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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Die unvollendete Urbanisierung ist eine große Herausforderung für den modernen Kosovo. Dies ist das Ergebnis einer jahrzehntelangen staatlichen Unterentwicklung, die den Kosovo seit dem Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges auszeichnet und nach den Zerstörungen von 1999 und den darauffolgenden ungeplanten Wiederaufbau des Landes, bei dem die Hauptziele Herstellung von Unterkünften und eine Normalisierung des Lebens waren, fortgeführt wurde. Die Nachkriegstransitionen im Kosovo waren äußerst komplex und haben einen direkten Einfluss auf das Aufrechterhalten dieser Planungs- und Entwicklungsdiskurse bis heute. Sie haben auch Einfluss auf die Projektion der zukünftigen Urbanisierung des Kosovos entlang konventioneller Muster von physikalischer Realität vor allem der Städte und der Landschaften, aber auch generell des Räumlichen und urbanen Porträts des Kosovo. Dies wurde auf eine gewisse Weise im „RaumplanKosovos“ mit berücksichtigt. Dieser Plan ist das Hauptdokument, das vom kosovarischen Parlament 2010 angenommen wurde. Die vorliegende Doktorarbeit hat das Ziel, zur Veränderung dieses Verständnisses von Raum und Urbanität im Kosovo beizutragen, indem ein „rohes“ Modell für das zukünftige urbane Porträt Kosovos eingeführt wird, das eine wertvolle Erweiterung des „Raumplanes Kosovos“ darstellen würde und zum Prozess der in nächster Zukunft angedachten Revision des Dokuments beitragen könnte. Genauer gesagt will die vorliegende Arbeit einen Beitrag leisten zur Einbeziehung der reichen kulturellen und natürlichen Ressourcen des Kosovos als Hauptkontingent zur Erreichung von Nationalen Entwicklungszielen und zur zukünftigen Integration in die Europäischen sozio-politischen, kulturellen und wirtschaftlichen Agenden. Dieses Ziel wird unterlegt von der Neuen Lefebvres Theorie des Urbanen (new theory of the urban), die mit einbezieht, dass die Zentralität und die urbanen Zentren im neuen Jahrtausend durch exzentrische urbane Konfigurationen ersetzt werden. Dies manifestiert sich in heterogenen Stadtformen und polizentrischen urbanen Regionen. Die Methodologie der Konzepte von „Netzwerke, Grenzen und Unterschiede“, die in der vorliegenden Arbeit angewendet wird, steht im Gegensatz zum Konzept der geschlossenen Grenzen kultureller, wirtschaftlicher und politischer Art. Sie basiert auf Forschung, die im Falle der Schweiz beispielsweise äußerst erfolgreich umgesetzt worden ist. Sie impliziert Lefebvres Komplexe Theorie und das Konzept des urbanen Raums als Komposition von Netzwerken, Grenzen und Unterschieden. Die vorliegende Arbeit setzt eine kombinierte methodologische Strategie um. Sie wird in Kontext gesetzt durch die Nutzung von analytischen Karten und Instrumenten, Designmethoden und kombinierten statistischen Methoden; die Arbeit schafft Ergebnisse durch die Einführung von neuen Typologien, die durch die Extrapolation von natürlichen und kulturellen Schichten, kombiniert mit dem Netzwerk der Siedlungen, generiert wurden.

Das Ergebnis der vorliegenden PhD Arbeit ist ein Modell des Anschlusses der strategischen Entwicklungsoptionen an Ergebnisse der Typologien der Kontingente – die Hauptstadt Metropole (Prishtina); Städtenetzwerke; regionale Kooperationen, unter denen a) natürliche und kulturelle Landschaften und Regionen, b) grenzübergreifende Kooperationen gefördert werden sollen- in Übereinstimmung mit politischen Optionen der polizentrischen Raumentwicklung des Europäischen Kontinents, die von der Europäischen Raumentwicklungsperspektive (ESDP) gefördert wird, und umgesetzt durch Netzwerke, Projekte und Programme wie ESPON usw. Zusammenfassend können die Vorschläge, die in dieser Arbeit erarbeitet wurden, eine solide Basis zur Förderung der natürlichen und kulturellen Landschaften und Regionen im Kosovo sein, die eine langfristige Entwicklung im regionalen Kontext und dadurch die Integration in den Europäischen politischen und wirtschaftlichen Kontext garantieren würden.

Schlüsselwörter: „Kosovo - Räumliches Porträt“, Netzwerke, Grenzen und Unterschiede, Kulturelle und Natürliche Landschaft, Stadtentwicklung, Regionalentwicklung.

ABSTRACT

The present day Kosovo is being challenged with the problem of unfinished urbanization. This is a direct result of a state of underdevelopment that has permeated Kosovo for decades, from the end of the Second World War, to war destructions of 1999 and subsequent rebuilding of the country that was based on the sole need for shelter and normalization of life. The complexity of post-war transitions in Kosovo has had direct effect in maintaining such planning and development discourse. It also affected the projection of Kosovo's future urbanization along the lines of conventional understanding of physical reality of cities and landscapes in particular, and the spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo as a whole, in general. This was in a way acknowledged in the spatial Plan of Kosovo, which is the main spatial policy document adopted by the Parliament of Kosovo in 2010. This PhD thesis has therefore set the goal to contribute to the amendment of such understanding by introducing a 'raw' model for the future Spatial and Urban Portrait of Kosovo that would add value to the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, and would contribute to the process of its revision, envisioned in the near future. More concretely, this thesis attempts to contribute to the insertion of Kosovo's rich cultural and natural resources as the prime contingent for achieving national development goals within the regional context and its future integration into European socio-political, cultural and economic agenda. This goal is guided by the Lefebvre's new urban theory, which acknowledges that the centrality and urban centers in the new millennium are being replaced by non centric urban configurations, manifested in a form of heterogeneous city structures and polycentric urban regions. The methodology of concepts of "networks, borders, and differences", adopted in this thesis, as opposed to the concept of enclosed boundaries of cultural, economic, and political character, is based on the research which has already been carried out and proved successful in the case of Switzerland, and which implies Lefebvre's complex theory and the concept of urban space, as composed of aspects of networks, borders, and differences. The thesis adopts its combined methodological strategy and contextualizes it by employing analytical maps and tools, design methods, and combined statistical methods; it synthesizes findings through introduction of new typologies generated by means of extrapolation of natural and cultural layers, in combination with the network of settlements. As a result, this PhD thesis proposes the alignment of strategic development options based on findings on contingent typologies - Metropolitan capital (Prishtina); Network of cities; Regional cooperation, under which shall be promoted a) natural and cultural landscape regions, as well as b) cross-border cooperation - in compliance with policy options on Polycentric Spatial Development in the European continent promoted through European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), and implemented through networks, projects and programs such as ESPON, etc. In conclusion, this would create the solid basis to promote natural and cultural landscape regions in Kosovo, which guarantee Kosovo's long-term development in the regional context and by this, its integration in the European political and economic context.

Key Words: "Kosovo - A spatial portrait", networks, borders, and differences, natural and cultural landscape, urban development, regional development.

PËRMBLEDHJE

E sotmja e Kosovës është duke u sfiduar me problemin e urbanizimit të papërfunduar, i cili është rezultat i drejtpërdrejtë i shtetit gjatë dekadave të prapambetjes që ka portretizuar Kosovën që prej përfundimit të Luftës së Dytë Botërore, si dhe nga shkatërrimet e luftës së vitit 1999 dhe nga rindërtimi i mëvonshëm i vendit, bazuar në nevojën e vetme për strehim dhe normalizimin e jetës. Kompleksiteti i tranzicionit të pasluftës në Kosovë, ka pasur efekt të drejtpërdrejtë në ruajtjen e planifikimit të tillë dhe në diskursin zhvillimor. Ai gjithashtu ka prekur projeksionin e urbanizimit të ardhshëm të Kosovës përgjatë vijave të të kuptuarit tradicional të realitetit fizik të qyteteve dhe peizazheve në veçanti, dhe portretin urban të Kosovës si tërësi, në përgjithësi. Në një mënyrë, kjo është pranuar në Planin Hapësinor të Kosovës, i cili është dokumenti kryesor i politikave hapësinore i miratuar nga Kuvendi i Kosovës në vitin 2010. Prandaj kjo tezë e doktoraturës ka për qëllim të kontribuojë në ndryshimin e kuptimit të tillë duke prezantuar një model 'të papërpunuar' për portretin e ardhshëm Hapësinor dhe Urban të Kosovës, model i cili do të shtojë vlerën e Planit Hapësinor të Kosovës dhe do të kontribuojnë në procesin e rishikimit të tij, i paraparë për të ardhmen e afërt. Më konkretisht, teza përpiqet që të kontribuojë duke prezantuar burimet e pasura kulturore dhe natyrore të Kosovës si kontigjentin kryesor për arritjen e qëllimeve të zhvillimit kombëtar në kontekstin rajonal dhe integrimin e saj të ardhshëm në agjendën sociopolitike, kulturore dhe ekonomike evropiane. Ky synim udhëhiqet nga teoria e re urbane e Lefebvre's e cila pranon se qendërsia dhe qendrat urbane në mijëvjeçarin e ri janë duke u zëvendësuar me konfigurim të jo qendror urban, manifestuar në formë të strukturave heterogjene të qytetit dhe në zonat urbane policentrike. Metodologjia e koncepteve të "rrjeteve, kufijve, dhe dallimeve", miratuar në këtë tezë, për dallim nga koncepti i kufijve të mbyllur me karakter kulturor, ekonomik, dhe politik, është i bazuar në hulumtimet e kryera dhe që janë dëshmuar të suksesshme në rastin e Zvicrës, që nënkupton teorinë komplekse të Lefebvres dhe konceptin e hapësirës urbane, i përbërë nga aspektet e rrjeteve, kufijve, dhe dallimeve. Teza përshtat strategjinë e saj metodologjike të kombinuar dhe e kontekstualizon atë duke përdorur hartat analitike, mjetet, metodat e projektimit, dhe metodat statistikore të kombinuara; ajo sintetizon gjetjet përmes prezantimit të tipologjive të reja, të krijuara me anë të ekstrapolimit të shtresave natyrore dhe kulturore, në kombinim me rrjetin e vendbanimeve. Si rezultat, kjo tezë e doktoraturës propozon përjasjen e opsioneve strategjike të zhvillimit, bazuar në gjetjet e tipologjive të paparashikuara: -Kryeqyteti Metropolitan (Prishtinë); Rrjeti i qyteteve; Bashkëpunimi rajonal, sipas të cilit do të promovohen: a) rajonet peisazhore natyrore dhe kulturore, si dhe b) Bashkëpunimi Ndërkufitar, në përputhje me opsionet e politikave të Zhvillimit Hapësinor Policentrik në kontinentin evropian promovuar përmes Perspektivës së Zhvillimit Hapësinor Evropian (ESDP), dhe që realizohet nëpërmjet rrjeteve, projekteve dhe programeve të tilla si ESPON, etj. Si përfundim, kjo do të krijojë një bazë solide për të promovuar rajonet peisazhore, natyrore dhe kulturore në Kosovë, e cila garanton zhvillimin afatgjatë të Kosovës në kontekstin rajonal dhe me këtë, integrimin e saj në kontekstin evropian politik dhe ekonomik.

Fjalët kyçe: "Kosova - portreti hapësinor", rrjetet, kufijtë dhe dallimet, peizazhi kulturor dhe natyror, zhvillimi urban, zhvillimi rajonal.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIK	Archeological institute of Kosovo
CADSEs	Central Adriatic Danubian and South East European Space
EC	European Commission
ESDP	European Spatial Development Perspective
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Union
EULEX	European Rule of Law Mission
GUP	General Urban Plan
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IRPP-SAAH	Integrated rehabilitation project plan–Survey on architectural and archeological heritage
KAS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
KFOR	The Kosovo Force
KEPA	Kosovo agency for protection of environment
MCYS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
MDP	Municipal Development Plans
MSA	Metropolitan Small Areas
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NR	Nature Reserves
NP	Natural Parks
NM	Natural Monuments
SAA	Stabilization and Association Process
SEE	South East Europe
SPK	Spatial Plan of Kosovo
SAPK	Socialistic Autonomous Province of Kosovo
SAPKM	Socialistic Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija
SPZ	Special Protected Zones
PTK	Post Telekom of Kosovo
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UDP	Urban Development Plans
UA	Urbanized Areas
YU	Yugoslavia

PREFACE

Being part of the University of Prishtina for nearly three decades as a lecturer on subjects of urbanism and spatial planning, and as a practitioner in the field of urbanism, I have had the opportunity to witness and be part of various approaches and systems of spatial and urban development in Kosovo, through all stages that Kosovo went through during this period.

Although after the war in Kosovo and especially after the declaration of its independence in 2008, Kosovo was opened to new perspectives for sustainable urban planning, through international support and in line with best practices in the world, a group of colleagues and myself have still remained a small voice in advocating and promoting principles, methods, and models of contemporary urban planning, which we had the opportunity to encounter and learn during our exchange experiences in developed countries. One of the main problems that have concerned me for a long time in the newly established system of urban and spatial planning in Kosovo is the extremely fragmented approach towards issues and challenges of urbanization, which in turn has produced not-so-farsighted visions for overall socio-economic and spatial development of Kosovo. This has made Kosovo in the eyes of the world be observed as a country with a relatively poor urban portrait, an incomplete or unclear one, and with an unreliable development perspective in architectural, urban and spatial domains.

I have always considered that there should be a model put in place, derived from best practices, as well as substantive and comprehensive urban studies, grounded in strong theoretical basis, and with appropriate applicability suitable to this century, which could serve as a model in addressing challenges in the Kosovo context. I had this great chance to discuss such ideas with distinguished professionals and scholars, prof. Sibylla Zech, Univ. Prof. Dipl.-Ing, Thomas Dillinger, Assistant Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. techn, and prof. Caroline Jäger-Klein, Ao. Univ. Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. techn. from the Center of Regional Planning and Regional Development at the University of Vienna; it is the very discussions from which sprang the idea to work this PhD dissertation based on the Swiss model of urban portrait, a study which is highly recognized in the European discourse and beyond, and the approach of which, in terms of both, theoretical and methodological accounts, suits to our context and helps to highlight strengths and possibilities of a contemporary urban development of Kosovo. This research, conducted in the framework of the PhD Program in Regional Planning and Regional Development at the University of Vienna, examines innovative theoretical concept of networks, borders, and differences, being promoted for the first time in Kosovo.

As such, the research shall enable the improvement of the highest national document on spatial planning, namely, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, by offering a new alternative to revise orientations of the Plan in the future, which shall generate a sustainable urban profile of Kosovo, as well as its overall sustainable and long-term development.

My personal commitment is to contribute through this study to the change of comprehension and the national discourse, from fragmentary approach, to a new phase of integrated spatial planning in Kosovo in line with polycentric development approach in Europe.

I wish to express on this occasion my thanks and deep gratitude to my mentor Sibylla Zech, co-mentor Thomas Dillinger, and Caroline Jäger-Klein who have given me their generous guidance and unreserved support, in doing this dissertation.

I would also like to wholeheartedly thank my colleagues from the Department of Architecture of the University of Prishtina, Florina Jerliu Dr.sc, and Vlora Navakazi Dr.sc, for their encouragement, cooperation and ideas, which have contributed to this study in its form and content.

Certainly, my family deserves special note of gratitude for their patience, motivation and generous support given to me during all the time of completion of this dissertation.



**The Spatial Portrait of Kosovo
champions
a different kind
of urbanism**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Why a spatial portrait for Kosovo?

Since the end of war in 1999, Kosovo has faced a complex transition in all spheres of life. One of the most critical challenges of the first postwar decade was the reconstruction of the country. Although the process of reconstruction was substantially supported by the international community and funds, the overall result in the development of the territory (settlements, basic infrastructure, institutions, etc.) was far from being satisfactory when comparing to other regional countries that used to be part of the former Yugoslavia.

The reason for this relies in the fact that Kosovo has always been the least developed part of region during the socialist regime. Therefore, the reconstruction efforts after 1999 have not been able to address whatsoever development issues that portrayed Kosovo's history in the 20th century.

Focusing the discussion in the domain of spatial and urban planning, it is important to make note that the history of urbanization in Kosovo in the last century was associated with state driven planning and development, which had a profound impact in the shaping of spatial profile of the country. One could portray the 20th century Kosovo as a poor province that was being urbanized in a rather slow pace, and had, unfortunately, never concluded the shaping of its modern spatial and urban features. The planning regime was conditionally political; not only decisions on the development sector for Kosovo were made by central institutions based in Belgrade, but also the work force, professional staff, administrative procedures, etc., related to spatial and urban planning, were led by non-Kosovars.

Today, the problem of unfinished urbanization remains the greatest challenge for Kosovo. As of 2010, which is the second decade of transition, the focus has shifted to a long-term and sustainable development. In 2010, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo was adopted, and legal and institutional framework on spatial development is almost complete. However, understanding of the physical reality of cities and landscapes in this contemporary context remains utterly conventional in Kosovo.

Despite the fact that the general goal is country's overall development in the line with European development and global trends, the specific urban character of Kosovo remains poorly explored and rather underutilized in the quests for achieving development goals. This is in a way acknowledged in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo as well.

The specific urbanism of Kosovo is the best testimony of the historical struggle of Kosovo Albanians for self-determination. It proves a kind of culture of refusal and prevention of a centralized and monitored urbanization that has characterized Kosovo during the socialist regime. As a consequence of a fragmented approach to the urbanization guided by political agenda of the former Yugoslavia which saw Kosovo mainly as a resource provider, cities of Kosovo (in particular) grew almost informally. High density but low mass, concentration but low housing, and many other characteristics were long before abandoned by the contemporary city, and substituted with the density of height, mass and of chance.

Kosovo, at present, is changing towards such qualities, but only in virtual terms. It is passing through an immense transition between the country of towns to the country of cities.

In this process of urbanization, the most critical challenge lies in the comprehension and in the effective use of **networks** of cities for the purpose of economic and social development.

Not only the network of cities within the borders of Kosovo would guarantee a brighter wellbeing of citizens, therefore, networks of regions and of zones of cultural and natural significance would provide an excellent basis for future development.

The process of urbanization is further challenged by the political use and the state of Kosovo's demography; the **differences** encountered in the ethnic composition and the reflection that it has in territorial terms today, has resulted in the divided representation, not only of people and their culture and ethnicity, but also of the settlements they inhabit. The challenge in this respect relies in the positive use of such diversity for the purpose of socio-economic stability of the country and in the reduction of uneven urbanization. Differences, instead, should be searched for in the domain of cultural and natural landscape, given the fact that this component of Kosovo's territoriality and topography has major merits in the socio-economic development of Kosovo throughout centuries.

This thesis therefore employs a variety of means in order to understand the differences that often have challenged a diverse imposition and use of **borders** in territorial, social, economic, political and cultural terms. The future Kosovo, as this thesis tries to present, should reinforce the diversity by overcoming borders instead of reinforcing them through promotion of differences in terms of both demography and topography.

Therefore, the spatial portrait of Kosovo should address those fundamental components that link people with the settlements they live, through shifting the focus away from the political use of development and from reinforcing such networks that highlight differences among people and the borders they create. The spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo, as presented in this thesis, provides a different pattern of perception in Kosovo, where transformation is seen as difficult to channel. The diversity of Kosovo's cultural and natural settings is seen in this quest as a valuable asset that needs to be validated and promoted in the future.

1.2. Research questions and hypothesis

Kosovo's spatial and urban portrait cannot be understood outside the context of the Western Balkans and its future integration in the European socio-political, cultural and economic agenda.

The future integration of Western Balkans into European Union, calls for strategic orientation and adaptation of processes to meet the requirements that spring from the integration process. Kosovo as a geographic, natural and cultural unit belongs to the European continent; the question that remains almost unaddressed in the Kosovo context is the revealing of solid basis for its future integration strategies in the domain of spatial integration.

Among issues that Kosovo needs to address in this quest is the idea for a future topography of its development, a topography that would provide a different perception about the country's profile.

- **What would best portray the 21st century Kosovo?**
- **Should rich natural, cultural and spatial resources (landscapes) represent an excellent basis for portraying spatial and urban Kosovo today?**

In order to address these questions, this research investigates the components of Kosovo's urban profile that includes the most profound characteristics of the country's spatial potentials.

The study suggests that the contemporary Kosovo can build its future spatial and urban portrait based on its resources only if viewed within the framework of networked socio-spatial spaces, as opposed to fragmented territories enclosed by boundaries of cultural, economic, and political character (hypothesis).

Differences that create territorial and socio-economic borders in practical terms in Kosovo today are being neglected, while paradoxically, the very dimension of differences is being promoted through the notion of cultural diversity and multi ethnicity.

Drawing from this hypothesis, the study suggests that such diversity, that is Kosovo's rich cultural and natural resources, should be used for devising a different approach in urbanism that bridges territories and people, in which case, borders are diminished while the differences, that is diversity, are strengthened.

Can typologies proposed in this thesis serve as an alternative for strengthening the spatial and urban profile of Kosovo, and thus its future development and representation in Europe?

- **Metropolitan capital (Prishtina)**
- **Network of cities**
- **Regional cooperation, under which shall be promoted:**
 - **Natural and cultural landscape regions**
 - **Cross-border cooperation**

The study finds that proposed typologies insert the most profound qualities of socio-spatial spaces and can become the platform for future development of Kosovo's spatial and urban profile that guarantees its sustainable development and representation in Europe.

Metropolitan Capital Prishtina is a concept that has already been promoted by the Municipality of Prishtina since 2009.¹ However, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, which transmits the stance of the central governance, envisages the function of Prishtina only as a capital city. This has limited the efforts for development of the metropolitan concept within the administrative boundaries of Prishtina municipality, which, yet, depends on the will of the neighboring municipalities (Fushë Kosovë, Obiliq, Podujeva, Gracanica, Lipjan and Vushtri) to link strategically with Prishtina being the center of the concept. This study will therefore try to provide argumentation that Prishtina as the capital of Kosovo is less likely to generate a sustainable development for the country (as propagated in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo; see map 5.8)² if the concept limits the capital within the boundaries of the municipality. Furthermore, the study will also try to provide argumentation that the metropolitan concept would diversify the scope of potentials for Prishtina and would provide a new and different approach to urban development and management to a wider region of Kosovo's centrality, and, by that, a more sustainable development, and last but not least, a different urban portrait for Kosovo.

Network of cities is addressed in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo,³ yet, the fact that the Law on Local Administration empowers municipalities in administrative terms shows that the concept of networks is in practice limited within the boundaries of municipalities. In other words, the functional network in Kosovo is the one of the city and villages bound to the territory of the respective municipality. The study finds that administrative borders are in many cases preventing the city from potential spatial networking with the neighboring city. The sort of 'autonomy' granted to the municipalities through the decentralization process in Kosovo has in turn encapsulated cities.

Although the potential and the mandate of cities to connect and network is guaranteed by law,⁴ no national strategy, guidance or grant is devised to support such alternative. Drawing from the aforementioned, the study suggests that Prishtina can create a model for such networking through the concept of the metropolitan capital. Prishtina, through this concept, should network with nearby cities of Fushe Kosove, Obiliq, Podujeva, Gracanica, Lipjan and Vushtri, which all together are part of the Prishtina region.

1. Mustafa I., "Capital City Governance Program 2010-2013", Prishtina, 2009. (pp.7-9)

In the electoral campaign for local elections in 2009, the former mayor of Prishtina, I.Mustafa, came out with the "Capital City Governance Program 2010-2013" which promoted Prishtina as a metropolitan center: *"Prishtina will develop into a metropolitan center, which offers possibilities for an integrated development with other municipalities, cooperation in economic, urban, educational cultural terms with capital cities and cities of other countries."*

2. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (pp.126-127)

According to the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, "Large centers shall foster their role as regional centers in serving the neighboring centers and fulfilling the same in relation to the capital city.... small centers shall play an active role in a) fostering connection with neighboring villages, b) ensure the functioning of the area as a whole ..." while, Prishtina shall "strengthen its role as the capital city ... develop in relation to the region.

3. Ibid, (p.156)

The spatial development framework in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, is based on the concept of four spatial areas defined on the basis of common features such are geographic, economic and potentials for future development. The graphics (map) entitled "Spatial Development Strategy of Kosovo 2010-2020+" shows the proposed network of cities based on spatial areas.

4. Assembly of Republic of Kosovo, Law No. 03/L-040 on Local Self-Government of Kosovo, 2008.

See Chapter V of the, entitled "Inter-Municipal Cooperation and Intra-Municipal Arrangments", articles 28-34. Law available in: http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008_03-L040_en.pdf

Regional cooperation, although widely encouraged through national strategies, remains still in the margins of the statutory actions in Kosovo. It should be mentioned here that according to Kosovo's legislation, Kosovo is divided in municipalities, while regions are only maintained for managerial purpose by central institutions, namely ministries and few state agencies.

This regional division had in fact continued to be used by the international community in Kosovo (UNMIK, KFOR, etc) after the war of 1999 and was, thus, encouraged and adopted by the national institutions, too. It should be also mentioned that there are regional companies inherited from the socialist era, mainly dealing with service provisions such as water supply, waste management, etc., and for which a separate law is enforced.⁵ The Spatial Plan of Kosovo also divides Kosovo into thematic-territorial regions; yet, the Law on Spatial Planning regulates this activity only in the national and municipal level. Therefore, when it comes to spatial and urban planning and management in the regional level, no mandatory regulation or strategies are encouraged.

The study finds that the regional component in the socio-spatial considerations facilitates the networking of cities that share common natural and cultural features of the territory, which this thesis anticipates to be crucial for the future development of Kosovo's spatial and urban portrait. In this commitment, regions may not necessarily correspond to the divisions promoted in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, which in any case should be considered and used as the basis for furthering the research in the field of spatial and urban development; the regions as envisioned by this thesis may spring from common characteristics and may exceed the limitations posed by municipal or national boundaries .

In order to explore such potential, this thesis tries to identify possible

- 1) **natural and cultural landscape regions** which are often subject to point number below:
- 2) **cross border cooperation** especially in the bordering areas with Macedonia and Albania, regarded as a resource which helps to **connect thematically with neighboring countries** and beyond due to cultural uniqueness and diversity in the Balkans.

Promotion of natural and cultural landscapes regions in Kosovo may enrich the country's profile on one hand, while on the other hand, extension of the natural and cultural landscape approach beyond national borders and through the regional cooperation guarantees development in the regional context and by this, integration into European political and economic context.

⁵. Assembly of Republic of Kosovo, Law No. 03/L-087 on Publicly Owned Enterprises, 2008. available in http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008_03-L087_en.pdf, and , Assembly of Republic of Kosovo, Law No. 04/L-111 on Amending and Supplementing, 2008. http://www.postaekosoves.net/repository/docs/Law_on_Amending_and_Supplementing_the_Law_on_Publicly_Owned_Enterprises.pdf

1.3. Methodology

The spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo is based on the research guided by theory, specifically by the three concepts: networks, borders and differences. The methodology of concepts of networks, borders, and differences, is based on the research which has already been carried out and proved successful in the case of Switzerland. As stated by the authors of the book *"Switzerland An Urban Portrait"*, this form of research *"should be understood as a phenomenological approximation, as an essayistic combination of analysis and design"*.⁶ Based on such combined qualitative approach, the spatial portrait of Kosovo employs maps as a primary tool for analysis, not only for the purpose of showing the existing spatial and urban portrait and existing facts for the territory of Kosovo, but also as a tool for producing scenarios for future interpretation and development of country's spatial and urban profile. Alongside design methods, the research employs statistical methods, in order to explore urban situations in trans-sectorial terms; it uses a variety of sources such as textual and graphical materials, photographs, archive documents, and different studies carried out in Kosovo and abroad. Literature review is followed throughout the research with personal observations on site and the knowledge/ expertise about urban/ spatial dimensions of Kosovo since 1980s, as an expert and lecturer in the University of Prishtina.

Typologies proposed in this thesis are not based on the existing binding and conceptual division of territorial units. However, argumentations are presented in a form of debate with the Spatial Plan of Kosovo. In other words, both maps and the analysis take into consideration the envisioned regional division provided in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo and try to bring forward unaddressed issues which are crucial in defining Kosovo's urbanity. In thin endeavor, Kosovo's– spatial and urban portrait is indented to add value to the Spatial Plan of Kosovo by introducing topics of research in the form of open questions and possible scenarios for Kosovo's future development, and by that, of its integration in the regional spatial processes and beyond.

Typologies. As acknowledged in the study *'Switzerland -An Urban Portrait'*, one of *"central operations in any cartographic presentation is defining certain areas and demarcating them"*.⁷ The most common method in analysis of urban regions, also applied in this research, is identification of agglomerations. This approach is specifically important in the case of Kosovo, given the fact that agglomerations are neither identified nor regulated by current laws, although the phenomenon is existent. Instead, the Law on Spatial Planning No. 2003/14, for example, defines separately *towns, urban areas, villages and agricultural land*, which as notions are bound to the territories in the municipal level.⁸ The central problem with this kind of regulation is that it encourages mono centric model of urbanization, which is based on the specific image of core cities surrounded by villages that fall under the territory of municipalities. In practical terms, agglomerations are evidenced; in certain cases they developed outside the municipal boundary limitations resulting with agglomerations that overlap. At the same time, their growth pattern culminated when new polycentric urban regions begun to emerge. In certain cases, this phenomenon has certain historical rationale such as the case of Prishtina.

⁶. Diener R., Herzog J, Meili M, Pierre M, Schmid Ch, ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute., *"Switzerland An Urban Portrait"*, Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p. 193)

⁷. Ibid, (pp.196)

⁸. Assembly of Republic of Kosovo, Low No 2003/14 on Spatial Planning, General provisions, 2003. do not address agglomerations. See: http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/ligjet/2003_14_en.pdf

To illustrate: municipal boundaries in Kosovo were designated in 1963 according to the Law on Administrative Division of Serbia, in which occasion Kosovo was divided into 28 municipalities. Within this division settlements like Obiliq, Fushe Kosova / Kosovo Polje and Graçanica, were part of the municipality of Prishtina .

Twenty six years later, respectively, in 1989, Obiliq and Fushe Kosova / Kosovo Polje were separated from Prishtina municipality by the Milosevic regime, and gained the status of municipalities.

The latest changes to the boundaries were made in 2008 according to the Ahtisaari Plan ⁹ as part of the political agreement on the process of decentralization in Kosovo.

As a result, parts of territories that used to belong to the municipality of Prishtina, municipality of Lipjan and of Fushe Kosova / Kosovo Polje were handed over to the newly created municipality of Graçanica, which is populated in majority by Serbs. Although this process was to guarantee the implementation of the Ahtisaari plan, it is important to note that such administrative partitions made to territory of the municipality of Prishtina are paradoxical in terms of destruction of the urbanization model/pattern.

When looking at the maps of Prishtina municipality over years, it can be seen that in both cases of border revision, municipal borders were pushed to the city limits of the city of Prishtina, and in certain fragments the border has penetrated inside the city's urban area, while the trends of city development and expansion - and by that of natural growth of agglomeration - continued its pace towards the neighboring municipalities of Graçanica and Fushe Kosova/Kosovo Polje. (see Map 1.1). ¹⁰

Adding to this the traditional separation of city and villages regulated by Kosovo laws mentioned above, urbanization in Kosovo and the way it is administered, as can be seen, totally ignores peripheral forms of urbanization, but at the same time, it ignores significant differences which exists within areas of agglomeration. ¹¹

⁹. Ahtisaari Plan, "Comprehensive Proposal for the Settlement of the Status of Kosovo", 2008 is available in: <http://www.assemblykosova.org/common/docs/Comprehensive%20Proposal%20.pdf>
The decentralization process is a product of the Ahtisaari Plan, which was subordinated in the constitution of Kosovo in 2008. This process, which intended to grant the status of the municipality territories which are in majority populated by the Serbian citizens of Kosovo, resulted with seven new municipalities. After 2008, other new municipalities were created regardless of the ethnicity that populates territories.

¹⁰. Jerliu F, "Prishtina Reinterpreted. Heritage-Memory-Identity in the contemporary context", Unpublished PhD thesis, 2014 (pp.61-62)

¹¹. Diener R, Herzog J, Meili M, Pierre M, Schmid Ch, ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute., "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser- Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.198)
Regardless of the difference between Kosovo and i.e. Switzerland - which is substantially large - in terms of definition and the treatment of agglomerations, the end result seems to be same, that is, the tendency of main training traditional separation between urban and rural areas in the country.



Municipalities in Kosovo in year 1963.

According to ex-Yugoslav laws, Kosovo was divided into 28 municipalities. Two municipalities, Orlan in the north-east of Prishtina, and Zym in the west of Prizren were later (in 1989) subordinated into neighboring municipalities (Orlan divided between Prishtina and Podujevo, Zym added to Prizren).



Municipalities in Kosovo in year 1989 (period under the Milosevic regime).

Certain parts of Kosovo got divided along ethnic lines into 30 municipalities. New Serbian majority communities upgraded into municipalities such as Obiliq, Fushe Kosova (formerly part of Prishtina), Shtimlje (formerly part of Ferizaj), Zvecan (formerly part of Mitrovica).



Municipalities in Kosovo after year 2008 (based on the Ahtisaari Plan).

Decentralization provided further division of Kosovo along ethnic lines. Today, Kosovo has 38 municipalities– all new ones are in general small territories and are mainly populated by minority groups: Junik, Mamusha, Elez Han, Rani Ilug, Partesh, Llokot and North Mitrovica

Map 1.1. Kosovo municipalities in three periods: 1963, 1989 and after 2008
 Source: compiled by author, information gathered from different sources

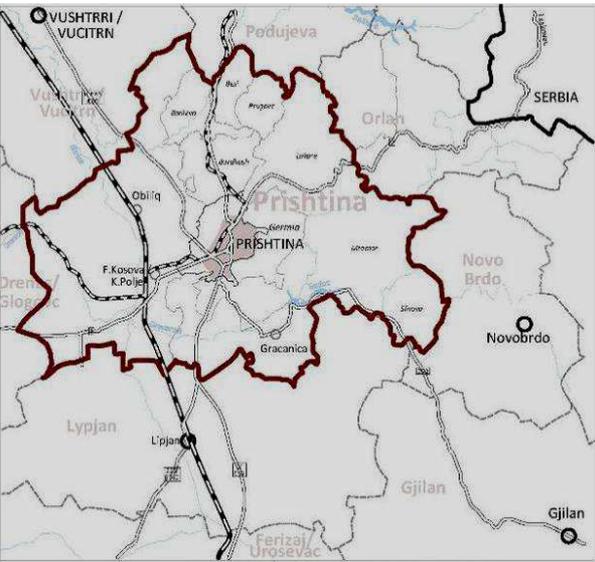
Prishtina is likewise illustrated in this part of the study due to the concept of this thesis according to which, Prishtina shall be the only and central metropolitan region in Kosovo .

Analysis on this problematic issue is made through the use of typologies which use certain indicators and are based on qualitative analysis, rather than on statistical calculations. The maps produced in this study try to avoid the demarcation of regions, hence, trying to make clear the goal of this study, which is, to understand and portray Kosovo's urbanization as a multifaceted phenomenon. In this endeavor, the maps intend to show the overlapping features of urbanization in Kosovo.

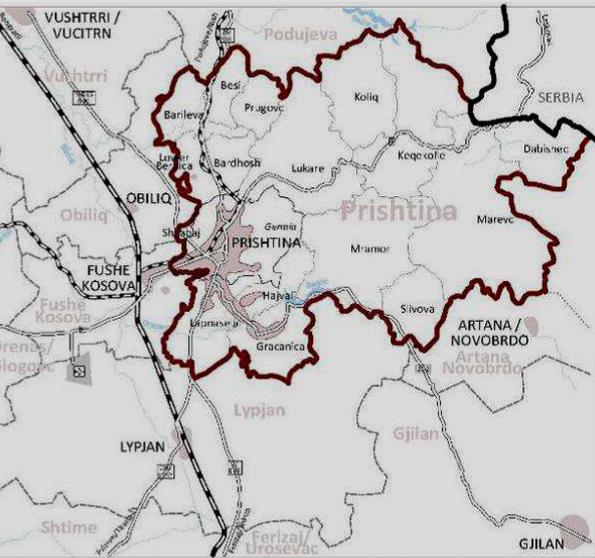
Indicators. When we consider that Kosovo is a young country, the choice of indicators which in essence is crucial for argumentation purpose of the study, emerges quite problematic. First of all, very few data, empirical studies, or analyses have been published about Kosovo since 1999, while the abovementioned that date from times when Kosovo was part of former Yugoslavia, are not reliable. Therefore, many indicators that would help to understand and address networks (such as data on amounts of flow of goods as well as movement of people), cross-border statistical data, etc., are not available. In absence of such data, the study relies on few indicators which are current approximations, as well as those predicted within the spatial Plan of Kosovo.

- **Capital Prishtina:** with all its features/indicators that prove its centrality in Kosovo as well as its potential for networking in the regional context and beyond i.e., commuters, workplaces, networks of economic and political activities (domestic and international), etc., represents an important conceptual and territorial entity that requires considerations in the search for the future portrait of spatial and urban Kosovo- as an isolated country versus an open country that is integrated in the region and beyond.
- **Topography:** although topography it is normally considered as an indicator when analyzing urbanization processes, it has shown that, in fact, it plays an important role in the way the structure of settlements develops.¹² As noted elsewhere, urban areas in the mountainous regions have considerably limited possibilities of networking, while in the case of agricultural lands, topography and close proximity with urban centers prevail over official definition of rural areas. It is worth mentioning that the topography, rather than administration of territories, influence today's structure of settlements in Kosovo, as well as the sprawl and overlapping of agglomerations. Therefore, in this study, topography represents an important distinguishing feature that helps to understand and hypothesize the network of cities.

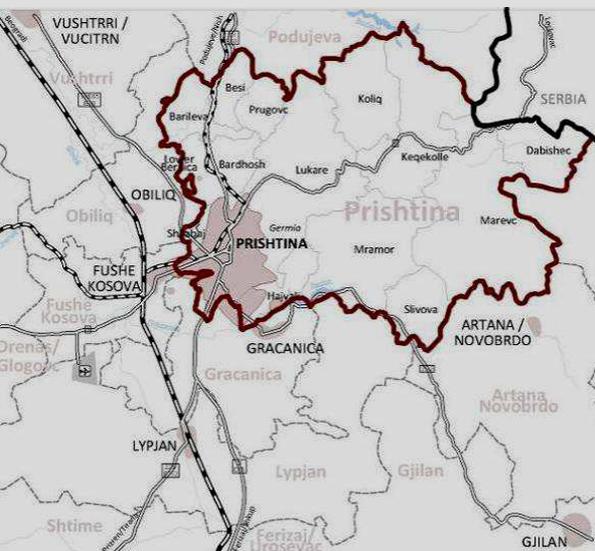
¹². Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser-Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (pp.198)



Municipality of Prishtina between 1963-1989 (after the map of Kosovo in: Altic. S. M., pp.118);



Municipality of Prishtina between 1989-2008,



Municipality of Prishtina after the decentralization process in 2008.

Map 1.2. Example of border demarcation in the case of Prishtina municipality
Source: Jerliu F., "Prishtina Reinterpreted-Heritage, Memory, Identity...", 2014 (p.62)

- **Landscape:** natural and cultural landscape is likewise it is normally considered as an indicator when analyzing urbanization processes. However, in the case of Kosovo, natural and cultural landscape may generate a very powerful alternative that can highlight distinguished features of sub-networks of settlements in Kosovo, which by means of superimposition may generate a new pattern of Kosovo's urbanization and new relations with the neighboring countries in these matters. It should be mentioned in this line that the analysis of natural and cultural landscape in this thesis intends to offer a good material for municipalities in cases when planning for new spatial and urban strategies where urban integrative approach in territorial and managerial terms is encouraged. This would provide for municipalities a clue that would release them from the otherwise rigid definition of municipalities as "islands" or "wholes", which is more often the case in Kosovo, despite of the fact that they enjoy full autonomy to plan and associate .
- **Population structure and growth, municipal size, branch structure, etc.,** are also used as indicators in this study to identify specific urbanization types in Kosovo.



**Facts that describe Kosovo's
International/ regional/ local setting
(networks),
Statehood and geography
(borders),
Demography and landscape
(differences).**

Source: Figure above done by author- 2014

2. KOSOVO: BASIC FACTS

2.1. Kosovo in Europe

Kosovo is the youngest country in Europe.

Kosovo declared its independence on February 17, 2008 from what had remained out of the state of Former Yugoslavia. At the moment of the writing of this thesis, independent state of Kosovo is recognized by 108 out of 193 United Nations (UN) member states (see Map. 2.1).¹³

It should be shortly pointed out than, from the termination of the war of 1999 until the declaration of independence in 2008, Kosovo was administered by UNMIK (United Nations Mission in Kosovo), vested with the power to temporarily exercise the sovereignty within the territory of Kosovo on behalf of the people of Kosovo until the final status was determined. It also established the NATO-run political trusteeship over Kosovo, which exercised a full control of security on the ground.¹⁴ Such “political trustee concept” imposed by the international community has put Kosovo in the focus of international affairs and has fundamentally challenged the International Law with respect to the “*self-determination*”.¹⁵ The comprehensive proposal for Kosovo Status Settlement, otherwise known as the Ahtisaari Plan was subordinated in the new Constitution of Kosovo and has cleared the way for deployment of EULEX and downsizing of UNMIK from 2008 onwards. Ever since, “EULEX supplement [s] local resources in the justice and law enforcement spheres”.¹⁶

Today, Kosovo is determined towards gaining the membership in international bodies; it is struggling with internal social, political and economic issues. Its efforts and state of development is portrayed today in the territorial and spatial development of cities and regions.



Map 2.1. Countries that have recognized Kosovo as an independent state as of January 2015

Source: <http://www.kosovothanksyou.com/>

¹³ <http://www.kosovothanksyou.com/>

¹⁴ Perritt H., "The Road to Independence for Kosovo: A Chronicle of the Ahtisaari Plan", Cambridge University Press, 2010. See more in Chapter "Living under the Colonial Regime", 2010 (pp.63-65), See more in Chapter "Living under the Colonial Regime":

¹⁵ Slomanson W., "Fundamental Perspectives on International Law", Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011. (p.71)

¹⁶ Perritt H., "The Road to Independence for Kosovo: A Chronicle of the Ahtisaari Plan", Cambridge University Press, See more in Chapter "Living under the Colonial Regime", 2010 (p.224)

2.2. Kosovo in the Balkans

Kosovo is located in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula, the regional context of which has shifted lately from the geographical/ historical to the economic/ political point of reference. In such context, Kosovo takes part in South-East Europe (SEE)- a term that is adopted by economic/ political initiatives and financial networks to identify project-designation area of the post-socialist countries. ¹⁷

Map 2.2 show that the region of SEE consists of countries which geographically are part of the Balkan Peninsula and which are not members of EU or have become members in the last decade. Depending on the program, SEE map includes other neighboring countries; for example, the South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, an EU co-funded regional development model that adds Austria, the eastern region of Italy and south-western Ukraine as supporters. Stability Pact ¹⁸ member states (1999-2008) on the other hand, used to focus on the part of the region subject to political and economic fostering efforts.

