

# Municipal Report

Twin Cities - BAČKA PALANKA (Serbia) and ILOK (Croatia)



# Municipal Report

BAČKA PALANKA (Serbia)

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## 1 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

### 1.1 Bačka Palanka (Serbia)

Settlement of Bačka Palanka, under this name and with current occupied area, is mentioned fairly late in history. On the other hand, research has shown that in the distant past this very settlement was mentioned under various names. Current name was introduced at the end of the 17th century for the first time, but with the help of archaeological remains it is known that this place has been inhabited since ancient days. Slopes of Fruška gora (mountain), based on the right bank of the river and at the beginning of the great lowland on the left bank of the Danube (Alföld), have always motivated the inhabitants to form settlements. The Danube was the "main road" that spread prehistoric cultures, and mentioned territory was on the path of this expansion. In the earlier period, the territory of Palanka had two more watercourses, on its west and north side, the Mostong and the Jegrička, which people often settled as well.

In the territory of the municipality, 33 archaeological sites are noted. The most numerous are the findings of the Bronze Age and the late Medieval period. By the end of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century, prehistoric Roman and Turkish records were noted in the wider area of the town of Palanka. This material is partly located in museums in Budapest (Hungary), and partly in the National Museum in Belgrade (Serbia). Systematic excavations on the territory of the municipality have been carried out at two sites so far: the prehistoric site "Golokut" <sup>1</sup>near the village of Vizić and the early Medieval settlement with a necropolis "Ciglana", located at the border between areas of Bačka Palanka and Čelarevo. Many artefacts testify the previous allegation - the area of current Bačka Palanka municipality was densely populated from the earliest times.

The oldest archaeological findings from the territory of the municipality originate from the Mesolithic. At the site "Bagremara", north of the town (the old Danube bank), silks (stone tools - microlites) were discovered, which can be dated back to the early Mesolithic. Stone and bone material from this site, which can be detected only when water level is low, shows the characteristics of the culture of Lepenski Vir.

The first agricultural cultures from the left bank of the Danube are known only with the help of superficially collected material. Neolithic material is encountered in the surroundings of the Polog and Čeb forests, and around Bagremara.

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<sup>1</sup> This settlement belongs to the oldest Neolithic culture - cultural group of „Starčevo“ (dates from the middle 5th millennium, around 4500 - 4200 years BCE).

Eneolithic findings (Copper Age) are detected at sites on the right bank of the Danube, on the Fruška Gora plateau, near the village of Neštin. The richest site is the site of "Kuluštra - Crkvine", which had a favorable strategic position for the settlement formation. The most frequent findings from this site are related to the Vučedol cultural group (end of the 3rd and beginning of the 2nd millennium BCE, the early phase of Vučedol). The area where the mentioned site is located is endangered by agricultural works and erosion. The Vučedol settlement was erected on a higher ground that was lost by watering and plowing.

Among the sites of the prehistoric period, the most numerous are Bronze Age sites. The well-known Bronze Age vessel was found in the town of Bačka Palanka itself (location "Ive Lola Ribara Street"). Vessel shows the characteristics of the Middle Bronze Age. In the immediate vicinity of the town, during construction works, a Bronze Age settlement was discovered. Plate from the Bronze Age with characteristics of the Vatican cultural group (end of the early Bronze Age) was found during earthworks at the border between areas of the villages of Neštin and Susek.

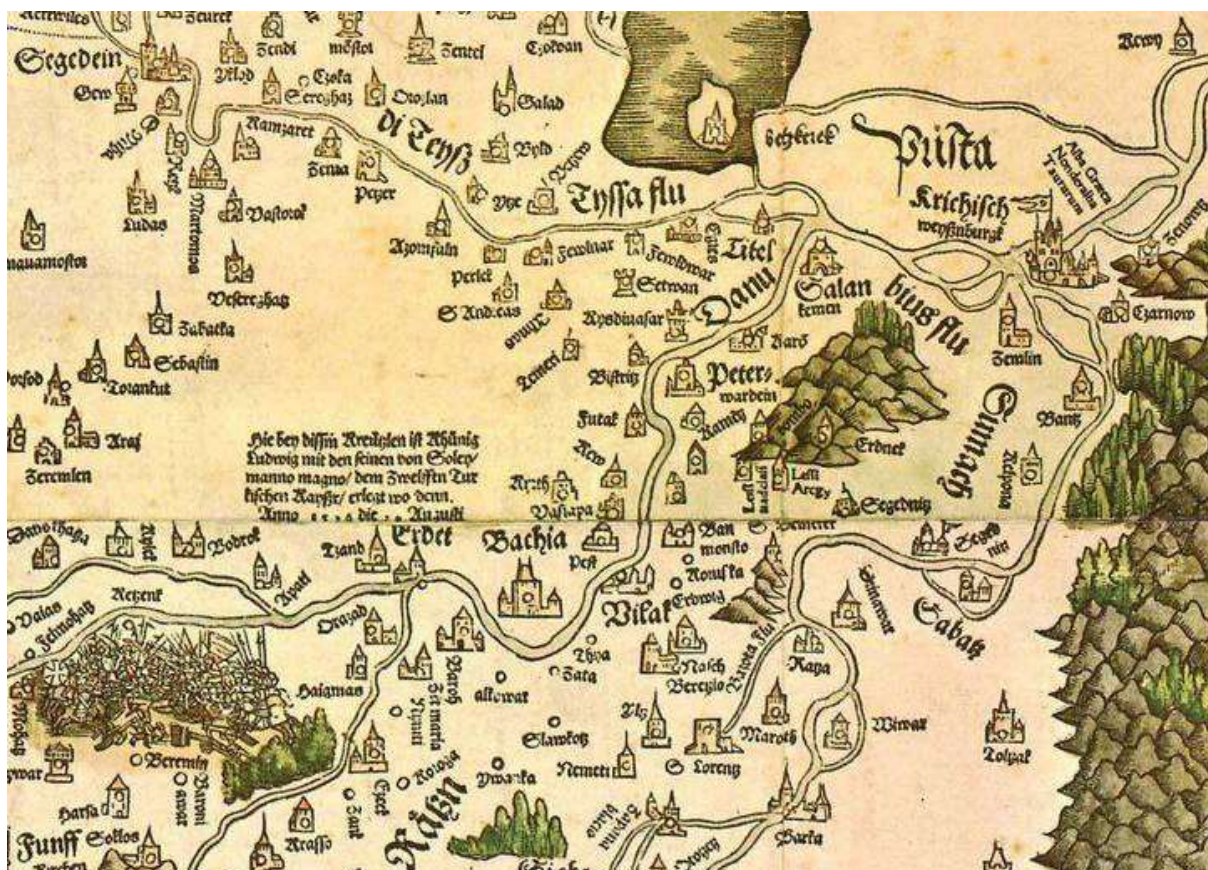
The part of the municipality that spreads on the slopes of Fruška Gora was once part of the Roman border named "Limes of Podunavlje". The area on the left bank of the river was used at that time as defence of the Empire's boundaries. This part of territory was outside the administrative structure of the Roman Empire, inhabited by the Illyrian and then the Sarmatian tribes (Jazigima). On this territory, the Romans and Varvars met either as opponents or as allies, depending on the historical moment. The limes fortifications are also located on the left bank of the river, at larger distances (*castrum in barbarico*). According to some sources, during the Roman era, a smaller Roman fortress of Remezian existed in the border zone nearby Bačka Palanka.

The archaeological picture of Palanka environment for this period, as reported by various sources, can be described as follows. Opposite the Palanka, in the current territory of Ilok fortress, there was a fortification of Cuccium. Upstream, on the right bank, near the mouth of the Drava River and the Danube, there were two castrums, at the villages of Sotin and Dalj. These fortifications were called Cornacum and Teutoburgium. Downstream, near the village of Banoštor, there was an important fortification of Bononia Malata (or Milata according to older authors), which played the role of a dock at the border of Pannonia inferior (the name of the Roman province). On the opposite shore (opposite Bononia) there was kastrum Onagrium built in Diocletian's time (around 293), whose remains were found at the site of "Kuva", near the village of Begeč. A Roman construction shaft was discovered opposite the mouth of the Drava river and the Danube. Based on these findings and the fact that this is a very important strategic point, it is possible to assume that there was a fortress contra Teutoburgium on the left bank of the river. Roman material, construction plastics and metal objects were found

south of the Bač fortress, at the site where the remains of the church were recorded - St. George rotonda.

In the vicinity of the villages of Neštin and Vizić, Roman material was discovered also. Based on the material found near Vizić, it can be concluded that a smaller villa existed in this area. This is supported by Diana's altar, found between the villages of Ilok and Susek.

On the left bank, in the territory of the town itself and its wider area, there are no traces of Roman material, but it is justified to assume that between Bačka Palanka and the village of Ilok there was a pontoon bridge for the transfer of soldiers, at times when the Onagrium fortress endangered. On the border areas of Bačka Palanka and Čelarevo, on the surface of several hundred hectares of the locality "Ciglana", there are findings of an early Medieval settlement and necropolis, which belong to the time of great emigration during 9th and 10th century.



01. fig. Segment of Map of Hungary drawn by Lazarus secretaries: *Tabula Hungariae ed quator latera*, Ingolstadt 1528.; Peth / hub (the forerunner of today's Palanka)

Late Medieval findings are in domain of every settlement in the municipality. A multitude of so-called Slovene and late-Medieval ceramics (polished Turkish ceramics) is present near Bačka Palanka on the site "Kerestur". In the "Tuski Breg" site, at the north of the city, orientational excavations in 1986 revealed material from the late Medieval period. A necropolis that was discovered contains mass graves that probably originate from a period of frequent epidemics.

In the Middle Ages, across the village of Ilok, a settlement called Pešt is mentioned. On a 1556 geographical map it is named Pešt, even though it is also widely known as Iločka. At the time it consisted of no more than 5 to 10 houses. On the same map, the settlement of Kerestur is noted somewhat eastern from today's Palanka, and it still carries the name Krstur. From 1526 to 1687, several settlements are mentioned in this area. These were smaller settlements formed out of only a few specific houses which, according to the data from the tax books (defter), were inhabited by Serbs.

Certain facts claim that in these times there was a Polish fortress on the territory of the Palanka, a „mound“ surrounding the city with Turkish military crew. As reported by a Czech traveler from 1591, there was also a caravan-saraj (a tavern with stables) where tired travelers stayed. Under the roof of the aforementioned facility, there was also some sort of a hospital in which sick passengers had free housing and food for three days. The fortification existed already in 1565, while other record claims that it was built in 1593 - the year that officially indicates the origin of the settlement.



02. fig. Ilok and Palanka, 1698. – inhabited and fortified parts of Palanka and Ilok at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (probably a copy of colored drawing from 1698.)

At the end of the 17th century, the village of Palanka (vicus Palanka) was noted across the village of Ilok on the geographical map, and it has kept its name ever since.

The name of Palanka derives from this fortress, although it is not mentioned during Turkocracy in defender books - probably because its inhabitants were exempt from paying taxes. The very

word PALANKA is a Turkish romanism and comes from the Latin word plank, which represents a fence of wooden pillars, "kolja" (the so-called palisades).

While the medieval town of Bač marks its prosperous period (late 14th, throughout the 15th and at the beginning of the 16th century), a road Bač-Petrovaradin passed through the territory of today's municipality. A very important role in the Middle Ages had the settlement Bukin (now Mladenovo) with its surroundings, which was first mentioned under that name in 1308. The settlement was erected on the bank of Mostonga river, which at the time was navigable. For this area, the 11th century data claim the rise of a church at the confluence of Mostonga in the Danube. It was built by the king of Hungary, Stjepan I, and it belonged to the catholic Bačka bishopric. On the border area of Bačka Palanka and Bač, on the domain of Felić (which can be connected with settlement Feldyhaz, according to Hungarian sources) there are remains of sacral object foundations. These foundations were being destroyed by the locals for many years, since the remains of the sacral structure have been used as construction material for new buildings.

In 1702, Palanka was included in the Danube border, which lead to rapid rise in the number of inhabitants. Already in 1720, Palanka was a settlement with 187 homes and on account of the number of inhabitants, it occupied the fourth place in the Bačka region, after Sombor, Subotica and Titel. The town was inhabited by the majority of people settled in during the great migration of Serbs under Patriarch Čarnojević.

In 1740, Palanka was included in the "Sreska" Border Command, and in 1744, by the decision of the Vienna Court Office, it was merged to Bač-Bodroška county. In 1747, the first county list of taxpayers was implemented (119 taxpayers were registered, all of whom were Serbs by nationality).

After the development, Palanka became a possession of the Royal Town Chamber and afterwards provision was established. As a result, the following settlements were established: Odžaci, Parabuć, Vajska, Bođani, Plavna, Tovariševo, Parage, Silbaš, Gajdobra, Obrovac, Bukin and Čib.

People lived better than during the time of military borders, because they were relieved from the army's sustenance (permanent military obligations). As a result, the settlement began to rapidly increase with the migration from the surrounding places. In 1769 there were 398 Serbian homes, and in 1774 there were 419. The main occupation of the inhabitants was agriculture. As for the farming, the most widespread breed was sheep due to the extensive pastures around the village. Harvesting went slowly, often lasting until the late autumn. As early as 1720, there were three waterfalls on the Danube, and later there more were found. A number of craft workshops, even small industrial enterprises, were opened in Palanka.





03. fig. (left) Ilok and Palanka, on the maps of the First Military Survey (1782-1785); 04. fig. (right) Ilok and Palanka, on the maps of the Second Military Survey (1865-1869);

In 1765, the first brick factory began to work and it consisted out of several outdoor baking ovens, while in 1776 a large tobacco processing warehouse was built, which still exists today.

In 1740 the first ferryboat started to work in order to link left and right side of the Danube. It could only support two straps, and it was dragged by a small boat.

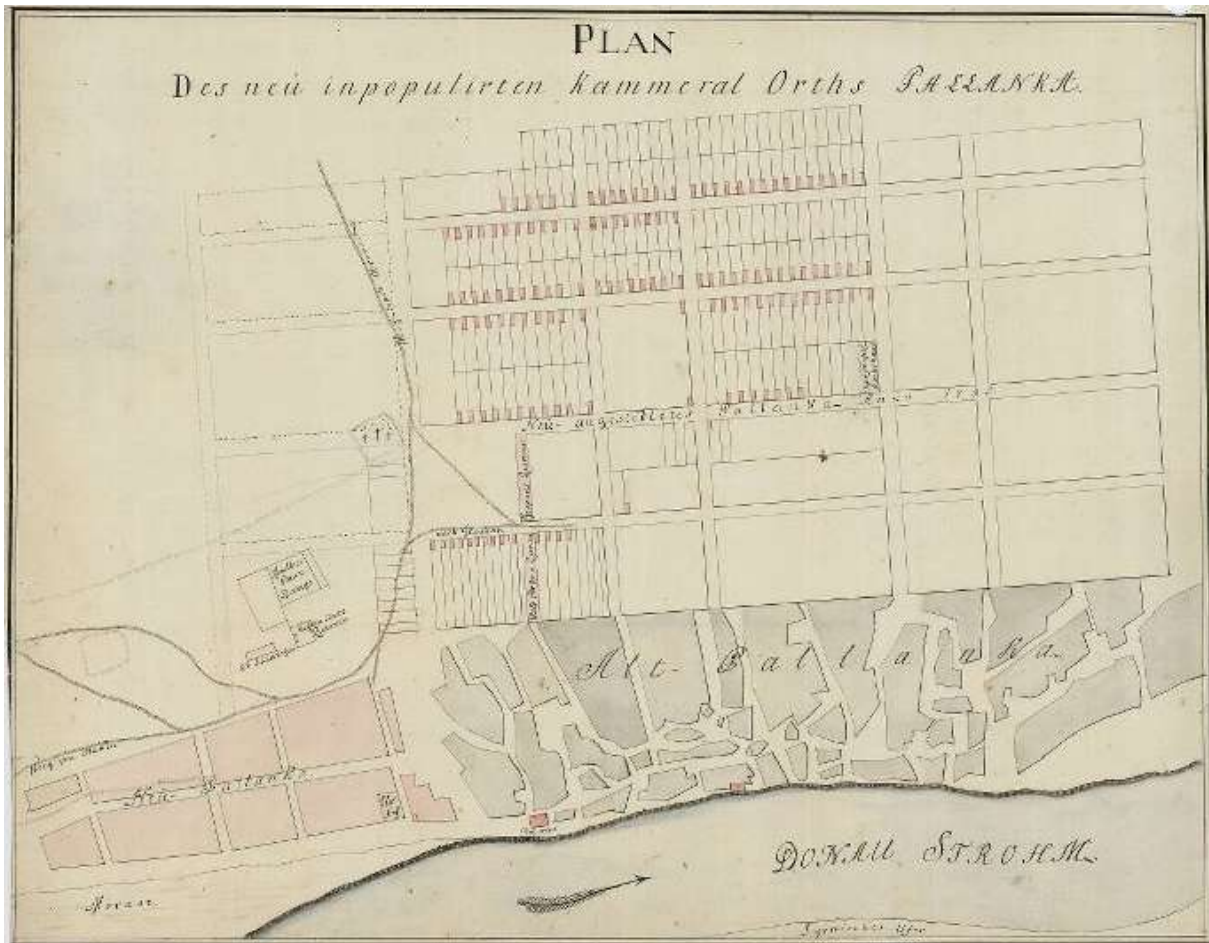
Until the transition, Palanka was inhabited exclusively by Serbian people, but in the following years the first families of Slovaks and Germans settled here. These first colonists were housed in Srpska Palanka (later called Stara Palanka). They were later moved to Nova Palanka. Between Nova and Stara Palanka, there was an empty area of about two kilometres covered with bar sturgeon and grass. In 1780, new colonists settled in this area and thus joined Stara and Nova Palanka<sup>2</sup>.

In December of 1784, by intervention of the bishop of Novi Sad - Josef Jovanović Šakabenda, settlers of Stara Palanka were allowed to erect new Orthodox church on a somewhat higher ground further from the Danube. The old church was located close to the Danube, which made it exposed to floods, whereas a collapse was a constant threat for the whole coastline. The new church was built in 1787 and was completely decorated in 1801, mostly thanks to voluntary contributions by the locals. Until the beginning of the 19th century there were 8 Orthodox parishes with priests in Palanka, and since 1805 their number had fallen to only

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<sup>2</sup> In 1918 they were given a name - Bačka Palanka, but it still consisted out of three municipalities. In this way, three villages were formed on this territory, with three municipalities, although they actually made one large, compact settlement. After the Second World War all three municipalities were merged into one called Bačka Palanka.

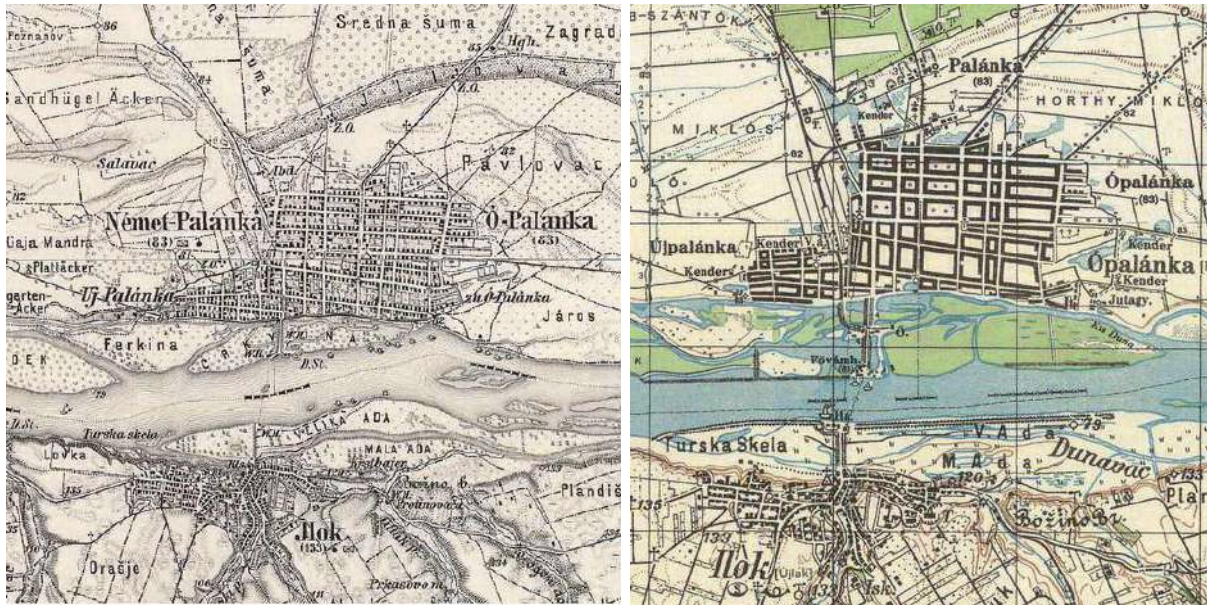
three. The church owned 300 acres of land that it rented for a three-year lease. In the city, there was a one-level Serbian national school, which turned into a two-level building in 1829.



05. fig Plan for settlement of Deutsch-Palanka (1785)

In the period of 1783-84, due to low land and frequent floods, a part of the village consisting of about 200 houses was moved from the Danube bank to the higher ground around the new church and north to the elevated shaft ("Zečji breg"). On this occasion, urbanization of the city was also implemented.

For Palanka, the first half of the 19th century was a period of light economic development, primarily in agriculture, trade and crafts. A large number of trade and craft shops have been opened in the main street, which formed the uprising center of the city. In 1818, the first craftsmen guilds were founded, and in the 1840s there were masons, tailors, blacksmiths, carpenters and others. In 1826, Palanka was given the right to organise fairs twice a year. Palanka was also given the right to organise a small fair (market place) every Wednesday (which was held to this day). The population had grown rapidly, and at that time, Palanka had 7500 inhabitants.



06. fig. (left) Ilok and Palanka, on the maps of the Third Military Survey (1869-1887); 07. fig. (right) Ilok and Palanka, on the maps of the Military Survey (1941);

In 1828, the settlement welcomed the first post office, which was initially located in Stara Palanka. Shipments were delivered from Novi Sad and Bač by postal carriage with armed escort since 1833, until 1896 when the railway took over this service<sup>3</sup>.

The first steamer in Palanka arrived in 1832. Until then, the river traffic was carried out by smaller wooden ships, which were dragged by horses or convicts, walking along the coast road, depending on weather conditions and water level of the river. The connection with the village of Ilok and the region of Srem was maintained by a ferry<sup>4</sup>.

The upcoming period of Bačka Palanka, until the First World War, was marked with rapid progress and development in all directions. The settlement had established as an administrative, commercial and cultural center of the region and gained character of a town. In 1841, it obtained tax administration. The local courthouse (1871), „Gruntovnica“ (1876), and the Public Notary (1882) were moved here from the city of Sombor. The first monetary institutions "Palanačka" safe (1864), "Palanačka" region safe (1873), "Novopalanačka" Credit Association (1884) and Agricultural Bank (1887) were founded. In 1860, Silk factory was erected, as well as a Steam Mill (first one in 1880, and another in 1911), Sawmill (1882), Factory for processing of the hemp - Juta (1881-1882, today's Sintelon) and modern Brick Factory (1901), the first one to produce brick and tile in this region.

In agriculture, great progress was made by the appearance of the percussion (first 1874) and the land consolidation (1893-1894), which grouped smaller groups of individuals. This enabled

<sup>3</sup> The city received a first telegraph in 1889, and the phone line was established on November 1, 1907.

<sup>4</sup> After 234 years, a bridge between Palanka and Ilok was built on May 19, 1974.

the rising of the farms (named "salaš") which were constructed in large numbers due to the size of the belonging area and the distance from the village.

River traffic and the construction of a railway had a high impact on the development of town's economy. Construction of a dock and formation of a shipping agency (1896) meant connecting Palanka with distant places and creation of great opportunities for exchange of goods.

On the cultural and educational agenda, it was crucial to open the Town's School (1886), the first high school with four grades, and the Apprentice's School (1868). Other important event was the opening of "Kasina" (1871), place where inhabitants gathered and exchange ideas. Of special significance for the town was the establishment of the Serbian Reading Room during the political activity of Svetozar Miletić and the United Youth of Serbia. The Reading Room played an important role in the cultural, and later political scene.

In 1881, the first printing press was opened, and the first weekly paper was launched in 1904. Before the Second World War there were three private printers, and thirty papers and magazines that were published.

During this period, Palanka was affected by various disasters: floods, mice disturbances, dry years. Overruns of locusts were recorded in 1858, when the layer of locusts was approximately 60 cm thick. The same thing happened again, but to a lesser extent in 1862, while in 1869 invading mice population destroyed the crops in the area. Large floods were recorded in 1867, 1926, and 1965<sup>5</sup>.

Between the two Wars, the development of Palanka and its economy happened at a faster pace. In 1923, an electric power station was erected. A factory of leather goods was also built. The processing industry developed exceptionally (there were 9 hemp factories in the area). This industry progress had resulted in an increase in the number of workers. The introduction of the sewage system in 1926, which dried underwater areas and resulted in arable land, was out of great significance for agriculture. The application of new agricultural machines and agro-technical measures lead to prosperity of a wealthier landowners, while at the same time it had brought material decay and fragmentation of smaller landowners.

In the period between the two World Wars, cultural and educational strategy included establishment of the Education Committee in Stara Palanka (whose initiator and first president was Dr Borislav Uvalić). At the initiative of Uvalić, and within the Serbian Reading Room, lectures were held in the field of economy and health. In the summer of 1939, at the initiative

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<sup>5</sup> Up until then, this was the highest water level ever recorded, and after this flood, large embankment along the Danube were erected.

of high school and student youth, the Youth section of the Serbian Reading Room was founded, which brought together the advanced youth of Bačka Palanka.



08. fig. "Donau-gasse" in 1924. is called "The Narrow Street", today Street of Milan Kurepa

After the Second World War major changes happened in spatial administration and also in economic, political, demographic and cultural terms. The Law on Agrarian Reform and Colonization, adopted in 1945, made a division of the land to the new owners, and soon after its adoption in the region of Vojvodina, colonists<sup>6</sup> arrived. In a short time, about 250,000 people reached this area. Seven settlements had been established in the Bačka Palanka region, including Bačka Palanka itself.

In the summer of 1965, a flood threatened Bačka Palanka. The high water level of the Danube threatened the flat land of Bačka region for 106 days. Embankment was broken in several places. The Danube broke two embankments near Bačka Palanka, but stopped at the third one. The 160 km long front was defended with 250,000 people from Bezdán to Novi Sad. In the same year, a powerful embankment was built between the northern shores of Lake Tikvara and the city. On the right side of the concrete dam, there is a bronze plaque with the following text: "You have shown us your strength, Danube, in 1965, but the strength of human solidarity that has robbed you is even greater."

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<sup>6</sup> Colonists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Banija, Lika, Kordun, Montenegro, Dalmatia, Raška, Macedonia, Slovenia and Kosovo.

In May 1974 the president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito, greeted by the citizens of Vojvodina and Slavonia, opening the bridge on the Danube between Bačka Palanka and Ilok (725 meters long) - named "May 25th".

After the military conflict that lasted from 1991 to 1995 on the territory of today's Republic of Croatia, the administrative boundary between the Croatia and today's Republic of Serbia was set up right along the Danube. With this division, the Ilok regiment entered the Republic of Croatia while the Bačka Palanka regiment became part of the Republic of Serbia.

During the NATO bombing in 1999, the bridge was damaged on April 4th and 19th, and it was not released for traffic until the 30th of April, 2002. Today it forms a link between the two sides of the Danube, but also a formal administrative boundary between the two countries, which once were one.



09. fig. Ilok and Bačka Palanka, on the [googlemaps.com](https://www.google.com/maps) (2018);

## 2 SPACE

“Danube Urban Brand” (DANUrB) Interreg project brings spatial research methodology aimed at strengthening development perspectives of the Danube region. More specifically, it marks smaller and undervalued settlements along the Danube and applies valorisation methodology based on spatial data, with the purpose of bringing new values for culture, tourism and economic development. The research presented in this part focuses on the spatial range of settlement and applies adapted research methodology developed within the DANUrB project.

The study adopts community development approach based on assets and potentials (Mathie & Cunningham, 2010). It aims to demonstrate development capacities of the Bačka Palanka settlement by employing GIS-based mapping and data visualisation methodology. The study has been designed to show the visual presentation of Bačka Palanka potentials for development based on its natural, cultural and socio-economic values. The objective of the paper is to promote decision support methodology which leads to better understanding of development prospects based on spatial delineation and mapping.

