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*Self assessment of doctoral thesis on the topic:*

**MIRUSHA WATERFALLS AND THEIR IMPLICATION FOR TOURISM  
DEVELOPMENT IN KOSOVO**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Mirusha waterfalls are characterized by specific natural values that many years ago were typical location for tourist exploitation of the local population and the community in general. With the establishment of the Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection, in 1974, the protection of Mirusha waterfalls was listed as one of the priorities at the time. The protected status of the Canyon of Mirushe river was inadequate in comparison with the values and orientations of that time socio-political communities having into consideration that this environment was very small for conceptual tourism development of this area, something that put into a question the survival of the most important natural values the area, because it was put under protection.

In 1982, the Institute for Nature Protection, in accordance with the Law for Protection of SAPK (Official Gazette 44/16 and amendments 15/81) prepares justification and initiates the procedure for extending the boundaries, changing the status to protect the canyon river Mirushe placing them under protection and its springs. In the above mentioned period protection had regional character and as such was guided by three municipalities: Malisheva, Klina and Orahovac, and in 2003 was signed a memorandum for protection and management of Canyon Mirushe between the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Municipal Assembly of Klina and Malisevo. Meanwhile, on 23.05.2012, with the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo no. 06/75, in accordance with Article 92, paragraph 4 and article 93 paragraph (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 19 of Law no. 03 / L-233 for protection of nature, under Article 4 of the Regulation no. 02/2011 for branches of administrative responsibility in the Prime Minister's Office and the ministries which were modified and complete with regulations no. 07/2011 and Article 19 of work regulations of the government of the Republic of Kosovo no. 09/2011.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, at the meeting held on May 23, 2012, adopted the following **DECISION DECLARING THE NATURAL MONUMENT OF SPECIAL**

IMPORTANCE (hereinafter referred to as "Natural Monument"), with area of 598.4 hectare. For the decision of renaming, crucial was the fact that this area except that owns waterfalls that are very attractive and interesting, also has other special values that increase the value and importance of Mirushe falls and make it attractive.

With the entry into force of the government's decision to declare a natural monument of special importance Mirushe waterfalls and spatial planning, authorizations for managing are passing at the central government. In order for the monument of nature to be more attractive to visitors, requiring all events inside and outside (near) of the same, to be planned, controlled and managed in the direction of sustainable development. Mirushe waterfalls represent a rare natural phenomenon with special natural, scientific, cultural and tourist importance. According to the IUCN, the area is classified as "Protected landscape" while Mirushe river belongs to the category "monument of nature".

This doctoral thesis deals with research activities related to finding ways for greater activation in the area of Mirushe waterfalls the touristic offer in Kosovo. To enable it, crucial was the study of different literature on this space, and field observations. We have used resources from tourism, geographical, geomorphological, hydrological studies and published literature that are of a particular importance for the explanation and correct interpretation of the many problems that exist in this topic. The main work for realization of this topic is made in the country, where collaborating with some experts in this field are realized several expeditions to places to get to know natural processes and phenomena. First taken into consideration is the analysis of the tourism and economic valuation and shape of the attractiveness of this small area of Kosovo in order to determine the value that this place has to have in tourism of 598.4 km<sup>2</sup>.

Although it is a small area, however its tourism and economic value is high. It is made an attempt to find the right spatial aggregator for the level of tourist visits taking into consideration the psychological, cultural, economic situation, of the potential tourist clientele. All mentioned parameters in tourism have variable values because, according to our considerations tourist clientele appears in tourism demand where are involved more demographic strata who qualify for these types of tourism.

The proposals which are aimed on the overall economic development of Kosovo, are directed and motivated by many external factors that claim for Kosovo to be able to increase the capacity of employment of the population, economic development should focus on medium and small enterprises, and tourism.

