

THE FORTRESSES IN RN MACEDONIA IN FUNCTION FOR ENRICHING TO TOURIST OFFER

Nikola V. Dimitrov

Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics – Gevgelia, University “Goce Delcev” – Stip,
North Macedonia
nikola.dimitrov@ugd.edu.mk

Original Scientific Paper
10.5937/jouproman9-31818

Abstract: The tourist potentials of the medieval fortresses in RN Macedonia as a medieval heritage in the context of cultural and historical tourism are often neglected, but the practice in other European and even in Balkan countries shows that this segment of history can be used at a very high level. The purpose of this paper is to explore the fortresses in order to enrich the tourist offer in RN. Macedonia.

Archaeological excavations have identified about eighty medieval fortresses and other fortifications on the territory of the country.

The mentioned fortified settlements appear in different time periods from prehistory, through antiquity to the Middle Ages.

There is a generally accepted opinion that the formation of tourist cultural routes would lead to better protection and presentation of the cultural monument and their activation in use for tourist purposes.

The formation of a new tourist product is a big step in the formation of an attractive tourist offer, and in this case it is the Macedonian medieval fortresses.

In the framework of this paper, the research is aimed at a narrow selection of medieval fortresses that can offer attractive content to tourists.

The analysis and evaluation uses known and recognized qualitative - quantitative and comparative research methods, procedures, criteria and activities for tourism valorization.

Key words: *fortress, tourism, historical monuments, valorization, RN Macedonia.*

Introduction

Important for the identity of each community is the preservation of the architectural heritage with different

dimensions of historical, cultural, aesthetic, artistic and other values. This multidimensionality is a specific form of material cultural - historical heritage of great importance in terms of improving the resourceful tourist offer on the territory of RN Macedonia. In general, the geographical area of Macedonia has gone through a long multi-millennium historical development, through different periods from prehistory, antiquity, the middle ages, the Ottoman period, Yugoslavia, to the present day.

However, the subject of our research are the old medieval fortifications throughout RN Macedonia that have long since lost their former functions and today we can recognize them as cultural and historical objects with resources that represent a significant potential for sustainable tourism development.

The elements with which they possess these cultural-historical objects can be identified as potential values for cultural, economic and tourist development of the locality, the municipality and beyond. It is a fact that many of these facilities are in poor condition, but there are some that can or already have their tourist function.

The choice of the topic is inspired by the need to promote part of the cultural and historical monumental past of RN Macedonia, which is in large numbers.

In the Republic there are about eighty registered medieval fortresses located in all parts, and most often in river gorges, along lakes and on hills near today's cities. (Mikulčić, 1996, Koco, 1996).

The focus of the research is the evaluation and establishment of cultural tourist routes that aimed at protection and presentation of cultural and historical monuments, as well as their activation and use for tourism purposes. (Terzić, 2014; Mirić, Drešković, Avdić, Nežirović, 2017; Urošević, Aftić Rakitovac, 2017; Lečić, Mitković, Manić, 2017)

The formation of cultural and tourist routes on the medieval fortresses is the most promising way to form a new attractive tourist product that would be constantly presented during tourist tours around the country.

Our research initiates the creation of several thematic routes to visit a dozen medieval fortresses located in Povardarje, in the western and eastern part of RN Macedonia.

We mention that if the state undertakes strategic projects for conservation and reconstruction of medieval fortresses, then tourism nationally would receive much more content and of course material benefits. For this to be a reality, it is necessary to develop a Strategy for conservation and restoration of medieval fortresses in RN Macedonia for the purpose of tourism.

In our research we will focus only on fortifications that have been preserved and restored, fortresses that are part of urban settlements, located near cities, located on major highways, that have conservation and restoration reports and fortresses that

have important role for tourism promotion of the region.

Methodology

Evaluation of the tourist attraction of all those phenomena, objects and spaces that define the tourist value of medieval fortresses and fortified cities implies the systematic use of the following package of scientific quantitative and qualitative methods, such as: the method of observation; the historical method; statistical method; empirical method of cognition; analysis and synthesis; classification and comparison.

In order to adequately consider the subject of the research and to achieve the set goals, the procedure for tourist valorization is implemented by combining the above-mentioned scientific methods. (Du Cros Hilary, 2000; 2001; Kostić, 2011; Terzić, 2017)

In RN Macedonia there are 82 sites with remains of old fortifications, which are mentioned in various historical sources. Most of the fortresses are examples of medieval fortifications and monumental complexes that in the given period were part of the local and regional history and as such are part of the European cultural heritage. Everyone needs archeological research and then conservation, restoration, protection, valorization and tourist presentation.