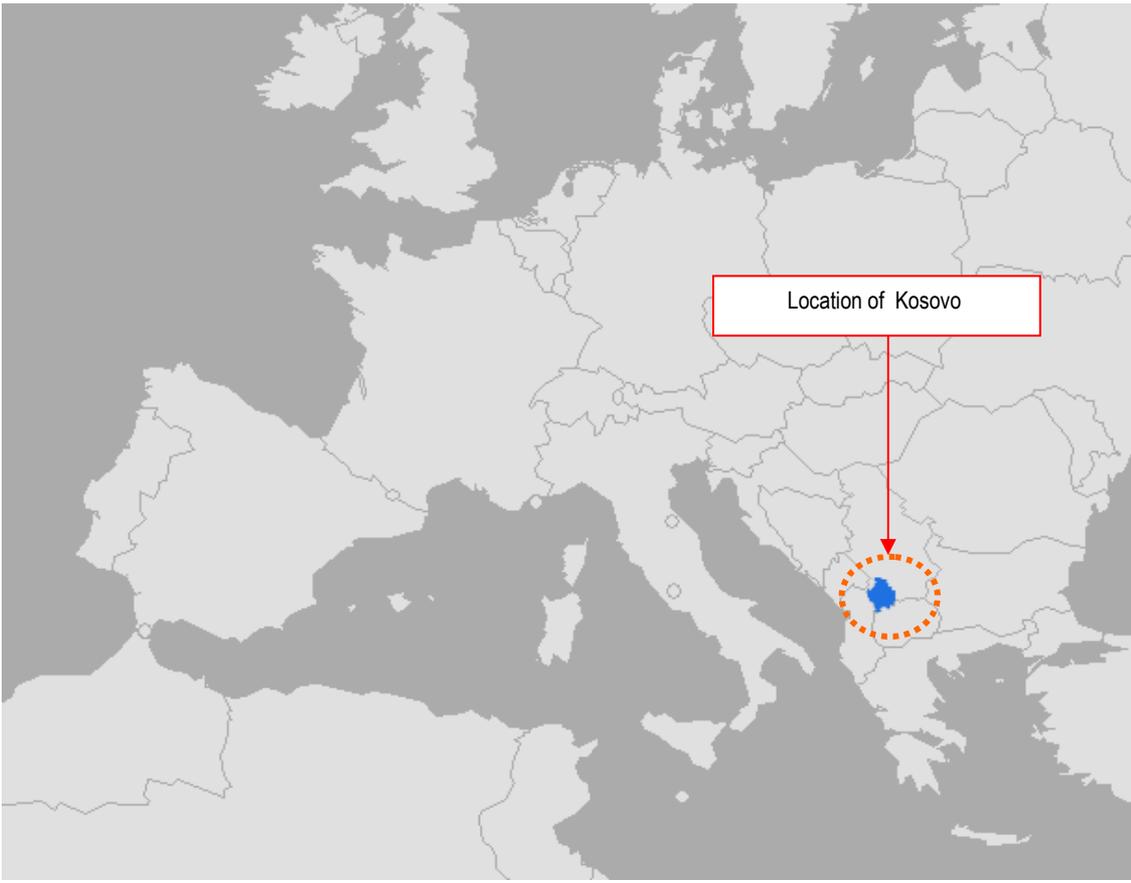
In whichever contemporary context of the South Eastern European region, Kosovo comprises the focus of European and international engagement: political stability, democracy building, socio-economic development, cultural and ethnic diversity, and last but not least, the spatial and urban regularization and development, are only few domains of the regional dimension in SEE which are found as concentrated and very complex in Kosovo. Drawing from this judgment, Kosovo continues to be quite challenging for anyone wishing to explore the components of state building efforts in Europe and their impact in the regional level.

Kosovo is the youngest state in Europe, formerly part of the Federation of Yugoslavia. Also, it is the smallest country with a land area of 10,907 km²; Montenegro comes after Kosovo with 13,812 km². It is located in middle latitude belt of northern geographical and medium, characterized by continental climate. Amplitude -20C ° in winter to +38 ° C in summer and annual average rainfall of 700mm.

(source: MESP/Institute for Spatial Planning., "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", 2010 (p. 35)

¹⁷. Jerliu F, "Initiatives on Urban Transformation in South-East Europe: case Prishtina", Proceedings of the International Conference on Business, Technology and Innovation. (2012) pp.102-118.

¹⁸. "The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe was launched in 1999 as the first comprehensive conflict prevention strategy of the international community, aimed at strengthening the efforts of the countries of South Eastern Europe in fostering peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity...". See more in: <http://www.stabilitypact.org/> (access Dec. 2013), or <http://www.publicartlab-berlin.de/blog/2014/11/03/stability-pact-for-south-eastern-europe/> (access.Mar. 2016)



Map 2. 2. Geographical Position of Kosovo in Europe

Source of the map: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Europe_map_kosovo.png



SEE Programme Area



South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme



The Balkan Peninsula, as defined by the Danube-Sava-Kupa line



Main European regions

Map 2.3. Geographical Position of Kosovo in South East Europe depending on the point of view: political/economic and/or geographic/cultural

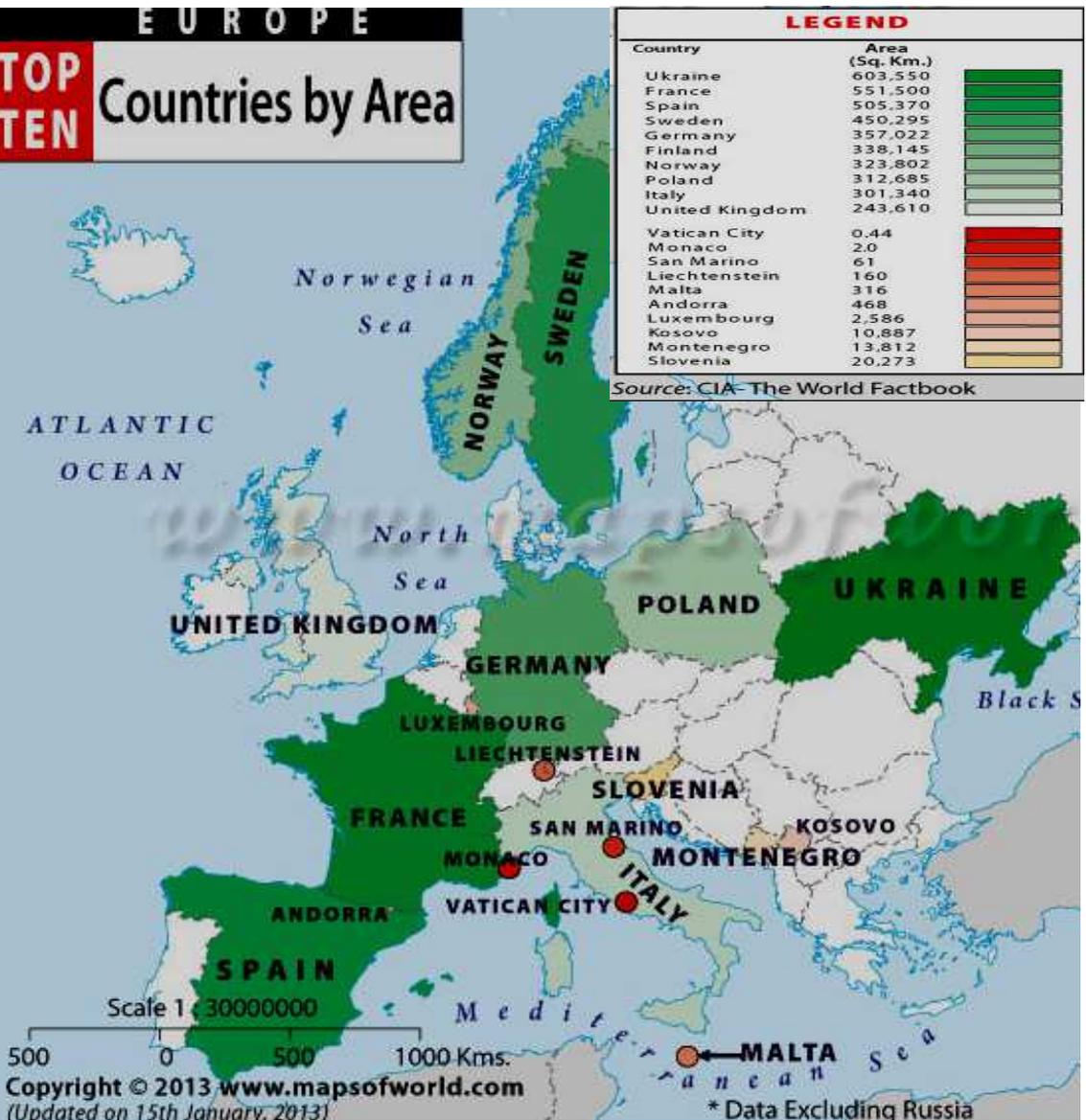
Source: <http://www.wandaproject.eu/about-wanda/south-east-europe-transnational-cooperation-programme/>, www.uni-graz.at/en/hare1www/hare1www_the_region.html/, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Europe, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_peninsula

2.3. Kosovo, the newest country

Kosovo is a small country in geographical terms, with a surface of 10,907 km², and a population of 1.8 million inhabitants.¹⁹

It is categorized among smallest countries in Europe and is ranked the seventh in the list of top ten smallest countries in Europe, after Vatican City, Monaco, San Marino, Lichtenstein, Malta, Andorra and Luxemburg. (see map 2.4).

It is surrounded by: Albania, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, the last one being the eighth smallest country in Europe after Kosovo with 13,812 km².



Map 2.4. Kosovo in the map of top ten countries by area.

Source: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/europe/thematic/maps/european-countries-by-area.jpg>

¹⁹. Kosovo Agency of Statistics, based on the last census of year 2011. See data in: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/rekos2011/?cid=2,1>

2.4. Kosovo's Topography

In terms of topography, Kosovo's spatial portrait is quite interesting: the central part of the country is a plain field consisting of two distinct plains, Dukagjini and Kosova, which are surrounded by high mountains in the bordering areas of the country (the highest peak in Kosovo is Gjeravica with 2,656m in the Bjeshkët e Nemuna (Cursed Mountains), and the lowest sea level is at 265m in Vërmica near Prizren). The main rivers however flow in four sides of the country towards the Adriatic Sea, the Black Sea and Aegean Sea, hence create natural conditions that bridges Kosovo with other parts of the Balkan Peninsula. Owing to the variety of natural elements such as fertile lands and underground resources, important roads of the region pass by Kosovo, linking it with the Central Europe since ancient times, which provided for Kosovo the attributes of an important strategic point in the region.



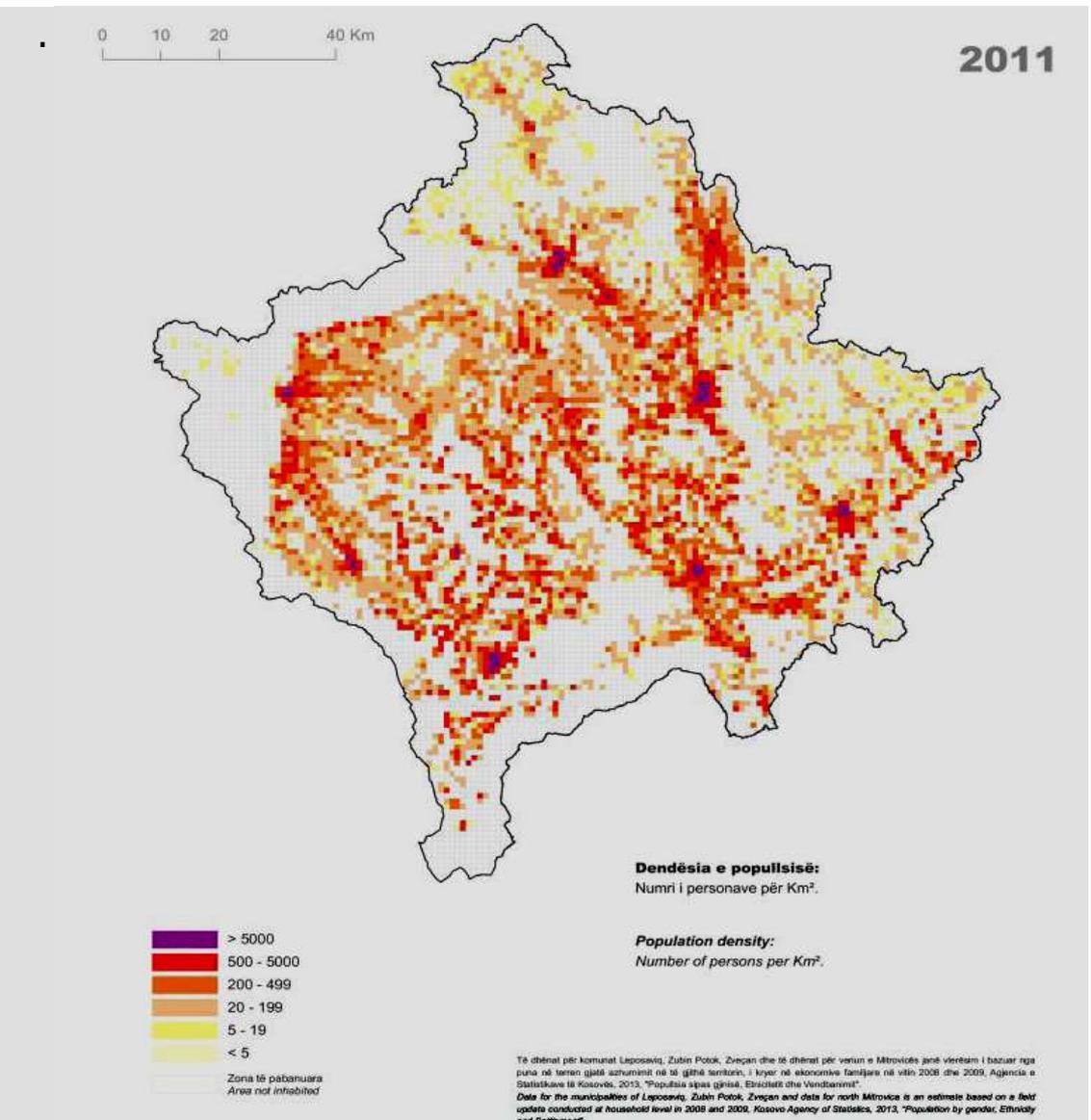
Map 2. 5. Kosovo's topography.

Source: compiled by author, information gathered from: Ismaili R, Kraja M., Eds, "Kosova A monographic survey", Kosova Academy of sciences and arts, Fokus-print, Prishtina-Skopje, 2013

2.5. Kosovo Demography

In demographic aspect, Kosovo is a compact area, and it is densely populated. It is ranked among the first in terms of density of population in Europe, with approximately 220 people / km².²⁰ This density is however noted in cities due to concentration of economic, health, trade, cultural functions, a phenomenon which became more present especially after the war of 1999. Urban densification is noted in Prishtina, being the capital of Kosovo, and in other regional centers such as Prizren, Mitrovica, Peja, Gjakova, Gjilan and Ferizaj.

The second feature of the demographic trend which distinguishes Kosovo is the population's age: its population is the youngest in Europe, majority of which is younger than 19 years old, respectively, 42.5% of the entire population.²¹ (see maps 2.7).

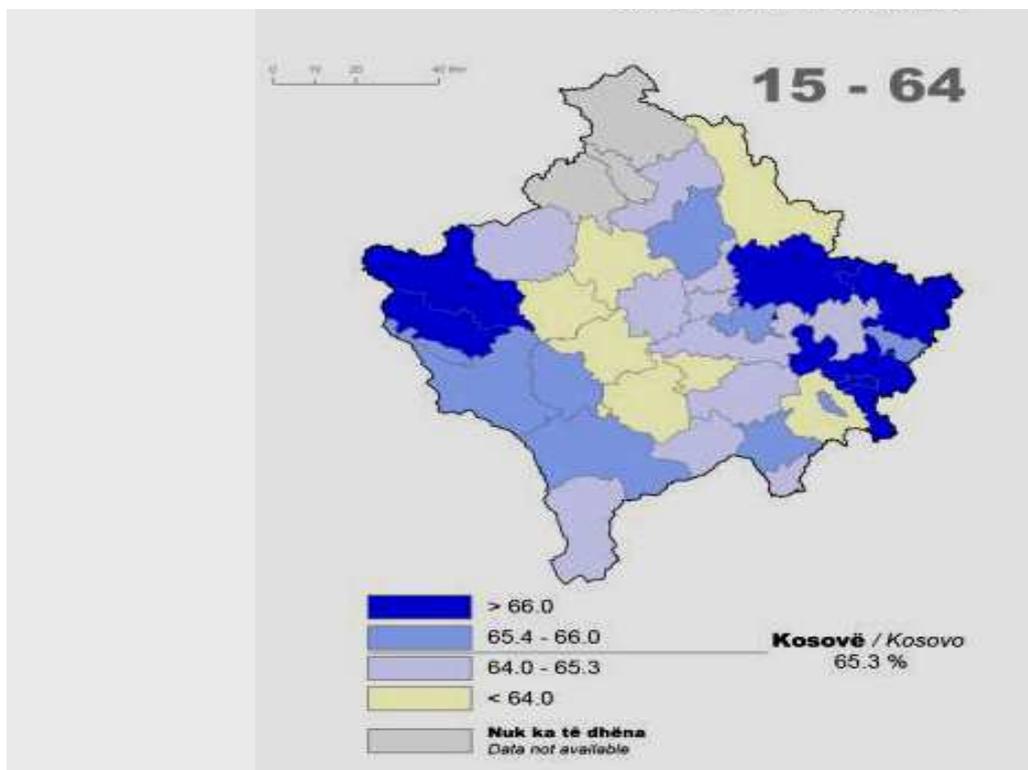
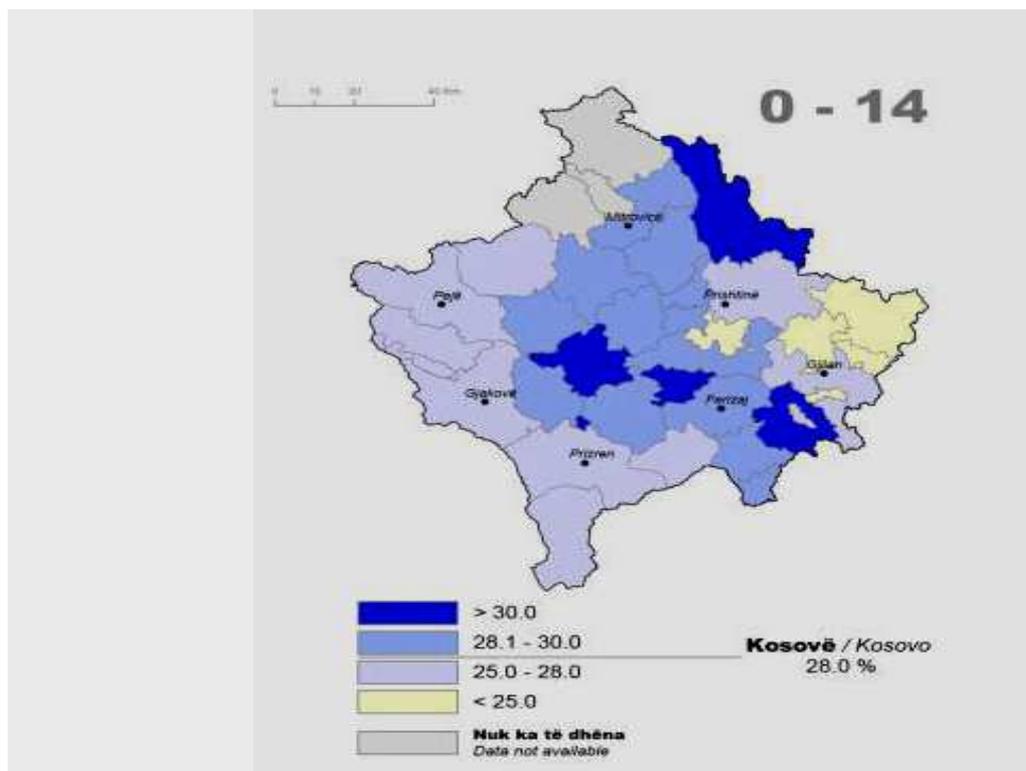


Map 2. 6. Population density by grid in Kosovo according to the 2011 census

Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2011

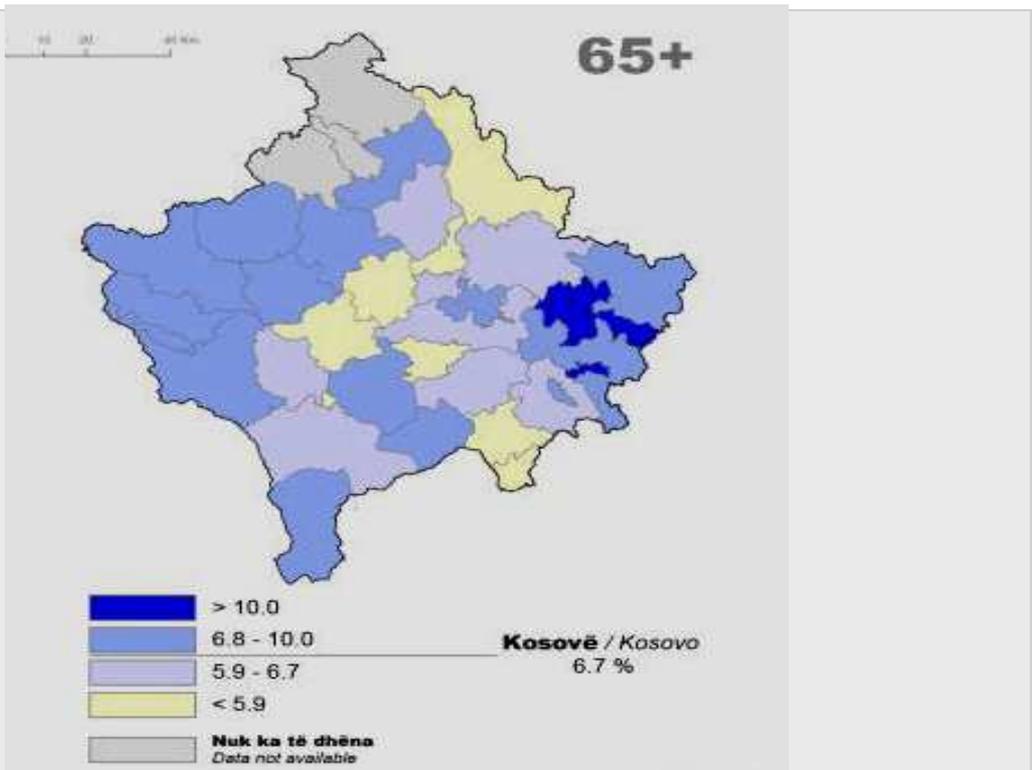
²⁰. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010. (pp.20-21)

²¹. ibid .(pp.23-24)



Map 2.7. Age distribution in Kosovo according to the 2011 census (0-14 and 15-64)

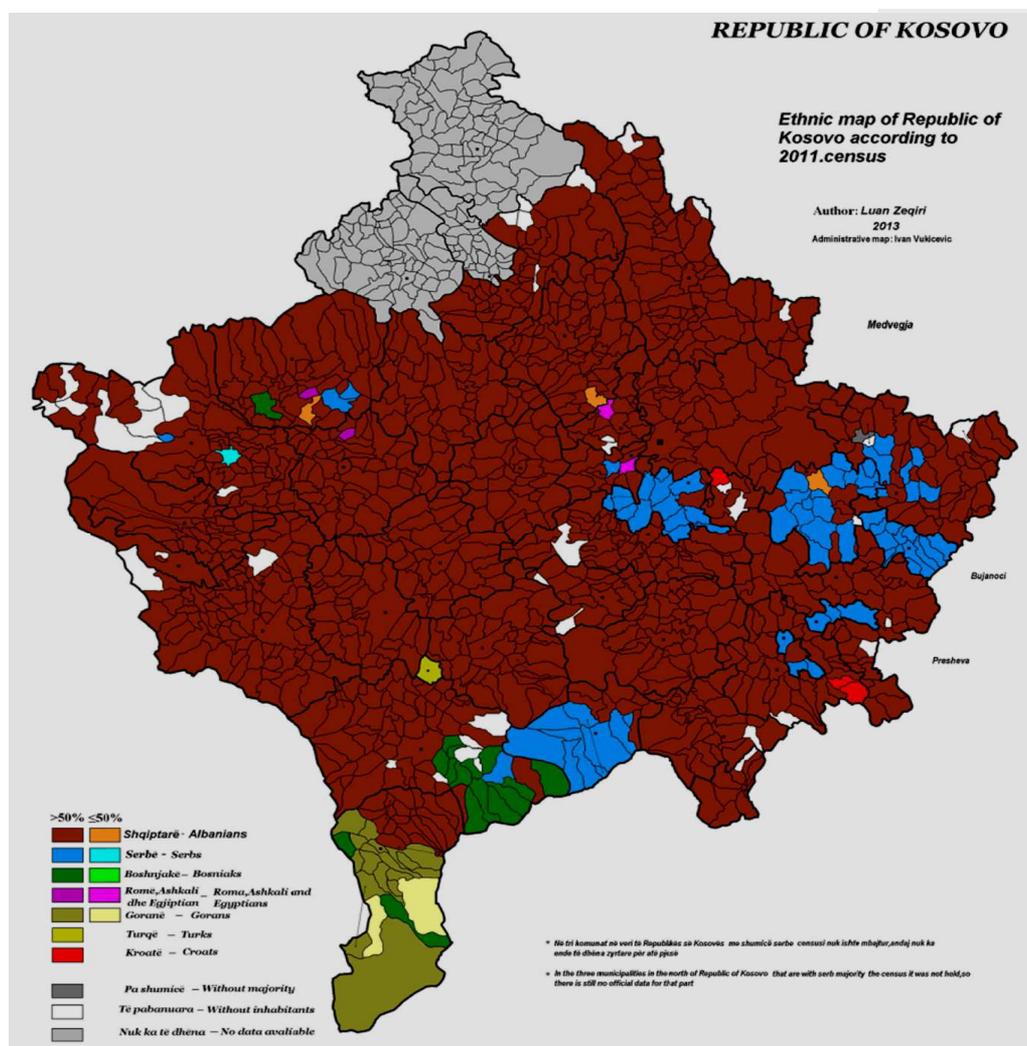
Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2011



Map 2. 8. Age distribution in Kosovo according to the 2011 census (65+)
Source: Kosovo Statistical Agency, 2011

2.5.1 Ethnic composition

Ethnic composition of the country, shows no different trend from other countries in the region and beyond. But what makes Kosovo a model for the region and beyond is its political engagement and representation in the international level as a multiethnic state. In fact, Kosovo is a country where the Albanian population comprises the majority of population with about 90% of the total figure while other nationalities make up the remaining 10% (Serbian, Montenegrin, Turkish, Muslims, Roma etc.).²² After the war of 1999, one of the most pressing challenges for the Kosovo population became is the high unemployment rate; Kosovo leads in the region with an unemployment rate of approximately 49%.²³ It is estimated that the total number of people employed in Kosovo is about 260,000, out of which 61,000 are employed in SOEs, while about 125,000 are employed in private enterprises, approximately 65,000 in the governmental sector and about 18,000 in foreign organizations and NGOs. A high rate of employment occurs in the informal sector. Charges and dispersion of taxes have a big impact in the extension of the informal sector especially in the increase of the informal number of employee.²⁴



Map 2.9. Ethnic composition of Kosovo according to the 2011 census

Source: http://www.nacionalalbania.al/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/f1_untitlersd-11364816763.jpg

²². Office of the Prime Minister, "Census of year 2011", KAS, 2011. Based on the last census of the year 2011. See: Kosovo Agency of Statistics in: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/rekos2011/?cid=2,1>

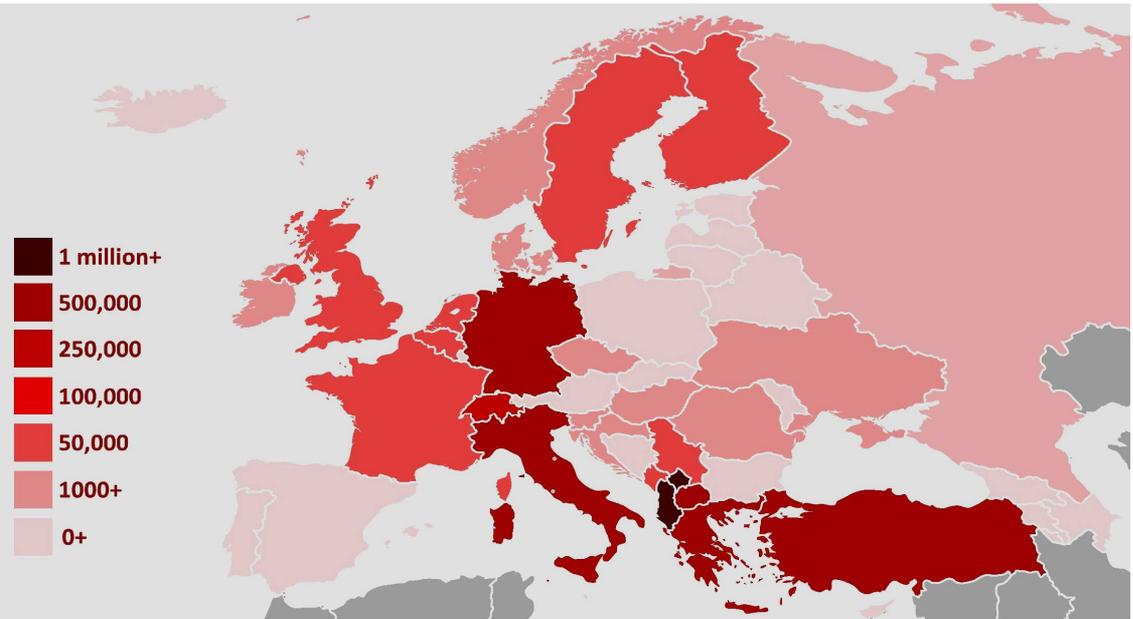
²³. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (pp.23-24)

²⁴. Ibid, (p.23)

2.5.2 Language

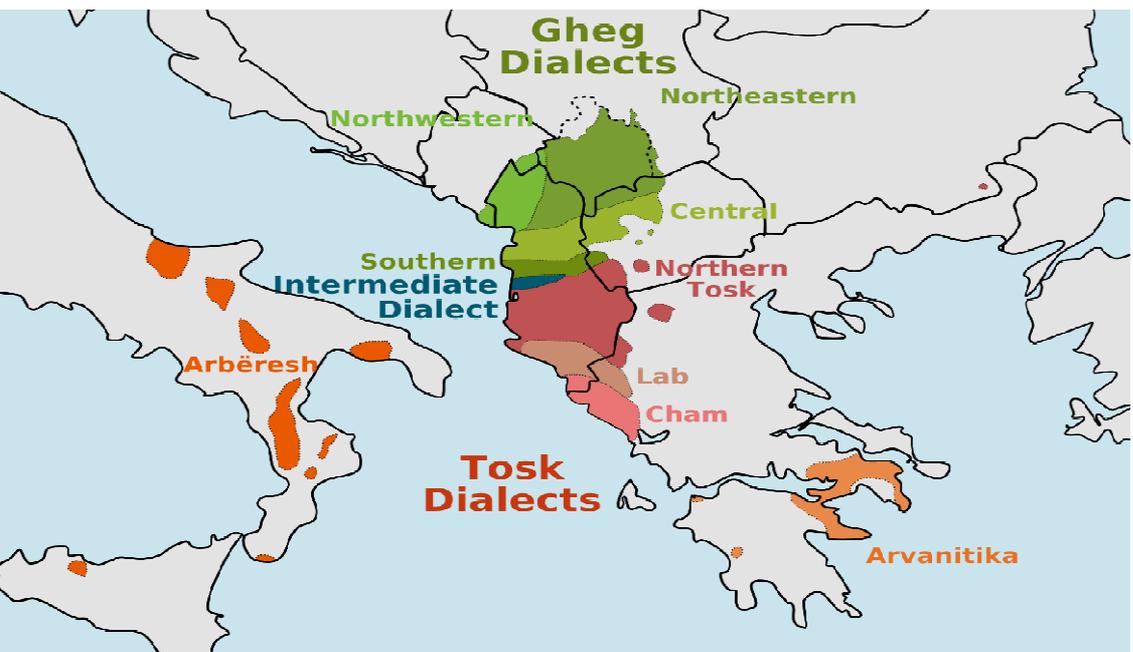
The majority of population in Kosovo (ca. 90%) speaks the Albanian Language, which is also the official language.

Albanian is the official language of the neighboring country, Albania, but is also spoken in other parts of the Balkans. Migration of the Albanian population as of 1990s onwards due to the economic and political difficulties that occurred in Kosovo and Albania, has had an impact in the linguistic map of Europe, as shown in the figure below.



Map 2.10. Albanian Language in Europe, 2014

Source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/31/Albanians_in_Europe.jpg



Map 2.11. Albanian in Balkans according to language dialects

Source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d1/Albanian_dialects.svg/1300px-Albanian_dialects.svg.png

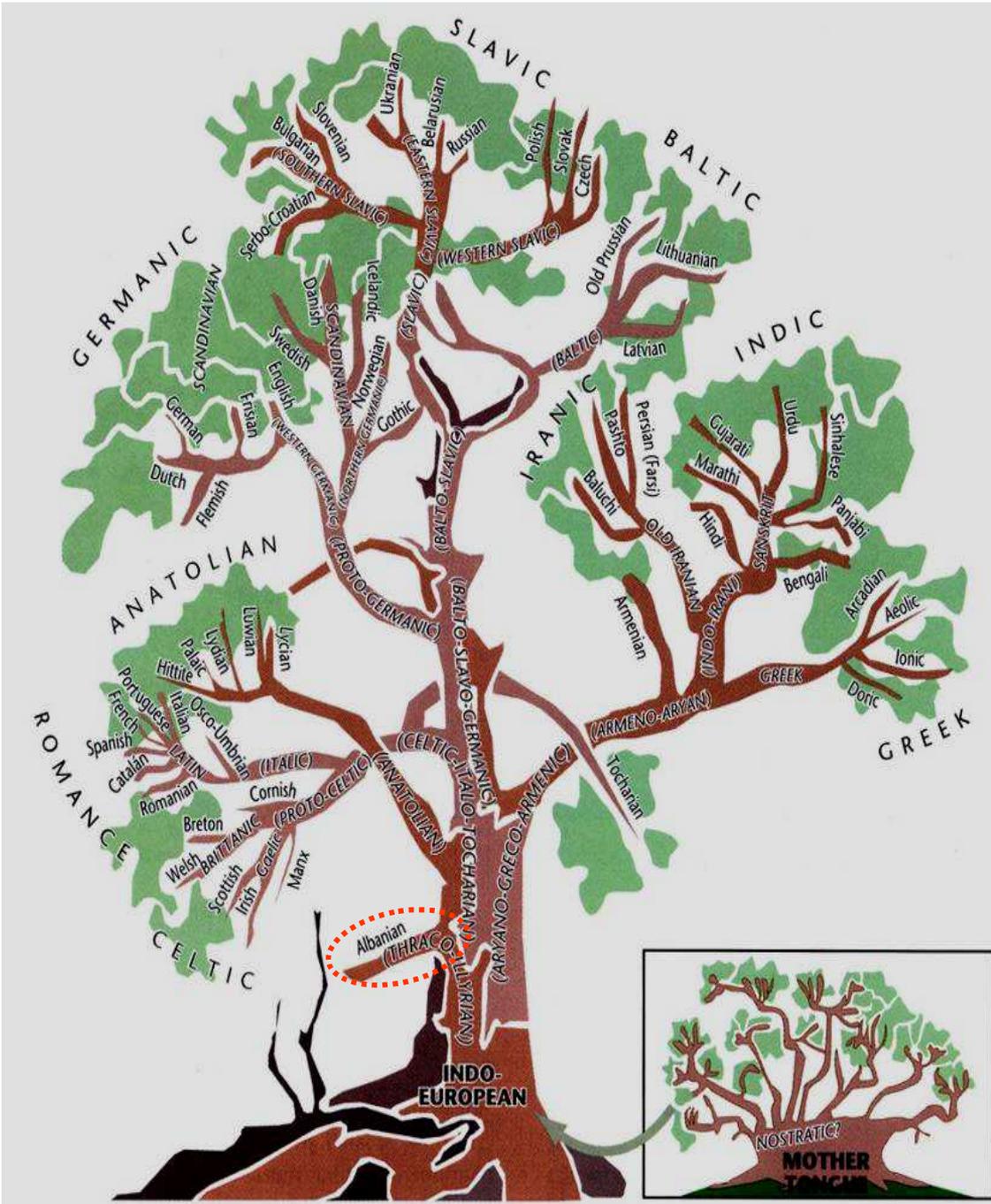


Figure 2.1. Albanian language in the linguistic tree, 2013

Sources: the linguistic tree from: <http://www.xenosystems.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/indo-european.jpg>

2.6. Landscape

Landscape is one of the most exciting features of Kosovo. It is characterized with high mountains Bjeshkët e Nemuna- Alpet Shqiptare (Albanian Alps); Malet e Sharrit (Sharr Mountains); Malet e Kopaonikut (Kopaonik Mountains) and Malet Qendrore (Central Mountains), and low plains mentioned before Rrafshi i Dukagjinit (Dukagjin Plain) and Fusha e Kosovës (Kosovo Plain). Based on the correlation with the sea level, the entire territory of Kosovo is portrayed as follows: more than 17% of the territory is located at a height lower than 500 m above sea level, while the largest part of the territory (63.4%) is located at a height ranging from 500 to 1,000m above sea level; the major part of the Kosovo territory is covered by fertile land (577.000 ha).²⁵

On the other hand, water resources are quite limited in Kosovo; there are five main rivers: Drini i Bardhë, Ibri, Morava e Binçës, Lepenci and Lumi i Plavës, with a total annual discharge of average 3813 mil.m³,²⁶ and three artificial lakes: Badovc Lake (over the Graçanka river), Batllava lake (over the Batllava river, branch of Llap river), Gazivoda lake (over Iber river), as well as other smaller accumulations such as Livoç, Përlepnica and Radoniq. The Badovc and Batllava Lake provide drinking water for Prishtina and the settlements in its vicinity and serve for the provision of technical water to industrial facilities. Natural lakes on the other hand are mainly located in the mountains of Sharr and in Bjeshkët e Nemuna. Both, the Mountain of Sharr and Bjeshkët e Nemuna are protected areas and are categorized as National Parks;²⁷ the rest of identified areas which hold natural values are protected through the Law for Nature Protection (2010/03-L-233).

It should be mentioned that in the last decade, namely, between 2003-2013, the surface of the protected area has increased progressively from 4.27% in 2003 to 11.01% of the territory in 2013; more specifically the number of protected areas has increased from 52 in 2003 to 98 in 2013, or, their surface from 46.397ha in 2003 to 119.994ha in 2013. However, the progress in designating areas is followed by a slow progress in establishment of management bodies for the main protected areas.

To illustrate: National parks are run by the respective directorates, under the competencies of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning; the Regional Park "Germia" in Prishtina by the municipal enterprise "Horticulture" whose main responsibility is maintaining green spaces in the city of Prishtina; whereas Marble Cave of Gadime has had a "private" management, but without legal basis of privatization, until September 2012, when the cave was closed by environmental inspectorate for the purpose of finishing the process of establishing an effective management body of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.²⁸ The table 2.1 and the map 2.12 show categories and the location of protected natural areas in Kosovo as registered in 2013.

