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## The Origin and Functioning of the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* and Its Importance in the Development of Pilgrimages and Religious Tourism at the Polish-Ukrainian Border

### Abstract

Inclusion of the Polish sections of the Way of St. James in the European network of Camino de Santiago gave impetus to marking the Way of St. James within the territory of Ukraine. On the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Polish section of Camino de Santiago, on 10 October 2015 and 11 October 2015 in Shehyni and Medyka at the Polish-Ukrainian border, the first Ukrainian section of *Camino de Santiago*, the so-called Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* was connected with the Polish section of the St. James's route – The Subcarpathian Way of St. James *Via Regia*.

The objective of the paper is to present the origin and development of the first Ukrainian section of the Way of St. James – the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*. Authors of the paper have also indicated the possibilities of development of the pilgrimages and religious tourism at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland on the basis of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. In the research related to religious tourism in the examined area only Catholic church sanctuaries (Catholic church of the Latin rite and Byzantine-Ukrainian rite) located in the frontier zone at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland were taken into account.

From the perspective of functioning of the Route of St. James at the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland for over a year it may be stated that it may become an important and popular section of *Camino de Santiago* in this part of Europe. Studies conducted confirm that this section of the route is attended by Camino pilgrims seeking silence, solitude and a kind of counter-balance to the increasingly commercialized *Camino de Santiago* in Spain, especially its final 100-kilometer sections leading to the sanctuary in Santiago de Compostela.

The presented thesis constitutes a result of the office and field works that have been conducted by the authors on the European sections of the Way of St. James since 2006. These research works have been focused mainly on the section *Camino de Santiago* at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland since 2013.

**Słowa kluczowe:** *Camino de Santiago*; Droga św. Jakuba; Lwowska Droga św. Jakuba *Via Regia*; pielgrzymka; Santiago de Compostela; turystyka religijna

**Key words:** *Camino de Santiago*; Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*; pilgrimage; religious tourism; Santiago de Compostela; St. James's Way

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## Introduction

The Way of St. James – *Camino de Santiago* is the longest and most known pilgrimage and culture trail in Europe. The track has existed for over 1000 years and has enjoyed a considerable development during the last decade. Many parts of Europe undertake initiatives aiming at the development of the cult of St. James, as well as creating new parts of the *Camino de Santiago*.

It is estimated that the sanctuary of St. James in Santiago de Compostela is visited by over 5 million people each year. In 2015 at the Pilgrimage Agency of the Archbishopric of Santiago de Compostela (*Oficina de Acogida al Peregrino*) 262 516 Camino pilgrims who had obtained the “Compostela” (a document certifying the completion of the pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James – walking the distance of the last 100 kilometres of *Camino de Santiago* or covering the distance of its 100 kilometres on a horseback or 200 kilometres by bike) were registered ([www.oficinadelperegrino.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/peregrinaciones2015.pdf](http://www.oficinadelperegrino.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/peregrinaciones2015.pdf)). While analyzing the data related to the pilgrimage movement to the tomb of St. James in the last decade, a constant increase in the number of the Camino pilgrims from the Central and Eastern Europe – particularly from Poland, Hungary and Slovakia – is visible. For a few years the number of Ukrainians who have reached Santiago de Compostela and received the so-called Compostela has also been increasing. In the year 2015, 3782 pilgrims from Poland (1.44% of the total) and 159 Ukrainians (0.06% of the total) received the “Compostela”. For comparison, in the year 2005 there were 422 Poles and 11 people from Ukraine ([www.oficinadelperegrino.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/peregrinaciones\\_2005.pdf](http://www.oficinadelperegrino.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/peregrinaciones_2005.pdf)).

In the year 2004 when the European network of the Way of St. James reached the Polish-German border the first Camino pilgrims thought of demarcation and designation of the first section of Camino de Santiago. Next year the first section of the St. James’s route in Poland – the so-called Lower Silesian Way of St. James was opened. During the next decade the total number of 32 sections of the Way of St. James, whose length currently exceeds 6000 kilometres (updated 1 November 2016), were marked. Inclusion of the Polish sections of the Way of St. James in the European network of Camino de Santiago gave impetus to marking the Way of St. James within the territory of Ukraine. On the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Polish section of Camino de Santiago, on 10 October 2015 and 11 October 2015 in Shehyni and Medyka at the Polish-Ukrainian border, the first Ukrainian section of *Camino de Santiago*, the so-called Lviv Way of St. James Via Regia was connected with the Polish section of the St. James’s route – The Subcarpathian Way of St. James *Via Regia*.

The opening of the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* introduced Ukraine into the European network of pilgrimage routes leading to Santiago de Compostela and increased the pilgrimage distance for Camino pilgrims. The first Ukrainian section of the Way of St. James also provides the chances for development of the pilgrimages and religious tourism at the Polish-Ukrainian border.

The objective of the present paper is to present the origin and development of the first Ukrainian section of the Way of St. James – the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*. Authors of the paper have also indicated the possibilities of development of the pilgrimages and religious tourism at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland on the basis of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.

In the research related to religious tourism in the examined area only Catholic church sanctuaries (Catholic church of the Latin rite and Byzantine-Ukrainian rite) located in the frontier zone at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland were taken into account. The research also included sacral objects with the official status of a sanctuary specified with the rules of the Code of Canon Law, therefore possessing the relevant approval of the local bishop (Code of the Canon Law, can. 1230). The frontier zone at the Polish-Ukrainian border was delimited pursuant to rules on local border traffic agreed upon by the Government of the Republic of Poland and Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine that entered into force on 1 July 2009 ([www.dziennikustaw.gov](http://www.dziennikustaw.gov)). This zone extends no more than 30 kilometres from the border and the local administrative units that were regarded as the frontier zone are specified in the above-mentioned bilateral agreement ([www.egospodarka.pl](http://www.egospodarka.pl)).

