



# JUNIK / JUNIK

EU/ COE JOINT PROJECT –

Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity  
 Local Economic Development component  
 Pilot Actions



JP - EU/CoE Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity (PCDK)

Funded  
by the European Union



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

# BACKGROUND

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The Local Economic Development (LED) component of the European Union / Council of Europe Joint Action Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo\* (PCDK) has been inspired by and closely associated with the Local Development Pilot Project (LDPP) of the Council of Europe's Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe.

While the Regional Programme has a wider scope in the sphere of economic development, PCDK / LED focuses specifically on one aspect of the regional programme: heritage tourism. In this capacity, PCDK / LED aims to create conditions to facilitate social cohesion and economic development through utilising the potential of cultural and natural heritage for the region of Kosovo West.

Working with the six municipalities of Kosovo West (Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Deçane, Junik/Junik and Istog/Istok), the PCDK project highlights the importance of heritage protection, maintenance and management with an integrated approach in the process of local economic development. This

pilot project sets a feasible structure, methodology and examples of how, if managed effectively, heritage could be an asset of great benefit to local communities as part of a dynamic social and economic development process.

In preparation for the Regional Heritage Plan, the PCDK project acknowledges all heritage sites and assets in the region, based on the information provided by local and central authorities and institutions. These actions, however, have focused on attractions and features that are currently accessible and presentable to the general public and visitors for the purpose of heritage tourism.

This booklet has been prepared for stakeholders in the municipality of Junik to accompany the Regional Heritage Plan and its recommendations. It encourages the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the implementation of priority actions in the municipality, in coordination with the five other municipalities in the region, as well as with central authorities.

*Erenik river*



*Lake in Gjeravić/Đeravica Mountain*



*Hiking picnic activity, Gjeravić/Đeravica*



\*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.

*Moronica landscape*



## OBJECTIVES

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Local Economic Development activities and pilot actions focused on the:

- Assessment of the capacity of natural and cultural heritage of the region;
- Creation of a strategic planning instrument for heritage protection and revitalisation;
- Development of effective partnerships between different stakeholders and encouragement of public/private initiatives on heritage;
- Establishment of a community based regional coordination office for heritage management.

*Ramë Zyberi's tower*



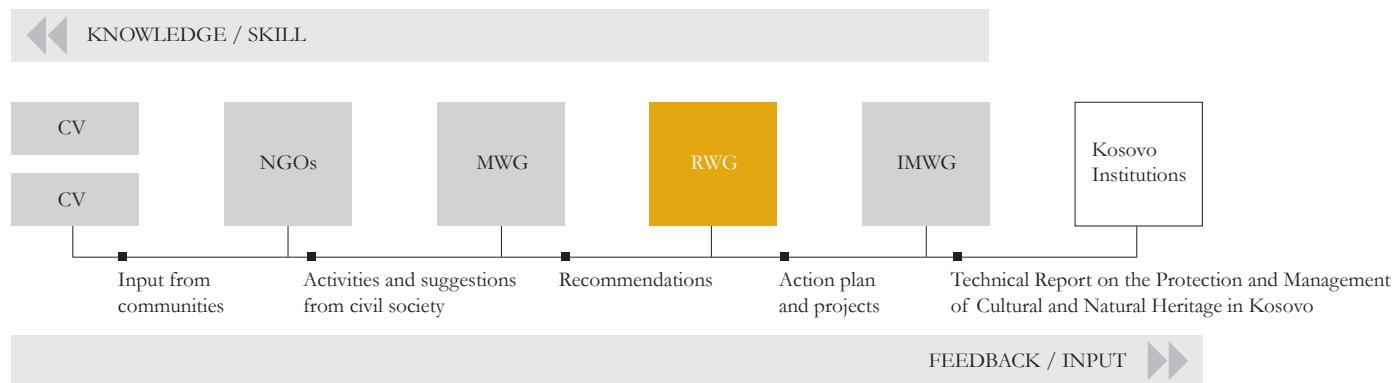
# METHODOLOGY

The Heritage Plan is a dynamic process providing a strategic context for community actions with existing resources to ensure the greatest benefits to the local communities in the region. It aims to facilitate joint actions in the identification of priorities for the distribution of available funds for the conservation and promotion of heritage, in coordination with the central government, the municipalities and other interested parties.

To ensure active engagement of stakeholders, the PCDK project adopted the following methodology and workflow where there is continuous feedback and input from communities into policy-making, while regular knowledge and skill transfer is encouraged at the community level.

