




*Rehabilitating
our Common Heritage*

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HERITAGE



*Programme on Revitalisation
of Heritage and Rural Development*

Stan Terg/Stari Trg

May 2015

Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



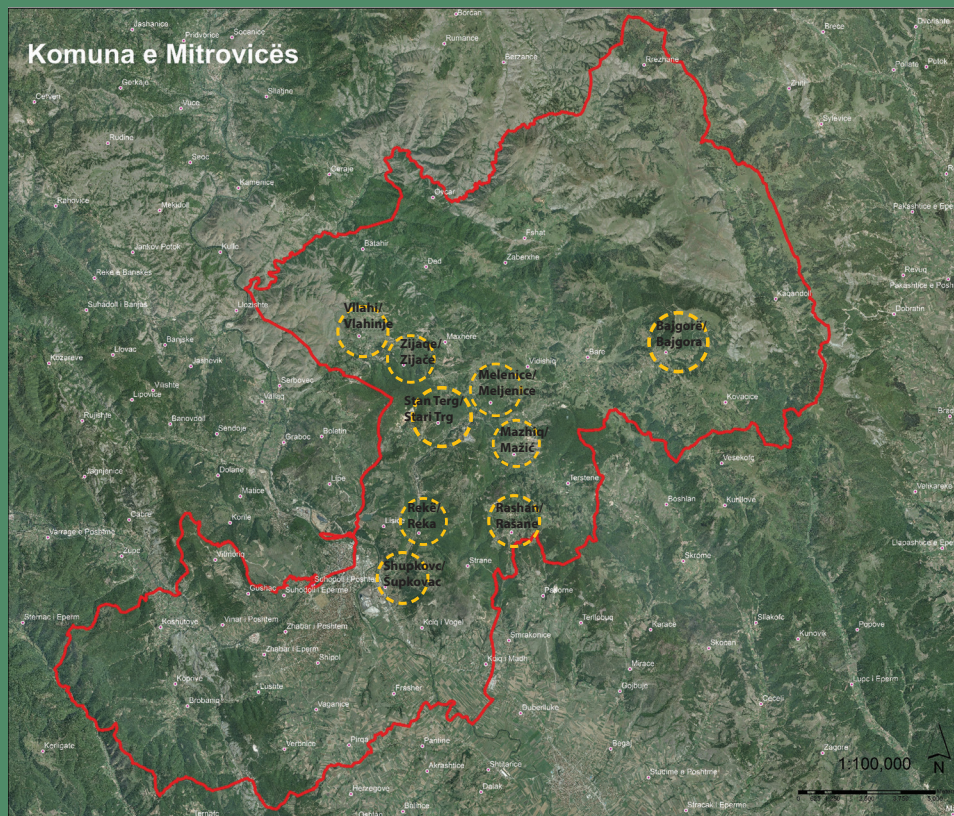
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Municipality of Mitrovicë/ Mitrova

- BOUNDARIES OF
MITROVICË/
MITROVA
MUNICIPALITY
- ∘ VISITED SITES

VISION

With a community-based heritage planning and management mechanism, the Stan Terg/Stari Trg mining area becomes an attractive destination with

- a unique industrial heritage
- a comprehensive educational and youth programme on mining culture
- an inspiration for organic – sustainable farming practices



Landscape of Rashan/Rašane village



Old wagons of Trepča/Trepča mine



INTRODUCTION

The Programme on Revitalisation of Heritage and Rural Tourism Development is an initiative of the joint EU /CoE project Support the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo* (PCDK). Its main goal is to increase awareness and appreciation of existing heritage as well as ensuring enjoyment and sustainable use of heritage resources by the local communities.

In line with the recommendations of the Regional Heritage Plan North, Stan Terg/Stari Trg was identified as a pilot area for the implementation period where the community members and local authorities expressed their needs and interests to focus on local development through heritage.

The PCDK project carried out a community consultation process and technical assessment visit on significant heritage assets in order to constitute the basic data for this concept programme.

This programme offers a conceptual structure for the next steps and requires a further feasibility study in each component proposed in order to ensure a productive long term programme implementation. It is hoped that the Regional Heritage Plan North and other technical tools provided by the PCDK project would be carefully considered for the future implementation of this programme.

