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CB
WATER
GEOPARK



The report was developed within the framework of contract No. B 2.6 c.08 under the project "Creation of a transborder water assets geopark in Nestos area", with the acronym: CB Water Geopark, financed under the Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" , co-financed by the ERDF and the national budget of the participating countries.

GENERAL REPORT

**PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS
GEOPARK IN THE NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771**

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**NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY
AND A TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"**

**The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of this report are sole
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Authority and the Joint Secretariat.**

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GENERAL REPORT

(Abstract)

**PROJECT "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER GEOPARK IN THE
REKA MESTA AREA", REG. No. 1771**

**"ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY
AND A TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"**

**(Abstract of the Report on the results of the implementation of Contract No. 5 of
27.02.2019)**

In the presented Abstract is made a brief description of the content of the Report presented by the contractor ESA "Vitosha" "Assessment of the potential of geopark hajidimovo as a socio-economic, cultural-educational and tourist facility and a territory for rest and recovery ",

The report has a total volume of 312 standard printed pages. There are 8 appendices to the report with a total volume of standard printed pages

The content of the report is presented in an Introduction and 13 sections as follows:

Introduction

- 1. Geopark Hadjidimovo - part of the vision for the development of the municipality**
- 2. Tourism - as one of the national priorities**
- 3. Analysis of the territory of Hadjidimovo Geopark as a socio-economic given**
- 4. Transport infrastructure**
- 5. Water infrastructure**
- 6. Telecommunications**
- 7. SWOT analysis of Hadjidimovo municipality**
- 8. Tourist potential**
- 9. SWOT analysis of tourism in Hadjidimovo municipality**
- 10. Potential geopoints in Hadjidimovo Geopark**
- 11. Description of tourist resources - Historical facts and events**
- 12. Description of tourist resources - Way of life, traditions, manners and customs of the population in the Hadjidimovo Geopark area**
- 13. Hadjidimovo Geopark - a center for the development of tourism in the region**

The appendices to the report are as follows:

Appendix 1 - Methodology for assessing the tourist potential ;

Appendix 2 - Description, characteristics and evaluation of natural features and sights as a resource for tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo;

Appendix 3 - Historical facts, events and historical heritage with potential for the development of tourism in Hadjidimovo Geopark and Hadjidimovo Municipality;

Appendix 4 - Historical figures related to the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality;

Appendix 5 - Description and characterization of the lifestyle, traditions, manners and customs of the population in the region of Hadjidimovo Geopark as a potential tourist resource;

Appendix 6 - Description of myths, legends and legends related to the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a potential tourist resource;

Appendix 7 - Description, characterization and evaluation of the main elements of the tourist infrastructure in the municipality of Hadjidimovo;

Appendix 8 - Recommendations and proposals to the municipality of Hadjimovo for utilizing the tourist potential of the territory for the development of naturism.

Summaries of the individual applications are attached to this abstract.

Introduction

The construction of the Geopark "Hajidimovo", in the area of the city of Hadjidimovo, Republic of Bulgaria, which is the object of the project "Creation of a transboundary water Geopark in the area of the river Mesta", developed within the framework of the Program for European Territorial Cooperation "Greece-Bulgaria 2014- 2020", has a very high socio-economic, cultural-educational, touristic, health-restorative, aesthetic and ecological potential. Conceptually subordinated to the established European and world practice for the creation of protected geological-geographical natural areas, called geoparks, Geopark "Hajidimovo" will be located entirely on the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo and will be part of a geopark structure similar in design, located on the territory of municipality of Drama in Greece and developed within the general project under the European Territorial Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020".

It is characteristic of the philosophy of geoparks that their main subject, on the one hand, is the specific and unique nature-geographical, geological or historical-cognitive specificity of

the respective area, and on the other hand, the person with his opportunities and needs for getting to know the territory, for its preservation and sustainable development for the purpose of tourism. Based on the principle understanding, embedded in the concept of the construction of geoparks, that it is necessary to establish a state of equilibrium, a harmonious and balanced relationship between the natural and public environment, two leading social policies, closely related to the activity of geoparks, are derived. The first is aimed at achieving broad public promotion, information and education about the specific natural features of the specific area with a view to achieving not "passive" knowledge, but above all active and responsible ecological knowledge and attitude, a culture of human-nature relationships. The second one is closer to people's life and economic activities, as it is primarily aimed at the development of specific forms of tourist activity in the geopark areas with a view to the actual realization of the human-society-nature relationship. Within the geoparks, there is potential for the development of many types of tourism - ecotourism, agrotourism, rural, historical, pilgrimage, walking, bicycle tourism, gastronomic, photo tourism and many more. etc.

The activities and policies initiated by the designation of geoparks have a different duration vector of temporal presence, concerning their social and economic significance - short-term, medium-term and long-term. In all of them, however, the clear idea of the sustainable development and preservation of the area in view of its unique characteristics and the establishment of a deeply realized need for this by the people is concentrated.

The objective motivational factors for the construction of an actually functioning geopark are, to a large extent, based on the possibility of stimulating the economic development of the area precisely by means of the geopark - the discovery of new business initiatives, new forms of employment and jobs. According to the common European understanding of the activity of geoparks, there are no limitations or restrictions regarding the types of economic activities that are permissible to be carried out on the territory of the geoparks, as long as they do not violate local or national legislation. Regardless, activities related primarily to different types of tourism, development of tourist infrastructure, construction of recreation areas are developed as a priority in these natural-geographic zones.

1. The Geopark Hadjidimovo - part of the vision for the development of the municipality

The decision to include the municipality of Hadjidimovo in the project "Creation of a transboundary water geopark in the area of the Mesta River" under the "Program for

European Territorial Cooperation "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" was taken unanimously by the Municipal Council on 14.07.2017. It clearly expresses the understanding of the geopark as a prerequisite for the development of tourism in the municipality, unfolding in several directions - firstly, through the involvement of the local population, secondly, through the attraction of residents from the neighboring municipalities - Gotse Delchev, Garmen, Satovcha, thirdly, to residents from regional centers close to Hadjidimovo - Blagoevgrad, Pazardzhik and Plovdiv and fourth - to guests from neighboring countries - Greece and North Macedonia.

The construction of Hadjidimovo Geopark as a project idea and upcoming implementation is in full compliance with the adopted Municipal Development Plan 2014-2020, as well as with a number of strategic documents of national, regional or municipal importance such as the National Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria (2012-2022); The Regional Development Plan of the South-West Planning Region (2014-2020) and the District Development Strategy (2014-2020). All of them have been developed in accordance with the requirements, principles and rules for applying structural instruments in the field of EU regional policy. The mentioned strategic documents unite the efforts at the national, regional, district and local level to achieve a balanced intensive development of the territory while taking into account the interests of the local population, the non-governmental sector, business and the administration.

In the municipal development plan of the municipality of Hadjidimovo, as a priority goal, the requirement for the creation of prerequisites and conditions for attracting funds from the expected structural funds of the EU to the territory of the municipality is explicitly recorded. In this sense, the current project entitled "Creation of a transboundary water Geopark in the area of the Mesta River", under the "Program for European Territorial Cooperation "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" represents a concrete realization of the intentions of the municipal authorities.

The choice of topic and object of the project developed jointly with the municipality of Drama, Greece derives, on the one hand, from the objective natural features of the area, distinguished by the presence of appropriate natural-climatic, geographical, cultural-historical characteristics, but also from a thorough preliminary analysis of the socio-economic, demographic, educational and professional specifics of the region and the local population. The construction of Hadjidimovo Geopark, with all the elements it contains, relating to the preservation, ecological improvement and development of existing natural features, their promotion and development as attractive tourist sites, unites both the conceptual philosophy

of geoparks and the need for the municipality and the local population to expand and dynamize economic development, to develop the tourist potential of the area, to stimulate the entrepreneurial initiative of the population and to achieve a general better and higher standard of living.

The strategic framework of the Municipal Development Plan 2014-2020 defines four priority areas, which should be an emphasis in the actions of local authorities to support the overall prosperity of the area. They are described as follows:

- “Better business environment and promotion of economic growth in the area, higher employment, more investment.
- Preservation of demographic potential, with care for young people.
- Further development and maintenance of the municipal infrastructure.
- Increasing the confidence of citizens and businesses in the administration, by ensuring good governance at all levels.”

It is necessary to explicitly emphasize that the project "Creation of a cross-border water geopark in the area of the Mesta River" fits into the overall vision of the municipal leadership to stimulate the progress of the area, the successful cross-border cooperation between the two neighboring municipalities - Hadjidimovo and Drama, to increase of the regional tourism potential by promoting the cross-border riches as a joint destination, including diverse tourism opportunities, job creation and business initiatives.

In Priority 3.3 of the Municipal Development Plan - Improvement of Territorial Cooperation, it is categorically stated that of extreme importance for the development of the municipality is "the implementation of joint projects with neighboring municipalities for the development of the region, participation in cross-border projects for rapprochement with neighboring municipalities countries."

2. Specificity of the Hadjidimovo municipality with a view to the development of the Geopark

The conceptual content of the Hadjidimovo Geopark suggests that within the defined territory, several zones distinguished by their specific character, called geopoints, should be distinguished. They are perceived as a kind of "micro-centers" of the Geopark, which focus on natural, cultural and historical attractions or those related to the lifestyle and traditions of

the population. At the same time, the Geopark should be linked to the activity of the population, to the economic profile of the municipality and to the prospects for its development, to the transport and communication network. Another precondition, according to the requirements of the Program for European Territorial Cooperation "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020", is that the territory of the Geopark is located entirely on municipal land. In view of this circumstance, before the start of the project, confirmation was received from the mayor of the municipality in the form of a declaration signed and accepted by the Municipal Council, that the objects that will be realized on the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo, according to the project proposal, will be located on municipal land such as visitors and tourist flow will have free access to them during the implementation of the project and after its completion.

Localities (geopoints) included in the boundaries of the Geopark must have the following characteristics:

1. To have specific natural, cultural-historical, climatic, etc. characteristics;
2. The specificity of these localities should be of potential interest to tourists in order to stimulate the tourist flow in the region;
3. To be accessible through appropriate road infrastructure /roads, paths, alleys/;
4. To provide an opportunity to define tourist routes.

The area of Hadjidimovo municipality has a rich and diverse natural environment, archaeological and cultural-historical sites from different periods, a mild climate that favors the development of a long tourist season, relatively well-formed road infrastructure.

Hadjidimovo Municipality is located in Southwestern Bulgaria and is one of the constituent municipalities of Blagoevgrad District, with an area of 327.78 square km. To the west, the municipality borders the municipality of Sandanski, to the north - with Gotse Delchev and Garmen, to the east - with Satovcha, and to the south the municipal border coincides with the state border of Bulgaria with Greece. The territory of the municipality covers the southernmost part of the eastern slopes of Pirin Mountain, part of Slavyanka Mountain, a small part of the southwestern slopes of the Dabrashki ridge of the Western Rhodope Mountains, and part of the Gotsedelchev valley and the valley of the Mesta River. It has good natural potential and high bio-climatic potential.

The municipality of Hadjidimovo total population is of 10,091 inhabitants (01.02.11) and the area - of 327.78 sq. km. The town of Hadjidimovo is located in the extreme southern regions of Bulgaria at an altitude of 485 m. to the border with Greece. In the southern direction, the

land of the city is mostly hilly, composed of distant foothills of the massifs Slavyanka, Shtilka and Bozdag, but the predominant part of its territory is flat.

The settlements located on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality are the town of Hadjidimovo, the village of Ablanitsa, the village of Beslen, the village of Blatska, the village of Gaitaninovo, the village of Ilinden, the village of Koprivlen, the village of Lucky, the village of Nova Lovcha, the village of Novo Leski, the village of Paril, the village of Petrelik, the village of Sadovo, the village of Teplen and the village of Teshovo.

Tourism - as one of the national priorities

Bulgaria is located in one of the most attractive regions of Europe, characterized by numerous natural and cultural-historical resources, which provides it with potential for the development of various forms of tourism. The country has a wide variety of tourism resources, incl. cultural-historical, (which are estimated at about 40 thousand), natural (including over 4,000 caves, 400 lakes, outlet to the Black Sea, etc.), biological (55 reserves, 34 natural landmarks, 3 national and 11 natural parks), festivals and events (over 1,278 are entered in the register of tourist events at the MT, of which 99 are of international importance, and 358 of national importance), and others.

The flora and fauna are diverse and one of the richest in Europe. There are about 15,000 animal species in Bulgaria. There are 389 registered protected plant species, 473 protected animal species, and 1815 protected centuries-old trees.

Due to these, and not only, favorable conditions, tourism is emerging as a key sector of the Bulgarian economy - according to data from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTCC). In 2016, it formed about 12.8% of GDP (US\$6.6 billion or EUR 6.2 billion) and provided a total of over 314,000 jobs.

Tourism is a complex socio-cultural and economic phenomenon, the multiple aspects of which are the object of interest of various scientific fields - economics, sociology, management, history, cultural studies, pedagogy, psychology, etc. The term "tourism" has a French origin (tour) and is translated as a tour, i.e. it is a journey that ends in the same place where it started. The word "tourism" is derived from the term "toug" and was introduced into the active vocabulary of modern humanity by the French writer Stendhal in 1830.

There are many definitions of the concept of tourism, given over the years by specialists from different fields. But the unifying content of most of them is stated very precisely in "Webster's International Dictionary", where tourism is defined as "a journey in which one

returns to the starting point; a circuitous journey, usually for work, pleasure or study, during which various places are visited and the route of which is usually planned” .

The World Tourism Organization offers the following definition of tourism - "The activities of people during their stay in a place outside their permanent residence for a period of less than a year, related to entertainment, business or other purposes" and distinguishes three main forms of tourism :

- Domestic tourism - when residents of a given country travel only around it;
- Active (receptive) tourism - when non-residents of a given country arrive in it from outside (from other countries);
- Passive (emissive) tourism – when residents of a given country travel to another country;

Tourist activities according to the Law on Tourism in Bulgaria (2004) are:

- Hotel and restaurant industry;
- Tour operator activity and travel agency activity;
- Provision of additional tourist services. Tourist activities are also the various recreational activities carried out by tourists during tourist trips.

The Bulgarian Association for Rural and Alternative Tourism /BARAT/, based on a number of foreign and Bulgarian definitions, offers the following definition of tourism - "two-way travel to places and regions and visits to sites in them with the aim of cultural, informational and emotional enrichment, and strengthening of health." We accept this wording as the most appropriate in view of the goals and tasks of the present development.

Tourism is unanimously defined by scientists and specialists as a phenomenon of modern society. Tourism is one of the most dynamically developing industries of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. According to the World Tourism Organization, this industry is the main export industry for 83% of the member countries of this organization. Tourism is cited as the most important source of foreign exchange earnings for 38% of member countries in the World Tourism Organization. Tourism is an industry that reports permanent trends in the growth of the number of tourists for the world from 3% to 5% /the number of tourists is increasing/ and the growth of revenues in general for the world from 7% to 8%. Another indicator that determines the importance of tourism for the economy of any country is the participation of tourism in the formation of GDP. Another indicator of the importance of tourism is the number of people employed in the tourism industry - this is nearly 8% of the working population worldwide. Tourism is an industry that absorbs about 13% of people's

savings, with future trends for this indicator to increase due to dynamic changes in demand and supply and the ever-increasing interest of people to travel for the purpose of tourism.

Tourism offers a specific product that differs from the product of other industries and activities. The characteristics of the product also outline the main directions in determining the importance of tourism through the types of product it creates.

- Economic importance - This industry develops in accordance with the current economic laws. According to this indicator, tourism emerges as a structural determinant for the economies of many countries. The economic importance of tourism is manifested in effective exports, providing jobs, in the development of infrastructure and the tourist structure /superstructure/. Tourism improves the foreign trade balance of the countries that develop it. According to this indicator, it is of great importance for the economy of Bulgaria. According to official statistics, tourism is one of the few branches of the Bulgarian economy that reports a positive foreign trade balance.

- Social importance of tourism - Limits migration, keeps young people from leaving the country, provides conditions for social interaction.

- Cultural importance - It is expressed in providing an opportunity to get acquainted with local, regional and national monuments of culture, way of life, traditions, historical monuments and places related to the history of the country and landmarks.

- Health importance - It is expressed through the impact of natural and climatic conditions, air, mineral waters, sun, which are an integral part of the tourist product and have a beneficial effect on the organism of tourists. The participation of tourists in the offered sports, animation and specialized procedures contribute to the recovery of the body and the treatment of a number of diseases on a physical and mental level.

- Political importance - This importance of tourism is brought to the fore, because the possibility of organizing tourism can only develop in peacetime. Tourism is a prerequisite for improving interstate relations and accelerating their development.

- Educational importance - It consists in increasing the responsibility and awareness of the participants, as they acquire a new sensitivity and concern for the places visited, for the observed objects, traditions, population.

- Ecological importance - It is expressed in care for the protection of natural attractions, the identification of eco-regions, care for the preservation and maintenance of rare representatives of the animal and plant world. Provision by national and international organizations of funds for the maintenance of reserves that are subject to tourist visits.

- Technical significance - The development of tourism is a consequence of the development of technique, technology and, above all, of the development of transport. To no small extent, tourism is also the reason for their development. The need for new equipment and technologies stimulates manufacturers to develop, improve equipment and transport.

With a view to establishing tourism as one of the main priorities in the development of the Bulgarian economy, a number of measures are being taken for its favorable development and better marketing and advertising performance, both on the national and international markets. One of the steps in this direction is updating the tourist zoning of the country.

Based on Order No. T-RD-14-63/15.05.2015 of the Minister of Tourism, published in DV. no. 56 of 24.07.2015, the country is divided into 9 tourist regions, and it is expressly emphasized that the proposed scheme is indicative. The focus when defining tourist areas is placed on their marketing identity and the need to highlight 1-2 leading types of tourism, which are the basis of regional branding and advertising on international markets.

The need for tourist zoning is motivated by the general desire for the development of competitive tourism, the implementation of a target-oriented tourism policy for the regions, taking into account the territorial features and the specifics of the different parts of the country, and the implementation of effective regional marketing, which will make the tourist areas recognizable to the potential tourists and successfully "sell" them - both on the domestic and international markets. Based on a careful study of a large number of theoretical sources and planning documents, existing proposals for tourist zoning in our country and the experience of other countries, a scheme of tourist zoning was developed, which is theoretically and methodologically sound and practically applicable for the purposes of marketing and formation of organizations for the management of tourist areas.

Based on the analyzes carried out by experts engaged by the Ministry of Tourism and taking into account the requirements laid down in the Tourism Law, the following working definition of the concept of "tourist area" was adopted: "The tourist area is a significant part of the territory of the country, where there are conditions to form a specific combination of tourist products, (thanks to a combination of socio-economic, cultural and natural conditions for tourism). It can be subject to its own marketing and advertising, and subject to purposeful management by a body of associated tourism organizations and municipalities, supported (and controlled) by the state."

The delineated areas are largely homogeneous from ch. i.e. of the natural features, cultural resources and the products offered, but they are yet to be refined in relation to the

other criteria set before the tourist areas and especially in relation to the existing functional connections and the possibilities for effective management.

Based on a working classification of types of tourism, basic and advanced specialization are offered for each tourist area. The main specialization is a combination of two types of tourism, which together determine the uniqueness of the regions. The extended specialization includes, in addition to the main ones, up to 4 complementary types of tourism.

The specificity of the Rila-Pirin Tourist Region, to which the municipality of Hadjidimovo belongs, defined in the Strategy of the Ministry of Tourism, is directed in six areas - all types of mountain tourism, religious and pilgrimage, adventure and ecotourism, balneotourism, cultural-historical and wine tourism.

3. Analysis of the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a socio-economic given

The construction of Hadjidimovo Geopark falls entirely within the philosophy of the clearly defined national strategy for the development of tourism, presenting its own specific, regionally specific perspective. On the basis of the existing natural, historical, ethno-cultural features on the territory of the Geopark, a completely new tourist product for the municipality can be developed. Expectations for it are multidirectional, both in socio-economic and temporal terms.

Geopark Hadjidimovo is to be located entirely on municipal territory, according to the explicit provisions of the Program, and will include four separate zones, called geopoints, representing places with specific features of a cultural-historical, geographical, natural or climatic nature. The passage through the territory of the Geopark, as well as the transition between the designated geopoints, will be carried out on the existing municipal roads, paths or on the pedestrian or bicycle lanes specially built within the framework of the current project. The construction of the Geopark is conceived as a nature-friendly socio-economic "education", in which priority is given to intensive over extensive spatial development, i.e. prioritizing renewal and recovery over conquering or occupying new territories.

The total area of the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality is 328,000 decares, which represents 5.0% of the territory of Blagoevgrad district.

The agricultural territories occupy a total of 178,000 decares (54.0% of the area of the municipality against the national average of 58.0%). Cultivable land in the agricultural territories has a total area of 59,854 decares. The largest share is occupied by fields - 49,000

decares (82.0% of cultivated land). Permanent plantations occupy an area of 2,700 decares (4.5%), and meadows - 8,000 decares (13.0%).

Distribution of the area of Hadjidimovo municipality by types of territories:

- Agricultural territories 178,400 decares
- Forest territories 138,000 decares
- Settlements and other urbanized territories 7,000 decares
- Water courses and water areas 3,400 decares
- Territories for extraction of minerals 200 decares
- Territories for transport and infrastructure 800 decares

The main water resource in Hadjidimovo municipality is the Mesta River. It passes through the entire municipality in a north-south direction and enters the territory of the Republic of Greece through a narrow gorge. The flow rate of the Mesta River is quite variable, decreasing during the summer-autumn period due to the use of water for irrigation.

The region of Hadjidimovo municipality is characterized by a multi-sectoral economic structure. The general state of the environment in the controlled area is good. The territorial distribution of economic activities is extremely uneven. The main economic activities are concentrated in the territory of the town of Hadjidimovo, the village of Koprivlen, the village of Ablanitsa and a very small part in the villages of Teplen and Beslen. According to official statistics, in the production and economic complex of Hadjidimovo municipality, the industry (processing industry and construction) has the greatest importance. 26% of the companies operate in the industrial sector, 84% of the manufactured products and 69% of the net sales revenue are realized and 89% of the employment in the municipality is provided. The main livelihood of the rural population of Hadjidimovo municipality is related to tobacco production. Tobacco is a crop that provides the most income to the population in the municipality and the entire region. The main branch of animal husbandry is cattle breeding.

In the field of agriculture, tobacco production is the best developed. Tobacco is a crop that provides the most income to the population in the municipality and the entire region. There are 2,200 tobacco producers in the municipality. On the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality, there are consolidated plantings of cereals - wheat, corn, barley, etc. The largest part of arable agricultural land is occupied by fields - over 80%, meadows - over 13% and lastly the areas with perennial crops - over 4%.

In 2017, 1.68% of the country's population, 124,440 people (128,800 - in 2011), lived in the Mesta river basin. Comparisons of the rate of population change show that it is negative with an average annual rate of decrease of 0.57%. The forecast for 2025 is that it will be about 119,000 people.

The demographic structure of the population in Hadjidimovo municipality shows that there are 5,400 employed persons aged between 15 and 64. Of the total employed, 2,500 are men and 2,900 are women. The population under working age is 1,450 people (792 men and 658 women), in working age 5,825 people (3,163 men and 2,662 women) and in over working age 2,338 people (936 men and 1,402 women).

The share of those employed in the tertiary sector of the economy (services) is the highest - 60.3%. 12.4% of the total employed are employed in the secondary sector, and 27.3% in the primary sector. The employment rate, calculated as the ratio of the number of employed persons to the population in the age group 15-64 years of age for the municipality of Hadjidimovo, in 2011, is 41.2%, i.e. below the average level for the country (58.5%). It is an important indicator that marks the degree of participation of the population and the opportunities offered by the labor market.

The data show that both for the Blagoevgrad district and for the entire country, a categorically negative increase in the population is observed, which inevitably has an adverse effect on the general economic development. These data reflect on the level of production, the level of consumption, economic activity in general. In the dynamics of employed persons in various types of economic activities studied by NSI, which is an essential indicator for the development of the relevant sector, it can be seen that for 2018 and 2019 the number of employed persons in the area of "Hotel and Restaurant Industry" - the most closely related to the "Tourism" department, a decline was also observed, although not in significant proportions - employed persons were 10,835 fewer.

In the distribution of employed persons in the municipality of Hadjidimovo by profession, as of 01.02.2015, the most numerous is the "Professions not requiring special qualification" group. It consists of 188 persons or 22.1% of all employed persons aged 15 to 64. The second largest group is "Qualified workers in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing" - 162 persons (19.1%). The group "Personnel employed with services for the population, trade and security" also has a high share (140 persons - 16.5%). The smallest number of employed persons are in the "Armed Forces" group - 6 persons (0.7%). Men predominate in the groups, "Machine operators and assemblers", "Skilled workers in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing" and

"Skilled workers and related craftsmen". The share of women is highest in the groups "Support administrative staff", "Specialists" and "Personnel engaged in services for the population, trade".

In all economic activities, there is a decrease in the employed, with the exception of agriculture, forestry and fishing and trade, where they are growing slightly, and in transport, where they maintain their numbers.

Employed in the service sector are concentrated both in basic services (trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, communications, individual and public services, auxiliary activities) and also in modern and social services (education, health care, business and social services).

Significant job losses in the main economic sectors in the municipality during the period of economic restructuring have not yet been compensated by a sufficient increase in employment in the service sector.

Against the background of the general reduction of the employed, a transfer of employment between sectors is observed. Although the economic and social conditions in the municipality significantly affect employment, it is invariably affected by the state of the national economy.

Economic activities with an average annual salary above the average for the municipality are the primary sector and some of the public services - education, health care, state administration. Traditionally, the economic activity "Water supply; sewer services, waste management and remediation" also has a high average annual salary. The average wages of those employed in the economic activity "Processing industry" are similar to the general ones for the municipality, where 7% of all employed work.

In 2018, the average annual salary in Hadjidimovo municipality continues to be significantly below the national average. Since the share of wages is the largest in the total monetary income of the population, it reflects the standard of living of the inhabitants of the municipality.

As a result of the contraction of the labor market, the number of unemployed persons for one average job in Hadjidimovo municipality is more than two times higher than that of Blagoevgrad district and more than three times higher than that of the country. Quantitatively, the number of jobs is determined by the primary market, with the seasonal impact being significant.

The unemployment rate covers about 30% of the working population, with young people under the age of 29 accounting for over 12% of the unemployed. A serious problem is the fact

that a large number of young people have low educational levels and low professional qualifications.

One of the particularly important social "tasks" of the future Hadjidimovo Geopark is to help increase the employment of the local population, to create new jobs; to support the entrepreneurial initiative by building local enterprises, generating new sources of income through geotourism, agrotourism, rural tourism; to hold various seminars, courses and other forms of educational activity intended for different groups of the population.

Currently, most of the companies in the municipality are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Over 90% of them are micro-firms with up to 10 employees. There are no registered large companies with over 250 employees on the territory of the municipality. The main part of the companies are in the private sector, which proves its dominance in the economy of the municipality. The share of the private sector in the acquisition costs of DMA is predominant, with the exception of 2002, when it was only 28% of the investment costs incurred. In 2003, about 91% of total investment was made by the private sector, while in 2001 and 2002 it was 99%.

The municipality of Hadjidimovo is among those regions of the national territory that require financial resources in a volume that would ensure economic growth at rates higher than the average for the country. They are an important condition for reducing unemployment and limiting the mechanical outflow of the population, for creating a higher standard of living and a better quality environment.

According to data from the territorial statistical bureau, in 2017, 84% of the production was produced in the industrial sector of the municipality, 69% of the total amount of net sales revenue was realized and 89% of the employment in the municipality was ensured. About 86% of the production capacities are also concentrated there. The majority of employment in the industry – 97% – is provided by the private sector.

In the structure of the industrial sector, the processing industry is of dominant importance. It accounts for 92% of firms and 99% of employment in the industrial sector, as well as 93% of output and net sales revenue. Firms in the manufacturing industry are mostly small and medium-sized and are only in the private sector. There are no productions on the territory of the municipality that pollute the environment.

The more important subsectors of the processing industry are: textile production, textile products and clothing production; manufacture of facial skins, manufacture of travel goods,

saree goods and footwear; food and beverage production; production of products from other non-metallic mineral raw materials. A distinctive feature of these productions is their low energy consumption. In general, they are not dependent on importing expensive raw materials.

The production of textiles and textile products provides employment to 870 people - about 50% of all employed in the processing industry. Despite its greatly reduced production, the second most important subsector is the manufacture of facial leather, travel goods, sartorial goods and footwear (mainly shoe soles), providing 45.4% of employment (794 people). The production of food products, beverages and tobacco products is not particularly well developed (only 26 employed). In the town of Hadjidimovo, the village of Koprivlen and the village of Teshovo there are enterprises for the production of dairy products - cheese, yellow cheese, cottage cheese, butter, and in the village of Ablanitsa - for the production of meat products. The capacity of the enterprises is sufficient for the production and storage of the livestock production. Difficulties for these enterprises arise from the insufficient quantity and quality of livestock production. Serious challenges to this production is the need for certification of the manufactured products. There is no laboratory for certification, both of the agricultural production and of the "end products" produced from it. The lack of a market and the shrinking domestic consumption hinder the expansion of production.

In the town of Hadjidimovo, the village of Koprivlen and the village of Ablanitsa, there are woodworking workshops that produce high-quality products that are sold on the international market.

The next most important branch in the structure of the industrial sector is the mining industry. On the territory of the municipality there are deposits of marble, granite and gneiss. On this basis, quarries were discovered for the mining and processing of rock-facing materials and the production of marble products. Inert materials are mined along the Mesta River and the Mutnitsa River, which are a good basis for the development of construction.

Transport infrastructure

The main axis of development in terms of urbanization is the direction Sofia - Blagoevgrad - Kulata, and the secondary axis of development is along the direction Simitli - Razlog - Gotse Delchev - Ilinden. The road network in Hadjidimovo municipality is second-class and third-class. There is no railway infrastructure built on the territory of the municipality.

On the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo, Republican Road III-1907, a third-class road, is located entirely, part of the Republic Road Network of Bulgaria. Its length is 7.9 km.

Water infrastructure

The relative share of the population with water supply is 100%, which is higher than the average value for the country /99.1%/. The municipality of Hadjidimovo is supplied by the "Teshovo" water supply system by means of an Eternite water pipe, which needs to be replaced. The water supply network is also outdated. Although 100% of our places are supplied with water, the quantities of water are insufficient and some of the villages are on regular water supply. The villages of Teplen, Beslen, Ablanitsa are supplied with water by a pump from a well on the Mesta River and the Bistrice River. Additio

4. Description of the natural features and sights of the Hadjidimovo municipality as a resource for tourism.¹

2. General data and assessment of the natural features of the territory

In the process of research and evaluation, a total of 22 sites/resources from the categories "Natural Endowments" and "Natural Landmarks" were identified and evaluated as sites with possible tourist potential:

Natural features of the territory

- Relief (general) of the territory as a tourist resource
- Geological construction (general) on the territory
- Climate (general) of the territory
- Water resources of the territory
- Soils on the territory
- Flora of the territory (total)
- Fauna of the territory (general)

Natural sites and sights on the territory of the geopark and Hadjidimovo Municipality

- Relief and geological formations in South Pirin located on the territory of the municipality
- Relief and geological formations, flora and fauna in the Paril saddle and the parts of the Slavyanka and Sturgech mountains located on the territory of Bulgaria and the Ali Botush settlement.
- Mesta River in its middle course on the territory of the Municipality Vegetation cover in the alluvial soils in the river of Mesta

¹ A detailed description is given in Appendix 2 attached to the Report. See the corresponding attached Abstract

- Mutnitsa river in the area of its confluence with the Mesta River
- Neogene fracture waters in Teshovo, plutons and spring waters in the area of Teshovo
- The artificial water bodies (dams) in Ablanitsa, Sadovo village, Blatska
- Bird habitats (total). Protected bird species
- Habitats of alpine species - three-toed woodpecker and white-throated thrush in the high parts of Eastern and Southern Pirin
- Habitats of the Balkan kestrel, jay, woodpecker, thrush in the foothills of the Western Rhodopes near the Mesta basin
- The forest massifs in the areas of Petrelik, Sadovo, Ablanitsa, Teshovo, Ilinden
- Protected types of vegetation
- Protected bird species

Of these, 15 belong to the territory of the Geopark (indicated in bold). The remaining 7 are related to the part of the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo located outside the borders of the Geopark.

Summarized data of the expert assessment of the main resources with potential to be determined as interesting for the purposes of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidemovo according to the main criteria and sub-criteria and for the general assessment of the tourist potential of the territory are indicated.

Strengths and opportunities of the Geopark work for keeping and develop each one of the described natural recourses are given.

5. Description of tourist resources - Historical facts and events and the cultural-historical heritage of the lands in the region of Hadjidimovo municipality²

By virtue of their geographical position, these lands find themselves at the crossroads between eras and civilizations - during antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and until today. The ancient Thracian, ancient Greek and ancient Roman civilizations developed on these lands. The ancient Macedonian state was formed here. They witnessed the separation and rise of the Eastern Roman Empire and Byzantium. Some of the main routes of the great migration of peoples crossed these lands, bringing the Cumans, Avars, Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians to the Balkans. In antiquity, an important road to the central artery of the Balkan Peninsula, the Via Egnatia, passed there along the Mesta. In 1911, a stone tomb with bronze, silver and clay vessels, silver and gold ornaments was discovered in the Kotubare area. These lands are at the center of the historical rivalry of the powerful Bulgarian state with Byzantium. They were one of the main areas of the Ottoman Empire. Due to the cultural development, in

² In addition to the main report, a detailed description is given in Appendix 3 to it. See the corresponding attached Abstract

the late Byzantine period, the first traces of the European renaissance can be found here, which laid the foundations for the appearance of modern European civilization.

In a spiritual and religious sense, pagan beliefs, ancient Greek polytheism and its related mythology, the monotheism of the proto-Bulgarians, early Christianity, whose cradle was Constantinople, and various forms of Christian heresy were fought on these lands. Orthodoxy was born here. Christianity and Islam meet here. The crusades passed through here and left their mark. Many of the main forms of the Christian ecclesiastical organization were born in these places, within which Christian theology and ecclesiastical literature and fine art developed.

Without exaggeration, it can be said that here is one of the centers of modern civilization, associated with opposition and violent struggles, with wars and invasions, with the rise and fall of nations and empires.

From these positions, to describe the history and culture of the region is an extremely complex task, requiring multi-planning and multi-layeredness.

Within the scope of the project's objectives, an approach aimed at describing the main historical events and cultural elements related to several main historical eras, which shaped the history, culture, life and traditions of the peoples of the region and reflected most strongly and significantly on the present.

These are: the Neolithic era, the ancient Thracian civilization, the era of the ancient Greek civilization, the ancient Roman era and the Byzantine period, the building of the Bulgarian state, Slavic-Bulgarian history, the Ottoman period, the restoration of Christian statehood and the struggles related to it.

The approach includes description of main historical events and personalities, description of characteristic traditions and elements of life during the relevant periods; description of beliefs, myths, legends and legends; description of more significant discovered artefacts and cultural-historical monuments.

The research approach is aimed at uncovering and exposing those elements that provide knowledge about historical events of both global and local importance so as to create interest and meet the interests of modern people.

Main attention is given to revealing the connection of history and culture with the natural features of the region - climate, topography, waters. It is the richness of these features and the living conditions they provided that are the basis of the interests and dynamic historical events on these lands. The natural wealth, fertile lands, abundant water resources, vast pastures, the moderate climate with a strong Mediterranean influence create wonderful conditions for

agriculture and animal husbandry, the rich natural minerals enable the development of metallurgy, metalworking, ceramics. Forests create conditions for hunting, logging, woodworking and development of construction technologies. Natural gifts and opportunities for plant and animal husbandry are the basis for the development of an exceptional culinary culture and diversity.

The research approach is aimed at uncovering and exposing those elements that provide knowledge about historical events, both of global and local importance, in view of the goal set in the present assignment - namely to stimulate the development of tourism in Geopark Hadjidimovo, to attract the attention of both the local public and future visitors.

the claim to present a comprehensive and coherent picture of the history It should be noted that the described historical events, facts, persons and evidence do not have the region. Only those of them are presented, which are considered more important and significant from the point of view of the goals of the research - to reveal the connection of the Geopark with the history of the territory on which it is located, as well as to create direction for future studies and presentation of historical processes here within the functionality of the Geopark itself.

The exhibition presents in a popular form individual historical fragments as they are described in memoirs, public databases, history textbooks. Descriptions from separate scientific articles and monographs were also used in the present work. In this sense, it has more the character of a collection of materials. In this form, the exhibit can be used to present the history of the territory to visitors of the Geopark, as well as a basis for more in-depth and meteorologically sustained studies and analysis.

Historical periods, economy and political processes and events, artefacts and personalities are described as follows:

1. Prehistory. Neolithic. Thracian-Hellenistic era (after IV century BC)
2. Period of the Macedonian state
3. Socio-economic changes in Macedonia at the end of the 5th century BC
4. Intensification of tribal conflicts in Macedonia and the intervention of the Greek states in the first half of the 4th century BC.
5. Independent Olynthus. Reign of Amyntas II and his son Alexander
6. Perdiccas III - consolidation of Macedonia among the Greek states
7. Philip II of Macedonia and the beginning of the domination of the Macedonian kingdom in the ancient world

8. The siege of Byzantium by Philip II of Macedon
9. The conquests of Alexander the Great
10. The territory during Byzantine rule 1-7 centuries AD
11. The territory of today's Neurokop region during the first Bulgarian state 681 - 1018
12. Samuel's Ohrid Bulgarian kingdom (997-1014)
13. The territory of today's Neurokop region during the struggle against Byzantine rule (1018-1185)
14. The territory of today's Nevrokop region during the Second Bulgarian State (1185-1353)
15. The territory of the Neurokop region during the Ottoman rule (1393 – 1878)
16. Bulgarian national liberation movement in Macedonia and Thrace (1893-1912)
17. The territory of the region during the wars at the beginning of the twentieth century

5. Life, traditions, manners and customs of the population in the Hadjidimovo Geopark area

5.1. Traditions and holidays

Cultural tradition is a building block of the feeling of belonging to a given nation and ethnic group. It is related to the recognition of certain elements of culture as one's own, inherent and specific to the respective community.

Traditions are perceived by people as something unchanging, which is passed down from generation to generation for many years. In terms of content, they refer to all the proven sustainable elements of the culture of a given population and a certain geographical territory - in the sphere of everyday life, production and crafts, clothing, food and nutrition, rites, customs, celebrations, musical and singing culture, dances, rituals, humor, behavioral characteristics - habits, etc. They can also include the myths, legends, parables, traditions that are widespread in the region and among the population, on the one hand as an element of culture, on the other - as forms and means to maintain the traditions themselves.

When researching, describing and evaluating traditions, it should be borne in mind that they are subject to time. Customs, rites or holidays undergo changes over time, because they are related to the ideas of the world, life and livelihood of people, which in turn are constantly changing. In historical development, some elements of culture disappear or lose importance, others acquire a new meaning for the community, others arise to become "tradition" in turn.

The changes in culture in the 20th century were particularly dynamic, when a comprehensive modernization of Bulgarian society took place. The Bulgarian village, which is the natural environment for the functioning of traditional holidays, is experiencing a demographic collapse due to industrialization and urbanization.

Transformations are characteristic both of the overall cultural system and of specific rites and holidays. One was, for example, the masks of the kukers in the past and quite different in modern kukers; one thing was the wedding dress of the bride a century ago, quite different these days. The March 1st labels (called “martenitsi”) and Christmas curds are now bought instead of made at home. Changes also occur in the interpretation of certain customs. Customs performed in the past as rain magic can today be seen as a performance by a folk group on the stage of a festival. Certain components of the traditional ritual, for example the funeral, are distinguished by greater stability and conservatism. Others, such as some calendar customs, disappear due to the change in economic life.

The attitude towards the ritual and holiday system is also different. If in the past it was a part of every person's being, in our time it is considered as a cultural heritage that must be preserved and passed on. State and municipal institutions, media, community centers, circles, independent groups are involved in this. This also leads to the new place of objects from the traditional lifestyle of Bulgarians as exhibits in museums, and their modern copies - as souvenirs or decoration of living rooms. Elements of Bulgarian traditional culture are included in the modern ritual: official and foreign guests are welcomed by girls in national costumes with bread and salt; the New Year is celebrated with Bulgarian people and songs. There is also a process of restoration of some traditional customs based on the idea of self-made people. In connection with the development of cultural tourism, many settlements are initiating completely new holidays, in which a connection with tradition is sought.

Thus, a number of elements of traditional culture (holidays, costumes, songs, dances, food) are perceived as symbols of Bulgarianness and are included in modern culture as signs of national identity. The region is known for its preserved unique culture, including folklore, lifestyle, traditions, local food and other cultural elements.

The region of Hadjidimovo is characterized by the coexistence of Christian and Muslim populations, where life, culture and traditions are combined.

The culture and traditions of the Christian and Muslim populations in the area resemble and overlap, indicating their common ethnic roots. Here, history has created a unique

symbiosis of religious communities with strongly related cultures, similar rites and customs, identical elements of life, practically the same economic culture, both in form and in content.

Although determining the identity and self-identification of the population of this region, the religious difference is not related to a fundamental difference in value-cultural relation, where the common elements are more than the differences. The question of whether different ethnicities have formed or whether it is a matter of religious-religious differentiation of the same ethnic group is controversial.

What the people of the region have in common is that they have Slavic origins. Their ancestors were Christians who converted to the Muslim faith during the five centuries of Ottoman rule in the Balkans.

After the creation of ethnically defined nation-states in the Balkans in the last third of the 19th century, each of these states tried to present the Muslim population in question as "theirs": political division generated tendencies of artificial ethnic division.

Pomaks are ethnic Bulgarians who practice Islam. Although they are of a different faith, they do not want to be separated from the others, they want to be part of the whole - writes the Swiss "Tagblatt" in a report from the Rhodopes. (11.07.2012)

According to Western researchers, the countries of the Balkans are ethnically defined. However, the Slavic Muslims, for example the Pomaks in Bulgaria, have a rather pragmatic approach to the national identities forcibly imposed on them. The Muslims of Slavic origin in the southern and eastern parts of the Balkans, the Gorani and Torbeshi in Macedonia, as well as the Pomaks in southern Bulgaria and northeastern Greece, each have several different national identities that often overlap. For example, the Pomaks define themselves as Turks, Bulgarians, Greeks or Muslims. The one immutable factor for all of them is Islam, which they realize as their main identifying mark. Ethnic and national affiliations remain for these people only in the background to this day.

The knowledge of every people's life is its beginning, its root, its name, its origin, its geographical range and movement, its history and identity, its culture and way of life, its daily life and work, its language, syllables, words, couplets and songs born during the various eras of the existence of this nation, through its tireless work from the beginning of civilization to the present day. Folklore is the mirror of human development and its diversity helps us to understand the folk psychology of different societies, to penetrate into that world of man, which remains hidden and mysterious without everyday knowledge.

5.2. Livelihood

In the cross-border region along the river Mesta lives a population with common roots, with its common characteristic cultural identity, which has its specificity on both sides of the border and thus has become even richer and more diverse over the years.

In the past, the population is mainly engaged in animal husbandry and beekeeping. Agriculture and weaving are in second place. Hunting is also highly developed. Rye, barley, oats are sown in the valleys, and wheat in the lower areas. Main foods are bread and beans. Since they did not have enough food, they bought it from neighboring Drama or Seress regions. Beekeeping is very developed in these places, there are many beehives in every village. Sugar is borrowed from honey. The wax from here is distributed to the Seress region and the Drama region³ and is one of the best incomes for the population. In many places, abi and shayaks are made, which are distributed abroad by traders from Dolen. Bottom/. Another part of the population makes a living from the forest, which constituted a good livelihood for the villages. Animal breeding is the second branch after crop production. Mainly sheep and goats are raised, less cattle - cows and oxen. The sheep and goats are kept in rooms called the cowshed, which is shaped like the letter P and has a hut connected to the cowshed. The hut was covered with straw, and the hut with tiles.'

5.3. Customs related to the livelihood of the population of the region in the past

The following customs and activities characteristic of the territory are described in detail:

- Labor folk custom "Harvest"
- "Override"
- Bell ringing
- Weaving
- Pottery
- Mutaficism
- Abajiism
- Goldsmithing

5.4. Folklore⁴

³ Recently neighboring regions of Greece

⁴ In addition to the main report, a detailed description is given in Appendixes 5 and 6 to it. See the corresponding attached Abstracts

The southwestern folklore-ethnographic region, known as the Pirin region, is one of the five folklore-ethnographic regions in Bulgaria with the richest diversity and specificity. Here, the characteristics of folklore and ethnographic phenomena cannot be assessed unambiguously due to the multidirectional manifestations of their rich inner content.

In a relatively small geographical area, folklore and ethnographic phenomena are concentrated - songs, instrumental melodies, dances and games, folk prose, rites and customs, costumes, fabrics, etc., which outline the exceptional creative genius of the population of this region.

The folklore area belongs to the typically two-voiced ones. The instrumental tradition is manifested in the presence of all types of folk musical instruments, with the greatest spread here being the instrumental formation - zurni and tampani, which are functionally connected to the choreographic tradition.

Musical instruments are mainly played by men - the tambourine and the shepherd's whistle were widely used in the past. The drum is found everywhere and is often used as an accompaniment. The tambourine is more suitable for home music and for song accompaniment; it is also used at weddings only as an exception. Bagpipes are traditionally scarce in this area; in the past it was mainly used by the Christian population, especially in combination with a large tambourine and a bagpipe.

In the Gotsedelchev area, the so-called pair of kavals with a soft and quiet sound were made, used as an accompaniment for singers, especially for unison songs, characteristic of this region. Zurnajis are not a local phenomenon, they are hired on special occasions from neighboring villages, but zurni are very common in the musical scene of this region.

The ritual system in the region is extremely rich and its roots can be traced back to antiquity - the holidays in the Orthodox Christian calendar, which is a guide in the complex relationship between paganism and Christianity. An indicator of this is the rites and related winter and spring carnival games - babugeri /Mosomishte/, Sirni zagovezni /Gotse Delchev Hadjidimovo and the villages/, reflecting beliefs about health, well-being and fertility of the people.

From the pagan period, the traditional beliefs related to water and the corresponding rites of fertility, purification and health remained - reflected in later beliefs, song texts and rites performed on Midsummer, Jeremiah, St. George's Day and New Year's Day. The custom of rain - Butterfly, called "Kebyo" in Slashten, aims at magically inducing rain in times of drought. The ivy-leaf Butterfly's head lick takes place in her home or by the river. The butterfly could also be an orphan - a boy, not just a girl! (As in the village of Dobarsko -

"caught" boy or scout). Dressed in a shirt and barefoot, the child stomps and jumps in one place, surrounded by the other girls, waves his hands and runs around the village, followed by accompanying children - participants in the custom and sings ritual songs about the rain, most often chanting "Give, God rain"//"may Allah have mercy on this orphan" and the others sprinkle the Butterfly with water. It is primarily a pagan rite in origin, form and content. With the death of the customs and the practical function of this custom, it remains as part of the cultural heritage of the region, finding a place in the artistic self-activity.

Among the ritual songs, the wedding songs related to the matchmaking, betrothal, taking the bride to water and turning are the most fully and diversely preserved. Songs are also sung on the day of the wedding, when shaving the groom, braiding the bride, getting dressed, saying goodbye, on the way, when welcoming the groom to his home.

The fact that Pirin folk music is relatively well preserved is striking. The vitality of the folklore tradition, thanks to a number of socio-economic, historical and ethnic factors, has managed to preserve to the maximum extent the most valuable elements of the musical culture of the Pirin region.

In contrast to the two-voice performing practice, in which the main participants are women, in the Pirin region men are the bearers of the instrumental folk tradition. The tambourine and the medium-high bagpipe, instruments adapted for two-voice performance, have become widely distributed among the local residents.

The tambourine is used in almost all the settlements of the district, but it is especially popular among the population along the Mesta River. When playing the tambourine, one practices repeated repetition of the main melody based on the vocal pattern, without using the possibilities of the improvisational manner.

Ritual games and horá are associated both with rituals such as the lazaration and wedding games, as well as with seasonal calendar holidays. This makes ritual dances relatively stable and preserves their practice partially to this day, despite the serious cultural-historical and domestic changes in people's lives. St. George's Day, Lazarov's Day, St. Peter's Day, feasts, local holidays, rain or harvest customs - all occasions for games and merriment.

The main types of ritual dances include bachelorette and bachelorette dances and games, as well as wedding dances - male and female. Individual group ritual dance is an ancient type of ritual activity. It is preserved mainly in men's ritual wedding dances, in the games of old men, babugeri, etc. In women's rites, solo playing is atypical, it is found mostly in the lazar games and the butterfly dance, as well as in some ritual moments of the wedding.

Men's ritual dances are represented by walking *survakari* and winter masquerade games, accompanied by the playing of old men or *babugeri* (at weddings, *babugeri* are a type of *kukeri*). Among the men's wedding ritual games, the Hare dance, the "Hare", received a specific development. It is a stylized dance in the style of men's heavy choirs, with characteristic pantomime movements. It is a single player game with symbolic rabbit moves. In the men's dance, the "Rabbit" wedding dance combines the freedom of improvisations - squatting, lying down, jumping, etc., with tamer, controlled, expressive dance forms.

5.6. Costumes⁵

Costume is one of the most important components of the culture of an ethnographic region. Here, the classic rule is observed that clothing, with its diversity, applies primarily to the woman.

Traditional women's clothing for the area was represented by three types: the archaic double-apron costume; the *saiya* - interior worn by Christian women; *shalwari*, *ashmak* and *ferenje* - for Muslim women. Christians have preserved the typical Saic clothing, with all its characteristic elements.

In the region, the men's costume belongs to the black dress type, traditionally in *Gotsedelchevsko* it is also black in color. It consists of black, brown and beige coats, a tunic-like shirt, girded with a wide belt, and a waistcoat (brown, blue, red) on top. On the feet - socks, boots or shoes.

Another item of clothing preserved to this day is the decorated woolen triangular scarf, which is placed around the waist and accentuates the woman's pelvis. It is tied with a knot (string) woven in different colors. A belt, also knitted or woven, richly decorated with blues, small silver coins, and finally ends with *paftis* is worn over it.