²⁵. Institute for Spatial Planning., "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p.41)

²⁶. MESP/ Environmental Protection Agency of Kosovo, "Raport për gjendjen e ujërave në Republikën e Kosovës", 2015 (pp.23-24)

²⁷. Assembly of Republic of Kosovo, Law on National Park "Bjeshkët e Nemuna" no: 4 /L-086, and Law on National Park "Sharri" no: 04/L-087, 2011

²⁸. Veselaj Z, & Mustafa B., "Nature conservation In Kosovo through legislative and policy measures In the period 2003-2013". In: G.J.B.A.H.S., Vol.2 (4), 2013 (pp.50-54). Available in: <http://www.gifre.org/admin/papers/gjbahs/NATURE%20CONSERVATION%20-vol-2-4-gjbahs.pdf>

Classification according to IUCN ²⁹	Name of the PA	No.	Area (ha)	%
I	Nature Reserves (NR) River bifurcation “Nerodime”, Ropsit Peak, Arnen Peak, Rusenica Gorge, Gubavc, Kozhnier, etc.	11	846.92	0.68
	NR Flora	7		
	NR Fauna	2		
	NR Hydrological	1		
	NR Geological	1		
II	National Park (NP) Sharri and Bjeshkët e Nemuna (lies on the western and north-western territory of Kosovo respectively in the territory of five municipalities: Gjakova, Junik, Decan, Peja and Istog)	2	115957	93.7
III	Natural Monuments (NM) The White Drini spring, Gadime Cave, Mirusha Waterfalls, Rugova Gorge, The Lumbardhi river Gorge in Prizren, thermal source in Banja/ Istog, The six Likoshan oaks, etc.	84	5691.48	4.6
	NM Speleological	5		
	NM Hydrological	16		
	NM geo morphological	7		
	NM Botanical	55		
IV	Regional Natural Park Germia in Prishtina	1	1126	0.9
V	Protected landscape Shkugëza in Gjakova	1	69	0
	TOTAL	99	118505.5	10.86

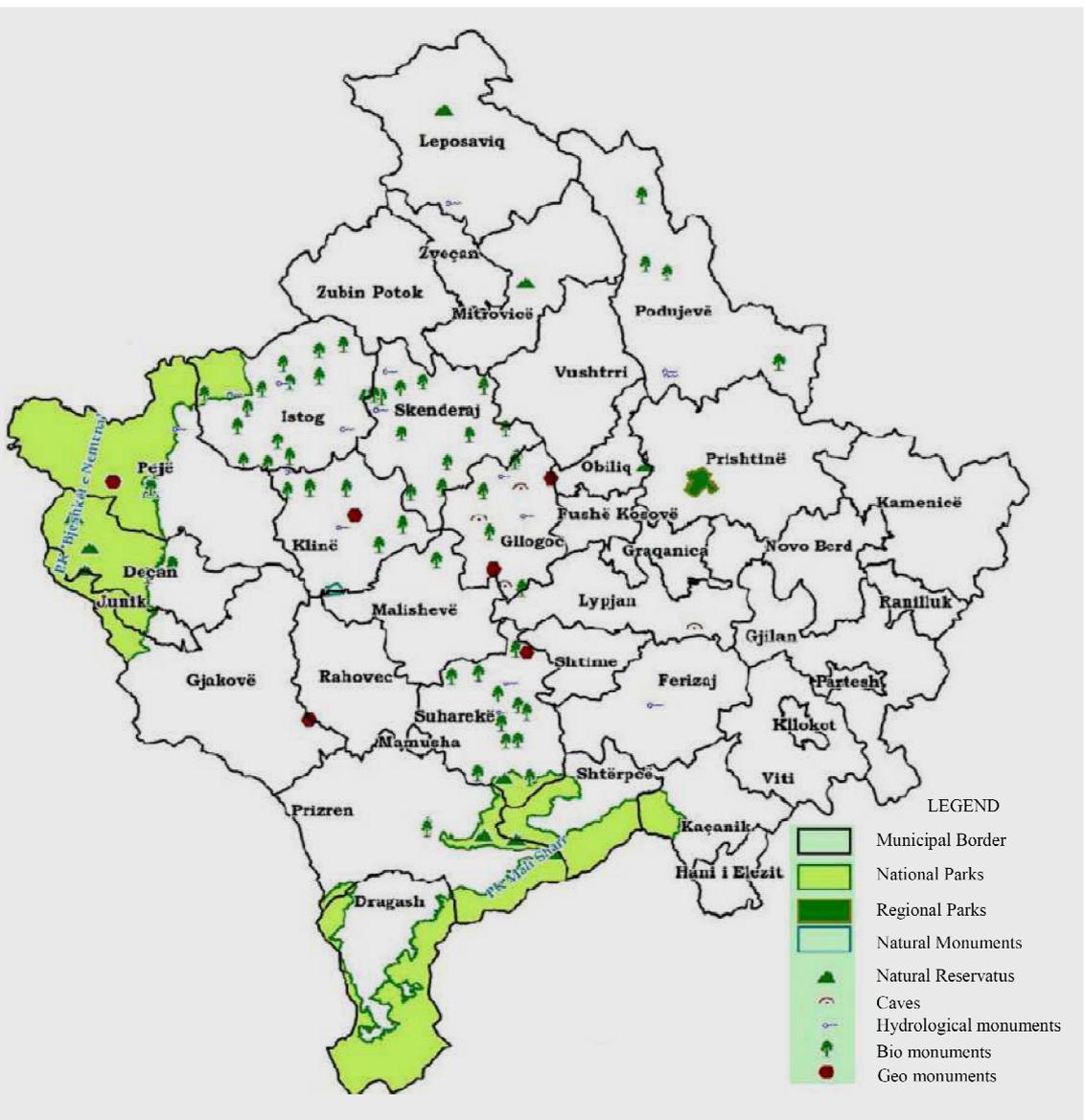
Table 2.1. Table of the Protected Areas in Kosovo (PA), 2013

Apart from the natural areas, Kosovo is well known for its mineral resources too (ca. 14.7 million tons of natural resources)³⁰, which add value to the cultural and natural landscape of Kosovo. Based on geological researches undertaken since the end of the Second World War, Kosovo possesses considerable reserves in metals, non-metals and coal, concentrated mainly in the plain of Kosovo. This area has also large lignite reserves, which has been the first major source for electricity production in Kosovo.

²⁹. IUCN, Categories according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

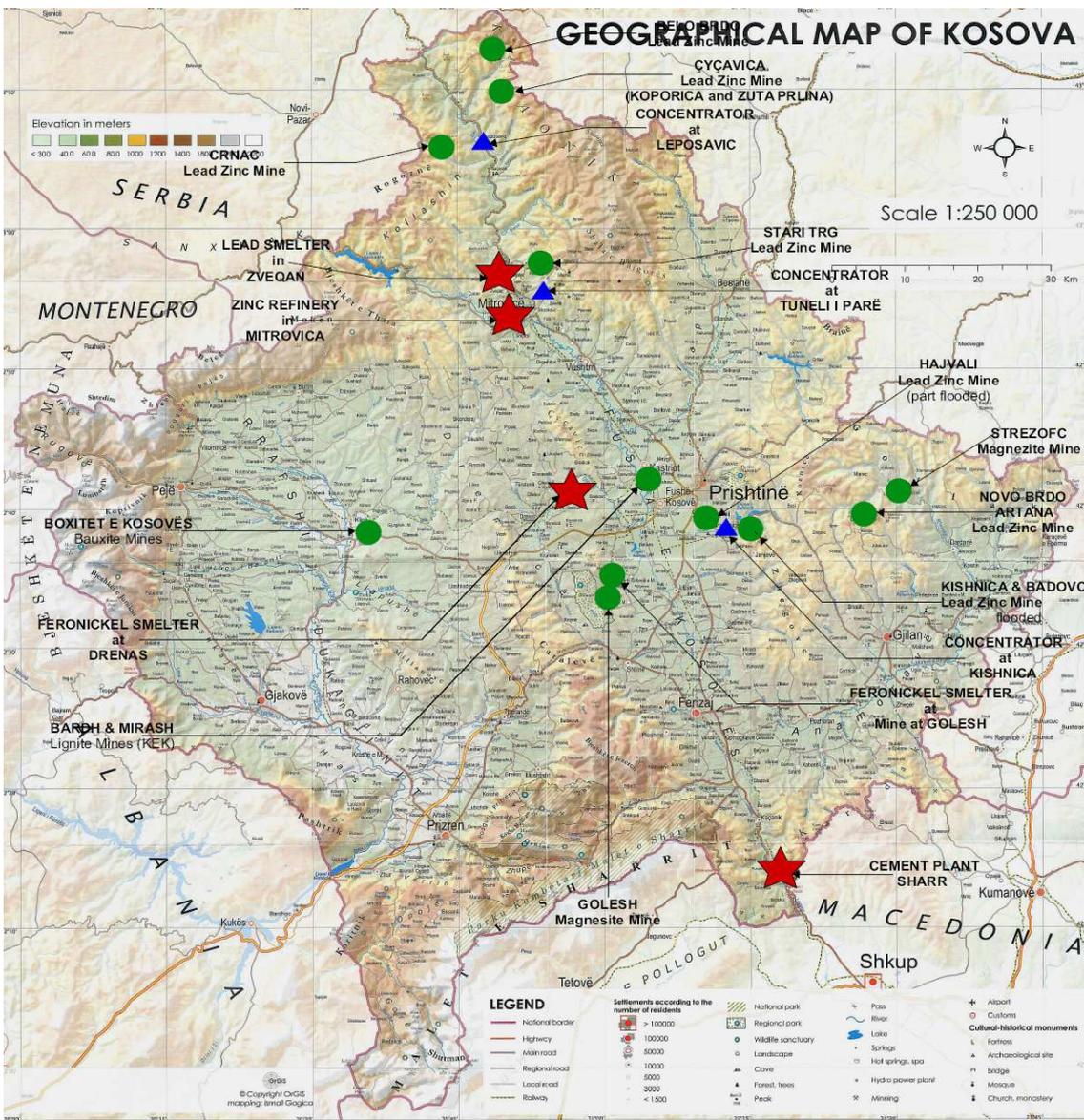
[http:// www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_quality/gpap_pacategories/](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_quality/gpap_pacategories/)

³⁰. Ministry of Trade and Industry official web page. Invest in Kosovo: Mining and Energy in Kosovo. www.invest-ks.org/en/welcome!



Map 2.12. The map of protected natural areas

Source: Kosovo Agency for the Protection of Environment, AMMK/GIS, 2013



Map 2.13. Mineral resources in Kosovo (map showing all major mine concentrations and final processing facilities)

Source: compiled by author, information gathered from Mining and Energy in Kosovo, on top of map "Kosova A monographic survey". www.invest-ks.org/sq/Minierat-dhe-Energjia-ne-Kosove



**The results of the study are
summarized and given a
theoretical foundation**

3. KOSOVO PRESENTED IN TERMS OF NETWORKS, BORDERS, and DIFFERENCES

3.1 Networks

This chapter includes and analyzes three crucial components that condition the spatial organization of spatial and urban Kosovo through triple lens: *networks, borders and differences*.

The theoretical framework will be presented in this part, focusing on analysis of space, space production, centrality, and difference.

Networks are spaces of exchange and communications. Their physical reflection is that of an abstract and contractual network which is used by 'exchangers' and 'communicators' of products and information, within and between spaces they connect.³¹ The physical space, which according to Lefebvre is the "initial basis or foundation of social space"³² is networked through physical infrastructure which connects diverse places and which concurrently ends their isolation.³³

Settlements, and thus cities, represent a form of a network which differs depending on the *range, intensity* and the *complexity* of cities' nature of urbanization. Interaction among these three properties is in fact what provides information about the density of cities and what in fact shapes the physiognomy of a particular city.³⁴ The dimension of network in the reading of spatial development acquires a decisive role in shaping and reshaping places today. The question of network's physical extent, in this context, should be addressed in order to identify capacities of cities to project and sustain future development. This task is specifically relevant in the case of Kosovo.

On the other hand, the network of **physical infrastructure** has been part of Kosovo's national agenda in the last few years, with network of streets being perceived as potential generators of economic growth. It should be mentioned in this context that Kosovo has inherited from the socialist period a very poorly developed and networked physical infrastructure, which has had a direct impact in the isolation of settlements. As a consequence of this, Kosovo government after the war of 1999 has put the focus in the consolidation of street networks within the country and in connecting it with the neighboring countries. Railways, on the other hand, are still awaiting the momentum for development.

As it stands today, the Kosovo railways are very poor in terms of network and their use for transportation, while airports are still in the initial stage of development. Therefore, both, railways and airports, are open to transformation.

Telecommunication is an important dimension of the networked infrastructure in Kosovo. It should be mentioned that Kosovo is a partner to the EU's Stabilization Tracking Mechanism.³⁵ The telecoms sector has been liberalized with the new Law on Electronic Telecommunications adopted in late 2012 to align with the EU's regulatory framework.

³¹. Lefebvre H., "The Production of Space", Wiley-Blackwell, 1991 (p 266)

³². Ibid, (p.402)

³³. Ibid, (p.378)

³⁴. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p. 42)

³⁵. Dublin (business wire) -Research and Markets in: http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20120124006236/en/Research-Markets-Kosovo-Telecoms-IP-Networks#.U6VsN_mSza8

3.1.1. Networks of settlements

There are 1457 settlements in Kosovo, of which 38 are of a municipal level, and the rest are villages. Settlements are distributed all over the territory of the country 53% of them are situated in an altitude up to 700m, while the rest 47% above 700m. ³⁶ Due to the lack of social infrastructure and services in the latter group of settlements, population movement is noted towards more developed settlements. As a result of continuous movement of population since 1999, urban centers that fall under the percentage of 53% got burdened and developed spontaneously due to the lack of control plans for construction, and spatial development. In general, the trend of the settlement structure in Kosovo after 1999 is vastly determined by concentration of population in the more developed urban areas, while mountainous and border areas are characterized by poor social infrastructure and other sector development are being challenged by depopulation.

Depopulation of settlements- depopulated settlements are being challenged with minimal employment opportunities and are usually disconnected from access to road and other infrastructure. Due to the fact that basic infrastructure such as schools and healthcare are often quite far from smaller settlements, the overall life quality tends to decline in a successive manner. This situation is not only evidenced from the war of 1999 onwards (e.g. as a result of war damages) but was also present during the times when Kosovo was part of ex-Yugoslavia. Despite systematic aid (domestic and international) provided to the underdeveloped settlements after the war of 1999, depopulation of these settlements continued as a result of the failure to create economically stable settlements. This trend has caused an unprecedented overload of basic social and technical infrastructure in cities of which Prishtina is challenged the most.

As can be seen also from the maps, settlements in Kosovo have great potential to create a sustainable network, regardless of the topographic constraints, but the challenge remains economical stability and the evening of infrastructure in mountainous and bordering settlements.

Having acknowledged this challenge, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo introduced the vision for the network of settlements (shown in the map 3.1).

According to the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, Kosovo in the period of 2012-2020+ shall develop a polycentric pattern of urbanization based on existing potentials:

- a) Large centers: Prishtina, Mitrovica, Prizren, Peja, Gjakova, Gjilan and Ferizaj, shall contribute in gradual development of settlements around them;
- b) Development of the medium size settlements (towns with 10.000-20.000 inhabitants) and small settlements (below 10.000 inhabitants) as well as villages, shall be subject to improvement of internal road infrastructure and other infrastructure and services, and their functional connection within the road network of infrastructure and services of the higher level.

A special attention shall be given to the so called "Yellow Area", (that is mountainous settlements and those in the bordering regions) and the "Green Area" (that is, the Drenica region). ³⁷

³⁶. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p.30)

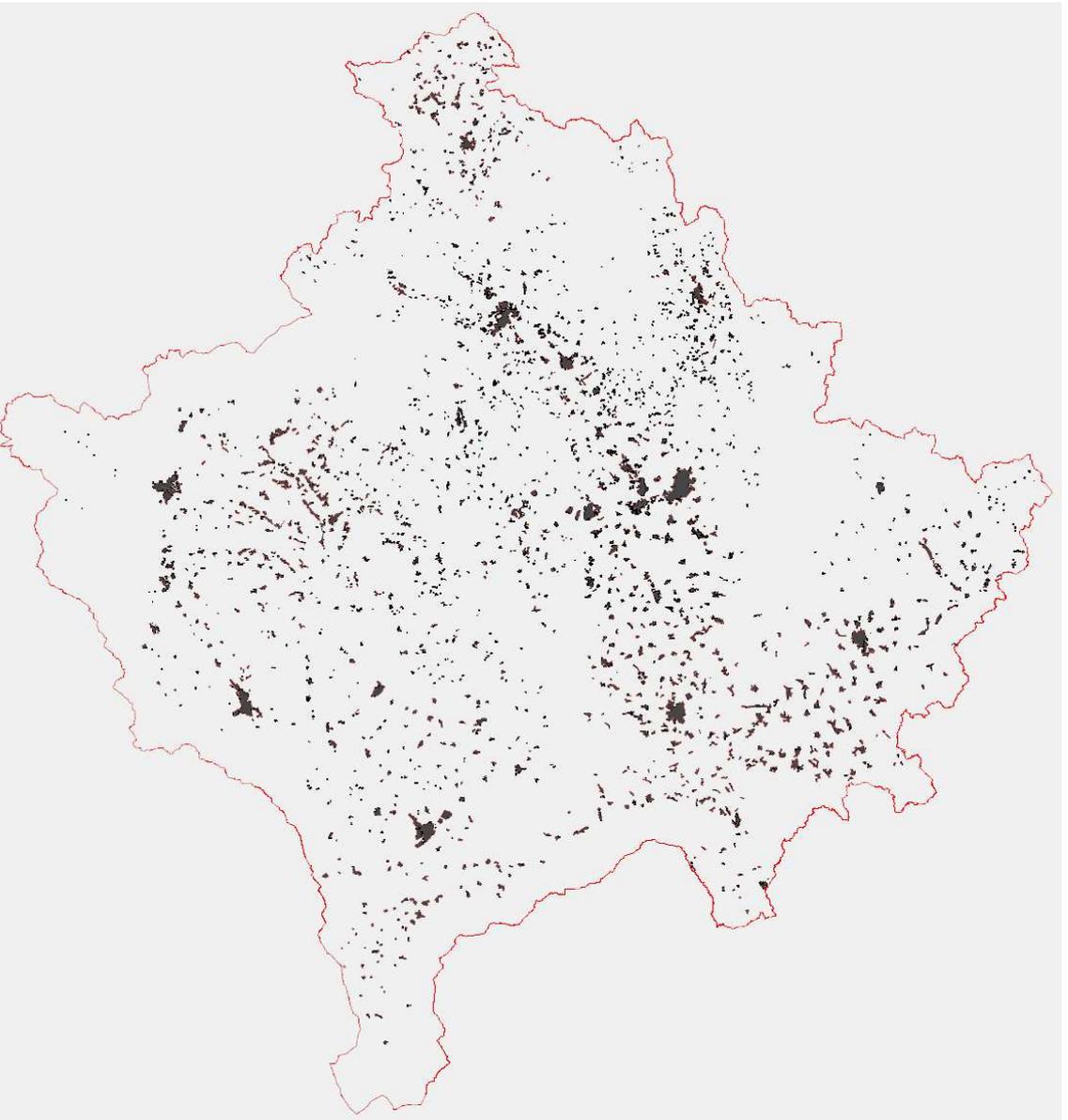
³⁷. *ibid*, (p.124)

In the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, the structure of the network of settlements in Kosovo shall consist of the following:

- a) Prishtina, as the capital of Kosovo;
- b) Large centers: Mitrovica, Prizren, Peja, Gjakova, Gjilan and Ferizaj;
- c) Small centers: Obiliq, Fushë Kosova, Drenas, Lipjan, Podujeva and Novobërda (blue area); Skënderaj, Vushtrri, Zubin Potok, Zvecani and Leposaviq (green area); Istog, Klina, Suhareka, and Dragash (orange area), Deçan, Rahovec, Malisheva, Viti, Kamenica, Shtime, Kaçanik and Shtërpçe (yellow area);
- d) New municipalities, based on the Ahtisaari Plan and the Law No. 2008/03-L041: Klokot, Partes, Gracanica, Ranillug, Mitrovica North, Elez Han and Junik. It should be mentioned that the majority of new municipalities were created along ethnic lines and vary from small villages to small size town;
- e) Villages.³⁸

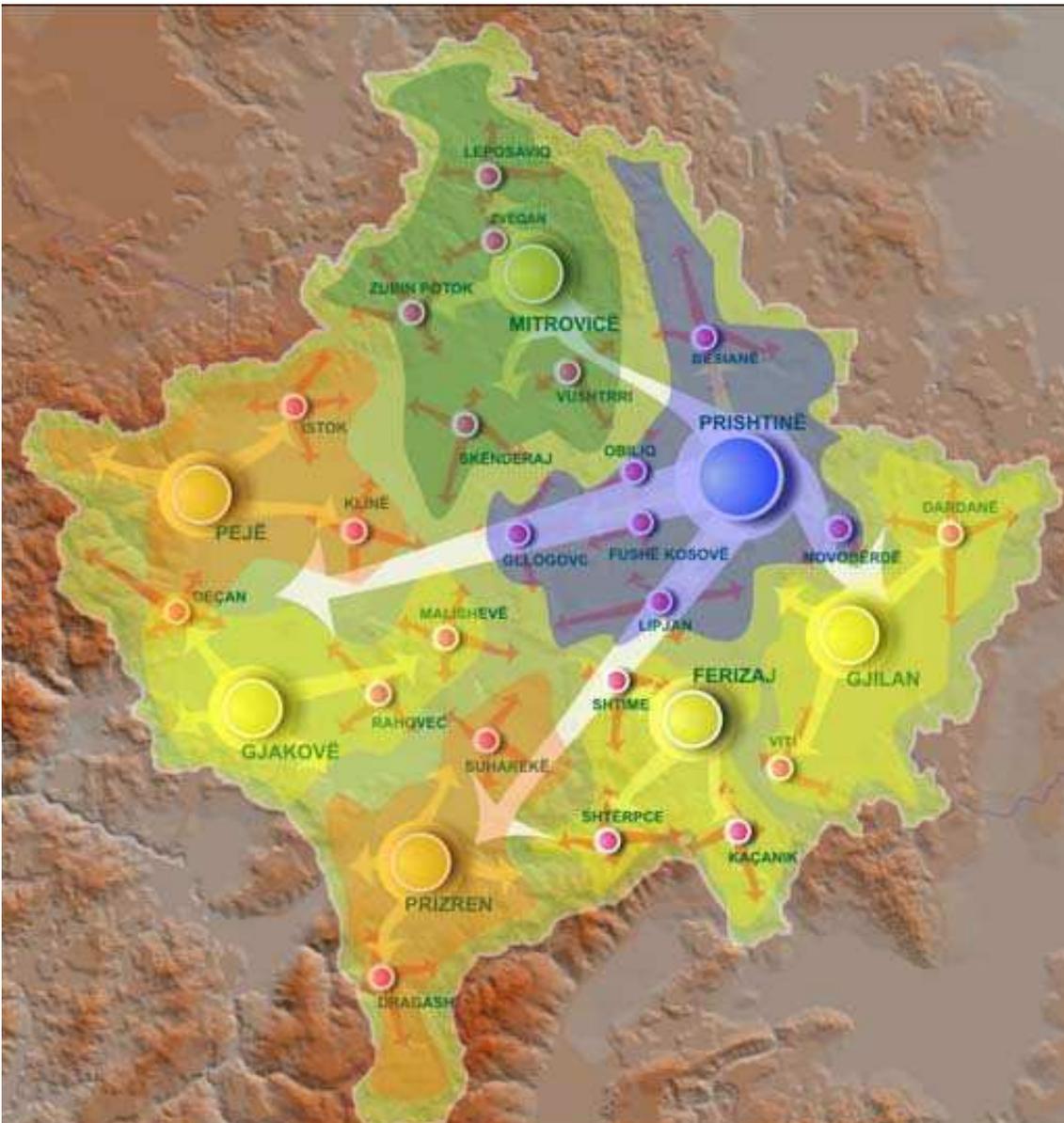
As can be noted, despite spatial qualities/ characteristics taken into account in the envisioned structure of the network of settlements, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo has proposed the category of the so-called **'Ahtisaari Municipalities'** based on purely political conditions, by which, it deviates from topographical consideration of networks.

³⁸ .Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (pp.125-127)



Map 3.1. The settlements in Kosovo

Source: Drawing by author, Information's gathered from Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010.



Map 3.2. The network of urban centers in Kosovo and their development directions
Source: Institute for Spatial Planning, “Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+”, MESP, 2010.
Entitled “Structure and the network of settlements”. (p.126)

3.1.2. Networks of roads, railways and airports

Transport is considered as a vital part of Kosovo's economy and a key player in spatial connections, that is, the networking of settlements, also acknowledged in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo. ³⁹ In Kosovo, transport is almost fully dependent on the roads for motor vehicles, while railway and air transport is in their developing phase. It should be mentioned that although **the road network** is the chief networking aspect in Kosovo, more than 50% of all settlements had no direct access to asphalted roads until recently. In the last 5 years, huge efforts were made by the government to connect the most remote settlements in Kosovo, such as, Skenderaj, Drenas, Malisheva, Kacanik and Shtime. (see map 3.3).

However, the road network density still remains quite behind (3.3 km per 1,000 people) as opposed to the ECA average (8.6 kilometers per 1,000 people). ⁴⁰ The road investment has also included a budget-financed construction of the motorway to Albania which planned to give Kosovo access to international road network; apart from this, the government plans to start constructing another motorway to Macedonia which is Kosovo's largest trading partner. It should be mentioned in this respect that despite of low quality, inadequate maintenance of road network, and the abovementioned density, the costs of transporting goods from and to Kosovo- as noted by the World Bank in 2014- *"are among the highest in the region and hence, are a major deterrent to greater trade integration and the development of export-oriented businesses"*. ⁴¹

Having acknowledged this fact, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo had envisioned to connect Kosovo with the European road corridors E10, E8 and the Adriatic highway, (see map 3.4.)

Integration of infrastructure and communication into the networks of neighboring countries is identified as an important goal for Kosovo given the fact that Kosovo is a landlocked country and therefore its economy is very much dependent on adequate road transport.

Envisioned road network and access to the regional / European network

According to the Plan, the connection into the E10 corridor would be achieved through M25 highway (Prishtina - Podujeva), or through the Merdare - Durrës highway, which is in the construction phase; With the corridor E8 (Durrës - Varna), Kosovo could be connected through the highway M2 (Ribariq - Hani i Elezit); In Adriatic highway Kosovo could connect through the highway M9 (Prishtina - Peja). (see more in Spatial Plan of Kosovo, p.73.).

Integration of the infrastructure and communication with networks of neighboring countries is identified as an important goal for Kosovo given the fact that Kosovo is a landlocked country and therefore its economy is very much dependent on adequate road transport.

³⁹. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p.72)

⁴⁰. World Bank, "The World Bank in Kosovo. County Snapshot", 2014. (p.10)

Available in: <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/eca/Kosovo-Snapshot.pdf>

⁴¹. *ibid*, (p.12)

On the other hand, the **railway infrastructure** in Kosovo has been completely out of focus since 1963. Since then, Kosovo has inherited about 333 km of single track and non-electrified rail with standard gauge.⁴² The network consists of a main north-south line which starts in Hani i Elezit at the border crossing point with Macedonia and runs through Leshak at the border crossing point with Serbia. It has two major branches and some smaller branches.

The North East and West line consists of three branches: the East line from Fushe Kosova to the border with Serbia, (42 km); the West line from Fushe Kosova to Peja (81 km); and the West-South line from Klina to Prizren (58 km).⁴³

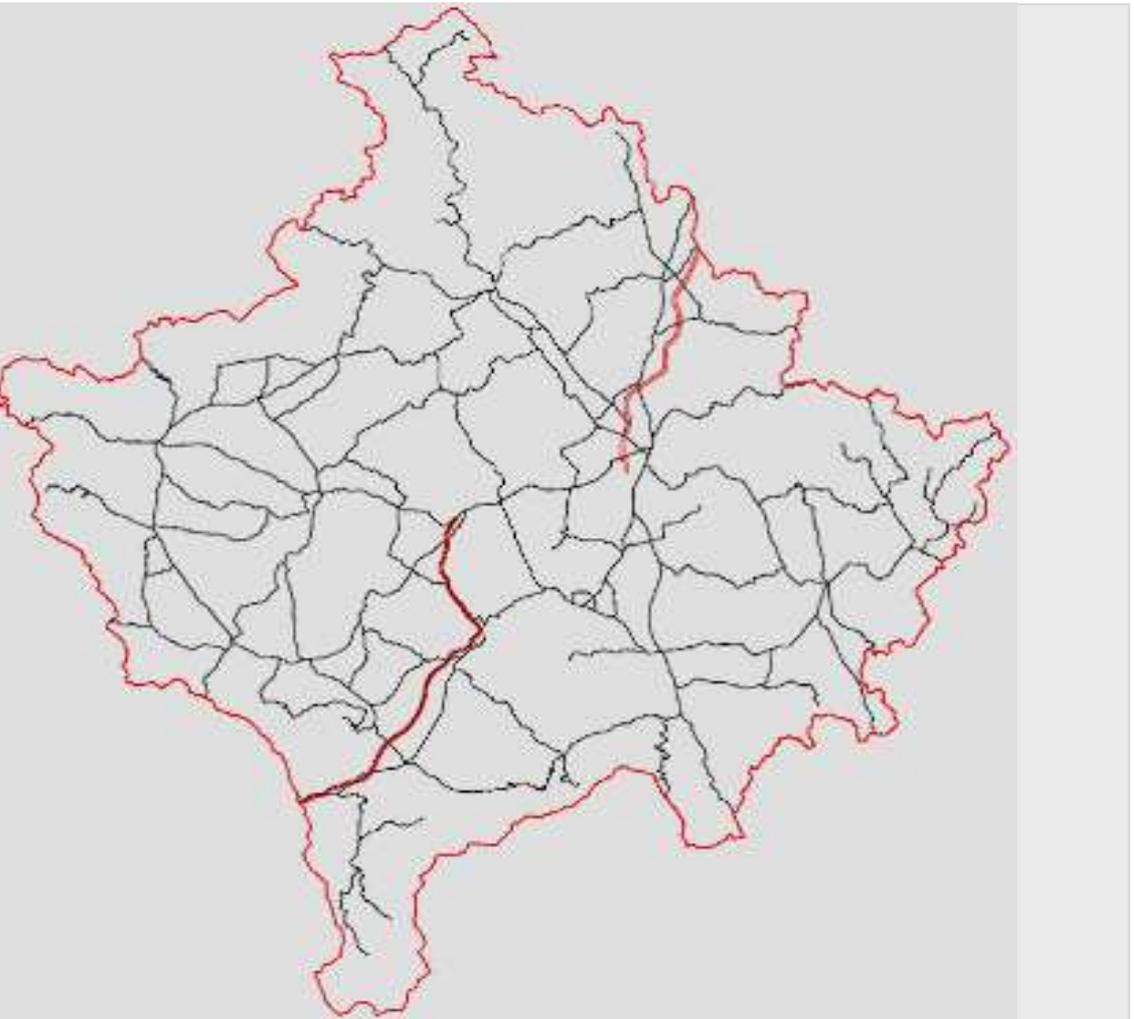
Having acknowledged the need for operational railway network for both transport of goods and people, the Government of Kosovo has come out with the Multimodal Transport Strategy (2012 - 2021) and Action Plan (2012 - 2016), according to which is foreseen an investment of cca. 0.443 MD Euros,⁴⁴ is foreseen which is far below estimation of 466.9 million from the period 2009-2030, done by the European Commission in 2009.⁴⁵

⁴². See: Railway Reform in South East Europe and Turkey: On the Right Track? Available in: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ECAEXT/Resources/258598-1256842123621/6525333-1306937865933/annex1_kosovo.pdf

⁴³. *ibid*, (p.12)

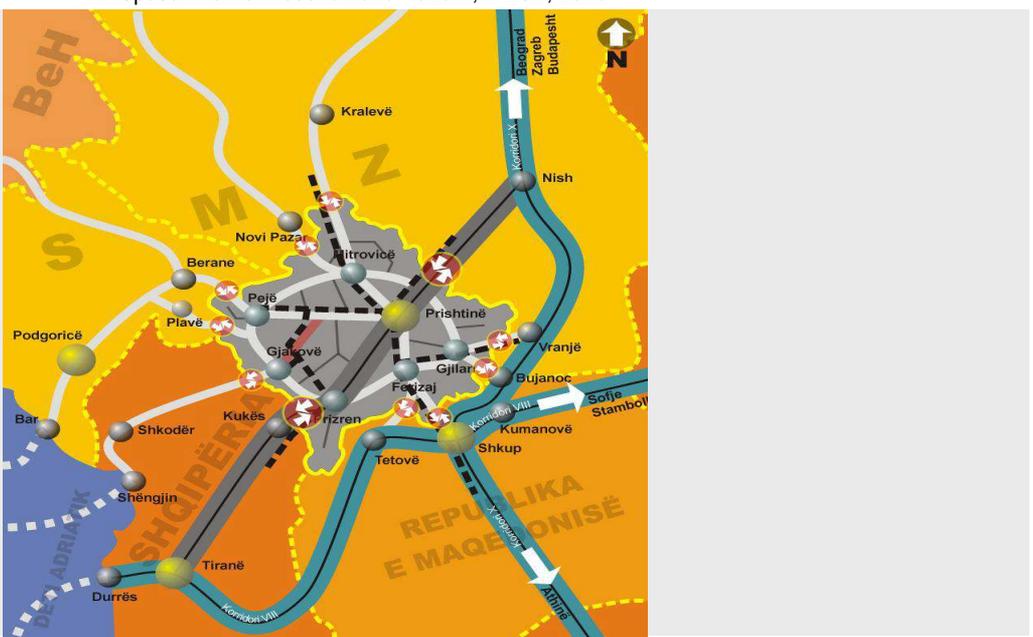
⁴⁴. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p. 94)

⁴⁵. See: "Railway Reform in South East Europe and Turkey: On the Right Track?". (p.189)



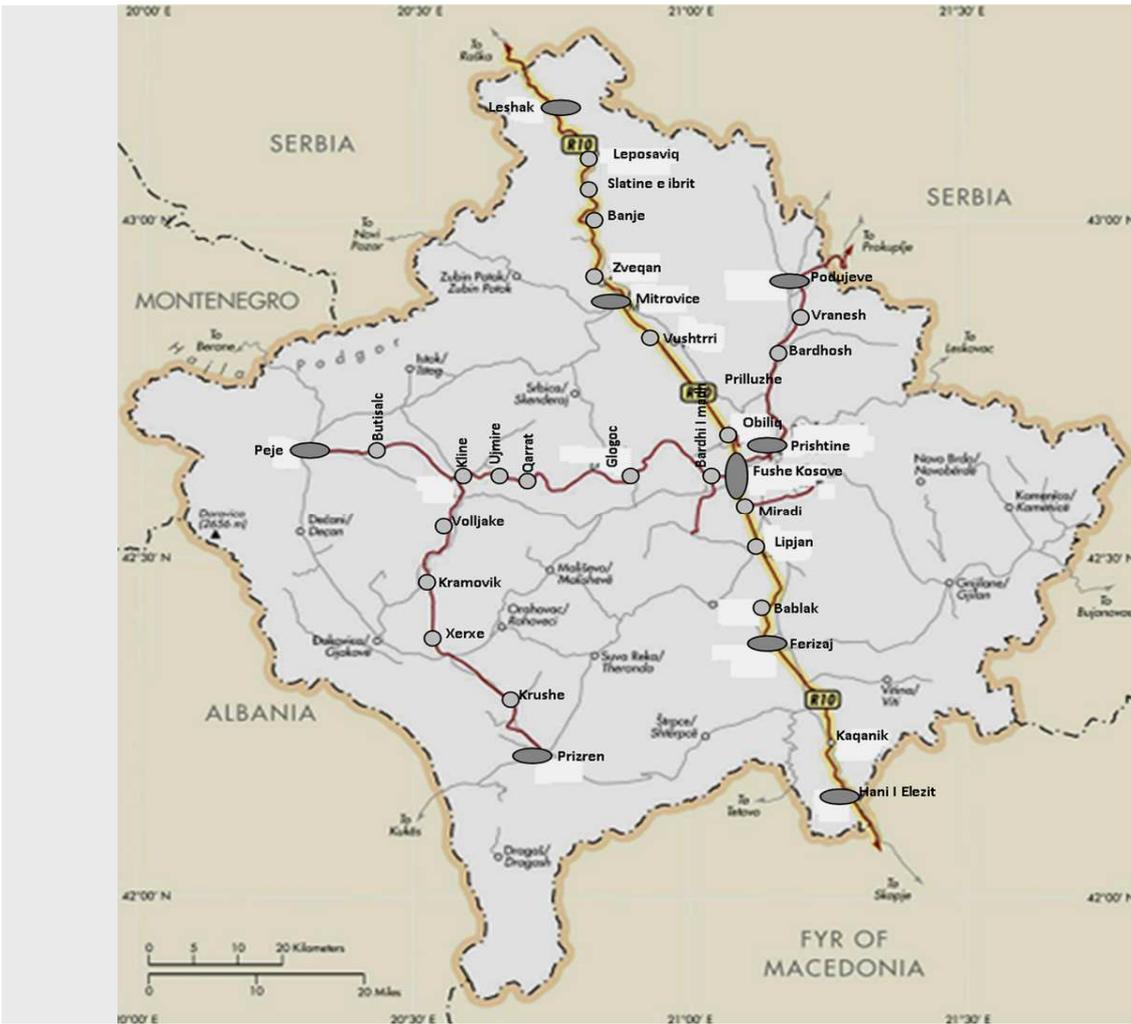
Map 3.3. Main roads- Road network .

Source: Drawing by author. Information's gathered from: Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010.



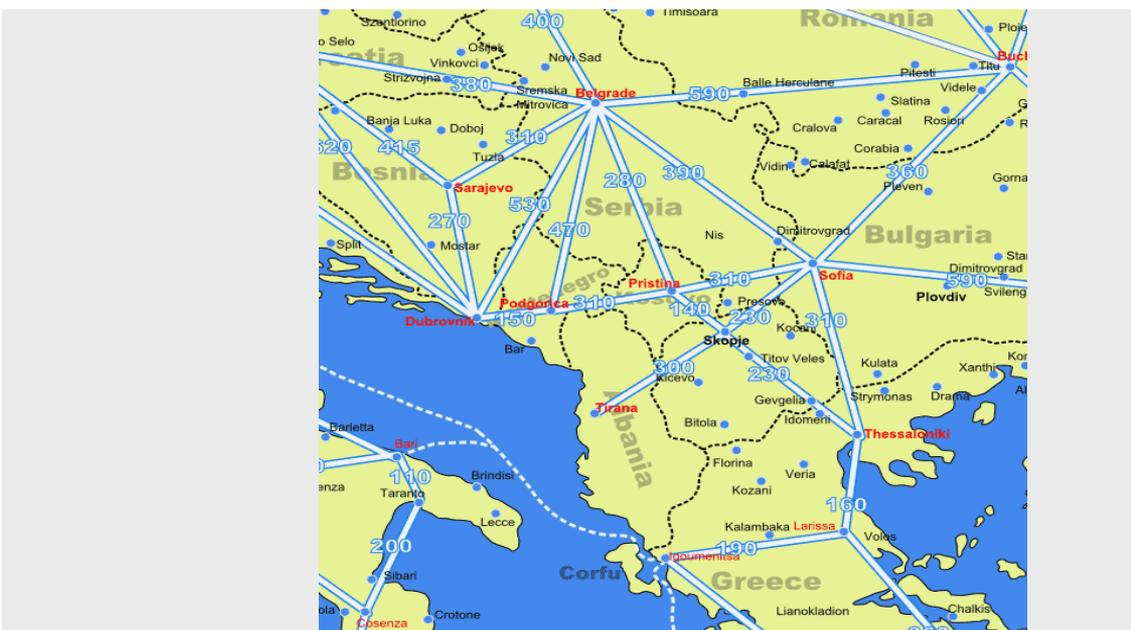
Map 3.4. Envisioned road network and access to the regional European network

Source: Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p. 178)



Map 3.6. Railway network in Kosovo

Source: compiled by author, information gathered from Ministry of Transport



Map 3.5. Driving distances road map of Kosovo. Map showing distances between major cities.

Source: http://www.europeandrivemap.com/drivingmaps/kosovo_map.php

Airports. There are four airports in Kosovo of which only one in Prishtina is an international airport. Since August 2012, operation and extension of the Prishtina International Airport (PIA) became subject to a Public- Private Partnership (PPP). Three other airports are mainly used for military purpose now by KFOR and before the war of 1999 by the Yugoslav army: Batlava Airfield in Podujevo, Gjakova Airfield built by KFOR and used for military and humanitarian purposes; this airfield was handed over in 2013 to the Kosovo Government and it is now planned to offer Gjakova Airfield for operation under a public- private partnership with the aim of turning it into a civilian airport. The last one is the Sllatina air base, located at the Prishtina International Airport, and was used to contain the second largest military underground hangar complex in former Yugoslavia. After 1999 NATO bombing it was used by KFOR. There are 12 air fields- agricultural airports of Avio-Kosova and one airfield of the Aeronautic Federation of Kosovo in Dumosh. Many agricultural airports are in bad physical condition and without care.



Figure 3.1. Aerial view Prishtina International Airport

From Prishtina airport passengers can travel to different destinations in Europe. This is provided by different international and local air companies.

Source : www.world-airport-codes.com



Map 3.7. Flight destination route map, International Airport Pristina

Destinations in: <http://www.airportpristina.com/en/>

Source :compiled by author, Information gathered from International Airport Pristina

3.1.3. Networks of telecommunication and broadcasters (Radio & TV)

As mentioned before, telecommunication is an important sector in Kosovo. The fixed telephony network is analogue and is spread to seven largest cities in the country as well as nearest settlements. The service is provided by the PTK (about 90% of the total number of 100,000 customers) and IPKO, a private company with 10% of customers. Lately, the network of fixed telephony is being modernized and is being expanded and enhanced through digital techniques, optical fibers and the SDH systems.

While fixed-line penetration remains low according to European standards, the mobile sector accounts a greater part with mobile subscriber base having climbed steadily in 2013 (see Table 1).⁴⁶ The main three mobile phone companies in Kosovo are: Vala; Ipko, and Z-Mobile.⁴⁷ In total, the mobile telephony has over 1.400.000 customers, of which, provider "Vala" (PTK) has about 70% while Ipko 28% of consumers. It should be mentioned, however, that Kosovo is not a member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and therefore it has limited control over numbering and frequency resources; it does not have its own country code and continues to use three different country codes: the Serbian dialing code for the fixed network and the dialing codes of Monaco and Slovenia for two mobile networks. The recent agreement on telecommunications under the EU-facilitated dialogue provides for Kosovo to be allocated a 3-digit international dialing code from the ITU as of 2015, and it also provides for Telekom Serbia to operate legally in Kosovo until 2015 .

