
**INCLUSIVE TOURISM AS A FACTOR
OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE**

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INTRODUCTION

Inclusive tourism, within the modern paradigm of socio-geographical research, is emerging as an important tool for ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and members of other low-mobility population groups. In global scientific discourse, inclusion is regarded as a fundamental principle of sustainable development, involving the overcoming of spatial, social, and infrastructural barriers to ensure full participation in public life, regardless of a person's physical, cognitive, sensory or psychological condition¹. Tourism as a form of social activity is one of the least accessible areas for those categories of the population who experience limited mobility or face other accessibility barriers. However, over the past two decades, global trends have seen a growing recognition of tourism as an effective tool for social integration and therapeutic adaptation of persons with disabilities. According to UNWTO estimates, more than 15% of the world's population belongs to the category of persons with disabilities. It has limited access to tourism services due to inadequate infrastructure, poor service quality or a lack of adapted tourism products². In the European Union, the inclusive tourism market is considered one of the most promising segments of the tourism industry, providing multiplier effects for employment, regional development and innovation in services.

For Ukraine, the issue of inclusive tourism is particularly relevant in the context of the consequences of war, when the number of persons with disabilities is increasing due to injuries, psychological trauma and other social factors. According to estimates by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, by 2023,

¹ United Nations World Tourism Organization. Accessible Tourism for All. Madrid: UNWTO, 2020. URL: <https://surl.li/nnqkla>

² World Health Organisation. World Report on Disability. Geneva: WHO, 2011. URL: <https://surl.li/jeplif>

the number of people with disabilities will have increased by approximately 13% compared to the pre-war period³. This creates a fundamentally new social demand for mechanisms of rehabilitation, social adaptation, and integration, utilising the tourism and recreational potential of the regions. Particular attention should be paid to the Odesa region, which is one of the centres of marine recreational tourism and has significant potential for the introduction of inclusive practices; the Carpathian region, which boasts unique natural healing resources; and the city of Kyiv, serving as a national centre for the development of modern social initiatives. An analysis of their potential enables the identification of structural barriers and opportunities for the spatial organisation of an inclusive tourism environment.

Inclusive tourism is not limited to adapting the physical environment, but also involves creating accessible information services, transport systems, staff training, and a general transformation of public attitudes towards people with disabilities⁴. Inclusive tourism practices are becoming a catalyst for integrating people with disabilities into the public sphere, helping to reduce social isolation, increase subjective well-being, and create new opportunities for economic participation.

Global experience demonstrates that inclusiveness in tourism is a key factor in regional development, particularly in countries with a well-developed tourism economy. In Canada and Spain, the implementation of national accessibility programmes has created the conditions for employment growth, expansion of the tourism services market, and the formation of powerful clusters of medical and recreational tourism⁵. In the United States, inclusive tourism has been integrated into the system of social support programmes for wounded veterans, creating innovative models of rehabilitation routes for nature-oriented therapy and adaptive sports⁶.

For Ukraine, the issue of inclusive tourism has not only social but also regional economic significance. However, infrastructure deficits, uneven spatial accessibility, and low integration of social and tourism policies create barriers to the formation of a fully inclusive environment. That is why the study of inclusive tourism as a factor in social integration and regional development in Ukraine is a crucial scientific and practical issue.

³ United Nations World Tourism Organization. Accessible Tourism for All. Madrid: UNWTO, 2020. URL: <https://surl.li/nmqkla>

⁴ Слатвінська Л.А. Перспективи розвитку інклюзивного туризму в Україні. *Державне управління: удосконалення та розвиток*. 2020. № 5. URL: DOI: 10.32702/2307-2156-2020.5.59

⁵ Труніна І. М., Сосновська Ю. Р. Стан міжнародного туризму для осіб з інвалідністю в Україні. *Modern Economics*. 2019. № 15(2019). С. 191-195. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.31521/modecon.V15\(2019\)-27](https://doi.org/10.31521/modecon.V15(2019)-27)

⁶ Державне агентство розвитку туризму. Доступність туристичних об'єктів України. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://www.tourism.gov.ua>

1. Inclusive tourism in the system of social geography

Inclusive tourism within the framework of social geography emerges as a multidimensional socio-spatial and socio-economic phenomenon that integrates the principles of accessibility, social justice, and equal opportunities into the tourism sector. Social geography studies the interrelationships between social processes and territorially organised structures and, accordingly, considers inclusion as a pattern of spatial development reflected in the accessibility of infrastructure for environmental adaptation and the inclusion of different population groups in social practices. In this context, inclusive tourism is a manifestation of social territoriality that creates equal opportunities for mobility, recreation, and cultural exchange for persons with disabilities and other categories of the population with limited mobility.

Inclusive tourism encompasses several components that have a territorial expression within the socio-geographical system. The first component is spatial accessibility, which is linked to the availability of a barrier-free environment in tourist centres, including transport infrastructure, urban mobility, building architecture, and the condition of tourist facilities and routes. According to the European Commission, about 45% of tourist facilities in EU countries have varying degrees of barriers for persons with disabilities, which reduces the accessibility of the tourist experience and creates inequality among users⁷. The second component is social accessibility, which includes society's attitudes, the level of stigmatisation and the willingness of staff to provide services to tourists with disabilities. The third component covers institutional accessibility, which involves the existence of regulatory and legal standards, as well as regional programmes for the development of inclusive tourism.

Within the framework of social geography, inclusive tourism is analysed as a component of spatial development. Spatial landscapes of inclusiveness encompass areas with varying degrees of adaptation, characterised by the presence of tactile routes, ramps, low-floor transport, information systems for people with visual and hearing impairments, accessible medical facilities, and inclusive hotel services. The landscape of an inclusive environment exhibits spatial concentrations that reflect the level of economic development, social practices, and investments in tourism infrastructure within territories. In the EU, such concentrations are observed in the Catalan region of Spain, where comprehensive inclusive beach programmes are being implemented, in the province of Ontario, Canada, where inclusive, nature-oriented routes are in

⁷ Державне агентство розвитку туризму. Доступність туристичних об'єктів України. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://www.tourism.gov.ua>.

operation, and in Italian cities, where programmes for adapting historic centres are being actively implemented⁸.

Inclusive tourism, as a socio-geographical system, has a distinct structure consisting of tourism infrastructure, service infrastructure, regulatory institutions, human capital, and technological innovations.

