

The transformation of rural areas in terms of socio-economic, structural changes, have led to their economic diversification, and spatial polarization comparing to urban and suburban regions. Agritourism has emerged as a significant factor in rural development, and a diversification of agricultural activities of individual farmers. The availability of public goods, such as quality of infrastructure, and public services, with an access to resource endowment, play a crucial role the attractiveness of rural tourism destinations.

Effective regional policies are vital for supporting agritourism in local and regional level. Policies that promote sustainable development of rural tourism destinations, provide financial incentives, and invest in infrastructure improvements significantly boost agritourism. Agritourism can generate positive spillover effects for rural areas in terms of socio-economic development. The study will highlight the importance of spatial dependence in agritourism activities taking into account integrated approaches of regional policies, spatial planning, and engagement of local communities to foster sustainable rural development through agritourism.

The research problem concerns spatial dependence of agritourism development answering particularly the question how this dependence affects the behaviour of touristic service providers.

These research questions were formulated in the project:

- 1) Which factors influence the development of agritourism?
- 2) How to measure the impact of agritourism on rural development?
- 3) How to fit regional and local planning into spatial development patterns?
- 4) How spatial dependence and development plans affect farmers' intentions to provide tourist services?

To answering the above questions, it will allow to identify socio-economic factors significantly affected agritourism development. The analysis will also assess the significant role of public goods, including natural resources and environmental quality, in enhancing the attractiveness of rural tourism destinations. It will measure spatial effects on rural development and agritourism activities respectively, and the alignment of regional planning with spatial development patterns, and the impact of spatial dependence on the farmers' intention to engage in agritourism activity.

This study will be based on the extended theory of planned behavior shaping spatial effects on agritourism activities and a farmer's intention to proceed or engage in agritourism activities.

The project will use the most up-to-date research methods to reliably establish causal relationships between spatial dependences and individual farmer's intention potentially engaged in agritourism activities. In the course of the project, data obtained from statistical databases GUS BDL, relevant institutions in rural economy, agriculture, environmental protection, tourism sphere. To answering spatial dependence and their effect on farmers' intentions to provide agritourism activities, it will be conducted a survey with a sample of approximately 200 individual farmers potentially engaged as touristic service producers.

The results of research will be presented at international scientific conferences and will be published in scientific journals in a field of rural studies, tourism economics, behavioral economics.