

TOURIST VALORIZATION OF CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE IN KUPRES MUNICIPALITY-GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECT

Izabela Ćavar

University of Mostar, Faculty of Science and Education, Department of Geography
Mostar, Matice hrvatske b.b., Bosna i Hercegovina
izabela.cicak@gmail.com; izabela.cavar@fpmoz.sum.ba

Cultural-historical heritage of Kupres municipality, which is part of interest of Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is not included in local tourist offer. It is unknown, neglected and hardly accessible. There are 30 cultural heritage localities in Kupres, dating back from prehistoric periods to 20th century. Over 1000 registered 'stećak'- Bosnian medieval tombstones represent a special value. Valorisation and identification of cultural-historical heritage from the geographical aspect was done in this paper. By valorising cultural-historical heritage for the purpose of tourism, it is divided it into four groups: 1. archaeological sites 2. spatial units and landmarks 3. ecclesiastical heritage and 4. cultural monuments. On the basis of geographical elements of valorisation for tourism needs, their significance at the local, regional and national level is determined. By using GIS tools it is possible to visualise cultural goods on a map which could be used as a basis for modern offer of tourist attractions in Kupres municipality. Sustainable development of tourism can mean revitalisation of rural areas, which is a necessity for this depopulated municipality.

Key words: *Kupres municipality, cultural-historical heritage, identification, geographical valorization, revitalization of rural areas*

INTRODUCTION

Due to its favourable geographical position, Kupres municipality has great potential for the development of selective forms of tourism. In this area tourism is still developing, and including the cultural-historical heritage into the tourist offer would be a great contribution to expansion and enrichment of the tourist attractions of the Kupres municipality. There are 30 sites with cultural goods in the Kupres municipality, however, neglect, destroying and general negligence of the local population for protection and preservation of the cultural goods pose a great problem. The cultural-historical heritage of this municipality is located near the rural settlements which have expressed depopulation, however, valorisation of the cultural goods and their inclusion into the tourist offer would mean revitalisation of the rural areas.

Identification and valorisation of neglected cultural-historical heritage of the Kupres municipality was done in this paper. In identification the cultural goods are divided according to historical periods for better clarity. By tourist valorisation cultural goods are divided into four groups. Positioning of the cultural goods in the area of Kupres municipality was done by using the GIS tools and this could serve as the basis for creating the tourist maps and enrichment and inclusion of the cultural goods into the tourist offer.

Well-known archaeologists dealt with cultural-historical heritage in the 20th century, in 1950s and 1980s. The most important authors that did research and wrote about the cultural goods of the Kupres municipality were Đuro Basler (1953), Alojz Benac (1986), Šefik

Bešlagić (1954). Basler and Benac were researching the cultural goods from the prehistoric period. Benac made the greatest contribution, as he was particularly dedicated to exploring the tumuli in Kupres municipality. Bešlagić focused his research on the medieval necropolises of the stećak tombstones. Authors of the 1980s and 1990s also wrote about the cultural goods of this area, and these were: Mate Džaja (1989), Miroslav Džaja and Krunoslav Draganović (1994). More recently, Dubravko Lovrenovic (2009) has been researching stećak tombstones in the FB&H, including in the area of Kupres municipality. In 2013, the Cadastre of the Municipality of Kupres, in cooperation with the Commission to Preserve National Monuments, conducted a detailed study on the identification and distribution of the tumuli in the territory of the Kupres municipality.

The Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H and forest management area "Kupreško", Forestry "Kupres" are the only ones to have projects aimed at preserving the cultural, historical and natural heritage of the Kupres municipality. The task of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H is to identify cultural goods and, based on the decisions of the Commission, attempt to protect and preserve valuable national treasures.

This paper analyses tourist potentials and potentials of cultural-historical heritage and their current condition, and the "mosaic" method shows the distribution of cultural goods in the geographical area and according to certain historical periods. The tourist potentials for the development of the selective forms of tourism of the Kupres municipality were analysed and the analysis was made on the basis of the available literature on the cultural-historical heritage of the authors that had written in the 1950s, 1980s and 1990s and field research was also done, based on which current condition of cultural goods could be determined. Field research included visits to some of the major sites and a visit to the Gorica Museum and Monastery in Livno.

The method of synthesis will attempt to show the distinctiveness of particular cultural goods and some cultural goods that could be of greatest importance in the tourist presentation are highlighted and singled out. With their distinctiveness, certain cultural goods can significantly enrich the tourist offer, and more detailed research can be done. According to the author Benac (1986) there were about 50 tumuli in the Kupres municipality, only five of which were explored and so far six have been destroyed and the stećak tombstones with their distinctive ornaments from the medieval period can be a topic for further research as they have not been sufficiently explored.

The method of comparison will show the position and category of the cultural heritage based on the region. Based on the valorisation and by assessment, results on particular cultural goods and their importance at local, regional and national level will be obtained. On the basis of all this, the most significant cultural goods can be identified, as well as some thematic areas that should be further elaborated and their role in the tourist offer should be considered.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF THE KUPRES PLATEAU

Kupres is a municipality situated in the Herzegbosnian County, in the southwest of the FB&H. The municipality includes the town of Kupres and 35 rural settlements (Džaja and Draganović, 1994). Most of the cultural goods are located in rural settlements, which have marked depopulation, and some rural settlements are even empty in terms of population. The altitude of the Kupres Plateau ranges from 1120 to 1150 m, and is surrounded by

mountains on all sides. The mountains on the northeast are the watershed chain, and on one side the rivers flow into the Adriatic basin and on the other into the Black Sea basin (Džaja and Draganović, 1994). The Kupres region consists of four karst fields: 1 Kupreško Field, 2 Riličko Field, 3 Vukovsko Field and 4 Ravanjsko Field, which are surrounded by mountains. The Kupres area is situated in the Bosnia and Herzegovina region of the high Dinaric karst, located on the border between the Mediterranean area in the southwest and the valley region of the central Bosnia in the northeast. The oldest traces of anthropogenic activity date from the Illyrian prehistoric period, therefore in this area there are the remains of hill-forts, tumuli, and traces of settlements preserved to this day (Zubić, 1959). Cultural-historical heritage is evenly distributed across particular fields in the karst.

CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF THE KUPRES MUNICIPALITY

In the Kupres municipality there are numerous remains of unique and diverse cultural-historical heritage that testify of the rich past of this mountainous region. Cultural goods from different historical periods can be found here, from archaeological sites from prehistoric period to significant objects from 19th and 20th century. The most important anthropogenic identification elements for tourism development in Kupres municipality are:

1. Hill-fort at Poponac (Pogana Glavica),
2. Small and Big Hill-fort in Vrila,
3. Hill-fort at Crljenac in Ravanjska vrata,
4. Hill-fort in Ravno - east from Ravanjska vrata,
5. Stone tumuli at Dvorišta in Ravno polje,
6. Prehistoric settlement near Jelanj in Vukovsko Field,
7. Earth tumuli in Kupreško Field.
8. Guardhouse at Kupreška vrata,
9. Archaeological remains in Otinovci,
10. Roman roads in Kupres.
11. Basilica in Otinovci,
12. Church remains (Crkvina) in Ravno,
13. Church remains (Crkvina) in Gornje Vukovsko,
14. Church remains (Crkvina) in Turjača lake,
15. Holy Trinity Church from the 15th ct.,
16. Medieval town Stržanj – above the Šujica river spring,
17. Stećak necropolis Ravanjska vrata – Upper and Lower necropolis,
18. Necropolises at Kupreško Field,
19. Necropolises at Ravanjsko Field,
20. Necropolises at Vukovsko Filed,
21. Necropolises at Riličko Field.
22. Old Town Kupres and Vrepčev Han.
23. Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God Church in Donje Vukovsko (1862),
24. St. Ivo Church in Otinovci (1889),
25. Public administration building (1913) (Basler, 1953), (Benac, 1986),
(Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H, www.kons.gov.ba-
12/4/2012), (Bešlagić, 1954) (Mlinarević et al., 2009)

TOURIST VALORISATION OF THE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE IN THE KUPRES MUNICIPALITY

The valorisation of cultural-historical heritage is of great importance in the planning of tourism development in a tourist destination. Cultural-historical heritage is a broad concept, so the tendency in tourism is to adopt the name "cultural good" (Kušen, 2002). Kušen proposes that immovable cultural goods that are attractive in terms of tourism should be divided into the following: archaeological sites, memorial sites and objects, individual sacral buildings, individual profane buildings (e.g. Public administration building from 1913) and objects of garden architecture (Kušen, 2002). Identification of valuable cultural goods of an area opens the possibility of including the cultural-historical heritage into the development of tourism. It is important to raise the awareness of the local population about the importance of cultural goods and their protection. Contemporary tourism trends require the development of selective forms of tourism, and the modern tourist offer must include the "6 E" motivation in tourism (experience, escape, education, excitement, entertainment and ecology) (Hendija, Z., 2011).

Valorisation of material cultural goods is performed in this paper. A great number of cultural goods have the potential to become a tourist product for the development of tourism, as they can show the rich and diverse history of the Kupres region in a unique way, their customs, way of life, they promote ethnic tradition of the destination and enable the improvement and enrichment of the tourist offer that has seasonal character currently. The decision to include the cultural goods into a tourist product is often based on insufficient knowledge about the components that influence the popularity of a tourist attraction, rather than on an overall assessment of the potential of a local tourist attraction to become a primary tourist attraction that will attract tourists to visit a destination. The following elements were evaluated when rating the individual objects and the categorisation was taken from the author Matić (Matić, 2008):

- Tourist position,
- Artistic value,
- Environment,
- Attractiveness,
- Level of construction,
- Integration into the tourist wealth (Matić, 2008).

When analysing the elements for the evaluation of all the objects, it can be concluded that they generally have a favourable position because the Kupres municipality is located on the main road connecting Central Bosnia with Herzegovina and Dalmatia. The planned construction of the Vc corridor and the construction of the expressway will make the traffic position of this area even more favourable. The construction of regional roads that connect rural settlements where most of the cultural goods are located is also important. A great disadvantage is the distribution of cultural goods, as they are widespread all over the region, and some are significantly damaged, neglected and difficult to access. It is necessary to protect a large number of cultural goods in a proper way and to make them accessible with better transport infrastructure and inclusion into the tourist offer. Regarding attractiveness, the entire area is attractive in terms of tourism due to its preserved nature and rich history. The artistic value is especially high in the numerous stećak tombstones and the preserved church remains. Integration into the rest of the tourist environment is favourable as most of

the cultural goods are located near natural resources and in rural settlements where traditions and customs are still present. Negligence of the local population for the cultural goods currently poses a great disadvantage. With the goal of general tourist value, the evaluation of the above mentioned elements has been approached. Valorisation of the most valuable cultural goods will be done in this paper and, in order to be able to present and analyse them clearly, they are divided into four groups: 1. Archaeological sites, 2. Spatial units and landmarks, 3. Churches and other sacral structures and 4. Cultural monuments. The evaluation was carried out for the entire cultural-historical heritage individually as follows (for cultural goods) (Matić, 2008):

- Grade 1 (insufficient quality) – not for tourist presentation,
- Grade 2 (satisfactory quality) – local tourist importance,
- Grade 3 (good quality) – regional importance,
- Grade 4 (very good quality) – wider regional importance,
- Grade 5 (excellent quality) – national tourist importance (Matić, 2008).

Evaluation was carried out for each object or site individually, and grades were obtained on the basis of:

1. analysed scientific and expert literature,
2. field research of the available sites and a visit to the museum and monastery "Gorica" in Livno,
3. data obtained from the "Kupreško" Forest Management Area, Kupres Forestry, which has an insight into the entire Kupres municipality area.

Each individual cultural good has been evaluated on the basis of the aforementioned scale of importance on the local, regional and national level or it has been established that there are no conditions for tourist presentation of a cultural good.

Table 1: Tourist valorisation of archaeological sites

Archaeological	Tourist position	Artistic value	Environment	Attractiveness	Level of construction	Integration into the tourist wealth	General tourist value
Hill-fort at Poponac (Pogana Glavica)	3,10	1	1,50	2,30	1	2,30	1,86
Small and hill-fort in Vrila	2,10	1,50	2,50	2,30	1	2,30	1,95
Hill-fort at Crljenac in Ravanjska vrata	2,10	1,50	2,50	2,30	1	2,50	1,98
Hill-fort in Ravno, east of Ravanjska vrata	2,10	1,50	2,50	2,30	1	2,50	1,98
Guardhouse at Kupreška vrata	1,50	1,50	2,50	2,30	1	2,30	1,85
Archaeological remains in Otinovci	2,10	1,50	2	2	1	2,50	1,85
Medieval town Stržanj	1,50	1,50	2,50	2	1	2,30	1,80
Average rating	2,07	1,42	2,28	2,21	1	2,38	1,89

Archaeological sites – The valorisation of cultural-historical heritage in the group of archaeological sites shows that their general tourist value is 1.89, indicating that these sites are not for tourist presentation currently and are significant only at the local level. A great problem of these sites is rather difficult accessibility and neglect, there is no road to these localities. Another great problem is the fact that the site Stražarnica (Guardhouse) at Kupreška vrata and Medieval town Stržanj are mined. The hill-forts in the village of Ravno have a greater share in terms of ambience and integration into the tourist wealth, since in this area there are remains from all the historical periods, and the best known are the stećak tombstones in Ravanjska vrata. The level of construction and artistic value is low at all localities.