### 2.1 Location and its connection to the Danube

#### 2.1.1 Geomorphologic and geological characteristics

Backa Palanka is a Pannonian settlement, in the southern part of Backa region, on the bank of the Danube River, on which south side is Fruska Gora Mountain. The settlement of Backa Palanka is positioned on the alluvial terrace, the altitude of it ranges between 80 and 83 m above sea level. The relief of the settlement is slightly torn down in the northwest - southeast. The alluvial terrace is building a higher morphological steppe of the alluvial plane of the Danube. On this morphological unit, the southern part of the settlement was built, on the periphery of which there are sections towards the alluvial Danube level, 2 to 5 m high. “The geological composition is formed on the sand and overgrown wood, on which surface alluvial deposits of the Danube are deposited. Inundation plane is the lowest morphological unit of the alluvial plane of the Danube. The geological composition consists of recent sand and silt, which the Danube precipitates when spilling out of its trough. It is covered with bar-forest vegetation<sup>1</sup> “. According to the map of the macro seismic reionization issued by the Seismological Institute of Serbia in Belgrade in 1987, the area of Backa Palanka municipality is located in the zone of 6 ° MCS and 7 ° MCS for a return period of 100 and 200 years.

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<sup>1</sup> "Geographical Monographs of Vojvodina Municipalities - MUNICIPALITY OF BAČKA PALANKA", University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Institute of Geography, 1997.

### 2.1.2 Climate characteristics

The Pannonia plain, with its distinctive features, is closer to continental rather than moderate climates. The values of the basic meteorological elements are determined by the geographical position, the relief of the surrounding terrain, the distance from the sea, the geological composition and vegetation. Analysis of climatic elements was made based on the data of the Republic Hydro Meteorological Institute from the nearest weather station in Novi Sad, for the period 1991-2006. years.

The area of Bačka Palanka municipality, in a hydrographic view, gravitates with the natural watercourse of the Danube and the channels of the hydraulic system Danube Tisa Danube: Bački Petrovac - Karavukovo and Savino Selo - Novi Sad. Both of these channels belong to the basic channel network of hydro systems, with the basic function of drainage of the gravitational area, irrigation and navigation. The Danube River has all the characteristics of a flatland river with a difference between the minimum and maximum water levels of 8.37 m. The nearest hydrological station where regular water and flow monitoring is performed is the water meter station in Bogojevo.

On the territory of the Municipality of Backa Palanka a dam for the protection against the high waters of the Danube has been built. The only interruption of the embankment is for the way to the lake "Tikvara" in Backa Palanka, which is adequately technically solved.

### 2.1.3 Urban development

In the area of the Backa Palanka municipality, the first smaller settlements were formed in the period from the 11th to the 17th century, but they did not have a permanent character, because of that about their urban characteristics cannot be discussed. Due to frequent floods of the Danube River and the wars that took place in the Pannonian Plain, all of that have influenced that the first settlements often change their position.

The first name associated with the settlement itself is Feldvar and dates from 1308. In the period of Austro-Turkish wars, this settlement was of a military character and was of a border type. During the Battle of Mohac (1526), the settlement was destroyed and after that the Ottomans lifted the fortress in his place when the name Palanka was first mentioned. The settlement was under Ottoman rule until 1687, and the signing of the Karlovac peace in 1699, Backa was merged with Austria. During this period, the settlement is inhabited with Serbs who were in that time the first line of defense from the Ottomans. At that time, the first nucleus of the settlement was formed, as a small village with the church, and numerous agricultural households are formed in a spacious vicinity of settlement.

In the eighteenth century, when the arrival of Germans began, and a new part was formed with name of Nova Palanka. The characteristic types of streets are formed, which were often



have names by the craftsmans which lived in them (millers, ships, fishermen ...) and as well as new urban blocks of larger dimensions. At the end of the same century, another part of German people moved into the settlement and the third part of the settlement called German Palanka, between Stara and Nova, was formed. A completely new urban whole, a corpus of today's center of settlement, was created in that period. Each settlement in those times had its own symbol, coat of arms: 1774th coat of arms of Stara Palanka, 1775 coat of arms of Nova Palanka and 1808 coat of arms of Germany Palanka.

The period of the 18th and 19th centuries is the time of development of the settlements that comprise the three Palanka. In the eighteenth century, the foundations of the important institution were founded: a credit company, a land register, a court, a cadaster and in those times Palanka was the center of the South Bačka district. The villages around are inhabited by the Germans and members of the Slovak people. The XIX century is a period of significant industrial development of the settlement when large factories are opened, warehouses that will be the bearers of the development of the settlement in the XX century. Also, in that period schools and church are established (Catholic church 1907-1910).

When Vojvodina was merged with the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians in 1918, the settlement gets its current name Backa Palanka, and the period between the two world wars is also a period of prosperity and development of the settlement, primarily in sector of the industry. After the completion of the II world war, development of the settlement as well as the whole country, it is related to the socialist model, it is marked by the formation of administrations, the construction of a social and collective housing fund. In that time the first Urban Institute was founded in 1965.

## 2.2 Bačka Palanka municipality – spatial and socio-economic characteristics

Bačka Palanka is a municipality in South Bačka district of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (APV), Serbia. Most of its territory is located on the left bank of the Danube river<sup>2</sup>, on the Serbia-Croatia boarder, 45km upstream from the city of Novi Sad. According to the 2011 Census of Population, Bačka Palanka municipality has 55 528 inhabitants (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia). It covers the territory of 59 020, 91 ha and consists of the town of Bačka Palanka and 13 rural settlements<sup>3</sup> (10.fig.).

By implementing functional hierarchy and polycentrism as principles for even spatial development of the Republic of Serbia (Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, 2010), the town of Bačka Palanka is classified as local (municipal) urban centre, within the structure of

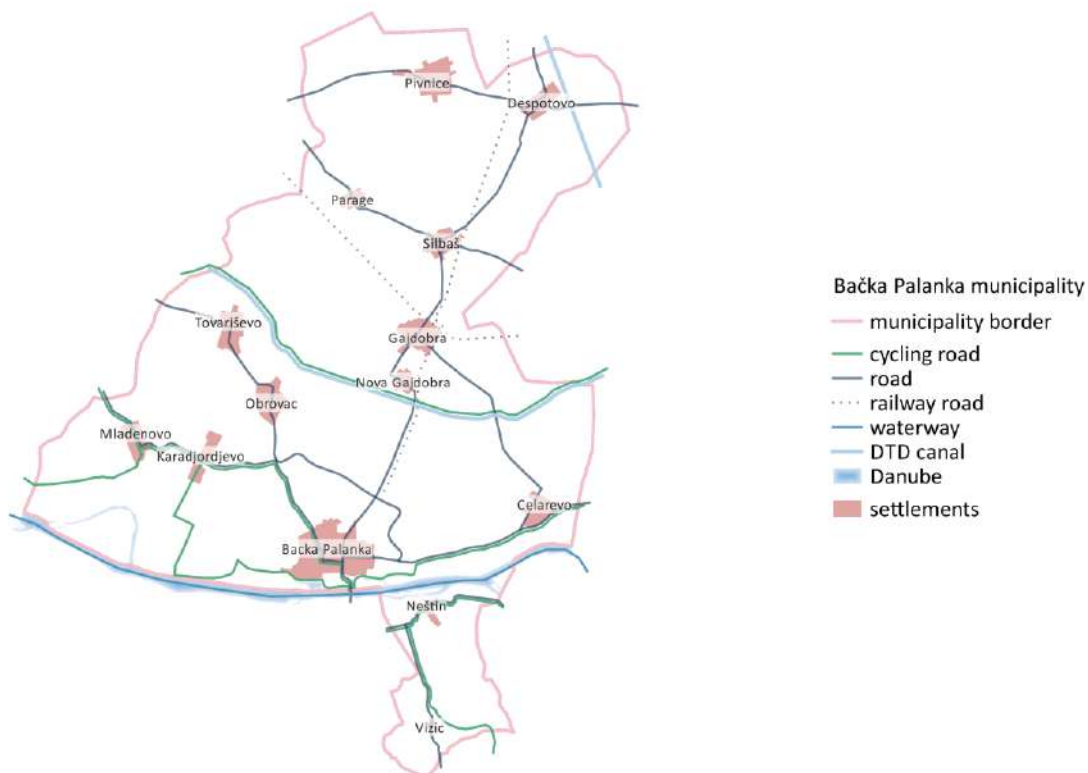
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<sup>2</sup> Two of 14 settlements of the municipality, Neštin and Vizić, are located on the right side of the Danube bank.

<sup>3</sup> Those settlements are: Gajdobra, Despotovo, Karađorđevo, Mladenovo, Nova Gajdobra, Obrovac, Parage, Pivnice, Silbaš, Tovariševo, Čelarevo, Neštin, Vizić.

functional urban area of international importance of the city of Novi Sad (Spatial plan of Bačka Palanka Municipality, 2012). According to Regional Spatial Plan of the APV (Regionalni prostorni plan AP Vojvodine, 2011), which envisions formation of gravitational centres of the lower rank serving as attractors for the settlements from their immediate surroundings, the town of Bačka Palanka is designated as one of the centres of subregional importance, which are, together with the centres of functional urban areas, defined as carriers of development of the APV. Role of the city of Bačka Palanka is defined according to following spatial and locational advantages:

- the border city (national border Serbia-Croatia);
- the capacity to grow into node - development engines with a significant impact on the development of the surrounding area;
- prospective complementarities and functional connectivity of cities and urban settlements: Apatin – Bač – Bačka Palanka – Novi Sad;
- an urban settlement located on the corridor VII – port city (Regionalni prostorni plan AP Vojvodine, 2011).



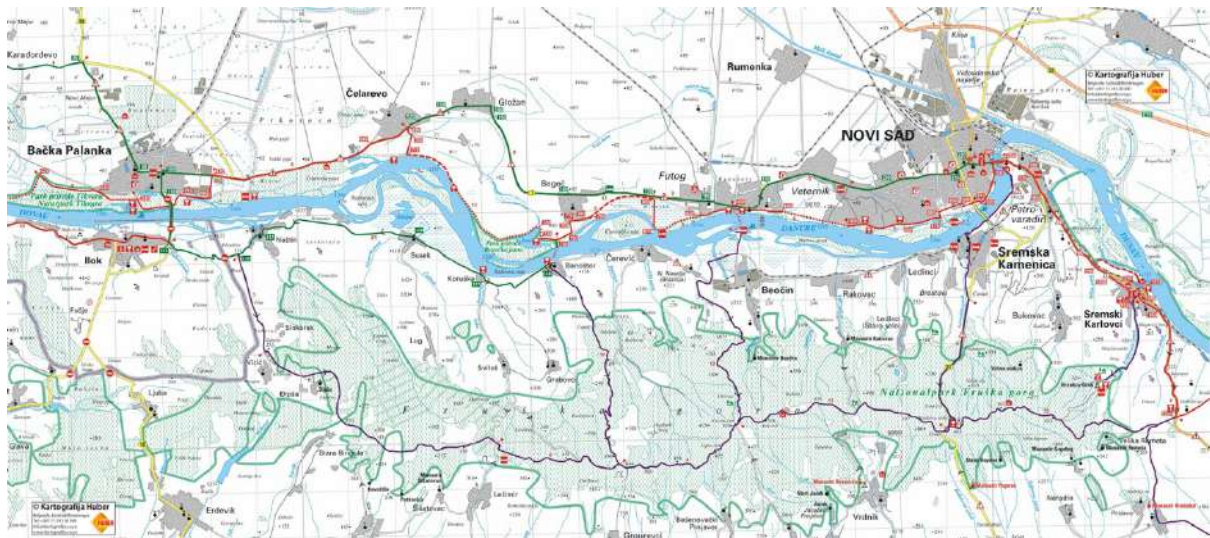
10.fig. Bačka Palanka municipality – settlements, position and accessibility

The economy of the Bačka Palanka municipality is based on agriculture, industry and tourism. Considering the main elements of the spatial organization and structure of the industry in Vojvodina, Bačka Palanka is defined as the economic centre of the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank. It is designated as one of the industrial zones and planned as a future location for one of the industrial parks

in APV<sup>4</sup> (Regionalni prostorni plan AP Vojvodine, 2011). As almost 80% of the territory of the municipality is agricultural land, there crop farming is very intensive along with livestock breeding, and fruit-growing, while special orientation is directed towards the viticulture (Prostorni plan opštine Bačka Palanka, 2012).

### 2.3 Accessibility

Bačka Palanka is a part of a broader tourist destination of Novi Sad and Fruška Gora, with Novi Sad and the town of Bačka Palanka as traditional touristic centres<sup>5</sup> (Regionalni prostorni plan AP Vojvodine, 2011). The municipality belongs both to the one of the primary-international tourist route, on the direction of border crossing Bačka Palanka (Croatia) - Novi Sad - Žabalj - Zrenjanin - border crossing Srpska Crnja (Romania); and to secondary-national touristic route, on the direction Sombor - Bačka Palanka – Šid – border crossing Sremska Rača (BiH).



11. fig. Map of accessibility of Bačka Palanka (kartografija.co.yu)

Regarding the waterway transit tourist routes, Bačka Palanka is positioned on the primary - international route of the Danube river, with its coastal area as the most significant space for nautical tourism. Bačka Palanka is classified as an international port connected with certain international and interregional logistic centres, anticipated also as a location for an international dock for passenger vessels of all kinds. The concept of development of the facilities for nautical tourism on the Danube river in APV defines location-zones planned for

<sup>4</sup> The main elements of spatial organization and structure of the industry in Vojvodina are: corridors of development of international and national significance (along corridors X and VII); corridors of development of regional significance; and economic centers I-IV rank. (Regionalni prostorni plan AP Vojvodine, 2011)

<sup>5</sup> Overall territory of the AP Vojvodina is divided into touristic destinations, as spatial areas with compact touristic offer and with the respective touristic centres and transit touristic routs. (Regionalni prostorni plan AP Vojvodine, 2011)

nautical capacities of different levels (nautical centres, marinas, tourist ports and nautical anchorages), with Bačka Palanka assigned as a future location for a marina. (Regionalni prostorni plan AP Vojvodine, 2011)

Apart from the waterway accessibility, Bačka Palanka municipality is positioned on the national road of the 1st order, making a connection with Hungary (Bački Breg border crossing) on the North, and with Croatia on the South (Bačka Palanka border crossing). It is linked to the E-75 highway to the East by municipal road through Čelarovo settlement towards Novi Sad. The railway links are underused, but both regional and local railway roads are passing through the municipality. Finally, the territory of the Bačka Palanka municipality is an integral part of the Eurovelo 6 cycling route.

## 2.4 Urban structure and land use

### 2.4.1 Urban morphology of the settlement

In the sense of urban morphology, Backa Palanka can be divided into 4 different parts that have their distinctive characters and peculiarity, which is the result of the historical spatial development. The eastern part of the settlement (also called Stara Palanka) is a plain-type, with wide streets which has long linear directions, and individual houses that have the "back" economic part of the plot, that most often serves for agricultural purposes. Dominant architectural typology is individual housing, almost mono functional, with several blocks in the centre whose interior has been penetrated and transformed with new streets in the period aftermath of World War II, with new typologies of family housing.

The western part of the settlement, which represents the area west of the railway land, was planned and built in the second half of the 20th century, is also dominated by single family housing typologies, all on the same plots and geometrically planned streets. This part is characterized by stricly zoning of the city functions, which is a feature of the socialist model of the urban planning.

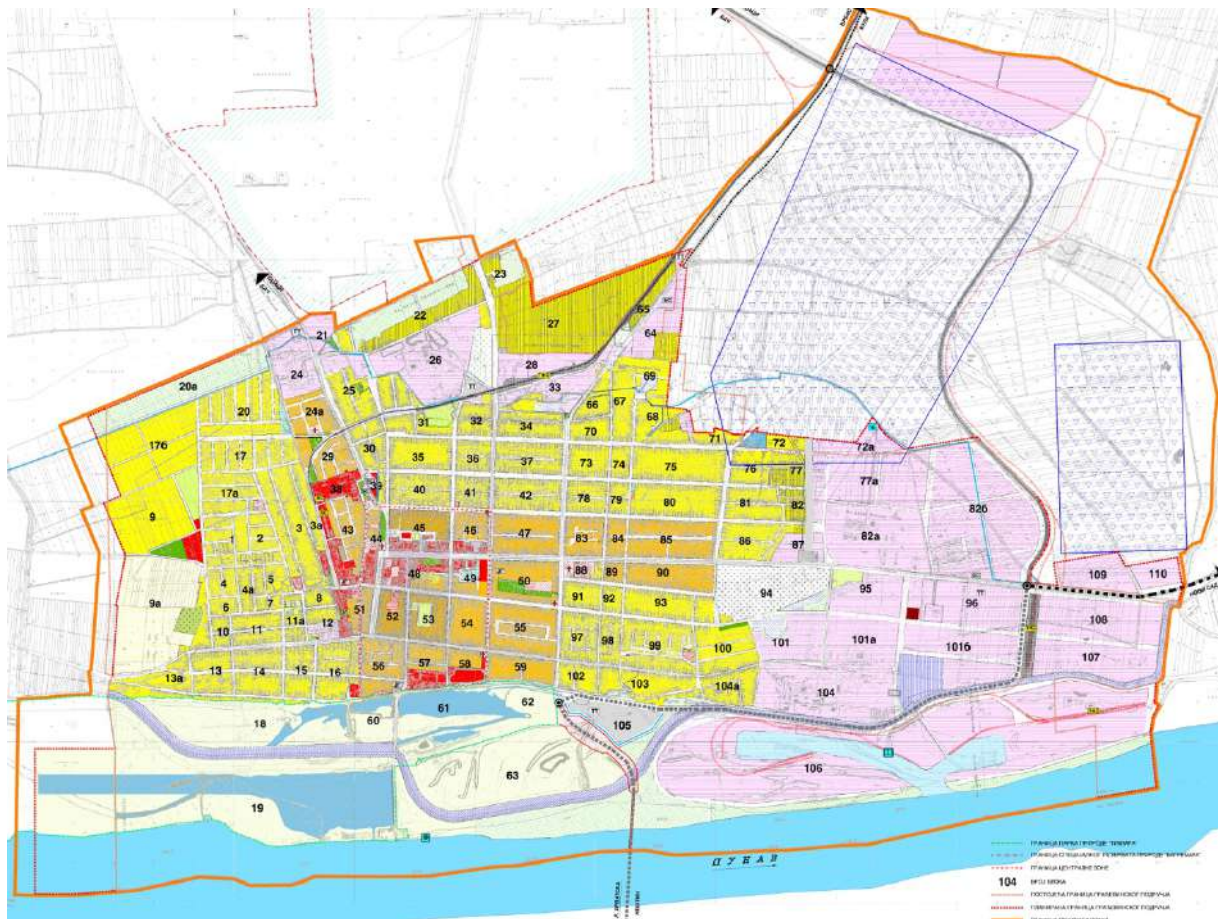
Part of the settlement that rests on the Danube coast is actually the morphological oldest part, and it is formed in linear direction along the Danube coast Street. Directions, roads are not straight lines, but their route is conditioned by terrain morphology and hydro technical work from the past. Urban blocks are mostly irregular in shapes, as well as the parcels within themselves. The typology of architecture is dominantly family houses, with several industrial sites such as Merkur, Duvankop warehouse, printing house, forestry ect.

The center of the settlement represents a dynamic urban area, a part of the city that has been significantly transformed in the period of socialism. The old urban fabric is completely disturbed in the central blocks with new architectural typologies (administration, banks, services, multi - story buildings, department stores and trading). A lot of new streets have been

introduced, and the only pedestrian part of centre is "Narrow street" (in the name of Academic Milan Kurepa), which is a "corso", space very characteristic of Vojvodina settlements, which has been preserved from the old core of the settlement.

On the northern and eastern edge of the settlement new working areas were formed, which are now the bearers of the economy in it.

Of importance for the morphological development of the settlement is the fact that in the 21st century the construction of structures of multi-family dwelling in the area of the center and its surroundings, which are interpolated mostly in surroundings with ground floor individual family houses. The block space on which these new buildings are built is too large, the potential of the settlement is not sufficient to replace the whole typology of the blocks, because of what the family dwelling can't be excluded completely by the multistory one, and relations like that are making character of incopletition.



12 fig. Plan for general regulation of Bačka Palanka, map - Urban structure and land use, JP Directorate for the construction of the Municipality of Backa Palanka, JP Institute for Urbanism of Vojvodina Novi Sa

#### 2.4.2 Spatial - functional and program organization of the settlement

The layout of functions and programs in the settlement is largely conditioned by the morphological characteristics and its historical development. In addition to the dominant

function of single family housing, within the settlement are also distinctive the business-administrative area, the area for work and the functions related to tourism and recreation.

Individual housing is the urban function that occupies the western part of the building area and the wider area around the center. On the eastern side of Backa Palanka, a large working area has been formed, on the south side it is a coastal area with its recreational and tourist facilities and natural resources, while on the northern edge it is a part of the working area and partly the Nature Reserve of Bagremara. This conditioned the possibility of expanding the housing function only to the west where is the agricultural land which is located on the boundary of the building area. Although the number of inhabitants, according to statistics, is in decline, the creation of new working areas from the west side of the settlement should be avoided so that the housing has a perspective as a content for the expansion of the construction area. Multi-family dwelling is present in the center and in its wider environment, where it has a tendency to develop in other parts of settlement.

In addition to the working area in the east of the settlement, exist part on the incoming road from the direction of Novi Sad. The working spaces are also formed in the north along the road leading to Sombor, at some individual locations in vicinity of centre, as well as along the coastal part of Backa Palanka. The urban planning documentation has been strategically defined to extend the working surfaces to the eastern part of the settlement and the large area of unbuilt and unregulated construction land in this part of Backa Palanka. This is completely justified and should also aim to dislocate work contents from the immediate surroundings of the center and from the area near the Nature Park "Tikvara".

The layout of communal facilities and areas is conditioned by functional and technical factors and they are not grouped into specific places. Most of these contents are located on the perimeter of the settlement (water factory, water catchment, cemetery, transfer stations and pumping stations), except the green market which is located in the center, and whose resettlement is also a long-term commitment to the Bačka Palanka urban plans.

Sports and recreational facilities are mainly located in the coastal area of Backa Palanka, with the exception of the football club Old town playground (in the working area in the east) and the stadium "Backa", which is in the block 53 within the center. His relocation is also important for the functioning of the Bačka Palanka center. It is necessary to strive for the expansion of sports and recreational facilities within the coastal area and Bagremara and the preservation and revitalization of small sports playgrounds in the entire settlement area.

Public and business functions are mostly located in the central blocks of Backa Palanka and they are in the functionally-programmatic and social sense making of the center of town. Apart from the content in the center, several smaller schools, preschool institutions, health centers and meat offices are somewhat evenly distributed in other local communities.

## 2.5 Development potentials

Data for the evaluation of development potentials of Bačka Palanka municipality were gathered based on the study of Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, Regional Spatial Plan of the APV, Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Bačka Palanka (both narrative and graphical part), and information available on the official website of the municipality, other relevant online database, as well as the on-site observation and existing common knowledge.

The main development and touristic advantages of Bačka Palanka municipality are reflected in the nature-based values and related special interest activities, inherited cultural and rural heritage, and diverse manifestations and events. Considering the nature-based values, they are related to the Danube river and the Danube bank, National Park Fruška Gora, Nature Park Tikvara, two Special Nature Reserves named Karađorđevo and Bagremara, and two lakes, Tikvara and Bager. They consist of preserved ecosystems, forests and wetlands, and endemic species of plants and animals. This natural surrounding provides an opportunity for special interest activities and sports such as hunting, horse riding and fishing, camping, hiking and cycling, as well as for ecotourism and excursions. Nautical activities and water sports are particularly prospective elements of touristic potentials of this area (sailing, rowing, kayaking, canoeing, etc.). Except that, the position of Bačka Palanka town on the Danube, and the fact that it is a vivid fishing area, has influenced the gastronomic offer based on fish dishes.

Cultural heritage is based on the cultural and historical monuments, while rural values are related to country houses and country landscape, with a special element of cultivated nature of the vineyards located on the right side of the Danube bank, and specialised offer in regards to vine growing and winemaking. Another specific element of tourism attractiveness of the area is based on the events and festivals, of diversified cultural, artistic, musical, sports, entertainment and recreational kinds.

## 2.6 Mapping and spatial demarcation of data

After the consideration of elaborated touristic and development potentials of Bačka Palanka municipality, the software was used for the purpose of mapping and spatial delineation of data. More specifically, we used Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS), as Open Source software (QGIS, 2018). Spatial demarcation of data was based on the idea of clustering relevant groups of factors which influence the development and tourism attractiveness of the selected area. Mapping was designed in a way that research clusters were presented as separate layers, namely the touristic values, connections, and spatial/development zones, each comprising of the groups of elements, as given in Table 2a. Separate elements of the research cluster groups were presented as points (tourism values), lines (connections), or

shapes (spatial/development zones), therefore enabling clustering of tourism and development assets, attributes and settings (13.fig.).

According to development potentials of Bačka Palanka municipality, the examined territory is divided into spatial/development zones, which are defined as viticulture; agricultural land; forest and nature; settlements; holiday housing area; industry; and Danube (Danube bank). These categories primarily refer to the land use policy, but also represent areas preferred for corresponding development priorities. Touristic values as the main research cluster are grouped as festivals and celebrations; nature; cultural and rural heritage; sports and leisure activities; and gastronomy; which determine and define the development prospects of the examined area. One of the important settings which influence the attractiveness of these tourism assets is connectivity and accessibility of selected area, presented as linear setting, according to basic transportation means: bicycle routes, roads, railroads, and nautical routes and accessibility points. Finally, what resulted from such spatial demarcation and mapping are obvious areas of concentration of certain factors which define tourism development zones.

<b>Tourism values</b>	<b>Connections</b>	<b>Development / Spatial zones</b>
Festivals and celebrations	Cycling path	Viticulture
Nature	Road	Agricultural land
Cultural and rural heritage	Railway	Forest and nature
Sports and leisure activities	Waterway	Settlements
Gastronomy		Holiday housing area
		Industry
		Danube (Danube bank)

*Table 2a: Research data clusters*

## 2.7 Conclusions

Bačka Palanka represents a smaller settlement and municipality of the Danube corridor, belonging to the less favoured regions in terms of tourism attractiveness and development initiatives. The presented analysis shows the potentials of the settlements within Bačka Palanka municipality based on the QGIS software and mapping methodology which was used in order to map the spatial delineation of development capacities of the examined area.





13.fig. Spatial demarcation and mapping of development potentials of Bačka Palanka municipality

As it is indicated, development potentials of Bačka Palanka municipality are primarily based on industry, agriculture and tourism. The study was designed according to the DANURB project objectives, with the focus on culture and tourism development prospects. The presented research has shown that the most of the contents defined as tourist attractions are clustered in space, in close proximity to the Danube river, which is at the same time one of the main potentials of this region. Development possibilities of Bačka Palanka municipality, therefore, rely on its strategic position on the Danube river and closeness to the surrounding national borders (Hungary, Croatia, BiH) and accessing routes, i.e. waterways, roads and bicycle routes. Cultural tradition primarily expressed through the festivities and celebrations rooted in the assets and attributes of the area, along with the nature-based values, advantages and related activities, are the basis for tourism development. Variety of contents thus enables a diversified opening towards the Danube bank and enhancement of the tourism offer. Development prospects are also based on the linking and networking with settlements along the Danube river, and utilization of its waterway tourist routes, together with interconnection with other transport directions.

Finally, even though small settlements like Bačka Palanka are relatively easy to predicted spaces of the concentration of different assets and settings, presented research mapping and visualisation methodology is considered to be useful for visualisation and analysis of larger areas and respective spatial distribution of different factors and development assets.

### 3 CULTURAL HERITAGE

#### 3.1 Tangible heritage

On the territory of today's Republic of Serbia there is a large number of archaeological sites, spatial-cultural historical units and facilities, built during the history, which are of special value. Among them are those who represent valuable architectural works, but there are those whose value is reflected in a kind of testimony of the historical moment, the formation of the identity of one space.

In terms of cultural heritage, Bačka Palanka represents an extremely interesting environment. The old city core, although largely protected by law, is still waiting to restore its old glow. Numerous institutions and individuals have been trying for years to draw attention to the problem of reconstruction of smaller towns in the Vojvodina region. Many studies have been conducted, in which the directions of possible solutions to the problems have been defined. Among others, the DANURB project tries to emphasize an image of the excellence of the architectural heritage segment, that is called "minor architecture"<sup>1</sup>. This type of heritage is the most represented in the Bačka Palanka's architectural heritage. The largest number of buildings are residential architecture but also sacral buildings, public and industrial buildings and complexes. Great efforts have been made to show that the value of the building is measured by the creativity of the builders, regardless of whether their names are known or not. The very buildings witness of the past epochs, as well as the formation of the identity of a single space.

