

KONSTANTIN
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ШУМЕНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
“ЕПИСКОП КОНСТАНТИН ПРЕСЛАВСКИ”

V Научна конференция с международно участие

ГЕОГРАФИЯ, РЕГИОНАЛНО РАЗВИТИЕ И ТУРИЗЪМ
–СЪВРЕМЕННИ ИЗМЕРЕНИЯ

4 ноември 2022 г.

СБОРНИК с ДОКЛАДИ

V Scientific conference with international participation

GEOGRAPHY, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM -MODERN DIMENSIONS

November 4, 2022

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Университетско издателство „Епископ Константин

Преславски“ШУМЕН
2022

Сборникът се издава по проект „Изследване и популяризиране на геоглобални проблеми на регионално ниво“ (РД-08-95/16.02.2022 г.) на Катедра „География, регионално развитие и туризъм“ на Шуменския университет

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2022

ISBN 978-519-201-686-9

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ANALYSIS OF THE SPATIAL PLAN OF KOSOVO IN THE PERIOD OF 2010-2020 WITH SPECIALEMPHASIS ON TOURISM

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***Abstract:** During the preparation of the scientific paper, we reviewed and analyzed the Spatial Plan of Kosovo in the period from 2010 – 2020 with a special emphasis on part of tourism, especially tourism in the municipality of Prizren. Tourism is dependent on open spaces and is an activity that involves a large number of actors participating in it. The geographical position of Kosovo on the Balkan Peninsula has allowed tourism to have a large spread, especially anthropogenic tourism that is distributed in many localities in Kosovo, especially Prizren as an attractive tourist center. Kosovo is distinguished by the potential of mountain tourism, national parks, hunting and culture. In addition to resources, the hotel industry is concentrated in the areas of tourist supply, urban centers and the most important roads in Kosovo. In terms of ski centers, Kosovo has two such centers, in Brezovica in Ertrpce and Arjena in Brod na Dragash on (Shar mountain). Winter centers still need investments in the road network and other infrastructural aspects. Both centers are developing their sports and recreational activities for tourists from the country and abroad. Kosovo has great potential for the development of hunting tourism. This type of tourism can be realized in many places in Kosovo, such as Koznjar reserve, Rusolija and Blinaja. The largest number of tourist industry facilities are located in the region of Pristina, Prizren and Pec.*

***Key words:** natural heritage, potentials, tourist centers, accommodation facilities.*

Introduction:

Spatial planning is the planning of the physical space that surrounds us: the space where our homes are built, the space in urban and rural environments, the space in which our workplaces are, the spaces of roads, infrastructure and natural and cultural heritage. Spatial planning in Kosovo, although it has been developing as an institutional activity since the period after the Second World War, in practice does not stand out with any significant results. With the establishment of the Legal Framework for Spatial Planning – the Law on Spatial Planning and the by-laws, a big step has been taken towards the current trends of the legislation in the field of planning in Europe. Cultural heritage is defined as one of the priority sectors of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, as defined in the Program of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in the period from 2015 – 2018 and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework in the period from 2015 – 2018. These and other appropriate documents constitute the institutional basis for the preparation of this National Strategy for Cultural Heritage in the period from 2015 – 2025. Tourism largely depends on open and quality built environments; produces employment and offers entertainment opportunities with distribution in all regions. The natural values that Kosovo has at its disposal represent highly ranked tourist resources. Kosovo has significant potential for the development of winter tourism in the Shar Mountains and the Cursed Mountains. Cultural heritage and natural heritage are considered a potential of sustainable development and integration, important factors for economic development and a basic prerequisite for the development of tourism in a country, region and beyond. The development of cultural and mountain tourism, industrial service and trade, with the protection of the natural cultural heritage are among the future goals of the state of Kosovo in the development of tourism in the country, so as such it should be planned in detail to have the development of continuous and quality tourism in general.

Research objective, methodology, techniques and vision

Each science applies several procedures and methods in its scientific research. Therefore, anyone who wants to do science and be successful in his scientific work, will have to know well the methodology of scientific work, respecting the methods and rules used in his field of scientific interest.¹ The vision for tourism is a common definition and commitment to cooperation in the direction of the development of the tourism sector in Kosovo. All subsequent activities stem from this vision.