In Ukraine, the development of inclusive tourism is in its early stages; however, spatial studies indicate the emergence of accessibility hubs, which are primarily created on the initiative of non-governmental organisations, local administrations or businesses. According to the State Agency for Tourism Development, as of 2023, only 17% of certified tourist locations are fully or partially accessible to people with reduced mobility, which indicates a significant deficit in inclusive infrastructure⁹. The most adapted regions remain Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa, and Ivano-Frankivsk, where separate programmes are being implemented to adapt tourist routes in beach areas, museums, and rehabilitation centres.

An important methodological aspect of social geography is the analysis of territorial inequality in accessibility. Spatial disparities in Ukraine are caused by varying levels of investment in tourist infrastructure, regional social priorities, the availability of specialised medical and rehabilitation facilities, as well as differences in natural and recreational resources. In this context, there are three types of territories with different potential for the development of inclusive tourism. *The first type* is represented by large urban agglomerations, such as Kyiv, Lviv, and Odesa, where there is an institutional and financial capacity for infrastructure modernisation, as well as a concentration of social initiatives. *The second type* includes recreational regions such as the Carpathians, Bukovel, Truskavets, and Morshyn, where natural healing resources and sanatorium and resort complexes are concentrated. *The third type* includes peripheral territories with low infrastructure levels and limited potential for tourism development.

In the system of social geography, inclusive tourism is interpreted as one of the key forms of spatial mobility, which has the potential to alter the structure of social relations, create new social roles, and promote a transition from a passive to an active model of participation by persons with disabilities in public life.

The territoriality of inclusive tourism is dual in nature, consisting of the interaction between physical space and social structures that determine the

⁸ National Park Service. Accessible Outdoor Recreation Report. Washington, 2021. URL: <https://surl.li/vrkrww>.

⁹ Державне агентство розвитку туризму. Доступність туристичних об'єктів України. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://www.tourism.gov.ua>.

nature of accessibility. Physical space includes elements of infrastructure, natural landscapes, tourist routes, architectural forms, means of transport and the information environment. Social structures encompass state and regional institutions, the business sector, tourist organisations, public initiatives, and local communities that shape social attitudes towards disability and contribute to the production of tourist products. The interaction of these two components forms the structure of an inclusive space, which can be open, i.e., accessible, or closed, i.e., barrier-free.

Social geography emphasises that the accessibility of space is not so much a physical property of the territory as its social interpretation. A territory may have the potential to be inclusive, but without social institutions that support the adaptation of space, it remains inaccessible. This is particularly true of historic cities, where architectural constraints are combined with low levels of municipal accessibility programmes. In Italy, a significant part of the historic centres of Florence, Venice and Rome was inaccessible to persons with disabilities until the implementation of a national cultural heritage adaptation programme, which included methods of delicate restoration, the installation of mobile ramps, the introduction of tactile paths and digital navigation systems¹⁰. This example proves that the geography of inclusiveness is complex in a socio-spatial sense, requiring an interdisciplinary approach.

In a socio-geographical interpretation, inclusive tourism is not only an economic activity but also a form of social interaction that reduces the social distance between population groups. Social distance in tourism manifests itself in attitudes towards persons with disabilities, in the willingness to provide them with services, and in their perception as equal participants in the tourism environment. In Northern European countries, where social distances are relatively weak, inclusiveness is an integral part of the tourism industry. According to the European Accessibility Observatory, 72% of tourism businesses in Sweden have implemented inclusive standards and undergone accessibility certification, resulting in a 31% increase in tourist flows from groups with reduced mobility over a five-year period¹¹. This suggests that social norms and cultural practices play just as significant a role as physical accessibility. In Canada, where there is an extensive system of inclusive natural parks, adaptive recreation tourism programmes create conditions for the formation of such communities. According to Parks Canada, participation of persons with disabilities in adaptive hiking programmes increased by 46% in 2022

¹⁰ Promoting accessible tourism for all. URL: <https://surl.it/rxwjrj>

¹¹ Eichhorn V. Economic Impact and Travel Patterns of Accessible Tourism in Europe_Full Report. 2014. URL: <https://surl.it/hbnpqd>

compared to 2018, demonstrating the positive effect of long-term social interaction¹².

In the field of population geography, inclusive tourism is considered a component of demographic mobility practices. Changes in the demographic structure of Ukraine, including the growth of the elderly population, an increase in the level of disability, and the emergence of new groups of people with disabilities as a result of military events, are shaping a new social geography of tourism demand. According to the State Statistics Service, in 2023, there were approximately 2 million people with established disabilities in Ukraine, accounting for about 5% of the population. However, the actual proportion may be higher due to incomplete records of displaced persons. This confirms that inclusive tourism has a clear demographic dependence and is becoming an important component of the country's socio-demographic policy.

From the perspective of cultural geography, inclusive tourism plays a role in shaping cultural practices of tolerance and social acceptance. Through cultural practices, inclusive tourism helps overcome stereotypes and contributes to a reevaluation of the role of persons with disabilities in society. In the United States, an example is the National Ability Centre network, which implements inclusive sports programmes focused on veterans and civilians with disabilities. Participation in these programmes promotes not only physical rehabilitation but also cultural integration through social interaction and participation in joint activities¹³.

The formation of an inclusive space largely depends on the territorial organisation of tourism infrastructure. The spatial location of tourism clusters determines the possibility of creating continuous routes that meet the needs of different groups of persons with disabilities. Studies of the spatial configuration of tourism infrastructure emphasise that areas where inclusive facilities are located in a fragmented manner do not provide full accessibility, as users are forced to overcome unadapted sections of the environment. In the European Union, the adaptability of tourist routes is assessed based on an infrastructure continuity indicator, which encompasses the quality of pedestrian areas, the availability of adapted stops, accessible transportation, navigation signs, tactile surfaces, and accessible sanitary facilities¹⁴. This approach is essential for Ukraine, where many infrastructure facilities remain isolated and not integrated into a single network.

¹² Accessible Canada Act Annual Report. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2022. URL: <https://accessible.canada.ca>

¹³ UNWTO Inclusive Recovery Guide Sociocultural Impacts of COVID-19. Issue 1: Persons with Disabilities. 2020. URL: <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284422296>

¹⁴ Types of disability. URL: <http://tryforgood.com/types-of-disabilities/>

The analysis of the social geography of inclusive tourism also involves assessing the institutional environment that determines the possibility of systematic development of inclusiveness. The institutional environment covers state policy, regional programmes, regulatory acts, accessibility standards, educational programmes, projects of public organisations, and financing mechanisms. State regulation in the field of inclusive tourism in Ukraine remains fragmented, although the period from 2021 to 2023 has seen an increase in inclusive initiatives at the local level. Kyiv has adopted a comprehensive urban accessibility programme that includes adapting tourist routes, developing digital navigation systems, and providing staff training courses. Odessa is implementing inclusive beach projects that meet European standards for barrier-free recreation¹⁵.

