

RECREATIONAL OFFER ON THE EXAMPLE OF SOPOT

Wojciech RATKOWSKI

Academy of Physical Education and Sport from Gdańsk
1 Kazimierza Górskiego, 80 – 336 Gdańsk, Poland, e-mail: marathon@awf.gda.pl

Tadeusz ŁAPIAN

Academy of Physical Education and Sport from Gdańsk
1 Kazimierza Górskiego, 80 – 336 Gdańsk, Poland

Abstract: Sopot as a seaside tourist spot carries status of resort. It is considered one of the most attractive holiday and health resorts in Poland. The recreational offer of tourists and residents first of all has to take into consideration character of interests resulting from the length of stay and what's more, should adapt them to the needs of residents. The aim of this research was to define whether the recreational offer in the spa resort Sopot satisfies expectations of various groups of citizens resulting from realization free time needs. Sport-recreational offer playing substantial role in forming tourist product contributes directly to attractiveness of the resort. Residents, however, do not benefit from it in satisfactory extent, although it serves realization of personal free time needs. Sopot residents expect yearlong attractiveness of the city as the place of their inhabitation, rest and recreation. Types of activity in free time are first of all conditioned by age of examined persons. Most frequent forms of participation in organized forms of spending free time are cultural and sport events. Many respondents would like to change their style of spending free time and would like to enrich form of rest as well as improve organizational structures dealing with free time.

Key words: leisure time, recreation, free time, tourist product

* * * * *

INTRODUCTION

Sopot as a seaside tourist spot that carries status of resort, is uniquely situated between forested moraine hills and sea coast of Gdańsk Bay. Including Gdańsk and Gdynia, it comprises urban complex of population more than one million. Clean, sandy beaches stretch for 4.5 km along the whole Sopot coast. The waters of Gdańsk Bay are sheltered by Hel Peninsula, thanks to what they are warmer than in other places on the Baltic Sea.

Sopot owes its unique character to its buildings surrounded by trees, historic parks and gardens. Greenery forms over 60 % of the city area. Both in the country and abroad, Sopot is considered one of the most attractive holiday and health resorts in Poland (Ossowski, 2005). Not only it is conditioned by its attractive location, landscape values, healing qualities of waters and springs, modernistic and secessionist architecture but also the number of tourist and recreational - sport objects, yearlong, wide program of cultural and sport events of national and international range. Moreover, awarded in 1989 status of resort and its natural landscape values as well as attractive recreation-holiday objects and

numerous cultural – entertainment events in connection with good access to transport, cause that every year Sopot is visited by more than two million tourists and holidaymakers (Yearbook 2006). For many years Sopot has been considered the best organized and the safest sea resort in the Pomeranian region. The characteristic feature is that majority of visiting tourists come here in summer months (June-August) (Marciszewska, Ozdźiński, 2004). That is the reason why the recreational offer of tourists and residents first of all has to take into consideration character of interests resulting from the length of stay and what's more, should adapt them to the needs of residents (Wanagos, 2000). Sopot is also very specific as far as structure of population according to age and gender is concerned. Basing on the statistical data it could be claimed that the city is “growing older”, depopulating and “feminizing”.

Table 1. Population of Sopot according to age and gender – 1999

l.p.	In age	Total	Including women
1		42,333	22,763
2	0 – 2 years	809	400
3	3 – 6	1,296	629
4	7 – 14	3,589	1,707
5	15 – 19	3,021	1,496
6	20 – 29	6,300	3,187
7	30 – 39	4,769	2,414
8	40 - 49	7,040	3,707
9	50 – 59	5,479	2,976

Table 2. Population of Sopot according to gender and age – 2007

l.p.	In age	Total	Including women
1		39,154	21,138
2	0 – 2 years	796	391
3	3 – 6	940	490
4	7 – 12	1,521	721
5	13 – 15	931	438
6	16 – 18	1,210	574
7	19 - 24	3,429	1,756
8	25 - 29	3,141	1,588
9	30 – 39	5,441	2,697
10	40 - 49	4,705	2,416
11	50 – 59	6,620	3,660
12	60 - 64	2,466	1,380
13	65 years and more	7,954	5,027

Proposed kinds of motor – recreational and sport activities – and the role which they have to play in life of every participant has to include the above mentioned facts. Interesting information is also provided by division of the population to working and non working age. Here we can also notice essential changes occurring in recent years.

