## NON - TRADITIONAL FORMS OF TOURISM IN SLOVAKIA AS A CONCEPT OF COMPETITIVENESS

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**Citation:** Dzurov Vargová, T., Gallo, P., Švedová, M., Litavcová, E., & Košíková, M. (2020). NON - TRADITIONAL FORMS OF TOURISM IN SLOVAKIA AS A CONCEPT OF COMPETITIVENESS. *GeoJournal of Tourism and Geosites*, 30(2spl), 801–807. https://doi.org/10.30892/gtg.302spl04-508

Abstract: Tourism is an industry that is developing dynamically worldwide, and Slovakia, which has significant potential in the area, is no exception. In order for a country to become competitive in tourism, it must follow the prevailing trends and continually carry out innovative activities, under which we also consider non-traditional forms of tourism. The aim of this article is to analyze the importance and address the future development of non-traditional forms of tourism in Slovakia (food tourism, health tourism, adventure tourism, dark tourism, etc.), to further examine the impact on the country's economy, sustainability and competitiveness. The article focuses on the demand for these forms of tourism from the perspective of visitors. Using hypotheses we found the statistical dependence (of the p value comparison) between the respondents (men and women of different age groups) and their preference for specific unusual forms of tourism. For the analysis of specific objectives we used data collected using a questionnaire on unusual forms of tourism market is, how differentiated and variable the needs and motivation factors of tourism participants are, and how new interests and needs in tourism are emerging dynamically. The results of our survey show the need for more research to explore the ever-changing needs and conditions in tourism industry in order to fully understand the non-traditional tourism with its potential, benefits, message and value of present and future generations.

Key words: Tourism, unusual forms of tourism, efficiency, sustainable development

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

In the conditions of market economy all business entities, which can be viewed as socio-economic systems (SES), must be competitive (Ginevicius, 2019). Competitiveness can be considered from both the economic and psychological point of view (Piotrowska, 2019). Tourism is an important sustainable industry in the economy that optimizes the industrial structure and may become an important element of sustainable economic development policy (Błażejowski et al., 2019). The effort of each country is to help develop this industry in an effective way (Šenková and Šambronská, 2014). Tourism, as a phenomenon of the third millennium, is based on many elements that only highlight its broad nature. Draskovic et al., (2016) agree that tourism not only affects economic aspects but also the social aspects in general. For the optimal functioning of the economic system, the optimism of its participants is very important (Belás et al., 2014). Tourism makes it possible to travel and gain new experiences, to travel without barriers, to escape from everyday stereotypes and to independently gain and then disseminate knowledge (Šambronská et al., 2016). According to Drossosa and Tsotsolas (2014), tourism is composed of activities, services and industries that bring about travel experience: transport, accommodation, catering, entertainment, activities for individuals or groups, as well as all providers of services aimed at tourists. Customer expectation also plays an important role in a customer's assessment of tourism (Suchanek and Kralova, 2018; Pachura et al., 2018). At present, we are experiencing some great changes to the tourism market decreasing interest in the mass form of tourism and increased interest in individual forms of travel. Slovakia has suitable natural, historical and cultural predispositions for the development of tourism thanks to its unusual nature, history, and especially hospitable people. Its diverse regions offer the widest variety of activities. The paper should be written in the IMRaD structure. With regard to the development of unusual forms of tourism, it is also necessary to keep track of the risks that tourism brings. In the long run, this investment will bring profits and increase the value of the business - which is the main objective of the business owners after all (Dobrovič et al., 2018). The SME segment has its own characteristics and entails disadvantages that transform into business risk. This risk can be divided into market risk (lack of market space for market risk), own production, financial risk (weak access to finance), operational risk (failure to handle processes), (Belas et al., 2014). If companies want to effectively manage and implement business strategies, they need to get the right managers to perform the

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most important strategic functions. For any business, as to grow and prosper, managers must be able to anticipate, recognize and deal with change in the internal and external environment (Gallo et al., 2019; Ilieş et al., 2017). It should be noted, however, that unusual tourism not only entails risks but also helps increase competitiveness. Notable is the fact that tourism helps countries to secure their place on the international market while ensuring a higher standard of living for the population (Dobrovič et al., 2018). For qualified and correct answer how to achieve the higher efficiency and performance of business, it is firstly necessary to determine what the current and real business performance is and which appropriate and objective indicators use to measure this performance (Cabinova et al., 2018).

