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AIR TRANSPORT AS OBJECT OF SOCIAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH

The purpose of the study is to consider the socio-geographical principles of air transport research, to determine the role of air transport geography in the system of geographical science, to define the object and subject of air transport geography, to determine the indicators of socio-geographical analysis of air transport.

Method. Transport development has led to scientists' collaboration in different specialties for studying this phenomenon that enables to determine the interdisciplinary nature of this research, as transport is studied by a number of scientific disciplines, such as economic, environmental, technical sciences, logistics, and, specifically, geography. The multidimensional nature of transport as a social and economic phenomenon has determined a problem-based approach to its scientific and applied research. In this case, in contrast to other disciplines, geography is primarily interested in the transport spatial dimension, namely the spatial features of transport interaction with the territory, nature, population and economy. Air transport geography is an important component of transport geography.

Results. Air transport geography should be defined as a scientific unit of transport geography, which studies the territorial structure of air transport, transport corridors, patterns and features of location, the level of transportation of countries and groups of countries. Air transport geography is an important component of transport geography, its scientific unit, with a specific object and subject of research, the main directions and indicators for socio-geographical analysis of world and national air transport. The indicators for such analysis are the following: geography of air corridors and network of air transport routes; world airport network; main aviation passenger flows and their dynamics; passenger traffic in comparison with other means of transport and their dynamics in recent years.

Scientific novelty. Improving the theoretical, methodological and methodical apparatus of transport geography in general (improving the classification of means of transport) and its component - air transport geography in particular, expanding their subject and object sphere and conducting applied research on an updated basis.

Practical value. The main practical value of research on air transport geography is considered the development of plans and recommendations for improving the location of production and resettlement in terms of minimizing transport costs, optimizing air traffic flows within existing territorial transport systems, development of air transport systems at all levels.

Key words: transport, transport system, geography of transport, air transport, air transport geography.

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