A MODEL OF ASSESSING THE VALUE OF THE TOURISM POTENTIAL OF MOINEȘTI, TÂRGU OCNA AND SLĂNIC MOLDOVA RESORTS (ROMANIA)

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Abstract: The most viable type of tourism for these three urban settlements chosen for evaluation Moinești, Târgu Ocna and Slănic Moldova, is health tourism, due to the existence of several curative factors such as mineral water springs, moffettes, local bioclimate, salt-mine micro-climate. According to the modern patient-tourist preferences, a highly diversified tourist offer is required, which gives the tourist the possibility, besides health recovery, to rest and to relax. The present paper’s objective is to elaborate the tourist offer of an ideal health resort and to estimate the value of the entire tourist heritage for showing which one of these three urban settlements is able to realize the most attractive health tourist offer, through a complex methodology use (analysis, synthesis, observation, comparative, graphic, cartographic), not before determining the ideal tourist value graphic of natural and anthropic resources from a health resort.

Keywords: tourist value chart, therapeutic factors, patient-tourist needs

1. INTRODUCTION

The tourism form with the most important development potential in Romania is health tourism, as proved by the existence of 3000 sources of mineral and thermal water springs; the existence of many local bioclimate types whose therapeutic values manage to cover all kinds of known affections: stimulating-solicitant bioclimate (seaside and plain zones), sedative-indifferent (hilly and plateaus zones), tonic-stimulative (mountain zones), reduced seasonality whereas the need of health recovery is continuous, presenting a constant evolution line. The resorts address and increasingly higher number of persons with an increasingly younger average age, due to the the multifunctional and complex character and to the modern equipped treatment facilities, balneotherapy and climatotherapy can be less or not at all dependent on the climatic and weather conditions. The increasing attractiveness of the resorts is also due to a more stressful and sedentary lifestyle, to a growing need of rest and relaxation, the increase in professional diseases, but not to the increase in the standard of living.

Moreover, Romania has many areas with large SPA potential which occupy 2/3 of the administrative territory of the country. Romania’s curative factors cover a and ensure treatment for all known affections, the average period of stay for medical tourism depending
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on the duration of the treatment according to the various affections it addresses, for example, in 2009, Băile Govora and Băile Tușnad resorts were at the top with average stays of 9.7, respectively 9.6 days.

All of these three urban settlements are situated in the western part of Bacău County,

in contact area of the Subcarpathian zone with the Carpathian one, the single exception being Slănic Moldova which can be found in the eastern extremity of Moldo-Transilvanian Eastern Carpathian group. Moinești is located at the boundary between Intracarpathian Basin of Comănești and Subcarpathian Basin of Tazlău, in the northwestern part of Bacău District, in the middle basin of Trotuș-Tazlău river system, Târgu Ocna resort is positioned in north-western part of Cașin Depression, at Berzunți Mountains hem, and Slănic Moldova resort is situated at Nemira Mountains hem. From these three localities, only the last two possesses „health resort” title.

These settlements benefit from the existence of mineral water springs, local bioclimate and saline microclimate with well-known therapeutic values, these being defining elements, especially for Moinești, in order to achieve the „health resort” title.

Regarding the modern tourist-patient needs, each health resort must complete its tourist offer not only with possibilities of treatments, but with other tourist attractions and

Fig. 1. Moinești, Târgu Ocna, Slănic Moldova’s county level contextualization
resources, which derive from primary and secondary tourist offer: anthropic resources and attractions, tourist attraction events.

Taking into account the modern tourist-patient motivations and the structural and functional complexity of the tourism phenomenon, an own criterion system was realized to show the tourist components (from a qualitative and quantitative point of view) of an ideal health resort.

This paper aims to elaborate a tourist offer of an ideal health resort, which is based not only on natural and anthropic heritage, but also on accommodation, alimentation, treatment, recreation infrastructure, considering the preferences of the modern patient-tourist. Then, this tourist offer will serve as an assessment model for case studies taken into consideration, in this way achieving an interesting comparison between a municipality (Moinești) and two traditional Romanian health resorts (Târgu Ocna, Slănic Moldova), all three settlements providing therapeutic resources.

2. THEORY AND METHODOLOGY

The specialized literature has many studies that contain assessment models in almost each domain. Regarding the related fields of tourism, from air quality (Jakeman & Simpson, 1988) to water resources (Wilby, 2005; Price & Firaq, 1996), from climate (Matzarakis, 2013) to natural resources (Deason, 1998), all scientific papers came up with different methods of value or risks assessments.