The protection concerned institution of immovable cultural heritage in the territory of Bačka Palanka municipality is the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, based in Petrovaradin (Novi Sad). The Institute as the competent institution, conducts researching and issuing conditions for the protection of immovable cultural heritage for the purposes of developing urban studies.

According to the current The Law on the Cultural Property<sup>2</sup>, cultural goods are objects and creations of material and spiritual culture of general interest that enjoy special protection established by this Law.

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<sup>1</sup> Architettura minore is an Italian term for private, non-monumental architecture, often built without the help of architects who, however, possess numerous values that are treated as significant cultural heritage;

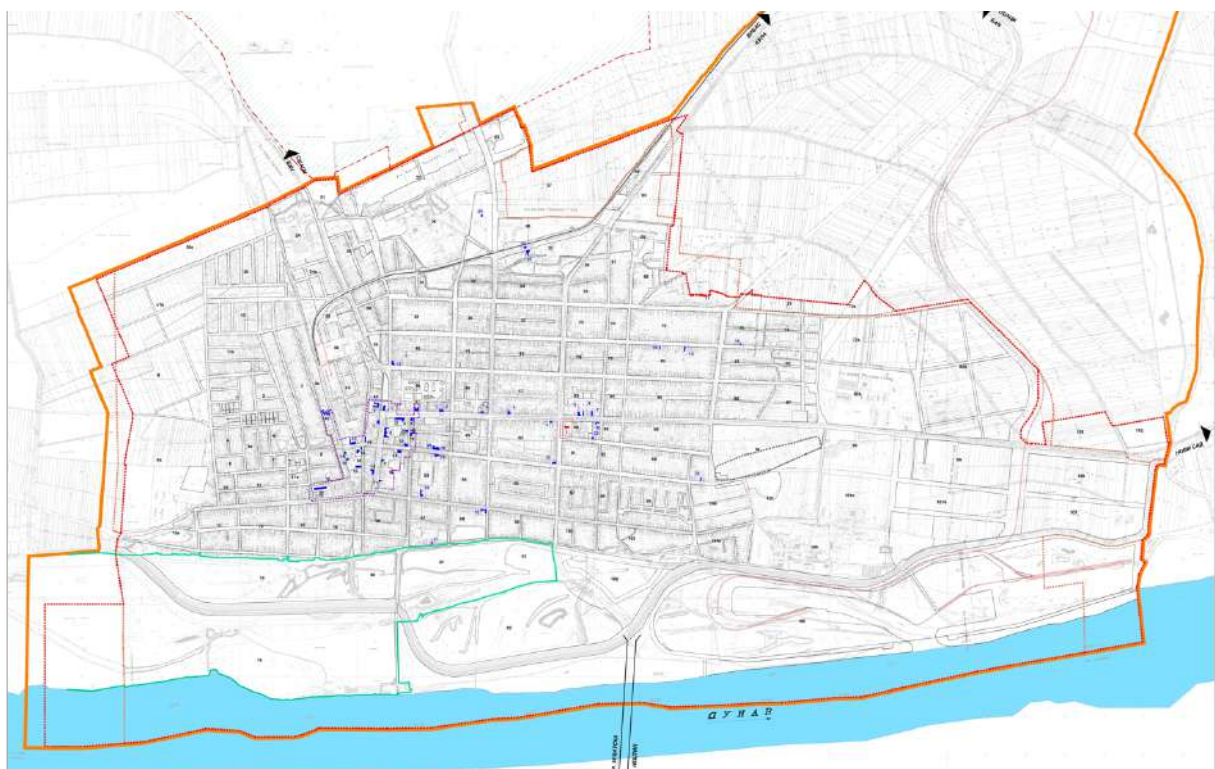
<sup>2</sup> Službeni Glasnik No.71 / 94

Cultural heritage, depending on their physical, artistic, cultural and historical properties, are: immovable cultural heritage (monuments of culture, spatial cultural-historical units, archaeological sites and important places) and movable cultural heritage (artistic-historical works, archival material, film and old and rare books).

Cultural heritage, depending on their importance, are classified into categories: cultural heritage, cultural heritage of great importance and cultural heritage of exceptional significance.

According to this law, in Backa Palanka there is one cultural monument registered as a cultural monument of great importance:

Serbian Orthodox Church of the Rosary of Sv. John the Baptist - Resolution No. 1322, Belgrade, 12.XII, 1950, was declared immovable cultural property and categorized as a cultural monument of great importance. The church is one-nave, with a semicircular apse with the same width as the naos. While the singing space is somewhat expanding and rectangular. On the west side there is a high baroque belfry.



14. fig. Plan for general regulation of Bačka Palanka, map - Protected natural entities and cultural assets, JP Directorate for the construction of the Municipality of Backa Palanka, JP Institute for Urbanism of Vojvodina Novi Sad

**The registered immovabilities**<sup>3</sup> are recorded objects of cultural and historical significance for the emergence and development of the Bačka Palanka settlement, from the cultural-historical, urban and architectural aspect. The registered immovable property within the

<sup>3</sup> Documentation of the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments - 017AI Backa Palanka

prescribed legal deadline is not determined for the cultural good, and accordingly, the measures of protection established by the Law on Cultural Property do not apply to these facilities.



15. fig. Plan for general regulation of Bačka Palanka, map - Protected natural entities and cultural assets, JP Directorate for the construction of the Municipality of Backa Palanka, JP Institute for Urbanism of Vojvodina Novi Sad; segment of the settlement Spacious cultural-historical unit of the old center of Bačka Palanka with an industrial zone (purple interrupted line), objects within and outside the mainland (marked in blue) and the building a monument of culture of exceptional significance (marked in red)

- **Spatial cultural-historical heritage of the old center of Bačka Palanka with an industrial zone** - Buildings within the area are of particular importance:

- The Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception on the Square of the Brady and Unity, k.p.3155,
- House in the Street of King Peter the First 4-6, k.p.3151 i 3152,
- House in the Street of King Peter the First 8, k.p.3150,
- Kuća u Ulici kralja Petra I broj 10, k.p.3144,
- The Rezeli palace, the Street of King Peter the First 9, k.p.3085,
- Building on the Square of the Brady and Unity 22, k.p.3156,
- House on the Square of the Brady and Unity 30, k.p.3165,
- School center in the Street of the Ribnikar brothers 21-Museum facility, k.p.3174,
- House in the Street of JNA 15, k.p.3178,
- Kindergarten in the Street of JNA 4 – 6, k.p.5654,
- Building in the Street of JNA 18, k.p. 5462,
- House in the Street of Milan Kurepa 10, k.p.3149,
- House in the Street of Milan Kurepa 9, k.p.3182,
- Old Railway Station in the Railway estate 1, k.p.7242,
- Building in the Railway estate 1 broj 4, k.p.7240,

- Railway turn in teh Railay estate 1, k.p.7258,7259 i 7260,
- Tobacco warehouse in the Street od Nikola Tesla.
- **Buildings outside the spatial cultural-historic unit:**
  - House in the Street of King Peter the First 21, k.p.3109/2 i 3109/3,
  - House in the Street of King Peter the First 23, k.p.3111,
  - Building in the Street of King Peter the First 35, k.p.3275,
  - Building in the Street of King Peter the First 88, k.p.3662,
  - House in the Street of King Peter the First 96, k.p.3679,
  - Prayer House with the Church of St. Antun, in the Street of JNA, k.p.3639,
  - Slovak Evangelical Church in the Street of Šafarik, k.p.5213,
  - House in the Street of Forest 2, k.p.2445,
  - House in the Street of Ivo Lola Ribar 25, k.p.5390,
  - House in the Street of Danube 213, k.p.6654,
  - Dembic' house in the Street od JNA 29, k.p.3201,
  - House in the Street of JNA 42, k.p.5353.

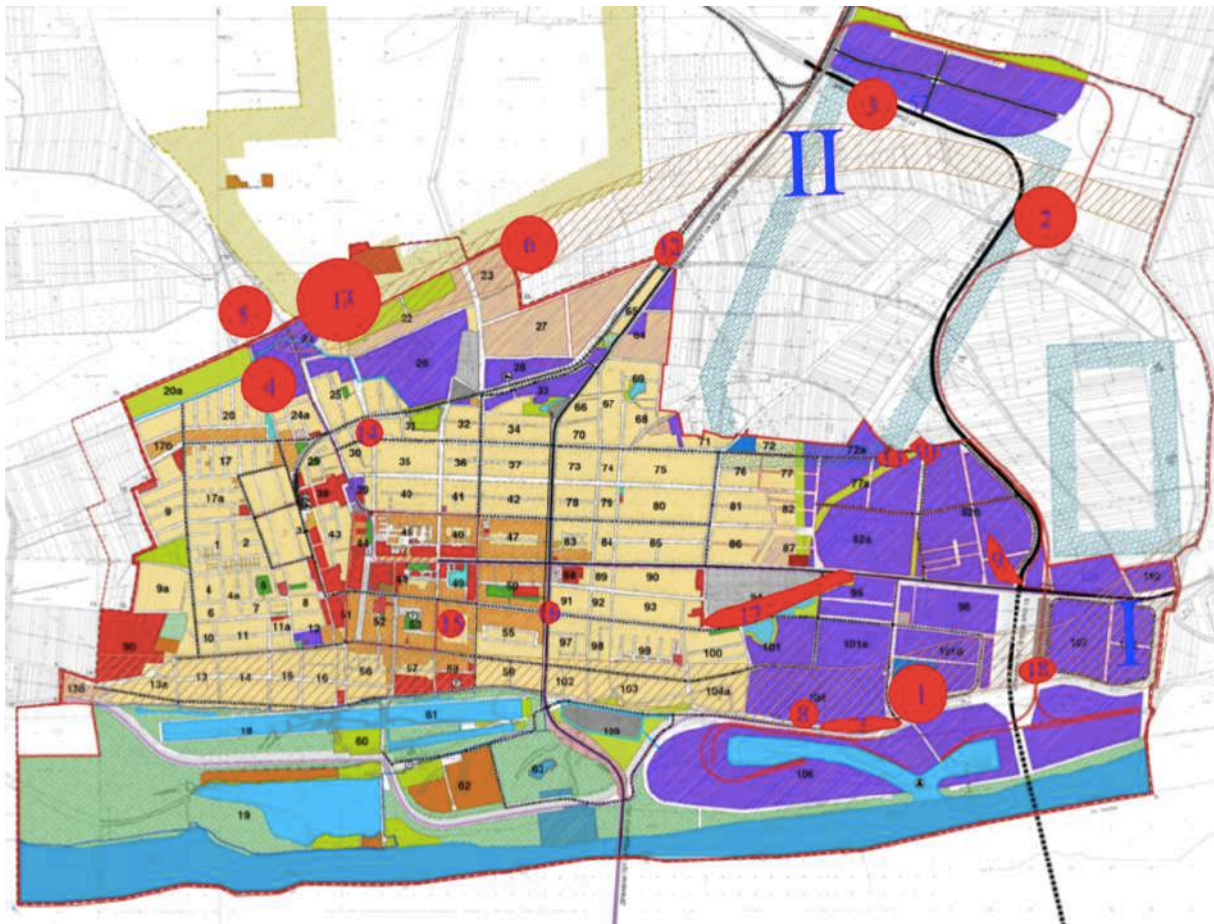
#### Archeology<sup>4</sup>

Based on the insights into the archaeological sites of the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in the territory of Vojvodina and previous research of the territory of the Backa Palanka municipality, the following archaeological sites and isolated archaeological zones were recorded. Prior to undertaking any earth works, it is necessary to request from the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments special protection conditions:

- Site 1 - Location with atypical surface findings of ceramics,
- Site 2 - The prehistoric and medieval locality,
- Site 3 - The prehistoric and later medieval locality,
- Site 4 – „Starčevački“ and later medieval locality,
- Site 5 – Location with atypical surface findings of ceramics,
- Site 6 – Bronze Age locality,
- Site 7 – The prehistoric locality,
- Site 8 – Location from prehistory, antiquity and medieval times,
- Site 9 – The later medieval locality,

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<sup>4</sup> Documentation of the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments - 017AI Backa Palanka



16. fig. Plan for general regulation of Backa Palanka, map - Archaeological sites, Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Petrovaradin; the displayed archaeological sites (marked in red) and the archaeological zone (marked with a red hatch)

- Site 10 – Location with few surface finds of ceramics,
- Site 11 – Location with few surface finds of Neolithic ceramics („Starčevačka“ Culture),
- Site 12 – The later medieval locality,
- Site 13 – The locality from the prehistory period (Mesolithic, early and late Bronze Age) and the Middle Ages (necropolis of the 8-9th century),
- Site 14 – The late antique graves,
- Site 15 – Rasadnik, three graves, one with a ceramic vessel from the 9th century,
- Site 16 – The late antique grave,
- Site 17 – Locality from the period of prehistory and medieval times (9/10th century),
- Site 18 – Location with few surface finds of fragmented ceramics.

Three archeological zones are distinguished (I, II, and III), located along the banks of the Danube and the shores of former watercourses, within which there is an uninterrupted archeological site from different periods of time. The same protection conditions as for individual archaeological sites apply to archaeological zones.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Documentation of the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments - 017AI Backa Palanka

Observing the territory of the entire Bačka Palanka municipality, which now comprises 14 settlements, the following categorized cultural monuments are distinguished:

- Heritage of exceptional significance:
  - Castle of Dunđerski family, Čelarevo
  - Neštin House, Koče Popovića 34, Neštin
  - Archeological site „Čipska šuma“, Čelarevo
- Heritage of great importance:
  - The Water Chapel, Neštin
  - The Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Kuzma and Damjan, Neštin
  - The Serbian Orthodox Church of St. John, Despotovo
- Cultural Monuments:
  - The Serbian Orthodox Church of St. George, Tovariševo
  - Serbian Orthodox Church of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin, Pivnice
  - Serbian Orthodox Church of St. John, Silbaš
  - Archeological site „Turski šanac“, Bačka Palanka (outside of the town)

Significant interventions in the central parts of the urban structure emerged in the decades after the Second World War. Therefore, large number of civil architecture objects, erected during the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, were destroyed or devastated. A number of valuable buildings have been preserved to date, but the environment is still threatened by the intensive construction of new residential and commercial buildings.

In Bačka Palanka, a very valuable industrial heritage is preserved, and it is concentrated in the western part of the town, near the railway station. One of the most valuable preserved objects is the old tobacco drying warehouse. The main problem with preserving this industrial heritage is that most buildings are out of service or assigned with inadequate use.

Traditional national construction represents a large number of buildings that are mostly concentrated in the former Stara Palanka, current eastern part of the city.

Cemeteries, according to the The Law on the Cultural Property<sup>6</sup>, enjoy previous protection, and without special records they are treated as protected entities.

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<sup>6</sup> Službeni Glasnik No.71 / 94

### 3.2 Intangible heritage

Intangible cultural heritage is a "living cultural heritage". It represents a means of preserving history, culture and tradition, and at the same time it forms the identity of one nation and creates the atmosphere of the specific area.

The importance of old time crafts, old customs that are still being followed and events that keep history, tradition and culture alive was ratified on June 18 2012. when the list of intangible cultural heritage of Serbia was adopted. The list contains twenty-seven elements, but more will be inscribed in the future. Cultural diversity, multi-confessionalism and the tradition of authentic cultural heritage "gave birth" to the specific intangible heritage that Serbia has today. Through manifestations, old time crafts, rituals and art this heritage still lives on in Serbia, but to a lesser extent than before. Inadequate presentation and promotion, bad working conditions and very few people showing interested in it, led to intangible cultural heritage becoming socially marginal.<sup>7</sup>

Since its formation, Bačka Palanka has been area, in which respect for cultural diversity, multiconfessionalism and the preservation of traditions has been developed for centuries. The presentation in the first chapter of this paper, as well as at the beginning of the third chapter, indicates that the basic value of material cultural heritage is precisely the atmosphere created by the immaterial heritage of this region.

In case of Bačka Palanka, the most important intengibile cultural heritage examples are:

- Respect for **national and religious diversity, prayers and customs**, in one area that manifests itself through raised churches, material monuments of culture:
  - The Serbian Ortodox Church of Rosary of Sv. John the Baptist
  - Roman Catholic Church of Immaculate Conception
  - Slovak Evangelical Church
  - Prayer home of the Catholic Church with the church of Sv. Antuna
- **"Slava"** - the day of the celebration of the patron saint of Bačka Palanka Sv. John the Baptist - *Ivanjdan*
- **"Vojvodina Wedding"** – customs related to the wedding ceremony in the Bačka region (wardrobe, narrative, music, play, etc. among the Serb, the German and the Slovak people, from the period from the end of the 19th century)

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.serbia.com/about-serbia/culture/intangible-cultural-heritage-of-serbia/>



- **Industrial / trade / agricultural crafts and knowledge**
  - **Beer fest** - Čelarevo has an old and lasting tradition of beer production. Lazar Dundžerski founded the first beer brewery in 1892. Nowadays, Carlsberg beer brewery continues this old tradition.
  - **The cultivation and drying of tobacco** for the needs of which is also built a warehouse for tobacco
  - **Collecting fruit and vegetables**, ceremonies related to crops growing cycle: sowing, harvest time etc.
- **Typical dishes and gastronomic activities** - Paprika stew (paprikaš), cabbage roll (sarma), fish soup, damen kapric cake etc.
  - Fish soup competition (*Zlatni kotlić*) in Bačka Palanka
- **Memories and tales** connected to the tangible, built cultural capital, famous people and memories on them, for example:
  - Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslav president – stay in Karađorđevo and Castle Dundžerski in Čelarevo
  - Laza Kostić, a famous Serbian romanticist poet – stay in Castle Dundžerski in Čelarevo
  - Lazar Dundžerski, a famous industrialist and the owner of castle Dundžerski in XIX century<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> During the period when Lazar Dundžerski owned the castle, many prominent artists of the time frequently gathered there. During this glorious period in the history of the castle, painters, poets, sculptors and other famous individuals and representatives of the intellectual and artistic elite often visited this inspiring place and enjoyed the luxurious mansion and magical park. The most prominent Serbian painters Paja Jovanović and Uroš Predić were friends of the family Dundžerski, and so was a poet Laza Kostić. Until 1993, paintings and works of distinguished painters Vlaho Bukovac, László Mednyánszky and Franz Eisenhut had been stored at the castle. Now, Eisenhut's paintings are displayed in MoMa in NY. Unfortunately, due to political turmoil in the Balkans in the 90's and negligent policies in maintenance of the site, many paintings and pieces of furniture were stolen. The most prominent painting that was stolen was 'Blagoveštanski sabor' by Vlaho Bukovac which contained 108 portraits of most important political figures of the last summer before the revolution in 1848.

### 3.3 Identifying the possibilities for usage of heritage in regional development

#### 3.3.1 General attractiveness of heritage in the two cities

Looking at the area of the settlements and their cultural heritage in the context, it can be concluded that due to the nature of river itself, wetland, changes of the Danube stream over the centuries and the configuration of the terrain, the settlement is far from the coast. In this regard, cultural heritage is withdrawn from the banks of the Danube in the second plan. Even though both settlements follow a very similar developmental course of events in history, they are very different. The differences are mostly reflected in the structure of the settlement and the architectural heritage, especially in terms of the type of cultural monument.

Ilok has a remarkable complex of the upper town around which the suburb was formed. The upper city is not only standing out in the structure of the settlement and its coast along the Danube, nonetheless it is also a prominent element of the viewpoint from the opposite left bank of the Danube — the Bačka Palanka coast. Most valuable architectural heritage is located in the area of the upper town, as well as touristic contents. Other touristic facilities are isolated from the village, and their function also complements the contents of the upper town of Ilok. *Suburbuim* was most recently built as traditional architecture for housing. The ambient of town it is slightly disturbed during of substitution and the new construction work of buildings during the XX and at the beginning of XXI century.

Although it has a significant number of individual buildings that are considered to have monumental value, Bačka Palanka does not have monumental facilities or facilities with luxurious finishing decoration that stand out. The configuration of the terrain at the left bank of the Danube is flat, unlike the raised Fruška Gora side. Therefore, it does not contribute to the emphasis on the urban structure of the settlement and its observation from the water surface. A protected cultural and historical core is rich with objects of urban architecture and various religious buildings. Objects with monumental values are not located close to each other. Although there are clear provisions for the preservation and protection of this ambient, interventions carried out during the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century had permanently disrupted this space. It is necessary to make great efforts to control new constructions around the older objects of civil architecture, in order to avoid any disturbance of their architectural value for entire ambient.

**Ambient values** certainly represent the highest quality of these spaces. Three areas can be clearly distinguished: upper castle - a fortress with all the elements inside the fortified town, suburb - a type of Fruška Gora village with architectural buildings built in the 18th and 19th centuries and lowland city with architecture from the period of the 19th and early 20th century.

SWOT of heritage attractiveness in Bačka Palanka and Ilok in relation to the Danube:

Strength	Opportunity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One cultural monument with magnet effect and great importance in region</li> <li>• The valuable architectural heritage of traditional rural architecture</li> <li>• The valuable architectural heritage of civil architecture</li> <li>• The valuable architectural heritage of the sacral architecture of different confessions</li> <li>• The valuable industrial heritage (old railway stations, warehouses, abandoned industrial buildings, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using the cultural monuments prominent line of sight with the Danube as distinctive motifs</li> <li>• Using an object of great importance as a magnet to meet other valuable cultural heritage, tangible and intangible</li> <li>• Exploring the area through a variety of architectural forms that testify to the diversity of traditional life</li> </ul>
Weakness	Threat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no interconnection between cultural monuments, because of the absence of a cultural route</li> <li>• Disrepair, irregular maintenance of the architectural heritage except monument culture</li> <li>• Inadequate function of architectural heritage</li> <li>• Inaccessibility to buildings with monumental values that are private property</li> <li>• Distance of the architectural heritage from the Danube bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires great financial investments for the reconstruction of the entire fund of architectural heritage in order to revitalize ambient unit</li> <li>• The problem of unregulated property-legal relations</li> <li>• Departure (migration) of the younger population from the city</li> <li>• The existence of the state border between the two cities</li> <li>• Different legal regulations of two countries</li> </ul>



17. fig. View of the Fortress in Ilok across the Danube from the side of Bačka Palanka

### 3.3.2 Possible Heritage Items to be Valorized in the town area of Bačka Palanka

	<b>Category in the DANUrB cluster of research</b>
The Reželi Palace, the Street of King Peter I No.9	Heritage of art and architecture
Building on the Square of the Brady and Unity No.22	Heritage of art and architecture
House on the Square of the Brady and Unity No.30	Heritage of art and architecture
School centre in the Street of the Ribnikar brothers No.21- Museum facility	Heritage of art and architecture
House (kindergarten) in the Street of JNA No.4 – 6	Heritage of art and architecture
House (kindergarten) in the Street of JNA No.18	Heritage of art and architecture
Old Railway Station in the Railway estate 1 with railway turn and the building in complex	Heritage of art and architecture
Complex of industrial mills in the Street of JNA	Heritage defined by the economy at the Danube
Tobacco warehouse in the Street of Nikola Tesla	Heritage of art and architecture
Railway station and the old pub in the Railway complex 2	Heritage of art and architecture
Narrow Street / Street of Milan Kurepa	Heritage of art and architecture
Traditional houses (for example – house in the Street King Peter I no.91 or Danube Street no.213)	Heritage of art and architecture
The old tavern (Čarda) built on the Danube bank	Heritage defined by the economy at the Danube
Danube riverbank	Heritage landscape shaped by the Danube
Nature Park „Tikvara“	Heritage landscape shaped by the Danube
Lake Bager	Heritage landscape shaped by the Danube
Festival Golden Kettle	Heritage defined by the socio- cultural life along the Danube
Festival Danube Bal	Heritage defined by the socio- cultural life along the Danube

## 4 TOURISM

### 4.1 Tourism infrastructure and attractiveness <sup>1</sup>

The name of the city in Serbian literally means "town in Bačka", and versions in Hungarian - *Bácspalánka*, German - *Plankenburg* and Turkish - *Küçük Hisar* are also known. Based on archaeological findings and written documents, it has been proven that the people have lived continuously in this region from prehistory to the present. The first settlements were built in the XI century, and the name Palanka was first mentioned in 1593. From the 11th century, Ugrics and Serbs lived in this area, which is confirmed by the Slovenian Serbian toponyms: Veliki and Mali Gajic, Golubnjak, Rajkovo, etc. By the end of the 16th century, these territories were occupied by the Turks, and after the Karlovac Peace in 1699, they were definitely abandoned by the Turks, in order to be replaced with the new Serbian, German, Slovak and Hungarian population. By 1916, there were only three settlements here: Old, New and German Palanka.

#### Position and boundaries

Bačka Palanka is located 40 km west of Novi Sad, 122 km north-west of Belgrade, 107 km south of Subotica, 323 km south of Budapest and 564 km south-east of Vienna.

Municipality of Bačka Palanka covers the wide area of south-west Bačka (579 km<sup>2</sup>, which is about 100km<sup>2</sup> more than the average size of municipalities in Vojvodina, which means that it belongs to the group of larger municipalities in Vojvodina) with 12 settlements (Bačka Palanka, Čelarevo, Obrovac, Tovarishovo, Karađorđevo, Mladenovo, Nova Gajdobra, Stara Gajdobra, Silbaš, Despotovo, Pivnice, and Parage). In addition, it also includes two smaller settlements in Srem (Neštin and Vizić), which means that the Danube river divides the territory of this municipality.

#### Travel network - transit tourism

Road network of the municipality is of the utmost importance for tourism: the road M-7 is connecting the settlements of Vukovar - Bačka Palanka - Novi Sad - Zrenjanin - Nova Crnja, and the road M-18 is connecting Sombor, Odzaci, Bačka Palanka, Šid and Sremska Rača, and continuing furthermore to the Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Geographical characteristics

The settlement itself is located on an alluvial terrace with an altitude between 80 and 83 m above sea level, whereas the lowest morphological unit is the alluvial plain of the river Danube.

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<sup>1</sup> The data is taken from the archive and documentation of the Tourist Organization of Backa Palanka.

The geological composition consists of recent sand and silt, which the Danube precipitates when it is spilling out of its trough. The area is generally covered with wet land and forest vegetation.

Climate of Bačka Palanka is determined by the same factors that determine the climate of the Pannonian Plain, which includes elements of moderate - continental climate.

Hydrography consists of surface and underground water flows. The surface water is represented by the Danube river, which has a perspective in development of the settlement, and a pronounced role in international traffic, transit and tourism, which makes it vital for the settlement.

#### Socio-geographical characteristics

According to the 2002 census, the municipality has 60.966 inhabitants (Bačka Palanka itself has 29.449 inhabitants), with the national composition - Serbs 78.59%, Slovaks 9.57%, Hungarians 2.44%, Roma 1.38%, and Croats 1.61%. There are 1.700 registered companies, and 4.000 farms, with around 14.020 employees. The total number of unemployed inhabitants in the municipality is 6.918 (according to the census of July 2008), out of which 3.670 are women and 3.248 are men.

#### 4.1.1 Recognizable resources for tourism development

The Municipality of Bačka Palanka has a very good geographical position because of pan-European Corridor 7 (Danube) and its proximity to Corridor 10, spatial affiliation to the National Park of Fruška Gora (Neštin and Vizić), and a border line with the Republic of Croatia (EU). There is also a bike trail going through the municipality that is part of the European cycling network (Euro velo 6). The following resources of the municipality can be identified as potentials for development of tourism in the near future: natural resources, cultural and historical heritage, infrastructure, and overall attractiveness.

##### Natural Resources:

**The river Danube** course flows through the territory of the Municipality for about 35 km in length. The river Danube, as the biggest tourist value, connects the Municipality with west, central and northern Europe on one side, and Black Sea and eastern Europe on the other side. It offers extraordinary possibilities for development of excursions, transit, events and nautical tourism. The Danube River flows through the territory of the Municipality at a length of about 35 km.

**Lake Tikvara** is the most attractive lake on the territory of the Municipality of Bačka Palanka, located between Bačka Palanka in the north and the Danube in the south. Tikvara is abundant in fish and other Danube species: eel, perch, sturgeon, barbell, pike and it is the place where

white fish stays during the winter. There is also a Fisherman's house with restaurant and a beautiful sand beach. Lake Tikvara with its surroundings is a venue of numerous sports events of local and international importance: kayak, sport fishing, etc.



