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CHANGES IN THE STATE OF TOURISM IN BELARUS IN THE PERIODS BEFORE AND AFTER CORONAVIRUS

Изменение состояния туризма в Республике Беларусь до периода коронвируса и после

In the Republic of Belarus, in the period 2000–2018, there was a steady growth of the tourism industry, which was proved by the positive dynamics of the number of tourist organizations, accommodation facilities, the share of tourism in the country's GDP and those employed in the tourism sector [1]. But this situation has undergone radical changes as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, the purpose of the work is to trace the difference in the development of tourism before and after the coronavirus, as well as to assess the state of tourism nowadays.

According to official statistics in 2018, tourism services were provided by 1482 entities, accommodation services – by 1077 entities with a number fund of 40.6 thousand rooms, activities in the field of agroecotourism – 2473 entities.

This situation has changed a lot as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19. The most significant changes were reflected in the form of the closure of a large number of small tourist companies, the inability to fill the accommodation facilities due to the impossibility of tourists' arrival. Enterprises connected with the provision of services in the field of agroecotourism also suffered. In general, absolutely all areas related to tourism were affected.

At the beginning of 2021, 1,348 organizations that cooperate with 122 countries of the world carried out tourism activities in Belarus. 911.1 thousand tourists used the services of tour organizations. These indicators determine, though slow, but the recovery of tourism. Connections with other countries are being established and opportunities for travel are opening up again.

628.6 thousand people used the services of 483 sanatorium-resort, wellness organizations and other specialized accommodation facilities, of which almost 12 % were foreign citizens. The tourist attractiveness of rural tourism is increasing every year. In 2020, 2,936 agroecotourism entities operated in Belarus. The number of tourists who used the services of agroecotourism in 2020 amounted to 433.3 thousand people [2]. Nowadays there is a network of holiday homes in rural areas in Belarus. To improve health, a large number of health resorts and recreation centers operate in the republic. The development of domestic tourism is also important. It gives every

citizen the opportunity to spend their holidays in the desired conditions with comfort and health benefits.

Summing up, we came to the following conclusions:

1. In the period before the coronavirus, tourism developed very rapidly.

2. During the period of coronavirus, all areas related to tourism were affected.

Due to the closure of borders, many hotel chains have suffered.

3. Gradually everything is returning to normal. But according to experts, tourism will not be able to return to its previous level soon.

4. There is an increased interest in rural or agroecotourism. The attractiveness of sanatoriums and resorts associated with the restoration and strengthening of health is growing.

References

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SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONNECTED TO THE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SARDINIA: THE CASE STUDY OF THE SOUTHWESTERN AREA OF SARDINIA

Стабильный туризм основанный на культурном наследстве Сардинии: тематическое исследование южно-западных районов Сардинии

Sardinia, despite the political will to seasonally adjust the tourist offer, has not yet managed to completely overcome the stereotype of an attractive destination mainly for the seaside product: 50 % of the presences continue to be concentrated in the months of July and August (80 % in the period May-October), Sired data (2019). In the southwestern area of the island, concentrated between Arbus and the Costa Verde, there is a very rich cultural heritage, which in recent years went through