

## SCIENTIFIC FUNDAMENTALS OF STUDYING THE TERRITORIAL RECREATIONAL SYSTEM

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### Abstract

*The set of phenomena related to recreational activities should be considered as a system, so that the object of study of recreational geography is the Territorial Recreational Systems (TRS). The main social function of TRS is to maximize the needs of the population in recreation, health, treatment and increasing physical and spiritual potential. TRS is an open system, it receives information, matter, energy from the external environment. TRS transmits to the external environment, mainly, information for the management of the supersystem and the so-called recreational information for the population (potentially aggregated by tourists) and, most important, it returns the tourists themselves - people after rest, healthy and spiritually enriched. Studying the models of development and functioning of the Territorial Recreational Systems (TRS) is inextricably linked to the problem of identifying the relationships between the individual elements of this system, such as tourists, natural complex, technical structures, service system) and between recreational and non-recreational systems (reinstallation) etc.*

**Keywords:** *territorial recreational system; recreational geography; recreational activities; territorial orientation; cartographic modeling.*

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The set of phenomena related to recreational activities should be considered as a system, so that the object of study of recreational geography is the Territorial Recreational Systems (TRS). TRS is a category in which the territorial resort and tourist complexes are intensely reflected and formed. An important feature of TRS is that they include, in an organic way, existing territorial entities.

### **Concept of territorial recreational system and its study tasks through recreational geography**

The main social function of TRS is to maximize the needs of the population in recreation, health, treatment and increasing physical and spiritual potential. The central object of a functional TRS is a person, a tourist. The following main tasks can be identified in the recreational geography in the TRS study:

- 1) identification and justification of TRS as a space system (patterns, factors and conditions of this system, its forecast);
- 2) the study of the functional structure of TRS and its link to other economic subsystems of the territory (including determining the place and importance of TRS in the complex development of the territory's economy, i.e. the relationship with the regional economic system that covers it);
- 3) linking TRS to the natural and geographical situation. TRS - a large and complex system.

Its complexity lies not only in the fact that it includes various industries and activities, but also in the fact that this system affects various aspects of public life. Therefore, TRS is the subject of various sciences, such as: sociology, physical and economic geography, district planning, economy, etc.

As TRS is an open system, it receives information, matter, energy from the external environment. TRS transmits to the external environment, mainly, information for the management of the supersystem and the so-called recreational information for the population (potentially aggregated by tourists) and, most important, it returns the tourists themselves - people after rest, healthy and spiritually enriched. TRS as a functional system includes the following blocks, which are lower order systems:

- 1) the group of tourists;
- 2) natural and cultural complexes;
- 3) the technical system;
- 4) the group of service personnel;
- 5) the system of TRS management bodies.

TRS normally operates in close cooperation with several industries in a given area. These industries perform different TRS functions. At least five functional branches and their groups are required for TRS, created as an interprofessional formation:

1. The group of industries that perform the main function of the system. These include: resorts, tourist farms, recreation (in the narrow sense of the word). These industries form the core of the system. The unity in some territories of these industries (unity of purposes, functions, shared use of certain natural resources, etc.) makes it possible to interpret TRS as a type of intersectoral system. Each of the TRS sectoral parts components is a system of quite different industries, subsectors and activities. The composition of the TRS core indicates that it is mainly an intersectoral system of the unproductive sphere.

2. Group of industries, mainly, maintenance of TRS core production. It is represented by construction (including capital, as any TRS is a fast-growing system, as a rule, it increases its capacity by raising new facilities); transport (primarily passengers, as TRS is characterized by tourist flows). TRS may include cultural services, trade, production of special tourist equipment, souvenirs, etc. The cross-chain links of the TRS core directly affect agriculture, the food industry and the light industry, causing qualitative and quantitative changes in the development and territorial organization of the latter. Thus, TRS, as an intersectoral phenomenon, is closely linked to other systems of the territory and partially resonates with them.