Kosovo does not have an internet domain name either. However, as far as the broadband is concerned, there is an effective competition of main cable and DSL operators. Cable accounts for the majority of connections in Kosovo; According to BE in Kosovo: "Kosovo's Internet connectivity is among the best in the world. It has a nationwide broadband wireless backbone, which allows businesses and individuals to obtain high- speed, reliable, Internet connections at prices at or below those available in Western Europe and the United States".⁴⁹

The main companies that provide cable services in Kosovo are: PTK, IPKO, Artmotion, Kujtesa; Dukagjini Telecommunications and Dardafon. Recent efforts are being made in extending the wireless network. The table below shows the technologies that provide internet to end users in percentage:

Sector	2010	2013 (e)
Penetration rate by service:		
Fixed-line	4.40%	4.60%
Fixed broadband	6.10%	9.40%
Mobile phone	70%	93%

Technology	%
Cable/DOCSIS	68.95%
xDSL	25.43%
Wireless	4.57%
FTTx	0.64%
Other	0.41%

Tab.3.1. Kosovo– Key telecom parameters
2010; 2013 (Source: BuddeComm based on industry data) in:⁴⁸

Table 3.2. Internet technologies in Kosovo in %. Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/information_and_communications_technology_in_Kosovo#cite_note-ART-9

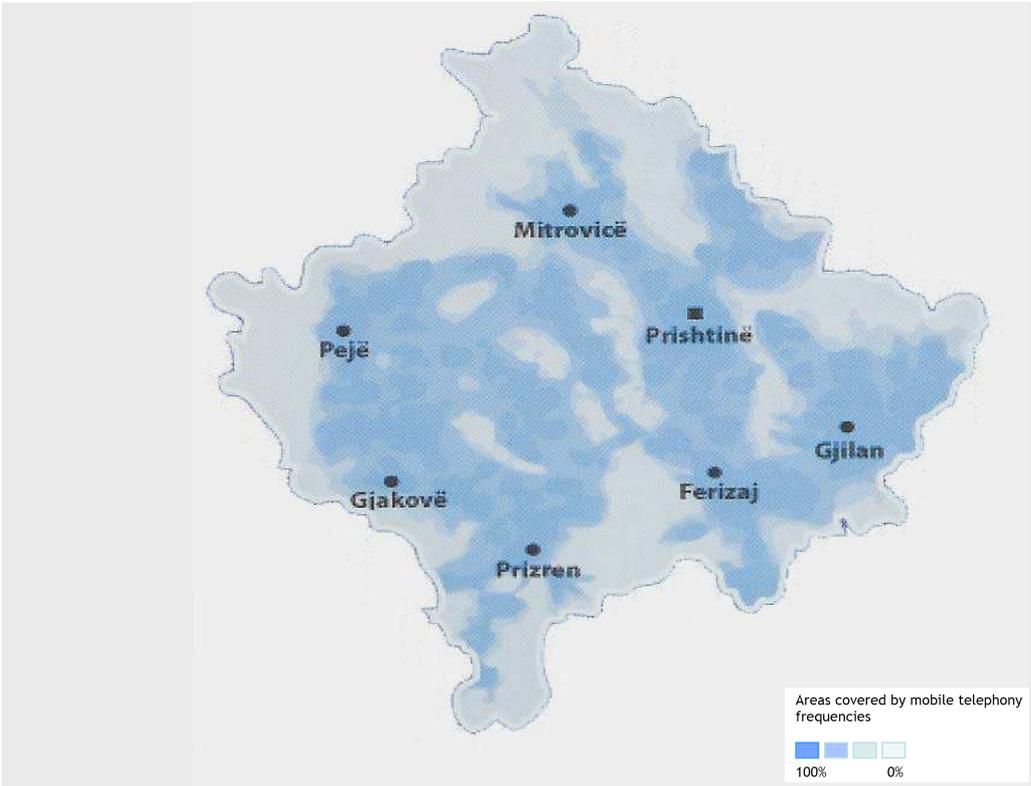
⁴⁶. Lancaster H., "Kosovo-Telecoms, IP Networks, Digital Media and Forecasts", 2013

⁴⁷. See more at: <http://www.budde.com.au/Research/Kosovo-Telecoms-IP-Networks-Digital-Media-and-Forecasts.html>

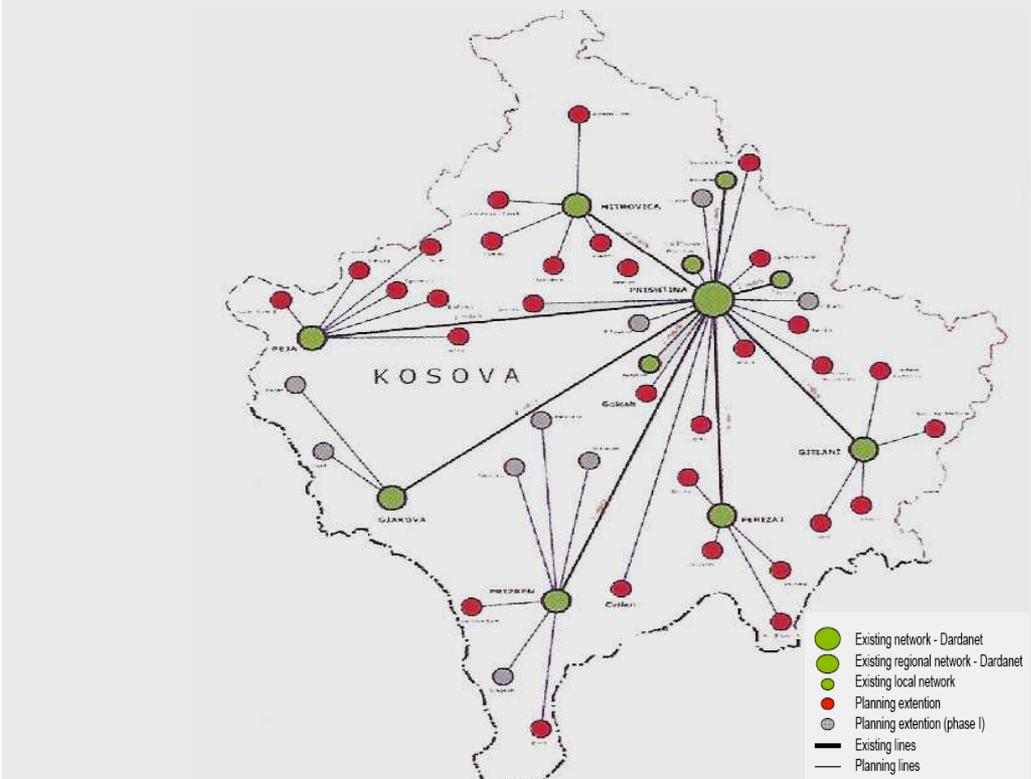
See more about this in: www.ipko.com, www.valamobile.com, www.zmobileonline.com

⁴⁸. <http://www.budde.com.au/Research/Kosovo-Telecoms-IP-Networks-Digital-Media-and-Forecasts.html>

⁴⁹. <http://www.beinkosovo.com/en/communications-in-kosovo>

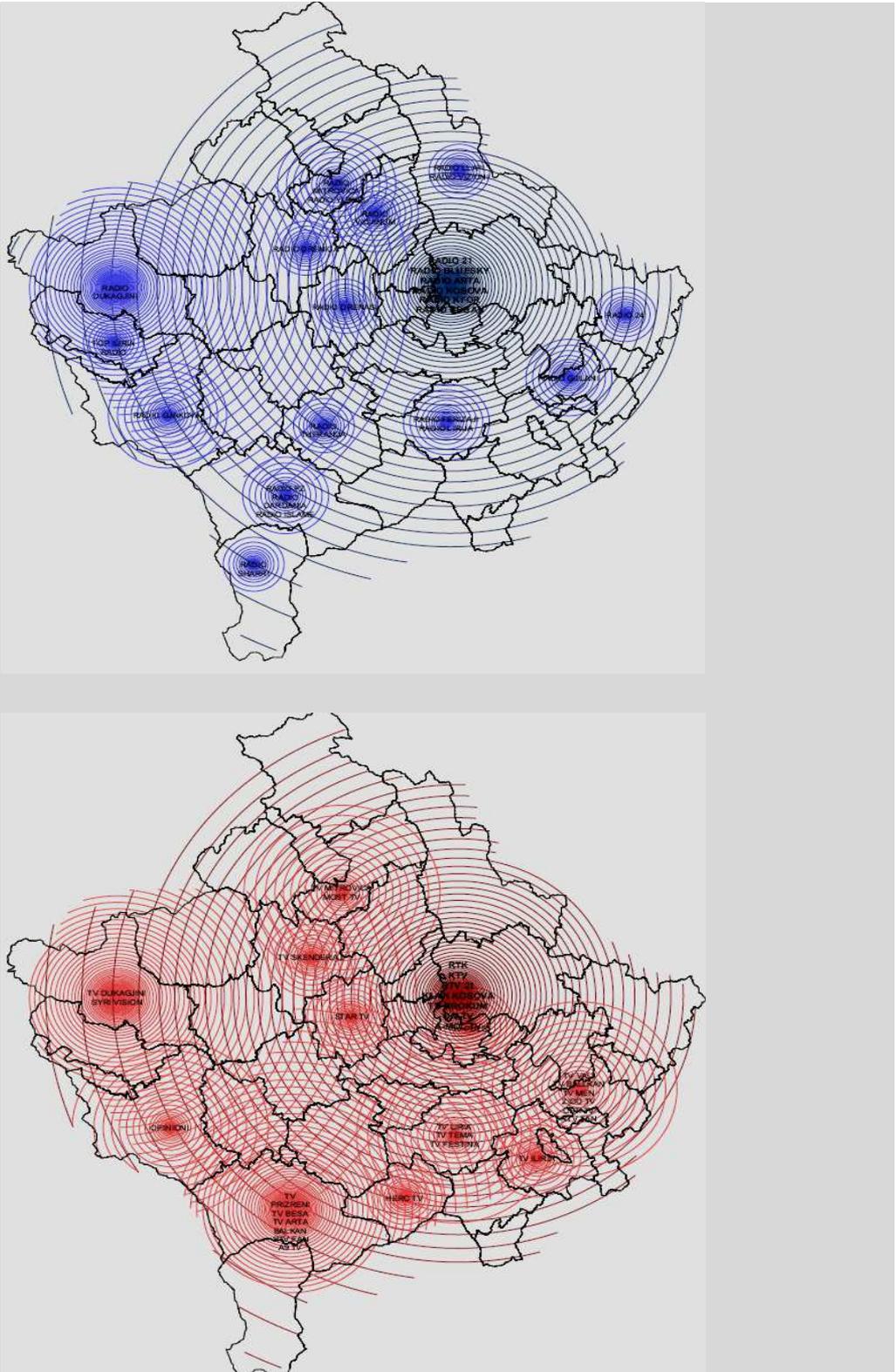


Map 3.8. Mobile phone coverage in Kosovo. Source: Institute for Spatial Planning, “Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+”, MESP, 2010 (p.73)



Map 3.9. PTK Internet network in Kosovo
 Source: Institute for Spatial Planning, “Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+”, MESP, 2010 (p.74)

In terms of its **TV and Radio broadcasting**, Kosovo is quite well covered, as shown in the figure below. It should be mentioned in this respect that Radio Television of Kosovo situated in Prishtina is the only national broadcaster which covers the entire country, while other local broadcasters are private .



Map 3. 10. TV and Radio broadcasting in Kosovo. Up: major Radio broadcasters; down : Major TV broadcasters. Source: compiled by author, informations gathered from different sources

3.2. Borders

Although borders are not considered primarily as an urban phenomenon,⁵⁰ the “border” and the “edge” have become the prevalent metaphors for the city.⁵¹ Today we come across phrases such as: border cultures, borderlands, edge cities, etc., used by planners, architects, anthropologists, theorists, etc., in their attempts to explain the “*dissolution of the traditional limits and lines of demarcation due to rapid urbanization and globalization*”.⁵² In the process in which the city absorbs borders of the formerly autonomous rural settlements, the lines of demarcation, that is *borders or edges*, are transformed into a zone of exchange.

These borders or edges may be geographical or conceptual, and they both are equally relevant in the way how a country is related to the neighboring countries or a region, or how it is perceived/affiliated by/with a system/network, created in a wider area, such as the EU-related networks and organisms. Borders or edges between the center and periphery, between the city and the countryside, which in the past were clear in geographical terms, are today being challenged by the conceptual demarcation along ethnic lines or social class.

A very sensitive outcome of the range of abovementioned borders, which are still present in Kosovo is the geographical prospect of the built form opposite of its cultural and natural landscape.

Therefore, urbanization in Kosovo is dependent on the capability of cities to “*exploit borders for its own urban dynamic*”⁵³ between potentials that have been separated by virtue of the globalization and political trends in Europe, and internal political/administrative reorganization, as well as in the size of urban spaces having continuously grown in the last decade in Kosovo.

In this attempt cultural and natural landscape should be considered in exploiting the borders of urban dynamics in Kosovo and in its future direction, given the fact that, as promoted by the EU: “*the administrative boundaries of cities no longer reflect the physical, social, economic, cultural or environmental reality of urban development and new forms of flexible governance are needed*”.⁵⁴

⁵⁰. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, “Switzerland An Urban Portrait”, Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.50)

⁵¹. Ellin N., “Postmodern Urbanism”, Princeton Architectural Press, NY, 1996 (p.4)

⁵². Ibid, (p.6)

⁵³. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, “Switzerland An Urban Portrait”, Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.50)

⁵⁴. EU., “Cities of tomorrow. Challenges, visions, ways forward”. Raphaël Goulet ,Brussels, 2011 (p.VI)
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/citiesoftomorrow/citiesoftomorrow_final.pdf

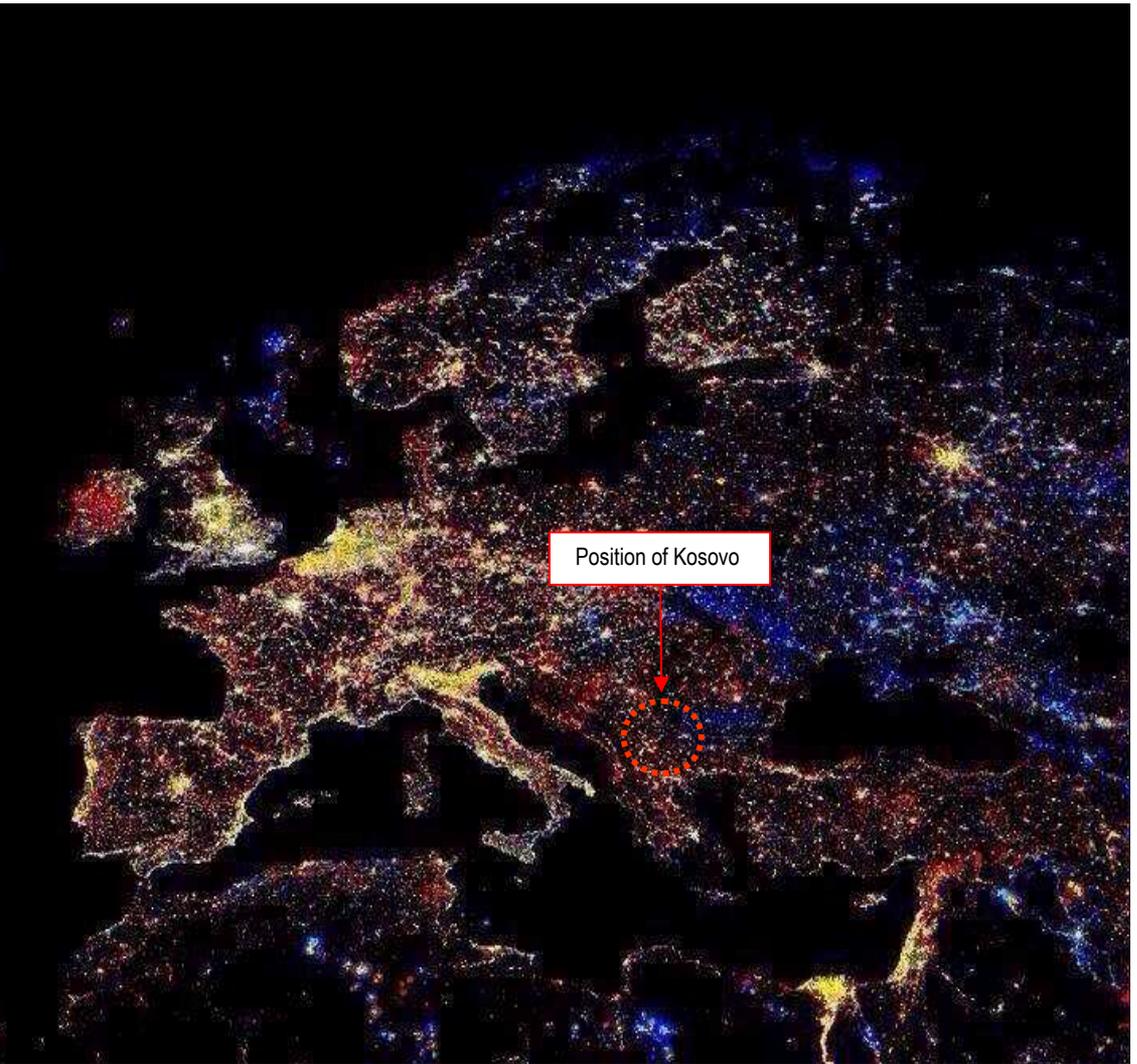


Figure 3.2. Satellite photography of Europe. Kosovo is indistinguishable from its neighbors
Source: Europe taken from space <http://imgur.com/WZYd252>

3.2.1. Political/ global boundaries

3.2.1.1. Kosovo is not a member of NATO

Changes made to the political space and borders of the European continent, in the turn of the century, raised new questions about the impact that the capitalist transformation of former communist economies would have to carry out the re-ordering of the new geo-political map of Europe". The complex processes after the break-up of USSR, and later, of the former Yugoslavia, were sustained by NATO and the USA.⁵⁵ An accorded surveillance of NATO forces, called NATO Kosovo Forces (KFOR) was introduced in Kosovo after the war of 1999 and the regionalization of Kosovo according to the national forces in KFOR. (see map 3.12). Since then Kosovo has engaged, among others, in joining the NATO forces, although the 2014 NATO expansion does not indentify Kosovo as a country that seeks the membership in NATO. A step forward, however, is considered the fact that as of May 2014, the Kosovo Parliament was given the observer status at the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO.⁵⁶ Regardless of Kosovo status in the NATO membership for which the government is firmly oriented, one should realize that the so-called "geographical imagination" of Europe shall remain a crucial factor in predetermining decisions and strategies for NATO expansion, which directly concerns Kosovo as well. As long as cultural, economic and social significance boundaries are present in Europe, including the factor of assumptions, pre-images and stereotypes opposite Balkans, it will be difficult "to identify the broad direction of changes in Europe and in a global scale".⁵⁷



Map 3.12. Kosovo has been under the NATO (KFOR) surveillance since 1999.

Source: http://www.nato.int/kfor/structur/nations/placemap/kfor_placemat.pdf

⁵⁵. Hadjimichalis C., "European Political Integration after Kosovo: A Damaged Project", 2001 (p.2), In: http://www.seedcenter.gr/projects/MNE/1stconfer/1stconf_papers/Hadjimichalis.pdf

⁵⁶. Tota E., "Kosovo is officially accepted in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly", Independent Balkan News Agency, 2014.

See more at: <http://www.balkan.eu.com/kosovo-officially-accepted-nato-parliamentary-assembly/>

⁵⁷. Hadjimichalis C., "European Political Integration after Kosovo: A Damaged Project?", 2001 (p.1)



Map 3.11. Kosovo is not a member of NATO. NATO expansion in 2014.
Source: www.democraticunderground.com

3.2.1.2. Kosovo is not a member of the UN (United Nations)

The abovementioned considerations are likewise valid for the UN. It should be initially mentioned that UN or more specifically, the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) was given the mandate by its resolution 1244 to deploy in Kosovo and provide the international civil and security presence.⁵⁸

Until 2008 when Kosovo declared its independence the country was under UN auspices. Following the Presidential Statement- which instructed UNMIK to facilitate EU preparations to undertake an operational role in Kosovo, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) deployed in December 2008, and consequently, UNMIK ceased substantially in rule of law operations.⁵⁹

As in the case of NATO, Kosovo is firmly oriented towards the membership status in the UN. Based on the rules and practice of UN membership admission, it is assessed that Kosovo's chances to become member of the UN are evident, given the fact that, despite political considerations of permanent members of the Security Council which at present depend on those that have not recognized Kosovo as an independent state, Kosovo in fact meets the requirements for admission into the UN.⁶⁰



Figure 3.3. Kosovo was under the protectorate of UN (UNMIK) until 2008. Kosovo is also a member of the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank Group, both specialized agencies in the UN System. Source: by author

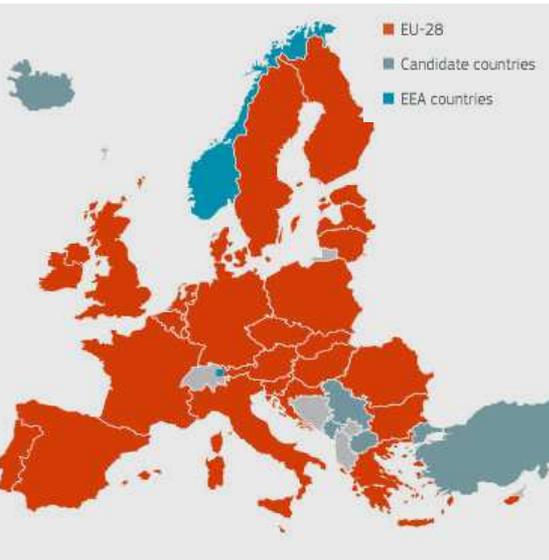
⁵⁸. See more in <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmik/mandate.shtml>

⁵⁹. See more in <http://www.unmikonline.org/Pages/rollo.aspx>

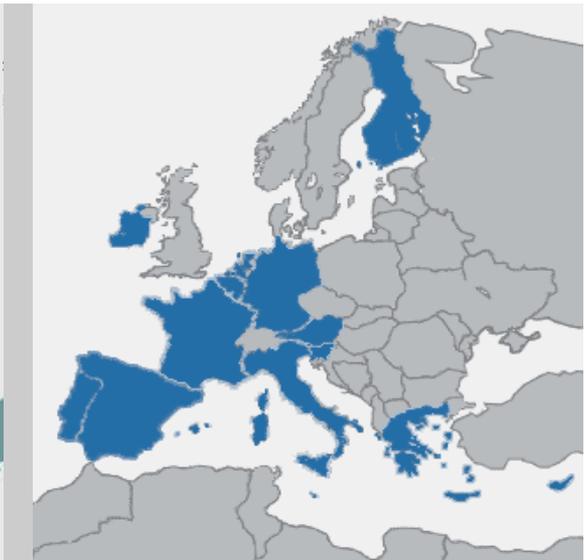
⁶⁰. Efevwerhan I.D., "Kosovo's Chances of UN Membership: A Prognosis", Goettingen Journal of International Law 4, 2012. 1, 93-130 (p.94) ,see: www.gojil.euissues/41/41_article_efevwerhan.pdf

3.2.1.3. Kosovo is not a member of the EU not of the EU zone

Since the declaration of independence in 2008, 22 of the EU's 27 members have recognized Kosovo's independence. The lack of full EU diplomatic recognition of the Kosovo statehood by 5 EU member states has continued to determine the participation of Kosovo in SAA (Stabilization and Association Process) as well as in other EU related organisms.



Map 3.14. Kosovo is neither a member of EU, nor a candidate or EEA member-
Source: <https://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=members+of+eu+countries+&tbm>



Map 3.15. Kosovo is not a member of the Euro Zone
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro_puan_Union



Map 3.16. The monetary currency in Kosovo since 1999 is Euro (€)
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_currencies_in_Europe



Figure 3.4. Kosovo is under the EU (EULEX) observation since 2008
Source: www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=eulex+kosovo

3.2.1.4. Is Kosovo a hole in Europe ? Is Kosovo an island ?

Despite such complex duality in terms of exclusion in one end, and on the other end, dependence on international/European political/economic networking terms, Kosovo is regarded as one of the most isolated countries in the 21st century's Europe. Isolation makes Kosovo a hole in the map of Europe. Whereas its dependence on Europe's overall political and economic stand towards Kosovo makes it an island in the map of Europe – an island where EU policies juxtapose.



Map 3.17. Is Kosovo a hole in the Europe? Is Kosovo an island ?

Source: compiled by author, information gathered from map on: Diener R., Herzog J., Eds., "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser- Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.52)

3.2.2. Administrative borders

Regions

The Kosovo Law on Local Governance defines two levels of administration in Kosovo:

1. **Central** level which encompasses the territorial space of Kosovo as a whole, and
2. **Local** level by which Kosovo is divided into municipalities.

Although the law does not define regions, the regional division is used in different fields by regional agencies and offices, such as Statistical Agency, regional companies for water supply and waste management, including international organization that operate in Kosovo such as KFOR, EULEX, etc.

The Spatial Plan of Kosovo likewise defines profiles and development strategies based on regional division. According to the Spatial Plan, Kosovo is divided into seven regions:

- Prishtina,
- Mitrovica,
- Peja,
- Prizren,
- Gjilan,
- Ferizaj, and
- Gjakova

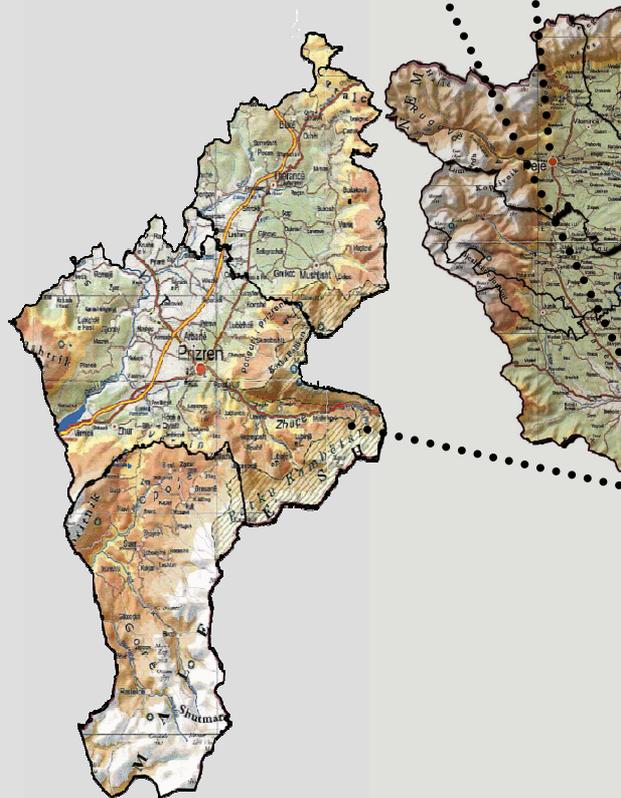
as shown in the map a side .



Peja region



Gjakova region



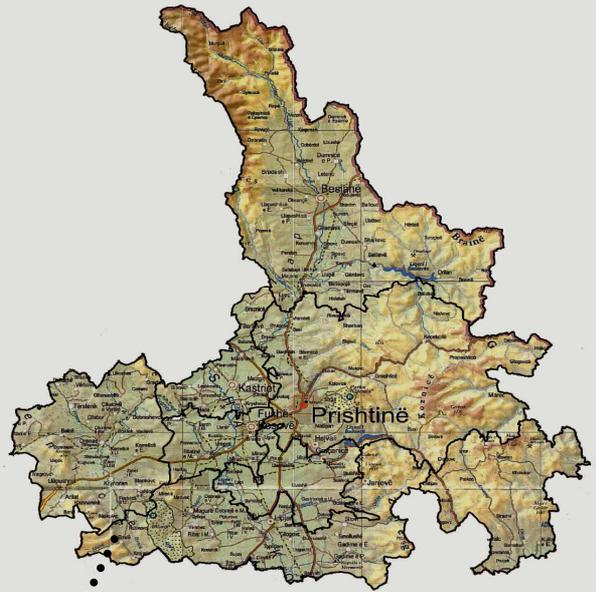
Prizren region

Map 3.18. Seven regions in Kosovo

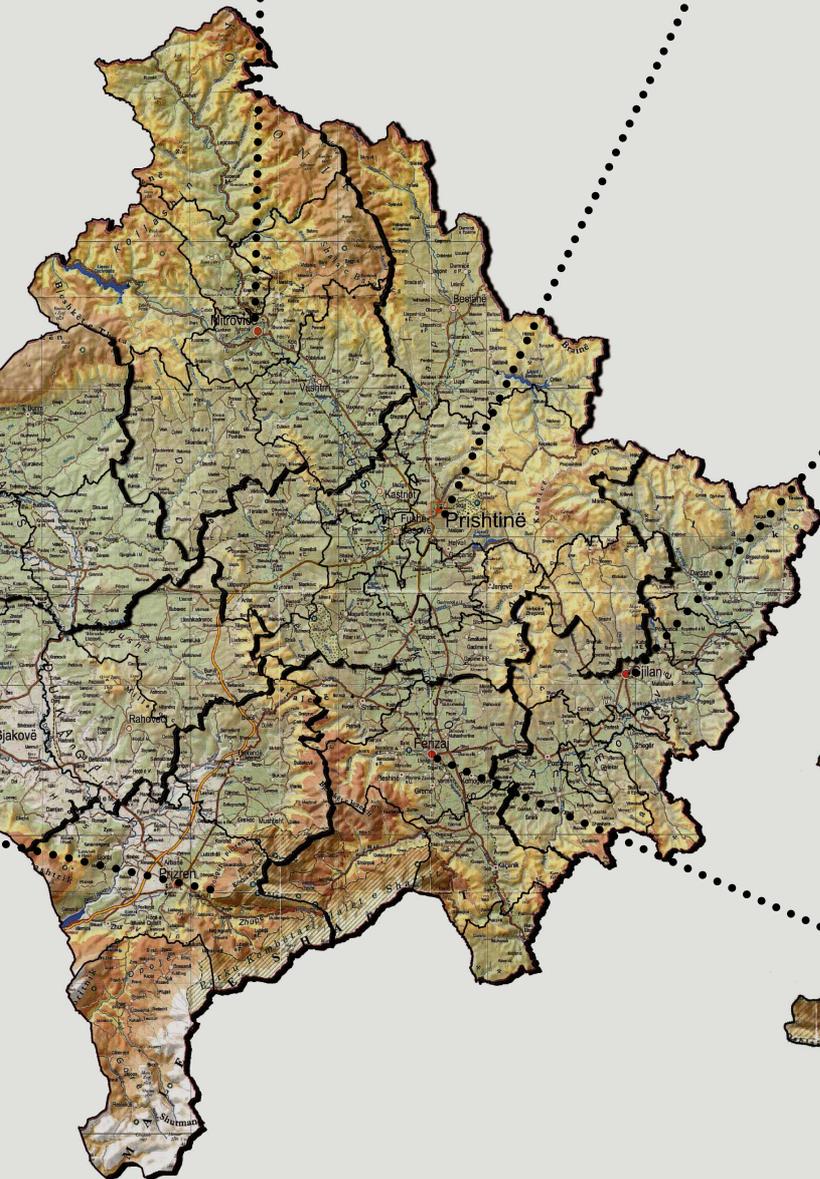
Source: compiled by author, information gathered from MESP 2012.
 Basic map source: Ismaili R, Kraja M , Eds., "Kosova A monographic survey", Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts, Fokus - print, Prishtina - Skopje, 2013



Mitrovica region



Prishtina region



Gjiçan region



Ferizaj region

The **Prishtina region** consists of eight municipalities: Prishtina– the capital of Kosovo, Podujeva/ Besiana, Obiliq, Fushe Kosova, Lipjan, Glogovci/ Drenas, Novobrdar/ Artana, and Graçanica.



Podujeva +75 settlements
 Area: 663 km²
 Population: 90,499



Prishtina+40 settlements
 Area: 572 km²
 Population: 198,897



Lipjani+69 settlements
 Area: 422 km²
 Population : 57,605



Glogovci+36 settlements
 Area: 290 km²
 Population: 58,531



Novoberda +23 settlements
 Area: 204 km²
 Population: 6,729



Graçanica+16 settlements
 Area: 131 km²
 Population: 10,675



Obiliqi +14 settlements
 Area: 105 km²
 Population: 21,549



Fushe kosova+13 settlements
 Area: 83 km²
 Population: 34,827

Map 3.19. Municipalities in the Prishtina region

Source: compiled by author. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

The **Mitrovica region** consists of seven municipalities: Mitrovica, a part of which was divided in 2008 and forms the municipality of Mitrovica North, Vushtri, Skenderaj, Zveqan, Zubin Potok and Leposaviq.



Leposaviq+41 settlements
 Area: 539 km²
 Population: 18,600



Skenderaj+48 settlements
 Area: 378 km²
 Population: 50,858



Vushtri +66 settlements
 Area: 344 km²
 Population: 69,870



Zubin Potok+28 settlements
 Area: 333 km²
 Population: 14,900



Mitrovica +44 settlements
 Area: 350km²
 Population: 71,909



North Mitrovica
 Area: 11km²
 Population: 29,460



Zveqan +34 settlements
 Area: 122 km²
 Population: 16,650

Map 3.20. Municipalities in the Mitrovica region

Source: compiled by author. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

The **Peja region** consists of three municipalities: Peja, Istog and Klina.



Peja+80 settlements
Area: 603 km²
Population: 96,450



Istogu+49 settlements
Area: 454 km²
Population: 39,289



Klina +53 settlements
Area: 308 km²
Population: 38,497

Map 3.21. Municipalities in the Peja region

Source: compiled by author. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

The **Prizreni region** consists of four municipalities: Prizreni, Mamusha, Suhareka, Malisheva and Dragash.



Prizreni +73 settlements
Area: 284 km²
Population: 177,781



Dragashi + 34 settlements
Area: 435 km²
Population: 33,997



Suhareka +41 settlements
Area: 306 km²
Population: 54,613



Mamusha
Area: 11 km²
Population: 5,507

Map 3.22. Municipalities in the Prizren region

Source: compiled by author. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

The **Gjilan region** consists of six municipalities: Gjilan, Kamenica, Vitija, Kllokot, Partesh and Ranillug .



Kamenica +57 settlements
 Area: 423 km²
 Population: 35,600



Gjilani +53 settlements
 Area: 385 km²
 Population: 90,015



Vitia +38 settlements
 Area: 278km²
 Population: 46,959



Kllokot +3 settlements
 Area: 24 km²
 Population: 2,556



Partesh +2 settlements
 Area: 18 km²
 Population: 1,787



Ranillug+17 settlements
 Area: 78 km²
 Population: 3,866

Map 3.23. Municipalities in the Gjilan region

Source: compiled by author. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

The **Ferizaj region** consists of five municipalities: Ferizaj, Kaçanik, Shterpce, Hani i Elezit and Shtime.



Ferizaj +44 settlements
Area: 345 km²
Population: 108,690



Shterpce+15 settlements
Area: 247 km²
Population: 6,949



Kaçanik +30 settlements
Area: 221 km²
Population: 33,454



Shtimje+22 settlements
Area: 134 km²
Population: 27,324



Hani i Elezit +10 settlements
Area: 83 km²
Population: 9,389

Map 3.24. Municipalities in the Ferizaj region

Source: compiled by author. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

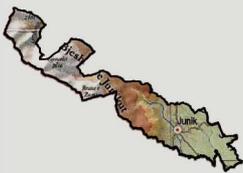
The **Gjakova region** consists of five municipalities: Gjakova, Deçan, Rahovec, Malisheva and Junik.



Gjakova +90 settlements
 Area: 587 km²
 Population: 94,557



Deçan +36 settlements
 Area: 180 km²
 Population: 38,984



Junik +10 settlements
 Area: 86 km²
 Population: 6,078



Malisheva+42 settlements
 Area: 361 km²
 Population: 59,722



Rahovec +31 settlements
 Area: 276 km²
 Population: 55,053

Map 3.25. Municipalities in Gjakova region

Source: compiled by author. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

As conclusion: Independently of their size and location, all municipalities in Kosovo have their central zones and residential zones. However, the commercial zones and zones for public buildings are still being consolidated in new municipalities created after 2008, whereas the same are existent in all other municipalities which were constituted prior to the decentralization process of 2008. Nature reserve zones and forest zones are mainly concentrated in the municipalities located in bordering areas whereas the agricultural zones exist in both urban and rural communities. Seven major municipalities constitute centers of regions and have complete set of zones as Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, Gjilan, Ferizaj, and Gjakova.

	Name (Albanian)	Name (Serb.)	Popula- tion (2011)	Area (km2)	Den- sity (km2)	Settle- ments
Prishtina region	Prishtinë	Priština	198,897	572	347.7	41
	Podujevë	Podujevo	90,499	663	133.5	76
	Lipjan	Lipljan	57,605	422	136.5	70
	Drenas Glogovci	Glogovac	58,531	290	201.8	37
	Novobërdë	Novo Brdo	6,729	204	33	24
	Gracanicë	Gračanica	10,675	131	81.5	16
	Obiliq/Kastriot	Obilić	21,549	105	205.2	19
	Fushë Kosovë	Kosovo Polje	34,827	83	419.6	15
			479,312	2470	1558.8	298
Mitrovica region	Mitrovicë	Kos.Mitrovica	71,909	350	205.5	45
	Mitrovica Veriore	S. K. Mitro	29,460	11	2,678.20	–
	Leposaviq	Leposavić	18,600	539	34.5	42
	Skënderaj	Srbica	50,858	378	134.5	49
	Vushtri	Vučitrn	69,870	344	203.1	67
	Zubin Potok	Zubin Potok	14,900	333	44.7	29
	Zveçan	Zvečan	16,650	122	136.5	35
			272,247	2077	3437	267
Peja region	Pejë	Peć	96,450	603	160	81
	Istog	Istok	39,289	454	86.5	50
	Klinë	Klina	38,496	308	125	54
			174,235	1365	371.5	185
Prizreni region	Prizren	Prizren	177,781	284	626	74
	Dragash	Dragaš	33,997	435	78.2	35
	Suharekë	Suva Reka	54,613	306	178.5	42
	Mamushë	Mamuša	5,507	11	500.6	–
			271,898	1036	1383.3	151
Gjilani regjion	Gjilan	Gnjilane	90,015	385	233.8	54
	Kamenicë/Dardanë	Kos. Kamenica	35,600	423	84.2	58
	Kllokot	Klokot	2,556	24	106.5	4
	Viti	Vitina	46,959	278	168.9	39
	Partesh	Parteš	1,787	18	99.3	3
	Ranillug	Ranilug	3,866	78	49.6	18
			180,783	1206	742.3	176
Ferizaj region	Ferizaj	Uroševac	108,690	345	315	45
	Shtërpcë	Štrpce	6,949	247	28.1	16
	Kaçanik	Kaçanik	33,454	221	151.4	31
	Shtime	Štimlje	27,324	134	203.9	23
	Hani i Elezit	Elez Han	9,389	83	113.1	11
			185,806	1030	811.5	126
Gjakova region	Gjakova	Đakovica	94,557	587	161.1	91
	Deçan	Dečani	38,984	180	216.6	37
	Junik	Junik	6,078	86	70.7	10
	Rahovec	Orahovac	55,053	276	199.5	32
	Malishevë	Mališevo	59,722	361	165.4	43
			254,394	1490	813.3	213
	Kosova	Kosovo	1,816,675	10,908	170	1,339

Table 3.3. Table of regions within municipalities ,population, area, density and settlements
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities_of_Kosovo

Emblems of all municipalities in Kosovo



Map 3.26. Emblems of 38 municipalities in Kosovo

Source: compiled by author ,Information gathered from web sites of Kosovo municipalities 2013. Basic map source: "Kosova A monographic survey", 2013

GEOGRAPHICAL MAP OF KOSOVA



3.3. Differences

In the Urban Border Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/ Architecture held in 2013 in Shenzhen, China, it was recognized that what dominates the cities throughout the world is a kind of generic similarity, while urban diversity, differences, specificities and individuality are more often hidden or disregarded. ⁶¹

It is the very differences and specificities that define the magnitude of heterotopy in urban spaces. Interaction of different cultures and sub-cultures, groups, non-mainstream lifestyles, and forms of production are those that in fact create a multi-layered urban dynamics. Such urban dynamics is never homogenous; the complex process of interplay of forces hence produces the diversity in the city which cannot be fully planned, or controlled. ⁶²

In this context, differences are perceived as a new guiding principle for majority of urban planning institutions worldwide. Enhancing the diversity has become a prime goal for cities that seek to "attract *human capital, encourage innovation, and ensure fairness and equal access to a variety of groups*". ⁶³

However, the criticism about the tendency to elevate the differences into primary criteria for evaluating city's urban form has been simultaneously firm in the sense that by highlighting the differences, we risk to neglect other values which distinguish a specific urban space. ⁶⁴

Drawing from this, the challenge ahead is to accept fragmentations and differences that derive from the dynamics of urban development, while seeking the potentials and possibilities to bridge and profile such differences. ⁶⁵

In the case of Kosovo, the diversity in cultural and natural sphere represent the strongest side of the country's potential that may contribute in the bridging and profiling differences in economic and political terms, which are rather profound and with a negative effect, as shall be explained later in this chapter; as such those differences should be diminished at their maximum if Kosovo wants to amend its spatial and urban profile and seek for qualities such as equity and sustainability in its future portrait.

⁶¹. <http://en.szhkbiennale.org/Explaining/>

⁶². Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.116)

⁶³. Fainstein S., "Cities and Diversity. Should We Want It? Can We Plan For It?", Urban Affairs Review, Vol. 41, No. 1, Sage Publications 3-9, 2005 (pp.3-4). Available in: <http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/images/content/5/4/540376/fac-pub-fainstein-Diversity-and-Cities-UAR-final.pdf>

⁶⁴. Ibid, (p.6)

⁶⁵. <http://en.szhkbiennale.org/Explaining/>

3.3.1 Unequal economic development

Differences in economic development in Kosovo are manifested through unequal economic development in terms of spatial distribution of economic activities. This situation derives from the poor economic development rate inherited from the past as a cause of limited resources and funds for development, as well as the complex post-war process of transition after year 1999.

One of the factors that affected an evident disproportion of economic development in Kosovo is industrialization based on natural resources, which during 1970-80s has clearly differentiated seven largest urban centers, which today represent the centers of regions elaborated above.

However, as a consequence of harsh political oppression by the Serbian regime in 1990s, the following period will be characterized with a total collapse of the industrial structure in Kosovo as well as of other life spheres.

This had a direct impact in the post-war phase of deindustrialization; technological changes that occurred in the last decade have stripped large urban centers from their role in the development of the economic basis in Kosovo.

Despite the fact that Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, Gjiilan, Ferizaj, and Gjakova have lost their significance in the direct or indirect development of settlements around, those centers still remain the most developed ones.

This is proved by the statistics of social economic development, industrial income, number of enterprises, standard of school and road infrastructure, electricity network, etc.

In spatial terms, these centers are distributed in a circle shape pattern; which makes settlements in the bordering areas and in the central part of the country less developed regions in Kosovo, regardless of their administrative linkages in regional terms.⁶⁶

The map (map 3.28) shows that the central part of Kosovo and some parts of the bordering areas, presented in the yellow color, are the least economically developed municipalities. Then Prishtina, Prizren and Peja appear as the most developed municipalities, followed by Gjakova, Ferizaj, Gjiilan, Podujeva and Vushtri.

