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## RECREATIONAL AND TOURIST POTENTIAL OF THE TRANSNISTRIAN DISTRICT OF UKRAINE

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### Abstract

The article proves that the sphere of tourism, in contrast to other sectors of the economy, makes it possible to implement the concept of self-development, self-government and self-financing from its own resources, own financial sources. The article emphasizes that a special place in the development of tourism in Transnistria in the future should belong to the Dniester Reservoir. In fact, this determines the relevance and practical significance of this study. The tourist and recreational complex of Transnistria is a leading factor in the development of the region's economy. The article reveals the peculiarities of the development of recreational and tourist conditions and resources of the Transnistrian district of Chernivtsi region.

**Key words:** tourism; recreational-tourist district; tourist resources; tourist conditions; Chernivtsi region.

*Actuality of theme.* River valleys are a striking example of the diversity of landscape heterogeneities which is a defining prerequisite for the development of recreational activities and the multiplicity of its species. Among them it's the Dniester canyon like valley which has a presentable object of natural recreational and tourist diversity.

The review of modern domestic developments from this issue indicates the lack of research in the plains of naturally diverse regions of applied recreational and climatic content which in the context of intensive development recreational and tourist sphere exacerbates the relevance of such research. The special place in the development of tourism in Transnistria in the future should belong to the Dniester Reservoir. In fact, this determines the relevance and practical significance of this study. *The object of study* at this publication is the tourist and recreational complex of Transnistria as a functional component of the economy structure. *The subject of the research* forms the process of identifying the peculiarities of the development recreational and tourist languages and resources of the Transnistrian districts region Chernivtsi. For the main purpose of the study we have chosen to clarify the scientific and methodological foundations of the formation and implementation strategy for the development of territorial and recreational nature (then - RTN) of the Transnistrian region. In accordance with this goal, the following research objectives: 1) to substantiate the theoretical and methodological principles of the category essence "tourist and recreational complex", its constituent elements and the concept of "territory of priority development tourist and recreational direction"; 2) analyze the dynamics of socio-economic development of the region and assess the potential of recreational and tourist resources of the Transnistrian districts; 3) assess the economic efficiency of the functioning recreational and tourist complexes and outline the prospects for their development in Transnistria.

In the process of solving the set tasks have been used various research methods including a systematic approach, methods of structural and logical generalization, comparative and statistical analysis, expert assessments and others.

The basis for elucidating the factors and processes of RTC formation in the Middle Transnistrian valley is the regional component physical-geographical and complex studies conducted by scientists of Chernivtsi University since the 1980s.

*Analysis of existing developments.* Theoretical bases of recreational and tourist activity (RTA) combine methodology and methods of different scientific directions. In particular, geography and economics of tourism, ecology and landscape science, ethology and history, culture, etc. So the steps in the process of RTN research should be 1) collecting factual information of tourist and recreational resources (TRR), 2) studying the landscape structure of the study area, 3) analyzing information on existing broadcasting centers, 4) identifying patterns of their distribution. The process of recreational and tourist nature management (RTNM) of the territory is twofold: a) tourist and recreational activities take place on the territory of existing RTCs which operate and perform a recreational and tourist function,

provided that this complex is RTA; b) RTNM of the territory provides for the planned reconstruction, changes in the RTC, sets it a certain functional program (filling, properties, etc.).

Prerequisites for the development of RTC are a whole system of components the tourist and recreational process such as recreational and tourist resources; recreational and tourist needs; regional economic levers.

*Presenting main material.* The system of Transnistria canyons formed by the Dniester River together with its tributaries forms the Grand Dniester Canyon which is formed in the zone of contact two heterogeneous tectonic structures – it is a stable ancient Eastern European Dembrian platform and a young mobile Carpathian Alpine orogenesis. Steep slopes of canyons rise above the level of the Dniester River by 150-180 meters and more, outline its unique meanders, form a kind of orographic region whose relief resembles the foothills. In the geological structure of the canyons, strong horizontal layers of sandstones, limestones, rocks. There used to be a deep sea here at the bottom of which various rocks have been deposited for many millions of years. After the retreat of the sea its deposits rose to a height of 400-500 and > m, almost without changing its horizontal position. The Dniester River with its tributaries has cut through powerful layers of the Silurian, Devonian, Jurassic, and Neogene, which locate under state protection as geological monuments of nature.