18. fig. Lake Tikvara, Backa Palanka

**Lake Bager** is an artificial lake, situated about 2.500 m from the town centre and connected with the Danube by a canal. Beach, mooring area and restaurant „Kaloš-čarda“ are located on the bank of Lake Bager, which is also used by sport fishermen. This is the place where a traditional event „Zlatni kotlić“ (Golden cooking pot) is held, where bikers gather and where all participants of the International Danube Reggata are welcomed.

Protected natural assets in the area of Bačka Palanka municipality are:

The **Karadjordjevo** is special nature reserve that is located in the south-west of Bačka Palanka, in the middle of the Danube region, and next to the villages Karađorđevo, Mladenovo, Bač and Bačko Novo Selo. In the area of the Karađorđevo, there is the Protection regime of the II stage, which includes the area of the Bukinski rit with autochthonous species of trees and it is also important nesting place for whitetail eagles. There is also a protection regime of the III stage which includes the complex Vranjeka and Guvnist.

The special nature reserve Bagremar is located in western Bačka, north of the settlement Bačka Palanka. In the protected area of the Bagremar there are two levels of natural protection. Protection of I degree includes 34.8 ha, which amounts to 29.6% of the total protected area; and the protection of the II stage is 82.78 ha, which is 70.4% of the total protected area.

The basic value of the reserve is in the finding of the species *Eranthis hyemalis* which can be impressive with its appearance during February and March, when the plant is in its full development.



19. fig. The special nature reserve Bagremar, Bačka Palanka

Nature Park Tikvara is placed under protection as a significant natural good and is classified in the III category. Tikvara is located in the municipality of Bačka Palanka, along the left bank of the Danube River.

Nature Park Jegrička is classified as significant natural good of III category. The area of the Jegrička is 1.144,81 ha, where the protection regime for II and III degree has been established. After the regulation works, which were mostly done until 1960, this watercourse was made up of several hydraulic units, and it is called Jegrička channel. The smallest part of this natural good is located in the territory of the municipality of Bačka Palanka. It includes a part of the channelled part of Jegrička from Despotovo towards Ravno Selo.

Park of the Čelarevo castle is one of the most valuable representatives of garden art (landscape architecture) of the XIX century in the territory of Serbia. It is a typical example of a mixed style that dominated the garden architecture of that time, formed by combining elements of French and English style.

#### 4.1.2 Activities

**Hunting tourism** has a relatively long tradition on the territory of the Municipality of Bačka Palanka. Hunting grounds are mainly organized in two groups: the first group functions as areas under jurisdiction of certain hunting societies in the domain of land registered to Municipalities, and jointly under the coordination of the municipal Hunting Society. The second group consists of terrains under management of the Military Institution „Karađorđevo“.

**Fishing tourism** is extremely popular in this area of Vojvodina. Left bank of the Danube with its backwaters, tributaries, lakes and ponds is abundant in fish species, which is advantageous for the development of sport fishing. The fishing societies are engaged in the organization and development of sport fishing on the Danube and they also issue fishing permits. On all water



areas where sport fishing is planned, there is a systematically guided development of those fish species which are especially attractive for sport fishing. In the Municipality of Bačka Palanka, there are 4 fishing areas: Nature Park „Tikvara“, Special Nature Reserve „Karađorđevo“, „Bukinski rit“ - Mladenovo and Neštin.

#### 4.1.3 Cultural and Historical Heritage

**Archaeological sites** - Based on the information of the Museum in Bačka Palanka, 33 archaeological sites have been discovered on the territory of the Municipality, but they have been examined only in smaller scale. Among them, the sites dating from Bronze and Middle Age stand out by their number, conservation status and importance. The oldest objects of material culture originate from the Mesolithic era and are related to the site „Bagremara“.

Important archaeological sites are also „Ciglana“, „Turski breg“, „Turski šanac“ and others. There is a large number of archaeological, ethnological, historical and cultural monuments on the territory of the Municipality, as well as very rare natural areas instigating interest in domestic and international cultural public. The most important monuments are most certainly the archaeological sites near Čelarevo, the so-called „Avar necropolis“ and the old house in Neštin, the pearl of Serbian architecture dating from the first half of the 18th century.

**Serbian Orthodox Church** was built in the period between 1783 and 1787. The construction of this temple was initiated by Joseph Cigler, a mason from Čerević, and it was finished by another mason from Čerević, called Ernest Herlei. The church is dedicated to Saint John.



20. fig. Serbian Orthodox Church, Bačka Palanka

**Iconostasis of the Orthodox Church in Neštin** is an extremely valuable and important work of art. The miraculous icon of St. Mother of God dating from 1773 is located in the church. In addition, there is the iconostasis with 45 icons by Teodor Kračun dating from 1759, 4 old altar

icons from 1741, 12 displayed icons (9 done by Stefan Gavrilović, and 3 by unknown authors). The church was finished in 1759.

**The Roman Catholic Church** was built from 1782 to 1784. It was built in Baroque style, and it has been under the state protection since 1984.

**Slovak Evangelist Church** was built in 1893. It is a small building with a single nave and low bell tower of extremely round shape and simple decoration. The church is situated near the Danube, in an area that is, even today, mainly populated by Slovaks.

**The Town Museum** is located in the cultural and historical core of Bačka Palanka. According to the existing material collected by the Amateur Museum Section, the Municipal Assembly decided to establish the Museum in Bačka Palanka in 1982. In 1992, it was named the Town Museum. The Museum has paleontological, archaeological, numismatic, ethnological, historical and art sections. There is also a library with technical books within the Museum.



21. fig. Castle Dundžerski in Čelarevo

**Castle Dundžerski in Čelarevo** is a cultural good of great importance. Nikola Beseredi has been building the castle in the period 1834 – 1837. The constructors were Aman and Hofman. In 1882, Lazar Dundžerski, the owner of a large estate from Sombor, bought the castle. In the same year, he has built a steam-mill and a spirit factory. In 1884, he cleared up one half of the park, in order to build a brewery on the right side near the castle.

**Museum – Typical Srem House – Neština** is located in the Srem, Fruška Gora side of the municipality of Bačka Palanka. The family house Savić represents a developed type of „pletara“, village house lined with mud, characteristic of the Srem region in the 18th century. It represents a traditional style of Serbian house, consisting out of three parts and having a step reed-covered gable roof.

#### 4.1.4 Attractions

About 50 traditional events take place on the territory of the Municipality, including the most important: „Danube Ball“, „FEP“, „Zlatni kotlić Dunava“ (Golden cooking pot of the Danube),

„Abrašević days“, „Bostanijada“ (Watermelon days), „Susreti u Pivničkim poljima“ (Encounters in the fields of Pivnice), „DIDA“, „Etno šor“, „Ala volim kolo da igram“, „Strudel Fest“, „Saint Tryphon“, „May Day“.



22. fig. „Zlatni kotlić Dunava“ (Golden cooking pot of the Danube)

**Karadžorđevo** provides a very attractive tourist programme to the demanding tourism market starting from hunting and fishing, to sleigh ride at the hunting grounds, or boat ride in the beautiful backwaters of the Danube. All of these programmes are completed with the catering facilities: the Hunting House „Diana“ and bungalows in the Hunting Centre „Vranjak“. The guests are offered with the local fish specialties. Guests can also be entertained by the famous tambourine orchestras from this part of Bačka region.



23. fig. Carriage rides through hunting grounds, Karadžorđevo

The tourist offer of Karađorđevo is not solely based on hunting, but it also includes sport fishing, photo safari, visits to the thoroughbred horse farms, carriage rides through hunting grounds, and boat ride in the Danube backwaters.

Apart from the Orthodox Church dating from the 18th century and the family house Savić, **Neštin** is also known for the Association of winemakers, winegrowers, and fruit growers „Neštin“, and for the organization of event „Sent Tryphon“ dedicated to winegrowers and fruit growers. There is also the Orientation Club „Neštin“ in the village, that grew from the former alpine club. In Neštin part of the Danube, there are famous fishing perch, catfish and carp places, with the most important backwaters – Neštin and Suseč dunavac – famous carp spawning places.

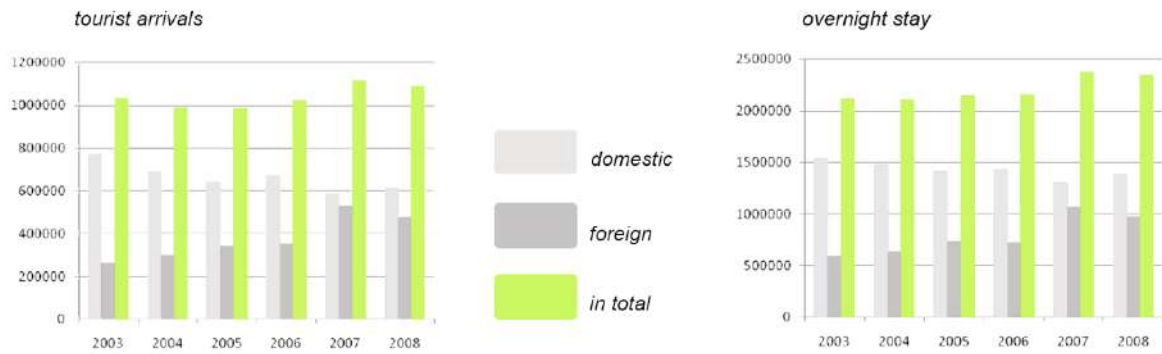


24. fig. Museum – Typical Srem House – Neštin

**Beer Museum** is located in Čelarevo. The famous brewery "Carlsberg" on its premises opened the first authentic beer museum in the region, with all the unique pictures, exhibits, and stories that can be learnt about the history of the company, with the inevitable tasting of their beer.

#### 4.1.5 Accommodation

There is about 200 accommodation facilities in the area: Hotel "Fontana" (59 beds), Restaurant with accommodation "Idila plus" (30 beds), "Idila" (20 beds), "Grand Club" (21 beds), Hostel "Agrovojevodina" (20 beds), Bungalows "Florida" (6 beds), Hunting house "Dijana" Karađorđevo (20 beds), Restaurant "Vranjak" Karađorđevo (8 beds), Weekend house "Skelica" Nestin (6 beds).



25. fig. The number of tourist arrivals and overnight stays in Bačka Palanka

In addition to Bačka Palanka, there are more households in this area that are involved in private accommodation capacities. Rural tourism is certainly the potential of the municipality in terms of the natural and cultural resources of rural settlements.

#### Campgrounds and picnic areas

At the territory of the municipality of Bačka Palanka, there are nine unclassified camping sites, out of which three are located in the area of the special nature reserve "Karadjordjevo", one on the city beach, one on Kaloš čarda, one in "Florida" čarda, two in Čelarevo and one in Neštin.

The coastal area around the city and Tikvara area are the most attractive and most visited resorts, especially during the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and during the summer season on the Danube. Excursion site "Bagremara" and picnic site "Poloj" - "Čipska šuma" near Čelarevo are very interesting and attractive for hikers, both in the early spring and autumn, as well as in the time of the bathing season in the summer.



26. fig. Sandy beach on the Danube, Tikvara

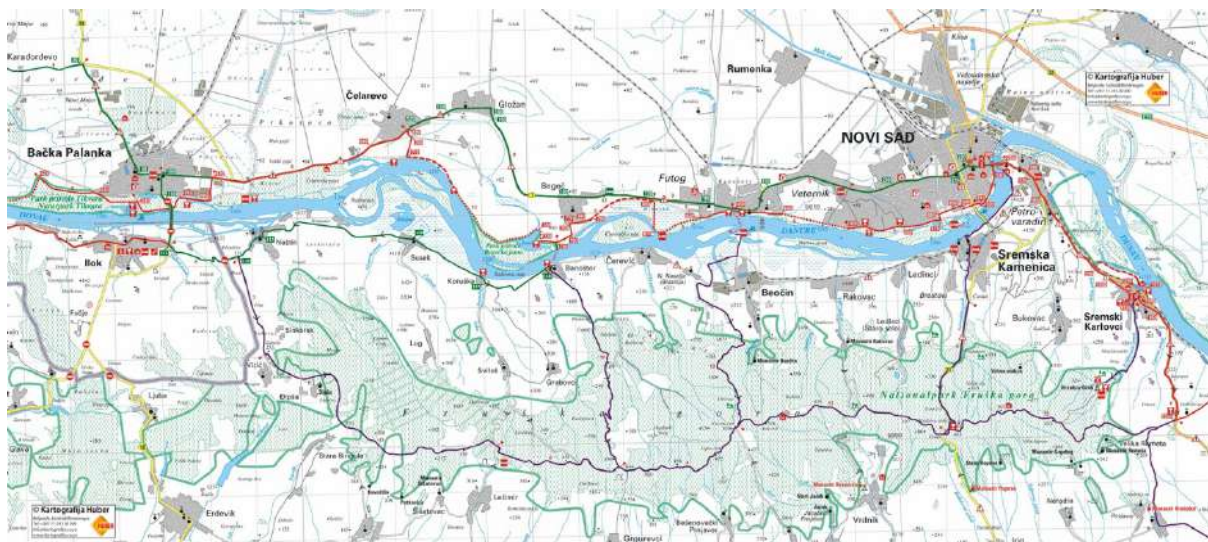
## Congress tourism

For the needs of congress tourism, the Municipality has about 1.500 seats: Hotel „Fontana“ (430 seats), Hotel „Grand Club“ (92 seats), Restaurant with accommodation „Idila Plus“ (380 seats), „Idila“ (70 seats), Restaurant „Vranjak“-Karađorđevo (130 seats), Hunting House „Dijana“-Karađorđevo (60 seats), Restaurants „Florida“ (240 seats), „Kaloš“ (60 seats), „Danube“ (100 seats).

### 4.1.6 Bicycle tourism

There is the entrance to the municipality of Bačka Palanka coming from the direction of **Bač**, and an alternative direction to the left towards **Mladenovo**, and to the right towards Bačko Novo Selo, which is a more attractive route because of the **special nature reserve Karađorđevo**.

Bicycle tour is also passing through the beautiful area of the **Nature park „Tikvara“**. At this point, there is a crossroad in the heart of the Park. On right side, the Danube bank is only 300m away, where sandy beach and the lake Tikvara can offer a opportunity for nautical tourism, since there are a recreational centre and two chardas. Straight on from the crossroad in the Nature Park, there is the so-called Danube road, a beautiful path going through the nature with no motor traffic. Across the Danube, there is „Zeleni sprud“, popular local terrain for camping during summer time. Bicycle tour is also passing round Bačka Palanka, straight to **Čelarevo**.



27. fig. Bicycle tour from Sremski Karlovci via Novi Sad to Bačka Palanka

Alternative tour is going over the right bank of the Danube, via Fruška Gora (National Park with numerous monasteries) to Novi Sad. This alternative path is interesting for all who enter Serbia from Ilok (Croatia), because Ilok is already on the right bank of the Danube. In addition, it is very convenient for the cyclists who want to travel to Belgrade to go over the National Park Fruška Gora, and in this way, avoid very intensive traffic on the road Bačka Palanka – Begeč.

This alternative path is starting from the centre of Bačka Palanka, than going to the border between Serbia and Croatia, and passing through the bridge „25th of May“ that is slightly over 3 km from the centre of Bačka Palanka.

#### 4.2 Possibilities for touristic network cooperation

It is necessary to set up a tourist info-point at the Bačka Palanka border crossing, so that tourists can get all information about country of Serbia, and especially about the municipality of Bačka Palanka. It is estimated that most of the tourists who take overnight accommodation in the territory of Bačka Palanka are in transit to some other tourist destinations, but they represent only part of the total realized tourist transit (no more than 10%), which represents a significant potential for the tourist economy of the municipality.

For tourists who come to visit only one location, it is necessary to offer information about other attractive locations and events, and because of that, Tourist Organizations must be connected at the regional level.

The location of three berths on the bank of the Danube near Bačka Palanka has extraordinary natural predispositions for the development of nautical tourism.

There is a plan to build a racing track at the location of Lake Tikvara, with the perspective for construction of a racing centre that would meet all the standards when it comes to international competitions in this sport.

There is a great potential for the development of hiking tourism around mountain Fruška Gora, with a possibility for organization of cultural routes (tours of the monasteries, wine routes, etc.). Most of the existing hiking trails are located in the area of Fruška Gora National Park. New starting points and paths that could be connected with existing ones could be organized from Neštin.

#### 4.3 Events in the Bačka Palanka municipality during 2018 <sup>1</sup>

date and place	event	organisation
the middle of January BAČKA PALANKA	“PITARIJADA”	Women Alliance “Majčino krilo”
the end of January PIVNICE	Festival of original Slovak songs of Vojvodina “SUSRET U PIVNIČKOM POLJU”	Slovak culture-artistic society “Pivnice” web: <a href="http://www.skuspivnica.org.rs">www.skuspivnica.org.rs</a>
the end of January BAČKA PALANKA	“SVETOSAVSKA LIKOVNA KOLONIJA”	“Vuk Karadžić” Elementary School web: <a href="http://www.vukaros.edu.rs">www.vukaros.edu.rs</a>
27 <sup>th</sup> of January BAČKA PALANKA	“Desanka Maksimović” Elementary School “DECA DECI” Humanitarian concert	„Crveni krst Bačka Palanka“ web: <a href="http://www.ckbap.org.rs">www.ckbap.org.rs</a>
the first week of February BAČKA PALANKA	FESTIVAL OF HOMEMADE FOOD (kobasica, kulen, slanina) “KOBASICLIADA”	Association “Festival domaćih kobasica, kulena i slanine” Bačka Palanka
14 <sup>th</sup> of February NEŠTIN	“SVETI TRIFUN”	Association of winemakers and fruit growers of Neštin
15 <sup>th</sup> of February BAČKA PALANKA	“RAVENA”	Association of Citizens “REVENA”
the middle of February BAČKA PALANKA	TRADITIONAL BALL UNDER MASKS „FARŠANG“	Hungarian cultur-artistic society „Šandor Večera“
the end of February ČELAREVO	“KOČIĆEVI DANI “	Culture-artistic society “Petar Kočić”
the last week of March / the first week of April PIVNICE	FESTIVAL OF DRAM INSCENATIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORS “DIDA”	Amateur Theater “Janko Čeman“ Pivnice web: <a href="http://www.dida.co.rs">www.dida.co.rs</a>
31 <sup>st</sup> of March NEŠTIN	“DAN SREMUŠA”	Association of Citizens “Stav” Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a>
April BAČKA PALANKA	“DANI ABRAŠEVIĆA”	Culture-artistic society “Kosta Abrašević” web: <a href="http://www.abras.on.neobee.net">www.abras.on.neobee.net</a>
the end of April / the beginning of May BAČKA PALANKA	“OPŠTI CITROEN SUSRET”	Citroen club of Vojvodina

<sup>1</sup> All data is taken from Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka



the end of April BAČKA PALANKA	FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN'S DRAMA ART "OTVORENA SCENA"	Drama art studio "Ars liberi"
the end of April OBROVAC	DAYS OF SHEPHERDS OBROVAC	Association of Shepherds "Il D' France" web: <a href="http://www.ovce-obrovac.com">www.ovce-obrovac.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> of May KARADORĐEVO	<b>PRVOMAJSKI URANAK</b>	VU Morović - VU Karadjordjevo
the second week of May BAČKA PALANKA	"PROLEĆNI ĐINĐUVERAJ"	Tamara Jožić
the second half of May BAČKA PALANKA	<b>THE TRADITIONAL WEDDING OF VOJVODINA</b>	Association "Tradicija i venčanje"
the middle of May NOVA GAJDOBRA	ST. VASILIJE OSTROŠKI	Local community of Nova Gajdobra and the Church municipality
the middle of May NOVA GAJDOBRA	"SAČ FEST"	Association of Citizens of Nova Gajdobra Sač fest 2012
the first week of June BAČKA PALANKA	ART COLONY „ZAJEDNO“	Association of Visual Artists „Petar Tomić“ And "Heroj Pinki" Elementary School Web: <a href="http://www.herojpinku.edu.rs">www.herojpinku.edu.rs</a>
the first half of June BAČKA PALANKA	12th INTERNATIONAL ART COLONY	Association of Visual Artists „Petar Tomić“
the second half of June BAČKA PALANKA	"MED-SPORT ROLERIJADA"	Center for affirmation of sport and tourism
the middle of June BAČKA PALANKA	<b>Palanački Dunav Fest-PDF 2018.</b>	Association of Citizens „Rok kultura“ Bačka Palanka
29 <sup>th</sup> of June BAČKA PALANKA	<b>DANUBE DAY</b>	Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a> and Association of Visual Artists „Petar Tomić“
June-July NEŠTIN	<b>THE TRIATHLON OF NEŠTIN</b>	Association of weekend-tourists "Eko-Nešt-In" Web: <a href="http://www.ekonestini.org">www.ekonestini.org</a>
the beginning of July BAČKA PALANKA	"ETNO ŠOR" Festival of Traditional Creativity	Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a>
the first week of July DESPOTOVO	"IVANJDANSKI SUSRETI"	Culture-artistic society "Logovac "

the beginning of July BAČKA PALANKA	“DANI ŽITA”	Women Alliance “Majčino krilo”
the beginning of July BAČKA PALANKA	<b>“DUNAVSKI BAL”</b>	Under the auspices of the Municipality of Bačka Palanka; Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a>
the first race – the second half of July, the second race – the last week of September DESPOTOVO	„KONJIČKE TRKE“	Equestrian Club “Despotovo”
12th of July GAJDOBRA	“PETROVDANSKE SVEČANOSTI”	Local community of Gajdobra and the Culture-artistic society “Blagoje Parović”
the end of July or the beginning of August BAČKA PALANKA <b>Lake Tikvara</b>	<b>“TOUR INTERNATIONALE DANUBIE”</b> TID regatta	Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality Web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a>
August NEŠTIN- The courtyard of the Museum “Sremska kuća”	“NEŠTINCI NEŠTINU” CONCERT	Association of weekend-tourists “Eko-Nešt-In” web: <a href="http://www.ekonestin.org">www.ekonestin.org</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> of August ČELAREVO	“ILINDAN U ČELAREVU”	Women Alliance “Iskra”- Čelarevo
the first week of August BAČKA PALANKA <b>Lake Bager</b>	<b>“BEACH HANDBALL TOURNAMENT BAP 2017”</b>	Municipal Handball Association of Bačka Palanka web: <a href="http://www.ebt.orsbap.com">www.ebt.orsbap.com</a>
the second half of August SILBAŠ (Hunting lodge “Soko”)	“PAPKARIJADA”	Voluntray Association of firefighters and Local community of Silbaš
the end of the Avgust BAČKA PALANKA	„ŠTRUDL FEST“	German Association of Bačka Palanka
the second week of August MLADENOVO	„DANI KOLONIZACIJE „	Local community of Mladenovo
the first week of August BAČKA PALANKA	“TRADICIONALNI SUSRET SLOVAČKIH STUDENATA I STUDENATA IZ SLOVAČKE “	Slovak Local community web: <a href="http://www.momsjbp.host.sk">www.momsjbp.host.sk</a>
the second week of August BAČKA PALANKA	“LETNJI ĐINĐUVERAJ”	
the first half of August BAČKA PALANKA	JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL	Cultural Center
the second half of August BAČKA PALANKA	INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ECOLOGICAL THEATER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - “FEP”	NVO- festival of ecological theater for children
the end of August PIVNICE	“PIVNIČKI KOTLIĆ”	Hunting Society “Fazan” Pivnice
the beginning of September BAČKA PALANKA	“DOG FESTIVAL”	Cynophile Society “Elit”

the first week of September ČELAREVO	<b>“ČELAREVO FEST”</b>	The “Carlsberg Srbija” d.o.o. Brewery Web: <a href="http://www.carlsberg.rs">www.carlsberg.rs</a>
the middle of September ČELAREVO	“ČIB EXPO”	Association of inventors UPI ČIB
the second week of September BAČKA PALANKA	<b>“DUNAVSKI VEZ”</b>	Women Alliance “Zlatne ruke”
the first half of September DIJANA	“VINO I MODA”	Association “Tradicija i venčanje”
the second half of September BAČKA PALANKA	<b>“ZLATNI KOTLIĆ” BAČKE PALANKE</b>	Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a>
27 <sup>th</sup> of September Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality BAČKA PALANKA	WORLD DAY OF TOURISM	Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a> and Center for affirmation of sport and tourism
the second half of October BAČKA PALANKA	“JEDNO JE ŠKEMBE” “Bečarski paprika” cooking competition	“Zlatni Karaš” Bačka Palanka
the middle of October BAČKA PALANKA	“SMOTRA CRKVENIH HOROVA”	Church choir „Sveti Jovan Krstitelj“ Bačka Palanka
15 <sup>th</sup> of October– 15 <sup>th</sup> of November BAČKA PALANKA	“MESEC KNJIGE”	Library “Veljko Petrović”
20 <sup>th</sup> October BAČKA PALANKA	“OKTOBARSKA NAGRADA”	The Municipality of Bačka Palanka web: <a href="http://www.backapalanka.rs">www.backapalanka.rs</a>
the first half of November MLADENOVO	<b>„ŠTUKIJADA MLADENOVO”</b> (competition in hunting pike with artificial baits)	Association of Sports Fishermen „Štuka“
November BAČKA PALANKA	“PASULJIJADA”	Women Alliance “Majčino krilo”
the second half of December The yard of Red Cross BAČKA PALANKA	“DVORIŠTE LEPIH ŽELJA”	„Crveni krst Bačka Palanka“ web: <a href="http://www.ckbap.org.rs">www.ckbap.org.rs</a>
the second half of December BAČKA PALANKA	THE NEW YEAR MARKET	Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a>
the second half of December BAČKA PALANKA	“NOVOGODIŠNJI AUTOBUS ŽELJA”	Tourist Organization of Bačka Palanka Municipality web: <a href="http://www.toobap.rs">www.toobap.rs</a>
the second half of December BAČKA PALANKA	“NOVOGODIŠNJI ĐINĐUVERAJ”	The Youth Center

## 5 STAKEHOLDERS' ANALYSIS

### 5.1 Recognition of stakeholders' interests

Local and regional stakeholders of the Danube communities are defined as all participants whose activities and interests are, or have a potential to be, related to DANUrB project objectives. Involvement in the cultural activities related to or positioned on the Danube, strengthening the local communities' identity by deriving benefits from the potentials of the Danube area, research and valorization of its undervalued socio-cultural resources, and their exploitation for the purpose of the socio-economic development, and, after all, the building of the regional cooperation network, are the main focal points of the Danube Urban Brand initiative.

DANUrB network stakeholders are local government and public institutions, cultural institutions, religious institutions, civil society organization and NGOs, local development and tourist agencies, educational institutions, SMEs, social entrepreneurs and local community in general. The following chapter presents the results of the analysis of relevant stakeholders on the territory of Bačka Palanka municipality, within the framework of the DANUrB project goals and objectives. Empowerment and exploitation of socio-cultural resources for the purpose of better socio-economic return and well being of the local communities is the framework within which stakeholders are depicted and categorized.

#### **Municipality**

Municipalities are recognized as the valuable and inevitable stakeholders of the DANUrB regional cooperative network. **The Municipality of Bačka Palanka** (*srb. Opština Bačka Palanka*), in accordance with the law of the Republic of Serbia, represents a fundamental territorial unit which performs local self-government and whose jurisdiction encompasses the development programme and strategies of the respective territory<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, it is recognized as the primary stakeholder, with the capacity to bring contribution to stimulating interests and mediating involvement of local/regional institutional community members.

#### **Cultural, tourism/sports and local development**

Bačka Palanka is famous for the manifestations which take places and are related to Danube river. The most famous of these manifestations are “*Zlatni kotlić*” (Golden kettle (pot)), “*Dunavski bal*” (Danube ball), “*Dan Dunava*” (Danube day), organized by or in collaboration with Tourist Organisation of Bačka Palanka, and some of them also under the patronage of

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<sup>1</sup> Statut Opštine Bačka Palanka (2013), Službeni list Opštine Bačka Palanka, broj 24/2013, Skupština Opštine Bačka Palanka. [http://backapalanka.rs/starisajt/images/pdf/sluzbeni\\_list/2013/Slist%20br%2024.pdf](http://backapalanka.rs/starisajt/images/pdf/sluzbeni_list/2013/Slist%20br%2024.pdf)

the Municipality of Bačka Palanka. **Tourist Organisation of the Municipality of Bačka Palanka** (*srb. Turistička organizacija Opštine Bačka Palanka*) is considered to be valuable DANUrB stakeholder, as it is a public institution entrusted with the tasks to improve and promote the tourism of the local self-government unit; encourage development of the tourism infrastructure and spatial organization; coordinate activities and cooperation of economic and other entities in tourism; collect and publish information on the entire tourist offer on the territory of the municipality of Bačka Palanka, calendars and timetables of the local events, celebrations and festivals; organize and participate in tourist, scientific, professional, sports, cultural and other events and manifestations; mediate the provision of domestic work services; create partnership between private and public sector and civil society in the planning, design and marketing of tourism products, as well as to initiate the interregional and/or cross-border cooperation.