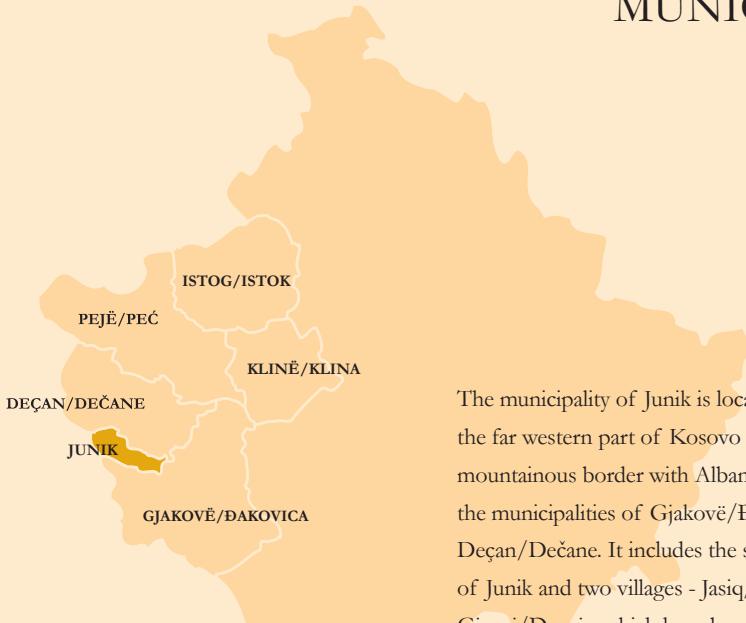


*Spring of Erenik river*



# MUNICIPALITY OF JUNIK

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The municipality of Junik is located in the far western part of Kosovo along the mountainous border with Albania, between the municipalities of Gjakovë/Đakovica and Deçan/Deçane. It includes the small town of Junik and two villages - Jasiq/Jasić and Gjocaj/Đocaj - which have been inhabited only since the conflict in 1999. It is estimated that Junik has around 9,600 inhabitants mainly residing in Junik town. The entire population is Kosovo Albanian.

In medieval times, Junik was the administrative center of Reka e Keqe. In the late 14th century it was a seat of the Ottoman administrative unit (nahia) of Altun Ihli. Junik is known for its kullas, which were built as fortified stone family dwellings, in several neighbourhood clusters: Tergovishte, Gacaffer and Berishë. These have created a unique core or ensemble of buildings in Junik, and are the oldest structures of this building typology can be found in Kosovo. According to the field data obtained, the only sacral monument preserved in Junik

is the Çoku Mosque, built in 1580. Having experienced many interventions, the mosque today is flanked by two minarets reflecting the most recent extensions undertaken in 1878.

The peak of Mount Gjeravica/Đeravica near Junik is the highest in the region, at 2656m above sea level. There are two lakes which relate to earlier glacial activity in the area. The Erenik river is the largest river in the region (covering an area of 515.5 km<sup>2</sup>) and has its source in the Big Lake. The other lake forms the Moronica landscape, with a variety of valleys, hilly terrain, hilltop crests and rocks that shape a canyon-type formation along the Erenik river. This holds great potential for sport and recreational tourism development in Junik municipality.

*Çoku's Mosque*



# INVOLVEMENT OF JUNIK MUNICIPALITY IN LED ACTIVITIES

In the context of the PCDK project, a number of actions were carried out with active involvement of local stakeholders in Junik municipality.

- Research on cultural and natural heritage assets and their heritage tourism capabilities were undertaken through surveys, interviews and semi-structured meetings with stakeholders, with the participation of:
  - UBO Research Company
  - NGO Balkan Promotion
  - Community volunteers
  - Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Pejë/Peć
  - Municipality of Junik
- Pilot actions were implemented simultaneously in the six municipalities of Kosovo West. These activities were comprised of three components which played crucial role for community engagement in preparation of the Regional Heritage Plan.



*Moronica landscape*



*Jab Imeri's tower*



*Ramë Zyberi's tower*

Activity	Local Stakeholders
<b>A. IDENTIFICATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS</b>	
<b>I. Data collection of selected natural and cultural heritage assets</b>	
<i>Data collection of immovable cultural heritage assets</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Çoku Mosque (16th-19th century)</li> <li>• Jah Imeri's Tower (19th century)</li> <li>• Ramë Zymberi's Tower (1860)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Centre for Cultural Heritage in Pejë/Peć;</li> <li>- NGO Balkan Promotion</li> <li>- PCDK project team</li> </ul>
<i>Data-collection of intangible cultural heritage assets</i>	
None	
<i>Data-collection of natural heritage assets</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erenik River</li> <li>• Moronica Landscape</li> <li>• Gjeravica/Đeravica Lakes and Peak</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NGO Balkan Promotion</li> <li>- Valmira Gashi (MESP)</li> </ul>
<b>II. Promotional material</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design of Heritage Map of Junik</li> <li>• Design and production of information panels for each of the selected natural and cultural assets</li> <li>• Tourism Guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NGO Balkan Promotion</li> <li>- Municipal Working Group of Junik</li> </ul>
<b>B. INTANGIBLE HERITAGE PRACTICE</b>	
<b>I. Identification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stick games</li> <li>• Horse races</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NGO Balkan Promotion</li> <li>- PCDK project team.</li> </ul>
<b>III. Organisation of event on intangible cultural heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of the “Descent” (“Zhdjergat”), a traditional event celebrating the return of shepherd families from the mountains (17th July 2011), held in Junik.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NGO “Balkan Promotion”</li> <li>- PCDK project team.</li> </ul>
<b>C. JOINT REGIONAL EVENTS ON CULTURAL TOURISM</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the Regional Autumn Festival: “Hiking Picnic” held in Junik Mountains – Gjeravica/Đeravica Lakes (27th November 2011)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NGO “Balkan Promotion”</li> <li>- Local Hiking association</li> <li>- PCDK project team.</li> </ul>