The microclimatic conditions of the Transnistrian canyons are markedly different from the surrounding areas. The average temperature in January is  $-4-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , in July  $+19^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; the sum of active temperatures above  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  is 2600-2700°, precipitation is about 550 mm / year. The magnitude of solar radiation depends not only on well-known geographical factors, but also on the nature of the outcrops of rocks, their color, exposure of the slope, angles of inclination, reflectivity and others.

In the valley of the Dniester River, spring begins 2-3 weeks earlier than in the surrounding areas. Under these conditions, on the slopes of the south-western and western exposures, hawthorn, thorn, forest apple, pear, cherry and other trees ripen 1-1.5 weeks earlier than the average in this region. The mild and warm climate promotes the cultivation of a number heat-loving crops and it is no coincidence that Transnistria is a region of developed horticulture. However, there are some winters, due to the inversion of temperatures in the canyon freeze completely or partially walnuts, apricots, peaches, and some grape.

The landscape of the Transnistrian canyons creates the dominant type of tracts – it is "walls". They are classified according to the peculiarities of geological structure (inhomogeneous: sandy-clay-shale, limestone-shale-loam; homogeneous: limestone, chalk),

steepness (steep, 45-60 °; very steep, 65-80 °; steep, > 80 °); hydrological conditions (wet and dry); vegetation (forest, meadow-steppe); household use (water, grazing, mining, recreational development).

In the middle course of the Dniester, crystalline rocks (granites, gneisses, syenites) come to the surface, forming in some places small rapids and passes.

There are no less historical monuments on the banks of the river than on other European rivers. Castles, monasteries, churches, grottoes, caves "cover" the slopes of the river. The variety of landforms, microclimate, soil cover, flora and fauna makes the Dniester canyon one of the unique corners of nature and makes it valuable from the standpoint of RTNM.

The relief of the Dniester canyon varies from steep cliffs to individual depths in the form of the basis runoff of small rivers and to individual areas of depressions on its asymmetric structure. There are mostly common houses, which are homesteads with different cultural, mostly heat-loving vegetable vegetation. The territory of the Dniester canyon is covered with a network of rivers that flow from north and northwest to south, forming often a picturesque waterfalls.

The Dniester valley system is a promising part of the Chernivtsi region of recreation and tourism. Throughout its territory it is possible to introduce rest by the river, fishing; in Zastavniivskyi district is balneotherapy of nervous diseases; Khotyn district is cardiovascular; Novoselytsky are diseases of the musculoskeletal system, liver, digestive organs, respiration; Khotyn, Novoselytsky, Sokyryansky is recreation in the woods, sports and educational tourism; hunting, mushroom picking. Favorable conditions for complexes of low and high terraces of the Dniester River, Khotyn Upland are favorable for walking and beach recreation. In the village. Repuzhyntsi, Balamutivka, Rukhotyn can be planned to expand sports and tourist facilities on the basis of Dniester river complexes. Thus, the Dniester Canyon is unique on geological, geomorphological, climatic and other respects. The issues of effective forms its implementation remain open. The inclusion of the Dniester Reservoir in the list of recreational and tourist complexes anthropogenic origin needs special recreational and tourist attention, as it performs significant water protection, protective, sanitary and hygienic, health, recreational, aesthetic and other important functions. The state of the coastal strips Dniester Reservoir is positively influenced by the nature reserves of the forest fund, in particular: landscape reserves of local significance "Shebutynsky Yar", "Halytska Stinka", "Vasylivsky Yar", "Babynska Stinka", "Molodi".