Nevertheless, the scientific area that contains most of this kind of studies is the transport one. Due to the modernization of transport infrastructure, many evaluation methods were elaborated concerning the accessibility of isolated territories (Geurs & Wee, 2004; Geertman & Eck, 1995).

Many of studied foreign papers, in order to evaluate tourist resources in a given destination, are based on surveys on tourists and residents opinions (Ferrario, 1978; Ferrario, 1979; Dowling, 1993; Yankholmes & Akyeampong, 2010).

Another study based on tourist surveys was done in Grand Strand region from South Carolina, aiming to evaluate the quality of services inside tourism phenomenon, on nature-based tourism setting.

Tourist surveys represented the key of methodology for Jovica Mojić’s study on Niš resort from South-East of Serbia, in 2011. Thus, the author questioned those persons that don’t have the residence in settlement where Niš resort belongs, and advocated the tourist potential estimation method given by OMT, in which the internal (specific manifestation) and external factors (determinants) of tourist development were taken into consideration.

Different evaluations of natural resources on this direction were made by Mitchel in 1989, Moss & Nickling in 1980 and Marzuki in 2011, Backman et colab in 2014, Yildurim, Olmez in 2008, being based on scenic quality and using landscape assessment techniques.

In 1990, Cocklin, Harte & Hay proposed an assessment model of natural and historical tourist and recreation resources from New Zealand, which contributed to their conservation strategy. The evaluation consisted on the inventory of the resources. This had
two steps: reviewing those resources which are compatible with tourism and recreation and evaluating the values of conservation.

Another assessment model of natural tourist resources was realised by Julianna Priskin in 2001 on the Central Coast Region of West Australia, within which she realised a classification of regional nature-based tourism attractions.

An eloquent study was realized in Prešov region of Slovakia, where the tourism potential was evaluated according the particular activities on a medium and long term. The analysis centred on 4 micro-regions (Tatra, Spiš, Šariš, Upper Zemplin), focusing on the specific activities of individual tourism like water sports, waters recreation, thermal and mineral water recreation, stays in the forest, hiking, cycling, ski, climbing, caves visits, country stays, hunting and fishing. Then, evaluation marks were given for each micro-region and for each activity seen as a medium and long term potential (Martin, Rosič, Radoslav, Klamar, 2007).

The most important Romanian study which offers an assessment model of the tourist potential is the model offered by Nicolae Ciangă in 1998, The tourism in Eastern Carpathians, which is the most eloquent such theoretic-methodological approach.

In 2006, Mihai Ielenicz and Laura Comănescu came up with a new assessment model of the tourist potential value (Romania-Tourist potential). Therefore the authors categorized the entire tourist fund in major (spa, rest, recreation complex, museums, sportive base, parks, depressions) and simple resources which are isolate positioned in territory.

In 2008, Stefan Dezsi offered an evaluation model of the tourist potential of Lăpușului Land, taking into consideration the natural and anthropic resources and the material base. The author, in order to give evaluation marks between 0 and 50, took into account the varied number of categories and attractive elements.


Concerning the methodological part that mediated the elaboration of this research, several methods were used and the most important ones regard analysis, synthesis, observation, comparative, graphic and cartographic methods.

The analysis method consisted in detailed evaluation of the status of the components which conditionate the tourism phenomenon, especially the curative type, like naturals (mineral springs and local bioclimate) and anthropogenic ones (religious edifices, archaeological vestiges, cultural and historical monuments, museums, events), in order to estimate the value of each component.

The synthesis method represents the integration of the information gathered in a unitary reprezentation, for emphasizing the complexity of the tourism phenomenon. In tourism’s case, domains like geography, economy, and demography are interconnected and condition each other. This method was essential in labeling all tourist heritage components by categorizing them in: hydrographical part, climato-tourist part, morpho-tourist part, biotourist part (natural resources), religious heritage, archaeological vestiges, civil monuments,
peasant culture and civilization, museums and collections, memorial houses, monuments, statues, busts, parks (anthropogenic resources) accommodation infrastructure, alimentation infrastructure, treatment infrastructure, recreation infrastructure, tourist events, tourist transport infrastructure (derived offer).

The graphic method consisted in the graphical representation of supports (tables and graphics) regarding the tourist value of resources and attractions of each settlement as results of mathematic operations. The main instrument used through this method is Microsoft Excel which, after inserting the marks (between 1 and 10), was able to configure radar charts for representing the tourist value graphic.

