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TOURISM RECEPTION STRUCTURES TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ELEMENTS OF ACCOMMODATION UNITS, PUBLIC CATERING, LEISURE, SPA TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES

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Abstract: *Tourism reception structures are units and facilities dedicated to accommodation, dining, and providing various services to tourists, with the primary goal of meeting their needs during their stay in a specific tourist destination. These structures are essential for tourism development and encompass a wide range of units. According to Government Ordinance No. 58/1998 on the organization and conduct of tourism activities in Romania, approved with amendments through Law No. 755/2001 and subsequent modifications, a tourism reception structure is defined as any building or facility designed and executed for accommodating tourists, providing meals, leisure, tourist-specific transport, and spa treatment services for tourists, along with the associated services.*

• Introduction

The technical-material base of tourism, commonly referred to as tourism reception structures, encompasses all material resources utilized by the tourism sector to fulfill its economic and social functions. In this context, both tourism-specific material resources and those shared with other industries are considered.

Government Ordinance No. 58/1998 on the organization and conduct of tourism activities in Romania defines a tourism reception structure as any building or facility specifically designed and constructed to accommodate tourists, provide meals, leisure activities, tourist-specific transport, and spa treatments, along with related services.

• Results and discussions

To meet visitor requirements and expectations, each unit must be equipped and organized according to strict standards, incorporating specific technical and material elements. Thus, accommodation units, restaurants, other public dining facilities, recreational spaces, spa treatment centers, and tourism-specific transportation services must meet clear quality, safety, and hygiene criteria, all regulated by legal standards. These elements contribute directly to ensuring a high-quality tourism experience and strengthening the reputation and competitiveness of destinations.

Tourism reception structures include a comprehensive range of units specializing in services for accommodation, public catering, leisure, spa treatments, and transport for tourists. These structures represent essential components of the hospitality industry, providing comfort, safety, and satisfaction to those who choose to use them. To maintain quality standards in the hospitality industry, regulatory guidelines set clear requirements for the classification and certification of tourism units. These regulations ensure that each structure meets strict criteria, with certification providing credibility and recognition, guaranteeing tourists a high-quality and safe experience.

• **Material and methods**

The materials used to write this work consist of normative acts and web pages. The methods used are legal, namely the formal method, the comparative method, the logical method and the analytical method. The use of these methods had the role of carrying out a systematic analysis of the information from the studied sources in order to elaborate the points of view, the results of the research carried out and the conclusions.

In this context, compliance with technical and material standards not only addresses legal requirements but becomes essential for the classification and certification of tourism units, offering them credibility and recognition in the tourism market.

Order No. 1179/2018 governs the classification and operation of tourism reception structures in Romania, establishing the requirements and criteria these units must meet to operate legally. Tourism reception structures include various types of accommodation units and related services, such as hotels, guesthouses, tourist villas, cabins, campsites, and other facilities intended for tourists.

Classification of Tourism Reception Structures : The order establishes a clear classification for accommodation units, divided into multiple categories based on the type and level of comfort offered. Classification is determined by a system of stars, daisies, or other symbols, depending on the unit type: hotels, Tourist Guesthouses, campsites.

Basic Operational Requirements: Order 1179/2018 specifies that all tourism reception structures must adhere to minimum safety and comfort requirements

• Conclusions

Tourism reception structures play a crucial role in the development of tourism, contributing to economic growth, job creation, and the improvement of infrastructure in tourist areas. These structures include hotels, guesthouses, cabins, campsites, hostels, and other accommodation units, all of which must adhere to strict standards and comply with current legislation to provide an appropriate level of services and safety for tourists.

According to both Romanian and European legislation, tourism reception structures must hold official authorizations and classifications, which are granted based on the level of comfort and services offered. These classifications aim to standardize service quality and protect consumer rights, providing tourists with clear information about the conditions and services they can expect.

Classification procedure : To obtain official classification, owners of tourism reception structures must submit an application to the Ministry of Tourism, along with the necessary documentation, including the unit's layout and proof of meeting the minimum criteria established by the order.

Compliance and Sanctions: The order also includes provisions for monitoring and sanctioning in cases of non-compliance with classification standards. Units that do not meet the required conditions risk being downgraded, temporarily suspended, or even permanently closed in severe cases.

Government Emergency Ordinance no. 224/2020 provides support measures for the tourism sector in Romania, including tourist accommodation units, in the context of financial difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The main objective of the ordinance is to offer financial assistance to economic operators in the tourism sector and to prevent the closure of units due to significant losses during this period.

Main Support Measures for Tourist Accommodation Units

Conditions for Accessing Support: To benefit from the support measures provided by the ordinance, tourist accommodation units must meet certain criteria, including:

- Official Certification according to national classifications (e.g., hotels, guesthouses, campgrounds).

Financial Statements and Documentation proving the losses incurred in 2020 compared to previous years.

-Compliance with Legal Operating Requirements, such as adhering to hygiene and health safety standards.

Impact of OUG 224/2020 on Tourist Accommodation Units: Government Emergency Ordinance no. 224/2020 is a vital intervention to support the tourism industry, which was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This government measure not only provides financial aid to struggling units but also helps preserve jobs and encourages the revival of tourism. Additionally, the funds allocated for modernization contribute to improved infrastructure and service quality, which can attract more tourists and foster long-term development in the sector.

Classification and Typology of Public Catering Units: Ordinance 510/2022 regulates the classification of public catering units based on comfort and services, specifying the equipment and quality offered by each category.

Minimum Equipment and Organizational Requirements

Hygiene and Food Safety Standards

Authorization and Control Procedure

Sanctions and Compliance: Failure to comply with the provisions of Ordinance 510/2022 can result in sanctions such as fines, temporary suspension of operations, or even permanent closure in cases of severe non-compliance.

These sanctions are enforced to protect public health and maintain quality standards in public catering.

Importance of Ordinance 510/2022 in the Public Catering Industry

By establishing a clear and detailed legislative framework, Ordinance 510/2022 helps improve the quality of public catering services, providing enhanced safety and comfort for consumers. Implementing these standards not only protects public health but also contributes to the professionalization of the sector, promoting ethical and high-quality practices among food service operators.

Key Aspects Regulated by Law port for Development

Importance and Impact of Law 343/2002

Law 343/2002 has played a key role in promoting health tourism and harnessing the therapeutic potential of Romania's spa resorts. The adoption of this law has contributed to raising the quality standards in balneary medical care and encouraged investments in health and spa tourism infrastructure.