Balneotherapy is defined as a group of treatment modalities using natural remedies. The term also is used to describe complex multimodal interventions for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of (chronic) health conditions. The use of the term rehabilitation also is dual: on one hand it is used for a health strategy to overcome disability and to improve functioning. On the other hand it is defined as a set of measures used in multidisciplinary teams. Thus, the definitions of balneotherapy and rehabilitation are different but have some overlap too. It needs to be discussed, how balneotherapy can be used for rehabilitation of chronic health conditions and what the evidence of the added value is. Secondly, the tradition of comprehensive treatments in health resorts should be analysed using the criteria of rehabilitation measures and also here the added value must be demonstrated.

**Keywords:** Hot spring bathing, Past history of disease