Lake Tikvara is the famous leisure and recreational area in Bačka Palanka municipality, used for swimming, fishing and water sports (canoe and kayak). It extends between the Danube River and the embankment in a length of 1 km. It is the only natural lake on the Danube created by the movement of the Danube riverbed. The **Public enterprise Sport-recreational centre “Tikvara”** (*srb. Javno preduzeće Sportsko-rekreativni centar „Tikvara”*) is established with the purpose to provide conditions for the performance of sports facilities on the territory the municipality of Bačka Palanka<sup>2</sup>.



28. fig. The Public enterprise Sport-recreational centre “Tikvara” (*srb. Javno preduzeće Sportsko-rekreativni centar „Tikvara”*)

<sup>2</sup> Statut Javnog preduzeća Sportsko-rekreativni centar „Tikvara” Bačka Palanka, Službeni list Opštine Bačka Palanka, broj 24/2013, Skupština Opštine Bačka Palanka.

**Cultural centre of the Bačka Palanka municipality** together with the **Museum of the city of Bačka Palanka** (*srb. Kulturni centar Bačka Palanka sa Muzejem grada Bačka Palanka*) – Cultural centre was founded as a cultural Institution by the decision of the Municipal Assembly of Bačka Palanka, in the year 1990, as a professional institution in the field of culture, with the special social importance and interests.



29. fig. Museum of the city of Bačka Palanka (*srb. Kulturni centar Bačka Palanka sa Muzejem grada Bačka Palanka*)

**The Beer Museum in Čelarevo** (*srb. Muzej piva u Čelarevu*), together with the Brewery Čelarevo, belongs to the Carlsberg Group, and was established in 2008, dedicated to Lazar Dunderški, who founded Brewery Čelarevo in 1892. In 2015 the Carlsberg & Dunderški Foundation is established with the aim of supporting the development of science and education, cultural heritage preservation, environmental protection, as well as the raising of social awareness of current social issues.

**Museum of Vojvodina** is defined as a DANURB stakeholder due to the annexed **Dunderški Castle in Čelarevo** (*srb. Dvorac Dunderški u Čelarevu*). The Dunderški Castle complex in Čelarevo, with the old castle, outbuildings and park is a very valuable cultural and natural heritage of Serbia (Vojvodina). It was put under state protection and ranked at the highest level of exceptional (national) importance for Serbia. It is a complex that was in development for over a century, starting in the late 18<sup>th</sup>. A very important period for the complex and the town of Čelarevo (formerly CEB) began when the landowner Lazar Dunderški purchased the properties in 1882 and the castle became the venue of important figures from the world of art and politics. In the period after World War II the building was confiscated from the Dunderški family and became property of the State.

**National Library “Veljko Petrović”** (*srb. Narodna biblioteka “Veljko Petrović”*) – The history of bookselling and readership in Bačka Palanka begins in parallel with the emergence and trade in three Palanka (the then settlement existed as three villages: New, Old and German Palanka). Serbian Reading Room was founded in 1869 in Stara Palanka “with the goal of social, fraternal and friendly mutual communication and friendly entertainment that will financially support and educate by reading books and newspapers” (according to Sava Petrić, author of the book “Građa za istoriju Bačke Palanke”). Today is National Library “Veljko Petrović” to attribute “the institution of special social interest”, a very important cultural institution in the South Backa District. The library fund has over 180,000 publications and annual enroll 6300 members.<sup>3</sup>

**Centre for traditional culture and art “Kosta Abrašević”** (CTKU „Kosta Abrašević”) is founded in 1976 as an association which nourishes traditional culture through folk dance and music.



30. fig. Centre for traditional culture and art “Kosta Abrašević” (CTKU „Kosta Abrašević”)

**Literary club “DIS”** (*srb. Književni klub “DIS”*) in one of the oldest clubs in Vojvodina. It was founded in 1959. Club currently gathers over 80 members and constantly increases membership. It carries out its activity through numerous promotions of books of its members, as well as approved Yugoslav authors. The club also hosts literare meetings, lectures and discussions, and announces literary competitions.

<sup>3</sup> Narodna biblioteka „Veljko Petrović” Bačka Palanka. <http://www.bibliotekabackapalanka.com/index.php/o-nama>

### Educational institutions

- Primary schools: “Sveti Sava”, “Vuk Karadžić”, “Desanka Maksimović”, Music school “Stevan Hristić”;
- Secondary schools: Gimnazija „20. oktobar”, Tehnička škola “9. maj”, SSS “Radivoj Uvalić”.

### Local entrepreneurs, companies and businesses

- Directly related to culture, tourism or gastronomy: Hotel “Fontana”, Restoran “Idila”, fish restaurants: “Dunav čarda” and “Florida”, winery “Tri međe i oblak”;



31.fig. Fish restaurant “Florida”



32. fig. Winery “Tri međe i oblak”;



- Indirectly related as potential sponsors, supporters, initiators of cultural and community building programs and project: “Tarkett” DOO (LLC), “Carlsberg Srbija” DOO (LLC), “Nectar” DOO (LLC), “Dunavprevoz” DOO (LLC), “Fructus” DOO (LLC), “DIV trades”, “Kovis” DOO (LLC), “Plattner” DOO (LLC).

Considering the indirectly related companies, **Nectar group** has developed Social Responsibility programme, with the following statement: *“We have been constantly striving to advance the society in which we’re doing business and whom our products are meant to. We’ve been trying to direct our activities towards improving our citizens’ positions through socially responsible actions, to recognize the needs of our community and to efficiently act in fulfilling those needs, in accordance with our possibilities.”* **Carlsberg Group** supports sustainable development, under which it supports local community stating the following: *“The development of sport, education and culture are the key areas in which Carlsberg Serbia supports the development of the local community Čelarevo. For years, in Through cooperation with local sports clubs, donations to primary school and cultural center, as well as infrastructural projects, company have been striving to improve living conditions of the inhabitants of Čelarevo.”*

## 5.2 Possibilities for involvement of stakeholders in DANUrB project

Bačka Palanka is a small community with developed industry, and valuable potential for further development of tourism based on nature, water sports, fishing and hunting, festivals, manifestations and cultural events, and agricultural production, with the emphasis on viticulture. Inclusion of all relevant stakeholders is a beneficial standpoint for building the inclusive development strategy of the Danube area. The DANUrB project strives to the goal of putting in action and harmonisation of diversified sectors with the common base of Danube river and its socio-cultural capital, and with the purpose of the better socio-economic output for the welfare of the community.

The main challenge recognised during the identification of stakeholders on the territory of Bačka Palanka municipality is related to making them interested in the project and motivating them to consider and perceive their role and benefits. The Municipality of Bačka Palanka has shown willingness to support activities of the DANUrB. Together with the Public enterprise “Standard” (Bačka Palanka Municipality Development Agency), the associated partner on the project, their role is valuable in terms of personal contacts with potential stakeholders which may contribute to their interest in the programme, activities and objectives.

## 6 DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS OF BAČKA PALANKA

Development strategies of Bačka Palanka should be defined for the period until 2050. Development is directed towards the transformation of the municipality in accordance with the potentials that offer favourable natural characteristics in the macro and micro environment, as well as the built potentials of the region. The goals of the development strategy are:

### 6.1 National/regional development plans

- **More active use of the Danube, the river itself and the coast.** The coast design, as a space for social integration, is considered one of the primary goals of the municipality's development. The specific natural environment, created as a close relation the river and land, provides the opportunity to plan considerable number of programs and contents. These activities should enable more active economic, tourist and sports recreational development of the municipality. The construction of infrastructure such as ports and marinas, should enable more active economic and tourist development, as well as better river use by the municipality inhabitants.
- **Valorisation, revitalization, transformation and other important processes that need to be applied to culture-historical sites,** within the settlement and its immediate surroundings, should be performed in order to promote the rich tradition and customs of people who lived, built and worked in this area. Interventions at these sites with should not be taken only in terms of protection and preservation, but even more with the idea that they become places where cultural programs will be organized throughout the year. Programs should aim to promote cultural values, but also gravity of large number of the municipality inhabitants and tourists towards these points.
- **The development of sport and recreational facilities,** for which there are ideal conditions along the river and the lake, should be one of the important strategic lines and concepts. The construction of courts for numerous sports, open and closed, as well as water sports infrastructure, should be adequately accompanied by numerous activities related to tourist facilities and the development of entertainment that this area can offer.

- **Planning of tourist capacities of different typologies** that should enable economic and cultural development, both along the coast of Danube and in the immediate vicinity of cultural-historical sites. Accommodation capacities in the Bačka Palanka municipality are a prerequisite for the development of sports and recreational potentials that exist on the Danube bank and Lake Tikvara as well. In addition to water related capacities, it is necessary to plan the accommodations in the vicinity of cultural-historical sites and places, where events related to the culture and traditions of this region are held.

## 6.2 Regulatory plans

- **The utterly closure of the main street of King Piter the First for motor traffic,** and adequate paving arrangement should enable the social integration of the inhabitants in the center area of the city, as well as the organization of numerous programs. The paving arrangement of the main street should be connected to the pedestrian street of Milan Kurepa's, and the sports facilities area and shopping services that tangles the main street, thus integrating these three spaces into one.
- **The arrangement of micro areas outside the city' center** as places for social integration in the settlement altogether. The primary aim is decentralization, which should enable existence of public spaces in the immediate vicinity of the work place and housing of inhabitants. This strategy would reduce the traffic load of the central area, as well as the car using at the level of the entire settlement, contributing to better environmental and social conditions. Territories for future squares should be carefully selected (meaning - distributed on the entire settlement) and design to meet the needs of the local population in all aspects. On this task, participatory processes of the locals appear as important strategy and method for reaching adequate designs.

## 6.3 Possibilities for joint development plans

- **The traffic connection of the municipality with the settlements in the micro and macro region** (especially the establishment of better connections with Ilok and other settlements in the Republic of Croatia) appears as a significant potential of the municipality of Bačka Palanka. In terms of transport, particular attention should be paid to the development of river and biking traffic, as these types are very neglected in the current municipal plans. Their development would result in great progress in various sectors of economy, industry, sports and recreation.

More active use of the Danube River, all its potentials, is one of the most important strategies for the development of the Bačka Palanka municipality. In this regard, the construction of a port appears as the primary goal of planning and realization. The port should improve river traffic and commodity exchange, as well as the development of a large number of economic activities, such as traffic and transport, industrial production (which would become more competitive due to the much lower price of river transport than all other systems). The construction of the port would enable the opening of a new branch of the economy, which would contribute to the opening of a large number of workplaces.



33. fig. Proposals for new Marina in Bačka Palanka (Urban Study “Bačka Palanka- Agriculture Network; Danube trade in activating the rural background”; Tanja Ivanišević) and new Marina in Neštin (Urban Study “Neštin Ethno Village; Oasis of Peace”; Marijana Davidović).

The construction of a marina for smaller boats should enable more intensive use of Danube for tourist and recreational purposes. It would also contribute to the development of existing catering and tourist facilities (so as opening new) on the banks of the river, in the immediate vicinity of Bačka Palanka and wider area.

The Danube riverside, so as the riverside of Tikvara Lake, should be transformed in such a way as to enable the numerous activities, that such a valuable ambient provides. In addition to the existing (mostly unregulated beaches used exclusively by the inhabitants of the Bačka Palanka), the new beaches and the areas along them should be places that would attract tourists from all over the region of Vojvodina, Serbia and surrounding countries. Sports and recreation should dominate the river bank design, but also the accommodation capacities and catering facilities, which are rare at this valuable location.

The Tikvara Lake appears as a great potential that can be used for sport-recreational and tourist purposes. The peaceful water of this natural oasis provides opportunities for development of many water sports, according to which the municipality is still known. The

development of floating structures that will be directly on the lake, appears as an important development strategy. In addition to facilities that are very attractive because of their direct contact with water surface, the types of small cottages on the water can greatly contribute to more active lake use in all weather conditions throughout the year.

Activation and use of numerous spaces and ambiances of cultural-historical heritage, is very important municipality development strategy, considering that these potentials are currently used at a very low level. Adequate protection and revitalization of heritage sites should be performed, with the aim of achieving active use and attracting tourists to this area. It is necessary to determine what kind of programs can take place in areas with rich tradition, and how their transformations and adaptations would enable adequate development of such programs. Cultural-heritage sites should not be only an unchanging protected areas, but areas adapted to the contemporary needs of programs that can occur. These programs should present the culture and tradition of people from the municipality. In addition to the material elements of the architectural and cultural heritage, special attention should be paid to the development of the layers of intangible heritage that manifest themselves in interesting customs, food preparation, as well as spiritual and profane ceremonies and rituals.

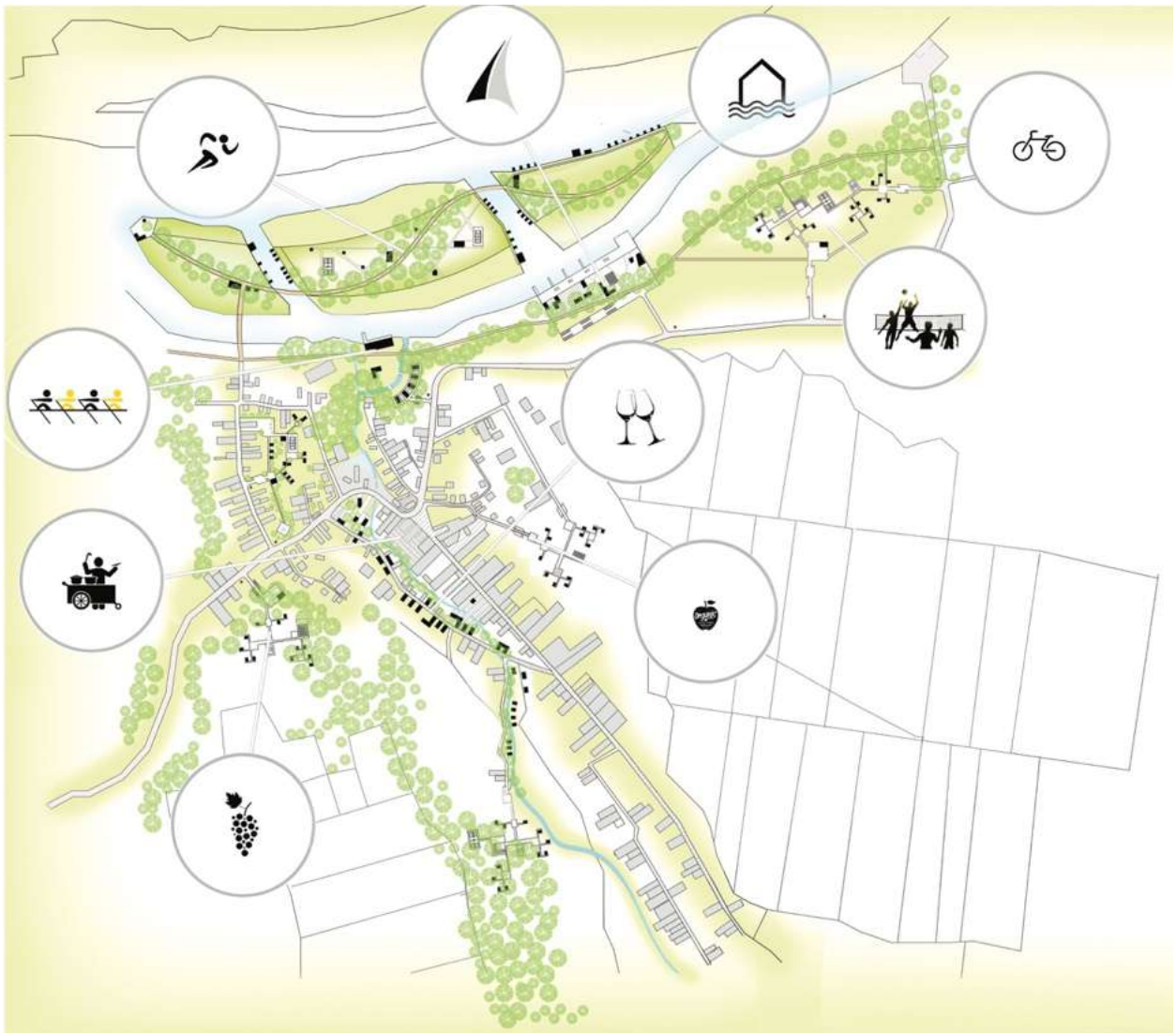
Tourist capacities of the Bačka Palanka municipality are currently at a very low level, which is a major weakness that needs to be corrected in the next period. The current lack of accommodation capacities directly influences the touristic visit to the municipality, which should be seriously and intensively thought out in near future. Capacities for tourists should be developed primarily in contact with the river and lake, because this area can become an important tourist destination in Vojvodina as well as the entire country. The capacities should be planned in all categories, and especially for the accommodation of weekend tourists, because they are the target group that usually visits places with similar offer of sport-recreational and cultural programs such as those in the Bačka Palanka.



34. fig. Proposal for bicycle route along the coast of Danube– connecting the cultural heritage of the municipality: 1.Nature Reserve and hunting ground “Karađorđevo”; 2.Haras “Karađorđevo”; 3.Nature Park “Tikvara Lake”; 4.Beach “Tikvara”; 5. Lake Bager; 6. Cultural monument “Sremska kuća”; 7. Archeological site “Hazarska nekropola”; 8. Castle “Dunđerski”; 9. Brewery with the Museum “Čelarevo” (Urban Study “Cultural Cycling; bicycle cultural route in Bačka Palanka municipality; Olja Marković and Isidora Kisin).

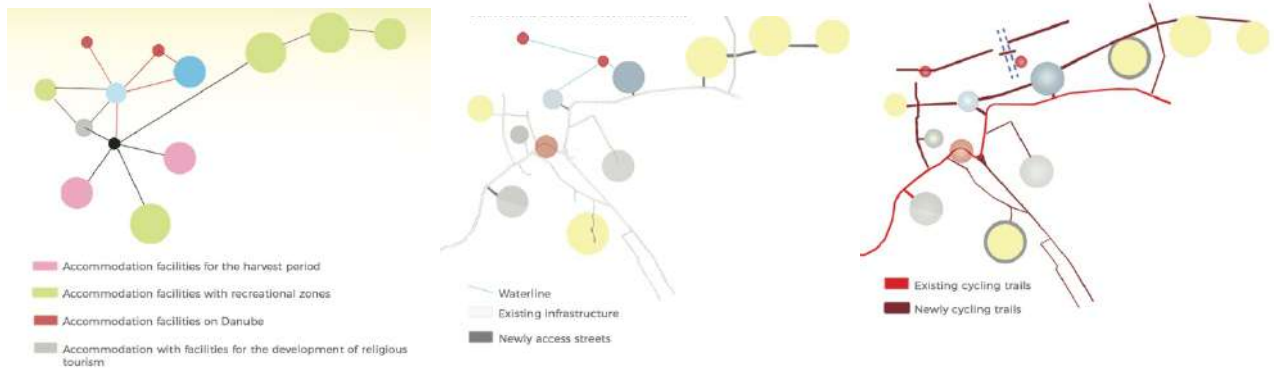
Areas along the river and lake in the Bačka Palanka municipality provide quality conditions for development of sport-recreational facilities, and therefore tourism related to this type of economy. In addition to improving the existing courts for many sports on the ground, it is possible to improve water sports. In this respect, it is necessary to plan accommodation capacities for athletes in direct contact with water surfaces. The existing sports hall, as well as numerous outdoor sports grounds, are significant potential. Swimming pool complex, that started to build but have not been completed for many years now, is also considered as a valuable recreational potential.

Very important strategy for development of the municipality, is the traffic connection with the micro and macro region, as a key importance for development of economic, cultural, sports of this area. In this regard, the river transport infrastructure appears as the primary strategy for the municipality improvement, because it is currently at low level. The construction of a modern port, that will enable the transport of various types of goods and the arrival of tourist vessels, should help to the future the municipality development. In addition to the port, the modern marina should enable better use of boats, but also with the necessary infrastructure it becomes a place where residents and tourists would be able to get driving services to various types of vessels along the beautiful Danube. Connection of Bačka Palanka via water transport, appears as a great potential, which would contribute to a better and cheaper connection between the inhabitants of the narrower and wider area.

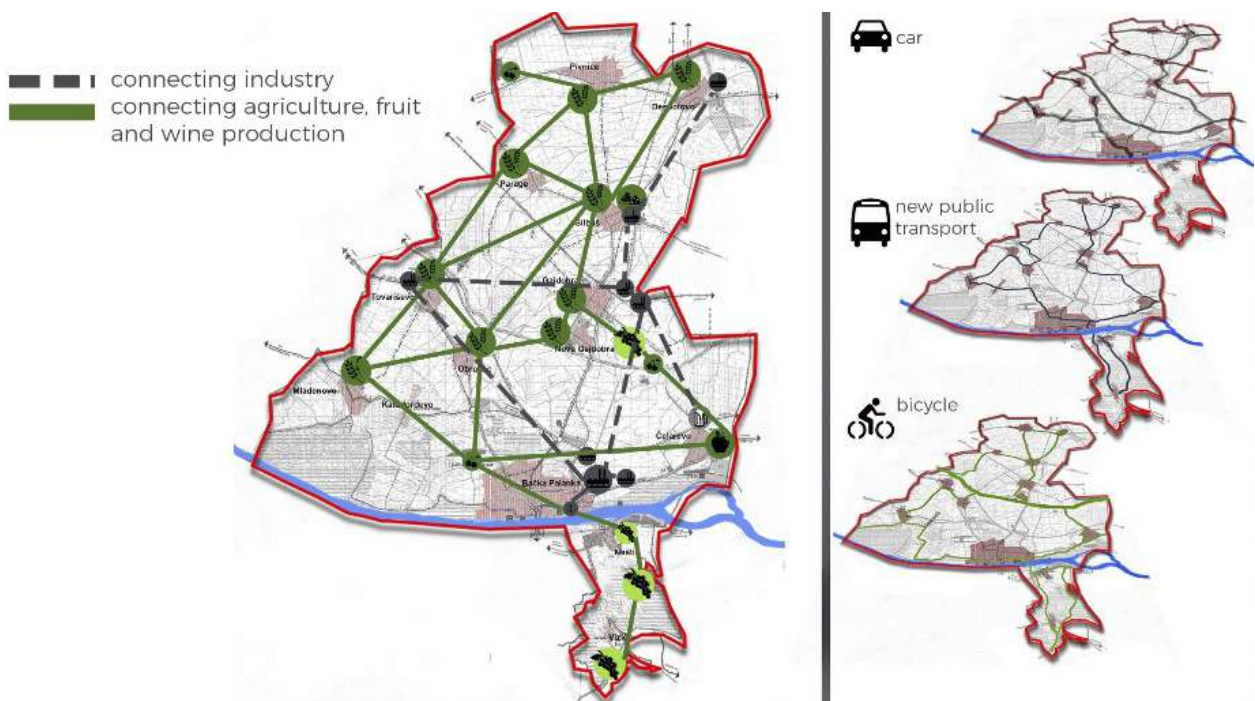


35. fig. Proposal for specific revitalization of Neštín, planning the new Marina, touristic and sports accommodation, facilities and activities (Urban Study "Neštín Ethno Village; Oasis of Peace"; Marijana Davidović).

Development of road traffic and the municipality connection with the surrounding settlements is largely realized by planning at higher spatial levels. The development of cycling routes should be one of the important strategies that will be dealt with by local authorities. This segment of traffic, more and more attractive in recent times, enables connection with the distant parts of Europe. It also provides a specific type of tourism that has been in the expansion of the last decades in Europe, and thus has the potential to develop in our area.

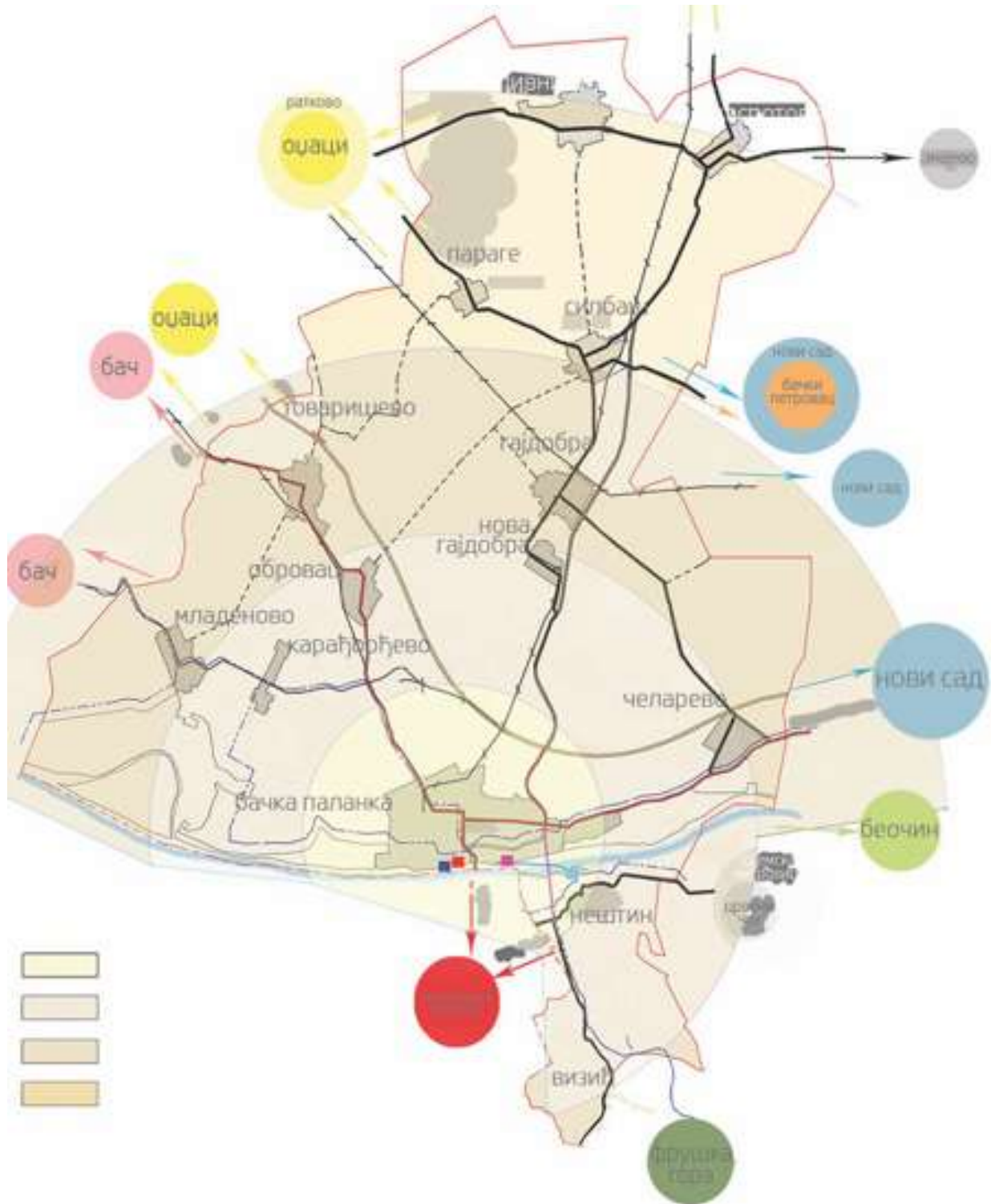


36. fig. Schemes of connections; Scheme 1: Different types of accommodations and lines of connections; Scheme 2: Existing infrastructure and new infrastructure; Scheme 3: Existing and new cycling routes (Urban Study “Neštin Ethno Village; Oasis of Peace”; Marijana Davidović).



37. fig. Different types of connections inside the whole municipality; Scheme 1: Connection of Industrial and Agricultural centers; Scheme 2: Routes – cars, bicycle, and new public transportation (Urban Study “Bačka Palanka- Agriculture Network; Danube trade in activating the rural background”; Tanja Ivanišević).





38. fig. Connection of the municipality with the nearby cities (Novi Sad, Beočin, Bački Petrovac, Odžaci..), and motor vehicle isochrones (Urban Study “Neština Ethno Village; Oasis of Peace”; Marijana Davidović).