The work will include the following components:

- It will focus on research into inspected territorial space, not only from a theoretical point of view, but will also include applied usage of the results.
- In the work through a growing number of methods and techniques of collecting, sorting and processing data in order to obtain more verified results and practical application sphere, will be performed analysis and evaluation of the surrounding space of Mirushe waterfalls in Kosovo.
- From the touristic development point of view, it will process the wider surrounding environment of area of Mirushe waterfalls.
- The work will cover basic values with which disposes the area of Mirusha as development potential, as well as their importance in the touristic offer of Kosovo. These values will cover the natural, anthropogenic and infrastructure values with special emphasis on sustainable tourism development.
- There will be performed an analysis, respectively research of the characteristics of the tourism market in which Mirusha with the surrounding area may occur with suggested branded products. Regarding this, the market will be processed in terms of the offer, demand and promotional activities.
- Special importance by the candidate will be given to defining the basic elements of the touristic product of Mirusha and inspecting the possibilities for developing sustainable types of tourism in that area.
- In the work it will be conducted an analysis of existing developmental policies with their own proposed measures to promote tourism in that area.
- Particularly will be highlighted applied dimension of the work through the processing of perspectives for development of the area of Mirusha by performing a comparative analysis of

examples from the surrounding environment and the world as best practices, which is pertaining to this issue.

### ***1. Actuality of the topic***

It can be concluded that the topic which is subject of processing is extremely actual and relevant as for expanding the field of interest to study about tourism, same as for practical applications in the area of Mirusha and beyond. The objectives set out in the work and their compliance with the research work have scientific and practical justification. With this work, will not only be allowed the deepening of scientific thought, but it will enable to increase the direct economic benefits of tourism development in this area. The work will also have a special contribution to the intensification of the touristic development of this region as well as the entire territory of Kosovo. The comprehensive analysis and evaluation of potential opportunities from natural and anthropogenic nature of the work, will constitute a solid basis for the establishment of touristic developmental guidelines, not only for the examined area of Mirusha, but similar spatial units in Kosovo and beyond. It is important for further future implementations of similar studies which are necessary.

### ***2. Subject and purpose of research***

As a subject of scientific interest in this doctoral dissertation the Mirushe waterfalls are treated as an attractive resource in the area of Kosovo. This problem is elaborated in a way to review current research activities and in that context to provide a critical overview. Also, the survey covers problems of the treatment of this matter in the scientific sense as a theoretical possibility for understanding and applicability to other spatial units.

The main aim of the research in this paper is on a scientific basis to obtain inputs for rational inclusion of all potentials of Mirushe waterfalls in touristic activity, on the interest of intense social and economic development.

Doctoral dissertation as the main work hypothesis determines the development of tourism in the waterfalls of Mirushe river in terms of extraordinary touristic potential that this area possesses, and not sufficiently utilized. This means that the **basic hypothesis** is as follows:

- "**Mirushe Waterfalls were a significant factor in the development of tourism in Kosovo.**"

**Support hypotheses** are deriving from basic hypothesis. They are the following:

- The territory of Kosovo, with its favorable touristic - geographic location is an important factor in the development of tourism in the Balkans.
- Kosovo and the territory of Mirushe waterfalls have a significant tourism potential of natural and anthropogenic species to create attractive touristic products.
- Opportunities that Kosovo and the area of Mirushe waterfalls have in disposal, provide independent performance of the tourism market through the creation and development of more selective types of tourism
- Tourism in Kosovo and the area of Mirushe waterfalls is characterized with the potential to attract a quality tourist clientele of more regional and international spatial units.
- Municipalities that are located around the area of Mirushe waterfalls have significant social features that allow the determination of a solid base for the inclusion of human capital in the process of tourism development.
- Protected spatial units in the area of Mirushe waterfalls show favorable properties on the development of sustainable forms of tourism.
- The extent of the touristic utilized area of Mirushe falls is relatively low, where there is a need for its intensification in the future.

- Promotional measures represent creative category with opportunities to promote sustainable tourism development in the territory around the Mirushe waterfalls. They allow the creation of attractive and competitive tourist branded products.

