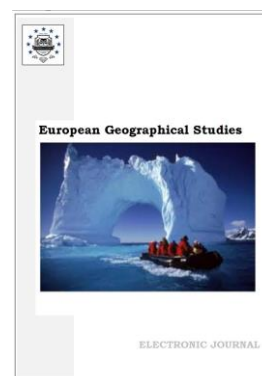


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Natural and Social Characteristics of the Rural Settlement Vranještica: Geographical Overview

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Being in the field required me to examine and reassess large areas of my life: my traits, my intentions, how I thought about myself and how I related to others. Such self-reflexive contemplation led to substantive questions about the appropriateness of my actions and how I was conducting the process of fieldwork, paving the way for more thoughtful and concerned work, which served as a reminder that research should be more than an extractive activity (Chacko, 2004).

Abstract

The rural settlement of Vranještica is located in the northeastern part of Montenegro. It extends in the zone 42 ° 47' 09 "north latitude and 19 ° 37' 35" east longitude. Except for the road Andrijevića – Trešnjevik – Mateševo – Kolašin, no other important road intersects or touches this rural settlement. The spatial distribution of the studied space is determined by natural and social characteristics. The relief of Vranještica was formed mainly in the Tertiary. Thus, high mountains were created on one side, and hanging valleys and alluvial plains on the other. The greatest importance in terms of hydrography is represented by Vranještička River and Suvogorska River, which are still waiting for different possibilities of exploitation. With increasing altitude, the productive ability of the pedological composition decreases. Diverse flora and fauna have adapted to climatic, hydrographic and pedological conditions. When it comes to social characteristics, our research records highlighted several evident problems: the first is related to the population, ie its aging; others, that there is a pronounced migration of the population – whose intensive processes and stratification have left behind an unfavorable age structure of the population, which has all negatively affected the socio-economic development of the rural settlement of Vranještica.

Keywords: rural settlement, Vranještica, natural characteristics, social characteristics, geographical overview.

1. Introduction

Although the social needs for research of rural settlements in our country are indisputable, we are not able to meet our own current and other needs in this area. In that respect, we lag behind most European and even neighboring countries. Thus, we confirm the clearly formulated position

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of Jaćimović (1985) "that this arises also because studies of large areas are more popular today, in which the problems of those smaller spatial units – rural settlements – cannot be seen at all. And there are problems (demographic, social and economic) in each of our villages, and some have been so transformed under the influence of urbanization and de-agrarianization, that over time they have lost their former agricultural function. These problems may arise from the general social attitude towards agriculture and its current state, with a lot of problems and insecurities, and hence, I guess, the underestimating attitude sometimes towards some work about only one, rural settlement?!". We hope that this will not be the case on this occasion.

The small number of relevant sources and the great lack of adequate (scientific and professional) literature have objectively had a limiting effect on the quantity, quality and degree of completeness of the treatment of the presented issues. Namely, there are only a few important scientific papers in which the rural settlement of Vranještica is mentioned only by the way. In that respect, we should mention Vešović (1935), Dašić (1986) ... Complex geographical researches of the rural settlement of Vranještica, relatively clearly individualized wholes, have not been conducted so far. Therefore, the rural settlement of Vranještica belongs to the underdeveloped rural settlements of the municipality of Kolašin, both in the economic and social sense. That is, it is a rural environment of hilly and mountainous character. Initiation of changes, which would lead the studied area to faster inclusion in the modern system of production, economy and way of life, was the main motive we were guided by when studying this rural settlement (Special inspiration for this text, author G.R. had for the following reasons: Vranještica. A village at the foot of Bjelasica. The village where my mother was born. That is where one part of my childhood remained, my carefree and happy days ... Where the sky has the most stars... Where the Suvogorska River has the most beautiful murmur ... Where Wellspring Kojov heals the soul... Where the meadows have the most beautiful flower ... Where the forests have the most beautiful shade... Where Katun Backo Brdo gives the greatest peace... Where blueberries are most delicious... Where the house of Miloš Kojov keeps the most beautiful memories and emotions that remain in my dreams to last forever ... That is where I belong. My mother's homeland is also my homeland).