It should be noted that the impressions of the workshop participants and other similar documents from the municipality related to tourism were used for this vision.

Analysis of tourism

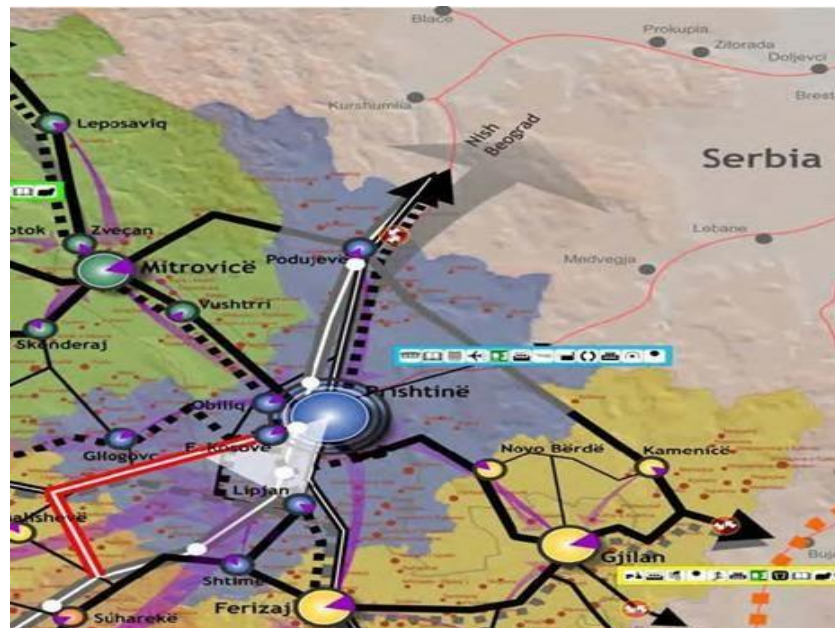
Tourism largely depends on open and quality built environments; produces employment and offers entertainment opportunities with distribution in all regions. The natural values that Kosovo has at its disposal represent highly ranked tourist resources. The description of the tourist potential of Kosovo is closely related to its geographical position. Its position in Southeast Europe, with its central location on the Balkan Peninsula, represents a crossroads dating back to Roman times. Kosovo is distinguished by the potential of mountain tourism, national parks, hunting and culture. In addition to resources, the hotel industry is concentrated in the areas of tourist supply, urban centers and the most important roads in Kosovo. Kosovo has significant potential for the development of winter tourism in the Shar Mountains and the Cursed Mountains.² Cultural heritage and natural heritage are considered a potential for sustainable development and integration, important factors of economic development and a basic prerequisite for the development of tourism in a country, region and beyond.



*Map 1. Strategy for Spatial Development - Blue Space.
Spring: Spatial Plan of Kosovo in the period from 2010 – 2020+*

¹ N. Dimitrov, E. Mitreva, M. Serafimova, Methodology of scientific and research work, Shtip, 2017.

² Spatial plan of Kosovo in the period from 2010-2020 +



Map 2. Strategy for Spatial Development - Blue Space.
Spring: Spatial Plan of Kosovo in the period from 2010 – 2020+

In Kosovo, Topographic Maps and TN are considered a treasure of the country, which expresses the identity of the society, but which is threatened with destruction every day. Inherited natural values are also threatened, large contents are subjected to uncontrolled actions that occur near and in them. In Kosovo, it is estimated that there are slightly less than 5% of the areas under protection. The reasons for the loss of natural heritage in Kosovo are numerous, but among them some of them can be specified: such as uncontrolled cutting of forests, pollution of tourist areas, soil erosion, uncontrolled construction by the state, floods, etc. In terms of ski centers, Kosovo has two such centers, that of Brezovica in Ertrpce and Arjena in Brod na Dragash on (Sharplanina). Which still require investments in the road network and other infrastructural aspects. Both centers are developing their sports and recreational activities for tourists from the country and abroad.



