

A striking example of the importance of information protection is the case of Oksana Sevastidi, a resident of Sochi, who in 2008 was convicted of treason for sending an SMS about military equipment movements. Her message inadvertently provided intelligence to Georgian authorities during the Russia-Georgia conflict. Although later pardoned, her case highlights how seemingly trivial actions can have severe consequences in the context of state secrets.

In conclusion, while many state secrets have been declassified and are now publicly accessible, they continue to play an essential role in modern society. The legal frameworks that protect such information remain crucial in balancing national security with the rights and freedoms of citizens.

**A. Samuskevich**

**А.Е. Самускевич**

БрГУ им. А.С. Пушкина (Брест)

*Научный руководитель И.В. Повх*

## **AGRICULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL TOURISM AS A VEHICLE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

### **Агроэкотуризм как инструмент регионального развития в Республике Беларусь**

A region is a part of the country that differs from others by a set of natural and (or) historically formed, relatively stable economic, geographical and other features. The Republic of Belarus is divided into administrative-territorial units and territorial units. An administrative-territorial unit is a part of the territory within the boundaries of which the local Council of Deputies and executive and administrative body are established and operate. The purpose of our research is to discuss the prospects of further regional development in the Republic of Belarus through the development of agricultural and ecological tourism.

The main objectives of regional development are to ensure sustainable development of the territories and improve the living conditions of the people by facilitating the efficient operation of the economy, innovative development and competitiveness. Regional policy implies equalisation of living standards of the population and smoothing the most acute social and economic disproportions between separate regions of the country. The enhancement of urban and rural infrastructure (energy, construction, transport, communications, trade, public catering and consumer services) and social sphere (education, health care, culture, physical culture and sports, social security, tourism) is an urgent task. One of the most promising areas of economic growth and regional development is agricultural and ecological tourism.

As of the year 2024, there are over 1,300 agricultural and ecological farmsteads in Belarus. Our country has taken measures to create favourable environment for the development of agricultural and ecological tourism, improve the living conditions of

people in rural areas and small urban settlements, as well as rural infrastructure. This decision is enshrined in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of October 4, 2022, № 351 «On the development of agricultural and ecological tourism». Pursuant to Decree 351, agricultural and ecological tourism is an activity aimed at introducing tourists to the national traditions, natural, agricultural and cultural potential of the country as well as providing recreation and health care services during their temporary stay at agricultural and ecological farmsteads.

Agricultural and ecological tourism is a type of tourism aimed at employing natural, cultural, historical and other resources of rural areas to create a comprehensive tourist product. In the years 2016 and 2018, Belarus ranked first as the best country for agricultural and ecological tourism by the *National Geographic Traveller* magazine (Russia). Agricultural and ecological tourism in rural areas is supported by young people, who want to run and develop their family business by actively promoting the establishment and development of agricultural and ecological farmsteads.

These farmsteads are located in the most picturesque places and designed in a folk or a modern eco-style. It is the national flavour that gives zest to traditional agricultural and ecological farmsteads, whose owners create special cultural programs and initiatives. Here you will hear local legends and authentic songs, learn Belarusian dances and take part in ancient folk rituals. You can even have a traditional Belarusian wedding party.

All things considered, we can state that agricultural and ecological tourism is one of the most attractive options for recreation in Belarus. Picturesque landscapes, salubrious environment and the unique vibe of the countryside attract guests to the country's farmsteads. Agricultural and ecological tourism is becoming increasingly popular in Belarus. Today, owners of farmsteads, farmers, artisans, representatives of the tourism business form clusters, offering their guests a wide range of services, creating unique tourist offers and their own brands.

**D. Talko**

**Д.А. Талько**

АУПРБ (Минск)

*Научный руководитель В.В. Рогов*

## **THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS ON THE FORMATION OF PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MAKING OF POLITICAL DECISIONS**

### **Влияние социологических и политических факторов на формирование общественного мнения и принятие политических решений**

The objective of this study is to identify and analyze the influence of sociological and political factors on the processes of public opinion formation and political decision-