Table 3. Population of Sopot in working and nonworking age

l.p.	In age	1999	2007
1	Total	42,333	39,154
2	Preworking	7,543	4,962
3	Working	25,750	24,858
4	postworking	9,040	9,334
5	Population In nonworking age per 100 persons In productive age	64.4	57.5

Entities oriented to providing recreational and motor- recreational services in Sopot have to satisfy expectations of various groups of citizens resulting from realization

free time needs. Their number in the year 2004 was 140. Using the registry run by the Statistical Office, we can separate those entities which conduct activity mainly connected with recreational-sport services and those which conduct activity for widely understood recreation.

Table 4. Entities providing recreational services according to Polish Classification of Activities (after Ossowski 2005)

Grouping level code PKD	Name of grouping	Number of entities registered in Sopot In 2004
92.61.Z	Activity of stadium and other sport facilities	3
92.62.Z	Other activity connected with sport	84
92.72.Z	Other recreational activity not classified elsewhere	13
93.04.Z	Activity connected with improvement of physical condition	22
55.10.Z	Hotels	18

AIM OF RESEARCH

The aim of this research was to define whether the recreational offer in the spa resort Sopot satisfies expectations of various groups of citizens resulting from realization free time needs.

Material and method of research

The subject matter of this research were various social groups of adult citizens of Sopot. 710 persons were included in the research, what allowed to indicate variables of using free time of analyzed groups. The research was conducted among adults on the verge of their professional career, professionally stabilized and people ending professional career

Table 5. Structure of age and gender of the respondents

Age group	Average±sd	Women		Men		Total	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
18-24 years	21,07±2,13	100	24.04 %	65	22.11 %	165	23.24 %
25-54 years	32,43±7,18	268	64.42 %	184	62.59 %	452	63.66 %
55-64 years	61,46±3,53	48	11.54 %	45	15.31 %	93	13.10 %
Total	33,59±13,20	416	100 %	294	100 %	710	100 %

Besides we analyzed source materials of intentional organizations dealing with programming free time and forming tourist and recreational infrastructure and structure of local self government, all of which are responsible for creating conditions for active spending free time of adult citizens in Sopot.

It was assumed that:

- Management of free time constitutes important element of cultural-social life of Sopot citizens and is differentiated according to their age, gender and professional status

- Enrichment of tourist – recreational infrastructure and offer of physical culture may favor greater engagement of Sopot citizens in physical recreation.

In order to get information we applied questionnaire, interview and analysis of documents. The research was conducted in the direct way, so it demanded interaction researcher – respondent. Questionnaire form with printed questions formed basis for the conversation. Interviewer was obliged to obey strictly formula of questions and their sequence. The questionnaire form was identical for all respondents. Questionnaires are very popular means of gathering data. They are based on self assessment and their reliability is defined as satisfying (after Drabik, 2006). In the questionnaire were used half open and closed questions. Another research technique applied in the hitherto

research was interview in form of conversation with representative of self government. Among others the questions concerned the following: tourist-recreational infrastructure including Long Term Investment Plan of Sopot City (2007-2014); program offer of physical culture; cooperation with social and cultural organizations. The material was elaborated statistically by using computer calculation technique. MS Office 2003, MS Excel spreadsheets were applied and program Statistica 5.0PL (Kaczmarczyk 1995, Kędzior, Karcz, 1997).

RESEARCH RESULT

Material situation, resources of free time

Material situation of respondents is one of the main factors that can influence structure of free time management Financial means and general material condition of society may activate, create conditions for wider interest in recreational-sport offer or unable more active and more varied way of spending free time. Declarations of respondents about material situation of family in categories of age and gender are presented in table 6.

