



IGU Conferences in Poland

The IGU Tourism Commission organized two successful meetings in Poland during August 2014. The Pre-Conference, *Tourism and Transition in a Time of Change*, 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts, Poland and the IGU Regional Conference, *Changes, Challenges, Responsibility*, 18-22 August 2014, Krakow, Poland, turned out to become great events providing arenas for scientific exchange and debate.

The pre-conference meeting in the Pieniny Mts. In southern Poland gathered some 35 geographers from all continents to discuss various forms of transitions in tourism geographies. Many of the presented papers were not least concerned with economic transitions and analyzed how sudden growth in tourism can be managed. Moreover even the role of tourism as means to counterbalance the negative impacts of economic restructuring was highlighted in several presentations.



The excellent hosts of the IGU Pre-conference meeting Denis Cerić and Marek Więckowski, Polish Academy of Sciences

A number of papers addressed the issue of transition in the context of recovery of warfare and political turmoil, too, while environmental issues were discussed only by a few.

The conference made clear that various forms of transitions offered challenges but also opportunities for tourism development.

A particular thank you should be directed to the great organizers of the conference, Commission member Assoc. Prof. Marek Więckowski and his colleague Denis Cerić, Polish Academy of Sciences. Besides offering an excellent scientific program, field trips in the Polish Carpathians allowed for gathering impressions of tourism development in the Polish-Slovak borderlands. Without doubt this made the conference a very memorable event.



There are plans to document the outcomes of the conference in a book.

Regional Conference Krakow

Even the Regional Conference in Krakow certainly became an important meeting providing not least an opportunity for geographers from Eastern Europe to interact with the global geography community. The Commission was among the most prominent and active ones during the meeting; it was involved in altogether 22 well attended sessions featuring approximately 80 paper presentations. This underlines the great interest for tourism as a field of geographical inquiry that has been already noted during the Cologne and Kyoto meetings.

Obviously it is difficult to summarize the variety of topics contained in such a massive program. Commission sessions were organized according for the following topics

- Tourism, sustainability and global change
- Tourism and regional development
- Urban tourism geographies
- Geographies of heritage and cultural tourism
- Changing Dynamics of Tourism in Central Europe
- Tourism in mountain areas
- Panel Session: Publishing tourism geographies

Moreover, joint sessions were conducted with the Commission Gender and Geography, the Commission Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses, the Commission on Global Information Society (on Mega events), and the Commissions for Political Geography (on Borders and Tourism, dark heritage and war, respectively).

An outcome of the conference is certainly related to the encounter of Eastern European tourism geographies, which obviously developed relatively isolated, and not least English speaking geographies since many new contacts could be established.

Particularly the panel session on “Publishing tourism geographies” turned out to be a great success attracting about 40 delegates. This session was organized as reaction on interest voiced by young scholars during previous meetings and aimed at encouraging international publishing ambitions. Not least attendees from Eastern European countries were appreciative regarding this initiative, which will be repeated during the IGU meeting in Moscow.



New Publications

On invitation of the Polish Geographical Society commission chair Dieter Müller and past-chair and IGU Vice president Jarkko Saarinen contributed to a special issue of *Geographia Polonica*;

Saarinen, J. (2014). Tourism geographies: Connections with human geography and emerging responsible geographies. *Geographia Polonica*, 87(3), 343-352.

Müller, D. K. (2014). ‘Tourism geographies are moving out’: A comment on the current state of institutional geographies of tourism geographies. *Geographia Polonica*, 87 (3), 353-365.

Six contributions of the 2013 IGU-pre-conference meeting in Japan have been published as special section Travel and Tourism in *Asia Pacific World* (2014, vol 5:2)

There are further plans to develop book projects departing from two conferences held during 2014; *Tourism and second homes* (Müller & Hall) and *Tourism and Transition* (Müller & Więckowski).

Furthermore, the Commission publishes an annual volume of [Tourism, Leisure and Global Change](#), an online proceedings series covering meetings organized and sponsored by the Commission.

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Upcoming events

During the regional conference in Krakow the IGU announced a plan for the upcoming major events, which will preliminarily occur every second year after the International Geographical Congress in Beijing 2016 (though this is still discussed by the presidents of the IGU). The plan comprises the following events;

- 2015 IGU Regional Conference Moscow, Russia, 16-21 August 2015, www.igu2015.ru Sessions on
 - Tourism and environment
 - Tourism and crisis
 - Tourism, mobility and information
 - Urban tourism
 - Geographies of polar tourism
 - Tourism and regional development
 - Mega-events

- 2016 IGU International Geographical Congress Beijing, China 21-25 August 2016
- 2018 IGU Regional Conference Quebec, Canada
- 2020 IGU International Geographical Congress Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022 IGU International Geographical Congress (100 year anniversary), Paris, France

For more and updated information on general IGU events please consider the new webpage of IGU igu-online.org

Commission events

The Commission Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change organizes and co-sponsors the following events for 2015;

- [Recreation, Tourism & Sport Specialty Group, AAG Annual Meeting](#), selected sessions, 21-25 April 2015, Chicago, IL, USA - Abstract submission closed
- [6th Nordic Geographers Meeting](#), session "Geographical imaginations and the reality of tourism in the Nordic countries", 15 - 19 June 2015, Tallinn, Estonia – Abstract submission closed
- [Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference: Balancing Development & Sustainability in Tourism Destinations](#), 29-31 July 2015, Lombok, Indonesia – **Abstract submission deadline 31 May 2015**
- 2015 IGU Regional Conference Moscow, Russia, selected sessions, 16-21 August 2015, www.igu2015.ru; - **Abstract submission deadline 31 January 2015**
- [EUGEO 2015](#), Budapest, Session "Tourism, Globalization and Culture", 30 August – 2 September 2015 – **Abstract submission deadline 31 January 2015**

- [13th European Geoparks Conference](#) "Responsible Use of Natural and Cultural Heritage" in Oulu and the Rokua Geopark, Finland, 3–6 September 2015, selected sessions - Call for Papers will be opened in January 2015.
- Deutscher Kongress für Geographie / [German Congress of Geography](#), Session on "Application of recent research approaches of economic geography in tourism geography", 1-6 October, Berlin, Germany – **Abstract submission deadline 11 January 2015**

Moreover the Commission has already started preparations for the IGU Tourism Commission Pre-Congress Meeting in Suzhou & Nanjing, China, scheduled for the 17-20 August 2016. There are also tentative plans for future meetings in Paris and maybe Brazil.

Please feel free to disseminate this newsletter to interested colleagues!

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www.igutourism.org

*Seasonal Greetings and
A Happy New Year 2015*



**International Geographical Union –
Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change**
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