

Article

“The Role of Tourism in the Cross-Border Cooperation between the West Pomeranian Voivodship in Poland and Mecklenburg Pomerania in Germany”

Abstract

This study examines the impact of tourism on cross-border cooperation between the West Pomeranian Voivodship in Poland and Mecklenburg Pomerania in Germany. It explores how tourism acts as a catalyst for regional development and mutual understanding in border areas. The research utilizes a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data analysis of tourist flows and economic impact with qualitative interviews from local stakeholders in both regions.

The findings reveal that tourism has significantly contributed to the socio-economic integration of the border regions. Joint tourism initiatives have led to improved infrastructure, increased cultural exchange, and the creation of a shared regional identity. The study also identifies challenges such as disparities in economic development and administrative hurdles that hinder deeper integration.

The article proposes a framework for enhancing cross-border tourism cooperation, emphasizing the need for harmonized policies, collaborative marketing strategies, and shared cultural heritage projects. It argues that sustainable tourism development can serve as a model for other forms of cross-border cooperation, ultimately strengthening the European integration process.

This research contributes to the understanding of cross-border dynamics and provides practical recommendations for policymakers and practitioners involved in cross-border tourism and regional development.