

Sanatorium and Resort Activities as an Integral Part of the Field of Medical Tourism

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Abstract: The article analyzes the state of the sanatorium-resort complex of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the dynamics of its development. The problems and specific features of the market for sanatorium and resort services are identified, and the structure of their regional market is characterized.

Keywords: health resort activities, recreational resources, medical tourism.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is actively implementing comprehensive measures to stimulate the development of tourism, which is one of the young and dynamically developing sectors of the national economy. Important factors attracting tourists to the country are the stability of the region, hospitality of the local population, ethnic and linguistic tolerance of the society, unique historical and archaeological monuments, natural and recreational areas, developing transport infrastructure, as well as the abolition or relaxation of visa regime with dozens of countries. In the “Concept for the development of tourism in 2019-2025” among the main directions of tourism development in the country is indicated the development of inbound medical tourism, the organization of medical services for foreign citizens in a comprehensive relationship with cultural and educational activities and the development of tourist infrastructure of medical organizations.

Medical tourism includes two directions in the field of treatment and recovery, one of which is sanatorium-resort treatment.

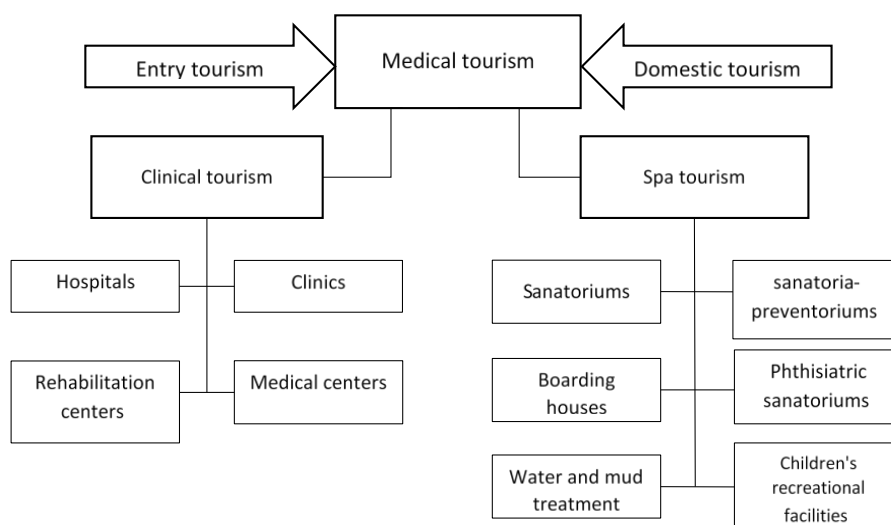


Figure.1 Tourist flows and main directions of medical tourism.

The history of health resort activity in Uzbekistan goes deep into the past and is directly related to the unique natural and climatic zones, healing springs of mineral waters and therapeutic muds, which are located in the republic. The chemical composition, therapeutic, biological and other properties of these underground springs are invaluable. On the basis of these natural and recreational resources, a system of sanatorium-resort, preventive and health-improving institutions, which had no analogues in the world, was created in the Soviet times. The basis of the program of development of sanatorium-resort business was based on the principle put forward by V.I. Lenin “Resorts - for workers”. A distinctive feature of the system formed in the USSR was the assignment of health resort institutions to departments and public organizations. The main function of such a system was to provide preventive treatment and recovery of workers, and management was based on the hospital concept. The effectiveness of sanatorium treatment is evidenced, for example, by the fact that after treatment in a sanatorium patients 3-4 times more often and 1.5-2.5 times faster return to productive labor. As a result of the course of sanatorium treatment and recovery in 2-4 times reduces the level of labor losses due to illness.[4].

After gaining independence, the sanatorium and resort sphere has undergone significant changes and currently functions as a systemic element of the medical tourist complex of the republic. The number of organizations providing this type of services has increased several times, the range of forms of ownership and organizational-legal forms of sanatoriums has expanded, the conceptual approach to the provision of services has changed. After the transfer of organizations to economic accounting, in addition to the medical and social aspect, the economic effect of sanatorium industry development became no less significant.

According to the Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the number of sanatoriums and resorts operating in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022, amounted to 242 units, which compared to 2010 increased by 71.63%. The bed stock of sanatoriums amounted to 27.7 thousand beds in 2022, which is 63.9% more than in 2010.

