

DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ROMANIAN BALNEARY TOURISM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21st CENTURY

Bălan, Mariana¹

Abstract

In recent decades, through its important social and economic effects, the balneary tourism has become a major international tourist market segment. Within it, important material and human resources are concentrated, with ever deeper involvement of science and technology in the provision of tourist and medical services with a complex and high-quality invoice. They are meant to meet the vital requirements of modern man, determined by the evolution of living conditions and the health of the population.

The balneary tourism is the only form of tourism in our country based on a permanent potential highly complex, practically inexhaustible. Romania is among the European countries with a remarkable balneary fund. This value is accentuated by the complexity of the natural factors, namely, in the same resort, the main environmental factors are alongside a wide range of mineral substances for treatment, with beneficial polifactorial effects.

The paper presents a brief analysis of the evolution and current situation of the Romanian spa tourism at national and regional level, as well as a quantitative analysis of the evolution of the attendance and occupancy of accommodation capacity, investments and new infrastructure and equipment, elements that can contribute to understand how this sector responded to the challenges.

Key words: balneary tourism, tourist potential, investment, accommodation capacity

Clasificare JEL: L83, Z32

Introduction

In the last decades, through its social and economic effects, the balneary tourism has become a major segment of the international tourist market, towards which important material and human resources are concentrated. In this sector, the deeper involvement of science and technology, the provision of tourist and medical services of a complex and of a high quality level, contributes to the satisfaction of the vital requirements of the modern man, determined by the evolution of the living conditions and the state of the population health.

The balneary tourism has “not only medical, prophylactic, recovery and functional rehabilitation valences, but also a major economic potential” (Umberto Solimene - president of the World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy).

Today, the balneary tourism has become a real industry generating beneficial effects, both from an *economic* point of view (creator of benefits, energizing factor, creator of foreign contribution and creator of new jobs), and *socially* (to prevent illness and initiate tourists in recognition of signs of premature illness or aggravation of their health).

Over time, there has been a diversification of the population that is accustomed to practicing this form of tourism. Thus, in addition to the elderly, predominant in these resorts, more and more active persons, involved in the economic life of the society, have appeared, motivated either strictly by the desire to rest, to recover physically and mentally, or by organizing numerous meetings in the spa resorts, which have adapted their offer, by means of adequate equipments and services, to this type of demand, in a continuous growth.

Also, there was an important segment represented by children, whose motivation is the treatment of the respiratory disorders, of the skin, of the nervous system, etc. Another important category of people attending the spa is the one made up of athletes, because, balneotherapy, through its association with sports prophylaxis medicine, is used to reduce the risks of sports activities.

¹ Univ. Prof. PhD., SR I, Institute for Economic Forecasting – NIER, Romanian Academy,
e_mail: dr.mariana.balan@gmail.com

Romanian balneary tourism represents an important sector of the tourism industry due to its specific features. Almost a third of the thermal and mineral waters that Europe benefits from are concentrated in Romania, and their health effects have been attested over the centuries.

The complexity of the natural factors (in the same resort, are found, along with the main environmental factors, and a wide range of mineral substances for cure, with beneficial polyfactorial effects), the existence of all the kinds of spa mineral substances that can be used for the whole range of balneary treatment profiles, are the main characteristics of the national spa heritage.

Another particularity of the Romanian balneary tourism is generated by the wide spread in the territory of the natural factors, which makes it possible for this to be practiced in any area. The objective need for treatment is the main motivation for the demand for balneary tourism, and this motivation relates to the three types of medical assistance: for treatment and therapy, for functional recovery and prophylaxis.

The balneary tourism implies, both the accomplishment of complex treatments of recovery in the spa resorts, as well as making excursions and trips in the surroundings and rest.

1. Brief history of the balneary tourism in Romania

The mineral waters and the therapeutic sludge have been known since ancient times. In the ancient Greeks and Romans, the mineral waters and especially the thermal ones were well known as points of appearance and medical qualities. They knew how to make good use of the mineral waters, which were used in the treatment of rheumatic diseases (as shown by Plinius in his work). The ruins of the works of capturing the mineral springs, the stone inscriptions by which the healed thanked the gods for the benefits of the mineral waters are some of the testimonies of the use for healing purposes of mineral and thermal waters throughout the former Roman Empire.

