

HUNTING TOURISM BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF HUNTERS FROM THE PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP

Katarzyna DUDZIŃSKA^{ADEFG2}, Elżbieta WILCZYŃSKA^{BC2}, Paweł ŚWIDER^{ADEFG1},
Jarosław HERBERT^{ADEFG1},

¹ Institute of Physical Culture, University of Rzeszów

² Student Scientific Circle of Travelers, Institute of Physical Culture, University of Rzeszów

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Abstract:

Hunting tourism is a rapidly developing field. The reason for this phenomenon is a general increase in prosperity. The purpose of the work was to present the functioning of hunting tourism among hunters from the Podkarpackie viodeship and also to learn the answers to the questions: is hunting tourism popular among hunters from Podkarpackie viodeship; whether hunting tourism has a chance to develop in Poland. The research materials were analyzed and presented in the form of charts. This work presents the history and evolution of hunting tourism and its functioning in modern times.

INTRODUCTION

According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), "tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes" [WTO 1995].

McIntosh and Goeldner defined the term "tourism" as "the sum of the phenomena and relationships occur from the interaction of tourists, business suppliers, host governments and host communities in the process of attracting and hostin these tourists and other visitors" [McIntosh, Goelder 1986].

While, W. Alejziak defines tourism as "all phenomena related to the travel and stay of people staying temporarily and voluntarily outside their daily environment, including in particular the economic and social interactions between tourism organizers, direct service providers, local people and tourists themselves, provided that the main purpose of their trip there is no paid activity in the town you are visiting." [Alejziak 1999].

Qualified tourism is the highest form of specialization in the chosen tourism discipline. Persons working in the service of tourist traffic should not only be qualified tourists, but should strive to obtain the rights of an animator in a given field and the rights of a guide and guide of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (hereinafter PTTK). Qualified tourism is the most important area of activity of PTTK. The concept of 'qualified tourism' appeared in the years 1951–1953 when, as part of PTTK's activities, in addition to traditional types of tourism (mountain, walking, lowland, skiing), cycling, motor, sailing and canoeing tourism also appeared [WTO 1995].

Qualified tourism also includes hunting, which also includes hunting economy, environmental protection, hunting shooting, cynology, trophy, as well as hunting culture. Practicing hunting involves meeting the conditions that require qualified tourism. Hunting requires from hunters to be properly prepared, authorized and equipped, while at the same time fulfilling its goals, e.g. allowing for a change in the natural environment, improving well-being and enabling the realization of passion [Paśławski 1987].

Hunting was one of the basic activities of primitive people around the world, which is indicated by numerous traces of hunting, or - as was often said - hunting of cave people [Paśławski 1987].

In 1940, in the Lascaux karst cave in Aquitaine, in the southwest of France, paintings and drawings made on the walls of the Paleolithic period were discovered. The time of the creation of the paintings was determined for the early Magdalenian period (17,000 - 15,000 BC). The walls decorating the paintings come from various eras and depict primarily herbivores (deer, bison, bulls and horses) [www.wiki/Lascaux].

In the Middle Ages, hunting began also with the help of falcons and hunting dogs, treating it as a form of sport. Distant territories were also traveled for hunting, which is already bearing the marks of modern hunting tourism.

Already in the Middle Ages, various restrictions on hunting began to be introduced, which were not intended to protect animals, but to provide the right to hunt individuals or social groups. In modern times, there has been a huge leap in the field of hunting, which has initiated a valuable and extremely beautiful heritage of Polish culture [www.slowniklowiecki.pl/].

During the partitions, the legislation and development of hunting were different, depending on the norms prevailing in a given partition. Organizations, hunting societies etc. were established, they were closely connected with patriotic activities, due to political freedoms this movement was developing most strongly in the Austrian partition. The organizations established hunting regulations, the observance of which was the responsibility of hunters, otherwise fines were paid, which were intended for farming animals. The majority of problems with the lack of legal regulations and poaching were in the Russian partition. After Poland regained independence, as early as 1919 a draft hunting law was created, hunting associations and organizations began to form [www.kola.lowiecki.pl/].

