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**IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE TOURISM
INDUSTRY IN SELECTED COUNTRIES – POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT**

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Summary:

The aim of the study is to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry in selected countries in political, social, and economic aspects. The main objective has been divided into specific goals, among which include: determining the implications of the pandemic on the travel plans of Poles and on changes in tourist traffic in Poland, illustrating the impact of the introduction of border restrictions during the pandemic, and indicating its economic consequences in selected countries.

In the presented doctoral dissertation, the following research hypotheses were formulated:

- 1) The reduction of international air passenger traffic in Poland due to the COVID-19 pandemic will strongly correlate with the occupancy of the tourist accommodation base.
- 2) The international travel plans of Polish citizens will change due to the pandemic and will be focused on the European region of the Mediterranean basin.
- 3) Changes at border crossings will be significant for international tourism only in the initial period of the pandemic, and the largest declines in tourist traffic indicators will be recorded in countries that introduce mandatory quarantine.
- 4) In the case of the European region, the COVID-19 pandemic will have the least impact on tourism in countries located in the central part of the continent.
- 5) The global region of tourist reception with the relatively largest percentage decrease in income from international tourism will be Northeast Asia, which will be negatively associated with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6) In domestic and international tourism, there will be an upward trend in the occupancy of the tourist accommodation base; however, the share of domestic tourists will be significantly greater than that of international tourists.

The issue of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on tourism is multifaceted and diverse; therefore, this study employed a variety of research methods. These were: an analysis of the literature, time series analysis, the cartogram method based on classical statistical methods, the method of the tourist traffic intensity indicator according to Shneider and Defert, the single-feature classification method using Hellwig's critical range, the single-feature classification method based on position measures and the method of survey research.

During the course of the research, the hypotheses posited in the doctoral dissertation were subjected to verification. The results allow to assert, that the decline in occupancy of the tourist accommodation base clearly indicates a significant negative impact of the pandemic on the tourism economy in Poland. Based on the survey research and available statistical data, it was determined that, as a result of the pandemic, the importance of domestic tourism has increased in Poland, especially in areas traditionally known for their tourist attractions. In the case of

international tourism, it was noted that Poles, particularly in the initial period of the pandemic, much more frequently chose countries in the Mediterranean basin as their tourist destination.

In addition, it was noted that during the pandemic there was a strong correlation between the number of foreign tourists and border restrictions. It should be noted that restrictions on crossing borders were important only in the initial period of the pandemic, and the largest decreases were recorded in countries where quarantine and the requirement to perform a PCR test were introduced. The UNWTO subregion with the relatively largest percentage decrease in revenues from international tourism in 2020 compared to the previous year was North-East Asia, however, when analyzing the situation of individual recipient countries, the worst situation was recorded in Hong Kong and Malaysia.

In conclusion, the hypotheses set forth in the doctoral dissertation have been confirmed by the research findings. The collected data, obtained through various research methods, substantiate the initial assumptions regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry. Time series analysis, choropleth maps, and other studies have provided concrete evidence that supports the hypotheses formulated earlier. It is particularly noteworthy to mention the consistency of the results obtained from different sources, which further emphasizes the credibility of the analysis conducted. Furthermore, the doctoral dissertation contributes new insights into the dynamics of changes in tourist behavior, especially among Poles, in the context of the global health crisis. It should also be mentioned that the study sheds new light on the correlation between border policies and tourist decisions, offering valuable conclusions for future crisis management strategies in the tourism sector.

Key words: pandemic, COVID-19, tourist traffic, foreign tourism, domestic tourism