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YOUTH HIKING DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH REGION OF UKRAINE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20th – EARLY 21st CENTURIES

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Abstract

Sports tourism as a kind of sport is developing in all post Soviet countries. The preconditions for its formation were laid in tsarist Russia, and rapid development was achieved during the Soviet era. There have been some ups and downs in the sports tourism evolution in Ukraine. Children's and youth's participation in any sport are the main factors that determine its development. Therefore, studying and analyzing popularity of hiking among the students of Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa regions became the basis of the research. The results of the study make it possible to conclude: the development of sports tourism had several stages; amateur hiking, which was developing in the Soviet time, was the main form of sports tourism; the dynamics of the development of sports tourism in the southern region of Ukraine depends on a number of factors that have both positive and negative effect.

Key words: development, amateur tourism, sports tourism, hiking.

Олександр Кільницький. Динаміка розвитку юнацького пішохідного туризму в південному регіоні України в другій половині ХХ – на початку ХХІ ст. Спортивний туризм як вид спорту розвивається в державах, які утворилися після розпаду СРСР. Передумови його становлення були закладені ще в царській Росії, а бурхливого розвитку досягнуто за часів радянської влади. В Україні розвиток спортивного туризму мав певні підйоми та спади. Базою для розвитку будь-якого виду спорту є показники участі дітей і юнацтва. Тому основою дослідження є вивчення й аналіз розвитку пішохідного туризму серед учнівської молоді в Херсонській, Миколаївській та Одеській областях. За результатами дослідження визначено, що розвиток спортивного туризму відбувався в декілька етапів; основною формою спортивного туризму був самодіяльний туризм, що розвивався за часів колишнього СРСР; динаміка розвитку спортивного туризму в південному регіоні України залежить від низки чинників, що як позитивно, так і негативно впливають на його розвиток.

Ключові слова: розвиток, самодіяльний туризм, спортивний туризм, пішохідний туризм.

Александр Кильницкий. Динамика развития юношеского пешеходного туризма в южном регионе Украины во второй половине ХХ – начале ХХІ в. Спортивный туризм как вид спорта имеет развитие в государствах, которые образовались после распада СССР. Предпосылки его становления были заложены еще в царской России, а бурного развития достигнуто во времена советской власти. В Украине развитие спортивного туризма имело определенные подъемы и спады. Базой для развития любого вида спорта являются показатели участия детей и юношества. Поэтому основой исследования являются изучение и анализ развития пешеходного туризма среди учащейся молодежи в Херсонской, Николаевской и Одесской областях. Согласно результатам исследования установлено, что развитие спортивного туризма проходило в несколько этапов; основной формой спортивного туризма был самодельный туризм, который развивался во времена бывшего СССР; динамика развития спортивного туризма в южном регионе Украины зависит от ряда факторов, которые как положительно, так и отрицательно влияют на его развитие.

Ключевые слова: развитие, самодельный туризм, спортивный туризм, пешеходный туризм.

Introduction. Sports tourism is a kind of sport that is widespread in Ukraine. Preconditions for its formation were laid in tsarist Russia but the pace of tourism development, like that of most sports, declined during World War II. The situation changed in the postwar period. Particularly active was tourism development in the 60th-80th of the 20th century. That time was marked by organizing tourist clubs, opening tourist sections at enterprises and educational establishments and building new tourist bases throughout the former Soviet Union.

Sports tourism continued developing as a kind of sport in the post Soviet states. In Ukraine, the development of sports tourism had certain ups and downs. After Ukraine had gained its independence, it began to gradually decline. That was caused by a significant reduction in financing, closing the enterprises, at which there were tourist clubs, and economic problems in the country. All this kept from holding tourist meetings, competitions and long-distance hikes, especially those of the highest degree of complexity.

The problem of sports tourism movement in Ukraine is hotly discussed by such scientists as V. V. Abramov [1], who raises the problem of periodization of tourism and its development in the historical aspect, and V. N. Zigunov [3], who considers the prospects and preconditions for the sports tourism

development in Ukraine. Sports tourism is a popular means of invigoration, perceiving the environment, achieving high sporting results, and is an effective method of applied training.