The subject of our research are 14 medieval fortresses and fortified places for which we present a short description, supported by three tables, fourteen photographs and one map. For tourist evaluation we use methods with several indicators, from which four tourist cultural routes emerge.

Table 1. Overview of fortified places from the middle ages in R. N. Macedonia

s.n.	Municipality / City	Place (medieval name)	s.n.	Municipality / City	Place (medieval name)
1.	Berovo	Budinarci (Budingrad)	41.	Negotino	Demir Kapia–Koreznica (Prosek) *archeological complex of several sites
2.	Bitola	Bitola (Bitola, Butela, Pelagonia?)	42.	Ohrid	Godive
			43.		Ohrid (Ohrid)
3.		Dolno Oreovo	44.	Prilep	Pesochani (Debrica)
4.		Zivojno	45.		Varosh
5.		Zovik (Chemren)	46.		Debreshte, Gradishte (D' breshte, Deureti)
6.	Strezevo (Gabalarion)	47.	Desovo		
7.	Belica (Belica)	48.	Zrze (Zrze)		
8.	Makedonski Brod	Devich (Devich)	49.	Manastir (Morihovo?)	
9.		Zagrad (Rastesh?)	50.	Prilepec	
10.		Zdune (Zdun?)	51.	Treskavec (Treskav'c)	
11.		Izishte (Iz?)	52.	Probishtip	Zletovo (Zletovo)
12.		Modrishte (Modrich)	53.	Radovis	Radovish (Radovishte)
13.	Valandovo (Alavandovo)	54.	Shopur		
14.	Veles	Teovo (Babuna?)	55.	Resen	Evla (Vasilida?)
15.		Veles (Veles)	56.		(Prespa)
16.	Vinica	Vinica (Vinica)	57.		Stene (Petra?)
17.	Gevgelia	Gabrovo	58.	Sveti Nikole	Trstenik (Guriste?)
18.	Gostivar	Gorna Banica	59.	Skopje	Vodno (Crnce)
			60.		Kozle (Kozle)
19.		Gradec(Gradec,Polog?)	61.		Markova Sushica
20.		Kalishte (Sokol?)	62.		Matka (Matka)
21.		Srbinovo (Trnovo)	63.		Skopje(Skopia, Skoplje)
22.	Devar	Debar (Rahovnik)	64.	Chucher (Davina?)	
23.	Delchevo	Virce	65.	Struga	Zagradchani
24.		Dramche	66.	Strumica	Bansko (Termica?)
25.		Zvegor (Zvegor?)	67.		Kosturino (Vasilida?)
26.		Lukovica (Lukovica)	68.		Konche (Konche)
27.	Demir Hisar	Bucin (Bucin)	69.	Tetovo	Strumica (Strumica, Tiveriopolis)
28.		Gradishte (Dobrun)	70.		Dolna Leshnica
29.		Zelezec (Zelezec, Siderokastrum)	71.		Jugunovce
30.		Drenovo (Devol?)	72.		Leshok (Lechs`k)
			73.		Orashe (Sobri)
31.	Kavadarci	Resava (Tikves)	74.	Rogle	
32.		Arangel	75.	Stenche (Stena?)	
33.		Kicevo (Kicava)	76.	Stip	Krupishte (Raven?)
34.	Podvis	77.	Chreshka (Chreshe)		
35.	Kochani	Morodvis (Morovizd, Moroizvzd)	78.		Stip (Stipion, Stip)
			79. /82*/	Delchevo	Gradishte** (Grado, Armonija?)
36.	Kirva Palanka	Opila (Slaviste?)	Source: Mikulcic, Ivan (1996): Medieval cities and fortresses in Macedonia, book 5, MANU, Skopje, p. 390; Mikulcic, Ivan (1999): Ancient Cities in Macedonia, book 8, MANU, Skopje; * Archaeological complex consisting of 4 sites. According to this, the total number of medieval fortresses in the RNM is 82 ** Nacev, Trajce (2003) Archaeological research and conservation-restoration works on the archeological site Gradishte village Grad - Delchevo Collection of the Stip, National Museum IX-X, Stip 2003, p. 31-51.		
37.	Kumanovo	Gradishte (Lukovo?)			
38.		Kanarevo (Kozjak?)			
39.		Konuh (Konuh)			
40.		Mlado Nagorichane (Zegligovo)			