Numerous studies confirm that without new jobs in rural areas, young people will not stay in the villages. Despite that, there are more and more organizations of young farmers at the local level, which advocate for greater participation in the development of settlements, that is, to earn approximately similar incomes for the same work as residents of urban areas, to have a better quality of life and working conditions. It is considered that generational renewal in the coming period should be an EU priority, while allowing flexibility for member states to design and develop tailored programs that reflect the specific needs of their young farmers, in terms of employment, education, opening kindergartens and health facilities, improving transport, water and sewerage infrastructure, in order to reduce the numerous risks to public health and safety of residents (European Commission, 2017).

2. Methodology

Citing research by Brown and Schafft (2011) and Stambuk (1991) Klempić-Bogadi et al. (2015) emphasize that the definition of the concept of rurality can be approached with regard to two dominant approaches. According to the first, rurality is determined by the social and geographical characteristics of the area, above all population size, population density and/or the dominant type of production – in the first place agriculture. At the same time, rural settlements are almost always smaller and have lower population densities than urban ones, geographically and socially isolated from power centers predominantly located in urban areas, with a predominant natural environment as opposed to built-up urban space. The triangle village – agriculture – space forms the basis for defining rurality, rural world, rural society, rural space and all other synonyms that denote areas outside urban agglomerations, i.e. by breaking down the concept of rurality one can start from the country, continue with agriculture, conclude with landscape. So, the core of the methodological procedure used in this research is the geographical (spatial) method. The method of observation was supposed to provide insight into the social environment, using the following sources: oral, written, visual and biographical. Two methods were applied in the research explanation: analytical and synthetic. The first discusses the individual dimensions of the research subject, and the second the whole, the interrelationships between the research subject and the

proposed measures that arise from it (see Woods, 2012; Lescheva et al, 2014; Gaukhar et al., 2019; Bulatović, Rajović, 2021).

2. Analysis and discussion

The rural settlement of Vranještica is located in the northeastern part of Montenegro (Kolašin municipality). It extends in the zone $42^{\circ} 47' 09''$ north latitude and $19^{\circ} 37' 35''$ east longitude. It borders the rural settlements of Rečine in the west, Gnjila Potok in the southeast and Bare Kraljske in the south. It is located at an altitude of 1519 m and covers an area of 2,480 hectares. In 2003, 152 inhabitants lived in this area.

The traffic-geographical position of the rural settlement of Vranještica is unfavorable, because it is located far from the main roads. Except for the road Andrijevića – Trešnjevika – Mateševo – Kolašin, no other important road intersects or touches this rural settlement. Vranještica is 44.6 km from Berane, 29.6 km from Andrijevića and 11.2 km from Mateševo. Isolated traffic – geographical position adversely affects its economic and social development. The gravitational zone of Vranještica, seen from a spatial point of view, is not small, but the population is really small. Without greater economic potential in this settlement, there is no wider existential base of the population. Therefore, we should expect its further stagnation and emigration of the population to the developed parts of Montenegro or going abroad.