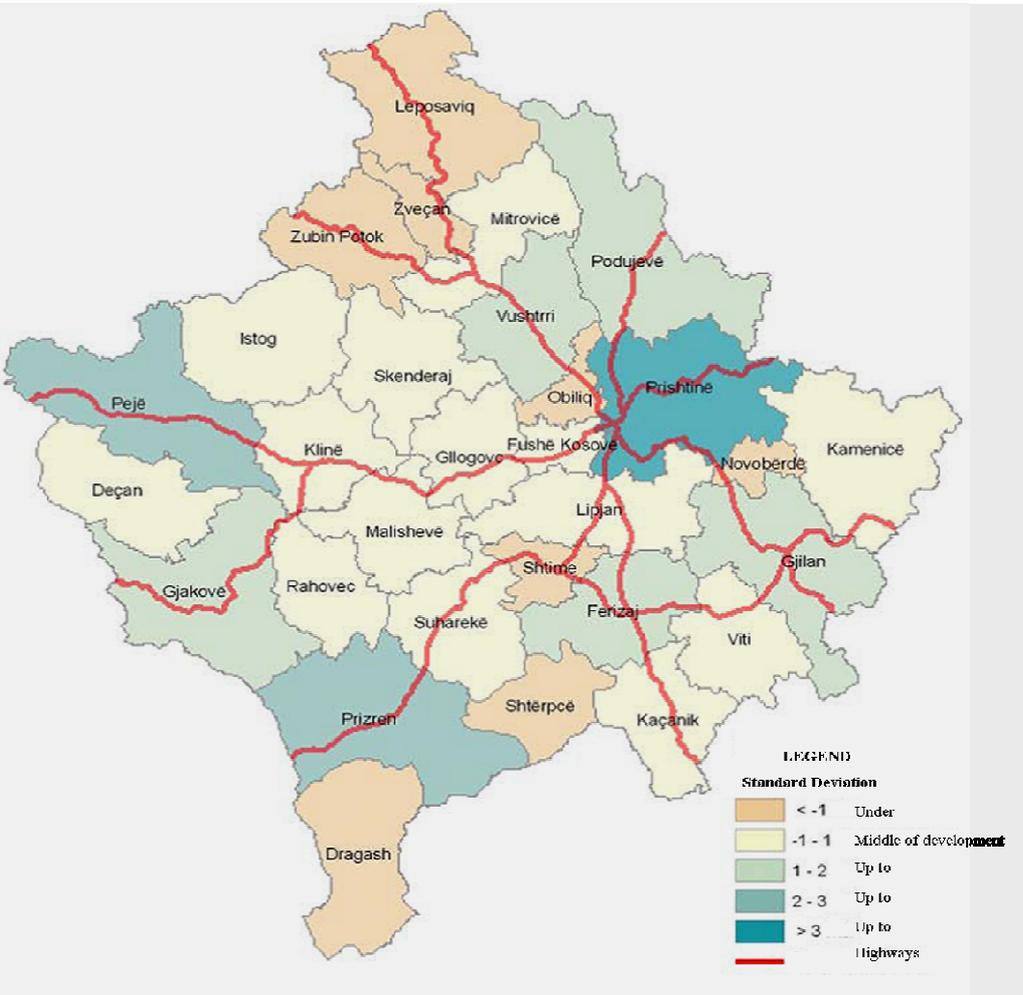
Due to political/ administrative complications and collapse of Trepça mining company, Mitrovica falls under those municipalities that are less developed in Kosovo.

This has caused a negative economic trend in the entire northern part of Kosovo, that is, municipalities of Zvečan, Zubin Potok and Leposavić. Likewise, the economy of Shtipce in the southern part of Kosovo which was earlier infused by the ski center in Brezovica and Novobrdó by the mining sector, today fall under the most underdeveloped municipalities due to the collapse of these two economic activities.

Also, Obiliq is the place where the power plant is situated; however, it has no direct impact in the economic development of the municipality. As a result, the population is either moved from their settlements for the purpose of ensuring coal exploitation, or is leaving the settlements due to the heavy environmental pollution.

⁶⁶. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p.71)

On the other hand, Shtime has always been underdeveloped since the socialist times, and it still remains within the category of undeveloped municipalities, such the case with the mountainous settlement of Dragash, which shows that positive trends have neither been encouraged nor employed in the postwar phase .



Map 3.27. Regionalization by economic development

Source: Institute for Spatial Planning., "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p.72)

3.3.2 Unequal demographic and social development

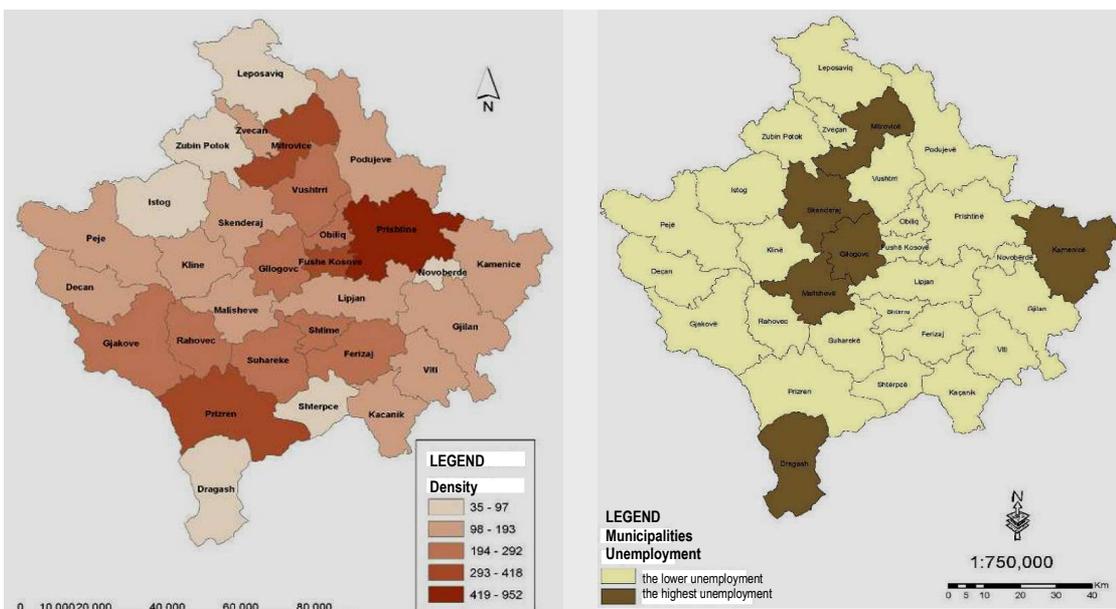
The unequal development rate discussed above has led to depopulation of underdeveloped settlements, resulting in high rates of people's migration from rural to urban areas, much more than from urban to more developed urban areas.

The war also had an impact in the migration and the depopulation of the less developed settlements due to fact that the heaviest war destruction took place in villages and small towns. As a result, majority of families found shelter in cities, being considered as places of economic opportunity.

Prishtina as a capital city, portrays the best the phenomenon of migration and of socio-economic development which led to the unequal development of Kosovo as a whole, as the citation below shows:

*“The difference between the capital and other cities is that Prishtina is where most of the former rural inhabitants gravitate, not only from surrounding villages, but from throughout Kosovo, which as a consequence resulted in the violation of the norms for urban life”.*⁶⁷

The shift in demographic and social development has contributed directly to the ratio of land use and inhabitable properties. As a consequence of this phenomenon and the lack of human and financial resources to administer the growth, Kosovo today struggles with a horizontal and unplanned expansion of cities, irrational use of agricultural land (abandoned, empty and unused properties due to migration, and informal constructions), lack of infrastructure, environmental pollution and similar issues.⁶⁸ The pattern of demographic and social development follows the one of economic development, as presented in the map below. (map 3.28)



Map 3.28. Demographic and social development .

Source: Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+, (p.p 20-23)

⁶⁷. Institute for Spatial Planning, “Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+”, MESP, 2010 (p.21)

⁶⁸. Ibid, (p.71)

Municipal Development Plans according to period when they were created:

2005- Lipjani municipality

2007- Peja and Suhareka municipalities

2008- Gjakova, Deqani and Gjlani municipalities

2009- Shtime, Ferizaj, Glogovc, Istog, Mitrovica and Vushtri municipalities

2010- Vitia, Klokoti, Obiliqi, Skenderaj and Kaqaniku municipalities

2011- Junik and Fushe Kosova municipalities

2012- Prizreni, Kamenica and Novoberda municipalities

2013- Prishtina, Rahoveci, Dragashi and Mamusha municipalities

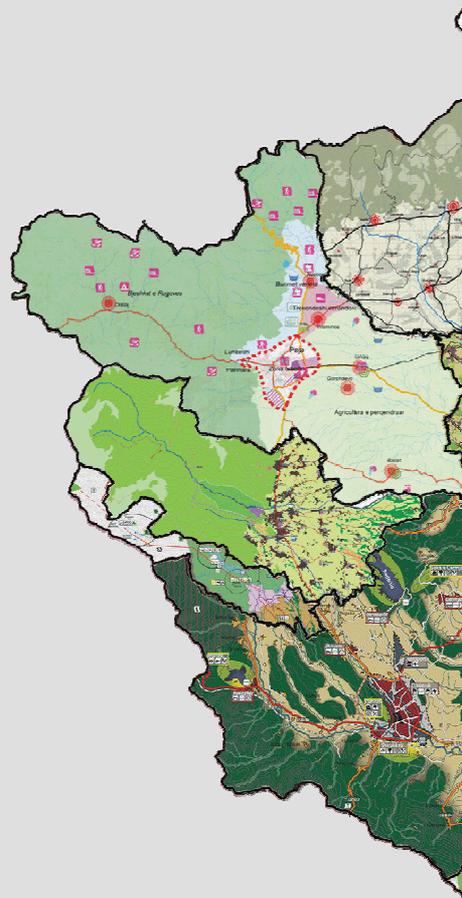
2014- Graçanica municipality

2014- Klina municipality

Few of municipalities have started drafting their MDP-s from 2010 or 2012 and they are still ongoing, these are Podujeva, Hani i Elezit, Shterpce, Malisheva and Ranuillug municipalities.

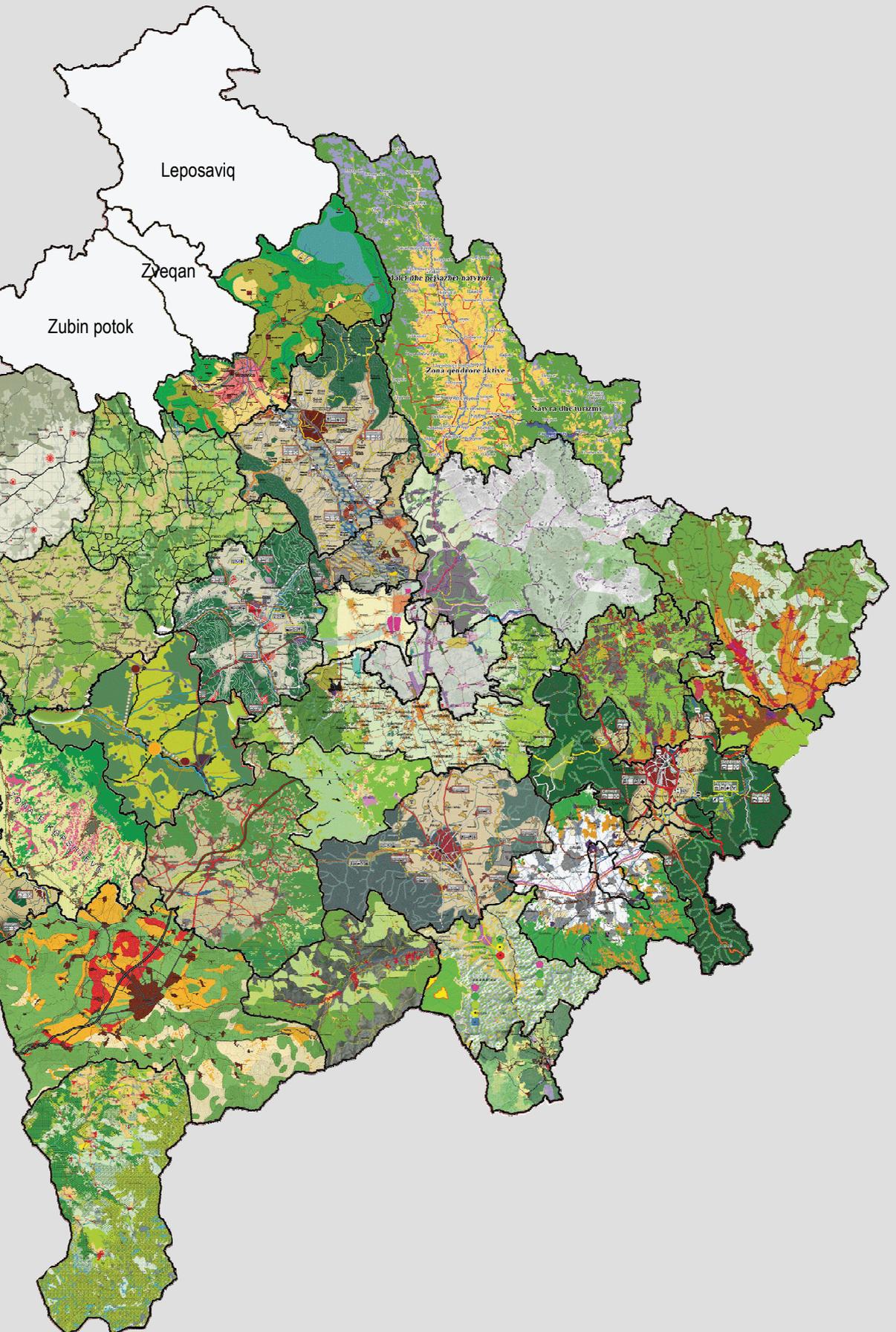
For a few of them, there are no existing data: Leposaviq, Zubin Potok, Zveqan and Partesh municipalities.

Few municipality plans have been carried out as a part of other bigger municipalities, as case with Klokot which is integrated in the MDP of Viti municipality.



Map 3.29. Differences in the graphic presentation of MDP in Kosovo

Source: compiled by author, Information's gathered from Institute for Spatial Planning, MESP, 2013



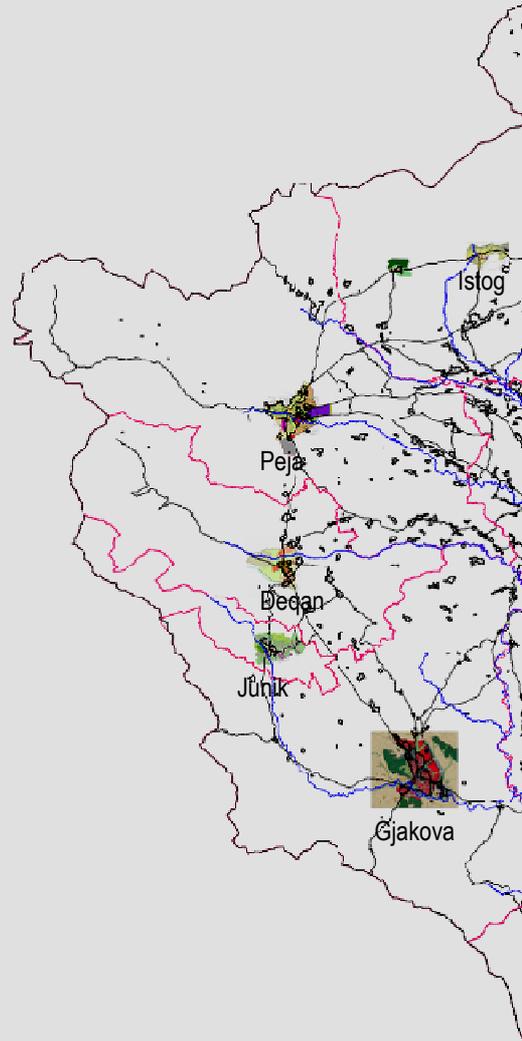
Urban Development plans according to the period when they were created :

- 2003- Prizreni Urban Plan
- 2004- Malisheva Urban Plan
- 2005- Lipjani and Fushe kosova Urban Plans
- 2006- Klina Urban Plan
- 2007- Peja and Suhareka Urban Plans
- 2008- Gjakova, Gjilani and Deqani Urban Plans
- 2009- Shtime, Junik, Istog, Glogovc, Mitrovica, Vushtrri and Ferizaj
- 2010- Skenderaj, Obiliq, Vitia, and Kaqanik
- 2012- Kamenica Urban Plan
- 2013- Prishtina Urban Plan (previous plan so called "strategic plan" was made 2006)

Other municipalities have not started yet or they are in process.

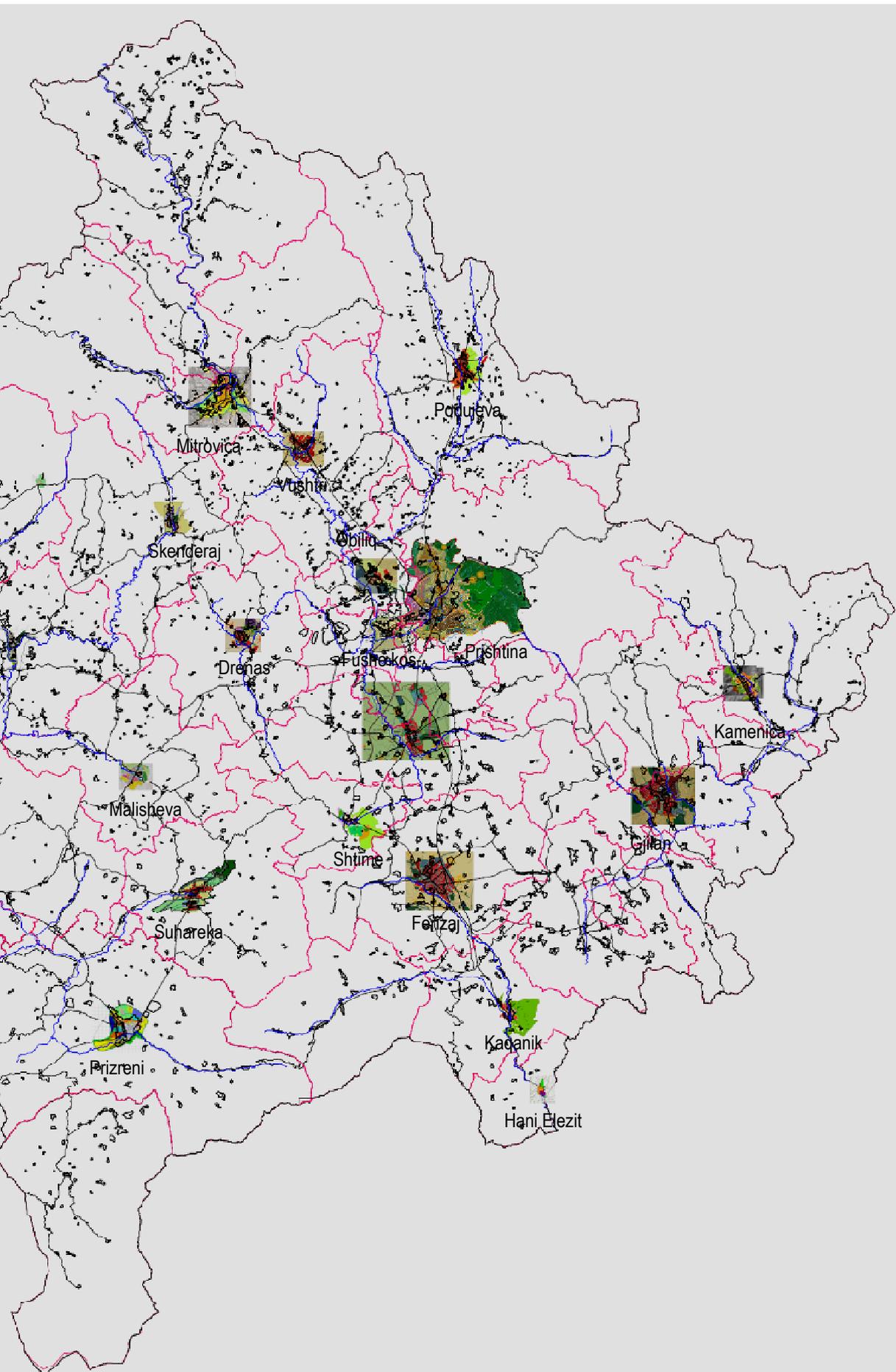
Whereas, municipalities with the majority of Serbian population are still working according to General Urban Plan done 2010-2011, and they are: Leposaviq, Zubin Potok and Zveqan.

In 2010, Istog municipality except UDP for urban zone, drafted an additional three sub urban plans for: Vrella, Gurakoc and Rakoshi ones.



Map 3.30. Differences in the graphical presentation of UDP and there coverage in Kosovo

Source: compiled by author, information's gathered from Institute for Spatial Planning, MESP, 2013



3.3.3. Differences in territorial development (urban patterns)

Kosovo cities disclose the interplay of different periods and forms of cultural production.⁶⁹ However, the differences in territorial development which emerged after the fall of the Ottoman Empire are the ones that best show the type of urban dynamics encountered today.

While cities which are located in the western part of Kosovo have somewhat retained their historic patterns, cities in the eastern part Kosovo with Prishtina being the heart of the area, have developed new patterns which contradict and ignore in fragments historic urban patterns and certain morphological characteristics.

For illustration, river presents one of vital features which have conditioned the deviation from historic urban patterns in the 20th century Kosovo. The positioning of modernization policy in spatial terms and physical urbanization of cities facing the river as a spatial potential and generator is one indicator that can be used today to comprehend, therefore, describe the differences in territorial development of Kosovo cities.

Although scholars have acknowledged that *"stratification of the city into different zones, cultures, and contexts of action is not sufficient to describe an urban quality"*⁷⁰ this exercise in the case of Kosovo is vital in order to understand important momentums in the definition or otherwise, reinvention of urban pattern.

Sketches of main cities in Kosovo as given in the maps below, along with explanations which tell about differences in positioning the territorial development and focusing of city center towards the river, best show how present typologies of main cities in Kosovo perform.

Gjakova: (see map 3.31.) The longitudinal city derives from the city's historic core called 'Old Bazaar', which stretches along the western side of river Krena and is approximately 900m long. It is considered as the longest and largest bazaar in the Balkans. Modernist city planning in the case of Gjakova was substantially conditioned by its historic core as well as the city morphology. Although the river in particular does not represent the backbone of urban activities, due to its negligence during the modernist development, the river has conditions the city form, its development and expansion along northwest-southeast axis.

Peja: (see map 3.32.) In contrast to the city of Gjakova which has a longitudinal form, Peja's urban pattern is radial, with neighborhoods being developed over the time around city's historic core. Similar to Gjakova, the river Lumbardhi in Peja has conditioned the modernist city planning, but at the same time, the river has caused a physical division of the city into the "downtown" in north and under planned part of the town in south called Kapeshnica. There are efforts in modern-day city planning to turn the river into the socio-spatial backbone of the city Peja, yet, it will require not only the focus on the river area, but more importantly, overall development of the southern part of the city as a whole.

Prizren: (see map 3.33.) In contrast of Gjakova and Peja, urban development objectives for Prizren go very much in synergy with the Lumbardhi river, which represent the backbone and the most vital morphological and socio-cultural feature of Prizren. However, the city expansion, as can be noted in the sketch, does not follow the river (longitudinal development), by which Prizren manages to maintain its compact city form inherited from the past. The southeastern part of the city consists of the medieval fortress on top of a hill, it is preserved (not urbanized) and is the most representative feature of the city.

Prishtina: (see map 3.34.) the case Prishtina is unique for Kosovo, and perhaps for the region and beyond due to the fact that the modernist urbanization had buried two city rivers, and built roads and buildings on top of them.

⁶⁹ Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.116)

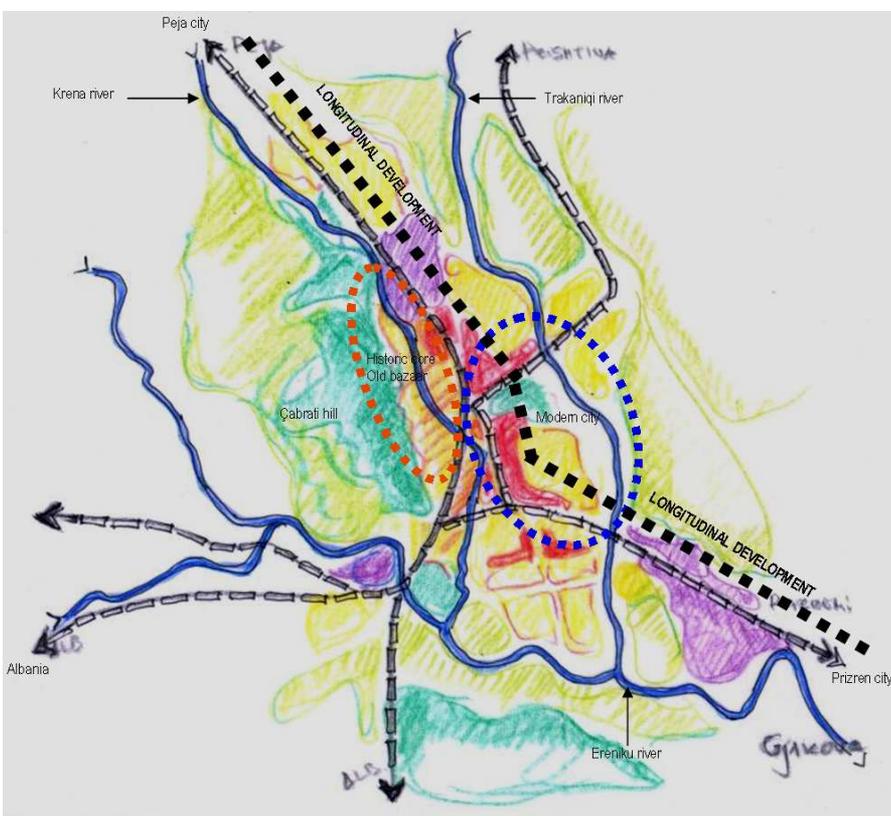
⁷⁰.ibid, (p.118)

The same was with the city's Old Bazaar, which during the modernist era was destroyed to let space for administrative center of Kosovo (today, the buildings of Kosovo's Parliament and of the Municipality of Prishtina). Such change in the city's morphology has caused irreparable damage to the city's identity and development orientations which ought to strengthen the synergy between urbanity and land. Prishtina rivers-Vellusha and Prishtina/ Prishtevka–today represent part of city's memory, despite of the fact that their recuperation has been part of urban planning documents since 2004. In terms of city form, Prishtina developed in a radial pattern, conditioned by city's historic core. The old part of the city is very compact, and has quite substantially preserved the old street layout.

Mitrovica: (see map 3.35.) The city developed its urban core in a great dialogue with the river. The city expansion during the modernist era did not take on longitudinal development but it assumed compact city form in which case the river area lost its temporal and spatial relevance.

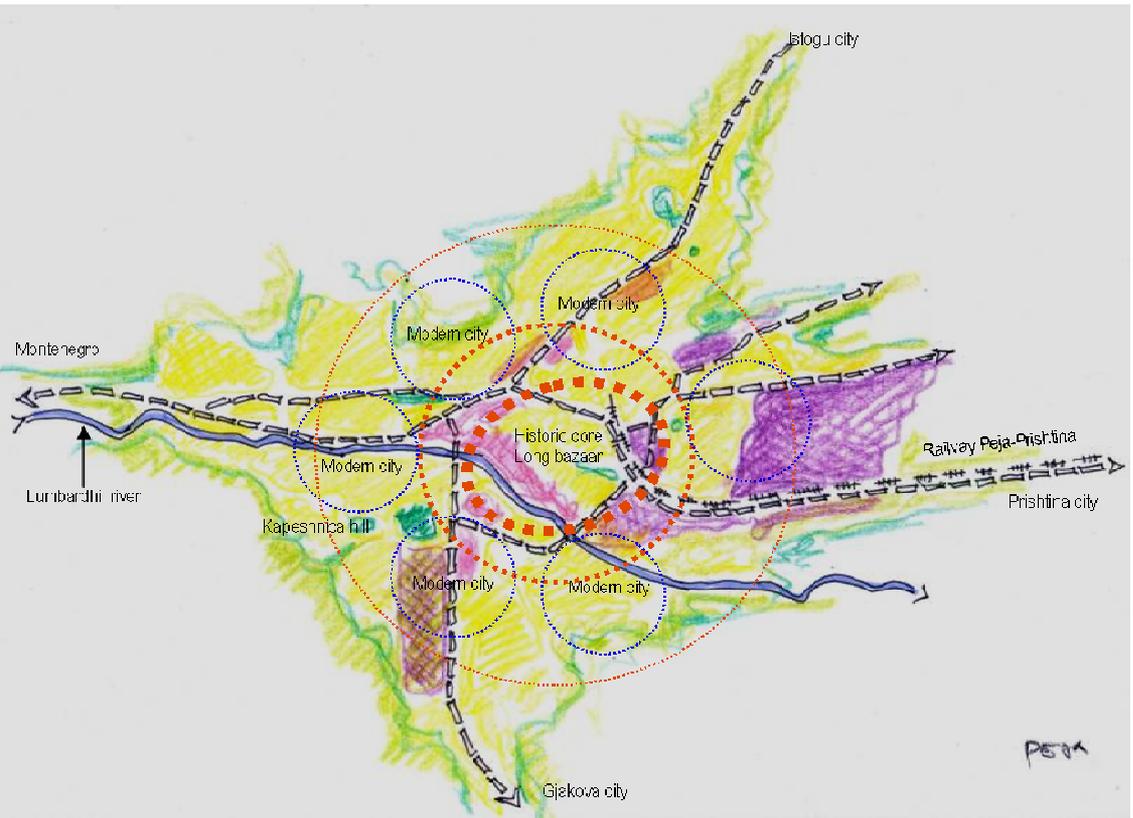
Gjilan: (see map 3.36.) The case of Gjilan is slightly different; the river continues to be in the heart of the city. Like in other Kosovo cities, Gjilan has maintained its compact form, while tendencies in urban development tend to regenerate the river area and turn it into the vivid part of city center.

Ferizaj: (see map 3.37.) The backbone of Ferizaj, on the other hand, is the railway line, also associated with the town's history as a railway station which grew quite rapidly into a town. The city's form is therefore longitudinal following the development line of the railway. The river in the case of Ferizaj represents no strong side of urban development- a positioning which should be questioned in the future.

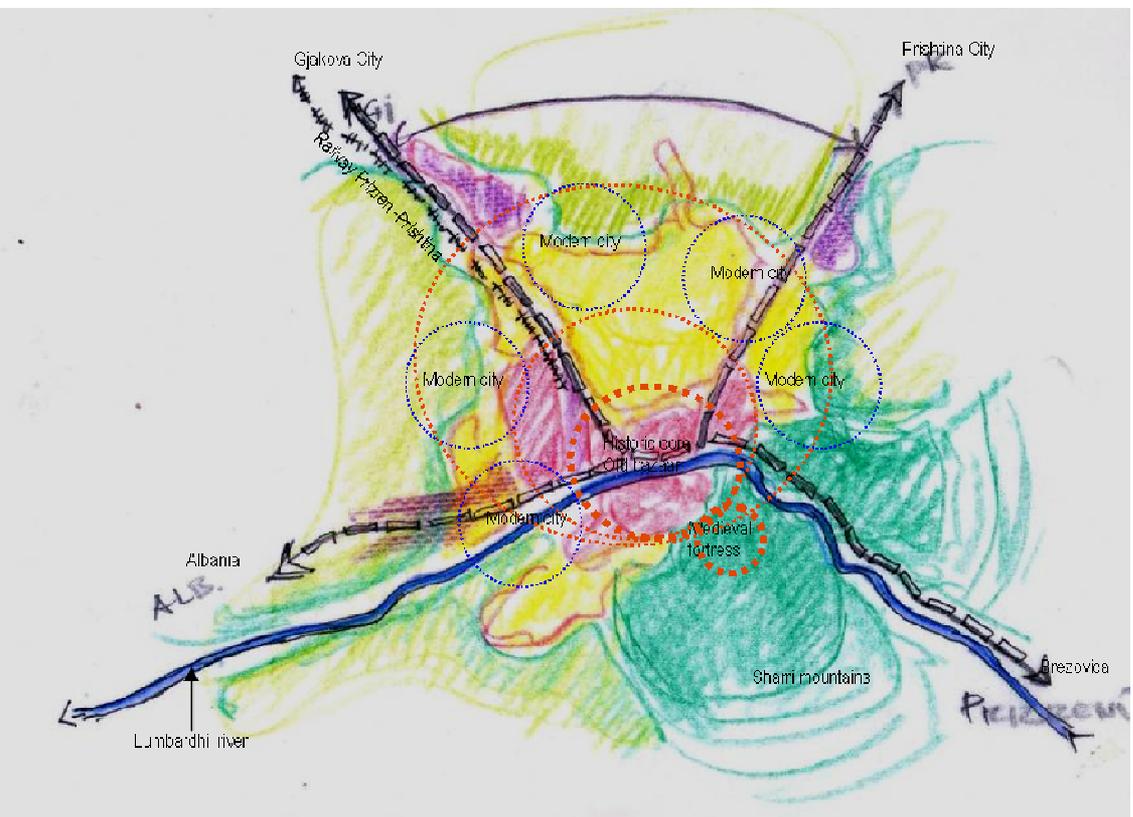


Map 3.31. Present typology of Gjakova city (longitudinal).

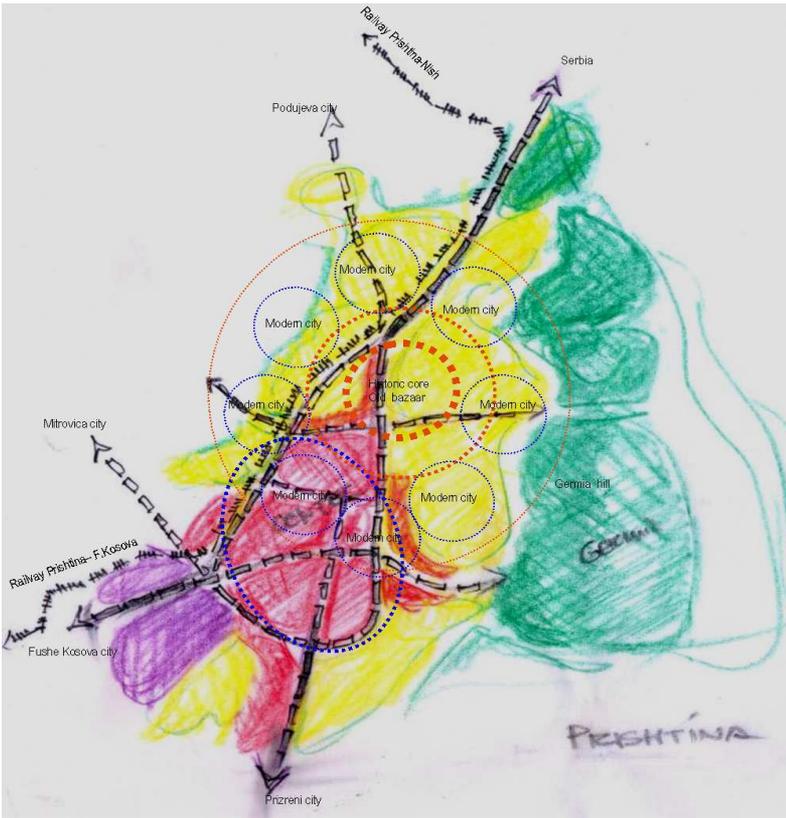
Source: drawing from author



Map 3.32. Present typology of Peja city (radial).
 Source: drawing from author

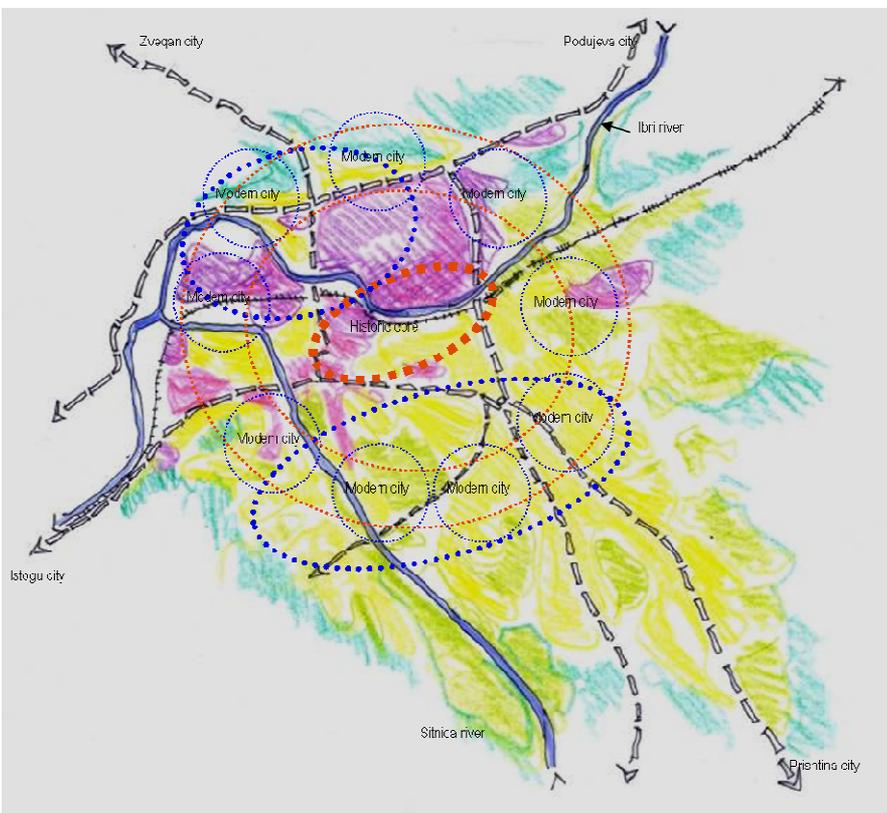


Map 3.33. Present typology of Prizren city (radial).
 Source: drawing from author



Map 3.34. Present typology of Prishtina city (radial).

Source: drawing from author

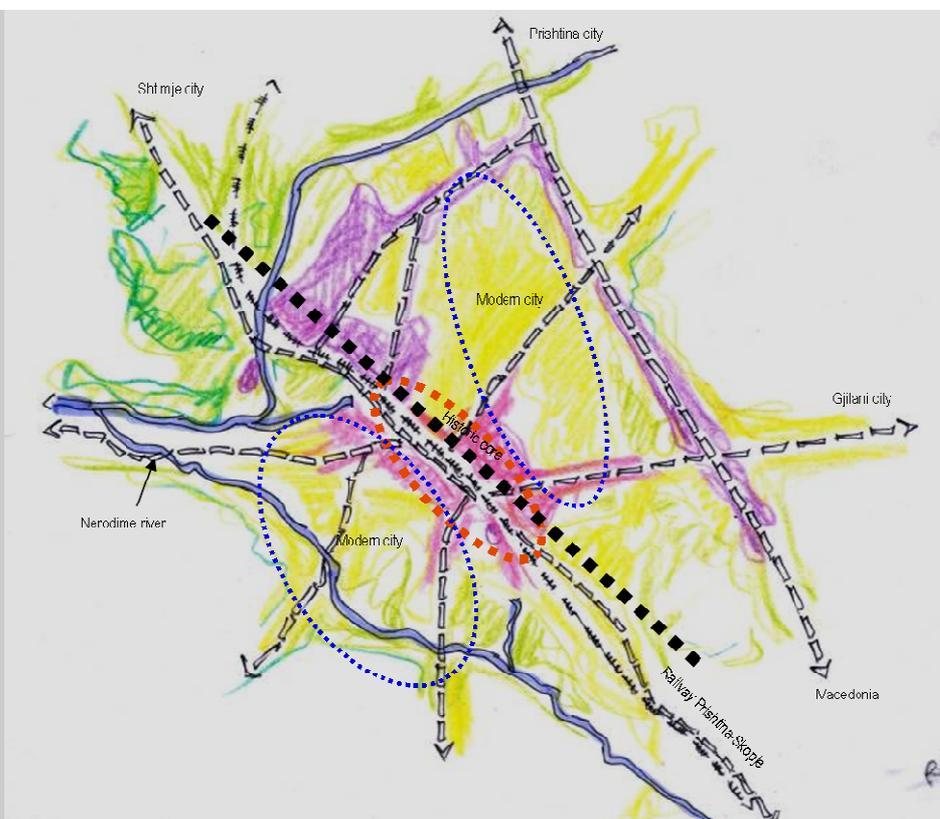


Map 3.35. Present typology of Mitrovica city (radial).

Source: drawing from author



Map 3.36. Present typology of Gjiilan city (radial).
Source: drawing from author



Map 3.37. Present typology of Ferizaj city (longitudinal).
Source: drawing from author

3.4 Networks, borders, differences: toward a theory of the urban

As can be noted and likewise argued by scholars and practitioners in spatial and urban planning, the process of urbanization has changed fundamentally in the start of the new millennium.

With ought exception vis-a-vis other parts of the world, the dominant form of centric urbanization which existed until recently begun to change; cities today are influenced by forces and factors of global economy: the process of urbanization has become undirected and former suburbs are being deranged by urban sprawling.

Centrality and urban centers are being replaced by eccentric urban configurations, manifested in a form of heterogeneous city structures and polycentric urban regions. The problem of centrality in urban studies has been tackled by many urbanists and a number of terms have emerged to describe various forms of peri urbanisation in the world.⁷¹

The American peripheral centrality termed “edge city” by Joel Garreau in early 1990s was later complemented by Saskia Sassen’s thesis of global city and its frontiers, and the city of the world economy.

“Cities without cities” coined in 2003 by Thomas Sieverts is another term which helped to better understand a new type of urban form which consists of built areas but which do not represent cityness; yet are cloistered and linked by means of transport routes.

Rem Koolhaas has tried to explain this phenomenon through the elaboration of what he called a “generic city” stripped of fundamentals of authenticity and centrality. He also theorized on the phenomenon of “Cities Unbuilt” back in 2007 based on local stories of urbanization in Prishtina and Berlut.⁷²

However, generalizations of cases of urbanization of the periphery have failed to explain the trends which occurred in parallel and in the very heart of the city.

While the periphery underwent certain new forms of urbanization, the city centers facing what was called, the “rediscovery of the urban.”⁷³

The theoretical approach that would support and explain both generalization and particularities of present-day urbanization processes which tackle the notions of “City” and “Space”, is the one of the French philosopher Henri Lefebvre developed in early 1990s.

It is his very social theory that analyzes spatial processes and phenomena that is being increasingly considered in the last years by a variety of disciplines whose focus is the city.

⁷¹. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute., “Switzerland An Urban Portrait”, Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.164)

⁷². Archis Interventions Prishtina,t.al, “Magazine Amsterdam” Edition I, 2007,(pp.80-93), The study about the City unbuilt was carried out by the Archis Interventions Prishtina - a branch of the Archis Interventions network and Archis Foundations founded by R. Koolhaas et.al. see. <http://www.amazon.com/Volume-11-Unbuilt-Rem-Koolhaas/dp/9077966110>

⁷³. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute., “Switzerland An Urban Portrait”, Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.165)

Lefebvre's theory was used in the recent urban research in Switzerland and in providing the conceptual ground for its urban profile.⁷⁴

The framework which is based on three concepts mentioned earlier in this research, that is, networks, borders, and differences, is regarded as the appropriate theoretical ground for researching on the spatial and urban profile of Kosovo.