Table 6. Material situation of respondents

Material position of the family		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-78 years		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Unsatisfactory	n	12	4	51	62	17	11	80	77
	%	12.0 %	6.2 %	19.0 %	33.7 %	35.4 %	24.4 %	19.2 %	26.2 %
Satisfactory	n	64	58	173	113	26	29	263	200
	%	64.0 %	89.2 %	64.6 %	61.4 %	54.2 %	64.4 %	63.2 %	68.0 %
Good	n	19	3	38	9	5	5	62	17
	%	19.0 %	4.6 %	14.2 %	4.9 %	10.4 %	11.1 %	14.9 %	5.8 %
Very good	n	5	0	6	0	0	0	11	0
	%	5.0 %	0 %	2.2 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	2.6 %	0 %
Total	n	100	65	268	184	48	45	416	294
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 7. Free time resources of respondents

Free time resources		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-64 years		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Lack of free time	n	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	%	2.0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0.5 %	0 %
To 1 hour	n	0	4	12	10	0	0	12	14
	%	0 %	6.2 %	4.5 %	5.4 %	0 %	0 %	2.9 %	4.8 %
to 2 hours	n	20	0	40	30	0	2	60	32
	%	20 %	0 %	14.9 %	16.3 %	0 %	4.4 %	14.4 %	10.9 %
to 3 hours	n	21	27	88	69	0	2	109	98
	%	21.0 %	41.5 %	32.8 %	37.5 %	0 %	4.4 %	26.2 %	33.3 %
to 4 hours	n	40	25	75	54	8	4	123	83
	%	40 %	38.5 %	28.0 %	29.3 %	16.7 %	8.9 %	29.6 %	28.2 %
>4 hours	n	17	9	53	21	40	37	110	67
	%	17.0 %	13.8 %	19.8 %	11.4 %	83.3 %	82.2 %	26.4 %	22.8 %
Total	n	100	65	268	184	48	45	416	294
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Almost 2/3 of respondents defined their material situation as satisfactory. Substantial group of women (19.2 %) and men (26.2 %) claimed that their material situation is bad. Very few respondents may pride themselves with good (20.7 %) and very good (2.6 % women) material status. Most satisfied with the material situation were

women in the youngest age group, whereas middle aged respondents and the eldest group of respondents indicate that their material status is unsatisfactory and more often such choice concerned men in working age and the eldest women.

Information concerning free time resources of respondents was gained on the basis of answers given by respondents to the question about number of hours of free time during a day. The respondents could choose from six possibilities: lack of time, from 1-4 hours of free time daily and more than 4 hours. Specification of responses concerning free time is included in table 7.

Free time declaration by dominating majority of respondents justifies sense of investigations on free time management by Sopot residents. Most frequently respondents were declaring that they have free time in amount 3 or 4 hours a day. Balanced layout in free time disposition during the day was observed. Most free time had respondents from the eldest group, where majority was indicating that their daily resources of their free time exceeded four hours (83.3 % women and 82.2 % men). Average amount of free time totaled up for the examined group almost 3.5 hour.

Table 8. The amount of free time in categories of age and gender of respondents

Age group	Total		Women		Men	
	n	average±sd	n	average±sd	n	average±sd
18-24 years	165	3.50±1.05	100	3.48±1.11	65	3.54±0.95
25-54 years	452	3.36±1.08	268	3.44±1.10	184	3.25±1.04
55-64 years	93	4.76±0.60	48	4.83±0.38	45	4.69±0.76
Total	710	3.58 ±1.12	416	3.61±1.14	294	3.53±1.10

1. Structure of using free time depending on gender and age

Table 9. Basic associations with free time of women and men included in survey

Type of associations		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-64 years		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Social meeting	n	66	40	181	103	17	26	264	169
	%	58.4 %	58.8 %	60.5 %	50.5 %	27.4 %	52.0 %	55.7 %	52.5 %
Alcohol	n	6	3	4	11	0	0	10	14
	%	5.3 %	4.4 %	1.3 %	5.4 %	0 %	0 %	2.1 %	4.3 %
Internet	n	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	%	1.8 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0.4 %	0 %
Sport	n	29	19	66	45	0	6	95	70
	%	25.7 %	27.9 %	22.1 %	22.1 %	0 %	12.0 %	20 %	21.7 %
watching TV	n	10	6	33	23	22	5	65	34
	%	8.8 %	8.8 %	11.0 %	11.3 %	35.5 %	10 %	13.7 %	10.6 %
Boredom	n	0	0	0	9	12	0	12	9
	%	0 %	0 %	0 %	4.4 %	19.4 %	0 %	2.5 %	2.8 %
Rother	n	0	0	15	13	11	13	26	26
	%	0 %	0 %	5.0 %	6.4 %	17.7 %	26.0 %	5.5 %	8.1 %
Total of responses	n	113	68	299	204	62	50	474	322
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Analysis of opinions of examined women and men concerning associations with free time in age categories, allows to state lack of influence of age on opinions in the first two groups. Only in the oldest group of those included in the survey, mainly among women, different structure of associations was observed. In the age range 55-64 years, as the association of free time with watching television, indicated 35 % of women. Lack of associations of free time with sport and 19 % of opinions associating free time with boredom certify low consciousness of benefits resulting from proper using time after work and duties at home.

