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Results and Developing Possibilities of the Age-Motivation
Research of the Youth Tourism in the Carpathian Interregion

PhD-dissertation theses

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1. Introduction, intention	4
1.1 Aims of the youth tourism research.....	4
1.1.1 Presentation of the connections and coherences of the youth tourism and the school.....	4
1.1.2 Methodological development of the motivation research of the regional youth tourism.....	5
1.1.3 Contribution to the regional development of youth tourism	5
1.1.4 Research hypothesis	5
2. Appearance of youth tourism in the national and international professional publicity.....	6
3. Methods of the research	6
3.1 Geographical determination of the area involved in the research.....	6
3.2 Construction of the questionnaires	8
3.2.1 Theoretical justification of the choice of the questionnaire	8
3.2.2 Construction of the questionnaire patterns.....	9
3.2.3 Optimal percental definition of the representative sample of the participants taking part in the research	10
4. Summarising the results	12
4.1 Appreciation of the general situation, role and importance of youth tourism in the light of researches.....	12
4.2 Concrete characteristic features and possibilities of the youth tourism of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county on the base of the results of the youth tourism motivation research	12
4.3 General and concrete developing suggestions based on the results of the youth touristical motivation research	16
5. Possibilities of the expediency of the results	16
5.1 Applications of the results of the research in different conceptions of the touristical development	16
5.1.1 Developing Conception and Strategical Programme of the Tourism of Szabolcs-Szatmár- Bereg County	16
5.1.2 Touristical Developing Conception of Nyíregyháza	17
5.2 Practical applications of the results of the research.....	17
5.2.1 Planning the school youth touristical programme possibilities (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)	17
5.2.2 Planning the offers of the thematic youth touristical programmes (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county).....	17
5.2.3 Planning the offers of the thematic youth touristical programmes (youth touristical programmes in the frontiers)	18
5.3 Possibilities of the application of the results of the research with statistic purpose	18
5.3.1Statistic application of the results of the youth touristical research.....	18
5.3.2 Application the results of the youth touristical research in marketing point of view	19
5.3.3 Other possibilities for application.....	19
6. Further research tasks, purposes and plans.....	20
7. List of Publications.....	20
7.1 Publications belonging to the theme of the dissertation	20
7.2 Lectures belonging to the topic of the dissertation	21
7.3 Publications not belonging to the topic of the dissertation	21
7.4 Lectures not belonging to the topic if the dissertation	22

1. Introduction, intention

Youth tourism means a special form of tourism with the specific characteristic features of the touristic product organized for the children, students and young adults belonging to the youth age with special programmes where they participate themselves (BODNÁR I.2000).

The touristic World Conference in 1980 (Manila, Philippines) which aimed to discover the tourism's real character and all aspects as well as to clarify the role of the tourism in the present dynamically changeable world drew attention definitely to the age- group tourism – within this to the youth tourism - and assurance of its participants' possibilities. (LENGYEL M. 1994).

In the countries of the world the judgement and the appreciation of the youth tourism as one of the specific fields of the tourism is not unambiguous or unified. According to the survey made by the Tourist World Organization (UNWTO) in 121 countries in 2005 slightly more than one-third (34%) of the world's countries thinks of the youth tourism as a special category, majority of them does not consider its distinct from the ordinary tourist market relevant. (MESTER T. 2008).

In Hungary both the National Developmental Plan (NFT I and NFT II) and one of its study fields including its professional system the National Tourism Developmental Strategy (NST) stress the importance on the youth or youth tourism. The NFT II for example considers the development of the young generation's physical and spiritual health and happiness as one of the most important elements of the social maintenance The NST – which thinks of youth tourism not as a product but as belonging to more products because of characters and complexity determined by the requirement of this age-group – considers the importance of the youth tourism, its development and rising its standard essential.

The Carpathian Interregion came into exist within the Carpathian Euroregion (great region) on the base of the trilateral cooperation –a real programme region called 'small-region model' (Interregion) among Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county (Hungary) Sub - Carpathia county (Ukraine) and Szatmár county (Romania) ,its base is the cooperation of Nyíregyháza- Ungvár-Szatmárnémeti capitals of the counties. (BARANYI B.2004). Within the aims of the cooperation formed from the previous East- Middle European socialist countries' – with similar history and traditions - peripheral regions considering their economical development appear common interests, neighbouring relationships and the demand to maintain peace. The Strategy Developmental Programme of the association regarding the complex development of the tourism refers to it as a particular branch of the future and peace, which can act an important part of the development of economy as well as of well-being of the population.

The natural facilities, history, literature, ethnographical traditions, monuments of its industrial history and rural gastronomy of Szabolcs–Szatmár–Bereg county belonging to the North – Plain Region make it suitable to a greater extent for tourism within this youth tourism to fill a part in the life of the region in the future in its national and international connections. In Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg county regarding the different age-groups the number of the young mainly belonging to school is high exceeding the country's average. So it is important to pay attention to the specific interests, demands of the students connected to youth tourism, after winning them over to the stable touristic consumers of the future.

1.1 Aims of the youth tourism research

1.1.1 Presentation of the connections and coherences of youth tourism and the school

Youth tourism- because of its forms and complex characters, and the children, students and adults participating in it – is connected with the school in many respects. The varied connection of youth tourism and the school has gone through a continuous change and conversion regarding its history, functional and connotative traditions. The cognitions and approaches conveyed by the educational work at school by the different subjects, fields of education – Hungarian literature and grammar, history, knowledge of the country, geography, natural science, PE etc.- form the students' cognitive and exploring desire and the motivation for travelling in an indirect way.

The traditional youth touristic forms organized within educational institutions – class and educational trips, holiday camps, different international programmes – mean the direct connection between youth tourism and the school.

During my youth tourism researches and in my dissertation - regarding the above mentioned things – I proposed the following aims:

-The historical presentation of the continuity, keeping traditions, changes in the connection of youth tourism and the school covering about a century. Analysis of the positive and negative effects of the former practical experiences in the connection of youth tourism and the school education as well as highlighting the practicable examples in these days, too.

- The systemic summary of the school education's legal and connotative regulation and youth tourism. Emphasizing what an important role the conveying of the educational fields of different subjects plays in the touristical way of thinking of the children, students, young adults belonging to the youth age.
- Describing the different touristical programmes which can be planned and organized for the schoolchildren. Presentation of the active programmes, models, which are based on theoretical and practical researching-organizing experiences.

1.1.2 Methodological development of the motivation research of the regional youth tourism

The youth tourism motivation research examines the relaxing and holiday habits and attitude of the 15-19- year-old students living in Szabolcs- Szatmár - Bereg county and in some of its frontiers, as well as it carries out appreciation of the scenery, environment and exploration of magnetism in the touristical point of view.

The base of the motivation research connected with the socialization of the youth consists of a two-part structural questionnaire.

The first part – including the frontiers too – maps the students' relaxing and holiday habits, while the second part inquires about the natural, cultural and specific attractions of Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg county, as well as the touristical infrastructure existing in the region, and the students' developing ideas in connection with them.

As far as the type of the youth tourism motivation research is concerned it does not differ substantially from those accustomed in social sciences, and the questionnaire itself cannot be regarded specific, at the same time the characters of some parameters of the research, the methodological description of the algorithm of the procedure and the conclusions drawn from its results can be considered original and remarkable.

The research and its summary in the dissertation can contribute to the methodological development of the regional youth tourism motivation research in the methodological point of view in the following ways:

- Establishment of the proportional representation of the students widely involved and of those who took part concretly in the research carried out on a quantitative way, and assignation of the relevancy ensured by the conclusions drawn from its results.
- From didactic point of view the detailed description and realization of the algorithm and procedure of the research made with the Paper and Pen Interviewing (PAPI)
- Application of the results of the regional youth tourism motivation research in the development of tourism especially on the areas including in the research, which is expansive from the statistic and complex/coherent from the methodological – didactic point of view.

1.1.3 Contribution to the regional development of youth tourism

The programme of the youth tourism motivation research covers Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg county and the neighbouring Ukraine (Sub – Carpathia county, district of Beregszász) as well as some smaller areas of Romania (Szatmár county, the outskirts of Szatmárnémeti, which at the same time belong to the Carpathian Interregion, too. In geographical point of view the special areas included in the youth tourism research - beside their same or partly similar conditions- differ from one another having different characters regarding their natural and social geographical facilities, and their regional, residential roles

On the base of the international survey of the conditions and possibilities of age-group tourism in the county, occurently in the region, the country and frontiers some pieces of advice can be made for the different-levelled developing programmes and conceptions of tourism. The direct and indirect connecting points can be the followings:

- The touristical Development Conception and Strategical Programme of Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg county
- The tourism Development Conception of Nyíregyháza
- The contribution to the development of the tourism/ youth tourism in some regional/ residential connections of Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg county and the capital of the county, Nyíregyháza as well as the Carpathian Interregion.