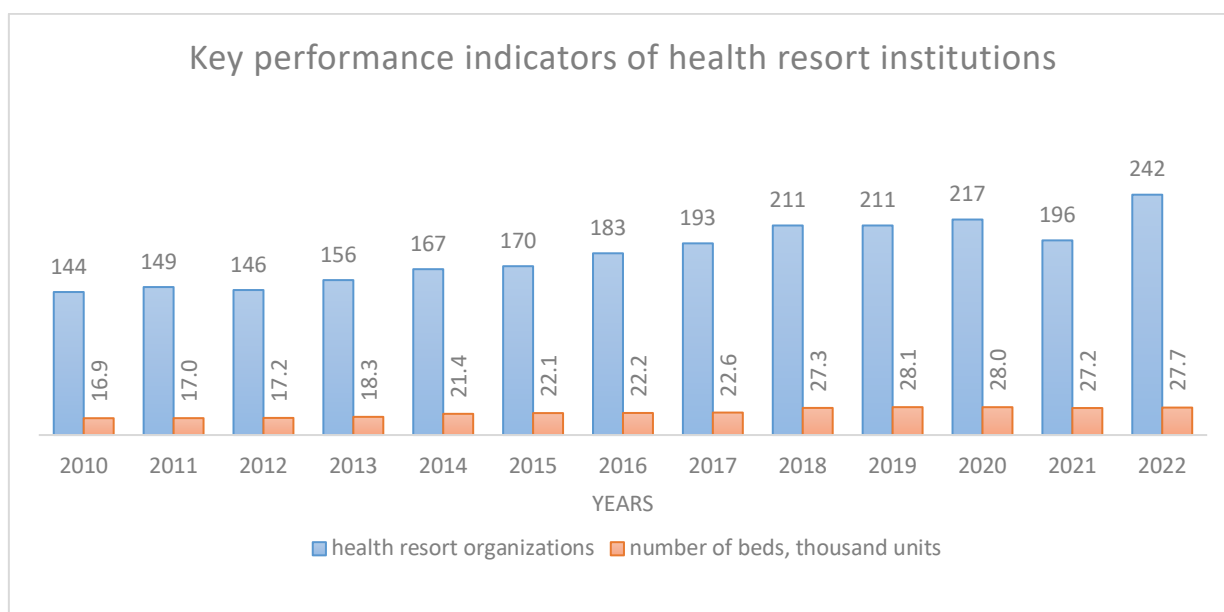


Figure 2. Dynamics of the main indicators of health resort institutions.

In recent years, there have been significant changes in the structure of organizational and legal forms of entities in the sphere of health resort services. As of 2022, 146 or 74.9% of organizations providing this type of services are commercial organizations, and 49 units or 25.1% are non-profit institutions. The predominant organizational-legal form of sanatoriums is Limited Liability Company, 96 units or 49.2% of them in the structure.

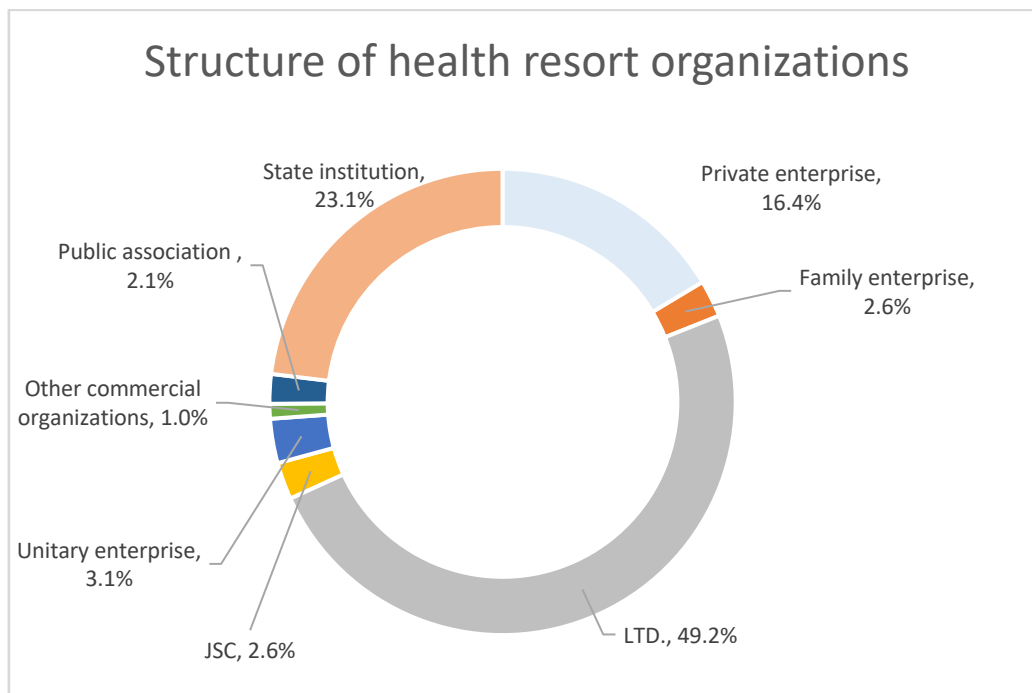


Figure 3. Organizational and legal forms of health resort institutions.