In social geography, inclusive tourism is also seen as part of the global process of shaping inclusive social policies. In developed countries, inclusive tourism is integrated into the system of social protection, healthcare, rehabilitation measures, and regional development. In Spain, programmes are being implemented to integrate inclusive tourism products into the regional development strategies of Catalonia, Andalusia and Valencia, providing access to cultural and natural heritage for tourists with disabilities. In Canada, inclusive tourism is integrated into the nature-based therapy system, which includes adaptive sports, therapeutic routes and social reintegration programmes. In the United States, the national park system plays a significant role, with adaptive programmes for wounded veterans and other groups requiring specialised recreational conditions^{16, 17, 18, 19, 20}. Comparing these models with the Ukrainian reality reveals opportunities for developing an inclusive environment, including the improvement of state policy, the formation of regional programs, and the stimulation of the tourism industry.

Within the geography of mobility, inclusive tourism is analysed as a form of spatial adaptation that characterises the ability of persons with disabilities to overcome space and engage in tourism practices. Spatial adaptation depends on the availability of accessible infrastructure, the level of transport mobility,

¹⁵ Одеська міська рада. Офіційно відкриті пляжні ділянки для оздоровлення. 2025. URL: <https://oda.od.gov.ua/ua/news/popri-vse-na-odeshhiini-trivaye-ozdorovchij-sezon>

¹⁶ Accessible Canada Act Annual Report. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2022. URL: <https://accessible.canada.ca>

¹⁷ National Council on Disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act and Accessible Tourism. Washington, 2022. URL: <https://ncd.gov>

¹⁸ AccessNow. Global Accessibility Data 2023. Toronto, 2023. URL: <https://accessnow.com>

¹⁹ VisitEngland. Access Guide for Tourism Providers. London, 2022. URL: <https://visitengland.com>

²⁰ Труніна І. М., Сосновська Ю. Р. Стан міжнародного туризму для осіб з інвалідністю в Україні. *Modern Economics*. 2019. № 15(2019). С. 191-195. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.31521/modecon.V15\(2019\)-27](https://doi.org/10.31521/modecon.V15(2019)-27).

the quality of services and digital accessibility. In today's world, digitalisation is becoming increasingly important, as it provides navigation, online booking, accessibility information, and mobile apps with adaptive features. In North America and Europe, digital accessibility has become an integral part of the tourism landscape. Canada has an AccessNow system that contains information on more than 100,000 locations with accessibility ratings. In the United Kingdom, the VisitEngland Access Guide programme has increased visits to tourist attractions by people with reduced mobility by 19% in three years^{21, 22, 23}. The development of similar tools in Ukraine remains a pressing task for improving the spatial mobility of tourists with disabilities.

Thus, in social geography, inclusive tourism emerges as a complex phenomenon that encompasses spatial, social, economic, cultural, and institutional aspects of social development. It creates opportunities for people with disabilities, promotes their mobility, ensures social integration, and fosters new territorial development models. Inclusive tourism also influences regional processes, stimulating infrastructure modernisation, the development of adaptive services and the formation of socially innovative practices in tourist centres in Ukraine. Therefore, inclusive tourism should be considered a key element of the socio-geographical concept of sustainable development, combining the principles of equality, accessibility and inclusion with the spatial patterns of social development.

2. Socio-economic effects of the development of inclusive tourism practices

The socio-economic effects of inclusive tourism are one of the key categories of contemporary scientific research, as the development of inclusive practices affects the structure of employment, regional economic activity, the spatial organisation of tourism infrastructure, and the quality of life for different population groups. Inclusive tourism is seen as an industry capable of providing a multiplier social and economic effect, which manifests itself in increased accessibility of services, higher levels of social participation, improved demographic indicators, increased investment attractiveness of territories, and stimulation of regional development.

The socio-economic effects of inclusive tourism are based on several systemic characteristics, among which social integration, economic productivity, regional differentiation, and quality of life occupy a central place. According to

²¹ National Park Service. Accessible Outdoor Recreation Report. Washington, 2021. URL: <https://surl.li/vrkrww>

²² AccessNow. Global Accessibility Data 2023. Toronto, 2023. URL: <https://accessnow.com>

²³ VisitEngland. Access Guide for Tourism Providers. London, 2022. URL: <https://visitengland.com>

UNWTO data, about 70% of people with disabilities have potential tourism demand, but only 25% have a real opportunity to travel due to accessibility barriers, lack of adaptive transport, service limitations and insufficient information²⁴. This means that inclusive tourism in most countries of the world is currently unrealised, creating significant potential for innovative growth in the tourism market.

Social integration, i.e., the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social life through participation in travel, recreational activities, cultural events, and various forms of social engagement, is of particular importance in the socio-economic effects of inclusive tourism. According to the WHO, participation in inclusive tourism reduces the level of social alienation of persons with disabilities by 28% and increases psychological well-being by 35%²⁵. This suggests a clear relationship between the accessibility of the tourism environment and the quality of life for the population.

The economic effects of inclusive tourism development are reflected in the stimulation of employment in the hospitality sector, the development of transport infrastructure, the expansion of the tourism services market and the growth of investment in the modernisation of facilities. In European Union countries, the inclusive tourism market provides approximately 1.2 million jobs and has the potential to grow by 20-30%, provided that the tourism infrastructure is modernised²⁶. In Spain, the contribution of inclusive tourism to the country's GDP is estimated at €16 billion per year, thanks to beach accessibility programmes, adapted hotel complexes, and a well-developed network of inclusive routes. In Canada, inclusive natural parks, adaptive recreation centres and barrier-free access programmes generate over \$3 billion in economic activity annually²⁷. In the United States, inclusive tourism has an even greater economic impact thanks to national adaptive sports programmes, rehabilitation routes and specialised tourism products aimed at veterans with disabilities. According to the National Council on Disability, the tourism activity of this population group generates over \$34 billion in annual spending on travel, accommodation, rehabilitation programmes, and adaptive tourism services²⁸. Thus, the economic impact

²⁴ UNWTO Inclusive Recovery Guide Sociocultural Impacts of COVID-19. Issue 1: Persons with Disabilities. 2020. URL: <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284422296>

²⁵ World Health Organisation. World Report on Disability. Geneva: WHO, 2011. URL: <https://surl.li/jeplif>

²⁶ Eurostat. Tourism and Accessibility Statistics 2023. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the EU, 2023. URL: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Tourism_statistics.