The present paper constitutes a result of the office and field works that have been conducted by the authors on the European sections of the Way of St. James since 2006. These research works have been focused mainly on the section *Camino de Santiago* at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland since 2013 (Bordun, Mróz F., 2016).

### **The origin of marking out the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia***

A number of factors influenced the formation of the first section of the Way of St. James, among which the key importance can be given to: marking out the Way of St. James *Via Regia* in the Subcarpathian region, growing interest of *Camino de Santiago* in Ukraine, and – first of all – the cooperation of the employees of the Chair of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv with lovers of the St. James's Routes and worshippers of St. James in Poland associated in the Confraternity of St. James at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk and the Confraternity of St. James in Więclawice Stare.

Lviv Way of St. James is an eastward extension of the Sub-Carpathian Way of St. James *Via Regia*. *Via Regia* (High Road) was a medieval trade route that led from Kiev through Zhitomir, Lviv, Przemyśl, Jarosław, Przeworsk, Kraków, Wrocław, Leipzig, Cologne, Aachen, Paris to the Iberian Peninsula. It was a transregional route on which, along with the development of trade, a number of infrastructure facilities and new settlements were established and which contributed to the development of interrelations among European countries. It was safely used not only by merchants and armies, but also by pilgrims going to the tomb of St. James the Apostle in Santiago de Compostela (Mróz Ł., 2015). At present, the Way of St. James *Via Regia* is the longest section of the thirty-two existing sections of the Way of St. James in Poland. This route counts 957 km in the territory of Poland and leads from Korczowa and Medyka (near the Polish-Ukrainian border) through Przemyśl, Jarosław, Przeworsk, Rzeszów, Pilzno, Tuchów, Tarnów, Brzesko, Wieliczka, Kraków, Olkusz, Będzin,

Piekary Śląskie, St. Anne's Mountain, Opole, Skorogoszcz, Brzeg, Wrocław, Legnica to Zgorzelec (Bordun, Mróz F., 2016).

The first section of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* in Poland, from Brzeg through Wrocław and Legnica to Zgorzelec, was opened on 6 October 2006. In the following years, another section of the route was marked – starting from Pilzno and leading through Tuchów, Tarnów, Brzesko, Wieliczka, Kraków, Olkusz, Sławków, Będzin, Sączów, Piekary Śląskie, St. Anna's Mountain, Opole, Skorogoszcz, Brzeg to Wrocław.

A key event and a project that provided the bases for marking the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* was the opening of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* in the territory of the Subcarpathian province (Korczowa – Przemyśl – Jarosław – Przeworsk – Łańcut – Rzeszów – Pilzno) on 5 January 2012. The Subcarpathian Way of St. James *Via Regia* was formed due to the involvement and work of the Subcarpathian Camino pilgrims and lovers of *Camino de Santiago*, as well as by fundings from the Marshal's Office of the Subcarpathian Province. The main originator of the idea of marking the route was Paweł Plezia – a guide, a chairman of the Management of the Branch of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society in Ropczyce and a member of the Association "Friends of the Ways of St. James in Poland". In the year 2011 Krzysztof Liebchen marked a 219-kilometre section of the route from Korczowa (at the Polish-Ukrainian border) through Przemyśl, Jarosław, Przeworsk, Rzeszów to Pilzno.

Officially, in the spring in 2013, a group of camino pilgrims and lovers of the route in the Subcarpathian area marked an alternative route leading from the Polish-Ukrainian border in Medyka to Przemyśl (22 kilometres). Currently, the members of the Fraternity of James Apostle at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk that was established on 13 October 2013 in Przeworsk care for the route. It is also worth mentioning that in the year 2014 the members of the Przeworsk fraternity and the Society for Development of Tuligłowy set and marked the connecting section of the Subcarpathian Way of St. James – the so-called Tuligłowy Way of St. James leading from Wola Rokietnicka to the Shrine of Immaculate Mother of Good Hope in Tuligłowy and afterwards to Rokietnica where it is connected with the main route of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* (13 km).

When marking out the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*, its creators primarily followed the course of the medieval trade route leading from Kiev through Lviv to Przemyśl and then to Kraków and Wrocław. Most sections of the route were led along dirt or paved roads not burdened with heavy road transport. Unfortunately, in contrast to works carried out on the Polish sections of the Way of St. James, in the territory of Ukraine, it was impossible to refer to locations of parishes and churches dedicated to St. James the Greater, as they are scarce in Ukraine. However, on the analysed section of the route, there are many Orthodox Churches dedicated to St. Nicholas who is also considered the patron saint of travellers, as well as sailors, merchants, archers, children and students (Bordun, 2014). Unfortunately, at present, the only church dedicated to St. James at the borderland between Poland and Ukraine (though not at the route of the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*) is a ruined temple in Krakovets (Archdiocese of Lviv, deanery of Horodok) ([www.rkc.in.ua/index.php?l=p&m=k&f=ozlvja&p=lvjakrjk](http://www.rkc.in.ua/index.php?l=p&m=k&f=ozlvja&p=lvjakrjk)). This church was founded in 1785 by the contemporary owner of Krakovets – Ignacy Cetner, Governor of the Belz Province. The temple was built in the Neoclassical style, on a Latin cross plan with a single extended nave.

However, it should be emphasised that the iconography of St. James the Greater is relatively rich in Ukraine as images of the first Apostles martyr are present in all the Orthodox churches where iconostases have been preserved. Traces of the cult of St. James are also present in Lviv, where, until the end of the 18th century, an Orthodox Church of the Armenian rite existed within the area of the Castle Hill. The temple was demolished in the years 1796–1800, after a decision of Austrian authorities implemented resolutions of the so-called Joseph's reforms of the Emperor Joseph II of Habsburg (1741–1790) (Bordun, Hołub, 2015).