The volume of services provided by health resort organizations in 2022 amounted to 507460.8 million soms, which provided a 44.5% growth compared to 2021, and compared to 2015 the volume of services increased by 4.7 times.

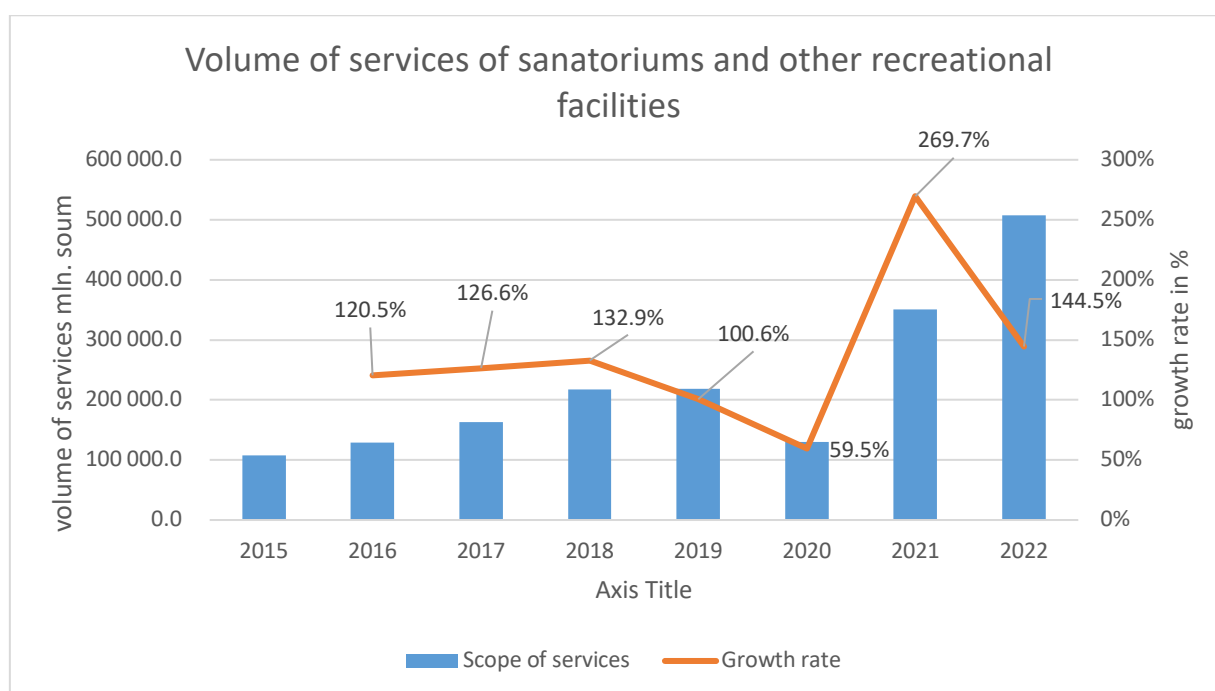


Figure 4. Dynamics of the volume of services provided by health resort organizations.

The territorial distribution of sanatorium and resort and recreation facilities is extremely uneven. In Tashkent, Fergana, Namangan and Samarkand regions, the majority - 63.7% of all sanatorium-resorts are located, the remaining 9 regions account for the remaining 36.3% of these institutions despite the fact that they also have great opportunities in the provision of sanatorium-resort services. [5]

Thus, the health resort sphere is steadily developing and at the present stage, in addition to the key role in maintaining the health of the nation, the health resort sphere contributes to the diversification and growth of regional economies, creating new jobs, improving the income of

the population, as well as the development of inbound medical tourism. The increased economic importance of sanatorium and resort activities, clearly shows that today the sanatorium and resort complex is developing as a branch of the national economy, which can be characterized by the following main sectoral features:

- developed structure of sanatorium-resort treatment and recuperation;
- utilization of homogeneous recreational resources;
- provision of homogeneous services;
- application of similar treatment methods;
- homogeneous technical base;
- specific labor conditions and qualifications of personnel.

Despite the fact that the dynamics of development of the health resort sphere has growth tendencies there are a number of areas in which there are still unsolved problems. The main of which is the imperfection of the legal and regulatory framework governing the activities of health resort institutions, as well as the lack of a unified state strategy for the development of this sphere. In this regard, despite the presence of sectoral features of the entire health resort complex, it can not be said that it is developing as a unified system. In the conditions of growing global competition and economic

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