In the interwar period, the landowner had the right to hunt, but also a person who received a permit from the owner (owners) or one who leased the right to hunt. In these times we are beginning to meet with the hunting economy, but it was not conducted in the interest of the national economy, but in the name of our own interest [Paśławski 1987].

The first hunting law was created in 1927, it still maintained the decision that the right of hunting is related to the ownership of land, but additionally required that land owners combine them with each other and create hunting companies. At that time hunting began to develop in Poland, painting and literature on this subject developed. In 1939, the Polish Hunting Association was founded [http://kola.lowiecki.pl/priv/rs/www/lowpol/index.htm].

The period of World War II brought huge losses to Polish hunting. Many hunters, sport shooters and activists "wholeheartedly" dedicated to hunting were killed. Polish hunting has suffered many losses in game, hunting dogs, hunting trophies and antique weapons. Despite this, Polish hunting was rebuilt, a new statute was created, and hunting revival and Polish hunting cynology revived [http://kola.lowiecki.pl/priv/rs/www/lowpol/index.htm].

After the Second World War, hunting was organized on the basis of the social and political system in the Polish People's Republic (hereinafter the PRL). In 1952, a decree on hunting law was introduced, which recognized free game as state property, made hunting rights independent of land ownership rights, and included hunting economy in the national economy as one of its fields. Since then, the hunting economy had to be conducted according to strictly established plans and controlled by the relevant authorities [Paślawski 1987].

Nowadays, according to data published by the Central Statistical Office, in 2015 in Poland in 2554 hunting clubs, 118 thousand were registered. 362 members, by over 2,000 more than in 2014 and by over 9,000 more than in 2010. At the beginning of the new century, in 2000, the number of members of the circles was over 100,000 [www.wiadomosci.dziennik.pl/...].

Hunting tourism is a rapidly developing field. The reason for this phenomenon is a general increase in welfare. Foreigners come to Podkarpackie vivodship mainly from Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, but also from Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Slovakia and Switzerland. For 7 years more and more foreigners have been coming to the area of Husów, Łańcut, Leżajsk, Rzeszów, Głogów Małopolski, Sokołów Małopolski, Sieniawa, Narol, Przemyśl, Krasieczyn, Kolbuszowa, Dębica and Mielec [www.gospodarkapodkarpacka.pl/..].

The rules for conducting foreign exchange hunting are set out in the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment. The Act on hunting law of 1995 introduced the obligation to obtain concessions for the sale of tourist services including hunting in the country for foreigners. Hunting for hunters from abroad organize foreign exchange hunting bureaus. The most thriving in Podkarpacie are: Biuro Polowania Dewizowych "Art-Hubert" Sp. z o.o. Leżajsk and the Hunting Office "Bieszczady" at the Regional Directorate of State Forests in Krosno [www.gospodarkapodkarpacka.pl/..].

Foreigners coming to the Podkarpackie region usually hunt roe deer and male deer, rarely wild boars. In the Bieszczady, male deers have a significant position in Europe - they are the strongest and have the most magnificent antlers.

Methodology

The main purpose of the research was to find out whether hunting tourism is popular among hunters from Podkarpacie; whether hunting tourism has a chance to develop in Poland; checking what hunters give to hunting tourism and whether the lack of time the main demotivating factor for hunting tourism?

1. Is hunting tourism popular among hunters from the Podkarpackie province?
2. Does hunting tourism, in the opinion of the respondents, have a chance for development in Poland?
3. Does hunting tourism give hunters satisfaction?
4. What is the main demotivating factor for hunting tourism?

Methods, techniques and research tools

A questionnaire survey was used in the work. The questionnaire that has been prepared consists of 22 questions, which consists of 5 initial questions related to general information such as place of residence, age, gender or earnings, and 17 questions related to the topic of work in detail. The survey was conducted among hunters from the Podkarpackie Voivodeship.

Research for this work has been carried out among hunters actively practicing hunting. 30 people among hunters engaged in hunting tourism replied to the anonymous survey questionnaire. The questions in the questionnaire concerned general information; age, gender, etc., and detailed information related to hunting tourism, i.e. the hunting district in which the respondent hunts or the question about the factors that demotivate hunting tourism.