Figure 3.5. The world and the city in the 21st century. As features on the cover of Saskia Sassen's book "Cities in a World Economy", 2013
Source: Saskia Sassen. 2013. Urbanizing non-urban economies. Ports, mines, plantations. In: <http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2013-03-15-sassen-en.html>

⁷⁴. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.165)

3.4.1. Theoretical frame

The process of urbanization is closely linked to industrialization. In the case of Kosovo, industrialization occurred after the Second World War, yet, in certain targeted territorial and economic areas. Also, industrialization did not have large impact in urbanization of Kosovo. Instead, what former Yugoslavia expected from Kosovo and therefore obtained throughout the second part of the 20th century was energy, based on the mega reserves of lignite and the power plant in Obiliq, as well as mineral resources, through the giant state-owned enterprise of Trepça.

Both industries were territorially based on the Kosovo plain. The first was based near the city of Prishtina and the second near Mitrovica. This industrial giants were able to supply the entire federation of the former Yugoslavia. Other industrial capacities: food processing, textile, wood, etc., were established in small capacities and distributed evenly in all Kosovo towns, basically as parts of larger chain industries, each led by respective capital city of former Yugoslav republics.

All these industrial sectors were operational in Kosovo for not longer than 40 years; once the respective production chain got broken in the federal level, industrialization process in Kosovo virtually stopped.

After the war of 1999, Kosovo failed to activate its production capacities. In parallel, urbanization occurred due to migrations from rural areas due to potentials of service-based economy. In this process, as found by Lefebvre, small and medium-sized cities became dependent on the large cities. In Kosovo, the example is drawn from Prishtina the capital city.

The city as a historical category. According to Lefebvre, the city historical category is breaking down in the process of urbanization. Therefore, the city should be embedded in the context of society as a whole and its content should be redefined. Here Lefebvre provides three aspects which are particularly significant in this endeavor: mediation, centrality, and difference.⁷⁵

(1) Mediation: communication between local and global levels is becoming evident and robust. In this process, the local dimension is being compromised, while the society is absorbing global features of urbanity. According to Lefebvre, cities have ability to rebuild themselves, for being places of mediation.

(2) Centrality, being the key feature of a city, “*both as an act of thinking and as a social act*”,⁷⁶ a place of encounter and exchange, also understood as the totality of differences. Centrality is also important due to the fact that cities are centers of political decision; This fact is also found in Kosovo where the mayor of Prishtina is equally powerful as a Minister of i.e. spatial planning and environment. For this reason, Lefebvre finds that cities thus become a contested terrain.

(3) Difference, the third feature of the city, that is contradictions, contrasts, superimpositions, juxtapositions of different realities are found in cities, are identified, acknowledged, recognized, and tested among one another.

⁷⁵. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, “Switzerland An Urban Portrait”, Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.166)

⁷⁶. Ibid, (p.167)

The production of the space (city). For Lefebvre, space is a social product.

He considers that the production of space can be split into three dialectically related dimensions or processes– triads- which he called "formants" or "aspects" of the production of space.

One set of the triad is phenomenological: that is "spatial practice-representation of space -spaces of representation" and the other is linguistic and semiotic: "perceived-conceived-lived space".⁷⁷ Based on these considerations and on the aforementioned triad of "Mediation-Centrality-Difference", the production of the city is enabled through the very interaction of differences emerging through mediation and colliding with one another in the context of spatial, social economic and political centrality.

Thus, the city is a conceived space or a representation space, through a map, an urban plan, which is, through an image of the city, and through other ways of demarcation of the content and the definition of meanings attached to the city. To illustrate, the city of Prishtina is defined through strategies and interests which imply its image as a young capital of a young European country, which is a certain dimension "format" that excludes city's urban form and its physical space from the process of production.

On the other hand, the city is the place where people live; it is a lived space as well. The diversity of people residing in the city, i.e. culture, activities, functions, age, social groups, etc, provides the potential and the ground for production. These differences are therefore crucial to comprehend in the way they are experienced and interact /perform in our daily life.⁷⁸

⁷⁷. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch, ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, "Switzerland An Urban Portrait", Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.168)

⁷⁸. Ibid, (pp.168-169)

3.4.2. The conceptual ground

As previously mentioned, urban space uses Lefebvre's complex theory and the concept of urban space, as composed of aspects of networks, borders, and differences. The combination of three criteria—**networks**, **borders**, and **differences** enables us to understand new forms of spatial and urban in Kosovo, given the fact that, as augmented by theorists, classical criteria such as size, density, and heterogeneity of a city no longer provide the realistic ground for understanding and analyzing urban reality today.

Networks. This conceptual ground acknowledges that networks of interactions can be analyzed and can provide clues for the thesis of complete urbanization in Kosovo through interrogation of material infrastructure, its development, improvement and lastly, through its performance. Performance and quality of networks in urban spaces are further differentiated according to networks' intensity/density (how dense are new urban areas integrated into networks or do they tend to be more self-contained that is, more likely as self-referential traditional rural model), expansion/range (given the fact that new forms of the city are extremely difficult to demarcate), and thirdly, according to their complexity/ heterogeneity (which is a central feature of metropolitan regions, in which overlapping networks produce connections and interactions). ⁷⁹

Borders. Since the flow of networks may be cut, disconnected, or otherwise not disturbed at all by administrative and politically defined territorial borders, the border as an aspect of urban space gains relevance. Urbanization is a process that transforms borders from factors of limitations or closing into zones of exchange.

According to Lefebvre, borders can also interlock differences and encourage dynamic networking. ⁸⁰ Such opportunity which may derive depending on our positioning towards the aspect of borders is not explored in the case Kosovo; hence, comprehension of the concept itself and of new images, and new urban configurations, that emerge from the urban transformation of borders, is crucial for the future spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo. The recent history has shown that the conventional positioning opposite administrative borders in Kosovo has generated potentials which by default keep differences apart and urban regions separated. The concept of borders as zones of exchange, connection of differences and homogeneity should be explored in the future.

Differences. *“Differences are the third fundamental criterion of the urban: the city is where social differences collide and become productive”.* ⁸¹ In this context, difference represents a potential: urban space may be characterized by the presence of such differences, namely, the heterogeneity found in that particular space.

If the urban region is heterogenic, the urban space is further analyzed based on the dynamic or static interaction of differences. We should look at the city as a space which allows the differences to become potentials of its own dynamics.

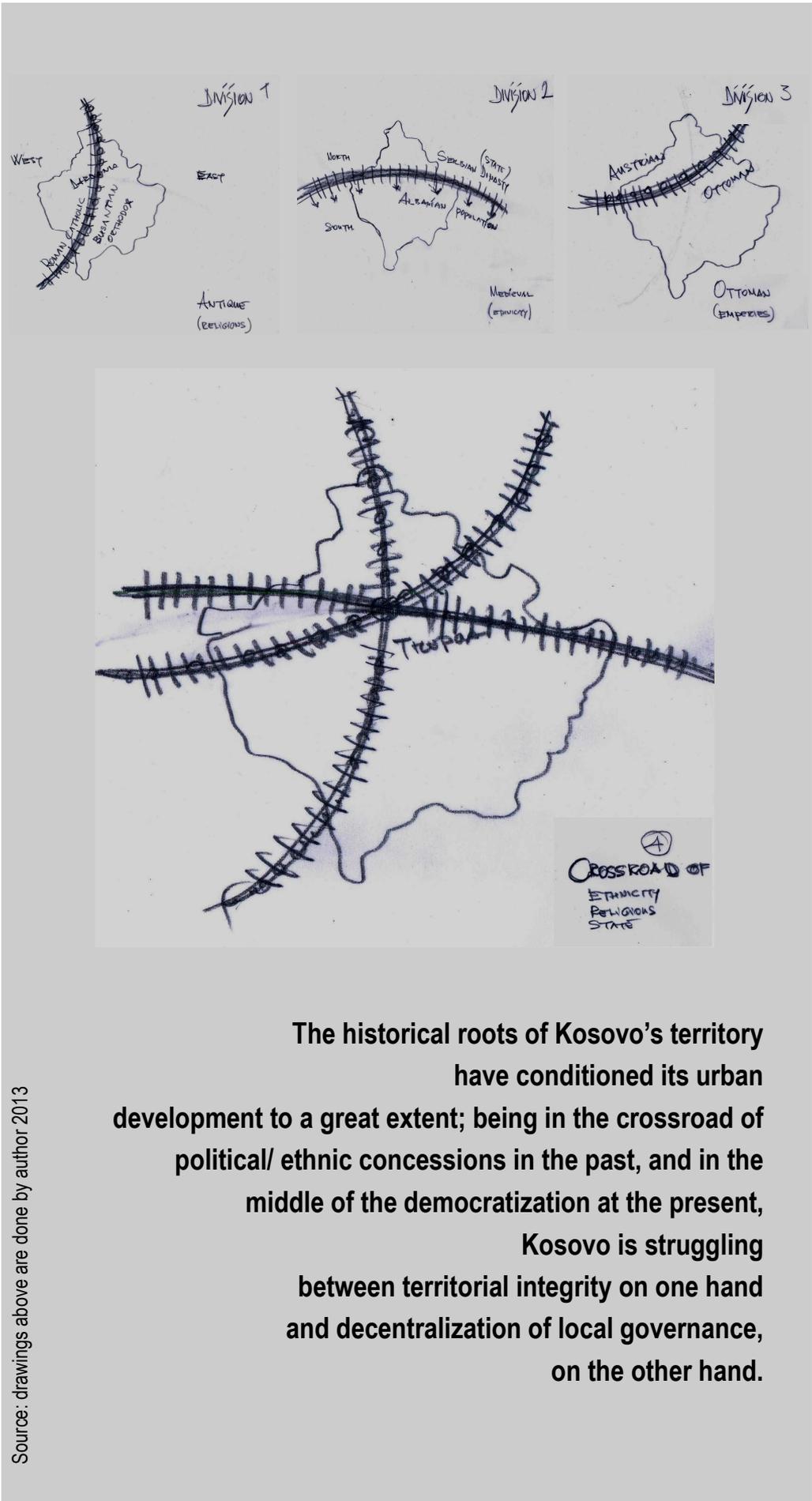
In conclusion, it should be acknowledged that a new understanding of the urban takes account of productive differences in the realm of networks which overcome territorial border realities, as new ways to analyze and manage the urban reality today.

Hence, it is the criteria of networks, borders, and differences, the quality of dynamic and processes of interaction, and not the size, density, or heterogeneity that makes a city today.

⁷⁹. Diener R., Herzog J., Meili M., Pierre M., Schmid Ch., ETH Studio Basel, Contemporary City Institute, “Switzerland An Urban Portrait”, Birkhauser -Publishers for Architecture, Basel, 2006 (p.171)

⁸⁰. Ibid, (p.172)

⁸¹. Ibid, (p.173)



Source: drawings above are done by author 2013

The historical roots of Kosovo’s territory have conditioned its urban development to a great extent; being in the crossroad of political/ ethnic concessions in the past, and in the middle of the democratization at the present, Kosovo is struggling between territorial integrity on one hand and decentralization of local governance, on the other hand.

4. IN THE CROASSROAD- A brief history of the territory

This chapter brings forward argumentations about Kosovo's central position and Kosovo as the cross-road in the region, through elaboration of historical accounts that conditioned this "state of art". Historically, Kosovo was a territory between the east and the west civilization, a frontline between the north invaders and the population in the south; a crossroad between Empires; the modern Kosovo is the crossroad of the EU success, Kosovo's integration in EU would validate the efforts of the international community's involvement in Kosovo since 1999.

Spatial and urban history of Kosovo is that of a territory jammed in the crossroads of various influences. Since the antiquity, many battles have been fought in this territory: borders were drawn on it or have crossed it. Borders have often divided the present-day territory of Kosovo according to interests and needs of empires.

Such circumstances have shaped Kosovo's profile as a "marginal place of meeting of different cultures, traditions and state arrangements".⁸² To understand Kosovo today, its urbanization trends and forms, it is necessary to know the historical geography of this territory and the state of art of remnants that shape its cultural (urban/rural) and natural landscape.

Mapping and interpretation of these places opens the opportunity to understand the transitional nature of Kosovo's urban reality today, and to inspire the comprehension of its future development within the European context.

It should be underlined that the configuration and constellation of present urban forces owe much to the conflict-ridden urbanization of the country which took place after the Second World War, under the regime of former Yugoslavia. During this time, historical urban pattern of towns got disintegrated to the point that it surfaced out the differences and contradictions of the Kosovo history.

Although this was not the stated mission of modernist urbanists in the former Yugoslavia during the second part of the 20th century, the tendentious political stance towards socio-economic development of Kosovo became readable in urban form, and urban interventions became the strongest tool of segregation and division.

Demarcation line of territories which defined municipalities, inherited from late 1980s, continues to be the basis for spatial/ urban planning. Areas of national interest are consolidated through larger landscape plans, while cities and areas of urban landscape importance are still not considered as a category which defines the profile of Kosovo in line with tendencies in outside world.

The city, therefore is where Kosovo should put its efforts in order to construct the 21st century socio-economic and urban future for Kosovo– a country which grounds its future development in networks from within and in the connecting in outside ones; a country that uses borders, inner and outer, to construct a promotive narrative which is the contrary of the present narrative of Kosovo and its borders being stripped of the meaning by the contemporary world.

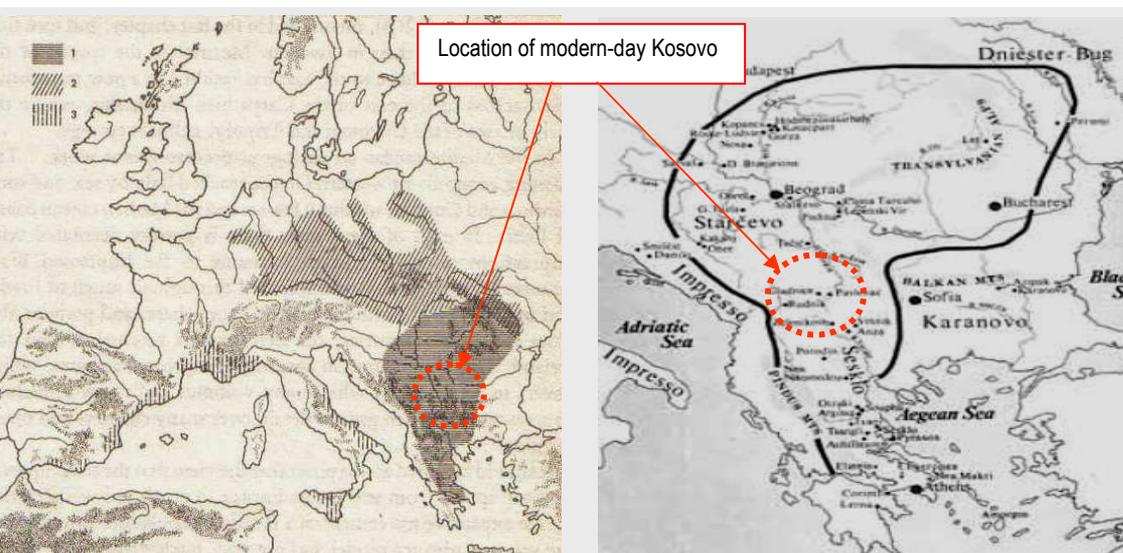
It is necessary to engage in reconstruction of these borders and in interpretation of the emergence of most important urban cells and the way they gradually mutated into gravitating regions, which later developed apart or together into municipalities. This will reveal the temporal and spatial consistency of Kosovo's spatial and urban form and its consolidated geography.

Logically, this leads to a brief history of the territory.

⁸². Altić S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (p 124)

4.1. Prehistory in brief: the networked settlements (6500 BC to 1 AD)

The time frame between 6500 and 3500 BC is regarded as the relative extent of the Neolithic period in the Balkans. Majority of Neolithic archeological sites that were researched in Kosovo prove that Neolithic settlements were situated in fertile lands nearby or close to the river shores. With the spread of agriculture, according to the sources, the beginnings of 5000 BC was the period of population explosion in the Balkan, which resulted in densely populated villages.⁸³ Farming communities which first appeared in the Balkans, that is, between the Adriatic and the Danube, belonged to the archeological early culture-complex of Starcevo (6000-4500 BC) which is the earliest farming group known in the Balkans as shown in the map below (map 4.1.)- and Vinca culture (4500- 4000 BC), being the next phase of the Neolithic era to the Balkans, which marks the spread of farming in the areas towards the mountains around the Adriatic Sea,⁸⁴ (as shown in the Map 4.1).



Maps 4.1. Geographical location of the Early Neolithic culture of Starcevo (6000-4500 BC)

Source of maps (from the left): Map taken from Colin Renfrew, illustrates the distribution the Starcevo culture (near Belgrade, Serbia) of the early European Neolithic farmers, in: http://www.oocities.org/capitolhill/lobby/7681/origins_1.html ;

Map illustrating the extent of Starcevo Culture, in:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hjohnson/New%20Index/Family%20Groups/Group%20Leaders%20Pages/Pin%20Oak%20Reports/inthebeginningupdated2009.htm>

Excavations in Kosovo have disclosed the presence of both cultures, although the Vinca Culture is generally more evidenced. Excavations have also disclosed that dwellings during the Neolithic Age were built with the usage of circumstantial materials, that is, mud and timber found near the settlements. In general, houses (huts) were constructed with a raised floor on a clay platform, and had flat roofs.

Kosovo archeology has retrieved rich and abundant archaeological material consisting of anthropomorphic terracotta figurines, pottery, and other finds, of which, worth of distinguishing is the unique figurine 'Goddess on Throne' found in Prishtina city, which according to the British archeologist Renfrew, belongs to the distinctive group of Kosovar Vinca Culture, and which he had named the 'Prishtina Style'.⁸⁵

⁸³. In the Beginning: Our Deep Ancestral Origins. Available in: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hjohnson/New%20Index/Family%20Groups/Group%20Leaders%20Pages/Pin%20Oak%20Reports/inthebeginningupdated2009.htm>

⁸⁴. Wilkes J., "The Illyrians", Chapter: Prehistoric Illyrians. Blackwell Publishers, 1992 (pp.30-32)

⁸⁵. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp 11-12)



Map 4.2. Geographical location of the Early Neolithic culture of Vinca (4500- 4000 BC)

The map of Lithuanian archeologist Marija Gimbutas showing the spreading of Tordos (Turdas) -Vinca Culture.

Source: <http://www.rovasirasforrai.hu/Forditasok/Comparison-between-sign-systems.htm>

The following chronological period from 3500-2500 BC is the timeline which in Kosovo represents Copper Age. This transitory period between the Stone Age and metal Age is evidenced in Kosovo through several archaeological sites, of which the most important are the multi-layer sites of Hisar in Suhareka and the multi-layer fortified settlement in Gadime e Eperme in Lipjan. ⁸⁶

The following period, the Bronze Age (2500-1100 BC) is likewise present through dozens of settlements, cemeteries and fortresses of the early, middle and late Bronze Age. This period also marks the beginning of Illyrian ethnos which was consolidated during the following Iron Age between 1100 BC and mid 4th century BC. The Dardanian tribe, respectively the Dardanian Kingdom, was the biggest and the most concentrated Illyrian tribe in the modern-day territory of Kosovo, as shall be shown later in this study.

⁸⁶. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.33)

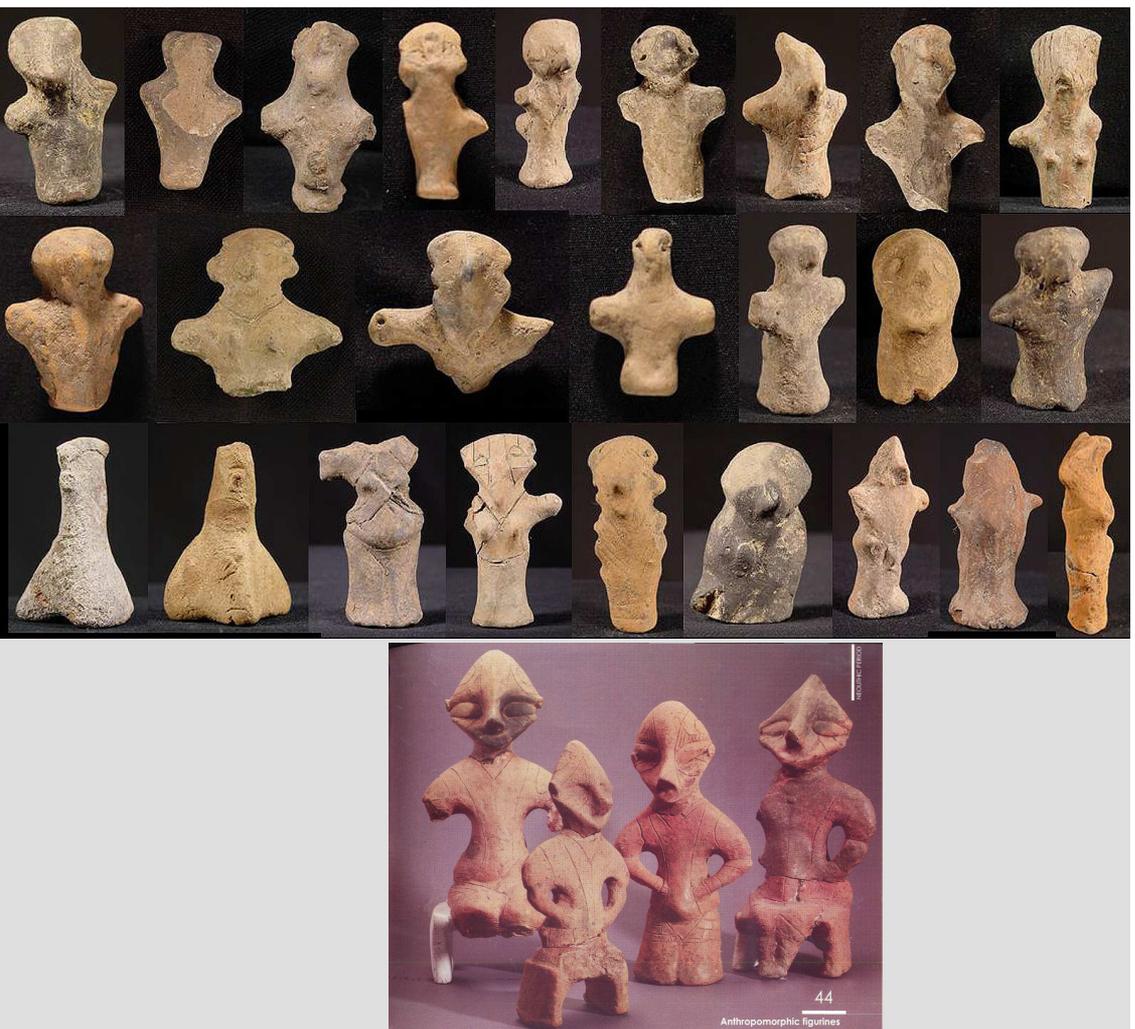
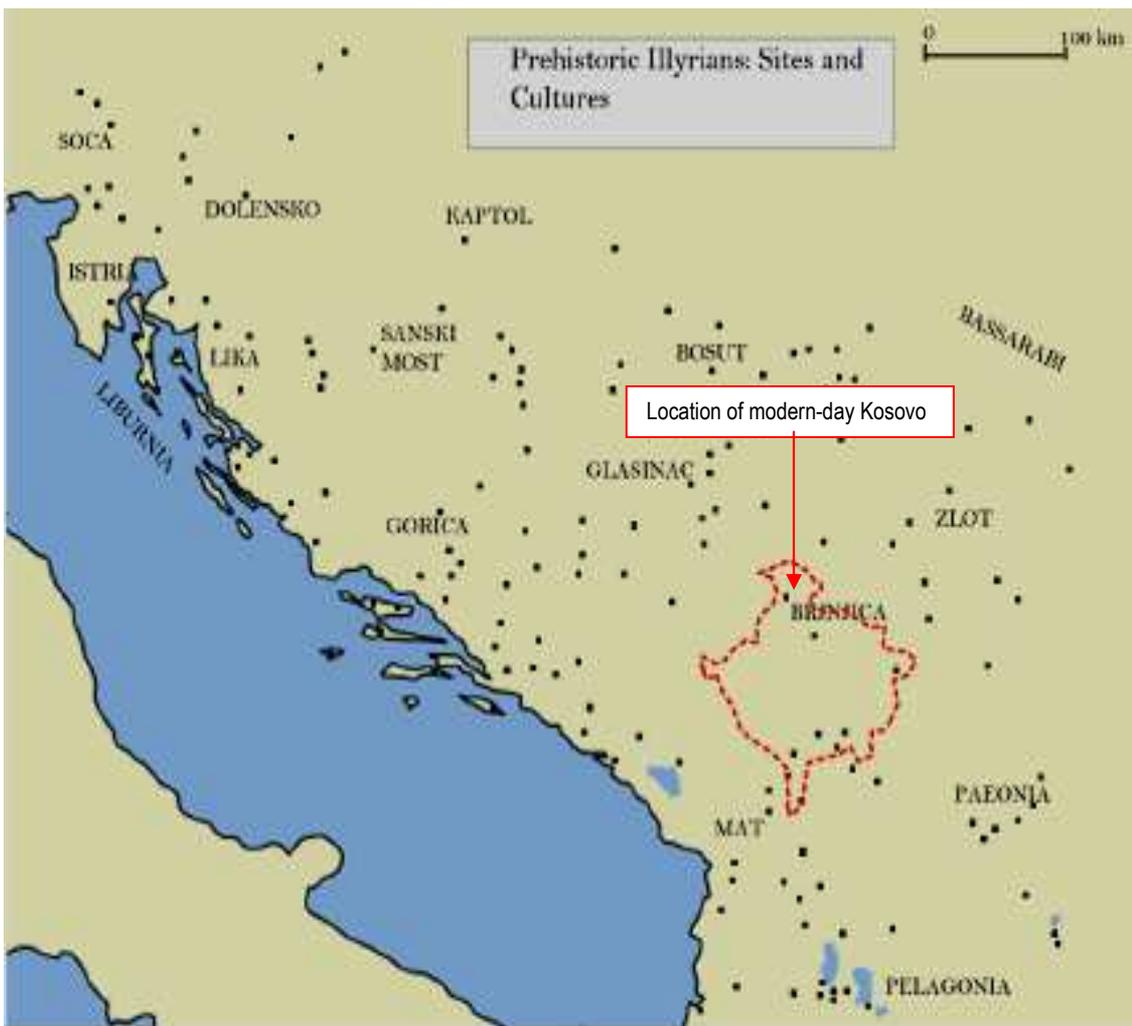


Figure 4.1. Anthropomorphic terracotta figurines from the Neolithic Age; Starcevo Culture (left), source: <http://abakmatematicamaya.blogspot.com/2011/10/bak-matematica-maya-cultura-de-vinca.html>, and Vinca Culture (down), source: Museum of Kosovo "Archaeological Catalogue of Kosovo", Prishtina,2013 (p.45)

Lowland settlements and upland fortresses are characteristic of the Iron Age settlements in Kosovo, which were often protected by traverses and ditches or drywalls, constructed on top of hills, with good geostrategic positions, and partially protected by nature. The "identification stamp" of the Iron Age in Kosovo is burial mounds, or locally known as the Illyrian tumulus graves set in groups or as single Tumuluses. ⁸⁷

⁸⁷. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp 33-34)



Map 4.3. Prehistoric Illyrians sites

Data from "The Illyrians (The Peoples of Europe) by John Wilkes, 1996"

Source: map compiled by author: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cd/PrehistoricIllyriansMap.jpg>

4.1.1. Prishtina region in prehistory

Sources indicate that the region of Prishtina was inhabited in continuity throughout the prehistoric age. Looking at the distribution of major prehistoric sites in this region, identified in the map and figure 4.2, it can be asserted that the majority of prehistoric settlements are found in the western border of the municipality of Prishtina, forming a semicircle spatial shape. Out of around 15 identified major sites, four are multi layer prehistoric sites, which cumulate finds from Neolithic to Bronze Age.

Kosovar variant of the Vinca Culture confirms the concentration of Neolithic settlements in the region of Prishtina

The identifying stamp of the Neolithic Age in Prishtina region is the archeological site "Tjerrtorja" discovered in 1950s, inside the city of Prishtina. This location testifies the presence of the Kosovar variant of the Vinca Culture (civilization of the Neolithic age) in Kosovo, characteristic for anthropomorphic terracotta figurines. The figurine 'Goddess on Throne' discovered in this site, which dates from the forth-third millennium BC, is one of the most precious archaeological artifacts of Kosovo, thus, the Kosovar variant of the Vinca Culture was named "Prishtina Style". According to Maria Gimbutas individual gods can be seen among the figurines discovered in Prishtina.⁸⁸ It should be mentioned that the "Goddess on Throne" was adopted as a logo of the Municipality of Prishtina as well as of the Kosovo Museum. Similar figurines were discovered in villages Barileva (discovered in 1960s), Bardhosh (accidentally discovered in 2002) and village Surkish in Podujevo municipality. Excavation carried out in the last two sites, and finding such as ruins of dwellings, houses with fire places, stone working tools, vessels and fragments of ceramic, etc., ascertain the fact that this area was a Neolithic center inhabited during the New Stone Age.⁸⁹

Metal Age mountainous settlements and necropolises confirm the continuation of habitation in the region of Prishtina between 8-5 century BC.

Excavations and the discovery of necropolises and prehistoric fortresses likewise find that Prishtina region was inhabited in continuity throughout the Metal Age. Discovery of the flat necropolis in the village Lower Bernica (Prishtina)- known as 'urn-fields necropolis', has put Kosovo in the map of unique variants of metal age archeological culture, named "the Bërnica e Poshtme/ Donja Brnica Culture".⁹⁰ Like the necropolis, fortified settlements found in **Gradishta** in Upper Gadime of Lipjan (investigated during the 1973-1974) and in **Bellaçec** (Bardh i Madh) in Fushe Kosova, confirm that Copper Age's and Iron Age mountainous settlement populated the western area of Prishtina, with rich with minerals, and an extraordinary geostrategic position. Excavations confirmed occupancy evidenced based on the discovered material, mainly decorated with caneluras and dots, typical for the Dardanian decoration style of the Dardanian antiquity, respectively the late Iron Age, occupancy of which was active from 8th until 5th century BC.⁹¹

⁸⁸. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.48)

⁸⁹. Ibid, (pp.24-25), (See more about Barileva and Bardhosh Neolithic sites)

⁹⁰. Ibid, (p.45)

⁹¹. Ibid, (p.48)

4.1.2. Gjilan and Ferizaj regions in prehistory

Sources indicate that in the region of Gjilan, the central area of neolithic sites is the area along the road between Partesh and Kllokot, forming a linear spatial shape, while the metal age sites as presented in the map and figure 4.3, are scattered in the region, of which, the burial mound and settlements in Llashtica (Gjilan), and Kalaja (in Kamenica) are described as the most important sites in the region, therefore they are worth of elaboration. On the other hand, the Region of Ferizaj is distinguished by the presence of a famous prehistoric settlement which testifies the presence of the archaeological culture known as the 'Starcevo Culture'.

Finds from the Early Neolithic Period in Varosh from the 6th millennium BC witness the presence of the Starcevo Culture in the region of Ferizaj .

According to the Archeological Institute of Kosovo, this Neolithic settlement, although not excavated archaeologically, has revealed movable archaeological materials which clearly indicate traces of nucleated Neolithic settlements of Starcevo and Vinca cultures. With the help of geophysical recordings undertaken in some parcels of this archaeological site in 2011, several underneath structures that might indicate the remains of Neolithic houses/dwellings were observed.

Metal Age forts and burial mounds (Illyrian tumulus) from 5th-4th century BC witness a vivid civilization of Illyrians, ancestors of Albanians/ Dardans in the region of Gjilan.

It should be noted that Neolithic sites in this region, as it is the case with other parts of Kosovo as well as in the majority of cases when noting prehistoric sites, used to be located along river banks, near the fertile lands.

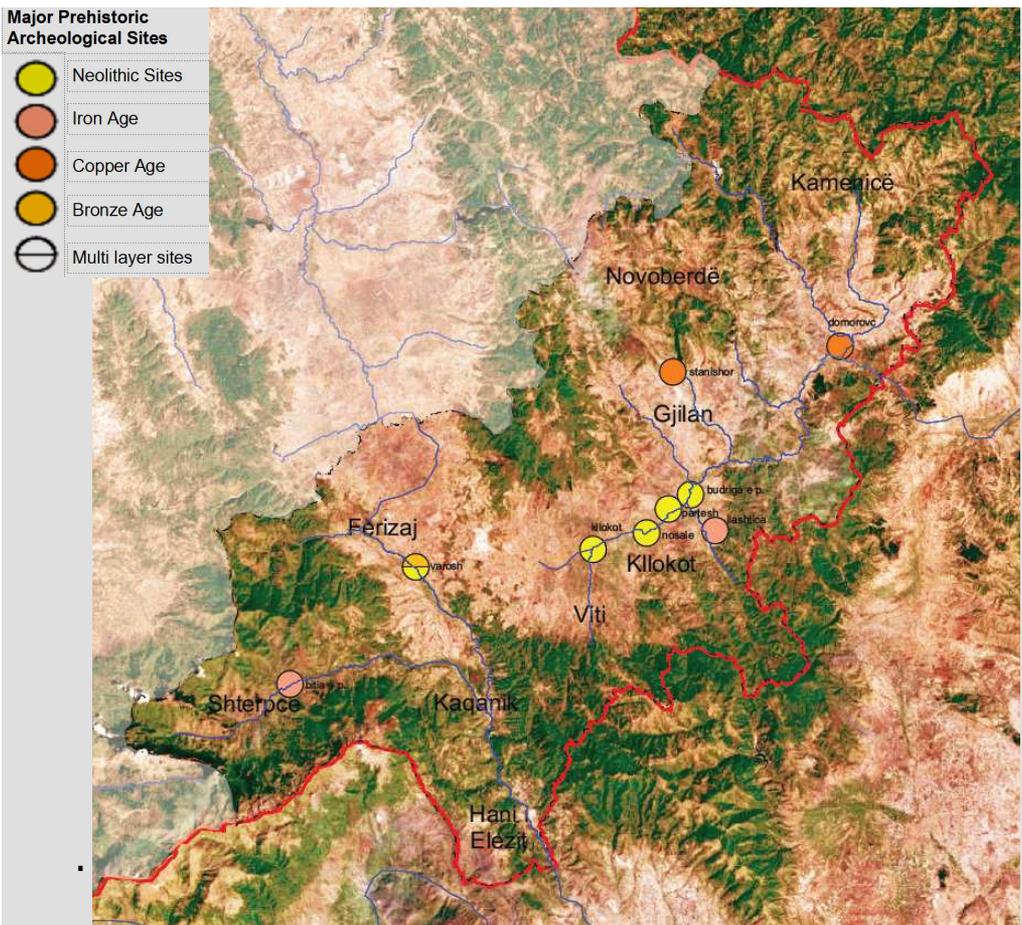
Discoveries from 1980-s and in 2011 in Llashtica village, a site from the Late Iron Age, located in the eastern end of the grouping of Neolithic sites, show nine burial mounds (Illyrian tumulus); one of the burial mounds (tumulus VIII), is in quite good condition and measures in dimensions; 32 x 32m in diameter, and height 1.60m. Archaeological metal finds such as jars, plates and jewelry (fibulas, bracelets, necklaces, etc.) as well as fragmented cult figures with bird motifs, coated in bronze, show that the presence of civilization in the Iron period. ⁹²

This civilization, which is also a continuation of the Illyrian civilization in Kosovo, is well confirmed by the presence of prehistoric forts, such as the Kamenica fort (Kalaja). The Kamenica stela, a precious archeological find which is today exhibited at the lapidarium of the Archaeological Park of the Kosovo Museum, was discovered in the southern part at the bottom of the fort's hill.

It shows a funeral procession scene, modeled most probably during the Classical Period (5th-4th century BC), or earlier. The female mourner's figures of this funerary ceremony, clearly show Illyrian 'xhubleta' (dresses in the shape of campanile), which resemble typical autochthon woman dress still worn in the mountainous and distant rural parts inhabited by Albanians. ⁹³

⁹². Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.50) .See more about Llashtica

⁹³. Ibid, (p.56)



View of an excavated burial mound Lashtica



The Kamenica Stelae (Kosovo Museum)

Figure 4.3. Map of major prehistoric settlements in Gjiilan and Ferizaj regions

Source: map compiled by author, Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.50-56)

4.1.3. Prizreni region in prehistory

Looking at the map and figure 4.4 it can be added that the majority of Iron Age's archaeological sites form a concentration area in the western part of the municipality of Suhareka, with the focus in the Hisar as multy-layer settlement. Whereas the multi-layer archeological site of Vlashnje in the municipality of Prizren, although isolated in spatial terms, represents one of the major prehistoric settlements in Kosovo.

Prizren and Suhareka are multilayer settlements which carry unique evidence of ancient civilization since the 6th millennium BC.

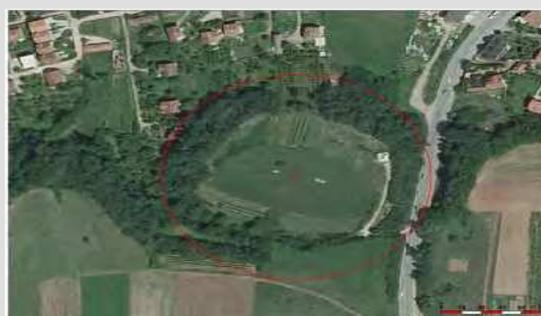
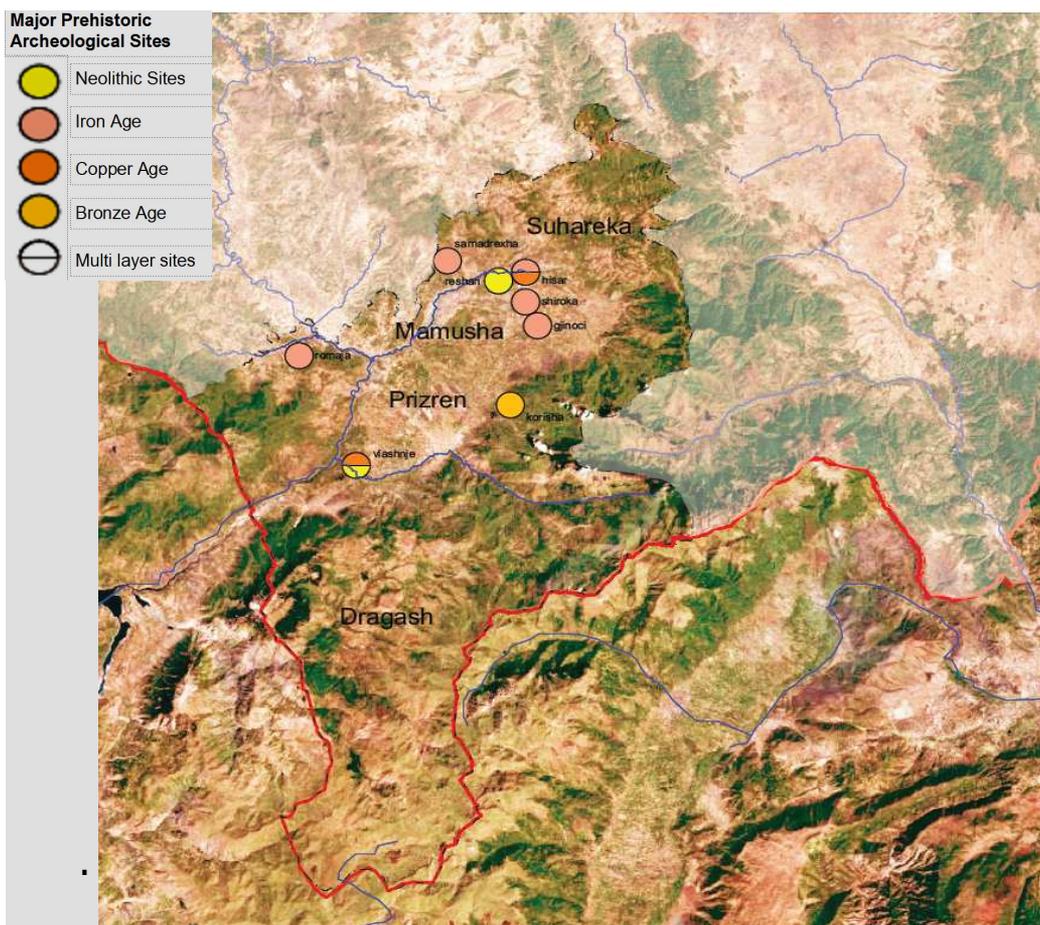
The multilayer settlement of Vlashnje, located on a flat plateau of a raised rocky terrace (335m above the sea level), on the right side of Pristina-Zhur road, and cca. 6km west of Prizren, is an evidence of the continuity of life throughout several historic periods, starting from the early Neolithic (Starcevo Culture, from the 6th millennium BC), Middle and Late Neolithic (Vinca Culture), Copper Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Hellenistic Period, Late Antiquity and Early Medieval Period. Discoveries in this site reveal the fact that Late Antiquity Vlashnje was fortified by the Byzantine emperor Justinian the Great. The fortified area included approximately 2ha and was most likely used as an observation point of the roman road known as Via Lissus- Naissus, which used to bypass the Vlashnje settlement.⁹⁴ Other sites worth mentioning are the Reshtan Neolithic settlement (investigated in 1960s and in 2011), and the well-known prehistoric settlement of Hisar (investigated in 1960s, 1970s, and 2000s), both located in the municipality of Suhareka. While Reshtan discloses three horizons/ layers of occupation, indicating remains and traces of houses with fire place and protection ditches, as well as the presence of Vinca Culture, but also of the Danilo Adriatic Culture,⁹⁵ the multilayer settlement of Hisar which screeches from the Late Neolithic Age until the Iron Age, disclosed material culture of the autochthonous Dardanian population. Hisar, otherwise, represents one of most important prehistoric civilizations in the Balkans.