1.1.4 Research hypothesis

By means of the consequence and generalization drawn from the survey, the results of the research carried out in the frame of the youth tourism research about the 15-19-year-old students' relaxing and holiday habits, - which in Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg county was expansive and representative and in the connecting frontiers and in the places of the control examination in Hungary was representative – I expect the acknowledgement of the following hypothesis and claims.

-The children, students and young adults of school-age have become partially the consumers of the tourism (touristical industry), which can be qualified in the business point of view, but possessing little income they cannot behave as general participators on the market, which can be proved in different ways. At the same time the young together with their specific requirements and characteristic age-grouped touristical forms they appear in tourism as the potential tourists/consumers of the future by means of their familial, scholastic and/or self – organized programmes.

-The educational work at schools plays a role directly/indirectly in youth tourism, in forming of the young's touristical approach, because the school experiences have prominent significance in the formation of the holiday/travelling motivations and habits. In these days, however, because of different reasons schools and teachers cannot provide entirely the compulsory functions falling on them in the school-youth tourism, which could broaden the students' touristical possibilities.

-The results of the youth tourism research – highlighting the youth and education political as well as the tourism professional connections – can contribute to the development of the age-group's tourism, and for young people to become conscious adult tourists. Directly it can permit of the development of the youth tourism on the base of a conscious, uniform, purposeful conception on the given area, in Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg county, working out the programmes in the frontiers, the international development of youth tourism.

2. Appearance of youth tourism in the national and international professional publicity

Regarding the appearance, conversion of youth tourism in the scientific literature and professional publicity we can meet its some forms or contents both in national and international relations. At the same time we have to stress that it can be regarded only partial as for the approach and interpretation of the age-group tourism's complexity and connections which is also considered correct by the writer of the dissertation, because the school aspects of the youth tourism, for example the participation of the students under 16 in it must be considered as belonging to the complex system of youth tourism. In Hungary the definition of the concept of the youth tourism and the partial descriptions of its conceptual characters according to certain aspects – developing process, age, purposes, form and content etc. – appear mainly in different touristical professional books and coursebooks. So we can meet it in the coursebooks written by LENGYEL M. (1994), BODNÁR L. (2000), HUTIRAY J. (2000), and in the different relevant chapters of the books about conferences dealing with tourism, and in scientific publications KOMÁROMI I (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008), in the essays dealing with youth movements – within it the children organized holidays – with the youth tourism in historical aspects P. MIKLÓS T. (2003), TARNAY E. (2006), TRENCSENYI L. (1997, 2007), in some youth research writings BAUER B. – SZABÓ A. (2005), and in the professional articles recently published MICHALKÓ G. – VÍZI I. (2001), and MESTER T. (2008).

Youth tourism in the international professional literature appears in connection with the students' – mainly over 16 – journeys and programmes. The reason for it in my opinion chiefly is that within the youth age the students over 16 mean significant, dynamically developing economic value of today in the touristical point of view. In the international respect youth tourism is widely dealt in several approaches. Among the published articles there are materials, studies from conferences dealing with the topic expansively or in its certain coherences - WOGT J.W. (1976), JEFFERSON A. (1991), ARDEL GHAFFAR A. (1992), SCHÖNHAMMER R. (1992), BYWATER M. (1993), CHADEE D. – CUTLER J. (1996), DESFORGES L. (1998), SEEKINGS J. (1998), CARR N. (1998, 2002), RICHARDS G. – WILSON J. (2003), or writings dealing with the topic in geographically differential way and showing the specific field regarding the youth tourism's form and content as PASTOR J.M. (1991), LOKER MURPHY L. – PEARCE P. (1995) OPPERMANN M. (1995), WEI-SHU L. (1995), BRAUN O.L. (1996), CARR N. (1999), HORAK S. – WEBER S. (200), MURPHY L. (2001).

3. Methods of the research

3. 1 Geographical determination of the area involved in the research

The youth tourism motivation research covers Szabolcs- Szatmár- Bereg county (Hungary, North- Plane region), Beregszász and its surroundings (Ukraine, Sub-Charpatia county, district of Beregszász), Szatmárnémeti and its surroundings (Romania, Szatmár county), - which belong to the Carpathian Interregion at the same time – and the places of the control examination in Hungary – Pécs (South-Transdanubian region, Baranya county), Szerencs (North – Hungarian region, Borsod- Abaúj- Zemplén county) and Enying (Middle – Transdanubian region, Fejér county).

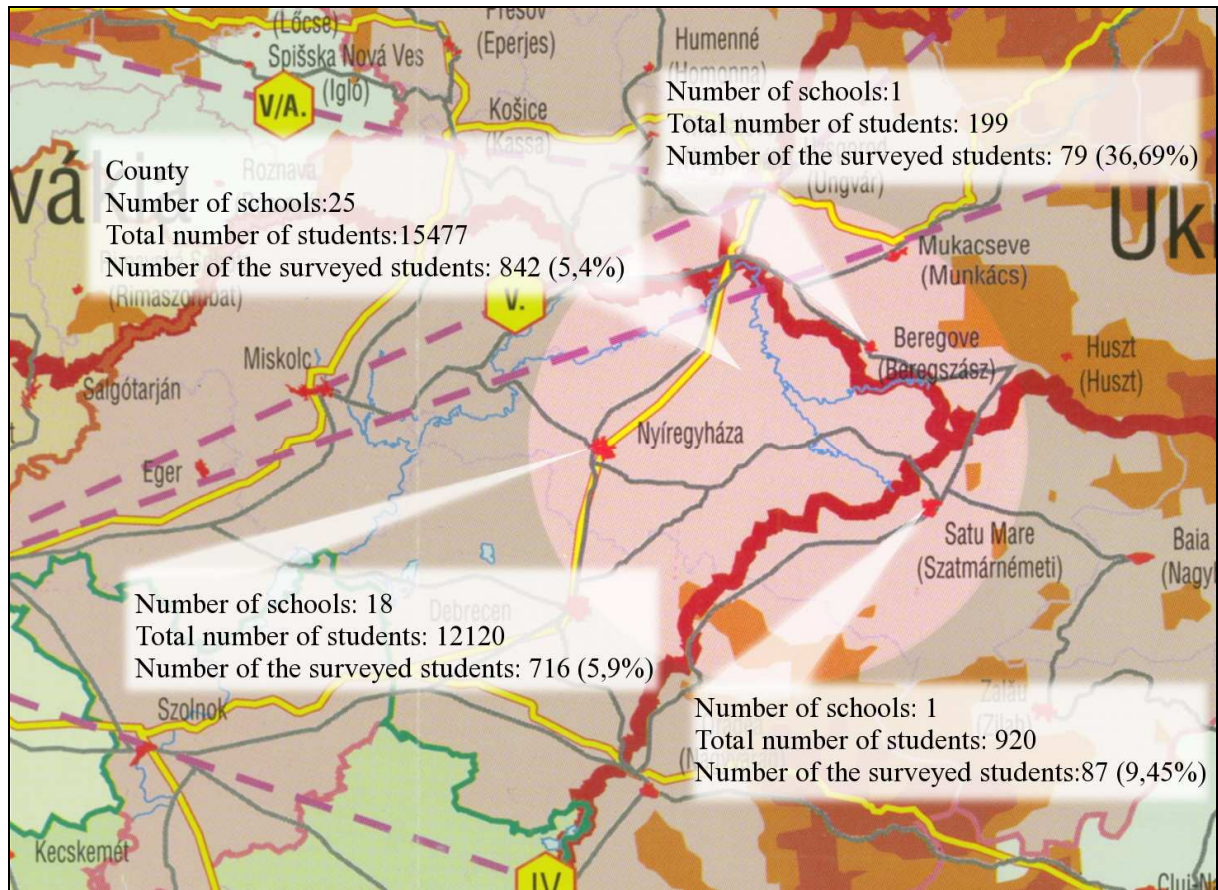


Illustration 1. The summarizing statistic data of the questionnaire of the areas and settlements of Carpathian Euroregion/ Interregion involved in the research (n=1724)

(Self-constructed map with supplement and reconstruction of Geodézia Rt's „Euroregions with Hungarian counties” the basic maps of the www. matarka.hu' map stores)

