

Demographic potential as a factor of rural tourism development in the Republic of Belarus.

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Rural territories of the Republic of Belarus are problematic areas due to demographic, social and economic reasons.

One of the possibilities to maintain the potential of rural areas in Belarus is rural tourism development. Officially in accordance with Edict of the President of the Republic of Belarus № 372 (June, 2 2006) rural tourism activities not fall into a category of entrepreneurship, but it is type of business activities that could help to improve the level of life in rural areas in Belarus.

The main goal of the article is spatio-temporal analysis of rural demographic potential as generating and realizing factors of rural tourism development in the Republic of Belarus.

The most important factors to our opinion, related to the demographic component that can both directly and indirectly influence the development of rural tourism in Belarus are: factor of demographic potential, labor resource factor and the peculiarities of settlement network. All these factors were analyzed on the level of regions and districts.

The main research methods used in the article are spatio-temporal and comparative-geographical analysis, factor analysis, geographic typology.

As a result two types of regions were allocated in the Republic of Belarus - with demographic potential as contributing factor and deterrent factor for rural tourism development.

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