Table 2. Number of fortresses by tourist, statistical and geographical regions in RNM

Tourist regions <i>Spatial plan (2002-2020)</i>	Number of fortresses	Statistical planning region	Number of fortresses	Geographical region	Number of fortresses
Bregalnica	12	Vardar	8	Western	45
Kichevo - Brod	9	East	13	East	21
Mavrovo - Debar	1	Southeast	8	Vardar	16
Kratovo – Kriva Planaka	2	Southwest	14	Total	82
Ohrid - Prespa	7	Pelagonia	18		
Pelagonia	15	Polog	10		
Skopje – Kumanovo	10	Northeast	5		
Middle Vardar	10	Skopje	6		
Strumica - Radovish	6	Total	82		
Shara - Polog	10				
Total	82				

Source: https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medieval_fortresses_in_Macedonia; Spatial Plan of the Republic of Macedonia 2002-2020, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, 2004; State Statistical Office <https://www.stat.gov.mk/>; Dimitrov, N.V. & Koteski, C. (2015) Tourist geography, Stip; Koteski, C. & Dimitrov, V.N. (2018) National tourist geography, Stip

Note: Downloaded and adapted from the Map of Medieval Cities and Other Fortified Places in Macedonia showing 82 cities and other fortifications.

Geographical - historical characteristics of selected medieval fortresses

We divided the fortresses in tabular form by city municipalities, by tourist, statistical and geographical regions. The tables show that in the area of almost all city municipalities, in all ten tourist regions, in all eight statistical planning and in the three geographical regions there is one or more medieval fortresses (Table 1, 2).


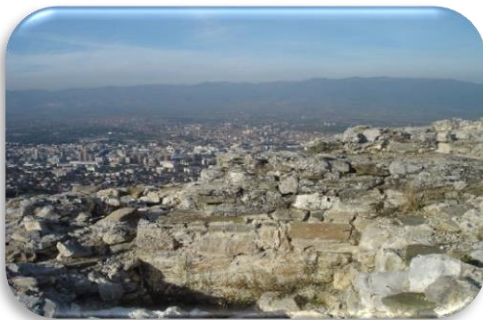
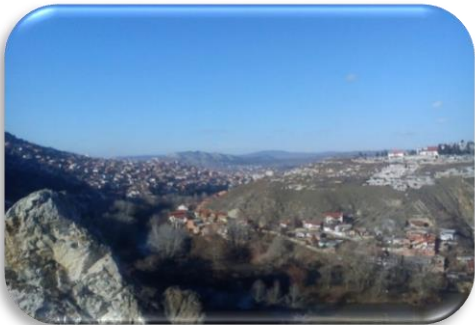
This confirms the geographical presence of medieval fortifications on the entire territory of the country, which is a good precondition for the development of tourism.

From 82 medieval fortresses and other fortified places, we decided to briefly present 14 of them.

Subject of our research are: Skopje Fortress or Skopsko Kale, Markovi Kuli or town Crnche, Veles Fortress or Veleshko Kale, Stip Fortress or Isar, Ohrid Fortress or Samuilova Fortress, Strumica Fortress or Carevi Kuli, Markovi Kuli or Markoiji

Kule (Prilep), Vinichko Kale or Vinica Fortress, Tetovo Kale or Baltepe, Kitino Kale or Kichevo Fortress, Markovi Kuli, fortress, border guard - feudal castle (between the village Kozle and Letevci), Archaeological Complex Demir Kapija (Stenae, Prosek), Gradishte (Grado, village Grado, Delchevo region) and Roman fortress or Roman castle (in the locality Gradishte, Peshtani).

Half of the fortresses have been conservation and renovated (Skopje Fortress, Ohrid Fortress, Vinichko Fortress, Markovi Kuli, Prilep, Gradishte, Grado, Roman Castle and Markovi Kuli - feudal castle), some are in the conservation and restoration phase (Carevi Kuli and Tetovo Fortress), fortresses for which there are reports for conservation and restoration (Shtip Isar, Kitino Kale) and fortresses for which a report for conservation and restoration is prepared (archeological complex Demir Kapija, Stenae, Prosek, Veles Fortress or Veles Kale). (See Table 3)