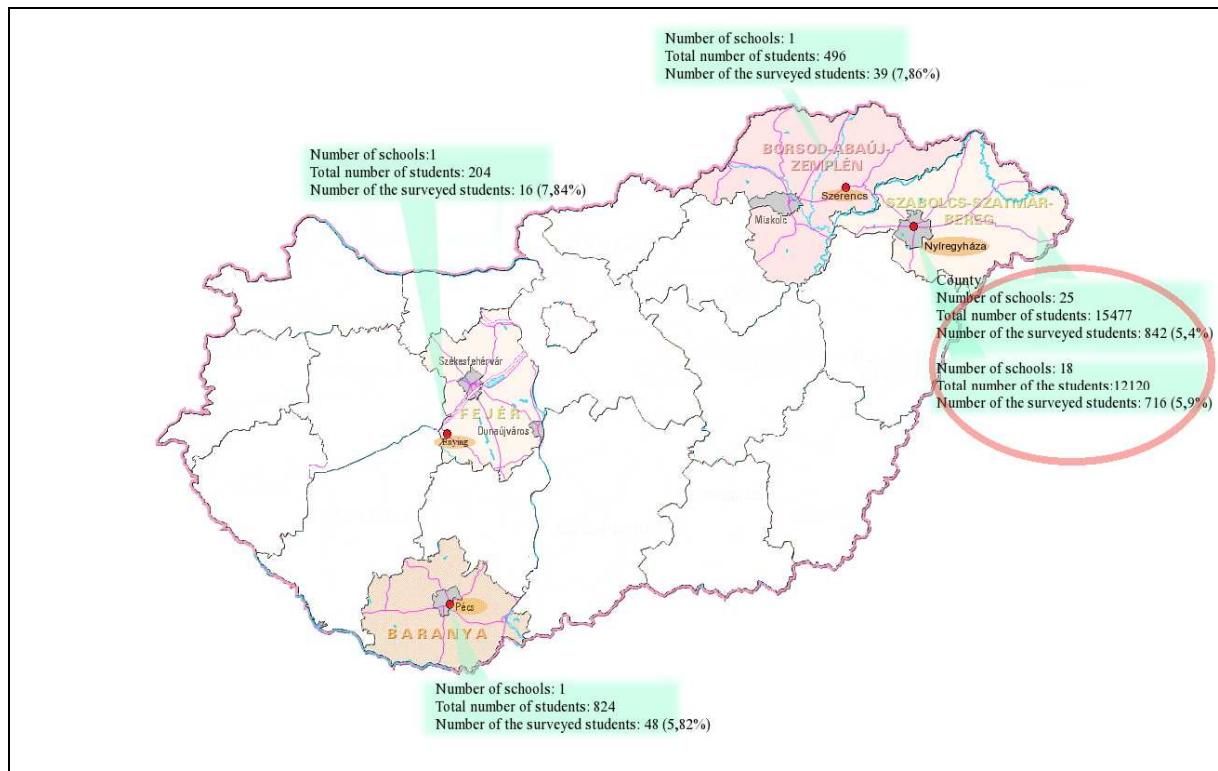


Illustration 2. . The summarizing statistic data of the questionnaire of the chosen settlements of Szabolcs- Szatmár-Bereg county and the places of the control examination involved in the research (n=1661) (Self-made map with using the basic maps of the www. matarka.hu' map stores)

3.2 Construction of the questionnaires

3.2.1 Theoretical justification of the choice of the questionnaire

Regarding the methods applied in the examination of the effects of tourism professional literature makes much account of the survey by a questionnaire, and stresses that this method is an important research tool in the analysis of the attitudes connected with tourists and the development of tourism. „The survey is suitable for cognition of the attitudes in a given time, so the results in the future can mean a starting point in the assessment of the changes taking place in the attitudes. A survey by a questionnaire generally reflects the pre-hypothesis of the researcher making the control of effects or analysis of attitudes in connection with the prospective results, but it must contain also those questions, which are important for the given community.”¹

I have examined the cognition of the 15-19-year-old age-group's – who live in Szabolcs–Szatmár–Bereg county and in the frontiers of the neighbouring countries (Ukraine and Romania) - interests, requirements and ideas regarding tourism in a complex way, by applying quantitative methods. The main aim of the proportional representative survey regarding the students widely involved and those who took part concretely in the research is to measure the relaxing and holiday habits and attitude of the students, as well as to carry out appreciation of the scenery, environment and exploration of magnetism.

The research methods are determined according to the aim of the examination, which are the followings:

- secondary collection of data and analysis (KSH, self-governmental offices, educational institutions etc),
- primary collection of data with printed questionnaires (Paper and Pen Interviewing – PAPI). (Due to the rapid development and spread of the technics of telecommunication and informatics nowadays other methods replacing PAPI-for example the CAPI (laptop), CATI (telephone), CAWI (online) play more important role.

¹ PUCZKÓ L. – RÁTZ T. 2001: Effects of Tourism. Aula, Budapest, p..283.

The collection of data with questionnaires is considered as one of the most widespread research method, but of course their form, content and language can be diverse on different research fields. One great advantage of it is that - using a representative pattern - it provides objective results which can be generalized. The Papi method regarding its applications enable the collection of data by personal inquiry, self-filling or a diary. (WWW.SZONDAIPSOS.HU) In the case of youth research the personal inquiry can be expedient in the deeper and more detailed examination of a topic, in the case of the classification of the respondents. During my youth tourism researches regarding the parameters of the chosen pattern area and the proportion of the students widely involved and those who took part concretely in the research - counting with the presumed advantages and disadvantages – I applied the self-filled form of the questionnaire. The greatest advantage of the chosen form is the fact that the participants in the survey fill in the form themselves, so they can think over and consider the questions more carefully. The disadvantage of the chosen form can be that law promotion of students send it back and in its consequence occurent distortion can appear in the collection of data especially in the case if the answers do not come from the participant itself.

In order to eliminate and/or moderate these possibilities, and to increase the objectivity and effectiveness of the research and the certain elements of the different methods I have built the following elements in the process of the research:

- request of the directors of the institutions involved in the research by phone or later personally, (personal inquiry)
- supply the pre-organized paper-based questionnaires with covering letters,
- getting out and gathering the questionnaires personally to the institutions involved in the research,
- combination of the application of the group self-filled method - one type of the self-filled method of collection of data- with the individual responses,
- emphasizing the spontaneousness of answering while filling the questionnaire, and dealing with the received data confidentially.

3.2.2 Construction of the questionnaire patterns

The construction of the questionnaires needed for the youth tourism research comprehended the periods of preparation, construction, testing and carrying it out.

In the period of preparation the definition of the aims of the questions and the deepness of the prospective responses appeared as a basic conceptual question within the research with the purpose of examining the relaxing and holiday habits of the 15-19- year-old students and as well as of the appreciation of the scenery, environment and exploration of magnetizm in the touristical point of view.

While making and constructing the questionnaires I concentrated mainly on the respect and observance of the following construction rules:

- logical, challenging composition of the questions,
- the questions must be easily answered, interpreted equally, simple, short, and presenting relatively not too many questions,
- the questions must allow every possible answer, must not influence the respondents, the response must be spontaneous,
- the responses to the questionnaire must be suitable for statistical treatment,
- the appropriate form of the questionnaire and the covering letter (quality of the paper, aeshtetic construction, legibility), getting out the questionnaires to the addressed in closed envelopes.

The types of the questions in the youth tourism questionnaire in the consequence of the aim and content of the research are varied and colourful. Regarding the method of the questioning they are alternative or closed questions. Within this one part of the questions is a selective question belonging to the closed questions, or another type of the selective questions, scale or intensity questions.

Some questions have memorial or in some cases checking characters, as they are interested in the events of the past of the respondents.

I have constructed the questions in two groups in a structural way. (Questionnaire 1 is a motivation research, questionnaire 2 is the appreciation of the scenery, environment and exploration of magnetizm in the touristical point of view.

- „The survey of the conditions and possibilities of youth tourism (A questionnaire for surveying and appreciation of the 15-19 year-old students' relaxing and holiday habits) – I. The 15-19 year-old age-group's travelling and holiday habits”

-The survey of the conditions and possibilities of youth tourism (A questionnaire for surveying and appreciation of the 15-19-year-old students' relaxing and holiday habits) – II.- taking into consideration the touristical attractions – facilities of Szabolc -Szatmár - Bereg county (The 15-19-year- old age group's opinion about the natural, cultural and specific attractions of the county and the infrastructural conditions of its tourism)”

The questionnaire constructed for the frontiers and for the control-counties and the chosen settlements in Hungary – beside the necessary modifications relevant to the given area- equals with the concept of the first part of the questionnaire made for the survey in Hungary.

The main periods of the questionnaires' arriving back and/ or sending, of the assimilation and appreciation of the questionnaires were the followings:

- checking the form and content of the questionnaires getting into assimilation. Numerical conciliation, the promotion of the responses to the basic questions, the legibility of the answers, the logical examination of the responses given for the basic and the checking questions.
- preparation and assimilation of the questionnaires. Pre-assimilation, primary and secondary grouping of the processed questions, data - and/or manually-processing.
- checking the reality of the processed data, the appreciation of the summarized data. Comparison of the number of the questionnaires and the number of the sample elements, the statement of the sample number finally appreciated.
- final checking, making so called „*assimilation and account charts*”, graphic visualization of the results, making textual analysis.

3.2.3 Optimal percental definition of the representative sample of the participants taking part in the research

The definition of the sample of the participants taking part in the research is always one of the critical points of questionnaires. The total number of the 15-19-year-old age-group according to the data of 2004 was 43 278. All grammar- school students - on a rough estimate – between 15-19 in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county belong to the sampling. The total number of this is 31 655 according to the latest available statistic data. Regarding the surveyed group of the youth age relevant to the whole segment in order to draw proper conclusions I aimed to the general 5% proportion of sampling, which can provide the representativity , manageability and treatment of the great number of data. In Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county regarding the 28 164 students involved in the survey – n: in the case of 1558 students – the proportion of the sampling is 5.5% (Illustrations 7-8-9-10). In the chosen grammar schools of the frontiers and the control-regions of Hungary, in some settlements of it on the base of the number of the students in the given school the survey was carried out with 5% statement of the representative results which provides the available manageability, treatment.