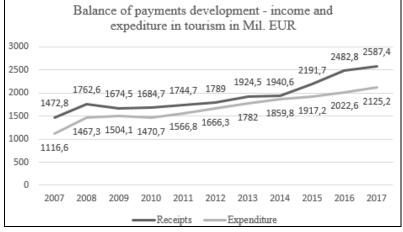


Figure 1. Balance of payments development in tourism (Source: own research)

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Tourist behavior is a complex and widely-discussed issue, and there is still no generally accepted concept of tourist motivation. Understanding specific motives of tourists can help with products and services planning, more effective marketing communications, and improving and developing visitor attractions. There are many classifications, segments, and models that represent different themes. The differences between classifications of motives are essentially very large (Li and Cai, 2012; Šenková et al., 2016). Tourism is a special type of product that Witt and Mountinho (1994) analysed in two dimensions. In the first dimension, tourism is seen as a product that combines all services that tourists consume from the moment they leave the house until they return. According to these authors, tourism consists of five main components; destination's attractions, destination's facilities, accessibility, image and prices. They point out that tourism preferences of the present generation differ considerably from preferences in the past. Moutinho (2011) says there is a new generation of emerging travellers. They are motivated to discover something, are willing to explore different cultures as well as the fauna and flora of the given country. Tourists thus become explorers. Explorers need to explore exciting, and even risky actions to meet the need for knowledge and curiosity. Some people who experience less stimulus in their lives than they want tend to seek stimulus on vacation. On the contrary, over stimulated people are looking for peaceful vacation. This is what we call an optimal excitement - the ideal balance between lifestyle stimulation and vacation incentives (Stone, 2005). Holden (2005) came up with Maslow's hierarchical model (Figure 2), which was specially adapted for tourism sector. The underlying idea, however, stays the same. First of all, the needs at the lowest hierarchical level must be met so the needs at a higher hierarchical level could be met as well. The highest hierarchical level is self-realization, where tourism contributes to the personal development of an individual. In professional publications, we meet these main motives:

- regeneration active and passive, spa and cures,
- exploration culture, science, history, education, personality development,
- research,
- o contacts and ties family, relatives, friends, religion and business.



Figure 2. Maslow's hierarchy of tourism needs (Source: Holden, 2005)

The description of the individual needs:

• Self-actualisation: Tourism plays an important role in fulfilling an individual's values.

• Esteem: Self-esteem and social esteem. Various types of experience following one's travels. Relationships and acquaintances: they can strengthen our confidence. Travelling can build social recognition.

• Love/ belonging: The need to foster relationships with people is necessary for our well-being. Tourism can develop relationships with friends and family. It also provides an opportunity to build new friendships.

• Safety: Many people choose their destinations based on the safety level. Terrorism and a high degree of crime are factors that put off people from visiting. However, people who like to risk may be interested in these locations.

• Physiological needs: Maslow's original model emphasizes the fulfilment of basic needs such as food, sex and accommodation. In the case of tourism, we talk about the need for relaxation and recovery, which are cited as the main reason for taking a holiday.

Motivation represents, according to Zelenka and Pásková (2012), a combination of internal stimuli and external stimuli (marketing, references) that leads people to do some activity. The criterion for choosing a particular form of tourism also affects the final satisfaction of the participant. Significant factors of motivation include push factors, including, for example, escape from everyday life, or relaxation, and pull factors that affect the choice of destination and its attractiveness. Participation in tourism is preceded by the needs and desires that determine the motivation of the participant (Čertík and Fišerová, 2009).

### UNUSUAL FORMS OF TOURISM

Tourism is still evolving and changing, thus creating, in addition to the basic forms of tourism, new forms of itself that meet the special needs of the various specialized travel segments. Tourism is constantly changing, new forms of tourism are emerging, or the old ones are adapting to the latest trends, respond to changes in lifestyle (Internet, individualisation, independence, prolongation of active age). Specific forms of tourism are derived from specific activities that are the incentive for making a trip, ranging from specific needs to the age of participants (Ryglová et al., 2011).