The cartographic method consisted in creating some maps which illustrated the localization of the studied urban settlements inside of Bacău County’s territory, the bioclimatic stress map of this County. Noteworthy is that all maps were realized in ArcGis 9.3 professional software, with the official cartographic projection of Romania, Stereo 70.

The comparison method was focused on quantitative and qualitative comparison of natural resources (mineral springs, local bioclimate), anthropic ones and elements of the derived tourist offer (accommodation units, recreational and transport infrastructure) all these for determining the similarities and differences between Moinești, Târgu Ocna and Slănic Moldova’s tourist phenomenon.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present paper’s objective is to estimate the value of all tourist patrimony of Moinești municipality, Târgu Ocna and Slănic Moldova resorts. The first step through this process is to categorize all components of tourism heritage, to specify the indicators that are able to show the quantitative and qualitative aspects and to show the maximum result of each indicator, all of these leading to the value of touristic heritage of an ideal SPA resort.

3.1. The tourist offer of an ideal health resort

The standard evaluation of primary tourist offer includes natural and anthropic attractions (Ciangă & Dezsi, 2007).

From the natural attractions, mineral water springs were analysed and the features which make them usable in optimum conditions were valued: chemical composition diversity (4,4 points), captured (1), sufficient flow (1), recognized therapeutic qualities (0,6), used in mixed cure (2), localized in a special planned area (0,5), localized near a spa sanatorium (0,5). The highest score was awarded to chemical composition diversity, because it is directly proportional with the number of affections cured, the same idea being followed in case of thermal mineral water springs and moffetta emanations.

The first four features are available also for thermal mineral water springs, but these are differentiated by the existence of hypothermal water (1 point), mesothermal water (1) and hyperthermal water (1).

The third element of natural attraction is represented by moffetta emanations that were assessed by their gas content: CO2 (5 points), ammoniac (1), sulfur (1), helium (1),
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radon (1), sulfided hydrogen (1). The biggest value was given to CO2 element because this proved to be the most effective in many illnesses.

The saline microclimate was evaluated by its underground air quality: constant microclimate- comfortable temperature and humidity, lack of stream air, reduced level of pulmonary and cutaneous, low hiperbarism (2 points), aeroionization, slowly positive (2), allergens and no pollutants (2), pure air from a microbiological view (2), high level of sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium aerosols (2). The values given to these characteristics are the same because each one contributes at the quality of this microclimate.

The therapeutic mud was analyzed through the type of mud: sapropelic mud (3,3 points), peat mud (3,3), mineral mud (3,3).

The therapeutic lakes were assessed by type of water: chlorosodic water (5 points) and magnesium sulphated water (5).

The local bioclimate represents the base of the second function of health resorts. Through this study the types of bioclimate were taken into account in concordance with the condition of the relief: Sedative-indifferent hills bioclimate (10 points), Solicitant exciting seaside bioclimate (7,5), Incentive-tonic mountain bioclimate (5), Solicitant exciting plain bioclimate (2,5). The first type of bioclimate listed received the biggest score because it is indicated for all types of affections and it is the only lacking in contraindications.

The phytocenosis component was evaluated by type of forests: leaf forest (4 points), mixed forest (2), coniferous forest (1), protection forest (1), woodland park (1). The highest value is owned by leaf forest, because the ideal resort is situated between 300-700 m height.

The natural reserves were analyzed through the type of its natural components: forestier reserves (1), botanical reserves (1), faunistic reserves (1), geological reserves (1), mixed reserves (2,5), natural parks (3,5). The values were given considering the complexity of each type of reserve components

The hunting and fishing resources were assessed considering the type of faunistic elements: furry animals (2,5 points), flying animals (2,5), cervides (2,5), salmoniculture (2,5).

The hydrographic network was evaluated by its sport practicing and landscape attractiveness: landscape impact and sport tourism suitability (10 points), landscape impact (5).

