

*THERMALISM IN UKRAINE:
NATIONAL REHABILITATION SYSTEM AND RESORT BUSINESS*

At this report according to the flashed problems of the 9th OMTW World Thermalism Days and the 39th SITH Congress we deal with the points of Ukrainian resort zones, state rehabilitation assignments, payment covering, privileges, funds activity, developing perspectives and other resort branch specialized features determination through the followed points review.

1. The resort zones of Ukraine

Ukraine has very abundant medicinal base. The resort zones of Ukraine have been formed on the various natural curative factors. There is the same presence either woody, woody - and - steppe, steppe, picturesque mountainous, seaside locality places or natural unique mineral waters, curative muds deposits, favorable climate and even underground salt areas etc. There are also wide transport network, huge cultural heritage in Ukraine and developed rehabilitation traditions.

Such resort areas are grouped throughout whole Ukraine. The most famous are the Crimean territory, the Carpathian area, Truskavets, Morshin, Myrgorod, Odesa, Khmilnik, Poltava and Kharkiv resorts. *(The detailed characteristics of the Ukrainian natural resources is provided at the additional report by V. Pozhydaev named as «Unique treating resorts of Ukraine with valuable natural rehabilitation resources of European importance» within this congress program).*

According to the State statistic committee bulletin in 2004 there were 3268 rehabilitation establishments working in Ukraine, more 700 of them - sanatoriums and resort establishments of different property forms: 472 sanatoriums (177 of them were childish ones), 59 boards with treatment, 311 prophylactic sanatoriums, 9 balneologic (thermal) hospitals, 300 rehabilitation houses, 2033 small rest bases. But that period about 0,6 per cent of rehabilitation establishments were out of work primary because of reorganization and costs limitation for being put into operation. The most famous associations are State Ruling Department of Ukrainian President's Affairs, «Ukrprofzdravnitsa», «Myrgorodkurort», «Truskavetskurort», «Ukrsilgospzdravnitsa», the Employers' Organization Association etc.

2\3 of rehabilitation resort establishments of Ukraine are in private property, 1\4- in state property, 1\12 – in common one opposing to the soviet times when almost all establishments were in the state property and under general direction.

Since 1999 there is stabile raising of Ukrainians to choose organized rest and rehabilitation. The leaders according to the quantity of visitors per inhabitants were the Crimean peninsula, Odesa region, Truskavets region last year.

Every seventh person from the number of clients is our country guest from Russia, Byelorussia, Moldova, Germany, Poland, Israel, USA and other countries. For example in 2003-2004 there were 195 Italian guests rehabilitated. So 41 per cent of tourists visit Ukraine exactly for rehabilitation or sport trip. Most of them prefer to travel in a private way.

2. Assignment for rehabilitation

According to the article 49 of State Ukrainian Constitution our state creates conditions for the efficient and accessible medical service for all citizens. It pays assignments for resort rehabilitation. In 2000 there was special law "About resorts" adopted. It announced priority on a state level to improve resort branch and its specialists' training. The state supports such resort research institutes as Resort studying institute in Odesa (with traditions since 1876), Crimean Republic institute named after I. Sechenov, mineral waters studying enterprise «Rehabilitation» in Uzhorod etc.

3. Payment covering

In Ukraine there are many departmental enterprises, trade unions' groups to assign some costs from their year profits redeeming necessary pass bills (treating permission papers) for the numbers of concrete workers' (or their childrens') health rehabilitation. It is very wide spread and obligatory for state firms way to propose organization of 24 days paid vocation for many our citizens.

4. Payment for pass bill

The worker pays about 10 or 30 per cents from general sum. The pass bill includes 12, 18 or 24 days staying: living accommodations, treatment, 2-4 times diet food a day at the treating establishment of the appointed profile (according to the medical card proscription).

The sightseeing and entertainment are not included into pass bill and are covered in majority by own costs.

5. Dismissal from payment

Such privileged categories of citizens as veterans, disabled soldiers, Chernobyl martyrs, tuberculous patients, spine and back brain hurt people, pregnant women etc (who according to the state laws are fully free from payment) are primary categories to receive state budget grants for rehabilitation. In this case there are some special state programs :” The program of medical rehabilitation for invalids since childhood” , “Preventive measures to avoid tuberculosis”, “Nowdays measures to treat diabetes”, “Preventive measures to treat vascular diseases” etc.

For last year the organized rest system has enveloped more 3 mln of Ukrainian children. There are increasing state assignations for the pass bills for orphans, less prosperous layers, multi childish families etc.

6.State funds alternatives

The activity of such funds has increased but not enough. Their role is in rehabilitation cost covering for the most needed persons from privileged part of citizens, modern medical equipment purchasing or leading abroad for the alternative treatment. There is expansion of one- time good will acts by separated firm workers or establishments. The most famous Ukrainian alternative fund to provide regular work is “Ukraine for children “ authorized by the Ukrainian President’s wife Kateryna Chumachenko. Foreign investitions are not enough yet.

7.Requirement to be within state register

All resort - and - rehabilitation establishments must be put into state register, must have license and pay taxes to the State fund of Ukraine regardless of their form property. More than 90 per cent of such establishments directors are our citizens.

The support degree depends primary upon planned budget costs accepted by our Parliament (Supreme Soviet). But it is known that sanatoriums with independent balance are free from the land tax. In 2003-2004 there were about 34,4 per cents of such establishments.

8. Developing projects

For resort development it is supposed to elaborate and put into operation the next projects:

1. Clear rated base to attach status for rehabilitation establishments for juridical arrangement of appearance or reorganization, creation of general specialty as doctor - rehabiliter to intensity rehabilitation process (using some European countries experience).

2. Different profile rehabilitation establishments organizing joining into one Medical Rehabilitation Service with general treating levels .It is necessary to intensity changing state priority from the ambulant - clinic stations support to the sanatoriums and everyday preventive measures on a state level (using some European countries experience).

3.National scientific branch programs to study deeper our resort resources and their new application , to create adequate medical equipment and technologies on example of correct treatment technologies “Dzherelo - Lux“ , “mountainous air apparatus“, “ Liapko’s applicator“ etc. widening on the European scale (*The detailed characteristics of the Ukrainian «Dzherelo - Lux» technologies are provided at the additional report by G. Paliyenko named as «The correct crenotherapy with a wide range of mineral waters and herbal drinks due to the patented technologies «Dzherelo - Lux», being on a global priority of Ukraine» within this congress program).*

4. National programs of the correct direction, social - economic resort activity development according to the European Development Program by the United Nations Organization (for example following some methods for productive forces or man’s health developing code studying.)

5. Creating of the competitors’ market according to making rehabilitation contracts, special state regime for invest men’s activity including foreign partners, rehabilitation programs’ tenders, methods of market value and needed specialists’ training enveloping, improving of service conditions etc.

So, unique natural factors , resources, medical and rehabilitating traditional base further studying, new scientific and economic elaborations in Ukraine, state and European support to save health of Ukrainian nation, proper conditions for tourists create many positive perspectives to develop resort and thermalism sphere in Ukraine. Welcome to Ukraine!