

The issue of people with disabilities in tourism appeared in the *Declaration of Manila*, adopted by the UNWTO in 1980, which recognizes tourism as one of the fundamental rights of every human being. The declaration became the starting point for a change in the attitude towards people with disabilities who are willing to use the tourist offer. The availability of tourism concerns many of its forms, including geotourism - a form that allows for a deeper understanding of the values of inanimate nature.

The main goal of the project is to set the criteria for the functioning of the geotourist addressed to people with disabilities. The project presumes that this offer requires special preparation that takes into account all the elements of a geotourist product. Relevant sites in the Sudetes were selected for analysis.

It should be emphasized that the subject of people with disabilities and geotourism is rarely discussed, especially in such a comprehensive approach as proposed in the project. The innovative nature of the research originates from several factors: examining the availability of the natural environment, which will help to assess a comprehensive indicator of the degree of adaptability of geotourist resources for the needs of people with disabilities, analysis of geotourist information for the target group presented in real and virtual space, inclusion of a group of seniors in the research, as well as from indication of directions of geotourism development for people with disabilities in one of the most important geotourist areas in Europe.

The general research plan will include four stages: researching the environment of people with disabilities in the context of their functioning in the geotourist space of the Sudetes and here defining their needs and barriers that hinder the development of geotourism; the analysis of geotourism potential in the context of use by people with disabilities and here determining the indicator of adapting the value to the reception of the studied target group; assessment of accessibility of tourist infrastructure for people with disabilities and the analysis of traditional and digital geotourist information in terms of its availability and adaptation to the needs of people with disabilities.

The research will be conducted both in the field and in private conditions. One of the methods will be an environmental interview conducted among three groups of people: those preparing a geotourist offer and those managing this offer in order to examine the needs and opportunities for the development of geotourism for people with disabilities, as well as an interview with people with disabilities in order to examine their geotourist motivations, identify barriers and indication of positive aspects of the development of the geotourist offer.

The field research will include an inventory - updating and supplementing as well as valorization of spatial development combined with an analysis of the transport accessibility of geotourist objects in terms of their use by people with disabilities, as well as an inventory of associations whose aim is to organize tourism for people with disabilities. The valuation analysis will be used to assess the spatial development of the geotourist object, as well as its transport accessibility.

The following will also be analyzed: the indicator of adaptation to the reception of tourist traffic of people with disabilities, taking into account various forms of disability, legal documents and literature on people with disabilities in the tourism space. Another issue will be the multi-factor analysis related to geotourist information. In this case, the analysis will cover:

- the perception of geotourist information by people with disabilities,
- accessibility of information about geotourism taking into account the needs of groups of people with disabilities,
- the accessibility of information and the effectiveness of presentation of information for this group of people,
  - the accessibility of geotourist information in the virtual world: websites, social media networks taking into account the needs of people with disabilities, Internet of Things (IoT) resources,
- and finally also examples of connecting two worlds: digital and real in order to eliminate/reduce exclusion.