Regarding the landscape impact, the relief energy was taken into account: relief energy bigger than 1000 m (10 points), relief energy between 700-1000 m (8), relief energy between 500-700 m (6), relief energy between 250-500 m (4), relief energy under 250 m (2).
Table 1. The standard evaluation of primary touristic, Anthropogenic attractions offer of a SPA resort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY TOURISTIC OFFER - Anthropogenic attractions</th>
<th>Accessibility level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- crossed by an European road</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- if the European road is situated at a distance of maximum 30 km, and the link with it is done by a National road</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- crossed by a National Road</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- if the National road is situated at a distance of maximum 15 km, and the link with it is done by a County road</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- crossed by a County road</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- if the County road is situated at a distance of maximum 15 km, and the link with it is done by a Communal road</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- crossed by a Communal road</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- if the Communal road is situated at a distance of maximum 15 km</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Unclassified roads</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Paths</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Height                                              |                     |
| 2.                                                  |                     |
| - over 70 meters                                    | 10                  |
| - between 50-70 meters                              | 8                   |
| - between 30-50 meters                              | 6                   |
| - between 20-30 meters                              | 4                   |
| - under 20 meters                                   | 2                   |

| Occupied area                                       |                     |
| 3.                                                  |                     |
| - over 10000 m²                                     | 10                  |
| - between 7501-10000 m²                             | 8                   |
| - between 5001-7500 m²                              | 6                   |
| - between 2500-5000 m²                              | 4                   |
| - under 2500 m²                                     | 2                   |

| Age                                                 |                     |
| 4.                                                  |                     |
| - before Chr                                        | 10                  |
| - between 0-275                                     | 8                   |
| - between 276-1600                                  | 6                   |
| - between 1601-1950                                 | 4                   |
| - between 1951-present                              | 2                   |

| Novelty level (if on a certain range it cannot be found any attraction with the same features) |                     |
| 5.                                                  |                     |
| - bigger than 500 km                                | 10                  |
| - between 250-499 km                                | 8                   |
| - between 150-249 km                                | 6                   |
| - between 50 km-149 km                              | 4                   |
| - under 50 km                                       | 2                   |

| The landscape attraction sketched with other environment components |                     |
| 6.                                                                  |                     |
| - mountain landscape                                               | 10                  |
| - mountainous depression landscape                                 | 8                   |
| - high hills landscape                                             | 6                   |
| - down hills landscape                                             | 4                   |
| - plain landscape                                                  | 2                   |
Regarding the anthropogenic resources, some indicators that have an important role in modern tourist satisfaction and in raising his awareness were taken into consideration. In the first line, an anthropogenic attraction must be highly accessible, must have a considerable height, must occupy a large area, should be old, and must have a big novelty level. Moreover, the attractiveness level of an anthropogenic resource is higher if it forms a landscape attraction with other environment components. The modern tourist is looking for novelty, amaizing and spectacular places, he wants to be a witness to something that he hasn’t seen yet.

The derived tourist offer is composed of accommodation, alimentation, treatment, tourist transport infrastructures and tourist attraction events (Ciangă & Dezsi, 2007).

Concerning the accommodation infrastructure, features like accommodation places, comfort category and accommodation structures typology were taken into account.

The accommodation places feature was assessed by comparing the number of places available to the number of tourists: over 10% from total number of tourists who arrived in the last year (10 points), between 8-10% (8), between 6-7,9% (6), between 4-5,9% (4), under 4% (2). These percentages were chosen because, in a health resort, all accommodation units should be capable to receive all tourists who arrive in an entire month. The maximum percentage is 10% and not 12% because it was taken into account the seasonality that occurs especially during the cold season.

The comfort category was evaluated by taking into account the share of units with different classifications: if more than 25% from accommodation units number have 3 or 4 stars (10 points), between 15-25% (8), between 10-14,9% (6), between 5-9,9% (4), under 5% (2).

The accommodation structures typology was analyzed through the level of units diversity: the presence within the resort of hotels, guest houses, villas, hostels, bungalows, campings, apartments for rent are present within a resort (10 points), the presence of only 4 of those upper listed (8), the presence of 3 of those upper listed (6), the presence of 2 of those upper listed (4), the presence of 1 of those upper listed (2).

Concerning the alimentation infrastructure, features like number of total places and typology were taken into account.

The number of total places was assessed by comparing the number of places available at the the number of tourists: over 20% from total number of tourists who arrived in the last year (10 points), between 15-20% (8), between 10-14,9 % (6), between 5-9,9% (4), under 4,9% (2). The percentage taken into consideration differs from that of accommodation, because in this case, the demand is more sensitive; during his journey a tourist choose one accommodation unit, but, for sure, he will choose more catering units.

The typology evaluation took into account the the diversity of this kind of infrastructure: the presence within the resort of classic, hunted meat, fisherman’s, pension, dietary, lacto-vegetarian, local specific, national specific restaurants, cellar, brasserie, beerhouse, pubs, cocktail bar, pizzeria, coffee house, teahouse (10 points), the presence of a classic and dietary restaurant and other 8 types of alimentation units (8), the presence of a classic and dietary restaurant and other 6 types of alimentation units (7), the presence of a classic or dietary restaurant and other 8 types of alimentation units (6), the presence of
classic or dietary restaurant and other 4 types of alimentation units (5), the presence of a classic and dietary restaurant (4), the presence of only a classic restaurant or dietary one (2), if there don’t exist a classical or a dietary restaurant the situation is analyzed with less than one point and if neither of these exist, the upper situations are analyzed with less than two points.