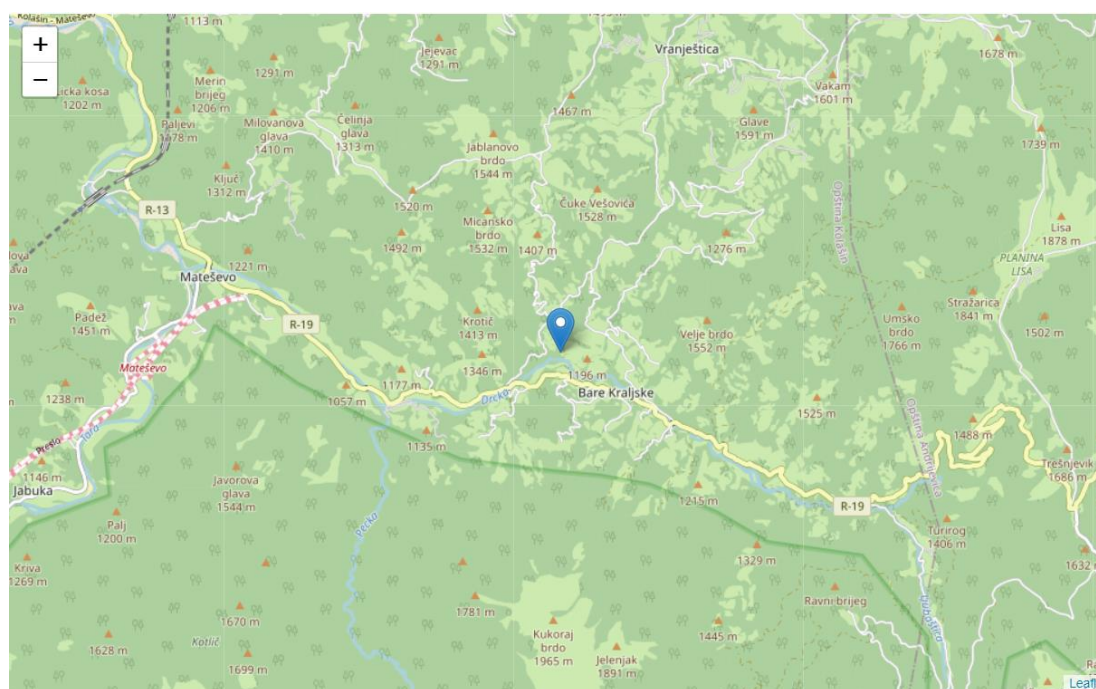


Fig. 1. Rural settlement Vranještica on google map (www.ekarta.me)

The relief of Vranještica was formed mainly in the Tertiary. Thus, high mountains were created on one side, and hanging valleys and alluvial plains on the other. The morphological feature of the relief is the appearance of karst, covered with humus, red soil, clay land and grove, which are used in agriculture. The flysch area is characterized by lush forest vegetation. The rocks of the Sarmatian period have favorable hydrogeological properties, which is the basis for settlement and agricultural activity. Quarterly alluvial and deluvial sediments are present in the river valleys of Vranještička River and Suvogorska River. Colluvial soils (colluvium) are exposed to leaching and belong to the group of autogenous undeveloped soils. Rendzina in the considered geo-area above 1,200 m above sea level is of limited fertility. Of the other lands, the following are represented: district brown lands in the Lisa area and district brown lands on eruptions (see Bulatović, Rajović, 2018).



Fig. 2. Rural settlement Vranještica

Note: if you have ever wondered what it looks like when winding green hills, mountain streams, unreal landscapes and very rare plant species come together - now is your chance to see it *

The geomorphological view of the studied area is dominated by the mountain Ključ (1,973 m above sea level). Some branches of Ključ: Krstac (1,770 m above sea level), Čkala (1,804 m above sea level), Klisura (1,827 m above sea level), Čupovi (1,885 m above sea level), Goveđa glava (1,897 m above sea level) are watersheds between the Lim and Tara basins. The geographical position of the entire settlement gives it the characteristics of a mountain climate. So far, there have been no special climate tests in this settlement, as well as no precipitation measurements. However, individual observations of climatic elements of the Hydro meteorological Institute of Montenegro (2001) indicate the following amplitudes of air temperature: the maximum temperature during the summer can reach 34.1 ° C, and in winter it can drop to – 27.8 ° C. The warmest month is July, with an average air temperature of 14.9 ° C, and the coldest January, with an average temperature of 3.9 ° C. The average annual air temperature is around 5.2 ° C. Rain is frequent and abundant, most often formed by clouds above Bjelasica, Lisa and Trešnjevik. It should be noted that seemingly insignificant streams in the event of heavy rain caused real devastation and great damage to farmers. The period with snow can be long, usually from the beginning of November to March and April. Lately, snow has been falling more and more often in the month of May. Maximum precipitation occurs in the period from September to March. The average annual rainfall is 2105 mm. The maximum amount of precipitation is 318.5 mm in December, and the lowest amount of precipitation is in July and amounts to 65.9 mm. The north, south wind and a mixture of wind called "culprit" prevail. The highest relative humidity occurs in the winter and is about 90 %. The average annual cloudiness is 6.1 h. The maximum cloudiness is in December and is 7.4 hours, and the minimum in August is 4.1 hours. The average insolation annually amounts to about 167.4 h. It reaches its maximum in July (274.3 h) and the minimum in January (43.2 h).