On the territory of Romania, most of the treatment factors, especially mineral waters, were used for spa treatments almost two millennia ago. Thus, the Romans, after conquering Dacia, discovered and used for therapeutic purposes the mineral and thermal waters of Băile Herculane, building here spa establishments, public baths (also known as Ad aquas Herculi sacras or Thermae Herculis).

Thus, the Herculane Bath becomes the oldest spa resort in Romania (153 AD), being documented on a votive table: *“The gods and deities of the waters, Ulpius Secundinus, Marius Valens, Pomponius Haemus, Carus, Val, Valens, sent as Roman delegates to assist in the election as consul of their former colleague Severianus, returning unharmed, raised this cry of gratitude.”*

Other Roman settlements are also found at Băile Geoagiu, Băile Călan, Ocna Sibiului, God, Buziaș, Călimănești, Căciulata, many of them being confirmed by the archaeological evidence found in these places.

But, about an organized spa exploitation of natural healing factors in our country, one can only speak from the 17th century, when a series of previously used mineral springs are rediscovered, but also new ones are discovered, their healing effect is recognized and there were build rudimentary settlements that will be the basis of the construction of the future seaside resorts of the 19th century.

In this context, new spa towns like Bazna, Borsec, Olănești, Saru Dornei, Vâlcele, Zizin appear, and in the older resorts like Herculane, Băile Felix, Geoagiu Băi, the exploitation of the spa resources continues.

The development of the spa activity in Romania starts in the 19th century when most of the mineral water sources are captured, the scientific bases of the exploitation of the waters

are put in place (spa research, physico-chemical analysis, hydrological research, etc.). At the same time, the development and construction of spa resorts, such as: Cozia, Călimănești, Govora, Baltățești, Strunga, Oglinzi, Borsec, Buziaș, Moneasa, Malnaș, Sangiorz Băi, Lipova, Tușnad, Tinca etc., are started and the older ones are modernized and developed.

Also, during this period, the foundations of the therapeutic sludge and the salt lakes of the plain and the coast are laid (Sărat Lake, Balta Albă, Techirghiol). But the sludge will be introduced in the spa treatment from Bazna, Slănic and Săcelu-God.

During the First World War, the vast majority of the spa resorts were degraded or destroyed, the reconstruction of some resorts with tradition in the spa tourism (Băile Herculane, Băile Govora, Techirghiol, Sovata, Vatra Dornei, Amara, Băile Olănești, Băile Tușnad, Pucioasa, Sărat Lake) being realized under the auspices of the Society of Hydrology and medical climatology (established in 1921). Between 1926-1928 there were about 80 spa resorts, and the activity of bottling water was carried out in the interwar period in 26 units of various capacities.

Out of the 160 resorts and spa resorts with natural treatment factors currently existing in Romania (out of which 60 resorts are of general and local importance), 18 were promoted in the international tourist circuit. In the recent years, in many of them the accommodation base has been modernized, modern hotels and sanatorium complexes have been built, in which the accommodation, dining, diagnosis and treatment services are offered within the same buildings. This did in resorts such as: Băile Herculane, Băile Felix, Sovata, Băile Tușnad, Covasna, Călimănești-Căciulata, Mangalia, Slănic Moldova, Vatra Dornei, Eforie, Govora, Olănești, Buziaș, the balneomedical cures to be practiced like in the balneoclimatic resorts of world interest.

Also, in the treatment bases built or modernized there were created optimal conditions for the widespread use of natural healing factors, on a scientific basis. They have specialized compartments equipped with modern equipment and installations and in which, in addition to the natural procedures or physiotherapy, a wide range of therapeutic procedures using physical factors are used.

In this context, the balneary tourism is a branch of tourism with an important role in the national economy, both through its contribution to the GDP growth and the development of collateral areas: around the spa resorts a true hotel industry has been structured (which attracted the available labor force), the unknown rural localities were transformed into elegant spa resorts, where all the tourist props had found an ample opportunity for development. Also, balneoclimatology has become an important medical specialty involved in the process of improving public health, with prophylactic and recuperative possibilities.

2. The balneary-tourism resources in Romania

In the introduction of the work of Țeposu and Pușcariu¹ from the year 1933 it was shown: “between the riches with which nature has endowed the soil and the subsoil of our country, the springs of mineral water occupy a leading place. From the deposits left by the sea and from the volcanic ruins that revolutionized thousands of centuries ago the Romanian soil gave birth to innumerable mineral springs, whose therapeutic properties are equivalent and even sometimes exceed those of the foreign mineral springs”.