The headscarf is also colorful. The veiling is simple - the *ashmak* is a square piece of fabric measuring about 1-1.5 m, folded into a triangle and tied under the chin

Culinary traditions

By virtue of its historical development, Bulgarian cuisine is extremely diverse and very tasty. Bulgarian food traditions have been formed over the centuries under the influence of geographical location, socio-economic development, religions, agriculture, seasonality, etc. It

⁵ In addition to the main report, a detailed description is given in Appendixes 5 and 6 to it. See the corresponding attached Abstracts

is natural that the tribes and nations that inhabited the territory of today's Bulgaria leave an imprint on food habits of the Bulgarians. The main ingredients of the ancient cuisine in our lands were traditional for the region. For vegetables, these are beets, turnips, cabbage, carrots, onions, garlic; for meat - sheep, goat, pork, beef, game; for cereals - millet, oats, barley, spelt, rye; for legumes - green beans, lentils, peas, fenugreek.

Later, in the 16th - 17th centuries, plants and animals from America entered Bulgarian cuisine as products - beans, pepper, tomatoes, potatoes, corn, sunflower, turkey meat, etc. From the East comes rice, eggplant, specific spices and ingredients, such as black pepper, ginger, oregano, cinnamon, etc.

Due to its proximity to the Orient, oriental food preparation technologies are also present in Bulgaria, and some names of dishes, even with modified recipes, bear the same names - moussaka, casserole, imambayaldu, köpoolu, pilaf, baklava, kadaif and many more. others.

Typical dishes from this region are trahana, curcumach, zelnik, kachamak, halva, etc. The local population preserves traditions and has a rich culinary culture and skills. Historical traditions have been preserved and maintained for centuries.

nal water supply to the towns of Hadjidimovo, Koprivlen, N. Lyaski and Sadovo is with pumping stations from bore wells in the lands of the town of Hadjidimovo and the village of Koprivlen. All internal plumbing networks are for reconstruction, the pipes are ethernet. In the municipality of Hadjidimovo, there is a partially constructed sewage network, almost in all villages, but in many places septic tanks or irrigation wells are used, which leads to groundwater pollution. There are external collectors only in larger settlements, and most often the sewage networks discharge into dry ravines or water courses.

In 2013-2014, projects were implemented to replace the water supply network in the town of Hadjidimovo, the village of Ablanitsa, the village of Beslen, the village of Novo Leski, the village of Sadovo and the village of Koprivlen, and a network of 90,370 m of new PE pipes was replaced .l., which represents 68.57% of the constructed network.

SWOT analysis of Hadjidimovo municipality

Strengths

- 1. Strategic geographical location for tourism development**
- 2. Proximity to Bulgaria's border with Greece**
- 3. Free inexpensive labor**
- 4. Access to transport networks**
- 5. Business-friendly local government**
- 6. Ecologically clean area**
- 7. Low crime rate**
- 8. Low rents and low property prices**
- 9. Developed energy and telecommunications network**
- 10. Preserved network of childcare facilities and schools**
- 11. A large number of realized projects to improve the physical qualities of educational, social and technical infrastructures**

Weaknesses

- 1. Acute shortage of financial resources to maintain the existing and to build new technical infrastructure;**

- 2. Insufficiently up-to-date structure of regulatory plans and cadastres, which makes it difficult to prepare investment projects,**
- 3. Underdeveloped business services;**
- 4. Depreciated, obsolete and destroyed agricultural base.**
- 5. Obsolete technologies, limited local markets, low productivity, low competitiveness.**
- 6. Unfavorable demographic process at increased intensity.**
- 7. High level of unemployment and a high share of low-educated and low-skilled unemployed.**
- 8. Increase in the number of disadvantaged persons;**
- 9. Limited entrepreneurial activity**

Opportunities

- 1. Quick and convenient access to large settlements**
- 2. Convenient connections with neighboring countries - FYR Macedonia and Greece**
- 3. Possibilities for cheap and quality production**
- 4. Lobbying for legislative changes to stimulate investment processes in regional production and active actions to attract new investments in agricultural production**
- 5. Comparison of investments in bio-agriculture and bio-productions.**
- 6. Implementation of projects for the partial restoration of hydromelioration facilities**
- 7. Support and assistance for the sale of agricultural products on commodity exchanges**
- 8. Construction of small and medium-sized enterprises for the processing of agricultural products**
- 9. Use of water resources for the implementation of intensive and eco-agriculture and rural tourism.**
- 10. Developed infrastructure project management capacity.**

Threats

- 1. A complex process accompanied by heavy bureaucratic procedures in securing financial means;**
- 2. Lack of attractive conditions for attracting investors**
- 3. Low yields**
- 4. Weak popularity of the region**
- 5. The deepening negative population growth.**
- 6. Low competitiveness of local producers**

SWOT analysis of tourism in Hadjidimovo municipality

Strengths

- **Favorable geographical position and excellent transport accessibility - proximity to the capital Sofia with a highway connection and the European corridor E79 passing through the municipality.**
- **Diverse relief – plain-basin and mountainous, favorable for a wide range of leisure and tourism activities**
- **High territorial concentration of tourist attractions in the municipality**
- **Presence of forest massifs with rich biodiversity with conditions for ecological tourism, hunting and fishing tourism**
- **Various cultural and historical sites**
- **Willingness to develop the sector on the part of the municipal leadership**
- **A well-developed sports facility with opportunities to attract visitors during competitions and for its use outside of sporting events**
- **A well-developed commercial network**
- **Availability of restaurants with good service**
- **Good urban technical infrastructure - street-pavement network, lighting, landscaping, etc.**

Opportunities

- **Potential for the development of specialized types of tourism related to natural resources**
- **Stimulating public-private partnerships with local authorities, businesses and non-governmental organizations to develop new tourism products**

- **Proximity to the Ilinen - Eizohi border crossing and the possibility of developing a common tourist product with nearby municipalities from Greece /Drama municipality/**
- **Financing of tourism development projects through EU structural funds.**
- **Permanent interest in alternative types of tourism for which the municipality has resource potential**
- **Prerequisites for creating innovative tourist attractions and unique positioning of Hadjidimovo municipality as a destination for sustainable tourist development.**

Weaknesses

- **Insufficient promotion and advertising of tourist sites on the territory of the municipality**
- **Insufficient socialization of cultural and historical heritage sites.**
- **Poorly developed tourist infrastructure for rural and cultural tourism**
- **Lack of sufficiently prepared staff for quality service in the tourism sector**
- **Lack of interest in the local community in offering sites for rural tourism**
- **Insufficient opportunities for external financing**
- **Insufficient resource for assimilation of the natural and cultural-historical data in the municipality**

Threats

- **Air pollution during the winter period**
- **Lack of water resources in some settlements and danger of frequent accidents.**
- **Insufficient investor interest in tourism**
- **Lack of sufficient initiative and entrepreneurial interest on the part of the local population**

4. Potential Geotops (geopoints) in The Hadjidimovo Geopark

Several objects are outlined as potential geopoints.

Undisputed "center" of the Geopark and a kind of starting point for the planned tourist routes is the monastery "St. George the Victorious", which also contains the miraculous icon of St. George, dated from the period 1750 - 1800.

The fortress "St. Dimitar". The Thracian, late antique and medieval fortress "St. Dimitar" is located on the hill of the same name, 3 km southeast of the town of Hadjidimovo

Hadjidimovo Zoo is a possible geopoint to be included within the Geopark. It is located on a slight rise south of the city, at the foot of the monastery "St. Georges the Victorious". In the fenced, but without separate cages, various types of animals coexist - roe deer, deer, goats, peacocks, swans, rabbits, ponies, kangaroos.

The Teshovo tower in the village of Teshovo

The Ancient settlement in the town of "Kozluka" and the town of "Bryasta" near the village of Koprivlen

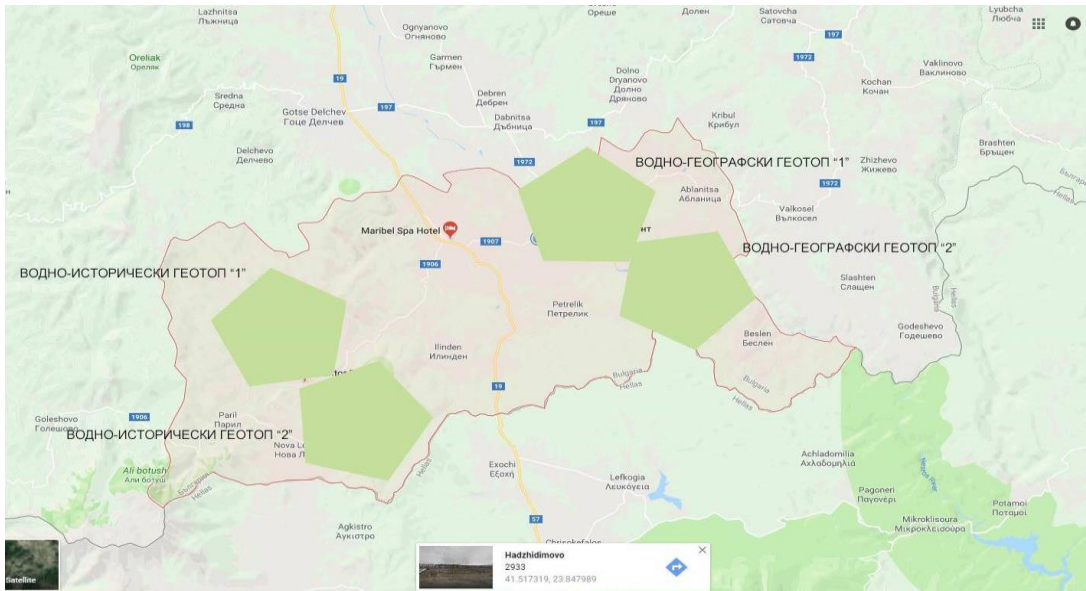
It is an archaeological NCC of national importance. The settlement is located in a strategic location - main road II - 19 - Gotse Delchev - border/checkpoint Ilinden - Exokhi - Greece. It is located about 15 km from the border crossing and 6 km from the municipal center of Hadjidimovo. In the museum in the town of Gotse Delchev, some of the discovered objects are exhibited - vessels, coins, ornaments and objects of Thracian material culture.

The locality of the site - preserved remains of a fairly large fortress, as well as of a cult building, known to the local population as the "St. George" monastery. During the Middle Ages, the region passed sometimes into Bulgarian, sometimes into Byzantine hands. This is judged by a church building west of the village and found coins of Bulgarian and Byzantine origin, statuettes, remains of pottery and others.

Water-geographic Geotop "Water treasures - Water - a source of life for wildlife", which will be presented with a route: river bed of the Mesta river north of the town of Hadjidimovo (at the bridge from the village of Khvostyan) - monastery "St. Georgi" - vineyards south of the city - a meander of the Mesta River with a refuge for ornithological observations and photo-hunting of migratory birds. For this region of the country, the Mesta River is not only a natural-geographic object, but it also has an essential structure-determining role for the socio-economic development of the region, it has reflected its history, way of life and culture.

Water Historical Geotop "Water Treasures - Water as a part of everyday life, livelihood and entertainment in the modern life of people", which will be represented by a route with a route town of Hadjidimovo (at the bridge from the village of Khvostyan) - city

water park - monastery "St. . Georgi" - hills south of the village of Sadovo - international road to the Republic of Greece - "Sadovo" micro-dam (recreation area and source of water for agricultural crops).



6. Hadzjidimovo Geopark - a center for the development of tourism in the region

The existing numerous and diverse opportunities for the development of tourism within the municipality of Hadzjidimovo are described - the wonderful nature and climate, the rich cultural and historical heritage, the good transport infrastructure, the proximity to large cities such as Sofia, Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv, Sandanski, to the Bulgarian-Greek border and a number of neighboring cities, the positive attitude of the local population and the municipal authorities.

The main forms of tourism with potential for development are outlined and described -

Natural science tourism, geological tourism, water tourism, cultural-historical tourism, pilgrimage (religious) tourism, ethnographic tourism, folklore tourism, photo hunting tourism - birds, photo hunting tourism - vegetation, speleological tourism, hunting tourism, fishing tourism, gastronomic (culinary) tourism , wine tourism, rural tourism, ecological tourism, recreational and SPA tourism, mountain tourism, student tourism

Conditions, opportunities and recommendations for the development of tourism in Hadzjidimovo Municipality

Strengths

- Favorable geographical location of the tourist destination;
- Combined valley and mountain landscape, attractive for tourism;
- Presence of forest massifs with rich flora and fauna;
- Diverse cultural and historical heritage;
- Favorable landforms, incl. climbing rocks and caves
 - Willingness to develop the sector on the part of the municipal leadership.

Weaknesses

- Low concentration of tourist attractions in the municipality;
- Insufficient socialization of historical heritage sites;
- Lack of tourist infrastructure for the development of ecological, rural and cultural tourism;
- Conservatism and inertia of the local tourist business to reveal new opportunities for tourism development, new forms of tourism and better tourist services
- Lack of organizational conditions for coordination and interaction between the touristic operators in the territory
- Insufficient marketing and advertising to promote the territory as a tourist destination.
- Lack of sufficient additional tourist services and complex tourist offer;
- Lack of tourist statistics.

Opportunities

- Possibilities for organizing more national and international competitions, events and events;
- Potential for the development of pedestrian, cultural, historical, adventure, rural, festival, equestrian, eco and bicycle tourism;
- Stimulation of public-private partnerships with local authorities, businesses and non-governmental organizations for the development of new tourism products;
- Proximity to popular tourist destinations;
- Opportunities for twinning with cities from Bulgaria and abroad and visiting tourists on an exchange basis;
- Development of a common regional tourist product.

Threats

- **Air pollution during the cold half-year;**
- **Lack of sufficiently trained personnel for better service to the tourist sector;**
- **Insufficient investor interest in the field of tourism;**
- **Developed tourism and popularity of neighboring municipalities;**
- **Insufficient resources for the utilization of the natural and cultural-historical data in the municipality;**
- **Lack of dialogue and cooperation between countries interested in the development of tourism;**
- **Lack of opportunities for external financing;**
- **Low competitiveness.**

Important conditions and guidelines are also:

- the combination of the standard tourist service with a specific product that meets the interests of the tourist - sports, traditions, nature, food, music, culture;
- targeting people related to nature and the ecological way of life, with requirements for the expedient use of natural resources and use of sustainable tourism;
- active use of the global network and electronic services, new technologies (mobile);
- the combination of different forms of tourism.

Human resources

One of the key factors for the successful development of tourism in modern conditions is the building of human capacity and the development of competence in the field of tourism. It is necessary to create positions and train people who will be primarily involved in the development of the tourism potential of the municipality, its promotion and presence in the online and offline space. The availability of qualified human resources is associated with the availability of professional, scientific and analytical abilities, which are at a high enough level to be able to meet the needs of the tourist market. The percentage of people who would like to engage in tourism in the Municipality of Hadjidimovo is not large. If efforts are to be made to develop tourism, people who already have some stated interest in creating and developing tourism products should be encouraged. It is logical that at a later stage they will attract others who wish to develop something similar (the principle of "motivation by example"). What they will need today is their unification for the common cause - tourism in Hadjidimovo - specialized training and access to financial resources. Existing NGOs working for tourism in the municipality should create an informal partner network and coordinate their actions to achieve the generally accepted strategic goals for municipal development.

Study of the tourist potential, conditions and opportunities for the development of naturism in the Municipality of Hadjidimovo

Potential, conditions and opportunities for the development of tourism in the Municipality of Hadjidimovo supported by training on issues related to alternative tourism, such as: sustainable economic development, regulatory framework of tourism, product packaging, standards in customer service, quality systems, tourist information and advertising, heritage interpretation, etc., including familiarization with good practices from other regions of Bulgaria. The process of increasing the competences of human resources includes five main stages: design, planning, collection, analysis of the necessary information, decision-making by managers. Competency-based training needs analysis provides information about employees' knowledge, skills, and development potential. It is based on an assessment of the discrepancy between:

- Target level – the requirements for the development of competencies.
- Current level – the current level of knowledge and skills of the employees.

In order to support the offer of sustainable tourism, it is also necessary to train municipal officials in relation to the tourist regulatory framework, specialized services for citizens, preparation of projects for obtaining external financing for the purposes of tourism, appointment of a specialist in the Tourist Information Center, who together with Tourism experts deal with issues of tourism development. The positive effect of the increase of competences through the implementation of the management of tourism development projects provides a general framework for the desired in the municipality and all interested parties, which reflect the values, priorities and specificity of tourism and find application in all human resource management systems. In this way, not only greater clarity and understanding of tourism development, the necessary standards of behavior are provided, but also criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of implementation are provided.

Development of tourist infrastructure

1. Improving the accessibility and attractiveness of the routes identified in the situational analysis for hiking and horse tourism;
2. Creation/renewal of marked hiking trails in the periphery of the municipality through the surrounding peaks on which there were fortifications;
3. Creation of a circular cycle route along existing peripheral inter-village roads with opportunities to deviate to the surrounding steeper slopes for more extreme experiences;
4. Marking of routes for equestrian tourism in the municipality;

5. Initiation of interest in creating sites for "sport fishing" combined with a base for short-term recreation in the municipality, suitable for weekend trips;
5. Creation of a rope park, a climbing wall combined with a rock climbing area in the area of the village of Bozhenitsa, where there are traditions of extreme and adventure tourism.
6. Marking of a pedestrian route to Gotsev peak in Slavyanka.
7. Approval of a wine and culinary festival.
8. Construction of a modern campsite for campers, caravans, tents in the areas of artificial reservoirs with facilities for fishing and water sports.
9. Improvement of places for short-term recreation (gazebo, tables with benches, barbecues) near the tourist sites and on the routes to them
10. Biodiversity survey by specialist ornithologists, herpetologists and botanists in order to identify opportunities to offer ecotourism routes that include observation.
11. Creation of thematic attractions related to the history of the territory
12. Construction of a bird watching shelter and sites along the Mesta river.

As a result of the activities in this survey, the expert team draws the following main conclusions:

- It is necessary to consistently follow a strategy to promote the destination.
- . A Tourist Information Center must function in the municipality to inform visitors and build a special attitude among the local population towards the sights in the municipality, as an opportunity to attract guests to the city and the region.
- Information and advertising materials are needed, which comprehensively present the tourist resources of the Hadjidimovo Municipality as a whole with a general vision, and not "piecemeal". Print advertising - map of tourist sites in the area, brochures, guidebook to provide information about tourist sites - their accessibility, distance from the city, as well as available services around them - for food and accommodation.
- An Internet page with well-organized and comprehensively presented information about tourist sites - their accessibility, distance from the city, as well as available services around them - for food and accommodation.
- Participation in tourist fairs, presenting to different audiences
- Organization of an expedition tour for tour operators and journalists, both from Bulgaria and abroad
- Placement of directional and informational signs pointing to tourist sites and attractions
- Positioning several events of national importance to attract interest to visit the area, evenly distributed throughout the year

- Constant presence on social networks - mainly Facebook and Instagram
- Outdoor advertising - at the entrances and exits of the city and on the international roads that pass through the municipality

The sustainable development and preservation of the natural, geological-geographical, cultural-historical and intangible assets of the specific region is a priority not only for the local community, but also for society and society as a whole.

It will contribute to recognition of the cross-border region as an attractive tourist destination with a variety of tourism opportunities.

Applications

Appendix 1 - Methodology for assessing the tourist potential (Abstract)

Appendix 2 - Description, characteristics and evaluation of natural features and sights as a resource for tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo

Appendix 3 - Historical facts, events and historical heritage with potential for the development of tourism in Hadjidimovo Geopark and Hadjidimovo Municipality(Abstract)

Appendix 4 - Historical figures related to the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality(Abstract)

Appendix 5 - Description and characterization of the lifestyle, traditions, manners and customs of the population in the region of Hadjidimovo Geopark as a potential tourist resource(Abstract)

Appendix 6 - Description of myths, legends and legends related to the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a potential tourist resource(Abstract)

Appendix 7 - Description, characterization and evaluation of the main elements of the tourist infrastructure in the municipality of Hadjidimovo(Abstract)

Appendix 8 - Recommendations and proposals to the municipality of Hadjimovo for utilizing the tourist potential of the territory for the development of naturism (Abstract)

Remark :

The abstract was prepared by the municipality of Hadjidimovo (The Project Management Team) on the basis of the report provided by the subcontractor "ESA Obrazovaten Center "Vitosha" EOOD

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



Appendix 2

**PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS
GEOPARK IN THE NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771**

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

**The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
and by national funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” .**

PB MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDIMOVO, BULGARIA

DELIVERABLE D 3.3.3

**NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY
AND A TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"**

**The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of this report are sole
responsibility of the Municipality of Hadzhidimovo and can in no way be taken to
reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing
Authority and the Joint Secretariat.**

Interreg
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Appendix 2

(Abstract)

DESCRIPTION, CHARACTERISTICS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE NATURAL PROPERTIES AND SIGHTS OF THE TERRITORY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HAJIDIMOVO AS TOURIST RESOURCES

The Full Appendix 2 has a total volume of 190 standard printed pages.

1. Importance of natural features and sights for tourism

Natural tourist resources are the goal and motive of the majority of tourist trips. Their knowledge and use is necessary to achieve sustainable development of tourist destinations.

Natural resources are an integral part of the resource potential of a place. There is a very close relationship between nature and human society, expressed in the exploitation of natural resources through human labor. In the tourism system, natural tourism resources are part of the territorial component. The essence of the territorial component is expressed as an environment for the development of tourism, including the various tourist resources. In general, tourist resources are divided according to their origin into natural and anthropogenic. Natural tourism resources are that part of natural resources that is used for the needs of recreation and tourism. Almost all types of natural resources are directly or indirectly related to tourism. The weakest and necessarily indirect meaning is minerals and soils.

According to Apostolov and Markov, "natural tourist resources are objects and phenomena from the natural environment that are attractive to tourists". In the specified definitions the emphasis is placed on two main features:

1. natural origin of the objects
2. tourist attractiveness and absorption Not all natural objects are tourist resources and not all tourist resources are of natural origin. Therefore, natural tourism resources are that part of the natural environment that is of interest to tourists and has been utilized for the needs of tourism

In contrast to anthropogenic tourism resources, in the case of natural ones, the interest of tourists is attracted by their recreational, restorative and healing effects. Their cognitive and entertainment effect is less pronounced. Rest and treatment require a longer time and predispose tourists to a longer stay. Thus, better economic efficiency of the industry is achieved. It has been established that 80% of all visits related to natural tourist resources are directed to this type of natural tourist resources. Such resources are mineral and karst springs, rivers, dams, the specific local climate suitable for climate treatment, forests, etc. Specific rock formations, gorges, caves, local mountain peaks, waterfalls, unique trees, specific plant or animal communities can have an informative, entertaining and/or curious impact. Their perception and familiarization takes place relatively quickly. Therefore, they do not imply a longer stay for tourists. It is

usually from a few hours to a few days, often without an overnight stay, which lowers the revenue and economic efficiency of the tourism industry. Therefore, when drawing up the tourist routes, it is appropriate to combine the different types of tourist resources, in order to increase the stay of the tourists and their satisfaction. Natural tourism resources have another important meaning. They contribute to the development of tourism and revitalize the local economy through financial income based on natural features (rock figures, caves, mountain peaks, forest air, etc.) that often cannot be used for other economic purposes. This is of particular importance for isolated, peripheral and/or mountainous areas where the development of industry or intensive agriculture faces a number of difficulties. Natural tourism resources are the main motive for the majority of tourist trips. According to the representative study Attitudes of Europeans towards tourism, 26% of tourists traveling in the EU go to a variety of natural tourism resources such as mountains, lakes, attractive natural landscapes, etc. Russian and Dutch tourists (42% of them), who are known to make up a significant part of arrivals in our country, are particularly interested in them. Traditionally, the greatest interest continues to be in the classic sun-sea-sand, which are attractive to 40% of those asked. In essence, they are also natural tourism resources. Therefore, 66% or 2/3 of the tourist trips of European tourists are directed to natural sites. According to the same study, the trend in this regard is towards increasing interest in natural sites and sights. Tourism and recreation are extremely dependent on the natural environment. On the other hand, however, they influence her. The development of the tourism industry has been proven to burden the natural environment to one degree or another, depending on the scale of the tourist flows, the types of tourism practiced, the behavior and self-awareness of the tourists themselves, etc. Important information about the workload of the tourist areas, including natural tourist resources, as a major part of them, gives the tourist intensity indicator (number of foreign tourists compared to the number of the local population). For Bulgaria in 2015, this value already reached

3. It has a tendency to increase not only due to the increase in the incoming tourist flow, but also due to the constantly decreasing population. The value of this indicator is close to 1, which is a good value, indicating optimal use of the territory, without overloading it and without remaining unusable. However, a value above 1 indicates an increasing load, including of natural tourism resources. This makes the question of their preservation more and more relevant. The indicated value is average for our country. It can be assumed that it is much higher during the active tourist season and in the territories receiving the most tourists (the Black Sea). This calls into question the possibility of their sustainable tourism development. At the same time, there are tendencies to disperse the flow of tourists from the busy Black Sea coast to the interior. This is facilitated by the construction of additional attractions such as aqua parks, golf courses, attractions, malls, etc., as well as the development of specialized types of tourism. Thus, through anthropogenic intervention, the pressure on the busiest natural tourist resource is reduced.

Geographical location, relief, climate, waters, soils, flora and fauna of a given territory are considered the main natural features of importance for tourism. Although of less importance for mass forms of tourism, but with importance for post-Naval tourism, the geological structure of the territory, the presence of natural fossils,

Geographical location is one of the most important factors of tourists' needs - means of transport, hotels, restaurants, service staff, etc. It speeds up or slows down the development of tourism. The territory of the municipality is located on the border between Europe and Asia, at an international crossroads, which contributes to an increase in tourist traffic.

The development of tourism is also influenced by natural conditions, factors and resources. The mountainous territory is attractive with its diverse forms and fresh air. Known for their beauty and interesting landforms mountains Pirin, Rhodopes, Slavyankya, Stargach.

The climate also affects the development of tourism. The warm summer and mild winter help the development of tourism - seasonal and mountain tourism.

The waters of the territory are also a factor for tourism. Of great importance are the Mesta river, its tributary the Mutnitsa river and the river, the "lake" type reservoirs in Ablanitsa, Sadovo and Blatska, the fresh water springs in the area of the village of Teshovo... An important factor is also the neighboring mineral springs in Ognyanovo village, nearby high mountain lakes in Pirin. They are visited for their beauty and purity and beauty. Mineral springs play an extremely important role in the development of tourism and balneotherapy. Rivers and artificial lakes (dams) are important for water sports and sports tourism.

The flora and fauna are also important for the development of tourism. Forests as an element of the natural environment, combined with the relief and climate, contribute to increasing the attractiveness of the landscape. In the mountains, forest cover varies from 50% to 80% of the territories. The coniferous forests in

Pirin and the Western Rhodopes attract many tourists with their beauty. Hunting tourism develops in the presence of valuable game. The large number of natural phenomena also contribute to the development of tourism - the mountain Slavyanka with its unique biosphere, the area of Mesta with the low alluvial soils creating conditions for specific flora and fauna, the caves in Slavyanka and the Western Rhodopes.

2. General data and assessment of the natural features of the territory

In the process of research and evaluation, a total of 22 sites/resources from the categories "Natural Endowments" and "Natural Landmarks" were identified and evaluated as sites with possible tourist potential:

Natural features of the territory

- Relief (general) of the territory as a tourist resource
- Geological construction (general) on the territory
- Climate (general) of the territory
- Water resources of the territory
- Soils on the territory
- Flora of the territory (total)
- Fauna of the territory (general)

Natural sites and sights on the territory of the geopark and Hadjidimovo Municipality

- Relief and geological formations in South Pirin located on the territory of the municipality
- Relief and geological formations, flora and fauna in the Paril saddle and the parts of the Slavyanka and Sturgech mountains located on the territory of Bulgaria and the Ali Botush settlement.
- Mesta River in its middle course on the territory of the Municipality Vegetation cover in the alluvial soils in the river of Mesta
- Mutnitsa river in the area of its confluence with the Mesta River
- Neogene fracture waters in Teshovo, plutons and spring waters in the area of Teshovo
- The artificial water bodies (dams) in Ablanitsa, Sadovo village, Blatska
- Bird habitats (total). Protected bird species
- Habitats of alpine species - three-toed woodpecker and white-throated thrush in the high parts of Eastern and Southern Pirin
- Habitats of the Balkan kestrel, jay, woodpecker, thrush in the foothills of the Western Rhodopes near the Mesta basin
- The forest massifs in the areas of Petrelik, Sadovo, Ablanitsa, Teshovo, Ilinden
- Protected types of vegetation
- Protected bird species

Of these, 15 belong to the territory of the Geopark (indicated in bold). The remaining 7 are related to the part of the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo located outside the borders of the Geopark.

Summarized data for the expert assessment of the main resources with potential to be determined as interesting for the purposes of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidemovo according to the main criteria and sub-criteria and for the general assessment of the tourist potential of the territory are indicated in Table 1.

Table 1.

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall Assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
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1. Tourist value of the resource	8.704		0.6	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9.06	0.35	0,210	1.901
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.37	0.2	0,120	1.005
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.57	0.45	0,270	2.312
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource				
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	7.43		0.4	
	7.56	0.3	0.12	0.904
SC No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of visitors, familiarization with information, etc.)	7.88	0.2	0.08	0.628
SC No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	8.39	0.2	0.08	0.669
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	6.37	0.3	0.12	0.765
General assessment of the potential of the territory				8.195

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The overall average assessment of the tourist potential of the identified objects related to the Geopark is 8,195 (10), which gives reason to claim that the natural features and sights of the Municipality are very high.

Sub-criteria 1. "Tourist value of resources"

Sub-criteria 2. "Available conditions for the use of resources for the purposes of tourism in the municipality"

General evaluation of the potential of the territory by sub-criteria

Table 2. Evaluation of tourist resources of the type Natural features and sights on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

Tourist resources	Sub-criteria									
	No. 1.1. Importance of resource	No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	1.3. Attractiveness of the resource	No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	No. 2.2. Degree of readiness to receive visitors	No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	Sub-criteria 1 "Tourist value of resources resources"	Sub-criteria 2. "Available conditions for the use of resources for the purposes of tourism"	General evaluation of the potential of the territory by sub-criteria
Geographical location of the territory	9	8.4	8.6	6.6	7.8	7.4	6.6	8.70	7.00	8.02
Geographical location of the territory	8.7	8.9	8.9	7.7	8.8	8.9	6.8	8.83	7.89	8.454
Geological structure and geophysical processes of the territory	8.4	6.9	6.2	6.7	5.8	8.4	4.8	7.11	6.29	6.782

Climate on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality	9.4	8.9	9.2	7.7	7.8	9.4	5.8	9.21	7.49	8.52
Water resources on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality	9.4	8.2	8.9	7.2	7	7.4	5.2	8.94	6.6	8.01
Vegetation on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality	9.2	8.8	9.4	8.2	9.2	8.4	6.8	9.21	8.02	8.734
Fauna on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality	9	8.2	8.7	8.2	7.4	8.4	7.7	8.71	7.93	8.395
Mesta River on the territory of Hadjidimovo Municipality	9.2	8.4	8.9	8.5	8.8	9.4	6.9	8.91	8.26	8.647
Terrain, vegetation and animal life in the Stergach, Slavyanka and South Pirin mountains and the Paril saddle	9	8.2	8.7	8.20	8.40	7.40	7.70	8.71	7.93	8.40
Habitats of the Balkan kestrel, jay, woodpecker, thrush in the foothills of the Western Rhodopes near the Mesta basin	9.3	9.3	9.3	6.6	8.8	7.8	5.4	8.71	6.92	7.991
General assessment of the potential of resources for the purposes of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo	9.06	8.37	8.57	7.56	7.88	8.39	6.37	8.70	7.43	8.195

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The average overall assessment of the objects according to the integral criteria "Tourist value of the resources" is 8.704 (10) - Degree according to the assessment scale "Very high potential".

The average overall assessment of the objects according to the integral criteria "Available conditions for the use of resources" is 7.433 (10) - Degree according to the evaluation scale "High potential".

The average overall assessment of the objects under the sub-criteria "Importance of the resource" is 9.06 (10),

According to the sub-criterion "Degree of knowledge of the resource" - 8.37(10) - Degree according to the evaluation scale "Very high potential".

According to the sub-criterion "Attractiveness of the resource" - 8.57(10) - Grade on the evaluation scale "Very high potential".

According to the sub-criterion "Degree of exposure of the resource" - 7.56 (10 Degree on the evaluation scale "High potential".

According to the sub-criterion "Degree of readiness for use (reception of visitors, familiarization with information, etc.)" - 7.88 (10) Degree according to the evaluation scale "High potential".

According to the sub-criterion "Accessibility to the resource" - 8.39 (10) Grade on the rating scale "Very high potential".

According to the sub-criterion "Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism" - 6.37 (10) Degree according to the evaluation scale - in the low part of the "High potential" degree.

Eight of the territory's resources have an overall score of over 8.01 ("Very high potential for tourism purposes

Two of the resources have an overall score in the range of 6.00-8.00 (high potential for tourism purposes)

The resource base of (not presented) in the table has been evaluated with ratings indicating a weaker potential as a tourist resource at the current stage of their knowledge.

These are :

- The forest massifs in the areas of Petrelik, Sadovo, Ablanitsa, Teshono, Ilinden – score 5.98
- Hunting game (total) in Southern Pirin – rating 5.75
- Vegetation cover in the alluvial alluvial soils in the Mesta river – score 5.90
- The artificial water bodies (dams) in Ablanitsa, Sadovo village, Blatska – 5.80
- Mutnitsa in the area of its confluence with the Mesta River - 5.62

- Neogene fissure waters in Teshovo, plutons and spring waters in the area of Teshovo - 5.98
- Habitats of alpine species - three-toed woodpecker and white-throated thrush in the high parts of Eastern and Southern Pirin - 5.84

Vegetation has been assessed as an object with the highest degree of tourist potential. The value of the assessment - 8.734 is in the interval 8.01 - 10.00 points. The resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for development of tourism.

The assessment of the resource under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 9.21 is very high. It defines the vegetation as a significant tourist resource for the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for use of the resource" - 8.02 is relatively high compared to the evaluations of a large part of the tourist resources according to this criterion. It shows the presence of good conditions for the use of the resource, such as knowledge of the resource, exposure of the resource at the local and national level, readiness for use for the purposes of tourism, accessibility for observation. These assessments show that the resource has a high potential as a natural fact and its effective use is possible without significant new research, investments in infrastructure, etc. To improve the use of the resource, it is necessary to bind and include it in a large number of species and forms of tourism on the territory of the municipality as a specific educational and entertainment attraction

Noteworthy are the high scores on sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.2, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource - 9.4 and sub-criterion 2.2 Degree of readiness of the resource for use for tourism purposes.

It should be noted that all the identified, described and assessed resources fall into the assessment scale in the degrees of resources with high and resources with very high potential for the purposes of tourism.

Overall assessment

Strengths of the natural features and attractions of the territory as a tourist resource

From the point of view of natural wealth and diversity, the region can be referred to the territories with a high diversity of relief and landscape forms, with an exceptionally rich and diverse geological structure, with soil diversity, with rich and diverse flora and fauna, especially bird habitats, which are with world unique characteristics. The climate is moderate and extremely favorable for habitation. From the point of view of tourism, the climate provides conditions for continuous almost year-round tourism for a large part of types of tourism - especially for natural-scientific and cultural-historical tourism, wine and culinary tourism, rural tourism. Natural features and attractions offer a wide range of possibilities for tourism boom

Ratings indicate a high overall level of relevance, attractiveness, and authenticity of the resources

The research found relatively good knowledge of the natural features among the local population - region, region, district.

Weaknesses

The knowledge of the natural resources of the territory at the national level is at an average level, bordering on the low level of the evaluation scale. The knowledge is extremely weak at the international level.

The evaluations show a low degree of exposure of the natural features and attractions of the territory for the purposes of tourism. They lack specific forms of exposure and presentation. From the region, the neighboring Ognyanovo resort with its warm mineral springs and the Slavyanka mountain with the Ali botush reserve are represented at the national level. The natural resources, the flora and fauna of the region, as well as the wonderful climatic conditions for mountain and rural tourism, are not adequately represented in terms of their importance and potential.

A large part of the natural tourist resources of the territory have not yet been sufficiently valorized. The advertising presentation of the natural features and attractions of the territory for a wide range of possible visitors - students, students, people of the third age - is limited.

However, it should be borne in mind that due to the long-term closure of the region and the difficult transport communications in the past, a huge part of the region's tourist potential remains undiscovered and even less exposed to widespread tourist interest. Sights and values are rather the subject of specific research interest by naturalists, geologists, hydrologists, climatologists, historians, ethnographers, culturologists, etc. As their research results, although extremely valuable from a scientific point of view and cognitive value, remain hidden and little known to non-specialists and to a wider range of people - both to visitors from outside and to the population of the region itself.

Relatively more exposed and known are the natural uniques of Mount Savyanka and the "Ali botush" nature reserve.

Opportunities

Tourism resources could be used more fully to diversify the tourism product and to increase income and year-round employment in more parts of the country. They are a potential for future tourism development, which should be used effectively. It is especially important to do this wisely, ensuring sustainable development of tourism

. From what has been said so far, we can derive the following main directions necessary for the utilization of natural tourist resources and, accordingly, for the sustainable development of tourism in the territory

First - Conservation of resources:

- consistent environmental policy and measures of the municipality in accordance with national requirements and international standards.
- effective implementation of territorial planning; for the development of environmental infrastructure and economic activity

. Second - Development of the most suitable forms of tourism

● Emphasis on mountain and recreational tourism, ecological tourism, nature tourism, cultural-historical tourism, folk-ethnographic tourism, culinary and wine tourism, bicycle tourism, rural tourism, hunting tourism.

● Development of nature-friendly forms of tourism that do not disturb the natural balance The orientation should be towards specific, but also non-traditional forms of tourism, based on local values, including natural resources and attractions. This would contribute to a more even time distribution of tourists. Attention should be directed to preventing the risks of resource degradation and loss of identity.

● Significant improvement of the informational and advertising presentation of the natural features and sights of the territory at the national and international level. Special attention to performance in Greece and North Macedonia.

● Improving the transport connectivity of the sites for the specific needs of tourism.

● Inclusion of the sites in regional, national and international tourist routes.

● Development of tourist products of the "Sea-Mountain" type, including the resorts of the Aegean coast of Greece and visits to sites on the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo and the Geopark.

● Measures to comply with environmental protection norms in the protected areas

● Increasing the ecological self-awareness of tourists and the local community; Evaluation of tourist resources from the point of view of individual forms of Tourism

● Preparation of tour guides and planning guides with knowledge to present the natural features and sights of the territory.

● Creation of conditions for additional research of the natural features and preservation of the territory through local voluntary ecological, nature protection and landscape structures.

● Creation of a product for museum presentation of natural features and attractions

● Development of a tourist-oriented map of the natural features and sights of the Municipality of Hadjidimovo.

■ The system of indicators and criteria developed in the Methodology for evaluating the tourist potential (Appendix 1) was used for the evaluation of the natural features and sights.

■ The evaluators were based on:

■ The natural diversity of the available features and sights, their importance for the purposes of tourism in the municipality, their uniqueness and aesthetic, recreational and educational appeal. .Criteria for evaluating the knowledge of the progenitors and features - determined by the degree of research, the presence of specialists, the presence of target structures and organized forms of activity (circles, NGOs, departments, etc.).

■ The degree of knowledge of the resources among the population at the local and national level. Knowing them abroad The availability of forms for informing and familiarizing the population with the resources.

■ Exposure and the presence of organized forms for presenting the facts and sights - delimited objects, mapping, informational materials, advertising, conditions and forms of observation, inclusion in tourist routes, availability of client-oriented forms of information and presentation, presentation of exhibitions and tourist forums and etc.

The degree of accessibility to natural features and sights.

The level of readiness of the resources for tourism use at the time of the assessment.

- The presence of natural attractions, nature reserves and protected areas, protected plant species and protected animal species.
- The degree of actual assimilation and use of the resources for tourism prices at the time of the assessment.

3. Description, characterization and evaluation of the tourist potential of the natural features and sights on the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo

In separate points of this paragraph, the following main types of natural features are described in detail and evaluated from the point of view of the goals of the Geopark and tourism

3.1. Geographical location.

A detailed description of the main characteristics of the geographical location of the territory has been made. On this basis, an assessment of the positions of tourism was made as follows:

Strengths of the geographical location are: The territory is located at the crossroads between Bulgaria and Greece. Republican road II-19 passes through it, which has an international designation - in addition to connecting Bulgaria with the Greek resorts of the Aegean Sea and Greece and Turkey with the winter resorts of Pirin and Rila, it is one of the possible land routes from Europe to Turkey, Iran and the Middle East, although it is inferior in this respect to the corridor created by the Struma highway. One of the routes connecting Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo with the tourist-interesting Eastern Rhodopes passes through the area. From an expert point of view, this route is evaluated as one of the tourist routes to be developed in the Balkans in the next decade.

An important tourist advantage related to the geographical location is that there is no possibility of significant freight traffic passing through here, which would negatively affect the natural features and the ecological condition of the territory.

Another important advantage is related to the century-long border state political status of the region, which has left it without destructive anthropogenic intervention, so characteristic of other regions of the country. This applies both to the Bulgarian side of the region, taska and to the neighboring territories of Greece . For this reason, the region has preserved intact natural features and sights, some of which are of world importance.

The geographical location is the basis of the historical past of the area. The uniqueness of the region is the civilizations and cultures, states and religions that have met here in history and that have left their material and spiritual traces. The district is part of the Sersko-Neurokop territory, rich in Istrian events and turning points. The historical reflection of the geographical situation finds expression in historical events, which are part of the history not only of Bulgaria but also of the Balkans.

On this basis, there is an opportunity to develop cultural-historical tourism covering topics and objects located on the territory of Bulgaria, Greece and North Macedonia, including those related to antiquity (the Thracian and ancient Greek periods, the ancient Roman period), the Byzantine period, the period n the struggles for national liberation from the Ottoman Empire.

The geographical location is also the basis of the interesting socio-cultural amalgam, which has been formed here over the centuries and which finds expression in a rich variety of lifestyle, culture, rituals and traditions. On this basis, there is an opportunity to develop forms of ethnographic, folklore and culinary tourism offering great and unique cognitive and attractive-entertainment opportunities.

An extremely important advantage of the territory is its proximity to the Greek resorts of the Aegean Sea and its proximity to the winter resorts of Bansko and Dobrinishte, which are established European and world destinations. This circumstance gives the area the opportunity to develop tourism simultaneously and as a transit territory as a destination territory, with relevant tourist infrastructure and tourist services offered. On this basis, the territory can be included in various tourist routes including the major resorts of Greece and Bulgaria as main destinations. The location also favors the development of cooperative production and services in the field of tourist logistics - food production, repair services, services related to service in tourist sites, etc. There is an opportunity to create logistics capacities related to seasonally migrating workforce between the Bulgarian Greek resorts (thus the region can develop tourism businesses and capacities in the field of tourism logistics).

With potential for the development of mountain, rural, hunting, recreational tourism is the proximity and connectivity of the area with the tourist routes in Pirin. and connected with the resorts in the Rhodopes.

The location favors and cooperates with Greece and the corresponding development of business visits.

Weaknesses of the geographical location: relative transport and infrastructural detachment from the main centers of Bulgaria. Cross-border character creating problems of an organizational coordination nature with the main centers in the country as well as with the neighboring territories located in Greece.

A long period of closure of the area due to it being a border zone - a relative restriction of development. The remoteness leads to a gradual emigration of the population to the large urban centers in the interior of the country.

The geographical location combined with the natural features creates opportunities for the development of economic branches, which may come into conflict with the development of tourism. Among them are logging and wood processing, for which there is a developed demand both in Bulgaria and in Greece, Export of wood, large-scale production of electricity from renewable energy sources, construction of large capacities for the transmission of electricity to the interior of the country and for cross-border export of electricity .energy, development of large cross-border commercial logistics facilities. In the case of unconnected with the interests of tourism and unfunded development of such an economic structure, the tourism industry in the region may be placed in the conditions of increased risks and ebb.

Possibilities of the geographical location: to link the activities with the capacity of the neighboring regions in Bulgaria (Bansko, Razlog, Dobrinishti, Devin) and in Greece - Drama, Kavala, Asprovalta. Transit point between the winter mountain resorts in Bulgaria and the sea resorts in Greece; Possibility of joint ventures and cooperation. Opportunities to export products. Possibilities for the development of cross-border tourism A large part of the possibilities have not been utilized. The municipal and regional strategies and development plans do not provide for their knowledge and assimilation.

The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including natural science research, marketing research, tourism-economy evaluations

Obstacles of geographical location for tourism: Difficult transport links. Expensive and even impossible efficient forms of transport. For the economic development of the territory, the high cost of the various transmission networks (water, energy, gas) is added to the mentioned obstacles.

large part of the possibilities have not been utilized. The municipal and regional strategies and developmen ins do not provide for their knowledge and assimilation.

pecific opportunities related to the geographical location of the territory of interest for the Geopark and for th velopment of tourism, established as a result of the conducted research are:

The possibilities related to the proximity to the resorts of Bansko, Dobrinishte, Kavala, Asprovalta;

The possibilities for tourist services related to RR II-19 connecting Bulgaria and Greece;

possibilities for inclusion in common tourist routes with tourist sites in the neighboring areas of Pirin, th uthern Rhodopes and the spa resort of Ognyanovo.

Possibilities for the development of cooperative production and services in the field of tourist logistics - foo duction, repair services, services related to service at tourist sites, etc.

Table for evaluating the tourism potential of the resource

Table 3.

Theme of the resource (object): Geographical location of the territory

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
I. Tourist value of the resource	8.70		0.6	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9.00	0.35	0.210	1.89
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.40	0.2	0,120	1.1

No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.60	0.45	0.270	2.30
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource				
	7.00		0.38	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource				
	6.60	0.30	0.120	0.80
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of visitors familiarization with information, etc.)				
	7.70	0.20	0.10	0.60
SC No. 2.3. Resource accessibility				
	8.60	0.45	0.270	0.669
SC No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism				
	6.60	0.30	0.120	0.79
General assessment of the potential of the territory				
				8.00

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The assessment value - 8.02 falls within the point interval 8.01 – 10.00 of the assessment scale - the resource (site) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism. The development should focus on advertising and information activities, improving transport connectivity and accessibility to the territory, developing tourist connectivity with the neighboring regions of Greece, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with the other elements of the tourist infrastructure

3.2. Relief

A detailed description of the relief of the territory has been made.

The combined assessment of the potential of the relief on the territory of Haadjidimovo municipality as a resource for tourism development is given

The relief is varied and extremely rich in forms. Highland and mountainous elements, low-mountain massifs, foothills, faults, hollow areas, rivers, river ravines, spills are combined. There is a wide variety of altitude – from 450 to 2200 m.

The relief is stable. It is not subject to faults of a seismic nature. Changes related to riverbeds and streams are possible, as well as those related to human activity, especially in these places.

The territory of the delimited geopark falls into the valley, river and semi-mountainous part of the area.

The relief does not have essential characteristics claiming to be unique, but as a complete geophysical aggregate it has properties of unrepeatable specificity.

The relief has been extensively studied and described. There are well-developed visions from the point of view of the potential for knowledge of the features and peculiarities of the relief. There are assessments of the relief from the point of view of the possibilities for effective interaction with the neighboring territories, the possibilities for the development of new forms of activity, which lead to a more complete use of the region's features. Usually relief is considered as a system-forming factor. On this basis, scenarios have been developed for the fullest use of the advantages and opportunities provided by the relief in order to know the potential of the area - for tourism, for agriculture, for developed infrastructure, connectivity and transport links. The Geopark can use these scenarios by linking them to its goals, functions and purpose.

The strengths of the relief are: Great variety, combination of foothill forms, mountain forms, highland forms, hollow forms, river forms and riverbeds. Basin closure of the Gotsedev valley creates a specific microclimate. From the point of view of tourism, the relief has unique characteristics and properties that create conditions for mountain tourism, recreational tourism, rural tourism, natural science tourism, photo hunting tourism, hunting tourism, bicycle tourism, school tourism, water tourism.

Weak aspects of the relief from the point of view of tourism are: difficult to develop transport roads. Difficult and requiring higher investments and costs from the point of view of digital communication. Suitability for tourist use mainly in the warm months of the year - spring, summer, autumn.

Opportunities created by the relief

The relief is suitable for the development of various forms of tourism.

The relief creates opportunities for the development of the economic infrastructure of the area, which is in sync with the goals of its development as a tourist destination - ecological animal husbandry, ecological agriculture, irrigated agriculture and vegetable production, for the development of the collection of herbs, the cultivation of herbs and vegetable oils crops, growing tobacco, viticulture and winemaking, for the development of local productions and the creation of product brands based on the raw materials and products produced (production of dairy products, meat products, wines, vegetable products, essential oils, etc).

The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including natural science research, marketing research, tourism-economy evaluations

Obstacles created by the topography: difficult-to-access mountainous areas, necessity of high costs for the development of road connectivity, Impossibility of developing more logical forms of transport. It requires the search for new forms of ecological transport. Mountainous and mountainous settlements are not suitable for a variety of economic activities and are rapidly depopulating.

Optimistic scenarios: Preservation of the relief and the main relief forms. Development of the exposure and knowledge of the potential of the relief. Expansion of the territory of the Geopark in the direction of including new landforms - mountain and highland.

Development of accessibility to relief landmarks and connectivity with them. Creation of organizational prerequisites for knowledge of the potential of the terrain. Development of economic activity for full knowledge of the potential of the relief. Stop the destruction of the highland settlements in the territory. Optimization of the urban environment with a view to the best use of the relief while preserving its main features - review, assessment and adaptation to these goals of the layout plans, the purpose of the usable areas, the location of the zones for the development of industrial capacities, the development of the road, power transmission and water infrastructure. Specifying territories for the development of industrial production in Hadjidimovo, Koprivlen, Sadovo, Blatska and Ablanitsa. Minimizing the area of these territories.

Restriction of heavy goods transport through the territory of the municipality and the Geopark. Creation of adequate regulatory tools at the municipal level for these purposes (Investigation, organization and procedures, trained personnel, control system, etc.). Availability of financial and organizational resources for these purposes.

Pessimistic scenarios: weak exposure of the relief and its potential, ignorance of the potential of the relief and weak development of the recommended forms of economic activity. Development of unsuitable economic activity - Development of mining industry significantly disturbs relief forms - marbles, gneisses, etc. Creation of waste dumps in unsuitable places. Development of high-power transmission networks connecting Bulgaria and Greece.