Short description	Photography
<p>Skopje Fortress - Kale is located on a high hill called Gradishte above the city of Skopje overlooking the river Vardar and was of strategic importance. The earliest known inhabitants of the place lived in the Neolithic. The fortress we see today was built in Byzantine times, in the 6th century. Throughout history, the fortress has been built, demolished and rebuilt many times by various conquerors. The Fortress or Skopje Kale today is one of the most popular places to visit in Skopje. The fortress has published a variety of tourist information material, information boards and other signage. The fortress offers a fantastic view of the city as well as the opportunity to reach the Old Skopje Bazaar from the city in a few minutes. In summer, concerts and theatrical performances are held here. (Mikulčić, 1996; Mitrevski, 2016; Travel guide Skopje, 2009, 2016;)</p>	
<p>Markovi Kuli or the town of Crnce - a fortress of the “zbeq” type of Skopje. It is located at the eastern end of the mountain Vodno. The oldest remains date back to late antiquity and date back to the Middle Ages. From the walls of the front tower there is a great view of Skopje. The site can be reached on the road Vodno - Sopsishte. New archeological excavations promise landscaping of the site and its valorization in order to enrich the tourist offer. (Mikulčić, 1996; Mitrevski, 2016; Travel guide Skopje, 2009, 2016;)</p>	
<p>Veles Fortress or Veles Kale lies 2 km south of the town of Veles, in the river strait at the mouth of Topolka in Vardar. The fortress is an elongated plateau, completely flattened at the top and with steep slopes, 50-60 m high above the two rivers. The beginnings date back to the late Roman period as a small roadside guard that controls gives important roads - the Vardar highway and the old road Veles - Prilep. In the Middle Ages, the role of the city grew as a church and regional center between the Middle and Upper Povardarie, Pelagonija and Bregalnica, until 1385 when it was conquered by the Turks, and most of the inhabitants moved. Insignificant activities in the fortress took place until the 19th century. (Mikulčić, 1996) There is a project and a report for restoration, but so far no funds have been provided for its realization. There is no tourist path to the fort. (Travel guide Veles, 2010)</p>	

Stip Fortress or Isar is a medieval fortress in Stip. It is located in the western part of the city where the rocky hill Isar rises, 150 meters high. It is surrounded by steep slopes, on the west side with the bed of Bregalnica, and on the south with the bed of Otinja. The oldest remains are from the late antique period, it is assumed that the fortress was built in the early Middle Ages, due to the defensive and strategic needs of the city that lay at its foot. The fortress seen today dates back to the 14th century. (Koco, 1996; Mikulčić, 1996) Today there is a marked path to the fortress. When a tourist visit to Stip, it is recommended to climb on it from where a beautiful view extends to the city of Stip, the rivers Otinja and Bregalnica, but also wider. Every year on the Isar Fortress, on the religious holiday "Holy Forty Martyrs", a religious holiday "Chetrse" is practiced. This unique holiday event in 2013 is inscribed on the UNESCO list as an intangible cultural heritage. The fortress is planned to be renovated and adapted for a tourist visit. (Travel guide Shtip, 2004, 2011; Dimitrov, Apostolova, 2018, 2018a)



Ohrid Fortress or Samuil Fortress is a medieval fortress in the city of Ohrid. The fortress is considered one of the oldest fortifications preserved in Macedonia. The oldest remains of a settlement at this place date back to the Early Copper Age. Fortress for city was mentioned in the 4th century BC, then in the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods until the middle of the 19th century. It has undergone many repairs throughout history. Today, the Ohrid Fortress is a trademark of Ohrid and is part of all tourist tours around the city. (Mikulčić, 1996; Travel guide Ohrid, 2009, 2015)



Strumica Kalle or Carevi Kuli is a fortress that rises above the southwestern periphery of Strumica. From the fortress it is possible to see and control the roads and the whole Strumica valley. The oldest remains of a settlement at this place date back to prehistoric times - early copper age (chalcolite), and for a city from ancient times to the Middle Ages, ie to the 17th century when the fortress was completely abandoned. (Mikulčić, 1996; Travel guide Strumica, 2003; Pandeovski, Stoev-Trnkata, 1967). According to the project for reconstruction of the site Carevi Kuli, it will be reconstructed and presented for a tourist visit with cultural activities (Old Town song "Under the towers of Strumica", Festival of old town songs and serenades "Under the towers of Strumica", etc.). (Rujak, 2016)