Table 2: Tourist valorisation of the spatial units and landmarks

Archaeological sites	Tourist position	Artistic value	Environment	Attractiveness	Level of construction	Integration into the tourist wealth	General tourist rating
Roman roads in Kupres (Three directions)	1,50	1,50	2,50	3,50	1	2,50	2,08
Stone tumuli at Dvorišta in Ravno polje	2,10	2	2,50	2,30	1	2,50	2,06
Prehistoric settlement near Jelanj in Vukovsko Field	2,10	1	2,50	2,30	1	2,50	1,90
Earth tumuli in Kupreško Field	2,50	2,50	3,50	3,50	1	3,50	2,75
a) Site Dokanova Glavica – tumulus 37*	2,10	2,50	3,50	2,50	1	3,50	2,51
b) Site Pustopolje – tumulus 16*	2,50	2,50	3,50	3,50	1	3,50	2,75
Average rating	2,13	2	3	2,93	1	3	2,34

* The findings from the Dokanova glavica site (tumulus 37) and Pustopolje (tumulus 16) are kept in the Gorica Monastery Museum in Livno.

Spatial units and landmarks – Based on the valorisation of the sites listed and some of the important monuments, their average value is 2.34. Currently they are important only at the local level. Earth tumuli in Kupreško Field have somewhat higher value and especially the site Pustopolje – Tumulus 16 whose remains are preserved and kept in the Gorica Monastery Museum and their general value is 2.75. In addition, the abovementioned sites stand out with their integration into the environment, tourist wealth and are attractive at the regional level, which is confirmed by the tumulus remains located in Livno. In terms of construction the sites are at a low level. Roman roads are very difficult to find since they are mostly underground and covered by grass.

In the 1980s, the archaeologist Benac was engaged in the exploration of prehistoric earth tumuli in Kupreško Field, the most important tumulus being: Pustopolje site - tumulus 16 (Figure 1). The dimensions of the tumulus were 31m x 27.5 m. It was divided into 4 segments. The most important finding was in the segment A. The entire tumulus surface was encompassed by excavation of the segments B and D. A wooden tomb was found under the

layers of earth. The boards were interconnected extremely well so that the wooden case was originally almost hermetically sealed.

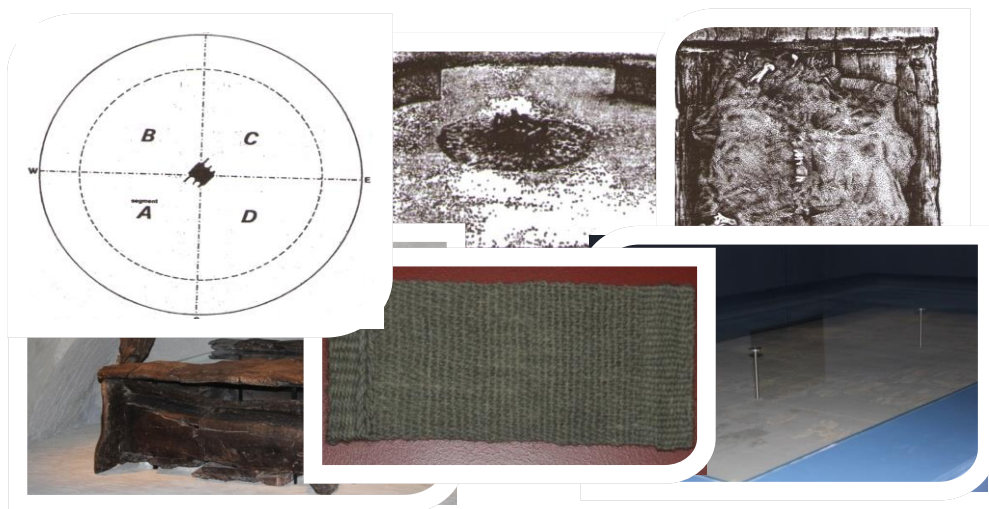


Figure 1. Pustopolje – Tumulus no. 16, discovered findings (Benac, 1986; Ćavar, 2012)

The upper boards were bent at the edges as they were a canopy of a house (a posthumous house for the deceased). The central crossbar was made from wooden sleds with a series of buttons for tying. The tomb was covered with grass. A human skeleton in cramped position was found in the tomb on an animal skin, covered by a quite preserved cloth. It is interesting that the bones were preserved in the tomb thanks to conservation, and even one muscle and beard hair. The deceased was buried with no clothes or jewellery. It is believed that one of the tribal or noble leaders was buried there, and the tumulus was built by the community of cattlemen that shepherded their flocks in the Kupreško Field. C-14 analysis of the wood from the tomb construction showed that the age was 3660 ± 120 (1670 ± 120 B.C.), which corresponds to the analysis of the early Bronze Age pottery from Dokanova Glavica (Benac, 1986).

Table 3: Tourist valorisation of the churches and other sacral structures

Archaeological sites	Tourist position	Artistic value	Environment	Attractiveness	Level of construction	Integration into the tourist wealth	General tourist rating
Church remains (Crkvina) in Ravno	2,10	1	2,50	2,30	1	2,30	1,86
Church remains (Crkvina) in Gornje Vukovsko	2,10	1	2,30	2,30	1	2,30	1,83
Church remains (Crkvina) in Turjača lake	2,10	1	2,50	2,30	1	2,30	1,86
Basilica in Otinovci from 5 th ct.*	3	2	3,50	3,60	2	3,50	2,93

Holy Trinity Church from the 15 th ct.*	3	2	3,50	3,60	2	3,50	2,93
St. Ivo Church in Otinovci from 19 th ct. *	3	1	3	2,30	1	3	2,21
Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God Church in Donje Vukovsko *	2,50	2,50	3,50	3,60	3	3,50	3,1
Average rating	2,54	1,50	2,97	2,85	1,28	2,91	2,38

* The Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H has made a decision on declaring the Basilica from the 5th century, Holy Trinity church from the 15th century, Saint Ivo church from the 19th century in Otinovci and Annunciation church in Donje Vukovsko national monuments.

Churches and other sacral structures – The overall rating of the churches and other sacral structures is 2.38, which indicates the importance of these cultural goods at the local level. The reason for the low grades is in the fact that some of the church remains are completely ruined or neglected. The foundations of the Basilica from the 5th century and the Holy Trinity church from the 15th century with an average grade of 2.93 and the Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God church in Donje Vukovsko with an average grade of 3.1 are almost at regional level for tourist presentations. The aforementioned cultural monuments also have the best tourist position, environment, and integration into the tourist wealth and are the most attractive cultural goods in this group.

