

The relationship between tourism and residents' quality of life: A case study of Harkány, Hungary

Gábor Michalkó ¹, Márta Bakucz ² and Tamara Rátz^{3*}

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¹ Geographical Institute, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary

² University of Pécs, Faculty of Business and Economics, Hungary

³ Kodolányi János University of Applied Sciences, Tourism Department, 8000 Székesfehérvár, Fűrdő utca 1, Hungary, phone: +36-30-5166856; e-mail: tratz@kodolanyi.hu

* Corresponding author

Abstract

The paper delineates the connections between tourism and the local population's quality of life in Harkány, a spa-town located in Southwest Hungary. During the spring of 2011, a questionnaire survey of 297 residents was undertaken in the town, in order to investigate their participation in tourism, and associated quality of life issues. In addition, residents' attitudes related to thermal spa development in the town were analysed, together with the use of spa facilities by locals. The data analysis suggested that whilst the spa has a significant presence in the everyday life of the residents, the development of spa tourism has had very limited effects on their quality of life.

Keywords: quality of life, well-being, health tourism, medical geography, spa, Hungary

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