²⁷ Accessible Canada Act Annual Report. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2022. URL: <https://accessible.canada.ca>

²⁸ National Council on Disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act and Accessible Tourism. Washington, 2022. URL: <https://ncd.gov>

of inclusive tourism is not secondary or additional, but rather a structural component of national economies.

For Ukraine, the economic potential of inclusive tourism remains largely untapped; however, the existing spatial and social conditions suggest that its rapid development is possible, provided that systemic institutional reforms and infrastructure modernisation are implemented. According to the State Agency for Tourism Development, the number of facilities with accessibility features for persons with disabilities in 2023 accounted for only 17% of the total number of certified locations, which indicates a high level of barriers in the tourism environment²⁹. At the same time, the experience of the Odesa, Lviv, and Kyiv regions demonstrates that investments in inclusiveness enhance the competitiveness of territories, promote the growth of tourist flows for people with reduced mobility, and create additional economic incentives for the private sector.

In regions of Ukraine where accessible tourism projects are being implemented, there has been an increase in employment in the service, hotel and restaurant sectors. In Kyiv, the implementation of the urban tourist route accessibility programme was accompanied by a 12% increase in the number of service sector employees between 2021 and 2023^{30, 31}. In Odesa, the development of inclusive beaches and marine tourism services generated approximately 600 new jobs during the 2023 season³². This confirms that the social effects of inclusive tourism are directly translated into economic effects, and areas with high social accessibility receive additional economic benefits.

One of the important socio-economic aspects of inclusive tourism is its impact on human capital development. Tourism geared towards persons with disabilities creates demand for a specialised workforce, including inclusive service specialists, sign language interpreters, adaptive sports specialists, rehabilitation specialists, psychologists, inclusive programme managers and accessibility consultants. According to Eurostat, around 11% of tourism workers in the European Union had received specialised training in inclusive services in 2022, compared to only 4% in 2016³³. The growth of this indicator

²⁹ Державне агентство розвитку туризму. Доступність туристичних об'єктів України. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://www.tourism.gov.ua>

³⁰ Міська цільова програма розвитку туризму в місті Києві на 2022-2024 роки. URL: <https://surl.li/cpyhik>

³¹ Київ посилив інституційну спроможність органів самоорганізації населення. URL: <https://surl.li/njzjg>

³² Одеська міська рада. Офіційно відкриті пляжні ділянки для оздоровлення. 2025. URL: <https://oda.od.gov.ua/ua/news/popri-vse-na-odeshini-trivaye-ozdorovchij-sezon>

³³ Eurostat. Tourism and Accessibility Statistics 2023. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the EU, 2023. URL: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Tourism_statistics .

indicates the formation of a new labour market segment focused on specialised services.

In Ukraine, the demand for such personnel is also growing, especially in regions with high tourist activity. In Kyiv, courses on inclusive tourism are held annually with the participation of public organisations, local authorities and travel agencies³⁴. These trends demonstrate that the development of inclusive tourism contributes to the professionalisation of the industry and shapes new competencies in the labour market.

Another socio-economic effect is the development of small and medium-sized businesses that adapt to the needs of the inclusive tourism market. The creation of inclusive cafes, hotels, travel agencies, transport services, excursion programmes and adaptive recreation centres forms the basis for economic diversification in the regions. In Canada, small businesses offering inclusive services experience annual revenue growth of 15-20%, particularly in regions with high natural healing potential. In Italy, family businesses that have adapted their services for tourists with disabilities have seen a 17% increase in revenue in the first three years after modernisation³⁵.

An important component of the socio-economic effects of inclusive tourism is the growth of social cohesion and interaction between different population groups. Inclusive tourism fosters a space for social interaction where representatives of diverse social groups come together, contributing to the development of positive social practices, the reduction of social prejudices, increased tolerance, and the strengthening of social capital. In Spain, social cohesion in regions with developed inclusive tourism programmes has increased by 12% over five years, as confirmed by the results of sociological surveys³⁶. In the United States, a study conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association showed that participation in inclusive recreation programmes increases social trust by 20-25% in local communities where such programmes operate³⁷.

In Ukraine, the level of social cohesion in regions with inclusive tourism initiatives also shows positive changes. In Odesa, the strengthening of social interaction was evident in the activation of volunteer projects that supported people with reduced mobility in recreational areas. In the Carpathians, the

³⁴ Міська цільова програма розвитку туризму в місті Києві на 2022-2024 роки. URL: <https://surl.li/cpyhik>

³⁵ Accessible Canada Act Annual Report. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2022. URL: <https://accessible.canada.ca>

³⁶ United Nations World Tourism Organization. Accessible Tourism for All. Madrid: UNWTO, 2020. URL: <https://surl.li/nnqkla>

³⁷ National Park Service. Accessible Outdoor Recreation Report. Washington, 2021. URL: <https://surl.li/vrkrww>

growth of social cohesion was linked to the participation of local communities in inclusive rehabilitation initiatives. This demonstrates that the development of inclusive tourism has not only economic but also profound social consequences, strengthening the internal stability of territories.

In socio-economic terms, inclusive tourism has an important impact on the development of transport mobility, which determines the spatial accessibility of tourist areas and enables people with disabilities to move between different tourist sites. Transport mobility encompasses the accessibility of public transportation, the availability of accessible routes, the quality of road infrastructure, and the accessibility of stations, airports, ports, and other transportation hubs. In European Union countries, transport accessibility is one of the key criteria for assessing the inclusiveness of territories. According to the European Disability Forum, the level of transport accessibility in Northern European countries exceeds 80 per cent, while in Central and Eastern European countries it fluctuates between 45 and 55%³⁸. A high level of transport accessibility ensures the growth of tourist flows of persons with disabilities and creates the conditions for the development of inclusive infrastructure.

In the United States, transport accessibility is part of the ADA legislation, which sets mandatory standards for public and intercity transport. Thanks to the introduction of adaptive transport, the proportion of persons with disabilities travelling increased by 19% between 2012 and 2021. In Canada, where comprehensive accessibility programmes are in place, adapted transport systems provide mobility for more than 4 million citizens with various forms of disability, creating a significant social and economic impact³⁹. This demonstrates the close relationship between transport inclusiveness and tourism activity.

