

1.2. MAIN DEFINITIONS

Tourism includes all activities of persons travelling and remaining outside their usual environment not longer than 12 months, for recreational, work-related and other purposes, except for that connected with earning income.

Visitors are participants of tourism. This category comprises **tourists** (i.e., persons who spent at least one night in a collective or individual accommodation establishment at the place visited) and **one-day visitors** (i.e., persons who **do not spend the night** at the place visited)¹.

Collective tourism accommodation establishments are defined as facilities, which offer to travellers overnight stay in rooms and the number of offered places must be greater than a strict minimum for needs of one family. All places in a facility must be subordinate to common management on commercial rules, even if the establishment does not have a profit-making character.

Hotel facilities include: hotels, motels, boarding houses and other hotel facilities.

Other facilities include: excursion hostels, shelters, youth hostels, school youth hostels, holiday centres, holiday youth centres, training recreational centres, creative arts centres, public tourist cottages, camping sites, tent camp sites, weekend and holiday accommodation establishment, health establishments, other non-classified.

¹ "EU methodology in the field of tourism statistics", CSO, Department of Living Conditions, Warsaw 1998.

In the survey the following definitions of particular tourist accommodation facilities have been adopted:

Hotel — a hotel facility located mainly in urban area, having at its disposal at least 10 rooms, of which most places in single and double rooms, providing a wide range of services connected with a stay of clients. Each hotel must provide catering services. Depending on the facility equipment and the range of provided services five categories of hotels are distinguished: the highest — 5 stars, the lowest — 1 star.

Motel — a hotel facility located near transport routes, which provides not only hotel-type services but also motor services and parking. A motel must have at least 10 rooms, of which most places in single and double rooms. Each motel must provide catering services. Depending on the facility equipment and the range of provided services five categories of motels are distinguished: the highest — 5 stars, the lowest — 1 star.

Boarding house — a hotel facility, which provides hotel-type services including daylong meals and has at its disposal at least 7 rooms. It must provide catering services. Depending on the facility equipment and the range of provided services five categories of boarding houses are distinguished: the highest — 5 stars, the lowest — 1 star.

Other hotel facility — a boarding facility, divided into rooms, subordinated to one management, providing some services, of which at least everyday bed-making, cleaning of rooms and sanitary facilities (e.g. a facility performing assignments of motel or boarding house, which did not receive a category).

Excursion hostel — a facility situated on built-up area or near buildings, possessing at least 30 bed places, adapted to self-service of clients and providing a minimal range of services connected with a stay of clients. Each excursion hostel must have at least one catering establishment. Depending on the facility equipment and the range of provided services three categories of excursion hostels are distinguished: the highest — I category, the lowest — III category.

Shelter — a facility situated beyond built-up area, near tourist trails, providing a minimal range of services connected with a stay of clients. A shelter possess at least one catering establishment. The term “shelter” do not include youth hostels.

Youth hostel — a facility destined for individual and group youth tourism, adapted to self-service of clients. A youth hostel is an establishment located in a self-contained building or in a separated part of building. Depending on the facility equipment and the range of provided services three categories of youth hostels are distinguished: the highest — I category, the lowest — III category.

School youth hostel — an education establishment making possible to develop interests and aptitudes as well as to take advantage of different forms of recreation activities.

Holiday centre — a boarding facility (or a complex of facilities) destined and adapted to provide only or mainly services connected with a holiday.

Holiday youth centre — a boarding facility (or a complex of facilities) destined and adapted to provide only or mainly services connected with a youth holiday.

Training-recreational centre — a boarding facility (or a complex of facilities) destined and durably adapted to trainings, conferences, conventions, etc. It can also be used to provide holiday services.

Creative arts centre — a facility, which provides proper conditions to the creative work and rest of creators, used also (mainly by their families) as a holiday centre. This facility must have a permanent heating equipment.

Public tourist cottage — a small house without cellar, possessing not more than four rooms, adapted to provide hotel-type services. Public tourist cottages may create complexes of public tourist cottages and they may be organizationally included in other boarding facilities.

Camping site — an area usually wooded, guarded, lamp-lit, with permanent reception service and equipped with sanitary, catering and recreational facilities, making possible to spend nights in tents, caravans, and also to prepare meals as well as to park passenger cars. Depending on the facility equipment and the range of provided services four categories of camping sites are distinguished: the highest — 4 stars, the lowest — 1 star.

Tent camp site — a detached place in wooded area, not guarded, marked, with a makeshift fence, making possible to spend nights in tents. On a tent camp site there are drinking water outlets, basic sanitary facilities and recreational areas.

Weekend and holiday accommodation establishment — a complex of establishments and facilities located not far away from the urban agglomeration, in the direct neighbourhood of areas having environmental values for recreation, in zones serviced by public transport. An establishment is equipped according to needs of rest and recreation of short duration. It can serve simultaneously a considerable number of persons with different predilections. Boarding facilities included in the establishment may be used for holiday needs.

Health establishment — an establishment providing services in the scope of health care situated on the territory of health resort and using natural resources of the resort when providing health services.

Other non-classified facilities — facilities which during incomplete use according to their predestination or partially, function as a boarding facility for tourists, i.a. boarding schools, student dormitories, employee boarding houses etc.

Until 2004 the group "Other non-classified facilities" included facilities which did not meet requirements for individual categories of facilities.

Since 2004 the group "Hotel facilities" contains a subgroup "Other hotel facility" and the group "Other collective tourist accommodation establishments" — "School youth hostel".

Catering establishments in collective tourist accommodation establishments include all catering facilities and outlets located on the premises of a given tourist accommodation establishment regardless the ownership and accessibility (generally accessible, for guests only). Catering facilities also include fry houses, drink bars, ice cream parlours and snack-bars.

In the survey of tourist accommodation facilities the following solutions were used:

- data concerning facilities and bed places include all facilities active as of 31 VII as well as inactive facilities as of this day, but active on other days of the surveyed month — the maximum number of places was assumed for them,
- active facility is understood as a facility, which at least partially was accessible for tourists (regardless of the fact, if it was actually used) during the surveyed period,
- occupancy rate of a facility — expressed in percent — results from the comparison of actually number of nights spent (overnight stays) to the nominal number of bed places (the sum of bed places prepared for tourists on each day of the activity of a facility), and additionally for hotels, motels, boarding houses and other hotel facilities — from the comparison of actually rented rooms to the nominal number of rooms (the sum of rooms prepared for tourists on each day of the activity of a facility),
- tourist accommodated — number of persons (tourists) who began a stay in a facility in the given month (i.e. were registered), what means that persons staying at the turn of two months are listed only once in elaborations, that is, they will be indicated only in one month (i.e., at the moment of registering),
- nights spent (overnight stays) — product of the number of tourists accommodated and the number of days (nights) of their stay,
- rooms rented in hotels, motels, boarding houses and other hotel facilities constitute the sum of rooms rented in each day of the activity of boarding facility, regardless of the number of persons spending the night in these rooms.

Tourist trails — are trails (mainly hike) designated for tourists in the area possessing sightseeing value (taking into account tourist safety conditions and environmental protection regulations) and marked with conventional sights which make it possible to remain on the trail — recommended or obligatory.

Cultural tourism include activities of visitors connected with culture as well as supply of products offered to culture-minded visitors.

Visiting exhibitions, museums, taking part in artistic events is defined as cultural "activity". This activity is a part of "cultural tourism".