Lack of forms for knowledge, study and exposure of the relief and its potential. Allowing unplanned and spontaneous development of the area inconsistent with the relief conditions and violating the relief forms. Lack of adequate regulatory tools at the municipal level. Lack of sufficient financial resources.

Realistic Scenarios : Preservation of relief and basic landforms. Preservation of landforms in general and especially in protected areas. Development of the exposure and knowledge of the potential of the relief. Expansion of the territory of the Geopark in the direction of including new landforms - mountain and highland.

Limited development of accessibility to relief landmarks and connectivity to them - only to some of them. Development of exploration and exposure of the relief and its potential. Planned development of the area in accordance with the relief conditions and not disturbing the solidity and structure of the relief forms.

Relatively weak absorption of the potential of the relief in the next 10-15 years due to depopulation of areas, lack of labor and financial resources. Concentration of exploitation in the flat and semi-mountainous parts of the territory. Development of separate elements of economic activity to exploit the potential of the relief, such as herb production, mountain animal husbandry. (only within 40-50% of the possibilities) and its active utilization for tourism.

Development of the elements of the economic infrastructure and the urban environment with a view to the best use of the relief while protecting its main features - review, assessment and adaptation to these goals of the layout plans, the purpose of the usable areas, the location of the zones for the development of industrial capacities, the development of the road, power and water infrastructure. Specifying territories for the development of industrial production in Hajshdimovo, Koprivlen, Sadovo, Blatska and Ablanitsa. Minimizing the area of these territories.

Impossibility of restricting heavy goods transport through the territory of the municipality and the Geopark.

Limited creation of regulatory instruments adequate for these purposes at the municipal level (Regulations, organization and procedures, trained personnel, control system, etc.).

Availability of only 40-50% of the necessary financial and organizational resources for these purposes.

Activities of the Geopark related to the relief:

Objectives of the Geopark in relation to the relief:

Revealing and knowing the rich potential and possibilities of the relief. Preservation of the uniqueness of the relief forms in the stream of the Mesta river and around its bed. Assistance for the preparation and implementation of a strategy for the development of the connectivity of the territory in accordance with the specifics of the relief

Expansion of the Geopark in the direction of the Vikokoplani parts of the area.

Support for the development of the main forms of tourism - rural, mountain, herbal, bicycle tourism, photo-hunting tourism, hunting tourism.

Creation of prerequisites for a better knowledge of the richness of the relief by tourists and the local population.

Initiation of measures and activities for the protection of the riverbeds of the Mesta and Mutnitsa rivers.

Initiate the implementation of measures and activities for better exposure of the relief and its potential - information brochures, maps, video materials, presentations, trainings, etc., in which the characteristics and peculiarities of the relief, the designations of the forms are described and revealed. The toponymy of the elements of the relief - mountains, faults, valleys, localities, etc. Research and exposure of the toponymic history and myths, legends and legends related to the relief.

Creation of forms for familiarization, research, mapping protected relief. Participation in geographic forums at regional and national level.

As specific resources related to the relief, representing interest for the Geopark and for the development of tourism, as a result of the conducted research, the following were identified:

- The relief and geological formations in South Pirin located on the territory of the municipality
- The relief and geological formations in the Paril Saddle and the parts of the Slavyanka and Sturgech mountains located on the territory of Bulgaria and the "Ali botush" reserve.

Expert assessment of the tourist potential of the relief of the territory of the Hadjidimovo municipality

Table 4.

Name of the resource (object): Geographical location of the territory

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
I. Tourist value of the resource	8.83		0.600	

No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	8.7	0.35	0,210	1.83
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.9	0.20	0,120	1.07
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.9	0.45	0,270	2.40
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	7.89		0.400	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	7.7	0.30	0.120	0.92
C No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of visitors, familiarization with information, etc.)	8.8	0.20	0.080	0.70
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	8.9	0.20	0.080	0.71
SC No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	6.8	0.30	0.120	0.82
<i>General assessment of the potential of the territory</i>				8.454

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment - 8.454 is in the range of 8.01 - 10.00 points - the resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism.

The development should focus on the advertising and information presentation of the merits of the resort, improving accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (object) with the other elements of the tourist infrastructure. Special attention should be paid to the presentation and creation of conditions for visiting the determined elements of the relief of the territory representing interest for the development of tourism. They recommend active presentation of these elements at national and international tourist forums, as well as at advertising and information campaigns on social networks, including those aimed at foreigners from the EU, the Balkan countries, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

3.3. Description, characterization and assessment of geological structure and paleogeographical development of the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

The geological structure and geophysical processes of the territory are described in detail as an important part of the concept of Geoparks, according to which they carry remarkable geological, cultural and social legacies - geoparks by definition are geographical areas, objects, landscapes where nature and culture interact, where the local issues and global issues intersect where strong and numerous partnerships are formed.

The main types of minerals are indicated - rich deposits of marble, granite and gneiss. Quarries were discovered for their extraction in the village of Gaitaninovo, the village of Nova Lovcha and the village of Ilinden. There is an iron ore mine in the village of Paril, which was closed in 1955.

There are rich deposits of high-quality clay for ceramic products in the village of Ablanitsa. In the area of the village of Teshovo and the village of Gaitaninovo, there are small amounts of ore rocks containing iron - in the late Middle Ages, there were mining, extraction and workshops for the processing and production of weapons and iron household items.

Basic data on the tectonics of the territory are indicated. Main fault and block structures in the region of the Mesta River; Seismicity in the area of the Mesta River

An assessment was made of the potential of the geological construction on the territory of Haadjidimovo municipality as a resource for tourism development

The area has an extremely rich geological morphology and forms. The territory of has "suffered" almost all neotectonic and magmotectonic events manifested during the long geological evolution of the Balkan Peninsula. The multiple geological processes and geotectonic activations in the region have formed the variety of rock formations and the complex geological, block structures, respectively. hydrogeological structures, with heterogeneous water-bearing and water-free horizons.

South Pirin is made up of metamorphic rocks: marbles, amphibolites, slates, granite gneisses, marbled limestones, pierced by three granite intrusive bodies of Paleozoic and Mesozoic age, with marbled limestones predominating.

In the central part of the mountain, as a result of denudation processes, the granites are exposed on the surface. Metamorphic rocks (marbles, gneisses, slates) that covered the granite core of the mountain are preserved in the peripheral parts. Thick Pliocene sandy deposits have been deposited in the southwestern foothills of Pirin. Subjected to strong erosion processes from the activity of rainwater, they create interesting natural forms for the observer.

The basin part of the territory is defined by the river catchment of the Mesta River and is made up of heterogeneous metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rock formations of different ages. The Razlog and Gotsedelchev basins were formed on grabens. They are filled with Tertiary sediments and volcanic rocks, overlapped in places with Quaternary fluvial deposits.

Alluvial and proluvial sediments of gravels, boulders and sands with interlayers and a soil cover of sandy in places and marshy clays were deposited in the river beds, floodplain and suprafflood terraces, in alluvium and torrential cones, at the mouths of rivers and streams and mountain foothills. Their total thickness along the Mesta River is over 150 m. Proluvial and deluvial, unsorted, coarse-clastic rock blocks, breccias, sands and clay deposits are accumulated at the foot of the mountains. Their thickness in the Blagoevgrad basin reaches 150 m.

Geological construction is interesting above all from a natural science point of view and from the point of view of the use of certain vegetation for economic purposes.

From the point of view of tourism, the areas with deposited thick Pliocene sandy deposits are of interest, which, subjected to strong erosion processes from the activity of rainwater, create strange and interesting natural forms for the observer.

Potentially interesting are the heterogeneous metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rock formations in the catchment areas of the Mesta River.

In view of the possible negative impact on the natural environment, from the point of view of tourism, the study and exploitation of the marble, granite and gneiss formations on the territory, as well as the neighboring coal formations, deserve attention.

The main activities of the Geopark in connection with the geological construction and geophysical processes of the territory are:

- Support for the study of geological structure and geophysical processes
- on the territory and for monitoring them.
- Appropriate exposition of geological formations and geophysical processes for the purposes of natural science and student tourism.
- Assistance for rational economic use of resources, ensuring the protection of natural resources in combination and in sync with the goals of the development of the territory as a tourist destination

As specific resources of interest for the Geopark and for the development of tourism, as a result of the conducted research, the following were identified:

- Geological structure and formations in South Pirin located on the territory of the municipality
- The geological structure and formations in the Paril saddle and the parts of the Slavyanka and Sturgech mountains located on the territory of Bulgaria and the Ali Botush settlement.
- The Quaternary sedimentary cover in the river beds, floodplain and suprafflood terraces, in alluvium and torrential cones, at the mouths of rivers and streams and mountain foothills - deposition of alluvial and proluvial sediments of gravels, boulders and sands with interlayers and a soil cover of sandy in places and swamp clays.

Recommended:

Development of tourism products including the specified resources for the purposes of tourism. Development should focus on advertising and information presentation of the merits of these resources, improvement of accessibility to them, appropriate IN SITU exposition, presentation in a local museum collection, as well as implementation of measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (object) with the other elements of the tourist infrastructure. Special attention should be paid to the presentation and creation of conditions for visiting the designated resources of the territory of interest for the development of tourism. They recommend actively presenting these elements at national and international tourist forums, as well as at advertising and information campaigns on social networks, including and those aimed at foreigners from the countries of the EU, the Balkan countries, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Belarus and Ukraine. The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including natural science studies, marketing studies, tourist-economic evaluations.

Expert assessment of the potential of Hadjidimovo Geopark of the geological structure and geophysical characteristics of the territory from the point of view of tourism.

Table 5.

Name of the resource (object): Geological structure and geophysical processes of the territory

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall Score
1. Tourist value of the resource	<i>7.11</i>		<i>0.600</i>	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	8.4	0.35	0,210	1.76
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	6.9	0.20	0,120	0.83
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	6.2	0.45	0,270	1.67
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	<i>6.29</i>		<i>0.400</i>	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	6.7	0.30	0.120	0.80
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of tourists, familiarization with information, etc.)	5.8	0.20	0.080	0.46
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	8.4	0.20	0.080	0.67
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	4.8	0.30	0.120	0.58
General assessment of the potential of the territory				6.782

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment - 6.782 is in the interval 6.01 - 8.00 points - the resource (object) has a high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is suitable for use in additional research, better exposure, improvement of information its advertising presentation, readiness to receive visitors, accessibility and connectivity with the tourist infrastructure of the territory.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" -7.11 - higher than the general assessment,

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for the use of the resource" - 6.29 is lower than both the first criteria and the overall assessment. These assessments show that the resource has a relatively high potential as a natural given, but has not been utilized to a sufficient extent for the purposes of tourism.,

Noteworthy are the high scores for sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 8.4 and sub-criteria 2.3 Accessibility of the resource - 8.6

For the utilization of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of knowledge of the resource as a natural given and the degree of exposure of the resource for the purposes of tourism. On this basis, one can also expect an increase in the degree of attractiveness of the resource, for which the rating - 6.2, although falling into the "high" degree of attractiveness on the scale (6.01 - 6.00), borders on the lower "average" degree of attractiveness (3.01 – 6.00).

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and potential of the resource for the development of nature-based tourism and nature-based student tourism on the territory of the municipality.

The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including natural science research, marketing research, tourism-economy evaluations.

3.4. Description, characterization and assessment of the climate as a resource for the development of tourism in Hadjidimovo municipality

A detailed description of all the main elements of the stamp on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality has been made - The air temperature; Precipitation; Humidity; Total Solar Radiation (TSR); Climate changes and related factors and consequences were studied.

An assessment was made of the potential of the climate for a difference in tourism on the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo and Geopark Hadjidimovo

The territory is located in an extremely favorable bioclimatic area, combining climatic elements of the semi-mountainous and mountainous zones with climatic elements of the Mediterranean climatic zone.

Strengths of the climate from the point of view of tourism are: the long warm season - 9 months a year, the high sunshine, the pleasant average temperatures and the optimal temperature differences during the day for most types of tourism.

The advantage is the combination of the mountain climate in South Pirin, Slavyanka and the Western Rhodopes with the plain climate, where a noticeable Mediterranean influence is felt.

Climatic factors ensure a relatively high level of air purity, which gives significant advantages and opportunities for the development of recreational tourism.

A strong point is the possibility of combining forms of tourism using the mountain climate with the warmer plain climate in the Gocidelchev valley and the river Mesta.

The climatic conditions allow the development of year-round feeds and forms of tourism, and for this purpose the existing tourist infrastructure has to be built and further developed.'

Weaknesses of the climate are: the lack of humidity, especially in the lower parts of the territory, and the high absolute temperatures in the daylight during part of the summer months. Relatively high average temperatures do not allow the development of forms of winter tourism during the winter season in the mountainous parts of the territory of the municipality.

Opportunities

Climatic conditions are favorable for the development of mountain tourism, recreational tourism, natural science tourism, ecological tourism, photo hunting tourism, cycling tourism, fishing and hunting tourism, rural tourism, school tourism.

The relatively warm winter allows, with small additional investments, to further develop the existing tourist infrastructure with a view to extending the tourist season by 30-40 days and for individual types of tourism and for year-round seasonality.

The climate in the mountainous parts of the territory allows their inclusion in tourist routes with the final destination of the Greek seaside resorts on the Aegean coast, as well as the development of types and

forms of tourism with the inclusion of health and recreational events.

The long warm season is a significant factor in increasing the efficiency of the used tourist resources and investments in the tourist infrastructure.

In combination with the neighborhood with the winter resorts of Bansko and Dobrinishte, the climate allows for the development and offering of joint tourist products - tourist trips including visits to objects from the municipality, ski trips in Bansko and Dobrinishte for visitors to the municipality in winter, wine and culinary excursions in both destinations, etc. .

Activities of the Geopark related to climate as a tourist resource

- To assist in the protection of the climate of the territory from negatively influencing factors such as polluting industrial productions, productions with harmful emissions, productions with high consumption of water resources increasing the humidity deficit, felling of forest massifs.
- To assist in the development of new tourist products and create conditions for the development of new types and forms of tourism ensuring full use of the climatic potential of the territory.
- To assist in the inclusion of the region and the tourist infrastructure located on the territory of the municipality in common tourist routes with objects located in the adjacent regions in Bulgaria and Greece.
- To assist in the development of year-round forms of tourism
- To contribute to a new level of exposition of the merits and advantages of the climatic conditions of the territory.

As specific resources of interest for the Geopark and for the development of tourism, as a result of the conducted research, the following were identified:

- Climatic conditions in the semi-mountainous and mountainous zones of Southern Perin.
- Climatic conditions in the semi-mountainous belt of Sbavianka and the Paril saddle.

It is recommended that the activities of the Geopark and the municipal authorities focus on the utilization of these resources

Expert assessment of the potential of the climate on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality from the point of view of tourism

Table 6.

Name of the resource (object): Climate of the territory of the Hadjidimovo municipality

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall Score
1. Tourist value of the resource	<i>9.21</i>		<i>0.600</i>	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9.4	0.35	0,210	1.97
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.9	0.20	0,120	1.07
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	9.2	0.45	0,270	2.48
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	<i>7.49</i>		<i>0.400</i>	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	7.7	0.30	0.120	0.92
SC No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of visitors, familiarization with information, etc.)	7.8	0.20	0.080	0.62

No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	9.4	0.20	0.080	0.75
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource the purposes of tourism	5.8	0.30	0.120	0.70
<i>General assessment of the potential of the territory</i>				8.522

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment - 8.522 is in the range of 8.01 - 10.00 points - the resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism. The development should focus on advertising and information activities, efforts to improve accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with other elements of the tourist infrastructure.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 9.21 is extremely high. It defines the climate as the most significant tourist resource for the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for the use of the resource" - 7.49 is lower both than that of the first criteria and of the general assessment. However, it shows a good factually available basis for using the resource - knowledge of the resource and its antecedents, exposure of the resource at the local and national level, readiness for use for the purposes of tourism. These assessments show that the resource has an extremely high potential as a natural endowment and the conditions are available for its exploitation for the purposes of tourism. The assessment gives grounds for placing the climate as the main structure-determining factor for the development of tourism in the territory, which will determine the types and forms of tourism, the seasonality, the structure of the visitors. It will provide direction for the development of both the offered tourist product and the structure of tourist services. In this regard, the climate will have a significant impact on the structure of tourism investments in the territory, which should definitely be aimed at the most efficient use of the climatic conditions.

Noteworthy are the high scores on sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.4, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource - 9.2 and sub-criterion 2.3 Accessibility of the resource - 9.4

For the development of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of exposure of the resource for tourism purposes.

There are the biggest reservations regarding the degree of utilization of the resource for the purposes of tourism. The assessment according to this sub-criterion is 5.8, which definitely speaks of insufficient utilization of the climatic conditions and advantages of the territory for the purposes of tourism.

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and the potential of the resource for the development of mountain tourism, water tourism, recreational tourism, rural tourism, bicycle tourism, hunting and fishing tourism, and nature education student tourism on the territory of the municipality. An important direction is the creation of conditions for maximum use of the climatic conditions of the region through the development of appropriate forms of tourism, construction of relevant infrastructure, targeted marketing and advertising and development of tourist organizational capacity.

The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including natural science studies, marketing studies, tourist-economic evaluations.

3.5. Annex 2 contains a detailed hydrological description of the territory of the Hadjidimovo municipality.

A description and assessment of water resources have been made.

The water resources of the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality are described in detail according to the main types of established types of water bodies:

A. Surface water bodies

- o Type of river
- o Type equated to a river,
- o Type of modified water bodies
- o Type of highly modified water bodies

B. Underground water bodies

- o Quaternary type
- o Neogene type
- o Pleogen type
- o Crack type
- o Karst type

The catchment of the Mesta River, the highly modified and artificial water bodies are described in detail
A characteristic of groundwater is given

- Pore waters in Neogene-Gotse Delchev (Neogene)
- Fracture waters in Gotsedelchev Paleogene aquifer (Paleogene)
- Fracture waters in Teshovski, Spanchevsky, Central Pirin, Bezbozhki, Igralishki, Kresnensky plutons (Fissures)
- Fracture waters in Western Rhodope metamorphites - gneisses, schists, marbles, amphibolites (Fissures)
- Gotsedelchevsi karst basin (Karst)

Submitted with data on the hydrogeological characteristics of the territory.

An ecological characterization of the surface waters was made

Detailed data is provided and an assessment of water use is made

Data have been presented and an assessment of water-economic infrastructure has been made

Based on the detailed description, an analysis was made and an assessment of water resources was given (Strengths and weaknesses. Opportunities. Obstacles. Scenarios).

Strengths of water resources and water use are: the presence of the Mesta River and its main tributaries, which also determine the biosphere in the mountainous and semi-mountainous part of the territory. Relatively good average annual flow, which, with reasonable and optimal use of water, is sufficient to maintain the homeostasis of the biosphere. The waters are relatively clean. There is real capability and capacity to remove existing pollutants.

A strong point is the presence of high-flow mountain springs of fresh drinking water with excellent qualities, as well as the presence of underground waters enabling drilling and water extraction for irrigation. The available water resources make it possible to develop forms of tourism related to them - fishing tourism, seasonal rafting, nature tourism, health and restorative tourism.

Weaknesses are: the seasonality of the water flow of rivers and groundwater, due to which the level of rivers drops significantly in the summer and early autumn season and, accordingly, significantly affects both the state of the flora and fauna, as well as the economic life and lifestyle of the population. In general, the water balance of the territory experiences periodic deficits, which are intensified due to global climate changes. Their coverage can be done either by creating a reservoir with a larger volume or by bringing water from neighboring areas. Both options, mainly due to the specifics of the relief, require a large financial resource, which the municipality would not be able to dispose of in the coming years. An obstacle to their implementation are the restrictions related to the protected areas. With these restrictions, the only option for preventing water crises is to limit losses from the water network, to optimize water consumption and to prevent the development of industries with large volumes of water costs.

Despite the presence of water resources and sites of tourist importance, the necessary information provision, accessible environment, service facilities and infrastructure for their promotion and socialization are missing. As a result, a significant part of these resources and sights remain hidden and unconnected to modern urban and natural features. Water resources are not known by the population. There is also a lack of specialized tour guides with knowledge about them. The existing tourist vows are not related to and do not offer visits and familiarization with the water resources and attractions in the area.

A weak side of water use is the losses from the water transmission network, the low-level sewage network, the rips of water purification facilities.

Another weakness is the lack of control over mechanical impurities, the chemical and microbiological composition of the water from boreholes, used for domestic needs and for irrigation by the population.

Opportunities - The available water resources create opportunities for preserving the biosphere and the natural diversity of the territory, as well as for carrying out targeted work for its enrichment. There is an opportunity for the development of various forms of water-related tourism - river tourism, fishing tourism, natural science tourism, recreational tourism, bicycle tourism, photo hunting tourism, student tourism, etc.

The need for economical use of water resources forces businesses and the population to orientate towards economic sectors and activities that do not require significant water costs, as well as towards the use of new technologies for water storage and purification.

There is an opportunity to popularize and socialize the available water resources and objects of tourist importance by creating an advisory information provision for this purpose, to know the water resources from the population, the existing tourist vows to be related to the water attractions and to offer visits to get to know them .

Obstacles - It is not possible to develop productions with high water costs, during certain months of the year there is a water deficit, which affects all activities in the municipality. The possibility of a water shortage and regime creates unpredictability and risks, and for tourism in the municipality, storage measures are imposed, which are currently the personal concern of consumers. A significant obstacle related to water and water use is the large amount of financial resources needed to ensure the water balance. An obstacle in relation to the purification of water obtained by drilling by households is the lack of sufficient financial resources among the population to purchase the necessary technical means and consumables, as well as the lack of relevant municipal capacity for this purpose.

A problem of extreme importance for the protection of water and for the development of tourism is the widespread construction of sewage systems and sewage treatment facilities, which currently do not exist.

The challenge is the construction of sewerage and treatment facilities.

Optimistic scenarios Maintaining an average level for the middle 20 years and a slight increase in river flow. Preservation and maintenance of the condition of riverbeds. Preservation and development of the biosphere in the Mesta river and its tributaries. Preservation of water quality, Optimization of water use. Elimination of all contaminants. Complete sewerage of populated areas and provision of sewage treatment plants. Minimizing losses from the water transmission network. Introduction of control and optimization of the use of underground water sources. Restriction of water-intensive industrial productions. Intelligent systems of water use. Creation of capacity for monitoring the quality of water from borehole water sources used by the population - introduced to home systems for mechanical, chemical and biological purification. Introduction of drinking water quality control and purification and treatment facilities for drinking purposes. Construction of catchment facilities with sufficient reserve capacity. Construction of a municipal irrigation system.

- Water resources and objects of tourist importance are popularized and socialized, there is information provision, an accessible environment, service objects and infrastructure. As a result, a significant part of these resources and sights have been incorporated into modern urban and natural features. Water resources are known by the population. There are prepared tour guides with knowledge about them. The existing tourist attractions are connected and offer visits and familiarization with the water resources and attractions in the area.

Pessimistic scenarios

- Significant decline in river flow and reduction of water reserves in reservoirs. Negative changes in the state of the riverbeds and the biosphere in the Mesta river and its tributaries. Shortage of water for domestic needs and the need for a restrictive regime of water use. Deterioration of water quality. Continued existence of existing and emergence of new sources of pollution. Weak and slow progress in the development of sewerage in populated areas and in the provision of sewage treatment plants. Losses from the water transmission network continue and are increasing due to its aging. Lack of control and optimization of the use of underground water sources. Lack of progress regarding limiting water-intensive industrial productions and increasing industrial water consumption Lack of intelligent water use systems. Weak drinking water quality control and drinking water treatment and treatment facilities. Insufficient catchment facilities and reserve capacity. Lack of an efficient irrigation system. Water resources and objects of tourist importance are not popularized and socialized, corresponding information provision, accessible environment, service objects and infrastructure are missing. As a result, a significant part of these resources and sights remain hidden and unconnected to modern urban and natural features. Water resources are not known by the population. Existing tourist attractions are not related to water resources and attractions in the area and do not offer visits to learn about and use these resources.

Realistic scenarios

- Maintaining an average level for the middle 20 years and a slight increase in river flow. Preservation and maintenance of the condition of riverbeds. Preservation and development of the biosphere in the Mesta region and its tributaries. Preservation of water quality, Optimization of water use.

Elimination of all contaminants. Complete sewerage of populated areas and provision of sewage treatment plants. Minimizing losses from the water transmission network. Introduction of control and optimization of the use of underground water sources. Restriction of water-intensive industrial productions. Intelligent systems of water use. Introduction of drinking water quality control and purification and treatment facilities for drinking purposes. Construction of water collection facilities with sufficient reserve capacity. Construction of a municipal irrigation system.

- Water resources and objects of tourist importance are popularized and socialized, there is information provision, an accessible environment, service objects and infrastructure. As a result, a significant part of these resources and sights have been incorporated into modern urban and natural features. Water resources are known by the population. There are prepared tour guides with knowledge about them. The existing tourist attractions are connected and offer visits and familiarization with the water resources and attractions in the area.

Opportunities of the Geopark related to water, water resources and water use

- Assistance to maintain an average level for the average 20 years and a slight increase in river flow;
- Assistance to preserve and maintain the condition of riverbeds.
- Support for the preservation and development of the biosphere in the region of Mesta and its tributaries.
- Assistance to preserve water quality and to optimize water use. Elimination of all contaminants. Complete sewerage of populated areas and provision of sewage treatment plants. Minimizing losses from the water transmission network. Introduction of control and optimization of the use of underground water sources. Restriction of water-intensive industrial productions. Intelligent systems of water use. Introduction of drinking water quality control and purification and treatment facilities for drinking purposes. Construction of water collection facilities with sufficient reserve capacity. Construction of a municipal irrigation system.
 - Support for research aimed at discovering sources of mineral waters suitable for tourism purposes.
 - Support for the development of water tourism and forms of tourism related to water resources.
 - Initiation of measures to optimize water consumption in tourist sites.
 - Initiation of measures to introduce modern water purification installations in tourist sites.
 - Assistance of the municipality in obtaining financing for projects related to water resources and water use.
 - Promotion of water resources and objects of tourist importance by creating information provision, accessible environment, service objects and infrastructure. Getting to know the population. Preparation of tour guides with knowledge of valuable resources and sights.
 - Helping the existing tourist vows to offer visits and familiarization with the water resources and sights in the area.

As specific resources of interest for the Geopark and for the development of tourism, as a result of the conducted research, the following were established and determined:

- Mesta River in its middle course on the territory of the Municipality Vegetation cover in the alluvial alluvial soils in the river of Mesta
- Mudnitsa in the area of its confluence with the Mesta River
- Neogene fracture waters in Teshovski, plutons and spring waters in the area of Teshovo
- The artificial water bodies (dams) in Ablanitsa, Sadovo and Blatska

Expert assessment of the tourist potential of the water resources of Hadjidimovo municipality

Table 7.

Name of the resource (site): Water resources on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall Score
	<i>8.94</i>		<i>0.600</i>	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9.4	0.35	0,210	1.97
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.2	0.20	0,120	0.98
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.9	0.45	0,270	2.40
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	<i>6.60</i>		<i>0.400</i>	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	7.2	0.30	0.120	0.
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of tours, familiarization with information, etc.)	7	0.20	0.080	0.
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	7.4	0.20	0.080	0.
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	5.2	0.30	0.120	0.
General assessment of the potential of the territory				8.

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment is in the interval 8.01 - 10.00 points, the resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism. The development should focus on advertising and information activities, efforts to improve accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with other elements of the tourist infrastructure.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 8.94 is very high. It defines water resources as a significant tourist resource for the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for the use of the resource" - 6.60 is significantly lower both than that of the first criteria and of the general assessment. It shows a lack of sufficient conditions for the use of the resource - knowledge of the resource and its advantages, exposure of the resource at the local and national level, readiness for use for the purposes of tourism. These assessments show that the resource has a high potential as a natural endowment, but there are no available conditions for its utilization for the purposes of tourism. The assessment gives grounds for placing water resources and their use as one of the priorities for the development of tourism in the territory. The improvement of the use of the currency will affect both the offered tourist product and the structure of tourist services. In this regard, the use of water resources will have a moderate impact on the structure of tourism investments in the territory.

Noteworthy are the high scores on sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.4, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource – 8.9 and sub-criterion 2.3 Accessibility of the resource – 7.4

For the development of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of exposure of the resource for tourism purposes.

There are the biggest reservations regarding the degree of utilization of the resource for the purposes of tourism. The assessment according to this sub-criterion is 5.2, which definitely speaks of extremely insufficient utilization of the water resources and givens of the territory for the purposes of tourism.

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and the potential of the resource for the development of water tourism, recreational tourism, rural tourism, fishing tourism, nature education student tourism on the territory of the municipality. An important direction is the creation of conditions for maximum use of water resources through the development of appropriate forms of tourism, construction of relevant infrastructure and targeted marketing and advertising.

The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including archaeological, documentary, artifact studies in various museums.

Description, characterization and assessment of the potential of the vegetation, soil cover and animal life on the territory of the Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource - Vegetation and soil cover

A detailed description of the territory's vegetation by species, territorial distribution and quantitative parameters is indicated.

On this basis, an assessment of the vegetation and soil cover as tourist resources on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality was made as follows.

Strengths

The territory of Hadjidimovo municipality is one of the territories of the country with exceptionally rich vegetation. Certain elements of its vegetation, due to their uniqueness, have global significance.

In the "Ali botush" botanical reserve, located in Slavyanka mountain, the forests are black mulberry, fir, black pine, beech, yew; rare rock plant species are found here. the area of the reserve is considered one of the most important floristic centers of the Balkan Peninsula. There are more than 20 species of Bulgarian endemic plants here, 5 of which are not found anywhere else in the country. The most widespread tree species is black pine (*Pinus nigra*), which occupies the lower parts of the reserve. A black mulberry tree (*Pinus leucodermis*) has settled above it, the upper limit of which passes at 1,800 m above sea level. Here is the largest deposit of black myrrh in the Balkans, which is the main reason for its declaration as a reserve. The age of blackberry forests is 60-120 years, with individual plantations over 200 years old, and some trees up to 400 years old. The height of these trees is over 30 m.

The grass vegetation is even more interesting and diverse. Among the endemics, it is worth mentioning the Boris fir (*Abies borisi-regis*) and the Koshanin wolf's liko (*Daphne kosanini*), which is a Tertiary relic and a Balkan endemic.

In the protected area "Pavlova Padina" there are natural deposits of Rhodope tulip and characteristic plant communities with the participation of Mediterranean and transitional-Mediterranean rare and endangered species.

Extremely rich in endemic and rare species is the Paril valley, which is a deep gorge-like valley, in limestone rocks. Rarely in Bulgaria are so many interesting plants collected in one place as there are in this valley.

Endemic to Slavyanka is also the Paril cornflower (*Centaurea pariliana*). It has beautiful red flowers and grows on calcareous rocky terrains. Another endemic of Slavyanka is the *Crepis schachtii*.

These facts make the territory extremely attractive for natural science, mountain and herbal tourism. The mountain forest massifs offer wonderful conditions for health and recreational tourism.

Weaknesses

Individual rare plant species are highly threatened with extinction and particularly sensitive to a more massive human presence. This circumstance imposes specific requirements on the way of visiting their habitats, such as not allowing mass visits, scheduled visits, measures to protect vegetation, limiting the possibilities for certain types of entertainment, not allowing construction or construction of tourist infrastructure.

As a whole, the resources are well known but their potential for tourism purposes has not been exploited. The municipal and regional strategies and development plans do not foresee measures for their knowledge, protection and utilization for the purposes of tourism.

Opportunities of the Geopark related to the use of vegetation on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource

- Assistance to preserve and maintain the condition of forests and to increase forest areas.
- Assistance for preservation and development of the biosphere of the territory and protection of rare plant species.
- Support for studies of the flora of the territory of the municipality.
- Initiation of measures to optimize logging.
- Promotion of the plant wealth of the territory through appropriate information provision. Getting to know the population. Preparation of tour guides with knowledge of the attractions of the flora of the territory.
- Support for the development of types and forms of tourism oriented towards the full disclosure and use of the potential of the territory related to the unique vegetation.
- Helping the existing tourist sites to offer visits and familiarization with the unique plant species in the area.

As specific resources of interest for the Geopark and for the development of tourism, as a result of the conducted research, the following were established and determined:

- The forest massifs in the areas of Petrelik, Sadovo, Ablanitsa, Teshono, Ilinden – score 7.8
- Vegetation cover in the alluvial alluvial soils in the Mesta river – score 7.0

Expert assessment of the potential of the territory's vegetation as a tourist resource.

Table 8.

Name of the resource (object): Vegetation on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
1. Tourist value of the resource	<i>9.21</i>		<i>0.600</i>	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9.2	0.35	0,210	1.93
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.8	0.20	0,120	1.06
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	9.4	0.45	0,270	2.54
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	<i>8.02</i>		<i>0.400</i>	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	8.2		0.120	0.98

		0.30		
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of tourists, familiarization with information, etc.)	9,2	0.20	0.080	0.74
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	8.4	0.20	0.080	0.67
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	6.8	0.30	0.120	0.82
<i>General assessment of the potential of the territory</i>				8.734

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment - 8.734 is in the interval 8.01 - 10.00 points, the resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism. The development should focus on advertising and information activities, efforts to improve accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with other elements of the tourist infrastructure.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 9.21 is very high. It defines the vegetation as a significant tourist resource for the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for use of the resource" - 8.02 is relatively high in comparison with the evaluations of a large part of the tourist resources according to this criterion. It shows the availability of good conditions for the use of the resource, such as knowledge of the resource, exposure of the resource at the local and national level, readiness for use for the purposes of tourism, accessibility for observation. These assessments show that the resource has a high potential as a natural fact and its effective use is possible without significant new research, investments in infrastructure, etc. To improve the use of the resource, it is necessary to bind and include it in a large number of species and forms of tourism on the territory of the municipality as a specific educational and entertainment attraction

Noteworthy are the high scores on sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.2, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource - 9.4 and sub-criterion 2.2 Degree of readiness of the resource for use for tourism purposes.

For the development of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of exposure of the resource for tourism purposes.

There are the biggest reservations regarding the degree of utilization of the resource for the purposes of tourism. The assessment under this sub-criterion is 6.8, which definitely indicates an underestimation of the resource potential of the territory for the purposes of tourism.

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and potential of the resource for the development of recreational tourism, rural tourism, nature-enlightening student tourism on the territory of the municipality. An important direction is the creation of conditions for the maximum use of vegetation for the purposes of tourism through the development of appropriate forms of tourism, construction of relevant infrastructure and targeted marketing and advertising.

The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including archaeological, documentary, artifact studies in various museums.

2.6. Description, characterization and assessment of the potential of the vegetation, soil and animal life on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource.

The animal world is very diverse in terms of species, there is a huge variety among the ungulates - over 2000 in Pirin, mostly insects, spiders, centipedes, snails, etc. Mediterranean invertebrate species are most characteristic of Slavyanka, where they cover approx. 55% of all invertebrates. The proportion of Mediterranean species of animals in the Gotsedelchev valley, Slavyanka, Sturgech and the Beslensky hill of Bozdag is high - more than half of the species. In Rila, the number of endemics (242 species) and relicts (244) among invertebrates is high.

In this part of Bulgaria there are many species of vertebrates - about 250 species in Pirin. There is a similar great diversity in the other mountains and in the valley of the Mesta River. This natural-geographical sub-region is also distinguished by the presence of many endemic and relict species of animals. In Pirin there are 39 local endemics that are found only in this mountain, 67 species of Bulgarian endemics and 123 Balkan endemics. The types of glacial (149 species) and periglacial (27 species) relicts are also diverse.

The fauna is also influenced by the proximity to the delta region of Mesta - known mainly for its unique wild nature and biological diversity of species

Mammals are very characteristic inhabitants of Pirin, Slavyanka and the forested areas in the other mountains and in the valleys. These are mostly typical forest dwellers. In Pirin, 45 species of terrestrial mammals have been established. Of the large mammals, the most representative of the sub-region are: the wild goat, which inhabits only the highest steep and rocky terrains of Rila Pirin; the most numerous large mammal in the Rilo-Pirin sub-region is the roe deer; the bear is a protected species and distributed mainly in the forest belt of the mountains; the wild boar is common, like other parts of the country; the predators wolf and fox, etc.. There are also badgers, squirrels, rabbits, hedgehogs, hazel dormouse, blind dog, weasel. The threatened population of the laluger is also characteristic. There are also over ten species of bats. Among the Mediterranean species, very characteristic of Slavyanka is the jackal.

Among the amphibians, the relict mountain water frog is common. Of the reptiles there are many Mediterranean species. Among them are the spiny-thighed and spiny-tailed turtles, distributed mainly in Slavyanka, Sturgech, Beslenski ridge, Gotsedelchevska kotlovina. The Balkan endemic Macedonian lizard is also widespread in the mountains. You can also find a stilt, viviparous lizard, alpine newt, viper (a relict species), the rarely seen cat snake, etc.

The fauna inhabiting the low parts of the territory of the municipality is represented by woodcock, partridge, quail, etc.

In the Pirin area there is a relatively diverse variety of fish. In glacial lakes, high mountain dams and, more rarely, in rivers, the Balkan trout and the acclimatized from other geographical areas rainbow trout and grayling are found. There are also the Bulgarian endemics glavocho, Strumica goulash, the Balkan endemics marishka barbel and Balkan pinchok. Black barbel, perch, river mullet, carp, etc. are also found in the Mesta River (in Bulgaria). types of fish.

Bird diversity is significant - in Pirin there are about 160 species. There are a number of relict and endemic bird species. Among the endemic and at the same time rare species species of white-backed woodpecker, Balkan skylark, Alpine warbler, hooded tit, rock mason. Among the most widespread are grouse, hazel grouse, mountain grouse, little cuckoo, etc. Willow and a number of species of birds of prey such as woodpeckers (white-backed and black), eagles (rocky, kestrel, osprey, orko), hawks (great, hunting, goshawk, peregrine falcon) and others.

The fauna of Slavyanka Mountain is characterized by species typical for the country - roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), rabbit (*Lepus europaeus*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), badger (*Meles meles*). There are also many Mediterranean species, more famous of which are the jackal (*Canis aureus*), the spiny turtle (*Testudo graeca*), the spiny-tailed turtle (*Testudo hermanni*), the Macedonian lizard (*Lacerta erhardi*), the rare cat snake (*Telescopus fallax*) and others. There are especially many Mediterranean representatives of invertebrates - more than 55-60% of all invertebrates in the reserve.

Among the insects of Alibotush, the best known are the butterflies, and more specifically the day butterflies. In recent years, four new species of diurnal butterflies have been discovered for Bulgaria (the white butterfly *Euchloe penia*, the blue butterfly *Plebeius andronicus*, *P. nephohiptamenos* and *P. aroaniensis*).

Also in the biotope, the occurrence of the satyrid *Hipparchia orestes* in Bulgaria has been confirmed. Of these new species, all but *E. penia* are Balkan endemics, and all but *Plebeius aroaniensis* occur in Bulgaria only within the borders of the Alibotush-Pirin mountain range.

Of the fish species along the middle course of the Mesta, on the territory of Bulgaria, it is inhabited by barbel (*Barbus cyclolepis*), black barbel, perch, crotch, maple (river mullet), bream, pike, and in recent years, pike. Here river and rainbow trout, carp and river eel can also be found. There are Balkan trout along the upper reaches of the Mutnitsa River and the Burovitsa River.

Reptiles are represented by a large number of turtles.

In addition to the wide variety of species, there are also many rare and endangered species of animals. Some of them are no longer found in the natural environment and are included as objects of protection and protection.

The main animal species on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality are described in detail

- Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)
- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Vulpes
- Wild hare (*Lepus europaeus*)
- Badger (*Meles meles*)
- Wild cat (*Felis silvestris*)
- Common squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)
- Falcon (*Falco*)
- Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
- Black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)
- Dandelion (*Tetrao urogallus*)
- White-throated Thrush (*Turdus torquatus*)
- *Alectoris graeca*
- Balkan trout (*Salmo trutta fario*)

The avifauna is described and assessed

The area of Slavyanka is characterized by a variety of bird species, including those typical of the high mountains and lowland habitats with a Mediterranean influence. It supports 134 bird species, 53 of which are of European Conservation Interest (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004). One of them, the Corncrake *Crex crex*, which occurs in the lower parts of the mountain, is included in the category SPEC 1 (globally threatened species), 19 species are included in SPEC 2 and 33 in SPEC 3, as species threatened in Europe. Twenty-one of the bird species that occur are listed in the Red Book of Bulgaria (1985). The area provides suitable habitats for 41 species listed in Schedule 2 of the Biodiversity Act in need of special conservation measures, of which 33 are also listed in Schedule I of the Birds Directive.

Slavyanka is one of the most important sites in the country for Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*, Owl / Tengmalm` *Aegolius funereus*/ and Grouse / *Tetrao urogallus* / which breed here in significant numbers. In the area, more significant breeding occurs in representatives of the populations of Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum* and Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

The species included in App. 2 of the Biodiversity Act (Annex I of Dir. 79/409/EEC)

Assessment of the fauna of the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource

Strengths

The natural features of the territory create conditions for a rich diversity of animal species inhabiting it

The animal world is very diverse in terms of species, there is a huge variety among the clumsy animals - over 2000 in Pirin, mainly insects, spiders, centipedes, snails, etc. Mediterranean invertebrate species are most characteristic of Slavyanka, where they cover approx. 55% of all invertebrates. The proportion of Mediterranean species of animals in the Gotsedelchev valley, Slavyanka, Sturgech and the Beslensky hill of Bozdag is high - more than half of the species. In Rila, the number of endemics (242 species) and relicts (244) among invertebrates is high.

In this part of Bulgaria there are many species of vertebrates - about 250 species in Pirin. There is a similar great diversity in the other mountains and in the valley of the Mesta River. This natural-geographical sub-region is also distinguished by the presence of many endemic and relict species of animals. In Pirin there are 39 local endemics that are found only in this mountain, 67 species of Bulgarian endemics and 123 Balkan endemics. The types of glacial (149 species) and periglacial (27 species) relicts are also diverse.

The fauna is also influenced by the proximity to the delta region of Mesta - known mainly for its unique wild nature and biological diversity of species

The area of Slavyanka is characterized by a variety of bird species, including those typical of the high mountains and lowland habitats with a Mediterranean influence. It supports 134 bird species, 53 of which are of European Conservation Interest (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004). One of them, the Corncrake *Crex crex*, which occurs in the lower parts of the mountain, is included in the category SPEC 1 (globally threatened species), 19 species are included in SPEC 2 and 33 in SPEC 3, as species threatened in Europe.

Twenty-one of the bird species that occur are listed in the Red Book of Bulgaria (1985). The area provides suitable habitats for 41 species listed in Schedule 2 of the Biodiversity Act in need of special conservation measures, of which 33 are also listed in Schedule I of the Birds Directive.

These facts make the territory extremely attractive for natural science tourism, fishing tourism, trench tourism, photo hunting tourism.

Weaknesses

Individual animal species are highly threatened with extinction and particularly sensitive to a more massive human presence. This circumstance imposes specific requirements for the way of visiting their habitats, such as not allowing mass visits, scheduled visits, measures to protect animal species.

In general, the resources are well known and their potential for tourism purposes has been largely recognized as a mammoth.

Opportunities of the Geopark related to the use of vegetation on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource

- Assistance to preserve and maintain the condition of the fauna and to increase the populations.
- Assistance for preservation and development of the biosphere of the territory and protection of rare species of animals and birds.
- Promotion of the animal wealth of the territory through appropriate information provision. Getting to know the population. Preparation of tour guides with knowledge of the attractions of the flora of the territory.
- Support for the development of types and forms of tourism oriented towards the full disclosure and use of the territory's potential related to the territory's fauna.
- Helping the existing tourist sites to offer visits and familiarization with the unique plant species in the area.
- The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including natural science research, marketing research, tourism-economy evaluations.

As specific resources of interest for the Geopark and for the development of tourism, as a result of the conducted research, the following were identified:

- Bird habitats (total). Protected bird species - rating 9.1
- Habitats of the Balkan kestrel, jay, woodpecker, thrush in the foothills of the Western Rhodopes near the Mesta basin - rating 9.4
- Habitats of alpine species - three-toed woodpecker and white-throated thrush in the high parts of Eastern and Southern Pirin
- Hunting game (total) in Southern Pirin – rating 7.1

Expert evaluation of the potential of the fauna in the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource.

Table 9.

Name of the resource (site): Fauna on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
1. Tourist value of the resource	<i>8.71</i>		<i>0.600</i>	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9	0.35	0,210	1.89
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.2	0.20	0,120	0.98
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.7	0.45	0,270	2.35

SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	7.93		0.400	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource		0.30	0.120	0.98
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of visitors, familiarization with information, etc.)		0.20	0.080	0.59
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility		0.20	0.080	0.67
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for purposes of tourism		0.30	0.120	0.92
General assessment of the potential of the territory				8.395

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment - 8.395 is in the interval 8.01 - 10.00 points, the resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism. The development should focus on advertising and information activities, efforts to improve accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with other elements of the tourist infrastructure.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 8.71 is very high. It defines the fauna as an important tourist resource for the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for use of the resource" - 7.93 is relatively high in comparison with the evaluations of a large part of the tourist resources according to this criterion. It shows the availability of good conditions for the use of the resource, such as knowledge of the resource, exposure of the resource at the local and national level, readiness for use for the purposes of tourism, accessibility for observation. These assessments show that the resource has a high potential as a natural fact and its effective use is possible without significant new research, investments in infrastructure, etc. To improve the use of the resource, it is necessary to bind and include it in a large number of species and forms of tourism on the territory of the municipality as a specific educational and entertainment attraction

Noteworthy are the high scores for sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.0, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource – 8.7 and sub-criterion 2.3 Accessibility of the resource – 8.4

For the development of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of exposure of the resource for tourism purposes.

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and the potential of the resource for the development of natural science tourism, fishing tourism, flat tourism and nature education student tourism on the territory of the municipality.

2.7. Description, characterization and assessment of the potential of the Mesta River as a resource for the development of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo

The main characteristics of the river are described in detail as a natural fact and social significance. On this basis, an assessment of the potential of the Mesta River as a resource for the development of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo was made.

Strengths

The river is a system-forming element of the natural features of the territory and a main factor for the state of the biosphere on the territory of the municipality. Places determine the natural and economic profile of the territory. It is the basis of most of the rich diversity of vegetation and animal species that inhabit it.

It has been made detailed descriptions of the Mesta River as a natural phenomenon and social significance. On this basis, an assessment of the river as a tourist resource was made.

A weak point of the river as a tourist resource is the inconstancy of its flow rate. Another weak side of the beam point of the general state of the natural environment is the insufficiently good and efficient use of the river's waters for economic and domestic needs.

Expert assessment of the Mesta River as a tourist resource

Table 10.

Name of the resource (object): Mesta River on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

Criteria (Cr)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
Sub-criteria (SC)				
1. Tourist value of the resource	<i>8.91</i>		<i>0.600</i>	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9.2	0.35	0,210	1.93
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.4	0.20	0,120	1.01
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.9	0.45	0,270	2.40
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	<i>8.26</i>		<i>0.400</i>	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	8.5	0.30	0.120	1.02
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of tourists, familiarization with information, etc.)	8.8	0.20	0.080	0.70
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	9.4	0.20	0.080	0.75
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	6.9	0.30	0.120	0.83
General assessment of the potential of the territory				8.647

Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment - 8.647 is in the interval 8.01 - 10.00 points, the resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism. The development should focus on advertising and information activities, efforts to improve accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with other elements of the tourist infrastructure.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 8.91 is very high. It defines Mesta River as a natural feature of primary importance and an important resource for tourism in the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for use of the resource" - 8.26 is also very high. The resource has a significantly higher, real readiness for use, in comparison with the assessments of a large part of the tourist resources according to this criterion. It shows the availability of good conditions for the use of the resource, such as knowledge of the resource, exposure of the resource at the local and national level,

readiness for use for the purposes of tourism, accessibility for observation. These assessments show that the resource has a high potential as a natural fact and its effective use is possible without substantial new research, investments in infrastructure, etc. To improve the use of the resource, it is necessary to bind it and include it in a large part of the species and forms of tourism on the territory of the municipality as a specific educational and entertainment attraction.

Noteworthy are the high scores on sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.2, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource – 8.9 and sub-criterion 2.3 Accessibility of the resource – 9.4

For the development of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of exposure of the resource for tourism purposes.

As with most resources of the "Natural Endowments and Landmarks" type, the assessments show the presence of reserves for better utilization of the resource for the purposes of tourism in the municipality.

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and the potential of the resource for the development of natural science tourism, fishing tourism, flat tourism and nature education student tourism on the territory of the municipality.

2.8. Description, characterization and assessment of the mountains Slavyanka, Stergach and South Pirin and the Paril saddle as a resource for tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo

The main characteristics of the mountains and their importance for the life and tourism of the territory are described with a high degree of detail.

The Alibotush nature reserve is described and evaluated separately

Expert assessment of the potential of the territory's vegetation as a tourist resource.

Table 11.

Name of the resource (object): Terrain, vegetation and animal life in the Stergach, Slavyanka and South Pirin mountains and the Paril saddle

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
1. Tourist value of the resource	<i>8.71</i>		<i>0.600</i>	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9	0.35	0,210	1.89
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.2	0.20	0,120	0.98
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.7	0.45	0,270	2.35
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	<i>7.93</i>		<i>0.400</i>	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource		0.30	0.120	0.98
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of tourists, familiarization with information, etc.)		0.20	0.080	0.59
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility		0.20	0.080	0.67
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism		0.30	0.120	0.92

<i>General assessment of the potential of the territory</i>				8.395
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Maximum score - 10 points Minimum score - 0 points

The value of the assessment - 8.395 is in the interval 8.01 - 10.00 points, the resource (object) has a very high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory and is extremely suitable for the development of tourism. The development should focus on advertising and information activities, efforts to improve accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with other elements of the tourist infrastructure.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 8.71 is very high. It defines the fauna as an important tourist resource for the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for use of the resource" - 7.93 is relatively high in comparison with the evaluations of a large part of the tourist resources according to this criterion. It shows the availability of good conditions for the use of the resource, such as knowledge of the resource, exposure of the resource at the local and national level, readiness for use for the purposes of tourism, accessibility for observation. These assessments show that the resource has a high potential as a natural fact and its effective use is possible without significant new research, investments in infrastructure, etc. To improve the use of the resource, it is necessary to bind and include it in a large number of species and forms of tourism on the territory of the municipality as a specific educational and entertainment attraction

Noteworthy are the high scores for sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.0, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource – 8.7 and sub-criterion 2.3 Accessibility of the resource – 8.4

For the development of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of exposure of the resource for tourism purposes.