Basilica from the 5th (?) century and the Holy Trinity church in Otinovci – In the village of Otinovci, at the foot of the Stožer Mountain (1758 m) there is a three-nave basilica, most probably dating from the 5th century, and a medieval three-nave basilica, i.e. the Holy Trinity church, built on its foundations. The early Christian complex, a basilica with a narthex lobby and ancillary rooms, occupied the surface of approximately 330 m². It is oriented in the northwest-southeast direction along the longitudinal axis. Four underground burial chambers were found that had been destroyed. In November 2007, the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a decision declaring the archaeological site a national monument – **the remains of the late antique basilica from the 5th century, the remains of the Holy Trinity church from the 15th century and remains of the Saint John the Baptist church from the 19th century on the same foundations, and the movable heritage from the site – stone fragments** (Figure 2a and 2b) (The Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H, www.kons.gov.ba - 12/4/2012). Gudelj believes that the Holy Trinity church is equal to the foundations of the early Christian basilica, since the dimensions of the Holy Trinity church and the early Christian complex (basilica with vestibule) are approximately the same. St. Ivo's church was moved to the north, even though the constructors from the 19th century kept the width and the orientation of the older buildings. By uniting the basilica and the vestibule they built a more spacious church with a unique interior (Gudelj, 2000). The archaeological findings are preserved and remains of buildings were partially reconstructed and this archaeological site is envisaged to be an open-air archaeological park (Gudelj, 2000). Figure 2a Figure 2b

After archaeological excavations the village road was restored in order to have easier access to the newly built St. Ivo's church in Otinovci and so that all the interested visitors could see the archaeological findings discovered so far. There is a Parish house nearby the restored St. Ivo's church, where the movable heritage from this site is kept. The Otinovci archaeological site, although declared as a national monument ten years ago, has not been

included into the tourist offer of the town of Kupres yet. Adequate protection and tourist valorisation is needed to make this archaeological site visited, especially in the summer.



Figure 2a and 2b Remains of the Basilica from the 5th ct. (?) and Holy Trinity church in Otinovci (Ćavar, 2012)

In November 2007, the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H issued a decision declaring the Archaeological Site - Otinovci with the remains of churches from the 5th, 15th and 19th century, in Kupres municipality, to be a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Monument consists of the archaeological site - the remains of the late antique basilica from the 5th century, the remains of the Holy Trinity church from the 15th century and the remains of St. John the Baptist church from the 19th century on the same foundations and movable heritage from the site (stone fragments)¹.

The Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God church in Donje Vukovsko (1862) was built on the site called Crkvine, in the village of Kudilji - Donje Vukovsko. The village is 12 km away from Kupres. The rural settlement Donje Vukovsko is not very well connected

¹ Internet: www.kons.gov.ba – (12/04/2012);

<http://aplikacija.kons.gov.ba/kons/public/nacionalnispomenici?search=idgrad:undefined:144>, (7/10/2017).

to the town of Kupres, since the roads have poor quality and are paved only to Kukavičko Lake, and from Kukavičko Lake there is a macadam road leading to the church.

At the beginning of the first decades of the 16th century, Orthodox population moved into the Kupres plateau, with them the priests came too. The construction of the first Orthodox churches began in the second half of the 19th century: Church dedicated to the Holy Trinity in Blagaj near Kupres, the Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God church in Donje Vukovsko - which was built in 1862 (and built or rebuilt in 1864) and the church dedicated to the Saint Nikola in Ravno, which was built in 1911. This church represents the only preserved Orthodox church in the Kupres municipality area².

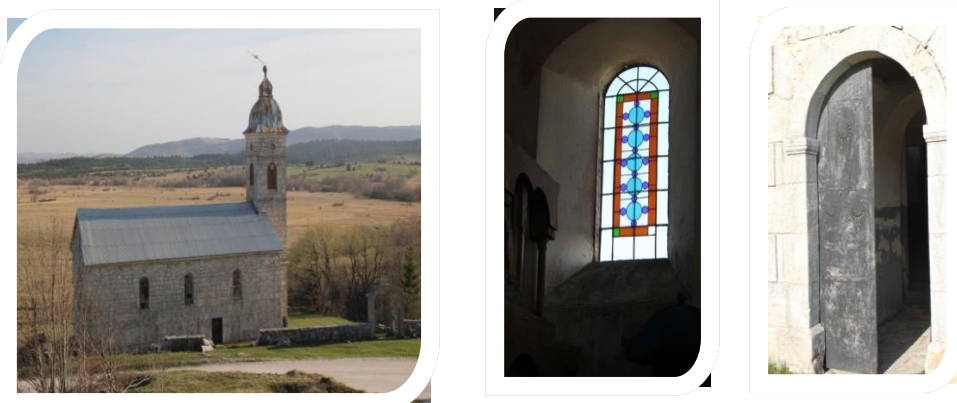


Figure 3. The Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God church in Donje Vukovsko (Čavar, 2012.)

The Orthodox church of the Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God was damaged in the past war in B&H and has not been used since. In November 2007, the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H issued a decision declaring the Architectural Unit - Orthodox Church of the Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God in Donje Vukovsko, in the Kupres municipality, a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina³.

The national monument, the Orthodox church of the Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God, located in Donje Vukovsko, is quite difficult to access since there is no adequate road connection. A major problem is also the absence of signposts to direct potential visitors to this significant national monument. It is particularly difficult to reach the remote rural areas in the municipality of Kupres in the winter period, therefore it would be necessary to provide basic infrastructure (roads, signposts, lighting around the church) before protection and tourist valuation.

Cultural monuments – most of the cultural goods from this group have great importance not only at the local, but also at the regional level with the average grade of 2.99. The grade would have been higher if these cultural goods had been more appropriately preserved, rather than left to decay and if they were more accessible in terms of transport. The most valuable cultural goods are the medieval necropolis of stećak tombstones and especially prominent with its ornaments is the stećak necropolis at Ravanjska vrata whose

² Internet, www.kons.gov.ba – (12/04/2012)

³Internet, www.kons.gov.ba - (12.04.2012.);

<http://aplikacija.kons.gov.ba/kons/public/nacionalnispomenici?search=idgrad:undefined:144>, (7/10/2017)

general tourist value is 3.5 with regional importance. In addition, this necropolis of stećak tombstones received the highest grade of 4.50 and 5 in the segment of attractiveness, ambience and inclusion into the tourist wealth, since many remains from all historical periods were recorded in this area. The Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H made a decision to declare the stećak necropolises Ravanjska vrata – Upper and Lower necropolis national monuments. The cultural monuments Old Town Kupres and Vrepc̆ev han have the lowest average tourist value, with the grade of 1.78, as these monuments are familiar only from the literature.