Table 10. Accordance of the way of spending free time with expectations

Accordance with expectations		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-64 years		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
YES	n	85	61	227	155	36	45	348	261
	%	85.0 %	93.8 %	84.7 %	84.2 %	75.0 %	100 %	83.7 %	88.8 %
NO	n	15	4	41	29	12	0	68	33
	%	15.0 %	6.2 %	15.3 %	15.8 %	25.0 %	0 %	16.3 %	11.2 %
Total	n	100	65	268	184	48	45	416	294
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Majority of the respondents are satisfied with the way they spend free time. Such answer was chosen by almost 90 % of examined men and 83.7 % of women. Discordance of the way of spending free time with personal expectations were more often indicated by women, particularly in the oldest age group (25 % of indications)

Table 11. Difficulties in realizing free time

Type of difficulties		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-64 years		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Lack of difficulties	n	34	17	72	44	22	33	128	94
	%	23.8 %	17.5 %	18.6 %	16.0 %	32.4 %	70.2 %	21.4 %	22.4 %
Lack of time	n	48	6	103	81	0	2	151	89
	%	33.6 %	6.2 %	26.5 %	29.5 %	0.0 %	4.3 %	25.2 %	21.2 %
Lack of money	n	22	27	71	62	12	1	105	90
	%	15.4 %	27.8 %	18.3 %	22.5 %	17.6 %	2.1 %	17.5 %	21.5 %
Lack of company	n	0	0	13	4	8	2	21	6
	%	0.0 %	0.0 %	3.4 %	1.5 %	11.8 %	4.3 %	3.5 %	1.4 %
health problems	n	7	12	8	18	26	4	41	34
	%	4.9 %	12.4 %	2.1 %	6.5 %	38.2 %	8.5 %	6.8 %	8.1 %
Lack of infrastructure	n	0	5	21	2	0	0	21	7
	%	0.0 %	5.2 %	5.4 %	0.7 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	3.5 %	1.7 %
Additional Job	n	15	7	30	18	0	0	45	25
	%	10.5 %	7.2 %	7.7 %	6.5 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	7.5 %	6.0 %
Family duties	n	14	16	64	42	0	0	78	58
	%	9.8 %	16.5 %	16.5 %	15.3 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	13.0 %	13.8 %
Other	n	3	7	6	4	0	5	9	16
	%	2.1 %	7.2 %	1.5 %	1.5 %	0.0 %	10.6 %	1.5 %	3.8 %
Total of responses	n	143	97	388	275	68	47	599	419
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Considerable number of respondents does not encounter any difficulties in realizing purposes connected with recreation (22.4 % men and 21.4 % women). Among difficulties indicated by respondents in satisfying free time needs, most often occur lack of time and lack of money (42.7 % of examined men and women).

Majority of the responses were indicating home and family as the preferred way of spending free time. Such response was given by almost 60 % of examined men and 2/3 of examined women. Layout of choices in age category is similar in group of 18-24 years of age and 25-54 years of age, but with such difference that women in working age more often appreciate values of spending free time outdoors (21,5 % women in the age of 25-54). Reasons of maladjustment of place where free time is spent within age groups should be viewed in various functions which such places play. Young people use their home as a place to relax after work and as a place of spending time with family (i.e. raising children), but elder people prefer their home for health reasons or as a place for social meetings. The open outdoors is less frequently chosen by young people who have smaller amount of free time, they prefer active forms of rest but not connected with open area. Elder people having a lot of free time benefit from the open outdoors, first of all for walking and social meetings.