3. Industries that include a system of educational institutions, which train specialists with higher and secondary qualifications for the tourism and recreation industry. It trains not only doctors, physical education instructors, cultists, but also tourism and mountaineering instructors, guides, economists and planners for the tourism industry.

4. Industries that include a system of specialized design institutes, offices, as well as research institutions that focus on meeting the needs of the resort and tourism industry. This includes recreational area planning activities, districts, nodes, centers and points.

5. The specialized management bodies, which shall receive information on the status of other TRS subsystems, shall provide guidance on issues of optimal operation and further development of the TRS. Thus, all these industries (functional subsystems of TRS) interact with each other in space and time.

As for the **methodological basis of the study**, TRS can be divided into the following provisions:

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- 1) the TRS study should be systematic;
- 2) TRS is mainly a non-productive sphere system;
- 3) depending on the purpose of the study, the number of participants studying TRS.

There are two possible ways to approach the TRS study systematically:

1. TRS is studied on an interdisciplinary basis by a team of scientists of different specialties, who face the task not only of their own study, but also, first of all, modeling and designing TRS as a large and complex system.

2. At the initial stage of TRS formation, a scientist should study who is tasked with investigating the general trends and structure (including spatial) of TRS, its formation characteristics and territorial organization with the application of traditional methods of economic geography. In this case, TRS is considered a small and simple system. An example of such a TRS study is economic and geographical research.

In this case, we use both general scientific methods (analysis and synthesis of induction and deduction, idealization, etc.) and traditional methods of economic and geographical research modernized in relation to modern requirements: literary, field balance, mathematics and cartography.

One of the main tasks of a geographer is to map. In this case, the TRS model is a set of maps, representing the system from different angles. It is necessary in this set (system) of maps to have maps with the following thematic directions: estimated recreational maps of the territory and its separate components; complex analytical maps of separate branch recreational systems; complex synthetic TRS maps as a whole; forecasting TRS maps as a whole and its separate branching systems.

### **TRS typology and its specialization**

TRS typing is a process of selecting their types and creating a logically justified typology. The TRS type can be distinguished according to all the essential characteristics of the systems. Most typing is done by:

- 1) the functions of recreational activities;
- 2) the degree of correlation in the organization of this activity of an unchanged nature and technical systems;
- 3) territorial orientation of TRS.

Typing TRS according to the functions of recreational activity. This classification is based on the typology of recreational activities. As there are four main functions of recreational activities, there are four main functional types of TRS: I - medical, II - health, III - sports, IV - cognitive [1].

Typing TRS by spatial orientation. Depending on the distance of the TRS from the place of permanent residence of the tourists, i.e. in terms of spatial orientation, there are two types of TRS: long and short rest or a long-term and short-term recreation system. Short-term and short-term mass recreation in the last days of the week is more pronounced in the nearby areas of cities. Therefore, the first and most common type of TRS in their spatial orientation are the so-called suburban TRS. Long-term recreational TRS takes place in remote specialized areas.

### **Cartographic modeling of territorial recreational systems**

Studying the models of development and functioning of the Territorial Recreational Systems (TRS) is inextricably linked to the problem of identifying the relationships between the individual elements of this system, such as tourists, natural complex, technical structures, service system) and between recreational and non-recreational systems (reinstallation) etc. It is now possible to name many resting places where these relationships have developed unfavorably and require the intervention of the authorities. To improve existing relationships, their management, forecasting and further development, knowing the nature of existing relationships between them, the nature of the causes that produce a phenomenon and the consequences.

In connection with the need to solve this problem from a territorial point of view, the question naturally arises as to the effectiveness of one of the means of studying geographical objects - maps, the conditions and possibilities of using it to obtain new information.

One of the most effective research methods can be cartographic modeling - a set of map operations designed to gain new knowledge about recreational systems. Cartographic modeling includes the creation of maps, but the development of methods for using maps already created, their common analysis is at the forefront. Based on this, the main attention should be paid to a complex cartographic model, which is a set of maps or cartographic features and which allows obtaining additional information about the studied object, which each map in particular cannot provide.