Examination findings

In the anonymous survey questionnaire, 77% of respondents were men, while 23% were women.

The prevailing age among the respondents was the age range 25-35 years, which constituted 33% of the number of respondents. The next group was the range of 46-60 years, 30% of respondents indicated such an answer. The 18-24 and 36-45 ranges were 17% each.

The vast majority of respondents showed that they live in the countryside - 46% of respondents. Another 20% of respondents live in a city of over 100,000 Residents. In cities up to 10,000 residents and from 11 thousand residents up to 100,000 - 17% of respondents live equally.

When asked about education, 57% of respondents said they had higher education, while 43% of respondents had secondary education.

The overwhelming number of respondents earn above PLN 5,000 net, while PLN 1,900 - PLN 2,500 net, PLN 2,600 - PLN 3,500 net, PLN 3,600 - PLN 5,000 net earn 23% of respondents. Only one person, constituting 3% of the respondents, gave an answer indicating that her earnings oscillate within PLN 1800.

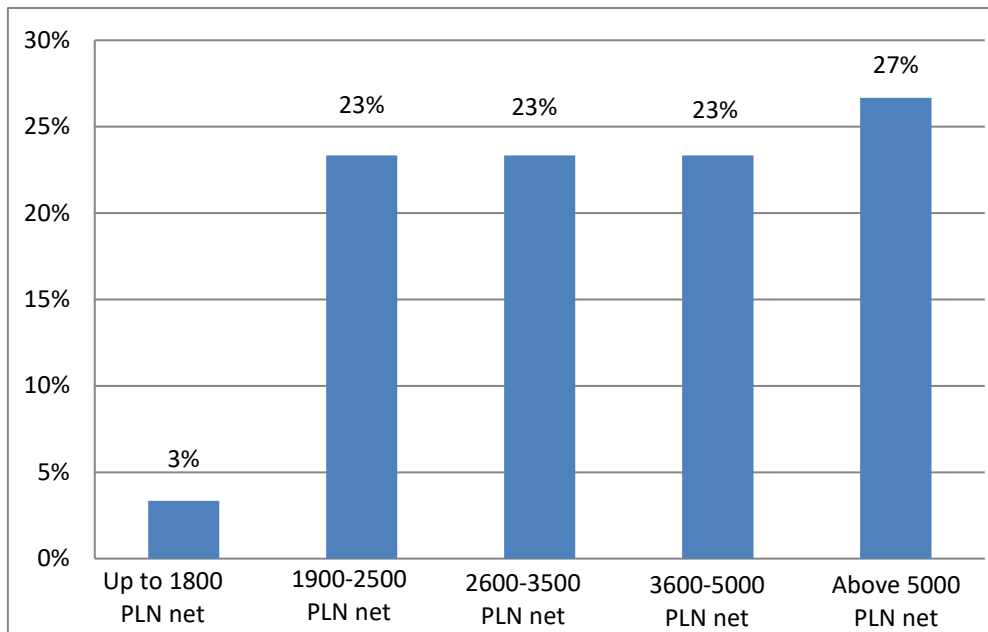


Chart 1. Earnings of the study group

Source: Own study, 2019.

The dominant number of respondents are hunters from the Przemyśl district - 47%, respectively 20% hunters from the Rzeszów and Tarnobrzeg districts and 13% from the Krosno district.

Most of the respondents showed that they willingly go hunting outside their hunting district, this figure constituted 63% of the respondents, while 37% of respondents said that they do not hunt outside their hunting district.

According to an anonymous questionnaire, hunters from Podkarpacie are most likely to travel to districts in the territory of Lesser Poland - 21% of respondents. Białystok district was visited by 16% of respondents. 11% of respondents went hunting in the following regions: Bielsko-Biała, Lublin, Olsztyn, Opole and Szczecin. 5% of respondents each visited the Bydgoszcz and Masurian districts.