The recreation infrastructure was evaluated by its degree of diversity: the existence within the resort of a football field on natural and synthetic grass or, handball, basketball, tennis field, swimming pool, mechanical games, billiard, bowling hall, sky slope, diving, boating, snorkeling, underwater shooting base, fitness, bodybuilding hall, fighting techniques hall (10 points), the existence of 12-14 types of the above mentioned recreation infrastructure (8), the existence of 9-11 (6), the existence of 4-8 (4), the existence 1-3 (2).

The features analyzed within treatment infrastructure are represented in more detail because all types of treatment possibilities were taken into consideration.

The units based on mineral and thermal water were evaluated by the level of equipment and treatment possibilities: the existence in the resort of a balnear pool, individual tubs, physiotherapy basins, solarium pool-basins, medicinal irrigations cabins (10 points), the existence of 4 types of mineral and thermal water treatment elements (8), the existence of 3 types (6), the existence of 2 types (4), the existence of one type (2).

The same type of evaluation was used for units based on therapeutic mud (the existence within the resort of the possibility of cold onctions effectuation, warm wraps, applications with extracts form (10 points), the existence of the possibility of two types of treatment effectuation (6), the existence of the possibility of one type of treatment effectuation (2)), on therapeutic values of local bioclimate (if aerotherapy, heliotherapy and terrain cure are assured (10 points), if only 2 types of treatment are assured (6), if only one type of treatment is assured (2)).

The saline’s microclimate was assessed by number of facilities: if the saline has alimentation facilities, recreation and rest base for patient-tourists (10 points), if the saline has only two of upper facilities (6 points), if the saline has only one of upper facilities (2).

The post-volcanic emanations were evaluated by the quality of gas used for treatment: moffetas on source (10 points), powered moffetas with storage and distribution tanks (6), bottled industrial CO2 powered moffettes (2).

The tourist transport infrastructure was analyzed through the number of transportation means: the presence in the resort of cable cars, gondolas, chairlifts, skylifts (10 points), the presence of only 3 types of the above mentioned means (7,5), the presence of only 2 types of the above presented means (5), the presence of only 1 type of the upper presented (2,5).

The tourist attraction events were assessed by type diversity: if within the resort exist cultural, scientific, sports, artistic events (10 points), if there exist only 3 types of upper tourist events (7,5), if there exist only 2 types of upper tourist events (5), if there exist only one type of upper tourist events (2,5).

The key word of the ideal health resort is diversity, because this method of touristic value estimation is closely linked to modern patient-tourist motivations, preferences and demandings. The tourist is looking to diversify his program of holiday, because the
treatment schedule lasts only one-two hours, and for the rest of the day he wants to enjoy his free time by doing sport activities, visiting new places, participating at touristic events etc. During his staying, the modern tourist wants to spend time differently each day.

Fig. 2. The touristic value graph of an ideal health resort

3.2. The touristic value of Moinești municipality, Târgu Ocna and Slănic Moldova SPA resorts

Moinești municipality, from the point of view of natural resources, is distinguished by its diversity of its mineral springs, by its local bioclimate (indifferent-sedative), by its phytocenosis (the biggest surface of leaf forest) and its landscape impact (big relief energy and many belle-view point possibilities).

Regarding the anthropogenic attractions, Moinești municipality obtained the biggest marks on civil monuments, historical, archaeological vestiges and religious heritage.

Moreover, being the most developed urban center from the studied cities, Moinești has a well defined alimentation and accommodation infrastructure and a large number of authentic tourist events. The graph of the touristic value (Fig. 3) shows that Moinești needs real investments in tourist transport and, especially, in recreation and treatment infrastructure if the local authorities are planning to gain the „health resort” title.

Fig. 3. The touristic value graph of Moinești
Târgu Ocna, from the point of view of the natural resources, is distinguished especially by its local bioclimate (indifferent-sedative) which is the friendliest for patient-tourists, its saline microclimate that increases the climatotherapy possibilities, its bio-touristic value due to the existence of Măgura Natural Reserve, and by its morpho-touristic value due its surroundings.