Figure 1. Argena Ski Center in winter



Figure 2. Argena Ski Center in summer

Kosovo also has potential for the development of hunting tourism. This type of tourism can be realized in many places in Kosovo, such as Koznjar reserve, Rusolija and Blinaja. Other natural values of Kosovo are: the Mirusha canyon, the marble cave in Gadime, rivers and artificial reservoirs that provide opportunities for the development of fishing, water sports and recreation.

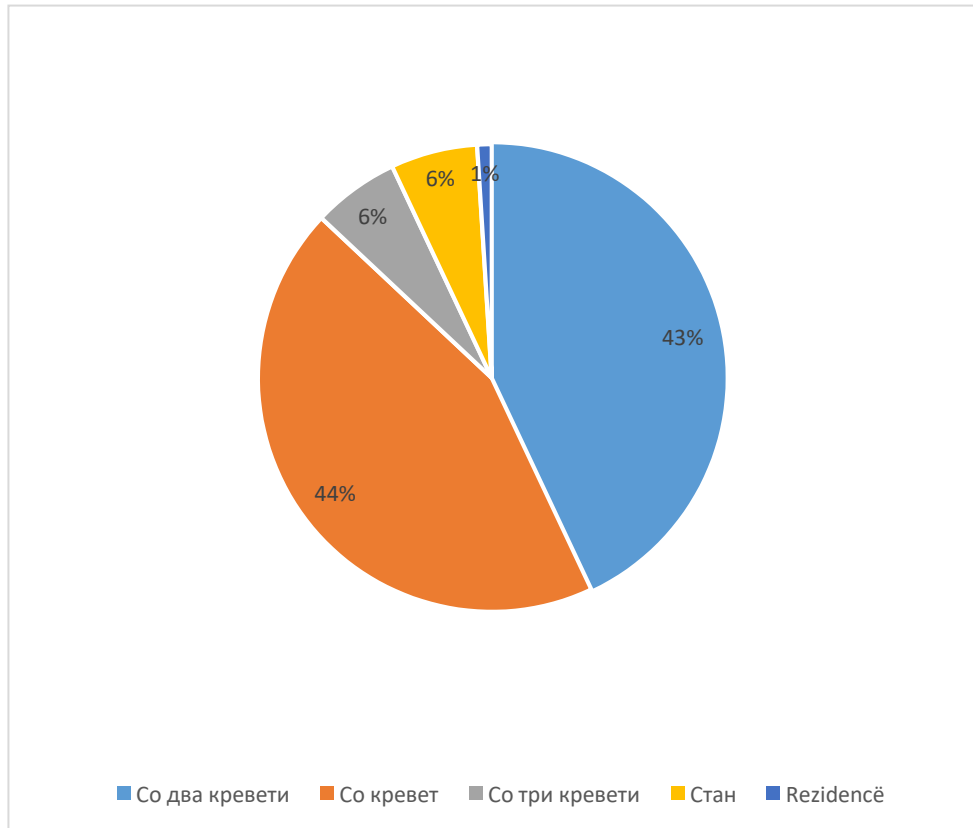
The production of handicrafts and the practice of rare crafts, such as filigree, are an attraction for foreign tourists. Kosovo has the potential for the development of cultural tourism with many objects of extraordinary cultural and historical value. The total number of cultural objects and institutions is 1282 of them.³ Based on the data available to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), the Department of Tourism, as well as the Statistical Office of Kosovo (SOK), it follows that in all the municipalities of Kosovo, 147 hotels are operating hotels. licensed with a total of 2261 beds. The cities with the most hotels are: Pristina (29), Prizren (18), Ferizaj (14) and Lipjan (12).⁴

The largest number of facilities from the tourism industry are based in the region of Pristina (36.6%), followed by Prizren (17.2%) and Pec (10.1%) (Figure 2).⁵