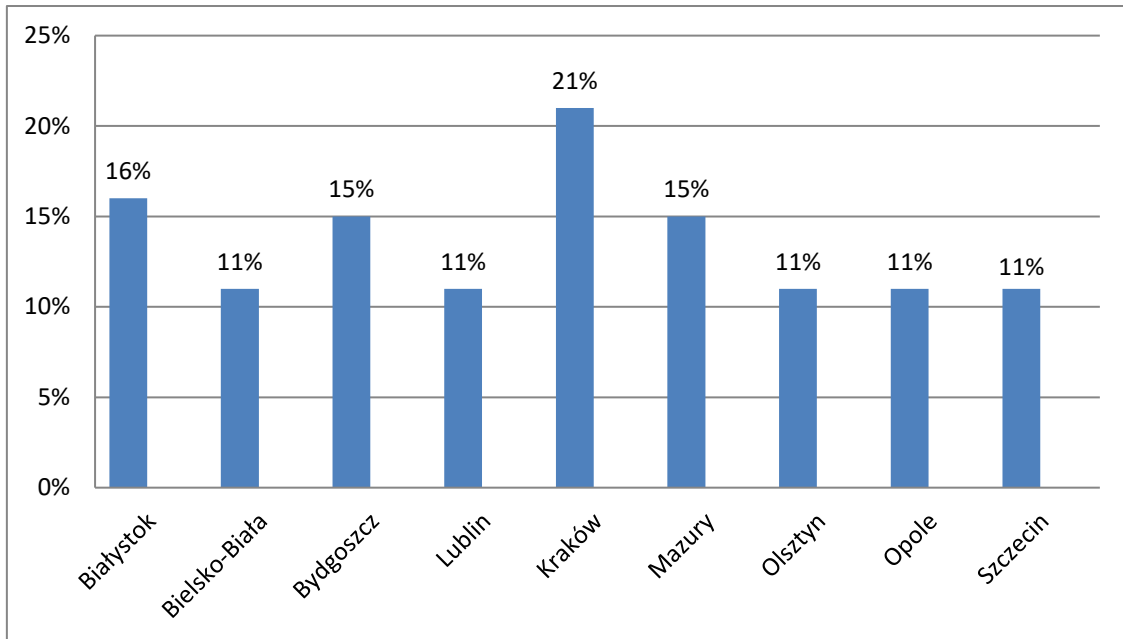


Chart 2. Which districts do you prefer to go to?

Source: Own study, 2019.

The overwhelming number of people indicated that the decision to choose a district was influenced by the desire to hunt in a different area than usual - this was the answer given by 53% of respondents, 32% of respondents replied that the decision was influenced by the desire to share passion with other hunters. The remaining 16% replied that it was a desire to hunt for animals other than those found in the home district.