The origins of recreational geography are found in other sections of geographical science - population geography, transportation, architectural objects, etc. The duration of the existence of these sections and the state of development of the related areas of recreational cartography are different, so that their cartographic material provision is uneven. For example, there are very few maps that cover

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aspects such as: the resistance of the natural complex to recreational tasks, the social efficiency of recreation and recreational demand, etc. Existing maps by functional purpose can be divided into three groups. The first group - maps that are created for tourists, hunters, fishermen - the so-called tourist. They contain specific leisure information about the region, its attractiveness. The second group of maps is intended for recreational researchers and recreation organizers and contains information on the forms of organization and maintenance of TRS, recreational migrations (tourist flows), the volume and quality of recreational resources, recreation as a socio-economic phenomenon. These maps serve as a source of information that is used to carry out design and planning works and to identify patterns of territorial organization of recreation. This group of books fits best the concept of leisure.

The third group consists of maps, which, although not intended for researchers and recreation organizers, may contain useful information for them. These are various economic and physical-geographical maps, with the help of which it is possible to find out the links between the recreational and non-recreational use of the territory.

TRS comfort is usually a feature of individual recreational facilities, such as hotel class and number of staff. The same terrain can include the comfort of natural conditions and the number of hot days per year, annual rainfall, temperature fluctuations and much more.

TRS capacity can be considered in two aspects: institutional capacity and territorial capacity. Maps of the first type are quite common and this property of TRS, as a rule, is reflected in the number of beds.

In order to reflect the dynamics of TRS, it is necessary to have information that characterizes TRS, its capacity and structure over time. It is interesting to reflect the daily, weekly, annual and long-term dynamics of tourists, and for some areas - the actual reflection and seasonal changes. It can be represented on maps by indirect indicators, such as: the difference in turnover between winter and summer.

TRS reliability is a property that determines the reliability of its operation, which is manifested by the stable operation of individual subsystems, regardless of external influences or related to them and can be expressed by indicators such as the difference in the number of tourists depending on weather.

TRS efficiency is often presented in the form of tourism revenues. This plot can also be reflected in the social and medical-biological aspects.

From the point of view of the tourists influence on the condition of a natural complex, the so-called stability of a natural complex allocates, i.e. the ability to



withstand different loads at a certain limit after which begins its irreversible destruction. In recreational research, interest in the sustainability of the natural complex is associated with the need to develop environmental measures and task rationing.

Thus, the direction of the research is sought in order to find a TRS model, which would best reflect the systemic nature of the phenomenon and allow new information to be obtained. A systematic cartographic model of a TRS is a set of two or more maps, which are combined using a general scientific model of a recreational system. Its appearance changes depending on the purpose of the model.

The synthetic map is the most obvious form of presenting the result, as it allows the transmission of generalized conclusions without requiring a complex and time-consuming comparison and a comprehensive analysis of the maps. A set of complex maps also meets this requirement.

If the main task is to find the relationship of the elements, to identify what and with what it is connected, then for this purpose the most promising is the use of a cartographic model, in which a set of maps acts as a consequence of dividing the system into individual elements, connections, integration, system integrity restoration.

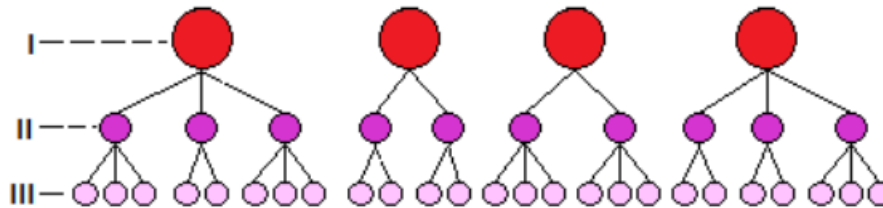
The aim of the research is to identify new knowledge about TRS, so to study the links, a complex cartographic model should be presented in the form of a set of maps in which each map reflects only one characteristic of the TRS element. This type of model is considered to be the original one, which allows the construction of assumptions about connections, to reveal the basic relationships and properties of the components.

