



Application of the geodiversity map in the evaluation of the geotouristic potential of mountain areas. Case study: Podtatrze region, South Poland, Northern Slovakia.

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Geotourism as a form of qualified tourism is still gaining popularity. Methods supporting decisions on attractive geotourism areas are also being developed. Geotouristic potential of a given region is strictly connected with geodiversity, which can be presented by means of geodiversity maps. The map prepared for the needs of this presentation is synthesis of four component maps: map of the relief energy (based on relative heights), maps of relief fragmentation (based on TPI index), maps of the tectonic diversity of the area, maps of relief vulnerability to various transitions (based on Corine Landcover map). Component maps can be assigned a different validities depending on previously accepted criteria.

The Podtatrza region is an appropriate research area for considering geodiversity due to the large diversity of geology and terrain - from relatively flat structural basins to the high mountain landscape, locally transformed by glaciers.

On the basis of the geodiversity analysis, it is possible to identify geosites presenting the most characteristic features of the region.

The method without major transformations can be used in other mountain areas of the world.