But in recent years there has been a tendency of decreasing the number of tours, the number of their participants as well as the competitions of all levels, both among young tourists and adults. Therefore, we consider it of **current importance** researching the state of development and efficiency of sports tourism in south region of Ukraine.

The Purpose of the Research is to study the dynamics and effectiveness of sports tourism in south region of Ukraine in the second half of the twentieth and early twenty-first century.

Material and Methods of Research. To determine the dynamics and the state of development of sports tourism, we analyzed the statistics of the route-qualification commissions' registers of regional stations of young tourists of Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa for the period of 1982–2016 [2]. The following research methods were used: the method of theoretical analysis and generalization of official documents data, historical method, comparative-historical method.

Research Results. Discussion. It should be noted that of all types of tourism uncategorized (non-categorized) (n/c) and categorized (c) hiking tours were held in south region of Ukraine. Categorized hikes, in their turn, were divided into five categories of complexity (c.c.) (first, second and third categories of complexity were appropriate for schoolchildren). As a rule, uncategorized hikes and those of the first category of complexity have a health effect and it is for this purpose that they were held. Moreover, they pursued a sporting goal – for participating in stage trips the hikers were assigned sports junior grades; for participating in the hiking tours of the first category of complexity – the third adult category. To be assigned higher grades a sportsman was not only to take part in the hiking tour, but be the leader of it in the corresponding category of complexity.

The activity of Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa regional youth tourists clubs within the period of the former USSR from 1982 to 1991 and the period of independent Ukraine from 1992 to 2016 served as the source for studying the development of hiking tourism. It was made possible due to the registers of the route-qualification commission of the regional stations of young tourists, as well as those of tourist clubs.

In the years of 1979–1980, Kherson regional station of young tourists introduced training courses for working teachers with mandatory participation in categorized tours. This contributed to the increase in the number of the first category of complexity hiking tours with students in the following years. In addition, in 1980, there began the preparation of school tourism instructors on the basis of Kherson State Pedagogical Institute, the curriculum of which included hiking tours of the first category of complexity. This led to an increase in the number of tours with pupils and students. This practice is also carried out in our time [5]. Figure 1 shows the tendency to increasing the number of children participating in recreational forms of tourism, as well as their participation in more difficult ones.

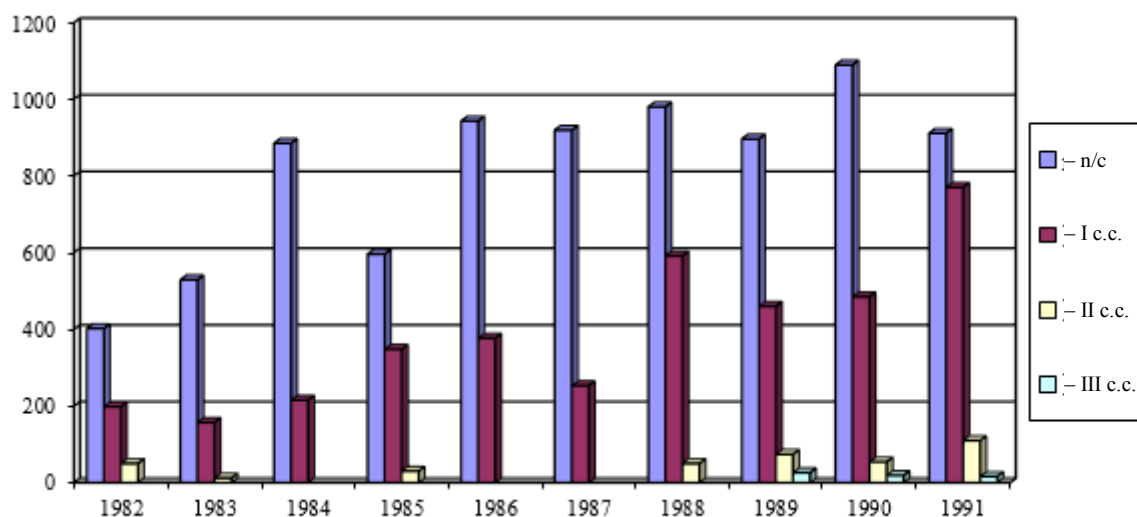


Fig. 1. Dynamics of the Number of children Participating in Categorized and Uncategorized Hiking Tours in Kherson Region From 1982 to 1991

