Tourism is a sector reaching over state borders. The Visegrad space should be perceived as one region by tourists, especially by visitors from remote countries. So there is a great possibility that visitors would be interested in the Visegrad space as a whole. Medical spas play an important role and have a long historical tradition in all Visegrad countries. The importance of this sector is increasing, especially due to promotion of a healthy lifestyle and with ageing of European population. Our goal is to support the Visegrad cooperation in the medical spas and wellness sector with medical background.

A multilingual database of medical spas and wellness facilities is available on a free online portal in English, Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak.

The concept of the database is based on a unified presentation of single recognized spas and wellness spas in all Visegrad countries, with a possibility of comparing single facilities and finding information using different criteria.
**CRITERIUM NO 1**

**Geographical position** (state – region – place).

**CRITERIUM NO 2**

**Spa indication**

**Extra medical and wellness programme**
Training programme – Educational programme.

**CRITERIUM NO 3**

**Provided spa treatments**

**CRITERIUM NO 4**

**Natural/healing resources**
Healing peloids – Healing springs – Healing gases – Climatic conditions suitable for treatment – Thalassotherapy.

**CRITERIUM NO 5**

**Expertise in provided services**

**CRITERIUM NO 6**

**Spa place infrastructure**
Accommodation (type, category, price range) – Catering services (type) – Swimming pool, sauna area – Park and green spaces – Environmental impact and noise – Parking – Infrastructure for sport activities – Sport equipment rentals – Infrastructure for culture events.

**CRITERIUM NO 7**

**Tourist attraction** (attractions for visitors within 50 km area)
Historical sights (castles, historical cities, churches – Natural attractions (mountains, lakes, natural reservations…) – Amusement parks and museums – ZOO – Special events (arts festivals, sport, folklore, religious events…).

**CRITERIUM NO 8**

**Route planning and transport**
Airport distance, railway and bus station.

**CRITERIUM NO 9**

Links to useful portals and websites.
Balneotherapy (spa therapy) has a long tradition in all Visegrad countries and it is an integral part of the healthcare system. Spas have historically originated in the areas with occurrence of local natural healing resources (natural mineral and thermal waters, gases, peloids and climatic conditions suitable for treatment). These factors still remain essential conditions for recognition of a medical spa these days.

Balneotherapy, as a part of the healthcare system, is provided only in spa facilities recognized by the state authority. Balneotherapy (spa therapy) programs are established by medical doctors on the basis of the patient’s medical examination and assessment.

The quality of balneotherapy is based on quality of local natural healing resources and knowledge of health professionals (medical doctors, physiotherapists, ergotherapists, nutritional therapists, psychologists…).

Positive factors such as a high air quality, protected spa areas with high demand on quality of environmental conditions and attractive surroundings, make the medical spas and wellness facilities in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia favorite destinations of the health tourism.

Resource: Association of Slovak Spas
A project financed within Standard Grants programme by the International Visegrad Fund. Project category: Promotion of tourism

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**PROJECT PARTNERS**

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**Hungary**  
Hungarian Marketing Association for Health Tourism  
[www.meme.hu](http://www.meme.hu)

**PROJECT CONTINUATION**
This project is supposed to continue on each partner country level and it is going to be upgraded and developed according to future circumstances.


**VISEGRAD FUND**

The mission of the International Visegrad Fund is to promote a further development of a closer cooperation among the Visegrad Group (V4) countries and to strengthen the ties among people in the region. The Fund provides funding for common cultural, scientific, research and educational projects, youth exchanges, promotion of tourism and cross-border cooperation.

**Member States (Countries of the Visegrad Group):**  
The Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic

For more information: [www.visegrafund.org](http://www.visegrafund.org)  