Table 4: Tourist valorisation of the cultural monuments

Archaeological sites	Tourist position	Artistic value	Environment	Attractiveness	Level of construction	Integration into the tourist wealth	General tourist rating
Stećak necropolis Ravanjska vrata – Upper and Lower necropolis *	2.50	4	4.50	5	1	4.50	3,5
Stećak necropolises at Kupreško Field	2.50	3,50	4	4,50	1	4	3,25
Stećak necropolises at Vukovsko Filed	2,50	3,50	4	4,50	1	4	3,25
Stećak necropolises at Ravanjsko Field	2,50	3,50	4,50	4,50	1	4,50	3,41
Stećak necropolises at Riličko Field	2,50	3,50	4	4,50	1	4	3,25
Old Town Kupres and Vrepc̆ev Han	1	2,20	1	3	1	2,50	1,78
Public administration building from 1913.*	3.10	2,50	2,50	2,50	2,20	2,50	2,55
Average rating	2,37	3,24	3,50	4,07	1,17	3,71	2,99

* The Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina has made a decision to declare the stećak necropolis Ravanjska vrata – Upper and Lower necropolis as a national monument, the State Administration Building from 1913 is on the petition list for national monuments.

Medieval stećak necropolises – stećaks are the stone tombstones, with various shapes, which were, as a nationwide custom, carved and put up throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in the neighbouring territories of Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia from the end of the 12th until the end of the 16th century. The largest number of stećak tombstones is in B&H, where 59 593 stećak tombstones are recorded. Interesting decorative and symbolic reliefs are carved on the sides of a considerable number of monuments (Bešlagić, 2004). In western parts of Herzegovina and in some parts of western Bosnia (e.g. Kupres), as well as in many parts of Dalmatia, the name "mašet" is commonly used for these monuments, the name most likely comes from the Italian word "massetto" (big stone) because this name is used in western regions where there might have been the influence of Italian language (Bešlagić, 1971; Lovrenović, 2009). More recently, while researching the high fields of the Kupres municipality, Lovrenović found 40 necropolises and more specimens of isolated monuments, with a total of 1 055 stećak tombstones recorded. The most dominant are the plates – 572, there are 315 chests and high chests, 69 ridged tombstones, 97 fragments and amorphous monuments and only 2 crosses. The ornamentation of the stećak tombstones of the Kupre Plateau is relatively rich and includes ornaments, social and religious symbols, and figural scenes: borders, rosettes, stylised lilies,

a star, a crescent, a cross, a hand with a sword, a buckler with a sword, a grandfather's cane, hands, a wheel, hunting, figures of humans and animals, etc. Figures of humans and animals appear 28 times on 25 stećak tombstones from various necropolises. The tournament, which has features of Western European origin, and is represented in Herzegovina on stećak tombstones in Kupres, is illustrated 6 times on 6 monuments. The stećak tombstones can be placed in the period between the end of the 14th and the beginning of the 16th century (Lovrenović, 2009). The stećak tombstone necropolises are at the following locations: 1. Ravanjsko Field, 2. Vukovsko Field, Upper and Lower stećak necropolis at Ravnjska vrata, 4. Riličko Field and 5. Kupreško Field. In more detailed research of this area Bešliagić identified 1 055 stećak tombstones (Bešliagić, 1954). The stećak necropolis Ravanjska vrata is the most important necropolis of the Kupres plateau. Ravanjska vrata is a passage about 100 m wide which connects Vukovsko and Ravanjsko Field. The **Upper necropolis at Ravanjska vrata** is directly connected to the Lower necropolis. The necropolis has 25 tombstones (Bešliagić, 1954).



Figure 4. Ravanjska Vrata – Upper stećak tombstone necropolis (Bešliagić, 1954; Čavar 2012)

An outstanding example is the **Monument no. 12** – ridged tombstone with the base, well carved and preserved, only slightly sunken. The ridge is slightly bent and has eaves on all sides. It is ornamented on each side. On the southeast side there is display of a tournament of the two knights on horseback. On their heads there are caps finishing with spikes, and they have swords in their hands. The knights with the horses are in arcades, that is, they are framed by upright columns, which are connected with arches. The middle column is double and above it there is an addition carved in the shape of the stylised cross or a lily (Figure 4). On the northwest side there is also a scene of two human figures (a man and a woman) in the arcades. The figures are separated by columns, like on the first side, which are connected by arches. On the southwest side there is a stylised plant carved. On the

roof surface there are two rosettes carved with eight petals and a half-moon between them facing up with its opening. On the back there is a spirally shaped ribbon (Bešlagić, 1954). On October 26, 2010, the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H made a decision to declare the **Historical area a national monument – The prehistoric hill-fort and stećak necropolis Ravanjska vrata (Upper and Lower necropolis)** (Internet, Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H www.kons.gov.ba -12/4/2012). The national monument has the total of 68 stećak tombstones in the Upper and Lower necropolis⁴.

Some of the stećak tombstones in the Ravanjska vrata necropolis and in other necropolises of the stećak tombstones along the Kupreško Field have preserved ornaments and can be identified, but many have been destroyed due to severe weather conditions. The ornaments are poorly visible or not at all visible, many stećak tombstones have sunk into the ground, and some have been moved. Some necropolises of stećak tombstones are especially inaccessible since they are located near minefields, such as the stećak tombstones necropolis "Rastičevska mašeta" located near the rural settlement of Rastičevo, which is a major problem for tourist valorisation and protection.

POSSIBILITY OF APPLYING GIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF KUPRES MUNICIPALITY

The Geographical Information System, abbreviated GIS, in the strict sense is a computer tool for creating and analysing geographical objects, that is, phenomena and events in space. GIS technology integrates common database operations, such as browsing and statistical analyses, with visual geographical analyses based on cartographic illustrations (Pahernik, 2005).