* The photos in the text were taken from the Vranještica site, our home (www.facebook.com)

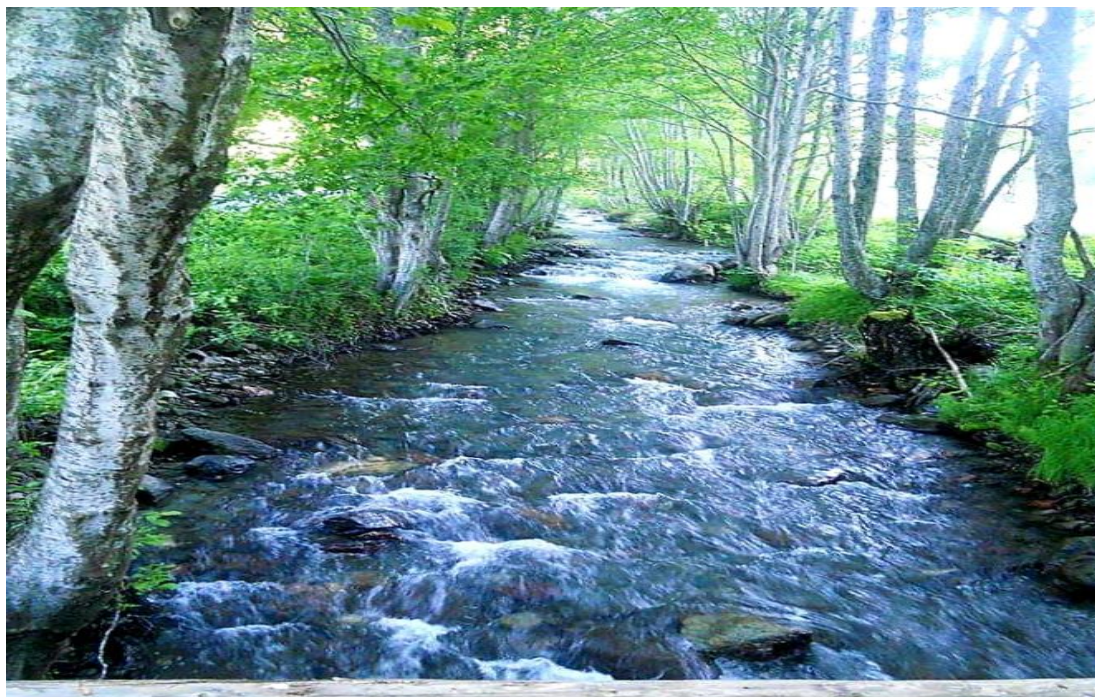


Fig. 3. Vranještička River

Note: Enchanting beauty where peace, silence and the laws of nature reign

The hydrographic network of the rural settlement of Vranještica consists of the Vranještička River and Suvogorska River with their flows. Vranještička River springs below the mountain Ključa (1973 m above sea level) formed by three streams (Rastoka, Provalije and Taljigovina). The length of River is about 9.2 km. Suvogorska River springs below the mountain Lisa, which in its source part consists of two streams Odrtog and Zimovnik. The length of the river is about 4.3 km. Vranještička River and Suvogorska River meet in Međuriječje and flow into the geo-area of the rural settlement of Bare Kraljske in Drcka River. The waters of the Vranještička River and Suvogorska River and their tributaries are suitable for irrigating agricultural areas. To supply the rural settlement, several independent sources are used. The springs are quite abundant, they almost do not dry out, and the water is cold and very pleasant to drink. Among them we single out: Vučićev Wellspring, Paljevina, Livadak, Ledni Wellspring, Kojovića Wellspring, Zejov Wellspring, Ivanovića Wellspring...

In addition to plant crops on the territory of the rural settlement of Vranještica (corn, rye, barley, oats ...), fruits (apples, plums, pears, cherries, walnuts ...), vegetables (potatoes, cabbage, onions, green beans, cucumbers, salads. ...), there are also forest fruits (strawberry, blueberry, raspberry, blackberry ...), medicinal herbs (St. John's worth, mint, thyme ...), mushrooms (porcini, spruce ...). Among domestic animals are grown mainly: cattle, sheep, goats, chickens ... On the territory of the studied area there are katuns: Bačko Brdo, Lisački Katun, Vukićeva Staja, Krivi Do, Katunište ... In the mountainous hinterland, a variety of game has found its habitat: bears, wolves, deer, chamois, wild boar, rabbits, grouse, partridges, wild ducks, eagles ... In Vranještička River and Suvogorska River live fish – trout. The mentioned living world lets us know that there are extraordinary conditions for the development of hunting tourism.