The nature reserve fund on the Transnistria territory does not sufficiently present the biological and landscape diversity of the territory. In Kelmenets, Sokyryany and Khotyn districts the area of the nature reserve fund is 1-3% of the district total area. For comparison, the reserve of Chernivtsi region is 10.5% while the national - 4.7%. We have identified the possibility of significantly expanding the area of nature reserves in the Transnistrian zone of the region due to the territory of the Khotynsky National Nature Park, located in the Transnistrian part of Zastavniivsky, Khotynsky, Sokyryansky and Kelmenetsky districts. Issues of recreational activities at these areas, the creation of favorable environmental conditions for human health are inextricably linked with the development of nature reserves.

Middle Transnistria is an ancient historical center of population of the Chernivtsi region. Therefore, there are a huge number of historical and architectural monuments, among which the most numerous type of monuments are churches (Rukhotyn village, Khotyn district, Lenkivtsi village, Konovka, Voronovytsia, Kelmenets district, Komariv village, Sokyryany district). Compared to them, all other types of monuments make up a small percentage. Rare are fortifications, houses or palaces, public buildings of non-church purpose, industrial buildings, Neporotovsky Cave St. Nicholas Monastery "Galytsya" (or Rock St. Nicholas Monastery XI-XII centuries.), located near the village Neporotove, Sokyryany district, in the tract of Halytsia at the large rock above the Dniester, Holy Dormition Kulivets Monastery (XVIII century), located in Zastavniivsky district (village Kulivtsi), Khotyn Fortress, which locates the existing church of St. Alexander Nevsky. The oldest monastery in Middle Transnistria is considered to be the Bakot Mikhailovsky Cave Monastery. Today the settlement of Bakota is completely flooded by the reservoir; even the elevation in the center of the former village, where the baby of the ancient Russian city was located is flooded and is at a considerable depth.

There are seven temple complexes in Transnistria, which are included in the list of architectural monuments of Ukraine. These are the temples in the village Zvenyachyn, Repuzhyntsi, Vasyliv, Verenchanka, Vikno of Zastavniivskyi district, in the town of Khotyn and the village of Belousivka, Sokyryany district.

The basis of the material and technical base of recreation and tourism are accommodation facilities or accommodation, which on the one hand determines the development of recreational and tourist activities and on the other hand stimulates the activities of the main forms of tourist flow. An important element of the tourism business and an integral part of the development of international and interregional relations of Transnistria in various spheres of the economy is the modern hotel industry. The size of the base

(capacity) of accommodation facilities is the main and most important standard for the development of recreational and tourist activities in the region. It is also one of the factors that determine the recreational and tourist attractiveness of the region.

Health and recreation services in Transnistria are provided by 4 sanatoriums with a total capacity of 200 beds, 4 recreation centers (333 beds) and 16 children's health camps (3826 beds). Institutions of this specialization in Kelmenets and Khotyn districts are not represented. The most equipped tourist infrastructure is Zastavniivskyi district. There are 5 accommodation establishments, 35 public catering establishments and 35 summer camps for children's health on its territory. Average indicators of tourist infrastructure development are recorded in Khotyn and Kelmenets districts while in Sokyryany district this indicator is the lowest.

In the territory of Central Transnistria, there has recently been an increase in the level of tourist and recreational services. This is evidenced by the steady increase in the number of tourist facilities within individual accommodation facilities. The network of restaurant enterprises is constantly growing: bars, fast food restaurants and cafes are opening. Zastavniivskyi is the first of this respect, but Kelmenetskyi district lags far behind.

With the positive characteristics of the RTNM Middle Transnistria (presented above) there is a need to assess the resource base of the territory, the possibilities of its widespread use for recreational and tourist activities. This activity belongs to the types of social practice with a pronounced resource orientation. In Middle Transnistria it is possible to conduct hiking, cycling or combined hikes of the I complexity category and non-category hiking on the weekend, including commercial ones. The problem is that the basic information and developing tourist routes are designed for tourists who use vehicles, need comfortable living and eating conditions. It is for this category of tourists that the tourist infrastructure is created, for the development of which investments are allocated. Almost everyone has forgotten about lovers of active recreation in tents.