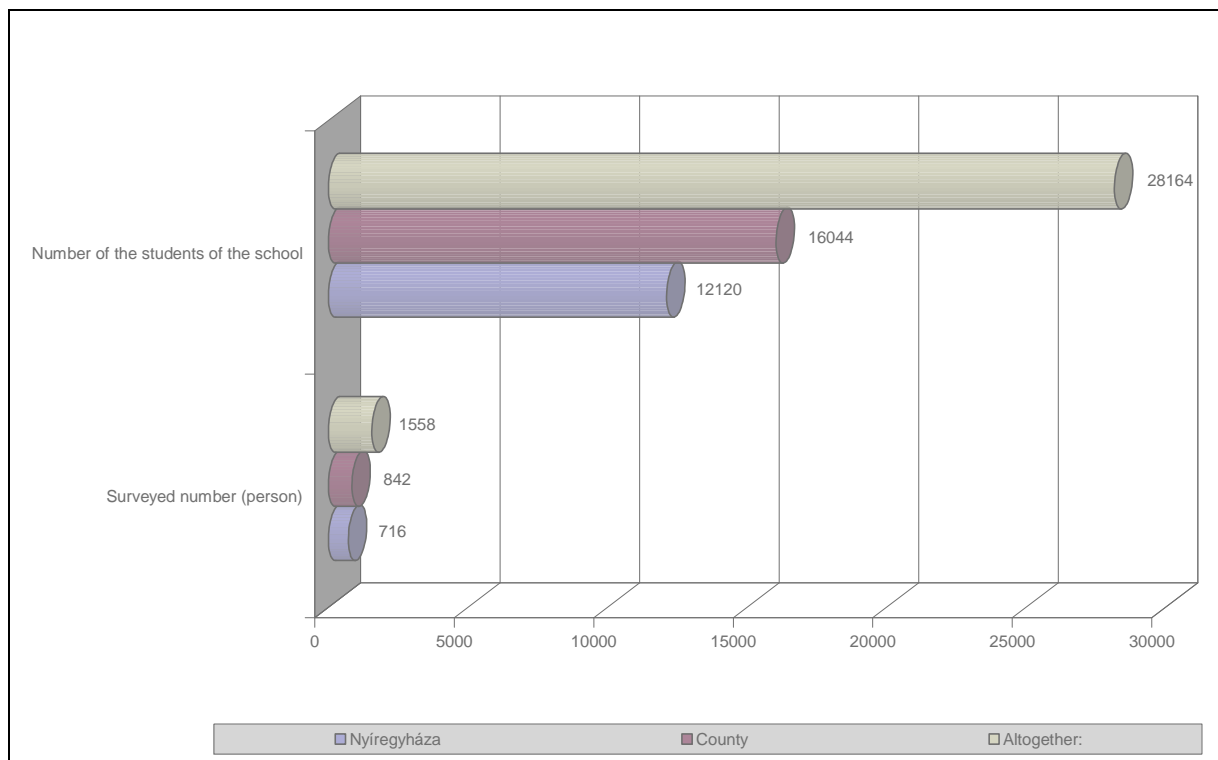


Illustration 3 Summarizing statistics of the questionnaire (factual number of the students of the secondary schools in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and Nyíregyháza, and the number of the students involved in the survey, n=1558)

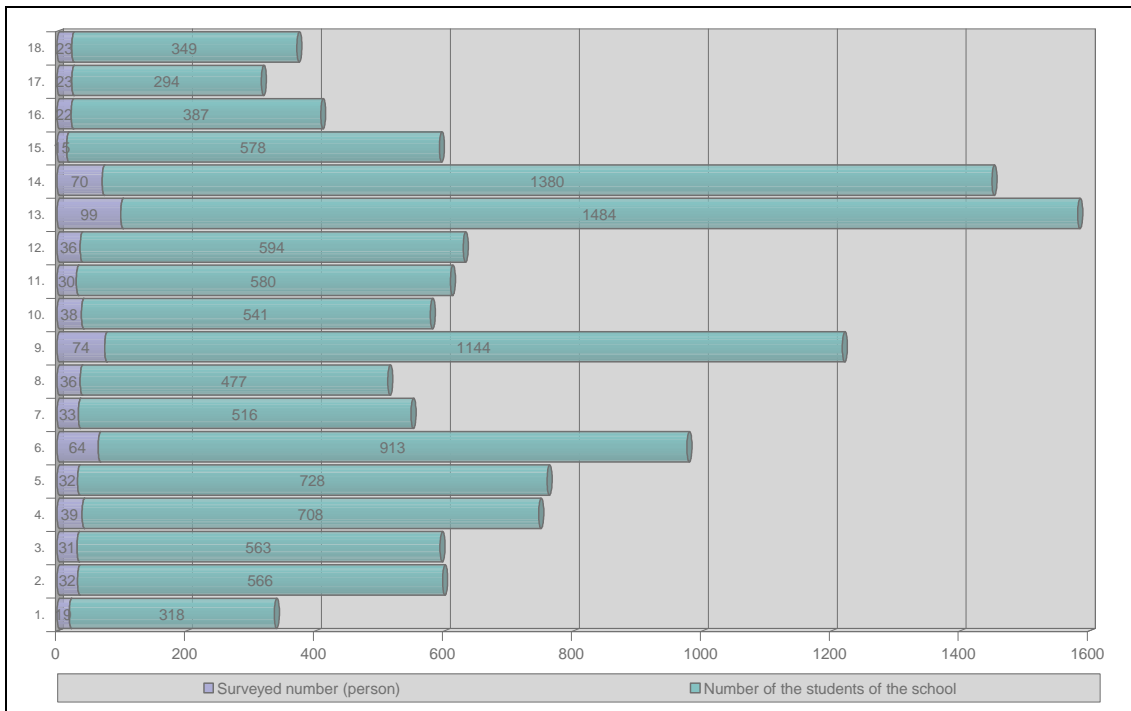


Illustration 4 Summarizing statistics of the questionnaire (factual number of the students of the secondary schools in Nyíregyháza, and the number of the students involved in the survey, n=716)

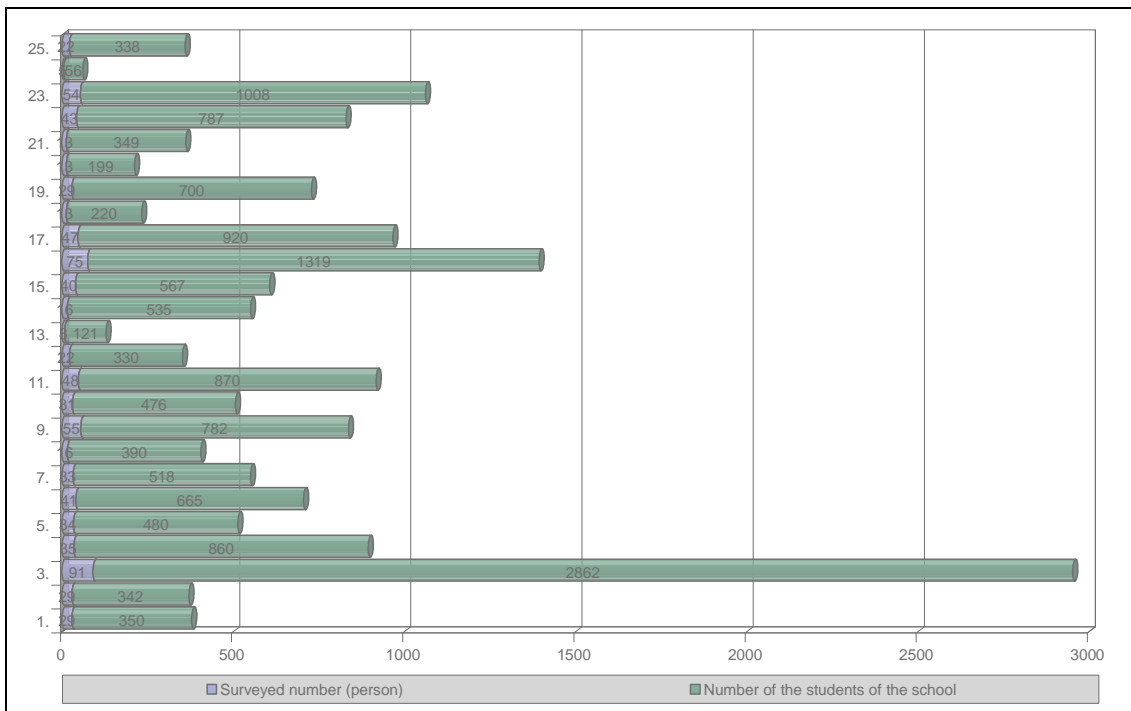


Illustration 5 Summarizing statistics of the questionnaire (factual number of the students of the secondary schools in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and the number of the students involved in the survey, n=842)

4. Summarising the results

4.1 Appreciation of the general situation, role and importance of youth tourism in the light of researches

While forming my general opinion/advice in connection with the present situation of the youth tourism – answering the questions in the researchal aims and hypothesis – I affect the continuity and keeping traditions, the role of the government and the self-government, the situation of the infrastructure of youth tourism, the income of young people and the appreciation of the school's role in age-tourism.