	Examples of unusual forms of tourism					
Food tourism	The main motivation for tourism is gastronomy and food experiences (Jakubowska and Radzymińska, 2019). This may include participation in specialized gastronomic events or food experiences, preparation and presentation of meals, familiarization with gastronomic traditions in a given destination (Kotíková, 2013).					
Health tourism	Tresidder (2011, p. 268) defines health tourism as "the medical treatment outside the country of tourist's residence where the therapeutic element is the main subject of activities in the visited country".					
Adventure tourism	Adventure tourism is a form of tourism that entails a certain amount of risk (controlled), requires effort to overcome challenges (physical, emotional, psychic), requires a degree of skill and generates strong emotions" (Kotíková, 2013, p. 68).					
Dark tourism	Dark tourism represents intermixture of history, heritage, tourism, and tragedies. We can argue that humanity has been interested in "death" since the time of pilgrimages (Švedová et al., 2018).					
Event tourism	Events include cultural events, festivals, summer music festivals, village performances (musical, theatre, others), concerts, musicals, sporting events, folklore events, historical events, balls, religious events etc. (Kotíková, 2013).					
Volunteer tourism	Volunteer tourism is one of the new forms of tourism. Many young people travel abroad to volunteer. The main reasons include the possibility to travel to exotic countries.					
Wedding tourism	Wedding tourism combines all activities connected with wedding and honeymoon. Wedding tourism is one of the most dynamically developing branches of modern tourism. The most popular destinations are Greece, Italy, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Cuba and Las Vegas (Syrovátková, 2013).					
Space tourism	Space tourism means space travel organized by a highly specialized, high-tech organization (Kotíková, 2013).					
Educational tourism	The main point here is further education, the desire to learn new things.					
Rural tourism	It allows reviving traditional economic activities. It brings people together, strengthens the relationship with nature, consolidates health and develops the need of the urban population to "return to the roots" (Babinský and Bujna 2015; Arintoko et al., 2020; Akay, 2020).					
Geocaching	Geocaching is a "treasure hunting" game that uses modern technologies.					
Shopping tourism	The underlying idea is the joy of buying and the opportunity to browse new, unique goods (Syrovátková, 2013). Štefko and Steffek (2018) point to the main motive of this kind of tourism, a fashion-like art that reflects the uniqueness of time, place and culture.					
Couchsurfing	Couchsurfing is an international project that brings together people from all over the world. On the one hand, there are those who are looking for a place to spend the night, and on the other, there are those who offer accommodation (Syrovátková, 2013).					
Fair tourism	Fair tourism focuses on contractual and sales exhibitions of various products or services. Interest in this form of tourism is declining slightly (Syrovátková, 2013).					
Tourism of selected groups	This form of tourism includes youth, senior and family tourism. A specific type of tourism is also the tourism of disabled people.					
Religious tourism	It is clear from the title that this type of tourism is mainly based on the interest of visiting places of religious importance / pilgrimage places.					
Hunting tourism	It is mainly associated with hunting wild animals or birds. The main motives of participation in this form of tourism include interest in hunting, wildlife, as well as psychological regeneration.					
Ascetic tourism	It is connected with a denial of enjoyment and delight. This form is often associated with religion.					
Film tourism	The main incentive is to visit places with which a particular film or other audiovisual work is associated, or to visit attractions and events related to film, series or other similar audiovisual works (Kotíková, 2013).					
Caravan tourism and motorcycling	Caravaning is considered by many authors to be a lifestyle. We know two subgroups - those who use caravans only during holidays and others who have fully furnished caravans that are adapted to year-round traveling. Motorcycling is a specific form of tourism, the goal becomes a way. The focus is placed on the vehicle. The fans of this form meet all over the world on motorbikes (Syrovátková, 2013).					

