

## EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ECONOMY IN 2007-2013

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this article is to present results of a study of the usage of EU funds in the tourism economy in selected Polish regions in the financial perspective 2007-2013. The study takes into account tasks aimed at elements that determine the tourism attractiveness of the region (i.e. tourist attractions and tourist infrastructure). Research methods to be used in the paper can be grouped in two areas. The theoretical issues concerning the European Union and the operation of the regional tourism economy in terms of sustainable development - an analysis of literature and strategic documents. The empirical part – demoscropy research, based on the presentation of the results of the two west provinces in Poland and mathematical-statistical methods. As a result of empirical part of the study (concerning the use of EU funds for regional development of tourism economy) a diagnosis of the use of available resources to activities in the tourism area has been developed. Moreover an approximation of the real effects related to the impact of EU funding to the level of tourism attractiveness of regions has been estimated. Conducted studies may provide a basis for determining targets of tourism development in various areas (treated as administrative regions). Another problem arising from the field of research is the issue of the crisis in the economy, which may further hinder the realization of the tasks connected with tourism investments, which require from regions to provide their own money. In case of tourism it is 50% of financial allocation.

**Keywords** regional tourism economy, sustainable tourism, European Union funds

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