A significant increase in the number of children who went on uncategorized hiking tours in 1984 can be explained by the action «Around the Places of Military Glory» held by the Ministry of Education of the USSR, which was dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Victory. In 1985, the number of hiking tours of the first and second categories of complexity increased almost twice.

For the period of 10 years 8150 young tourists altogether took part in sports and recreational (uncategorized) hiking tours, and 4295 in categorized ones. This was mainly due to the hikes of the first category of complexity, which were held on the territory of Kherson region and the Crimean Autonomous Republic [4].

A similar situation was observed in Mykolaiv region. Among the teachers working with children, there were not enough people with a sufficient tourist experience. Therefore, in 1978–1982, only from two to five hiking tours of the first category of complexity were held per year. This situation changed in 1983, when the number of tours more than doubled. Like in Kherson, there was organized the training of the tourist staff from among the teachers.

Every year, Mykolaiv young tourists not only increased the number of hiking tours, but also improved their quality. Since 1986, hiking tours of the third category of complexity have been held. Mykolaiv young tourists reached the indicators peak in 1990, with 103 categorized hikes and 1278 participants. In Kherson, there was a peak in 1991 – 71 trips, 896 participants [7]. A smaller number of hiking tours and participants can be explained by the demographic factor – in the 70th–80th of the former century, the population of Mykolaiv was about 530 thousand people, and that of Kherson – only 360 thousand.

Figure 2. shows the dynamics of the young tourists' participation in categorized hiking tours in Mykolaiv region from 1982 to 1991.

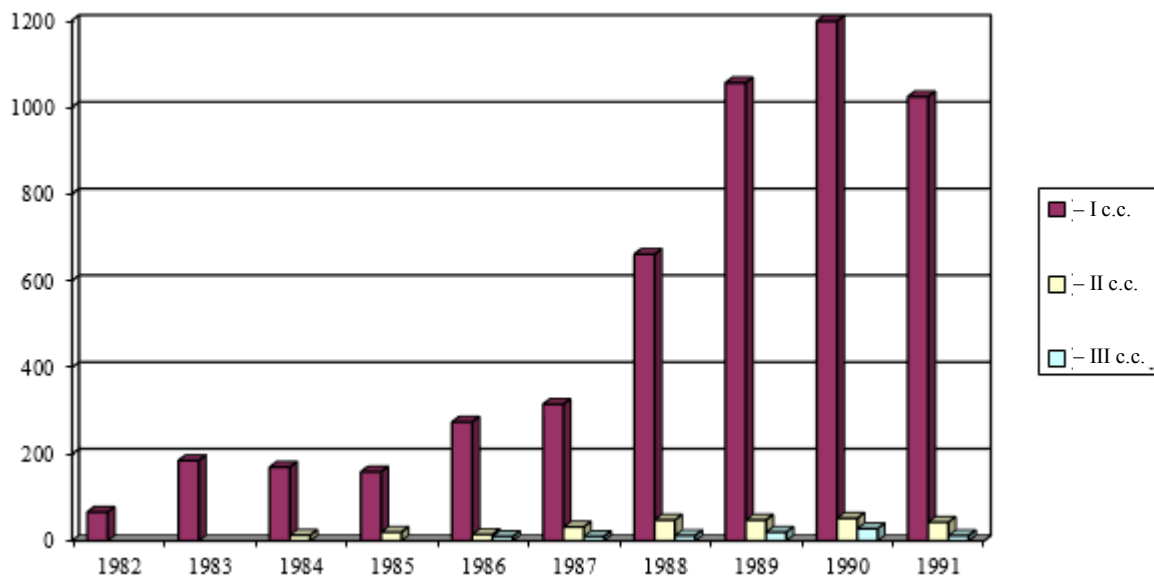


Fig 2. Dynamics of the Young Tourists' Participation in Categorized Hiking Tours in Mykolaiv Region From 1982 to 1991