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*



BACKGROUND

Trepča/Trepča mine complex

The old mining centre / town of Stan Terg/Stari Trg with its picturesque landscape of the Bajgorë/Bajgora Mountains and villages represent an attractive touristic potential for the region. Over the generations many cultures and religions were attracted to this area primarily due to the development of the mining centre of Trepča/Trepča. This diverse history is the inspiration of this community-based initiative for integrating people through their heritage, identity and common vision.

The long and rich history of North Kosovo is closely related to the Trepča/Trepča mine in Stan Terg/Stari Trg, which was one of the centres of precious ore that has been mined in the Kopaonik/Kopaoniku mountainous district for many centuries.

The first evidence of ore extraction around Stan Terg/Stari Trg dates back to the end of the 13th and 14th centuries by the local Serbian lords who invited Saxons to mine the ore.

The archives of Ragusa (Dubrovnik) and Venice contains valuable information about this area being visited and/or settled by many Ragusans, Venetians and Saxons in the 15th century who traded with ore or worked in the mines. In the 16th century the Ottomans restricted the export of metals, and until the beginning of the 20th century the extraction of ore was limited.

Modern mining began in 1930 by the British company Selection Trust who founded the Trepca Mines Ltd. in London. It contributed to the development of the Stan Terg/Stari Trg mines in one of the richest lead and zinc ore resource in Europe. The company opened offices, laboratories and supported services as well as built homes for the miners, most of them English and Russian emigrants.

After the Second World War, the importance of Trepča/Trepča in the industrial development of the Yugoslav Federation can be seen by the vast amounts of investments made over a period of almost thirty years. Between the 1960s to 1980s a fertilizer plant supported by a sulphuric acid plant, a new flotation in Tuneli i Parë/Prvi Tunel and a lead refinery were constructed.

The mine was closed between 1998-99. After major efforts and significant investments, four of the mines have restarted with a limited mining production.



Trepča/Trepča mine

OBJECTIVES

(2015-2017)

- Increase awareness of the important role of an integrated approach including a well-preserved environment, rich diversity of industrial, intangible and built heritage as well as an appropriately maintained and planned landscape in improving the quality of life of the Stan Terg/Stari Trg communities.
- Advocate the rehabilitation of selected sites with proper maintenance and sound management plans.
- Support initiatives for educational and recreational activities, targeting the development of tourism in a well preserved natural environment.
- Encourage women-led local economic development initiatives.



*Trepča/Trepča mine near Stan
Terg/Stari Trg, detail*



COMPONENTS

1. REHABILITATION OF THE SELECTED AREAS AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Revitalisation of the Stan Terg/Stari Trg mining settlement – religious and industrial heritage, including the English colony area.
- Revitalisation of traditional stone structures in Vllahi/Vlahinje village.

2. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND INVOLVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT OF HERITAGE, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Develop a youth centre facility at the English colony area with vocational activities
- Educational programme on the history of the Trepča/Trepča mine and the exhibition of the Museum of Crystals.
- Summer cinema and performing arts around the remains of St. Peter Church.
- Private museum collection presentation in traditional stone structures in Vllahi/Vlahinje village.

3. WOMEN-LED LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIALOGUE ACTIVITIES

- Coordination of traditional practices of the local community within the framework of cooperatives
- Consultation meetings and workshops on a selection of best practices to be developed

4. PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING AND MARKETING PRACTICES

- Workshops and pilot actions on organic farming practices
- Organic food brand creation



PARTICIPANTS

- Youth group from Stan Terg/Stari Trg and neighbouring areas
- Parents and teachers from the local primary school of Stan Terg/Stari Trg
- Local experts on heritage, agriculture and landscape
- The Crystal Museum personnel
- Heritage and Diversity Programme coordinator North
- Representatives of the Municipality's staff and agencies for the protection of nature, local development, tourism and planning
- Local NGOs
- Land users and other interested stakeholders
- Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage
- A group of actors or individuals interested in the performing arts
- PCDK - Inter-ministerial Working Group members

RECOMMENDED ENTITIES IN LEADING ROLE AND/OR IN CLOSE COOPERATION

Rehabilitation of the selected areas and development of management plans

- MINISTRY OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS – CULTURAL HERITAGE DEPARTMENT
- MINISTRY OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS – INSTITUITE FOR PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS
- MINISTRY OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS – REGIONAL CENTER FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE – MITROVICE/MITROVICA
- MUNICIPALITY OF MITROVICE/MITROVICA – SPATIAL AND URBAN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Youth empowerment and involvement in management of heritage, education and cultural activities