The main important statements in connection with youth tourism in the above mentioned approach:

- In the youth policy or in its historical development in the 20. century involving also youth tourism certain continuity is traceable -from the scouting to the pioneer movements and the Communist Youth Association.
- The all-time youth policy, the forms and contents of the child and youth tourism were characterized by different pedagogical- methodological approaches and practices owing to the different ideologies.
- The professional-methodological training and preparation of the teachers and helpers involved in the child and youth tourism served well the particular practical work.
- Regarding the infrastructural-factual conditions of child and youth tourism, its network and the organization themes of the programmes well- formed systems were created, which widely took into consideration the financial possibilities of the young
- From the beginning of 90', the change of the political system the condition and development of youth tourism cannot be considered as organic continuation of the previous ones.
- Nowadays the supervision of child and youth tourism belongs to several departments, but a central institution coordinating this field on countrywide, regional, county and settlemental level is missing. Concrete results covering this field regarding the legal regulation are missing, and the junior law also has to be waited for.
- After the change of system notable loss of assets and resulting from this difficulties in completing the task appeared on this field. This ceased or changed remarkably and placed the infrastructural-factual conditions, network operated in the countrywide - which earlier was the base of child and youth tourism - on other bases in the board of the guardian point of view.
- The members of the youth generation mainly as members of families are not independent, they have not got own income or it is lower, so it determines, influences the possibilities of their participation in tourism.
- The characteristic forms of youth tourism are the study-class trips, camps, hiking, where the participants are mainly the students from schools so they are connected with the world of the school firmly.
- Schools play a determining role in the life of the young and in their every-day activities. In schools on the one hand the way of thinking, approach, environmental behaviour of the youth can be formed continuously, perspectively, on the other hand regarding the positive public life and forms the youth touristical programmes organized in the frames of the school can be determining for them.

4.2 Concrete characteristic features and possibilities of the youth tourism of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county on the base of the results of the youth tourism motivation research

Larger part of the secondary school students in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county took/takes part in different travellings and/or holidays in some forms so they are active participants of youth tourism. The determining youth touristical forms are, typically in the county too, family holidays and the journeys organized for children, and school and class trips, hikings, different school camps as the tourists belonging to this age are mainly from the students of the educational institutions.

-The main characteristic features of the holiday and relaxing habits of the secondary school students in Szabolcs-Szatmár- Bereg county:

- Among the main purposes of the relaxing and holiday habits of the secondary school students in the county appear visiting relatives and friends, the programmes organized by schools, besides the waterside holiday and the entertainment, which is a typical form of this age. (Illustration 6)

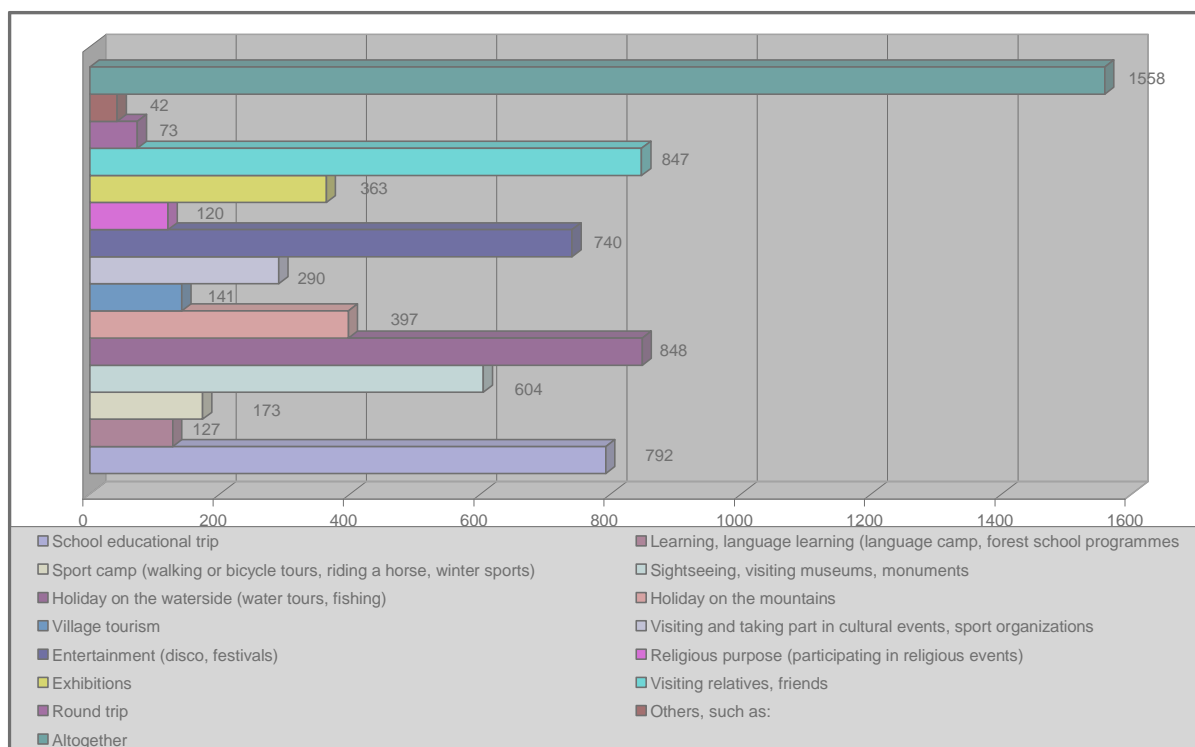


Illustration 6 What was the main purpose of your journey and holiday in the previous year, and what activity did you do? (From the following list sign that one or those in which you were and from them assign from 1 to 3 the ones which were the most important for you)

-In the relaxing and holiday habits of the youth in the county geographically – beside the determining requirement to know the capital city – predominates that classical principle, when they discover and want to know first their county, then some nearer, later some farther parts of the country.

- While travelling abroad – regarding some parts, small regions and settlements of the county it is different but - young people travel abroad with pleasure, but they choose mainly the farther, not the neighbouring countries.

- During the organization of the journeys and holidays of the secondary school students those forms are determining – for example the family and school – which are connected directly with the classical youth touristical forms. (Illustration 7)

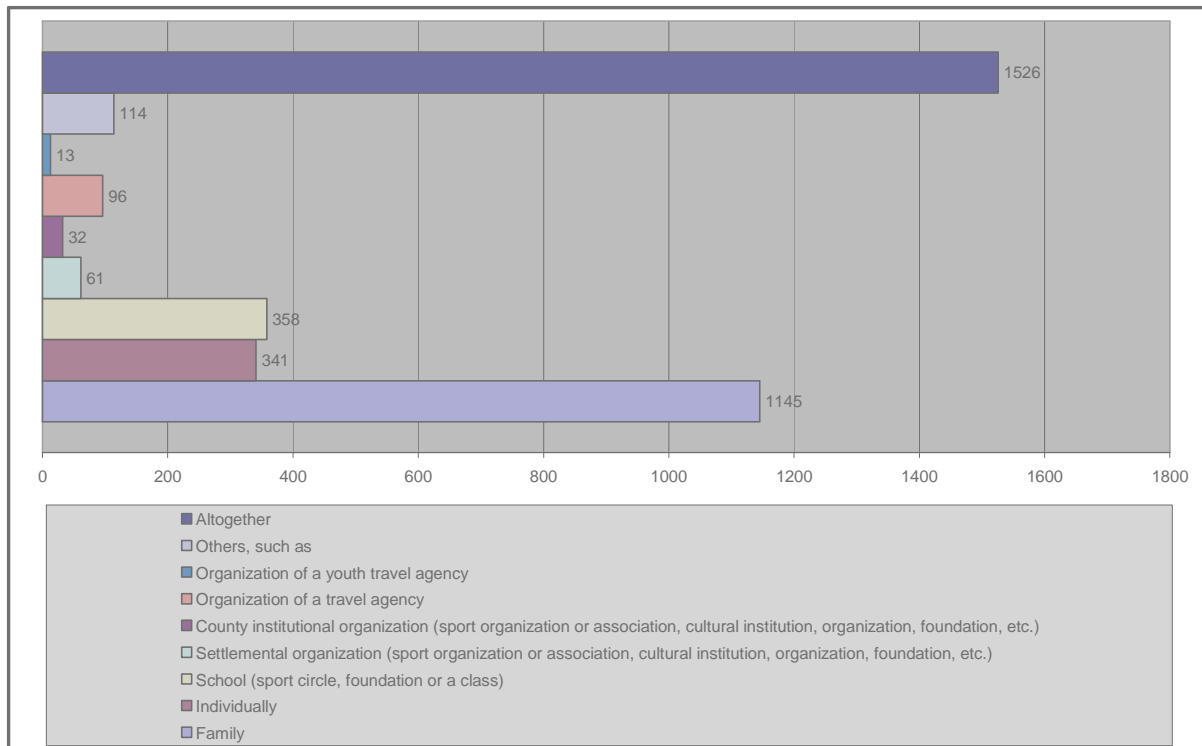


Illustration 7 Who took part in the organization of your journey and/or holiday?