According to the authors, it is expedient and relevant to develop and implement a regional program for the development of active tourism, which provides the next steps:

1. Development of new and streamlining of existing hiking and biking tourist routes, which can carry out step and sports hikes of the I complexity category, non-category hiking weekend. Routes should cover interesting natural and cultural-historical sites.

2. Marking of routes on the ground, arrangement of tourist parking lots, popularization of information on tourist routes to Middle Transnistria among the tourist community, tour operators in the neighboring regions, in particular large industrial centers. Placing information

on a special Internet resource for public access. The implementation of the outlined measures will help attract additional funds to local budgets by increasing the number of tourists, unloading other most popular tourist areas (for example Ukrainian Carpathians), promoting a healthy lifestyle, raising the general cultural level of youth, patriotism and love to the native land.

The main problem for the mass development of green tourism is the creation of appropriate living conditions for tourists. The field of activity for the owners here is diverse from ordinary peasant houses with straw mattresses to Euro number plates. Food can also be varied from simple peasant food to culinary delicacies. However, there is another very important problem that significantly affects the mass development of green tourism estates is the lack, and in most cases, the impossibility of advertising. This requires that almost every owner has their own web page on the Internet. So this is still problematic.

Limiting RTNM in the areas of Middle Transnistria are the spread of adverse processes: seismicity, erosion, landslides (Novoselytsky, Sokyryansky districts), karst (Zastavniivsky, Novoselytsky districts), pollution of rivers by industrial effluents (Pryprutsky, Novoselytsky districts). Recreational using here should be preceded by an engineering survey. Environmental protection measures are needed primarily in the Dniester valley, valley-terrace complexes.

The valley system naturally concentrates valuable recreational resources of the forest-steppe. In the territory of Middle Transnistria, it is desirable to reconstruct sanatoriums with a complex of recreational forms (water, phyto-, helio-, speleo-, diet therapy), for the location the most suitable areas are the bottoms of the Dniester Valley and Khotyn Upland. Reconstruction of the recreation center is needed in the village Balamutivka, Bridok, Rashkiv, Gordivtsi, Hrushivtsi, Nahoryany, Chornivka (areas of the Dniester river valley). Some sloping and watershed tracts of Khotyn Upland are very convenient. Within the valley recreational system it is better to combine tourist and excursion classes (water trips on the Dniester River with walking excursions). The most suitable for this are the areas of the bottoms and "walls" of the Dniester River, Khotyn Upland, Tovtrova ridge, karst funnels and "vertebrae".

The territory of Transnistria has extremely favorable conditions for the development of new (non-traditional) types of tourism. This is facilitated primarily by the relief. The Transnistrian part of Podillya, thanks to the rocks eroding in many places, resembles low mountains, the height differences here reach 150-200 m and even more. Most of the slopes are covered with a variety of woody vegetation, the steep slopes of the canyon sparsely grassy

vegetation. All this creates unique landscapes that have always attracted tourists. It is this unique beauty that is the main reason for the need to develop rural green tourism in Middle Transnistria. The study area has all the necessary conditions for the organization of green tourism and ecotourism. These are both large and small villages, small farms. Despite the fact that most of them have no roads they are accessible for modern transport. In particular, ATVs, scooters, as a means of transportation, give recreation a certain extreme. Also interesting for vacationers will be horse-drawn carriages, they can also be used for walks in interesting places of the surrounding areas.

The special place in the development of non-traditional types of tourism in Transnistria in the future should belong to the Dniester Reservoir. Here it is promising to organize walks and study tours on catamarans and small sailboats. With the creation of appropriate coastal infrastructure (beaches, parking lots for tents, campsites or agro-villages in settlements, observation decks) you can expect a significant influx of tourists to the region. The presence of a large number of monuments of architecture and history will attract even more tourists.

