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**FORMATION OF AN ACTION PLAN AIMED AT PROMOTING TOURISTS DESTINATIONS**

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**Abstract**

The high level of international competition in the world tourism market forces Russia to make great efforts for attracting tourists to the country, use new technologies for promoting national tourism products and invest significant financial resources in the promotion of tourist destinations. It is necessary to promote Russia as a whole as a destination, but a tourism product is formed in certain regions and localities. Visitors, arriving in Russia as a destination, for the most part, consume a regional tourism product, i.e. are in regional destinations. The quality and quantity of regional tourism products determine the success of promoting the entire destination country. Therefore, it is important to create regional destinations that offer their tourism products, which are part of the national tourism product.

**Keywords**

Destination – Events – Tourism – Tourist complex

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## Introduction

It is necessary to develop and implement an action plan ("road map") to create favorable conditions for the development of competition in the field of tourism in order to coordinate the efforts of various areas of tourism activities, as well as improve the quality and competitiveness of tourism products. Such a plan should be coordinated with federal and regional programs and take into account the already accumulated experience in promoting Russian tourism products to foreign markets.

## Methods

The process of creating regional destinations is launched through initial strategic planning based on effective motivational mechanisms. At the same time, strategic planning is based on the territorial organization of the tourist complex<sup>1</sup>. The analysis of approaches to strategic management uses methods of comparison and generalization.

## Results and Discussion

The organization of tourism services marketing of the Russian Federation in foreign markets should include two main directions: advertising and information work and ensuring the accessibility of the country for the entry of visitors, as well as some financial mechanisms to stimulate the subjects of the tourism industry.

In addition to the Federal Agency for Tourism, promotional work should be carried out by regional governments, departments and tourism information centers. Also, it is necessary to focus on ensuring the accessibility of the country for foreign visitors. In this context, the focus is on such basic issues as visa support, insurance and transport tariffs<sup>2</sup>.

Marketing of tourism services requires a complex of organizational and promotional activities. At the same time, some of them are key while others are auxiliary. In addition, the sequence of marketing activities is important; it is necessary to develop and implement an action plan aimed at promoting tourist destinations of the Russian Federation abroad<sup>3</sup>.

The following is a list of activities aimed at promoting tourist destinations of the Russian Federation abroad, which must be included in the plans of the regions but consider their specifics and more detailed specification, including the time (seasonality) of their conduct (Table 1).

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<sup>1</sup> N. A. Platonova; E. S. Pogrebova; T. M. Krivosheeva y E. Sh. Taneeva, Strategiya i metody prodvizheniya natsionalnogo turistskogo produkta na mezhdunarodnom i vnutrenнем rynkakh: otchet o NIR (Federalnoe agentstvo po turizmu, 2019) y N. A. Platonova; E. S. Pogrebova; T. M. Krivosheeva y E. Sh. Taneeva, Analiz zarubezhnogo opyta otsenki ekonomiceskoi i sotsialnoi effektivnosti razvitiya turizma na regionalnom i mestnom (munitsipalnom) urovnyakh: otchet o NIR (Federalnoe agentstvo po turizmu, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> E. S. Pogrebova; E. V. Glinkina & A. A. Kozlovskii, "Kompleksnaya otsenka urovnya udovletvorenosti inostrannykh turistov kachestvom predostavleniya turistskikh uslug v gorode Moskve", Servis plus Vol: 12 num 2 (2018): 73-81.

<sup>3</sup> Visa.com. <https://www.visa.com.ru/>

No.	Event	Time frame	Location
1.	Grant support for public and entrepreneurial initiatives aimed at the creation and development of tourism infrastructure facilities focused on the markets of target foreign countries.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
2	Development of an advertising company plan		
2.1.	Monitoring (survey of the activities of travel agencies for the popularity of products and routes, reviews and preferences of foreign tourists about the subject of the Russian Federation, average bill, etc.) to assess the status of the inbound tourism market.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
2.2	Selection of priority target markets of foreign countries.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
2.3	Creation and promotion of recognizable tourism brands of the subjects of the Russian Federation. Development of memorable slogan of advertising tourist campaigns of priority tourist destinations.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
2.4	Creation and promotion of brand portfolio of tourism products focused on inbound tourism and target segments.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
2.5	Large-scale advertising with an emphasis on priority tourist destinations on the Internet and social networks of target foreign countries.	during the year	target foreign markets
2.6	Advertising campaigning on television, in electronic media, as well as through out-of-home advertising media at transport hubs.	during the year	target foreign markets
2.7	Production of printed advertising and information products, photo and video materials about the tourism potential of priority tourist destinations (subjects of the Russian Federation) in the languages of target foreign countries.	during the year	target foreign markets
2.8	Information tours on key tourism routes for representatives of tour operators of target foreign countries.	during the year	priority tourist destinations (subjects of the Russian Federation)
2.9	Conduct of press tours on key tourism routes for media representatives and bloggers of target foreign countries.	during the year	priority tourist destinations (subjects of the Russian Federation)
2.10	Creation and distribution of travel guides about the tourism potential of destinations (subjects of the Russian Federation), priority for the development of inbound tourism in the Russian Federation.	during the year	target foreign markets
2.11	Production of souvenir products of priority tourist destinations (constituent entities of the Russian Federation) with the application of a national tourism brand for	during the year	target foreign markets