In Romania, over 3000 mineral and thermal springs are spread over more than 20% of the surface of the country, at different depths and have a wide range of physical-chemical and therapeutic properties, according to their genesis.

Depending on the influence of the exogenous factors (precipitation, temperature, the morphology of the relief) and the endogenous factors (the geological, the tectonic

¹ Țeposu E. și Pușcariu V., (1933), „*România balneară și turistică*”, Editura Cartea Românească,

construction), the highest frequency of mineral springs is located in the area of the Eastern Carpathians and Sub-Carpathians, the Getic sub-Carpathians and the Getic Plateau, the Apuseni Mountains, The Plateau of Transylvania, the West Plain, and the smallest number, in the Romanian Plain, the Plateau of Moldova and the Plateau of Dobrogea.

The cold mineral waters, below 20° C, comprise several subcategories of waters, namely: oligomineral waters that are poorly mineralized; carbonated mineral waters; chlorinated-sodium mineral waters; sulphated mineral waters; sulphurous mineral waters; ferrous mineral waters; arsenical mineral waters; iodized mineral waters; radioactive mineral waters, respectively mineral waters containing radioactive elements from the uranium and thorium series.

The isothermal mineral waters (with a temperature between 34° and 37° C) and *hyperthermia* (whose temperature exceeds 37° C), also called thermominerals are not pure, but they represent different mineral concentrations of soluble salts, thus having thermal bicarbonate, sulfuric and chlorinated waters.

Romania also has an impressive number of *lakes* with a permanent character (about 3500), out of which 63% are natural and 27% anthropogenic. From the point of view of the genesis, the therapeutic lakes are liman lakes (Techirghiol), plain lakes (Amara, Slobozia, Strachina, Jirlău, Balta Amara, Campeni, Movila Miresii, Ianca and Sărat-Brăila) and lakes from the salt massifs (Sovata, Tg. Ocna, Slănic, Ocnele Mari and Cojocna - Cluj).

In Romania there is a long tradition of using *mud* for curative purposes. Depending on their content, plasticity and consistency, they can be grouped into: i) sapropelics, located at the bottom of some continental lakes (Amara, Sărat Lake and Balta Albă), of shores (Techirghiol) and salt lakes (Sovata, Ocna Sibiului) ; ii) minerals, formed by the sedimentation of the carbonate, calcium, ferruginous, sulfurous, salted salts (Govora, Geoagiu Băi, Turda, Sarata Monteoru, Săcelu and Bazna); iii) peat, representing organogenic deposits, formed by decomposing the vegetal remains on the bottom of some swamps, under the action of micro-organisms (Poiana Stampei, Mangalia, Imeni-Covasna).

Another resource is that of the *mofetic gas* emissions, which are found in the Harghita-Căliman area (at Băile Tușnad, Borsec, Balványos, Buziaș and Covasna). In the composition of the skunks, from a scientific point of view, the radioactive gas radon is encountered.

*The solfatar*s are another category of spa resource, these being natural sulfur hydroxide emissions, mixed with carbon dioxide and sometimes with radon (in special caves). The altitude carbon-sulfurous emissions, unique in Europe and used for therapeutic purposes, exist in Covasna and Harghita counties (at Turia - Pucioasa Cave is considered the largest natural skunk in Europe and has the highest carbon dioxide leakage) , Șugaș Băi and Harghita.

The therapeutic salines are an important resource, Romania having some of the largest natural salines in Europe. The speleotherapy has been described as a medical application since 1843, this being based on the beneficial effects of salt-dried aerosols and on the favorable salt regime represented by temperature, reduced microbial load and the lack of allergens in this environment.

The Black Sea seaside is also considered an important resource that is used for therapeutic purposes through thalassotherapy (the waves massage), through psanotherapy (the sand packing), through thermotherapy (walking through the hot sand), or through the marine aerosols that are formed by breaking the waves followed by the phenomenon of evaporation of seawater, the treatment consisting of their inhalation for the therapy of respiratory disorders.