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and the potential of the resource for the development of natural science tourism, fishing tourism, flat tourism and nature education student tourism on the territory of the municipality.

The current level of research gives reasons to recommend additional studies, including natural science research, marketing research, tourism-economy evaluations.

2.9. Description of the habitats of the Balkan kestrel, jay, woodpecker, thrush in the foothills of the Western Rhodopes near the Mesta basin

Habitats of over 200 species of birds have been identified on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality, some of which are from the protected categories - included in Annex. 2 of the Biodiversity Act (Annex I of Dir. 79/409/EEC)

According to the study, interesting from the point of view of natural science tourism, ecological tourism and mountain tourism are the habitats of the following species of birds:

- Alectoris graeca graeca
- Garrulus glandarius Eurasian Jay
- Dendrocopos leucotos White-backed Woodpecker
- Picoides tridactylus Three-toed Woodpecker
- Dendrocopos medius Medium Pied Woodpecker
- Picus canus Gray Woodpecker
- Turdus philomelos Common Thrush
- Turdus torquatus White-throated Thrush
- Turdus viscivorus Mistletoe thrush

Characteristic of the species is the tendency of decreasing the mindset of their habitats on a global scale. On the territory of the municipality, this trend has stopped, and in recent years their number has stabilized, although still at low levels.

The main habitats of the territory are the semi-mountainous areas along the Mesta River at the border between Bulgaria and Greece, the Slavonic Pranin and the Ali botush reserve, the Sturgec mountain and the semi-mountainous slopes of South Pirin.

From a tourist point of view, a suitable place for observation is the river Mesta at the bend near the Chapel of St. Dimitar, east of Hadjidimovo.

The habitats of:

- Balkan grouse (*Alectoris graeca* Meisner)
- Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)
- Middle spotted woodpecker/*Dendrocopos medius*
- White-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*)
- Black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*)
- Common Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
- White-throated Thrush (*Turdus torquatus*)
- Mistletoe thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

An assessment of the fauna of the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource was made

Strengths

The natural features of the territory create conditions for a rich diversity of animal species inhabiting it. In this part of Bulgaria there are many species of vertebrates - about 250 species in Pirin. There is a similar great diversity in the other mountains and in the valley of the Mesta River. This natural-geographical sub-region is also distinguished by the presence of many endemic and relict species of animals. In Pirin there are 39 local endemics that are found only in this mountain, 67 species of Bulgarian endemics and 123 Balkan endemics. The types of glacial (149 species) and periglacial (27 species) relicts are also diverse.

The fauna is also influenced by the proximity to the delta region of Mesta - known mainly for its unique wild nature and biological diversity of species.

The area of Slavyanka is characterized by a variety of bird species, including those typical of the high mountains and lowland habitats with a Mediterranean influence. It supports 134 bird species, 53 of which are of European Conservation Interest (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004). One of them, the Corncrake *Crex crex*, which occurs in the lower parts of the mountain, is included in the category SPEC 1 (globally threatened species), 19 species are included in SPEC 2 and 33 in SPEC 3, as species threatened in Europe. Twenty-one of the bird species that occur are listed in the Red Book of Bulgaria (1985). The area provides suitable habitats for 41 species listed in Schedule 2 of the Biodiversity Act in need of special conservation measures, of which 33 are also listed in Schedule I of the Birds Directive.

In general, the resource is well known for tourism purposes.

Weaknesses

Individual animal species are highly threatened with extinction and particularly sensitive to a more massive human presence. This circumstance imposes specific requirements for the way of visiting their habitats, such as not allowing mass visits, scheduled visits, measures to protect animal species.

Opportunities of the Geopark related to the use of vegetation on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality as a tourist resource

- Assistance to preserve and maintain the condition of habitats and to increase populations.
- Support for the preservation and development of the territory's biosphere and the protection of rare species of birds.
- Promotion of the animal wealth of the territory through appropriate information provision. Getting to know the population. Preparation of tour guides with knowledge of the attractions of the flora of the territory.
- Support for the development of types and forms of tourism oriented towards the full disclosure and use of the territory's potential related to the territory's fauna.
- Helping existing tourist sites to offer visits and familiarization with the unique bird habitats in the area.
- The current level of research gives reasons that there is an opportunity for additional research, including natural science research, marketing research, tourism-economy evaluations.

Expert assessment of the potential of the habitats of the Balkan woodpecker, jay, woodpecker, thrush in the foothills of the Western Rhodopes towards the valley basin of Mesta as a tourist resource.

Table 12.

Name of the resource (site): Habitats of the Balkan kestrel, jay, woodpecker, thrush in the foothills of the Western Rhodopes

near the Mesta basin

Criteria (Cr) Sub-criteria (SC)	Average grade	Relative weighting in criterion evaluation	Relative weight in the overall assessment	Weighted value in the overall score
1. Tourist value of the resource	8.71		0.600	
No. 1.1. Importance of the resource	9.3	0.35	0,210	1.95
No. 1.2. Knowledge level of the resource	8.8	0.20	0,120	1.06
No. 1.3. Resource attractiveness	8.2	0.45	0,270	2.21
SC				
2. Available conditions for use of the resource	6.92		0.400	
No. 2.1. Degree of exposure of the resource	6.6	0.30	0.120	0.79
No. 2.2. Degree of readiness for use (reception of visitors, familiarization with information, etc.)	8.8	0.20	0.080	0.70
No. 2.3. Resource accessibility	7.8	0.20	0.080	0.62
No. 2.4. Degree of assimilation of the resource for the purposes of tourism	5.4	0.30	0.120	0.65
General assessment of the potential of the territory				7.991

Maximum score - 10.00 points Minimum score - 0.00 points

The value of the evaluation - 7.991 is in the interval 6.01 - 8.00 points, the resource (the object) has a high tourist potential for the purposes of tourism in the territory. It is possible to use it in measures for better exposure and possibilities for observation. Development should focus on advertising and information activities, efforts to improve accessibility, as well as measures to improve the connectivity of the resource (site) with the other elements of the tourist infrastructure.

Structural analysis of assessment.

The assessment under Cr. 1. "Tourist value of the resource" - 8.71 is very high. It defines the habitats as an important tourist resource for the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality.

The assessment under Cr. 2. "Available conditions for use of the resource" - 6.92 is relatively high in comparison with the evaluations of a large part of the tourist resources according to this criterion. It shows the presence of good conditions for the use of the resource, such as knowledge of the resource, exposure of the resource at the local and national level, readiness for use for the purposes of tourism, accessibility for observation. These assessments show that the resource has a high potential as a natural fact and its effective

use is possible without significant new research, investments in infrastructure, etc. To improve the use of the resource, it is necessary to bind and include it in a large number of species and forms of tourism on the territory of the municipality as a specific educational and entertainment attraction

Noteworthy are the high scores on sub-criteria 1.1 Importance of the resource - 9.3, sub-criteria 1.3. Attractiveness of the resource - 8.2 and sub-criterion 2.2 Degree of readiness to use the resource for tourism purposes. – 8.8 (Highest score for this indicator from the analyzed tourist resources)

For the development of the resource as a tourist resource, attention should be paid to increase the degree of exposure of the resource for tourism purposes.

The main emphasis in the study and use of the resource should be the possibilities and potential of the resource for the development of natural science tourism, photo hunting tourism and nature education student tourism on the territory of the municipality.

4. Identified natural landmarks on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

As a result of the research and the expert assessment, the ice natural attractions with the potential for the development of tourism, which are of interest for the activity of Geopark Hadjidimovo, have been identified:

- The geological structure of the alluvial sediments in the Mesta river, their dynamics over time and their role for the biosphere and for the life and funeral of the population.*
- The geophysical and geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the watershed of the Mesta river Places on the territory of the Geopark and the Municipality - the influence of human activity on their condition (pollution, purification, sewage, effects of hunting and fishing, influence of the development of infrastructure, urban planning and the development of settlements, of measures to protect the natural environment, etc.)*
- Sources of drinking water and their role in the development of habitats and human activity - Teshtovo springs, underground water sources.*
- Flora and fauna of the territory of the region and its change under the influence of the human factor (infrastructure, urban planning and development of settlements, measures to protect the natural environment, etc.) The change of flora and fauna under the influence of global climate processes.*
- Unique bird habitats and species in the meanders of the Places*
- Unique bird habitats in Ali Botush Reserve*
- Unique plant species in the Mesta river, in the Ali botush reserve and in the high mountain must on the territory of Hazhshdimonvo Municipality.*
- Geological structure and ore fossils in the areas of Teshovo, the Paril gorge, the border territories of Perelik and Ilinden*
- Neolithic and Karst underground water resources - condition, dynamics, opportunities for use, etc.*
- The geological structure and ore fossils in the regions of Teshovo, Gaitaninovo, the Paril gorge, the border territories of Perelik and Ilinden*
- Vegetation and soil cover in the forest massifs on the territory of the geopark. Specific types of vegetation. Structure and dynamics of soils. Impact of human activity on the state of vegetation and soils*
- City water park in the town of Hadjidimovo, facilities for recreation, recovery and entertainment. It is located on the outskirts of the city. It is included in the territorial scope of Hadjidimovo Geopark.*
- Reservoir in the village of Sadovo. Flora and bird habitats. It is located on the outskirts of the village. It is included in the territorial scope of Hadjidimovo Geopark.*
- Reservoir in the village of Ablanitsa. Flora and bird habitats. It is located on the outskirts of the village. It is included in the territorial scope of Hadjidimovo Geopark.*
- Reservoir in Blatska. Flora and bird habitats. It is located on the outskirts of the village. It is included in the territorial scope of Hadjidimovo Geopark.*

Remark :

The abstract was prepared by the municipality of Hadjidimovo (The Project Management Team) on the basis of the report provided by the subcontractor "ESA Obrazovatelyn Center "Vitosha" EOOD

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



Appendix 3

**PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS
GEOPARK IN NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771**

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

**The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
and by national funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” .**

PB MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDIMOVO, BULGARIA

DELIVERABLE D 3.3.3

**NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY
AND A TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"**

**The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of this report are sole
responsibility of the Municipality of Hadzhidimovo and can in no way be taken to
reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing
Authority and the Joint Secretariat.**

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION



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Appendix 3

(Abstract)

Description of tourist resources - Historical facts and events and the cultural-historical heritage of the lands in the region of Hadjidimovo municipality

By virtue of their geographical position, the lands on which today's municipality of Hadjidimovo is located find themselves at the crossroads between eras and civilizations - during antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and until today. The ancient Thracian, ancient Greek and ancient Roman civilizations developed on these lands. The ancient Macedonian state was formed here. They witnessed the separation and rise of the Eastern Roman Empire and Byzantium. Some of the main routes of the great migration of peoples crossed these lands, bringing the Cumans, Avars, Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians to the Balkans. In antiquity, an important road to the central artery of the Balkan Peninsula, the Via Egnatia, passed there along the Mesta. In 1911, a stone tomb with bronze, silver and clay vessels, silver and gold ornaments was discovered in the Kotubare area. These lands are at the center of the historical rivalry of the powerful Bulgarian state with Byzantium. They were one of the main areas of the Ottoman Empire. Due to the cultural development, in the late Byzantine

period, the first traces of the European renaissance can be found here, which laid the foundations for the appearance of modern European civilization.

In a spiritual and religious sense, pagan beliefs, ancient Greek polytheism and its related mythology, the monotheism of the proto-Bulgarians, early Christianity, whose cradle was Constantinople, and various forms of Christian heresy were fought on these lands. Orthodoxy was born here. Christianity and Islam meet here. The crusades passed through here and left their mark. Many of the main forms of the Christian ecclesiastical organization were born in these places, within which Christian theology and ecclesiastical literature and fine art developed.

Without exaggeration, it can be said that here is one of the centers of modern civilization, associated with opposition and violent struggles, with wars and invasions, with the rise and fall of nations and empires.

From these positions, to describe the history and culture of the region is an extremely complex task, requiring multi-planning and multi-layeredness.

Within the scope of the project's objectives, an approach aimed at describing the main historical events and cultural elements related to several main historical eras, which shaped the history, culture, life and traditions of the peoples of the region and reflected most strongly and significantly on the present.

These are: the Neolithic era, the ancient Thracian civilization, the era of the ancient Greek civilization, the ancient Roman era and the Byzantine period, the building of the Bulgarian state, Slavic-Bulgarian history, the Ottoman period, the restoration of Christian statehood and the struggles related to it.

The approach includes description of main historical events and personalities, description of characteristic traditions and elements of life during the relevant periods; description of beliefs, myths, legends and legends; description of more significant discovered artefacts and cultural-historical monuments.

The research approach is aimed at uncovering and exposing those elements that provide knowledge about historical events of both global and local importance so as to create interest and meet the interests of modern people.

Main attention is given to revealing the connection of history and culture with the natural features of the region - climate, topography, waters. It is the richness of these features and the living conditions they provided that are the basis of the interests and dynamic historical events

on these lands. The natural wealth, fertile lands, abundant water resources, vast pastures, the moderate climate with a strong Mediterranean influence create wonderful conditions for agriculture and animal husbandry, the rich natural minerals enable the development of metallurgy, metalworking, ceramics. Forests create conditions for hunting, logging, woodworking and development of construction technologies. Natural gifts and opportunities for plant and animal husbandry are the basis for the development of an exceptional culinary culture and diversity.

The research approach is aimed at uncovering and exposing those elements that provide knowledge about historical events, both of global and local importance, in view of the goal set in the present assignment - namely to stimulate the development of tourism in Geopark Hadjidimovo, to attract the attention of both the local public and future visitors.

It should be noted that the described historical events, facts, personalities and evidence do not pretend to present a comprehensive and coherent picture of the history of the region. Only those of them are presented, which are considered more important and significant from the point of view of the goals of the research - to reveal the connection of the Geopark with the history of the territory on which it is located, as well as to create direction for future studies and presentation of historical processes here within the functionality of the Geopark itself.

The presentation is informative and informative in nature. It collects data from various sources - Textbooks, history, Scientific studies and monographs, articles, websites, etc. Part of the information is collected from Wikipedia sources.

The material does not claim to be an author's scientific study of the historical process. It presents in a popular form individual historical fragments as they are described in memoirs, public databases, history textbooks. Descriptions from separate scientific articles and monographs were also used in the present work. In this sense, it has more the character of a collection of materials. In this form, the exhibit can be used to present the history of the territory to visitors of the Geopark, as well as a basis for more in-depth and meteorologically sustained studies and analysis.

It should be emphasized that any addition, interpretation and even negation and refutation of the information contained would be beneficial for the goals pursued within the Geopark concept, namely to arouse interest and initiate discussions and new studies.

Historical periods, Topographic, political and cultural processes and events, artefacts and personalities are described as follows:

- 1. Prehistory. Neolithic. Thracian-Hellenistic era (after IV century BC)**
- 2. The Period of the Macedonian state**
- 3. Socio-economic changes in Macedonia at the end of the 5th century BC**
- 4. Intensification of tribal conflicts in Macedonia and the intervention of the Greek states in the first half of the 4th century BC.**
- 5. The Independent Olynthus. Reign of Amyntas II and his son Alexander**
- 6. Perdiccas III - consolidation of Macedonia among the Greek states**
- 7. Philip II of Macedon and the beginning of the domination of the Macedonian kingdom in the ancient world**
- 8. The siege of Byzantium by Philip II of Macedon**
- 9. The conquests of Alexander the Great**
- 10. The territory during Byzantine rule 1-7 centuries AD**
- 11. The territory of today's Neurokop region during the first Bulgarian state 681 - 1018**
- 12. Samuel's Ohrid Bulgarian kingdom (997-1014)**
- 13. The territory of today's Neurokop region during the struggle against Byzantine rule (1018-1185)**
- 14. The territory of today's Nevrokop region during the Second Bulgarian State (1185-1353)**
- 15. The territory of the Neurokop region during the Ottoman rule (1393 – 1878)**
- 16. Bulgarian national liberation movement in Macedonia and Thrace (1893-1912)**
- 17. The territory of the region during the wars at the beginning of the twentieth century**

Those historical facts, events, persons and artifacts are described, which, according to the expert study, are of interest from the point of view of the concept of Geoparks and the goals and objectives of Geopark Hadjidimovo. The connection with the goals and the specific directions in which the Geopark should study the relevant historical period on the territory of the municipality and expose the results of these studies are indicated.

The history of the territory of the municipality during some of the mentioned historical periods has been explored in depth. There are available collected artifacts, conducted surveys, assessments, analyzes that the Geopark can use immediately. Such are, for example, the ancient Roman period, the period of Ottoman rule, the period of the Bulgarian uprising and

the period of the struggles for national liberation. However, there are no records for some of the historical periods mentioned, but there are historical data and studies showing the connection of the territory with these periods. Such are the period of rivalry between the ancient Greek cities and Persia, the period of the Macedonian kings, the period of the first Bulgarian kingdom, which are of interest both for historical knowledge and for the purposes of tourism. A better study and exposure of the connection of the territory with the ancient Greek civilization would contribute to these goals. These circumstances are an opportunity for the Geopark to create conditions for more active studies and, accordingly, for exposure of the collected artifacts as a tourist resource.

The total volume of the text is 212 standard printed pages

1. Prehistory. Neolithic. Thracian -Hellenistic era (after the 4th century BC)

The part of today's city of Hadjidimovo has been inhabited since ancient times. The available data testify to the earliest human presence since the time before the Trojan War (XII century BC). As a result of archaeological excavations in the area of "St. Dimitar" (about 3 km southeast of Hadjidimovo) are unearthed cultural layers from the Late Bronze Age (XIV-XIII centuries BC) and Early Iron Age (end of the XII-IX centuries BC).

The natural conditions in the region, especially the climate, the relief, the rich water basins, the luxuriant forests and pastoralism, the fertile soils have made the territory of the region an extremely attractive and comfortable place for the living. The plains between southern Pirin, the Mesta region, and the western slopes of the RhPodops offer the most opportunities for settlement: land for raising livestock, rich in water resources, proximity to rich pastures of all kinds of mountains, rivers, swamps. That's why a whole series of Neolithic settlements like: Sitagri have sprung up on these lands. In the neighboring valleys to the east - the ancient settlements of Sikia, Kalambak-Tepe, Doksat-Tepe and Kefalari, Polistilo and Dikili Tash in the southeast.

Traces from the Hellenistic era (after the 4th century BCE) are significant. Remains of settlements (mainly fortified settlements) were discovered in the ruins of the territory. On an area of 2-3 dka, stones from blown-up walls and pieces of household and household clay, dated to the IV century BC, were found. In the vicinity of this locality, a similar elevation rises, on which relatively scarcer cultural remains were found.

The Turkish culture, artifacts were discovered in the 70s of the last century during the construction of the old polyclinic in the city. Unburied.

There are reports that coins of Alexander the Great (356-323) originated from these places. An ancient necropolis of the IV-III centuries in the town of "Halkite" (1.5 km west of the town) was probably connected with the site or a nearby settlement, from which a tomb with stone slabs and burial goods was excavated in 1936 (two silver vessels, a golden breastplate, a shield from Philip II of Macedonia (359-336) and others).

Another ancient necropolis was excavated in 1911 in the town of "Kutubaea" near the area of Gorna Syngertiya (Gopnyane). A double tomb belonged to it, also carved with stone slabs, in which were found bronze, silver and clay vessels, silver and gold jewelry and a sword. Most likely, a Turkish warrior was buried in the hidden dungeon. According to local residents, the entire inventory was taken by the Tup government (until 1912, these lands were part of the Ottoman Empire).

In the layers of the Neolithic era, spoons made of terracotta (as well as those made of bones, shells and wood) were discovered. The objects are of different shapes and sizes (from the spoon to the ladle or the drainage tube), they were used for the use of liquids or stools, for mixing spices, for the consumption of food. Their staff often ends with a human head and can be mistaken for a human figure.

Spherical or lenticular objects with two pointed ends were discovered in the layers of the same period. The traces of fire and smoldering that they carry often make it necessary to abandon the traditional name of "sticks with a stick" and to assume that they fulfill a completely personal function, still unspecified.

In all the strata of the Neolithic there are preserved fragments and, in particular, baten-like products.

It should be noted that many of these artefacts found on the territory of the municipality are kept in various museums at the national, regional and regional level. However, they could be represented in the framework of temporary expositions related to the history of the territory of the Geopark and the municipality of Hadjidimovo, as well as the presence of a local archaeological museum.

2. The period of the Macedonian state

The end of the 6th and the beginning of the 5th century BC. adapts to the further development of socio-economic relations. This is also confirmed by the archaeological monuments, such as the Trebenish culture, which testifies to the strong social differentiation in the Macedonian society between the poor and the rich and the change of the strong power of the aristocracy and the mercantile elite.

Further development forced the unification of the Macedonian tribes. The entire 5th century BC was filled with intense struggle for such a union.

One of the most important events in the life of the Greek states of the first half of the 5th century BC. are the Greek-Persian wars imposed on them by the aggressive Persian state of Darius I. The Persian kings tried to acquire new lands, to conquer villages, to commit

new crimes. This aggressive policy directly affects the interests of the Greek cities in Asia Minor and in Greece itself. In one way or another, not only all Greek states were involved in the war, but also other neighboring regions in the Balkans.

The more prosperous aspect of the trade relations of Macedonia during the second half of the 5th century BC. in comparison with the first half of the 5th century, it is proved by the Macedonians' trade relations with the Odysseus state, the cities of Halkida, Thessaly and especially with Athens. During the second half of the Peloponnesian War, Athens received mining timber from Macedonia.

The end of the 6th and the beginning of the 5th century. adapts to the further development of socio-economic relations. This is also confirmed by the archaeological monuments, such as The Trebenish culture testifies to the strong social differentiation in the Macedonian society between the poor and the rich and to the change of the strong power of the aristocracy and the commercial elite.

One of the most important events in the life of the Greek states of the first half of the 5th century BC. are the Greek-Persian wars imposed on them by the aggressive Persian state of Darius I. The Persians tried to acquire new lands, to conquer villages, to commit new crimes. This aggressive policy directly affects the interests of the Greek cities in Asia Minor and in Greece itself. In one way or another, not only all Greek states were involved in the war, but also other neighboring regions in the Balkans. At the beginning of the war between the Persians and the Greeks, the positions of the opposing countries and their allies, including and the Macedonian structures were clearly defined.

3. The territory during the reign of Alexander I

The question of what was the attitude of the Macedonian tribes towards the Greek-Persian wars has not been unequivocally clarified. The Macedonian kings Amyntas I and his son Alexander led a pro Greek policy, fought against the Persians and protected Greek interests. Thus, during the Greco-Persian wars, Macedonia, as a result of the violence, became a vassal region of the Persians.

The policy of the Macedonian kings was two-way, and they tried to show themselves loyal to the Persians.

According to Thucydides, the Lyncestes, Elimiots and other tribes have their own kings, but they are dependent on Macedonia. Alexander I buried the mountainous Macedonian regions

when he used the Persian forces during the campaigns of Xerx. However, it is believed that this did not happen for a short period of time. Subordinate regions many times fell from Macedonian subjugation and until Philip II they could not be considered completely buried.

In Aion, the mouth of the Stura, was defended by the Persian commandant Bohes. In 476, Simon discussed this fortress. He destroyed the neighboring villages and the Thrace fortifications and isolated the fortress of Aion. Simon proposed to Bohes to give up the post and go to Asia, but he was refused. When the battle was over, the Persians lit a big fire, killed the women, children, concubines and killed them and threw them into the fire. All the gold and silver was drowned in the river Struma, and then the commandant himself climbed into the fire. After this happened, the Athenians showered Cimon with honors, because this area was considered the key to the wealth of the Pangeian region, where there was a lot of gold, silver, ivory, horses, and gopis. Dealing with salt and the Thrace tribes, the Athenians were interested in strengthening their influence in this area. That is why they propagated the false legends that were supposed to prove that the Athenians had footfalls in these places. When they tried to establish colonies here, they were constantly opposed by the Thracians, who prevented them from settling on the Thrace coast. The Greeks through Thassos long ago learned about the natural processes of the Thracian coast and about the trading places established there. Herodotus reports that at the beginning of the 5th century they received 80 talents of income from the gold mines in Skaptasil (east of Pangea). After the Greek-Persian wars, these mines were under the jurisdiction of the Athenian Sea Union.

After extending his power to Strymon (river Struma), Alexander could no longer cope with the establishment of the Athenians' power in this area. Alexander sent the soldiers to protect his army. The capital of Macedonia was moved from Igus to Pella, south of Gliakon. As an impregnable fortress located near the Greek colonies, it fostered the development of trade relations. The Macedonian Greek cities were protected by the Greek cities of the Thrace coast; the Athenians were overwhelmed in their intention to settle in Strymon's residence.

The Macedonian king Alexander I established close relations with the Greek world. Alexander I completed the introduction of Greek culture into Macedonian life. The leaders of Macedonia are convinced that this culture will be directly related to the vital interests of their country. Without mastering the Greek culture, the Macedonians would not be able to play passing fields in the areas influenced by this culture. Thanks to her, the Macedonian government could, to a certain extent, strengthen its power over the Illyrian and Thrace regions. Alexander considered it very important for himself that his name was glorified and respected by the Greeks. For this purpose, he tried to participate in the national Greek festivals. It is known that when he went to the Olympic competitions in Olympus, the Greeks asked for his resignation, citing the fact that he was a vap. Alexander did not calm down until he proved with his proverb that he was a descendant of Hercules from Argos.

4. Reign of Archelais (413-399)

Even at the very beginning of his activity, Archelais (413-399) began to wisely implement a policy aimed at ensuring the security of the state and establishing an internal front in it. In order to protect the city from enemy attacks from the mountain and peasant

states, Archelais prepared a number of swords for the destruction of cities, whose walls could serve as protection against enemy invasions.

Thucydides ranks Archelais with the most prominent rulers and says that he did more for his country than all the previous goats. Archelais established most of the existing fortifications in the city, laid dipeptic roads conne weapon cting distant parts of the city, supported the state army, providing it with shelter, heavy rope and everything else that was necessary for military needs. Thucydides presents Archelais as an eminent reformer, in whose footsteps Philip II undoubtedly followed. Archelais managed to create advanced infantry, which is an important fact against the coming power of the apistokation. According to the performance, the peasantry is at odds with the peasantry, and the political aspirations of the peasantry are overshadowed by the "overthrow of the army".

Archelai's achievements contributed to a great extent to the consolidation of Macedonia and the revival of trade relations connected with the further development of the Macedonian economy.

Copper coins that have come down to us attest to the rise of the thorn in that time, and in particular, from the mention in the type of the Macedonian coins. On the one hand, during the rule of Archelais, the value of coins increased significantly; bronze coins appear for the first time before them, on the other hand, the change in the type of Macedonian coins leads to the return of old AbdeRas - "Phoenician" type in the so-baked Persian, which speaks of the development of commerce between Macedonia, Abdera, Maronia and others cities that also issued Persian type coins at the end of the fifth century. This was probably connected with some form of papal performance, about which nothing significant is still known. It can be assumed that it is due to the reduction of the weight of the coin from 230-220 g to 170, which actually means a transition from the old Phoenician type of coins to the Lydian-Persian type

Archelais maintains good neighborly relations with Athens - mostly in the organization of trade between the two countries. The Athenians received livestock products, agriculture, metals and resin from Macedonia. Corrosive materials were one of the goods exported to Athens and to the island of Samos, where the Athenian army was located.

Archelais intervened in the internal affairs of the Thessalian cities. He restored the power of the extreme oligarchs in Lapis and took hostages. The capture of the city of Larisa by Archelais and its annexation to Macedonia were of great importance for the latter, as Larisa played an important strategic, economic and political field in the external and internal policies of the Mylites. A military garrison and control of the Macedonian military authorities were established in the city; The region of Perebia was annexed to Macedonia.

In order to prevent the further spread of Macedonian influence in the Thessalian lands, the Spartans occupied the fortress of Ipaklii, which was located near the Temples and was of exceptional strategic importance. A little later, Fassal was garrisoned, that is, Sparta took swords in case of the war with Macedonia. But it did not lead to war. Sparta was not used and did not reach Macedonia until after the death of Archelais.

5. Independent Olints. Reign of Amyntas II and his son Alexander

After the Peloponnesian War, Athens lost its dominion in the Aegean sea and the possession of the Cape cities of Macedonia and Thrace. But with the passage of time, Athenian military power was restored by Conon, and Athens laid claim to its former dominions and control over the entire Aegean Sea. Olynthus, which had previously been under the rule of the Athenian state, now found itself in a new, independent position that allowed it to intervene in the Athenian state.

The ruling elites of Macedonia looked with envy and fear at the consolidation of the powerful federation that was Olynthus. It definitely threatened the existence of the Macedonian kingdom. In this connection, Athens and Macedonia again became interested in joining efforts. The peace that was finally concluded established control over the Athenian military power, but did not restore Macedonia. This circumstance saved Olynthus from immediate danger and perhaps from a great war. The Athenian nation was forced to submit to sepiia due to unfavorable circumstances and to recognize the independence of its former dominions. It is known that the battle of Levtra (371 BC) led to the decline of the international prestige of the Lacedaemonians and to the increase of the importance of the Republic of Athens among the Greek states. After this battle, at a general Greek congress in Athens, the Athenians insisted on their right to claim Amphipolis as their colony.

The Macedonian representative at the congress supported the demands of Athens, because at that time there was an alliance concluded between Amphipolis and Olynthus, which was considered dangerous for Macedonia. The temporary coincidence of Athenian-Macedonian interests in the north was due to the mutual step of the rise of Thebes.

6. Perdikas III – consolidation of Macedonia among the Greek states

In his foreign policy, Perdikas III supported the war with Athens, helping the inhabitants of Amphipolis against the Athenians. In all probability, he did not achieve great success in carrying out these measures, because the Athenian leader Timoteus, waging war against Amphipolis and the Chalcidians, forced Perdikas to join Athens and subsequently make peace with them.

With the help of Perdikas III, Timothy fought against the Olynthians. But Olynthus and Amphipolis received support from the Thracian king Cotis. The Athenians fell, which was good for Perdikas. Olynthus was weakened and was not a threat to Macedonia. In 362, Timotei entered Thrace, Pepdikas approached Amphipolis. The successor of Timotheus Callisthenes again fought with this city, but due to the severity of the battle, he was forced to conclude an agreement with Pepdikas, for which the Athenians condemned him to death. A Macedonian garrison was located in Amphipolis. Timotheus himself attacks this city again, but does not succeed.

Peredicas III corresponded with Platon and generally paid more attention to science and culture than to important state affairs, politics, foreign policy and economics.

During the last years of the rule of Perdikas, Macedonia was attacked by the Illyrians, to whom the Macedonian king refused to pay the tax established by Amyntas. Perdikas III was

defeated and killed together with four thousand Macedonians. After this event, the Macedonian throne passed to Philip, the only surviving son of Amyntas.

7. Philip II of Macedonia and the beginning of the domination of the Macedonian principality in the ancient world

With great difficulty, Philip succeeded in expelling the Illyrians and the Paeonians from Macedonia. The ТГИБЪСЪХ leaders, who were bribed by Philip, also accepted their military actions. Philip convinced the Tracian king Cotis to withdraw his support from Pausanias. It is very likely that Philip promised him Amphipolis as a reward. Cotis, however, died, and Pausanias is not mentioned anywhere else.

Philip directed his armed forces against the Athenians, who were still threatening him. In the north-west, the Lynxestian lake flows into the border between the Illyrian and Macedonian dominions. At the same time, Philip managed to annex the regions of the Paeonians, subjugate other uncivilized tribes and usurp power over them. Since then, Macedonia entered into closer contact with the Greek world and began to play a significant role in the fate of the Greek states.

The efforts of Alexander I, Pepdikas, Archelais, Amyntas led to the temporary unity of the tribes, but the desire for tribal independence was much stronger than these efforts of the Macedonian goats. For a long time, the latter could not overcome the opposition, only the process of citizenship formation from the bodies of the clan system.

The final subjugation of the Macedonian tribes to the kings of Lower Macedonia and their deprivation of their political independence refers mainly to the middle of the IV century. Back in 383-382, during the battle between Sparta and Olynthus, the independent bishop Derd was active in Elymeia. However, his son no longer has this title and pretends to be an ordinary Macedonian. Hence it follows that the final representation of Elimeia falls after 382.) There is similar information about other Macedonian regions: Lynkestida, Orestida, etc.

The significant changes that occurred in Macedonian society in the middle of the 4th century are primarily related to the further development of the economy and public relations. The appearance of metal mining and processing among the Macedonian tribes, changes the main branches of the economy: agriculture, animal husbandry and crafts, - the rise of the popes, exchange and poverty, as well as urban life, which was observed particularly intensively from the middle of the 5th century, evidence for the emergence of new relations, corresponding to a new level of economic development. During this period, the clan aristocracy strove to preserve the stable clan relations, which provided it with rich and prosperous days. It tried to adapt the new economy, poverty, poverty, papal relations, nepotism and wealth to the old clan relations. Thus, the tribal aristocracy stopped the development and in this way it was doomed to death.

In the 4th century, the Macedonian tribes of the whole country, despite the terrible conditions of their existence, began to pass from the stage of primitive society and military-tribal alliances to the creation of the Macedonian state. Former regions, centers of tribal unions, lose their independence. Tribal coins are destroyed. The duck system of Philip

testifies to the elevated field of the ram, which holds in its hands all the threads of management, finance and sadness.

The rulers of Macedonia changed frequently and only in the middle of the 4th century. a specific territory was created, in the framework of which the Macedonian state was formed. The existence of its own military force is the integral part of the formation of the Macedonian state. At the same time, since the military are separated from the crowd, they are pushed out of the management of public affairs, which begins to be controlled by the apmia of the officials who made this activity their main occupation. Before Philip, the clerical style was little known. A whole group of government officials can be seen from Philip's palace, and especially from Alexander's. They no longer depend on the will of society, but are the bearers of power. The middle of the 4th century can be considered the watershed that completes the long process of the formation of the Macedonian statehood.

The siege of Byzantium by Philip II of Macedonia

In this period, the great Persian king Artaxerxes III dominated the world. His crimes started in India and ended in Egypt. All the regions between these three nations belong to Persia: Mesopotamia, Levant and Iran.

First of all, Macedonia had to create common ground with the Persian Empire and have access to the sea. Philip turned to two independent cities: Perintus and Byzantium.

The sieges began at the beginning of the summer of 340. Perintus resisted. Philip raised the siege, but Perintus was weakened and almost did not dare to attack or even rebel against Macedonia. The road to Byzantium was opened.

Philip installed his troops around the city and began the siege. Before the walls, the Macedonians were patient. The inhabitants of the city turned to Athens and asked for her protection. Demosthenes convinces the Athenians to come to the aid of Byzantium. The situation quickly becomes important for both sides. With the onset of winter, the Macedonian army stepped in to strengthen the offensive.

In a very cold night, barely illuminated by the crescent moon, Philip leads his troops to the fortifications. The attempt, however, ends in fiasco!

According to reports from Byzantium itself, nothing appeared on the horizon that night from the walls of the city. The city guard did not feel anything, the Macedonian troops, secretly, with ladders and drums, managed to get close to the walls and were ready to pounce. Something unexpected happened here. All the dogs in the town started barking together, as if prompted by a mystical force. Awakened, all the armed defenders saw the Macedonian army and prepared for battle. They managed to repel the attack and inflict losses on the Macedonians. Philip gave up the attack and a few months later he was forced by the forces of the Athenian leader Phocion to withdraw from Byzantium.

The rescue of Byzantium is followed by the legend of the crescent moon, whose light caused the dogs to bark and warn of the attack.

Byzantium, realizing that it had avoided the worst, would devote a real cult to the goddess Hekate, making the crescent an eternal symbol of the city. A symbol of victory and

brief independence, because four years later, Byzantium would submit unopposed to the invincible Alexander. This symbol will remain seven centuries later when the city will receive its new name Constantinople; and in the same way, after the ancient capital of the Eastern Roma Empire became Istanbul and the great center of Islam. Thus, the crescent moon of the goddess Hecate - a polytheistic cult - became one of the most powerful symbols of the Mohammedan religion and the emblem of many Muslim countries today!

8. The conquests of Alexander the Great Alexander III (356-323 BC)

He enters the history as an extremely energetic and capable leader with a brilliant reputation as a student of the philosopher Aristoteles.

The conquests of Alexander the Great, their scale shocked not only contemporaries, but also all subsequent generations of human civilization. In just 10 years, a giant territory was frozen from Greece to India. In the following centuries, no commander managed to do something similar.

The war with Persia began in 334 BC. A relatively small group of 35,000 people set off on a journey to the East. But the soldiers are distinguished by their iron discipline, training and combat experience. In their military skill they were head and shoulders above the Persian troops. The Army consisted not only of Macedonians, but also of residents of other Greek city-states.

Even during the first clashes, the Greeks inflicted serious damage on the Persian army, located close to the Greeks. At the same time, many Persian soldiers died. The owners of the eastern lands were shocked by this occurrence. In the meantime, the conquerors took over the Minor Asia lands and went to the territory of Syria.

In 333 BC e. the Persian empire headed by the king Darius III came out after the Macedonian conquerors. The two armies are located in Northern Syria near the city of Issa. In this battle, the army of Darius III suffered a crushing defeat. The man himself ran away, leaving his family in the camp (wife and 2 daughters). Many other Persian warriors did the same (in military campaigns the Persians took their wives with them). In addition to women, the winners also received the abandoned property of the rich.

After the victory of Issa, all of Western Asia was conquered by the Macedonians. Alexander directed the Greek army along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. Here were the cities of the Phoenicians, which began to pass one after another. According to the legend, during this campaign, Alexander visited Jerusalem and even gave gifts to the Jewish god.

The campaigns ran successfully until the Macedonian army reached the walls of the city of Tyre. Its inhabitants refused to open their doors and surrender to the invaders. The siege lasted 7 months. Only in July 332 BC. The besieged city, located on the island, fell. The Greeks who invaded the city showed pathological cruelty towards the defenders. The conquerors mercilessly killed 8 thousand inhabitants, and the survivors were beaten.

The city of Gaza was also a worthy support. He defended himself bravely for 2 months, but in the end he fell.

After that, Alexander the Great entered Egypt with his army. There he was celebrated as a liberator from Persian slavery. The local priests declared the young goat to be the son of the god Amon.

In 331 BC the army of the Greeks and Macedonians crosses the Euphrates and the Tigris and heads towards the Persian river. There, led by Darius III, was waiting for the invaders near the village of Gaugamela. Here in October 331 BC e. a spectacular battle ensued.

Everyone got rid of a huge army. Macedonian cavalry attacked from the flanks. She sowed terror and confusion in the ranks of the Persians. Everyone ran away. Darius III was one of the first to flee from the battlefield and did not manage to run for 2 days, fearing the pursuit.

The overwhelming achievement of Gaugamela broke the fighting spirit of the Persians. The army of Alexander the Great conquered Babylon, Susa and the ancient Persian capital of Persepolis without a fight. Small military garnisons remained in the captured fields, and the great commander himself continued to pursue the Persian ruler.

The fate of Darius III was unenviable. Those close to him killed him and passed the body to Alexander. He ordered to execute the conspirators and to bury the stubbornly killed ruler with all possible honors. The winner began to call himself "the king of Asia".

The return begins in the middle of 325 BC. Army entered through the desert. The transition was very difficult. Many soldiers died of thirst. During the spring of 324 BC.. the exhausted army reaches the southern part of Iran and enters the city of Susa. In 324 BC Alexander the Great established himself in Babylon and proclaimed it the capital of his irrevocable empire. The ruler began to perform rituals, trying to unite the conquered lands into a single and cohesive organism. In addition, he planned a march to the west against the Arabian tribes and Carthage.

But the further ambitious plans of the great general were never realized. In the first half of June 323, Alexander the Great died of typhus. The huge kingdom had to be a giant with clay feet. It fell and was divided among the Macedonian military leaders (diadochs). As a result, they proclaimed themselves to be a king. So in 321 BC the era of the Hellenistic states begins.

9. The territory of today's Nevpokop region during the Byzantine rule 1st- - 7th centuries

The empire, unlike other states that existed in late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, does not have an exact year of creation. Byzantium, as in the beliefs of its own subjects, so de facto and de jure, is the authentic medieval (officially Latin-speaking until the 7th century, and then) Greek-speaking Roman Empire, a pagan continuation of the ancient empire. The Byzantines called themselves Romans (in Latin: romani, in Greek: ρωμαίοι - romei), and the country in which they live - Roman Empire (from Greek: Ρωμαϊκή Ατοκκρατορία - Romaiky

autokrathoria), and also the Principality of the Romans (from Greek: Βασιλεία τῶν Ρωμαίων – Basilicity Romeon). To its contemporaries, the empire was known as Romania (Ρωμανία, Romania). The new Christian capital, Constantinople, was also better known as "New Rome" until the middle of the 5th century.

During its first centuries, the empire managed to maintain military, economic and cultural supremacy among the surrounding barbarians tribes, with its only serious opponent being Persya. During this time (5th - 7th centuries) it ruled the Balkan Peninsula, Asia Minor and the Eastern Mediterranean countries (Syria, Palestine, Egypt).

Gradually, the Balkans were conquered by the systematic invasions of the Goths, Huns and Avars, after which they were colonized by the Slavs. At the end of the 7th century, the northern part of the peninsula was separated from the Bulgarians. The empire kept its cities in the southern and central part of the peninsula, but managed to gradually integrate the Slavic population in the southern part.

The eastern provinces became the epicenter of religious unrest, fueled by cultural differences with the capital and the emperor's desire to control the church.

The period ends with the dramatic rule of the emperor Iraklius (610-641). At the beginning of his rule, Byzantium was besieged by the Avars and Slavs. In the East, the active actions of Persia led to the disaster for the Romes: a large area of Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt was occupied. After a lot of thinking about the events, Iraklius decided to lead the army again. With the help of the Church, the emperor, at the head of a well-equipped and trained large army, conquered the Eastern provinces, taken over by the great shahinshah (king of the kings) Hozroi II. Remarkable in the management of this empire is the change in the administrative structure of the empire and the imposition of military-administrative areas - i.e. "topics". At the end of his rule, Iraklius was overwhelmed by the new loss of the Eastern provinces, this time forever, by a new opponent - the Arabs, who in the middle of the 7th century sent their own fleet, started raids in the Mediterranean and in the West of Sicily. Byzantium was exhausted by the prolonged war with Sasanian Persia, as Persia itself was completely conquered by the growing Arab Caliphate by 644.

Although it was affected by civil wars and civil wars (Bulgarians, Arabs and others), the Byzantine Empire recovered during the 8th and 9th centuries.

From the middle of the 7th century, the formation of modern cultural and ethnic groups began in the western part of Eurasia. Byzantium stands at the center of this vast area in geographical, historical and cultural aspects. It exerted a strong influence on the two great cults that arose during the Middle Ages - Catholicism and Islam, but the most significant is its direct participation in the manifestation of the third great cult - Orthodoxy.

As for its territories, during the 7th - 10th centuries, the empire shrunk to the present-day territories of Turkey and Greece, but it was a more unified society - the Greek language became the main language, the glorified church was liberated, and the Orthodox church was freed from the heretics and gradually distanced itself from the Catholic Rome. Military and economic changes created the strong military class of the statiotes, a middle class that allowed the Impetopians to conduct active politics centuries before.

Macedonian dynasty

The empire began to recover from Basil - a boy who managed to enter the exile and become a favorite of the emperor Michael III the Drunkard! Basil killed Michael and sat on the throne in 867 under the name Basil I. His dynasty will be called "Macedonian".

When Basil I ascended to the throne, however fragile the Byzantine Empire was, it hardly had any competitors in the region of the Mediterranean Sea: the empires of Charles the Great, like that of Haroon al Rashid, were proud of their height.

The Macedonian emperors, following Basil, took advantage of these circumstances to displace the prisoners of their country. For this purpose, they are used by the army mercenaries of all origins, financed by the income from taxes.

Thanks to Basil I, the founder of the Macedonian dynasty, and his main successors Nikiphor II Phokas, John I Tsimishes and Basil II Bulgapokton, in this way the Byzantine Empire spread from the Danube to the deserts of Jerusalem. Around 1000, it included Southern Italy, Cilicia and Syria.

The empire was not only powerful but also very rich. Constantinople attracts merchants from all religions and from all countries. However, his prosperity was lost at the expense of the peasants, oppressed by the tax authorities and the big landowners.

The Macedonian dynasty ruled the Byzantine Empire from the 9th to the 11th century, between 867 and 1056. In fact, this is a family of Armenian origin, which is perhaps a younger branch of the Armenian noble Mamikonian. The father of Basil I, installed in Adrianople, was deported by the Bulgarians in 813 to Macedonia, from where the name, which was then attributed to the dynasty, came from. The dynasty was opened with the murder of the last Amorian ruler Michael III (nicknamed the Drunkard, because he was killed during a banquet when he was drunk).

Main movements can be distinguished: First moment, consisting of the first two emperors (Basil I and Leon VI), who were themselves and "purely" members of the dynasty (867-912); a moment of relative harmony between military impepaths (Romen Lecapin, Nikephor Foca and Jean Tsimiches) associated with the "legal" emperors. While these great military leaders exercised the primacy of power, they did not at all question the legitimacy of the emperor placed under the leadership (Constantine VII).

In two centuries, the empire raised a cultural, economic and military influence, which was not seen during the difficult 7th century. On an intellectual level, the Magnauran school traces the great classics of ancient literature, and examples of cultural adaptation are very visible in the Muslim East from the caliphs of the Azgadis, a civilization that is all the same. On a military level, the Byzantines asserted their power in Southern Italy (even after the complete loss of their Sicilian dominions), they regained control only after the Arabians, who once again took control of Cilicia and part of the East (present-day Sanjak of Alexandreta) and absorbed a big part of Caucasus.

During this period, Byzantine scholars turned to the classical heritage in order to assimilate its themes in the process of forming Christianity in the Eastern Church. The recovery of the ideals, concepts and forms of the art of classical antiquity during the period justifies the use of the term "Renaissance", although it is ambiguous, since the term is systematically applied in the 15th century in Europe.

The Macedonian dynasty is considered to be a fairly stable period in political terms: the eastern and western provinces were consolidated, especially with the takeover of Bari in 876. island of Cpit, Cyprus and part of Syria and Palestine were preserved. in the hands of the Byzantine emperors. Their alliance with the Fatimids, who are usually looked down upon in the Islamic world because they are Shiites, allowed for the consolidation of the eastern flank. On the western side, the establishment of posts in Armenia and the victory of Basil II in 1018 over the Bulgarians allowed stabilization.

The entire 10th century was a period of triumphal renewal for the Byzantine Empire. This is a period of a crusade that has passed its time, the Byzantines are fighting only against the Abbasids and the presence of the Abbasid troops in Baghdad helps them a lot. During this period, great generals such as Jean Kurquas, Nikifor II Fokas or Jean-Yep Tsimiches appeared, who contributed to the progress of the Byzantine empire.

It is remarkable that Basil I was considered by his contemporaries to be a wise and respected monk who ruled without problems for nineteen years. Although he had no official protection, neither military nor administrative experience, he rose in the diocese through a series of maneuvers, including calculated assassinations. In fact, there was little reaction in Constantinople to the news of the death of Michael III, probably due to his unpopularity among the bishops, who blamed him for his complete lack of interest in his duties; in addition, the lack of religious devotion had completely alienated the population from it. On the contrary, Basil from the very beginning showed that he wanted to rule for the good of the state. Upon his ordination, he officially dedicated his life to Christ, maintaining a reputation of piety and piety throughout his life and work.

Becoming emperor, he demonstrated great competence in the management of civil affairs, consolidating imperial power, giving a new impetus to Byzantine art and displacing the empire's prisoners. He was considered by the Byzantines as one of their greatest emperors, and the Macedonian dynasty founded by him flourished through one of the most glorious and turbulent periods of the empire.

From the beginning of his administration, Basil I began a legislative process that would earn him the nickname "the drowned Justinian". The reformation was intended to replace the previous codex, the eclogue, and was the first attempt to reform the Byzantine papacy after Justinian I. The new legal code, renewed in 886, covers all spheres of the law. Two of his works trace the establishment of the rule of the Byzantine emperor and the patriarch. When Basil I died, the new codex had a rather elaborate appearance and contained a total of 40 books. Its final version was completed under the command of Leon VI. This new codex remained the basis of Byzantine law until the conquest of Byzantium by the Ottomans.

Leon VI – the Sage (886 - 912)

Leon VI, known as the Sage or the Philosopher (Greek: $\nu\omicron\nu\upsilon\varsigma$ F 'ό Σοφός), born 866, died 912, was Byzantine emperor from 886 until his death.

The nickname "The Sage " is due to his work in the field of martial and martial arts, he was a student of the learned patriarch Photius.

In 899 he convened a great synod to restore relations between the Western and Eastern churches. Leon focused on the revision and revision of the Byzantine code, begun under Basil I. The laws were grouped by subject and then translated into Greek, the only language that the officials could understand.

Leon did not like military campaigns and did not lead a continuous foreign policy.

However, peace with Bulgaria was broken during his leadership after the ascension of Simeon I to the Bulgarian throne in 893. At the root of this conflict was a trade dispute between the two states. In fact, the Bulgarian trade monopoly belonged to two Byzantines, who led the trade with the Bulgarians from Constantinople sharply increased the customs in Thessaloniki. Defeated by this attack against Bulgarian interests, Simeon went on the offensive and defeated the Byzantines in 894. Leon asked for the help of the remaining Hungar kingdom, with the help of the Bulgarians, he succeeded in the battle. In 896, the Bulgarians entered into an alliance with the Pechenegs, who defeated the Hungars. This allowed Simeon to defeat the Byzantines in 896 in Bulgarofigon and conclude a peace with them by paying an annual tribute to the Bulgarian tzar.

Leon VI is known as the author of a whole series of texts published during his reign, written either actually by him or under his name:

In the area of the law - the codex of the Basiliki, the creation of which began in 877 during the reign of Basil I, but which was renewed in 888 by Leon VI.