There were more than a million inhabitants in Odesa at that time. Categorized tours reached their peak in 1983. That year 63 categorized tours were held, in which 942 participants took part. It should be noted that in 1982 and 1987, the number of uncategorized hiking tours reached 76 and 68, respectively; they were attended by more than a thousand tourists. This tendency is shown in Figure 3.

It should be noted that young tourists of Odesa participated in more hiking tours of the second and third categories of complexity than their colleagues from Mykolayiv and Kherson regions. This can be explained by the fact that in the period from 1980 to 1989, a Komsomol-youth expedition «The tracks of Siberia, North and Far East explorers» guided by A. A. Khoroshevsky, was working on the basis of the regional station of young tourists of Odessa. Thanks to it, hiking tours to such areas as Khibiny, eastern and western Sayan, Kodar, Yakutia were held. These areas are famous for their complicated tourist routes. During this period, 1007 tourists took part in the tours of the second and third categories of complexity in Odesa. During the same period, only 441 and 363 tourists from Kherson and Mykolayiv region respectively participated in the tours of the second and third categories of complexity.

The collapse of the USSR led to the collapse of the regulated legal and normative system of international and domestic tourism. In 1992, Central Council of Tourism and Excursions at All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions was reorganized into Open Joint Stock Company «Central Council of Tourism and Excursions-Foreign Tour». The situation was not in favor of the civilized development of tourism in the country.

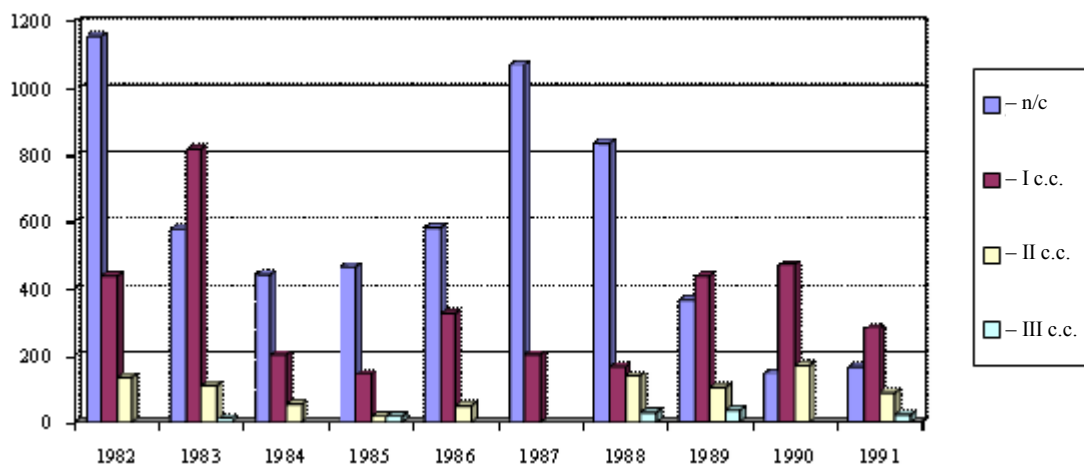


Fig. 3. Dynamics of the Young Tourists' Participation in Categorized Hiking Tours in Odesa Region From 1982 to 1991

The tourist space was temporarily uncontrolled. The activity of city and district tourist clubs, which served as the basis for the development of amateur tourism, ceased. In addition, the economic downturn of the 90s of the former century had also a negative effect. Tourism continued existing in the system of education, but with a smaller number of young tourists.

The dynamics of the number of Kherson children taking part in hiking tours of different categories of complexity from 1992 to 2016 is represented in Figure 4. The most difficult economic situation in Ukraine was from 1996 to 1998, which affected the number of hikes and hikers. A large decline is observed from 2003 to 2007, due to the unstable political situation in the country.