Burial mounds (Illyrian tumulus) and settlements from 5th-4th century BC witness a vivid civilization of Illyrians/ Dardans, ancestors of Albanians in the region of Prizren

The fortified Bronze Age settlement of Korisha which measures an approximate area of 1ha, with the highest elevation point recording 728 meter, and the lowest 723 meters above the sea level (researched in 2006), as well as the unique Gjinoc burial mound/tumulus (Late Iron Age of the Dardanian antiquity) which measures 84 x 73 m height cca. 10m, and Shiroka group burial mounds (Dardanian cultural group of the tumulus) built by a mixture of earth and river stones in 8th-6th century BC, witness that the region of Prizren used to be an important territory with abundant evidences of prehistoric civilizations.

⁹⁴. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.13)

⁹⁵. *ibid*, (p.22)



Ortophoto of the Hisar hill plateau– a flourished town of a cooper age inhabited by the Dardanian population.



View from the salvage excavations carried 2011 from the Danilo Culture discovered in Reshtan, Suhareka

Figure 4.4. Map of major Prehistoric settlements in the Prizren region

Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.22-36)

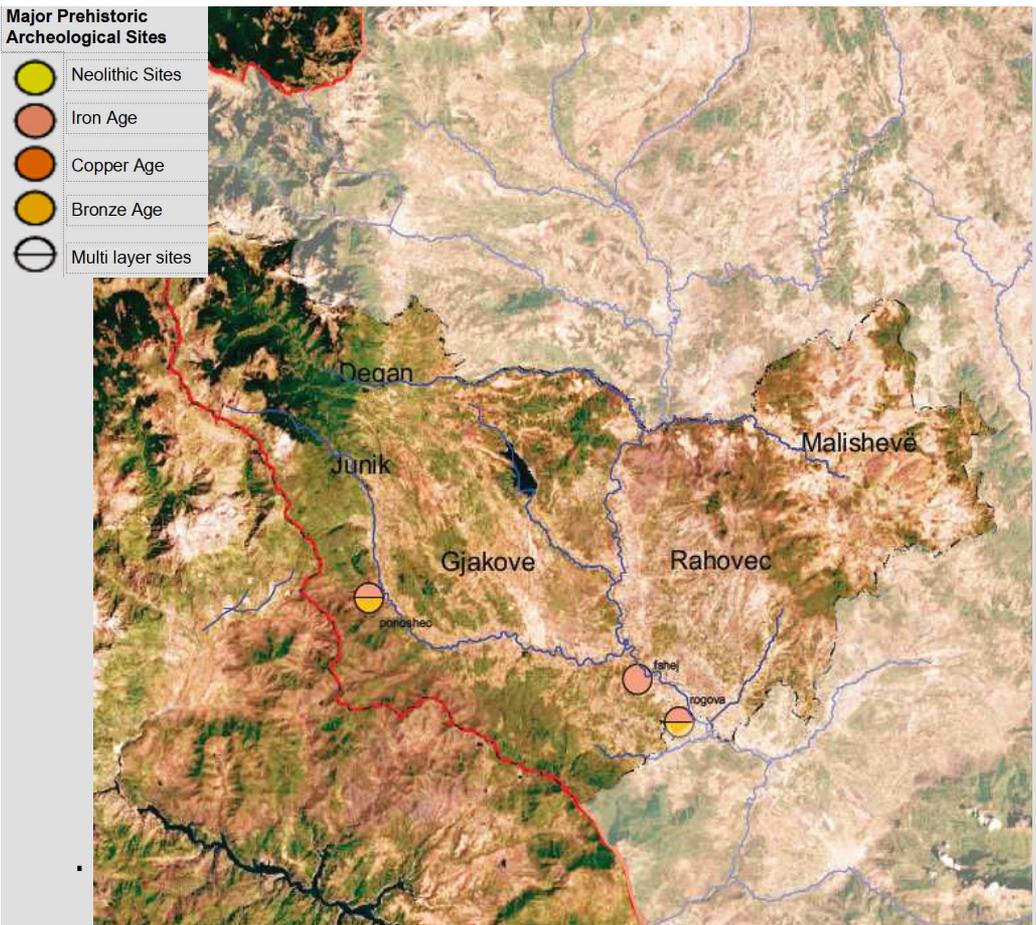
4.1.4. Gjakova region in prehistory

The map and figures 4.5 which indicates major prehistoric sites in the Region of Gjakova shows a concentration of burial mounds in the bordering area with the Prizren region.

The location of the tumuli necropolis of Rogova (complex of 6 burial mounds), Ponosheci and Fshej (complex of 5 burial mounds each) identified in the map and shown in the picture above, indicates that the concentration of the Dardanian civilization in the southern part of the municipality of Gjakova lies in a spatial proximity with a similar group of sites in the Suhareka municipality.

Archaeological findings researched in 2011 clearly confirm the occupancy of Dardanian population at the time period of unification of their ethno culture (7th-6th century BC).

Having said that, it can be concluded that settlements from the Dardanian period are the identification stamp of the prehistoric period of the Gjakova region .



View of the excavated Tumulus in Rogova



View of the excavated Tumulus in Ponoshec

Figure 4.5. Map of major prehistoric settlements in the Gjakova region

Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.42-46)

4.1.5. Peja region in prehistory

Archeological discoveries in the Peja region confirm that, this neighboring region is mainly identified as the area of burial mounds and settlements of the Metal Age. The map and figure 4.6 which indicates major prehistoric sites in the Region of Peja shows a concentration of two micro regions from 6th -5th century BC, which is a period of the formation of Illyrian ethnical and cultural identity. ⁹⁶

The northern micro region stretches along the slopes of Mokna mountains in the municipality of Istog, and the southern one in the southern part of municipality of Klina, known for its rich natural and cultural surroundings and rich thermal water sources that are still being used today in the Banja e Pejes. Then, this region is known for diversity of natural landscape and favorable geostrategic position, as well as archeological sites from different historical periods, which disclose the presence of advanced Dardanian civilization in the Kosovo territory and confirm the continuity and occupancy of the Peja region throughout history.

The Peja region, with its thermal water sources, diversity of natural landscape, favorable geostrategic position, exchange with other prehistoric cultures, confirms the presence of advanced Dardanian civilization in 6th- 5th century BC

The Klina archeological micro region consists of Metal Age settlements of which worth of mentioning are those in villages Glareva (discovered in 1973) and Boka e Përçevës (researched during 1970s). The one in Glareva dates to the Late Bronze Age and consists of two parts, both recorded as necropolises with two different burial rites; first is a typical flat burial constructed with stone plates, and bases covered with gravel, and the second is typical cremation burial. ⁹⁷

The second site in Boka e Përçevës dates to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, and consists of total 19 burial mounds of which only seven were excavated so far. The most particular finds from the Glareva site consist of bronze coated swords and daggers, typical for Mycenaean culture, which tells about existence of established communication links among the inter-tribal societies of the Balkan tribes. ⁹⁸

The Istog archeological microregion includes the site of Late Iron Age (6th -5th century BC.) in Lubozhda and Banja e Pejes, which is about 7km away. Such short distance indicates that these two sites had most probably belonged to the same entity, or were closely linked to each other at the time of their occupancy.

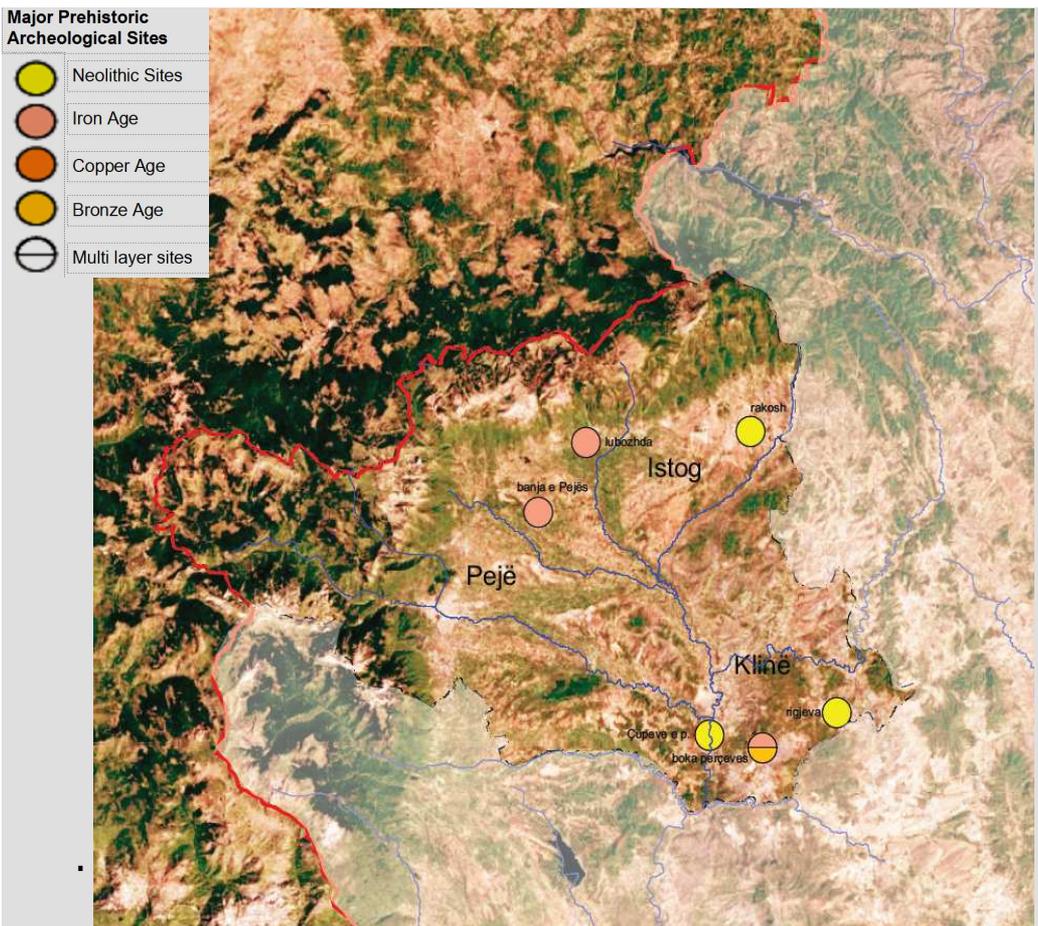
Banja e Pejes is only 12km northwest from Peja and is situated in the crossroad between Peja and Istog. Apart from the thermal water resources, Banja e Pejes is also known as the site of discovery of the Illyrian military helmet (discovered in 1974), and a royal tomb. ⁹⁹

⁹⁶. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.52)

⁹⁷. *ibid.*, (pp.39)

⁹⁸. *ibid.*, (pp.40-41). (See more about Glareva finds).

⁹⁹. *ibid.*, (p.52)



View of the excavations carried in 1986 at Gllareva necropolis. (Kosovo Museum)



A typical Illyrian military helm of the 6th-5th century BC. in Banja e Pejes (Kosovo Museum).

Figure 4.6. Map of major Prehistoric settlements in the Peja region

Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.39-53)

4.1.6. Mitrovica region in prehistory

The region of Mitrovica, as the map 4.7 indicates, is dominated by Neolithic archeological sites. The close proximity with Prishtina region, which is also known for the Neolithic historical layer, indicates that due to fertile lands in river basins, the eastern part of Kosovo carries the stamp of complex ancient civilizations. While majority of major archeological sites found in the region of Mitrovica are grouped in the central part of the region, partly located in the municipality of Zveçan and partly in Mitrovica, the isolated Neolithic site of Runik which is located in the municipality of Skenderaj represents the identification stamp of the Mitrovica region.

Multilayer settlement of Runik in Mitrovica represents an exclusive discovery of Neolithic civilization in the wider region.

The Runik Neolithic site (investigated in 1966-68 and 1984-2010), is one of the most prominent early new Stone Age sites discovered so far in Kosovo, and represents an exclusive discovery, not just for Kosovo, but for a wider region. Runik Neolithic settlement is typical for Starcevo Culture (cca. 6000 BC), and Vinca Culture (cca. 5500–4500 BC) reflecting one of the most developed civilizations of this time.

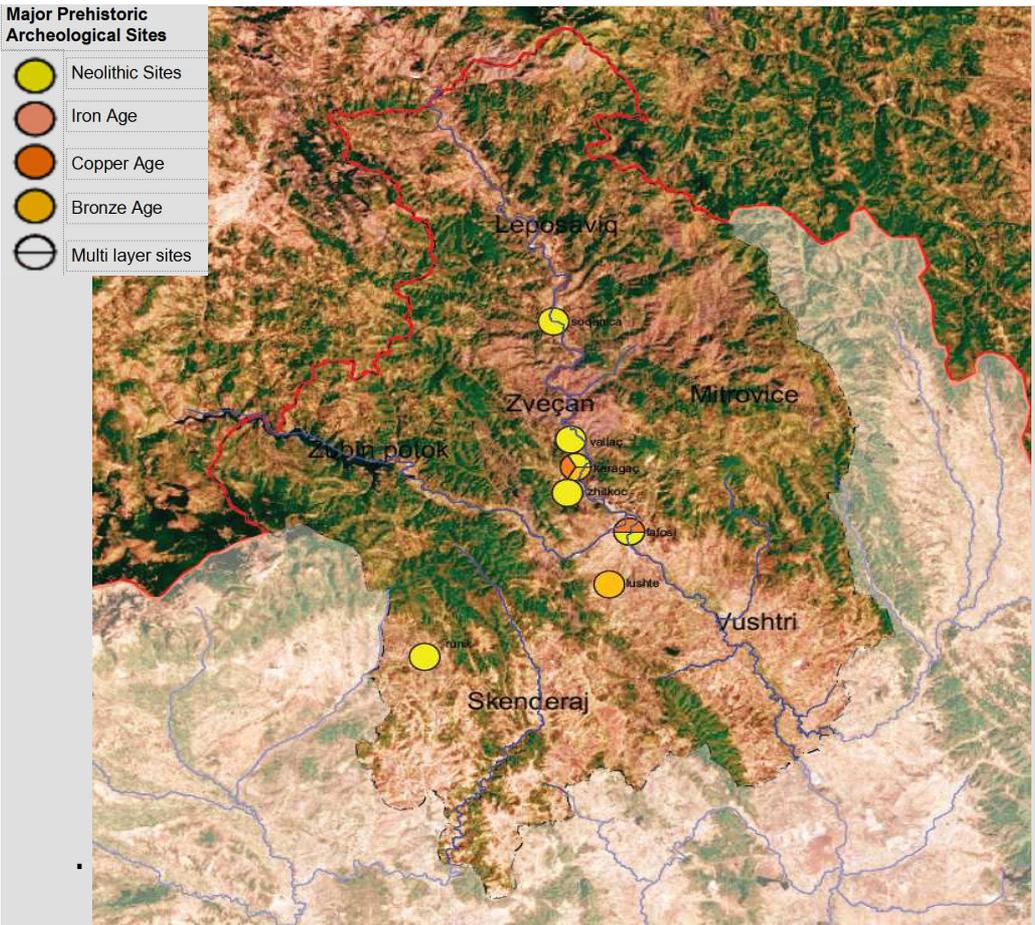
Unique finds from this site are fragments of monochrome pottery with red gloss; decorated earthenware, painted ceramic pottery, as well as anthropomorphic figurines and small altars.

Worth mentioning is also the Fafos archeological site situated in the suburb of Mitrovica, which was named after the factory for production of phosphates built after the Second World War in Mitrovica, similar to the way "Tjerrtorja" site in Prishtina got its name, after the factory for production of textile. Similar to the Prishtina case, the site was randomly discovered and then researched in 1955 and 1961.

Apart from the movable archeological finds typical to the Vinca culture, Fafos reveals the presence of two Neolithic settlements: Fafos I, an earlier date settlement, characteristic for half buried shelter huts, and Fafos II, the later date settlement, consisting of house-huts aligned side by side. Archaeological research revealed the fact that majority of unearthed remains of the huts were destroyed in an extensive fire. ¹⁰⁰

Similar finds, respectively, remains of dwellings/ settlements, were recorded in the Neolithic site of Zhitkoc, located around 3km north from Zveçan (researched in 1950s), which demonstrated the presence of earlier Starçevo and the later Vinca culture, the Karagac neighboring archaeological site (investigated in 1955 and 1960), and the Vallaç site situated north of Zhitkoc-Karagaç, in the close vicinity of the Ibër river delta, set on the upraised terrace known as the Vallaç rock.

¹⁰⁰. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.28)



Prosopomorphic lids made of processed and baked clay, stylized with motifs and astonishing artistic ornamentation, and the Centaur figurine from Vinca Culture discovered in Fafos. (Kosovo Museum).



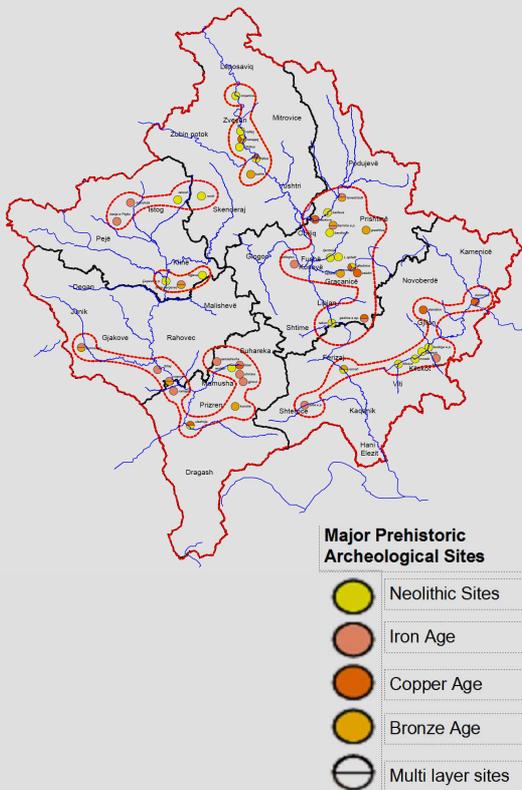
Anthropomorphic figurine discovered in Zhitkoc. Starcevo Culture, Early Neolithic period, sixth millennium BC. (Mitrovica Museum).

Figure 4.7. Map of major Prehistoric settlements in the Mitrovica region

Source: map compiled by author, Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.21-29)

4.1.7. Networked prehistoric settlements in Kosovo

In conclusion, it may be noted that major prehistoric settlements (archeological sites) in Kosovo are represented as consolidated micro regions which in spatial terms relate quite closely to the regional division as presented in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo. The regions of Prishtina and Mitrovica, and partially the region of Ferizaj, although they comprise consolidated micro regions, may be regarded as a sub region of early Neolithic sites as opposed to the rest of Kosovo, respectively, Prizren, Gjakova and Peja, the identification stamp of which are Metal Age forts and burial mounds (Illyrian tumulus). The Map shows concentrations of prehistoric settlements and the potential spatial network of this layer of civilization in Kosovo (map 4.4.), which shall be used in the third part of this thesis to define the cultural landscape component in the future spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo.



Map 4.4. Map of major Prehistoric areas in Kosovo
 Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo" MCYS/AIK, 2012



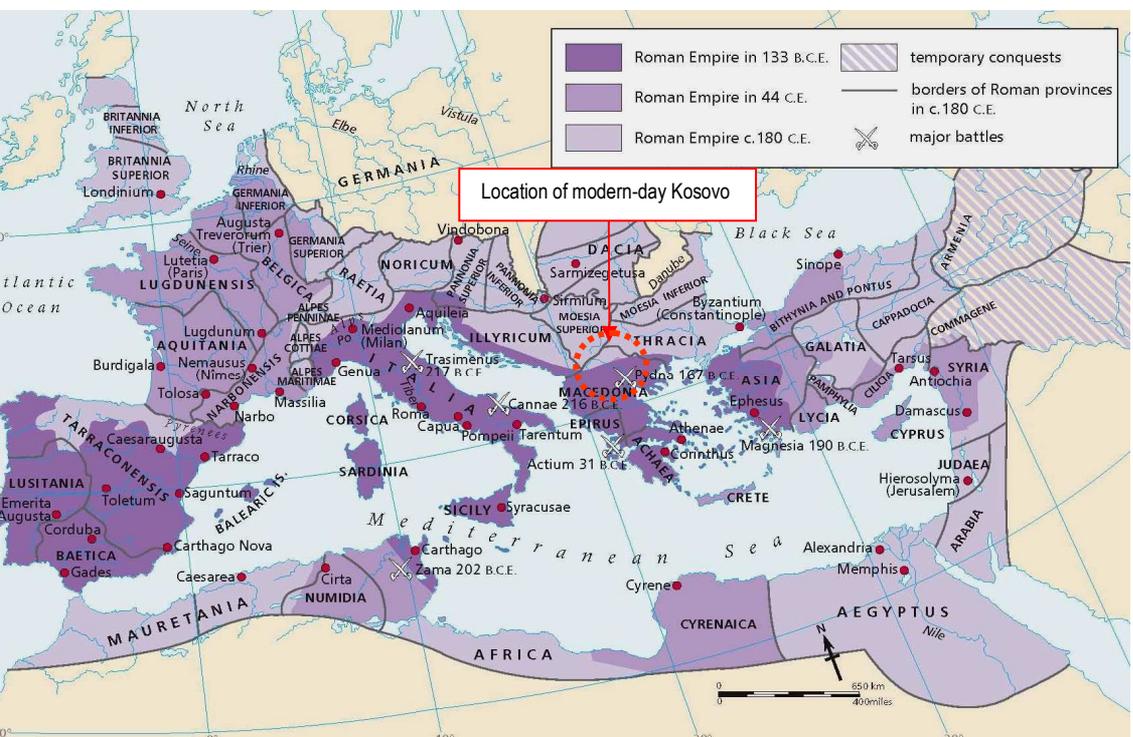
Gjakova region



4.2. Roman settlements and roman itineraries (1st to 4th century AD)

As previously mentioned, during the pre-Roman period Kosovo was inhabited by the Ilyrian tribe Dardans. With the expansion of Roman Empire during the 1st century, Kosovo became part of the newly-founded province of Upper Moesia (Moesia Superior). As of this time, the gradual process of Romanization commenced, although it did not really change the ethnic structure of the native Dardanian population. In 297 AD, Dardania became a self administrated Roman Province. ¹⁰¹

The Roman Peace (Pax Romana) which got established during the reign of Augustus created possibilities for new economic developments and the spread of Roman civilization, which today is best realized through archeological sites known as roman settlements of various functions and sizes, such are Scupi, Ulpiana, Naissus, Municipium Dardanorum, etc, researched since the second part of the 19th century, of which worth of mentioning is the investigation of the Roman antiquity in Kosovo by the British scholar Sir Artur John Evans during his visit in the Balkans in 1875. ¹⁰²



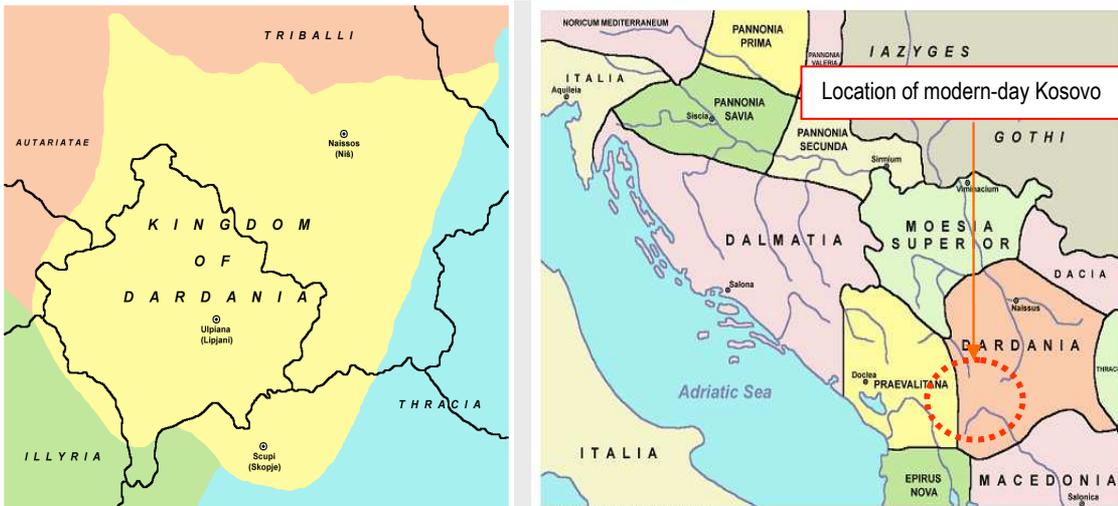
Map 4.5. The Roman Empire between 133 AD to 180 AD

The territory of modern-day Kosovo indicated in the map shows that the border of Roman expansion between 133 AD and 180 AD used to cut the territory in half.

Source: http://jacksonbbrown.com/ss/wp-content/uploads/2012/08_puple_romanempire_map.jpg

¹⁰¹. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.57)

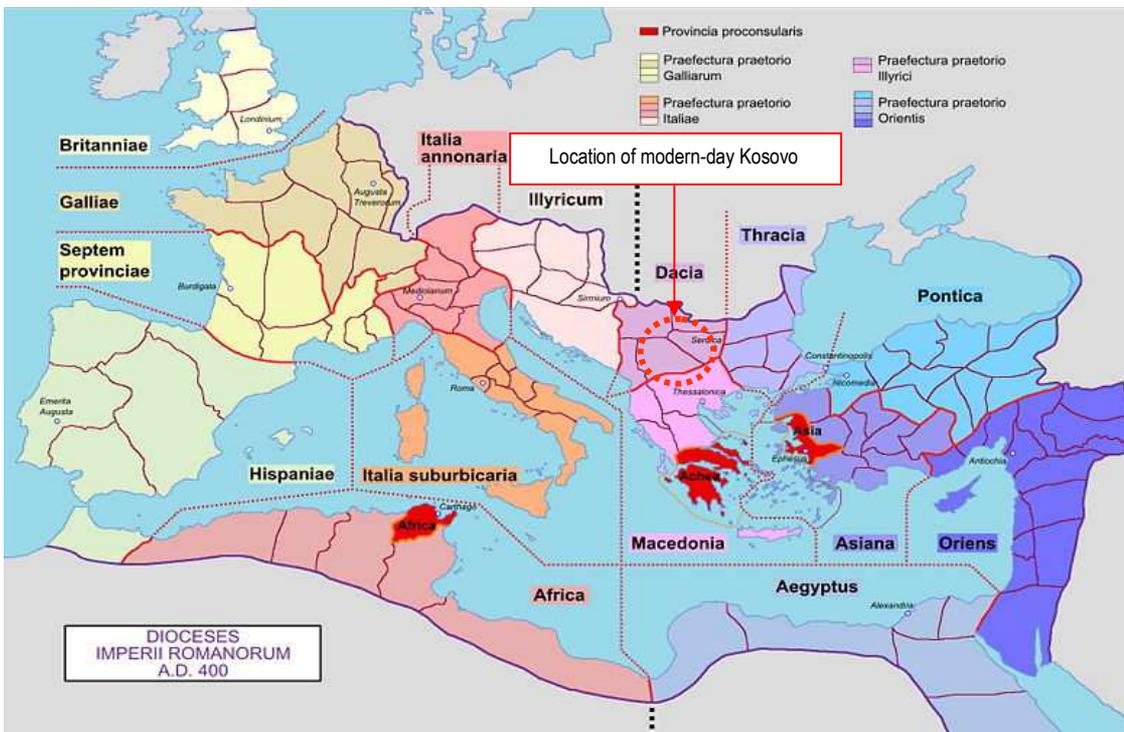
¹⁰². *ibid.*, (p.58)



Map 4. 6. The Kingdom of Dardania in the Roman Empire

From the left: the territory of modern-day Kosovo in the Kingdom of Dardania from 3rd to 1st century BC; Dardania within the Roman Balkans in the 4th century AD.

Source of maps: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardania_\(Europe\)#/media/File:Dardania_and_kosovo.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardania_(Europe)#/media/File:Dardania_and_kosovo.png) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardania_\(Europe\)#/media/File:Ancient_balkans_4thcentury.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardania_(Europe)#/media/File:Ancient_balkans_4thcentury.png)



Map 4.7. The Roman Empire with Dioceses in 400 AD

The territory of modern-day Kosovo indicated in the map is located within the territory of the Kingdom of Dardania, the Diocese of Dacia used to cut the territory in half.

Source : http://orthodoxwiki.org/File:Roman_Empire_with_Dioceses_in_400_AD.JPG

The oldest cartographic map that witnesses Kosovo's position and its development within the Roman Empire is the Ptolemy's Map of Upper Moesia, which is the Oldest Cartographic Account on Kosovo. *Claudius Ptolemy* (87 - 150 AD) had marked on his map as shown in the section map, (Map 4.8.) the ancient settlements Ulpiana (near the modern-day city of Prishtina, Vindenis (the village of Glavnik), Thermidava (Banja e Pejës), Vellanis (near Prishtina) and Arribanion (the village of Binaca). ¹⁰³

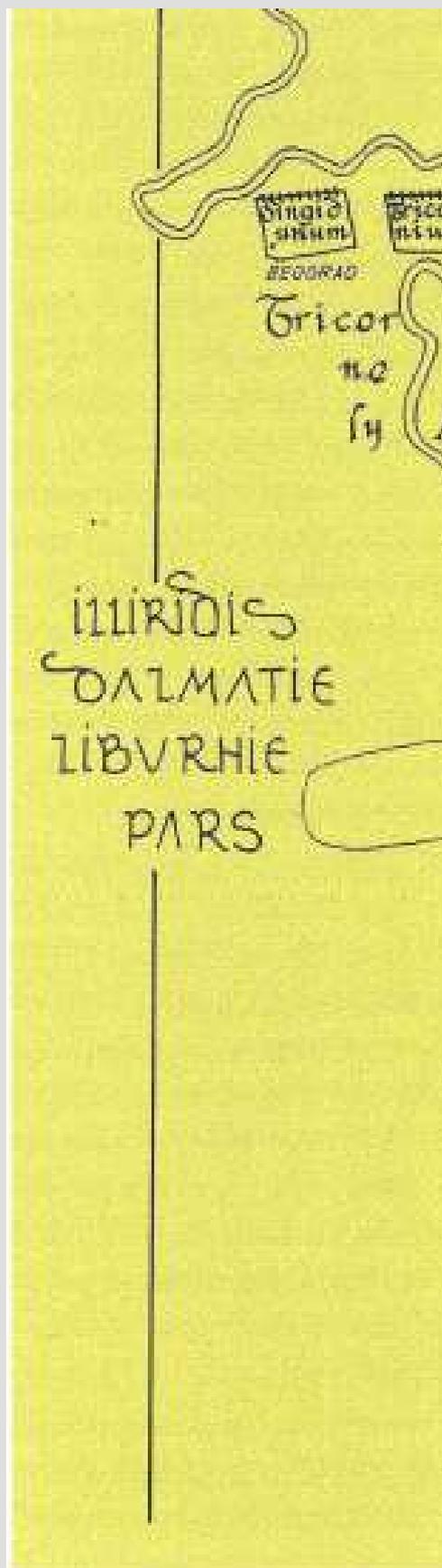
These settlements were apparently well connected with other regional settlements, given the fact that two major Roman roads used to cross through ancient Kosovo territory and constituted the main traffic network in this region, not only during Antiquity, but also later during the Middle Ages. This is likewise documented through ancient cartographic documents such as the Roman itinerary *Tabula Peutingerina*, which dates back to 340 AD (Map 4.10.).

According to Altić S.M., one of major Roman roads which used to connect Ratiaris (Arcar, Bulgaria) and Naissus (Nish) to Lissus (Lezhe) and which led from the Adriatic coast, used to pass via the territory of modern-day Kosovo. ¹⁰⁴

The road that went towards Naissus (Nish) had a station in Vindenis (today's village of Glavnik) and continued towards the Vicianum station (near today's Caglavica), known as one of the most important traffic centers of the Roman Kosovo. ¹⁰⁵

The second important road in the modern-day territory of Kosovo, which was not marked on the map "Tabula Peutingeriana", was the one that crossed Naissus (Nish) - Lissus (Lezhë) near Vicianum, and led through Mitrovica to Scupi (Skopje) in the south. ¹⁰⁶ Via Lissus - Naissus is considered as one of the most important trans-Illyrian roads.

Archeological excavations carried out in the 20th century as well as the recent ones have revealed several other Roman settlements, also documented in various publications by the Archeological Institute of Kosovo, as shall be shown in this chapter.

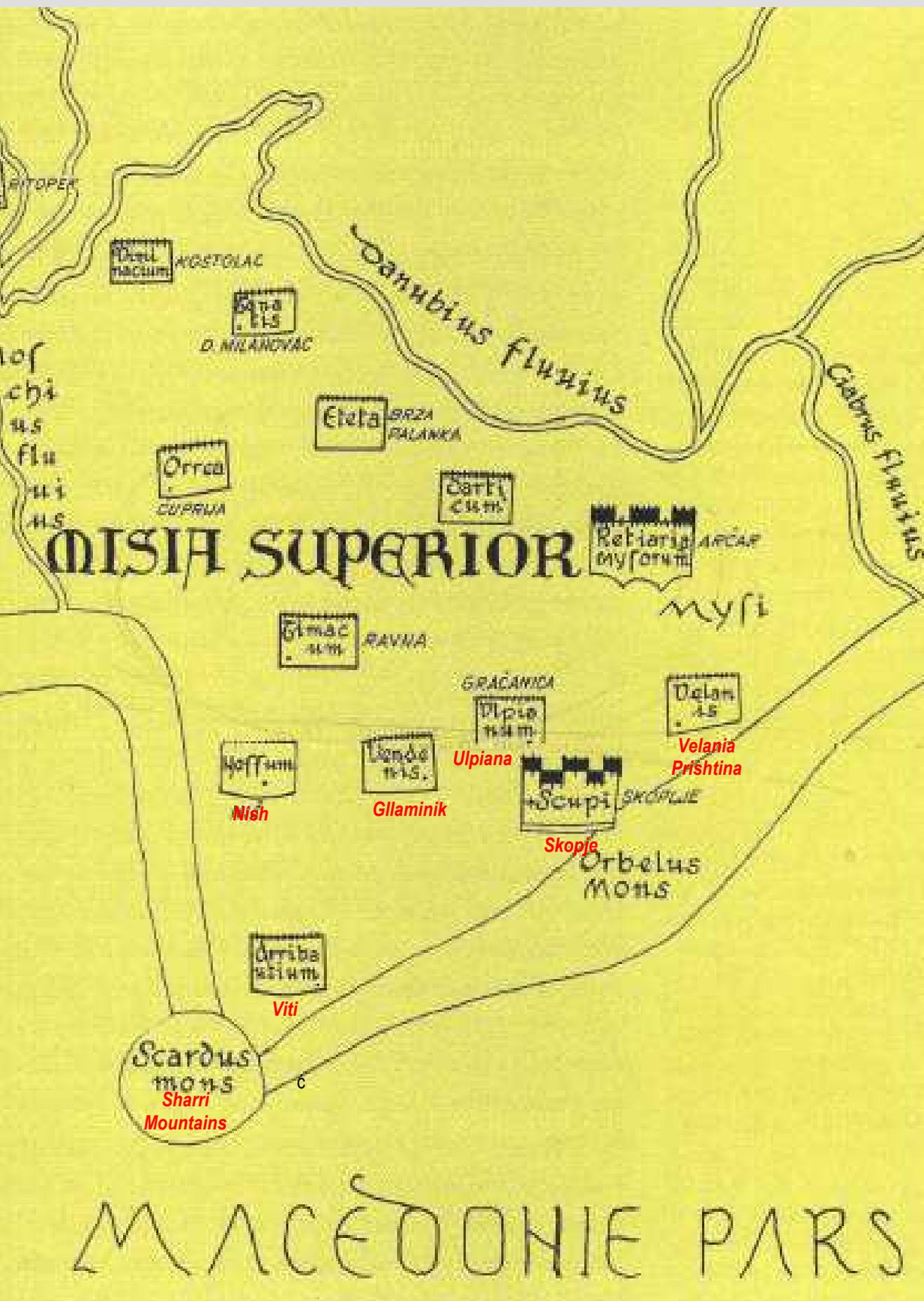


¹⁰³. Altić S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga ,Zagreb, 2006. (pp.12-14)

¹⁰⁴. ibid, (p.18)

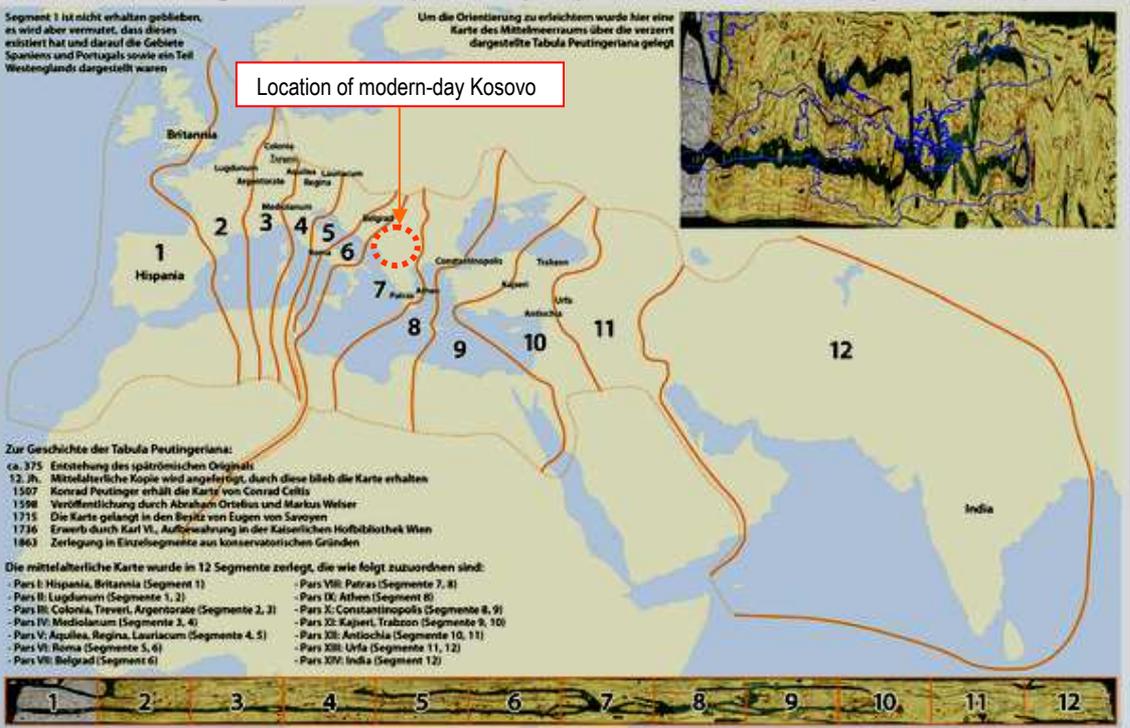
¹⁰⁵. ibid, (p.18)

¹⁰⁶. ibid, (p.19)



Map 4.8. Ptolomey Map of Upper Moesia Tabula Peutingeriana- the first cartographic account of the Roman settlements in the territory of Kosovo. Source: Altić S.M, "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (p.13)

Tabula Peutingeriana – Ungefähre geographische Abdeckung der 12 Segmente

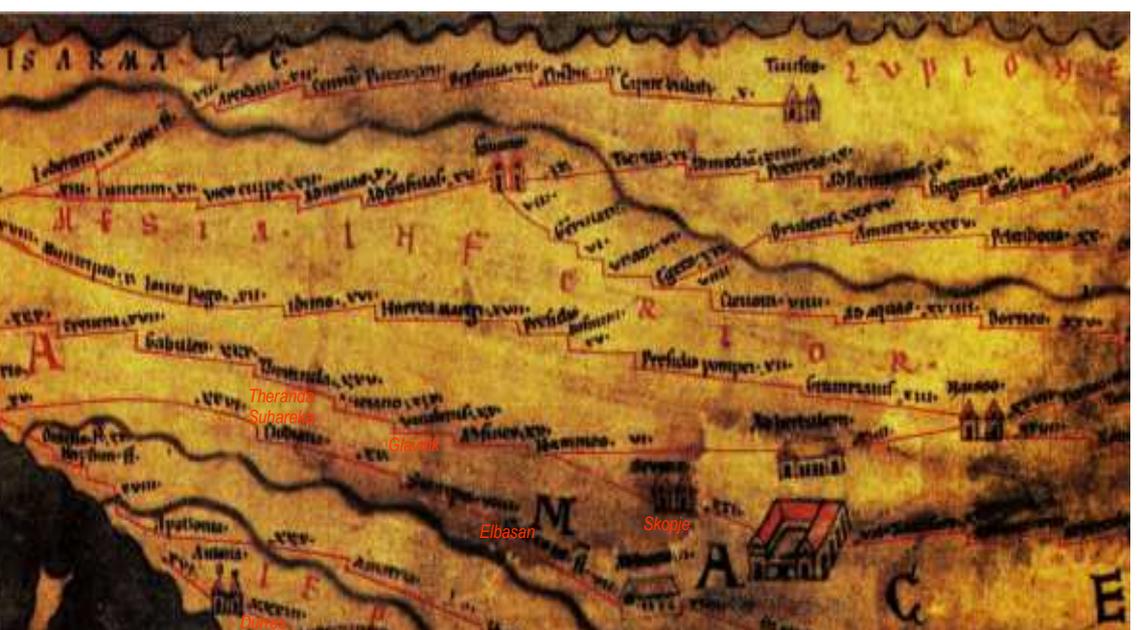


Map 4.9. The map of Roman Roads "Tabula Peutingeriana". Kosovo

The territory of ancient Kosovo is marked in the section 7 of Tabula Peutingeriana.