In addition, it is the autotop of the 113 texts that were added to this codex (between 887 and 893) to adapt it perfectly to the contemporary world (these are above all rytoric style rytorics), and of the Manual 907, which represents a summary and commentary of the codex. These law works are the most important since Justinian;

In the field of military art, on the one hand, the problematic, which is actually an abridgement of the Strathegikon, attributed to the emperor Mavricius in the form of questions and answers, and on the other hand, the Constitutiones tactics, the most comprehensive Byzantine compilation in the field of military art;

Leon VI is also the author of a tract of 190 chapters on monastic life, an important body of liturgical poetry, which makes him one of the most important Byzantine ecclesiastical poets (his best-known poem is entitled $\Omega\delta\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\omicron\nu$ $\kappa\alpha\tau\alpha\nu\kappa\tau\iota\kappa\acute{\omicron}\nu$, penance song in 31 stanzas),⁴⁰ furnaces (mainly festive sermons dedicated to saints and calendar holidays, but also funeral furnaces of Basil I and Eudokia Ingerina, and dedication furnaces from churches)

To him is attributed the diatyposis, or List of Leo the Wise or even Notice of Leon the Wise, an official list of the dioceses of the Empire.

Many other texts are attributed to him due to confusion with Leon the Philosopher, a 9th century scholar (divination texts, baked Oraculi of Leon the Wise).

10. The Byzantine expansion of the Balkans at the end of the 10th and the beginning of the 11th century. Basil II

Basil II Bulgarokiler (Greek: Βάσιλιος Β΄ Βουλγαροκτόνος) was the emperor of Byzantium from the Macedonian dynasty, who ruled from 976 to 1025. His rule, spent in continuous wars with internal and external enemies, was defined as the height of Byzantine power. Basil II strengthened the central power and public finances, preserved and expanded the conquests of his predecessors in Sypia and the Caucasus, and with the annexation of Bulgaria in 1018 restores the rule of Byzantium over the Balkan Peninsula, which existed before the Slavic resettlement of the VII century. His military-political alliance with the Kiev Rrussia led to the surrender of the russians in 988.

The first quarter of the reign of Basil II was spent in a struggle for power with the rebel military and the rich landowners who supported them ("the dynasts").

Without practical experience in military command, in 986 the emperor suffered a great defeat from the Bulgarians in the battle of the Trayan Gate. This undermined his authority and provoked another Sklir uprising in Mesopotamia. Confronted again by the rebel, this time Phocas declared himself the emperor, led his troops through Asia Minor to Constantinople and reached the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. With the help of the gun, Basil II won the decisive battle at Abydos in April 989 and by the end of the same year he was making the rebellious regions laugh.

The victory over Phocas made Basil II the undisputed ruler of the empire for more than thirty years.

The internal policy of Basil II was aimed at the financial and military strengthening of the state through the protection of military property from the encroachments of small landowners. In this sense, he tries to implement the land ownership regulations introduced by his great-grandfather, the impepatop Roman I Lacapin. In 996, Basil issued a novel (edict) with which the lost properties were to be replaced and canceled the 40-year statute of limitations for the legalization of the new owners. With the expropriation of their property, the impepatop imposes his authority and instills fear in all the remaining, potentially unburied employees.

Military campaigns require an increase in taxes. The latter had several negative consequences: the discontent of the provincial towns, witnessed in a series of riots in Italy, Cyprus and Syria, and the mass abandonment of agricultural lands by the owners escaping from their tax obligations. The warm phenomenon reduces the revenues in the public treasury and strengthens the dynasties. In order to counteract this, in 1003 Basil II ordered that the tax for the abandoned lands (the "allelengion") be paid not by the municipality, as it was then, but only by the rich neighbors of the property. This measure alleviated the impoverishment of the

small owners and provided funds for the conquest campaigns in Bulgaria. Basil II left his successors an empire with an area of over 1.1 million square kilometers and a population of almost 20 million. The political and cultural influence of Byzantium spread much further with the surrender of Kiev russia.

After the death of Basil II, his brother Constantine VIII remained the head of the empire, and with his nieces Zoya and Theodora, the Macedonian dynasty broke up. The subsequent dynastic struggles with the attacks of the Pechenegs and the Seljuk Turks led to the crisis of Byzantium in the middle of the 11th century.

11. The territory of today's Nevrokop region during the time of the first Bulgarian state 681 - 1018

Prebulgars is a term introduced in the 19th century by the historical science to distinguish the people who founded and ruled the First Bulgarian State before its fusion with the Slavs and with the remains of the ancient Barbarian population and the preservation of Bulgarian ethnos. Today, it is often replaced by the terms protobulgari, ancirt bulgars and even just bulgars.

It is assumed that the Bulgarian ethnic group formed in Central Asia (East Kazakhstan) between the Caspian Sea and the Imeon Mountains (Pamip, Tianshan and Hindu Kush). Other possible regions are Altai, or Western Siberia, the Tarim basin, Western Mongolia, the Prebulgaps in the 5th-6th century were divided into two large groups - the Kutrigur, west of the Don River, and the Utigur, east of it. According to some reports, they initially lived together and separated in the first half of the 5th century. The first reliable information about the Bulgarians south of the Danube dates from 479, when the emperor Zenon allied himself with the Kutrigurs and they fought in alliance with the Eastern Roman Empire against the Ostgoths of Theodorus the Great under the command of the duke of Voden Sabinian.

After the fall of Great Bulgaria, which was located in the lands of today's Ukraine, one part of them, led by Asparuh and the other, led by Kuber, moved to the Balkan Peninsula and merged with those who came from the north. at the beginning of the 7th century Slavs before they were mixed with the local Byzantines. After the leader of the Bulgarian people, Asparuh, won a victory over one of the Emperor Constantine IV, then head of the Byzantine Empire, an agreement was concluded between Asparuh and the Byzantine emperor. According to this agreement, the Bulgarians and the Slavs received the greater part of the territory between the Stara mauntain and the Danube. This marks the beginning of the creation of the changing Bulgarian people. The treaty with Byzantium of 681 is considered the moment of creation of the First Bulgarian State, while the year of creation of modern Bulgaria is 1878.

After the accession of Prince Boris I - Michael (852-889), Christianity was adopted as the official religion in the country. In the political confrontation between Constantinople and Rome and their ecclesiastical metropolises, Boris in particular managed to skillfully grasp and with diplomacy overcome the hegemony of his neighbors. After the official act of his surrender, Boris took the Christian name Michael. In historical research, it was named Boris-Mihail, after the Byzantine emperor.

The only evidence for the title used by Boris are his seals and the inscription found near the village of Balshi, Albania. In them, he is named "archont of Bulgaria", usually referred to as "ruler". He was canonized as a saint only after his death. Nowadays, the Bulgarian church honors him under the name of Saint Mihail Boris, although he never held the dignity of a priest during his lifetime. Indicative of the deep respect for the convert prince among his contemporaries is the letter of Tudor Doksov (nephew of Boris I) from 907:

In the "List of the Bulgarian bishops", compiled by the bishop of Ohrid, John Komnenos, in the middle of the 12th century, Boris is named "Vassilevs of the Bulgarians". Thus, this later Byzantine atop transferred to Boris the title of tsar, which his son Simeon assumed for the first time.

At the beginning of the Boris rule, the Bulgarians entered into a series of unsuccessful military conflicts with the East European Kingdom, Byzantium and Croatia. The Byzantine emperor Konstantin Bagrenorod wrote, for example, about an unsuccessful campaign of Boris in the neighboring principality of Serbia, when the heir to the throne, Vladimir, together with 12 great warriors, was captured. Then, out of grief for his son, Boris is forced to conclude a marriage.

In 862-863, Boris I concluded a military alliance with King Ludwig II of Germany and negotiated with him for the adoption of Christianity in Bulgaria by the Catholic Church. In order to destroy the alliance, Byzantium, in coalition with the Great Pope and Croatia, started a war with Bulgaria in 863. For Boris I, this war was unsuccessful and this significantly weakened the influence of the Bulgarians in the Middle Danube lands.

In response to Rostislav's pleas, in the fall of 863, Byzantium once again invaded the Bulgarian lands. They do not save a serious retreat there, as the Bulgarian troops are busy to the west of the Moava mountain range. Negotiations began and subsequently a peace treaty was concluded between Bulgaria and Byzantium. Boris I undertakes to maintain his alliance with the German king Ludwig and, together with his hope, to accept Eastern Orthodox Christianity from the Tsarigrad (Constantinople) patriarch.

The Bulgarian ruler, among the completely destroyed and unreadable part of the inscription from the Albanian village of Balshi (the former Bulgarian medieval city of Glavinitsa) near the town Berat (the former Bulgarian medieval city of Belgradu / Beligpadu), accepted Christianity secretly in order to avoid the strengthening of the antipathy among some of the natives. The Bulgarian ruler took the name of his 24-year-old "spiritual father" - the Byzantine emperor Michael III the Drunkard. The adoption of Christianity also led to legislative changes.

Immediately after the surrender, a rebellion broke out among several disaffected Bulgarian provincial (from the committees) bolyars. Their main concerns are the growing Byzantine influence. The Bertian chronicles describe how Boris, with his few men, managed not only to save himself, but to put down the rebellion and capture the opponent. The prince punishes the organizers and their relatives with death - a total of 52 people. According to some researchers, it only refers to "the 52nd sentenced to death".

The refusal of Byzantium and Constantinople to recognize the independent Bulgarian Church forced Boris I to deepen rapprochement with the Pope in Rome. Bulgarian pilgrims brought a list of 115 questions to the Pope and were greeted with a large crowd. The answers of Pope Nicholas I - 105 of the book, compiled by Anastasius Bibliothekar are simple and clear. The main question of the Bulgarian ruler is about the reassignment of the head of the Bulgarian Church to the Patriarch.

The refusal prompted by the Pope's throne turned out to be fateful for Bulgarian-Roma relations. Boris once again began negotiations with Constantinople.

On the Fourth Constantinople Sabbath (869 – 870) the Bulgarian ecclesiastical issue was resolved through a compromise - a Bulgarian ecclesiastical diocese was established, headed by the Greek Georgi, with the title "mythropolite of the Step" (d. Silistpa) (870-ca. 886), with headquarters in Pliska, directly subordinate to the Patriarch of Constantinople. The papal envoys received a large bribe and were sent back to Rome. The Bulgarian church has seven mythropolies and is established according to the Byzantine model.

In 879, Patriarch Photius sat on the patriarchal throne in Constantinople for the second time and convened a new church council. On December 24, 879, the Photian sabbath decreed that the Constantinople Patriarchate would no longer exist in Bulgaria until a similar request was granted. In practice, this means that the Bulgarian church becomes autocephalous (independent). At the head of the Bulgarian church was Joseph I, archbishop and first Bulgarian patriarch, who foretold the post-Slavic policy of Boris and later Simeon. The Bulgarians received their own episcopal church.

Around 886, Boris received the disciples of Kyril and Methodius - Clement, Nahum and Angelarius - expelled by the Pope in Bulgaria. Thus, the alphabet newly created by Kyril and Methodius - the Glagolitic alphabet - and the Slavic worship reached the Bulgarian lands. Thanks to the support given by Boris to Clement and Nahum for their missionary and evangelical activity, the Cyprian-Methodial heritage was preserved for Europe and the Slavs. At the beginning of the 10th century, a new alphabet was developed in the Preslav Literary School, the baked kyrilic, based on the Greek script and the Glagolitic script.

Simeon I - the Great

Simeon was born in 864 or 865 as the third son of Prince Boris I of the Krum dynasty. Since Prince Boris was the Bulgarian ruler who officially adopted Christianity in 865, Simeon was a Christian throughout his conscious life.

Simeon spent a decade (c. 878 – 888) in the capital of the Byzantine Empire, receiving excellent treatment and studying the retorics of Demosthenes and Aristoteles. He mastered Greek to such an extent that he was called "half-baked" in Byzantine chronicles. According to some interpretations, Simeon was trained personally by Patriarch Photius, but this hypothesis is not supported by concrete sources.

Around 888, Simeon returned to Bulgaria and settled in the newly established princely monastery in Preslav, where, together with other monks under the guidance of Nahum Preslavski, he worked on translations of religious texts from Greek into the Old Bulgarian language.

In the meantime, Vladimir succeeds Boris, who retires to a monastery. Vladimir made the first attempt to restore paganism in the country and perhaps concluded a treaty aimed at Byzantium with the emperor of the Holy Roma Empire, Arnulf of Karinth, which forces Boris to re-enter the throne, only to depose and punish Vladimir and appoint Simeon as the new ruler. This happened in Preslav. In addition, he declared Bulgarian as the only language of the state and church, and ordered the capital to be moved from Pliska to Preslav, thus signing the Christianization of the country. It is not known why Boris did not place his drowned son Gavril on the site, but preferred Simeon.

The leadership of Simeon marks an entry into the history of the First Bulgarian Patriarchate. During his time, in addition to the unprecedented capital expansion, the state became a center of cultural and spiritual life. The victories on the battlefield allow him to strengthen the international reputation of Bulgaria. He left behind a powerful state, reaching from the Carpathians to the Aegean Sea and from Black to the Adriatic Sea. Despite the almost continuous wars with Byzantium, he strengthened the power within the state and announced an extremely stable internal policy. Political, religious and cultural unification is achieved.

Some of the historians believe that the many wars that Simeon led eventually exhausted Bulgaria, and after the successors of Peter I, it was no longer in a position to oppose the richer in terms of human resources. Regardless of this, Simeon I remains in the Bulgarian history with the nickname "Great", and his rule with the designation "Golden Age" and caused the cultural flourishing of the temple.

After the death of Simeon I, the power of Bulgaria declined. Bohemism, asceticism appear. In 968, Kiev Rus managed to capture the capital Preslav, with which Bulgaria lost the entire eastern part of its territories. After that, Bulgaria moved its capital and after 50 years of fierce war with Byzantium, Bulgaria began to turn towards failure.

12. Samuel's Ohrid Bulgarian Principality (997-1014)

Samuel ruled Bulgaria from 997 to October 1014. He is the first ruler of the Komitopul dynasty.

From around 971, Samuel ruled Bulgaria together with his brothers, and after their death, he became the actual ruler of the Bulgarians, although formally the title of tsar

In the course of decades, he managed to withstand the attacks of the Byzantine emperor Basil II and even inflicted serious injuries on him. The incessant struggles for supremacy with Byzantium continued throughout its existence.

Samuel died on October 6, 1014, probably from a sudden stroke, which gave his soldiers, who were blinded after the battle of Belasitsa, the first sight.

Bulgaria was unable to withstand the military pressure of the Byzantines. Four years later came the end of the First Bulgarian State.

An auspicious moment for the comitopoules occurred at the beginning of 976, when the Byzantine emperor John Tsimishius died. Taking advantage of the turmoil in Byzantium, caused by the rebellion of the ruler of Mesopotamia - Vapda Sklip, against the young emperor Basil II, the Bulgarians began an advance towards Hellas and the Peloponnese, besieging Larisa.

Immediately after the death of Tsimish, the population of north-eastern Bulgaria rose up in revolt and wrested Byzantine power. The rebellion was led by local aristocrats (Petap and Boyan), who are the connection of the Comitopules with the rest of the Bulgarian lands. In the course of the rebellion, the Byzantine rulers were expelled, and the people recognized the authority of the brothers (Moses, David, Aron and Samuel, who rule Bulgaria jointly).

After the death of David and Moses, Aron is the richest of the two brothers. He leads the Bulgarian lands, which are located closest to Thrace, the emperor Basil II marches towards him.

The agreement between Aron and Basil II predicts hope between the two. Aron get for his wife the sister of Basil II. From Tsarigrad, the Sevastian mythopolitan was tortured, who, instead of the emperor's sister, took with him a woman unknown to anyone. After the fraud was discovered, the mythopolitan was burned alive, as the Armenian chronicler Asokhig claims. When the Byzantine emperor saw the steel, destroyed the army and headed for the Trayan Gate, passed it and besieged Sredets. The siege lasted for 20 days and resulted in a warning to the governor, who was expecting trouble. The Bulgarians missed the siege machines and took with them a lot of cattle, gold and prisoners. Basil II went to retreat to Philipopol, but his path again passed through the Trayan Gate, where Samuel's Bulgarians, who came to the aid of his brother, were already waiting for him.

Almost the entire Byzantine army was destroyed or captured. The emperor himself miraculously survived. According to most priests, the date of the spectacular apparition is August 17, 986.

Aron's desire for autonomy and his secret negotiations with Basil II lead to a conflict between the two brothers, which ends with the killing of Aron and all his subordinates. Only his son Ivan Vladislav survived, because Samuel's son Gaveail Radomip interceded for his life. After the death of Aron, all of Bulgaria passed into the hands of Samuel

In 986, a rebellion broke out in Byzantium again, the Bulgarians took advantage of the moment and attacked Thessaloniki, where a large army was stationed. After battles until the year 989, the regions of Epirus, almost the entire Thessaloniki region, as well as the fortresses of Veria and Serbia were joined to Bulgaria, which once again settled on three continents.

After Thessaloniki, Samuel took over Thessaly again, passed the Termopile route and invaded Attica, after which he invaded the Peloponnese. Disturbed by these events, Basil II ordered the general Nikifor Uran. In 996, Samuel went back to prevent the Byzantines from taking away part of his lands, and met with Uran as far as possible. At this moment, the guard has arrived and both armies stand for a long time on the two escape routes. At night, the

Byzantines opened a breach through the sea and attacked the Bulgarians while they were sleeping. A merciless slaughter followed, and Samuel and his son Gavrail Radomip were caught and barely managed to escape. Nikifor Uran captured 12,000 Bulgarians and for some time Bulgaria was left without available forces to fight against the romies.

In 997, news reached that the captured Bulgarian king Roman had died in the catacombs of Tsarigrad (Constantinople). With his death, the Krum dynasty also died. At this time, there is no legitimate ruler of the Bulgarian throne, so the choice fell on the closest owner of Simeon the Great and the one who led the Bulgarian troops during all these years of war - Samuel.

In the same year, Samuel was proclaimed the head of Bulgaria.

As a Bulgarian, Samuel led his first military actions against the Sabians in 998, mainly to prevent a possible alliance of Byzantium with them.

Later, the Serbian king Ivan Vladimir was married to the daughter of Samuel - Teodora Kosara and entered as a vassal ruler of the Bulgarians¹.

While Samuel was in Sabia, Byzantium gathered its forces and for the next 3 months the troops, led by Nikifor Uran, carried out attacks on the Bulgarian lands.

In 1001, Basil II marched his troops beyond Mount Stara and took over Pliska, Preslav and Duster. The emperor's armies continued to attack until the extreme Northeastern Bulgaria falls again.

In 1002, the Byzantines headed towards the southern parts of Bulgaria, with the aim of conquering Thessaly. When they reach the Vereia fortress, its ruler Dobromip does not resist, and even passes the Byzantines. The Kollidron fortress is also passed without a fight. This is not the case with the fortress of Seria - its commander Nikulitsa managed to hold off the enemy's forces for a long time, but when the enemy penetrated the fortress and pressed its defenders, the Bulgarians surrendered. Basil II wanted Nikulitsa to be taken to Tsarigrad, where he was awarded the title of patrician, in order to be attracted to the Byzantine step, because of his good qualities, but Nikulitsa managed to escape and joined Samuel, with the king's actions. At the end of the year, the Bulgarians attacked the fortress of Seria again, but the attack failed and Nikulitsa was captured again.

Basil II continued his campaigns in Macedonia and finally reached Voden. After a prolonged siege, the city was taken over.

In 1003, the Bulgarians started to play the bank: they aimed at Adrianople, in order to make the Byzantines lift the siege of Vidin. Basil did not fall for this trick, captured Adrianople and even continued the siege of Vidin, which was subsequently forced to capitulate. Samuel did not continue to the capital of Byzantium, because he did not want to worry too much by moving away from many of the Bulgarian territory.

At the same time, the Ungars defeated the troops of Ohtum, who died in the battle. Thus, the Bulgarians gradually began to lose control over Northern Bulgaria.

¹ The oldest Serbian poem "Ivan and Kosapa", written in the 13th century, is dedicated to these events.

Basil immediately took advantage of the situation and in the summer of 1003 headed south, supported by Ungar troops. Basil appeared in front of Skopje. In the meantime, Samuel has already complained. The two rivers are eye to eye, but separated by the raging waters of Vardar. And here the Bulgarian tsar makes the same mistake as during the battle around to the river Sprehey. Bulgarian army was destroyed and Basil take over Skopje. The Byzantine army suffered heavy losses and was forced to retreat. Basil returned to Constantinople, passing through Philippopolis. After the fiasco of the emperor in Pernik, the Bulgarians managed to enter Skopje.

In 1004, Samuel took advantage of the heavy losses of Byzantium at the Battle of Pernik and once again attacked Thessaloniki, did not capture it, but captured the Byzantine military leader John Halda. The losses suffered by the Bulgarians during these 4 years are also significant.

On July 29, 1014, in order to stop the continuous attacks of the Byzantines, Samuel built a powerful advance wall (dema) at the present-day village of Klyuch, as the armies of Basil II were expected to pass through there. Basil II made many attempts to take over the wall, but with failure and the loss of many fighters. The troops of Byzantium were ready to retreat, when the general Nikephors Xiphios found a secret way and went around the wall, attacking the Bulgarians in the rear. The Byzantine chroniclers report that the Basil's army inflicted a heavy blow and captured 14 or 15 thousand Bulgarian soldiers. Samuel himself was wounded, but the heir to the throne, Gavril Radomir, saved him by putting him on the saddle of his own horse and taking him to the fortified city of Prilep, held by Ivac. The deer stayed in Prilep for several weeks, after which it was taken to Prespa via Bitola and Lerin.

After the capture of Klyuch, however, Gavril Radomir managed to organize the surviving Bulgarian forces and neutralize the further advance of the Byzantines. The favorite of the emperor Basil II fell into an ambush set by Gavril Radomir and "fell slain, pierced by the spear of Radomir" (according to Theophylact Votanias), which infuriated the emperorians to such an extent that he blinded the captives 15,000 Bulgarian soldiers for every 100 is left alone with one healthy eye to guide the trains on the way home. When the blinded army reached Prespa, Samuel was so struck by the sight that he received a heart attack and died two days later (October 6, 1014).

The first Bulgarian state managed to exist only 4 more years after the death of Samuel, after which it fell under Byzantine rule until 1185, when Bulgarian statehood was restored with the fifth and fifth centuries.

According to the legends, after the battle of Belasitsa, thousands of blinded Bulgarian soldiers took refuge in the village of Dober. After their achievement, they set off for the Rila Monastery, but the cold and hard winter overtook them and they were forced to stay. During their stay, they found that the water from the well in the courtyard of the church "St. St. Theodors Tiron and Theodors Strratilat" relieves the pain in their eyes. That's how they settled and created the famous Dober singing school.

12. The territory of today's Nevpokop district during the Second Bulgarian state (1185-1353)

The Second Bulgarian state was created in 1185 after the uprising of Assen and Petap against the byzantin rule. The ascension of Peter IV as the Bulgarian emperor and the subsequent treaty concluded with the byzantin emperor Isak II Angel established the restoration of the Bulgarian state. It existed until 1396, (according to some until 1422), when the Principality of Vidin was taken over by the Ottoman Empire.

The institutions in the Second Bulgarian state were completely influenced by Byzantine citizenship.

At the end of 1185, on the feast of St. Dimitar, at the consecration of the new church named after the saint, Assen and Theodors-Petap announced the beginning of the rebellion against the Byzantine rule. Theodors is proclaimed bishop, as he is the older of the two brothers, and takes the name Peter in honor of Saint Peter I, and the priest Vasilij is appointed as the archbishop. Since the uprising covers the whole of Northern Bulgaria, Varna remains the only unaffected city. The Byzantine authorities did not manage to respond adequately to the events, because at that time there were fierce double intrigues and conflicts between Isaac II Angel and the candidate for the throne - Isaac Komnenos. Even after the rebels pass the Stara mountain, **the army was sent against them, which, however, suffered defeat.**

In the fall of 1186, the Bulgarian-Cuman army passed through the Stara mountain and split into two groups - one went to Macedonia, and the other remained active in Eastern Thrace. The war was fought with variable success.

In the spring of 1187, the Byzantines passed through Mount Stara and besieged the Lovech fortress. The siege lasted longer than Isaac II had planned and he went to lead peace talks. In them, he recognized the power of the Asene people over Mysia, and in return took captive the father of Assen and Petap - Ioanitsa (Kaloyan). Despite the acceptance and recognition of the Asenevian control over Mysia, the question of the legitimacy of this authority remains unanswered. Immediately after the siege, Asens started to restore the state power, build new fortresses and redistribute the garrisons. As the capital was being established, Tarnovgrad suffered from its natural protection and inaccessibility. Subsequently, Tarnovo rose as one of the largest cultural-political and religious centers of the Bulgarian lands and the Balkans.

Shortly after the passage of the crusaders from the 3rd Crusade through the Bulgarian and Byzantine lands, Isaac II went to finally settle his accounts with the Bulgarians and organized a campaign against Tarnovo. However, the city is well fortified and the romes did not manage to take it. There is a legend about a false fugitive from the city who "warned" romesq that a large Kuman army had marched to the aid of the Bulgars, whereupon the Byzantine emperor ordered an immediate withdrawal. When his army passed through the Tevne gorge in 1190, it was almost completely destroyed by the Bulgarians. From that moment, the Asene people took the initiative and began military operations throughout

Thrace. During one of the celebrations, Isaac II was executed for the first time. A year later, however, Asen was also killed by the defender Ivanko, who was driven out by the Bulgarian Territory, and Petap once again ascended the throne. He ruled the Bulgarian state for only one year, because in 1197 he became a victim of the Bojap invasion. Nikita Khoniat notes that he took as his assistant in management his youngest brother Kaloyan, who temporarily escaped from Constantinople (1189-1190).

As a result of the uprising of Assen and Petap, Bulgaria was restored in 1185. In the following years, the state began to develop its territory - in two years, it acquired the Belgrad and Branichev regions, part of the trans-Danube lands, Mysia, Northern Thrace and the lands along the Main part of the river Strimon. After the murder of the king Asen, the power was taken over by the third king - Kaloyan (1197).

Tsap Kaloyan Romeokiller

After the murder of the king Asen, the power was taken over by the third king - Kaloyan (1197). He managed to take over the last crusaders fortress in Northern Bulgaria - Varna. In addition, he concluded a union with Pope Innocent III, with which the state received international and autocratic recognition. It connects Bulgaria to Macedonia and Thrace. Tsar Kaloyan managed to destroy the Picts from the Fourth Crusade and thus stop their expansion. As a result of the battle, he was killed at the head of a multi-thousand-strong army before the gates of Thessaloniki.

Kaloyan (Ioanitsa) (1197 – 1207), later known by the nickname "Romeokiler", ascended the throne when the state was unstable due to the Bojar opposition and secession. In 1202, the Catholic Church organized the Fourth Crusade.

The Picts set off for Constantinople to plunder and take over, after which, according to the treaty, Alexius IV had to sit on the throne. The Byzantine Emperor Alexius III Angel, in the meantime, concluded a peace with Prince Kaloyan, which included in the agreement that under the authority of Kaloyan came the whole of Northern Bulgaria, the Branichev and Belgrad regions, and part of Northern Macedonia and Thrace. At that time, however, Hungars occupied the Belgrad and Branichev regions under the pretext that Bulgaria possessed them illegally. Kaloyan defeated Cuman mercenaries and succeeded in driving the Hungars from their lands. As early as 1199, Pope Innocent III offered Kaloyan to recognize his authority over the Bulgarian lands, on the condition that Kaloyan recognized the authority of the Catholic Church, with the coetism and appreciation (supremacy of the Church over secular rulers, specific to the Catholic world in Western Europe; the pope is above Caesarea). After 5 years, Kaloyan and Innocent III specified the terms of the eventual union. In his desire to repent to Kaloyan, Pope Innocent convinced the hungap bishop to give up the Belgrad and Branichev regions. Kaloyan's desire is for Bulgaria to remain in the sphere of influence of the Eastern Slavs, where cezaropapism rules (the ruler is not ruled by the Church; the cezar is above the pope).

On April 13, 1204, the crusaders of the Fourth Crusade took over Constantinople and temporarily supported the existence of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium), which was characterized by the German – The Nicaean Empire (considered the successor of Byzantium), the Epir Despotism (also having claims for inheriting the Byzantine throne), as well as the Trapezund Empire that separated weeks earlier. In the captured territories, the Crusaders founded the Kingdom of Thessaloniki and the newly created Latin Empire. On November 8, the union was concluded, whereby the Pope gave Kaloyan the title of “kral” (a lower title than cap) and the title of primas of the Bulgarian spiritual head, who, according to the pope, answered to cap and patriarch.

Tsap Kaloyan signs an oath-contract in which he undertakes to recognize the primacy of the First Catholic Church and to obey the papal decisions. With the takeover of Constantinople by the Greeks, it immediately became clear that they did not want to live in peace with the Bulgarians. Tsap Kaloyan sends a letter to the Latin emperor Baldwin of Flanders with a proposal to conclude a peace treaty. The emperor, however, refused the request and made claims to the Bulgarian lands. At the beginning of 1205, Kaloyan concluded an agreement with the Byzantine apostolate of the cities in Thrace for joint actions against the Latins.

The crusaders suffered another heavy defeat in the Battle of Russion (1206), which took place near the fortress of Russion.

The military campaign in 1205 ended with Kaloyan's entry into Plovdiv. The city was handed over to him by the Pavlicians from Plovdiv.

In the course of the hostilities, however, the Greek provincial aristocracy withdrew from its alliance with Kaloyan and passed to the Latins, as a result of which the Bulgarian captor started a war of attrition in Thrace. As a result of this, Plovdiv was destroyed and the Pomeranian population in the region was devastated. Adrianople, Dimotica, Thessaloniki twice were successively discussed, Syar was taken, and it is assumed that Kaloyan used the Eastern Rhodopes as his base and then retreated north from the Stara mountain.

At a pre-given sign, all the larger Thrace fortresses rose against Baldwin's rule, and the Bulgarian army rushed to their aid. Thus, in the battle of Adrianople, a large number of the soldiers were killed. The emperor Baldwin of Flanders himself was captured in the battle, who was imprisoned in the fortress in Tarnovgrad

In 1207, Bishop Kaloyan once again set off with a large army to Thessaloniki and besieged the city. In the course of the siege, however, they die. There are different hypotheses about his death: a natural death or that he was killed by his first military commander - the Cuman duke Manastur. It is also possible that Kaloyan became the victim of a plot in which his wife, the Kuman Anna-Anisia (Tselguba), also participated.

Tzar Ivan Assen II

Under Ivan Assen II, Bulgaria achieved its greatest territorial expansion during the Unification of the Bulgarian state, and once again its citizens are on the third floor.

At Klokotnitsa, he defeated the episcopal ruler Theodors Comnenus, and thus he failed to restore Byzantium. On the anniversary of the Bulgarian ruler, the Bulgarian bishopric became the fourth (1235). Ivan Asen II died in 1241 and left his heirs a large estate. After his death, however, Bulgaria fell into crisis. The country is losing a lot of television.

Ivan Asen II appreciated the political benefit of dynastic marriages, and upon the return of the Ungap king Andpash II, there was a treaty marriage between the Bulgarian king and the daughter of Andpash II - Ana. When Ivan Asen II got married, he received the long-awaited territories of Belgrad and Branichevo. This policy of his to conclude political conflicts in order to gain territory, secure an ally, or temporarily preserve the peaceful status quo brought Bulgaria to its knees. and by the end of the Ivan-Asen rule, it turned it into one of the most powerful states on the continent in this period

In 1230, the fears of the Bulgarian tsar about the offensive from the Episcopal army were confirmed and Theodors Comnenus attacked Bulgaria. It is difficult to say with certainty whether Ivan Asen II might not have expected this attack. He marched against the invaders with a small army, including 1000 Cumans. Theodore Komnenos had a visible numerical superiority, which is evidenced by the words of Georgios Akropolitus, that he "went against the Bulgarians, having defeated a large army composed of Pomerans and Italians". . The two armies meet on the 9th of March in the battle of Klokotnitsa, not far from today's Haskovo.

The Bulgarian ruler showed strategic and military prowess, as he managed to subdue the much-vaunted Bulgarian army

The information of Georgi Akropolitus about the development of the concept is very scarce: "Theodors Comnenus was badly forgotten by the Bulgarians and the Scythians (Cumans). He and most of his subordinates, high officials and nobles, together with all their belongings, were captured by the vagabonds. It can be seen from the following text that the Bulgarians also captured many ordinary soldiers. From this, it appears that the Bulgarian army managed to surround the enemy, opening his escape route.

The achievement of Theodors Comnenus provokes a sudden and irresistible explosion of his body, but internally he is weak. Without saving any resistance, the troops of Ivan Asen II began to advance in all directions and soon became the masters of Odrin Thrace, in the Aegean sea region from the Gallipoli Peninsula to Mount Olympus, as well as all of Macedonia and Albania - from Pindus to Škodren Lake.

Comnenus himself was captured together with his family, and the captured soldiers were released - an almost unprecedented act in the military histopia of Medieval Europe. The consequence of the battle of Klokotnitsa was the fall of the Episcopal despotism, as only in Thessaloniki continued to rule in its quality as a vassal of Bulgaria the brother of Theodors Comnenus - Manuel.

After the Battle of Klokotnitsa, Ivan Asen II practically became the strongest ruler of the Balkan Peninsula.

The strengthening of Bulgaria is beginning to worry its neighbors. The Latins, who are fighting for their capital, are particularly worried. By 1231, the relations between Bulgaria and the Latin Empire were strained, and as a result, the Bulgarian cap began to strengthen the southern part. The road to Stanimaka (the recent town Asenovgrad) has been renovated and additionally strengthened, as can be seen from the inscription there. When they finally renounced their intentions for an alliance with the Bulgarians, the Latins chose the former Jerusalem chaplain Jean de Bien as the guardian of Baldwin II and connected themselves even more strongly with the pope.

The ruler of the Nicene Empire, John III Duke Vatatus, went to seek an alliance with the Bulgarians, so that his struggle with the Latins would be more successful. Ivan Assen II also aspired to such a union, as he hoped that it would bring him new territorial gains. The negotiations ended successfully and in 1235, in the city of Gallipoli, an agreement was concluded between the two rulers, concluded with a dispute between the daughter of Ivan Assen II Elena and the son of Vatacius Theodors II Laskaris. The agreement envisages recognizing the full independence of the Bulgarian Church, the head of which - Archbishop Joakim of Tarnovo - receives the title of Patriarch. This is how the Bulgarian patrimony, dismissed by Basil II, was restored, which means the final rejection of the Bulgarian state from the union concluded in 1204 with the Roman Kingdom . A joint battle with the Latins is planned for their final expulsion from Thrace

The hostilities began in the same year, when the Bulgarian and Nicean troops attacked and conquered Eastern Thrace, after which it was divided among the allies according to the agreement reached between them in advance.

The Bulgarians get the regions lying in the north, i.e. a large part of Eastern and Southern Thrace with the lands around Plovdiv, which were annexed to the Bulgarian state even after the Battle of Klokotnitsa.

After that, the allies, joined by the thessaloniki ruler Manuel and Kumanian detachments, set off for Constantinople and besieged it by land and sea. According to Alberik, they operate with 300 warships, up to 25 of them are Bulgarian. This is the first organized Bulgarian fleet, its shipyard was in Kamchia. The Latin capital is seriously protected. Emperor Baldwin II goes to France to ask for help. The control of the capital was entrusted to Jean de Bien. The Pope intervened and tried to persuade the Hungar king Bela IV (1235 – 1270) to support the Latins, but he did not succeed.

The Bulgarians in the Ottoman Empire: Struggles for the Restoration of Bulgarian Statehood (1396 – 1878)

Ivan Sishman's son, Prince Fruzhin Sishman, after the fall of Nikopol in 1396, went into exile in the Kingdom of Hungary and the Kingdom of Serbia.

Together with his first cousin King Constantine II Assen, son of Ivan Sratsimir, sided with the anti-Ottoman alliance of the Kingdom of Hungary, the Kingdom of Serbia, Bosnia and Wallachia from 1403-1404 and led by King Sigismund of Luxemburg, future Holy Roman Emperor empire. They took advantage of the internal crisis in the Ottoman Empire in

1404 or 1408 and expelled the Turks from Vidin. This campaign provoked a whole series of military actions that ended in defeat for the anti-Ottoman forces finally in 1422.

Socio-economic situation of the Bulgarians in the composition of the Ottoman Empire

During the Ottoman rule, the Bulgarians formed "the servant mass of heaven, repressed, especially in the countryside, ignorant, without privileges." With diligence they were allowed some self-government, but under constant oppression by the ruling Muslims. The unequal position of non-Muslim co-religionists in the empire was maintained by the Ottoman state through various methods, the most common of which are:

- Islamization;
- blood tax (devshirme), through which the main part of the Ottoman army - the Janissary Corps - was replenished until the 17th century;
- religious, political, economic and legal discrimination;

The jizya or kharaj tax was devastating to non-Muslim peasants. The main duty of the Muslim administration was to collect all taxes, while at the same time the paradise (dhimmi) showed in every possible way the superiority of Islam.

Other taxes:

- Kapu hack - fee randomly requested by each house.
- Resm-i ağıl (resm-i ağıl) – tax for the coop.
- Resm-i asiyab – mill tax.
- Resm-i biwe - land tax paid by the non-Muslim widows in favor of the tenant.
- Resm-i božik - a tax on the pigs that were fattened for Christmas.
- Resm-i giyah - hay tax.
- Resm-i dukhan - smoke tax, tax for wintering in the lands of one or another feudal lord.
- Resm-i mengene – levy for pressing grapes.
- Resm-i mujered - land tax collected from able-bodied but still unmarried sons who live with their father and cultivate his plots of land.
- Resm-i bohruchina – a tax imposed on the sale of wine.
- Official tax - pasture tax.
- Resm-i tapu – a fee paid by each raya to the respective tenant or in favor of the state treasury for his right to manage a landed property. Resm-i tapu was not only required for the transfer of landed property by inheritance from father to son.
- Resm-i fuchu – tax on casks of wine.
- Resm-i khanazir - tax on pigs.
- Resm-i hime – tax on firewood.

The end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century marked the restoration of economic life in the Bulgarian lands, the development of crafts in connection with the needs of the large urban centers where significant military and administrative forces gathered. This goes under the sign of the negative trend of decreasing the Christian population and increasing the number of the Muslim population.

Until 1864, there were eyalets (Ottoman Turkish: استلام) in the Ottoman Empire, which were also called pašalık or beylerbeylik (Turkish: beylerbeylik). They are managed by a Beylerbey or Pasha. When the Ottoman Turks conquered the European lands, they included them in the Rumelia eyalet, and the Asian ones were part of the Anatolian eyalet.

During most of the time of the Ottoman rule, the majority of the Bulgarian lands fell into the Rumelia eyalet, whose administrative center was Sofia. In the period from 1396 to 1864, the Rumelia eyalet repeatedly changed its area and also the administrative center. Around 1850, it no longer included Bulgarian lands, and the eyalets, in turn, were divided into sanjats, which were governed by beys.

In 1864, only one vilayet was tentatively created - the Danube, and the reformer Midhat Pasha stood at the head. After the administrative reform carried out in 1867 with the Vilayet Law (Turkish: Teşkil-i Vilayet Nizamnamesi), eyalets were a division of vilayets (Turkish: vilâyet, from Arabic: ولايا, وبلايا). In turn, the vilayets are divided into sanjaks (Ottoman Turkish: سنجاك), ruled by a sanjakbey or also a mutasarif.

After the middle of the 15th century, the Bulgarians became subjects of the Sultan. They are members of the paradise to which the rum millet belongs, by which all Christian subjects are signified. Bulgarians own their house and yard, but not their fatherland: the land they cultivate. It is considered the property of the state, that is, of the Sultan. The right of use and the right of inheritance are exercised over the patrimony, but not the right to dispose of the land (for example, it cannot be given as a pledge for a loan), i.e. there is no full ownership right. A document called a deed is issued for paternity.

12.10. Revival (Renaissance)

The revival in our lands began later, compared to Western Europe, since Bulgaria (and the Balkan Peninsula in general) were under Turkish rule. It is a process in which Bulgarians realize themselves as a people and begin to assert their rights and aspirations to become equal to other European nations and become a nation. During the Renaissance era, commodity-money relations began to spread among the Bulgarian lands, the aspirations and struggles of the Bulgarians for economic and cultural progress and for ecclesiastical, educational and political freedom and independence intensified throughout the Bulgarian national territory. The beginning of the Revival is traditionally considered to be the writing of "History of Slavonic Bulgaria" by Paisiy Hilendarski in 1762, although the stormy processes of the Revival began to be noticed later, after the successive Russia -Turkish War (1828-1829) and the Crimean War (1853 -1856) when the material recovery of the Bulgarians began, which raised their self-esteem, and the formal reforms imposed by Europe on Turkey facilitated the aspirations for culture and mass education that began at the beginning of the century, became possible in the Asian empire, and was forced to allow their development.

Bulgarian national liberation movement in Macedonia and Thrace (1893-1912) The revolutionary struggles of the Bulgarians in Macedonia. IMORO

The Gaitaninovo meeting (1869)

The people meeting in the village Gaitaninovo was a meeting of the representatives of the Bulgarian municipalities in Nevpokopp, Ser, Drama and Melnik regions, held on December 6, 1869 (St Nikolas), at which a decision is taken to renounce the Tsarigrad Patriarchate and request the formation of the Bulgarian Church Diocese of Internal Macedonia - Odrin revolutionary organization.

The Internal Macedonian-Odrin Revolutionary Organization is a national liberation organization of the Bulgarians in the Ottoman Empire. The organization was active in Thessaloniki, Bitola, Skopje, Odrin and Tsarigrad provinces at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. In the preparatory documents of the organization, it is pointed out that it will fight in a revolutionary way for the implementation of Article 23 of the Berlin Treaty, for the provision of political autonomy to Macedonia and Odrina. It is planned that the two neighboring regions will become an independent territorial unit within the boundaries of the empire, in which administrative and political reforms will be implemented with a view to achieving the conditions for the living of the Christian population. During the wars of national unification, these official slogans were abandoned. The political factions in the organization are marginalized and in practice serve as an addition to the Bulgarian army. They actively support its actions, as their goal is the conquest of the largest possible parts of Macedonia and Turkey and their eventual annexation to the State of Bulgaria.

On October 23, 1893, six Bulgarian intellectuals founded a revolutionary committee in Thessaloniki. Dr. Khristo Tatarchev, Damian Gruev, Ivan Khadzhinikolov, Petar Poparsov, Khristo Batanjiev and Andon Dimitrov met at this first meeting, which took the form of an educational congress. The conversation is announced without keeping records and without killing the initial leadership. It has been decided that one of the main tasks before the liberation struggle is to counter the whispering Serbian and Greek propaganda.

After the first timid steps, IMOPO quickly began to gain strength, as the prominent Chetnik action of the Macedonian Committee from 1895 gave a particularly strong push to the internal organization. Ivan Hajinikolov admits that they are using the campaign as a campaign tool among the local population:

Structure, organization, territorial scope

In 1896, important decisions were taken at the Thessaloniki Congress. The territories in which the organization operates are divided into revolutionary districts and neighborhoods. Seven revolutionary circles were planned: Thessaloniki, Bitola, Skopje, Odrin, Strumish, Shtip and Ser. Thus, in practice, the territory covered by the organization extends from The Blak See in the east to the Ohrid Lake in the west and from the province of the Principality of Bulgaria in the north to Aegean See in the south. This zone includes today's geographical regions of Eastern Thrace, Western Thrace, the southern periphery of Northern Thrace and Macedonia. The capital Tsarigrad (Istanbul) had a more special status, where Dimitar Lyapov created an autonomous revolutionary committee, which received the right to communicate directly with the Central Committee. After the Thessaloniki Congress, the Tsarigrad

Committee lost its independence and merged into the Odrin revolutionary circle. The planned Shtip district was not formed, and its territory was subsequently transferred to the neighboring districts.

The Congress also fired, roasted the governing bodies, which are authorized to lead the districts and okolia. A new Constitution and By-laws of the organization was commissioned, and it was renamed the Bulgarian Macedonian-Odrinian Revolutionary Committees. The lowest level of the organization consists of the village and town committees, whose members are elected by the district committees. They answer to the district committees, which are directly subordinated to the Central Committee. Communication between the committees is carried out by secret mail. Every revolutionary committee creates a secret police. Decisions are taken step by step from the top down in the dioceses, as the tepopists and IMORO detachments receive advances and act after the approval of the local authorities. A new Central Committee with headquarters in Thessaloniki and a Foreign Representation with headquarters in Sofia were elected. Gotse Delchev, who has been a member of the organization since 1894, and in the meantime worked as an exapian teacher, was elected at the congress as a deputy representative in Sofia and gradually became the de facto leader of the organization. Between 1895 and 1897, the organization operated mainly through Terrorist urban groups, but under the leadership of Gotse Delchev, in 1896, the Chetnik Institute was started to be created on the model of the BRCC². This is how the first illegal agitation-organization group of the Bulgarian officer Mihail Apostolov - Popeto began to operate in Macedonia. After him, the readings of Marko Lepinski and Hristo Chernopeev appeared.

Financing

The organization collects funds in various ways. One source is the aid from the Bulgarian state. In the governmental financing of the Ministry of Education and Culture, as a whole, a cyclicality is noticeable, which visibly annoys the revolutionary actors. Objective reasons contribute to this trend, one of which is the constant desire of the rulers in Bulgaria to maintain a balance between the separate revolutionary currents in order to exercise more reliable control over their actions. In addition, each member of the organization pays a membership fee. The organization collected donations from rich Bulgarians among the refugees' land companies. Along with its preservation, IMORO increasingly feels the need for a tool for training the population and the towns. The membership fee and voluntary bequests turned out to be insufficient. For this reason, the constitution of the organization provides for the collection of funds in a violent manner. Several afes are known, initially organized by the operatives of the internal organization, aiming at the capture of rich Turksi, for which a ransom can be obtained. Another way is the kidnapping of wealthy foreigners, such as the case with the Protestant missionary Ellen Mariah Stone. Some of these attempted abductions end in crimes related to mass persecutions - beatings and torture.

The goal of the organization is the creation of the Macedonian-Odrin Autonomous State

The concept of political separatism

² Bulgarian revolutionary central committee

The goals of this political separatism are most likely explained in the newspaper "Pravo" published in Sofia, an unofficial organ of the Central Committee. At the beginning of June 1902, the article "Political separatism" was published there, in which a clear condemnation of national separatism was made and the main his compromise goal: "preservation of the Bulgarian tribe as a whole, made up and divided politically".

Unification with Bulgaria as a possibility

According to Khristo Silyanov, the concept of autonomy for the organization is covered by the content of Art. 23 of the Berlin Treaty, which is then considered a satisfactory achievement. Its claims remain modest, and this speaks of the strong political sense of its leaders. These requests move in the circle of what is given by Europe in Berlin, of what is possible and achievable.

Gotse Delchev does not rule out the possibility that the Macedonian-Odrin Autonomous State will later join Bulgaria. One of his closest friends, Koce Tsipushev, announced in his memoirs that when in 1902 Gotse's friends asked him why we were fighting for the autonomy of Macedonia and Odrina, and not for unification with Bulgaria.

The idea of a Balkan federation

The idea of a Balkan federation is closely related to the Macedonian and Thracian, which are part of the larger Eastern state. After the Ilinden-Preobzhen Uprising of 1903 and the split in IMORO under the pressure of the intensified processes of disintegration within the organization, and especially due to the growing influence of socialist ideas, Jane Sandanski became the leader.

The internal Macedonian-Odrin committee

In 1895, the Macedonian-Revolutionary Committee, a revolutionary organization of Macedonian and Turkish emigrants and Bulgarian public figures, was founded in Sofia. The committee organized the well-known Chetnik action in 1895, and at the beginning of the following year, it developed a project for reforms in the Ottoman Empire. The project was tested at the Central Committee of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Thessaloniki. He foresees the creation of Macedonia and Odrin Turkey into separate administrative units within the framework of the Ottoman Empire, following the example of Eastern Rumelia³. The project was adopted by the Ministry of Education and Culture as the basis for its political demands and is included in its new constitution. After the establishment of the representative office of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Sofia at the end of 1896, its members were also members of the committee. In May 1900, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Defense signed a joint protocol by which the officers of the Bulgarian Army were admitted to the structures of the Ministry of Defense. The internal committee provides significant help to the internal organization in the destruction of the **Chetnik**⁴ institute. The two organizations

³ An semi autonomn bulgarian region created after the Russa-Trkey war 1877-1878

⁴ **Chetnik**⁴ institute – revolutionary groups form of organisation within IMORO

make joint actions before the Bulgarian Exarchate for the appointment of teachers in Macedonia and Odipina. Meanwhile, relations between the committees are good,

SMOC⁵ existed from 1895 to 1905 in Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire.

The goal of the MOC and the MOO⁶ is the realization of the complete autonomy of the rest of the territories of the Ottoman Empire, Macedonia and Odipina Turkey, provided for in the Berlin Treaty of 1878. The committee organized the Chetnik Action in 1895 and the Gopnojumai Uprising in 1902, and its units participated in the Ilinden-Preobrazhen Uprising in 1903. After the initial good partnership with the Internal Macedonian-Odrin Revolutionary Organization, the Internal Committee gradually came into conflict with both it and the Bulgarian government and in 1903 the organization was banned in Bulgaria, and in 1905 it was dissolved.

The rise of the IMORO under the leadership of Boris Sapafov (1899 – 1900) VI Congress of the IMORO

The officers' brotherhoods emphasize their organization that after 1899 there were such brotherhoods in 16 Bulgarian garrisons, comprising about 1000 people - half of the Bulgarian officers of the front service. In Switzerland, France, Belgium, Prussia and Austria-Hungary and the USA, new Macedonian-Odrin companies are also appearing. In the USA in 1899, Stanislav Shumkov was a representative of the first established Bulgarian emigrant company "Vasil Levski". The Sixth Congress authorized Shumkov to represent the Supreme Committee in America. These clandestine activities also arise in Romania. On October 3, 1899, the first women's Macedonian-Odrin charity was created in Sofia, which bears the name of the Bulgarian heroine Ekaterina Simidchieva. There are only 250 independent Macedonian-Odrin's companies among Sapafov's records.

The Macedonian organization also organizes day-to-day operations with a staff of over 5,000 people, who must train the Macedonian and Thracian emigrants, which are not subject to the military service in Bulgaria, to use the tool.