The total closure for car traffic and formation of a paving arrangement of pedestrian area in the city' center, on the Street of King Piter the First, appears as a strategy that failed to be achieved over a long period of time. For several decades now, the street has been closed for motor traffic, although this concept is not fully respected. With the adequate paving arrangement of this interesting liner space, motor vehicles would be permanently eliminated. This would contribute to the ground floors of street-oriented buildings and their contents that could step out in open public space, and be used by people as spaces where they would spend time. Paving arrangement could connect the areas integrated with the street, such as the pedestrian street of Milana Kupera and the areas with sports and catering facilities, enabling active social integration of the inhabitants and tourists.

Decentralization of the Palanka is an important municipality concept. It would greatly contribute to the living qualities, and it should be manifested through the formation of adequately positioned open public spaces in each part of town, so that they could be approached within five-minute walk. Such concept would allow more intense social life, connections in local communities would be raised to a higher level, and therefore identification of the inhabitants with spaces shaped according to their needs through public participation. This form of participation, in this context, appears as an important strategy of planning future relations in the municipality.

# Municipal Report

ILOK (Croatia)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Danube has always flown through Ilok and Bačka Palanka (point where East Croatia meets South Voivodina / Northwestern Serbia). The river itself has been mentioned in numerous common songs and poems, which go hand in hand with “tamburica”, accordion, brandy and top-quality wine from Ilok. The famous old song says: “Dunave, Dunave kraj tebe mi srce ostade”, or translated “Danube, Danube, my heart has remained by you”. That’s why Bačka Palanka is maybe strong hearted for water sports like kayaking and Ilok is rightly named “Danube kingdom of wine and old times”.

Living alongside the Danube means living next to the spine of Europe, being connected to ten countries and having the access to the sea. The only big specificity of the area and the river banks is that between the left and right banks of the Danube there is a major difference when it comes to landscape, plains on the one side and rolling hills on the other side. At the foot of the ancient fortress of Ilok in the wild nature of “Dunavac” (*small Danube sleeve but not connected*) offers a constant glimpse of the landscape, while the left bank hides the “Tikvara” Natural Park, the recreational sports area and the beach just opposite the Ilok docking. Key fact for understanding this DanUrb pilot area is that there are borders still, national and EU which is important to have in mind while reading and understanding the report.

Other specificities of the Ilok-Bačka Palanka twin area are related to the fact that for some time in their history they were part of the same state union, within the same borders, always speaking a completely understandable language, but the difference in socio-economic life and the number of inhabitants has changed drastically, population in the last 100 years is much larger on the left bank in B. Palanka and also that between the left and right bank of the Danube there is a big difference in economy and industry, left bank still has it while on right bank in Ilok it crashed during and after the war, a new direction nowadays went mostly toward agriculture/viticulture and tourism. The Danube importance is increasingly evident in the touristic sense, which is not valorized as an advantage together, by both sides.

Members of different national minorities and majority population have been living here next to each other, together, in the same area. They have always lived along the Danube, on the Danube and from the Danube. The Danube is usable for leisure and activities, its importance shows itself increasingly in the tourist sense (dock), which is not sufficiently valorized taking into consideration the "twin" area.

The "Europe 2020" strategy suggests that development models which respect the wider environment, not just the natural environment, but also society, people, their free and economic activities, should be built. The strategy tries to create an inclusive society in which various groups will have the opportunity to contribute to the progress of society, but also to

enjoy the benefits of the same. On the other hand, social progress should not follow at the expense of nature. In short, this area should follow the 2020 strategy guidelines as a roadmap for overall improvement based on the care of the Danube and the valorization of the existing and potential contents of heritage&tourism. The fact is that the close neighborhood has to be maintained responsibly but it is still in need of improvement. Therefore, we see the DanUrb Project as an incentive to take a look at ourselves, insert common analysis into this report for the first time, as well as review and recommendations and continue to cooperate, in the spirit of the values of the European Union, in order to link and valorize heritage and tourist values and fit into the concept of "Danube promenades". Finally, we will try to make recommendations and conclusions, expecting support and further activities through this and all future projects. The former "Skela" linking Ilok and Bačka Palanka symbolizes the simplicity and the naturalness of overcoming the "obstacles" but also the spatial, general, local and common heritage values of the Danube region. This symbolism can be taken as a guideline. Bridges are a huge advantage, but we often cross them too fast and do not enjoy the benefits of nature, culture, lifestyles, rich diversity and desirable communication. We also miss to "exploit" and make all potential guests turn during their transfer through this area. In the context of the DanUrb Project, this pilot twin area is therefore very specific, sensitive and challenging, regarding the centuries-old neighborhood, but separated at times and bad recent history, which needs to be carefully reintegrated into the earlier, more natural and mutually agreed more useful model of living in harmony and long-term development twin model by use of heritage and similar values and integrating them into common identity and tourism offer of the Danube community.

## 1 HISTORY OF ILOK

According to archaeological finds, people lived here 8,000 years ago, since the earliest Stone Age, and the historical monuments that we see witness the centuries of historical development of Ilok.

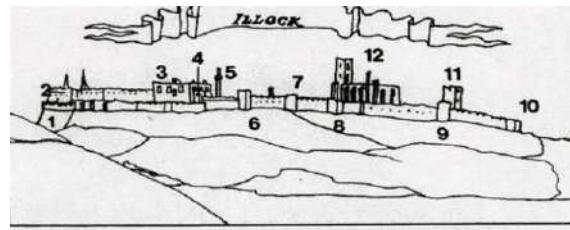
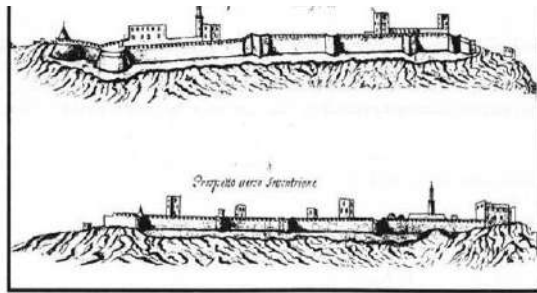
Ilok historically belongs to the geographic-historical region of Syrmia, which is mostly located in Serbia, with its smaller part in Croatia, where high culture already developed in the neolithic period. Starčevo Culture, followed by the Vinča and Sopot Culture. Illyrians and Kelts left traces of their cultures and especially the Romans. The right bank of the Danube was an important part of the Roman defensive borders (limes) after their conquest of the area. At the time of the Roman rule, Ilok was a significant settlement and a boundary cavalry fortress with docking named “Cuccium”. During the reign of the Roman emperor Probus, the cultivation of grape started. The Romans left the Danube limes after the invasion of Goths, Huns and Avars. Events after the Roman rule have not yet been explored as well as the Middle Ages because of the lack of material. Important events took place at the end of the 9th century. Avars started intensive migrations, and the Slavs also came with them into this area. The east part of Croatia were parts of the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia-Slavonia and Habsburg monarchy, until disintegration in 1918, and then for a short it was a part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes., By division of areas of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia, Ilok shortly became a part of the Danube county. At the beginning of 20th century Syrmia was divided into four counties with seats in: Ilok, Vukovar, Irig and Ruma. Ilok was a strong commercial, craft and cultural centre until the beginning of World War II, in that difficult time progress stopped. After the World War II, most of Syrmia was linked to Voivodina, but Ilok remained a part of Croatia, what is still the case today, it belongs to Vukovar-syrmia county.



*1st-4th Historic-geographical maps of Syrmia region with position of Ilok; wikipedia Syrmia, Ilok*

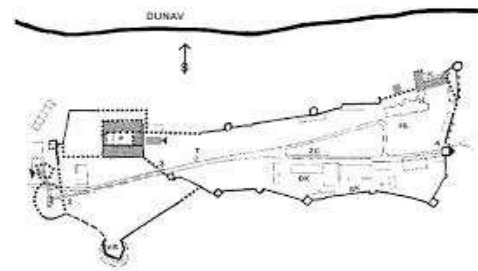
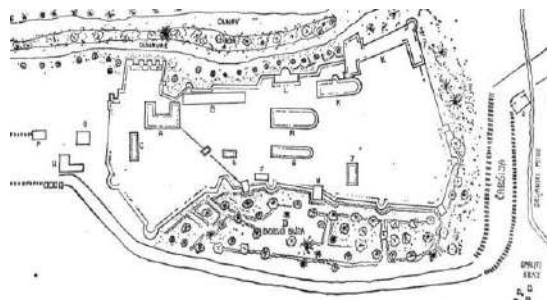
Ilok//Syrmia was a region of well-being with a rich and highly developed culture. Romanesque and Gothic churches as well as fortifying architecture give evidence of its medieval culture. The greatest flourishing of Ilok was experienced in times of Nikola (*Konth*) Iločki, 15th century, (*Nicholas of Ilok*), a very powerful peer. He was the civil governor of Croatia, Slavonia and Mačva, the Duke of Transylvania and the king of Bosnia from 1471 to

1477. On the remains of the Roman fort he built a strong fortress over 1000 meters long with seven round and six semi-round towers, a strong bastion and a fortified courtyard. He also had a mint in which the "Nikolas silver dinar" was coined, on which the elements of the Croatian coat of arms appeared maybe for the first time. Nikola remained on the royal throne until his death. He was buried in the medieval church of Ilok. St. I. Kapistran (*Giovanni di Capestrano*), who crowned him with his saintly aura.



Sl. 6b. Objašnjenje pojedinih građevina: 1 – veliki bastion, 2 – ulazni barbakan, 3 – palas knezova Iločkih, 4 – mala kvadratna kula uz 3. ulaz, 5 – džamija, 6, 8, 10 – kvadratne kule, 7, 9 – kružne polukule, 11 – branič-kula (?) u sjeveroistočnom kutu utvrde, možda ostatak starijeg burga, 12 – franjevačka crkva

1st Visures of Ilok from 1698, from the south and north from the report of padre Benini, 2nd with the named buildings; Archives of the prince; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod



1st Map draft of Ilok from 1784; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod/ Croatian Restoration Institute, 2nd Schematic reconstruction of medieval fortress

Nikola was inherited by his son Lovro (Lorinc) during whose rule Ilok was granted the privilege of **the free royal city, its statute and its coat of arms (1525)**. In spite of the extraordinary and strong defensive fortification of the knights of Ilok, the Turks conquered Ilok in the following year.

The area was devastated during the Ottoman rule until the end of the 17th century. Larger parts were freed in 1718. During the time of Turkish rule, the Ilok area suffered big ethnic changes, cheerful natives fled in front of a Turkish overrun to avoid Islamization. Ilok became an important centre of the Syrmia Sanjak. Turkish authorities left Ilok forever in 1687, during the Great War with the Turkish Empire, but they still remained present in many forms of heritage and strongly influenced general culture and heritage. The Franciscans then returned to Ilok from Bosnia.





*Spy map, 17.c.; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod; Ilok during Turkish empire, around 1605, Turkish painter; free on postcard*

As an acknowledgement and in return for Austria's financial support in the fight against the Turks, austrian czar Leopold V gave the Castle in Ilok and a part of Syrmian rich and large manor to the Pope Innocent XI. Odescalchi and the Pope gave it to his nephew, Duke Livio Odescalchi. Livio founded a Syrmian manor that stretched from Šarengrad almost to Petrovaradin, becoming Dux Sirmii upon his arrival in Ilok in 1697. The noble family Odescalchi restored the castle during the two and a half centuries and made stylish changes on several occasions. They also expand the wine cellar under the castle, which is now a part of the «Iločki podrumi» wine company, known as the "Old cellars". A large manor park was also built at the foot of the southern walls of the fort, with valuable specimens of trees and plants and a sculpture of the Odescalchi family carved in stone.



*Castle Odescalchi, 1911; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod; Stone with date and the coat of arms Odescalchi; Hrv. restauratorski zavod*

They specially invested in development of wine growing and winemaking, brought new grape varieties, raised new vineyard crops and introduced new technologies in the wine industry. They brought the Traminer wine sort from the South Tiroil to the vineyard area of Ilok in 1710. The Odescalchi family owned the castle and all of the Syrmian estates until 1945.



*View of the historical core, the castle and the Danube; 2011; Ministry of culture*



*Down town architecture in 1924; web found I. nekada, today a hostel Avenue of trees toward Danube, 30s, the houses are still there*

After they left their estates the agricultural and vineyard farm "Fruška Gora", today "Iločki Podrumi" was given the economic facilities and the best vineyards positions around Ilok.

In 1991, Ilok suffered a serious tragedy. It was under the full one-month siege of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian forces during the war, and on October 17th, 1991 Croats and other non-Serbs were forced to leave their homes and go into exile that lasted several years. They started returning in 1997/98, after the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian part of the Danube area, into devastated houses, churches, schools and business entities. Around 80% of the population returned from the exile and diligent people started to rebuild their homes and property and to build a new life. The unofficial population census reveals that there are 2,000 people less than in the 2011 census in the area, which is very worrying and gives an impetus to do more for people to keep their ground and sustain here. There is the largest community of the Slovak national minority in Croatia in Ilok. National minorities *Slovak and Serbian* are also actively involved in the political life of Ilok through their representatives and councils. The Slovak minority founded Matica Slovačka in 1997, within which the Slovak Cultural and Educational Society "Ljudevit Štur" contributes extraordinarily to the cultural life.

Ilok is a year-round destination that has constantly been recording an increasing number of visitors in recent years, developing renewed previously devastated infrastructure, exploiting resources, investing in new projects and activities in several segments of continental tourism, primarily cultural, wine and recreational (rest, outdoor) tourism.

Visiting the area can be interesting and enjoyable throughout the whole year. The emphasis is on the relaxed acquaintance with significant historical and cultural attractions and specificities of a small but interesting easternmost Croatian settlement on the border with the eastern neighbours in Serbia, discovering the charm of wine cellars and wines, or simply relaxing and enjoying the gastronomic delights and peace that exists by the Danube or in the vineyard. Ilok, Danube and Bačka Palanka have always been closely related. The richness and fertility of Sarmatia and Bačka, the harbor in the north, the Fruška gora slopes in the south and the mighty Danube, give the area a special visual charm. There was a steamship dock

in Ilok more than 100 years ago, there was a ferry dock for the ferry between Ilok and Bačka Palanka until 1974 when bridge was builded, nowadays there is a dock for ships.



*View from B. Palanka bank – ferry dock , web found: Ilok nekada ; Ilok – ferry ship dock, steamship dock, 1909; web: Ilok nekada*



*Ilok, 19.ct, unknown, web found: Ilok nekada ; Ilok, in 30s, view from B. Palanka side, web found: Ilok nekada*

## 2 SPACE

Ilok was formed, developed and positioned on the elevation above the Danube, where it has always been a historical nucleus acropola, the settlement was created, built and expanded at the bottom and toward south east and west. Spatial-urban features are conditioned by relief and the Danube, apart from a flat part of the upper city, all the other streets are narrow, winding, and the three elevations that still make internal housing, cramped streets, and partly derived economic-business structures.

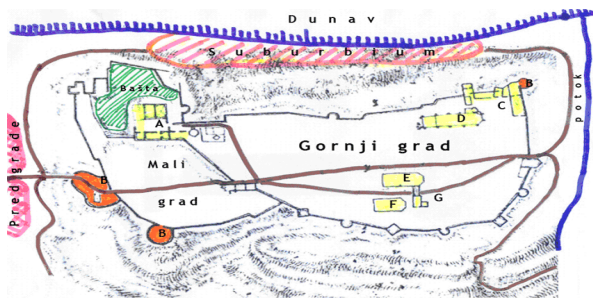
The beginning of a special spatial system of settlement construction links to the Roman Empire when a military fortress and settlement "Cuccium" was built in the Roman Danube of the Danube, and the port for the needs of the Roman emperor-Sirmium was also functioning at that time. On the basis of this fortress, the royal treasurer Ugrin Chak (Csák Ugrin) raised his Nova Mansio (Novi Stan, maître Uj Lak) a tower for a dwelling. Among the towns of southern Pannonia, Ilok was the largest city in the region at the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th century, and it looked like Italian or German cities, even called "Firenze of Syrmia". Later the city receives a donation from the king of the ungarian palatine Nikolas Kont. His descendants were targeted to change their surname so they began to call themselves "Ilokki" (Újlaki). Its zenith Ilok reached during the time of duke Nikola V. Iločki (Újlaki Miklós) who created the Gothic-Renaissance city, with castle, five churches, three monasteries and two hospitals, all the way to the status of **"Jura privilegia et libertates civitas Wilak" 1525.**



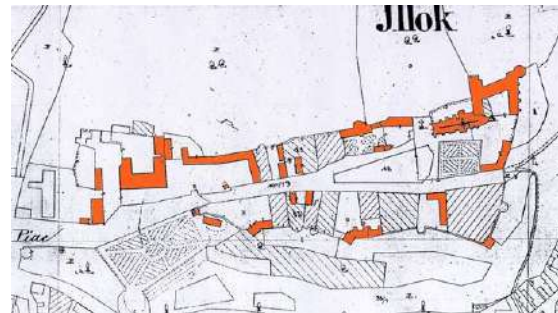
*Ilok in the 15th century, by unknown painter, free web*

Part of this system - towers and walls, were destroyed by orders of King Charles IV (IV. Károly) to obtain construction material for the construction of the "newly-constructed" Petrovaradin fortress (Gere, 2000/355)., a fortified castle stood separately. It was an inner

city or a last defense in the event of a siege. Ilok was always divided into two or four blocks. At the height, the wooden plateau, the Upper Town stood in the walls. Within the fortified complex, again by the wall From the architecture of the Middle Ages still the best preserved parts of the defense system, walls and towers of the fortress.

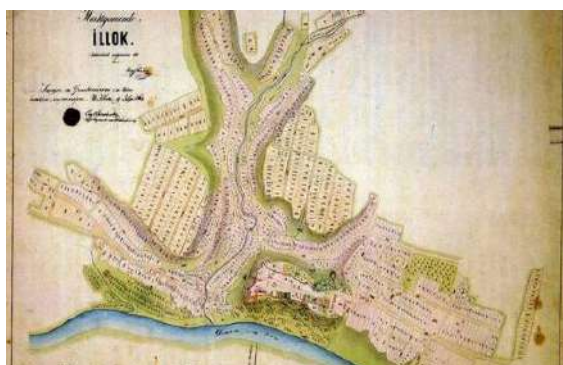


Plan of the fortified Ilok (reconstruction) at the end of the 15th century.  
 A Palace of Nikola Iločković with Renaissance garden B west bastion for cannons  
 C Franciscan monastery D Church of the Virgin Mary (today dedicated to St. John the Capistrano) E Three-footed basilica dedicated to St. Peter and Paul F Church of St. Anne



The cadastral plan of Ilok 1864.; Hrv. restauratorski zavod

The Lower (civic) Town was located to the south, and partly north-east towards the Danube. It created a civilian settlement surrounded by winding and wavy streets, there was a public and civilian life, built port and scaffolds, there were flow mills located on the Danube, and stores for grain or cereals. In addition to the main road-street there was an undetermined sub-city, there was a market for trade with this merchandise, during the Turkish era, it was also a civic downtown center (*Tur. Caršija*) which, as such, took place until the Homeland War 1991. For various reasons, it is hard to determine where the Ilok center is now., there is no central place because it is not spatially possible anymore.



Map of Ilok 1863.; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod



Map of Ilok, unknown, visible big differences in river area

In this area, a type of construction has been developed to adapt to the relief, along the roads and valleys that make up the streams of the Danube. Standard design solutions of housing and commercial buildings without pronounced ambient characteristics gradually change the traditional way of building and gradually lose the identity of the settlement.

In terms of preserving landscape integrity, and in particular the integrity of the visures of the settlement, construction is limited along closer to the roads, and by the building that seeks to connect the areas of neighboring settlements. Landscape is still preserved and no major violations of natural integrity are visible, thanks to dispersed building and to the forests and high vegetation. It is important to preserve the elements of the cultural landscape - the size and dimensions of traditional settlements that take advantage of the positions provided by relief and landscape. In addition to retaining free unallocated areas, it is necessary to monitor the internal density of the settlement. It should not allow the density and dispersion to overcome historical proportions in order to maintain the original system of peculiarities of the cultural landscape, international Danube waterway and traffic position of Ilok. Particular values of the area are considered: highly valuable agricultural land, forests, unpolluted soil and preserved cultural and natural landscape.

Between the river Danube and the high shore, under the fortress, nundation, there is a sleeve under the name of "Dunavac" - in the status of "particularly valuable cultivated landscape". The Danube and "Dunavac" are divided by a small ada, while the Dunavac itself is about 800 m long and about 60 cm wide.



*Dunavac and a view of the Danube / B.Palanka*

Ilok spreads along the right bank of the Danube, on the slopes of Fruška Gora. The terrain is slightly wavy. The altitude of the area ranges from 79 - 200 m / nm. The network of

communications has recently been burdened with the peripheral position in the country, road directions are moving in four directions, three of them towards Serbia and one towards the west and other parts of Croatia. neighboring B. Palanka is only 4km away, but there is not a single public transport service that works between the two towns. The highway takes 1h 30 min, the airports are 65 km (regional) and 107 km (international/Belgrade) respectively, river traffic is exclusively for passenger ships-tourism.

The Danube waterway through Croatia goes from rkm 1433 (Croatian-Hungarian border) to rkm 1295 (Ilok), the section is a high-ranking move classified under the E-80 and the associated VIc class of airworthiness In Ilok in 2005. arranged harbor for passenger ships so-called. "white fleet", with the necessary system for safe landing and harnessing. A new coastline with concrete blocks of rkm 1298 + 900 was built. As part of the wider area around the dock, there was further arrangement of the coast, in the immediate vicinity there is a berth for smaller vessels and a ramp for the downhill of boats and access to the vessels to the river. There is no sports harbor for boats and boats. In this harbor, some of the mooring berths and boats that are already floating with this aquatorium should be arranged.



*1st-3rd Ilok Danube bank with docking and tourist complex; TB Ilok*

The Danube River near Ilok is highly laid so that it is not endangered by floods and there was no need for the construction of the embankment. Protection against harmful effects of water is directed to the construction of coastal and flood defense and ice protection. Most of the regulation works on the section of the River Ilok river flow date back to the 19th century for which there is no data. Since 2005., on the coast there are new regulating facilities in the function of protection, along the entire coastline, and a longitudinal structure downstream of the of the estuary of brook in the length of about 720 m. Downstream of the bridge, a smaller longitudinal structure was also constructed. The right bank of the Danube is part of a hilly area dominated by small hilly tributaries, of a bulwark character, largely unregulated and overgrown, and it is necessary to regulate.



*Big flood in 1965. ;webfound ;*

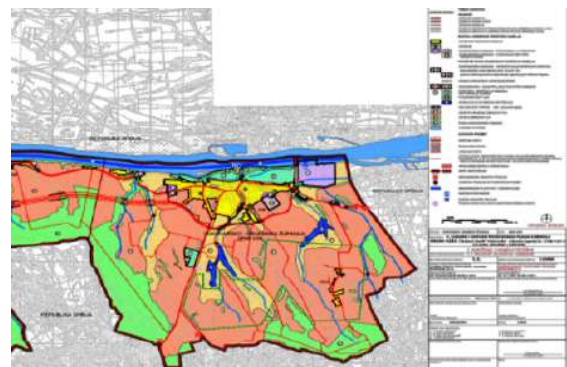
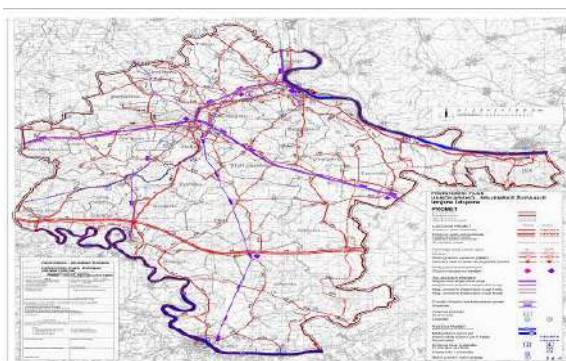


*Flood in 2013 (both;web Ilok nekada)*

The fundamental problems of space are: the renewal of the war of devastated areas, the adaptation of the existing systems to the new economic and political and administrative conditions and the need for new documentation, from 2013. the regime of crossing state and EU borders and the political situation slows down and diminishes Ilok's traffic situation, weaker connections with the environment and highway. Once upon a time it was a ferry, since 1974 it is the bridge, which is the key and the only way of transportation and crossing from one side of the Danube to the other side



*Former „Skela“, around 60s, end of buildinga bridge Ilok-B.Palanka, 1974.;webfound Ilok nekada*



*Spatial plan of Vukovar-syrmia county – traffic ;vusz.br ; Spatial plan of Ilok – specified usage of space, 2007./11/14/*

The need for modernization of roads and road traffic is emphasized, and in particular the construction of a modern fast road that would enable the highway connection, the county plan and the Croatian roads plan the new route Ilok - Tovarnik - Lipovac. Realization would remove traffic through settlements on an existing road which, in the current state, does not



meet required technical elements and safety of traffic, especially due to truck traffic and traffic along the border crossings, by using fast road to reach the highway it will take 30 minutes, the road is of interest and the

neighboring places in Serbia. The possibility of development in relation to spatial and landscape values opens especially by preservation and arrangement of the Danube River near Ilok, rearrangement and revitalization of the older and devastated parts of the civic architecture, and tourist sites in a valuable cultural and natural landscape.

### 3 HERITAGE AND POTENTIAL

Historic core of Ilok is an inexhaustible source of material evidence of life in this area that can be used to follow the continuity of life from prehistoric and Roman times until the Middle Ages and later periods. Archaeological excavations, new finds, restoration and conservation works are often activities in the old Upper Town, which is one of the most significant remains of the architectural protected heritage on the ground of northern Croatia and the Central European Danube.

#### 3.1 TANGIBLE HERITAGE

List of protected and preventively protected tangible cultural properties in Ilok, listed in the National Register of Cultural Properties of the Republic of Croatia, in charge of the Ministry of Culture. At local level it is possible to proclaim additional heritage, but that stays local, without higher value. Protected heritage appear as: individual cultural properties, cultural and historical units, cultural landscape, archaeological heritage:

- Archaeological site "Ađanski kraj",
- Archaeological site "Ulica Matije Gupca",
- Family house of Keravica,
- Family house of Julije Benešić,
- The Ilok archaeological zone,
- Church of St. Ivan Kapistran with a monastery,
- Odescalchi Castle,
- City Walls (Old Town Ilok),
- The Fallen Fighters Cemetery of the Yugoslav Army and the monument,
- A crypt and a monument to the fallen fighters of the Red Army,
- House Trenc,
- Cultural and historical unit of Ilok,
- Family House and "čardak",
- Turkish bath –Hamam,
- Turkish Grave/Mausoleum –Turbe,
- Building of the former Kotar,
- Granary building.

There is 41 known archaeological point in total.

Some of facilities in relation to their heritage value are also tourist attractions on a tourist map:

### (1) **Medieval - historical core of Ilok**

The medieval core of Ilok is a protected cultural-historical complex of the highest category. When it comes to its attractiveness and value it stands side by side with similar locations in Croatia and Europe. The fortress and the old medieval complex rise above the right bank of the Danube, on a hill belonging to the western slopes of Fruška gora hill.

The area is the second largest urban-military complex (immediately after the Diocletian's Palace complex in Split), where cultures, people and owners have been exchanging for centuries, and churches, mosques, almshouses, schools and other buildings built; the walls of the 14th / 15th century fortress, the castle of N.Iločki /Prince Odescalchi (15th / 18th century), wine cellars under the castle, church, sanctuary and monastery of St. Ivan Kapistran (15th century), monuments from the Turkish era, Brnjaković Manor, archaeological finds from the earliest historical periods until the end of the Middle Ages, exhibited artifacts from the Roman period, remains of churches and buildings from other 13th century which are still being explored, the park architecture inside and around the fortress.



*Part of complex, TB Ilok 2012.*

### (2) **Odescalchi Castle - Ilok Town Museum**

Recently restored castle of noble family of Odescalchi—former royal court of Nikolas of Ilok, a governor of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia, duke and king, as a protected monument of culture is the subject of museum presentation and the attractiveness of the medieval core-

fortress in Ilok. Architectural and stylistic alterations were made by the Italian noble family Odescalchi at the end of the 17th century, the Duke of Syrmia.



