

Summary of the proposed research project for the general public

After the Baltic States and Poland became members of the European Union in 2004 new cooperation mechanisms have emerged in the Baltic Sea region. The European Union itself recognized that tourism plays an important role in cross-border cooperation and development of border areas, which is expressed in the possibility of financing tourism development projects implemented under the European Territorial Cooperation programs.

The main goal of the proposed research project is to analyze cross-border cooperation in tourism across the sea borders and to investigate the effects of this cooperation on the example of the Baltic Sea area in 2007-2013.

The following research will be carried out in the project: literature studies, analysis of documents for individual projects co-financed by Interreg IV A, B and C programs in the Baltic region, creation of information base on tourism-related projects, spatial analysis of tourist projects in the Baltic Sea region, field studies in selected cases, in-depth interviews with representatives of project partners on the effectiveness of the project. The results of the work will contain recommendations for science and practice; as a summary, a publication (book) will be prepared and published.

The issues to be discussed in the project are important, because so far no such research has been carried out - the spatial dimension of the cross-border cooperation network in the Baltic Sea region has not yet been verified, and there has been no thorough analysis of this type of cooperation and the effects of cooperation of entities implementing cross-border tourist projects in the Baltic Sea region supported with EU funds in the period 2007-2013 has not been examined as well.

The research topic is up-to-date due to the interest of both scientific and industry circles. The results of the research can be used by representatives of local government, regional and local tourist organizations as well as other stakeholders involved in cross-border cooperation in the field of tourism, in particular regions around the Baltic Sea.