The Ilinden-Preobrazhen uprising

In 1903, at the Thessaloniki Congress, the Central Committee headed by Ivan Garvanov, Spas Martinov and Dimitar Mirchev took a decision to start a general uprising.

The entry point in the national liberation struggle of the Macedonian and Thrace Bulgarians was the Ilinden-Preobrazhen uprising, organized by the Internal Macedonian-Odrin revolutionary organization. It broke out on August 2, 1903 and covered Macedonia and Odrin regions. The uprising was extremely massive - more than 26,000 people participated in it. The decision to organize this uprising was taken at the Thessaloniki Congress of the

⁵ Supreme macedonia odrin committee

⁶ Macedonian Odrin organization

IMORO (then bearing the name SMRO - Secret Macedonian Revolutionary Organization) from January 2-4, 1903.

During the Ilinden-Preobrazhensky Uprising in the fall of 1903, active insurrectionary actions were conducted in Nevrokop region under the leadership of voivodes Mikhail Chakov, Stoyan Mulchankov, Atanas Teshovanaliyata and Stoyan Filipov.

The uprising bears the names of the two church holidays on which the two main riots broke out. In Bitola Province and Thessaloniki Province it erupted on July 20 (August 2 new style) - Ilinden, and in Odrin Province - on August 6 (August 19 new style). In the Macedonian, as well as in the western, and sometimes also in the Bulgarian Historiography, it is divided in the same way as Ilindensk.

The results

In Macedonia and Turkey, the uprising led to 289 killings of 26,000 insurgents against a total of 350,000 Turk troops, 994 dead insurgents, 201 razed villages, 12,440 burned houses, 4,694 men killed, slaughtered, and women killed. 3122 women and girls were raped by the Ottoman troops, and 176 were captured. 70,835 people are homeless, and 30,000 are fleeing to Bulgaria. The victims of the Turk army were 5325 soldiers.

In Bitola District, between August 2 and October 23, there were 150 shootings, in which 746 Chetniks⁷ died, in Thessaloniki - 38 shootings and 109 Chetniks killed, in Skopsko - 15 shootings and 93 killed, and in Odrin Revolutionary District, 36 killed Chetniks and hundreds of local residents. On September 12, 1903, the General Staff of the Bitola Revolutionary District issued a circular letter for the suppression of the insurgent actions and the self-dissolution of the staff.

The consequences of the uprising

After the uprising, the Macedonian problem firmly entered the use of international diplomacy. They begin to be controlled by the European countries under the Mütsstegg performance program. However, everyone in Bulgaria believes that the way to violate the Macedonian statute is through the war with Turkey, the preparation for which began as early as 1904.

The internal Macedonian-Odrin organization suffered serious damage: it lost a significant number of voivodes and Chetniks, in some places its secret committees were dissolved and destroyed. A reconsideration of the decisions taken for the general uprising begins. Even before the end of the uprising in Western Europe, Boris Sarafov and Mikhail Gerzhikov were sent to win the welfare of the society there.

The negotiations between the Ministry of Education and Culture and the former leaders of the Ministry of Education and Culture for the creation of a common charity fell apart, and on December 16, the activity of the Supreme Committee was officially restored. At the Sofia Council of January 1904, the directive for the future activities of the IRO was adopted, dictated by Yane Sandanski and his associates, and which aimed at democratization in the

⁷ Rebels

organization. In the same spirit, the Strumish and Pilep district congresses from 1904 advocated decentralization.

In March 1904, a group of activists around Boris Sarafov formed the Interim Committee, which took over part of the functions of the Foreign Representation, but dissolved itself at the beginning of 1905. With these actions, the takeover of the Ministry of Defense actually begins.

In 1904, two-level negotiations were announced between the Ottoman Empire and the Principality of Bulgaria and between the Ottoman Empire and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bulgaria implements a full amnesty for political prisoners from the Supreme Court, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participates in the preparation of a project for refugees in Macedonia and Odrin.

More than 300,000 well-trained frontline soldiers were sent by the Ottoman Empire against the revolted population in Macedonia and Odrin. The uprising was put down, but the ideal for the unification of the Bulgarians is alive. The Eastern conflict has once again been placed on the European political stage, which remains unresolved to this day.

17. The region during the wars at the beginning of the 20th century

After the Berlin Congress of 1878, two main trends in the development of Bulgarian national affairs were noticed. The first of them is a continuation of the revolutionary struggles of the Reconquest era to get rid of the Ottoman rule. Its main events are the Kresnes-Razlog Uprising (1878-1879), the Union of Eastern Rumelia with the Principality of Bulgaria (1885), the actions of the Military Police, the Ilinden-Peobrazhensk Uprising (1903). The only successful step in the development of this trend is the Unification. The wrong tendency finds a way out in the current tactics for achieving national unification, i.e. through diplomatic means to force Turkey to fulfill Art. 23 and 62 of the Berlin Treaty.

The failures in the development of these two trends lead Bulgarian politicians to call for a military solution to the national problem. After the success of the Ilinden-Preobrazhensk uprising, the Bulgarian public opinion gradually turned to the idea that the war with Turkey was the only possible way out. The actual preparation of Bulgaria for the war began during the reign of the People's Liberal Party (1903-1908). It implements structural reforms in the economy and allocates large funds for its re-use. In 1908, Bulgaria proclaimed its independence from Turkey and, in addition to increasing its international prestige, received the right to declare war and conclude peace.

Bulgarian politics is directing its efforts towards creating an alliance with the other Balkan states interested in the war with Turkey - Serbia, Greece and Montenegro. They also accept this idea, because they have a smaller population than Bulgaria: Serbia - about 3 million, Greece - about 2.6 million, and Chepna Gopa - about 300 thousand people.

In view of this international situation, Tzar Ferdinand (1887-1918) planned the political strategy of Bulgaria for the war with Turkey, namely the creation of the Balkan Union under the auspices of Russia.

In May 1912, a military convention was concluded between the countries.

According to these documents, Bulgaria and Serbia undertake to act in unison in the event of an attack by the state of Turkey or some great power (Austro-Hungary is represented). Bulgaria committed with 200,000, and Serbia with 150,000 soldiers. The treaty specifies the benefits of both countries in the event of a successful war with Turkey. Serbia recognizes Bulgaria's right to the lands east of Struma river and Rhodops, and Bulgaria renounces its claims in favor of Serbia to the territories north and west of the Shar mountain (Kosovo and Novopazar sanjak). The essence of the treaty are the provisions on the fate of Macedonia. The first variant predicts that she will receive autonomy, but this idea is half adopted in the text itself. The warmest option is for Macedonia to be divided into two parts. The "Uninterrupted Zone" - the lands to the southeast of the line Kriva Palanka-Ohrid, is given to Bulgaria. The territory between this line and the Shar mountain is defined as a "joint zone", whose ownership must be determined by the arbitration decision of the Russian emperor Nicholas II.

For the first time, Bulgaria agrees to the partition of Macedonia. With this move, Bulgarian politics loses its fundamental scapegoat: the Bulgarian nationality of the majority of the population of Macedonia. In this way, Bulgarian diplomacy itself renounces the liberating grip of war.

On May 16, 1912, Bulgaria took the first step towards the dissolution of the Balkan Union. The document does not raise the issue of the distribution of the lands possibly conquered by Turkey. The Bulgarian politicians do not want to separate the Greeks in Macedonia from Athens. In this way, Bulgaria is deprived of the possibility to support its cause in Macedonia with military resources. where a much smaller opponent must act, the armies of Serbia and Greece, supported only by Bulgarian Seventh Civil Division, now subordinate to the Serbian High Command.

On September 17 and 18, 1912, mobilization was announced, and on September 26, Cherna Gora⁸ began military operations in Northern Albania. On October 3, the Turkish government broke off diplomatic relations with Bulgaria and on October 4 declared war on the Allies. Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia declared war on the Ottoman Empire in the period October 5-7, 1912.

The war was opened with patriotic praise by the entire Bulgarian society. Never in the new utopia of Bulgaria has the nation been so united and self-destructive.

However, it is clear to everyone that the victory over Turkey is an extremely difficult task. It has a population of close to a million, armed with a fashionable rope and numerous fortresses in the Balkans (the strongest of which are Odrin, Ioannina and Shkodra), as well as the Chataljan connections.

On December 3, 1912, the negotiations for peace between the Balkan allies and Turkey began in London, in which the Great Powers openly asserted their diplomatic fields. Almost simultaneously with these events, a conference of the ambassadors of the Great Powers begins, at which the groups of the Entente and the Third Union want to protect their strategic

⁸ Montenegro

interests in the Balkans. Turkey to cede all his European possessions west and north of the Media-Enos line and the Aegean islands. Occupied by the failure of the Bulgarians under Chatalja

The end of the Balkan war was concluded with the London Peace Treaty of May 17, 1913. According to it, Turkey renounced in favor of its opponents all territories north and west of the Media-Enos line. Cyprus becomes a possession of Greece. The Great Powers were given the right to decide the fate of the future independent Albanian state and the fate of the islands in the AEGEAN see.

Thus, as a result of the Balkan War, the Ottoman political, economic and spiritual oppression of the Christian population of the Balkans and in the former Turkey European dominions came to an end.

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The reasons for the subsequent territorial rivalries between the Balkan states are rooted in their chauvinistic ambitions to create "great states": Greater Bulgaria with Thessaloniki and Odrin, Great Serbia with the outlet of the Adriatic Sea and a large part of Macedonia, Great Greece with Thessaloniki and the province of Ohrid cellar. However, despite its ethnic and historical differences in Macedonia and the biggest contribution in the course of the allied military campaign, Bulgaria has to pay for the fatal mistakes of the diplomatic transformation of the Balkan Union.

The relations between the Balkan allies worsened even in the autumn of 1912. Belgrade and Athens imposed the principle of "actual occupation" in relation to the liberated lands in Macedonia. Serbia uses the creation of Albania as its main argument, which deprives it of access to the Adriatic sea. Greece is logically based on the lack of a territorial clause in the Bulgarian-Greek agreement. Thus, the Serbians occupy not only the "blocked" but also a large part of the "unblocked" zone, fixed in the Bulgarian-Serbian agreements. The Greeks occupied virtually all of Aegean Macedonia. The Serbian and Greek occupation authorities are taking measures against Bulgaria in Macedonia - the Ministry of Defense is being read, petitions are being announced over the Bulgarian church communities and schools. From its side, the Bulgarian diplomacy behaves tactically short-sightedly, as if the prisoners of

"Greater Bulgaria" (the whole of Macedonia, Thessaloniki and Odrin), does not secure the support of the Great Powers and does not improve its relations with at least one of its "allies". In this way, the agreement between Athens and Serbia on an anti-Bulgarian basis is logically reached. Talks about this have been going on since March 1913 in Thessaloniki. On May 19, 1913, a secret Greek-Serbian treaty of "friendship and mutual alliance" was concluded. He foresees a joint Serbian-Greek country in Macedonia and a military alliance in case of an attack by Bulgaria. This marked the end of the Balkan Union politically and juridically. The Greek and Serbian diplomacy even offered Romania to join the anti-Bulgarian treaty.

The attempts of the diplomats from Sofia, Athens and Belgrade to find mutually acceptable solutions failed. Attempts at the mediation of the Entente forces do not help either. In May-June 1913, the Bulgarian leaders fell into a critical situation. Assuming that they comply with the demands of Greece and Serbia, Bulgaria will have an area of about 175,000 square kilometers and a large exit to the the Aegean Sea. But in such a case, Bulgaria has to give up the larger part of Macedonia - the land for which its soldiers die. Bulgaria started the war as an aggressor, without the support of the Agreement and without ensuring the neutrality of Romania. In its basic essence, the Inter-Allied War was a national liberation for the Bulgarians in Macedonia, but it was approached with political and military adventurism. The Bulgarian military plan is not effective - of the five armies, only two are involved in the hostilities, and that is at a very important point (from Vidin to Thessaloniki).

The Romanian army crosses the Danube, and using the exposed Bulgarian hinterland, reaches 30 km from Sofia. On June 30, 1913, the Turkish troops, despite the warnings of Russia, crossed the Midia-Enos demarcation line and recaptured almost all of Odrin Thrace. Thus, Bulgaria found itself at war alternately with Serbia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania and Turkey - unfortunate in itself for Bulgarian politics. The country does not have the support of any of the great powers.

After Serbia and Greece did not accept the Bulgarian offer for the premiership, the Bulgarian army switched to a counter-offensive and surrounded the Greek troops in the Ksena gorge. At the same time, the Serbian attacks on Kelimanica were also repelled. So, thanks to the Bulgarian army, which once again shows exceptional toughness and courage, Athens wants a pardon.

On July 17, the annual conference opens in Bucharest. The Bulgarian army remained undefeated in the one-month war, but Bulgarian diplomacy suffered. At the Bucharest conference, Bulgaria remains isolated. England, France and Germany protect the interests of their former allies. The advocacy of Russian diplomacy is hesitant and inconsistent. Austria-

Hungary, striving to make Bulgaria the focal point of its Balkan policy, tried to protect the basic Bulgarian demands for Kavala. Vienna's support, however, is also anemic and remains fruitless.

The Bucharest Peace Treaty was signed on July 28, 1913. Bulgaria cedes South Dobruja to Romania as "compensation" for the acquired lands in Aegean Thrace. Serbia and Greece share the dominant part of Macedonia, with Belgrad in its Vardap part, and Athens in its Aegean part. Only the territories locked between the wards of the rivers Struma, Mesta and Maritsa remain in the Bulgarian national territories, i.e. Rhodops, Pirin Macedonia and Western Turkey. Thus, the Bulgarian state gets a way out of Aegean Sea. According to the Bucharest Treaty, Bulgaria is forced to demobilize its army. Bulgarian-Turk relations were normalized with the Tsarigrad Treaty of September 16, 1913. Bulgaria ceded Eastern Thrace to the Ottoman Empire without Malko-Tarnovo, Svilengrad and Tsarevo.

The Bulgarians in Macedonia do not accept their assigned position as Serbian and Greek subjects and show their support for the former allies. Already in April 1913, the detachments of the IMORO began to fight against them. At the beginning of the Inter-Allied War broke out, etc. Tikvesh uprising. In September 1913, an uprising also broke out in Derka, Ohrid and Strugha. Ohrid was taken over for a short time. However, the Serbians managed to suppress these riots.

Bulgaria's policy towards Macedonia during the First World War

The main goal pursued by Bulgaria, joining the Central Powers in the European conflict in 1915, is the same as in the two Balkan wars that just ended - the achievement of the Bulgarian nation. The secret agreement with Germany of August 24, 1915 allowed Bulgaria to acquire and annex Vardar Macedonia and the Serbian lands to Morava river.

The ultimate goals are clear, but Bulgaria does not have an elaborate plan for the military transitional management of the territories that are about to be occupied, and the conflict from the very beginning has become a cause for serious disagreements between the administration of Vasil Radoslavov, on the one hand, and the High Command, on the other.

The official accession of Bulgaria to the Central Powers took place on August 24, 1915, which was contractually changed in four separate agreements between Bulgaria and the other participants in the coalition: Bulgarian-German alliance treaty and secret agreement, German-

Austrian-Hungary -Bulgarian military convention and Bulgarian-Turkey convention for the rectification of the borders. The secret agreement with Germany, which guaranteed the acquisition of Vardar Macedonia and the lands to Morava river does not specify whether this clause enters into force immediately or remains for after the conclusion of the agreement. The military convention does not mention anything about the way in which the military transitional administration of the occupied territories will be established.

Remark :

The abstract was prepared by the municipality of Hadjidimovo (The Project Management Team) on the basis of the report provided by the subcontractor "ESA Obrazovaten Center "Vitosha" EOOD



Appendix 4

**PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS
GEOPARK IN NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771**

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

**The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
and by national funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” .**

PB MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDIMOVO, BULGARIA

DELIVERABLE D 3.3.3

**NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY
AND A TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"**

**The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of this report are sole
responsibility of the Municipality of Hadzhidimovo and can in no way be taken to
reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing
Authority and the Joint Secretariat.**



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Appendix 4

(Abstract)

DATA ON HISTORICAL FIGURES RELATED TO THE TERRITORY OF HADJIDIMOVO MUNICIPALITY

One of the main functions of the Geopark is the study and exposition of the cultural and historical heritage of the territory. The direct goal of this activity is the development of cultural and historical tourism.

Cultural tourism is one of the earliest forms of tourism. It is believed that its beginning dates back to the first Olympic Games held in ancient Greece. At that time, the Olympic Games were not only sports competitions, but also holidays and competitions of culture and art. The purpose of this type of tourism is to enrich and expand the knowledge of tourists by getting to know the specific culture of the visited destination.

The objects to visit in this type of tourism are:

- historical-archaeological sites - archaeological excavations, fortresses and towers, palaces, memorials and battlefields, memorial monuments, monuments, ships, birthplaces, etc.;
- architectural objects – fountains, bridges, aqueducts, buildings, streets, squares, old quarters;
- ethnographic objects - ethnographic museums, customs, clothing, household items, crafts, workshops, folklore, holidays, culinary;

- religious objects – churches, monasteries, sanctuaries, tombs, processions, holidays;
- cultural and educational sites – museums, expositions, panoramas, reconstructions, picture galleries, treasuries, libraries, universities, etc.
- cultural attractions - festivals, exhibitions, performances.

Depending on the sites that are visited, the following forms of cultural tourism differ:

- cultural - historical tourism - is related to visits to sites of cultural and historical heritage. These are various cultural monuments and landmarks related to the historical past of the respective destination, as well as archaeological, architectural, ethnographic and other sites.

- cultural and educational tourism - Objects of interest to tourists do not necessarily have historical value. Objects of cultural-cognitive tourism can be works of painting, sculpture, artistic crafts, cult objects, discovered treasures, museums, works of literature, music, etc.

- festival tourism - related to visiting and/or participation in cultural events (holidays, festivals, celebrations).

Cultural tourism is one of the types of tourism that is developing very well in our country. Bulgaria is a country with a rich cultural and historical heritage, which is of interest not only to Bulgarian but also to foreign tourists. Data from our country show that a large part of foreign tourists (about 30%) visit cultural and historical heritage sites during their stay.

An inalienable part of the cultural and historical heritage are historical figures - cultural and educational figures, scientists, revolutionaries, church-religious leaders, ideologists, statesmen, entrepreneurs, national heroes. Their life and activity is connected with the historical events of the territory that created the appearance of its past and present. Historical figures reflect and interweave within themselves in a concentrated form the historical epochs, the relationship of people with local natural resources, the culture, life and traditions of the peoples in the relevant geographical area and the specific historical time. In this regard, their study and presentation is an appropriate form of research, knowledge and assimilation of each specific territory, to understand and connect its past, present and future. Knowledge about them is an extremely convenient form of proliferation of knowledge about the territory with a view to the effective utilization of its potential for all spheres of human activity realized in it.

The cultural and historical heritage of the territory of the Geopark is extremely rich in both events and historical figures. Most of them are related to the struggles for national liberation from the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century.

During the conducted research, more than 200 individuals representing potential interest for the cultural-historical segment of Hadjeidimovo Geopark were identified. Information about their life and activities has been collected and systematized.

This appendix presents data on those of them (a total of 45 people) representing the greatest interest for the purposes of the Geopark:

Boris Sarafov, Gotse Delchev, Yane Sandanski, Alexander Protogerov, Dame Gruev, Gyorche Petrov, Ivan Garvanov, Hristo Tatarchev, Anton Dimitrov, Hristo Matov, Ivan Mihailov, Menmcha Karnicheva, Tosdor Panitsa, Hristo Chernopeev, Pere Toshev, Stoyan Filipov, Yanko Vaptsarov . Stoyan Mulchankov, Atanas Teshovski, Kocho Masturka, Kocho Lyutov, Doncho Zlatkov, Georgi Bajdarov, Mirche Acev, Marko Bazarov, Nikola Rusenski, Georgi Mandajiev, Kryustyu Sarafov, Metodi Shatarov

In the report, a brief description of the life and activities of the inhabitants is made and an assessment of the connection of the specific person with the goals and functions of Geopark Hadjidimovo is given.

Historical figures originating from the village of Libyahodo (today Ilinden) in Hadzhidimovskotao (today Ilinden) are especially described, whose knowledge is of primary importance for the Geopark as a tourist destination. At the end of the 19th century, Libyahovo was a Bulgarian Orthodox village, one of the fortresses of Bulgaria in Nevrokopsko. Prominent educators and participants in the church-national struggles of the Bulgarians in Eastern Macedonia from the village are Georgi Zimbilev (1820 – 1880), Khariton Karpuzov (1827 – 1899), Atanas Poppetrov (1850 – 1933) and Stoyan Zimbilev (1860 – 1912). The members of the great Sarafov family were born in Libyahovo, among its prominent representatives being the leader of the Military Aviation Administration Boris Sarafov (1872 – 1907), his brother Krastyo Sarafov (1876 – 1952) – a prominent artist, their sister Zlata Sarafova and others. From the village are Dimitar Arnaudov (1874 – 1937) – a member of the Military Military Academy and Military Military Academy (united) and the voivode of the Military Military Academy Atanas Popov (1884 – 1928). The

prominent artist Konstantin Garnev (1894 – 1966) and the writer/poet Ivan Zahariev (1941) were also born in Libyahovo.

The described facts, events and documents related to the person can be presented in permanent or mobile museum expositions, exhibitions, in talks intended for students and visitors to the municipality, in materials in the press or included in the electronic media, be the subject of scientific conferences and forums . The birthplace of those of them, born on the territory of the municipality, as well as the places on the territory related to them, should be included in tourist routes. Personal information may be presented in tourist brochures and leaflets. The study of historical figures is one of the important system-forming activities within the Geopark, in connection with which local initiative thematically oriented groups of volunteers can be attracted and engaged.

The Geopark will organize research, search for documents and objects related to individuals, genealogical research, collection of information from heirs and memories handed down from generations, filming of videos. The Geopark should also organize the preparation of tour guides for the presentation of the person.

The information presented in this application is of an informative nature and does not claim to be scientific research with the appropriate copyrights.

Remark :

The abstract was prepared by the municipality of Hadjidimovo (The Project Management Team) on the basis of the report provided by the subcontractor "ESA Obrazovatelen Center "Vitosha" EOOD

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



Appendix 5

PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER GEOPARK IN THE REKA MESTA AREA", REG. No. 1771

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” .

DELIVERABLE D 3.3.3

NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY AND A TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"

The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of this report are sole responsibility of the Municipality of Hadzhidimovo and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat.

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



Appendix 5

**PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS GEOPARK
IN NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771**

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

**The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and
by national funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” .**

PB MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDIMOVO, BULGARIA

DELIVERABLE D 3.3.3

**NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY AND A
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Authority and the Joint Secretariat.**

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



The report was developed within the framework of contract No. B 2.6 c.08 under the project "Creation of a transborder water assets geopark in Nestos area", with the acronym: CB Water Geopark, financed under the Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" , co-financed by the ERDF and the national budget of the participating countries.

Appendix 5

(Abstract)

DESCRIPTION, CHARACTERISTICS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF LIFE, TRADITIONS, MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE POPULATION IN THE AREA OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDYMOVO FOR THE PURPOSES OF TOURISM

HISTORICALLY FORMED CULTURAL AMALGAM. COMPLEX NATURE OF TRADITIONS AND HOLIDAYS IN THE REGION

Cultural tradition is a building block of the sense of belonging to a given nation and ethnic group . It is related to the recognition of certain elements of culture as one's own, inherent and specific to the respective community.

Traditions are perceived by people as something unchanging, which is passed down from generation to generation for many years. In terms of content, they refer to all the proven sustainable elements of

the culture of a given population and a certain geographical territory - in the sphere of everyday life, production and crafts, clothing, food and nutrition, rites, customs, celebrations, musical and singing culture, dances, rituals, humor, behavioral characteristics - habits, etc. These can also include the myths, legends, parables, traditions that are widespread in the region and among the population, on the one hand as an element of culture, on the other - as forms and a means of maintaining the traditions themselves.

When researching, describing and evaluating traditions, it should be borne in mind that they are subject to time. Customs, rites or holidays undergo changes over time, because they are related to the ideas of the world, life and livelihood of people, which in turn are constantly changing. In historical development, some elements of culture disappear or lose importance, others acquire a new meaning for the community, others arise to become "tradition" in turn.

The changes in culture in the 20th century were particularly dynamic, when a comprehensive modernization of Bulgarian society took place. The Bulgarian village, which is the natural environment for the functioning of traditional holidays, is experiencing a demographic collapse due to industrialization and urbanization.

Transformations are characteristic both of the overall cultural system and of specific rites and holidays. One was, for example, the masks of the kukers in the past and quite different in modern kukers; one thing was the wedding dress of the bride a century ago, quite different these days. Martenits for March 1st and cheeses for Christmas are now bought instead of make at home. Changes also occur in the interpretation of certain customs. Customs performed in the past as rain magic can today be seen as a performance by a folk group on the stage of a festival. Certain components of the traditional ritual, for example the funeral, are distinguished by greater stability and conservatism. Others, such as some calendar customs, disappear due to the change in economic life.

The attitude towards the ritual and holiday system is also different. If in the past it was a part of every person's being, in our time it is considered as a cultural heritage that must be preserved and passed on. State and municipal institutions, media, community centers, circles, independent groups are involved in this. This also leads to the new place of objects from the traditional lifestyle of Bulgarians as exhibits in museums, and their modern copies - as souvenirs or decoration of living rooms. Elements of Bulgarian traditional culture are included in the modern ritual: official and

foreign guests are welcomed by girls in national costumes with bread and salt; the New Year is celebrated with Bulgarian people and songs. There is also a process of restoration of some traditional customs based on the idea of self-made people. In connection with the development of cultural tourism, many settlements are initiating completely new holidays, in which a connection with tradition is sought.

Thus, a number of elements of traditional culture (holidays, costumes, songs, dances, food) are perceived as symbols of Bulgarianness and are included in modern culture as signs of national identity.

The region is characterized by the coexistence of Christian and Muslim populations, where life, culture and traditions are combined.

The culture and traditions of the Christian and Muslim populations in the region are similar and overlap, indicating their common ethnic roots. Here, history has created a unique symbiosis of religious communities with strongly related cultures, similar rites and customs, identical elements of life, practically the same economic culture, both in form and in content.

Although defining the identity and self-identification of the population from this region, the religious difference is not related to a fundamental difference in value-cultural identity, where the common elements are more than the differences. The question of whether different ethnicities were formed is disputed, it is a question of religious differentiation of the same ethnic group

Life and traditions as part of Hadjidimovo Geopark

Within the general concept of the Geopark, cultural traditions represent an important basic element connecting the people inhabiting the territory with its natural features. They reflect historical time, historical co-existence, economic life and technologies, human relations in all their aspects, mentality, values, successes and failures, births and sufferings of the population. They directly reflect man's relationship with nature and its gifts, the importance of nature for people, their dependence on it, fears of natural disasters and the veneration of earthly gifts. Cultural traditions trace the path and the connection between the past and the present of the territory and to a large extent provide the basis and guidelines for its development in the future. For these reasons, they have an important cognitive significance both for the local population and for the guests of the

municipality and the region. Due to its rich historical past, the territory has extremely rich cultural traditions combining elements of all the civilizations that lived here - ancient Thracian, ancient Greek, ancient Roman, Byzantine, Proto-Bulgarian, Bulgarian, Ottoman, New European. Elements of the pagan, early Christian, Orthodox and Muslim cultural value systems are intertwined. Such a cultural amalgam is found in very few other territories in the world. Unfortunately, a large part of the cultural traditions have not been studied, researched and described in a way that serves their historical and cultural greatness and importance.

Essentially, one of the main functions of the Geopark is to create prerequisites and conditions for overcoming this situation, by developing the knowledge and presentation of the cultural traditions of the territory, overcoming the mentioned limitation. In this regard, Gioparka will develop initiatives both locally, nationally and internationally - such as the creation of structures for reading and researching cultural traditions. Creation of organization, events and forms for their exposure at the local, national and international level, inclusion of the call results in educational and advertising campaigns and activities. It should be noted, as an extremely positive fact, that due to the proximity of the territory to large cultural and religious church centers, as well as due to the participation of many fora from it in their work, many valuable historical descriptions, memories, memoirs have been created and preserved, which are stored in the archival funds of Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, North Macedonia, Serbia, the Russian Federation. Interesting documents are found in the libraries of the Athos monasteries. Such can also be found in the archives of the Vatican. That is why one of the tasks of the Geopark in this direction is the discovery and identification of these sources, the acquisition of hard copies and the creation of facilities for their study and exhibition. Another important direction is the study of cultural traditions in the life of people here as they have remained at the moment, the study of their origin and their development over time. The third and immediate direction of work is to exhibit basic cultural traditions in the most illustrative, accessible and attractive way for the local population and guests.

The traditions and the local culinary variety and specificity create a good basis for the development of culinary tourism with a focus on the traditions of the region.

However, it should be noted that this type of tourism is not developed with a professional approach and skills. It does not exist as a specific form of tourism. The regional culinary specificity has receded, is mixed and lost in all-Bulgarian culinary standards established in recent decades. The

cuisine in the restaurants does not pay special attention to traditional specialties and, in essence, is not an independent specific attraction factor for the development of tourism. It is one of the good conditions for tourism in the region, but it has not been developed to the point of becoming the basis of culinary tourism, despite the possibilities for this

It is important to confirm the conditions for utilizing the opportunities for the development of this type of tourism to introduce, to know, to exhibit and to offer the culinary specialties specific to the region, paying particular attention to the elements of uniqueness.

As a result of the research, some of the well-known elements of life, manners, customs and traditions of the population on the territory of the Geopark and Hadjidimovo municipality, which are an integral part of the culture of the Neurokop region, Southern Pirin and Western Rhodopes, have been described.

Livelihood

Traditionally, the population alternated with animal husbandry and beekeeping. Livestock breeders raised sheep and goats, cattle - cows and oxen. Agriculture and cloth weaving were in second place. Hunting was developed. Rye, barley, oats were sown in the valleys, and wheat in the lower areas. The main foods are bread and beans. In the 20th century, growing tobacco became an important industry. Beekeeping provided an important livelihood. . Sugar was borrowed from honey. In the past, the wax from here was transported to Seresco and Dramsko and was one of the best incomes for the population. Part of the population made a living from the forest. The population maintained a lively trade with the Mediterranean.

Daily household items:

- **Whistle – shepherd's musical instrument.**
- **Korkumach – Sheep's milk is boiled with salt.**
- **Pishtimal made of fur - It is woven from fur measuring 50 cm. at 2 m.**

- **Katrach** – A curved thick stick with a hook at the end, which is driven into the ground at an angle and the vessel in which corkumach is brewed is attached to it.
- **Arkuma** – a copper vessel that is used for cooking, milking, carrying water, etc.
- **Trough** - the sheep's yoke is placed in them.
- **Kutel** – A wooden vessel for various purposes.
- **Nipples** - a place where the sheep are nursed - salt and flour are given.
- **The bottle** - a narrow and tall wooden vessel with a stirrer with a wooden circle attached to one end.
- **wooden ducks or bellows made of kid or lamb skin** (For longer storage of milk and butter)

Customs related to the livelihood of the population of the region in the past.

The appendix describes in detail:

- Labor folk custom "Harvest"**
- The bread**
- Mutual aid** It was manifested in all spheres of life, especially in agricultural work
- Crafts:**
 - **Spinning wool, cotton, hemp and fur** - is done with a wheel.
 - **Weaving of woolen, cotton fabrics** (rezi-mangan. stavastar (special bow with animal sinew cord).
 - **Making shoes** - chirping.
 - **Carpentry** - making plows and carts.
 - **Blacksmithing** - making work tools: flails, hoes, pickaxes, dikel - digger with two horns, etc.
 - **"Redo"**. A tradition that shows the morals and proverbial honesty of the people
 - **The dairy**
 - **Bell ringing**
 - **Weaving and production of abi and shayaki,**
 - **Pottery**
 - **Mutaficizm**
 - **Abajiism**

- **Goldsmithing**
- **Saddle producing**

Folklore

The southwestern folklore-ethnographic region, known as the Pirin region, is described in detail. It is one of the five folklore-ethnographic regions in Bulgaria with the richest diversity and specificity. Here, the characteristics of folklore and ethnographic phenomena cannot be assessed unambiguously due to the multidirectional manifestations of their rich inner content.

In a relatively small geographical area, folklore and ethnographic phenomena are concentrated - songs, instrumental melodies, dances and games, folk prose, rites and customs, costumes, fabrics, etc., which outline the exceptional creative genius of the population of this region. Specific local phenomena, ethnic and religious interactions are observed in the area, which enrich the general picture of folk creativity even more. A specific contribution to its diversity is made by the compact groups - settlers in Nevrokop/Gocedelchevo/ from Aegean Macedonia - Syars and Drams, as well as the groups of population living in the villages of South Pirin and the Western Rhodopes, who were forcibly pomohamedanized - Bulgarians professing the Muslim religion.

In the Appendix are described:

- **Pirin musical folklore region (characteristic singing and musical styles)**
- **The Nevrocop region instrumental tradition**
- **Characteristic musical instruments - tambourines, tarambuka (a percussive instrument), accordion, kaval (a musical instrument from the group of woodwind instruments , piskun (short wooden tube 25 – 40 cm long with six finger holes), dvoyanka (whistle), zurni (oriental woodwind musical instrument), drums; bagpipe.**
- **“Sedenkar” (seating get-together meetings) choruses, table songs, ritual songs - harvest songs, Sedenkar songs, wedding songs, table songs.**
- **The choreographic tradition of dances related to various rites, such as Christmas, Survakar, Easter-Georgian, etc.**
- **Songs in ritual and recreational games**

The costumes

□ Women's costumes

- **Saic clothing**
- **The apron.**
- **The headscarf - the ashmak**
- **Head vaquitas - tepelak. the so-called "pulav ashmatsi"**
- **Metal head ornaments**
- **Shalwari**
- **Fereje.**
- **Wool belt**
- **Anteria and pots, socks, scarves, iram (apron, woven on a loom);**
- **.The scarf, breastplate, breastplate, breastplate,**
- **The shirt**
- **Triangular scarf,**

□ Men's costumes

- Poturi
- Tunic shirt, belted with a wide belt and top
- Vest (brown, blue, red)
- Socks
- Worms
- The leather cap
- Skins.

□ Folk songs

- Women's songs and dances with melodies in 2/4 and 7/8.
- Characteristic ritual women's songs
- The pre-wedding song - "Couscous is made"
- Seat songs
- Chorus singing (singing and dancing)

□ Dances. Ritual "Choro" (folk dance)

- Restrained right choro.

- **The contracted people choro**
- **The led (broken) people choro - women, men and mixed.**
- **According to the scale in which the people are playing, here they are performed: in the scale of 2/4 - festive and women's ritual choirs of a song, dance songs in a faster tempo, which are performed on the megdan and as ritual, instrumental, type "do horá", pawn type; in size 5/16 - "buttocks"; in 7/16 - "hand-made" and in 9/16 - gankini, daichovi and kuchek type.**
- **The three steps Choro in 4/4,**
- **Aydarovo Choro - . in 9/8**
- **Maleshevsko Choro - in size 2/4**
- **Triple Choro – in size 7/8.**
- **"Drama" Choro**
- **The sky Choro**
- **"The Rabbit" Choro**

Festive and ritual people and games

- **Single group ritual dance is an ancient type of ritual activity.**
- **Men's ritual wedding dances, .**
- **The Lazarus games and the butterfly dance, as well as at some ritual moments of the wedding.**
- **Men's ritual dances - the survakar walking and the winter masquerade games**

Traditional flats

- **St. George's Day**
- **Bayram.**
- **Jeremiah and Nevruz**
- **Bairam customs and games**
- **Yordanov day**
- **Archangel's Day**
- **Rites on Lazarus Day and Palm Sunday**
- **Dances at rain ceremonies**
- **The “Butterfly” custom (to cause rain)**
- **Local custom for rain - "Aminkane" "Arfe" (stew)**
- **Wedding**

Culinary traditions

By virtue of its historical development, Bulgarian cuisine is extremely diverse and very tasty. Bulgarian food traditions have been formed over the centuries under the influence of geographical location, socio-economic development, religions, agriculture, seasonality, etc. It is natural that the tribes and nations that inhabited the territory of today's Bulgaria leave an imprint on food habits of the Bulgarians. The main ingredients of the ancient cuisine in our lands were traditional for the region. For vegetables, these are beets, turnips, cabbage, carrots, onions, garlic; for meat - sheep, goat, pork, beef, game; for cereals - millet, oats, barley, spelt, rye; for legumes - green beans, lentils, peas, fenugreek.

Later, in the 16th - 17th centuries, plants and animals from America entered Bulgarian cuisine as products. Beans, pepper, tomato, potato, corn, sunflower, turkey, etc. From the East comes rice, eggplant, specific spices and ingredients, such as black pepper, ginger, oregano, cinnamon, etc.

Due to its proximity to the Orient, oriental food preparation technologies are also present in Bulgaria, and some names of dishes, even with modified recipes, bear the same names

- moussaka, casserole, imambayaldu, köpoolu, pilaf, baklava, kadaif and many more. others.

After the Liberation, influences from Europe intervened, and many of them were interpreted specifically - such as ingredients, preparation technology, way of serving, etc.

After 1940 and especially after 1965, many of the main ingredients were missing from the market and were replaced by others that are still part of the national cuisine today. Thus, butter is replaced with lard, olives - with pickles, scrambled eggs - with milk "mayonnaise", various new canned meats appear. At the same time, due to the development of tourism and the idea of creating trademarks, emblematic names for today's Bulgarian cuisine appeared, such as "Shop salad", "Cavarma according to Radomir", "Bean soup according to monastery", "Eggs according to Panagyur", "Pepper burek" etc., all of which were imposed by the then only national tour operator.

The transition also necessitated other innovations - for example, the modifications of the "shop salad" (with the addition of various components), which today are called "shepherd's salad", "waterman's salad". Egg, peppers, cheese are added to the kavarma. And although at first glance this distances our recipes from ancient traditions, in practice the development of the national cuisine is achieved.

The cuisine of the area is diverse, appealing and well-known. Historical traditions have been preserved and maintained for centuries. Elements of Slavic-Bulgarian, Southern European, Greek and Turkish-Oriental cuisine are combined.

The local population keeps traditions and has a rich culinary culture and skills. Local dishes are dominated by livestock products from the area, river fish, pies, handmade pasta and traditional recipes

The area is also influenced by the Pontic cuisine. Typical Pontic dishes from the area are "sorvas" - yogurt soup, "keskek" - chicken with wheat, as well as "zurichta", "ivrista" and "trahana" (from flour and vegetables, which are dried and crushed, and prepared as a thick porridge). And from the Karakachan tradition, "lahanopita" stands out - cabbage with thick crusts for a pie. They are placed in a tray and spread well with butter, after which they are added finely chopped cabbage, onion, cheese, salt, pepper and butter or oil.

Another dish is the "galatopita". It is a milk pie. Flour, salt and sugar are mixed, boiled until thickened, and then placed between several crusts. It is baked with a little oil. This pie is prepared on holidays - on Easter and St. George's Day. "Striftopita", a twisted pastry, or also called psaropita (closest to Bulgarian), is prepared by rolling out very thin crusts on the cooking board.

Cheese is placed in each crust and it is rolled tightly lengthwise. The rolled crusts are placed tightly next to each other, in a circle, from the end to the middle, in a circular pan greased with butter. A twisted patty is obtained. Then it is buttered and baked in the so-called "gastra" (a metal lid with a handle), which covers the pan and the dish is grilled, also placed on top of the lid. The appendix describes the method of preparing the regional dishes:

- **Kurcumach (boiled sheep's milk with salt and breadcrumbs)**
- **Kachamak (boiled corn grits)**
- **Zelnik (Pie - with cabbage or spinach, lapad, nettle)**
- **Halva**
- **Gruda (fried dish of cornmeal and butter)**
- **Kapama (sauerkraut, rice, spices, garlic, different types of meat)**

- **Chomlek** (meat cut into pieces and stewed in a pot, onion, arpajik, garlic, tomato puree, flour, white wine and spices)
- **Lean grape hearts**
- **Sirmi with ripe beans**
- **Skewered mutton**
- **Stuffed chicken**
- **Drinks** (airan/mixed yogourt /, oshaf/ boiled dry fructs, langur)
- **Sweets** (chucnatoto - a type of syrupy sweet, butter pita)

Traditional children's games

- **Chillik.**
- **To beat**
- **Ginger**
- **Puplek**
- **Pump**
- **Chifte**

Expert evaluations of traditions, rites and elements of life for the purposes of Geapark:

Knowledge of Traditions - 8/10
Available Skills – 6/10
Actual usage – 3/10
Exposure - 3/10;

Touristic Potential – 9/10;
Availability of organizational prerequisites - 5/10
Short term outlook – 4/10
Medium term outlook - 7/10;
Long-term perspective – 10/10

Geopark Measures to take : Building a Strategy and program; Collection of information; Training ; Advertising.

Good opportunities in this regard have started to build. For example, the creation and initiatives of the "Nevrokop 1" foundation aimed at uniting people in the area who are looking for their development and desire to do business in the field of tourism, which pays special attention to cuisine and culinary tourism, are worth noting.

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Remark :

The abstract was prepared by the municipality of Hadjidimovo (The Project Management Team) on the basis of the report provided by the subcontractor "ESA Obrazovatelyn Center "Vitosha" EOOD



Appendix 6

**PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS GEOPARK
IN NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771**

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

**The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and
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PB MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDIMOVO, BULGARIA

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**NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY AND A
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Appendix 6

(Abstract)

LEGENDS, MYTHS AND FOLKLORE IN NEVROKOPSO, PIRIN REGION, WESTERN RHODOPE REGION, WITH POTENTIAL FOR USE FOR TOURISM PURPOSES IN HADJIDIMOVO MUNICIPALITY

The complete Appendix 6 contains 42 standard printed pages

Myths and legends are a reflection of the laws, values and hopes of a society

The collection and study of the myths and legends of the given territory or population aims to understand the folk psychology, its value system as it has developed over the centuries.

The legends and myths of the Hadjidimovo Geopark region are connected with natural features and the complex historical fate of this region. It is remarkable that cultures and value systems of different civilizations and peoples are intertwined in them.

The presentation of myths and legends in an appropriate form always arouses interest among the local population as well as among visitors and tourists.

Individual legends can be presented in an attractively spectacular form and become significant tourist events and objects.

For the ancient peoples, the stories about the actions of the gods and heroes provide answers to questions related to the origin of the world, the appearance of man and his destiny, they provide an explanation of some natural phenomena and the transience of things in life. All peoples also create legends from this type that often

Legends and folk tales are closely related to myths. They're just different kinds of stories. Unlike myths, folklore and fairy tales can happen at any time and in any place and are not considered true or sacred. Legends, on the other hand, like myths, are generally considered credible, but take place in a more recent time. Also, legends are usually about humans, while myths are full of mystical and divine beings.

In many cultures, the distinction between myth, legend and folklore is difficult.

Bulgarian mythology is a South Slavic extension of Slavic mythology, covering the area of distribution of the Bulgarian nation. Although Bulgarian mythological representations are part of the corpus of Slavic mythology, they also contain a number of local non-Slavic elements, inherited from the pre-Slavic population of the Bulgarian lands - Thracians, Romans, Greeks, etc., as well as from peoples of later times. migration waves (Cumans, Pechenegs, Tatars, Turks, etc.).

The basis of Bulgarian folklore are the mythological representations of Slavic paganism. After settling in the Balkans in the 6th - 7th centuries, the Slavs became the dominant population group in the Bulgarian lands. They assimilated the representatives of the local pre-Slavic population, as well as those of the proto-Bulgarians, who were a leading state-building element in the Bulgarian state, which was separated at the end of the 7th century.

Slavic pagan religion is polytheistic. The pantheon of deities of the Slavs is structured both horizontally and vertically (hierarchically), with the sky god Perun at the head. Other main gods of the Slavs are Lada, Volos, Svarog, etc. After the conversion, the pagan religion was replaced by

Christianity, but a number of paganistic elements continued to exist, taking on a new essence, aligned with my new theistic religion. Thus, for example, a number of Christian saints perceive the essence and symbolic functions of pagan deities.

Remnants of Slavic paganism are mythological images such as samovars, vampires, mermaids, etc.

In Bulgarian folk beliefs, Zmeykovo is a mythical village where samodives, dragons and mythical creatures live.

It is believed that elves, fairies, mermaids, dragons, etc. mythical creatures live in Zmeikovo only in autumn and winter – they leave it on Blagovets (March 25) and return there on Seknovenia (August 29). During this period they live in the human world.

The most common mythical creatures are Samodivs, Llamas, Dragons, Håls, Demons, Orysniks, Reanimated stones and trees, Talking birds and animals, Werewolves, Karaconjules, Vampires, Wraiths, Mermaids, Styria, Goblins.

Among the characters, Krali Marko, the beautiful maiden, the boyar's daughter, the poor trickster, the brave boy, etc. stand out.

The legends and myths of the Hadjidimovo Geopark region are connected with natural features and the complex historical fate of this region. It is remarkable that cultures and value systems of different civilizations and peoples are intertwined in them.

The function of the Geopark should also be the use of myths and legends for the knowledge of the specific spirituality of the population and for its connection with the natural features of the territory. For an educational and educational impact on the young population of the territory in the spirit of traditional values.

The described myths, legends and legends are characteristic of this part of Bulgaria. From the numerous myths, legends and legends, those that represent the diversity of the local mythology and that could be used as the initial material for a focused exposition with a cognitive and educational purpose and for the purposes of cultural-historical tourism have been selected.

Description of legends, myths and legends from the Neurokop region and the Western Rhodope mountains of interest for tourism purposes

They are detailed in the appendix as follows:

- **Legend of Kanina River**
- **Ugrin and Meruda – legend of the Pirin mountain Mount Bezbog**
- **Legend of the sleeping grass**
- **Legend of Phanes and the Night**
- **Legend of the sword of King Samuel**
- **The Self-divines**
- **Legend of the wild dance**
- **Legend of the maiden from the "Momina kula" fortress**
- **Folk beliefs and legends about storks**
- **One bush cannot feed two eritakas! A legend about Peter Delyan**
- **Legend of Mount Maliovitsa**
- **Tradition for Rooster Day**
- **Legend of the Rock of the Wolves in the Western Rhodopes**
- **Legend of the construction of the Hadjidimov Monastery of St. Great Martyr Georges**
- **Clay suns - legend of Saint Spyridon**
- **A legend related to the "Popovi" Lakes**
- **Legend of the construction of the golden church "St. Dimitar" in the village of Teshovo**
- **Legend about the name of the Vaptsarov family**
- **Legend related to the name of the Saraf family**

Remark :

The abstract was prepared by the municipality of Hadjidimovo (The Project Management Team) on the basis of the report provided by the subcontractor "ESA Obrazovatelyn Center "Vitosha" EOOD



Apendix 7

PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS GEOPARK IN NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” .

PB MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDIMOVO, BULGARIA

DELIVERABLE D 3.3.3

NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY AND A TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"

The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of this report are sole responsibility of the Municipality of Hadzhidimovo and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat.

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



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Appendix 7

(Abstract)

DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPERSTRUCTURE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HAJIDIMOVO AND THE AREA OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO

1. Nature and content of the tourist infrastructure and superstructure

The development of tourism in a given territory. along with its natural features. cultural sights and historical values is directly dependent on the tourist infrastructure

Tourists head to attractions and landmarks. which satisfy their leisure needs. entertainment. exploring new places, etc. However, tourism resources do not address their basic leisure needs. a dream. food. as well as their need to move to the respective places. These needs are satisfied by the material base of tourism.

The material base is important. structural element of tourism. Through it, a significant part of tourism revenues are realized. The high-quality and sufficient material base can attract tourists. as well as to redirect the flows of tourists.

Tourism infrastructure does not directly create the tourism product. but is the bearer of the general material conditions. without which the development of tourism is impossible. "It encompasses the totality of these facilities. located on the territory of tourist sites and enterprises and is intended to serve mainly tourists" (Vodenska & Asenova. 2004) It uses the elements of the general infrastructure. providing access to and within the tourist site.

There is no uniform classification of the structure of the material base in the literature. The concepts of infrastructure and superstructure are introduced. They are interconnected and complementary and do not exist in isolation.

"Tourist infrastructure includes, for example, the street network and lighting in the resorts, marinas and their facilities, mountain vehicles, internal transport and sports facilities in tourist complexes, etc." Tourism infrastructure requires significant investment. Therefore, its construction is beyond the power of private investors and non-governmental associations alone, but it should be the concern of state bodies (state, regions, municipalities, program funds). Tourism infrastructure is closely related to general infrastructure, because the tourism industry also uses elements of the general infrastructure. General and tourist infrastructure are not always synchronized - most often, due to a lack of investment for one or several sites, it is possible not to build specialized tourist infrastructure, but to use the general; thus, funds are saved not only for construction, but also for design and operation.

Tourism infrastructure includes three main elements: access and communications to the tourist destination; communications in the tourist place itself and common elements, without which the basic and additional services cannot be provided.

The tourist superstructure is a set of buildings and facilities within the tourist territory. Such are the places of accommodation, dining and entertainment establishments, sports and entertainment facilities, the store network, tourist transport facilities, etc. They are directly involved in the creation of the tourist product. Other similar concepts are material and technical base or just material base, which include the previously discussed concepts. The capacity of the tourist superstructure determines the possibilities for the utilization of the territory. It is possible to build the tourist infrastructure and superstructure in parallel or in stages, to achieve compliance. It is recommended that the construction of the tourism infrastructure precedes the construction of the tourism superstructure.

The tourism superstructure is the basis of the tourism product. It unites the specific material conditions for the production and implementation of all basic and additional services. It is a unity of disparate components, which function in sync.

The tourist superstructure is divided into the following varieties:

- Hotel superstructure: main, including hotels, motels and additional - holiday villages, campsites etc. The relationship between the number of beds and the amount of resources in the hotel superstructure determines the tourist capacity of the territory.

The restaurant superstructure is related to meeting the needs of basic and additional meals, from entertainment and social contacts, etc. It is to a great extent connected and dependent on the hotel industry.

Another component is the transport infrastructure, as it satisfies the need for travel, overcoming space. It is expressed through the means of transport and facilities themselves.

A specific type of tourist superstructure is the intermediary one, which provides the link between tourist markets and host territories.

The trade superstructure ensures the sale of goods. Its specificity is determined by the structure of tourist demand. It includes the store network and additional commercial establishments - markets, stands, pavilions, etc.