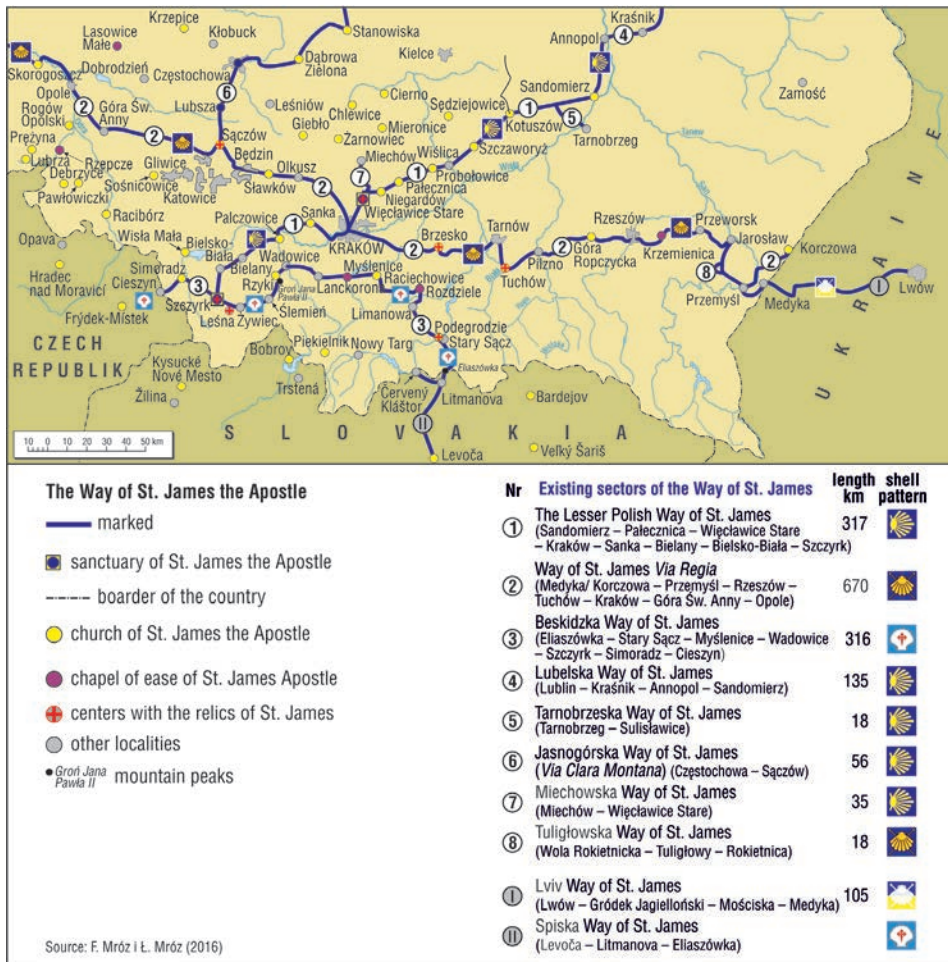
The design for marking out the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* was developed and prepared by the research staff of the Department of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv operating since 2003. In the years 2006–2016, the Department of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv organized ten conferences of international importance, attended by academics from Poland, Belarus and Italy. During the conference held in 2012, theoretical bases for studying the cult of St. James the Apostle were presented by Franciszek Mróz and Łukasz Mróz (Mróz F., Mróz Ł., 2013). In 2013, the research staff of the Department of Tourism of the National University of Lviv established cooperation with Camino pilgrims in Poland. At the same time, cooperation was established between the management of the Department of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and the Head of the State Higher School of Technology and Economics in Jarosław (Mróz F., Mróz Ł., 2013).

In the years 2014–2016 the employees of the Chair of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv continued field work and research in the Lviv libraries and archives. Scholars from the State Higher School of Technology and Economics in Jarosław (Jacek Hołub, MSc.) as well as the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków (Łukasz Mróz, MSc.) also participated in this research. At the turn of September and October 2016 the field works at the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* were conducted by the employees of the Institute of Geography of the Pedagogical University of Kraków (Franciszek Mróz, PhD; Anna Delekta, PhD and Kamila Ziółkowska-Weiss, PhD) during the two-week academic internship. The research related to traces of the cult of St. James the Greater in Lviv and on the designed section of the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*. Results of these studies were presented at the 7th International Scientific Conference "Saints and the Blessed on the Way of St. James – On the 800th Anniversary of the Pilgrimage of St. Francis of Assisi to Santiago de Compostela" (6–7 September 2014), 8th International Scientific Conference "The Way of St. James in Poland – Past, Present and Future. On the 10th Anniversary of the First Polish Section of Camino de Santiago" (4–6 September 2015) (Bordun, Hołub, 2015), 9th International Scientific Conference "Camino de Santiago and the Tomb of St. James: History and Interpretation" (10–11 September 2016) (Bordun, Mróz F., 2016), as well as at conferences organized in Ukraine, which resulted in publications in academic journals in Kiev and Zhytomyr (О. Бордун, Ю. Шуманська, 2015).

Parallel to the studies, the research staff of the Department of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv participated in a pilgrimage on the Sub-Carpathian Way of St. James *Via Regia*. Due to the cooperation between St. James's Fraternity at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk and the research community of the University of Lviv, the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* was marked out. Markings on the route of 105 km from Lviv to Shehyni were made by the research

staff and students of the University of Lviv under the direction of Assistant Professor O. Bordun and T. Zawadowski (Bordun, Mróz F., 2016).