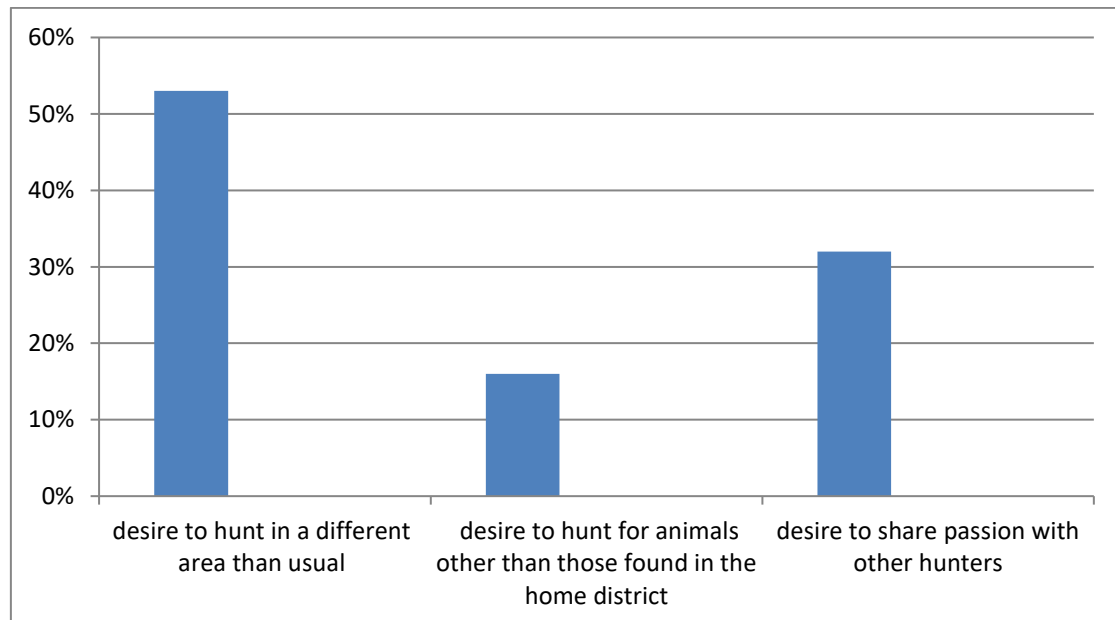


Chart 3. What influenced the decision on the choice of districts?

Source: Own study, 2019.

When asked about hunting trips abroad, 80% of respondents answered that they were not leaving, the remaining 20% constituting a definite minority replied that they were going hunting abroad.

When asked in which countries hunters hunted abroad, the following answers were received: Namibia is the most popular among hunters - 17% of respondents hunted in this country, 13% in Russia, 9% in Hungary, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Lithuania, and 4% each in Tanzania, Romania, Slovakia, Mozambique, Austria, the United States, South Africa and Estonia.

When asked about the animals obtained abroad, the answers predominated that most of the animals were obtained in African countries. The largest number of people acquired antelopes - 21% of those surveyed, 14% of those surveyed hunted animals such as African buffalo, kudu, oryx and warthog. 7% managed to hunt elk, capercaillie and leopard.

The vast number of hunters surveyed answered that the decision to choose countries was influenced by the desire to learn about hunting culture in a foreign country, such a response was given by 67% of respondents. 17% of respondents chose the answer that their choice was influenced by the desire to win hunting trophies and the occurrence of game characteristic for a given country.

Most people participating in the survey, when asked about the preferred type of hunting, answered that they prefer individual hunting - 63% of respondents gave this answer, the remaining 37% preferred collective hunting.

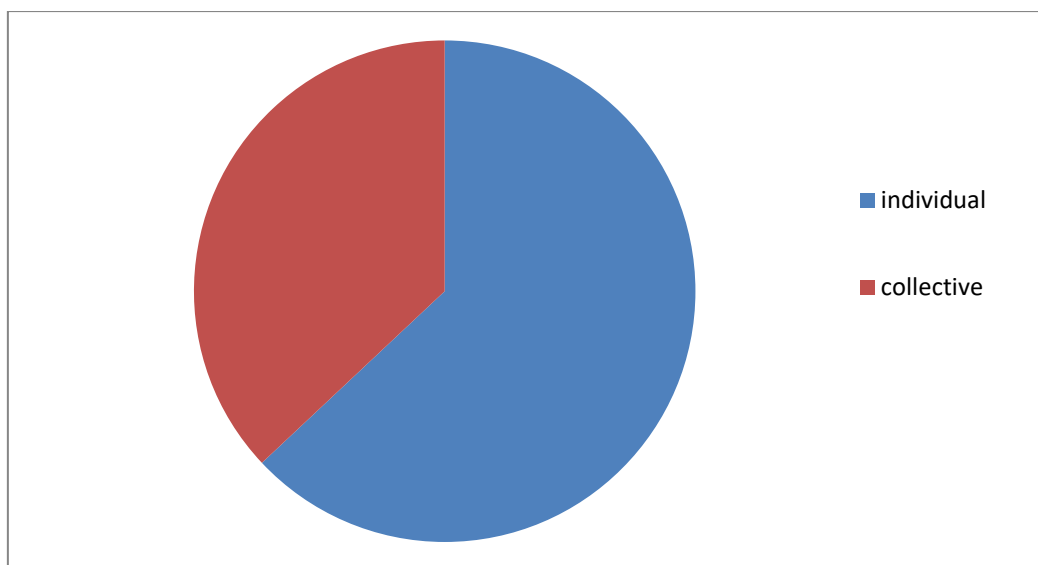


Chart 4. What kind of hunting do you prefer?

Source: Own study, 2019.

Most hunters among the respondents use the rifle, 53% of the respondents, 13% of the respondents use a hunting horn, 10% shotguns. 7% of respondents use ball gun and shotgun and smoothbore weapons.