### ***3. The thesis is consisted as follows:***

The first part (**Research Methodology**) of this paper is an elaboration of theoretical - methodological approach of the research. In that light especially processed are the subject, objectives and tasks of research, methods and methodological principles used in the research process. The starting point of the research is setting up and processing of the expected results and the theoretical and operational assumptions.

The second part of this dissertation titled **The basic theoretical and operational components that should precede the analysis from the point of view of market treatment**, are processed the basic theoretical and operational components that precede the analysis from the perspective of the market treatment. Specifically examined are the general development directions of tourism in global and regional terms, the concepts and models of exploring tourism markets, as well as the problems that arise in modern tourism markets.

This starting point is important to accurately determine the direction of research within the work and obtaining relevant results.

The third part of the dissertation entitled **The touristic-geographical position of Kosovo** relates to the determination of touristic and geographical position on the territory of Kosovo. This is made possible using the axiological approach, ie determining the contact, transition and polyvalence of the whole territory. This means establishing the basis for tourism development of internal and external nature, related to the spatial location of this area. The opportunities for tourism development in the area of Kosovo primarily depends on its position in the touristic and geographical environment. Determining the spatial units (regions, zones and countries) that are found in the surrounding environment of the examined area is important in order to determine its emitting areas. This enabled the determination of the potential and real touristic demand, i.e. the countries and regions of origin of existing and future tourists. Defining the surrounding regions and countries with which Kosovo is in contact is also important for determining the significant trends of the tourism offer. It is actually the transit character of Kosovo, with its central position

in the Balkan Peninsula which has always had special strategic and developmental importance. The significance of the presence of road and rail routes that pass through this area is complemented by the existence of the potential of air traffic. The relatively small size of Kosovo and the proximity of the various natural and anthropogenic values, allows combining various elements of the tourist offer and the creation of attractive tourism products.

In the fourth part (**Touristic potentials and basic tourism products in Kosovo**) it is covered the research of the elements and characteristics of the touristic offer. It covers the analysis of touristic potentials with which the examined areas and its surrounding disposes. An elaboration of the touristic offer is made through the determination of its socio-economic, developmental and segmental dimension. A special place in the work takes inventory and valorisation of natural and anthropogenic attractions. Actually Kosovo and the region around the Mirushe waterfalls have a significant and competitive natural values such as geomorphological attractions, then climatic and hydrographic values. On the other hand this space has a number of anthropogenic values. This situation within the work especially is emphasized, because it allows the combination of touristic products and services of natural and anthropogenic character which contributes in creating an attractive tourist offer and thus intensify tourism and overall socio - economic development. Also, according to the established inventorisation and valuation of specific values, it is made a detailed analysis of the main types of tourism which are offered in the territory of Kosovo. Specifically in this regard, are developed the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and threatened each selective kind of tourism. These types of tourism in their touristic offer should adapt to modern demands and trends of tourists in global and regional frameworks. By this it is performed an elaboration of the scene of Kosovo and Mirushe waterfalls towards significant emittive regions and countries.

In the fifth chapter of this work, titled **Position and natural touristic values in the area of Mirushe waterfalls** has been elaborated in detail its natural position and touristic values in the area of waterfalls. It encompassed the geographical location and general characteristics,

geological features, relief, Pedological composition, climate, hydrographic conditions and biogeographical characteristics of the examined area.

In the sixth part of the work titled **Values of cultural heritage of Mirushe waterfalls** it is performed an analysis and valuation of the main anthropogenic respectively cultural attractions that the region around the Mirushe waterfalls possesses. Those are especially important for combining the activities offered to tourists which will enrich their stay and will increase touristic season.

In the seventh chapter of the work (**Population and settlements in the area of Mirushe waterfalls and their importance for the development of tourism**) it is analyzed the social component of the examined area and its surroundings. Specifically it refers to the analysis of the demographic characteristics of the population that is constantly present in the settlements in the area of Mirushe waterfalls. It is especially important because it determines the potential developmental characteristics of human capital which presents a carrier of all developmental activities.