Table 12. Places most frequently chosen for spending free time

Place of spending free time		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-64 years		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Home	n	46	27	107	79	46	24	199	130
	%	39.3 %	37.0 %	34.9 %	37.8 %	100.0 %	53.3 %	42.3 %	39.8 %
Pub	n	18	21	32	34	0	0	50	55
	%	15.4 %	28.8 %	10.4 %	16.3 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	10.6 %	16.8 %
Outdoor	n	2	4	66	15	0	14	68	33
	%	1.7 %	5.5 %	21.5 %	7.2 %	0.0 %	31.1 %	14.5 %	10.1 %
Sport club	n	16	14	15	39	0	0	31	53
	%	13.7 %	19.2 %	4.9 %	18.7 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	6.6 %	16.2 %
Parish club	n	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	%	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	1.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.6 %
Family	n	33	7	81	36	0	7	114	50
	%	28.2 %	9.6 %	26.4 %	17.2 %	0.0 %	15.6 %	24.3 %	15.3 %
Internet cafe	n	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	%	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
Other	n	2	0	6	4	0	0	8	4
	%	1.7 %	0.0 %	2.0 %	1.9 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	1.7 %	1.2 %
Total of responses	n	117	73	307	209	46	45	470	327
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 13. Ranking of ways of spending free time in surveyed women and men

No.	Activities In free time	Women		Activities In free time	Men	
		n	%		n	%
1	TV	225	54.1 %	TV	200	68.0 %
2	Meetings	218	52.4 %	Meetings	177	60.2 %
3	Radio	210	50.5 %	Radio	148	50.3 %
4	Reading	191	45.9 %	Reading	119	40.5 %
5	Pub	149	35.8 %	Cinema/Concert	97	33.0 %
6	Strolling In the city	139	33.4 %	Pub	88	29.9 %
7	Swimming	136	32.7 %	Strolling In the city	83	28.2 %
8	Cinema/Concert	134	32.2 %	Swimming	83	28.2 %
9	Theatre/Gallery	122	29.3 %	Ball game	81	27.6 %
10	Shopping	113	27.2 %	Theatre/Gallery	67	22.8 %
11	Walking outsider the city	76	18.3 %	Playing with children	54	18.4 %
12	Playing with children	74	17.8 %	Driving	51	17.3 %
13	Discussions	61	14.7 %	Walking outsider the city	49	16.7 %
14	Running	45	10.8 %	Shopping	45	15.3 %
15	Tennis	35	8.4 %	Discussions	38	12.9 %
16	Gardening	35	8.4 %	Table games	35	11.9 %
17	Ball game	33	7.9 %	Do It Yourself	33	11.2 %
18	Other	23	5.5 %	Running	29	9.9 %
19	Playing musical instrument	21	5.0 %	Tennis	18	6.1 %
20	Driving	15	3.6 %	Sailing	18	6.1 %
21	Table games	15	3.6 %	Other	17	5.8 %
22	Sailing	11	2.6 %	Playing musical instrument	17	5.8 %
23	Do It Yourself	9	2.2 %	Collecting	12	4.1 %
24	Collecting	9	2.2 %	Gardening	10	3.4 %
25	Canoeing	7	1.7 %	Canoeing	4	1.4 %

Preferences in ways of spending free time indicate differentiation depending on gender. In both groups, at the first place, are noticed activities not demanding big activity. Watching television, social meetings or listening to the radio are the most frequent answers given by respondents. It is worth noticing that on the fourth place is reading, what against the common conviction about decrease of such recreational activities (so

called decrease of readership) should be acknowledged as the positive situation. Maybe it results from signaled earlier fact that Sopot population is “growing older”. The percentage of people spending free time in the motor active way is alarmingly low.

Table 14. Ways of using sport-recreational offer of Sopot (part I)