On 10–11 October 2015 in Szegina and Medyka near the border between Poland and Ukraine the group of 70 Camino pilgrims from Poland and Ukraine (members of the Fraternity of St. James at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk, the Fraternity of St. James in Lviv, the Mazovian Fraternity of St. James and the Fraternity of St. James in Więclawice Stare, students of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, students of the Lviv National Academy of Arts and members of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society) met on the Way of St. James to participate in the ceremony of connecting the Polish and Ukrainian sections of the Way of St. James *Via Regia*. Simultaneously, it meant the completion of marking works on the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*. Linking of both cross-border sections of the



**Fig. 1.** The Ways of St. James the Apostle in south-eastern Poland at the borderland between Poland and Ukraine and between Poland and Slovakia (as of 1 October 2016).

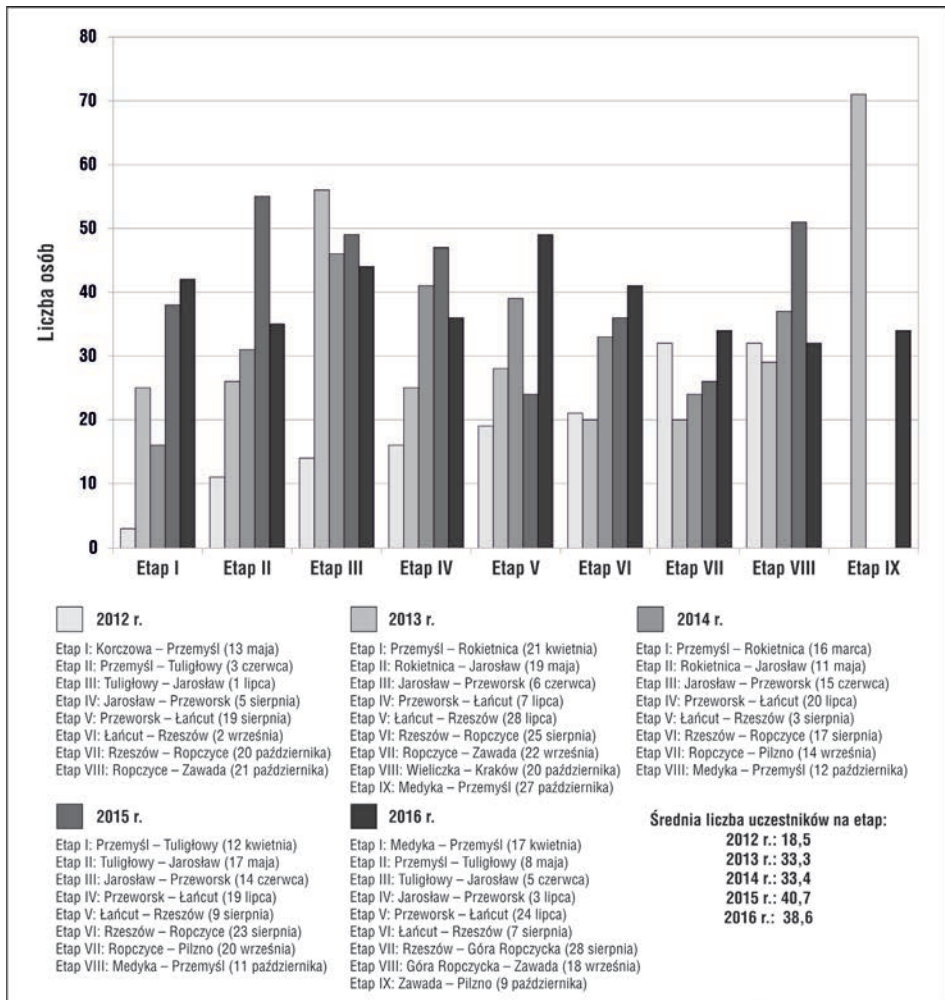
Compilation: F. Mróz and Ł. Mróz

Way of St. James provides new opportunities for the development of this route at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland, and, above all, it enables pilgrimages on the route fully marked with St. James's shell from Lviv to Santiago de Compostela ([www.viaregia.podkarpacie.eu](http://www.viaregia.podkarpacie.eu)) (Fig. 1).

### **The Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* – functioning, chances and threats to further development**

Group trips and pilgrimages along the Way of St. James known as “Sunday Pilgrimage”, “Camino Walking Tram” or “Weekend on the Way of St. James” that have been organized for many years constitute a very important element in the development of pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela within Central and Eastern Europe. Originators of this type of wanderings are mainly lovers of the Way of St. James, members of the camino societies, members of the Fraternities of St. James, chaplains, students and scouts. Particular attention should be paid – first of all – to pilgrimage initiatives known as “Sunday Pilgrimage on the Way of St. James” organized by members of the Fraternities of St. James. This initiative was also well-adopted in the Subcarpathian region where it has been organized by lovers of Camino de Santiago who are members of, among others, the Subcarpathian Region of the Scouts of the Scouting Association of the Republic of Poland and members of the Fraternity of St. James at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk since 2012. The total number of 1388 people (in the year 2012 – 148 camino pilgrims; in the year 2013 – 300; in the year 2014 – 267; in the year 2015 – 326 and in the year 2016 – 347 people) participated in 42 stages of pilgrimages organized between 2012 and 2016. Taking into account the average number of participants per stage in the particular years (in the year 2012 – 19 people; in the year 2013 – 33 people; in the year 2014 – 33 people; in the year 2015 – 41 people; in the year 2016 – 39 people) the growing popularity of pilgrimaging on the Way of St. James in the Subcarpathian province can be observed. As early as since 2013 camino pilgrims from Ukraine, among others, scholars and students of the Chair of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv have participated in many stages of the Sunday Pilgrimage on the Subcarpathian Way of St. James *Via Regia* (Fig. 2).