- Young people gather the most information for the journey and/or holiday – beside the internet, which is a popular electronic way of getting to information nowadays – definitely from the family and school.

Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county's secondary school students' opinion about the facilities, touristical attractions of their county:

- The secondary school students of 15-19 living and learning in the county consider the natural facilities of their county – for example natural scene, hydrography, natural plant life, conservation areas - as generally varied, prosperous and average.

- The young people's opinion about the cultural inheritance attractions of their county is similar – for example architectural facilities, cultural events etc. – but its specific facilities – for example gastronomy, dishes and drinks proper to the region etc. – are considered as peculiar attractions. (Illustration 8)

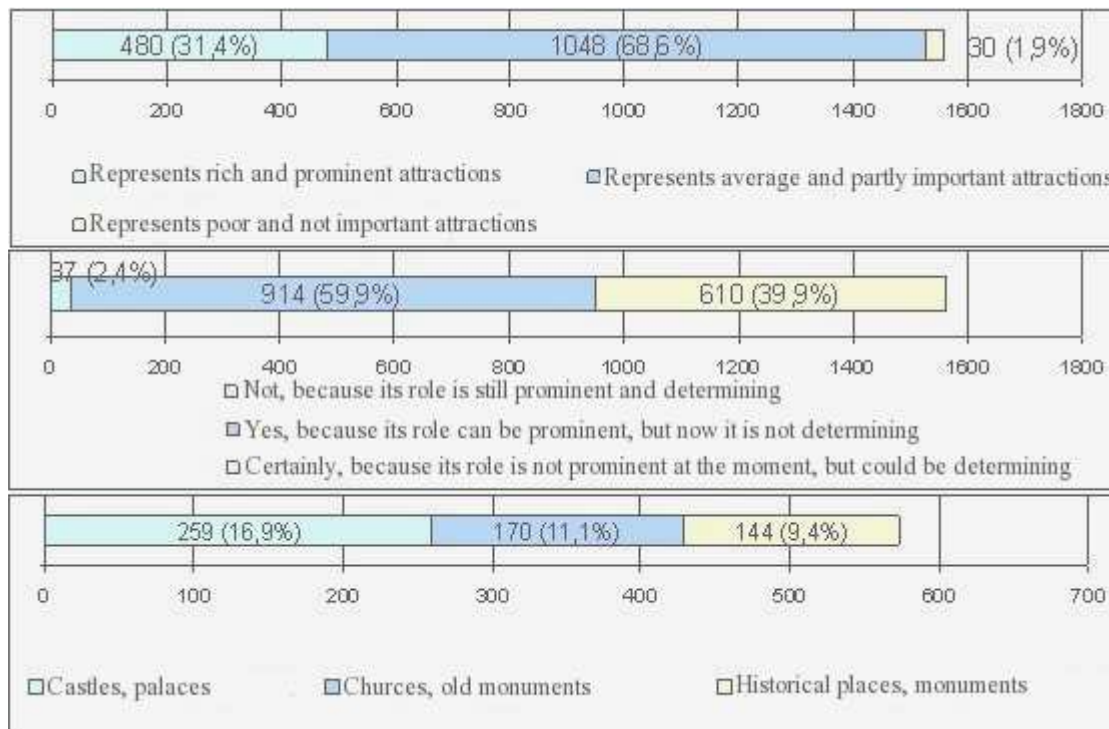


Illustration 8 1. How do you consider the architectural facilities of the county in the touristical point of view? 2. Indicate your opinion about if you would increase the role of the given element during the future development of the tourism of the county. 3. Name and highlight the facility which you consider the most important.

- The students in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county judge the entertaining facilities – which are close to their interests – and the level and attraction of the forms belonging to active tourism average and partly remarkable.
- The secondary school students regard the line infrastructure, the general level of the catering trade and the touristical services of their county average, and resulting partly from this they express their real and legal claims for youth travel agency/ agencies, for their services, for getting to youth touristical information and youth thematic programmes.

Szabolcs-Szatmár- Bereg county, within it Nyíregyháza counts the youngest county and county capital regarding its age of population. which can be appreciated as a favourable facility. (Nyíregyháza with its nearly 30 primary and secondary educational institutions, 4 colleges as a school-city represents the youth-age in even more concentrated way within the county.) In the touristical development conception of the county and Nyíregyháza keeping the young generation appears as an important element. This fact on the one hand establishes the possibilities and possible perspectives of the youth tourism as a complex form of tourism, on the other hand makes it necessary to improve it. Regarding the attractions of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county determining in the touristical point of view possesses several facilities – for example natural and built attractions – which can be taken into consideration while developing the touristical forms connected directly or indirectly to youth tourism – for example active, hiking/green-, eko-, sport-, hobby tourism, inheritance and event tourism, and last but not least religious tourism, or some complex touristical forms.

Major fields of the development of the youth tourism in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county:

- More concrete and emphasized appearance of the child and youth tourism in the touristical strategy and conception of the county and capital of the county, Nyíregyháza. Because of the geographical, geopolitical situation of the county and its capital in the county's institutional connections runovering the borders – for example in the cooperation of the twin cities, partner cities and twin settlements youth tourism is to be present in grater extent in the future.
- Development of touristical infrastructure, youth accomodations with lower prices suitable for the young people' financial possibilities better, building up adequate system of the water and bicycle routes.
- Establishing the organized frame of youth tourism not only regionally but in the county, too, creating its network coordination, application of the project- and programme organization built on appropriate marketing. (Its system can be built with providing the proper conditions and founding on the educational institution network of the county and its capital. But basically I think the efficient and uniform organization and coordination of child and youth tourism should be undertaken and attended by the general assembly of the county and its capital and by its corporations and institutions.)

4.3 General and concrete developing suggestions based on the results of the youth touristical motivation research

Suggestions connected with the development of the youth tourism in Hungary:

- The determining number of the child and youth age, and its role in the society can make it reasonable to set up an independent ministry or a ministerial office.
- The positive pedagogical.-methodological, organizational, coordinational experiences of the touristical activities of the previous youth movements can contribute to the development of youth tourism in present days.

On the base of the previous national and well – operating international examples – for example „*Jugendberberge*” network – would be expedient to create and operate a youth accommodation system in the country suitable for the youth’ requirements and their financial possibilities. The development of the campings -which were earlier significant and provided services of higher standard – would serve youth tourism well.

- Bringing the building camps into being again (agriculture, building industry, archeological explorations etc.), which were popular among the youth touristical forms in the time of both the scouting and the pioneer - and the Communist Youth Association movements.

- Formation of the system of the school programmes determining in youth tourism, for example class trips, hikings, different camps, forest schools etc, and more efficient, successful assurance of its continuous organizational conditions. Financial and ethical support in greater extent of the school physical education, sport activities, hiking organized by the school, camps, forest schools. With more coordinated and directed pedagogical-methodological help, information, suggestions of programmes schools could play a bigger role in youth tourism.

Suggestions in connection with the development of the tourism and youth tourism of the areas in the frontiers involved into the research which belong to the Carpathian Euroregion – Sub-Carpathia county, the region of Beregszász (Ukraine), Szatmár county, Szatmárnémeti and its surrounding (Romania).

- Beside quick and comfortable travelling, the touristical programmes planned to the neighbouring countries, continuous modernization of the border stations making the procedure of getting through the border easier, quicker is required.
- Beside the developing road transport system, which means mainly the modernization of some main roads – especially in the towns but in smaller settlements, too – it is necessary to mend the road surfaces, to broaden petrol stations and services providing adequate fuel, develop the bicycle routes system, to improve the system and quality of the signed touristical routes, to build more rest-houses.
- Expansion of the bicycle routes which are built on the barriers of rivers, development of the infrastructure on the waterside enlarge the possibilities of water tourism and camping on watersides. Increasing the living accommodations of the hotels, continuation of the renovations set about, or renovation of the baths and hydro-hotels, accommodations and campings suitable more for the students’ financial possibilities, and development of the system of the schools possessing adequate accommodation-capacity (hostels) would efficiently improve the infrastructural conditions of tourism.
- Significant development of the level of the general and along-the-road infrastructure and the general infrastructure of the villages would improve remarkably the basic supply of the local population and tourists.
- Expansion of the touristical specialists, more efficient marketing and advertising activities (for example developing the information system of the boarder stations, giving out issues and leaflets showing prominent attractions, promotions made by the modern equipment of informatics etc.) would serve the better international knowing of Sub-Carpathia and Szatmár county and reinforcing their positive aspect.