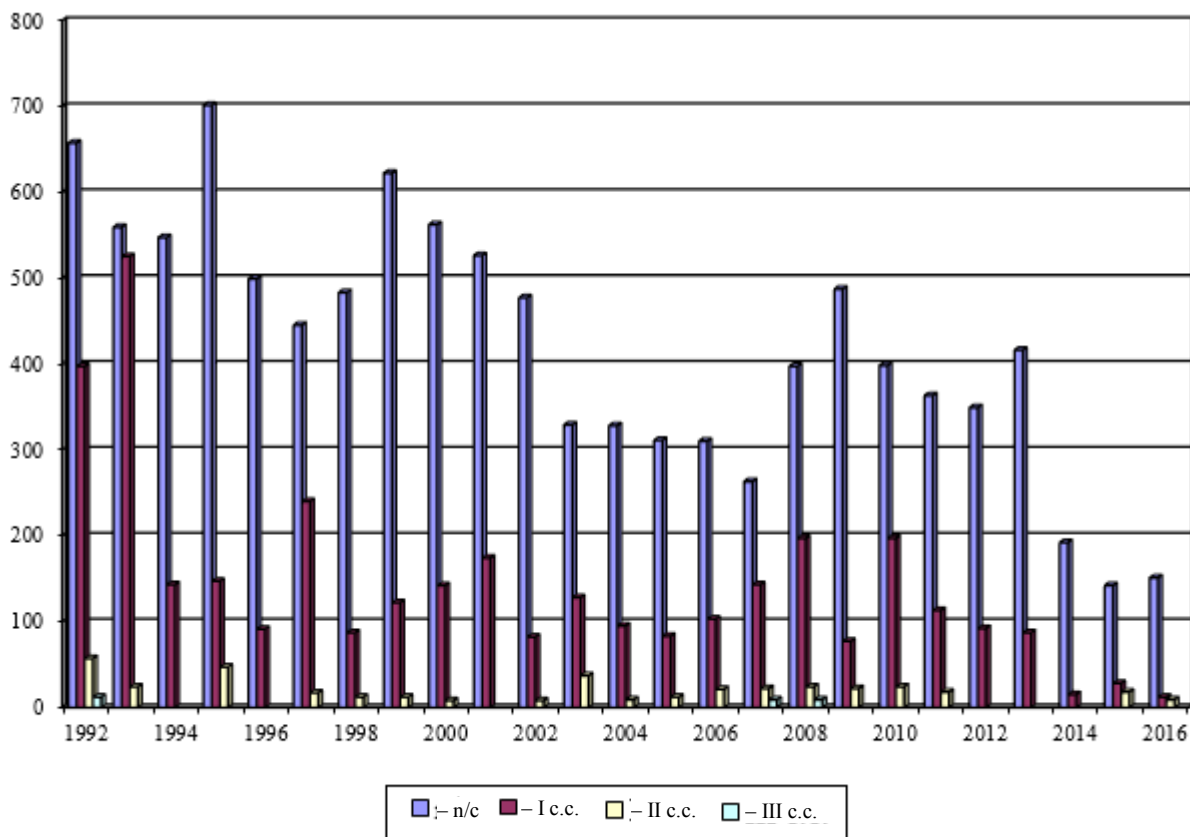


Рис. 4. Dynamics of Kherson Region Children's Participation in Hiking Tours From 1992 to 2016

In 2005 and 2007 there was an increase in the number of participants of hiking tours of the first and third categories of complexity, but the number of participants of uncategorized (non-categorized) tours decreased.

It is possible to explain this fact by a more or less stable economic situation: wage arrears decreased, prices did not grow so fast as wages, which made it possible to carry out long journeys.

Since 2010 there has been a steady decline in the number of participants of all tours. This can also be explained by the political situation in the state, annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (2014). For Kherson and Mykolaiv regions Crimea was the most accessible place for holding hikes of the first and second categories of complexity. In general, unfortunately, for the time of Independent Ukraine there has been a tendency to reducing the number of hiking tours and their participants among the students of Kherson region [4].