Following the example of the so-called “Sunday Pilgrimage on the Way of St. James”, which meets with high interest, the first pilgrimage hike of that kind, leading from Lviv to Horodok, was organized on 25 July 2015 and was attended by 50 pilgrims (25 from Poland and 25 from Ukraine). The next stages of the pilgrimage on the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* were organized on 12 September 2015 (the section from Horodok to Sudova Vyshnia) ([www.viaregia.lnu.edu.ua/node/22](http://www.viaregia.lnu.edu.ua/node/22)) and during the period from 10 October 2015 to 11 October 2015 when – as it has already been mentioned – the Polish and Ukrainian section of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* were connected. In 2016, members of the Fraternity of St. James in Lviv organized a Sunday Pilgrimage on the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*. The first stage of this pilgrimage on the route Lviv – Horodok took place on 15 May 2016 and 9 people, mainly students of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, took part in it ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). In the second stage organized on 12 June 2016 on the section from Horodok to Sudova Vyshnia there were 15 pilgrims from Ukraine and 1 person



**Fig. 2.** Participants of “Sunday Pilgrimage on the Way of St. James *Via Regia*” organized in the years 2012–2016 by the Subcarpathian Region of the Scouts of the Scouting Association of the Republic of Poland and the Fraternity of St. James at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk.

Source: F. Mróz, Ł. Mróz (2016) on the basis of the list of pilgrims kept by the Fraternity of St. James at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk.

from Poland (Ірина Химка. Паломницький шлях святого Якова). The third stage took place on 24 July 2016 and 30 camino pilgrims (15 Ukrainians and 15 Poles) participated in it (Ірина Химка. Паломницький шлях святого Якова).

However, it should be assumed that the process of the development of the Way of St. James in Ukraine will continue at a slower pace than it has been the case in Poland or other countries of Western Europe, and this is mostly due to the lack of a pilgrimage tradition among Ukrainians, as well as the current economic and geopolitical developments in that country. Therefore, it is important that information on the sanctuary of St. James in Santiago de Compostela and the Way of St. James be spread



in schools, universities, centres for culture, sports and tourism, among tour operators, tourist guides, local non-governmental organizations and associations, and, in particular, among residents of the areas where the Way of St. James runs. As it has been stressed a number of times, for the Way of St. James to become an authentic and lively route in a given parish or region, the route must be present in and known to the local community (Mróz F., Mróz Ł., 2013). Tasks in this area are handled very well by the research staff of the Department of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv who have engaged students in the project of marking the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*, first having prepared them in terms of the subject of the project. During the internship students are asked, among other things, to prepare a sightseeing description of Orthodox churches located at the route and then present it during lectures. In turn, on 23 December 2015, a vernissage of drawings and watercolours depicting the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* was opened at the Department of Tourism of the National University of Lviv. The paintings were created by students of the Lviv National Academy of Arts who had participated in the fourth stage of the "Sunday Pilgrimage on the Lviv Way of St. James" ([www.viaregia.podkarpacie.eu](http://www.viaregia.podkarpacie.eu)).

The next step in promoting the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* were workshops organized by the Lviv Association for Tourism Development during the period from 2 November 2016 to 4 November 2016. Their aim was to improve the qualifications of the guides and translators accompanying tourists in the Lviv region. During the workshops Assistant Professor Oresta Bordun gave the lecture concerning the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*.

Tour guides and tour operators in the Lviv region may play a significant role in promoting the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* and transferring the basic knowledge concerning the phenomenon of pilgrim journeys to *Camino de Santiago*. Promotion of the Ukrainian section of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela with a emphasis on the multiculturalism of the Lviv region and an indication of the existing places of worship of St. James should take place in all possible sources of mass media. e.g. press, radio, television and, naturally, the Internet. Within this scope it is necessary to use social networks (social media), e.g. Facebook and Twitter. It is essential to draw the attention of the media, particularly journalists of local newspapers, as well as to organize press conferences and study tours of the Way of St. James. Organizing exhibitions and lectures concerning *Camino de Santiago* – the most beautiful one in the world – constitutes a very important element of promoting the Way of St. James. Within the framework of the cross-border cooperation regarding pilgrimages on the Way of St. James at the Polish-Ukrainian border such projects are implemented by the Fraternity of St. James in Lviv and Fraternity of St. James in Przeworsk. It is important for these activities to have support of the local communities – among the ministers, local authorities, tour operators, local entrepreneurs and representatives of the non-governmental organizations. Within this scope it is necessary to appoint the Program Committee (Chapter) for Development of the Way of St. James in particular areas of specific regions (provinces/districts). In Poland the board of this type was established in two regions, i.e. The Board for Development of the Route of St. James appointed on 15 April 2013 pursuant to the ordinance of the marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship and the Chapter of the Pomeranian Way of St. James appointed on 15 October 2008.

It is also worth emphasizing that at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv functions an information point providing information on the Way of St. James, and in the courtyard of the university, there is the only monument in Europe in the shape of a backpack with a brass shell of St. James tacked thereon. A banner with a photo of the backpack with St. James's shell also adorns the website of the Faculty of Geography of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv ([www.geography.lnu.edu.ua](http://www.geography.lnu.edu.ua)).

Thanks to the cooperation between the academic community in Lviv and the Fraternity of St. James the Apostle at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk, as well as the assistance of Rev. Piotr Roszak, Ph.D., a lecturer of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the Faculty of Geography and the Department of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv have been included in the project *Campus Stellae* and have received St. James Academic Accreditation ([www.campus-stellae.org/cpolonia.html#regia](http://www.campus-stellae.org/cpolonia.html#regia)). It is worth mentioning that *Campus Stellae* is an important link between young students and academic staff of universities with the idea of pilgrimage hiking on *Camino de Santiago*. This project has been developed since 2002 by the Association of Graduates of the University of Navarra (*Asociación ALUMNI – Universidad de Navarra*) which cooperates with other Spanish universities located on the French Way. The primary objective of *Campus Stellae* is to promote *Camino de Santiago* among the international academic community.