5. Possibilities of the expediency of the results

5.1 Applications of the results of the research in different conceptions of the touristical development

5.1.1 Developing Conception and Strategical Programme of the Tourism of Szabolcs-Szatmár- Bereg County

The Developing Conception and Strategical Programme of the Tourism of Szabolcs-Szatmár- Bereg county was made in February of 2003 in the purpose of the formulation of the long-term and mid-term plans of the touristical development of the county. The programme does not contain direct conceptions, plans connected with the youth and youth tourism. At the same time in some parts of the programme we can find indirect references concerning the youth living in the county and youth tourism. The dissertation, which intends to map the relaxing and holiday habits

of the 15-19 year-old students living and learning in the county, and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county's facilities and touristical attractions, can form a part of the conception of the county's touristical development.

5.1.2 Touristical Developing Conception of Nyíregyháza

Touristical Developing Conception of Nyíregyháza – with the motto „*You can build something only on foundations*”- was made in 2006. This document involves the integrated mid-term touristical developing purposes of Nyíregyháza, and the conditions needed for them. The programme involving the touristical developing ideas of the capital of the county only indirectly, although in more places than in the previous one, represents elements connected with the young and youth tourism. As Nyíregyháza is a school city and it has a central role to attract the youth it makes it on one hand competent, on the other hand necessary for the youth tourism to fill a prominent part in the life of the students and the city by means of knowing better the possibilities and requirements of the young.

5.2 Practical applications of the results of the research

5.2.1 Planning the school youth touristical programme possibilities (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

In Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county there is not a central institution and/or organization which deals with planning, organizing and coordinating the students' tourism, so the organization of the youth touristical programmes of over a hundred schools operating in the county is unsolved in the professional-methodological point of view. So the educational institutions have to organize and plan their youth touristical programmes themselves, for example class- and study trips mid-year or summer professional programmes, camps, maybe international projects. In schools, where there are different age-groups, it is advisable to organize different school youth touristical programmes in view of students' age, educational level, interests and physical capacity. In order to support this activity it would be important to establish a professional and methodological centre and/or a planning- organizing, coordinating institution/organization which could help with its suggestions the schools to solve the tasks connected with youth tourism. The youth touristical research made in the county and the dissertation giving out its results, experiences – with concrete programme suggestions in „*Appendix 2-3*”-can contribute to realization of the above stated.

5.2.2 Planning the offers of the thematic youth touristical programmes (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)

Beside the school youth touristical programmes carried out with more general contents and themes, class- and study trips – for example knowing the residence and its surroundings, tour in the county etc. – nowadays so called thematic trips organized around a defined theme and camps organized in the holiday, generally in summer are more and more popular among students and teachers. The geographical, historical, literary, artistic historical, ethnographical etc. walks, trips and competitive or leisure sports beside their educational function occupy socializing role in forming communities. A touristical, handicraft, dance, lifestyle or a sport camp organized and carried out with a complex programme has an educational, attitude-forming, endurance-raising and community-organizing/building effects. The youth touristical research made among the students in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and the professional-methodological experiences of the research and its suggestions can be useful to establish and form the school thematic touristical programmes and the system of summer camps. „*Appendix 2-3*” of the dissertation contains the concrete thematic programme suggestions based on the practice and the experiences of the research.

5.2.3 Planning the offers of the thematic youth touristical programmes (youth touristical programmes in the frontiers)*

The natural and human-made attractions of the areas belonging to three different countries – Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county, Sub-Carpathia (Ukraine) and Szatmár county (Romania) – and involved in the youth touristical motivation research can be exploited well while cooperating and planning and organizing different touristical, youth touristical projects. The favorable geographical location of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county beside the mediator connections provides enormous possibilities to form and develop regional cooperations, the twin counties and twin cities relations, (f.e. Nyíregyháza – Szatmárnémeti etc.) and cooperations overarching the frontiers. The small areas in the frontiers of the neighbouring countries, small regional touristical areas cannot be separated from the areas of the frontiers which belong to them organically in many respects. All these can provide a good possibility to develop the regional cooperation on the field of tourism and to form common touristical programmes based on the different attractions. In the surveyed areas and in their areas of the frontiers from the possible touristical/youth touristical cooperative forms and programmes in the view of above mentioned we can highlight the eko-, village-, gastronomical-, active-, health- cultural-, and experience -, religious tourism, and especially youth tourism. The twin town connections overarching the frontiers and the educational institutions can be promoters and participants with their two-or more-sided between-schools-, educational-, cultural-, sport cooperations, and with their common participations in the applications of EU. The youth tourism also can receive a determining role in the forming and operating the connections in the frontiers with the planning and organizing between-schools-, class and/or study trips-, mid-term and summer thematic camps, active-, eko-, cultural-, sport programmes for which the „Appendix 2-3” of the dissertation refers and gives suggestions.

5.3 Possibilities of the application of the results of the research with a statistic purpose

5.3.1 Statistic application of the results of the youth touristical research

The tasks of the organization –KSH- with a significant past, which professionally is independent and has a competence in the whole country, are planning data inclusion, data inclusion, data processing, data analysing, insertion of the result. The KSH has a reporting obligation to supply data for the parliament and/or its executive organizations, for social organizations and representations of interests, for self- governments, for public corporations, for the representatives of scientific life, for economic organizations, for the population, for organs and in special cases for abroad, too. The primary function of supplying of data of the office is the insertion of the information referring to the country's social and economic situation, its population. The KSH's mission statement claims the following „ *Our mission is to initiate reliable statistic data about the position and changes of the Hungarian society, economy, property relations and the environment, which meet the requirements of the wide range of our users (the government, the members of economy, Eu and other international organizations, researchers, mass communication and the wide public opinion.*” (WWW:KSH:HU) The data of the youth touristical research made in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and in the areas of its frontiers can be used by the KSH, too. Mapping the travelling-holiday motives, habits, requirements and ideas of the surveyed section of the youth age in a wider range can be important for the reason that among the participants of the youth tourism in Hungary surprisingly the young belonging to the 15-18 year-old age represent only 10% proportion. Regarding the section of the 15-19- year-old age this proportion can be modified only slightly by the proportion –which is 17%- of the young who are in the lower bound of the 19-24-year-old age group. (MESTER T. 2008)

* In the purposes of the euro-and interregional organizations, in the rank of programmes of the two-or more-sided connections overarching the frontiers- beside economy, natural environment, guarding the cultural inheritance, education – we can speak about tourism as a point of breaking –out. Tourism as a dynamically developing sector of today's economy with stimulating employment can contribute to reducing the unemployment, developing the economy of the underprivileged, periferical, underdeveloped areas in the frontiers, but as „ *an industry of peace*” can have a prominent role – by knowing better each other's language, culture, customs, folk customs, gastronomy etc.- in strenghtening the connection of the population with same and different nationalities living on the two parts of the borders, and in release of the prejudice and cords inhereted from the historical past. Students and youth tourism can play a determining role in this process regarding its specific situation and function.

5.3.2 Application the results of the youth touristical research in marketing point of view

The Hungarian Tourism Zrt. is a national touristical marketing organization responsible for the popularization of the tourism in Hungary, whose main purpose is to improve the number of the guests arriving to our country, the number of the nights spent here and income coming from tourism. The determining guideline of its work is: to emphasize the role of „*the touristical professional supplying partner*”. „*The mission of the Hungarian Tourism Zrt. is to contribute to market the home touristical supply, and by this to help to improve the income coming from national and international tourism taken place in Hungary.*”² Among its concrete tasks appear for example building national and international aspects of Hungary as a touristical destination, improving its acquaintance, marketing-communication activity, providing touristical information for the home and foreign tourists, for potential travellers and decision-makers and for the national and international profession. The research results and information gained about the youth tourism of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and the belonging foreign areas of the frontiers in my opinion can be built in improving of the acquaintance and touristical aspects of Hungary. The statistically proved knowledge of the secondary school students' motivations, habits and ideas, requirements can contribute to draw the students into tourism in a wider range.

5.3.3 Other possibilities for application

The Prime Ministerial office and the Youth, Family, Social and Chance-equality Ministry (ICSSZM) in 2004 ordered a research from the Mobility Youth Research Office which deals with the youth, the position of the youth, and whose results were published in the document „*The Youth 2004 – Quick Report 2005*” by the authors (BAUER B. – SZABÓ A. 2005) The purpose of the research „*compared to the previous condition how the social factors have changed, which influence the schooling, employment, carrier, self-determination and prosperity chances of the youth-ages, and how these influences reflect in their life-style, spare time activities, cultural consumption.*”³ The research and the quick report deals specially with the social position of the youth, with the characteristic features of the life-style of the 15-19-year-old age, their sport habits and cultural consumption. The first mentioned part is about the youth' holiday, the second one is about the youth' sport habits and useful spending of their spare time relating to their cultural life. The document considers the youth's holiday as a comprehensive index of standard of living, but – according to the research – about half of the youth can afford it. The possibilities of the vocational schools students are especially unfavourable in this respect, while relatively in the best position are grammar school students and the students of universities and colleges. The destinations of the youth' travellings are mainly Hungary, fewer than a half of the travellers can afford to travel abroad. It is interesting but not surprising in sociological point of view, the statement of the research that the people living in the capital and the capitals of counties are in more favourable position regarding going on holiday. In addition to this regional differences appear, too, which shows that „*the youth living in economically more developed regions go on holiday more often, than others.*” The youth touristical motivation research mapping the holiday and travelling habits of the students living in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county can appear in possible national youth research as a statistic and a conceptual – methodological material.

