

# Uniqueness and potential of the Region to attract the tourist's interest

Project CB006.2.21.150 Sustainable Utilization of Cultural Heritage in Dupnitsa and Kriva Palanka

Lead Partner: Municipality of Dupnitsa

Project Partner: Municipality of Kriva Palanka

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## Uniqueness and potential to attract the tourist's interest

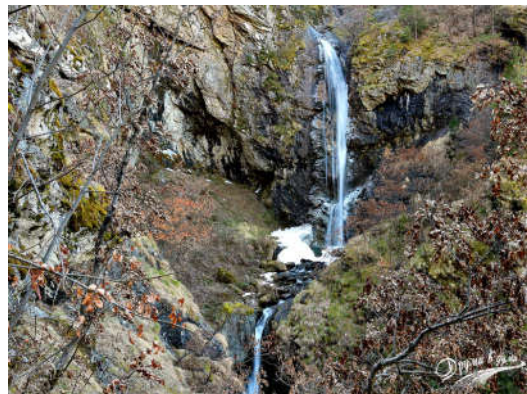
- **The town of Dupnitsa** is a starting point for tourist routes to the Seven Rila Lakes, the Rila Monastery, h. Ivan Vazov, Skakavitsa village, the Skakavitsa waterfall and others. The town is a starting point for tourist routes to the Seven Rila Lakes, the Rila Monastery, Ivan Vazov, Skakavitsa village, Skakavitsa waterfall and others. Among the main attractions that attract the interest of tourists in the municipality of Dupnitsa are:
- **The Stob pyramids** - Stob's pyramids are rock formations formed from easily collapsing rocks and soil, as a result of flowing water from rain or snowmelt, which has washed away the upper rock or soil layer. The Stob pyramids are located above the village of Stob, in the western part of the Rila mountain. They represent a complex composition of sharp and needle-shaped, and for the most part pyramidal or conical landforms.



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- **Ovcharchensky waterfall** - It is located in the northern foothills of Rila, near the village of Ovchartsitsi and the town of Sapareva Banya. This is the lowest waterfall in Rila – at 900 meters above sea level. It is located along the course of the Gorica River, collecting water from the slopes of Kriva Sospa, Kamenna Mandra and Kabul peaks. The waterfall is 39 m high and forms a terrace in its lower part. It is reached by the eco-path, starting from the upper end of the village of Ovchartsitsi and reaching the area of Sokolov view at 1200 meters above sea level. In addition to the large waterfall, six smaller waterfalls with a height of 5-15 meters can be seen upstream of the river.



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- **The "Goritsa" ecopath** is located at the foot of the Kabul section of the Rila and begins in the village of Ovchartsitsi (1145 m above sea level), Sapareva Banya municipality, Kyustendil district. The village is located 72 kilometers from the capital Sofia and is located in close proximity to the municipal center. The "Gorica" eco-path is not very difficult. This fact and the presence of numerous natural attractions, as well as the relatively small tourist flow in the area, make it one of the most attractive routes for family tourism.
- **Bistrice waterfall** is located in Rila mountain, near Bistrice village, Dupnitsa municipality. The waterfall was formed on the Bistrishka River, which is full at any time of the year, and has a height of about 35m the bed of the picturesque river Gorica. The walk to the waterfall and to the Samokovishte area takes about 4-5 hours on foot in both directions, with the starting point being the upper end village of Bistrice, where there is a parking lot.

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- **Ecopath to the Samokovishte area** - The eco-path connects the village of Bistritsa with the area of Samokovishteto. Its length is 9 km, it is well marked, there are informational signs about the route and the areas it passes through. There are 13 established picnic or relaxation areas with gazebos, fire pits, outdoor tables and benches. The route passes through the Bistrishka waterfall, and above the Samokovishte area you can see the natural phenomenon Moreni. The ecopath and the localities in the area hide many curious myths, legends and quite true stories that are little known. The mayor of the village of Bistrica Kiril Ognenski, who not only knows but also loves every stone and tree in the area, wanted to introduce us to them.
- Along with the natural features and prerequisites for the development of tourist activity, the cultural events that are organized in the municipalities have the potential to attract more and more young people to the Kyustendil region.