This model reflects the more complete objective reality than the individual maps. The use of a systematic cartographic model for understanding the territorial recreational system is the first principle of cartographic modeling of TRS.

The territorial recreational system is a complex internal formation. Each element is a natural complex, a system of services, engineering structures can be considered as an independent system that includes several components. For example, the components of the natural complex are climatic conditions, water bodies, vegetation and more. In turn, each of them can be characterized by several indicators; for example: the forest - the age of the tree, the diversity of the species, the nature of the bush and the bush, etc. There are many specific features that are important for displaying this TRS. In addition, the operation of the TRS is inextricably linked to the activities of other non-recreational systems (it affects

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them and feels the impact itself), resulting in the possible number of features of the TRS being added to the characteristics of those systems with which it is connected. For clarity, the variety of features of the recreational system can be described as a diagram (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. TRS characteristics [1]**

*Note: I – TRS elements; II – elements compounds; III – compounds characteristics.*

It is clear that the use of all possible features in the text and, moreover, their display on maps is not only time consuming and technically complex, but also does not meet the basic requirement for any modeling - a reflection of the main.

The number of possible features highlights the problem of how to minimize the number of books and the creation of a set that allows in a concise form to submit maximum information. The basis of minimization is the idea of TRS anthropocentricity.

The main element of TRS - a group of tourists, any other elements that are not directly related to it, cannot be considered recreational. Therefore, maps reflecting the location of tourist groups should be a central part of the complex cartographic models of the system. In order to determine the nature of the connections, in order to identify the operating patterns of the TRS, it is necessary to compare all the maps with this central map, verifying the connection of their information.

The degree of connection with a group of tourists determines the feasibility of including a certain feature in the created model. This is the second principle of recreational systems cartographic modeling.

TRSs are hierarchical systems, each of which consists of lower-ranking systems and is also part of a higher-ranking system. In any territory that is considered a TRS, it is always possible to identify places that are lower ranking systems. These small territorial formations, in turn, can be divided into even smaller TRS. As an example of reflecting such a hierarchy, we can cite three different-scale maps of



the location of specialized recreational facilities: in the Carpathians as a whole; in the mineral waters of the Carpathians and in Guta. The hierarchical nature of TRS implies the need to study the same properties, i.e. the relationships between the same elements at different hierarchical levels at different scales.

The need for the “layer-by-layer” study of a system of any rank with the help of maps sets at different scales is the third principle of cartographic modeling of TRS.

The considered principles of cartographic modeling show that the cartographic model of TRS should be represented by a set of maps that reflect the relationship of its main elements, among which the main place is given to the tourist location map. It is most effective to use a set in which each feature is presented on a separate map to build assumptions about connections. For the in-depth study of systems of any rank, it is advisable to use several sets of maps with different scales.

The main method of studying recreational systems is their common analysis, which allows the identification of basic properties and relationships between TRS elements. Visual or even imaginary comparison of maps makes it possible to build hypotheses about connections and formalization – they clarify them, while the choice of comparison units (mapping) affects the conclusions about connections.

According to some authors, tourism is all types of movement that are not associated with a change of permanent residence and work [8, p.5]. That is, if we focus on the “population movement”, then tourism should be understood as one of the forms of migration that does not have a permanent nature.

Many authors (V. I. Azar [5], V. G. Gerasimenko [9] and others), in their definitions of the concept of “tourism”, emphasize the dynamism (“movement”) and territoriality of this phenomenon. A number of authors add notes to the definition of tourism that this is necessarily an active holiday [7].

In 1963, at the UN Conference on International Tourism and Travel, the definition of an international tourist is any person who is in a country for 24 hours or more, which is not his or her permanent residence for rest, treatment, participation in sporting events, meetings, congresses, etc., unpaid in the host country [7]. Therefore, it should be noted that tourism can be not only an active type of recreation (mountaineering, diving, sports and hiking trips, etc.), but also passive recreation (improving health, medical, SPA tourism, etc.).