The eighth chapter of the work titled **Agriculture, livestock and forestry as a factor for tourism development in the area of Mirushe waterfalls** refers to the main economic activities in which the population in the area of Mirushe waterfalls deals. Thus, agriculture, livestock and forestry set as important factors for developing tourism and creating new and segmented touristic attractions.

The ninth chapter of the doctoral dissertation entitled **Environmental Protection in the function of tourism development** refers to activities of environmental protection as a function of the development of sustainable forms of tourism. Thus, in this section thoroughly are considered the protected areas through their classification, the criteria for determining the levels of protection, as well as negative phenomena that occur as a consequence of social policy and anthropogenic factors in the examined area. There are given more proposal - solutions to overcome the disadvantages that are present in that area.

Tenth chapter of the work titled **Touristic using of Murushe waterfalls** are analyzed the situations in which the examined area is in terms of realized touristic turnover. This is important

for determining the operational situation of tourism which is currently being developed in this area and according that, should be determined the strengths and weaknesses in this regard.

The eleventh chapter of the work (**Promotion of touristic offer in the Mirushe waterfalls, a good opportunity for sustainable tourism development**) refers to the analysis of existing stimulating measures, efforts and acquisitions to create branded products and creating visibility and image of the facility of Mirushe waterfalls. To allow the distribution of the proposed tourist products, especially important is the determination of promotional activities as part of marketing that is covered in this section. Within the work it is approached to this issue through the development of promotional policy, resources and media promotion that are used, as well as those who in the upcoming period have to be used. Especially important component of this chapter are the presented proposals for the creation of branded products that are characterized with attractiveness and competitiveness.

In the twelfth chapter (**The general concept of tourism development in the area of Mirushe waterfalls**) is elaborated the concept of general tourism development of the examined area. It refers to the availability of this area and the nearby surrounding with receptive capacity, constitution of the area, and infrastructural and supra-infrastructural features of the area of Mirushe waterfalls. This represents the basic foundation for the development of tourism in this area.

Thirteenth and fourteenth chapter titled: **Perspectives for sustainable tourism and use of the area of Mirushe waterfalls and proposals** are focused on development perspectives of tourism in the area of Mirusha. This is accomplished by identifying the existing obstacles and problems of touristic development, and determination of their solutions. Also it is made a comparative analysis of similar spatial units on the territory of Mirusha which as positive experiences can partially or totally be applied to overcome the problems of a different nature.

Fifteenth chapter (**Concluding Observations**) refers to the presentation of the final findings of the research.

#### ***4. Expected results of the survey***

Based on the analysis within the doctoral dissertation it will be possible to create a program of touristic offer and in that sense to see improvements in infrastructure, the use of cultural heritage, sustainable development and well-founded approach to the use of space on Mirusha waterfalls. Based on this approach, there are concrete results which basically can be used in terms of raising the level of touristic importance of this area in the context of the overall development of tourism in Kosovo.

#### ***5. Domain in which the doctoral dissertation is a contribution for science***

This work represents an important contribution that can be used not only in practice but also in the theoretical sense. This means that the results of research in the paper contributes to the advancement of scientific sense. This arises from the fact that there are not many researches done into this or a similar field. Also, the region of the Mirushe waterfalls, as well as the entire territory of Kosovo represents an unused tourism potential. Therefore, the importance of this work is particularly emphasized because it will represent theoretical and practical basis for future acquisitions in this direction. Thus, important are the measures that are proposed in terms of population, demographic, psychological, cultural, economical, family structure, living standards, personal income and specific conditions for work. The promotion of these categories will lead to increased quality and quantity of future touristic offer in this area.

Based on the aforementioned socio-cultural and economical factors in this work, are established different touristic emittive areas from where origins the potential and real touristic demand. Also, in this sense are determined the needs for recreation, culture and entertainment of tourists and adequate response to them. On this basis can be based and other additional research activities.