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- **"Kyustendil Spring"** - The "Kyustendil Spring" holiday is based on the solar cult, the worship of the sun as a deity, whose life-giving power awakens the winter-sleeping nature, unlocks the springs, brings birds and flowers, bestows the peasant with hope of fertility, the entrepreneur with expectation of good profit, every man with health and happiness.
- **"Cherry Festival"** - An exhibition of various varieties of cherries is presented. Works of art dedicated to the cherry are on display. In the hard-working hands of Kyustendil chefs, this fruit is widely used - beautiful pies, jams, compotes and syrups from cherries adorn the competition tables, and Kyustendil residents and guests of the city are amazed to discover the diversity of the cherry world.
- **Festival of Fertility** - This autumn festival of abundance is a legacy of the first national fruit competition in 1896. Artistically arranged fruit and vegetable tables decorate the square and surprise guests of the event with the ideas and ingenuity of their owners and authors. It has a competitive nature with prizes for the best and attractive presentation of the participants. It is accompanied by a rich folklore program.

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- **Panagia holiday** - On August 15, an iconographic exhibition is held, accompanied by an exhibition of ritual breads, the so-called Virgin cakes, which emphasizes the semantic connection of the icon with bread - material carriers of spiritual realities. The exhibition has a competitive nature for the most authentic recreation of the tradition and compliance with the church canon, with which the participants are encouraged to confirm, popularize and preserve the cultural and historical heritage.



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- **Many events are organized in the North-East region of North Macedonia, the most famous of which are:**

- **"Tumba Fest", Kumanovo** - Festival of a newly created Macedonian folk joke song. A unique festival of its kind in the world in which current and traditional relations in the society in which we live are presented in a humorous way.

- **"Days of Comedy", Kumanovo** – The festival "Days of Comedy" has promotional character and is held every year in the first half of the month of February in Kumanovo. Participation in the festival taking professional theater companies from Macedonia international theaters and independent theater productions. The festival is a unique way to directly etableanje Comedy Macedonia, to take shape today as the international festival.

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- **"International Jazz Festival" in Kumanovo**
- **"Pivtijada" , Kumanovo** - On the occasion of the great Christian holiday of Epiphany - Epiphany, held in the Kumanovo event "Pivtijada" on the eve of the feast is elected godfather of the event and there are boiled aspic.
- **"Golden Days" in Kratovo** - Kratovo - also known as the city of towers and bridges, hosts and organizes one of the most entertaining festivals of music and culture. Kratovo has managed to establish itself as one of the most famous cities where there is a perfect synergy of entertainment, culture and history. This festival is a great opportunity for everyone to learn about the history of beautiful Kratovo and fill their soul with wonderful music, Kratovo gourmet specialties and excellent entertainment.

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- There are several cultural events held in Kriva Palanka that have potential to attract young tourists:
- **Art Colony "St. Joakim Osogovski"** - The art colony "St. Joachim Osogovski" is held each year from September 5 to 20, beginning September 5, 1987. The support that this artistic manifestation received from His Holiness the Metropolitan of Polog - Kumanovo, Mr. Cyril, meant the opening of the gates of the monastery of Sts. Joachim Osogovski on the art and the unexplored forms of the spirit. The beginning was marked by the restoration of the eight-century-old tradition of the monastery as a cultural, educational and spiritual center.



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- **International Theater Festival "St. Jokim Osogovski"** - Municipality of Kriva Palanka in cooperation with The Center for Culture and the Monastery of Ss. Joachim Osogovski, within his programmatic commitment to promoting potentials through the development of culture, organizes the International Theater Festival "St. Joachim Osogovski". The festival is traditionally held every year from September 15 to 22.



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- The first edition of the festival, in 2009, featured Skrb and Uteha Cultural Center and NTFK. Act of Veles, Republic of Macedonia; National Theater Sterija, Vrsac, Republic of Serbia; Nevena Kokalova Municipal Drama Theater, Dupnitsa, Republic of Bulgaria; Kyustendil Municipal Drama Theater, Republic of Bulgaria; and Drama Studio at NI Center of Culture Kriva Palanka, Republic of Macedonia.

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- **International Folklore Festival "St. Joakim Osogovski"** - The International Folk Festival "St. Joakim Osogovski" takes place in Kriva Palanka on August 25, 26 and 27. The organization of the festival, which includes a parade of participants and an outdoor program, is the responsibility of the Municipality and the Cultural Center of Kriva Palanka.
- Previous editions of the festival included participants from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Romania, with a tendency to increase the number of external participants in subsequent editions.

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- **PITIJADA** - On the occasion of the celebration of the great Christian holiday Epiphany – EPIC, the Municipality of Kriva Palanka organizes the event "PIVTIJADA". The event was organized for the first time in 2010. The event takes place on January 19 on the square in Kriva Palanka, after the ceremony of throwing the cross into the waters of Kriva Reka.



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