Fig. 4. Agricultural plot

Note: Potato growing (Vranjestički potatoes – the most famous potato in Montenegro).

The forest vegetation of the rural settlement of Vranještica is difficult to single out. This is primarily a consequence of climate and general ecological changes in the past (tertiary) and the natural effort of plant communities to adapt to changes and preserve them. It is the lowest belt of alluvial plains of Vranještička River and Suvogorska River, represented by hydrophilic forests of willows and poplars (*Salic alba*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) ... Then follows the forest belt of oak (*Auricularia fraxinetto ceris*), beech and beech – fir forests (*Fagion moss*). Some mountainsides of this rural settlement are made up of pine forest stands. The basic orientation is to increase the area, ensure permanent and more economical production of wood mass, rational use and increase growth.



Fig. 5. Bukova Poljana (Church Lazarica)

Note: Where nature and history, culture and art, value and tradition meet

Throughout the historical past, the rural settlement of Vranještica has often changed its role both culturally and economically. Until the Second World War, the most attention was paid to cattle breeding and agriculture. A large amount of wool was used for the production of bedding and clothes, and sheepskin and cowhide for footwear. The quality of meat products was enviable, conditioned by various pastures and mountain meadows. Both livestock and agriculture developed at the level of personal needs of the household. After the Second World War, Vranještica had opportunities and needs for change: a primary school was built, a library was formed, a large number of modern residential buildings were built, then shop, many hamlets were connected by local roads ... Through personal work and contribution, electricit ... However, after 1961 in Montenegro, as well as in the whole of the former Yugoslavia, there was industrialization and accelerated development of cities. This is the reason why the population of the settlement emigrated to the economically developed centers of the former Yugoslavia or to temporary work abroad. Based on field research, it was concluded that economic measures were delayed. It was the beginning of the seventies of the last century a turning point. If it had started in that period with a small economy, construction of roads, faster electrification of settlements, today Vranještica would not have provided the usual picture of the majority of underdeveloped rural settlements in Montenegro (see [Bulatović, Rajović, 2020](#)).



Fig. 6. View of the northeastern part of Vranještica
Note: A combination of mystical energy and magnificent nature

The analysis of the above points to the conclusion that the motives for leaving this rural settlement were multiple. We will reduce them to the most important ones, in our opinion:

Provision of conditions for non-agricultural production in which higher productive work could be achieved, and thus higher and more stable income. Regardless of whether it is a labor or intensive economic activity, the company, naturally, within its capabilities provides the necessary means of production and other working conditions that allow the employee to permanently employ his labor force for which such opportunities on individual farms, in most cases, does not have;

Existential security, which arises from a high degree of certainty that by engaging in non-agricultural activities, income-means of subsistence is achieved. In agricultural production, there is uncertainty on individual property, which is still subject to the influence of external factors, both in terms of yielding certain crops and the prices at which they will market their products, which together leads to significant oscillations in the amount of income. Due to that, there is a fear in the security of providing material conditions for maintaining one's own existence; by joining the

employment, the individual agricultural producer, on that basis, acquires the right to health care (himself and his family), as well as conditions for retirement, which is an important element of social security.

General living conditions in the city provide far greater opportunities for education and cultural life, full health care and other benefits that the city has, compared to the countryside, which is a significant motive for migration or emigration, especially of young people (Bulatović, Rajović, 2021).