Similar recessions were also observed in Mykolaiv region from 1995 to 2003 (fig. 5). Absolute minimum was in the year 2003 – only 8 tours of the first category of complexity, in which only 67 people took part. The year of 2001 was not much better – 11 tours with 108 participants. The maximum indicators were observed in 1993, when 466 young tourists performed 32 hiking tours of the first category of complexity and 6 of the second. Although the following year (1994) was marked by six tours more, but the number of their participants decreased – 104 people fewer than the previous year.

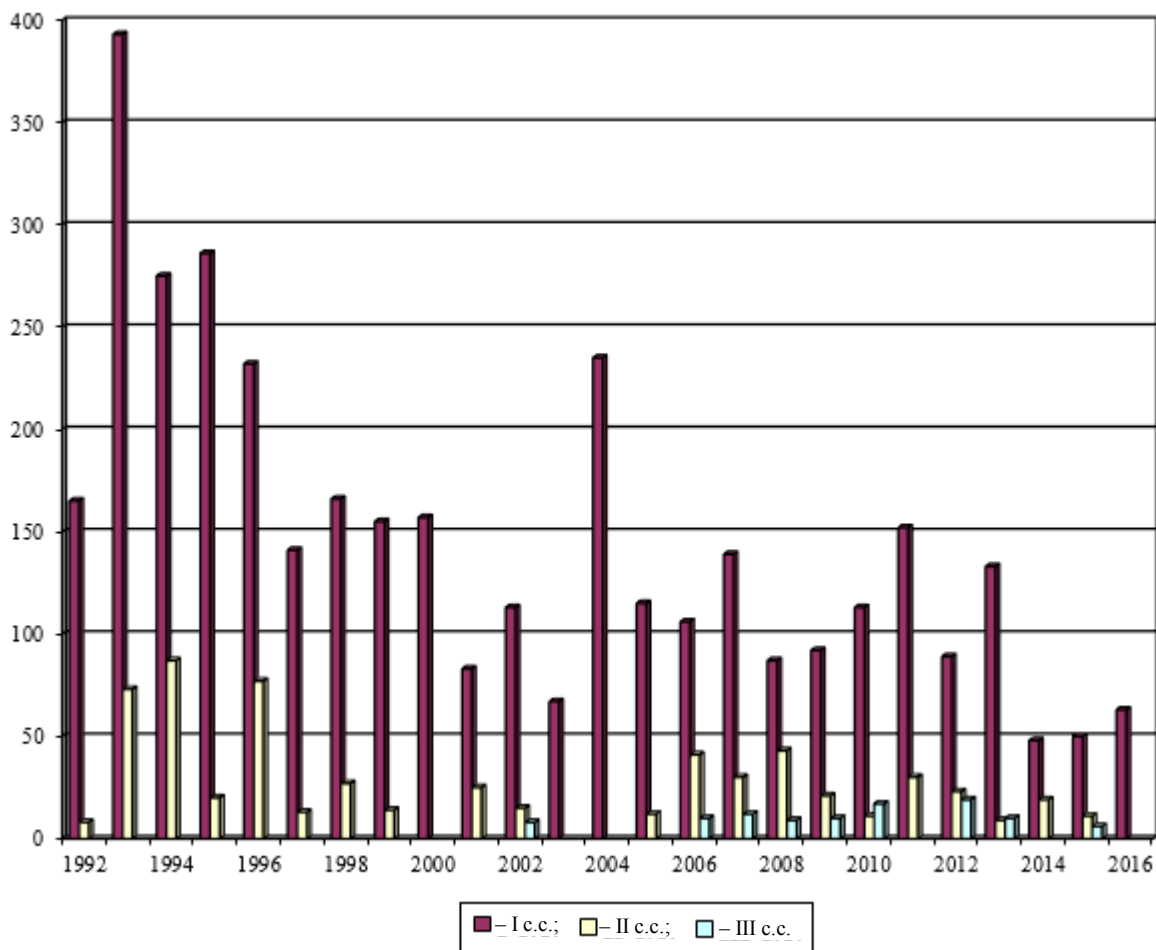


Fig. 5. Dynamics of Mykolaiv Region Young Tourists' Participation in Uncategorized Hiking Tours From 1992 to 2016