No.	Benefiting from recreational-sport offer of Sopot	Learning persons		Benefiting from recreational-sport offer of Sopot	Company owners	
		n	%		n	%
1	Swimming and bathing In the swimming pools	98	25.39 %	Swimming and bathing In the swimming pools	39	26.35 %
2	cycling	64	16.58 %	cycling	16	10.81 %
3	Playing biliard	37	9.59 %	Running/health paths	15	10.14 %
4	Bowling	30	7.77 %	Playing tennis	15	10.14 %
5	Running/health paths	26	6.74 %	Rother classical sports	15	10.14 %
6	Ball game	20	5.18 %	Bowling	9	6.08 %
7	Sailing/windsurfing	19	4.92 %	Power exercises	8	5.41 %
8	Playing tenis	18	4.66 %	Playing biliard	7	4.73 %
9	Power exercises	15	3.89 %	Sailing/windsurfing	5	3.38 %
10	Other extreme sports	13	3.37 %	Ball game	4	2.70 %
11	I don't benefit	12	3.11 %	All-Terrain Vecle driving	4	2.70 %
12	Gymnastic exercises	9	2.33 %	Other extreme sports	4	2.70 %
13	Rother classical sports	8	2.07 %	I don't benefit	3	2.03 %
14	Playing golf	6	1.55 %	Gymnastic exercises	2	1.35 %
15	Other	6	1.55 %	Other	2	1.35 %
16	Aviation sports	3	0.78 %	Playing golf	0	0 %
17	All-Terrain Vecle driving	2	0.52 %	Aviation sports	0	0 %
	Total of choice	386	100.0 %	Total of choice	148	100.0 %

Table 15. Ways of using sport-recreational offer of Sopot (part II)

No.	Benefiting from recreational-sport offer of Sopot	Office workers		Benefiting from recreational-sport offer of Sopot	Physical workers	
		n	%		n	%
1	Swimming and bathing In the swimming pools	90	31.58 %	I don't benefit	12	22.64 %
2	Cycling	47	16.49 %	Ball game	12	22.64 %
3	Power exercises	28	9.82 %	Swimming and bathing In the swimming pools	7	13.21 %
4	Ball game	22	7.72 %	Power exercises	7	13.21 %
5	Running/health paths	21	7.37 %	Playing biliard	4	7.55 %
6	Playing biliard	15	5.26 %	Cycling	4	7.55 %
7	Other classical sports	12	4.21 %	Running/health paths	2	3.77 %
8	Bowling	11	3.86 %	Bowling	2	3.77 %
9	Gymnastic exercises	10	3.51 %	Other classical sports	2	3.77 %
10	Other	9	3.16 %	Paying tennis	1	1.89 %
11	Playing tennis	8	2.81 %	sailing/windsurfing	0	0 %
12	I don't benefit	6	2.11 %	Gymnastic exercises	0	0 %
13	Playing golf	4	1.40 %	Playing golf	0	0 %
14	Other extreme sports	2	0.70 %	All-Terrain Vecle driving	0	0 %
15	Sailing/windsurfing	0	0 %	Aviation sports	0	0 %
16	All-Terrain Vecle driving	0	0 %	Rother extreme sports	0	0 %
17	Aviation sports	0	0 %	other	0	0 %
	Total of choice	285	100,0 %	Total of choice	53	100,0 %

The results in all research groups present differentiation (despite the fact that the answers circulate around the same options the percentage results are different). Most often the given answer is swimming and bathing in swimming pools. All groups, except

physical workers, indicated using this offer. In group of physical workers as many as 22,64 % does not benefit from any city offer, what may be caused by lack of satisfactory amount of free time and financial sources.

Table 16. Using sport-recreational objects of Sopot city by respondents

Using facilities in Sopot		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-64 years		TOTAL	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
YES	n	80	60	227	158	20	30	327	248
	%	80.0 %	92.3 %	84.7 %	85.9 %	41.7 %	66.7 %	78.6 %	84.4 %
NO	n	20	5	41	26	28	15	89	46
	%	20.0 %	7.7 %	15.3 %	14.1 %	58.3 %	33.3 %	21.4 %	15.6 %
Total	n	100	65	268	184	48	45	416	294
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 17. Assessment of attractiveness of sport-recreational basis of the Sopot city by respondents