The possibility of applying GIS for the development of tourism in this area is important because it is possible to store all information about cultural-historical monuments and rich natural heritage in a simple and transparent way. In addition, maps created with the GIS tools can, with all the other information, become more detailed thematic tourist maps with a specific tourist offer included in the map, e.g. accommodation, restaurants, gas stations, other possibilities. It is important to include the possibility of protecting already known cultural-historical monuments and natural heritage into the database, and to record some new archaeological research, which are to be done in this area. It is necessary to identify the aforementioned monuments, to raise awareness of the local population about the need of protection of the rich cultural-historical heritage and to include it into the tourist offer. GIS tools have produced thematic maps showing the location of individual cultural goods in Kupres municipality. Thematic maps show the cultural goods that are the most valuable and attractive, that is, which should be included into the tourist offer, and in order to be able to present and analyse them clearly, they will be divided into four groups, the same as during valorisation. For the Municipality of Kupres and Kupreško ŠGP Forest Management Area there is a scanned topographic map 1:25000, which serves as a raster format for the base layer in GIS to which vector layers are added. Kupreško ŠGP acquired

⁴ (Internet, www.kons.gov.ba – (12/04/2012); http://aplikacija.kons.gov.ba/kons/public/uploads/odluke_hrv/Kupres_Ravanjska%20vrata%20HRV.pdf, (7/10/2017))

GIS-hardware and software to have a more detailed overview of this vast terrain⁵. Their data were used in the preparation of this paper.

It is necessary to create the Registry of Cultural-historical goods, which is a key part of the entire information and documentation system of protection and management of cultural goods, and it is not possible to ensure the full implementation of the cultural goods management system without its integrity and accessibility. The information system involves the development of GIS in order to (identify cultural goods) connect the solutions for registered cultural goods with the geographical map and related cadastral parcels, which is necessary if adequate protection of cultural-historical heritage is wanted. The use of GIS tools in geospatial analysis and spatial presentation of cultural-historical goods and visualisations on the map enabled, from a geographical point of view, the presentation and valorisation of cultural-historical goods at the local level (Kupres municipality), regional level (Kanton 10) and national level (FB&H). Cataloguing the entire cultural-historical heritage can be done by using the GIS tools for the entire B&H with interactive atlas (pictures, promotional video and a text for each cultural good that wants to be presented and offered to potential tourists).

The first group consists of archaeological sites which are presented on one thematic map entitled **Arrangement of archaeological sites in Kupres municipality (Figure 5)**.

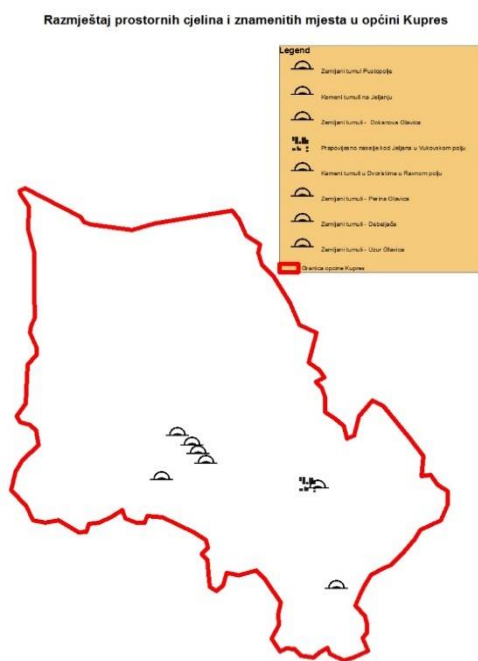


Figure 5. Arrangement of archaeological sites in Kupres municipality

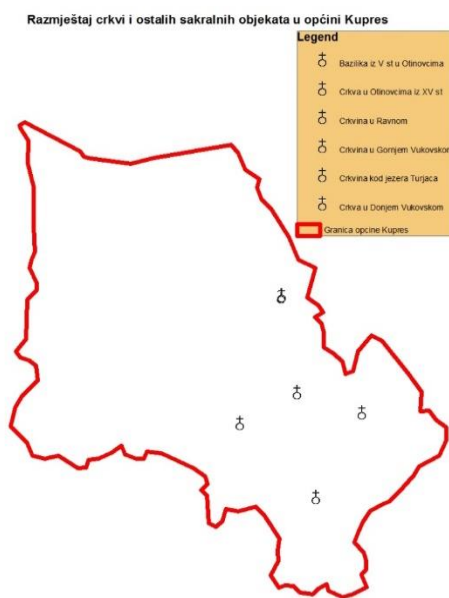


Figure 6. Arrangement of spatial units and landmarks in Kupres municipality

⁵Internal data of the Forest Management Association "Hercegbosanska šume", d.o.o. Kupres, Forestry "Kupres", 2012

until 2015). Without a local tourist board and a specific plan for the development of a tourist attractive destination, only private ski resorts, hotels, restaurants and additional facilities can be developed seasonally in the winter period, since they are based only on economic grounds. Due to all of the above mentioned, there is no organized, marketed and designed tourist offer, which is necessary for further sustainable tourism development. On the basis of the above mentioned, it can be concluded that cultural- historical monuments in Kupres municipality are not tourist attractive, and in addition they are not valorised and presented in terms of tourism. The number of people who will pay for the trip to see the stećak tombstones in Kupreško Field, the remains of the churches in Otinovci or the church in Donje Vukovsko is almost negligible. From the prehistoric period, the most significant in terms of tourism are the archaeological findings of the earth tumuli in Kupreško Field, which are preserved in the Museum of the Gorica Monastery in Livno. There were no significant remains from the Illyrian and Roman periods. From the medieval period, the most significant are the stećak tombstones located in several locations of the Kupres Plateau and the remains of churches, but the aforementioned findings from the medieval period are not adequately presented or valorised in terms of tourism, and some are located near mined areas, which is a major problem in tourist valorisation. The tourist offer in the Kupres municipality during the summer period should be enriched by the inclusion of cultural-historical monuments, so that more frequent visitors of the Kupre Plateau (tourists and owners of second homes) can visit them. It is necessary to valorise the cultural-historical monuments in a way to invests capital resources in their maintenance, presentation, marketing, and construction of basic infrastructure. With the construction of the basic infrastructure, the relevant social attractive factors of Kupres municipality should be easily accessible (in terms of transport and online). Social attractions, especially national monuments, should be the basis for local and regional tourist offer, especially in the summer. All cultural-historical goods are located in rural settlements that are affected by the depopulation process or are empty, and with investment in socially attractive factors, there is a possibility of revitalizing the economy in rural areas. In this way, they could offer and sell traditional and eco-friendly products to the visitors, as this is traditionally a cattle-breeding area.

The most significant monuments of cultural-historical heritage in the Kupres municipality and at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina are currently "Stećak tombstones" - medieval tombstones listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. From Bosnia and Herzegovina, 22 necropolis of stećak tombstones are included in this list, among which is the necropolis of stećak tombstones - Ravanjska Vrata, near the rural settlement of Ravno in the municipality of Kupres⁶.

