

November 2014

Małgorzata Durydiwka: Development factors and diversification of the tourism function in the rural areas of Poland, Wydział Geografii i Studiów Regionalnych Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2012, pp. 376

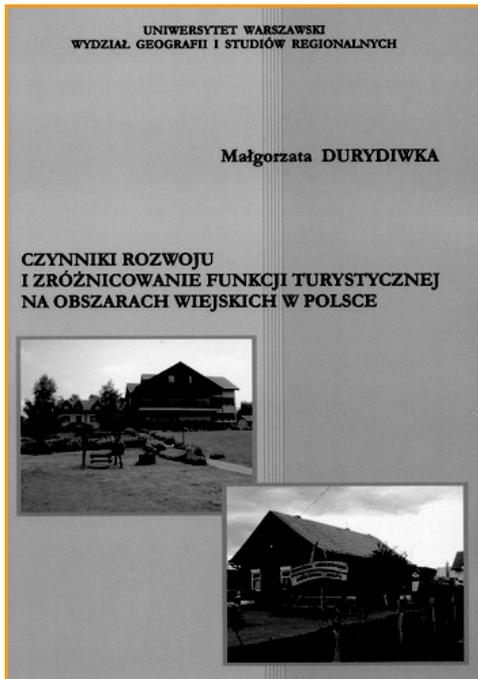
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Recommended Citation

Jackowski, Antoni (2014) "Małgorzata Durydiwka: Development factors and diversification of the tourism function in the rural areas of Poland, Wydział Geografii i Studiów Regionalnych Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2012, pp. 376," *Tourism / Turyzm*: Vol. 24 : Iss. 1 , Article 12.
Available at: <https://digijournals.uni.lodz.pl/turyzm/vol24/iss1/12>

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MAŁGORZATA DURYDIWKA

**CZYNNIKI ROZWOJU I ZRÓŻNICOWANIE
FUNKCJI TURYSTYCZNEJ NA OBSZARACH
WIEJSKICH W POLSCE**

[DEVELOPMENT FACTORS AND DIVERSIFICATION
OF THE TOURISM FUNCTION IN THE RURAL AREAS
OF POLAND]

WYDZIAŁ GEOGRAFII I STUDIÓW REGIONALNYCH
UNIwersYTETU WARSZAWSKIEGO
WARSZAWA 2012

pp. 376

The book consists of three large sections (Part I – “Tourism as a function in rural areas”, Part II – “Tourism function development factors in the rural areas of Poland”, Part III – “The diversification of the tourism function in the rural areas of Poland: 1995-2005”), with a number of sub-sections, as well as an introduction, summary, list of references (over 500 entries) and some appendices. The work contains 52 tables, 84 figures (including many coloured), and 5 appendices (mostly tables presenting numerical data for the period 1995 to 2005), as well as a list and description of the tourism regions in rural areas in the same period.

Durydiwka briefly presents the aim and the idea behind her work, as well as research methods. Her aim is to present the factors which stimulate tourism function development and the spatial diversification its development level in the rural areas of Poland: 1995-2005. The tourism function is defined as “the whole of socio-economic activity in a given spatial unit, focused on serving tourists”.

In describing the state of research into the tourism function of rural areas, the author shows a tremendous erudition that can be seen in her extensive knowledge of the basic literature on the subject. A valuable contribution is the presentation of government documents concerning the multi-functional development of rural areas.

A very skilfully written part is the section in which the author describes tourism function development factors and their classification. Following the writer’s suggestion, these factors can be endogenous

or exogenous and Durydiwka presents a detailed description of the identified factors.

The last section of the book is a summary. The author justifies her choice of the criteria used to define the tourism function, which mainly resulted from her own experience gained during numerous field studies. In order to quantify the tourism function, the author used the synthetic measure *Ft*, following Ziolo, making necessary modifications and adaptations (Ziolo constructed this indicator in order to present the spatial concentration of industry). The measure enabled her to show the scale of tourism in individual spatial units (*gminas*) and as a proportion of the tourism function in Poland. Based on *Ft* values, the author set five levels (classes) of tourism function development in rural areas.

The procedure for establishing the level of development in rural areas is based not only on the current situation, but also on the history of tourism in a given region or destination. While analyzing its diversification, the author examined 2168 rural *gminas* and the rural parts of urban-rural fringe areas nationally. She established five levels of development – from level 0, when the tourism function has not been formed, up to level 4, where it is very well developed. The majority of *gminas* with a developed function in 2005 were found in *zachodniopomorskie* (8), *małopolskie* (6) and *pomorskie* (6) voivodeships. The author noticed that the picture of the spatial diversification in rural areas is quite stable. She also confirmed that the main factor is the high quality of natural assets. The remaining elements, though equally important, have a complementary character.

Further on, Durydiwka suggested a typology of rural areas by tourism function. She identifies five types of *gminas* (0, A, B, C, D), with important factors including the number of firms registered in section H of the *REGON* system, as well as the number of people using accommodation. The final part here is discussion of the issue of tourism regions in rural areas of Poland and the author distinguished 34 such units in 2005. Table 3.9 is very illuminating; it shows the history of Polish tourism regionalization (pp. 24-25).

The book by Durydiwka, entitled *Development factors and diversification of the tourism function in the rural areas of Poland* the author has raised a very up-to-date and important research issue for the geographical, economic and social sciences. The research methods adopted are a considerable contribution to the development of geographical sciences methodology. It is the first serious study on the tourism function in rural areas (as broadly understood) and its role in their development. The work is breaks new ground, not only in Polish literature, it expands the world literature on tourism.

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Translated by Ewa Mossakowska
