection, as well as the methods and tools used to promote tourism in the Western Beskids. In reference to the key assumptions of Chapter 3., *Tourism Infrastructure and Services*, aimed to present the most important elements of tourism development, which included: transport accessibility, facilities and buildings located in the area of summer resorts and health resorts, as well as accommodation and catering facilities. Another issue discussed in this chapter was the development of selected sectors of tourism services, which also included tourism education. Chapter 4., *Analysis of tourist reception in the Western Beskids*, was written to presents methods of monitoring tourist

movement in the studied area. No methodological basis was available, which meant that this objective could only be partially achieved.

The presented doctoral dissertation was written due to the difficulty in accessing scientific studies that comprehensively discuss the issues of tourism development in mountain regions in pre-war Poland. The multifaceted approach to this issue, which is grounded in a wide range of source materials, may be a decisive factor in encouraging the scientific community to abandon the prospect of conducting in-depth, long-term research. On the other hand, the possibilities of completing the study within the scope of a single work are very limited. Therefore, this dissertation is an attempt to outline the history of pre-war tourism within the Polish Western Beskids and should be considered as a reference point for further in-depth research.