A fundamental issue for Camino pilgrims is, of course, a well-functioning and well-developed pilgrimage infrastructure. This is particularly true in terms of accommodation, catering and information facilities, as well as tourist shelters as places to rest and take shelter from inclement weather. Although on the Ukrainian section of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* there are, indeed, accommodation and catering facilities, their standard is very low. The situation as regards tourist infrastructure is much better on the Subcarpathian Way of St. James *Via Regia*.

A very important element of promotion of the Way of St. James is organization of exhibitions and lectures, as well as press and television interviews. Within the framework of cross-border cooperation concerning pilgrimages on the Way of St. James at the borderland between Poland and Ukraine, such projects are carried out by the Fraternity of St. James in Lviv and the Fraternity of St. James in Przeworsk. Organization of *Camino de Santiago* pilgrimages (hikes, treks) during weekends (on Sundays) greatly supports the popularization of the Way of St. James among local communities. Initiatives of this type are organized in different regions of Poland, mainly by Fraternities of St. James and members of the Association of Friends of the Way of St. James in Poland.

An important task faced by coordinators of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland is to ensure that the route does not lose its character as a pilgrimage route and that hiking on this route has primarily a religious dimension. This, however, does not mean closing off the route to tourists for whom a cognitive aspect is the main purpose of hiking. Therefore, it is necessary to provide pastoral care to pilgrims and tourists in buildings of religious worship located along the route. It is important that the route become a path of open temples and a place of prayer for pilgrims. It is also essential to appoint the so-called route guards who would carry out systematic checks of the condition of route markings, especially during the pilgrimage season.

Currently, it is difficult to provide an unequivocal answer to the question whether the Lviv Way of St. James Via Regia will be a lively route trodden by dozens of walking camino pilgrims. In the authors' opinion, there are great chances for development of this Ukrainian section of *Camino de Santiago* and the most important arguments for this to happen are, among others:

- rank and growing popularity of *Camino de Santiago* – at present the most important Christian pilgrimage route in the world, with over 1200-year-old pilgrimage tradition, listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site (within the territory of Spain and France) and the first European Cultural Route;
- “fashion” for *Camino de Santiago* present in Europe;
- tourist and pilgrimage attractiveness of the route – the Lviv Way of St. James Via Regia passes through the valuable natural and cultural areas (the city of Lviv – listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site) and shrines in Lviv, Krysowice and Mostyska,
- multifaceted nature of the route (religious, historical, cultural and natural),
- constantly growing pilgrimage and tourist movement of Ukrainians on *Camino de Santiago*,
- good marking of the distance of 105 kilometres of the route – in accordance with the method of marking (yellow arrows and shells, signposts, etc.) adopted in the Western European countries (mainly in Spain and France),
- organization of “Sunday Pilgrimage on the Way of St. James” by the Fraternity of St. James in Lviv,
- inclusion of the students of the Lviv universities in the process of marking out the route and the initiative of walking along the route,
- activity of the Fraternity of St. James in Lviv promoting the idea of pilgrimages and wandering along the Way of St. James and developing the cult of James the Greater,
- the support of the ecclesiastical authorities – the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church in the Lviv region – regarding the idea of pilgrimages on the Way of St. James,
- promotion of the Lviv Way of St. James Via Regia in mass media,
- the website devoted to the route,
- visits and hiking of foreign Camino pilgrims (mostly from Poland) along the route,
- cooperation with joint initiatives of demarcation and marking out the sections of the Lviv Way of St. James with fraternities of St. James in Poland,
- growing popularity (among Camino pilgrims) of new “exotic” sections of the Way of St. James in countries of Central and Eastern Europe – being a specific counterweight to the more and more commercialized *Camino de Santiago* in Spain – particularly the last 100-kilometre sections leading to the shrine in Santiago de Compostela,
- implementation of projects of development of the tourist infrastructure and promotion of the route of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine for the years 2014–2020 within the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (project at the stage of preparation),

- exchange of experience and updates on the research with other academic centres in Europe;
- inclusion of the Faculty of Geography and the Chair of Tourism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv in the project of *Campus Stellae*,
- participation of the Ukrainian scholars in the foreign, international conferences and symposia devoted to *Camino de Santiago*,
- improved transport accessibility of Lviv.

The main threats concerning further development of the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* include the following:

- lack of tradition of pilgrimages along the Routes of St. James among Ukrainians,
- geopolitical and economic situation in Ukraine,
- insignificant cult of Apostle James the Greater in Ukraine,
- lack of St. James the Greater Apostle parishes and churches in Ukraine,
- insufficient knowledge of Ukrainians regarding the character of St. James the Greater Apostle, a shrine in Santiago de Compostela, and a tradition of pilgrimages along the Way of St. James,
- insufficient tourist and pilgrimage infrastructure of the route,
- lack of information points concerning the route (except for the St. James Workshop at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv),
- unsatisfactory promotion of the route.