Table 1. Examples of unusual forms of tourism (Source: own research, according to available literature)

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The main objective of the paper is to analyse mainly unusual forms of tourism and their development in the territory of Slovakia. The partial objectives include the analysis of the demand for individual forms of tourism studied, as well as their popularity among the respondents. For the analysis of the specific objectives, we used data collected using a questionnaire on unusual forms of tourism and their development in Slovakia. The survey was carried out in 2018 on the territory of the Slovak Republic. We have chosen two ways to fill out the questionnaires. Some questionnaires were filled in in the printed form and some were filled in online using Gmail disk. The questionnaire was anonymous and voluntary. There were 16 questions of different types in the questionnaire. Respondents were free to express their own opinion on the basis of their personal experience. The first seven questions constitute dichotomous questions, i.e. questions with a clear answer. These questions are focused on the basic identification of the respondent and on its basic demographic data such as gender, age, country of origin, or education. One semi-open question was related to the country of origin of the respondent. The following questions were aimed at identifying the type of personality of the respondent that could influence the interest in individual unusual forms of tourism. The second part of our questionnaire is a standardized closed questions questionnaire using the verbal rating scale (Likert's technique of measuring attitudes in the questionnaire). Respondents have at their disposal a five-point scale where 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree, 3 = neutral. The above part of the questionnaire deals with specific unusual forms of tourism and attitudes of tourists towards them.

The following part of the questionnaire deals with the motivation factors and the factors that influence the respondents when choosing a holiday. We processed the data obtained using Microsoft Office Excel and then the SPSS Statistica statistical program by IBM. This program has been instrumental in helping us to dig deep into the research problem. The survey was inspired mainly by our curiosity about the awareness of the unusual forms of tourism and, in particular, how could these form of tourism be supported and developed on the territory of Slovakia.

The following hypotheses were put under examination:

• H1: We assume that there is a statistically significant relationship between the age and the preference of the particular unusual form of tourism.

• H2: We assume that there is a statistically significant correlation between one's personality (introvert, extrovert) and the preference of a particular form of tourism.

• H3: We assume that there is a statistically significant correlation between the financial situation of a person and his/her participation in tourism.

• H4: We assume that there is a statistically significant relationship between the sex of a person and his/her choice of a particular form of tourism.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH SAMPLE

We chose our research sample based on the simple random selection process from among the tourism professionals. The basic set consists of statistical units - individuals. The survey was conducted on a sample of 360 respondents, both men and women of different age groups (16-62 years old). We did not impose any age restrictions. The research sample consisted of 222 women (67.1%). The largest age group of respondents is made up of people aged 21-30. Respondents came from the Slovak Republic and from abroad (Czech Republic, Italy - 8 in total). Under each graph or table, the source must be provided and should be written in 10 pt. Leave 1 blank line between the graph or table and the source.

#### **RESULTS DISCUSSIONS**

In order to make sense of the results, we used the statistical methodology of the p value comparison: if the value p (asymptotic significance) is less than 0.05, there is a significant dependence between the variables and we accept the hypothesis H1; if the value p is greater than 0.05 we do not reject the H0 hypothesis as there is a significant dependence between the variable categories.

If significant dependence is demonstrated, we interpret the coefficients as follows:

• Cramer's V - interval <0; 1> without direction, symmetrical, non-linear.

• Gamma - interval <-1; 1> with direction, symmetrical, linear (suitable for nominal and ordinal scales).

Methodology interpretation: 0.01 - 0.09 trivial to none, 0.10 - 0.29 low to medium, 0.30 - 0.49 medium to strong, 0.50 - 0.69 strong to very strong, 0, 70 - 0.89 very strong, 0.90 - 0.99 almost perfect.

Hypothesis 1: We assume that there is a statistically significant relationship between the age and the preference of a particularly unusual form of tourism.

This variable "age" was divided into 5 intervals. The survey was attended by respondents aged 15-64. For the analysis, we used a gamma correlation coefficient ranging from -1 to 1 (symmetrical with the directive and linearity). In the following table, we tested these hypotheses by comparing p-value:

- H0: there is no significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables.
- H1: there is a significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables.

