

DEVELOPMENT OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT IN INLAND NAVIGATION IN POLAND

Summary

Passenger transport in inland navigation refers to tourist transport and transport in regular connections.

Inland water tourism does not require very high standards of waterways, hence it does not require substantial hydro-technological investment. Consequently, it may play an important role in economic development and activation of poor regions facing high unemployment.

The development of inland water tourism may also lead to:

- taking greater care of condition of waterways which are not used by merchant ships,
- taking greater care of natural environment; the areas where inland water tourism is to develop must be characterized by exceptional attractiveness as regards flora, landform features, high standards of cleanliness as well as satisfying the requirements of tourists.

Inland water transport on regular connections routes creates good opportunity to ease some transportation problems (including lowering congestion, increasing accessibility, increasing safety). It is particularly true about situations when there are no alternative solutions (lack of space to develop infrastructure for other transport modes) or when all alternative solutions are too expensive.

Low requirements regarding technical parameters, including shallow draught of the ships, make such transport popular even in regions where other forms of inland water transport have not been used for a long time. However, it is necessary to provide foreseeable conditions on such waterways, which is fostered by classification of waterways in the European Union.

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