

COMPERATIVE RESEARCH
PROJECT ON
„NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS
AND SPA TREATMENTS IN
EUROPE“

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1. Provide main characteristics and dimensions of your Spa System

- Czech Republic –10 million inhabitants
- Number of **SPA TOWNS** - **33**
- **Lázně- Natural clinics with long tradition**
- Private Spa Facilities- 68- 21 908 beds
- Government Spa Facilities- 16 - 3 352 beds
- Total capacity 84 - **25 260 beds**

Total capacity of the Czech spa

- 33 spa towns with 84 medical spa facilities, total capacity 25 260 beds

1000 beds and more – 6 spa destinations

Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Františkovy Lázně (Francensbad), Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad), Jáchymov, Teplice, Luhačovice

500 – 999 beds - 22 spa destinations

less than 499 beds - 5 spa destinations

Karlovy Vary-more than 9 000 beds

The largest spa-town in the Czech Republic



Cultural and historical phenomenon of worldwide significance.
Indications: gastrointestinal, metabolism, diabetes mellitus...

2. Professional Organisations

- Association of Spas of the Czech Republic
- Association of Spa Towns
- Medical Association of J. E. Purkyně
- Chamber of Czech Medical Doctors
- Association of Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine – **347 M.D.**
- UNIFY – **685 Physiotherapists**

3. Does your National Health System pay for Spa Treatments?

- Yes
- Accordingly to decree of **Ministry of Health Service**
- The **decree 58/1997** determines the **List of Indications** for medical spa care for adults + children
- Payments are done through the **Medical insurance companies**

4. How and to what extent does National Health System pay for Spa Treatment?

We recognize following groups of spa clients:

1. **Complex Spa Care-** Medical insurance company covers all expenses except traveling
2. **Contributory Spa Care-** M.I.C. covers only medical services, the treatment
3. **Self-payers-**spa guests pay all by their selves

Statistics of Czech Spa in year 2004

- **308 760 clients**

38% foreigners, 62% Czech clients

127 598 patients- Complex Spa Care

19 163 Contributory Spa Care

162 000 Self-payers (86% foreigners)

- **Average length of stay in Medical Spa**

Complex Spa Care – 25 days

Self payers – Czech clients 8,4 days,

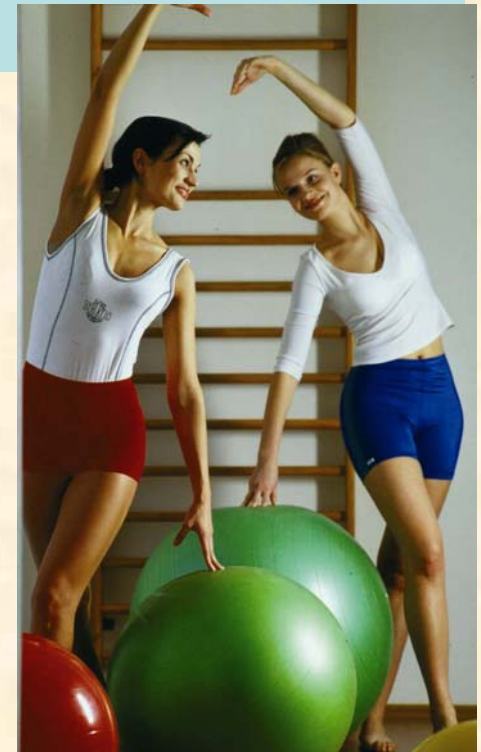
foreigners 14,7 days

117 330 Foreign spa guests in Czech medical spas- year 2004

Foreigners spent in Czech spa on an average 14,7 days

1. Germans
2. Russians
3. Arabs

Carlsbad – 80% foreigners from 80 countries



5. Do patients have to pay for a contribution to the overall cost?

- It depends on the List of indication as mentioned above, where this is stated.
- If the patient decides to undergo the spa treatment of his own will, he covers all costs.

6. Are there any exempted targets of people?

- Not in general.
- Cover of treatment expenses depends on recommendation of Medical Doctor, Specialist and undergoing the auditing medical check-up.

7. Is there any other organization involved in the covering of the expenditures?

- Yes.
- Ministry of Defense- covers expenses of treatment of legionaries
- Associations of handicapped patients and some companies from branch of heavy industry- cover expenses of recondition of it's members or workers

8. In order to benefit state funds, do spas have to be enrolled in a special national register?

- The treatment is not paid by government directly but through **insurance companies** which administer the national health insurance system.
- Spa facilities have to have agreement with insurance companies to get paid for the treatment of their clients.
- They also have to get government **license for providing the spa treatment**- approval of Ministry of Health is necessary.
- Among others the Spa Facility must meet **factual, personal and technical requirements** to be enrolled into the system.
- It must use an official-accepted **natural healing resource**.

9. Medical spa treatment nowadays

- Medical spa treatment has a very **long tradition** and great **scientific fundament** in Europe
- Recently wellness has become much more popular, although it concentrates on short-term good feelings instead of long-term state of health
- **Population gets older- high quality Medical spa treatment and prevention will be needed more**
- National health systems work with high budget deficits- **importance of natural prevention will increase** as it is cheaper than cure and pharmacotherapy

10. - Threatens:

- Spa Treatment will lose its scientific fundament and will turn into wellness
- Poor education will lead into decrease of quality of provided services
- Lack of research activities will lead into loss of knowledge

- Opportunities:

- Research and Education will continue in great work done in the past
- High quality Spa Treatment will improve standard of living of growing old population
- Spa Treatment as prevention can save billions of EUR spent on medications
- Use of EU funds to finance research and education of Balneology.

11. Which are the actions to be taken at the European level so as to make spa systems more recognized and supported?

- To harmonize **legislative** of EU members, enable the patient to be cured in other countries, enable the Spa Facilities to utilize results of research financed by EU funds.
- To support and extend **research** of Balneology in EU by increase of human and financial resources.
- To support the **education** in Balneology on all levels, especially at universities.
- **To allocate EU funds into founding research and educational centers in Europe.**
- To allocate larger share of National health insurance funds into prevention instead of pharmacotherapy.

VIP clients of Spa Clinic Harfa

Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic



President Václav Havel
2000, 2004



M. S. Gorbachow
2002



Gérard Depardieu
2005