



Received: 19.03.2026

<http://dx.doi.org/10.16926/sit.2026.01.09>

Accepted: 23.03.2026

Błażej CIEŚLIK\*, Daniel BAKOTA\*\*, Teresa DROZDEK-MAŁOLEPSZA\*\*\*,  
Eligiusz MAŁOLEPSZY\*\*\*\*

## FROM 1997 TO TODAY: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF *SPORT I TURYSTYKA*

**How to cite [jak cytować]:** Cieślík, B., Bakota, D., Drozdek-Małołepsza, T., Małołepszy, E. (2026). From 1997 to Today: The Past, Present, and Future of *Sport i Turystyka*. *Sport i Turystyka. Środkowoeuropejskie Czasopismo Naukowe*, 9(1), 223–230.

### Od 1997 roku do dziś: Przeszłość, terażniejszość i przyszłość czasopisma „Sport i Turystyka”

#### Streszczenie

Niniejszy edytorial stanowi refleksję nad przeszłością, terażniejszością i przyszłością czasopisma „Sport i Turystyka” („Sport and Tourism. Central European Journal”). Założone w 1997 roku czasopismo rozwinęło się od lokalnie zakorzonego rocznika do kwartalnika naukowego o wyraźnym profilu środkowoeuropejskim i stopniowo rosnącej widoczności międzynarodowej. W tekście przedstawiono tę ewolucję, podkreślając aktualną różnorodność tematyczną czasopisma, dojrzałość redakcyjną, model otwartego dostępu oraz zgodność ze współczesnymi standardami publikowania naukowego. Wskazano również na postępy w zakresie umiędzynarodowienia, obejmujące rosnący udział artykułów anglojęzycznych, szerszą międzynarodową reprezentację autorów i recenzentów, coraz większe geograficzne zróżnicowanie publikacji oraz wzrost widoczności czasopisma w międzynarodowym środowisku indeksacyjnym. W zakończeniu zidentyfikowano kluczowe priorytety dalszego rozwoju, obejmujące wzmacnianie jakości naukowej, selektywności redakcyjnej, pozycji międzynarodowej, infrastruktury cyfrowej oraz długofalowej stabilności. Łącznie ele-

\* <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7275-7860>; Associate Professor; Institute of Physical Culture Sciences, Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Częstochowa, Poland; Healthcare Innovation Technology Lab, IRCCS San Camillo Hospital, Venice, Italy

\*\* <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5056-1928>; Assistant Professor; Faculty of Social Sciences, Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Częstochowa, Poland

\*\*\* <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0482-9655>; Associate Professor; Institute of Physical Culture Sciences, Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Częstochowa, Poland

\*\*\*\* <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2373-6048>; Full Professor; Faculty of Social Sciences, Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Częstochowa, Poland; e-mail: e.malolepszy@ujd.edu.pl (corresponding author)

menty te ukazują postępującą instytucjonalną dojrzałość czasopisma oraz jego ambicję do umacniania swojej pozycji w międzynarodowym krajobrazie komunikacji naukowej.

**Słowa kluczowe:** sport i turystyka; kultura fizyczna; czasopismo.

## Abstract

This editorial reflects on the past, present, and future of *Sport i Turystyka* (Sport and Tourism Central European Journal). Established in 1997, the journal has developed from a locally rooted annual publication into a quarterly scholarly journal with a distinct Central European profile and steadily growing international visibility. The editorial outlines this evolution, emphasizing the journal's current thematic diversity, editorial maturity, open-access model, and alignment with contemporary standards of scholarly publishing. It also highlights recent progress in internationalization, including the increasing share of English-language articles, the broader international representation of authors and reviewers, the growing geographical diversification of contributions, and the journal's expanding visibility within the international indexing environment. Finally, the text identifies key priorities for future development, including further strengthening scientific quality, editorial selectivity, international positioning, digital infrastructure, and long-term sustainability. Together, these elements illustrate the journal's ongoing institutional maturation and its ambition to consolidate its place within the international scholarly landscape.

**Keywords:** sport and tourism; sport sciences; journal.

## The Past

The history of *Sport i Turystyka* dates back to 1997, when the journal was established on the initiative of Professor Joanna Rodziewicz-Gruhn and Professor Eligiusz Małolepszy. Since its inception, the journal has been published by the Scientific Publishing House of Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa. From the outset, it was conceived as a scholarly platform dedicated to the dissemination of research in the broadly understood field of physical culture, sport, and tourism. In its earliest phase, between 1997 and 2004, it was published annually under the title *Research Papers. Physical Culture* (ISSN 1505-4241), reflecting both its academic character and its disciplinary foundations.