Investigation of spatial elements within the work are associated with the dimensions of transport, quality of connections and relations of movement of tourists. They represent main focus of the tourism research because of them are depending the capabilities of the population and the receptive fields in and around the Mirushe waterfalls as a touristic offer. The determination of

these categories will constitute a solid basis for further and continuous monitoring purposes of the same.

This work defines the socio-psychological and socio-cultural characteristics of the tourist clientele regarding the recognition of cultural, social, political and ethnic identity in the tourism sector in this area. The greatest amount of information about these studies have demographic, sociological and economical background. Summarized information on these contents will form the basis for future more detailed researches.

By these researches should be enabled proper planning of tourism, the right relation towards the touristic demand and touristic offer. It will cause raising of touristic consumption at a higher level in the area of Mirushe waterfalls.

Achieving the goals of this research has a rational framework as a scientific approach. These objectives are based on obtaining improved conditions for future development. Resolving the problems touristic values, to put in relationship with other touristic spatial units. Purpose of such researches is to provide a perception of the place and the role that Mirushe waterfalls have not only in Kosovo but also in the environment. They should therefore be used through the creation and marketing of the touristic offer of the touristic market.

With the work are determined the characteristics and territorial arrangement of natural and anthropogenic touristic attractions in the area of Kosovo in the context of equivalence. With that in the future will be able to be defined registers in which will be listed all the touristic values.

Knowledge about the touristic values are intended to provide touristic activation and rational utilization. This means that by determining the values of attractiveness is established a base on tourism development. The difference of these values in the area of Mirushe waterfalls should enable their inclusion in the touristic offer, it will allow qualitative and quantitative terms to be defined and thus to activate attractiveness as a touristic fund aimed at the overall socio-economic and cultural development.

The perception of the characteristics of accommodation facilities have touristic-valorization basis. The findings allow their inclusion in the touristic offer of Kosovo. The goal of such researches is to provide a critical attitude to the quality and quantity of accommodation facilities

and other receptive factors in this area. Thus not only it is determined their place in the touristic offer of Kosovo but also allows removal of deficiencies and improvement of structural features. These studies can determine the perspectives in intensifying the tourism development.

Meaning the study of traffic connection is to provide the most rational approach of tourists to touristic areas of Mirushe waterfalls. Determining the degree of connectivity in this area aims to record the conditions that reflect tourism in this aspect and to indicate possible perspectives in that field, as would lead to more intense tourism development.

Knowledge about emittive areas by which are distributed to touristic clientele in Kosovo and Mirushe waterfalls should provide guidance on the touristic offer, its structuring based on this demand and adjustment in that direction. The goal of such studies is a comparative understanding of emittive countries and spacious units, as how to find those areas which have priority character as emittive zones for touristic visits. That is one of the bases of the total tourist development and especially the development of foreign tourism in this geographical environment.

The perception of touristic development and differentiation of stages and characteristic periods aims to enable critical relation towards the organization and other impacts in the touristic activity. The purpose is these features in touristic sense to locate in the area of Mirushe waterfalls and enable knowledge of the possible directions in conjuncture sense. They should refer to the prospects of touristic development based on experiences in the developmental stages and periods.

## ***6. Methodology of drafting the dissertation***

In this study was used data from secondary sources, and data obtained from primary sources. Specifically, for the preparation of doctoral dissertation were used data from published reports, books, published works, magazines, articles, and so on. in the field of tourism in the Balkans, in Kosovo and the region around the Mirushe waterfalls. Also it is used the scientific and technical literature relating to similar areas which deal with this issue.

The primary sources of data that are processed through descriptive analysis, mainly derive from the statistic databases in Kosovo.

Materials that are selectively chosen for the preparation of this work were selected through the official reports of the organizations and institutions in Kosovo in the field of tourism and economic development. For the purposes of the doctoral dissertation are provided and official materials, strategies and projects issued by relevant institutions relating to tourism development of the examined territory.