All of the types of major bioclimatic factors in Europe are found in different areas of Romania. Thus, the exciting bioclimate of the steppe and the seaside is used for the helio-marine treatment, the sedative-indifferent bioclimate is recommended for the persons with over-exertion states and for the patients who cannot bear the stress of the climatic factors, the

tonic-stimulating mountain bioclimate helps to improve the cardio-circulatory, respiratory activity, balancing the central nervous system, the metabolism and increasing the immune capacity, and the micro-climate of salines and caves is another favorable bioclimate in obstructive and chronic respiratory diseases.

3. The current situation of the balneary tourism in Romania

In 2018, there were 594 accommodation units registered in the spa resorts, representing 7.03% of the total number of accommodation units in the country. Regarding the tourist reception structures in the spa resort, the highest share is held by the tourist pensions (34.34%), followed by hotels (22.4%).

The accommodation capacity of the tourist reception structures in the spa resorts cumulates a total number of more than 36173 permanent accommodation places in 2018, most of them being found in the tourist reception structures of hotels (67.87%), in boarding houses (11.72%) and in agrotourism pensions (5.3%). It is worth noting that, while the number of accommodation places in the hotels in the Romanian spa resorts has started to decrease since 2005, in the tourist and agro-tourism pensions it has increased.

Regarding the evolution of the accommodation capacity (in terms of places-days), in the last two decades, it has had a decreasing tendency (Fig. 1).

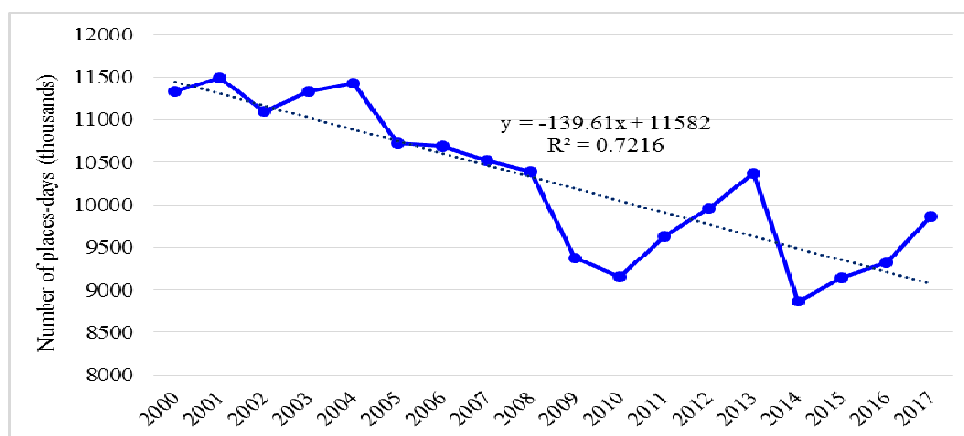


Figure no. 1 Evolution of the accommodation capacity at national level, in the spa resorts

Data source: TEMPO-online databank of the National Institute of Statistics, www.insse.ro

Starting with 2014 there is a revival of the accommodation capacity in the spa resorts, this being due both to the emergence and the development of new accommodation capacities of the type of pension (many built using the European structural funds) in the spa areas, as well as through the renovation and the rehabilitation of the already existing hotels.

The investments of the last years have led to an increase in the total number of tourist reception structures located in the seaside resorts, which reached in 2018 at 594 units, the highest number registered so far in Romania. Although realized in an unsatisfactory proportion, the investments in tourism of the last years and especially those made in units located in the seaside resorts, have led to the increase of the tourists' interest, both Romanian and foreign. Thus, the arrivals of tourists registered in the tourist reception structures in 2018, totaled 1014046 persons, increasing by 7.3% compared to 2017.

The arrivals of the Romanian tourists in the tourist reception structures with tourist accommodation functions in the seaside resorts, have had an oscillating evolution between 2000-2017, with an increasing tendency in the last 4 years. Regarding the number of arrivals of foreign tourists in the tourist reception structures with tourist accommodation functions in the Romanian seaside resorts, the situation is relatively similar, but the increases have been constant since 2010.

Regarding the overnights, they have a downward evolution in the last 20 years, with slight increases during the periods 2004-2006, 2013-2018 (Fig. 2).

