

The object of research are borders as a resource and their role in heritegisation and touristification of the area situated close to them. This project would show and try to understand the genesis of creation of new tourist attractions and products and the success story as well in borderlands. The approach proposed in a project could show the perspectives of many actors, creators, users, and consumers, such as local authorities (not only leaders) in different neighboring countries, visitors attracted by new curiosity and locals which tries to use this place in both reasons: first as a potential for living due to tourism and second as a meeting place for their and closing local neighbors in each case from other two countries.

The Author of the project will use a notion of place of memory (Nora, 1989) and try to enlarge this notion to line of memory. The project focuses on the production of heritage and tourist attraction related on all Polish borders – actual and former (relict borders). The main goal of the proposed research project is to identify, describe and characterize borders as elements of heritage, tourist attraction and products in all Polish borders (including actual and relict ones). The Authors will try to understand how these elements are created, where, by whom and for whom. The role of spatial planning, perception of tourist information would be analyzed as well. The conceptual underpinnings of the project include issue of borders and tourism, transboundary identity, creation of tourist space, tourism and uniqueness of borders, and use the multiscalar approach.

The research questions are defined as follows:

- (1) How are the border resources created and utilized for heritage and tourism development in the Polish border areas?
- (2) Which scalar dimensions of border resources, heritage and spatial identity are manifested at the tourist sites at will use to creation of tourism products?
- (3) Where and why are borders a basis for tourism development? Which spatial form they create? (accidentally, as a single place of memory, line of memory, two sites cooperating between them, network of cooperation, region)? Are they function as growth pole for local or regional development?
- (4) How does the mobilization of different Actors on using border resources to tourism product creation safeguard or undermine the integrated approach in tourism development of border-adjacent areas?
- (5) How and where borders are transformed into tourism products, which elements are used and how they function in reality, perception and virtual space (digital place)?

Poland is very good example of deep changes in the EU, creativity of local authorities supported by European funds, and creation of new transboundary meeting places with strong integration identity. This also is an example of creation of new tourist space outside of traditional tourist destinations and creation of completely new attractions. Borders as new growing tourist attraction has appeared in a center of new marketing materials and governance, and has the potential to become a good example of CEE unique border attractions on regional and even international level. The results of the project would be very original and will present all Polish borders as resources for heritegisation and touristification of space.

Original, multidimensional, multiscalar approach will be used. The research topic is up-to-date due to the interest of both scientific and practical actors. The results of the research can be used by representatives of local and regional government, and tourist organizations as well and other institutions involved in cross-border cooperation in the field of tourism, heritage and local development.

Additionally the webpages concerning all border related heritage sites, tourist attraction and products will be created and will give an opportunity in both: observation of project results and as a base of new knowledge about potential of Polish borders.