A specific type of superstructure is that of additional services, which consists of the sites and conditions for satisfying many different additional tourist needs - sports, medical, informative, and others.

The elements of the tourist superstructure are categorized on the basis of accepted standards and are depicted with a symbol (stars, letters, etc.).

The specialized tourism superstructure also depends on the type of tourism - for business, sea, water, mountain tourism, etc.

The specified classification shows to what extent and to what extent tourist resources are utilized in a given territory, the nature of seasonality and the possibilities to minimize its influence, creating and offering alternative products.

The tourist material base is also grouped according to its territorial scope. The territorial location of the material base determines its concentration or intensity of development. It also determines long-term development opportunities.

According to the scope and functional specificity of the tourist superstructure, it is divided into a single one, group and complex.

In relation to your general needs, touristic and specialized infra- and superstructure specialized types of tourism can be divided into three groups:

2. Needs of specialized types of tourism from infrastructure and superstructure

The appendix describes the types of tourism based primarily on the use of general and general tourist infrastructure and superstructure

□ Recreational tourism – infrastructure of amusements, amusement parks, theme parks, water parks and related facilities; Depending on its specifics, that tourism can be divided from the general infrastructure and from the tourist infrastructure and superstructure - for example, in the organization of various events such as holidays, carnivals, processions etc. It is also possible to build large-scale specialized facilities, which require large investments in tourism

□ Ecotourism – eco-paths with and without railings, bridges, stairs and other facilities, providing access and safety, shelters, bivouacs, information boards, signs and signs, etc. These facilities are distinguished by a relatively smaller capacity and throughput, they usually use environmentally friendly materials and renewable energy sources. Transport and accessibility are often difficult in unpopulated areas.

□ Shopping tourism - specific infrastructure are shopping centers, malls, markets, commercial streets, free trade shops along the borders, etc. In practice, the general commercial infrastructure is mainly used, which also has tourist functions. This is also related to the creation of specific conditions and the offer of specific products related to tourism

□ Rural tourism is most often based on an already built superstructure for domestic use (village houses), as well as the general infrastructure. They adapt to the needs of tourists. A common problem in rural areas where this type of tourism is developed is the insufficiently well-developed infrastructure as well as the lack of individual elements of it (e.g. sewage).

Types of tourism with weak needs for specific infrastructure and superstructure

□ Cultural, religious and cognitive tourism are based on the use of already available mostly anthropogenic tourism resources and already built tourism superstructure (hotels and other accommodation places). They also use the common infrastructure (transportation, energy, etc.).

□ Culinary tourism uses the tourist and general superstructure (the different types of dining and entertainment establishments). It is possible for it to be specially built for the needs of culinary tourism, whereby the final tourist product becomes significantly more expensive.

Types of tourism with strong needs for specific infrastructure and superstructure

□ Gambling tourism - casinos, gaming halls; It is a luxurious superstructure, which requires large capital investments, but predetermines a significant return on investment.

□ Business tourism - congress and conference halls and centers; In a number of cases, they are an element of the tourist superstructure, i.e. are being built into large and high category hotels. Thus, their offer is enriched and congress tourism can become their profile.

□ Fair tourism - fair halls and specialized exhibition areas; They are purpose-built and often large-scale facilities, requiring significant capital investment.

□ Wine tourism - tasting rooms. wineries. knocked out. access to the vineyards; Tasting rooms are allocated to wine-producing enterprises. They require less investment than wineries specially built for the needs of wine tourism. Access to vineyards with tourist vehicles can be difficult. because these are agricultural areas. sometimes without built transport infrastructure in and to them. These types of specialized tourism have lower needs for specific infrastructure and superstructure. which develop in natural. natural environment. These are ecotourism and hunting tourism.

□ Hunting tourism - jackal. hunting lodges. hunting lodges, etc. They are specially built for the needs of hunting and hunting tourism. They are characterized by a small capacity and highly pronounced seasonal use with load during the hunting season.

□ Healthy. spa tourism. Spa tourism. wellness tourism - swimming pools. bathtubs. showers. treatment equipment. controversial salons. steam baths. saunas. jacuzzis, etc.; Specific equipment makes the product of these types of tourism more expensive. In addition, they also need highly qualified personnel and good transport accessibility. They often develop in sparsely populated areas. which makes it difficult to use the general infrastructure and requires its special construction or extension to provide the balneotherapy and spa resorts. centers and hotels.

□ Sports tourism - stadiums. sports grounds and fields. indoor sports halls. marinas. ski lifts and lifts. golf courses. bike lanes and other specific facilities according to the type of tourism; The use of specific and often large-scale facilities makes the product more expensive. A common problem is the different forms of ownership and correspondingly different mode of use of the facilities.

□ With different types of specialized tourism, this need is expressed to a different degree. In most specialized types of tourism, this need is strongly expressed. which is one of the main reasons for the increase in the price of the tourist product of the specialized types of tourism. An objective trend in the development of tourism is the growth of the specific infrastructure and superstructure for providing specialized types of tourism.

3. Related tourist infrastructure and related tourist objects

Related tourist infrastructure and related objects with a tourist purpose are understood to be located in close proximity and geographically connected areas.

Although. that they are not on the territory of the municipality and the Geopark. by virtue of their spatial proximity, they can be included in the complex of measures and activities of the Geopark. and in this way they can objectively expand the functional field of the Geopark and its contribution to the

development of not only the municipality. in which it is located in neighboring municipalities and territories.

Thus, a sports complex in the village of Ognyanovo can be included in the services offered by a guest house in the village of Ilinden, and a museum exhibition in the town of Gotse Delchev - in a tourist route with the participation of a hotel in Hadjidimovo.

In general, the idea of connected sites is increasingly being used in the world's tourism business. The possibilities for this are expanding with the development of transport connectivity and information connectivity. Tourist clusters make a decisive contribution to the implementation of this approach. which develop the connections between the different tourist structures. operators and objects. Applying this methodology provides significant additional opportunities both locally and regionally as well as nationally and internationally.

The study of this connectivity for Hadjidimovo Geopark shows. that the regional tourist potential significantly exceeds the potential of the municipality and of the Geopark itself, both in terms of natural landmarks and objects and in terms of historical monuments and testimonies. cultural monuments and all other elements of the tourist potential. In this sense, it can be argued. that disclosure of connectivity. and the organization of its use should have been placed as an independent and leading direction of the Geopark's work. which would allow its more successful and sustainable development.

4. Description and assessment of the objects of the tourist infrastructure in the municipality of Hadjidimovo and on the territory of Geopark Hadjidimovo

Within the study were identified. the following main types and objects of the tourist infrastructure are described and evaluated:

- Hotels. guest houses and other accommodation (hotels. guest houses. apartments. rooms. pyjamas. shelters. cloisters. campsites)
- Eating establishments (Restaurants. pubs. taverns. coffee shops.. fast food establishments)
- Commercial sites (Shops, markets, malls, markets)
- Services (Establishments for recreation services. car repair shops. gas stations. dry cleaning. transport services. legal services. translation services. other services.)
- Health facilities and sanatoriums
- Entertainment establishments and attractions. (Zoos. night bars. music clubs. dance clubs. discotheques. entertainment attractions. casinos)
- Cultural institutions and events (Theatres. Museums and Galleries. folklore festivals. cultural holidays.)

- Sports facilities, stadiums, sports halls, swimming pools, tennis courts, etc. SPA complexes, gyms.
- General urban infrastructure. Infrastructure networks and objects on the territory / transport. water supply. power supply. communications and others/. Road infrastructure. Transport connectivity (Bus lines. Taxi services). Internet connectivity
- Infrastructure for financial services (Banks and bank offices. Exchange offices. ATMs. Insurance offices).
- Specialized tourist infrastructure (Tourist offices, information offices, tourist companies and offices, tour guides, cooks, maids, tour guides, receptionists, cluster activities and services in the field of tourism, training of personnel for tourism - schools)

4.1 Description and evaluation of hotels, guest houses and other accommodation

A total of 22 sites of this type with a total of 567 locations were identified during the survey.

1. Hotel SPA Katerina. Hadjidimovo
2. The Garden Hotel. Hadjidimovo
3. The White House Apartment. Hadjidimovo
4. The Varadeva house. Hadjidimovo
5. Saint George Guest House - Hadjidimovo
6. Hadjidim Monastery of St. Great Martyr George the Victorious
7. Kirpieva house. Gaitaninovo village
8. Malakova House. Teshovo village
9. Hotel Selo Lucky. Laki village
10. Guest house Perla. Laki village
11. Spa Hotel Mentor Resort. Gaitaninovo village
12. White Rocks Hotel. Gaitaninovo village
13. Houses in Omayya settlement. Gaitaninovo
14. Slavyanka House. Gaitaninovo village
15. Ilinden House. village of Ilinden
16. Four-story house. village of Ilinden
17. SPA houses Glavchevi. Ilinden
18. Marie Bell SPA Hotel. Koprivlen village
19. Guest house Baneva. Koprivlen village
20. Paril guest houses.

21. Hancheto complex. village of Ablanitsa

22. Slavyanka hut

The study and assessment were carried out using the methodology and methodological arsenal developed in Appendix 1 to the main report.

Each individual site is described in detail and expertly evaluated as a tourist resource of the municipality and the Geopark. The average annual occupancy of the bed base is reflected, as well as the dynamics of occupancy by season. The aforementioned convenience and tourist services are indicated.

As the main evaluation criteria are use - the degree of - research and knowledge of the relevant element of the infrastructure, exposure, presentation of the element on the tourist market and for the purposes of tourism and the possibilities in this regard, accessibility, attractiveness, tourist capacity, cleanliness and tidiness. the quality of the staff (actual condition and possibilities), the use of the object for the purposes of tourism (actual condition and possibilities).

On this basis, the types of tourism for which the site is most suitable are indicated. More important weaknesses are indicated. Specific recommendations for improving the quality of tourist services are also included.

4.2 Summary data on the capacity and workload of tourist and guest accommodation on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality

The coefficient of bed potential per 1000 persons of the population is 57.1. which is significantly above the national average

A total of 7 hotels with 268 beds (48% of the total tourist bed capacity of the municipality) have been established on the territory. 13 guest houses with 177 beds (31% of the total tourist bed capacity of the municipality). one tourist hut with 66 beds (12% of the total tourist bed capacity of the municipality) and one monastery with 50 beds (9% of the total tourist bed capacity of the municipality). for accommodation or 50% of the total tourist bed capacity. There are a total of 3 3 star category facilities with a total number of 114 places or 24.9% of the total tourist bed capacity. There are a total of 2 1-star category facilities with a total of 116 beds or 25.1% of the total tourist bed capacity on the territory of the municipality.

All objects. with the exception of the monastery cloister are private property. They were built or reconstructed and modernized in the last 8-10 years mainly under programs co-financed with EU funds. The material base of the hotels and guest houses and their equipment is at a relatively good level and meets the requirements for the two or three star categories and is suitable for middle class users. The material base of the monastery of St.Georgi - town of Hadjidimovo and the "Slavyanka" hut meets the requirements of the one-star category and is suitable for welcoming low-class users or

middle-class tourists practicing pilgrimage or mountain, natural science, ecological and photo hunting tourism.

The facilities are suitable for year-round use. as their outdoor facilities (outdoor pools, playgrounds, sports grounds, barbecues, etc.) can only be used during the warm months of the year (from mid-May to mid-October). Related to specific forms of tourism. for which it is suitable and for which the objects are actually used, this circumstance strongly limits the actual workload of the objects.

Their total average annual workload is at the level of about two fifths of their maximum possible capacity ($K_{sgn} = 0.402$). During the warm (active) period $K_{sgn} = 0.706$. during the remaining seven months of the year $K_{sgn} = 0.186$. The annual dynamics of the workload is reflected in the graph from

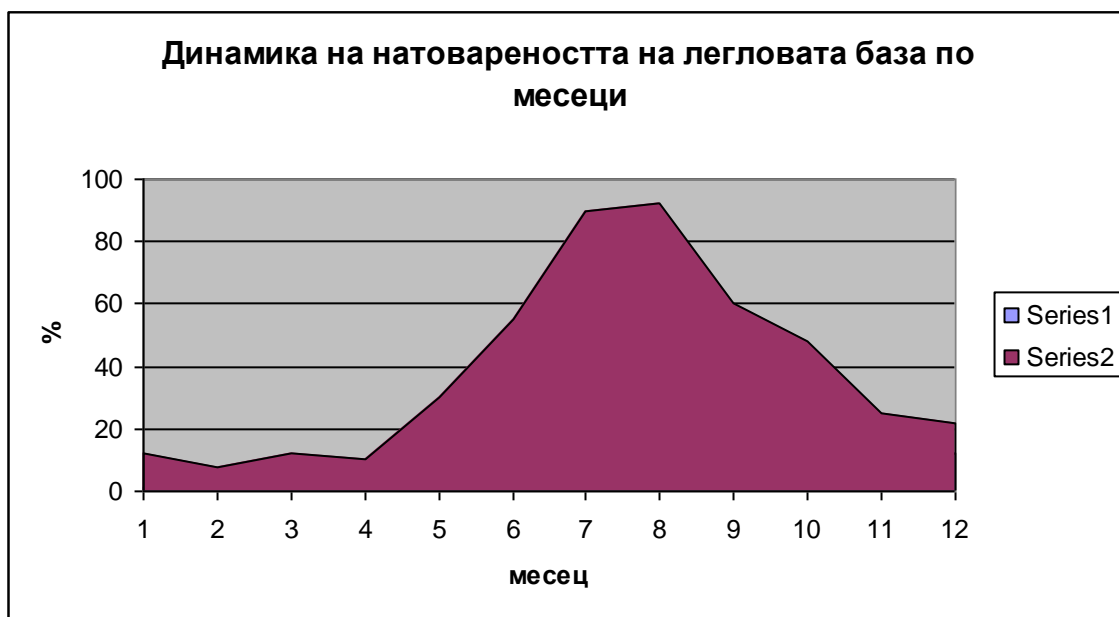


fig. 1

The price range for one-star accommodations is from BGN 10 to BGN 20 per night per person, for two-star accommodations from BGN 20 to BGN 30 per night per person, provided that the entire room is used (usually a standard double room). For 3-star places, the price varies from BGN 50 to BGN 80 per night.

The main categories of tourists visiting the sites are Bulgarian families with an average level of income (most of them are from the cities of Sofia and Plovdiv) and school groups from the district and the region (for which price discounts are negotiated). The relative share of foreign visitors is about 6%. and the majority of them are from FYR Macedonia. In recent years, there has been an increase in the relative share of visitors using overnight accommodation as a transit destination on their way to Greece.

The total bed capacity of the accommodation facilities on the territory of the municipality significantly exceeds the tourist demand during most of the year (only during the weekends of the warm season of the year, the utilization factor is around 60-65%, and in individual cases in individual sites reaches 100% occupancy - usually this is related to holding celebrations, weddings, team building, village

assemblies, holidays, festivals and pilgrim visits. Visits of organized groups of schoolchildren or students - especially from the district - also contribute to the workload.

The reason for the relatively low workload is primarily the remoteness and isolation of the region from the interior of the country. Other reasons are related to the weak exposure and advertising and the relatively low commercial performance of the sites and tourist attractions of the area. A third reason is the lack of variety in the specific tourist product offered. It also includes a relatively underdeveloped capacity for presenting the tourist attractions of the municipality, lack of entertainment services, limited range of tourist services offered. Another reason is the relatively low level of tourist service due to poor qualification and special training of those employed both in the tourism industry and in all objects of the supporting tourist infrastructure - shops, restaurants, transport services, etc. There is still no tourism marketing in the nascent regional tourism business and the lack of professionalism is visible.

4.3 Description and evaluation of restaurants. coffee shops. bars. clubs

During the research, a total of 27 objects of this type were identified, a total of 13 objects suitable for the purposes of tourism were studied and described.

- Restaurant at the Spa Hotel Katerina. Hadjidimovo
- Restaurant at the Garden hotel. Hadjidimovo
- Restaurant at the Mari Bell SPA Hotel. Koprivlen village
- Tavern at the hotel "Selo Lucky" in the village of Lucky
- Restaurant at the Spa Hotel "Mentor Resort" Gaitaninovo village
- Restaurant at the "Belite Skali" hotel, Gaitaninovo village
- Restaurant at "Hancheto" Complex, Ablanitsa village
- Stolona at Hizha Slavyanka
- Magernitsa at the Hadjidim Monastery of St. Great Martyr George
- Municipality Restaurant, Hadjidimovo
- Restaurant at the "Hancheto" Complex. village of Ablanitsa
- Coffee confectionary at Hadjidimovo Municipality
- Club. Koprivlen village

The study and assessment were carried out using the methodology and methodological arsenal developed in Appendix 1 to the main report.

Each individual site is described in detail and expertly evaluated as a tourist resource of the municipality and the Geopark. The average annual occupancy of the bed base is reflected, as well as the

dynamics of occupancy by season. The pre-made kitchen, convenience and tourist services are indicated.

As the main evaluation criteria are use - the degree of - research and knowledge of the relevant element of the infrastructure, exposure, presentation of the element on the tourist market and for the purposes of tourism and the possibilities in this regard, accessibility, attractiveness, tourist capacity, cleanliness and tidiness. the quality of the staff (actual condition and possibilities), the use of the object for the purposes of tourism (actual condition and possibilities).

4.4 Description and evaluation of Attractions

During the research, a total of 3 sites were identified, studied and described, which are suitable for the purposes of tourism.

- City Park – Hadjidimovo
- Strauss Park Manevi. Koprivlen village
- Zoo - Hadjidimovo

The study and assessment were carried out using the methodology and methodological arsenal developed in Appendix 1 to the main report.

Each individual site is described in detail and expertly evaluated as a tourist resource of the municipality and the Geopark. The average annual occupancy of the bed base is reflected, as well as the dynamics of occupancy by season. The pre-made kitchen, convenience and tourist services are indicated.

As the main evaluation criteria are use - the degree of - research and knowledge of the relevant element of the infrastructure, the exposure, the presentation of the element on the tourist market and for the purposes of tourism and the possibilities in this regard, accessibility, attractiveness, tourist capacity, orderliness, the capacity of the staff (actual condition and possibilities), the use of the object for the purposes of tourism. (actual condition and possibilities).

5. General urban infrastructure - description. assessment of tourism potential. Suggestions for entertainment

- Road infrastructure. Infrastructure networks and objects on the territory / transport. water supply. power supply. communications and others/. Transport connectivity (Bus lines. Taxi services). Internet connectivity
- Commercial sites (Shops, markets, malls, markets)

- Services (Establishments for recreation services. car repair shops. gas stations. dry cleaning. transport services. legal services. translation services. other services.)
- Health facilities and sanatoriums
- Entertainment establishments and attractions. (Zoos. night bars. music clubs. dance clubs. discotheques. entertainment attractions. casinos)
- Cultural institutions and events -Theatres. Museums and Galleries, folklore festivals,cultural holidays.
- Sport facilities. stadiums. sports halls. swimming pools. tennis courts, etc. SPA complexes. Gyms.
- Infrastructure for financial services (Banks and bank offices. Exchange offices. ATMs. Insurance offices).

Within the framework of the conducted research, the following basic types of objects of importance for tourism in the municipality were identified, described and evaluated :

Road infrastructure

- Republican roads
- Municipal roads
- Tourist roads
- Tourist trails
- Road signs and information
- Road Maps

Water supply infrastructure

- Water supply network
- Residential Coverage
- Groundwater - number of wells
- Use of groundwater - volume
- Drinking water quality
- Sufficiency of drinking water
- Guaranteed access to drinking water
- Sewage network - covered
- Water treatment of used water
- Contamination of tap water District Hadjidimovo Cultural and historical event
- Losses of the water pipeline network
- Irrigation capacities - decares

Electricity transmission infrastructure Urbanization object

- Network saturation
- Electrified households %
- Quality of electrical energy
- Settlements without electricity network

Urban environment

- Degree of Regulation
- Zoning Level and Device
- Quality of the street network
- Quality of the pavement network
- Illumination of the street network
- Bicycle paths
- Store network
- Restaurants
- Banking Network
- Postal Services

Transport connectivity

- With neighboring municipalities
- With the regional center
- With the interior of the country
- Internal obshinsk transport
- With the neighboring regions of Greece
- Quality of the transport service
- Price of transportation services
- Regularity

Health care

- Emergency assistance
- Availability of emergency assistance
- Primary medical care
- Provision of hospital care

- Provision of high-tech medical services Urb. characteristic
- Pharmacy Network.

Digital communication environment Urb. characteristic

- GSM networks
- GSM coverage
- Cable Internet - number of points
- WiFi Connectivity
- High-speed Internet coverage

Information environment

- Radio coverage
- TV Coverage
- Cable network - population coverage
- Access to the press Local media

Specialized tourist business structures

- Local Tour Operators
- Cluster activities in the field of tourism Tour element. infra
- Tourist fairs. forums. meetings

Specific tourist infrastructure

- Trails. cycle paths. water parks. places of entertainment
- Swimming pools
- SPA complexes
- Sports facilities and farewells
- Gyms
- Tennis courts
- Sports halls
- Stadiums. playgrounds. sports grounds

Culturally informative and culturally entertaining environment

- Museums and collections

- Theaters and cinemas
- Community Centers
- Art Galleries
- Dance and singing ensembles
- Cultural events - festivals. collections. competitions. competitions

Human resources for tourism

- Availability of Cooks
- Availability of maids
- Availability of tour guides
- Availability of receptionists
- Training of personnel for tourism - schools. courses etc.

Specialized tourist information environment

- Tourist Information Materials
- Tourist maps
- City information environment - signs. signs etc.
- Out-of-town tourist information environment - signs. signs and descriptions, etc. Marked routes.
- Tourist advertising via the Internet
- Tourist advertising in specialized publications

5.1 Description and evaluation of road and transport infrastructures

The district is bordered. In terms of transport, it is distant from the regional center of Blagoevgrad (100 km). from the capital (200 km) and from the main urbanization centers in southern Bulgaria - Plovdiv (180 km). Pazardzhik (150 km.)

The main axis of urbanization development is the direction Sofia - Blagoevgrad - Kulata. A secondary axis is along the direction Simitli - Razlog - Gotse Delchev - Ilinden.

The region borders two neighboring countries (Greece and Macedonia). which is a prerequisite for the development of active cross-border cooperation. The connection with Greece is carried out through the "Kulata" border crossing and the "Ilinden" border crossing. and with Macedonia through the border crossing "Zlatarevo" and the border crossing "Stanke Lisichkovo".

The significance of the road infrastructure in the municipality of Hadjidimovo is expressed in this, that it completely defines the communication-transportation system, due to lack of other modes of transport. The nearest railway station is located in the town of Dobrinishte

Main service road, connecting Hadjidimovo municipality with the interior of the country, is the second-class road II-19 Simitli - Razlog - Gotse Delchev - border with Greece. The road connects the municipalities of the Mesta River valley with the international transport corridor Vidin - Sofia - Kulata. It is characterized by a gauge of 7/10.5 m. And the absence of a third lane for overtaking heavy goods traffic. A narrow place on the route is the Predela pass, which does not function fully in winter conditions. There are no bypasses built in the populated areas, through which the road passes. The section G. Delchev - Koprivlen - the border with the Republic of Greece / length 12 km. . was built with gauges for a first-class road (financed under the PHAR-TGS program with Greece, Bulgaria).

The road was rehabilitated under the "State Investment Loans" program, in 2016. According to data from the annual report of the Blagoevgrad Regional Road Administration on the condition of the republican roads on the territory of the district, road II-19 has good technical and operational qualities.

All activities, performed on the track, are financed with budget funds and comply with the regulated technical rules and requirements. The ongoing maintenance of the road network includes activities, providing conditions for continuous, safe and comfortable movement on it.

After the end of the winter season, priority is given to drainage works for road II-19, landscaping and cleaning of the road easement, cleaning the roadway from aggregates; shaping manual earth excavations and trenches, mowing; cleaning of concrete gutters; felling of bushes and pruning of vegetation on road benches and around road signs.

The other roads, serving the municipality, fourth class roads are recategorized:

Road III-1972 Dabnitsa-Hvostiane-Ablanitsa is the connection of the municipality to the third-class road III-197 "G.Delchev-Satovcha-Dospat". Its length on the territory of the municipality is 10 km, with asphalt pavement.

Road III-1906 Koprivlen-Katuntsi is a deviation from the second-class road II-19 through the municipality of Hadjidimovo to the west towards the municipality of Sandanski. On the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality, the road is 23.5 km long, of which 18.2 km are paved with asphalt, and 5.3 km are paved with ballast.

Road III-1907 Koprivlen-Hajidimovo-Blatska, with a length of 6.8 km; asphalt, connects roads II-19 and III-1972.

Transport connectivity

The territory has relatively poor transport connectivity. Railway infrastructure is not developed in the municipality. The nearest railway station on the Sofia-Kulata/Greece railway line is more than 50 km away.

The nearest airport is Kavala - 90 km away. The nearest international airports are Sofia Airport - 200 km. and Macedonia Airport - Thessaloniki - 200 km. The main visa transport is the car. The municipal center in the Municipality of Hadjidimovo is connected by a regular city bus line with Gotse Delchev and an intercity bus line with the regional center Blagoevgrad and the capital Sofia. The Sofia - Drama - Kavala and Blagoevgrad - Drama - Kavala bus lines pass through the municipality. Intercity bus lines have limited capacity and cannot accommodate larger passenger flows, including those for tourist purposes.

Assessment of the potential of the road and transport infrastructure as a tourist resource for the Municipality of Hadjidimovo and Geopark Hadjidimovo

Basic qualities

№	Indicator	Potential		Potential		
		Average expert rating (f from the survey)	Average expert rating (f from the survey)	Average expert rating (f from the survey)	Grade	
1.	Road surface quality	8.00		7 . 0 0		
2.	Holding	10.00		7 . 0 0		
3.	Road safety	9.00		7 . 0 0		
4.	Marking	9.00		7		

				6.70		
5.	Road signs	9.00		6.00		
6.	Roadside facilities	9.00		5.00		
a.						
7-	Importance and contribution to tourism in the municipality	10.00		7.00		
5.	Accessibility to tourist facilities	9.00		7.00		
9.	Degree of use	8.00		7.00		
	Average score - overall for "Basic Qualities"	9.00		6.70		

*/ 2018 г.

Problems of road and transport infrastructure from the point of view of tourism

An expert assessment carried out within the study shows that there is a significant difference between the potential of the road network for the purposes of tourism (score 9.00) and its actual state (score 6.70), i.e. that there are needs to significantly improve the condition of the road network in the territory of the common with a view to creating the best possible conditions for the development of tourism.

The border territorial location of the municipality places it peripherally in relation to the republican road network and access to the interior of the country is difficult. The good condition of the main service road II-19 is decisive for access to the regional center and the interior of the country.

The municipal road network serves traffic within the municipality. with the majority of this network in poor condition. which makes movement difficult. The operating characteristics of the recategorized fourth-

class roads do not meet the requirements for roads from the republican road network. There are difficulties in maintaining the municipal road network, especially in winter conditions.

Although with an asphalt surface, individual sections of the recategorized fourth-class roads are in poor condition. Needs repair and reconstruction, as they serve the daily transport connections in the municipality.

The municipal road network also needs major repairs and additional funds, equipment and personnel for maintenance in winter conditions.

All settlements are connected by a municipal road network, but some of them are unpaved or in poor condition, which makes it difficult to access the objects, which serve.

Poor transport connectivity with low capacity is a factor, which severely limits the possibilities for more active mass tourism, especially for young people, who do not have their own cars and for people of the third age, who are unable to use cars. The municipal bus network does not allow convenient movement between the settlements and tourist sites on the territory of the municipality.

The bus connectivity between the settlements in the municipality is also of limited capacity and is able to serve only the small internal traffic flows related to commuting to the workplace, to school and back. Tourist guests should have their own transport, or rent one from Rent-a-Car companies in Gotse Delchev. There are well-developed taxi services in the oština, which tourists can use

.

Development Guidelines

The future development of the municipality requires certain improvement of the road infrastructure and transport connectivity of the territory.

Strategic location along the European transport corridors, a border with two countries and a well-developed network of regional and local transport infrastructure are potential for cross-border cooperation, especially in the field of tourism, which is a major industry in the adjacent territories of Greece and Greece.

The construction of the "Struma" highway has an important role in improving the connectivity of the region and in increasing the economic significance, especially of its southern part;

Of particular importance for tourism in the municipality is the passage through the territory of one of the three main transport corridors from Bulgaria to Greece. It creates conditions for the development of roadside tourist services - hotels, motels, roadside restaurants, services - gas stations, services, parking lots, roadside recreation areas, roadside shops. Unfortunately, this type of tourist products and services is underdeveloped and neglected. The reasons for this are the still low use of this transport corridor due to the lack of a broadband and high-speed road from Simitli through Bansko and Gotse Delchev to the border

crossing Ilinden - Eskhosi. In this sense, the future economic development in general and the development of tourism as a leading economic branch of the region will find new dimensions in the event of the construction of such an expressway. It will contribute to a significant development of cross-border tourism between Bulgaria and Greece and to a significantly higher degree of linking the tourism industry in the region with tourist flows in the resorts on the Aegean coast of Greece - Kavala. Ash failure. Nea Paramos and others. An opportunity, which can radically change the appearance of the region, as in economics, as well as in urban terms.

Transport connectivity should be developed in several main directions:

First - development of bus connectivity with Bansko, Dobrinishte and Razlog by creating a new regular bus line.

Second - development of bus connectivity with Drama and Kavala.

Third - development of routed bus connectivity between the tourist attractions on the territory of the municipality - a specialized minibuss shuttle.

Fourth - development of transport connectivity with a view to international tourism - creation of airport lines - intercity bus lines from Sofia to Hadjidimovo and Airport - Sofia Railway Station, Blagoevgrad Railway Station – Blagoevgrad- Hadjidimovo Bus Station.

The development of bus connectivity will facilitate access to the territory and create additional conditions and amenities for tourists wishing to visit the municipality.

In the short term, it is difficult to expect a sharp jump in attendance, but in the long term, before combining with the other factors for the development of tourism -

infrastructure, service, advertising, etc., the economic and social effect for the municipality and its population will justify the investments made.

An important direction for the development of the transport connectivity of the municipality is the improvement of accessibility to railway transport by developing the bus connectivity with the town of Sandanski and the town of Blagoevgrad

The road network on the territory of the municipality needs significant renovation in some sections, for which serious efforts are being made by the municipality. Inner city streets are gradually being improved and renovated, sidewalks. At the end of 2018, with a decision of the Council of Ministers for the municipality of Hadjidimovo, BGN 400,000 was provided for the improvement of streets in the villages of Ablanitsa, Beslen, Blatska and Teplen.

5.2 Description and assessment of banks, bank offices, insurance and financial services on the territory of the municipality.

On the territory of the municipality there are two bank offices - of Investbank and Bank DSK and one ATM of Bank DSK - in the town of Hadjidimov. In the town of Hadjidimovo there is an office of the international financial house for money transfers "Money gram". There are none in the other settlements and their population is forced to use the service in the municipal center.

There are no exchange offices. Currency exchange takes place only at bank offices.

Bank offices are open on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The general expert assessment of financial services by main indicators is as follows

Indicator	Quantitative assessment (average Expert evaluation)*
Coverage of the territory of the municipality	6.00
Accessibility for the population and guests to the services	6.00
Availability around the clock	5.00
Availability during the week	5.00
Types of banking, insurance and other financial services	6.00
Speed of service	6.00
Convenience of services for guests and tourists	5.00
Digitization of services and payments	4.00
Quality of service	7.00

*/ Expert ratings are on a ten-point scale

The average rating for the indicated main indicators is 5.55 / 10.0, which means a relatively low level of this type of service. Financial services on the territory of the municipality are poorly developed and do not correspond to the modern range of this type of service. They also do not meet the opportunities and requirements for the development of tourism in the territory. The majority of the population receives their income in Cash. Payments in the majority of the commercial network are made only in cash due to the lack of post terminal devices. All hotels have them, but most guest houses do not. The lack of open desks is the reason why this type of service outside of working hours and on weekends (then, when they are the main part of tourist visits) is sought in the neighboring town of Gotse Delchev, which is a big inconvenience for guests and tourists from abroad.

Due to the limited number of banks on the territory of the municipality, the competitive offer of financial and credit services is also limited. For this purpose, citizens and especially businesses are forced to use the services of the bank offices of various banks in Gotse Delchev.

There are no facilities on the territory of the municipality. to offer insurance services. These are carried out by private individuals - insurance brokers. which causes inconvenience. For them, both the population and especially the visiting tourists must also travel to the town of Gotse Delchev.

Guidelines for the development of banking and other financial services in the municipality of Hadjidimovo from the point of view of the development of tourism in the municipality and the development of Geopark Hadjidimovo.

- Increasing the number of banks with offices on the territory of the municipality.
- Placing more ATMs in populated areas.
- Opening a sales point of a larger insurance broker.
- Significant and rapid development of cashless payments in the commercial network. the services. accommodation masts. the restaurants.
- Opening of at least one public office open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Daily, incl. and on weekends.

5.3 Description and assessment of postal services in the territory

There are a total of six post offices of "Bulgarian Post" EAD on the territory of the municipality:*/

Postal code	Town	Address	Towns served
2921	Koprivlen	1, "Drava" st.	Koprivlen , Novo Leski
2922	Sadovo	Sadovo	Sadovo, Ilinden.
2927	Tesovo	Teshovo	Teshovo. Gaitaninovo . Laki Nova Lovcha. Paril
2932	Ablanica	6 "October" st.	Ablanitsa, Blatska
2933	Hadjidimovo	46 "Dimo Hadjidimov" St	Hadjidimovo , Petrelik

2934	Beslen	Beslen	Beslen. Teplen
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Post offices perform the full range of traditional postal services. For the municipality, these offices have the important social function of paying pensions. Due to the limited number of ATMs, this role of post offices has no alternative.

In recent years, courier services provided by private operators in the country have been developing, including, and goods delivery services in the field of e-commerce. On the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality there are offices of the main private operators. It is served by their offices in Gotse Delchev, which makes it difficult to provide services and use them by the population and guests of the municipality.

The overall expert assessment of postal services by key indicators is as follows

Indicator	Quantitative assessment (average Expert evaluation)*
Coverage of the territory of the municipality	7.00
Service operators (variety)	2.00
Accessibility for the population to services	6.00
Availability around the clock	5.00
Availability during the week	5.00
Types of postal services	7.00
Speed of delivery	5.00
Convenience of services for guests and tourists	5.00
Quality of service	7.00

* / Expert ratings are on a ten-point scale

The postal service is at an average level - average expert evaluation of the indicators - 5.44.

The level of postal services does not meet the objectives and possibilities of the territory of the Municipality for its development as a national and international tourist destination. In this regard, the municipality continues to be below the average level of this type of service for the country.

Guidelines for the development of postal services in the municipality of Hadjidimovo from the point of view of the development of tourism in the municipality and the development of Geopark Hadjidimovo.

- Initiate and support the establishment of offices of at least two of the main private operators of courier services operating in the country. It is preferable for the operators to work also on the territory of the neighboring countries.
- Development of technology and creation of an organization for providing postal services in some of the hotels on the territory of the municipality (eg in the village of Gaitaninovo). which would facilitate access to this type of service by guests and tourists.
- Creation of an organization for the provision of mobile postal services - with delivery to an address for parcels. which would facilitate access to this type of service by both guests and tourists. as well as from the population.

5.4 Description and assessment of the connectivity of Tourism and Geopark Hadjidimovo with water-economic infrastructure and water use on the territory of the municipality of Hadjidimovo

The relative share of the water supplied population in the municipality is 100%. which is higher than the average value for the country /99.1%/.. The municipality of Hadjidimovo is supplied by the water supply system "Teshovo" through the Eternite water supply system. The water quality is very good. but the plumbing system is outdated and in need of replacement and modernization. Although 100% of the settlements have water supply. the quantities of water are insufficient and part of the villages are on regular water supply. The villages of Teplen. Beslen. Ablanitsa is supplied with water by a pump from a borehole on the Mesta River and the Bistricea River. Additional water supply to the town of Hadjidimovo. Koprivlen village. with Novo Lyaski and the village of Sadovo, it has pumping stations from drilling wells in the lands of the town of Hadjidimovo and the village of Koprivlen. All internal plumbing networks are for reconstruction. In the municipality of Hadjidimovo, there is a partially constructed sewerage network. in almost all villages. but in many places septic tanks or irrigation wells are used. leading to groundwater pollution. External collectors are available only in larger settlements. and most often the sewage networks discharge into dry ravines or watercourses.

In 2013-2016, projects were implemented to replace the water supply network in the town of Hadjidimovo. Ablanitsa village. Beslen village. village of Novo Leski. the village of Sadovo and the village of Koprivlen, as the network was replaced with new PE pipes 90,370 ml.. which represents 68.57% of the constructed network.

The water supply network in the remaining villages in Hadjidimovo municipality is morally and physically obsolete. constructed mainly of eternite pipes and partly of steel pipes. which often break down and lead to large losses of drinking water. The total annual volume of water used in the municipality in 2017 was 6.9 million cubic meters, of which 45% came from catchments and artificial

water bodies. 25% - from surface water bodies and 30% from underground wells. The water supply network, although under renovation, is not yet at a good level. The municipality is entirely satisfied with its own water resources and water sources.

Forecasts for water use are in the direction of an increase in the total volume to 7 million cubic meters in 2025 and increasing the volume of water from captured sources to 60% of the total volume of water used.

The general expert assessment of water use and the water transmission network by basic indicators is as follows

Indicator	Quantitative assessment (average Expert evaluation)*
Security but the population with a central water supply	9.00
Provision of places for tourist accommodation with central water supply	10.00
Water use spring water for drinking and domestic needs	8.00
Water use of water from underground sources	7.00
Water use of water through pumping facilities from river sources for irrigation and economic purposes	8.00
Coverage of the territory of the municipality with the water supply network	9.00
State of the water supply network	5.00
Water quality outside the water supply network	8.00
Availability around the clock	10.00
Availability during the week	10.00

* / Expert ratings are on a ten-point scale

The expert assessment of the sewerage network by main indicators is as follows

Indicator	Quantitative assessment (average Expert evaluation)*
Provision of the population with a sewage network	9.00
Coverage of settlements on the territory of the municipality with a sewage network	
Provision of places for tourist accommodation with a sewage network	10.00
Condition of the available sewage network	8.00
Availability of treatment facilities	7.00
Environmental friendliness of sewage	8.00

*/ Expert ratings are on a ten-point scale

5.5 Description and evaluation of telecommunications and telecommunications services for the purposes of tourism in the Municipality of Hadjidimovo

Telecommunications are the basis of modern information services. including regular phones. mobile services. internet etc. The importance of telecommunications is increasing with the development of technology.

Telecommunication technologies are embedded and are increasingly part of the operational activities of tourist operators and sites. They are used in the presentation and offering of tourist products and services. in contacts between service providers and customers (requesting services, reservations, information, requests, payments). In practice, all the information provided to the tourist customers about the tourist sites. routes. conditions. meteorology. detailed information about sights. tourist infrastructure. feeding. excited. prices, etc.) has been digitized. For the majority of tourists, digital information is the basis of their choice of tourist sites and routes. They are used for requests to suppliers of non-compliant materials. products and customer service.

Telecommunication services are also an important tool for payments. financial reporting and taxes. administrative relations with the authorities, etc.

In addition to the mentioned operational activities, telecommunication means and services create opportunities for market research. of the competition. at the level of tourist services offered. They provide information on innovations in the tourism business. for possible new services. Tour operators

have the opportunity to seek partnerships and communicate with partners for joint activity and offering routes and services.

For guests and visitors, telecommunication services provide an opportunity for the exchange of information. impressions. photographs. video materials with relatives and friends. to familiarize yourself with the objects and the proposed routes. For a more informed choice and more efficient use of your stay..

Telecommunications also provide an important environment for obtaining feedback and customer feedback.

Along with the above, telecommunications become an important factor for increasing the professional qualification of the personnel in the tourist sites and for increasing the quality and standards of the service.

Taking into account and using the mentioned opportunities significantly expands the capacity of tourist operators and sites. make them more competitive in the tourist services market and provide them with proactive marketing-oriented behaviors. And vice versa. not using these possibilities significantly and sometimes decisively reduces the towing capacity

The general expert assessment of the telecommunications network by basic indicators is as follows:

Indicator	Quantitative assessment (average Expert evaluation)*
Provision of the territory of the municipality with the population with telecommunication networks	9.00
Rate of use of mobile phone services by the population	8.00
Quality of telecommunication networks and services	9.00
Availability of a competitive environment for service providers	8.00
Structure and diversity of telecommunication services	8-00
Access of the population to telecommunication services	6.00
Coverage of populated areas on the territory of the municipality with telecommunication networks	9.00

GSM coverage of mountain areas	7.00
WiFi coverage in places for tourist accommodation	10-00
Degree of use of telecommunication services by the tourist business - current operation	9.00
Degree of use of telecommunication services by the tourist business - for business development	9.00
Degree of use of telecommunication services by the tourist business - current operation	9.00
Accessibility for the population	
Coverage for users with cable internet	
Coverage of the territory with high-speed Internet	

*/ Expert ratings are on a ten-point scale

Development Guidelines

The municipality will follow the main trends in the development of telecommunication services in the country

The number of mobile services used will increase. The number of subscribers to mobile voice services will reach the number of the population of Olsztyn. With the development of tourism, the number of users of mobile services from the territory of the municipality will increase

At the same time, the emergence of OTT services. the need for more powerful mobile devices. expanding the scope of use of M2M services. as well as the widespread delivery of electronic communications services and content online. which are beyond the control of the Internet access provider

The trend of development of the electronic communications market will be realized at an anticipatory pace

Mobile voice services once again play a leading role in the development of the global electronic communications market.

It will maintain fixed broadband penetration and this service will attract new users. The pace. which is increasing mobile broadband penetration compared to 2013. is significantly higher than that of fixed broadband Internet access.

Internet access services will continue to play a leading role in the development of the telecommunications sector.

The dynamics in the development of the telecommunications sector is also determined by the increased demand for new mobile devices. corresponding to user expectations. With the development of technologies and the rapid development of electronic services, the total use of smartphones will be established, and what is especially important. the need for more and more frequent replacement of them with new, more expensive shoes; frequent replacement smartphone sales will be higher than PC sales. tablets and video games combined.

At the same time, the emergence of OTT services¹⁷. the need for more powerful mobile devices. expanding the scope of use of M2M services¹⁸. as well as the broad over-the-top – delivery of electronic communication services and content online. which are beyond the control of the internet access provider.

Transmission and/or distribution of radio and television programs and IPTV

Universal service quality requirements

Additional options. increasing the speed and quality of work and saving costs. are the electronic exchange of data with counterparties. This EDI data exchange is a powerful tool for optimizing operations.

The construction of a corporate network aims to connect all the information structures of a company into a single one. safe and homogeneous environment. It is common to use SDSL technology for the communication environment and Cisco routers to manage the network and services. This solution is usually practiced by large international chains. that follow corporate information management standards.

In the next 4-5 year period. in practice, solutions are expected to be preferred in the tourist business in the municipality. where the main goal is to minimize costs. In these cases, telecommunications services will be considered more of an "operational necessity". than as a core part of business success. Local ISP will be preferred. and a connection between the objects is realized by means of VPN tunnels over the Internet. with personal computers with Linux operating system serving as routers. which is particularly suitable for managing network communications. Such solutions ensure connectivity at low costs. but limit the use of the communication medium for different services with certain priorities.

Telecommunications and telecommunication services will be an essential part of the activity of Geopark Hadjidimovo.

The development of telecommunication connectivity and services will be of fundamental importance for the future of tourism and the development of the Gopark.

.Through these servants, the presentation of tourist sites will be improved for educational and tourist purposes (advertising activities, advertising materials, presentations in local and national media,

scientific forums and magazines, etc.). An important role is played by telecommunications in terms of the preparation of tour guides for the presentation of the objects - both local, both nationally and internationally. For these purposes, the Geopark will organize and conduct online seminars, lectures, courses, distribution of video films, preparation of advertising materials. It will help to include the sites in national and international tourist routes, will conduct scientific conferences and assist in participation in such with presentations about the sites.

5.6 Description and assessment of the state and potential of the commercial infrastructure of the municipality of Hadjidimovo for the purposes of tourism

Due to the small size of the population in the municipality and the low population density (30 people per 1 sq.km. – 2.3 times lower than the average in the country) there are no large commercial establishments in the municipality. The retail network consists of small shops.

A concentration of commercial service facilities is observed in the largest settlements - the town of Hadjidimovo and the village of Ablanitsa. The network of commercial outlets is made up of individual smaller outlets, scattered on the territory of the city and villages in the municipality, which provides local services to the population.

The total number of sales points in the municipality is 33, of which 15 are in the municipal center of Hadjidimovo, 4 - in the village of Koprivlen, 5 - in the village of Ablanitsa, 2 each - in the villages of Petrelik and Blatska, 1 each - in the villages of Teshovo, Gaitaninovo, Ilinden, Beslen and Novo Leski. There are no shops in Lucky Villages, Nova Lovcha and Paril. The predominant part of the commercial establishments are grocery stores - 12, 10 are mixed stores offering groceries and household items, two are clothing stores, 1 – for shoes, 5 are bakeries offering bakery products and snacks, 1 shop – for auto parts. There are no shops offering household appliances on the territory of the municipality, electronics and GSM devices. There is no permanent market for fruits and vegetables. Vegetables and fruits are sold in grocery stores. Seasonally, mobile sales outlets for fruit and vegetables are opened and operated in separate locations. There are no shops offering souvenirs, products related to folklore, which are usually sought after by tourists and guests. Most of the commercial establishments have minimal commercial infrastructure at a relatively low level. Significant commercial establishments are a grocery store and supermarket-type household items in the town of Hadjidimovo and a shoe store in the town of Hadjidimovo, which is known throughout the region.

Retail outlets offer a limited assortment of goods of relatively lower class and quality. No luxury goods are available. The staff of the commercial establishments has a relatively low level of professional

qualification. does not speak foreign languages and does not have developed professional skills for serving tourists.

From the point of view of tourism, the lack of a commercial outlet should be noted. which offers the most necessary goods with a specific tourist purpose - backpacks. thermoses. tourist lanterns. compasses. hiking ropes. gloves. hats. anoraks. windbreakers etc.

Along the republic road II.19 on the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality (with a length of 14 km.) there is no roadside commercial infrastructure. to serve the ever-increasing flow of passing cars and people. This circumstance is in dissonance with the general practice of building commercial establishments along the roads near the border crossing. as well as objects offering the most necessary facilities for transiting means of transport - parking lots. motels. restaurants.

The overall assessment of the commercial network in the municipality is . that it has the capacity to serve the relatively low consumer demand of the local population and is not adapted to serve tourists - it has neither capacity nor structural flexibility. does not have the necessary assortment of goods. there is no good level of commercial furnishings and shopping facilities. most of the sites do not accept card payments. the commercial infrastructure is presented with appropriate information and advertising and there are no practical opportunities to pay for advertising.. there is no staff trained to work with tourists. especially for dealing with foreign tourists.

In this regard, the municipality does not have a commercial infrastructure with the minimum necessary potential for the development of most of the most widespread and possible types of tourism in the territory. For this reason, the commercial network is currently a limiting factor for tourism in the municipality. The state of this sphere of services is in a vicious circle of interdependence - the low level of tourist flows in the territory limits the needs for development, and the low degree of development of the commercial infrastructure, in turn, limits the tourist demand and the number of tourists. A way out of this vicious circle can only be found if supply develops. which would make the territory suitable for guests to stay and use the services. tourists and those in transit.

Expert assessment of commercial infrastructure

Basic tourist qualities

		Potential	Actual condition
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No	Indicator	Average expert rating (from the survey)	Grade	Average expert rating (from the survey)	Grade	Average rating of tourist sites
1.	Cleanliness and tidiness	9.00		7.00		6.50
2.	Commercial equipment	7.00		7.00		6.00
3.	Staff	8.00		6.00		6.20
4.	Network saturation	9.00		6.00		6.00
5.	Amenities for residents and guests	8.00		7.00		6.00
b.						
6.	Attractiveness	8.00		6.00		5.60
7-	Importance for tourism in the municipality	9.00		6.00		5.00
8.	Exposition	9.00		6.00		5.00
9.	Accessibility (transportation)	8.00		7.00		7.00
10.	Capacity	8.00		6.00		6.00
11.	Degree of use	8.00		6.00		5.00
	Average score - overall for "Basic Qualities"	7.60		6.40		6.20

The average assessment of the potential of commercial establishments as a resource for tourism in the district is 6.40. which corresponds to the degree "Low"!!!

The commercial network is low-end, designed primarily to serve the local population and is unable to serve tourist flows. The findings show the need for a significant improvement of the structure, organization of the trade network and the quality of trade services.

Basic guidelines for the development of the commercial network with a view to the tourism industry

- Modernization of existing commercial facilities such as commercial equipment. showcases. advertisement. arrangement of goods. brightness. air conditioning, etc. conditions for customers.
- Creation in the municipal center of a store of the type of multi-profile supermarkets (for example, of the type of chains T-Market, Lidl, etc.).

- Creation of at least one store offering an assortment of goods sought by tourists. which also offers branded goods of private origin (wines, brandies, cheeses, sausages, fruits and vegetables, products related to folklore (weights, wooden products, legs, bowls, masks, etc.).
- Creation in the center of the town of Hadjidimovo of a small shop - "kiosk" type - for small souvenirs. soft drinks and snacks.
- With appropriate development of the municipality as a tourist destination, it is possible to consider the creation of "Shopping Tourism" sites for visitors from the neighboring regions of Greece.
- Creation of a small souvenir shop in the center of Hadjidimovo
- Creation of a farmer's market in Hadjidimovo. open at least one day of the week
- Training of the personnel working in the commercial establishments - specialized professional training of the commercial workers. foreign language training.
- Preparation and placement in the city center of a Map with the main objects of the tourist infrastructure. with all commercial establishments marked on it.
- Creation of a class with a commercial profile in the OU Hadjidimovo.
- Adopting a municipal standard for a general view. commercial equipment and qualification of personnel in commercial establishments on the **territory of the municipality.**

5.7 Description and assessment of the state and potential of the cultural infrastructure of the municipality of Hadjidimovo for the purposes of tourism

A culturally informative and culturally entertaining environment

- Museums and museum collections
- Theaters and cinemas
- Reading centers
- Art galleries
- Dance and singing ensembles
- Cultural events - festivals. collections. competitions. competitions

There are no museums on the territory of the municipality. Small museum collections are presented in the Hadjidim monastery of St. Georgi and in the community center "Yane Sandzanski" in the municipal center of Hadjidimovo.

