

ROMANIAN BIORESOURCES-THE THERMAL WATERS, AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ROMANIAN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

In the last years, because of the economic development and aging population, as the most important two factors, health tourism based on thermal waters is taking more and more piece of the tourism market; also in Romania, because of the new investment and approaches regarding the health tourism based on thermal waters spa, this health field is starting slowly to recover.

Key words: bio-resources, economic opportunities, romanian tourism , thermal waters,

INTRODUCTION

Spa tourism based on thermal waters bio-resources has a variety range of addressability from persons with medical problems to those who look for relax and wellbeing. Therefore because of its benefits, health tourism has become a major part of the tourism world-wide and in Romania too. The effects of this type of tourism, because of its positive impact on peoples health, phsically and mentally, made from the health torusim based on thermal waters a real phenomenon.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Because of its great natural thermal resources (more then 30% of the thermal and mineral waters resources of Europe are in Romania) Romania could have one of the most developed health tourism in Europe along with Hungary, Czech Republic, France, etc. Investments and a new strategy for Spa has been made recently from private fundings, european founds and less from public budget. Those 30% of the thermal waters from Europe that is found in Romania is more valuable in fact because of the complexity of the natural factors, wide range of minerals within the thermal waters, which can be use in many spa treatments prophylaxis.

Romanian thermal waters have a great therapeutic value; here can be find from mineraland thermal waters, pits, to mud and therapeutic lakes. This variety of natural bio-resources is due to a perfect geographical location and geological structure of earth's crust of Romania.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

One of the main feature of spa tourism based on thermal waters in contrast with summer or winter tourism is that can be made the entire year.

The great variety of the natural bio-resources in Romania have been discovered since ancient times and used in therapeutic purpose like the thermal waters springs in Baile Herculane. Other resorts like Baile Felix and Vatra Dornei completed the panoply of curative spa because the qualities of their curative mineral or thermal waters. Later on another resort, Calimanesti-Caciulata, has gain its fame by its mineral waters used for renal disease treatments.

Romania has has a great variety of mineral and thermal waters, from oligomineral, alkaline-earth, chloride to sodium, iodine, sulfide, sodium, hot waters, etc. with a wide range of chemical composition , mineralisation and temperature degree, therapeutic muds, mofettes, etc.

The growing demand for treatments with natural therapeutic elements requires an urgent national strategy for the development of the resorts spa.

Balneary treatments and cures is starting to became an important part of the health care system, natural therapeutic elements being considered a remedy with high value, in many medical treatments, prophylaxis or recovery being quite indispensable or irreplaceable.

Balneary methods as part of a tradional methods is based on many generations of balneary doctors observations who recognized recovery effects of each natural elements from bio-climate to thermal and mineral waters, mud, mofettes, etc.

Romania has in present day approximately 160 spa resorts and places with natural therapeutical but unfortunately in few of them have been made consistent investments in accomodations, facilities, sanatoriums, medical equipments, etc. The top balneary resorts in Romania (34 resorts atcive in 2016) evaluated by many criteria like accessibility, infrastucture, internal and external notority, natural resources, quality of services, awards, etc. are: Techirghiol, Baile Felix, Baile Tusnad, Sovata, Baile Herculane, Covasna, Slanic Moldova, calimanesti-Caciulata, Neptun, Govora, etc. In this ranking no resort got maximum of points (100), the first place has only 70 points and last one (no.24) has only 26 points. The chart shows the low level of development of the romanian spa, many of them having no investments the last 30 years.

One peculiar feature of the romanian spa resorts is the geographical distribution of natural bioresources – e.g. thermal and mineral waters, etc. in small areas which is good for patients because it allows simultaneous

treatments for several associated diseases. For example, in Baile Felix can be treated diseases as: metabolic and endocrine diseases, digestive system, urinary tract, etc., in Covasna- kidney diseases, digestive system problems, urinary tract diseases, etc.

Wellness resorts, as part of balneary and spa, is a recent post-war concept that have been developing strongly since then and some of the Romanian balneary resorts had started to offer it as a part of their strategy to get more tourists around the entire year.

Therapeutic and social interest for medical treatments in balneary spa resorts is on a more high demand world-wide therefore it opened the interests for consistent investments. The fast results, shown by statistics, in patients symptomatology, regaining lost work capacity, etc. shows that balneary treatments will be much more considered in the future as a better alternative to modern medicine.

Spa medicine is related to physical medicine being a branch that mixes physical tools like heat, light, electromagnetics, etc., with natural therapeutic resources like climate, thermal water, mineral water, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

Wealth tourism in Romania requires an urgent and constant development of recovery treatment facilities in order to fully exploit the natural bio-resources of thermal and mineral waters, etc. In a world that searches for new alternative medicine methods, Romania with its natural wealth has a tremendous opportunity on this medicine tourism market. But it requires a national strategy for the development of the balneary resorts, which in the last 30 years have been degraded constantly. Health tourism which has a great opportunity (is not affected by seasonality) and natural conditions (30% of the thermal and mineral water of Europe) in Romania.

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