### **Importance of the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* in the development of pilgrimages and religious tourism at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland**

Incorporation of the first Ukrainian section of the Way of James into the European network of *Camino de Santiago* is a very important impulse towards the popularization of pilgrimages and hiking on the Way of St. James among Ukrainians both at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland and in the Iberian Peninsula. It can already be observed that the number of Ukrainians going on a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela increases every year. In 2004, only 30 people from Ukraine received the so-called Compostela (a document confirming the completion of a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James, with the final 100 km of *Camino de Santiago* travelled on foot, horseback or wheelchair, or 200 km travelled by bike) ([www.oficinadelperegrino.com](http://www.oficinadelperegrino.com)). In subsequent years, the number of Ukrainians who had reached Compostela was even lower and amounted only to 11 and 7 people in 2005 and 2006 respectively (the year 2004 was celebrated in Santiago de Compostela as the Holy Year of St. James). In 2010, i.e. the next Jubilee Year, at the Pilgrimage Office of the Archbishopric of Santiago de Compostela (*Oficina de Acogida al Peregrino*), 65 people from Ukraine were registered. The record year up till now – taking into account the number of Ukrainian camino pilgrims who had reached the tomb of St. James – was the year 2014 when 169 Ukrainians were registered and in the year 2015 there were 159 people ([www.oficinadelperegrino.com](http://www.oficinadelperegrino.com)).

The above-mentioned initiatives called “Sunday Pilgrimages along the Way of St. James”, as well as individual pilgrimages of foreign camino pilgrims may constitute an impulse for development of the pilgrimages and hiking along the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*. It is already worth mentioning that members of the Fraternity of

St. James in Więclawice Stare and lovers of *Camino de Santiago* from the Małopolska province will initiate “The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Pilgrimages along the Way of St. James from Lviv to Kraków” in the Roman-Catholic Cathedral in Lviv on 1 April 2017.

Opening of the Way of St. James at the borderland between Poland and Ukraine also creates new opportunities for the development of religious tourism and pilgrimages to pilgrimage centres located directly along the route or in its close proximity. This mostly applies to shrines situated in the frontier zone at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland (fig. 4). It must be emphasized that within this frontier zone there are over 30 shrines (31 within the territory of Poland, 2 within the territory of Ukraine) and directly at the Subcarpathian and Lviv section of *Camino de Santiago* there are 23 pilgrimage centres – 4 centres by the Lviv Way of St. James Via Regia (Shrine of Our Lady of Graces and Divine Mercy at the Lviv cathedral, Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua in Lviv, Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Mostyska and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Krysowice) and 19 centres at the Subcarpathian Way of St. James Via Regia (3 shrines in Przemyśl, Tuligłowy, Chłopice, 3 shrines in Jarosław, Przeworsk, Łańcut, Słocina, 5 shrines in Rzeszów, Ropczyce, Zawada and Pilzno) (fig. 4). Within the group of shrines at the frontier zone at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland particular attention must be paid mainly to Marian sanctuaries with images of Our Lady crowned under papal authority, i.e. Shrine of Our Lady of Graces in Lviv, Shrine of Our Lady of Kalwaria in Kalwaria Pałacowska, Shrine of Our Lady of Jackow and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary in Przemyśl, Shrine of Our Lady of Chłopice in Chłopice, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows and Shrine of Our Lady “Myloserdia Dveri” in Jarosław, Shrine of Our Lady of Bieszczady in Jasień, Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Jodłówka, Shrine of Our Lady of Comfort of the Afflicted in Wielkie Oczy, Shrine of Our Lady of Tuligłowy in Tuligłowy, Shrine of Our Lady of Graces in Lubaczów, Shrine of Our Lady of Łukawiec in Łukawiec, Shrine of Our Lady of Carmel in Tomaszów Lubelski and Shrine of Our Lady of Sokal in Hrubieszów. The shrines in Kalwaria Pałacowska, Przemyśl, Jarosław, Lubaczów, Tomaszów Lubelski, as well as the Shrine of Our Lady of Graces and Divine Mercy in Lviv have the highest position in the group of the shrines of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