In Ukraine, transport accessibility remains uneven, but positive trends are observed in large cities and regions with high tourist activity. As of 2023, Kyiv's vehicle fleet consisted of 56% low-floor buses, and adapted bus stops accounted for more than 40%. The city also features a system of lifts and ramps in the metro, providing accessibility for a wide range of people with reduced mobility^{40, 41}. In Odesa, the share of adapted transport was 33% in 2023. In the city's tourist areas, there are notable routes that provide access to recreational areas

³⁸ Eurostat. Tourism and Accessibility Statistics 2023. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the EU, 2023. URL: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Tourism_statistics

³⁹ Accessible Canada Act Annual Report. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2022. URL: <https://accessible.canada.ca>

⁴⁰ Міська мобільність: у Києві менше половини автобусів обладнані для людей з інвалідністю. 2025. URL: <https://bigkyiv.com.ua/miska-mobilnist-u-kyievi-menshe-polovyny-avtobusiv-obladnani-dlya-lyudej-z-invalidnistyu/>

⁴¹ Київська міська рада. Міські цільові програми: Діючі програми. 2025. URL: <https://kmr.gov.ua/uk/municipal-target-programs>

and beaches. In the Carpathian region, transport accessibility is influenced by the mountainous terrain; however, the introduction of accessible routes in Truskavets and Yaremche has helped increase the mobility of tourists with disabilities⁴².

A separate socio-economic effect of the development of inclusive tourism is the formation of new market segments and the expansion of tourism offerings. Inclusive tourism encompasses a range of specialised products, including inclusive excursions, adaptive sports programmes, rehabilitation tours, therapeutic routes, inclusive medical tourism, gastronomic tours tailored for individuals with dietary restrictions, and digital tourism services with adaptive interfaces. In the European Union, the number of inclusive tourism products grew by 27% in 2020-2023, indicating a steady demand for adapted tourism services⁴³. In Canada, adaptive sports programmes, including skiing, canoeing, hiking, and cycling, are extremely popular, attracting hundreds of thousands of participants each year. In the United States, one of the fastest-growing segments is the National Park Service Accessible Adventures programmes, which include adaptive routes in national parks that are visited by more than 1.5 million tourists with disabilities each year⁴⁴.

In Ukraine, a new segment of tourism products aimed at people with reduced mobility is also emerging. In Kyiv, there is a growing number of inclusive tours adapted for tourists with hearing and visual impairments, as well as for people with musculoskeletal disorders. In 2023, the number of such tour programmes increased by 34%⁴⁵. In Odesa, there are inclusive sea tours that allow people with disabilities to access sea trips and coastal recreational areas⁴⁶. In the Carpathian region, adaptive trekking programmes, sanatorium and resort tours for people with disabilities, and rehabilitation routes used for the medical and psychological rehabilitation of veterans are widespread⁴⁷. These trends indicate a growing demand for specialised tourism products, which is shaping a new structure for the Ukrainian tourism market.

Inclusive tourism has a significant impact on regional economic development through the formation of new tourism clusters centred on accessibility. The

⁴² Львівська обласна військова адміністрація. Реабілітаційні програми Карпатського регіону. Львів, 2023. URL: <https://loda.gov.ua>

⁴³ Eurostat. Tourism and Accessibility Statistics 2023. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the EU, 2023. URL: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Tourism_statistics

⁴⁴ National Park Service. Accessible Outdoor Recreation Report. Washington, 2021. URL: <https://surl.li/vrkrww>

⁴⁵ Київська міська рада. У столиці розширили умови для реалізації прав і свобод осіб з інвалідністю та інших маломобільних груп населення. 2022. URL: <https://surl.lu/qorhbm>

⁴⁶ Одеська міська рада. Офіційно відкриті пляжні ділянки для оздоровлення. 2025. URL: <https://oda.od.gov.ua/ua/news/popri-vse-na-odeshchini-trivaye-ozdorovchij-sezon>

⁴⁷ Львівська обласна військова адміністрація. Реабілітаційні програми Карпатського регіону. Львів, 2023. URL: <https://loda.gov.ua>

cluster approach in tourism involves combining tourist attractions, services, infrastructure and social institutions into a single system that ensures synergy and increases the competitiveness of the territory. In the European Union, inclusive tourism clusters have been created in Catalonia, Portugal, Northern Italy and Austria. In Spain, Accessible Tourism Regions clusters are expected to ensure regional income growth of 11-14% annually⁴⁸. Clusters form an integrated infrastructure that includes adapted hotels, routes, transport, information centres and social services.

In Ukraine, inclusive tourism clusters are in the early stages of development; however, some regions are already exhibiting signs of clustering. An inclusive urban tourism cluster is being formed in Kyiv, bringing together adapted excursion routes, cultural institutions, hotels and transport systems. In Odesa, a cluster of inclusive sea and beach tourism is being formed, which includes adaptive beaches, inclusive tourist services, water programmes and medical rehabilitation centres. In the Carpathians, a cluster of inclusive rehabilitation and mountain tourism is gradually forming, comprising sanatorium and resort complexes, adaptive routes, and physical and psychological rehabilitation centres⁴⁹. This suggests the potential for further scaling of the cluster model in Ukraine.

A significant socio-economic effect of inclusive tourism is the growth of international tourist flows, which are oriented towards accessible areas. In European Union countries, the number of international tourists with disabilities is growing by 79% annually. In Spain, international tourists with disabilities account for approximately 11% of the total tourist flow, and in Italy and France, this figure is around 8-9%⁵⁰. This creates additional opportunities for the development of international tourism in regions that provide high standards of accessibility.

Ukraine has the potential to attract international tourists with disabilities in the post-war period, but this requires modernising infrastructure, ensuring compliance with European accessibility standards, expanding adaptive tourism programmes, and forming a network of digital accessibility services. Regions with a high level of natural and cultural attractiveness, such as Kyiv, Odesa, and the Carpathians, can become centres of international inclusive tourism, provided that comprehensive adaptation and development programmes are implemented⁵¹.