The following data indicate the demographic picture of the rural settlement. Compared to 1948, the number of inhabitants in 2003 decreased by 322. The largest decrease was recorded in the period from 1961 to 2003 (the number of inhabitants decreased by 341). In the period from 1991 to 2003, the decrease in population was 87. Based on field observations of Stamen Miloševa Račić (married Rajović), 89 inhabitants lived in the considered geo-space in 2012. From this data, it follows that the total number of inhabitants in the settlement decreased in the period 1948 – 2012 by 81.2 % (385 inhabitants). Observing the data from the 2003 census, it is noticed that the population is in the process of demographic aging. There are 131 adults living in the rural settlement, and the average age of the population is 49.5 years (46.5 for men and 52.8 for women). There are 57 households in the settlement, and the average number of members per household is 2.67. In the field in 2012, we noticed a large number of elderly households and households with one member each. For example, in a settlement there are 9 households with one member each, while there are 11 households with two members each. The decline in the total population, caused by emigration and depopulation, have become the basic demographic problems of this rural settlement Vranještica (see Rajović, Bulatović, 2016; Bulatović, Rajović, 2020).

Our research records based on similar research by Rajović and Rajović (2010) indicate the following:

Rural settlement Vranještica has favorable conditions for livestock development. Within animal husbandry, especially those branches should be developed for which there are special quality conditions. Natural conditions favor sheep breeding as the main – cattle breeding, and then cattle breeding with a significant increase in the head to the optimum, which is determined in cooperation with other branches. Reclamation of pastures would improve the conditions for cattle breeding. In that sense, it is necessary to develop projects for the establishment of meadows and amelioration of pastures. Establishment of meadows refers to appropriate agro-technical works with the basic goal of forage yield. Pasture reclamation refers to agro-technical works related to clearing the terrain, fertilizing and sprinkling grass seeds. By intensifying hay production, by applying agro-technical measures (irrigation, fertilization of meadows and pastures ...), the number of sheep and cattle can be significantly increased.



Fig. 7. Beekeeping in Vranještičkom geo-space (Vranještički meadow honey)

Note: There is no greater joy than when you collect honey and give it to your loved ones to sweeten and enjoy

Considering the natural conditions of the settlement and the shortage of labor, in the near future the priority should be to stimulate the production of beef, primarily by increasing the livestock of breeds suitable for grazing, i.e. by seasonal fattening of young cattle to a certain weight.

Within this framework, the accompanying production of cow's milk can be successfully developed, i.e. sheep breeding is mainly oriented to the market production of lamb. The chance of the rural settlement of Vranještica is in the untapped possibilities of extensive cattle breeding. First, here we mean the project of forming sheep and cow farms. In addition to construction works, the procurement of appropriate equipment, agricultural machinery intended for the production and preparation of animal feed, as well as the procurement of a part of the basic stock (breeding cows and bulls, sheep and rams), whose reproduction would gradually replace the existing castles. Such households could then produce cheeses and other dairy products according to the obtained standardized technology, with specific packaging. Over time, a sign or even a health food label could protect the products (see [Rajović, Bulatović, 2012](#)).



Fig. 8. Meadows surrounded by forest complexes
Note: A real gift of nature



Fig. 9. A flock of sheep
Note: A rare picture, unfortunately in the Vranještičkom geo-space

Successful operation of such mini farms implies perfect organization and coordination, and in any case the existence of centers for milk, cheese ... "collection" character. The location of sheep and cattle farms, if we add pig and goat and other farms is determined by the natural conditions and the stability of the population in this rural settlement. In that sense, it would be necessary to study the analysis of the specifics of rural settlements in Montenegro, from the aspect of construction and location of mini farms, as well as the type of livestock production, then recommended capacities and examining the possibilities of cooperative production for larger capacities.

A very applicable concept and idea of fish production, primarily trout, is also interesting for the rural settlement of Vranještica. The settlement is extremely rich in water: Vranještica River, Suvogorska River, Wellhead (recorded 126), Mountain Streams (recorded 36) ... The hydrographic network indicates that there are extraordinary conditions for the development of small fishpond along Vranještica River, Suvogorska River and their tributaries. As a limiting factor, we should keep in mind the changing water level, then the danger of turbidity, because as it is known, it is torrential water. In essence, it should be stated that the village is extremely suitable for mini fishpond, which, like mini farms, should be examined by a special study, determine their possible number, then the results that can be expected and other important parameters (Bulatović, Rajović, 2020).