Markovi Kuli is located near the city of Prilep. Remains have been discovered on the site, which indicate the existence of an early antique settlement. In the Roman period this small settlement expanded, and in the Middle Ages it was a fortress where the palace of King Volkashin and Marko was located. In the 15th century, life in the settlement disappeared completely. The site and the surroundings abound in numerous denudation forms (pillars, mushrooms, slabs, balls, ossicles, depressions), which represent an extraordinary sculpture of the relief. Due to that, the site has been declared a Monument of Nature. From the city to Markovi Kuli leads a touristly arranged, marked and lit path. From the Towers there is a great view of Prilep and Prilep field. (Mikulčić, 1996; Travel guide Prilep, 2014)



Vinica Kalle or Vinica Fortress is a fortified settlement from the Neolithic and Late Antiquity. It is located on the southwest parth of the city of Vinica, about 70 m high, along the road Vinica - Leski. The site dominates the area from Vinica, and has a beautiful view of the city and the riverbed of Bregalnica. During the tourist visit to Vinica, the fortress is included in the obligatory tourist route. (Gabić, 1954; Mikulčić, 1996)



Tetovo Kale or Baltepe (Medeno Kale) - a fortress is an important archeological site located at the top of Baltepe just above Tetovo 2 km from the city center. It is a fortress with 9 towers and two monumental gates. The construction originates from the period of weakening of the central, sultanate government and the strengthening of the local pashes. The founder was Recep - Pasha in 1796, and then in the nearby palace lived his son Abdurrahman Rasim - Pasha in 1831-1843. After that, the building was abandoned and devastated. From the Kale stretches a beautiful panorama to the city of Tetovo and the Polog valley. (Mikulčić, 1996; Stefanovski, Jovanovski, 1969; Abazi, 2016)



Kitino Kale or Kichevo Kale is an archeological site in Kichevo of the type of fortified settlement from the Bronze and Iron Age, as well as from the Middle Ages. It was named after Princess Kita, the sister of King Marko, who lived in the castle of Kale. The hill rises about 20 meters from the downtown area. Remains of the fortress are observed, but do not dominate the surroundings. (Mikulčić, 1996; Koco, 1996).



Markovi Kuli - fortress - border guard. It is a narrow built rocky hill with steep sides in the Strait of Pchinja, around which the river turns in a big arch. It rises 70 m above the river. Today, the Skopje-Veles highway passes on that saddle. Locality dates back to late antiquity as a border castle. A new fortress was built in the Middle Ages, a feudal castle defended by a massive tower. (Mikulčić, 1996) Today, part of the fortress has been reconstructed and is on tourist can be visited.



Demir Kapija, Prosek or Stenae, is an archeological complex of old fortifications from the Archaic period, which were located in the Demir Kapija gorge. In the gorge there is a whole system of fortifications on the stone massifs on both sides of Vardar, among which the most famous are Markova Kula or Markov Grad, Kale - Strezov Grad and Crkvishte on the left side and Ramnishte on the right side of the river. Remains of ramparts have been preserved from all of them. On which of these ramparts is Prosek there is an opinion that it is Markova Kula or Kula - Strezov Grad. (Mikulčić, 1996; Koco, 1996; Malakovski, 1998). From all of them stretches a beautiful view of the gorge and the river Varda. All sites have been archaeologically excavated, but have not yet been conserved and reconstructed.



Gradishte (Grad) is a locality from the time of the enolite located on a hill above the village Grad in the Municipality of Delchevo in the eastern part of Macedonia. "Gradiste" is dated as a late antique city of Armonia. It is located 2 km from the highway Delchevo - Berovo, there is a signal next to it. The localitet is evidenced by findings of continuous life from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages (Mikulčić, 1996; Koco, 1996). Today, the Three Towers of the fortress have been preserved and restored and is a tourist destination and be a curiosity to visitors.(Nacev, 2003)



Roman fortress in the locality Gradishte near the village Pestani, Ohrid region. Stone walls of the citadel rise high on the hill near Gradiste. The fortress offers a beautiful view of Lake Ohrid and Mount Galicica. Today the Roman castle is connected by a path to the pile settlement in the Bay of Bones, giving tourists an unusual opportunity to travel through time, from Roman times to the Neolithic.<http://muzejohrid.mk/muzej-na-voda>