In this work were used more scientific methods, research techniques and tools that enable:

1.Descriptive

2.Analytical approach of this dissertation

With the descriptive method was covered the analysis of the situations of touristic development of the examined area. This allows registration of problems and insufficiency facing tourism development, and therefore giving the proposal - solutions to eliminate them in the future. In order to create good quality and modern proposals to overcome such situations, within the work were used worldwide experiences of regions and countries which accessed in different ways to the resolution of issues in the field of tourism. Consequently, within the descriptive approach by the author were used two methods:

a) descriptive method

b) comparative method

With the analytical approach was covered inventory and valorization aspect of the research. Specifically, inventorying within the work are defined certain touristic resources of natural and anthropogenic origin in the territory around the waterfalls Mirushe which are potentials or affirmed. The analytical approach is divided into:

a) qualitative

b) quantitative

The quantitative approach applies primarily to the analysis and processing of statistical data. It refers to the analysis of the tourism market, the analysis of the touristic infrastructure and superstructure expressed in quantitative values, the properties of natural and anthropogenic values (their number, quantity, size, etc.) and more. For the work to obtain scientific funding quantitative data were processed also in qualitative terms. This allows consideration of their significance in the larger regional, national and international level.

Within the work were used the following methods:

- a) historical method
- b) deductive method
- c) inductive method
- d) Genetic – evolutionary method
- e) Morphometric method
- f) Comparative method
- f) graphic- cartographic method
- h) Method of the systematization

The historical method is used especially in terms of the analysis of the development of tourism in the territory of Kosovo through the past years to the present. Through the analysis of the past conditions are enabling the designing of the development directions of tourism.

Using inductive and deductive method allows making general conclusions starting from specific categories, such as proposing concrete solutions arising from the analysis of the general conditions in which is the tourism in Kosovo and the area of Mirushe waterfalls.

This research used genetic-evolutionary approach to determine the origin of the value of the represented forms of natural and cultural heritage of the Mirushe waterfalls. It also allows consideration of changes that need to make new benefits.

Morphometric methods allow to analyze the parameters of the relief in the region of Mirushe waterfalls and its territorial displacement. Through this method can be achieved the determination of the size of the forms of relief, exposure on the ground, vertical and horizontal fragmentation.

The comparative method allows precise execution of judgments and standing views. Through this method is made a comparison of the natural values of this area with other similar areas from which will be drawn accurate conclusions about the value of the natural heritage of Mirushe waterfalls.

Graphic-cartographic method is used for plastic representation and determining the position and spatial relationships, level of development and location of natural and cultural values in the system of values.

During the preparation of this topic are also used and methods of modeling, synthetic and analytical methods. Determinants of tourism derives from its primary function. It is focused in the movement, space and consumption, categories that constitute the dynamics of tourism. The analysis of tourism factors includes a heterogeneous base of activities which represents a combination of reports, services and touristic products.

The method of systematization derives from tourism complexity. Tourismological science defines tourism as a product of specific services that essentially explain the logical function of touristic system. The factors for tourism development are very meaningful. They are found in the system that includes: transportation, catering facilities, touristic agencies, other facilities serving food, grocery stores, stores for various products and specific for touristic market, cultural, sports, folklore events and various municipal services. In this group enters also the service sectors such as banking, postal services, manufacturing and public utilities. Each of these activities mentioned in the touristic offer represents a total system with multiple subsystems.

Based on these data and system structures it is clear that it is necessary to be applied appropriate methods that depend on the particular facility or system. Thus, it is required the most appropriate way to get to the verification of scientific truth concerning the possibilities for more intensive development of tourism in the area of Mirushe waterfalls.

## **7. Conclusion**

In order to realize the objectives of the thesis, different materials were the object of studying that are related to the area of the waterfalls of Mirushe. There was the basic need of observation activities on this territory.

Different sources from touristic, geographical, geomorphologic, geological, hydrologic, floristic nature were used. Also different published literature helped in explaining and interpreting in a realistic way the many problems that have occurred in the past in this region.