Currently, in international practice, the definition proposed and approved at the International Conference on Travel and Tourism Statistics (Ottawa, 1991) and approved by UNWTO and the UN Statistical Commission is widely used. According to it, a tourist is a visitor, i.e. “A person who travels and stays in places

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outside his/her usual environment for a period not exceeding 12 months for any purpose other than to engage in paid activities from sources in the visited place” [2]

According to the UNWTO definition: “tourism is the activity of people who travel and stay outside their usual environment, for a period of not more than one year in a row, for recreation, business and other purposes”. [3]

According to the Tourism Law of the Republic of Moldova no. 798-XIV of 11.02.2000: “tourism is a branch of the national economy with complex functions, including property and services provided for consumption by persons who exist outside their usual environment for less than one year for a purpose other than implementation of paid activities in the visited place” [10, Article 2].

Analyzing the definitions of the term “tourism” led to the conclusion that most authors interpret this concept from the consumer’s point of view, i.e. tourism is a journey undertaken for a specific purpose (recreation, treatment, participation in sporting events, conferences, congresses, etc.).

However, tourism should also be considered from the point of view of the producer, namely: as a sphere of production and sale of tourism services by organizations that have tourism resources.

Tourism is a specific branch of the economy, which includes the activities of tourism businesses to provide a range of tourism services and the sale of tourist goods to meet the needs of a person that might appear during his/her journey [11].

Based on the above, the author proposes a clarification of the definition of tourism: a branch of the economy that aims at the economic, social, political development of the tourist activity objects and the satisfaction of the recreational needs of the subjects of this activity. According to the author, this definition refers to the (essential) concept, which covers the area of research as a whole, reveals the inner content of tourism, which is expressed in the unity of the diversity of properties and relationships.

Modern tourism is characterized by a variety of species, but there is no generally accepted classification of them. The authors of the Fundamentals of Tourism Business Manual, M. Malskaya, V. Khudo and V. Tsybukh, note: “There is still no clear, generally accepted classification of tourism”, continuing: “... This is due to the fact that it is almost impossible to distinguish pure forms and types of modern tourism” [12].

The literature dedicated to the study of tourism classifies the types of tourism based on different criteria (purpose of travel, nature of tourism, legal status, duration of travel or stay, seasonality, modes of travel, age of traveler, etc.).

There is a classification of international travel according to the purpose of the trip, proposed by the World Tourism Organization. It is recommended to divide international travel into three groups:

1. Trip for fun:
  - 1) Travel for recreation (in resorts, rural and/or mountain areas, tourist routes, sea and river cruises, honeymoon trips, etc.);
  - 2) Travel as a way of cultural education (visiting art exhibitions, museums, historical sites, monuments of religious art and education, various cultural and educational events);
  - 3) Sports trips (skiing, water sports, mountain sports, cycling, hiking routes, etc.).
  - 4) Tourism to visit relatives and friends:
  - 5) Other objectives (incentive tours, gambling, etc.).
2. Economic, commercial or business tourism:
  - 1) Participation in conferences, congresses, symposia, fairs, exhibitions, etc.;
  - 2) Long business trips;
  - 3) Business travel.
3. Other tourist destinations:
  - 1) Travel for study purposes (language practice, internships, professional development);
  - 2) Travel for treatment and recovery (resorts, health resorts, SPA institutions);
  - 3) Transit tourism;
  - 4) Others (family issues, support, etc.) [4].

This classification, despite its official status, has its disadvantages. Modern tourism is characterized by a variety of purposes of tourist travel, i.e. in a single trip a tourist can combine recreation (entertainment) and education, but also the elements of commercial (business) tourism.

According to the author, we should not divide the objectives of the trip into groups, but classify tourism according to the classification criteria (according to recreational characteristics, purpose of the trip, mode of travel, accommodation for tourists, number of participants, organizational and legal forms etc.).

In the Republic of Moldova, the leading places are occupied by the following types of tourism: medical and recreational, wine, cultural and educational and rural.

In international practice, an important role in the development of the tourism industry is played by entertainment, events, business, scientific types of tourism, which have developed in our republic in the last decade.