- MUNICIPALITY OF MITROVICE/MITROVICA
- MUSEUM OF CRYSTALS
- MUSEUM OF KOSOVO
- MINISTRY OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS – YOUTH DEPARTMENT
- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SECIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- LOCAL NGOs

Women-led local economic development and dialogue activities

- MUNICIPALITY OF MITROVICE/MITROVICA
- LOCAL NGOs
- REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY NORTH

Promotion of organic farming and marketing practices

- MUNICIPALITY OF MITROVICE/MITROVICA
- MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- LOCAL NGOs
- REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY NORTH

SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE ASSETS OF THE VISITED AREA

STAN TERG/STARI TRG MINING SETTLEMENT

According to the well preserved building structures in Stan Terg/Stari Trg it can be seen that it was originally a very well organised administrative centre with a residential character that met the needs of the mining settlement.

The construction type is very similar to the mining facilities in the English industrial zones developed during the period of the industrial revolution (late 18th and early 19th century).

Today Stan Terg/Stari Trg represents a settlement of a scattered type. In addition to the old mining centre, on the east of the church of St. Peter, there is a rural settlement. A similar type of settlement recently developed can be seen on the mountain slopes, opposite the old mining settlement.

It is recommended to:

- restore the entrance part leading to the mine
- design projects for the new function of the old administrative buildings





The main street in Stan Terg/Stari Trg



Administrative buildings



*Old mechanism of the infrastructure
leading to the mine*



Church of St. Peter in Stan Terg/Stari Trg

The remains of a large medieval church dedicated to St. Peter may be seen between the Stan Terg/Stari Trg mining settlement and the open pit. It was built for the religious needs of the Sas (Saxon) miners who worked in the nearby mines during the early stages of ore exploitation. It was first mentioned in a letter of Pope Benedict XI in 1303 as the seat of the "catholic parish in Trepca".

The Ottoman conquest in the middle of the 15th century led to a decline of the catholic population and their church. At the beginning of the 17th century St. Peter's church was abandoned.

It is recommended to:

- restore the church existing built structure
- landscape the immediate area for cultural and educational events

*Remains of the eastern part of
St. Peter Church*

Tuneli i Parë/Prvi Tunel

The growth of ore exploitation during the socialist period resulted in an extension of the mining settlements in the area. Close to Stan Terg/Stari Trg is the so-called Tuneli i Parë/Prvi Tunel which was expanded near the road that leads to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town. Two residential complexes of different architectural designs were built. One is similar to the residential complex of the Stan Terg/Stari Trg mining centre (1950s-60s), and the other is a modern, 'socialist' style (1970s) with utilitarian characteristics for the mining families.

It is recommended to:

- landscape the area around the residential mining facilities to be used for children games
- restore the old mining infrastructures (flotation sector) to be included in a tourism tour



Tunnel that leads to the Flotation sector of Trepça/Trepča mine



Residential buildings of the mining families built in 1970s



Flotation sector of Trepça/Trepča mine



Remains of Mazhiq/Mažić Mosque



Mazhiq/Mažić Mosque

One impressive relic from the Ottoman period are the ruins of a mosque located 1 km from the Trepča/Trepča mine, along the road to Melenicë/Meljenica, opposite of the village Trepča/Trepča and close to the road that leads to the nearby mountainous Mazhiq/Mažić village. It is assumed that the mosque was built immediately after the Ottoman's conquest of Kosovo (1455.) The only remains of the portico in front of the entrance are portions of the side walls.

It is recommended to:

- restore the structure of the mosque with appropriate access for visitors
- develop promotional material

National Museum of Crystals

Beside the production of lead-zinc ore in the Trepča/ Trepča mine, a wide range of mineral specimens have been collected for many years. The collection contains around 1800 exhibits of 65 mineral specimens among which are mineral classes of spahalerite, galena, pyrites, pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite, arsenopyrite, marmatite, jarnernsonite, antimonite and plumosite. The collection is displayed in a new building with modern museum equipment and has a professional guide.