*1. Castle Odescalchi/ Kin N. of Ilok court; M.culture; 2. Detail –museum; mgi.hr*

Castle museum keeps and follows the dense and rich traces of the continuous life of Syrmia and Ilok throughout the centuries, witnessed by numerous finds from the prehistoric times to date, which give a rich and new image of the cultural heritage, a part of which is shown in the permanent exhibition. There are three museum themes: cultural-historical and social development of the Ilok area, wars in the 20th century, art gallery and memorial gallery of the famous and there is an ethnographic department in the attic. The museum is open for individual and group visits, has the expert guidance, a souvenir shop, the access for the disabled, the multimedia conference room and audio guide.

### **(3) Church, sanctuary and monastery of St. Ivan Kapistran**

Church of St. Ivan Kapistran was built in the Gothic style and restored in Baroque times, highlighting the combination of these two styles. The Franciscan and parish church was built in Gothic style by Duke Ugrin in 14.ct. Since 1700, the church was devoted to the warder and defender of Europe from the Ottoman Empire, the Italian Franciscan and the envoy of the Pope, Ivan Kapistran, who died and was buried in the Ilok Church, and proclaimed a saint in 1690. As the tombstone of the saint, the church became too small for numerous pilgrims and that is why it was extended got its current length.

The last major restoration of the church was from 1906-1912 according to the plans of the famous architect Herman Bolle in the New Gothic style. There is a chapel – a room in which St. Ivan Kapistran died. A rich library has been preserved in the mediaeval tower. The Baroque portal and the door originating from 18.ct were built in the intarsia and in the monastery dining room. There are tables from the same period there, as well as the paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries. During the Homeland War, the church suffered several times, the restoration of enterieur lasted four years.



*Panoramiv view,google found*

#### **(4) Complex of the old wine cellar**

The history of wine-growing in Ilok is extremely long with an unbroken tradition of almost 1800 years. The Roman emperor Probus (3rd century) introduced more quality sorts in this area. After the liberation from the Turks, the reigning family Odescalchi upgraded, extended and modernized wine-growing and the wine cellar originally built in the 15th century, cellar is still preserved and represents arhitectural heritage. Italian noblemen brought among other things a sort of Traminer to Ilok in the 17th century. The Traminer of Ilok is nowadays probably the best of a kind in Croatia and beyond as said by enologist and confirmed by many awards, and there are lot of other sorts too.

It was recorded that it was during the time of Odescalchi, when first european bottling of wine began at this estate. The old wine cellar complex consists of the oldest part which is 100 m long, buried in the land under the castle and the former production part and the so-called “bottom cellar” 12m under the ground. Today it functions as a wine-tourist resort open to all visitors. Cellars owned by winery “Iločkipodrumi d.d.” are among biggest and highest quality wineries in Croatia.



*Part of Old cellar, T.Board Ilok*

#### **(5) Fortress with park**

The area of the Ilok fortress was inhabited since the Neolithic, then in the Bronze time. The Romans colonized it around I.-II. century A.D. and they built the first frontier fortress, the Old Roman Cuccium. At the end of the XIII. century, the Croatian-Hungarian kings gave the "castrum Vylak" to the noble families Only and Ugrin. Palatin Nikola Konth started to build the fortress in the 14th century. This great work was magnificently completed by his descendants Nikola and Lovro Iločki. Nikola Iločki started to fortify for the sake of defending town against the Ottomans. The whole complex was transformed into ramparts in the shape of an extended square, whose foundations were built of solid stone and brick walls. He strengthened it with three square towers, three rounded semi-towers, one cylindrical tower and a strong bastion in the southwest, crowned along its whole length.

By the type of construction and building elements it has the stylistic features of the Late Gothic style, but also of the Early Renaissance military architecture, what was like "miracle" at that time. There are remains of Turkish baths (hamam) built in the fort, and a fully preserved grave (turbe) to a holy dervish within the fortress as a reminder of the Turkish era. There is an attractive park architecture heritage inside the fortress, with numerous, interesting species of trees and plants.



*1st View to north part of historic core and fortress, M. Culture*



*2nd south side - part of walls; TB Ilok*

### 3.1.1 HERITAGE OF SETTLEMENTS BAPSKA AND ŠARENGRAD

Bapska– Church and sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Our Lady of Bapska with a miraculous image. The Romanesque-Gothic church in Bapska consists of a Romanesque valley and a lower and narrower apse. It is believed that the earliest parts of the building originate from the beginning of the 13th century. In Gothic times, the church was extended to the west twice, and the portal was Gothic. The church is one of the few preserved Romanesque monuments in northern Croatia.

Almost all the villages between Ilok and Vukovar and ahead to Petrovaradin are located or better to say inserted between the slopes of Fruška Gora and the Danube banks. The village of Šarengrad occupies such a position in the sharper or milder parts of the loess plateaus.

The parish church of St. Peter and Paul is mentioned in the list of the parish churches from 14.ct, at the beginning of the 15th century, Ivan Morovići a civil governor of Slavonia built a monastery with the church of the Holy Spirit, which he handed over to the Franciscans. Šarengrad, whose medieval name is Atya (the Hungarian word for "father") was first mentioned for the first time in 1275.

The Franciscan monastery began to work in 1420, when Pope Eugene IV gave his permission. In Slavonia, the only preserved medieval monastery is exactly the one from Šarengrad. The fortress was built on the top of the hill overlooking the settlement and the river Danube. The medieval fortress Atya (Ochin, Wotschin) is mentioned for the first time in 1405. The first well-known owner of the fort was Ivan Mačvanski. The fort was made of bricks. Gothic fragments (ribs, brackets) have been preserved to date. Šarengrad Fortress is fine example of a river fortress built primarily for military defense in the form of an irregular polygonal building with a proper square defense tower, as it was customary in the late Gothic era. But the remains of mortar in the living premises, as well as the large, stylishly constructed windows show that it was used also as a ruins, abandoned and damaged over time. Today, Šarengrad fortress is a significant example of medieval architecture and it needs restoration and new valuation, as written in database.

## 3.2 INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

List of protected and preventively protected intangible cultural properties listed in the Register of Cultural Properties of the Republic of Croatia, led by the Ministry of Culture.:

- Twenty-one books from the Franciscan Monastery Library Fund,
- Inventory of the church and monastery of St. Ivan Kapistran,
- The Museum of Ilok Fund of “Workers' Movement and national liberation struggle”,
- Organ in the Church of St. Ivan Kapistran,
- The incunabula collection from the Franciscan monastery library in Ilok

The traditional life and culture of the region of the far east of Croatia is very significant, diverse and rich. Vukovar – Syrmia County is a cultural centre of Pannonian cultural zone with narrower specific areas: the Ilok area and the Vukovar – Syrmian and Slavonian Area. Historically seen, the area of Ilok was a part of the Paoria–Banska, or civil Croatia, and the rest of the county region was within the Military Border or the Border. In the spatial sense, by the conception of the village, the specificity of the architectural rural housing and economic facilities and the entire household and economic inventory, domestic or craftsmanship, this area entirely belongs to the Pannonian cultural zone.

Syrmians and Slavonians are native people, mostly Croats, who have basic traditional and special civic cultural features of this region. Many organized, but also individual immigrations of the population from different regions were carried out to this area from the 19th century until the 1950s: Hungarians, Germans, Serbs, Slovaks, Russians, Ukrainians, Czechs, Italians immigrated into this area. The traditional cultural features of these ethnic groups are more or less preserved and contribute to the richness of diversity.

Local churches were built in the centre of the village, and at the intersections of villages, in the entrances and exits, outside the village in the field – chapels and crosses – small votive sacred monuments. The villages are of a compact type with side-facing houses, in sequence one after another. In the depths of the yard, there is a longer side of the house with accompanying rooms and houses – a residential building with rooms for younger married couples and all the facilities: a barn, a stall, a bakery, still room, a bread oven. An economic building barn– the "belly" of each house, usually

dominated the central part of the yard, where grains and various groceries and a wooden well with a sweep were situated. The houses in the early construction period (18th century) were made of oak wood, covered with straw, and later wooden beams. Larger cooperative families and richer individuals built their homes under the influence of public buildings: a wide



front facing the street with three or more windows, or a L-shaped house and a mandatory wagon entrance door.

People used to keep to various customs related to different types of work. Practiced habits of ordinary life (birth, growing up, wedding, death, etc.) were held and these regular annual customs related to church holidays: Christmas Eve, Christmas, Carnival, Lenten period over Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. A significant place in the national social culture take the following holidays: Pentecost, Our Lady, All Saint's Day ....

Production of textiles, embroidery, laces and various garments has always been an almost exclusively women's skills in this area. Everyday and festive woven sheets, woolen blankets, woven towels, bags, and purses were made. There are numerous and varied types of women's and men's footwear, head covers, hair styling for young and adult girls. Richer young women, young men and younger married women used to decorate themselves with small and big ducats– gold money, a symbol of wealth and prestige. Even though the women's costume of Bapska is not listed in the national list of costumes, some of its elements are included in the Croatian top national heritage.

### 3.3 PROJECT "RESEARCH, RECONSTRUCTION AND REVITALIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ILOK-VUKOVAR-VUČEDOL"

The project "Research, Reconstruction and Revitalization of Cultural Heritage Ilok-Vukovar-Vučedol" is the recent multidisciplinary programme of sustainable development in Vukovar-Syrmia County with the common goal of encouraging development on the principle of protecting and enhancing the cultural landscape as a component of the economic project and encouraging the development.

The historical nucleus of Ilok required the implementation of the protection of cultural and natural values and of architectural monumental unit of high environmental and landscape value, with the restoration of the historical matrix, the planning of the introduction of new contents in this area and the determination of the purpose and decoration of the space in harmony with its extremely high historical values. Financed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Europe Development Bank the project started in 2005 and (mostly) finished in 2015. The project is planned, and largely carried out, as a national and regional strategy for research and protection of movable and immovable cultural heritage and its reconstruction. On the national level, it is nowadays one of the most complex programmes of renewal and valorization of national monumental heritage.



*1.,2.The view from the palace to the explored part of the yard with prehistoric, Roman and medieval pits and dugouts, 2007.; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod*

The project has realized investment in research, reconstruction and revitalization of historical and cultural heritage, as well as investments in scientific activities. Except of the experts from the Ministry of Culture and its Restoration Institute more than ten institutions took part in the project as well as numerous individual experts from Croatia and abroad.



*1st, 2nd Bigger bastion on the southwestern defense ring 15./16. centuries, cascades belong to the southern slopes of the park and orangery from the 19th century; 2011.;3rd Roof of the former granary building, during restoration (there will be a new-heritage hotel), M.culture, Hrv.restauratorski zavod*

On the surface, in the literal sense of the word, not only the outlines of a long ago made profane object – the medieval palace (lat. Curia, curtis, palas, palatium) of the princes of Ilok– is already an equally important premise on the millennial chronology of Ilok. They covered the novel of the century ...

And in the 18th century, a "baroque envelope" was created through the intervention of later owners of the palace, prince of Odescalchi, after the liberation from the Turks around the Gothic nucleus. Architectural interventions at the Odescalchi castle from 19th century, up to these recent studies, concealed a full view of the architecture of the older medieval Gothic court. The rich urbanism of the Medieval Ilok is also illustrated by the descriptions, made by the deceased abbot Giovanni Bonini in 1698/99, an authorized commissar of Livio Odescalchi: "The ducale castle" (palazzo ducale), the palace of the prince in Ilok.



*View of the castle during the research, 2007. Croatian Restoration Institute Visualization of the proposal of the presentation of the castle and historical architecture in the immediate environment 2007; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod*

According to the findings from the new, and the first to date, systematic archeological excavation and research of the finds of the Palace of dukes and a large part of the historical core of Ilok, especially the Gothic Church of St. Peter, led by the Institute of Archeology within this Project, this site is, according to the research coordinator, "one of the most significant remains of the architectural heritage on the ground of Northern Croatia and the Central European Danube area". The opening of new museum-gallery units has been carried out – with the renovated Odescalchi castle complex and a new exhibition of the Ilok Museum, recent research of the monumental complex of the core should finally be presented as a systematic interpretation of the unit of the medieval "acropolis" of Ilok.



*1. Air foto old town; Hrv.restauratorski zavod, 2. ortofoto*

Reconstruction of the parts of the walls, baroque houses and "hammam" was completed in 2015. The completion of the remaining project programmes in Ilok: the medieval fortification complex from the 15th century, putting in function of the remaining manorial Curia is foreseen for 2015-2020. The renewed part of the cultural heritage is going to be an impetus for all the professional and scientific research related to the Project "Ilok-Vukovar-Vučedol", it is a pledge of the new orientation in its presentation, as well as a link to contents strongly related to a new reflection on heritage sustainability. There is also a wideopen space for continuation of regional, national and European connectivity in a series of already open projects within the Danube Strategy of the EU, EU Cultural Contact Point, IPA, UNESCO, EU programmes. [1]



*Works on the reconstruction of the hammam afeter researches, 2013; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod*

### 3.4 SWOT of attractiveness of heritage of Ilok in relation to the Danube.

Here is the contribution to common Swot:

#### Strengths

- a national cultural-historical heritage of high value
- good spatial concentration of objects and contents
- the status of the Eden destination of excellence for cultural tourism
- fast and easy accessibility from the Danube
- new features, innovative technological interpretation and presentation
- continuation of renewal and valorization

#### Weaknesses

- the wine / gastro motive is more recognizable than the heritage motive
- very bad economic and demographic situation in the city
- peripheral, marginal position, limited movement of people and goods
- perception of the “former war zone”
- a poor level of connectivity and cooperation between the two river banks, ; slowness of institutions in reconstruction and presentation

#### Opportunities

- spreading visibility and recognizability through local/cross and international Danube cooperation
- the possibility that Ministry of Culture will propose Ilok for the World Heritage Site
- additional interpretation through the Eden brand
- balance the cultural vs. wine and gastro identity
- marketing through the Danube as globally known motive
- transforming contrasting contents of the banks from the disadvantages to advantages
- top-visual experience from the left bank as intangible value

#### Treaths

- too large investments, slow and unsafe local return
- capacity for sustainable management
- persisting of all border constraints
- conflict views of the sectors, cultural vs. touristic

## 4 TOURISM

### 4.1 General overview

Before the Homeland War, Ilok did not have tourism that could be considered as significant, so this economic activity is actually new and untraditional. There is a lack of skills, knowledge and experience, our previous economy of tourism can be described as catering and regional market circulation. Having returned from the exile, people found out that almost everything had been devastated and the economy collapsed. For example, there were only one very poor accommodation facility and two restaurants in Ilok in 2004. Today, there are four good-quality restaurants (the Danube restaurant is a holder of Michelin recommendation), then wine&agricultural entrepreneurs catering facilities (Croatian OPG) etc., and new, various accommodation facilities. Establishment of the Tourist Board and initiatives (both public and private) at the beginning of 2004 enabled a more serious movement in tourism as a way of strategic sustainable revival. In its initial years tourism was directed towards growing winemaking so wine tourism connected to gastronomy came up as a first brand of destination. Almost at same time more systematic work on cultural and historical heritage and on the right bank of the Danube started. But, as example of weakness, to date, there is still only one professional employee in the Tourist Board, as a link between public and private sector at the same time, what makes a major capacity disadvantage, with regard to all other existing capacities.

Croatia is divided into tourist regions-clusters, Ilok belongs to the cluster of Slavonia. Allowed/Potential buyers and markets for each region are chosen according to the division, product groups and types of tourism. Groups of products that, according to the Strategic Marketing and Operational Plan of Croatia Tourism, Ilok may/can develop are: cultural tourism (city break, heritage, thematic route...), gastronomy&wine and cruising-nautical tourism.

Key Consumer Segments: DINKS, Empty Nesters, Gold Age. Markets where it operates: leading, neighboring and far.

In the last 15 years, major steps have been taken in infrastructure, investment and development projects, some of which are indirectly related to tourism and, of course, the Danube. The basic source for tourism is: a valuable and preserved cultural and historical heritage, a preserved and visually attractive natural environment of the settlement and its surroundings, quality vineyards, gastronomy and the Danube with its possibilities for tourism. Ilok is marketed as the "Danube Kingdom of Wine and the Antiquity" and is visible

recognized as all year round tourist destination. Ilok is also a gateway to Central European, Danube, cultural and historical circles and one of the most interesting tourist sites of continental, rural Croatia, settled between the Danube River and the vineyards on the slopes of Fruška Gora, and that joyful vividness is something that remains in the experience as a top aesthetic figure and the motive is often used on a national promotional level. In recent years, there has been constant development of tourism and related activities in several segments of the so-called rural tourism: cultural, gastro (wine) and outdoor (nature, recreational, river, activities). In the last four years, the number of arrivals and overnights has increased. The indices are positive (on average 20-30%). The goal is to maintain the results so that Ilok as a Danube, historical and wine town becomes more than a day-trip destination, trying to achieve international co-operation and promotion.

New: Tourism and cultural importance and value of Ilok and Vukovar area is recognized also through winning the national contest for EDEN award and getting the title „National and European destination of excellence in 2017“, for the proposed common theme on a call – „cultural tourism“. This specific and prestigious programme of EC – brings to light the best hidden pearls of Europe, so it is an added value for a destination and reason more for visit.

Destination emphasis is on kind of “slow tourism”, familiarizing with the significant historical and cultural attractions and peculiarities of a small but interesting Danube town on the border with its neighbours, discovering the charms of cellars and wines, or simply relaxing and enjoying the gastronomic delights and peace that reigns along the Danube or in the vineyards, or be active, recreating. The possibility of learning and playing golf is particularly emphasized within the tourist complex “Principovac” located in the vineyards, take a tour by panoramic tourist train or tourist ship. Visiting throughout the year is interesting but there is still seasonality.

#### 4.2 TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, OFFER, PRODUCTS

Main attractions of Ilok and its settlements; historic core (national protected heritage) of Ilok, which includes:

- Odescalchi Castle –Ilok Town Museum
- Church, sanctuary and monastery of St. Ivan Kapistran
- Fortress 14-15th century
- Brnjaković Manor
- Turkish Turbe
- Turkish Hammam
- Old wine cellars

- Archeological sites and artifacts

The Danube bank, the “Principovac” Manor country estate, the “Danubius” Tourist ship, thematic routes and products, virtual cultural tour – hologram and artificial reality.

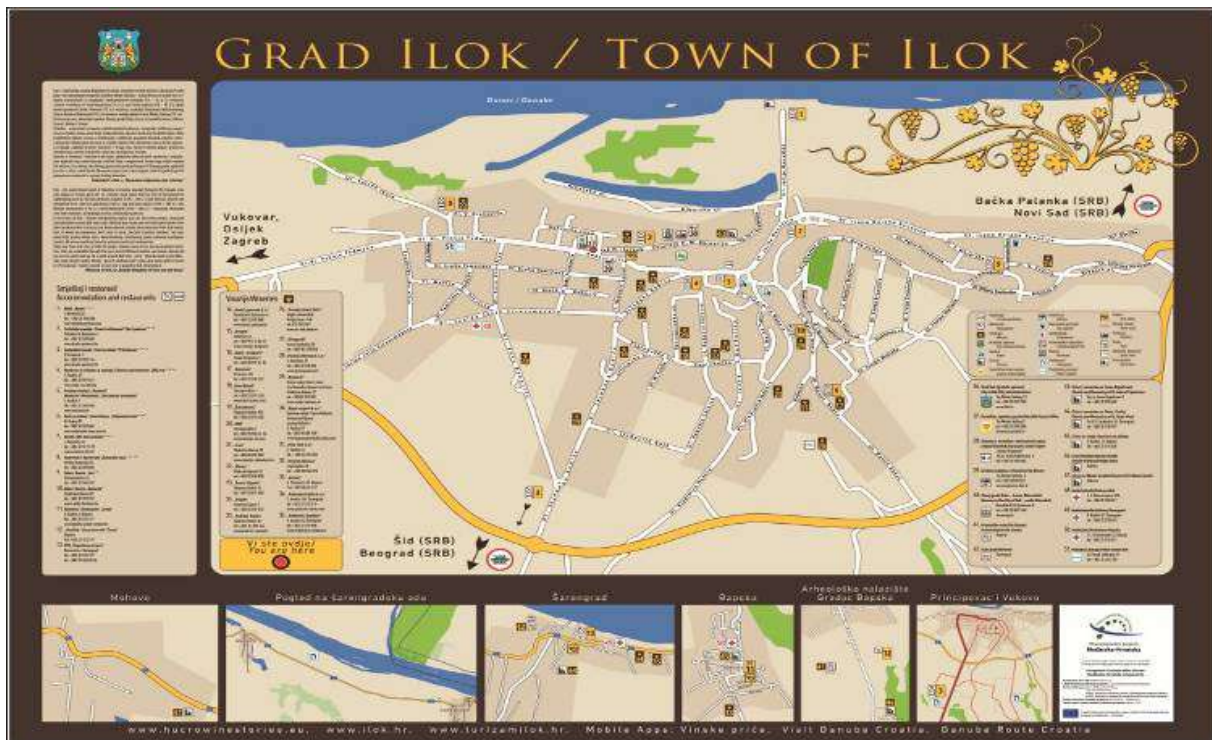
- Church and monastery of St. Peter and Paul Šarengrad
- Remains of the fortress Athya, Šarengrad
- Romanesque church and sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mother of God from Bapska
- Prehistoric archaeological site “Gradac”, Bapska

### Recommended products, tours and thematic routes locally or internationally

The “Roman Emperors & Danube Wine Route” (officially included and certified in the list of European Cultural Routes), “Secret Wine Tour” (the Vinest Network of Small Wine Regions in the 7 EU regions), Eurovelo 6, Wine Route of Ilok, “Zrinski&Suleiman Route”(Croatian-Hungarian thematic route / project), “Sultans trail” – transnational hiking route, “Croatian long distance trail” – starts in Ilok from the track and peak of Liska hill (297m). In preparation: the route of St. Ivan Kapistran.

By choice:

Destination tour/city break, Go biking & cycling, Check events, Explore culture, Taste of Syrmia, Walking&Hiking around river incl. „Croatian long distance trail“.



*Tourist map of Ilok with most important points regarding heritage&tourism, Town Ilok*

What distinguishes this region is a good **wine-gastronomic** offer. When in Ilok, one should not miss the traditional “Iločki čevap” meat or the well-known fish soup made of Danubian fish, typical desserts such as Taški or Šnenokli. The dishes are connected with good drinks: famous wines are Traminer, Italian Riesling, Blaufrankish, nourished on the slopes of Fruška gora, in the area of Ilok-Syrmian wine region, continuing the tradition of grape growing from the time of Roman emperor Probus. Traminer from Ilok was celebrated as a royal wine and is still at the English court. Specific geographic and climate conditions make Ilok vineyards the most important vineyards of continental Croatia. Numerous family, traditional and modern wineries, vineyards and belvederes can be visited, organized in the "Wine Route of Ilok", roaming through the streets of the town and its surroundings. In addition to “Iločki podrumi”, the largest producer of the quality wine and the mostly common awarded, there are additional 22 winemakers that are listed on the wine map of Croatia. Ilok also offers great brandies and “rakija” and liqueurs and a unique delightful (wine) brandy.

**Danube** - the bank of Danube by Ilok with its small backwater called “Dunavac”, a promenade, a beach, a dock for cruise ships, a recreational and catering facilities, is situated at the foot of medieval acropolis of Ilok, which together make an attractive, ambiental and natural unit. Possibilities to walk cycle, drive along the promenade and round to reach other, country side, in short time.

There are stairs and the path coming down from the acropolis through the protected nature below the fortress to the Danube and Dunavac. Only a couple of minutes away from the river, the landscape is dynamically changing above Ilok, all the way to the slopes of Fruška gora, with the vineyards, wine road and belvedere.

The traces of historical periods, nations, cultures, architecture and varieties of ethnography and contrasts between the past and the present can be experienced everywhere and especially in the Ilok Museum that represents the journey through time, history and culture. Complemented by **events** that contribute to the entertainment, the culture and tourist offer and the preservation of the legacy. There are st. Vincent-"Vinkovo" (January), "Kobasijada", "Majpan", "Half Marathon of Ilok", "Petrovo" (June) “Iločko-Slovačko ljeto”, “Schmidt days”(August) "Annual Grape Harvest Fest of Ilok" (September), “Kapistranovo” (October) , "Christmas/Advent in Ilok” (December) and others.

#### ▼ Interesting facts ▼

- **Park in Ilok** –protected as a monument of park architecture since 1973. The surface area is 5 ha. There is a habitat of a very rare, endangered species of lizards – Ivanjski rovaš, the smallest lizard that can be found in Croatia only in Ilok and on the Papuk Mountain. Its length



is rarely not longer than 13 cm, while its body is only 2.5 to 5 cm. There is also one of the rare specimens of the tree Ginkgo Biloba in the park. Ginkgo is a primitive twin species of trees often referred to as "living fossil," as all his relatives vanished 200 million years ago.

- **Imperial eagle** (*Aquila heliaca*)– the picturesque landscape of Ilok is the only habitat of these protected, endangered species in Croatia. The nests are located on the edge of the Fruška gora slopes,

where it crosses to the steppe lawns and bushes. The area is the habitat of other important birds too: the white-tailed eagle, the hawk, the quail, the snipe and the partridge.

- **“Mammoth valley”**– the youngest fossil finds of a mammoth and other extinct animals were found in Mohovo, a village by the Danube near Ilok–the first mammoth skeleton was accidentally found several years ago. It is over 10 000 years old. It is the only find of fossil remains of young woolly mammoth. The site has not been explored much yet. For the time being, tourists can make a selfie with a mammoth in natural size.

#### 4.3 ANALYSIS OF SITUATION, TRENDS AND POTENTIAL

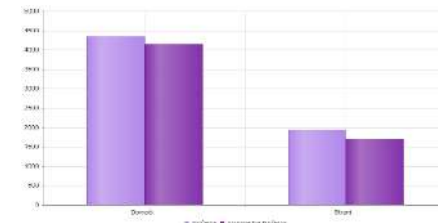
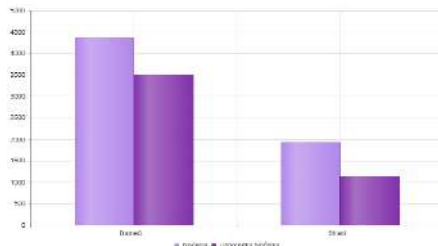
Data from e-visitor national system gives insight into visiting trends, i.e. overnight stays for the first 9 months of 2018, and the whole 2017 compared to 2016. This is a source of analysis, in which we can see trends and possible disadvantages and opportunities. The data refer to tourist facilities that generate revenue and 12 of them are active, with 159 registered beds and 48 additional beds.

The average duration of stay over the last four years ranges from 1.30 to 1.45, which is very low, as well as the average yearly occupancy of 64 days, but since all facilities work throughout the year and some private beds are almost not in the offer (semi-active), but calculated into statistics, the figures are relatively unreliable.

The ratio of domestic (69.27%) and foreign visitors (30.73%) is still dominantly on the domestic side and by the end of the year the ratio will be more emphasized, but the domestic market is both numerically and economically weaker, can fall very quickly, so it is important to change this ratio. Accommodation facilities are of small capacity, which is a result of booking demand and initial reduction of business risk and stronger regulations for larger facilities, such capacity range is often a disadvantage for the groups looking for up to 50 beds, but on the other hand it can be the advantage because there is no classic and massive mess and target suits the offer.

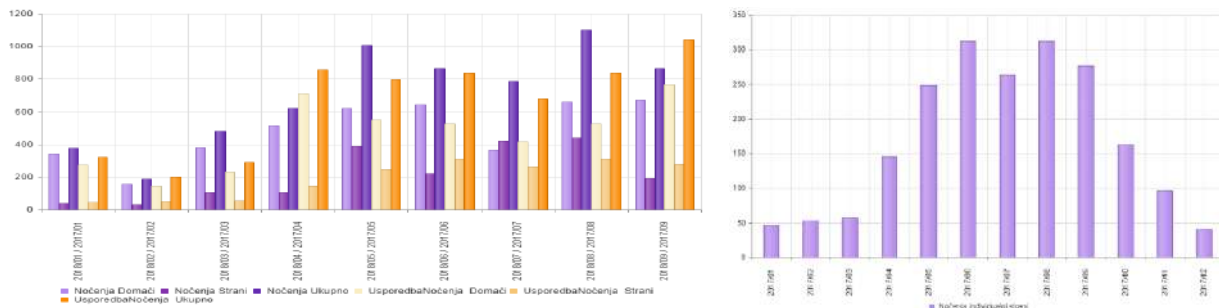
INDEKS 2018/2017		
domaći noćenja	strani noćenja	ukupno noćenja
105,35	113,05	<b>107,60</b>
INDEKS 2018/2016		
domaći	strani	ukupno
124,3	168,7	<b>135,26</b>

Table 1. Period 01.-09. parallelly index previous year, previous two years



Left Graph 1. Overnight stays by the months in the period 01.-09. for 2018/2017 index 107,6  
Right Graph 2. Overnight stays by the months in the period 01.-09. for 2018/2016 index 135,26

The upper and lower graphs show a constant increase in overnight stays, as seen in the first table through individual indices. Based on this, it is realistic to plan a continuation in a similar trend in 2019



Graph 3: Overnight stays by the months in the period 01.-09. for 2018/2017; Graph 5. Foreign guests by months 2017;

From monthly data, seasonal differences are clearly noticed, critical months are difficult to fill up. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain the current demand and pay special attention to January, February and March and partly to December. These period is difficult to sell because tourists traditionally turn to European capitals or winter ski resorts, the opportunity would mostly be those who rarely travel or never travel at that time. The shown arrival and overnight accommodation data show only minor oscillations and changes among the three key facilities, which together bring over 90% of revenue, the share of the beds in the household has increased, but a small number of the same has no significant impact.