It should be noted that there is no single type of tourism in isolation and, in this context, the relationship between the objectives of a tourist trip should be highlighted. For example, in health tourism, a large number of cultural and

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cognitive aspects are combined with entertainment, business tourism with scientific, educational events and entertainment.

A specific feature of tourism, as a branch of the national economy, is that its product (complex of services, goods, works) cannot exist independently, it is inextricably linked to other sectors of the economy [13]. Traditionally, tourism has three economic functions: the reproduction of the tourist product - production, employment and income generation. Some researchers [14] consider it necessary to supplement the list of economic functions of tourism with the function of smoothing regional imbalances, which is particularly relevant today and the function of leveling balance of payments deviations.

The leveling function is manifested by the fact that tourism, under certain conditions, can contribute to the economic development of structurally weak regions. The creation of tourism enterprises in remote and poorly industrialized regions will contribute to their economic development. In this case, the tourism fulfills the function of leveling, attractive in terms of nature and culture, the landscape to turn tourism into an economic path, ensuring economic growth and a decent standard of living.

Through the leveling function, the influence of tourism on the stabilization of the payments balance of the region is realized. As part of the payments balance, the expenditure of local tourists who have left the region is contrasted with the income received from the consumption of goods and services by tourists who have arrived in the region [5].

Tourism was a profitable and rapidly growing branch of the world economy until the COVID-19 pandemic. The current state of tourism distinguishes by the presence of contradictions in the structure of its organization, in the direction of its development, in the state of characteristics: qualitative and quantitative [1].

The current state of tourism in the world can be seen as a crisis. This is due to a sharp decrease in the quantitative indicators previously obtained in the field of tourism services, a reduction in the material and technical base of the tourism industry and a significant discrepancy between the needs of the population in the provided tourism services.

UNWTO has identified 5 reasons for managing the tourism in economic sectors in the near future:

1. This industry creates jobs in both tourism and indirect industries.
2. The stability of the tourism industry compared to other sectors of the economy and the ability to adapt to changing conditions should be noted. In the last

13 years, the growth rate of turnover in the international tourism industry has decreased in three cases: after the terrorist attack of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 (-0.4%); due to the outbreak of SARS in 2003 (-1-6%); during the global economic crisis of 2009 (-3.8%), 2019-2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic - global tourism fell by 85% at the beginning of 2021 compared to the period before the pandemic. The coronavirus pandemic could cost the global tourism sector \$2 trillion of lost revenue in 2021. According to a new UNWTO World Tourism report, the number of international tourists in July-September increased by 58% compared to the same period in 2020. However, they remained 64% below the level of 2019.

“Despite recent improvements, the world’s uneven vaccination rates and new strains of Covid-19 such as Delta and Omicron could affect an already slow and unstable recovery”, the organization said in a statement.

According to the UNWTO, 46 destinations - and this is 21% of the total - are completely closed to tourists.

While Europe (-53%) and America (-60%) saw a relative improvement during the third quarter of 2021, travel to Asia and the Pacific was down 95% compared to 2019, as many destinations remained closed for traveling.

Africa and the Middle East recorded a drop of 74% and 81% respectively in the third quarter of 2021 compared to 2019.

The safe recovery of international tourism in the future will largely depend on the interaction between countries on travel restrictions [2].

3. Tourism has a beneficial effect on the economic development of developing countries.

4. The stabilizing role of tourism in the development of a green economy should be emphasized.

5. Tourism is a regulator in the prevention of conflicts between countries and peoples, in crisis management; in the development of tolerance between different societies [15].

As for the (medical) health improvement tourism, in this context, the words of Taleb Rifai should also be quoted: “Medical and health tourism is now becoming a very important field ... there is not enough information about it. In this area, UNWTO receives figures only from some countries that are more interested in the development of medical and health tourism than others; there are no global statistics. This applies not only in the medical field, but also in other specialized tourism areas that have emerged recently. There are very clear signals from different countries that they are interested in medical and health tourism” [16].

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