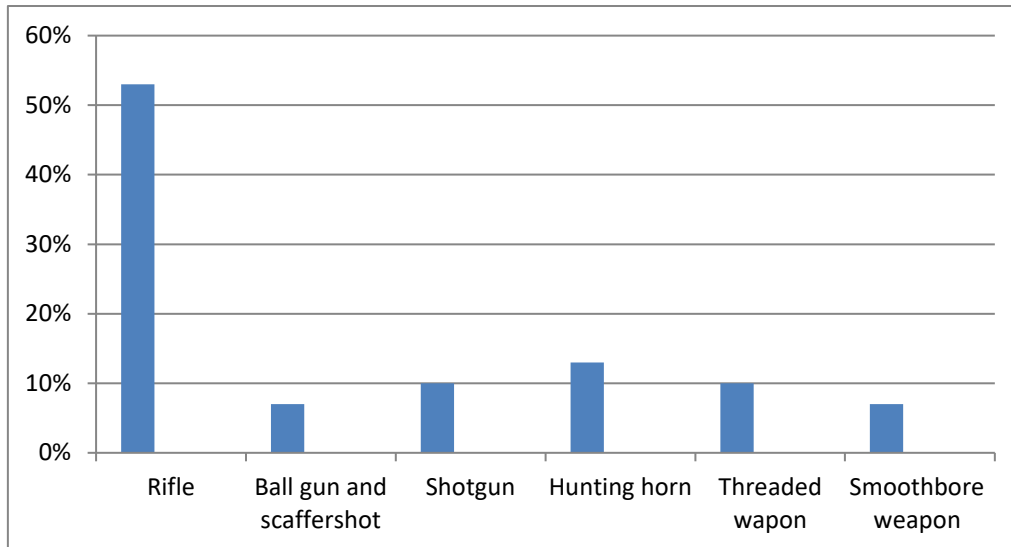
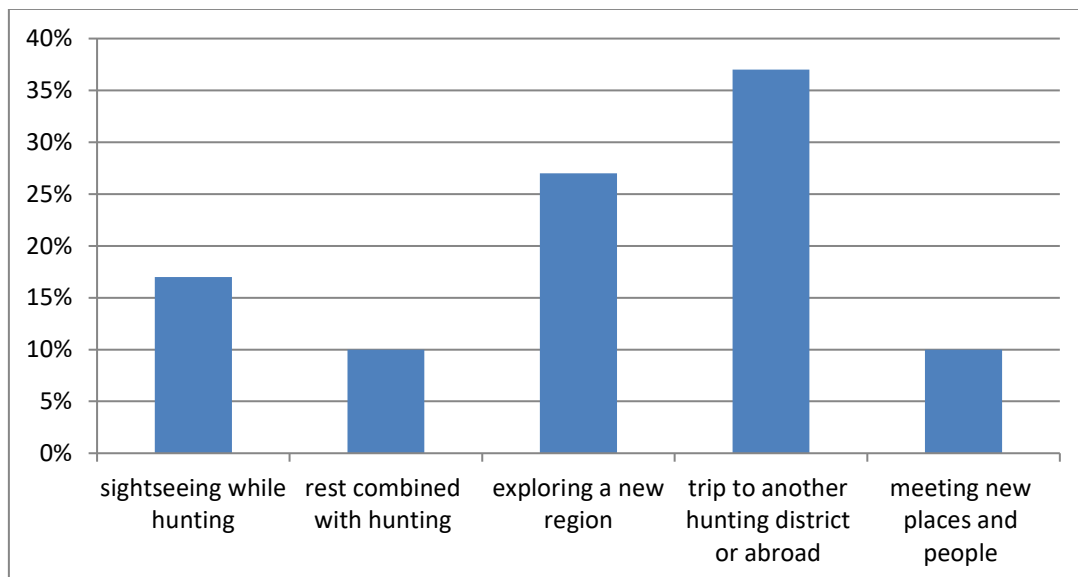


Chart 5. What kind of weapon do you use?

Source: Own study, 2019.