The Youth and Sport Committee of the County General Assembly of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County's in 2006 initiated a research establishing the county youth conception, which aimed to examine the changes of the life of the youth living in the county – demographic situation, education, economic activity, lifestyle and cultural habits, child- and youth protection etc. The document with the title „*Reference for the County General Assembly – about the results of the County Youth Research*” states that - regarding the county's demographic situation – the decline of the number of the births is perceptible, „*At the same time on the base of the demographic forecast can be seen well that the county will preserve long its youthful age-structure as compared with others so working-out of a county youth conception is deliberately needed.*”⁴ The research highlights referring to the socialization of the 15-19 year-old people living in the county that the different programmes relating to the youth should be placed in the whole of the cultural and spare-time activities of the population, but for it the characters of the youth's interests, educational requirements must be known and disclosed. To organize usefully spare

time an adequate professional background and providing cultural programmes carrying values are necessary. The research and the reference do not deal specifically with the relaxing and holiday habits of the youth living in the

² www.itthon.hu (2008): Constitutional system of tourism, accessibility, Hungarian Tourism Zrt. p. 1.

³ BAUER B. – SZABÓ A: (eds): 2005: Youth 2004 – Quick Report. Mobility Youth Research Office (National Youth Research Institution's legal successor), Budapest, p.10.

⁴ The Youth and Sport Committee of the County General Assembly of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county (2006): Reference – For the County General Assembly – about the Youth Research and its Results in the county, Nyíregyháza, p.2.

county – apart from that the material refers to „ *the fields suitable for different extrem sports*” for the young – so the research mapping it and analysing its results concretely can be considered as a part of the above mentioned and the following county researches.

6. Further research tasks, purposes and plans

The youth touristical motivation research, which was the base of my PhD – dissertation geographically covers Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county in Hungary, which is situated in the North-Plain region, the two neighbouring Carpathian Interregion areas (Sub-Carpathia, the region of Beregszász, Beregszász and its surrounding, Ukraine and Szatmár county, Szatmárnémeti and its surrounding, Romania as well as the control counties in Hungary, their some areas. The directions of the youth touristical research resulting the expansion of the geographical area can be the following:

- Organization of further researches covering the North-Plain region (Drawing Hajdú-Bihar and Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok counties into the youth touristical research)
- Drawing other regions and/or counties of Hungary into the youth touristical research
- Drawing further areas of Romania and Ukraine belonging to the Carpathian Interregion into the touristical research

The further developing possibilities of the questionnaire, which consists of two main parts and gives the base of the youth touristical research – „ *The holiday and relaxing habits of the 15-19 year-old secondary school students*” and „*The review of the touristical attractions-facilities of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county*” can be the followings:

- The expansion of the content of the questionnaires with such questions which make it possible to know and compare the touristical motivations and habits of the students learning in different types of secondary schools (grammar school, technical schools, vocational schools).
- Supplement of the content of the questionnaires in order to enlarge our knowledge connected to the tourism of the young - involved in the research - living in the regions and counties.
- Modification of the questionnaires with the purpose to get to information about other segments of the young, 10-15 and/ or 20/29 year-old age-groups, regarding their participation in tourism.

7. List of Publications

7.1 Publications belonging to the theme of the dissertation

1. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1992): Geography of our County - School Culture 1992/5. pp. 32-40.
2. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1997): Bicycle Tours in the Upper-and Middle-Tisza Regions, Frigoria Gmk. Book Publisher, Budapest, pp. 1-146.
3. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2002): Possibilities of the forming and developing of touristical topical programmes in the North-Plain region, mainly in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and in the frontiers in the youth touristical point of view, In: Aubert A. (the editor): Research in Tourism, actual questions of Tourism in Hungary – PTE TTK FI, Pécs, pp. 144-160.
4. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2003): Some theoretical and methodological questions of the youth touristical project planning and system attitude. In: Kókai S. (editor). Natural Science Publications 3. – Nyíregyházi College Natural Science College Faculty, Nyíregyháza, pp. 165-174.
5. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2005): Some aspects of the youth tourism. In : Galó M. – Mrs. Vass L. (eds.) The Publications of the Scientific Public Foundation of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County 21. – „*Knowledge-based Economy and Life – quality*” Advisory Board of the Scientific Public Foundation Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Nyíregyháza, pp. 479-483.
6. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2005): *Some aspects of the youth touristical research (Relaxing and holiday habits of the 15-19-year-old age in Szerencs and its surrounding)* In: Frisnyák S. – Gál A. (eds.): Szerencs is the Gate of the Tokaj - Hillstand – Nyíregyházi College Geography Department, Bocskai István Grammar School Szerencs, Szerencs, pp. 369-383.
7. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2006): „ *Roamings in Sub-Carpathia I.*” (*Facilities of the youth tourism, its role and development possibilities in Sub-Carpathia*) – Teaching of Geography , XIV. /4, pp. 17-34.
8. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2006): Possibilities of the research and development of the youth tourism in the North-Plain region (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) – Sub - Carpathia (Ukraine) – Szatmár county (Romania). In: Kókai S. (editor): Geography and Tourism – Nyíregyháza, pp. 193-209.
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10. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2006): *Youth and Tourism (Some questions of the history and theory of tourism)* In: Kókai S. (editor) Natural Science Publications 6. – Nyíregyházi College Natural Science College Faculty, Nyíregyháza, pp. 143-158.
11. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2007): „*Roamings in Sub-Carpathia II.*” – Attractions, sights and touristical programme possibilities in Sub - Carpathia (Ukraine) - Teaching of Geography , XV/2 .pp. 22-31.
12. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2007): „*Roamings in Sub-Carpathia III.*” – Attractions, sights and touristical programme possibilities in Sub - Carpathia (Ukraine) - Teaching of Geography , XV/3 .pp. 13-19.
13. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2007): *School and Tourism* In: Kókai S. (editor): Natural Science Publications 7. – Nyíregyházi College Natural Science College Faculty, Nyíregyháza, pp. 19-32.
14. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2008): Gems of Székelyföld - Characteristic lakes - Interesting types of lakes in the serve of tourism in Székelyföld -Teaching of Geography, XVI/3 .pp. 25-35..
15. **KOMÁROMI I.** (under publishing) School and Tourism - Teaching of Geography, .p. 16..
16. **KOMÁROMI I.** (under publishing) *Possibilities of the tourism/youth tourism in the frontiers belonging to the Carpathian Euroregion/Interregion on the base example of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and Szatmár county* - Scoala Satmareana (Casa Corpului Didactic Satu Mare), p. 6.

7.2 Lectures belonging to the topic of the dissertation

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2. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2004): Some aspects of the youth tourism. (The role and effect of geography and geographical knowledge in the touristical attitude of the 15-19 year-old age) In: Galó M. – Mrs. Vass L. (eds.) The Publications of the Scientific Public Foundation of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County 21. – („*Knowledge-based Economy and Life-quality*”) Advisory Board of the Scientific Public Foundation Szabolcs-Szatmár -Bereg County, Nyíregyháza, pp. 479-483.
3. **KOMÁROMI I.** (2005): *Some aspects of the youth touristical research (Relaxing and holiday habits of the 15-19- year-old age in Szerencs and its surrounding)* In: Frisnyák S. – Gál A. (eds.): Szerencs is the Gate of the Tokaj – Hillstand – Nyíregyházi College Geography Department, Bocskai István Grammar School Szerencs, Szerencs, pp. 369-383.
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2. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1989): Name-changes on the Map of the Earth - Teaching of Geography, 1989/2, p.2.
3. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1992): Experiences of the Geography teacher candidates’ training – ACTA, BGYTF. Scientific Publications, Bessenyei György Publisher, Nyíregyháza, pp. 253-259.

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5. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1993) Discovery of the Polar Regions - School Culture, III/17. pp. 22-27.
6. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1993) Through Finland to the North Polar Circle with Students – Pedagogical Workshop, XIX/4. pp. 49-56.
7. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1993): Geography lesson on the nature reservation – Teaching of Natural Science, n.5 pp.17-18.
8. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1994): In the track of the memories of the Pannon – Sea. - Teaching of Natural Science, n.5 pp. 2-7.
9. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1995): East –Europe and the Country of thousands of Lakes I. - Teaching of Natural Science, n.13 pp. 9-13.
10. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1995): East –Europe and the Country of thousands of Lakes II. - Teaching of Natural Science, n.14 pp. 6-10.
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12. **KOMÁROMI I.** (1995): The Danube –valley in Austria – School Culture, 1995. V/3-4, pp. 23-29.
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