Table 2. Hypothesis 1 testing (Source: own research)						
GAMMA	p-value	Recommendation	Dependency ratio	Interpretation	Direction	
Food tourism	0,805	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	Х	
Health tourism	0,150	H0 not to reject	х	stat. insignificant	Х	
Adventure tourism	0,101	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Dark tourism	0,000	reject H0	-0,399	medium	negat.	
Event tourism	0,000	reject H0	-0,291	low to medium	negat.	
Volunteer tourism	0,000	reject H0	-0,279	low to medium	negat.	
Wedding tourism	0,000	reject H0	-0,403	strong	negat.	
Film tourism	0,001	reject H0	-0,189	low to medium	negat.	
Space tourism	0,000	reject H0	-0,225	low to medium	negat.	
Educational tourism	0,523	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Rural tourism	0,053	reject H0	Х	stat. insignificant	Х	
Geocaching	0,028	H0 not to reject	-0,141	low to medium	negat.	
Shopping tourism	0,107	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Couchsurfing	0,000	reject H0	-0,249	low to medium	negat.	
Fair tourism	0,760	reject H0	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Tourism of selected groups	0,733	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Religious tourism	0,000	H0 not to reject	-0,289	low to medium	negat.	
Hunting tourism	0,000	H0 not to reject	-0,284	low to medium	negat.	
Caravan tourism and motorcycling	0,487	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	x	
Ascetic tourism	0,000	H0 not to reject	-0,303	strong	negat.	

Table 2. Hypothesis 1 testing (Source: own research)

The test was performed by comparing the p value - displayed in the column "p value" (0.05). As we can see in most cases, p-value is less than 0.05. In these cases, it is recommended to reject the H0 hypothesis and accept its H1 alternative, which states that there is a significant dependence between the categories of analysed variables. In all these cases, we see a negative dependence, so we can say that with the rising age the preference of unusual forms of tourism declines, as we can see for the variable wedding tourism. Previous assertions about the significance of certain forms of tourism show that we should accept our basic hypothesis 1. Therefore, we accept the fact that there is a statistically significant relationship between age and the preference of a particularly unusual form of tourism.

Hypothesis 2: We assume that there is a statistically significant correlation between one's personality (introvert, extrovert) and the preference of a particular form of tourism.

In the following table, we tested these hypotheses by comparing p-value:

- H0: there is no significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables
- H1: there is a significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables

Table 3. Hypothesis 2 testing (Source: own research)						
GAMMA	p-value	Recommendation	Dependency ratio	Interpretation	Direction	
Food tourism	0,004	reject H0	0,183	low to medium	pozit.	
Health tourism	0,004	reject H0	0,191	low to medium	pozit.	
Adventure tourism	0,215	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Dark tourism	0,216	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Event tourism	0,078	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Volunteer tourism	0,984	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Wedding tourism	0,002	reject H0	0,169	low to medium	pozit.	
Film tourism	0,015	reject H0	0,184	low to medium	pozit.	
Space tourism	0,004	reject H0	0,178	low to medium	pozit.	
Educational tourism	0,174	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Rural tourism	0,136	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Geocaching	0,758	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Shopping tourism	0,000	reject H0	0,274	low to medium	pozit.	
Couchsurfing	0,212	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Fair tourism	0,000	reject H0	0,235	low to medium	pozit.	
Tourism of selected groups	0,000	reject H0	0,22	low to medium	pozit.	
Religious tourism	0,192	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	
Hunting tourism	0,006	reject H0	0,202	low to medium	pozit.	
Caravan tourism and motorcycling	0,002	reject H0	0,191	low to medium	pozit.	
Ascetic tourism	0,086	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant	х	

As far as the analysed set is concerned, we have accepted in several cases the hypothesis H1, since in some cases p-value was less than 0.05. Based on this fact, our basic hypothesis 2 can also be accepted. We accept the view that there is a statistically significant relationship between the respondent's personality (introvert, extrovert) and the preference of a particular form of tourism.

Hypothesis 3: We assume that there is a statistically significant correlation between the financial situation of a person and his/her participation in tourism.

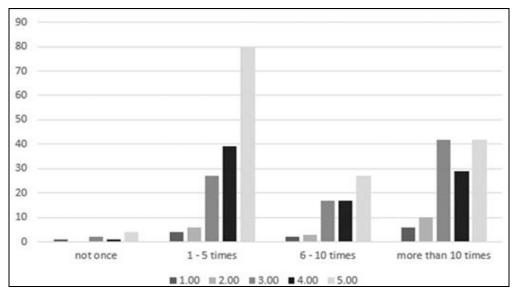


Figure 2. Analysis of the impact of the financial situation by frequency and number (Source: own research)

Table 4. Hypothesis 3 testing (Source: own research)

Question: Please indicate how your financial situation has influenced your choice						
Frequency	1,00	2,00	3,00	4,00	5	In total
not once	1	0	2	1	4	8
1 - 5 times	4	6	27	39	80	156
6 - 10 times	2	3	17	17	27	66
more than 10 times	6	10	42	29	42	129
in total	13	19	88	86	153	359

• H0: there is no significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables.