According to the majority of respondents, hunting tourism is a trip to another hunting district or abroad - this is the answer given by 37% of respondents, 27% believe that it is exploring a new region. Another 17% of respondents believe that hunting tourism is sightseeing while hunting. Other answers are: rest combined with hunting and meeting new places and people - such answers were given by 10% of respondents.



Graph 6. How do you understand the concept of "hunting tourism"?

Source: Own study, 2019

The dominant answer to the question about what hunting hunters give to hunters was satisfaction - such an answer was given by as many as 80% of respondents. Other answers were: obtaining trophies and the need for competition - 10% and obtaining products from hunting (meat, skin), such a response was also given by 10% of respondents.

The overwhelming number of people say that hunting tourism has a development opportunity in Poland - it is as much as 70% of such answers. The remaining 30% of respondents believe that there is no such chance.

According to 57% of respondents, the most significant factor that discourages for hunting tourism is high costs. Another important thing is the lack of time - this answer was given by 30% of respondents. 7% of respondents said that this is a lack of proper infrastructure and legal provisions.

The research that was carried out provided information on the functioning of hunting tourism among hunters from the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The analysis of research shows that hunting tourism is popular, however, it is mostly limited to trips to Poland, trips abroad are much less popular. The main obstacle to the implementation of trips is their high cost.

Summary and final conclusions

When analyzing the results of the study, the authors concluded that the vast majority of people participating in the study were men, and the dominant age was 25-35 years and 46-60 years.

In the next stage of the analysis, the authors found out that most of the respondents live in the countryside and most of them declare that they have higher education. The largest number of people indicated that they earn more than 5000 PLN. The majority of respondents hunt in the Przemyśl district, while the remaining people are hunters from the Rzeszów, Tarnobrzeg and Krosno districts.

Further analysis of the research showed that the vast majority of respondents go hunting outside their hunting district, the most popular direction are hunting districts located in the Lesser Poland Voivodeship, among others districts: Białystok, Bielsko or Olsztyn. The factor that encourages hunters to go hunting in other districts is primarily the desire to hunt in a different area than usual. During hunting tourism in Poland, the respondents most often live with friends.

Compared to trips within Poland, a very small number of respondents declare that they are going hunting abroad, which may be associated with high costs that must be incurred to be able to hunt abroad. Among the people who had this opportunity, the most frequently chosen countries were: Namibia, Russia, Zimbabwe, Botswana or Lithuania. As you can see, the most popular destinations are African countries, this may be due to the wealth of the local fauna - which the authors also concluded during the analysis, because the most animals acquired by hunters abroad come from these regions. These include: antelope, African buffalo, kudu, oryx and warthog. According to the respondents, the motivation to practice hunting tourism is above all the desire to learn about hunting culture in a foreign country. During hunting tourism, hunters use road - car and air transport.

During their stays abroad, the respondents mostly lived in boarding houses. The majority of respondents prefer individual hunting. The respondents showed that they most often use rifles.

The authors during the analysis of the research found out that according to the respondents, the concept of "hunting tourism" is understood as a trip to a different hunting district than the home one or abroad, while others replied that it is getting to know a new region, people, as well as combining leisure or sightseeing with hunting. Practicing hunting

tourism gives hunters satisfaction first of all. The vast majority of respondents concluded that hunting tourism has great development opportunities in Poland. This is due to the rich, centuries-old hunting culture in the country, as well as attractive fisheries. High costs and lack of time are the main demotivating factor for hunting tourism.

The authors in their assumptions asked 4 research questions, which in the course of research and their analysis allowed to draw conclusions. The first question was: is hunting tourism popular among hunters from the Podkarpackie vivodeship? During the analysis of research results, most respondents declare that they go hunting outside their hunting district or abroad. The second question was whether hunting tourism, in the opinion of the respondents, has a chance for development in Poland. When verifying the answers, it turned out that a significant number of respondents believe that hunting tourism in Poland has a chance to develop. Analyzing the respondents' answers to the question, whether hunting tourism gives hunters satisfaction? The authors noted that as many as 80% of respondents showed that it gives them satisfaction. In the course of the analysis of collected materials, the question as to what is the main demotivating factor for hunting tourism? The authors verified that respondents set high costs as the main demotivating factor.

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