

The impact of biometeorological conditions of the landscape perception and objectification of its evaluation

Human well-being is the result of a great number of factors. Amongst these we may distinguish a group of atmospheric factors, which through their impact on man's psychophysical condition may be decisive for the way in which we perceive geographical space. In this instance perception is connected not only with the synergistic influence of existing biometeorological conditions, to which susceptible persons (meteoropaths) may react in a particular way, but also with the landscape preferences of the observer. Meteoropathy is the susceptibility of the organism to the influence of atmospheric conditions, and its manifestations include pathological physical and mental reactions occurring as a result of the weakening of the organism's adaptive reaction (Baranowska, Czedzyńska-Ziemba, 1997). Taking into consideration the considerable importance of landscape qualities when assessing the attractiveness of tourist areas, it would appear significant to determine the impact on the evaluation of the landscape of both weather conditions and the characteristics of the person perceiving the landscape, as well as his/her general physical and mental state.

Taking the above into account, the objective of research activities under the project is to determine the influence of biometeorological conditions on the perception of the landscape while giving due attention to personal characteristics, the general physical and mental state of the observer, and the specificity of the landscape itself.

The main reason for taking up the present topic is to determine whether a specific weather state that acts favourably, indifferently or unfavourably on a given person also impacts his/her perception of the landscape and its assessment. To this end we shall designate a location for performing observations, where each participant will be able to freely view a fragment of a panorama (a 60-degree section of the landscape) using an eye-tracker that will register his/her eyeball movements. This research will be conducted amongst the same persons under specific weather conditions, taking into consideration their current psychophysical predisposition.

In consequence, we will be able to determine variables concerning the magnitude and nature of changes in perception while giving due attention to the degree of influence of the current weather condition both on respondents, and on the observed landscape. The results of the project will make it possible to increase the objectivity of existing assessments of landscape attractiveness, thus helping enrich the body of knowledge pertaining to the subject of research.