An interesting trend is observed: starting from 2005 to 2015, every year, at least one hiking tour of the second category of complexity was held by young tourists of Mykolaiv region. And since 2006, almost every year, one tour of the third category of complexity has taken place [7]. This fact can be explained by the policy of the regional Center for Tourism, Regional Studies and Excursions of Student Youth, which allowed getting prize-winning places at the Ukrainian Championship in sporting hiking tours for students.

After getting independence by Ukraine, in Odessa, there was a tendency for a decline in the number of participants in categorized hiking tours that did not exceed 120 tourists per year (fig. 6). An exception was 1992, in which the number of participants reached 179 tourists.

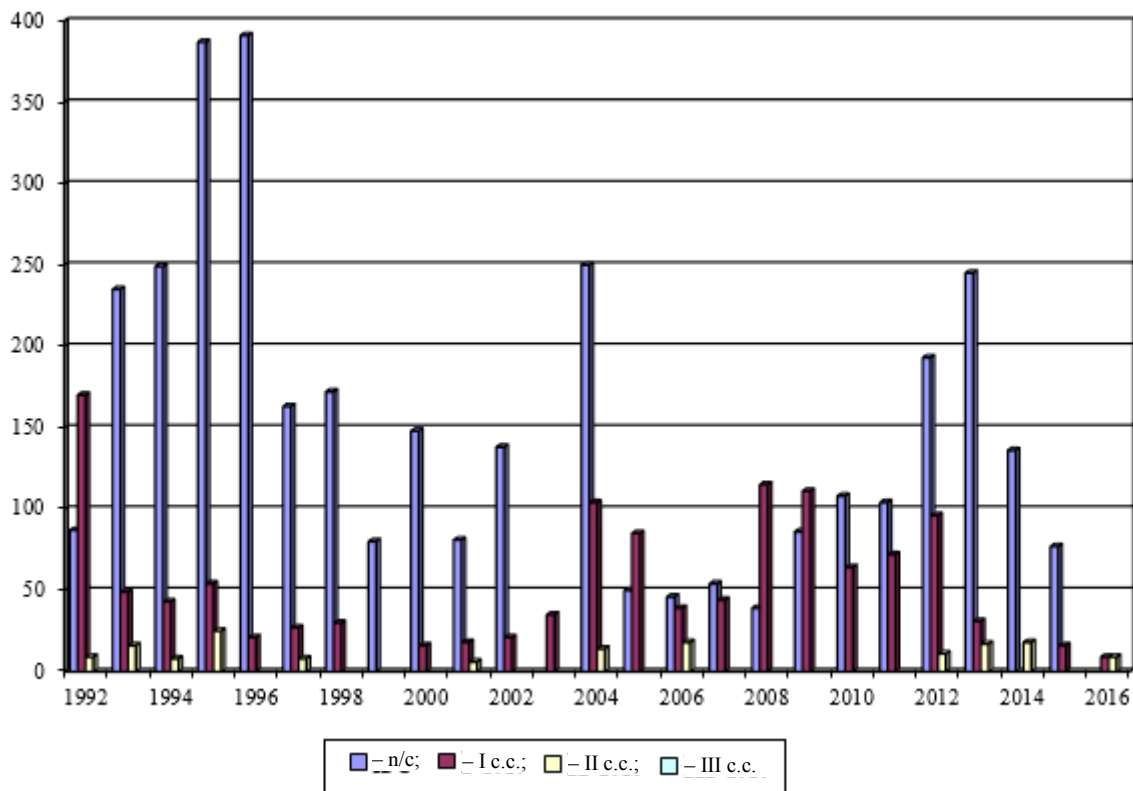


Fig. 6. Dynamics of the Number of Odesa Region Young Tourists Participating in Hiking Tours From 1992 to 2016

