

скорочення, на користь якісних послуг. І це разом дозволить забезпечити відповідну нішу у соціально-економічному розвитку регіону, а відтак з користю як для системи розселення так і забезпечивши виконання завдання досягнення цілей сталого розвитку. Загалом вказані вище тези можна звести у чотири вектори – формування осей розвитку, зонування території, визначення чіткої спеціалізації громад та визначення опорних населених пунктів.

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THE TRANSFORMATION OF SANATORIUM COMPLEXES INTO TOURIST-EDUCATIONAL MEMORY SPACES: A HISTORICAL- GEOGRAPHICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL-MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE (A CASE STUDY OF KENTUCKY, USA)

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In the context of contemporary transformations of socio-geographical space, the issue of rethinking the functional role of sanatorium and resort complexes is gaining particular relevance. A significant number of these facilities, established in the 20th century as specialized medical and rehabilitation centers, have either lost their original function or are currently operating in a fragmented manner. At the same time, the growing demand for wellness tourism, psychological rehabilitation, and educational practices related to the interpretation of historical experience creates new opportunities for their transformation into multifunctional spaces.

The historical-geographical approach allows sanatorium complexes to be considered as specific territorial entities formed under the influence of natural resource potential, medical knowledge, and societal needs. In different historical

periods, they performed functions of treatment, social support, and recreation, acting as important elements of the territorial organization of society. The psychological-medical approach, in turn, emphasizes the role of space in processes of physical and psycho-emotional recovery. The concept of the “therapeutic landscape” highlights the importance of the natural environment, architectural design, and sensory experience in shaping healing outcomes.

Particular importance is attached to the interpretation of sanatoria as “spaces of memory” that accumulate historical narratives related to the development of medicine, epidemics, and broader social transformations. In this context, the transformation of such facilities involves not only a change in their functional purpose but also a rethinking of their symbolic role in society [5].

A representative example is the state of Kentucky (USA), where one of the most well-known sites – the Waverly Hills Sanatorium – has undergone a transformation from a medical institution for tuberculosis patients into a popular tourist destination. Today, it functions as a center of so-called “dark tourism,” combining historical-medical heritage with cultural and psychological practices related to the perception of fear. This site operates as a space for both historical and paranormal tours, thus integrating medical heritage, local narrative traditions, and tourism-driven commercialization [3]. Therefore, the former tuberculosis sanatorium can be interpreted as a complex intersection of medical infrastructure, the architecture of controlled recovery, and a site of collective memory. The case of Waverly Hills in Louisville demonstrates that the tourism transformation of such facilities is scientifically justified only when the historical-medical content is prioritized, along with ensuring visitors’ psycho-emotional safety and adherence to ethical standards of interpretation [3].

It has been established that the Waverly Hills Sanatorium embodies three interconnected dimensions: medical, memorial, and touristic. In the medical dimension, it functioned as an instrument for infection control and patient support; in the architectural dimension, it materialized the concept of a “healing environment”; and in the contemporary cultural dimension, it has become a site where society reinterprets experiences of illness, isolation, and death. Local studies conceptualize Waverly Hills as a liminal dark tourism site, where the history of medicine intersects with urban legends and the emotional appeal of the “haunted” experience [3].

Such a transformation demonstrates how medical facilities can be integrated into the tourism industry while preserving their historical identity and fulfilling an educational function. From the perspective of human geography, such sites can be conceptualized as territorial monosystems in which a specific function dominates. During the transformation process, a shift in the dominant function occurs, corresponding to the logic of mono-development of territorial systems. The sanatorium gradually evolves into a multifunctional space that integrates medical, touristic, educational, and cultural components. This process is accompanied by the formation of new functional linkages and the emergence of innovative forms of spatial utilization.

The psychological and medical dimension of this transformation is also of

particular importance. Research indicates that controlled experiences of fear (recreational fear), characteristic of haunted attractions, may have a positive effect on emotional regulation and social interaction. Furthermore, visits to dark tourism sites contribute to reflection, the formation of historical consciousness, and a deeper understanding of traumatic events.

As a result, a new type of spatial organization is formed – a tourist-educational space of memory that integrates recreational, educational, and therapeutic functions. Such spaces can be used for the implementation of educational programs, psychological rehabilitation, and the cultural interpretation of historical experience. The practical significance of this approach lies in the potential to use sanatorium complexes as centers of regional development, contributing to economic diversification, tourism development, and the improvement of quality of life.

Thus, the transformation of sanatorium complexes into tourist-educational spaces of memory represents a complex, multidimensional process that requires the integration of historical-geographical and psychological-medical approaches. The combination of these approaches makes it possible to develop a comprehensive model for understanding such facilities as innovative territorial systems oriented toward recovery, education, and the preservation of cultural memory.

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