There are very favorable conditions for farming in the settlement, which means the expansion of areas under vegetables. On very modestly represented arable lands, with the application of larger amounts of manure, the introduction of appropriate crop rotations and better tillage, higher production of potatoes and fodder cereals can be achieved. In the rural settlement of Vranještica, in addition, appropriate measures are to be taken to stop the declining trend of arable land, by increasing the level of equipment of households with modern machinery, especially for the production, transport and conservation of roughage. The implementation of the consolidation program, in order to eliminate the current state of high fragmentation and fragmentation of arable land, is also one of the conditions for the recovery of farming. Fruit growing would be done on all suitable plots, with the basic condition of providing efficient traffic connections, fast transport of very sensitive products. Due to the differentiation of natural conditions, intensifying sheep and cattle production can achieve optimization in the exploitation of production potential. It is necessary to do a study and investigate the suitability of areas for the production of medicinal herbs. However, an abundance of various medicinal plants has been noticed, which could be imposed by organized production and cultivation as a profitable branch of farming – the cultivation of industrial plants.



Fig. 10. Wild strawberries

Note: A gift of nature, are not only a delicious dessert, but are also used as a medicine, and the sweetness of wild strawberries is indispensable on the table of the Vranještichog geo-space

As it could be noticed earlier, the forests on the territory of Vranještica have always been either an integral part of the property and the backyard, or the immediate hinterland, i.e. the source of materials, shelter, refuge, climate regulator, micro locations ... As a large present element of life, forests will be a significant spatial component in future trends in the development of the economy and construction policy. In the future treatment of forests, a larger volume of felling or some other action that would be contrary to eco-agriculture and ecotourism should not be allowed. The volume of felling should be adjusted to the condition of growing groups within the appropriate class of forests, in order to ensure wood mass on one side, and preservation of forest quality on the other. Due to the efficiency of planting, it is necessary to afforest purely forest terrains, especially those created after felling. Therefore, erosive areas and other unstable soils should be afforested as a preventive measure to protect the soil. The volume of felling should not be increased, and the actions should be directed to sanitary felling, in the maximum volume. In general, forestry should be integrated with eco-agricultural development. Analyzes would probably show that forests could provide multiple incomes in the eco-agricultural concept compared to conventional management (Bulatović et al., 2019).



Fig. 11. Forests Vranještica

Note: Green oases of peace and quiet

In the rural settlement of Vranještica, hunting should be viewed as an activity on the line of demarcation between eco-agriculture and forestry and ecotourism. Special attention should be paid to the constant care that the game in the mountainous hinterland of the village is well fed and fed in winter, so that it can develop properly and reproduce naturally. The basic investment recommendations in hunting refer to investment investments in landscaping and improvement (feeding grounds for hairy and feathered game ...), as well as investment investments in comfortable waiting rooms (for hunting in winter conditions and wolf hunting).



Fig. 12. Eagle crusaders

Note: Lords of the sky over rural settlement Vranještica

Suitable physical-geographical factors, and above all the abundance of water, provide opportunities for the rural settlement of Vranjestica to develop into one of the most attractive tourist villages in the municipality of Kolasin, i.e. Montenegro. Several preconditions for this concept are necessary: the exceptional natural beauty of this rural settlement and orientation to eco-agriculture, i.e. ecotourism, would increase the quality and specificity of the tourist offer (here would require some education of hosts and organizers of eco-agriculture in terms of emphasizing certain elements of the offer). Relying on the administrative center Kolašin, in organizational, marketing and financial terms, with the help of obtaining clientele (which is demanding in terms of landscape exclusivity, requires proximity to peaks, special natural sites, peace and not many tourists, and not demanding in search of high comfort). An even more special type of tourist offer, which is completely imbued with agricultural development, is ecotourism agricultural farms. Tourism is a secondary part of the business here, complementary to the basic production.



Fig. 13. Municipality of Kolasin

Note: A chance in the development of rural settlement

If we take into account the natural conditions and projections of agricultural development in the rural settlement of Vranjestica, we can see the possibility of developing ecotourism and agricultural farms: sheep, cattle, goat breeding, and horse breeding and for breeding and selection of hunting dogs. If the ecotourism character of production is built into investing in mini farms, the interest of farmers and investors increases by several possible, and mostly economic-social aspects. Revenue is significantly increased, by introducing exclusivity, with a minimum of additional labor invested. Increasing communications for the population, by bringing tourists into the agricultural environment. Mutual cultural and educational activities of farmers – hosts and tourists, on each other. Removal and release of the farmer and his family from loneliness, isolation, which has been proven by research to be unfavorable for the participants in agricultural production.