Following the analysis of the anthropic attractions of Târgu Ocna, a graph was obtained (Fig. 4) that highlighted the importance of the religious heritage, archaeological vestiges, monuments, statues, busts and civil monuments. Like in Moinești’s case, memorial houses, peasant culture and civilization are missing, but regarding the indicators taken for measuring its attractiveness this resort’s anthropic resources distinguish by accessibility and landscape attraction.

As a well-known SPA resort, Târgu Ocna disposes by large accommodation facilities (especially hotels and pensions), alimentation and treatment infrastructure (Măgura Complex, Saline Complex). However, the recreation and tourist transport infrastructure, respectively the palette of tourist events need improvements because, under these conditions, the patient-tourist doesn’t have many opportunities for spending his free time during a treatment day. Therefore, Târgu Ocna presents a more contoured tourist offer than Moinești, because it satisfies the primary need of patient-tourist: the need of treatment.

Slănic Moldova distinguishes by its 21 mineral water springs representing a unique situation on Romania’s territory due to the large concentration of these resources in a such small area. Besides these therapeutic treasures, the “pearl of Moldavia” disposes of moffetta emanations, highlighting one of the most complete tourist health offer from Romania.

Regarding the anthropic resources, Slănic Moldova, doesn’t present such a diversification like other resorts (memorial houses, museum and collections, peasant culture and civilization, archaeological vestiges are missing) but it is authentic by the existence of some special civil monuments and religious buildings. Regarding the indicators, Slănic Moldova’s anthropic resources are attractive especially by high level of

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**Fig. 4. The touristic value graph of Târgu Ocna health resort**

**Fig. 5. The touristic value graph of Slănic Moldova health resort**
accessibility, landscape attraction and area occupied (fig.).

Slănic Moldova is different from the other two case studies by disposing of tourist transport infrastructure, but the lack of recreation infrastructure puts its mark on tourist flow circulation, tourists don’t prefer long stays, except those who choose this resort for treatment. However, this health resort meets the needs of patient-tourists, having a high performance treatment infrastructure and having a quality accommodation and alimentation base.

CONCLUSIONS

This proposal for tourist value estimation of health resorts took into account the preferences and motivations of modern patient tourist. This kind of tourist is looking, besides modern ways of treatment, for something that he hasn’t seen before, for attractions that have high level of novelty, for something spectacular. Moreover, the modern patient-tourist advocates for an active stay; he wants, after the treatment period, to enjoy his free time by doing recreational, relaxing and even visiting activities.

Observing the analysis done and the results that have emerged, we consider that this paper reached its goals. One of them was to propose a new method for estimating the tourist value of an ideal health resorts, and the second one was to highlight the tourism value of three urban settlements, two of them disposing by “SPA resort” title.

The final graphs from this study reveal the strengths and weaknesses of each case study and could be a guide for local authorities to manage in a good direction their investments, depending on each urban settlement/resort’s goal.

Moinești Municipality distinguishes by tourist events (thanks to the existence of oil extraction, Tristan Tzara and DADA spirit, art galleries, local population’s crafts), alimentation infrastructure (restaurants, pubs, wineries, beerhouses, bars) morpho-tourist part (thanks to the existence of a big relief energy; the difference between the maximum and the minimum height is about 700 meters, value which offer a big landscape impact that plays and important role in patient-tourist satisfaction).

Târgu Ocna’s final tourist value is highlighted by climate-tourist part (thanks to local bioclimate and saline microclimate) which has the highest score and accommodation infrastructure. Even if this health resort has many elements that are belonging to the religious heritage, this didn’t help in acquiring a big mark in the tourist value graph, because those don’t benefit by a great level of novelty and are not situated in a positive position regarding the modern patient-tourist preferences and motivations.

The Slănic Moldova’s tourist value graph shows that Moldavian pearl should satisfy the modern patient-tourist expectations through civil monuments, accommodation base, parks, alimentation and treatment base. Even if this resort is unique on Romania’s territory on the strength of mineral water springs’ therapeutic values, the tourist value graph shows low score on hydro-tourist part, because through this component weren’t analyzed only upper mentioned therapeutic elements, but thermal water springs and hydrographic network too, which didn’t excel in grading system realized.
Acknowledgments

This work has been supported from the strategic grant POSDRU/159/1.5/S/133391, Project “Doctoral and Postdoctoral programs of excellence for highly qualified human resources training for research in the field of Life sciences, Environmental and Earth Science” co-financed by the European Social Fund within the Sectorial Operational Program Human Resources Development 2007-2013.

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