The community center "Yane Sandzanski" in the municipal center of Hadjidimovo has been established and is working

Folk dance ensemble and folk music and singing ensemble

There are no theaters or theater companies on the territory of the municipality. Theatrical performances are presented periodically in the hall of the "Yane Sandanski" community center. Hadjidimovo town. Movies are also shown periodically.

Thus, the main and only object of this type of infrastructure for the municipality is the community center in the town of Hadjidimovo.

Events

- Holiday of the city of Hadjidimovo St Georges Day

5.8 Description and assessment of the state and potential of the health infrastructure of the municipality of Hadjidimovo for the purposes of tourism

Healthcare

5 medical practices with 5 offices function in the municipality to provide outpatient care (2 - village of Koprivlen, 1 of which also serves the village of Teshovo, 2 - town of Hadjidimovo, 1 - village of Ablanitsa) and 3 dental offices (village of Ablanitsa, the town of Hadjidimovo and the village of Koprivlen). They are insufficient to serve the population in small villages with a predominantly elderly population. To solve the problem, it is necessary to open medical practices in all populated areas of the municipality and dental offices in larger villages.

The material base of the health offices is at a satisfactory level. The base was given over by the municipality to doctors and dentists, after a three-year grace period. It is supported by the medical staff. There are no medical facilities for inpatient care in the municipality, inpatient care is provided by the Multispecialty Hospital for Active Treatment (MBAL) - Gotse Delchev AD.

There is no emergency medical assistance in the municipality, it is provided by the emergency center at the Medical Center - Gotse Delchev. Bearing in mind that in a large part of the villages the population is elderly, it is necessary to establish a municipal Center for Emergency Medical Assistance (EMSC) - the town of Hadjidimovo, which will be normatively supported by the Ministry of Health. This is the desire of the population of the people of the municipality, shared and supported by the Hadjidimovo Municipality. With the opening of the Ilinden border crossing, the need for such a center becomes imperative.

Medical care in schools is provided by 8 nurses and paramedics. There is no doctor or dentist in any educational institution, which calls into question the effective prevention of health care in educational institutions.

In general, the health infrastructure on the territory of the municipality is underdeveloped from the point of view of the needs of the local population. From the standpoint of tourism, this assessment is even more definitive.

For some of the settlements, access to health services is difficult (Teshovo village, with Paril, with Teplen). However, the small number of residents does not allow the creation of health infrastructure in them. Therefore, the only solution to cover the health needs of the population is to provide fast,

affordable and convenient transport from the place of residence to the health facilities in the area for all those in need. A partial solution can also be sought by building a medical center for pre-hospital care in the town of Hadjidimovo, which would integrate the activities of the existing GPs and have the necessary equipment and conditions for a wider range of essential health services - e.g. x-ray equipment, echocardiograph, medical laboratory, doppler, dentist's office, etc. Another possible solution is related to using the methodology of telemedicine services, which, in recent years, have become an increasingly common practice in most EU countries for health care for the population in border, mountainous and more difficult-to-reach areas.

Taking into account the good conditions for the development of recreational tourism, which is emerging as a leading segment in the tourism industry for the region, solutions should also be sought in the direction of capacity development for health rehabilitation services - kinesitherapists, physiotherapists, balneotherapy specialists. The creation of such a capacity would allow a significant increase in interest in this type of tourism in the municipality - both in the country and in the neighboring Balkan countries. Such services would complement and further develop the so-called SPA tourism, towards which many of the accommodation facilities for guests and tourists in the municipality are currently oriented

It should be borne in mind, however, that health care and health rehabilitation services in the municipality can be implemented effectively only by linking it with the health infrastructure of the town of Gotse Delchev and through it with that of the regional center - the town of Blagoevgrad

5.9 Description of the main hiking trails on the territory of the municipality

The application describes 2 tourist trails with a traditional meaning of materism in the regshon

- Tourist trail from Nova Lovcha village to Asanov peak
- Tourist shelter under Gotsev peak (Livada village in Slavyanka)

5.10 Description and assessment of the state and potential of a specialized tourist information environment of the municipality of Hadjidimovo

- Tourist information materials - within the municipality are offered in a limited way and only in a small part of the tourist sites
- Tourist maps - virtually absent

- City information environment - signs, signs, etc. - do not correspond to the goals of tourism development
- Out-of-town tourist information environment - signs, signs and descriptions, etc. Marked routes - limited
- Tourist advertising via the Internet - rare, limited, mostly in the main information sites for reservations.
- Tourist advertising in specialized publications - episodic.

In general, the tourist information environment is undervalued and is unable to provide an active contribution to the development of tourism in the municipality.

These findings prompt Geopark Hadjidiemovo to create a complete new concept for the information environment and touristic advertising of the municipality and its rich natural resources and historical sights.

6. Description and evaluation of the tourist infrastructure and related objects with a tourist purpose

Related tourist infrastructure and related objects with a tourist purpose are understood to be located in close proximity and economically related areas.

Although, that they are not on the territory of the Geopark, by virtue of their spatial proximity, they can be included in the complex of measures and activities of the Geopark, thus they can objectively expand the functional field of the Geopark and its contribution to the development of not only the municipality, in which it is located, but also in neighboring municipalities and territories.

In general, the idea of connected objects is increasingly being used in the tourism business. The possibilities for this are expanding with the development of transport connectivity and information connectivity. A decisive role and contribution to the implementation of this approach have tourism clusters that develop the connections between the various tourism structures, operators and objects. Applying this methodology provides significant additional opportunities both locally and regionally as well as nationally and internationally.

The study of this connectivity for Hadjidiemovo Geopark shows, that the regional tourist potential significantly exceeds the potential of the Geopark itself, both in terms of natural attractions and objects and in terms of historical monuments and testimonies, of cultural monuments and all other elements of the tourist potential. In this sense, it can be argued, that disclosure of connectivity, and the organization of its use should have been placed as an independent and leading direction of the Geopark's work, which would allow its more successful and sustainable development.

6.1 Description of related tourist sites and resources.

6.1.1 Affiliated Hotels, guest houses and other accommodations

- **Hotel "Nevrokop", Gotse Delchev**
- **Valentino Hotel, Gotse Delchev**
- **"Baroto" complex, Gotse Delchev**
- **"Malam House - Mayts", Gotse Delchev**
- **Hotel "Egeia", Gotse Delchev**
- **Hotel "Bulgartabak". Popovi meadows m**
- **Hotel "Hristov", Gotse Delchev**
- **Ognyanovo Hotel, Ognyanovo village**
- **Oasis SPA Hotel, Ognyanovo village**
- **Paradise Hotel, Ognyanovo village**
- **Aleksion Palace, Ognyanovo village**
- **GRAFFIT Luxury houses, Ognyanovo village**
- **Relax houses, Ognyanovo village**
- **Delieva House, Ognyanovo village**
- **Einstein House & Spa**
- **Guest houses Leshtenski Perli**
- **"House of time" guest house, Ognyanovo village**
- **Lentil Eco Houses**
- **The Clay House. Lentil**
- **LITTLE BIRD Guesthouses. Leshten**
- **Leshchenski Rai Guest House**
- **Todori's house - Leshten**
- **Secret Garden House**
- **Galabova Guest House**
- **Winery boutique complex "Hrisimov", Musomishta village**
- **Hotel Leshten, with Leshten**
- **Wine boutique complex "Hrisimov", village, Musomishta**
- **"Vinita" Tavern, Gotse Delchev**
 - **Restaurant Nevrokop, Gotse Delchev**
 - **Olive Restaurant, Gotse Delchev**
 - **Pirin National Park: Cultural heritage**

6.2 Neighboring sights and sites of tourist infrastructure, Possibilities for use for the purposes of

tourism in the Municipality of Hadjidimovo and Geopark Hadjidimovo,

In economic and tourist terms, the territory of the geopark is connected in a single complex with the co-district territories of the municipalities of Gotse Delchev, Garmen, Satovcha and Dospat. Significant opportunities can be developed considering the connection of the territory with the large smoke resort of Bansko, as well as with the nominations of 1 hour away resorts along the Aegean coast in Greece – Kavala, Asprovalta, Nea Paramos, as well as the economically and touristically interesting city of Drama with its Nuevian water and spa resources.

In this context, the Geopark can be smoothed out as an integral part in various tourist routes within the framework of mountain, water, ecological, wine, culinary, forlorn, historical reference, photo hunting, hunting tourism. The possibility of connecting with recreational, health tourism should also be taken into account. and resort tourism in the neighboring regions - Bansko, Dobrinishte, Kavala, Ognyanovo, Garmen, etc.,

The geopark is also closely related to ethnographically respectful tourism in an extremely interesting and uniquely mixed area, as well as the opportunity to get acquainted with the unique way of life, traditions, etc., which bear the marks of different cultural systems and civilizations.

It is the cultural synthesis that is the most valuable cognitive element of the region,

The important thing is to understand and outline and develop the specific possibilities of the territory vimenno in the context of this connectivity, the Geopark and the noegov Geotochki mogot become part of different routes and programs, of new products. But for this purpose they must be developed, to study, expose and advertise This should be linked to information activities (the community center and digital programs), creation of events - festivals, holidays (except for the Georgyovden parade, holidays - of wine, food, bride, etc., cultural calendar , celebrations, fairs, etc. To oblige with those in the other neighboring municipalities.

The following objects of this type are described in the Appendix 7 :

-
- **Historical Museum, Gotse Delchev**
 - **Melniški monastery "St. Virgin Spileotis" Also called: "St. Zona" monastery**
 - **Nevrokop Monastery "Holy Mother of God - Living Source" also called Gotsedelchev Monastery "Holy Mother of God - Living Source"**
 - **Obidim monastery "St. Panteleimon"**
 - **Rozhen Monastery "Nativity of the Virgin"**

- **Sandanski Monastery "Saints, Saints, Cosmas and Damian"**
- **Delchevo Village Architectural Reserve**
- **Architectural reserve Village Leshten**
- **Dolen Village architectural reserve**

General infrastructure

Bank offices in Gotse Delchev

- **Bulgarian Post Bank**
- **Central Co-Operative Bank**
- **DSK Bank**
- **United Bulgarian Bank**
- **Hebros Bank**
- **FIBank**
- **Raiffeisen Bank**

Insurance and reinsurance companies

- **Allianz Bulgaria Insurance and Reinsurance Company**
- **Bulstrad Insurance and Reinsurance Company**
- **DZI - State Insurance Institute**

- **Armeec Insurance and Reinsurance Company**
- **Evroince Insurance Company**
- **Vitosha Insurance and Reinsurance Company**

Travel agencies with offices in Gotse Delchev

- **Tourist agency "Oasis - A"**
- **Travel agency Astron-S**

7. Conclusions

The results of the study provide a basis for the conclusion that the tourist potential of the municipality of Hadjidimovo and the Geopark are related to the characteristics and tourist potential of the entire tourist area, covering the territories of the municipalities of Gotse Delchev, Garmen, Satovcha and Hadjidimovo. This connection refers to all the main elements of the potential - geographical location, natural features, cultural-historical community and unity, cultural events, way of life, traditions and

customs of the population, most basic elements of the tourist infrastructure such as roads, transport, water supply, electricity supply, waste treatment, health care, education, economic structure and infrastructure, infrastructure with a cultural purpose (museums, community centers, cinemas, theaters, etc.) This relationship is objective, historically established and necessary for the entire area. From this point of view, the development of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo and the role of Geopark Hadjidimovo can to unfold fully and effectively only within the framework of the development of tourism in the entire area, firstly as infrastructural development, secondly as human potential, thirdly and most importantly - as organizational forms, It is about joint activity, interconnection of objects and activities, common tourist routes and services, complementarity and coordination. This understanding gives not only another view on the processes in tourism, but also imposes a fundamentally different perspective of work in this sector based on community and interaction. There is every reason to look for new organizational forms which would firstly provide more opportunities in this direction and secondly - which would provide a significantly higher efficiency of the entire industry and of the specific tourist objects and activities,

Concrete forms can be new tourist routes (by types of tourism or by theme), general tourist services, general advertising-tourist presentation in the country and on international tourist markets - advertising sites, fairs, meetings, etc., unified production of souvenirs, unified concept in the development of specific forms of tourism - for example, priority of local cuisine with a view to the development of culinary tourism, of local wines in the development of wine tourism, creation of regional brands of cheese, dairy products, sausages, etc., building a general concept for research and discovery of historical sights, development of museum infrastructure, unified transport concept, etc. On this basis, a new approach to building human potential for the purposes of tourism could be implemented, including education, professional training, interaction between sites in certain situations (eg, transfer of workers from one site to others in emergency situations), shared kitchens, shared product deliveries, shared laundry system, unified tour guide system,

At the present moment, such systematicity is missing, There are rudiments of individual elements of it, They are the fruit of an individual initiative and for now do not have the necessary scope, commitment and scale, Individual tourist operators also implement certain activities in this direction, In general, however, there is an organizational deficit to implement of a similar approach,

In the world practice in the field of tourism, there are various organizational schemes of cooperation. Some are based on the cooperative, others on the local initiative groups to support tourism, others on the cluster approach and the creation of tourist clusters - private, municipal or with mixed participation. In most In European countries, the construction of such relationships and forms of organization is stimulated by the state, and in some it is developed as a state policy (normative decisions, incentives for

similar structures, tax relief for common projects, etc.), in Bulgaria, at the national level, work is being done in this direction but at the present moment there is no clear and active state policy and cooperation from the state. It mainly relies on the local initiative and the self-organization of the individual sites and operators,

The above gives reason to propose the launch of an initiative to create organizational forms in this direction. The first of them should be the development of a unified tourist concept and strategy for the development of tourism in the area. For this purpose, an initiative branch group should be created. with the participation of experts in the field of tourism, honest operators and representatives of the local authorities of the municipalities in the area. In essence, this group can stand and be the foundation of a future regional tourism cluster,

This type of organization would allow us to look in a new, fundamentally different way and at the linking of tourism in the area with the large adjacent tourist resorts on the Aegean coast of Greece and in the region of Bansko and Dobrinishte.

The concentration of the management of the processes and activities related to tourism in the area

Conclusions

The results of the study provide a basis for the conclusion that the tourist potential of the municipality of Hadjidimovo and the Geopark are related to the characteristics and tourist potential of the entire tourist area, covering the territories of the municipalities of Gotse Delchev, Garmen, Satovcha and Hadjidimovo. This connection refers to all the main elements of the potential - geographical location, natural features, cultural-historical community and unity, cultural events, way of life, traditions and customs of the population, most basic elements of the tourist infrastructure such as roads, transport, water supply, electricity supply, waste treatment, health care, education, economic structure and infrastructure, infrastructure with a cultural purpose (museums, community centers, cinemas, theaters, etc.) This relationship is objective, historically established and necessary for the entire area. From this point of view, the development of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo and the role of Geopark Hadjidimovo can to unfold fully and effectively only within the framework of the development of tourism in the entire area, firstly as infrastructural development, secondly as human potential, thirdly and most importantly - as organizational forms, It is about joint activity, interconnection of objects and activities, common tourist routes and services, complementarity and coordination. This understanding gives not only another view on the processes in tourism, but also imposes a fundamentally different perspective of work in this sector based on community and interaction. There is every reason to look for new organizational forms which would firstly provide more opportunities in this direction and secondly - which would provide a significantly higher efficiency of the entire industry and of the specific tourist objects and activities, Concrete forms can be new tourist routes (by types of tourism or by theme), general tourist services, general advertising-tourist presentation in the country and on international tourist markets - advertising sites, fairs, meetings, etc., unified production of souvenirs, unified concept in the development of specific forms of tourism - for example, priority of local cuisine with a view to the development of culinary tourism, of local wines in the development of wine tourism, creation of regional brands of cheese, dairy products, sausages, etc., building a general concept for research and discovery of historical sights, development of museum infrastructure, unified transport concept, etc. On this basis, a new approach to building human potential for the purposes of tourism could be implemented, including education, professional training, interaction between sites in certain situations (eg, transfer of workers from one site to others in emergency situations), shared kitchens, shared product deliveries, shared laundry system, unified tour guide system,

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Concentration of the management of the processes and activities related to tourism in the area.

Remark :

The abstract was prepared by the municipality of Hadjidimovo (The Project Management Team) on the basis of the report provided by the subcontractor "ESA Obrazovaten Center "Vitosha" EOOD

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION



Appendix 8

**PROJECT NAME”: "CREATION OF A CROSS-BORDER WATER ASSETS GEOPARK
IN NESTOS AREA", REG. No. 1771**

ACRONYM : CB WATER GEORARK

**The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and
by national funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” .**

PB MUNICIPALITY OF HADJIDIMOVO, BULGARIA

DELIVERABLE D 3.3.3

**NAME : "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HAJIDIMOVO AS A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY AND A
TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"**

**The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of this report are sole
responsibility of the Municipality of Hadzhidimovo and can in no way be taken to
reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing
Authority and the Joint Secretariat.**

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CB
WATER
GEOPARK



The report was developed within the framework of contract No. B 2.6 c.08 under the project "Creation of a transborder water assets geopark in Nestos area", with the acronym: CB Water Geopark, financed under the Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" , co-financed by the ERDF and the national budget of the participating countries.

Appendix 8

(Full text)

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF HAJIDIMOVO AND THE GEOPARK ON THE BASIS OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC CONTRACT WORK "ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF GEOPARK HADJIDYMOVO AS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST FACILITY AND TERRITORY FOR REST AND RECOVERY"

The creation of the Hadjidimovo Geopark within the framework of the Program for "European Territorial Cooperation INTERREG Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020" creates unique prerequisites for multifaceted, long-term and sustainable development of the municipality of Hadjidimovo. It would be valuable and necessary for the Geopark to become a catalyst not only for the socio-economic development of the municipality, but also for the existing behavioral attitudes of the population; to stimulate entrepreneurial initiative, to build awareness of the high national and regional historical significance of the area, to increase confidence in cross-border cooperation and in initiatives taken by local authorities initiatives.

The Municipal Development Plan of the Municipality of Hadjidimovo currently in force covers the period 2014-2020. It was developed and adopted in accordance with the main national normative documents relating to regional development - the National Strategy for Regional Development of

the Republic of Bulgaria (2012-2022); The Regional Development Plan of the Southwest Planning Region (2014-2020) and the District Development Strategy (2014-2020). In his philosophy and logical structure, the requirements, principles and rules for applying structural instruments in the field of EU regional policy are reflected:

- Coordination and coherence with European, national and local policies for competition, protection and improvement of the environment and equal opportunities;
- Provision of information and publicity of the processes of planning and programming, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the field of integrated regional and local development;
- Follow-up of the methodological working documents of the EC for using indicators and making assessments;
- Compliance with the principle of co-financing and complementarity of local own financial resources for development with funds from the state budget, EU funds and other public and private sources.

Being at the end of this seven-year planning period, it is appropriate to start work on defining the goals, tasks and priorities for the municipality for the following years. According to the National Strategy for Regional Development (NSRD), which very accurately reflects pan-European policies for regional development, the preservation of national and regional identity and cultural diversity is a leading element in the development process.

The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion, published in 2008 by the European Commission, raises questions concerning the current goals and possibilities of territorial cooperation, how people use the spaces in which they live, to activate the potential of border territories, the territorial dimensions of sectoral policies, the relationship between cooperation and competitiveness. It is emphasized that it is necessary to pay more attention to the territorial and cultural diversity and the separation of functioning economic regions, to improve the coordination between EU policies, the understanding of territorial processes. It is expected to develop a more strategic and flexible territorial cooperation, oriented towards achieving goals set at the macro-regional level.

The project "Creation of a transboundary water Geopark in the area of the Mesta River", developed within the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" between the municipality of Hadjidimovo, Bulgaria and the municipality of Drama, Greece, focuses on itself in an extremely good way many of the topics covered in the European Green Paper.

The development of cross-border cooperation between the two neighboring municipalities on the basis of the objectively existing common cultural-historical, socio-economic and natural-geographical parameters and interests has a high degree of long-term social expediency.

The project in its conceptual integrity, planned and actually implemented goals and tasks is a serious basis for the implementation of complex policies by the municipal administrations of Hadjidimovo and Drama in the direction of improving both the socio-economic climate, employment, and stimulating the entrepreneurial initiative of the population on both sides of the border, as well as for the implementation of a number of socially responsible initiatives with the aim of preserving the ecological diversity and balance of the environment.

The construction and development of Geopark Hadjidimovo is a high-value project that has strategic importance for the development of the municipality for a long period of time.

Strategic guidelines for the development of the municipality in the context of Hadjidimovo Geopark.
Basic organizational, management and financial tools for implementation

Geopark Hadjidimovo is a systematic component of the territory of Hadjidimovo municipality. By its essence and goals, it is related to the potential of the region and the goals of its development. At the moment, the development goals are set with the ODA 2014-2020.

The strategic framework of the Municipal Development Plan 2014-2020 defines four priority areas, which should be an emphasis in the actions of local authorities to support the overall prosperity of the area. They are described as follows:

- "Better business environment and promotion of economic growth in the area, higher employment, more investments.
- Preserving the demographic potential, with care for young people.
- Further development and maintenance of the municipal infrastructure.
- Increasing the confidence of citizens and businesses in the administration, by ensuring good governance at all levels." ¹

¹ The municipal development plan 2014-2020, Hadjidimovo, p. 45.

The Geopark, on the one hand, starts from these goals and conforms to and connects integrally and systematically with these goals. On the other hand, the concept of the Geopark imposes a certain imprint, both on the realization of ODA, and on its interpretation from the point of view of the very philosophy and content of the Geopark.

Thus, the Concept of the Geopark is important for the realization of a new view on the implementation of the ODA with the possibility of its interpretation from the positions of the Geopark. It will be of particular importance in the development of the ODA for the next program period 2021-2027, and in the case of sustainability, also for planning the development of the municipality for the next planning periods.

The methodological basis of the evaluations and forecasts and of the developed ideas and proposals for the development of the municipality are the concept of the Geopark, its structure and functions.

The main structural and functional subsystems of the region from the moment of the creation of the Geopark will be evaluated from the positions of this concept, through the criteria it imposes and through the specific evaluation methods according to these criteria. The concept for Geopark Hadjidimovo was developed within the framework of the report on the implementation of Activity 3.2.1. on the project.

The concept of the Geopark is based on a principled methodology for building harmonious and sustainable human-natural systems, optimizing the relationship and relationship of man and society with natural resources from the standpoint of sustainability of this system and the preservation and development of its characteristics in the future in the interest of man and society. In this sense, it is not so much and not only a nature-protection system, but rather a socio-cultural system, relying on the complex relationship "man-society-nature". It includes the vital and economic activity of people and the building of a culture of their relationships with nature based on knowledge, habits and information, as well as a toolkit for their creation and management.

From the standpoint of the geoparks concept, a system-forming factor for the area is the Mesta River, which has a defining role for a large part of the geology, climate, flora and fauna; it has a direct influence on the directions and forms of human activity; on the culture, customs and traditions to which the population adheres.

Possibilities for the development of tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo related to the potential of the main tourist resources

Opportunities related to geographic location:

- Possibilities for linking the activities with the capacity of neighboring regions in Bulgaria (Bansko, Razlog, Dobrinishte, Devin) and in Greece – Drama, Kavala, Asprovalta. Transit point between the winter mountain resorts in Bulgaria and the sea resorts in Greece;
- Opportunities for joint ventures and cooperation.
- Opportunities to export products produced in the municipality.
- Possibilities for the development of cross-border tourism
- Possibilities of cross-border export of electrical energy.
- Possibilities for the development of various forms of tourism, for the development of large-scale animal husbandry, for the development of ecological agriculture, especially irrigated agriculture and vegetable production, for the development of the collection of herbs, the cultivation of herbs and vegetable-oil crops, for the cultivation of tobacco , for viticulture and wine production, for the development of local productions and the creation of product brands based on the raw materials and products produced (production of dairy products, meat products, wines, vegetable products, essential oils, etc.

Development of the elements of the economic infrastructure and the urban environment with a view to the best use of the relief while protecting its main features - review, assessment and adaptation to these goals of the planning plans, the purpose of the usable areas, the location of the areas for the development of industrial capacities, the development of the road, electricity transmission and water supply infrastructure.

Activities of the Geopark and the municipality related to the relief:

- Discovery and knowledge of the rich potential and opportunity of the terrain. Preservation of the uniqueness of the relief forms along the river Mesta and around its bed. Strategy for the development of the connectivity of the territory according to the specifics of the relief

- Preservation of the relief and the main relief forms. Development of the exposure and knowledge of the potential of the relief.
- Expansion of the territory of the Geopark in the direction of including new landforms - mountainous and highland.
- Development of basic forms of tourism such as: rural, mountain, herbal, cycling tourism, photo-hunting tourism, hunting tourism.
- Better knowledge of the richness of the relief by tourists and the local population.
- Activities to protect the riverbeds of the Mesta and Mutnitsa rivers.
- Activities for better exposure of the relief and its potential - information brochures, maps, video materials, presentations, trainings, etc., in which to describe and reveal the characteristics and peculiarities of the relief, the names of the forms.
- The toponymy of the elements of the relief - mountains, faults, valleys, localities, etc. Research and exposition of the toponymic history and myths, legends and legends related to the relief.
- Creating forms for exploring, exploring, mapping and protecting the relief.
- . Development of accessibility to landmarks and connectivity with them.
- Creation of organizational prerequisites for knowing the potential of the terrain.
- Development of economic activity for full knowledge of the potential of the terrain.
- Stop the depopulation of the highland settlements in the territory.
- Optimization of the urban environment with a view to the best use of the relief while preserving its main features - review, evaluation and adaptation to these goals of the development plans, the purpose of the usable areas, the location of the areas for the development of industrial capacities, the development of the road, the power transmission and water supply infrastructure.
- Specifying territories for the development of industrial production in Hadjidimovo, Koprivlen, Sadovo, Blatska and Ablanitsa. Minimizing the area of these territories.
- Restriction of heavy goods transport through the territory of the municipality and the Geopark.
- Creation of regulatory instruments adequate for these purposes at the municipal level (Ordinance, organization and procedures, trained personnel, control system, etc.).
- Provision of financial and organizational resources for these purposes.

Opportunities related to the climate of the territory

- Climatic conditions are favorable for the development of mountain tourism, recreational tourism, natural science tourism, ecological tourism, photo hunting tourism, bicycle tourism, fishing and hunting tourism, rural tourism, school tourism.
- The relatively warm winter allows, with small additional investments, to further develop the existing tourist infrastructure with a view to extending the tourist season by 30-40 days and for individual types of tourism and for year-round seasonality.
- The climate in the mountainous parts of the territory allows their inclusion in tourist routes with the final destination of the Greek seaside resorts on the Aegean coast, as well as the development of types and forms of tourism with the inclusion of health and recreational events.
- The long warm season is a significant factor in increasing the efficiency of the used tourist resources and investments in the tourist infrastructure.
- In combination with the neighborhood with the winter resorts of Bansko and Dobrinishte, the climate allows for the development and offering of joint tourist products - tourist excursions including visits to objects from the municipality, ski trips in Bansko and Dobrinishte for visitors to the municipality in winter, wine and culinary excursions in both destinations and etc.

Activities of the Geopark related to the climate as a tourist resource

- To assist in the protection of the territory's climate from negatively influencing factors such as polluting industrial productions, productions with harmful emissions, productions with high consumption of water resources increasing the humidity deficit, felling of forest massifs.
- To assist in the development of new tourist products and create conditions for the development of new types and forms of tourism ensuring full use of the climatic potential of the territory.
- To assist in the inclusion of the region and the tourist infrastructure located on the territory of the municipality in common tourist routes with objects located in the adjacent regions in Bulgaria and Greece.
- To assist in the development of year-round forms of tourism
- To contribute to a new level of exposition of the merits and advantages of the climatic conditions of the territory.

Opportunities related to water resources

- The available water resources create opportunities to preserve the biosphere and natural diversity of the territory, as well as to conduct targeted work for its enrichment.
- Possibility of development of various forms of water-related tourism – river tourism, fishing tourism, natural science tourism, recreational tourism, cycling tourism, photo-hunting tourism, etc.
- The need for economical use of water resources obliges the implementation of measures for businesses and the population to focus on industries and activities that do not require significant water costs, as well as on the use of new technologies for water storage and purification.
- The need to popularize and socialize the available water resources by creating appropriate information provision for this purpose, to make the population aware of the water resources, to create tour guides with knowledge about them, the existing tourist attractions to be related to the water attractions and to offer visits for getting to know them.

Proposed activities related to water resources:

- Preservation and maintenance of the condition of the riverbeds.
- Preservation and development of the biosphere in the Mesta river and its tributaries.
- Preservation of water quality,
- Optimization of water use.
- Elimination of all pollutants.
- Complete sewerage of populated areas and provision of treatment plants.
- Minimizing losses from the water transmission network.
- Introduction of control and optimization of the use of underground water sources.
- Limitation of water-consuming industrial productions.
- Implementation of intelligent water use systems.
- Creation of capacity for monitoring the quality of water from borehole water sources used by the population - introduced to home systems for mechanical, chemical and biological purification.
- Introduction of drinking water quality control and purification and treatment facilities for drinking purposes.
- Construction of catchment facilities with sufficient reserve capacity.
- Construction of a municipal irrigation system.

- Development of water tourism and forms of tourism related to water resources. Initiation of studies of new water sources on the territory of the municipality, including and mineral waters.
- Initiation of measures to optimize water consumption in tourist sites.
- Initiation of measures to introduce modern water purification installations in tourist sites.
- Assistance in obtaining financing for projects related to water resources and water use.
- Organization of monitoring of the state of water, water sources and water use.
- Promotion of water resources and objects of tourist importance by creating information provision, accessible environment, service objects and infrastructure. Getting to know the population. Preparation of tour guides with knowledge of water resources and sights.
- Helping existing tourism vows to offer visits and familiarization with water resources and attractions in the area.

Possibilities related to the rich phyto and zoo diversity

- Opportunities for knowledge, for presentation, for direct observation and photo-hunting tourism, for inclusion in specialized routes with a touristic-knowledge purpose, for attracting tourists with special interests from the country and abroad. The study of plant species and bird habitats is an opportunity for the territory to gain greater international fame and for the Geopark to apply for inclusion in the World Global Geopark of UNESCO.
- Possibilities for large-scale afforestation measures.

Proposed activities

- Assistance to preserve and maintain the condition of forests and to increase forest areas.
- Support for preservation and development of the biosphere of the territory and protection of rare plant species.
- Support for studies of the flora of the territory of the municipality.
- Initiating measures to optimize logging.
- Promotion of the plant richness of the territory through appropriate information provision. Getting to know the population. Preparation of tour guides with knowledge of the attractions of the flora of the territory.
- Support for the development of types and forms of tourism oriented towards the full disclosure and use of the potential of the territory related to the unique vegetation.

- Helping the existing tourist sites to offer visits and familiarization with the unique plant species in the area.
- Assistance to preserve and maintain the condition of the fauna and to increase the populations.
- Support for the preservation and development of the territory's biosphere and the protection of rare species of animals and birds.
- Promotion of the animal wealth of the territory through appropriate information provision. Getting to know the population. Preparation of tour guides with knowledge of the attractions of the flora of the territory.
- Support for the development of types and forms of tourism oriented towards the full disclosure and use of the territory's potential related to the territory's fauna.
- Helping the existing tourist sites to offer visits and familiarization with the unique animal species in the area.

Activities related to the use of the cultural and historical data and sights and elements of the culture, lifestyle and traditions of the population for the purposes of tourism

- Carrying out an up-to-date assessment of the state of immovable cultural values on the territory of the municipality.
- Implementation of an active local policy towards cultural heritage
- Active research of the territory and its history with a view to discovering new evidence, reports, testimonies, documents of cultural and historical significance. Creation of a "Local Group for History and Ethnography"
- Active involvement in the activities of the regional historical museum in Blagoevgrad and the historical museum in Gotse Delchev, participation in the work of local history societies and museums at the national and regional level. Guidelines for work: Study of the history of crafts, descriptions, collection of testimonies and artifacts, reconstructions of workshops and productions (tepvavici, self-loom, weaving looms, dyeing mills, dairies, etc. productions characteristic of the region.

- Collecting documents related to the history of the region, Building a database containing information on analyses, research, scientific forums, artifacts, documents, photographic material, etc. information sources related to the history of the region.
- Carrying out active continuous work to attract co-creators and find donors and sponsors for the purposes of local knowledge.
- Development of accessible and popular means and materials for presenting the history of the region - information brochures, catalogs, CDs, electronic presentations, film materials, video clips, etc. Creation of souvenirs imitating and copying artifacts found in the region, costumes, household items of population etc.
- Creation of a local local history exposition. Historical-archaeological research on the territory of the cheetah aimed at uncovering evidence from the Thracian, ancient Greek, ancient Roman and Byzantine eras.
- Lobbying for the inclusion of the region in the programs and projects of national and international scientific institutes (BAS, Universities, UNESCO, etc.)
- Creation of cultural and educational routes in cooperation between the municipalities of Hadjidimovo, Gotse Delchev and Satovcha.
- Creation of a structure for historical and local history studies and relations with those who find historical and ethnographic museums in neighboring municipalities.
- Measures for the promotion and socialization of cultural and historical attractions - information provision, accessible environment, service facilities and infrastructure
- Exposition (presentation) of history: Permanent local exposition, Visiting national and regional museums with collections, exhibitions, presentation of individual artifacts, etc. Conducting specialized presentations - lectures, seminars, work in schools. Assemblies and targeted participation in the existing assemblies and folklore forums on the territory of the Geopark, in the municipality, at the regional and national level. The development of the Geopark should be connected with a significant presence of its history and natural resources at international, national and regional scientific, cultural, events and forums, at tourist fairs and exhibitions, etc. Creation and

implementation of a calendar of participation by studying the possible forums and determining the ways and forms of participation.

Possibilities and activities related to the use of the potential and the development of the general urban infrastructure and the auxiliary infrastructure.

Opportunities

- The characteristics and specificity of the geographical area, such as the strategic location along the European transport corridors, the border and the well-developed network of regional and local transport infrastructure, are a potential for cross-border cooperation;
- The construction of the "Struma" highway has an important role in improving the connectivity of the region and in increasing the economic importance, especially of its southern part= The road network and the street network provide good and year-round access to all the main sites of tourist importance and potential on the territory of the municipality and the Geopark – natural features and sights, historical monuments, museums, hotels, restaurants, tourist infrastructure, shops, services, etc. , thereby creating very good conditions for the development of all forms of tourism for which the region has conditions and potential.
- The development of the transport corridor to the Ilinden - Exokhi border crossing increases the transit passenger flow and creates conditions for the development of services for people passing through transit and public transportation (restaurants, service stations, gas stations, roadside shops, recreational services, parking lots, etc.), as well as for the development of transit tourism (roadside hotels, restaurants, fast food restaurants, markets, shops, etc.)

Activities to improve the condition of the main urbanization infrastructure

- Reconstruction and completion of the water and sewage systems and related facilities;
- Modernization and improvement of the quality of the facilities connected to the power transmission network

Specific guidelines and ideas for the development of the municipality

- The evaluation of the natural resources, the available economic industry structure, as well as the human potential of the municipality gives reason to recommend that economic development be focused on industries and activities that do not require particularly large raw material, energy, water and human resources. Setting as a priority requirement to preserve the unique natural features in the region, on the territory of the municipality and the Geopark directs the development to focus on economic activities and industries that do not have a destructive influence and do not disturb the existing situation. Emphasis should definitely be placed on activities that will ensure not only preservation but also sustainable development and enrichment of nature (optimization of water use, afforestation, stopping soil erosion, preservation of forest massifs, preservation of vegetation in semi-mountainous areas (rivers, passes, meadows, pastures, etc.). An important and highly influencing element for the development of economic infrastructure is the establishment of tourism as an economic branch. In essence, such a decision has a defining and strategic role. Based on an accurate and complex assessment of the territory's potential and established as a strategic and programmatic direction in the development of the municipality, it imperatively imposes restrictions and guidelines for the development of the entire economic structure of the territory as a single economic complex.

- The development of the tourist industry implies the corresponding development of urban infrastructure, transport, communications and services. It provides direction for the development of the commercial network, the health network, the infrastructure and activities in the field of culture (museums, festivals, folklorists, ensembles, etc.). Tourism also has a direct impact on education in the municipality, which in terms of goals and content should be aimed at building the capacity of the workforce corresponding to the economic structure of the territory (tour operators, hotels, restaurants, culinary arts, professions related to the maintenance of the tourist infrastructure, advertising, museum work, tour guide, etc.).

From these positions, the analysis gives reason to recommend the following productions as structure-determining:

- Development of electricity production from RES. The potential of the territory is one of the biggest in Bulgaria. Annual average of 289 sunny days, solar radiation coefficient is 30% above average for the odd one. This industry is one of the real possibilities for high-tech development of the territory combined with the improvement of the environment. At the moment, there are 79 megawatts of capacity built and operating on the territory of the municipality. The potential is between 200 and

250 megawatts. The main problems are: the lack of power grid covers. A potential direction is the export of electricity to Greece and tie-up with the large consumers Bansko and Razlog. An important limiting condition is not to destroy the natural features and sights, the beautiful mountain views and the attractive appearance of the landscape. For this purpose, the projects must necessarily agree with the goals and development strategy of the Geopark. In this direction, it should be taken into account that investments, land for the installation of production facilities will be needed. For the development of the power transmission network, the existing routes can be used by increasing their capacity. The construction of an interconnection of the power transmission systems between the neighboring regions of Bulgaria and Greece is a matter of strategic assessment and project. It is also recommended to develop a municipal strategy for the development of these industries, which takes into account the existing limitations and is consistent with the Concept of the Geopark and the development guidelines of the entire economic structure.

Development of bio economy with emphasis on the following productions:

- High-tech production of early vegetables,
- Production of nutritional supplements; Development of the production of organic vegetables with markets in the major centers of the country, in the resorts of the Aegean coast and Bansko, Razlog and Dobrinishte. Development of viticulture in order to produce branded wines.
- Cultivation of essential oil crops and production of essential oil extracts and cosmetic products.
- Development of herbal production and herbal products
- Development of beekeeping and honey production;
- Development of mountain sheep breeding and cattle breeding;
- Production of meat and dairy products;
- Production of branded cheeses - Teshof cheese, Kashkaval from Ablanitsa, Ablanitsa as a brand for sausages, etc. Linking with the development of cattle breeding and sheep breeding with processing, with markets in other regions of the country and export. Creation of cluster forms on a cooperative basis;

- Preparation of ready and semi-ready organic foods for the resort villages in the adjacent regions in Bulgaria and Greece.
- Development of textile production.
- Creation of better conditions for the development of wine tourism: creation of own brand wines such as "Red Neurokop from the coast of Mesta", "White local vine", "Rose from Sadovo", "Koprivlenska collection" and others. Trademark registration and promotion. Creation of two wine guest houses on the territory of Khazhidimovo and Sadovo. Strengthening and development of the vineyard massifs intended for these brands and serving wine tourism (up to 500 acres specially maintained and rotated with wine tourism). Creation of a specialized wine cellar and cooperation of small producers on the territory of the geopark and on the territory of the municipality. Advertising of wine tourism in the information sites of the district and municipality, in national and international tourist sites, in specialized sites for wine tourism. Participation in fairs, exhibitions and other forums. Specialized information brochures for visitors distributed in hotels and guest houses in the district and in public places in the municipality. Combining wine tourism with other forms of tourism (historical, cultural, rural, culinary, etc.) - inclusion in routes, joint advertising. Inclusion in national and international routes for wine, culinary and other forms of tourism. Training of specialists with customer service knowledge. Training of somniliers (2-3) to maintain the brands and to promote them by participating in various forums. Creation of a local association of wine producers and development of wine tourism. Development and participation in project programs co-financed by the EU (Interreg, PRDP, etc.).
- Rapid catch-up in the development of services. Program to achieve a qualitative new level of basic public services and services provided to citizens and guests from the private sector - supplies of telecommunications services, recreational services, household services (laundry, cleaning , ironing, repairs, auto repair services, insurance, banking services, supplies, transport, information services, tailoring, shoemaking, plumbing, electricity, etc. Cooperation of services between settlements in the Municipality.
- New quality of commercial establishments in the municipality. Modernization of the existing store network. Construction of a shopping center in Haddjidimovo. Development of its covers and capacities for active commercial exchange with neighboring regions of Greece.

- Development of different forms of tourism - local, national, international in the following directions. herbal tourism; wine tourism; hunting tourism; geological tourism; natural science tourism; ethnographic tourism; folklore tourism; gastronomic (culinary) tourism; religious tourism; cultural-historical tourism; photo hunting tourism - birds; photo hunting tourism - plant species; rural tourism ; nature tourism; water tourism; recreational tourism; Mountain tourism ; mountaineering tourism; bicycle tourism; literary tourism; speleological tourism.
- Special attention to the development of specific forms of tourism - religious-pilgrimage tourism, wine tourism, culinary tourism, photo hunting tourism, mountain bike tourism, sports hang gliding.
- Focus on the development of educational and student tourism and the development of a specific tourist product in this direction, to be offered to schools from all over the country.
- The work in these areas requires priority development of activities with important managerial and logistical significance, such as:
 - Creation of organizational prerequisites, conditions and forms for economic development in the indicated directions: several production and trade cooperatives, clusters, focused on certain objectives, local initiative groups. These structures should be linked both functionally and organizationally with the neighboring municipalities and the economic activity in them.
 - Development of projects for national and European funding.
 - Targeted attraction of investments in intelligent production by creating appropriate administrative conditions (provision of plots, fast administrative service, reduction of administrative pressure) and use of attractive and flexible business tools (concessions, lease, PPP).
 - Implementation of a complex of measures to end the depopulation of the region and improve the demographic characteristics and trends in the region.
 - Building the intelligent urban environment in the town of Hadjidimovo and the settlements in the municipality - intelligent energy consumption, intelligent street lighting. Smart and ecological public transport. Intelligent production and production structure.
 - Complete digitization of processes and activities. The search for new technologies design, test and install some of the most functional systems in the industry. A modern provider of Internet services,

the best world technologies and facilities. Participation of the municipality in the global networks for smart cities (Smart cities). Optimization of water use by the population.

- Development of the sewage network and water treatment.
- Development of the water transmission network and reduction of fresh water losses. Development of irrigation systems and construction of intelligent irrigation systems. Intelligent water management systems
- Liquidation of polluting industries. Mandatory water treatment regimes for potential pollutants. Real monitoring and control through state-of-the-art technologies, measurement methods and means. Purification of all existing places of pollution of water resources (review, mapping, plan, resources, action) Organization and implementation of continuous monitoring and control. Along with the regional and national structures, a function and organizational coverage should be created by the municipal administration. NGO for this purpose in Hadjidimovo.- -

Specific proposed initiatives of the Geopark in the field of tourism

- Initiating the establishment of a tourist cluster "Southern Pirin, Slavyanka, Western Rhodopes". Development of a functional model, an organizational model and a status project for the Cluster. Conducting consultations. Creation of an initiative group.
- Organization of a joint activity with Geopark Drama - Greece
- - Initiating the creation of conditions for turning Hadjidimovo into a destination for religious-pilgrimage tourism. Assistance in strengthening the ties of the Monastery of St. George with other religious and church centers on the territory of the country (Rila Monastery, Bachkovo Monastery, Troyan Monastery, etc.), in Mount Athos and the countries of Orthodoxy (Thessaloniki, Ohrid, Belgrade, Suzdal, Kyiv, etc.), development of a program of religious rituals and pilgrimage routes.
- Inclusion of pilgrimage tourism in the information and advertising activities of the Geopark and the Municipality.

- Initiating the organization of a folklore festival with the idea of establishing it as a permanent and annual cultural event.
- Development of a conceptual project for organizing an annual celebration of traditional rites and crafts.
- Initiation of holding an annual Festival of Nevrokopian cuisine and culinary art.
- Initiating the development of a program for the development of wine tourism
- Development of a tourist calendar of the municipality of Hadjidimovo
- Development of a tourist guide for the municipality of Hadjidimovo;
- Development of an advertising brochure of Hadjidimovo Geopark
- Development of advertising brochures for the tourist sites of the Geopark theory.
- Creating conditions for sports hang gliding.
- Assistance for inclusion of the Geopark and the Municipality in national and international tourist destinations
- Creation of a local local history movement of volunteers.
- Organizing training courses to create capacity to work in the tourism industry. Creation of a Vocational Training Center at the Geopark with relevant training programs for a certain range of professions.
- Preparation of presentation of the Geopark and the municipality at national and international tourist forums.
- Creation of an informational and interpretive tourist center.
- Initiating and supporting the municipality in the preparation of an ordinance for the informational and advertising presentation of tourist sites in the municipality of Hadjidimovo.
- Development and provision to the municipality of a municipal standard for service to tourists and guests of the municipality.
- Development and provision to the municipality of the Charter of the client - tourist in the municipality of Hadjidimovo.
- Preparation and provision to the municipality of a Code of Ethics for tourism in the municipality of Hadjidimovo.

- Preparation of the Geopark for application for inclusion in the UNESCO Global Geopark worldwide chain.

From the point of view of the goals of tourism, the main functions of the Geopark are the bringing of the sites into a suitable tourist product without affecting their main qualities and properties, the advertising presentation of the sites at the local, national and international level, assistance for their inclusion in local, national and tourist routes, the organization and conduct of excursions, the organization and conduct of activities and events aimed at attracting tourists. The main activity of the Geopark is to assist in the construction of a systematic approach to tourism in the territory, including the construction of hotel and other accommodation facilities, the construction of appropriate restaurant, sports, entertainment, trade, health and recreational infrastructure. The compilation and implementation of an event calendar of interest to tourists specified by the types of tourism for which the territory has the conditions and capacity - natural science, cultural-historical, ethnographic, folklore, culinary, wine, recreational, mountain, rural, hunting, photo hunting, ornithological, etc.

Activities related to the exposition of historical events, personalities, artifacts and monuments

- Development of thematic expositions presenting historical eras, historical events, historical persons and individual historical monuments and organizing their presentation in a permanent local local history museum at the "Yane Sandanski" Community Center in Hadjidimovo.
- Creation of thematic expositions in museums, schools and cultural institutes in the region and in other populated areas of the country. Visiting with expositions in historical museums in the rural areas of Greece and North Macedonia. Creation of video materials presenting historical eras, historical events, historical persons and individual historical monuments.
- Development and printing of brochures presenting historical eras, historical events, historical persons and individual historical monuments intended for use by tourists. Development, printing and distribution of advertising leaflets presenting historical eras, historical events, historical persons and individual historical monuments and their provision to all tourist sites on the territory of the municipality.

- Preparation of tour guides for the presentation of historical eras, historical events, historical persons and individual historical monuments. Conducting talks and lectures to present historical eras, historical events, historical persons and individual historical monuments in the "Yane Sandanski" Community Center in Hadjidimovo and on local cable televisions in the region.
- Organizing and conducting thematic excursions to familiarize with historical events, historical persons and individual historical monuments on the territory of the municipality.
- Presentations with expositions during major holidays and events - St. George's Day, national holidays, religious holidays. The main executors of these activities should be a local archeology group and circle groups from the school in the town of Hadjidimovo under the guidance of a historian.
- Funding should be provided by the municipality, from donations and from realized revenues from publications and expositions. It is recommended that the Municipality adopt a minimum standard for tourist information for all major tourist sites, the implementation of which would generate revenue for the above-mentioned activities.

Presence of the Geopark on the Internet

- One of the main tools of the Geopark will be Internet communication, specialized sites, digital systems for the distribution of information and communication, and social networks. A direct task of the Geopark will be the maintenance of several specialized sites, the creation of links to them from main national and international scientific and tourist sites. Of particular importance for the Geopark will be the creation of its own structure for information working in a continuous mode.
- Finding and promoting optimal solutions for combining the natural, historical and cultural features and values with economic development and all human activity on the territory is a main task and at the same time a target function and main criteria for the successful activity of the Geopark.

Other activities of the Geopark for the development of tourism in the municipality

- The presentation of nature, history and culture, objective, documentary and factual evidence will take place on the spot, on the territory itself, which should become a showcase where every visitor can appreciate the cultural achievements and exploits of the historical inhabitants of the region. Here, the impressive nature, historical monuments, preserved or restored and reproduced elements of the rich culture of the ancestors will speak for themselves, about an advanced civilization that flourished from 5000 years ago to the present day.
- An educational program for local schools and high schools, regular talks and multimedia shows will promote the assets. An information-interpretation center will be created and developed on site, which will explain the main characteristics of the sights and values, will present the evidence from the study. The posters and information boards, made in clear language will convey the information visitors need to understand the cultural process that can be seen in the territory. Photographic material will present visitors with the various cultural objects and events shown in their original historical context. Information with general explanations about some aspects of historical events and natural attractions will be placed in different parts of the territory.
- A possible initiative is the creation of a permanent exhibition about the territory and its culture and a traveling version of it with a view to presentation in the main cities of Bulgaria and in some museums abroad. The correct transmission of the historical significance of the heritage is of crucial importance for the understanding and preservation of the cultural landscapes, which are the result of human transformation of the natural environment.

Neighboring sights and opportunities for their use for the purposes of tourism in the Municipality of Hadjidimovo

In economic and tourist terms, the territory of the Geopark should be connected in a single complex with the adjacent territories of the municipalities of Gotse Delchev, Garmen, Satovcha and Dospat. Significant opportunities can be developed, taking into account the connectivity of the territory with the large winter resort of Bansko, as well as with the resorts located 1 hour away along the Aegean

coast in Greece - Kavala, Asprovalta, Nea Paramos, as well as with the economically and touristically interesting city Drama with its water and spa resources.

In this context, the Geopark can be considered as part of various tourist routes within mountain, water, ecological, wine, culinary, folklore, historical knowledge, photo hunting, hunting tourism. the possibility of connecting with recreational, health and resort tourism in the neighboring regions - Bansko, Dobrinishte, Kavala, Ognyanovo, Garmen, etc. should also be taken into account.

The geopark is also closely related to ethnographic cognitive tourism in an extremely interesting and uniquely mixed way, as well as the opportunity to get acquainted with the unique way of life and traditions of the population, which bear the marks of different cultural systems and civilizations. It is the cultural synthesis that is the most valuable cognitive element of the region.

It is important to understand and outline and develop the specific opportunities of the territory precisely in the context of this connectivity. The Geopark and its Geopoints can become part of various tourist routes and programs, of new tourist products.

Remark :

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