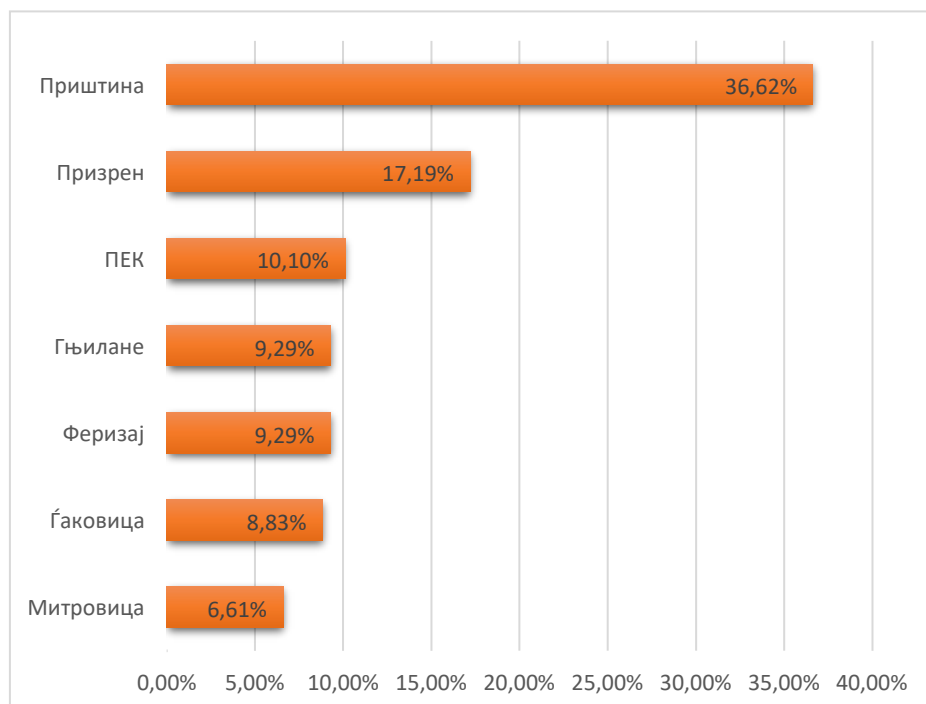
³ Economic activities and democratic development in Kosovo

⁴ Ministry of Trade and Industry

⁵ However, based on their nature, the following activities were used to generate sectoral statistics from TAK data: hotels and motels with restaurants, hotels and motels without restaurants, restaurants, bars, rail transport, other regular transport land transport of passengers, other land transport of passengers, regular air transport, unscheduled air transport, as well as travel agencies and tour operators / tourist assistance.



*Chart 1. Structure of accommodation facilities according to rooms with number of beds.
Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry.*



*Chart 2. Distribution of businesses by region.
Source: Tax Administration of Kosovo, 2013.*

Most tourism revenues are estimated to come from the private sector (90 – 95%), while the rest from the public sector (5 – 10%).⁶

The official data of KAS shows the number of domestic and foreign visitors and their overnight stays for the period from 2008 – 2012.

In 2012, the number of visitors increased by 18.86% compared to 2011, while the number of overnight stays in the same period increased by 16.20%. An increase was also achieved in the number of foreign visitors (60.76%), as well as in their overnight stays (38.7%).⁷ Most of the visitors coming from abroad are from the neighboring country of Albania, followed by Germany, the USA, etc. Most employees in the tourism sector have a high school degree, while 27% of businesses reported employing 5 or more men with a college degree and 26% employing 5 or more women with a college degree. Of the surveyed facilities, 22% provide on-the-job training for their employees (Chart 3).⁸