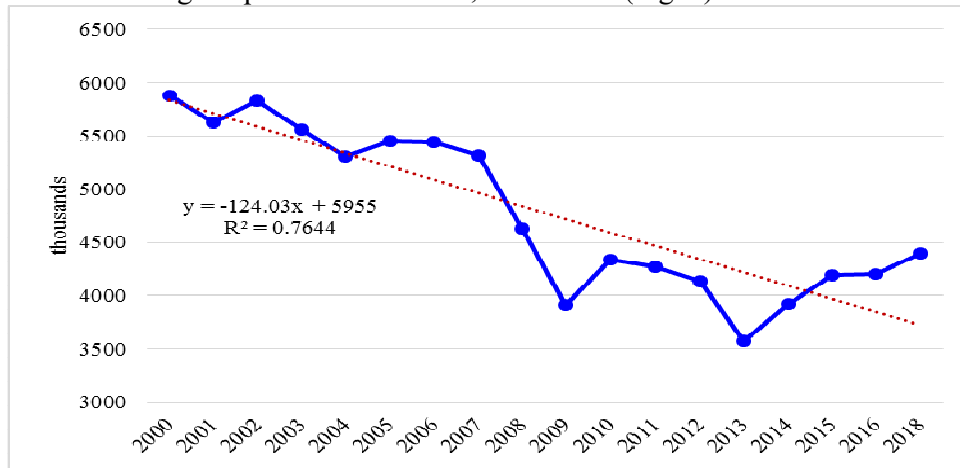


Figure no. 2 Staying overnight in the establishments of touristic reception by touristic destinations in the spa resorts, at national level

Data source: TEMPO-online databank of the National Institute of Statistics, www.insse.ro

This evolution indicates that the losses of tourists occur in the area where they spent stays that are characterized as “long”, without this being from the area of persons coming with treatment tickets. But this phenomenon becomes worrying for the competitiveness of the spa sector because it may indicate that the sector loses its classic “paying” spa people (came for long cures), for various reasons (attractiveness, the purchasing power, etc.).

Despite the fact that the spa tourism remains the tourism sector with one of the longest average stays, due to the social spa system based on treatment vouchers (which requires long-term care), however, the statistical data indicate a decrease in the average length of stay in the spa resorts. This phenomenon is due to a general decrease in attendance (fewer arrivals) and not to the migration of the entire sector to wellness/short stay products.

Regarding the index of use of the capacity of accommodation in the spa resorts, this one even though it is superior to other tourist sectors in the country, nevertheless it registers fluctuations: from 45% in 2011, to 40% in 2013 and 42.3% in 2018. But the high value of the index of the use of the accommodation capacity in the spa resorts in the landscape of the Romanian tourist economy is still due to the social tourism subsidized by the state through the treatment vouchers. Therefore, the economic sustainability of the operators in the spa sector is threatened by their dependence on the persons holding treatment vouchers and who alone cannot ensure the occupancy of the additional capacities and implicitly of the income for the development of the sector. It is necessary to implement a sectoral strategy to develop the competitiveness of the sector, in particular by modernizing the treatment bases and the accommodation structures and their orientation towards wellness products.

The disparities and the regional particularities of the spa tourism in Romania since the beginning of the 21st century have been largely preserved, the development regions of Romania presenting a rather disparate picture in terms of investments that have been made in this sector of activity.

The spa tradition and the cultural-historical and natural heritage associated with it, makes the *West Region* to have an important potential in the development of the spa sector. It is the region with a great diversity of spa attractions and tourist traffic in its main urban centers, which can be used for a rapid increase of the tourist attendance of the spa sector. In which regards the arrivals in the Western tourism sector of the West Region, they have evolved close to the trends of the national level but, the nights have had a fluctuating and often divergent evolution from the tendency at the national level.

In the spa sector in the *North-West Region*, the largest share is held by the Băile Felix resort – May 1, and in this context, the spa tourism statistics at the regional level follow the evolution of this resort. In this region there is a divergence between the evolution of arrivals (which have been steadily increasing over the last ten years) and that of the overnight stays (which have a decreasing trend over the same period).

In the *Center Region*, the spa sector has the best results in the country: the arrivals and overnight stays register increases from year to year (+ 50% in terms of arrivals and + 15% in terms of overnight stays in the last ten years). In this region most investments are made in the modernization of the spa infrastructures, the resorts develop wellness products and modernized spa services, and the development of competitiveness is an objective of institutionalized cooperation of the professionals in the field (for example the creation of the first cluster in the spa sector).