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	distribution in target foreign countries.		
2.12.	Initiation of interregional tourism products (routes) to promote the target markets of foreign countries.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
3	Participation in international tourism exhibitions in foreign countries. Organization of presentations and stands with an emphasis on priority tourist destinations (subjects of the Russian Federation) in the framework of international tourism exhibitions.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
4	Conduct of business events and MICE tourism events in the subjects of the Russian Federation. Creation of Regional Convention Bureau, selection of priority areas for their activities.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
5.	Organization and holding of own international events of tourism orientation (forums, exhibitions, promotions, competitions, etc.) in the subjects of the Russian Federation.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
6	Conduct of Russian tourism festivals in target foreign countries.	during the year	target foreign markets
7	Participation in events organized within the framework of Visit Russia projects.	during the year	target foreign markets
8	Development and implementation of hospitality programs with a focus on targeted foreign countries.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
9	Development of a network of tourism information centers on the territory of the subjects of the Russian Federation.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
10	Development of tourism navigation and orientation information systems in the languages of the main target states.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
11	Development of the international tourism volunteer movement in the subjects of the Russian Federation. Establishment of volunteer tourism centers. Development of volunteer tourism programs. Organization of international volunteer expeditions.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation
12	Organization of training in the format of internships for the preparation of guides with rare languages in target foreign countries.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation/target foreign markets
13	Creation of regional tourism centers in priority tourist destinations within the framework of interregional cooperation.	during the year	priority tourist destinations
14	Creation of competitive digital content.	during the year	all subjects of the Russian Federation

Table 1  
Plan of measures aimed at promoting tourist destinations  
of the Russian Federation abroad<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Hotline.travel, 2017. <https://www.hotline.travel/konflikty/kak-privlech-v-rossiyu-inostrantsev-ne-otmenyaya-vizy/> y V. Inozentsev, Pasport turizma: pochemu Rossii stoit nachat otmenu viz. Rbc.ru, 2018. Available at: <https://www.rbc.ru/opinions/politics/27/07/2018/5b5ac2839a7947801716465d>

According to the UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization), as soon as the word "visa" is removed in the tour package, the tourist flow to the country grows by at least 30%. This can be confirmed by the example of the Republic of Korea and some other states<sup>5</sup>.

One of the reasons for the increase in tourist flow from China to Russia was the simplification of the visa regime. Now, many Chinese tourists can come to Russia without visas in groups. For similar reasons, tourist flows from countries such as Israel and the Republic of Korea have grown – these are the countries for which a decision was made on a visa-free regime.

The drop in tourist flow from Europe and America is due to the complexity of the visa regime.

A kind of consensus has been developed almost all over the world over the past decades: states are gradually abandoning the requirement to obtain visas for citizens of countries similar in level of development and political system, preserving and sometimes even toughening the process for residents of less prosperous states or countries experiencing serious internal conflicts, involved in wars or political confrontations. This policy allows attracting tourists from jurisdictions that do not cause trouble but provide significant revenues.

The situation in Russia looks unique for a country of its development level. The logic of Russia's visa policy is deployed in the opposite direction to the global one: entry is open to citizens of poor but politically dependent countries and difficult for representatives of successful ones. The visa procedure has hindered, hinders and will continue to hinder the development of inbound tourism to Russia.

A Russian visa costs a foreign tourist much more than a Schengen visa for a Russian citizen and takes longer. Visa to Russia takes at least 10 days and from 15 days during the high season.