A new stage in the journal's development began in 2005, when it adopted the title *Research Papers of the Jan Długosz University of Częstochowa – Physical Culture Studies and Research* (ISSN 1895-8680). Under this title, the journal continued to strengthen its scholarly profile and institutional identity. Between 2005 and 2012, it remained an annual publication. As its editorial activity and scientific ambitions expanded, the journal increased its publication frequency, first moving to a biannual format, and from 2016 onward establishing itself as a quarterly journal. This progression reflected the journal's gradual maturation, its growing editorial capacity, and its increasing responsiveness to the evolving needs of the academic community.

A decisive milestone was reached in the third quarter of 2018, when the journal began to be published under its current title, *Sport i Turystyka* (Sport and Tourism Central European Journal, ISSN 2545-3211). This change marked more than a formal renaming. It signaled a broader transformation in the journal's scope, visibility, and aspirations, positioning it more clearly within the international scientific landscape while preserving continuity with the scholarly tradition on which it had been built. Seen from a historical perspective, the development of the journal from a locally rooted annual publication into a quarterly journal with a distinct Central European and increasingly international profile illustrates a process of steady institutional and editorial evolution.

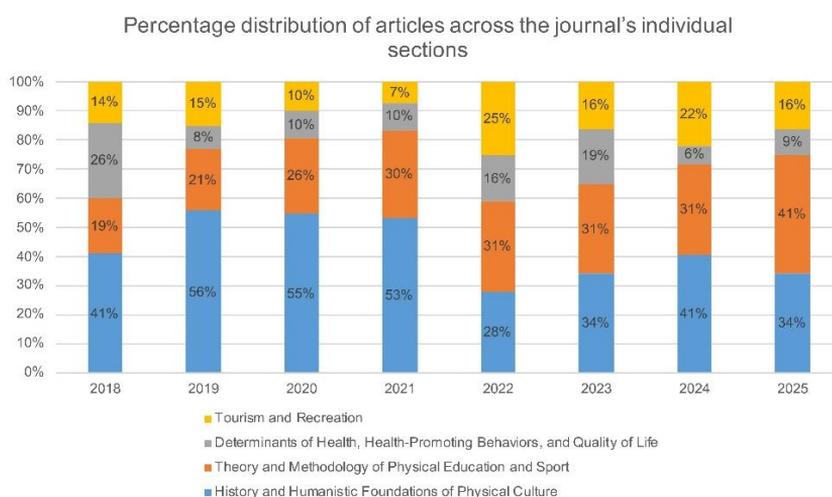
## The Present

Today, *Sport i Turystyka* combines continuity with its academic roots and a clearly strengthened contemporary publishing profile. Its scope encompasses research in sport, tourism, physical culture, and related interdisciplinary fields, offering a forum for scholarly dialogue that links theoretical reflection with empirical inquiry. At the same time, the journal's present identity is shaped by increasing editorial maturity and by the adoption of standards expected of modern scholarly periodicals. The journal is managed through the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform, published in open access, and assigns Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to all articles in order to ensure permanent accessibility and traceability (Crossref, n.d.). Its peer review process follows a double-blind model and involves at least two independent reviewers for each manuscript. The journal also operates in accordance with the principles of publication ethics promoted by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), reinforcing its transparency, credibility, and alignment with internationally recognized standards of scholarly publishing (Committee on Publication Ethics [COPE], 2017, 2022).

The journal publishes approximately 32 articles annually. Its thematic profile is internally diverse, with a strong historical and humanities-oriented core within the field of physical culture studies, accompanied by a parallel stream of publications in sport sciences, health sciences, and tourism (Sport and Tourism Central European Journal, n.d.). This balance reflects both continuity with the journal's scholarly tradition and its responsiveness to the broader evolution of research in these fields. Figure 1 presents the percentage distribution of articles across the journal's principal sections.