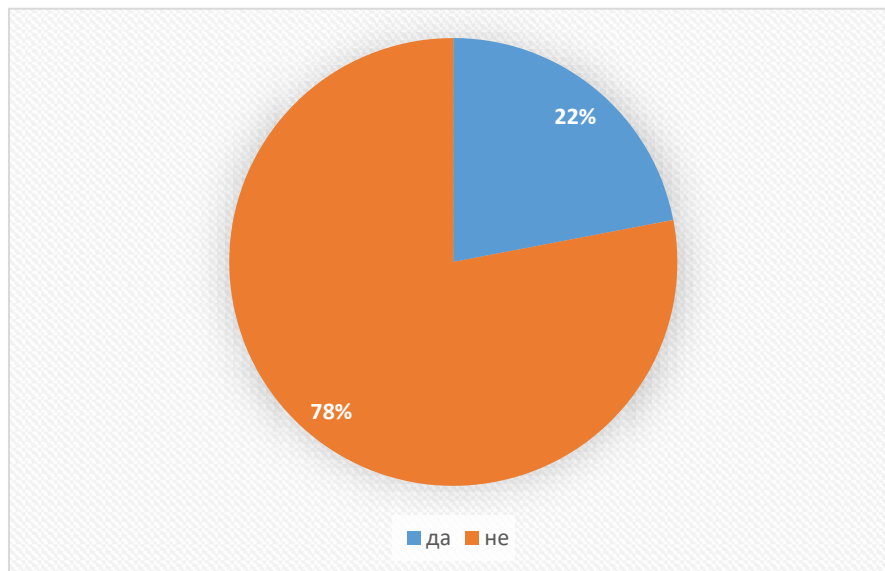


Chart 3. Provided on-the-job training for the employee.

Source: UNDP Research, 20.

Regarding the difficulties related to human resources in the tourism sector, businessmen highlighted the following problems: lack of qualified workers. In recent years, efforts have been made to improve the institutional framework for tourism at the local government level. Some municipalities have included tourism in their strategic development plans, while in organizational terms they have created tourism positions in certain municipal directorates, mainly those related to economic development. Recently, the municipality of Prizren even established a new unit called Tourism and Economic Development.⁹

Some of the events and festivals that attract a large number of visitors or tourists are also:

⁶ Investment Promotion Strategy of the Kosovo Investment Promotion Agency 2011-2013, at http://www.investks.org/repository/docs/02_Investment_Promotion_Strategy_656355.pdf

⁷ Republic of Kosovo, Statistics Agency of Kosovo, Hotel Statistics, 2013, at http://esk.rks-gov.net/publikimet/cat_vieë/81-hoteleria.

⁸ Tourism Sector Profile, March 2014.

⁹ Municipality of Prizren, Directorates, <http://kk.rks-gov.net/prizren/Mublic/Directors.aspx>.

- Dokufest, Prizren;
- Green Fest, Mitrovica;
- Tour de Kosovo (cycling);
- Ngom, Prizren, etc. festivals.



Figure 3. Film Festival Doku Fest, Prizren.



Figure 4. Film Festival Doku Fest, Prizren.

Conclusion

Spatial planning in Kosovo, although it has been developing as an institutional activity since the period after the Second World War, in practice does not stand out with any significant results. With the establishment of the Legal Framework for Spatial Planning - the Law on Spatial Planning and the by-laws, a big step has been taken towards the current trends of the legislation in the field of planning in Europe. Each science applies several procedures, methods in its scientific research. Therefore, anyone who wants to do science and be successful in his scientific work, will have to know well the methodology of scientific work, respecting the methods and rules used in his field of scientific interest.

The development of cultural and mountain tourism, tourist service and trade, with the protection of the natural cultural heritage are the future goals of the state of Kosovo in the development of tourism in the country, so as such it should be planned in detail to have the development of continuous and quality tourism in general. Tourism largely depends on open and quality built environments; produces employment and offers entertainment opportunities with distribution in all regions. The natural values that Kosovo has at its disposal represent highly ranked tourist resources. The description of the tourist potential of Kosovo is closely related to its geographical position.

Based on the data at the disposal of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), the Department of Tourism, as well as the Statistical Office of Kosovo (ZSK), it follows that in all the municipalities of Kosovo, 147 hotels are operating hotels. licensed with a total of 2261 beds. The cities with the most hotels are: Pristina (29), Prizren (18), Ferizaj (14) and Lipjan (12).

The service represents the outcome of the system and consists of three main elements such as: users, equipment and service personnel. In the provision and use of the Services, there are certain specifics regarding production, design, commercialization and distribution.

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