It is recommended to:

- Design an educational programme
- Design a virtual tour through the mine





Kulla in Shupkovc/Šupkovac



Water mill in Rekë/Reka village



*The waterwheel of the mill in
Rekë/Reka village*

Rural Heritage Sites on the road to Stan Terg/Stari Trg

Kulla in Shupkovc/Šupkovac village

Situated near the Tuneli i Parë/Prvi Tunel urban nucleus are two facilities associated with the traditional rural ambience of the area. One of them is the kulla type facility in the village of Shupkovc/Šupkovac owned by Mr. Sever Ajvazi. At the moment it is a neglected stone structure, located in the courtyard of the modern residential facility. The building, with its horizontal wooden beams facade is a distinctive and rare structure in the area

It is recommended to:

- restore the kulla to be used for cultural events

Mill in Rekë/Reka village

The old mill located in the village of Rekë/Reka, is owned by Mr. Safedin Osmani. It is situated on the river Trepça (Trepčanka) – a small river which flows into the river Sitinicë/Sitnica near Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town. Thanks to the efforts of its owner the mill has retained its authentic external appearance and is still functioning.

It is recommended to:

- clean the area around the river
- present traditional local food using the product from the mill

Rural Settlements and Mountainous landscape of Shalja Bajgorë/ Šalja Bajgora

Along with the significant mineral deposits the extraordinary natural resources and beauties of Kosovo North are represented by the diversity of flora, pasture and meadows and the picturesque landscape of the villages situated on the slopes of Shalja Bajgorë/ Šalja Bajgora (Kopaonik). Agriculture and livestock breeding were the main occupations of the villages' inhabitants. The nearby Trepça/Trepča mine had an effect on their economic and social life. It also influenced the changes in the demographic composition of the villages.

Today, the villages such as Mazhiq/Mažić, Rashan/Gornje Rašane, Barë/ Bare, Vllahi/Vlahinje and Bajgorë/Bajgora are small rural settlements with around 270 inhabitants (in Vllahi/Vlahinje) to 1,000 (in Bajgorë/Bajgora). Some significant features of the nature as well as the traditional elements of the life of residents of the area, such as inherited goods and traditional practices still exist and represent a potential for rural development.

Among other villages, the landscape of the village Bajgorë/Bajgora is of exceptional beauty considering its location at the very top of the Bajgorë/Kopaonik mountain, while the landscape of the farmed land of Rashan/Gornje Rašane village been followed by streams, pastures and narrow mountain trails gives it an idyllic appearance.

It is recommended to:

- restore the kulla complex in Vllahi/Valhinje village ; part of it to be in function as an ethnological museum



Kulla building complex in Vllahi/Vlahinje village



Winter landscape in Vllahi/Vlahinje village



Heritage in the hands of the people

The people of this region still cherish some of the traditional customs especially when it comes to significant moments of their lives, including wedding day ceremonies.



Intangible heritage practices reflect a harmonious combination of historical diversity of the area as well as the influences of the groups who have lived or visited the area over the centuries, including numerous traders from different parts of Europe.

A good example of this diverse background is the collection of one of the residents of Vllahi/Vlahinje village, Mr. Shasivar Begu.

His private collection of around 400 exhibits as well as records of traditional customs include many articles made of stones with inscriptions from the antique period, coins from the Roman time, old weapons decorated with silver, ethnological objects from the traditional everyday life of the people of the Shalja Bajgore/ Šalja Bajgora (Kopaonik) villages, records of traditional ceremonies, children's games, songs, storytelling, etc.



It is recommended to:

- make an inventory of the private collection
- produce a brochure of the collection
- present the collection in the kulla' complex in Vllahi/Vlahinje village

MAIN TOPICS PRESENTED DURING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

- RETHINKING OF MINING CULTURE TODAY – USE OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE
- REHABILITATION OF SITES
- UPGRADED INFRASTRUCTURE
- YOUTH PROGRAMMES INCLUDING SPORTS AND ARTS
- ORGANISED COLLECTION AND MARKETING OF FARM PRODUCTS
- REVITALISATION OF TRADITIONS, RITUALS AND ATTENTION TO INTANGIBLE HERITAGE PRACTICES
- ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE
- EMPLOYMENT WITH FOCUS ON TOURISM

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www.coe.int/pcdk



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