An important dimension of the journal's current development is its progressive internationalization. While remaining firmly rooted in its Central European academic identity, *Sport i Turystyka* is increasingly oriented toward a broader international scholarly audience. This shift is visible in the growing share of Eng-

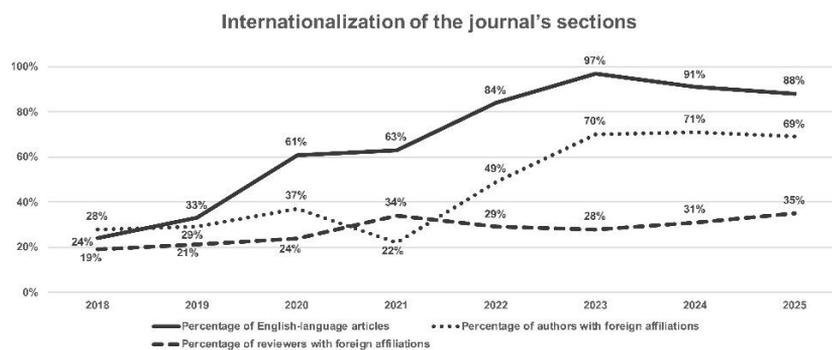
lish-language articles, the rising participation of authors with foreign affiliations, and the gradual expansion of the international reviewer base. Following the implementation in 2020 of a plan to transition toward publishing in English, the proportion of English-language articles increased from 33% in 2019 to 97% in 2023, before declining slightly to 91% in 2024 and 88% in 2025. Over the same period, the share of authors with foreign affiliations rose substantially, reaching 69% in 2025, whereas the proportion of reviewers with foreign affiliations increased more moderately and stabilized at around one third in recent years. These developments were further supported by the Development of Scientific Journals program, implemented in 2022–2024. Figure 2 illustrates these changes.



**Figure 1**

Percentage distribution of articles published across the journal's individual sections.

Source: editorial data based on journal records.

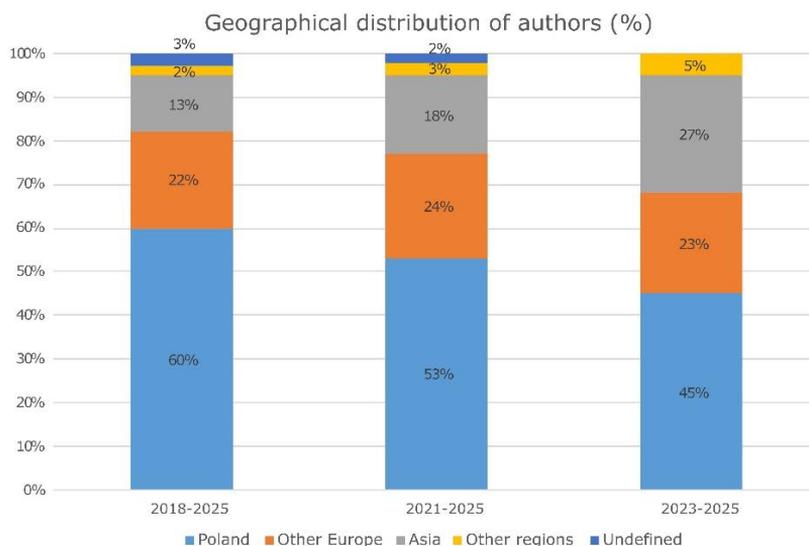


**Figure 2**

Changes in the journal's internationalization between 2018 and 2025.

Source: editorial data based on journal records.

Complementing this picture, Figure 3 shows a gradual broadening of the journal's geographical profile. Although Poland remains the main contributing country, its relative share has declined over time, accompanied by a stable presence of contributions from other European countries and a growing share from Asia. Taken together, these patterns point to a progressively more diversified international authorship structure.



**Figure 3**

Progressive geographical diversification of Scopus-indexed publications across three nested periods.

Source: editorial calculations based on Scopus-indexed journal records.

The journal's current standing is also reflected in its visibility across the scholarly communication landscape. At present, it is indexed or listed in a number of international and national scholarly information services, including Scopus, DOAJ, ERIH PLUS, and SPORTDiscus (EBSCOhost). Its digital visibility is further supported by its presence in additional scholarly platforms, repositories, and library-based systems, as well as by its dedicated online platform and archival access to current and past issues. This growing visibility is also reflected in the journal's citation performance within Scopus. Since its acceptance for indexing in 2021, the journal's CiteScore has shown a clear upward trend, increasing from approximately 0.1 in 2021 to approximately 0.5 in 2024 (Scopus, n.d.). This pattern suggests a gradual strengthening of the journal's position relative to other titles in the same Scopus category. According to Scopus projections, the journal's CiteScore for 2025 is expected to reach 1.0. Figure 4 presents this upward trajectory.

