

## **Connections between scientific research and education in the field of tourism and leisure in Belarus**

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### **Abstract**

The development of tourism research and training for the tourism industry started in Belarus in the 1970s. This was due to the need for recreational sectors of the economy, which in turn was caused by the increasing demand for tourism and recreation on behalf of the population. Tourism research has its origins in theory of recreational geography, which was best suited to the needs of a planned economy. During the economic crisis in the 1990s, a stagnation in tourism research took place. In the early 2000s, owing to the intensification of international tourism, development of market relations and the improvement of the economy, tourism

research gained new impetus. However, the methodology of recreational geography was not enough: there appeared a need for a close cooperation with foreign scientific schools and universities. The drive for mutual cooperation between Belarus and the EU in tourism science and education has resulted in TEMPUS projects. This article reviews the history of tourism development, tourism, scientific research and tourism education in Belarus. It characterizes the state tourism industry and describes the problems that could erupt with further development of the tourism business in Belarus. The analysis is based on the topics of a Doctoral thesis which has been defended in tourism in Belarus.

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