⁴⁸ United Nations World Tourism Organization. Accessible Tourism for All. Madrid: UNWTO, 2020. URL: <https://surl.li/nnqk1a>

⁴⁹ Львівська обласна військова адміністрація. Реабілітаційні програми Карпатського регіону. Львів, 2023. URL: <https://loda.gov.ua>

⁵⁰ United Nations World Tourism Organization. Accessible Tourism for All. Madrid: UNWTO, 2020. URL: <https://surl.li/nnqk1a>

⁵¹ Державне агентство розвитку туризму. Доступність туристичних об'єктів України. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://www.tourism.gov.ua>

For Ukraine, the importance of inclusive tourism in the field of rehabilitation is growing in the post-war conditions, when a significant part of the population needs medical and psychological support, restoration of physical functions and overcoming the consequences of traumatic experiences. In the Carpathian region, the number of sanatorium and resort programmes adapted for veterans and persons with disabilities is growing. In Truskavets and Morshyn, there are specialised centres that integrate physical rehabilitation, psychological support and adaptive tourism practices. In 2023, the number of participants in such programmes increased by 31% compared to 2021 in Odesa⁵², rehabilitation programmes at seaside resorts provided for the participation of more than 6,000 persons with disabilities in the 2023 season. In Kyiv, a network of social adaptation centres offers tourism programmes that include walking routes, cultural events, and therapeutic excursions⁵³. This indicates that inclusive tourism is becoming a crucial component of the public health system.

A significant socio-economic effect is the increased competitiveness of regions that implement inclusive tourism practices. Regions with a high level of accessibility become more attractive to investors, domestic and international tourists, as well as potential residents and professionals who value quality of life and social inclusion as important factors in choosing a place to live. In European Union countries, cities that have received the Accessible City Award have seen a 15-20% increase in tourist flows in the first two years following the award, as well as a 7-11% increase in employment in the service sector⁵⁴. This confirms that inclusiveness has become an important element of urban competitiveness.

In Ukraine, regions that implement inclusive programmes also show an increase in competitiveness indicators. Kyiv, which is actively modernising public transport, tourist routes and cultural institutions, ranked first among Ukrainian cities in terms of inclusiveness in 2023. Odesa has been recognised as one of the leaders in inclusive beach tourism in the Black Sea region. The Carpathians show high potential in the field of inclusive rehabilitation and nature-oriented tourism, which ensures growth in tourist flows and revenues for local communities⁵⁵. This indicates that inclusive tourism is a crucial component of regional branding, influencing their position in both the domestic and international tourism markets.

⁵² Одеська обласна рада. В Одесі обговорили розвиток системи реабілітаційної допомоги на півдні України. 2025. URL: <https://surl.li/otsvxo>

⁵³ Київська міська державна адміністрація. Звіт про доступність міського середовища. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://kyivcity.gov.ua>

⁵⁴ UNWTO. URL: <https://www.unwto.org>

⁵⁵ Одеська міська рада. Інклюзивні пляжі та туристичні маршрути. Одеса, 2023. URL: <https://omr.gov.ua>

In the socio-economic system, inclusive tourism plays a crucial role in addressing spatial inequality, a key challenge to regional development in Ukraine. Spatial inequality manifests itself in varying levels of tourism infrastructure development, differences in the accessibility of transport hubs, disparities in the level of accessibility of social services, and varying concentrations of inclusive facilities. The development of inclusive tourism contributes to balancing the spatial structure through the modernisation of infrastructure in peripheral areas, support for small towns, and the development of adaptive tourist centres in mountainous and coastal regions. In European Union countries, territorial equalisation programmes that include inclusive tourism have reduced spatial inequality by 8-10% in Central and Eastern Europe⁵⁶.

These processes are also having a positive impact in Ukraine. In the Carpathian region, the development of adaptive tourist centres has contributed to the revival of economic activity in several mountain communities, which have gained the opportunity to create new jobs, attract tourists, and develop local businesses. In Odesa, the inclusive modernisation of coastal areas has increased the accessibility of recreational areas for people with reduced mobility, which in turn has supported the development of small businesses in coastal areas. In Kyiv, inclusiveness has contributed to the development of cultural tourism clusters that combine adapted museums, theatres, exhibition spaces, parks and tourist routes⁵⁷. This demonstrates that inclusive tourism is a crucial tool for regional development, contributing to the balance of spatial structures and reducing regional disparities.

Thus, the socio-economic effects of inclusive tourism encompass a wide range of processes related to improving quality of life, increasing employment, enhancing investment attractiveness, developing inclusive transport systems, creating new tourism products, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting social cohesion, and reducing spatial inequality. Inclusive tourism forms the foundation for regional growth, contributes to the modernisation of infrastructure and strengthens the social sustainability of territories. As a result, inclusiveness is becoming a key factor in shaping Ukraine's modern tourism policy and spatial development.

3. Regional examples of successful integration of inclusive tourism

Regional models for the development of inclusive tourism in Ukraine are based on a combination of natural recreational resources, cultural and historical heritage, institutional initiatives and social practices aimed at improving the

⁵⁶ European Commission. European Accessibility Act Implementation Review. Brussels, 2022. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu>

⁵⁷ Київська міська державна адміністрація. Звіт про доступність міського середовища. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://kyivcity.gov.ua>

accessibility of the tourism environment. In the context of contemporary social geography, the examples of three regions of Ukraine that demonstrate the most notable progress in the implementation of inclusive tourism, namely the city of Kyiv, the Odesa region and the Carpathian region, are of great importance. Their experience allows for a comparative analysis of models of inclusiveness and the identification of key factors for the successful implementation of inclusive tourism practices.

In Kyiv, the creation of an inclusive tourism environment began with the modernisation of transport infrastructure, information services and urban tourist routes. According to the Kyiv City State Administration, in 2023, more than 56% of urban transport was adapted for people with reduced mobility, and the number of accessible stops exceeded 40%. Significant changes have taken place in the metro, where the modernisation of stations is improving mobility for tourists with disabilities. The city has adapted routes to St. Sophia Cathedral, Andriyivsky Descent, Mariinsky Park and other important tourist locations, where sidewalks, ramps, navigation signs and sanitary areas are accessible⁵⁸.

Kyiv is seeing a growing number of inclusive tours adapted to the needs of people with hearing, visual and mobility impairments. In 2023, the number of tours with sign language interpretation increased by 29%, and the number of museums introducing tactile exhibitions rose to 14. Among the most inclusive cultural institutions in the city are the National Museum of Ukrainian History, the Taras Shevchenko National Museum, and the Babyn Yar Memorial Centre, which have integrated adapted multimedia systems, audio guides, and information panels. Kyiv has also implemented several projects aimed at creating safe and accessible tourist areas, including the Landscape Alley, the Museum of Outstanding Figures of Ukrainian Culture, and the city's historical centre⁵⁹.