Is the recreational basis in Sopot sufficient		Research group							
		18-24 years		25-54 years		55-64 years		TOTAL	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
SUMMER SEASON									
YES	n	100	60	264	169	48	45	412	274
	%	100 %	92,3 %	98,5 %	91,8 %	100 %	100 %	99,0 %	93,2 %
NO	n	0	5	4	15	0	0	4	20
	%	0 %	7,7 %	1,5 %	8,2 %	0 %	0 %	1,0 %	6,8 %
TOTAL	n	100	65	268	184	48	45	416	294
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
WINTER SEASON									
YES	n	87	56	232	156	48	45	367	257
	%	87,0 %	86,2 %	86,6 %	84,8 %	100 %	100 %	88,2 %	87,4 %
NO	n	13	9	36	28	0	0	49	37
	%	13,0 %	13,8 %	13,4 %	15,2 %	0 %	0 %	11,8 %	12,6 %
TOTAL	n	100	65	268	184	48	45	416	294
	%	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Opinion on offer and recreational basis of Sopot city destined for rest in the summer and winter season is straightforward. The examined residents of Sopot perceive the sport-recreational basis of their city as satisfying in summer. Such opinion was expressed by 99.0 % of examined women and 93.2 % of examined men. With reference to winter season the basis was assessed as unsatisfactory by 11.8 % of surveyed women and 12.6 % of surveyed men. In the oldest age group no critical voice appeared. It may be connected with lack of needs concerning activities associated strictly with winter season (skis, skates). Society of Sopot may use basis of neighboring cities (Gdańsk and Gdynia) but also use these facilities which are defined as yearlong.

Summary

Recreational offer of Sopot spa resort is characterized by great variety as far as possibilities of spending free time are concerned and it is adapted first of all to needs of city residents. Sport-recreational offer playing substantial role in forming tourist product contributes directly to attractiveness of the resort. Residents, however, do not benefit from it in satisfactory extent, although it serves realization of personal free time needs. Sopot residents expect yearlong attractiveness of the city as the place of their inhabitation, rest and recreation. Types of activity in free time are first of all conditioned by age of examined persons. Most frequent forms of participation in organized forms of spending free time are cultural and sport events. Many respondents would like to change their style of spending free time and would like to enrich form of rest as well as improve

organizational structures dealing with free time. Everything should be done to cause permanent development of cultural, sport and artistic life. Events organized by the city and the sport-recreational basis have to cope with differentiated preferences of residents in various age ranges. According to the examined residents, Sopot meets their expectations concerning tourist, recreational and sport infrastructure. Everybody, regardless of age group may satisfy his/her expectations concerning ways of activity in free time, although the examined admit that infrastructure of Sopot definitely more is used during summer season than in winter. Each age group may find interesting offer, both as far as active rest is concerned and passive as well. In the opinion of respondents, local self government fully benefits both from tourist, recreational and sport values of Sopot in creating program offer. It develops material basis of the city, among others accommodation facilities, sport, recreational and cultural facilities. It organizes various types of events, i.e. horse racing, festivals and concerts providing more satisfaction both for residents of Sopot and tourists visiting the resort. At the same time it creates wider and wider choice of offers directed to various age groups. Each local community is interested in development and improvement of sport-tourist conditions of their region. On one hand it results as possibility of using them for personal needs and on the other hand it constitutes element of improving interest of future tourist whose stay in a given environment results with certain economic relations.

REFERENCES

- Drabik J., (2006), *Pedagogiczna kontrola pozytywnych mierników zdrowia fizycznego*. AWFIS Gdańsk;
- Kaczmarczyk S., (1995), *Badania marketingowe. Metody i techniki*, PWE, Warszawa;
- Kędzior Z., Karcz K., (1997), *Badania marketingowe w praktyce*. PWE, Warszawa;
- Marciszewska B., Ożdźniński J. (2004), *Rekreacja, turystyka, kultura. Współczesne problemy i perspektywy wykorzystywania czasu wolnego*, Gdańsk;
- Ossowski Z., (2005), *Usługi rekreacyjno-sportowe w kształtowaniu elementów oferty turystycznej miasta Sopotu. W: Modelowe koncepcje produktu turystycznego*. J. Ożdźniński (red.). Pomorska Regionalna Organizacja Turystyczna. Gdańsk;
- Rocznik statystyczny (2006), *Województwo pomorskie*. Tom II. Gdańsk;
- Wanagos M., (2000), *Ocena rekreacji w Sopocie w aspekcie potrzeb mieszkańców i turystów. W: Studia nad czasem wolnym mieszkańców dużych miast polskich i jego i jego wykorzystaniem na rekreację ruchową i turystykę*. J. Wyrzykowski (red.). AWF Wrocław.

Submitted:
May 28, 2010

Revised:
August 31, 2010

Accepted:
October 22, 2010

Published online:
November 26, 2010