

## Popular science conference

### **‘The role of sightseeing and tourism in life of disabled people’**

Polish Country-lovers Society gave disabled people a possibility to get more familiar with Poland, to see its nature and culture and experience most beautiful emotions during trips with close ones and friends. In the framework of the ‘Tourism for all’ Project, which is part-financed by the European Union, Polish Country-Lovers Society in cooperation with The Higher School of Tourism and Hotel Industry in Łódź organized a popular science conference "The role of sightseeing and tourism in life of disabled people". It took place from 15 to 17 October 2008 in Załęczce Wielkie, near Wieluń.

Among participants we find people representing scientific environment, tourism branch, society organizations activists and people working with disabled people on a day to day basis. Conference was divided into three sessions, each dedicated to a different topic: *Possibilities and conditions for qualified tourism performed by disabled people, Sightseeing preparation of disabled people to life and Sightseeing and tourism as the ways of forming social integration and disability overcoming*. Papers presented on each session concerned different aspects of disabled people tourism, legal and organizational restrictions of tourism development. Moreover, the possibilities of realization of accessible tourism idea were presented in examples of good practices. Conference was accompanied by a press exhibition of publications devoted to tourism of disabled people.

Accompanying events were an interesting addition to three days of conference. Fans of active ways of spending free time were able to take part in foot or bicycle race in Załęczcański Landscape Park.

Evening entertainment was provided in the form of concerts of tourist songs performed by Andrzej Wawrzyniak and artistic program prepared by a group of disabled children „Mały Big Band” from the Association of Kids with Down Syndrome and their Carers in Łódź (Stowarzyszenie Dzieci z Zespołem Downa i Opiekunów z Łodzi). Integrational camp-fire at Warta riverbank was a chance for the participants to get to know each other better.

This conference has shown that tourism is a great opportunity to:

- became acquainted with taste, smell and sounds of mountains, woods, water routes and the joy that a camp-fire gives,
- fraternize with people on tourist routes, to establish new friendships and likings,
- see regions and places in Poland, including those which seem to be unavailable because of disability,
- overcome personal psychical barriers, to become more self-confident, to achieve success.

Conference participants have passed a resolution. The resolution and papers presented during the conference will be published soon.

Project Coordinator

„Tourism for all”

Jolanta Śledzińska

[Conference program.](#)