The recently completed World Cup brought an interesting innovation: a special procedure for entry of foreign citizens into the territory of Russia based on the fan passport (FAN ID), which in fact is an electronic visa. According to the estimates of the Russia-2018 organizing committee, fans spent at least 121 billion rubles in a month and the number of arrived foreign visitors (about 2.9 million) by far exceeded the number of guests of any other event ever held in the country (Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics attracted no more than 700 thousand people).

Here is the economic rationale for the introduction of a simplified visa regime, including through the use of an electronic visa system.

As can be seen from official statistics, the number of inbound tourism trips of foreign citizens to Russia has been declining since 2015<sup>6</sup> (Table 2).

<sup>5</sup> E. S. Pogrebova, "Nauchnye podkhody k razrabotke strategii razvitiya turistskoi destinatsii", Servis v Rossii i za rubezhom Vol: 9 num 5 (2015), 219-218.

<sup>6</sup> Visa.com. <https://www.visa.com.ru/>

<b>Number of inbound tourist trips of foreign citizens to Russia, Thousands</b>			
2015	2016	2017	2017/2015
26,852	24,571	24,390	-9.2%

\*According to Rosstat

Table 2  
Number of inbound tourism trips of foreign citizens to Russia

The total tourist flow for 2017, according to Rosstat, amounted to 24,390 thousand trips, including 16,958 thousand trips from the former Soviet Union (69.5%). The number of tourist arrivals from other countries amounted to 7,432 thousand trips (30.5%).

We will determine the top 20 countries with the highest expenses of tourists arriving in the Russian Federation in order to identify the countries, with which it is necessary to simplify visa regimes. We will give the number of tourist arrivals from these countries based on official statistics of Rosstat (Table 3).

<b>Number of inbound tourist trips of foreign citizens to Russia in 2017, thousand</b>	
China	1,478
Germany	580
USA	282
Republic of Korea	254
Italy	189
France	185
United Kingdom (Great Britain)	178
Spain	110
Japan	102
The Islamic Republic of Iran	80
India	71
Netherlands	60
Austria	52
Canada	51
Norway	51
Switzerland	49
Australia	47
Belgium	36
Brazil	35
Sweden	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,924</b>

Table 3  
Number of inbound tourist trips of foreign citizens to Russia in 2017

According to the results of a global study by Visa Global Travel Intentions Study for 2017, the average cost of a tourist package for foreign tourists (excluding tourists from the countries of the former USSR) to Russia amounted to 52 thousand rubles, which is 13% higher than in 2016<sup>7</sup> with the average trip duration of eight nights. Personal expenses of foreign tourists (meals, souvenirs, entertainment, etc.) averaged 6,900-7,100 rubles per

<sup>7</sup> Report on the provision of services for the study of the level of satisfaction of tourists with the quality of tourism services in the city of Moscow. (Moscow, 2017).

day. Thus, personal expenses of a foreign tourist on average amount to 56,000 rubles for the entire period of stay in the country.

$$Q \text{ income from foreign tourists} = T \text{ number of arrivals of foreign tourists} \times (P \text{ average cost of a tour package} + P \text{ personal expenses of a tourist})$$

$$423,792,000,000 = 3,924,000 \times (52,000 + 56,000).$$

Thus, in 2017, revenues from foreign tourists from the aforementioned countries amounted to 423.792 billion rubles, which is 0.5% of GDP.

As noted above, according to the UNWTO, with the simplification of the visa regime, the flow of tourists to the country increases by 30% per year. The projected tourist flow will amount to 5,101.2 thousand trips with the progressive introduction of a simplified visa regime until 2024.

According to experts, the average cost of a tourist package for foreign tourists to Russia will increase by 23% by 2024 and amount to 63.96 thousand rubles and personal expenses – 68.88 rubles.

$$Q \text{ income from foreign tourists} = T \text{ number of arrivals of foreign tourists} \times (P \text{ average cost of a tour package} + P \text{ personal expenses of a tourist})$$

$677,643,408,000 = 5,101,200 \times (63,960 + 68,880)$  (Report on the provision of services for the study of the level of satisfaction of tourists with the quality of tourism services in the city of Moscow, 2017).

## Conclusion

In 2024, the projected revenues from foreign tourists from the aforementioned countries will amount to 677.643 billion rubles. Thus, the export of tourism services will increase by 59.9% in relation to 2017.

One of the mechanisms of interaction between Russian and foreign tour operators can be the use of a discount system of visa support when issuing an electronic visa. This mechanism can be applied as follows.

For example, the provision of a free visa in case of exceeding the average cost of a tourist package and a 50% discount if the cost of a tourist package is equal to the average.

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