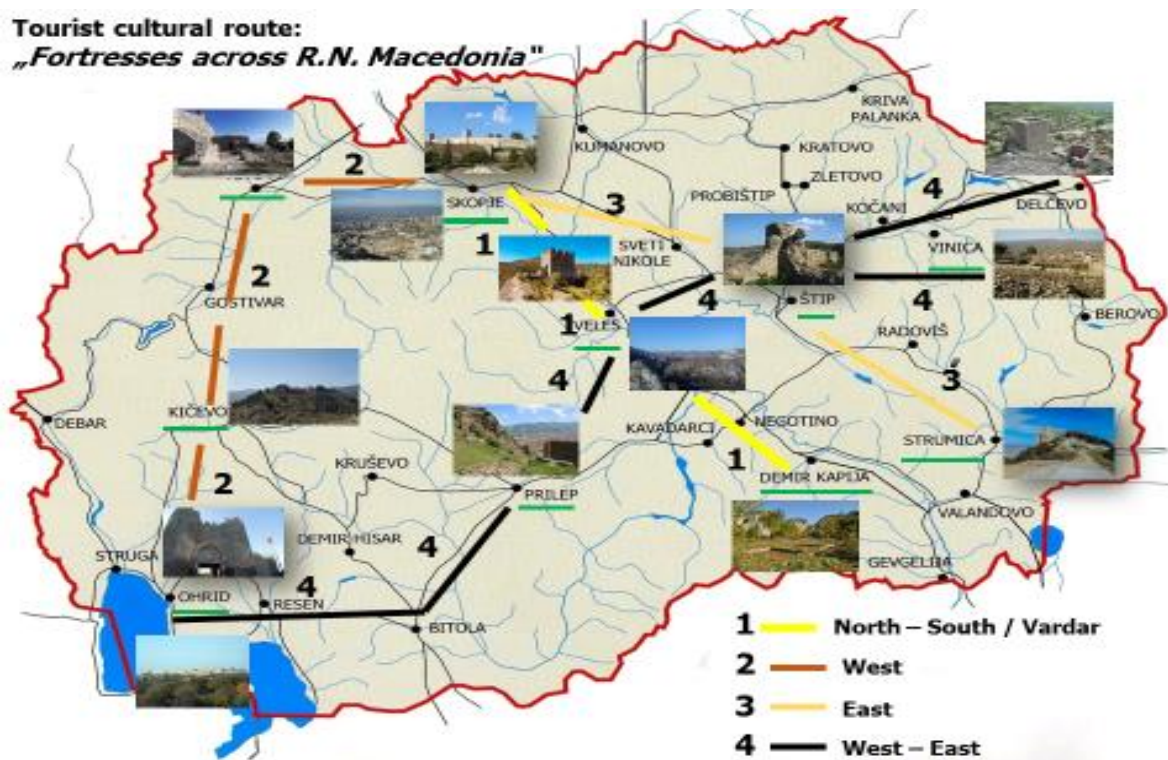


Table 3. Valorization of the medieval fortresses in RN Macedonia

Medieval fortresses like tourist motives	Tourist value of:						General tourist value
	Location	Artistic value	Tourist value of the environment	Attractiveness	Level of construction and equipment	Embedding in the wealth of tourism	
Skopsko Kale	5	5	5	5	5	5	5,0
Markovi Kuli or the town of Crnche*	4	3	4	4	3	5	3,8
Veles Fortress or Veles Kale**	4	2	3	3	2	4	3,0
Shtip fortress Isar*	5	2	4	4	3	5	3,8
Ohrid Samoilova Fortress	5	5	5	5	5	5	5,0
Strumica Kale or Carevi Kuli*	5	4	4	5	4	5	4,5
Markovi Kuli - Prilep	5	4	4	5	4	5	4,5
Vinica Kale	5	4	4	4	4	5	4,3
Tetovo Kale*	5	3	4	4	3	4	3,8
Kitino or Kichevo Kale*	5	3	3	3	2	4	3,3
Markovi Kuli – town of Kozle	4	3	3	3	4	4	3,5
Demir Kapija, Steane, Prosek**	4	2	4	3	1	4	3,0
Gradishte or Grad	4	3	3	3	4	3	3,3
Roman Castel	4	4	5	4	4	3	3,7

Value: 0-1 weak, 2 adequate 3 has potential; 4 very good, 5 excellent.

* Fortress during conservation and reconstruction and for which there is a report for conservation and reconstruction; ** Fortress in which there is no conservation and reconstruction and for which a report for conservation and reconstruction is prepared.