The balneary tourism in the *South-West Region* is one of the best organized in the region (it has important resorts especially in Vâlcea county) and offers really complete tourism products. However, in the period 2010-2017, the tourist flows from the seaside resorts of this region showed an oscillating evolution: the arrivals recorded increases in 2011, decreases in 2012 and 2013 and increases in the period 2014-2017, while the nights have a general tendency of growth, except for the figures recorded in 2014.

Although the *South-Muntenia Region* is rich in excellent natural resources for the development of the balneary tourism (for example: the sub-Carpathian area is rich in saline and mineral waters) and in the recent years some spa infrastructures have been developed in resorts like Slănic Prahova, however, no investments have been made in the development and diversification of tourism products and their supporting infrastructure.

In this context, starting from 2012 the general dynamics of frequenting the spa resorts in this region has entered a downward slope, both in terms of arrivals and overnight stays.

The North-East Region offers wide possibilities for the development of balneary tourism, but a small part of the natural healing potential is exploited to a satisfactory level. At the level of the region for only four localities was granted the status of spa resort (Decision 1072/2013) (the area corresponding to the recreation-treatment area Nicolina in Iași municipality, Vatra Dornei municipality, Slănic Moldova city, Târgu Ocna city). Besides these tourist resorts, in the past, there were other localities that benefited from the status of spa resort: Sărata Băi and Moinești (Bacău county), Băile Strunga (Iași county), Negulești (Neamț county), Ghermănești- Drănceni (Vaslui county), or Cacica and Solca (Suceava county), but which, due to the failure to carry out major or even capital repairs, the malfunction of many appliances due to defective parts, the lack of qualified personnel to repair and maintain the equipment, the lack of investments for the modernization and development of the water and sewerage network in the localities, of the improvement of the road network, implicitly of the access roads, as well as other investments, led to their closure.

With all these shortcomings, the attendance of the spa resorts in the North-East Region had a general growth trend during 2010-2017.

Regarding the tourist attendance from the seaside resorts of the *South-East Region*, this also includes an important part of summer tourism on the coast (for example, the tourist attendance of the resort of Mangalia, includes a large part of the seaside tourists besides those looking for the spa offer). For the spa resort Techirghiol, the tourist attendance has a general growth tendency, both in terms of arrivals and overnight stays.

Conclusions

Tourism in general and spa tourism in particular has now become one of the most important and certainly the most dynamic sector of the national and world economy. The resources that can be used in tourism, managed in a sustainable way, through large

investments with long-term orientation, based on the principles of sustainability, contribute to ensuring prosperous and equitable regional development.

Necessary in satisfying the vital requirements of the modern man, determined by the evolution of the living conditions and the health of the population, the trips for treatment and recreation are among the main tourist destinations in all regions of the world. With a wealth of natural cleansing factors, Romania can become one of the most important destinations in the international spa tourism.

Romania has important natural factors of cleanliness, with great diversity and even uniqueness (skunks), with an exceptional potential around the seaside resorts (parks and nature reserves), with seaside resorts with a great historical value.

Currently, out of the number of tourists arriving in the spa resorts (about 1000000), the largest share is of those arrived through the National Pension House (about 65%).

The foreign tourists are constantly at 10% of the total tourists and most of them come from the European Union. However, we notice the increase in the number of foreign tourists and the Romanians arrived through the tourist agencies, in the resorts where major investments were made (Băile Felix, Sovata, Tuşnad, Ocna Sibiului, Slănic Moldova, Covasna, Vatra Dornei, Buziaş, seaside, etc.).

The regional disparities are maintained in the spa tourism sector.

În ultimii ani a crescut paleta programelor de wellness și numărul solicitărilor pentru acest tip de vacanțe în stațiunile balneare (tendință pregnant de altfel și pe plan european) și se conturează “nișe” clare ale celor care sunt interesați de întreținerea sănătății proprii și doresc infrastructură și servicii de calitate superioară, comparabile cu cele din țările europene.

In the last years, the range of wellness programs and the number of requests for this type of holiday in the spa resorts has increased (a clear trend also on European level) and there are clear “niches” of those who are interested in maintaining their own health and want infrastructure and high quality services, comparable to those in the European countries.