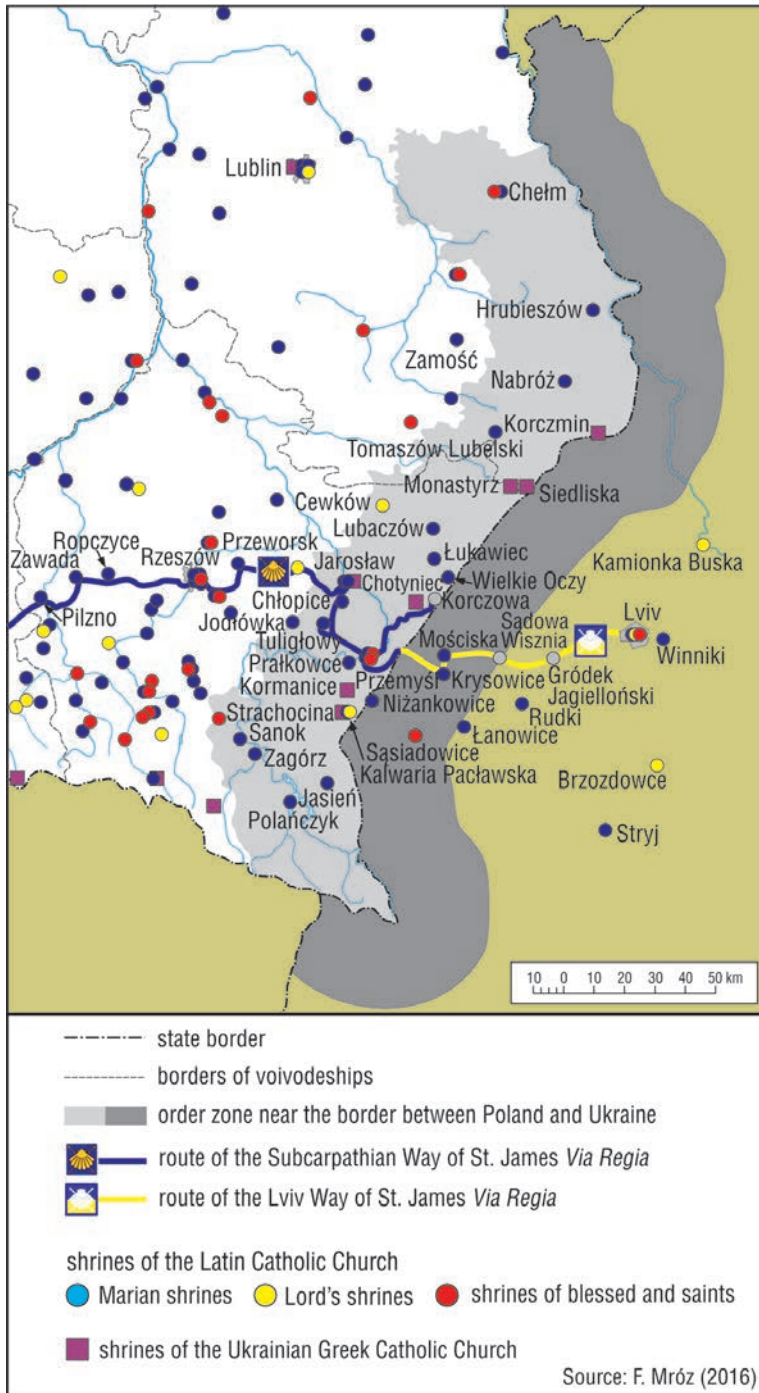
Pilgrimages and hiking along the Ukrainian section of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* may significantly enrich the offers of the Polish and foreign travel agencies and pilgrimages agencies organizing pilgrimages and religious tourism to the shrines in western Ukraine. Currently, dozens of tourist and pilgrimage groups – mainly from Poland – visit shrines in the Lviv Archdiocese. However, it must be emphasized that the number of shrines of the Roman-Catholic Church in Ukraine is small and it equals 21 centres at present (status as of 1 November 2016) ([www.idziemy.pl/kosciol](http://www.idziemy.pl/kosciol)). For comparison, approximately 850 shrines of the Catholic church are currently registered in Poland (Mróz F. 2016). The largest number of the Catholic shrines in Ukraine are in the Lviv Archdiocese – 13 (Mróz F., 2016). At present, there are 3 shrines in the diocese of Kamianets-Podilskyi, 2 shrines in the diocese of Kyiv-Zhytomyr and 1 shrine in the diocese of Kharkiv-Zaporizhia and Odessa-Simferopol, respectively. These shrines re-started their functioning as late as in the last quarter of a century (after the year 1991). It must be remembered that after the World War II ended, the majority of Poles living in the areas taken over by the Soviet Union (Soviet Socialist Republic of Ukraine) was forced to migrate to the destroyed Recovered Territories. Priests and believers leaving their hometowns took paintings with them and they

treated them as objects of cult in their parish churches for many years. In the group of paintings brought from churches situated within the eastern territories of the Second Polish Republic after the year 1945, Marian paintings are predominant, whereas there are relatively few paintings of Christ as well as pictures of the saint and the blessed (Kukiz T., 2001). In the year 1991 Pope John Paul II renewed the structures of the Catholic church in Ukraine and Ukrainian authorities resumed diplomatic relations with the Holy See. Following years brought on the revival of the Roman-Catholic Church and Greek-Catholic Church in Ukraine and part of the shrines closed and destroyed in the communist period gradually re-started their functioning.

The Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* may also become a pilgrimage space of walking pilgrimages that have been organized at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland for many years, e.g. pilgrimages from Rzeszów to the Shrine of Our Lady of Graces in Lviv. In the last edition of this pilgrimage organized during the period from 25 June 2016 to 30 June 2016 there were 240 pilgrims from the archdiocese of Rzeszów and various regions of Poland and from abroad ([www.diecezja.rzeszow.pl](http://www.diecezja.rzeszow.pl)). Residents of Lviv, Horodok and Mostyska who have kept the centuries-old tradition of walking pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Kalwaria and Christ's Passion in Kalwaria Pałacowska may also go on pilgrimages along the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia*.

## Conclusions

Opening of the first section of *Camino de Santiago* in Ukraine – the Lviv Way of St. James *Via Regia* has significantly increased the “pilgrimage attractiveness” of the Way of St. James in Central and Eastern Europe and has become an impulse for the development of the Ukrainian pilgrimage movement on the Way of St. James. From the perspective of functioning of the Route of St. James at the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland for over a year it may be stated that it may become an important and popular section of *Camino de Santiago* in this part of Europe. Conducted studies confirm that this section of the route is attended by Camino pilgrims seeking silence, solitude and a kind of counterbalance to the increasingly commercialized *Camino de Santiago* in Spain, especially its final 100-kilometer sections leading to the sanctuary in Santiago de Compostela. A number of key tasks related to the functioning of the route is still to be implemented. It is very important for the information about the Lviv Way of St. James to reach a larger number of Ukrainians for whom going on pilgrimages along the Routes of St. James may become one of the ways to get to know themselves, get to know another person and deepen their faith. However, it must be remembered that during the works aimed at development of the tourist infrastructure at the route or promotion of the Way we cannot forget that *Camino de Santiago* constitutes mainly a pilgrimage route – the route where European awareness was born centuries ago and which certifies the Christian roots of Europe and encourages new evangelization at every step nowadays. It is hoped that the cooperation or even friendship developed over several years between Camino pilgrims from Ukraine and Poland will bring further success associated with the development of the Way of St. James *Via Regia* in the analysed area, and the route will become an important communication channel between Eastern and Western Europe, a positive space of unity among nations.



**Fig. 3.** Shrines of the Roman-Catholic Church and Way of St. James Via Regia in the frontier zone at the Polish-Ukrainian borderland and within the territory of Subcarpathian province and Lviv region. Source: prepared by F. Mróz (2016)

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