Partial increase of investments in additional accommodation facilities, which are not always significant in terms of volume, are reduced to a reasonable and realistic measure, when we take into account: Existence of infrastructure next to the house (water, electricity, somewhere and sewage ...); The usual household chores are already being done, with now more attractive in front of the audience, and food preparation is already being done (extension of this obligation is a stimulus for the housewife and a chance for her even contribution to the household) (Bulatović et al., 2019).

Weaknesses and problems faced by rural areas in Montenegro are demographic in nature, which is reflected in the intensive depopulation of rural settlements and unemployment. Migrations, negative natural increase, small and elderly households are the image of the Montenegrin village. There are also numerous infrastructure problems. However, the biggest problem that rural agriculture faces is the lack or outdated agricultural mechanization, fragmented property, abandoned land. Lack of financial resources for reconstruction, capacity expansion, inability to obtain favorable loans are problems that characterize agriculture and rural tourism. The weakness of the village is insufficient processing capacities that are no longer in function, and used to be an integral part of cooperatives, which no longer exist. The largest number of cooperatives represented the bearers of the development not only of agriculture, but also of the entire rural economy. The purchase of agricultural products is usually insufficiently organized. There is no contracted agricultural production, nor support to producers during production ... (see Petrović, Grujović, 2015).

Therefore, Zakić and Stojanović (2008) rightly conclude that a successful rural development policy is considered to be one that achieves the following goals, ie enables certain rural areas to:

- maintain their population and the vital structure within it;
- diversify their economic base outside the primary sector by maintaining, or even increasing, employment rates in order to absorb surplus labor in the primary sector;
- equalize rural and urban poverty and unemployment rates in an effort to provide priority employment for women and youth;
- have as easy access as possible to basic services that make life in rural areas more attractive;
- expand property-ownership structures by initiating the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises on the basis of local financing;
- maintain the physical and mental health of the rural population at the same level as outside rural areas;
- the main actors of the area work together to achieve common goals on the basis of an agreed value system created according to a bottom-up approach;
- responsible for their own development not expecting someone else to do it for them.

Greater employment of young people in the place of residence and the establishment of their families would revitalize villages and all other small settlements in Montenegro, including Vranještica. According to Lukić (2016), such an endeavor requires a change in the economic structure of the village, which implies action in two basic directions: (1) improvement of agricultural production and business of private companies, (2) development of small and medium enterprises in crafts, industry and various types of production services tailored to the villagers.

3. Conclusion

The traffic-geographical position of the rural settlement of Vranjestica is unfavorable, because it is located far from the main roads. The gravitational zone, seen from the spatial point of view, is not small, but it is from the population point of view. The depopulation of the population, together with the strong process of demographic transition, slowed down the further demographic, social, economic and general social development of this rural settlement. That is why it is necessary to take a number of social measures for the revitalization of the settlement. Among the most important are: the development of agriculture and tourism. We are of the opinion that with the activation of the entire community, some progress is not only possible, but must be achieved. Historical experience shows that rural settlements gave the city the best people, demographically increased and refreshed them, in the villages, positive character traits, love for traditional values, customs, habits, tastes are kept and respected for the longest time ... In the economic-geographical analysis, it is not always easy to distinguish to what extent the objectively present limiting conditions (mountainous character of the settlement) participate in the missed opportunities, and to what extent they must be attributed to insufficient or inadequate economic organization and incomplete information (see Bulatović, Rajović, 2020). Previous economic development programs did not take into account specific geographical conditions, so they could not give adequate results. In the end, the economic problems of the rural settlement of Vranjestica should be viewed realistically, without excessive optimism, and even less pessimism. According to Petrović and Grujović (2015) the goal of the development of rural areas is their revitalization, which requires large financial resources. The difference in the development of urban and rural areas is a consequence of economic

policy after the Second World War, where agriculture was neglected at the expense of industry. Experiences of developed and developing countries indicate that the development of rural areas is achieved through the development of non-agricultural activities that are intertwined with agriculture. Serious and active support of the state and local self-government is needed, along with incentive measures that will give the expected effects in agriculture and rural tourism.

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