In order to increase the competitiveness of the spa tourism it is necessary:

- i) the elaboration of a strategy for a more efficient promotion of this sector of tourism that will highlight the unique tourism products;
- ii) the creation of a public-private partnership in which the private sector plays a decisive role;
- iii) the initiation and the development of thermal clusters according to the European success model;
- iv) the implementation of quality standards recognized at the European level for the access of foreign tourists through the Private Health Insurance Houses or the Private Pension Houses; and others.

The efficient exploitation of Romania’s exceptional natural and anthropic potential implies an effort and an important investment support directed, both to the tourist field and to the collateral areas that have direct or indirect influence on tourism.

By facilitating the entry of more investors into the market, globalization has imposed a competitive pressure that has often led to accelerated progress in many areas, including tourism.

The development of tourism in general and of the spa in particular, has positive effects and contributes to the increase of the gross domestic product, the increase of the volume of sales, the creation of new jobs, the increase of the revenues in the state budget, the improvement of the balance of payments, the improvement of the quality of life.

References

1. *Baza de date TEMPO-online*, Institutul Național de Statistică, www.insse.ro
2. Borza M., Gâdioi E., (2014), *Considerații privind valorizarea comportamentului de consum turistic din perspectiva dezvoltării regionale durabile*, Conferința Dezvoltarea economico-socială durabilă a euroregiunilor și a zonelor transfrontaliere, Iași
3. Borza M., Tălmăciu M., (2014), *Provocările sustenabilității în turism: o abordare din perspectivă strategică pentru euroregiunea Siret-Prut-Nistru*, Conferința Dezvoltarea economico-socială durabilă a euroregiunilor și a zonelor transfrontaliere, Iași, Vol. XXII, Editura Tehnopress, ISBN 978-606-687-111-2, 2014, pp. 29-44
4. Căndea M., (2003), *Potențialul turistic al României și amenajarea turistică a spațiului*, Editura Universitară, București
5. Cosmescu I., Vințean A., Tileagă C., (2014), *Perspective ale turismului lumii contemporane*, Conferința Dezvoltarea economico-socială durabilă a euroregiunilor și a zonelor transfrontaliere, Iași, Vol. XXII, Editura Tehnopress, ISBN 978-606-687-111-2, 2014, pp. 61-73
6. *Ghidul stațiunilor balneare*, Guvernul României, Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Turismului, 2011, <http://www.mdrap.ro>
7. Glăvan V. (coord.), *Tendențe și perspective ale ofertei turistice balneare în contextul european*, Editura ICT, București
8. Guvernul României, *Hotărârea nr. 558/2017 privind aprobarea Programului pentru dezvoltarea investițiilor în turism - Master-Planul investițiilor în turism - și a criteriilor de eligibilitate a proiectelor de investiții în turism*, Monitorul Oficial al României nr. 653 din 08.08.2017
9. *Îndrumar privind sistemul european de indicatori de turism pentru destinații durabile*, [Direcția Generală Întreprinderi și Industrie](http://www.dgtr.ro) - Comisia Europeană, 2013, <https://publications.europa.eu>
10. *Master Planul pentru turismul național al României 2007-2026*, Guvernul României, Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice, București, 2007, www.turism.gov.ro
11. Neașcu N., Neașcu M., Băltărețu A., Drăghilă M., (2011), *Resurse și destinații turistice interne și internaționale*, Editura Universitară, București
12. Plinius cel Bătrân (Plinius Maior), trad. - Dinu Tudor și Costa Ioana (Univ. București): *Naturalis historia*, colecția Polirom
13. *Reactualizare Master Plan pentru Dezvoltarea Turismului Balnear*, Guvernul României, Ministerul Turismului, Autoritatea Națională pentru Turism, , București, 2016, www.turism.gov.ro
14. *România în cifre - ediția 2017*, Institutul Național de Statistică, www.insse.ro
15. Țeposu E. și Pușcariu V., (1933), *România balneară și turistică*, Editura Cartea Românească
16. Țigu G., Țală M., Talpeș A. și Lungu C., (2010), *Resurse și destinații turistice pe plan mondial*, Editura Uranus, București
17. Solimene U., *A modern concept of Thermalism applied to health and well-being*, President of FEMTEC (World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy), <https://www.femteconline.org/>
18. [Kazandzhieva V.](https://www.researchgate.net), (2014), *Trends in the Development of Spa and Wellness Tourism*, <https://www.researchgate.net>