Equestrian tourism is gradually developing in this region. With the advent of privately owned horse farms, some owners offer tourists horseback riding. There are still quite a few such owners and there is almost no information about them.

Water routes along the Dniester River began to develop in the 70s of XX century. Since then and to this day, they do not lose their relevance. There is a contingent of tourists who are oversaturated with traditional sightseeing tours, looking for new experiences and extreme. The picturesque banks of the Dniester River, a peculiar microclimate, a flat current, a clear body of water and a sufficient depth of the river determine the prospects for rafting on inflatable rafts (rafts), boats, kayaks and kayaks. Areas of rapids and rocky ledges in the riverbed allow you to feel a certain risk and get a certain dose of adrenaline in the journey. The most interesting and well-known area for a water hike is the section between the mouth of the Strypa River in the Buchach district of the Ternopil region and the city of Khotyn in the Chernivtsi region.

Water hikes are mainly amateur trips, the route of which is developed by the participants of the hike. Information about the route is obtained from such sources as travel guides, online publications, memories of participants from previous trips, topographic maps and space images. On the section between the village Zoloty Potik and Khotyn along the Dniester river valley they have a resolution of 5 m, in the adjacent territory is 30 m. High resolution space images allow you to get acquainted with the route of the trip, mark the places

of camps and temporary stops, to see the nature in the area of the campaign. They clearly show areas of flat or steep shore, the location of beaches. The islands stand out well in the riverbed and on the pictures you can see the way they go around the wide full-flowing branches of the river. However, additional materials are used to detect pitfalls and shoals. On the pictures, dams, bridges, locks, ferry crossings, as well as pipeline crossings are clear. These artificial objects require extra attention during their passage. Space images give a real picture of the shores and the accumulative erosion processes that take place there.

Central Transnistria also has prospects for the development of industrial tourism. First and foremost, these are areas of abandoned and existing quarries. Excursions can also be used by existing industrial enterprises. Many are interested in the technological processes and therefore there is a need to organize these tours.

As part of the study, there are already recreation centers "Seagull" in the village. Neporotovo, Sokyryany district, Meridian in the village of Voronovytsia, Kelmenetsky district, yacht club and motor vessel base in the village of Dniester of Kelmenets district, tourist complex "Tiras" in the village Neporotovo and "Dniester" in the tract of Stara Vyshneva of the village Lomachintsi. The construction of the most powerful investment projects of the cultural, artistic, tourist and health complex "Fortress of Hetmans" next to the State Historical and Architectural Complex "Khotyn Fortress" has begun. This information testifies to the extremely high investment attractiveness and interest of investors which with the assistance of public administration will allow fast to turn Transnistria into a powerful recreational region of Ukraine.

No less interesting will be visits to the city of hydraulic engineers Novodnistrovsk, Dniester HPP, reservoir and its artificial alpine lake.

*Conclusions.* The sphere of tourism, in contrast to other sectors of the economy, makes it possible to implement the concept of self-development, self-government and self-financing at the expense of its own resources, its own financial sources. The tourist rent is a source as a differentiation of the value tourist resources according to the degree of their attractiveness to tourists. However, the available natural and recreational resources do not guarantee the unconditional success of the formation the tourism market. Ultimately, the determining factor is the level of socio-economic development and, in particular, tourism infrastructure as a well-established economic and legal mechanism in the country.

Recreational and tourist complex can be considered in two aspects: on the one hand, as an intersectoral complex in the service sector, where there are and develop economic relations for the production, exchange and consumption of recreational and tourist product; on the other

hand as an integral part of the territories social infrastructure of different levels which is a complex system (network) of enterprises and institutions for the production, promotion and sale of recreational and tourist services.

The allocation of tourist and recreational complexes contributes to the creation of tourist and recreational infrastructure of the required specialization, the calculation of the necessary labor resources, their qualification orientation and quantity, the rational use of available tourist and recreational resources.

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