Conference and congress tourism is one of the most dynamic sectors of tourism industry in the world; its importance is also growing in Poland.

This paper aims at a presentation of the scale and character of congress tourism in Krakow in the year 2008, on the basis of results of the authors’ own research.

Two hypotheses have been put forward:
1. Congresses play an important role in creating business tourism demand in Krakow.
2. Significance of this form of tourism will grow in the future.

The paper consists of two parts: the introduction where theoretical issues are explained, the essence of congress tourism is pointed out, and the localization of congresses in the world is specified, and the empirical part where the results of research are presented.

The obtained results allow to find the hypotheses true. The number of congresses in Krakow in 2008 was not so high (in comparison to other forms of MICE tourism), but they gathered 7% of all MICE tourism participants in Krakow. And, according to an opinion expressed by experts from business tourism sector, the role of congress tourism is going to increase in the future.

Translated by Jadwiga Berbeka