

THERMOMINERAL WATERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AS A FUNCTION OF BALNEOLOGICAL TOURISM

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Spa tourism is a branch of the tourism industry which is based on thermomineral waters as primary resource. This natural resource is one of the earliest used resources, and represents base to the oldest tourism industry called balneology (lat. balneum-bath, gr. logos-science). Treatment with the thermomineral waters, usage of mineral spring waters for drinking and inhalation of vapors at the site of efflux of thermo-mineral water is a very ancient therapeutic method, almost old as the civilization.

Age of spas is confirmed with stone baths founded in the archaeological excavations of ancient civilizations, as well with oikonyms, especially those from the Roman Empire, named after hydronyms of warm waters. Most of oikonyms in Bosnia and Herzegovina are related to hydronym "banja", and refers to the place of hot spring water. Such name is Aqua S, Roman name for Ilidža, whose name is taken from the Turkish language, which translated into Bosnian means bath. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, type of mineral water appoints to some oikonyms, among which is the most common "kiseljak". One of the settlements near Sarajevo has a name Kiseljak.

Thermomineral water is defined with elevated temperatures and high content of mineral matter dissolved in them. Traditionally hot waters, with temperatures similar to the human body temperature, are called spas. In hydrogeological literature, thermal waters are waters whose temperature is higher than average temperatures of place where the hot spring is situated.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the richest countries according to numbers of mineral and thermal springs. Usage of mineral, thermal and thermomineral waters in Bosnia and Herzegovina has a long tradition - since Greek and Roman periods. During these periods, Greeks and Romans have recognized the healing power of geothermal springs.

Key words: *spa, balneology, thermomineral waters, hydrogeology, oikonyms, hydronyms*