The critical indicator of participation in categorized hiking tours was in 1999, in which they were not held at all. The indicators of uncategorized tours declined as well, the lowest being in 2003, when the hikes of such complexity were not held. That year, there were only two categorized hikes, in which only 35 tourists took part. This can be explained by the fact that in July 1992 the Regional Youth Tourist Station of Odesa was reorganized into the Regional Center for Tourism and Local Studies of Student Youth of Odesa. In five years several organizations were united into one: the Regional Center of Young Technicians, the Regional Station of Young Technicians and the Regional Ecological and Naturalistic Youth Center. As a result of these changes, the Odesa Regional Humanitarian Center for Out-of-School Education was founded. Such a wide range of interests and activities being comprised that were directed not towards the tourism development, resulted in a significant reduction in the number of participants and hikes in Odesa [5].

For a more detailed analysis of the sports tourism development, let's compare the total indicators of the number of hiking tours by young tourists in the southern region of Ukraine. Table 1 represents the number of categorized and uncategorized youth walking tours for the period from 1982 to 1991.

Table 1

The number of Non-categorized and Categorized Youth Hiking Tours From 1982 to 1991

Kherson					Mykolaiv				Odesa				
N/C	C total	I c.c.	II c.c.	III c.c.	C total	I c.c.	II c.c.	III c.c.	N/C	C total	I c.c.	II c.c.	III c.c.
551	338	302	30	6	399	365	25	9	374	339	259	68	12

It follows from the analysis that for the period of 9 years young tourists of Kherson took part in 338 categorized tours, and tourists of Odessa – in one tour more. The fact is that there were twice as many people living Odesa at that period than in Kherson. The same number of categorized tours can be explained by the fact that Odesa tourists concentrated more on exploring sparsely populated areas, which led to more complicated tours, of the second and third categories of complexity, which required more time and more

careful preparation. Such walking tours were carried out by Odesa tourists twice as many as by tourists from neighboring regions. In their turn, Mykolaiv tourists organized 60 more categorized hikes than tourists from Odesa and Kherson. First of all, these are tours of the first category of complexity, which, as a rule, pursued rather educational and recreational g. Unfortunately, there are no data of uncategorized walking tours of Mykolaiv. Therefore, we can assert that the tourists from Kherson, who organized 551 uncategorized hiking tours compared with 374 by Odesa athletes, were more concerned about health improvement and education.

From table 2, we see that in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions a few categorized hiking tours more were held for 25 years of Ukraine's independence than for the period from 1982 to 1991. It should be noted that the indicator of uncategorized tours in Kherson region increased by 315. But this is a very small indicator for such a period of time. Also, indicators for both categorized and uncategorized tours of Odessa region have significantly decreased. As it was mentioned above, it was due to uniting several institutions into one humanitarian center for out-of-school education. Unstable economic and political situation in the country added to the overall decrease in the number of both categorized and non-categorized walking tours.

Table 2

The number of Categorized and Non-categorized Youth Hikingtours From 1991 to 2016

Kherson					Mykolaiv				Odesa				
N/C	C total	I c.c.	II c.c.	III c.c.	K/П total	I c.c.	II c.c.	III c.c.	H/K	K/П total	I c.c.	II c.c.	III c.c.
826	348	307	36	3	407	344	60	12	255	122	107	16	-

In September 2000, the Federation of Sport Tourism of Ukraine was formed, which certainly had a positive effect on the renewal of sport tourism in the country.

Conclusions and Perspectives of Further Research. On the basis of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1) the development of amateur tourism in the former USSR became the basis for the development of sports tourism in Ukraine;

2) the dynamics of the development of sports tourism in the southern region of Ukraine, both at the stage of intensive development and in the period of independence, depends on the economic, social and political factors of the society evolution.

The perspective of further research is the study and analysis of the development of hiking tourism among the adult population, as well as other types of sports tourism in the southern region of Ukraine as a whole.

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