## CiteScore trend

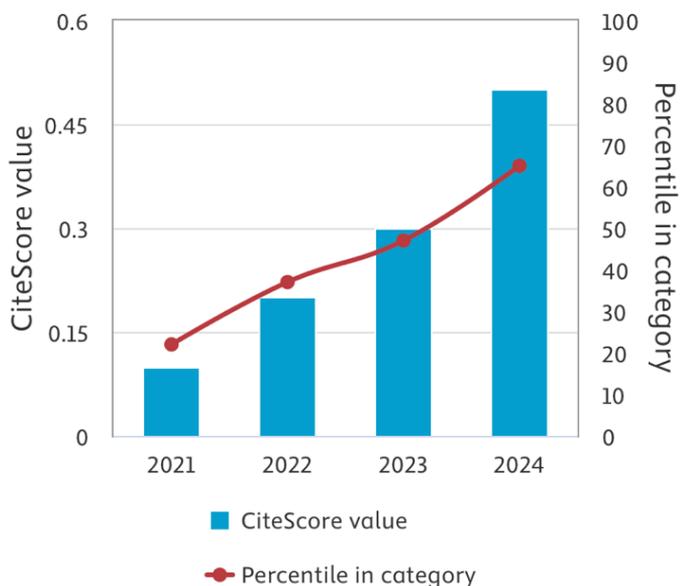


Figure 4

Growth trend in CiteScore (Scopus) in the years 2021–2024.

Source: Scopus Source details (source ID 21101067745, accessed 9 March 2026).

## The Future

A key priority for the journal in the coming years is the further enhancement of scientific quality, editorial selectivity, and the overall maturity of its publishing processes. This requires a stable inflow of high-quality submissions and a clear preference for articles with strong scholarly relevance and citation potential. Review articles, methodological papers, and thematically focused original studies addressing internationally relevant topics may be particularly important in this regard. Continued progress will also depend on the professionalization of editorial work, including efficient manuscript handling, the development of a strong and internationally engaged reviewer pool, reviewer recognition mechanisms, and the active contribution of the scientific board to the maintenance of academic standards. The continued use of online-first publication, immediately after production is completed, may further improve the visibility and citation potential of accepted articles.

Another major direction concerns the journal's international profile and scholarly standing. Further progress in this area depends on a broader partici-

pation of authors, reviewers, and editorial board members from abroad, as well as on a more active presence within international research networks. Thematic calls for papers, invited editorials, invited review articles, and carefully designed special issues may help increase thematic visibility, attract contributions from broader academic communities, and strengthen the journal's role in international scholarly exchange (Huang et al., 2022). These efforts may also support the journal's further recognition within the global research environment, including its current evaluation by Web of Science (Clarivate).

The journal's long-term advancement will also require continued investment in digital infrastructure, dissemination, and organizational sustainability. In contemporary scholarly publishing, this includes the implementation of modern metadata and publishing standards, particularly JATS XML, to improve interoperability, discoverability, indexing quality, archival durability, and online distribution. Such developments may also facilitate the creation of additional publication formats and strengthen the journal's wider digital presence. At the same time, more systematic promotion of published articles through digital communication channels, including social media and ready-to-use dissemination materials for authors, may broaden the journal's reach and reinforce its visibility within the academic community. These activities will require a sustainable financial and organizational framework capable of supporting high editorial standards, English-language copyediting, and the journal's continued international growth.

---

#### DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interests with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of the article *From 1997 to Today: The Past, Present, and Future of Sport i Turystyka*.

#### FUNDING

The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of the article *From 1997 to Today: The Past, Present, and Future of Sport i Turystyka*.

#### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

**Błażej Cieślik:** Conceptualization, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review and Editing.

**Daniel Bakota:** Conceptualization, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review and Editing.

**Teresa Drozdek-Małołepsza:** Conceptualization, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review and Editing.

**Eligiusz Małołepszy:** Conceptualization, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review and Editing. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

---

## References

- Crossref. (n.d.). *Content Registration*; <https://www.crossref.org/services/content-registration/>. Retrieved: 09.03.2026
- Committee on Publication Ethics. (2017). *Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers*; <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/ethical-guidelines-peer-reviewers>. Retrieved: 09.03.2026
- Committee on Publication Ethics. (2022). *Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing*; <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/principles-transparency-and-best-practice-scholarly-publishing>. Retrieved: 09.03.2026
- Huang, R., Huang, Y., Qi, F., Shi, L., Li, B., & Yu, W. (2022). Exploring the characteristics of special issues: Distribution, topicality, and citation impact. *Scientometrics*, 127(9), 5233–5256. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-022-04384-9>.
- Scopus. (n.d.). *Sport and Tourism Central European Journal* [Source details]. Retrieved March 9, 2026, from <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21101067745>.
- Sport and Tourism Central European Journal. (n.d.). *About the Journal*; <https://czasopisma.ujd.edu.pl/index.php/sport/about>. Retrieved: 09.03.2026.