• H1: there is a significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables.

## Table 5. Hypothesis 3 testing - Symmetric Measures (Source: own research)

Val		Asymptonic Standardized Error <sup>a</sup>	Approximate T <sup>b</sup>	Approximate Significance	
Ordinal by Ordinal Gamma	-0,250	0,066	-3,715	0,000	
N of Valid Cases	359				

- A: 0 hypotheses is not expected.
- B: use asymptotic standard error assuming a zero hypothesis.

The value shown in the last column of the table (zero) suggests that it is appropriate to reject the hypothesis H0 and accept its H1 alternative. This fact also goes well with our basic hypothesis 3, which we thus accept with the view that there is a statistically significant relationship between the financial situation of a person and his/her participation in tourism. As can be seen, the degree of dependence is negative, so we can say that the higher the frequency of tourism, the smaller the role financial situation plays. The corresponding dependence can be interpreted as moderate.

Hypothesis 4: We assume that there is a statistically significant relationship between the sex of a person and his/her choice of a particular form of tourism.

The hypothesis focuses on the dependence of the variable sex and the preference of the unusual forms of tourism. The sex is found in the nominal scale with dichotomous categories, so the use of Cramer V correlation coefficient is appropriate for the analysis of dependence. This coefficient analyzes the dependencies of the dependent variables in the range 0 to 1 (without direction and symmetry but with linearity). The following table verifies statistical significance using the following hypotheses:

- H0: there is no significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables.
- H1: there is a significant relationship between the categories of analysed variables.

Table 6. Hypothesis 4 testing (Source: own research)

GAMMA	p-value	Recommendation	Dependency rate	Interpretation
Food tourism	0,072	reject H0	Х	low to medium
Health tourism	0,000	reject H0	0,278	low to medium
Adventure tourism	0,813	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Dark tourism	0,840	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Event tourism	0,153	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Volunteer tourism	0,080	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Wedding tourism	0,010	reject H0	0,193	low to medium
Film tourism	0,014	reject H0	0,186	low to medium
Space tourism	0,267	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Educational tourism	0,000	reject H0	0,26	low to medium
Rural tourism	0,517	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Geocaching	0,024	reject H0	0,177	low to medium
Shopping tourism	0,000	reject H0	0,257	low to medium
Couchsurfing	0,027	reject H0	0,175	low to medium
Fair tourism	0,150	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Tourism of selected groups	0,791	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Religious tourism	0,040	reject H0	0,167	low to medium
Hunting tourism	0,003	reject H0	0,211	low to medium
Caravan tourism and motorcycling	0,873	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant
Ascetic tourism	0,958	H0 not to reject	Х	stat. insignificant

In several cases in the analyzed set, we adopted the hypothesis H1, since in these cases p-value was less than 0.05. Based on this fact, our basic hypothesis 4 can also be adopted, as there is a statistically significant relationship between the sex of a person and his/her choice of a particular form of tourism.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the survey results, we reached the following conclusions:

• According to hypothesis 1, we can assert that there is a statistically significant relationship between the age of our respondents and their preference for a particularly unusual form of tourism. With the increasing age of the respondents the interest in unusual forms of tourism declines.

• Hypothesis 2 confirms that there is a statistically significant relationship between the personality of a respondent (introvert, extrovert) and the preference for a particularly unusual form of tourism. Most of the respondents are extrovert.

• According to hypothesis 3, we can conclude that there is a statistically significant relationship between the financial situation of a person and his/her participation in tourism - medium dependency.

• Hypothesis 3 also confirms that there is a statistically significant relationship between the sex of a person and his/her choice of a particular form of tourism.

Based on these findings we can conclude that it is necessary to take into account the above-mentioned aspects when placing tourism products on the market. Each offer has to be very sensitively formulated to address the particular target group and its desires.

#### Aknowlegments

This work was supported by research grant VEGA No. 1/0470/18 "Economic activity of tourism in the European area".

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Article history: Received: 16.03.2020

Revised: 21.04.2020

Accepted: 21.05.2020

Available online: 02.07.2020