When analysing the data where visitors come from, we see a similar picture of the overnight stays of citizens from some countries, with Germany and Austria as dominating countries as well as the neighbouring countries. Most of the indices are positive and the number changes slightly less, except for Slovenia. They are followed by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, France...

There is also a general change in the structure of the daily arrivals, i.e. the way, motive, and the number of daily arrivals and interests.

It is estimated that there are greater recognition and interest for Ilok, but at the same time the competition is becoming more severe, destination is in poor peripheral "position" from the point of view of demand that rationalizes the time and cost of low living standard of mostly domestic guests, there are recruitment problems due to work force shortage, problems with capital raising, worsened local conditions and numerous and extensive regulations. It is necessary to maintain the achieved results and parallelly make changes in the solution of some of the above mentioned factors, i.e. upgrade through improved existing and additional content that will increase attractiveness of the destination. Quality has to be a priority over quantity, recommendations is that Ilok as a destination should carry on, slowly but safely, more sustainable in the long term and on the cross-border level of the whole Danube area.

By the end of 2018, a plan for branding of the Eden destination "Vukovar-Vučedol-Ilok" and a joint marketing plan on the county level is expected. The project of the Interpretation Centre for Visitors is underway, with the big emphasis on modern technologies experience. The inception is the hologram of King Nikola Iločki (Ujlaky Miklosh) that has already been put up and soon expanded reality in historic core.

Ilok's development can be linked to positive trends that rely on the growing tourist concept: Alps - Danube - Cities - Culture. In this context, the overall development of tourism as well as the indirect local strategy are linked to the overall tourism development of the European Danube region, as well as the macro-regional EU strategies.

The Tourism Development Strategy will be developed in 2019, and the starting point for this has been given in the general strategy. Ilok has a major challenge of the necessity of launching a new, strategically thought-out cycle of tourism development, based on the general city strategy and on the following main factors:

- 1) Investment in tourism infrastructure development;
- 2) Further Development of wine-gastronomic offer;
- 3) Development of cultural and creative activities and product offers of cultural and creative industries that will be locally grown and consumed for the most part by tourists visiting Ilok

#### 4) Integrated marketing.

In tourism context, it is surely needed to look for the cooperation possibilities of twin area.

- *The use of neighborhood and interesting things that two river banks can provide in a single visit through the "hint": "when you are out here in the neighborhood on the other side of the bank...visit also/do/see also..", motivation is enough for all the bidders, accommodation facilities, tourist workers etc. in both sides promo-sales 18channels and communication (for example, with such one sentence description at booking.com ...), this can increase the visibility of the two areas, and thus the likelihood of a "doublevisit".*

- *"Double Danube" – a programme including both banks – half tailor made;" BIP "- Bačka (Ilok) Palanka tour.*

- *A pilot project for youth tourism, through selected groups on both sides, communicating, getting to know workshops, creating links and friendships and building on and testing new programmes, activities ... (a desirable third party from the Danurb Circle as a partner as example of good practice).*

#### Accessibility /Entry and stay

Ilok is the most eastern, border point of Croatia, Since 1993, it is the headquarters of the local administration for Bapska, Mohovo and Šarengrad (total surface of 129,46 km). The border with Serbia consists of 4 border crossings: the east, north and south ones, the main is one on the bridge over the Danube linking Ilok and Bačka Palanka.

Ilok is directly accessible by road and river and by the nearest railway and airports. The most interesting arrival to Ilok is definitely from the waterside or the river of Danube by river cruisers and boats, which can use a docking on the right bank of the river. A little port for smaller ships and boats is still missing. Ilok is waiting realization of a big infrastructural traffic project of the modern fast road to connect Ilok-Lipovac (with its links to the Belgrade-Zagreb highway), which would shorten travelling to highway for an hour (now is 1h 30m if not crossing the borders).

Plane – Airport Osijek is the nearest croatian airport, 65 km from Ilok, Airport Nikola Tesla, international, Belgrade, Serbia), 107 km from Ilok.



*Google map.com*

Bus – Ilok is poorly connected by local bus lines with other surrounding cities, there isn't a bus line from Ilok for the neighbouring Serbia anymore. The nearest long-distance bus stations are situated in Vukovar (35 km away) and Bačka Palanka (4 km away).

Car – Ilok is connected by the state road D2 with other cities in Croatia (Vukovar, Osijek, Zagreb). The distance from Ilok to: Bačka Palanka (RS) – 4 km, highway Kuzmin (RS) – 30 km, Vukovar (HR) – 36 km, Novi Sad (RS) – 44 km, Osijek (HR) – 69 km, highway Županja (HR) – 80 km, Belgrade (RS) – 119 km, Zagreb (HR) – 340 km, Budapest (HU) – 343 km, Vienna (AT) – 551 km.

Train – Ilok is not connected by the train. The nearest international railway station is in Vinkovci (55 km) and the nearest railway station is in Tovarnik (30 km). The international railway station in Šid (RS) is 19 km from Ilok.

Boat – There is a dock for cruise ships in Ilok.

## 5 DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT

In this chapter, after the foregoing explanations, guidelines and conclusions, we come to an important part in which we can clearly see: the current very critical position and status of Ilok from different aspects, the processes that have taken place in the last 28 years and the consequences of the same and the reasons for the lack of adequate and strategically planned solutions in time.

Through the DanUrbe project and its basic settings and the prism of professional interdisciplinary observation and analysis of the Danubian units, a much wider context and the importance of weaknesses and challenges have been imposed. The need for cooperation, as well as opportunities are unquestionable and so we have pointed them out and highlighted them, but if we do not start with the measures of maintaining from national, regional and local levels at the same timefast and seriously, it will not be feasible and will remain far from the priorities. Therefore, it is more appropriate to show realistically and to point to the worst defects and threats, as the strategic and developmental frameworks outlined below have not been solved nor identified.

Due to several consecutive, serious and profound crisis, demographic, economic, geopolitical, spatial-architectural and social changes led to the situation that this, once powerful and important town, is now on the periphery with questionable possibilities and scenarios for revitalization including cross-border life, neighbouring life and people's needs.

Crisis processes and conditions that have led to degradation and disintegration of socio-economic and spatial-architectural essence and identity are: a) Until the collapse of the former state, the neighbouring socio-economic life and Ilok functioned optimally and all aspects of life were more than solid, b) With the process of achieving the independence of the Republic of Croatia, Ilok unfortunately lost its significance, lost its natural hinterland and became a marginal, peripheral area, c) The beginning of the war, the occupation of the city by the Yugoslav army and paramilitary formations, the long exile of the citizens and occupation of the city caused great harm, devastation and losses, d) At the same time, in the rest of the young state, the processes of economic conversion, privatization and the creation of new frameworks and ways of functioning were conducted, e) Reintegration of the area within the borders of the Croatian state and comeback from the exile into a devastated city and completely out of function, loss of population and economy, social and cultural, as well as urban-architectural infrastructure, partial solutions for the purpose of fast revival and revitalization started, without being sufficiently and strategically thought out.f) A large investment and project of protection, renewal and revitalization of national heritage was

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started, completely neglecting the "breakdown" of housing, living space, loss of traditional architecture and views. On the other hand, hybrid dwelling facilities turned up and systematic long term revitalization is absent) Along with all the above-mentioned problems, Croatia entered into the pre-accession to the EU, a relative difficult period, and finally accessed to the EU in 2013. Parallely, socio-economic, cultural and architectural aspects in Ilok were declining, economy was not recovering, unemployment rate was high, parts of the once crucial part of town become ruinous almost unrecognizable, the door for migration was open, with a large number of educated and skilled people moving domestically into western parts of Croatia and internationally into some EU countries. Compared to 1991, when Ilok had almost 10,000 inhabitants, it is currently more than halved(around 5000), tourism is developing, heritage revitalized and partly functional and commercialized, but the destination cannot and must not be very contrasting and visually unattractive. Isolated and entities of quality that are mostly tourism-related are at times opposed to the main part of the settlement and to the communication between the Danube and the old town and the vineyards.

It is questionable how to sustain taking into consideration the economic and other opportunities that arose and led to drastic changes. Great resources and a lot of time have been invested in the heritage of the historic nucleus, which is now seen as valuable for the protection of identity, but it definitely should have been followed by similar care for the parts of urban structure and architecture, i.e. the most endangered part of the former Downtown centre.

## 5.1 NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Ilok belongs to the Vukovar-Syrmia County according to administrative structure of Croatia. The county is classified by NUTS division into continental Croatia, the region of Pannonian Croatia. The hierarchy of planning and strategic routing goes therefore hand in hand from the general, higher guidelines towards the lower, the regional, the local and the concrete. Since the pre-accession period to the EU, through the accession in 2013 to date, due to constant changes over the last 15 years, there is a lack of a new models and strategy frameworks, which implies a long-term strategic approach focused on the main determinants of development. There are currently a large number of strategic documents, that are not aligned with each other and do not show integrated policies. Such a situation complicates coordination and compliance with the Europe 2020 Strategy and regulatory frameworks.

- National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia 2030, which was launched is going to be a key document for the period after 2020, in which the main priorities and

strategic goals are going to be defined. The start of its implementation is 2021. New development management is going to start at the same time. 2

► Strategy of Regional Development 2016 – 2018, MRRFEU and the current one for period until 2020, including the action plan 2017 – 2018, foresees some of the elements that we do and that are of our interest such as cross-border cooperation, treatment and valorization of Danube, heritage and culture, whereby following goals / measures are stated;

The general goal foresees decrease of negative influence of the borders through united approach to the issue and promotion of social and economic cohesion. Specific programmes are foreseen within them and there are those related to culture and heritage in general, tourism, infrastructure. These programmes are possibility for needs of regional and local communities, such as;

- Sustainable use and assessment of culture and natural heritage, preparation and realisation of integrated development programmes based on the restauration of cultural heritage, increase of the

share of protected and restored cultural goods related to the total number of registered cultural goods put in function.

- Creating of desirable conditions for living in border areas.

The following issues are also being highlighted:

► Programmes of cross-border cooperation Croatia / Serbia 2014 – 2020.

Priority 3: Tourism development and protection of cultural and natural heritage

Priority 4: Strengthening the competitiveness and development of business environment in the programme area.

- Activities of clusters that promote innovations, new technologies and IKT solutions.

- Preparation, permission and carrying out of Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme.

Programme of Rural Development–Submeasure of support for compilation and updating of development plans in rural areas.

► National Regional Development Project “Slavonia, Baranja and Srymia“ was started for five Slavonian counties, which started to fall behind after the Homeland War, in order to ensure investments in entrepreneurship, agriculture, education, healthcare, research and development, water resources management and drainage, cultural and natural heritage, transportation sector and inland waterways. Ilok is taking part in this programme through programme of final restauration and revitalisation of cultural and historical heritage and putting in function the economic function of parts of

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the old town nucleus and the old granary– industrial heritage that becomes a hotel based on this programme.

Some kind of valorization of the river Danube is generally mentioned everywhere in planning and strategic documents (*Croatia is unmistakably tourist country, but for the most part related to the Adriatic and summer holidays. Continental part takes part in only 5 % of the revenue, since it is not a massive type of tourism. It can be stated that the state is very poorly identified with the Danube, compared with other resources...*).

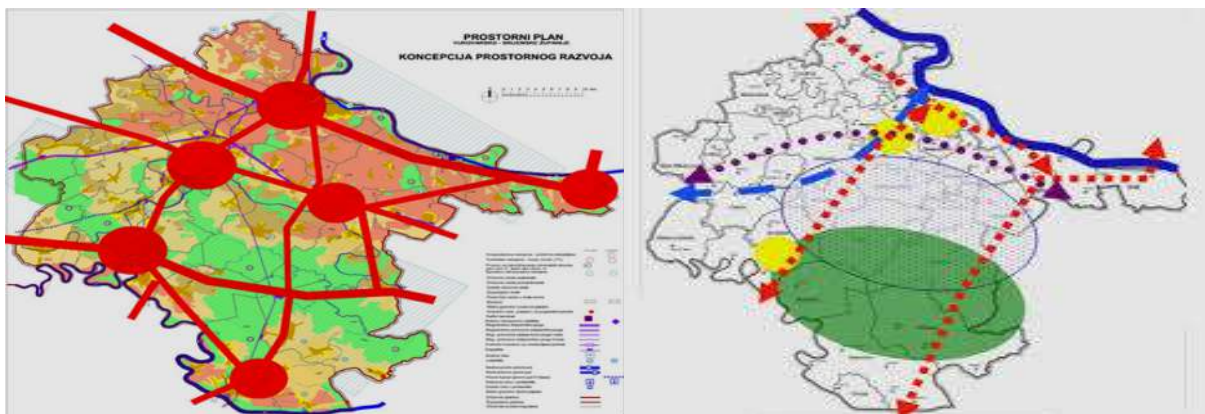
Strategy of tourism development until 2020 (National gazette Nr. 55/13)

- cyclo tourism defined as a new product with huge potential – Action plan of cyclo tourism development has been brought.

Strategic plan nautical-river tourism – in development.

The deficiency is a lack of strategic framework for development and promotion of continental tourism as a consisting part of national offer.

## 5.2 REGIONAL -COUNTY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK



*Conception of spatial development of the county;2002, (07/11(14/15,; picture Univeristy of Zagreb, Arbitectur Faculty*

a) Development Strategy of Vukovar-Syrmia County 2011 – 2013 shows the strategic development of the county with stated strategic goals, priorities and measures in accordance with development priorities of statistic region of Pannonian Croatia, this county belongs to. Tourism, culture and heritage are perceived as strategically important, the cooperation with neighbouring countries is highlighted, as well as the importance of Danube as multiple income resource.

- It is planned to build the county port in Ilok, which a conceptual solution has been made for. Making of conceptual and main project.

- Building of the high-speed road – connection with the highway/Ilok-Lipovac.

b) Development Strategy of Vukovar-Syrmia County from 2011.

Marketing and tourism branding plan of Vukovar-Syrmia County – conception is coming to an end.

c) Operative plan of cyclo tourism development of Vukovar-Syrmia County, 2017.

- foresees: Building of cycling path on the Danube Route (Eurovelo 6), section Vukovar-Ilok

Cycling Ilok – tracing, infrastructure, building, equipment, e-marketing of cyclorutes (combined with hiking routes) in the city and the neighbouring surroundings.

d) Spatial plan of Vukovar-Syrmia County defines the major elements and gives guidelines and instructions for local government levels for local spatial-urban and some detailed plans.

Marketing and tourism branding plan of Vukovar-Syrmia County – conception is coming to an end.

**Cross-border Danube project Croatia / Serbia:** VicTour – Virtual and Cultural tourism

The partners are the left and right bank that is to say Vukovar-Syrmia County and entities on the level of Autonomous Province Voivodina.

Expert participaton of Tourist Board Ilok

**Cross-border Danube project Croatia / Serbia:**Central Danube Tour

Project coordinator on the Croatian side is Osijek-Baranja County, a partneris the City of Ilok, whereas on the Serbian side the partner is the Authonomous Province Voivodina. Expert participaton of Tourist Board Ilok.

Is would be appropriate to analyse how comes that the neighbouring Bačka Palanka municipality is not a part of the above mentioned activities both very close connected to topic of interest.

### 5.3 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The strategy shows that the area is in a key period that represents a challenge in the context of its own development but also the development of the entire region. The economic development, as in other cities in this part of Croatia, has been slower than on the national average. The overall development of tourism in this strategy is linked to the overall tourism development of the European Danube Region, as well as the corresponding macro-regional EU strategies.

The Strategy as one of the three main sectoral strategies is the "Strategy for managing cultural and historical heritage, which will be the basis of development of cultural and creative activities."

#### **Some elements related to DanUrb:**

Tourist infrastructure;

⇒ Sport and recreational infrastructure: investment in sport infrastructure in rural settlements, cycling routes, swimming pool and bathing-place by the Danube.

⇒ Environment: investment in development of accommodation facilities of camping type, investment in green areas and areas with planted flowers, investment in development of accommodation facilities of hostel / hotel type.

⇒ Investing in visual impression: restoration of all facades of residential buildings in the old town and in the outskirts and rural settlements by the Danube.

⇒ Enogastronomic tourist offer: starting of private investments in catering facilities (restaurants, street food vendors etc.).

⇒ Establishment of permanent exhibition for existing enogastronomic manifestations, as well as big future culture and tourist events.

Culture tourism ⇒ focus on cultural – historic, art and scientific heritage;

challenges of development of cultural tourism can be divided into three segments:

⇒ preservation of local identity along with fulfilment of requests for quality and high tourist standards of tourist culture at the same time;

⇒ authenticity of space: protection of historic monuments; restoration of museums and sacral buildings; restoration of rural space and its authenticity.

Integrated tourist marketing of Ilok – taking into consideration the disposable tourist potentials, as well as those that will come into existence, the development of integrated tourist marketing seems to be one of key stakeholders of successful implementation of tourist strategy. [3]

Branding plan of Eden destination of culture tourism – in realisation.

A study and a conceptual project related to the full restoration of the bank of Danube and Dunavac is not stated but it would be necessary. The restoration should be with tourist and sport goal enabling valorization, protection and protection of environment and attractiveness of the Danube bank.

In a database there is an example of unused but possible resource of industrial heritage on the bank itself – the old warehouse, which was visited by the DanUrbe project participants, when visiting the twin area.

The strategic documents and plans do not specially or specifically emphasise the border neighbouring activities neither in form of opportunities nor in form of challenges, what is a defect and should be changed in the Tourism development strategy since its creation has just been started.

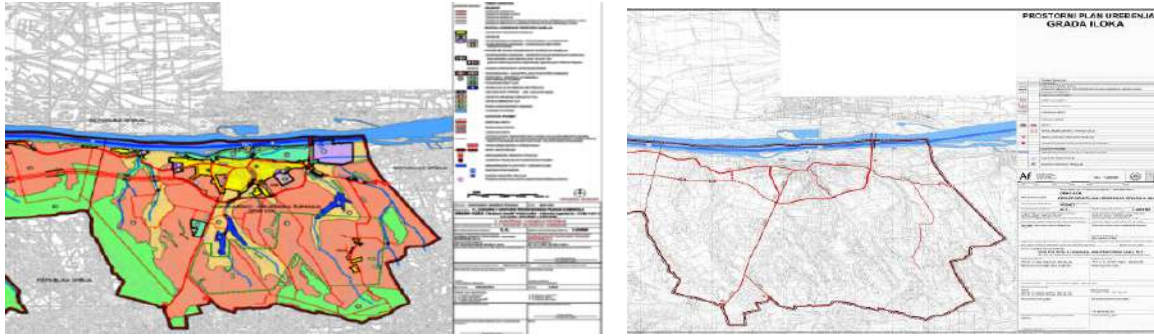
Plans; Ilok (*in process of changes*)

- Spatial plan of Ilok, 2006/11/15/
- Urbanistic plan of Ilok, 2006/11/14
- Detailed plan for restoration for the Historic Town Core of Ilok, 2006/17/
- Amendments to the urban plan for of Ilok (years mentioned above)

Spatial planning includes important basic directions of use and restoration of space: maintaining the quality of space, respecting the spatial-ecological and socio-cultural parameters of development, incorporating cultural and historical heritage into tourist offer and improving the specialty of tourist offer and reducing the construction areas of the settlement to the really needed areas. The possibility of developing the city in relation to the spatial and landscape values, especially the preservation and restoration of the Danube bank and Ilok and the tourist sites in a valuable landscape. Particularly valuable cultivated landscape – moves and sites:

- a move along the edge of the right bank of the Danube,
- the highlighted site of the unity of fortress walls and the Franciscan monastery with the bell-tower in Ilok (within the scope of the Urban Planning Plan);
- a particularly valuable cultivated landscape – the Dunavac and Principovac area (within the scope of the Urban Planning Plan).

The fundamental problems of spatial planning are: the reconstruction of war-destroyed areas, the adaptation of existing systems to new conditions and the need for making of new documentation, regime of crossings of state borders and EU borders and political opportunities, which reduce and decrease the traffic position.



*1st Spatial plan of Ilok – specified usage of space, 2nd Traffic 2007./11/14 ; Arhitektonski fakultet, Zagreb*

However, it is not mentioned in any document of any level that it has already been done anything mentioned in the introduction: disintegration of socio-economic and degradation of physical space, huge demographic decline, loss of authentic architecture, loss of functionality of parts of the settlement, but also visual value, that is also important for local awareness and maintenance of the

identity but also for tourism that expects harmony, regulation and authenticity. It is visible through the concept of DanUrb, that it is necessary to consider the whole settlement in relation to the aspects of

living, living in the neighbourhood, the Danube and the spatial-architectural but also the cultural integrity. Partial views and interventions have not solved the problems, similar can be suggested or, local society cannot be seen isolated from its spiritual and physical components. It is possible that, unfortunately, much of it has irretrievably been lost. Prior to the new cycle of national, regional and local strategic planning, it is necessary to react and work on the revitalization plan of Ilok.

## 6 STAKEHOLDERS

It is necessary and possible to foster a common twin area communication platform for cultural and natural heritage, sustainable tourism development and preservation of the Danube, the added value of cooperation as an incentive for better socio-economic status, development of neighborhood and quality of life, in accordance with the EU, national and local development presumptions.

Networking between municipalities on issues of common interest such as Danube river activities, culture or tourism improvements, have potential to develop debates and skills how to improve conditions for participation and appear to be an important wheel for enabling the exchange of good intercultural dialogue between twin area, its organizations and local citizens. Meetings can contribute to mutual understanding, acceptance of differences between partners, those from and accessing the EU and promote importance of societal and volunteering engagement. Activities should give participants the possibility to engage actively in the possible projects and planning. It can serve as an inspiration for citizens, enabling them to participate. Such active approach is of extreme importance for cross-border river twin towns.

There is a very small number of potential stakeholders in Ilok related to the drastic decline in population over the last 70 years, and most of it in the last 10 years have been accompanied by socio-economic difficulties and geo-political changes. This affects the quantity and quality of activities.

The following stakeholders can be found in Ilok: Town administration (only 12 employees)– Mayor’s Office, Unitary Administrative Department and Municipal Department of Communal Services, Ilok Tourist Board (1 employee), Ilok Town Museum, Wine Cluster Syrmia, Cultural/Folk Societies, Slovak minority association and cultural center (Matica Slovačka Ilok), Elementary school and especially Secondary School (in the status of eco-school with a green flag, has internships, its own winery, greenhouse, sports hall, accommodation, kitchen, the main building and its environment is of great value (former Royal School), sports associations and other associations. Local religious leaders could also function as leaders of cultural sacral heritage.



*Ilok municipality building (on the left);wikipedia*

The following are also appropriate stakeholders: Vukovar-Srijem County Governor's Office and the county departments and the Conservation Department in Vukovar (presenting national level/ministry of culture).

Cooperation in the local cross-border area and any other co-operation is more than necessary and can be summarized in a sentence that applies to everyone: "Nobody can act alone". Challenges, suggestions and motives of the cooperation are given in chapters and at the end in conclusion. The model should originate from the bottom, from the local community population, from and to individuals who have realistic points of view, opinion makers to organizations that are sufficiently motivated and experts in the particular field. They must have real desire, will and competence to contribute to common interests. From this level, and after the results that have already been expressed (prediction), it is possible to be serious voice calling for support and action of higher levels, i.e. local and regional, national politic, management structures. Stakeholders should declare –interested in being part of the common "Cluster of sustainable KuLT Danube twin area", let's call it short "BIP" (Bačka-Ilok-Palanka).

## 7 CONCLUSION

Related to chapters and in general, including challenges and recommendations

The area of Ilok and Bačka Palanka is contrasted by the landscape, which is the only major difference opposed to many neighboring Danubian similarities. On the other hand, the main objective obstacle for local cooperation, joint programmes and tourism is the border: the main crossing border from Croatia (EU) to Serbia is the bridge over the Danube. For this reason the local tourist organisations had talks several years ago about maybe creating a form of “tourist free zone”, but the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU has made it very difficult. Cooperation in general and in the field of tourism in the sense of one unity, joint activities or programmes formally almost does not exist; it has been tried several times to initiate such a cooperation and the conviction has been expressed that it is both necessary and useful for both sides and that towns do not take the chance for better local life and movement of people and goods.

One of the reasons for low cooperation level is the constant change of persons in charge, seems even in B. Palanka due to no continuity. The lack of adequate people, capacity and a much smaller number of inhabitants is particularly problematic on the side of Ilok, but this did not prevent contacts and cooperation with the additional efforts. There is also the burden of the recent past that must be overcome, and every citizen of the twin area has to realize that it is not natural to live one next to the other in a different than affirmative way. Tourism is one of the few activities that links people and regions and overcomes the limitations and does not stand them but seeking freedom of movement. Otherwise it goes elsewhere. The fact for example is that a tourist and shipping company has to spend more money and more time for docking in Ilok for visit, because of the border controls, which is from

the point of view of those who sell the programmes a financial and technical obstacle, that they don't have somewhere else and in the individual visit it presents a questionable engagement. This area has always been a natural and socio-economic unity and it is recommended to embark on a serious and committed start of regaining its position.

A programme such as „Europe for citizens“ gives opportunity to the citizens to get to know other “next door cities and villages”, nations, people and cultures, serve as a platform for intercultural dialogue between municipalities and their citizens who already share common characteristics:





*two towns, states, border..or..?! (web pic)*

rural or urban areas with strong, long and similar cultural, natural, social or economic tradition. Through “twinning”, cross-border and joint acting of third parts, round tables, education and training workshops, cultural exchange, common events and entertainment programme, citizens of the twin Ilok – B.Palanka area should have an opportunity to share life and river, experience, good practice, raise awareness of their common potential, form tighter bonds and find new ways for development and promotion of the area and improve conditions for participation.

- Every encouragement and launch of the connecting of twin areas must necessarily be very sensible, unintrusive and slow, crucial is the real will and the concrete visible effect. Without it or acting from above it is difficult to talk about sustainability ...more “accidental”.

- It is suggested to take action from lower levels, professionals, private sector thinking in a business way and ordinary people through the formation of permanent working group, inspired by the project or the stakeholders. The working group has to create more concrete and more formal content frameworks and to plan the implementation and addressing on both the national and international levels by means of communication on that level. It can be kind of **Cluster of sustainable KuLT Danube twin area, let’s call it “BIP” Bačka-Ilok-Palanka)**

- Encouraging individual informal contacts that may act on majority of people in a slower and safer way, e.g. "meet your neighbour" – as a kind of experiment where families are

connected in a voluntarily way, as well as young and old ... and the circle expands to an increasing number of such "twin" acquaintances.

- When analyzing "domestic and foreign", existing and potential visitors, it seems more likely that they are more likely to turn to foreigners because they are not limited, and they are less acquainted with anything that is being offered to them. And the huge opportunity for the twin area is the vicinity of the big cities such as Belgrade (including the airport!), Novi Sad and Osijek: these are the markets within a small distance and of great potential.

- A kind of common ferry like the former one– for tourism –without going to the other bank in terms of getting to the ground but for the purpose of sailing, observation, photo, river experience ...

- Joint event(s) that are on both sides of the Danube inviting to visit if it is innovative, more specific, more modern and well communicated to the target ..., "Danube firework" (there is a story about a Hollywood production from 1960´ when "the Danube burned" ... e.g. remake of something like that...).

- Long-term aspects of EU status is to predict and simulate different possible scenarios of the cooperation in the Danube region (working group ...).



*Storm view from left to right bank, photo: N.Šegan, web: BP dešavanja*

Notes and sources:

cover photo: view of the medieval citadel from the south; 2007; Hrvatski restauratorski zavod

1 <http://ilok-vukovar-vucedol.min-kulture.hr>

2 <https://razvoj.gov.hr/>

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