Particular attention should be paid to the development of inclusive cultural programmes that integrate people with disabilities into the artistic environment and cultural practices. Kyiv has theatre programmes with adaptive performances for people with hearing and visual impairments, as well as inclusive art festivals, including events within the Inclusive Art Ukraine project. These programmes increase the level of social participation of people with reduced mobility and demonstrate a model of cultural democratisation, which is an integral part of inclusive tourism.

Kyiv's digital infrastructure plays a special role in providing access to information about the accessibility of facilities. The city has a mobile app that provides information on the accessibility of museums, cultural centres, tourist

⁵⁸ Київська міська державна адміністрація. Звіт про доступність міського середовища. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://kyivcity.gov.ua>

⁵⁹ Там само.

routes, and transportation hubs. Digital accessibility enables tourists with disabilities to plan routes, assess accessibility levels, and create conditions for autonomous mobility. Such digital solutions are in line with global trends that have emerged in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, where similar systems such as AccessNow, AccessAble and Park Accessibility Index operate.

Unlike the capital, the Odesa region is developing inclusive tourism through its marine and coastal recreational resources. The Odesa region is one of the largest centres of recreational tourism in Ukraine, which determines its strategic importance for the formation of an accessible tourist environment. One of the region's key achievements is the creation of a system of inclusive beaches that meet European accessibility standards. In 2023, there were seven inclusive beach areas in Odesa, equipped with tactile paths, special ramps, inclusive sanitary modules, shower cubicles, support points and special bathing chairs. According to the Odessa City Council, more than 15,000 people with disabilities visited inclusive beaches during the 2023 season, which ensured the development of recreational inclusion and increased the level of social participation of people with limited mobility⁶⁰. The infrastructure of the Odesa region is gradually adapting to the needs of tourists with disabilities. City routes to historical sites, including Deribasovskaya Street, Potemkin Stairs, the Opera House, and Primorsky Boulevard, are being modernised in accordance with accessibility standards. Adapted excursion routes are being created in the region, taking into account the needs of people with visual and hearing impairments, including the use of audio descriptions, tactile diagrams, and navigation technologies. An important element is the development of medical and recreational tourism in coastal resort areas, where there are sanatoriums and rehabilitation centres adapted for people with disabilities.

The region is seeing the development of inclusive marine tourism, which includes riding on specialised marine catamarans, adaptive walks and marine rehabilitation programmes. Such practices align with global trends in the development of adaptive aqua recreation, which is prevalent in Canada, the United States, and Spain, where marine programmes are utilised as a tool for physical rehabilitation and social integration of tourists with disabilities^{61, 62}.

In the socio-cultural dimension, Odesa region also demonstrates an increase

⁶⁰ Одеська обласна рада. В Одесі обговорили розвиток системи реабілітаційної допомоги на півдні України. 2025. URL: <https://surl.li/otsvxo>

⁶¹ United Nations World Tourism Organization. Accessible Tourism for All. Madrid: UNWTO, 2020. URL: <https://surl.li/nnqkla>

⁶² Accessible Canada Act Annual Report. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2022. URL: <https://accessible.canada.ca>

in the number of adaptive excursions and cultural programmes⁶³. In 2022-2023, more than 30 adaptive projects were implemented in city museums, including tactile exhibitions, excursions accompanied by inclusive guides, and educational programmes for people with reduced mobility. Such initiatives promote the integration of persons with disabilities into the cultural environment and shape the inclusive cultural space of the region.

The Carpathian region is one of the most promising centres for inclusive tourism in Ukraine, thanks to its combination of natural healing resources, sanatorium and resort potential, and a growing number of rehabilitation programmes aimed at persons with disabilities and veterans. The Carpathian region is characterised by a variety of natural landscapes that create favourable conditions for the development of adaptive recreation, including mountain routes, forest therapy, rehabilitation hikes, climatotherapy, and sanatorium and resort programmes. The region has a strong sports infrastructure that is tailored to the needs of people with musculoskeletal disorders, including adaptive track and field, Nordic walking, and sports programmes for children and adults with disabilities.

In Truskavets and Morshyn, which are well-known health resort centres, inclusive rehabilitation programmes are in place, combining medical procedures, climatotherapy and adaptive recreation. According to the Lviv Regional Military Administration, in 2023, the number of participants in inclusive rehabilitation programmes in Truskavets increased by 24 per cent, and in Morshyn by 17% compared to 2021. These programmes are particularly relevant in the context of post-war rehabilitation, when there is an increase in the number of people with injuries, psychological disorders and a need for nature-oriented therapy⁶⁴.

In Yaremche, Vorokhta, and other mountain communities, adaptive tourist routes are being developed that cater to the needs of people with visual impairments and mobility limitations. Forest therapy programmes, tactile routes, accessible mountain trails and ecological trails adapted for people with reduced mobility are being implemented. The region is characterised by a high level of community involvement in inclusive projects, which contributes to the formation of local models of social integration and sustainable development. In Bukovel, adaptive alpine skiing programmes have been introduced, which are used for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and veterans undergoing post-war recovery. According to the resort administration, in the 2022-2023 season, more than 1,800 people used adaptive services, demonstrating the high

⁶³ Міські програми. 2025. URL: <https://omr.gov.ua/ua/open-city/programs/>

⁶⁴ Львівська обласна військова адміністрація. Реабілітаційні програми Карпатського регіону. Львів, 2023. URL: <https://loda.gov.ua>

effectiveness of sports tourism as a mechanism for physical and psychological rehabilitation^{65, 66}.

The Carpathian region is also actively developing inclusive accommodation infrastructure. The number of private guesthouses and hotels adapted for persons with disabilities increased by 19% from 2020 to 2023. A significant portion of newly built hotel complexes includes adaptive rooms, accessible lifts, ramps, tactile signs, and adaptive sanitary facilities. Some communities are implementing partnership programmes between local businesses and social organisations, which expand the range of available services and shape a socially oriented economy.

An important aspect of developing inclusiveness in the Carpathians is the combination of tourism and medical practices. The region has rehabilitation centres for military personnel, children with disabilities, people with psycho-emotional disorders and patients with chronic diseases. Inclusive tourism in the Carpathians is viewed as an integral part of the overall healthcare system, creating new opportunities for recovery, rehabilitation, social integration, and strengthening psycho-emotional resilience. According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, participation in nature-oriented therapeutic routes reduces stress symptoms by 27% and improves overall psycho-emotional state by 30%⁶⁷.