From the previously mentioned cultural-historical monuments of the Kupres municipality, the most significant ones at the national level should be singled out. The cultural-historical sites of Kupres Municipality which have been included in the World Heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina and have been declared National Monuments by appropriate decisions are as follows⁷:

⁶ Internet: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504>,

http://kons.gov.ba/nacionalni_spomnenici/svjetsko_bih/default.aspx?id=6189&langTag=bs-BA, (7/10/2017)

⁷ Internet: <http://aplikacija.kons.gov.ba/kons/public/nacionalnispomnenici?search=idgrad:undefined:144>, (7/10/2017)

1. Archaeological site Otinovci with the remains of the churches from the 5th, 16th and 19th century,
2. Prehistoric area, Prehistoric hill-fort and necropolis with stećak tombstones Ravanjska Vrata (Lower and Upper necropolis),
3. The architectural unit of the Orthodox Church of the Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God in Donje Vukovsko

The most significant cultural-historical heritage needs to be identified in the space, valorised in terms of tourism, presented and undoubtedly included into the tourist offer, with special emphasis on the values of the stećak tombstones that are spread throughout the Kupres plateau. Their position and distribution in space are presented on the map (Figure 9). They should certainly be an integral part of the local and regional tourist offer.

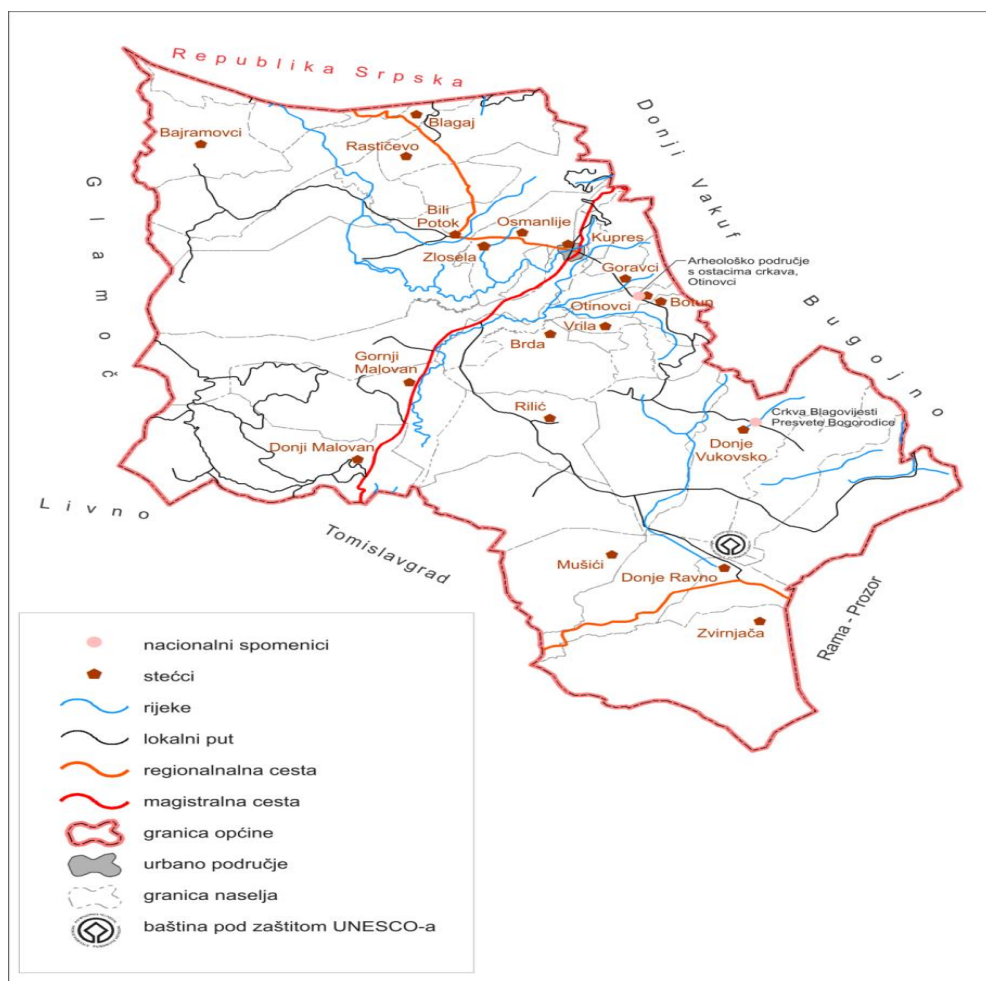


Figure 9. Spatial layout of national monuments and necropolises of stećak tombstones in Kupres municipality (Čavar, 2019)