For completing this thesis observations and discussions were conducted in different locations, where in cooperation with some experts of different domains, field work has been realized. This allowed for acquiring knowledge about the natural processes and occurrences in the mentioned area, but also in the wider region.

Although the region of the waterfalls of Mirushe is a small area, it has high tourist and economic value. Tourism in this location offers several opportunities which are emphasized by the numerous potential activities of the tourist offer. The development of tourism has high importance in the economic effects that will arise in the future.

Nature protection and tourism is an economic reality worldwide. The ecological balance is very specific to achieve. Therefore, even a threat of the environment where humans live, present actual problems.

These problems require a higher level of commitment of different stakeholders with the aim to solve them. There is a growing need for detailed surveys on the state and international levels, in scientific, technical and technological domains. The total social-economic policy of every region and country must be carefully assessed in order to achieve such ecological balance.

There exist many attractive natural values on the territory of Kosovo. We can point out the regional natural park of Mirusha, which is the theme of this thesis. Furthermore, we can also point out the mountain zones of Kosovo (Sharr, Bjeshkët e Nemuna, Mokna etj) as important spatial entities for the future development of tourism.

Moreover, some areas, such as Rugova, still have an intact nature, as well as a large population with characteristic national costumes and folklore. Some of the other natural areas are the following: Dragash and its population, Shala e Bajgores, Gollak, southern zone of Kosovo and mountainous zone of Sharr, the territory around the river Neodime, zones of thermo-

mineral Baths of Klllokot, Peja, Banjskes, Cave of Gadime, Peja etc. These are all natural protected landscapes which are abundant with different types of forests, specific geological profiles, numerous relict and endemic species of plants and wild animals. These are only some of the values which are still largely unknown to the tourist clientele. The abovementioned values present attractive aesthetic attributes of natural landscapes which at the same time are interesting touristic motives.

From the investigation of the touristic, natural and social values at the Regional Park Mirusha, we come to the conclusion that this territory is one of the rare areas of Kosovo, which have tourism importance.

Different geological, geomorphologic, hydro processes and climatic conditions have influenced the creation of the diverse landscape.

As carst forms that have been formed in the region of Mirushe we can point out some interesting caves which have rich morphological forms like cave halls and underground cave galleries. The total length of the cave halls in the caves of Regional Park Mirusha has been verified to be over 2000 m long. Furthermore, there are also stalagmites, stalactices and other cave jewellery.

In the region of Mirushe there are also many springs, which have only a small flow of water. Amongst the largest springs in terms of their capacity of flow of water are the following: thermo-mineral springs of Bath, springs of Carravrana, springs in the canyon of Mirusha, springs of Ponorc, etc. On this territory there are also many paleoendemic, neoendemic, relict plants, rare types of old trunks and so on. This makes the region of Mirushe an important spatial entity which has interesting biodiversity, not only on the territory of Kosovo, but also in the wider region.

This paper also treats the socio-geographical conditions in the municipalities of Klina, Malisheva and Rahovec. In this sense, the population is examined from different points of view such as: number of residents, population density, natural growth of population, structure of population according to gender, structure according to age and ethnic structure of population.

All these factors should be relevant in establishing and developing of concrete opportunities for the tourist offer. Tourism is related to many activities such as health, culture, sport activities which are still largely unexplored. The population living on this territory presents a fundamental factor in this sense.

From the current exploitation of the region of Mirusha, in a classic touristic sense, we can conclude that there are still insufficient visitors coming in this region, mainly because of insufficient organization in the tourism sector.

In order to improve this level of tourism development here is the need for detailed analyses. Such base for further planning in the future is this thesis.

We can conclude that we deal with a place which has attractive tourist resources, which are still potential touristic values. There are different strategic approaches explored in this paper which have the aim to improve the current level of tourism development. This will create many socio-cultural and economic benefits for the population and the country as a whole.