Research results

Tourist valorization of the location is a qualitative - quantitative procedure of complex assessment of natural and anthropogenic values that are important for the development of various tourism activities and tourism, ie its attractiveness and potential for creating tourism products. (Maksin-Misic 2008; Stankovic 2012). It also implies reevaluation of the attractiveness of that location for tourism development and the formation of tourism products in relation to changes in tourism requirements. (Jovicic and Ivanovic 2006; Cesibovic 2006). The general elements of tourist valorization of cultural monuments are increasingly explored from the perspective of tourism research and evaluation of the tourist value of the physical location, so that the existing literature reports the increase of elements and factors applicable in this field (Tomka 2005; Terzic 2014).

Valorization of tourism is the determination or assessment of the values of tourist attractions, ie. assessment of the level of attractiveness of all phenomena, objects and landscapes that, among other characteristics, have the property of attracting tourists and that can be served to tourists in order to meet their (cultural or recreational) needs.

The most effective method of valorization of tourism is a combined qualitative-quantitative method, whose basic principles are synthesized through the possibility of comparing the tourist attraction of the same type (eg monument with monument), determining assessment elements, comparison that includes the most established motives, and applicability and the principle of complementarity. The procedure for valorization of tourism in the medieval fortresses mentioned in this

paper is carried out through evaluation of the geographical location of tourism, artistic value, tourist value of the environment, attractiveness and recognition of tourism, level of construction and equipment and installation in the wealth of tourism (Kostic, 2011). The values for each parameter of tourism valorization have a range between 0 and 5.

Two pragmatic propositions emerge from our evaluation of medieval fortifications:

-The first proposal is tourist promotion of four tourist cultural routes:

1. Route North - South or Vardar: Skopje - Kozle - Veles - Demir Kapija;

Route West: Skopje - Tetovo - Kicevo - Ohrid;

3. Route East: Skopje - Stip - Strumica; and

4. Route West - East (Ohrid - Prilep - Veles - Stip - Vinica - Gradiste;

- The second proposal is the preparation of a Strategy for conservation and restoration of medieval fortifications in the Republic of Macedonia. Macedonia in function of tourism. The strategy would include several sub-strategies prepared by experts in the field of archeology, construction, architecture, culture, tourism and others.

Conclusion

The selected medieval fortresses are tourist attractions in their respective regions and in RN Macedonia. Unfortunately, some of the investigated fortifications are not recognized at all as significant attractions for the tourism economy. Due to this fact, it is very interesting to analyze the potential of these unique historical sites as selected fortresses that can contribute to the overall development of tourism in these municipalities, regions and the country as a whole.

One of the most important concluding remarks is that the analyzed fortresses have a particularly high level of attractiveness and attractive environment. The dominant role is played by the Skopje and Ohrid fortresses, which receive the highest excellent value, primarily due to the complementarity of all the listed relevant values important for the development of tourism. The fortress Careni Kuli, Markovi Kuli in Prilep, Vinicko Kale are of very good value, and the Stip Isar, Tetovo Kale, etc. have high potential values. The other forts have slightly lower values due to the poor level of maintenance, some of them are without conservation and restoration activities and do not have adequate promotion. In general, all the mentioned fortresses have great historical significance on a national level, and accordingly a high tourist potential. This is one more reason why agencies and institutions for local and regional development must include these determinations in their tourism development strategies, travel agencies to promote the four tourist cultural routes and the state to start drafting a Conservation and Restoration Strategy as soon as possible, of the medieval fortifications in RN Macedonia in function of tourism.

References:

1. Mikulcic, I. (1996) Medieval cities and fortresses in Macedonia, book 5, MANU, Skopje (in Macedonian)
2. Koco, D. (1996) Archeological map of the Republic of Macedonia, MANU, Skopje (in Macedonian)
3. Terzić, A. (2014) Development perspectives of the cultural route "Fortresses along the Danube" for enriching the function of tourist offer of Serbia, Belgrade (in Serbian)
4. Mirić, R., Drešković, N., Avdić, B., Nežirović, S. (2017) Tourism potentials of selected medieval fortresses in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Revija za geografiju – Journal for Geography*, 12-2, (in Serbian)
5. Urosevic, N., Aftic Rakitovac, K., (2017) Models of valorization of cultural heritage in sustainable tourism, Zagreb (in Croatian)
6. Lečić, N., Mitković, P., Manić, B., (2017) Tourist valorization of medieval fortresses along the Danube river: From the Serbian perspective. *Facta Universitatis, Architecture and Civil Engineering*, Vol. 15, N° 3, pp. 465-475 (in Serbian)
7. Du Cros, H., (2000): Planning for sustainable cultural heritage tourism in Hong Kong. Unpublished report to the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, Hong Kong.
8. Du Cros, H., (2001): A new model to assist in planning for sustainable cultural heritage tourism. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, vol 3, issue 2.
9. K.Kostic (2011): Tourist valorization - concept, goal, elements, Faculty of Science, University, Novi Sad (in Serbian)
10. Mikulcic, I. (1999) Ancient cities in Macedonia, MANU, book 8, Skopje (in Macedonian)
11. Nacev, T. (2003) Archaeological research and conservation-restoration works on the archeological site Gradishte village Grad - Delchevo Collection of the Stip National Museum IX-X, Stip (in Macedonian)
12. Spatial Plan of the Republic of Macedonia 2002-2020, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, 2004; (in Macedonija)
13. State Statistical Office: Regions in the RN. Macedonia
14. Dimitrov, N.V. & Koteski, C. (2015) Tourist geography, Stip; (in Macedonian)
15. Koteski, C. & Dimitrov, V.N. (2018) National tourist geography, Stip (in Macedonian)
16. Mitrevski, D. (2016), Skopsko Kale, Ministry of Culture of R. Macedonia, Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Skopje, (in Macedonian)
17. Travel guide Skopje, Trimaks, 2009, 2016(in Macedonian)
18. Travel guide Macedonia, Trimaks, 2011, 2015(in Macedonian)
19. Travel guide Veles, Cultural Treasure, Municipality of Veles, Trimaks, 2010(in Macedonian)
20. Travel guide Stip, Tourist information with a map of the town, Trimaks, 2004, 2011(in Macedonian)
21. Dimitrov, V.N., Atanasova, S. (2018) Beginnings, conditions and perspectives of tourism in the Shtip, *Journal of Process Management – New Technologies, International (JPMNT)*, Vol. 6, N°2.
22. Dimitrov, V.N., Atanasova, S. (2018a) Conditions and valorization of tourism in Shtip, an old town in the Republic of

- Macedonia, International Journal of Latest Engineering and Management Research (IJLEMR), Volume 03 – Issue 02, February.
23. Travel guide Ohrid – Balkan Pearl, Trimaks, 2009, 2015(in Macedonian)
 24. Travel guide Strumica, Strumica and the surrounding region, Municipality of Strumica, 2003 (in Macedonian)
 25. Pandevski, M., Stoev – Trnkata, G. 1967, Strumica and the Strumica region throughout history. Strumica (in Macedonian)
 26. Rujak, Z.(2016), Carevi Kuli, Ministry of Culture of R. Macedonia, Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Macedonian Archaeological Journal, Skopje. (in Macedonian)
 27. Travel guide Prilep, Trimaks, 2014 (in Macedonian)
 28. Garic, M. (1954)Archaeological sites in Macedonia, MKDM, I, N^o.9, Skopje (in Macedonian)
 29. Stefanovski, Z., Pavlovski, J. (1969). Tetovo (monograph). Assembly of the Municipality of Tetovo. (in Macedonian)
 30. Abazi, Lj. (2016) Tetovo Kale, Ministry of Culture of R. Macedonia, Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Skopje (in Macedonian)
 31. Malakovski, G. (1998) "Demir Kapija: from prehistory to today", Demir Kapija (in Macedonian)
 32. Maksin-Mičić, M. (2008) "Tourism and Space", Singidunum University: Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management, Belgrade (in Serbian)
 33. Stanković, S. (2012) "Tourist valorization of cities", Local self-government in planning and arrangement of space and settlements, Belgrade (in Serbian)
 34. Jovičić, D., Ivanović, V. (2006) "Tourism and Space", Ton Plus, Belgrade(in Serbian)
 35. Šećibović, R. (2006)"Introduction to the geography of tourism with the basics of spatial planning", Center for Publishing of the Faculty of Economics, Belgrade (in Serbian)
 36. Tomka, D. (2005)"Cultural goods: from creation to tourism ", Faculty of Sports and Tourism, Novi Sad (in Serbian)

Internet sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_castles_in_Macedonia
<http://muzejohrid.mk/muzej-na-voda>
https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medieval_fortresses_in_Macedonia<https://www.stat.gov.mk/>