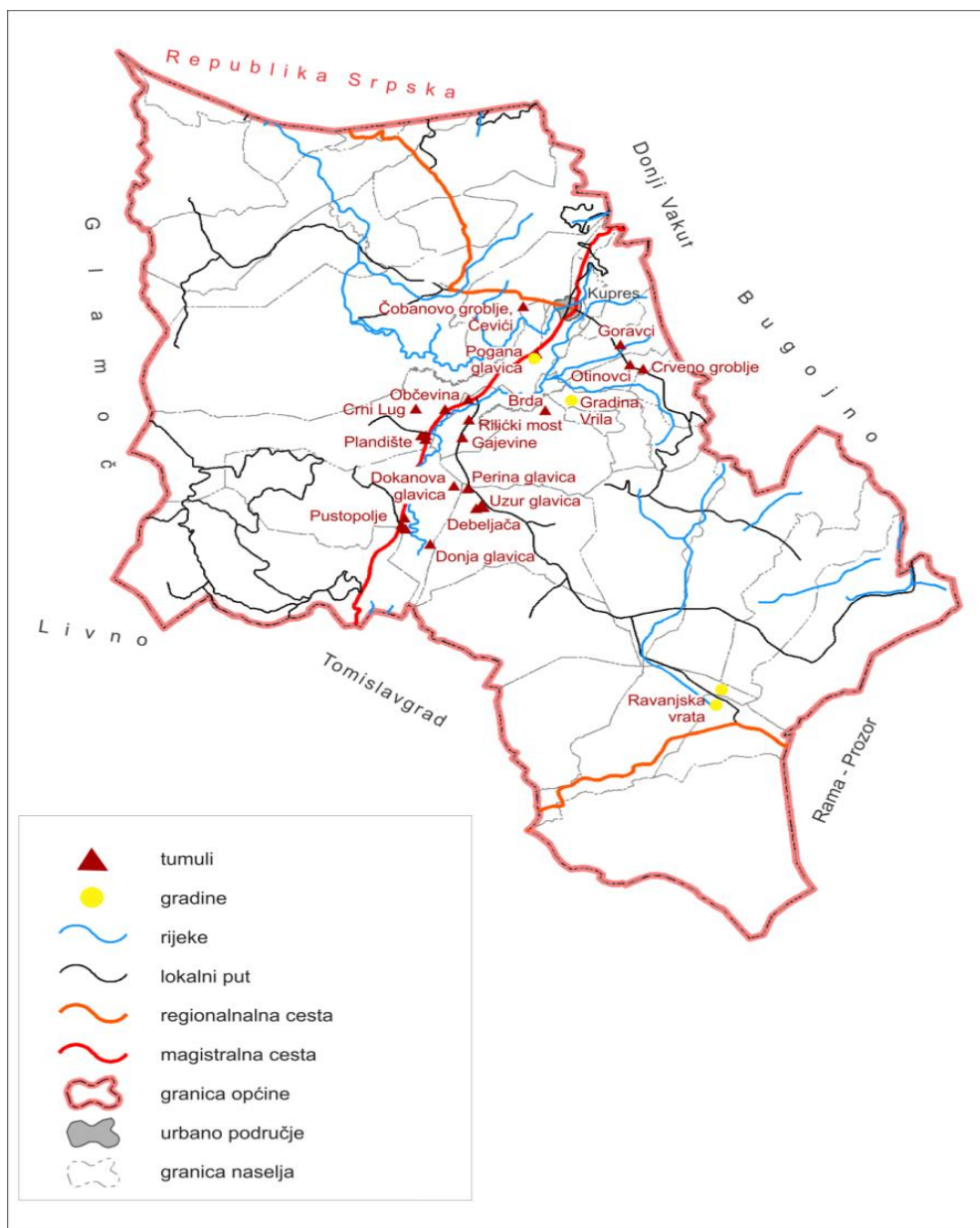


Figure 10. Spatial distribution of earth tumuli and prehistoric hill-forts in the Kupres municipality (Čavar, 2019)

It is also necessary to mention the important and tourist attractive earth tumuli in Kupreško Field which are placed on the petition list of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H.

Earth tumuli in Kupreško Field – Earth tumuli are the most interesting archaeological findings from the prehistoric period in Kupreško Field. They are widespread only in the area of Streljanica and Občevina, that is, between Rilić, Gornji Malovan and Kupres (Basler, 1953), as well as along the Kupres Field near the main road M16 and regional road 418 and towards the rural settlement Rilić. According to more recent surveys of the position and condition of the earth tumuli made by the Kupres Municipality Cadastre and the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H in 2013, they have identified the remaining earth tumuli in the field. They made a list of identified and recorded earth tumuli and hill-forts in the Kupreško Field, and in this research identified a total of 55 earth tumuli and 2 hill-forts, Vriila hill-fort and Pogana Glavica (Ivić et al., 2013). According to Basler, there are four identified prehistoric hill-forts in the Kupres Plateau, two in Kupres Field, then two in the locality known as Ravanjska vrata, between Vukovsko and Ravanjsko Fields. Earth tumuli are on the petition list of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H⁸, which means that they could be declared National Monuments in the future (Ćavar, 2019). They should certainly be included into the local and regional tourist offer.

Events, institutions and culture of life and work are also not clearly defined, valorised and identified as tourist attractions, and for the above reasons are not included into the tourist offer of the Kupres municipality.

The tourist offer of the Kupres municipality should be designed in such a way that the natural and cultural goods are valorised and presented in terms of tourism, and presented in detail on thematic tourist maps, so that tourism on the Kupres Plateau could develop both in the winter and summer periods in accordance with sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

In the area of Kupres municipality and at an altitude of 1150 meters there are four karst fields, where the diverse and rich cultural-historical heritage of this region is distributed. About 30 sites of cultural goods have been recorded, ranging from archaeological sites from prehistoric times to significant sites dating from the 19th and 20th century. For easier and more transparent valorisation, cultural goods are divided into 4 groups. Valorisation has established that there are **seven archaeological sites** with local significance, but are not for tourist presentation, and these sites are quite inaccessible and severely neglected. **Six sites of spatial units and significant landmarks** have been identified, which are significant at the local level, although some cultural goods are also significant at the regional level due to their attractiveness. The most significant cultural good in this group is the site Pustopolje - Tumulus 16. **Seven sacral objects** were identified, and by the tourist valorisation of average values it was determined that they are significant at the local level. Individual sacral objects, e.g. foundations of the Basilica from the 5th century and the Holy Trinity church from the 15th ct. in Otinovci and the Church of the Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God in Donje Vukovsko, due to their attractiveness, their incorporation into tourist wealth and the ambience, are determined to have the value at the regional level by valorisation. These monuments were declared national monuments by the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H. The most significant is the group of **seven sites of cultural monuments** with 1055 stećak tombstones registered, which are distributed throughout the

⁸ Internet, <http://aplikacija.kons.gov.ba/kons/public/listapeticija/show/3595?return=&page=57>, (7/1/2018)

Kupres municipality area and they represent the unique cultural wealth of this region. The most significant specimens are the medieval necropolises of stećak tombstones Ravanjska vrata - Upper and Lower necropolis of stećak tombstones. During the valorisation, it was determined that the aforementioned monuments have the tourist significance at the regional level with the highest average rating, and were declared national cultural goods by a decision of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of B&H, which are under UNESCO protection.

The deterioration and damage of cultural goods was determined by the method of analysis and field research. Difficult accessibility and neglect pose a huge problem, there is no awareness of the local population about the need of protecting and preserving the culture and tradition, there are no projects and interest of the local community in including cultural goods into the tourist offer. The local population has not raised awareness of learning, protection and presentation of the cultural heritage with the aim of a sustainable use of available resources.

By identification and valorisation of the cultural-historical heritage in the Kupres municipality the conditions for the formation of a database have been created and by using the GIS tools overview maps have been made, with the distribution of individual cultural goods in Kupres municipality. Likewise, there is the possibility of further more detailed presentation. Based on these data, GIS tools and precise positioning, the basis for an attractive tourist offer could be made, which would contain all the cultural-historical heritage of this region. The combination of cultural and natural heritage would give a complete and clear idea of which tourist attractions Kupres municipality can offer to potential tourists. Creation of an interactive map for the entire heritage of the Kupres region would be of great importance for the planned tourism development in Kupres municipality.

The aforementioned cultural goods are located in rural settlements, which are partially abandoned or mainly inhabited by the older population, they are poorly connected to the town by local and macadam roads, and there is a danger of mines. The inclusion of cultural goods into the tourist offer implies better transport connectivity and revitalisation of the neglected rural areas.

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Author

Izabela Čavar, doctor of geographical science, senior assistant at the Faculty of Science and Education, University of Mostar. Assistant professor for subject Urban Geography. Participates in reserach connected to social geography, urban geography and tourist geography.