A comparison of the three regions allows us to identify key patterns for the successful integration of inclusive tourism. In Kyiv, the decisive factor is institutional support, which ensures the systematic implementation of accessibility in transport, cultural and tourist infrastructure. In the Odesa region, the natural recreational component dominates, focused on sea and beach resources, which creates opportunities for the development of adaptive recreation and medical rehabilitation programmes. In the Carpathians, the key element is the combination of natural resources and rehabilitation practices, which forms a model of inclusive rehabilitation and adaptive tourism.

The analysed regions demonstrate a common trend, namely the synergy between the social, economic and spatial aspects of inclusiveness. In all three cases, inclusive tourism creates new economic opportunities, reduces social isolation, improves the quality of life for the population, contributes to infrastructure development, attracts investment, and increases the competitiveness of the regions. Local authorities, civil society organisations

⁶⁵ Державне агентство розвитку туризму. Доступність туристичних об'єктів України. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://www.tourism.gov.ua>

⁶⁶ Львівська обласна військова адміністрація. Реабілітаційні програми Карпатського регіону. Львів, 2023. URL: <https://loda.gov.ua>

⁶⁷ Міністерство охорони здоров'я України. Дані щодо програм реабілітації населення. Київ, 2023. URL: <https://moz.gov.ua>

and business structures play a key role in shaping inclusive tourism policies that ensure sustainable development of territories.

In a global context, the examples of Kyiv, Odesa and the Carpathian region can be seen as consistent with international trends in the development of inclusive tourism that have emerged in the European Union, Canada, the United States and Italy. In these countries, inclusiveness is viewed as a fundamental component of tourism policy, ensuring equal access to cultural, natural, recreational, and therapeutic heritage. Despite difficult socio-economic conditions, Ukrainian regions demonstrate significant potential for adapting international models and forming their own regional practices of inclusiveness, which are of strategic importance for post-war recovery and development.

Thus, three regions of Ukraine represent different models of successful integration of inclusive tourism, confirming the possibility of implementing inclusiveness in different natural, social and economic conditions. The regional structure of inclusiveness is formed through a combination of local resources, institutional practices, social initiatives, and spatial organisation, which ensures the creation of an adaptive tourism environment. The development of these models will contribute to establishing a nationwide system of inclusive tourism, which will play a crucial role in promoting the social integration of persons with disabilities and enhancing regional development in Ukraine.

CONCLUSIONS

In the course of researching inclusive tourism as a factor in social integration and regional development in Ukraine, it was established that inclusive tourism is a complex socio-geographical phenomenon that integrates economic, social, cultural, medical and spatial processes into a single system of regional growth. Inclusiveness in the tourism environment contributes to the creation of a space of equal opportunities, within which persons with disabilities gain access to cultural, natural, recreational, and social resources, thereby reducing social isolation and increasing their participation in public life. Inclusive tourism is a crucial component of sustainable development, as its implementation aims to ensure social justice, enhance the quality of life for the population, and foster an adaptive environment.

An analysis of the socio-economic effects of inclusive tourism has shown that the development of inclusive practices has a multiplier effect on regional systems, as increased accessibility to tourist attractions is accompanied by growth in employment, increased investment, expansion of the range of tourist services, the formation of new market segments and growth in the income of local communities. Inclusive tourism contributes to greater social cohesion and the strengthening of local social systems, as it creates space for interaction

between different population groups and promotes the formation of positive social capital. The medical and psychological effects are also important, as they manifest themselves in the improvement of the physical and psycho-emotional state of tourists with disabilities, as well as in the formation of a nature-oriented rehabilitation system.

Regional analysis has shown that successful models of inclusive tourism development in Ukraine are based on a combination of social initiatives, infrastructure investments, cultural integration and the use of natural recreational potential. Kyiv, the Odesa region, and the Carpathian region exhibit distinct types of regional inclusiveness, reflecting the specifics of their resource bases, social practices, and institutional mechanisms. In Kyiv, the decisive factor is the systematic nature of urban accessibility policy, which encompasses transportation, cultural institutions, and tourist routes. In the Odesa region, the basis for development is maritime and coastal resources, which enable the formation of models for inclusive recreation and medical rehabilitation tourism. In the Carpathian region, the key element is the combination of natural landscapes and rehabilitation programmes, which creates opportunities for the development of adaptive mountain tourism and the inclusion of sanatorium resorts.

The results obtained indicate that inclusive tourism has the potential to become a significant tool for social and regional development in Ukraine in the post-war period, as its implementation is linked to infrastructure modernisation, increased social stability, the creation of new jobs, and expanded opportunities for social adaptation and rehabilitation of the population. The successful implementation of inclusiveness requires comprehensive state policy, regional programmes, public support and active business participation. The prospects for the further development of inclusive tourism in Ukraine are linked to digital transformation, the adaptation of European accessibility standards, the expansion of international cooperation, and the formation of a unified national system for an inclusive tourism environment. Inclusiveness should become a fundamental principle of tourism infrastructure development, ensuring equal opportunities for all population groups and contributing to the formation of an inclusive society.

SUMMARY

This section presents a comprehensive socio-geographical study of inclusive tourism as a factor of social integration and regional development in Ukraine. It defines the theoretical and methodological foundations of inclusive tourism. It substantiates its place in the system of social geography by emphasising the creation of a space of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The

socio-economic effects of developing inclusive tourism practices are analysed, including increased employment, growth in investment attractiveness, the creation of new tourism products, expansion of domestic demand, and improvement in the quality of life for the population. Regional models of inclusive tourism are studied using the examples of Kyiv, the Odesa region and the Carpathians, which represent different types of territorial organisation of inclusiveness and demonstrate successful practices of adapting the tourism environment to the needs of people with reduced mobility. The work uses statistical data from the State Statistics Service, the Ministry of Health, regional administrations, and international organisations, which ensured the objectivity of the assessment of the level of accessibility of the tourism infrastructure. Particular attention is paid to analysing the impact of inclusive tourism on social cohesion, human capital development, and the formation of regional accessibility clusters. It has been established that inclusive tourism has significant potential for Ukraine's post-war recovery and could become a key direction for modernising regional infrastructure. The results obtained demonstrate the need to establish a national policy of inclusive tourism as a crucial component of sustainable development and social integration.

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