Activity	Local stakeholders
<b>Education and Awareness Raising</b>	
Course design on Heritage and Diversity for elementary schools	Students, parents and teachers from the “Edmond Hoxha” elementary school in Junik
HAIJDE Tour - site visits	Students from the “Edmond Hoxha” elementary school; Groups from minority communities; People with special needs
Teacher Training on Heritage and Diversity	2 teachers from “Edmond Hoxha” elementary school in Junik
<b>Institutional Capacity Development</b>	
Study visits to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Turkey, Venice, Slovenia.	Junik MWG representatives; NGO Balkan Promotion
“Connections: Regional conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage”, March 2012 Prishtinë/Priština	NGO Balkan Promotion



# RECOMMENDED PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR JUNIK MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE REGIONAL HERITAGE PLAN 2012-2015

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The following is a list of recommendations for actions in Junik that are in line with Regional Heritage Plan for Kosovo West 2012-2015 and with other municipalities in the region.

## **To raise awareness of and promote appreciation for the heritage in Kosovo West**

- Participate in regional annual festivals to raise awareness among public and funds for activities, such as Picnics to celebrate the return from the mountains
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Continue the organisation of “The Descent”, with timely promotional materials
- Utilise the regional logo for branding
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment

## **To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo West**

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Junik in order to document these according to guidelines
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality

## **To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo West**

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and

provide training to local service providers

- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors
- Provide input to annual regional report on ‘state of the heritage’ Kosovo West
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region

## **To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of Heritage in Kosovo West**

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forum to share developments and be informed about the regional program
- Send your locally produced brochures and promotional materials to regional coordination office

## **Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo West**

- Identify a kulla structure in your municipality to participate in a Cultural Routes initiative
- Invest in development of cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as horse racing, stick games and return from the mountain
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Make Junik a tourist destination for rehabilitation and education activities for stone structures.

# INVOLVED PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

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## **Main partners**

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

Municipality of Junik

NGOs Rrasa e Zogut, Rrënja, and Balkan Promotion

## **Regional Working Group members**

Avdyl Hoxha, Director of the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage - Pejë/Peć

• Osman Gojani, Director of the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage - Gjakovë/Đakovica • Shpresa Gjonbalaj, Director of Cultural Department, Pejë/Peć municipality • Engjëll Berisha, Director of the Library, Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality

• Musa Kaliqani, Head of Economic Department - Istog/Istok municipality • Hajdin Morina, Education officer - Klinë/Klina municipality • Nimon Tofaj, Vice Mayor of Junik/Junik municipality • Shkëlzen Shehu, Urbanism Department - Deçan/Deçane municipality • Kujtim Rrahmani, NGO Arteza - Gjakovë/Đakovica • Shasimete Selimaj, NGO 7 Shtatori - Pejë/Peć • Rexhep Maksutaj, NGO Agimi - Deçan/Deçane

## **Municipal Working Group members Junik**

Avni Gorani, Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage - Pejë/Peć • Nimon Tofaj, Vice

Mayor - Junik Municipality • Kadri Shala, Head of the Cultural Department - Junik municipality • Ferdone Tofaj, Urbanism Department - Junik municipality • Arton Krasniqi, Cultural Department - Junik municipality • Visar Tofaj, Educational department - Junik municipality • Bekim Gaxheri, NGO Rrasa e Zogut - Junik • Zyber Krasniqi, owner of the Ramë Zyberi Kulla • Gazmend Gjota, NGO Balkan Promotion - Junik • Merishahe Krasniqi, NGO Rrënja - Junik • Zenun Shala, local business representative • Miftar Hasani, local business representative • Ilirjan Himaj, student

**Experts, representatives of institutions/  
authorities, and private companies  
involved**

Terry O'Regan, Council of Europe expert  
- Ireland • Liam Scott, Heritage Council  
of Ireland • Bob Charmburry, freelance  
consultant on Economic Development  
• Zekë Çeku, freelance consultant on Tourism  
development • Burbuqe Deva, representative  
of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

• Valmira Gashi, expert from the Ministry of  
Environment and Spatial Planning • Arsim  
Mulhaxha, representative from Regional  
Cultural Heritage Centre - Pejë/Peć • Vergina  
Dyla, representative from Regional Cultural  
Heritage Centre - Gjakovë/ Đakovica  
• Jeton Aliu, Ministry of Trade and Industry,  
Tourism Department • UBO Consulting  
Company

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This document was produced within the framework of the Joint Project "EU/CoE Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo". The content does not necessarily represent the official position of the European Union and/or the Council of Europe.



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