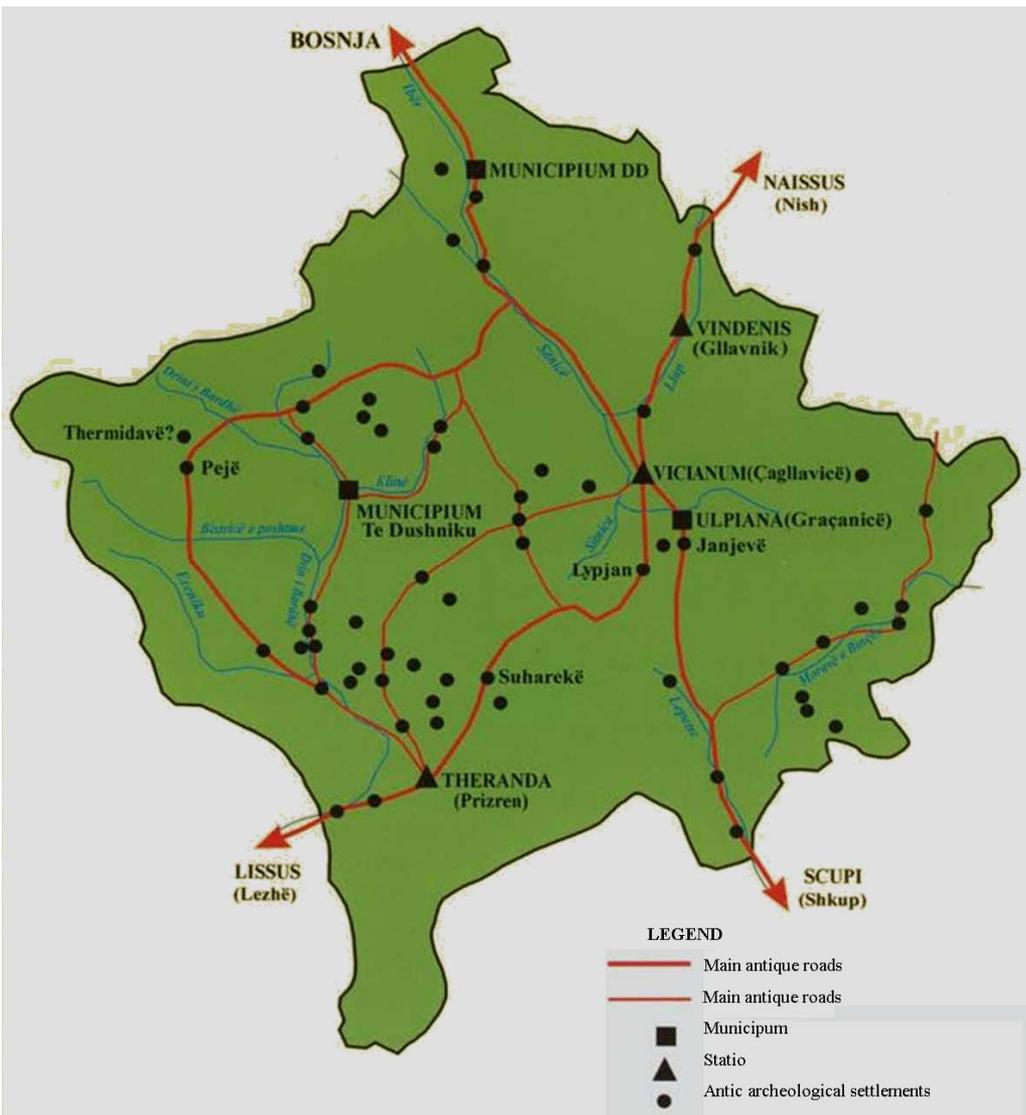
Source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/1d/Extends_of_the_Tabula_Peutingeria.png/600px-Extends_of_the_Tabula_Peutingeria.png

Extends_of_the_Tabula_Peutingeria.png/600px-Extends_of_the_Tabula_Peutingeria.png



Map 4.10. Territory of Ancient Kosovo in segment of Section 7 of "Tabula Peutingeriana"

Source: Altić S.M, "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (p.19)



Map 4.11. Major Roman roads and settlements in the territory of modern - day Kosovo according to Zef Mirdita. 1997.

Source: Altic S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnicka knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (p.20)

4.2.1. Prishtina region-Roman settlements

Municipum Ulpiana Splendissima– major Roman site and the central/ potential archeological park in Kosovo.

The Roman and Byzantine site of "Ulpiana" is without doubt one of the most interesting archaeological centers of Kosovo and of the entire Illyrian peninsula. It grew close to a rich mining area and stretched in a fertile low land, and had an exceptionally key geostrategic position close to the ancient crossroads (Via Lissus-Naissus) that linked east with west.

The first forms of urban center recorded in the site of Ulpiana dates to the beginning of the Roman rule around the 1st century AD, although findings suggest that the territory was occupied since the prehistoric period, respectively, during the Bronze and Iron Ages and used to be a small ancient Dardan concentrated "Opidum".

Within the Roman Empire, Ulpiana developed into a typical Roman town and was one of the most active and frequented centers that used to connect Constantinople with Rome. In cca. 169 AD, Ulpiana became a Roman Municipium "Municipum Ulpiana Splendissima", but its highest peak in economic, cultural, and political development was reached during 3rd- 4th century.

The roman town of Ulpiana during this period was ascribed as the Municipum Ulpiana Splendissima- the Splendid Municipium of Ulpiana, characterized with road nets, orthogonal construction system, water supply, drainage, houses, buildings and various other public, sacral, profane and utilitarian buildings. During the first five centuries of the first millennium, Ulpiana maintained an important central position in the region also as a trading centre of metallurgical, artisans and agricultural goods.

The city was situated in cca. 128 ha, and its urban structure was developed in an orthogonal grid. It contained streets and agoras, temples and theatres, a water supply system, housing and other public facilities. The city was completely ruined during the attacks of the northern tribes and a disastrous earthquake (518 AD.) and soon after was reconstructed by the Byzantine emperor Justinian I (527-565), who renamed Ulpiana after his name as "Justiniana Secunda".¹⁰⁷

The ancient town of Ulpiana has been continuously studied since the second part of the 20th century, shedding light to few cult and sacral monuments, the basilica, necropolis, as well as parts of the ramparts with watchtowers, castrum-roman military garrison, hundreds of movable fragments/artifacts, human remains, architectural structures and elements, etc.¹⁰⁸

Ulpiana is interpreted in this study in order to comprehend the extent of urbanization in the territory of ancient Kosovo during the Roman Era. Also, Ulpiana is, as it will be explained in this chapter, the center of the Roman Kosovo and the crossroad of one among major roman roads in the Balkans, Via Lissus-Naissus, on which two major stations are identifiable in the territory of Prishtina region, Statio Viciano in village Uglar near Ulpiana, and Statio Vindenis in Podujevo.

¹⁰⁷. Enti urbanistik i komunës së Prishtinës, "Plani i përgjithshëm urbanistik i Prishtinës deri në vitin 2000", Prishtina, 1987 (p.15)

¹⁰⁸. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.69-71)
See more about Ulpiana archeological site.

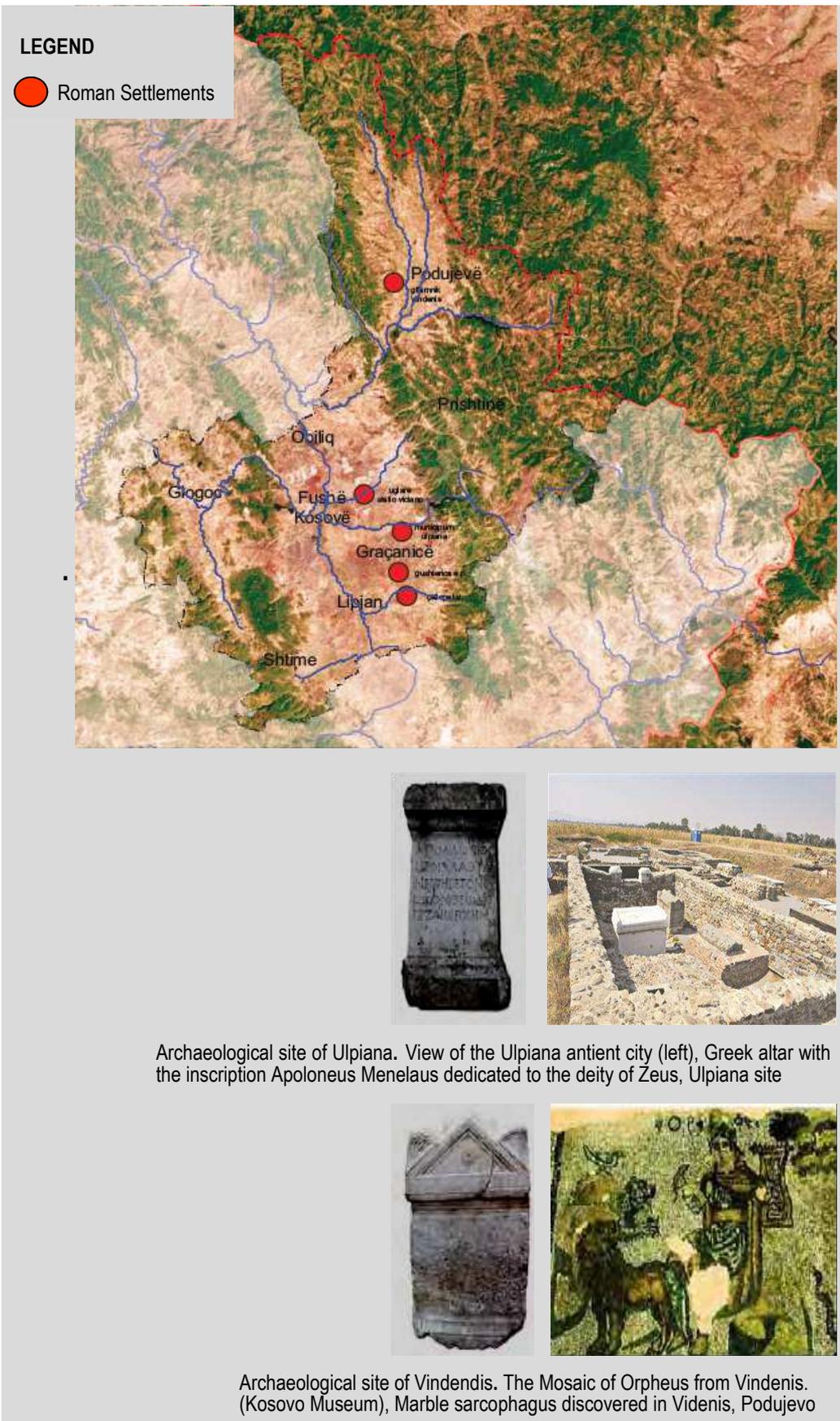


Figure 4.8. Map of Roman settlements in the Prishtina Region, and archeological sites

Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.62-71)

4.2.2. Gjilan and Ferizaj regions- Roman settlements

When comparing map and figures 4.9, showing Roman settlements in the region of Gjilan and Ferizaj, it may be noted that majority of the archeological sites from the Roman Era are evidenced to date.

However, the link that Ferizaj used to create with the region of Prishtina (Ulpiana) through Via Lissus-Naissus is difficult to retrieve in the modern-day spatial composition. Instead, spatial analyses show a more favorable grouping of the Gjilan/ Ferizaj region with Prizren, as shall be discussed in the end of this chapter.

Kllkot and Paldenica provide strong evidence that the region of Gjilan and Ferizaj were homes of the noble Dardan families during the Roman Period

Three archeological sites from the Roman period are distinguished in the region. The first one is located in the village Vërban close to Banja e Kllkotit, (Kllkot Springs), which is an area known for the warm thermal mineral water spring and fertile land, similar to the springs in Peja municipality (Banja e Pejes).

One of most impressive finds from this site is the Marble bust of a Dardanian lady discovered in Kllkot-Verban. Two other sites, considered as major archeological sites from the Roman Era, are located in the municipality of Ferizaj. The first one in lower Nerodime represents what has remained from Roman Villa's architecture in Kosovo, and the second one in Paldenica, is a unique necropolis where abundant finds from the Roman times were discovered.

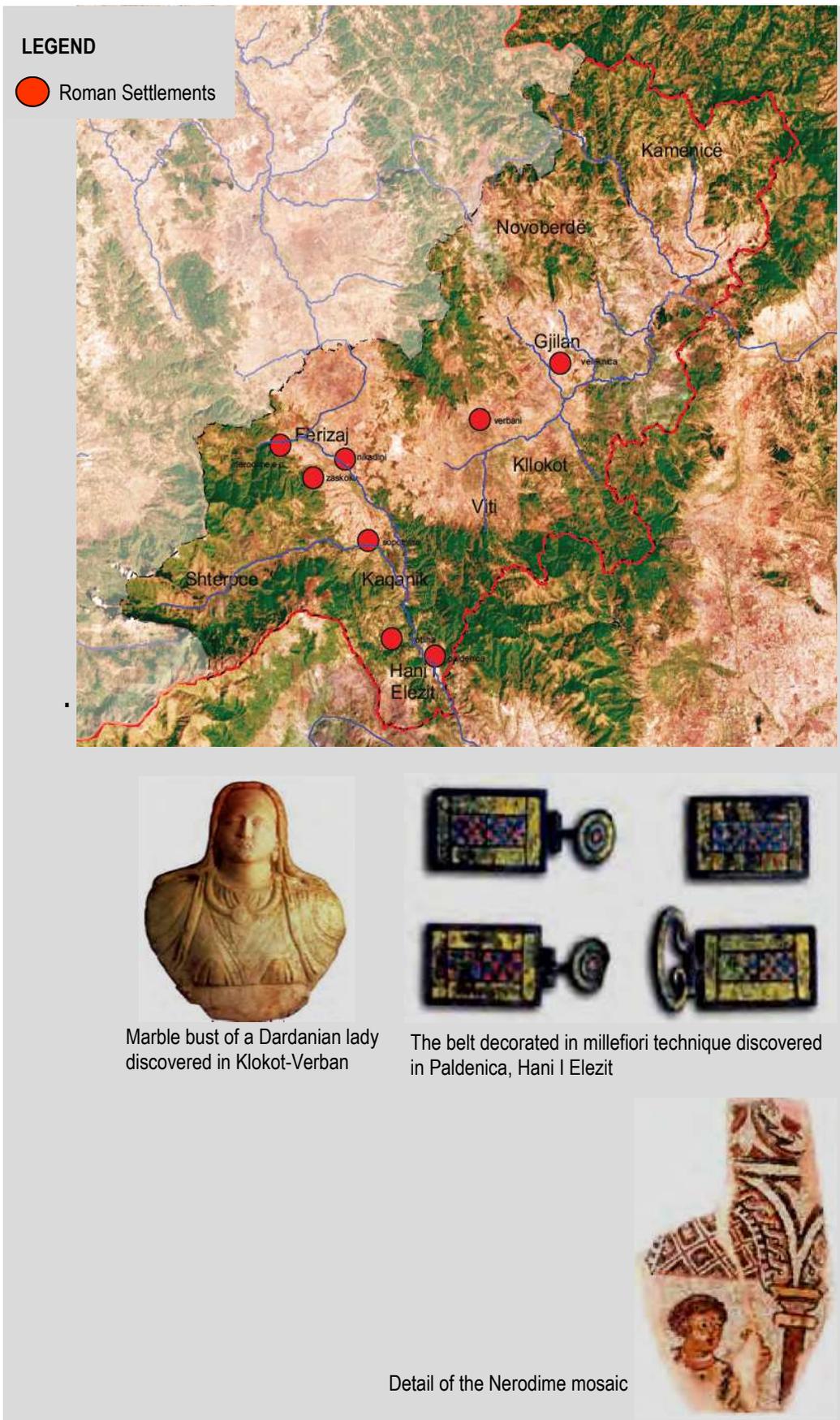


Figure 4.9. Map of Roman settlements in the Gjilan and Ferizaj region and Relicts from archaeological sites of Klokot-Verban, Nerodime and Paldenica . Source: map compiled by author, Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.67-73)

4.2.3. Prizren region- Roman settlements

Prizren (Theranda)– is a lost Roman municipum, which carries traces of the Roman itinerary in the road between Nish in Serbia and Lezha in Albania, via Lissus-Naissus.

According to the research carried out so far, the region of Prizren, as the map above shows, has a small number of discovered Roman sites, although sources indicate that Prizren (Theranda) was most probably a Roman municipum through which passed via Nissus-Lessus and in north of which a number of roman settlements used to exist, as observed in the section of the map according to Z. Mirdita.

One of the researched roman sites is Polishta, remains of which prove that it used to be a roman road station, through which passed the ancient road *via Lissus-Naissus*. Archeological complex in Poslishta contains a *Mansio* (road hostel/guesthouse) with several secondary rooms with a conspicuous *Thermae* (roman bath), and perhaps a *Mutatio* or horse exchange station. ¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.64)

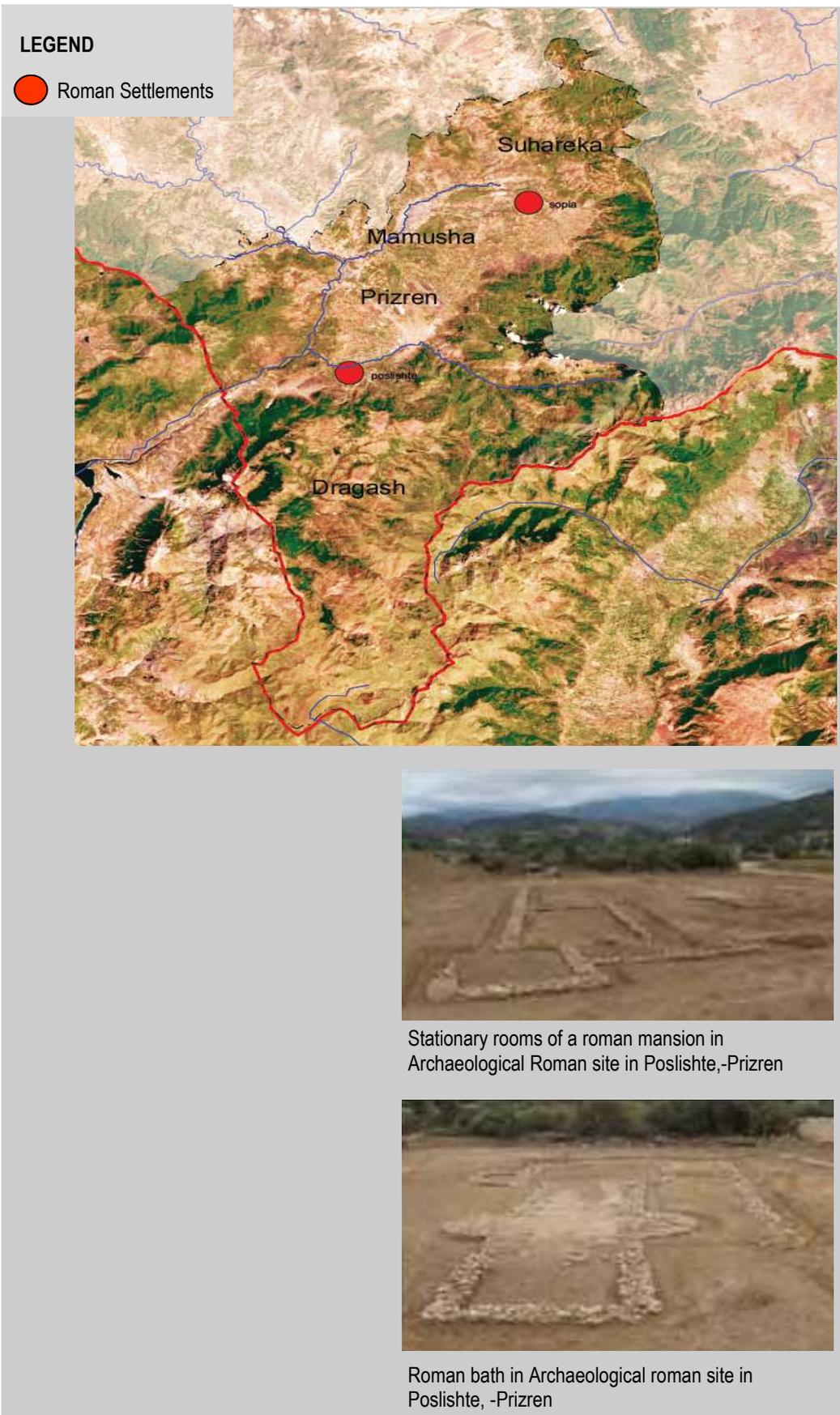


Figure 4.10. Map of Roman settlements in the Prizren region and Archeological roman sites
Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.64)

4.2.4. Gjakova and Peja regions- Roman settlements

The regions of Gjakova and Peja with its thermal water sources may be regarded as centers of wellness of the ancient Kosovo during the Roman Period

Excavations in archeological sites from the Roman period in the region of Peja and Gjakova indicate that warm thermal water springs found in the area as shown in the map and figure 4.11, were used to create Roman bath (*thermae*), remains of which can be seen today in the village Çifllak in the municipality of Rahovec, and Cerce in the municipality of Istog. While the Çifllak site, situated along the river Drini i Bardhë, discloses remains of a large complex of roman bath which is supposed to date between the 2nd and 4th century AD, the clay-tablet known as "Cerca Laterculus" discovered in the village Cerc in the municipality of Istog, indicates that somewhere in the vicinity of the discovered place, a Roman bath (*thermae*) was built and most probably was named Labanon. ¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.66)



Figure 4.11. Map of major Roman settlements in the region of Gjakova and Peja, and pictures of excavations finds. Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.65-74)

4.2.5. Mitrovica region- Roman settlements

The Mitrovica region is known for the one more of Roman Municipums, identified in Kosovo, in addition to the Ulpiana site in Prishtina. Municipium DD (Dardanorum) is located in the village of Soqanica of the Municipality of Leposavic.

Due to its excellent geographical position between rivers Iber and Soqanica, and surrounded by Rogozna and Kopaonik mountains, as well as due to the fact that the area used to be and still is rich with precious metals (gold and silver), Municipium DD was during the Roman era one of the most important ancient urban centers.

Municipium DD,- the central roman site in the Mitrovica region should be regarded as part of the modern-day layer of the roman itinerary by means of connection with Ulpiana

Municipium DD has undergone systematic research and investigations (in 1950s-60s) of the eastern part of the settlement, the roman forum, horrea, urban basilica, features of the roman bath, details of auxiliary facilities and the northern cemetery.¹¹¹

This center, as proved through abundant archaeological material, has its beginnings in the Prehistoric Age and existed until the first part of the 4th century AD, when it was demolished as a result of heavy earthquakes and attacks of the barbarians. Although detached from other archeological sites of the same era, Municipium DD is a potential archeological park that could connect via Roman site in Pestova (in Vushtrri) into the Roman axis that passes through Ulpiana.

In this spatial axis, remains of 'Villa Rustica' in Pestova, which is believed to have belonged to a latifondist family– member of the distinguished family Furi or Ponti originating from Ulpiana ¹¹² could play an important function in restituting important parts of urban portrait of Kosovo.

¹¹¹. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.61)

¹¹². *ibid*, (p. 63)

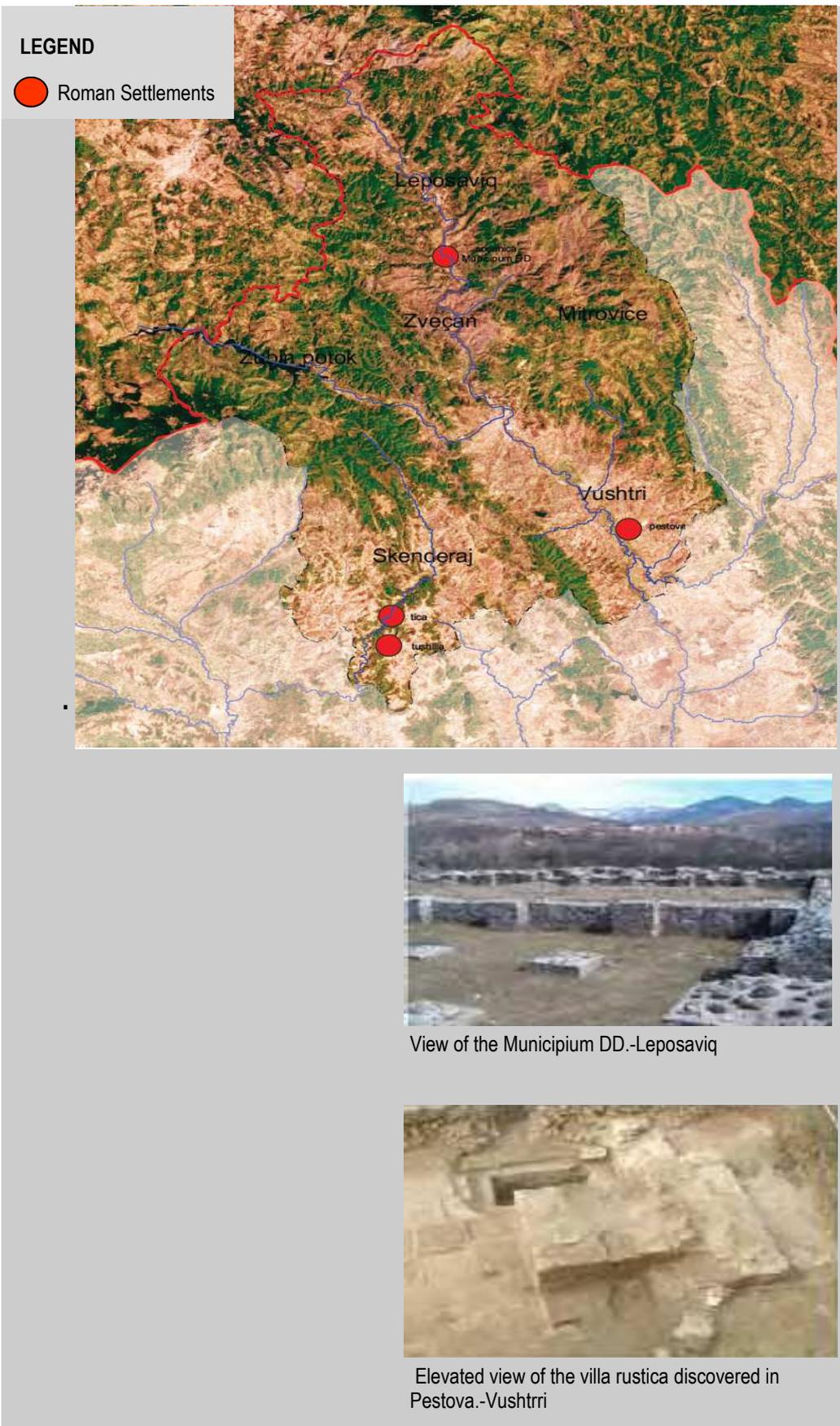


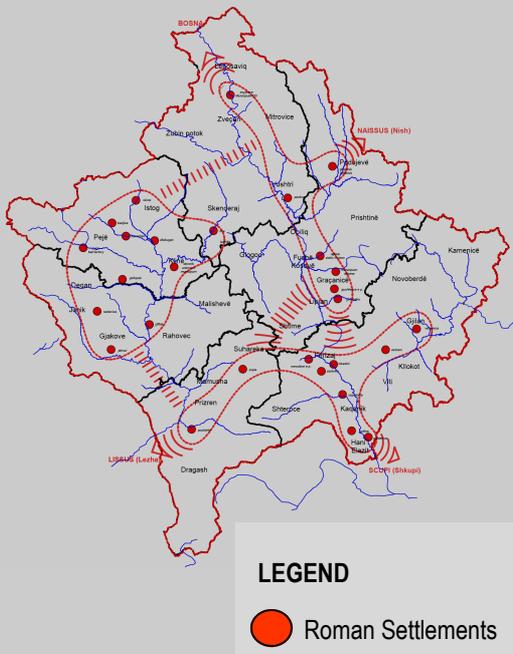
Figure 4.12. Map of Major Roman settlements in the Mitrovica region and archaeological excavations finds. Source: map compiled by author, Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK ,2012 (pp.61-63)

4.2.6. Roman settlements and Roman itineraries in Kosovo

In conclusion, it may be argued that major Roman settlements (archeological sites) in Kosovo are represented through spatial axis, with the exception of Peja/ Gjakova region, which is a more concentrated and micro-networked region, and can connect to the rest of axis through landscape approach and design considerations.

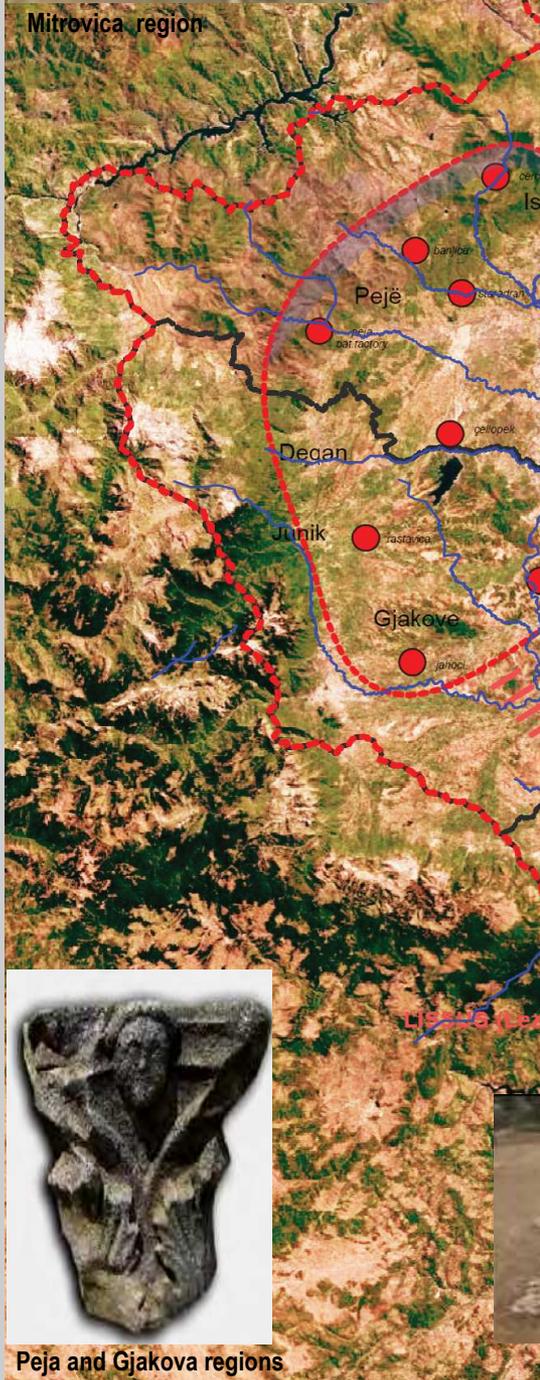
The Map and Figures 4.12. show that the historical layer of the Roman era may be fostered and developed only through cooperation between regions.

Graphical/ spatial analysis in the map below shall be used in the Third Part of this thesis to define the cultural landscape component in the future urban portrait of Kosovo.

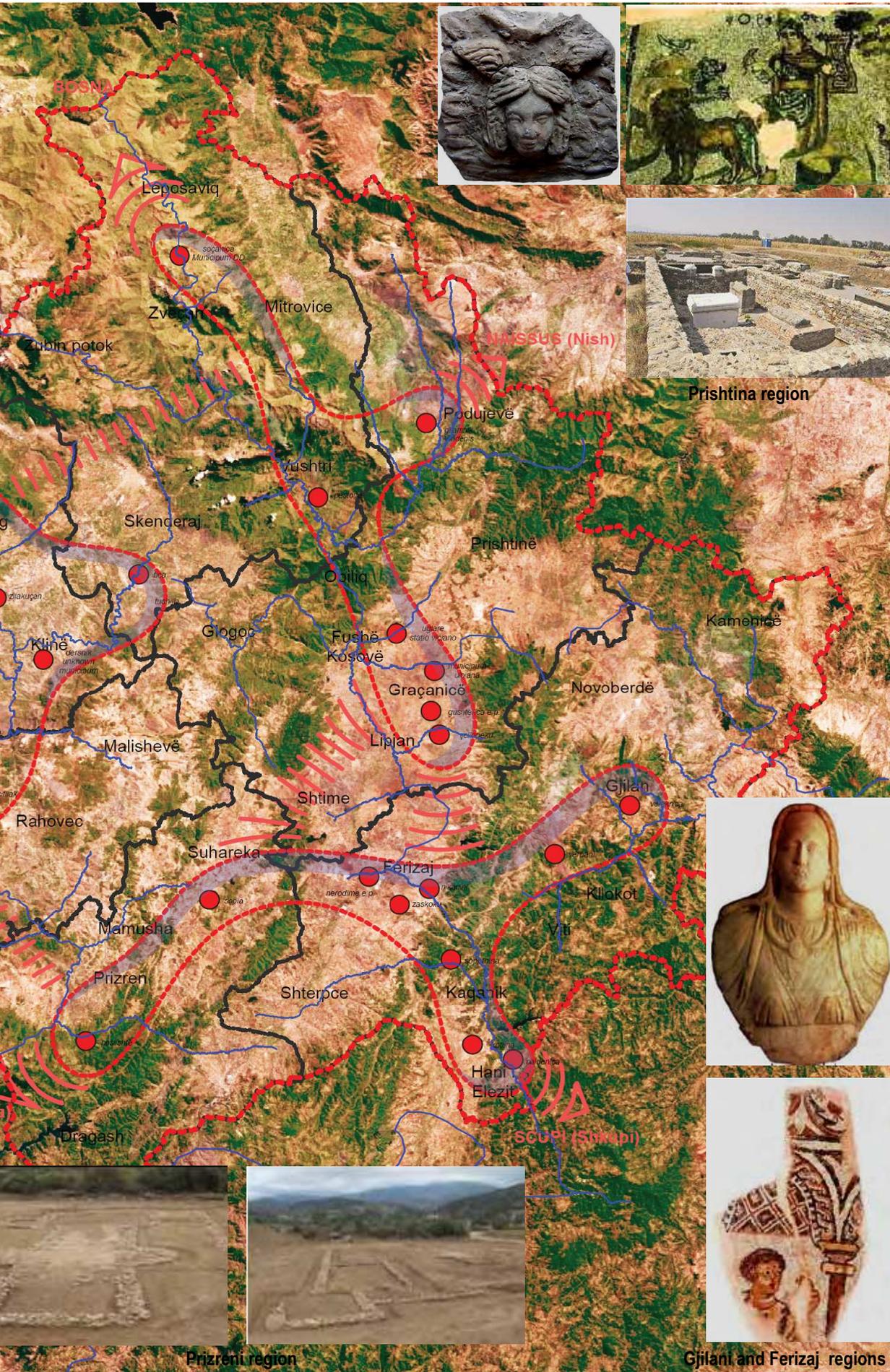


Map 4.12. Map of major Roman settlements in the territory of Ancient Kosovo

Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012



Peja and Gjakova regions



4.3. Late Antiquity and early Byzantium: fortified settlements and the Paleochristian church architecture (4th– 6th AD)

The Late Antique Period, also known as Early Medieval/ Byzantine Period, in Kosovo which covers three centuries from starting from the rule of the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337 AD), that is, the 4th, 5th and 6th century AD, represents one of the historical periods which has not been substantially studied in the modern period in the territory of Kosovo. Archeological remains disclose that the architecture (architecture of early Christian period or Paleo-Christian Architecture) of this period reflects the combination of tradition and innovation, in a period which is also known as the era of consolidation of Christianity in Europe. During this period, the present day territory of Kosovo was part of the Kingdom of Dardania (later the Roman Province of Dardania) which, based on archaeological documentation, and relevant supplementary data in scientific disciplines, used to be characterized by a very advanced civilization, which reflected quite a cosmopolite development in the age of Antiquity.¹¹³

It is interesting to note that this period is characteristic for the presence of a large number of toponyms for settlements depending on the topographical features- set in hills or fortified with ramparts, or fortification types and typologies, such are: *gjytet* (old town), *gradishtë* (fortess), *gradinë* (stronghold), *kala* (castle), *kullë* (tower), *fortesë* (fortification), etc. These typologies are evidenced in a great number of settlements across Kosovo. Written sources indicate that it was the emperor Justinian the Great (527-565 AD) the one who left this legacy in the territory of Kosovo, by reconstructing back at his time 8 forts and reafortifying 61 existing forts which were in continuity used during the medieval period.¹¹⁴



Map 4.13. Byzantine Empire between 565 and 1402

The territory of modern-day Kosovo indicated in the map shows that the border of the expansion of the Byzantine Empire between 565b and 1025, as well as the border of the Empire in 1118 used to cut the territory in half.

Source : <http://empireromain.bestboardpro.com/t102-Carte-de-l-Empire-Byzantin.htm>

¹¹³.Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.77-78)

¹¹⁴. ibid, (p.78)



Map 4.14. Dardania within Byzantine Empire in the 6th century

Source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/1d/Extends_of_the_Tabula_Peutingeria.png/600pxExtends_of_the_Tabula_Peutingeria.png



Map 4.15. The Balkans in the 6th century

The territory of modern-day Kosovo indicated in the map .

Source :<http://thehistoryofbyzantium.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/the-balkan-provinces.jpg>

4.3.1. Prishtina and Mitrovica regions -Late antique/ Early Byzantium

As mentioned earlier, the period of Late Antiquity/ early Byzantine in Kosovo is characterized by fortified settlements. The majority of these settlements represent multi-layered archaeological, and are usually located on hills.

As can be noted from the map aside, major settlements from this period in the region of Prishtina are in part concentrated around the multilayered site of Ulpiana; the rest of them follow the road to Mitrovica, ending with the castle of Zvečan.

In regards to the Late Antique period, regions of Prishtina and Mitrovica continue to be associated with the Municipum Ulpiana; fortresses that were built at this period usually confirm that.

Among the most important from the first grouping are the Veletin Fortress, and the Matiçan necropolis. While the Veletin fortress is distinguished for ancient mining and favorable geostrategic position, with clear surveillance on the western part with Ulpiana in the focus, Matiçan is one of the sites that testified about abundant filigree artisan work in gold made by skilled local goldsmiths for wealthy families with high social status. From the second group of sites from this period, worth mentioning is the Harilaq Fortress, which dates back to 4th- 6th century AD.

The fortress is situated on top of the hill known as the Gradina e Harilaqit, near the Harilaq village. It is sited 9km southeast from the town of Fushë Kosova and only 2km west from Prishtina International Airport.

The fortress measures around 1.3ha of the inner part. Archaeological works have surfaced out the entire outer sides of the rampart with towers at the axes as well as a church with three naves and a Sanskrit; also, two almost identical structures in a rounded shape of an unknown sacral complex.

These remains together with archaeological material such as working tools, jewelry, coins, bricks, glass fragments etc., clearly indicate the period of the existence of the fortress in late Antique, typical for the Justinian Period.

Harilaq Fortress (4th-6th century AD) *Archaeological excavations in the Harilaq Fortress have surfaced out numerous remains and foundations of sacral, profane and utilitarian buildings, as well as archaeological material such as metal working tools, jewelry, coins, bricks, glass fragments, etc., typical for the Justinian period.*

Veletin fortress (multilayered) *Archaeological excavations reveal the fact that the fortress was constructed and reconstructed and was in use since the earlier times, while ore exploitation and ancient mining was a major economical income continuously through prehistoric, Roman, Late Antique and Medieval Periods.*

The rural settlement and Early Medieval necropolis in the Graboc i ulët (Early Medieval). *Over a dozen graves, mostly in a good and well preserved condition and intact human remains have been excavated and recorded in the village of Graboc.*

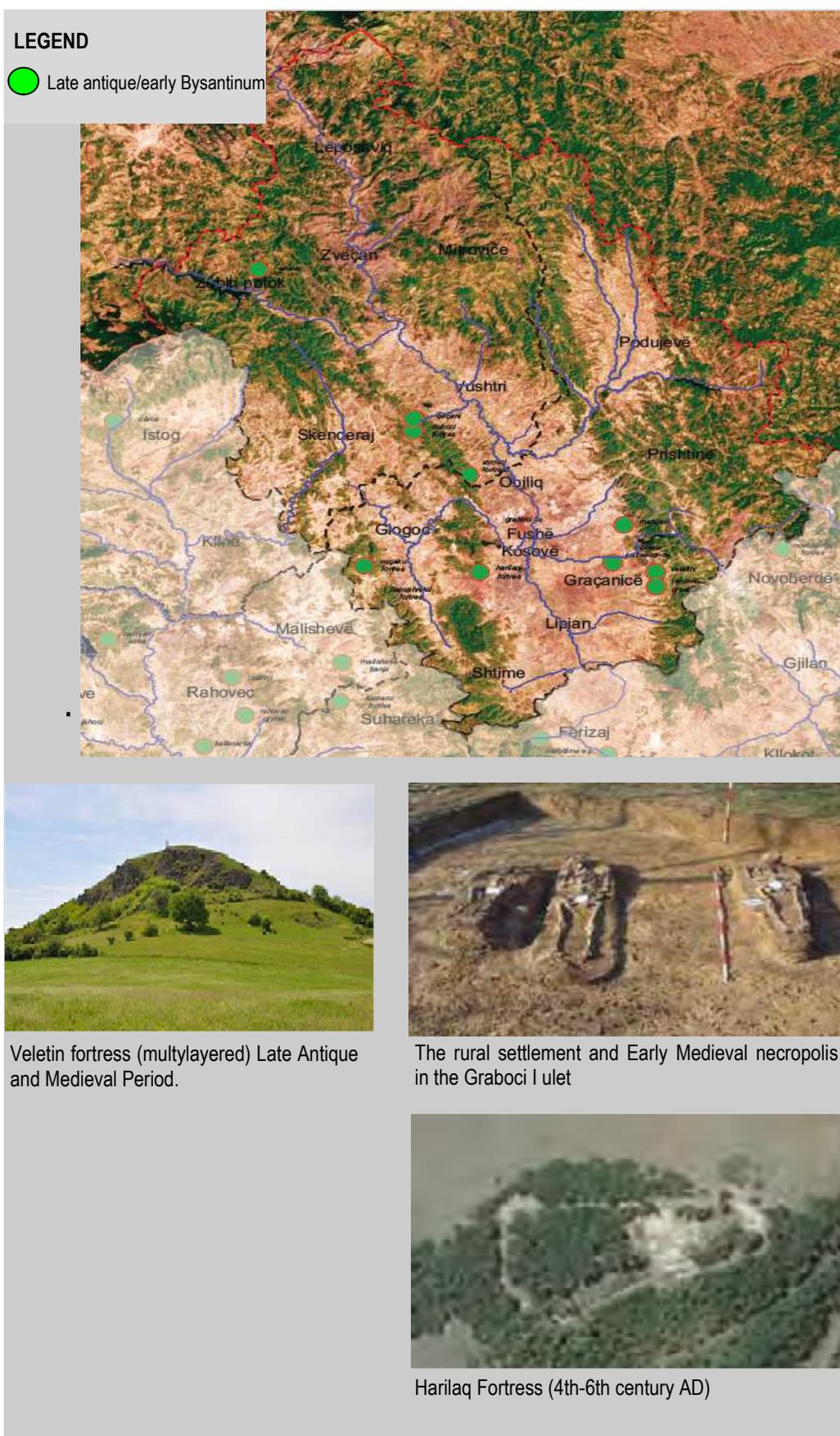


Figure 4.13. Map of major late antiquity/Early Byzantine settlements in the region of Prishtina and Mitrovica. Source: map compiled by author, information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.81-91)

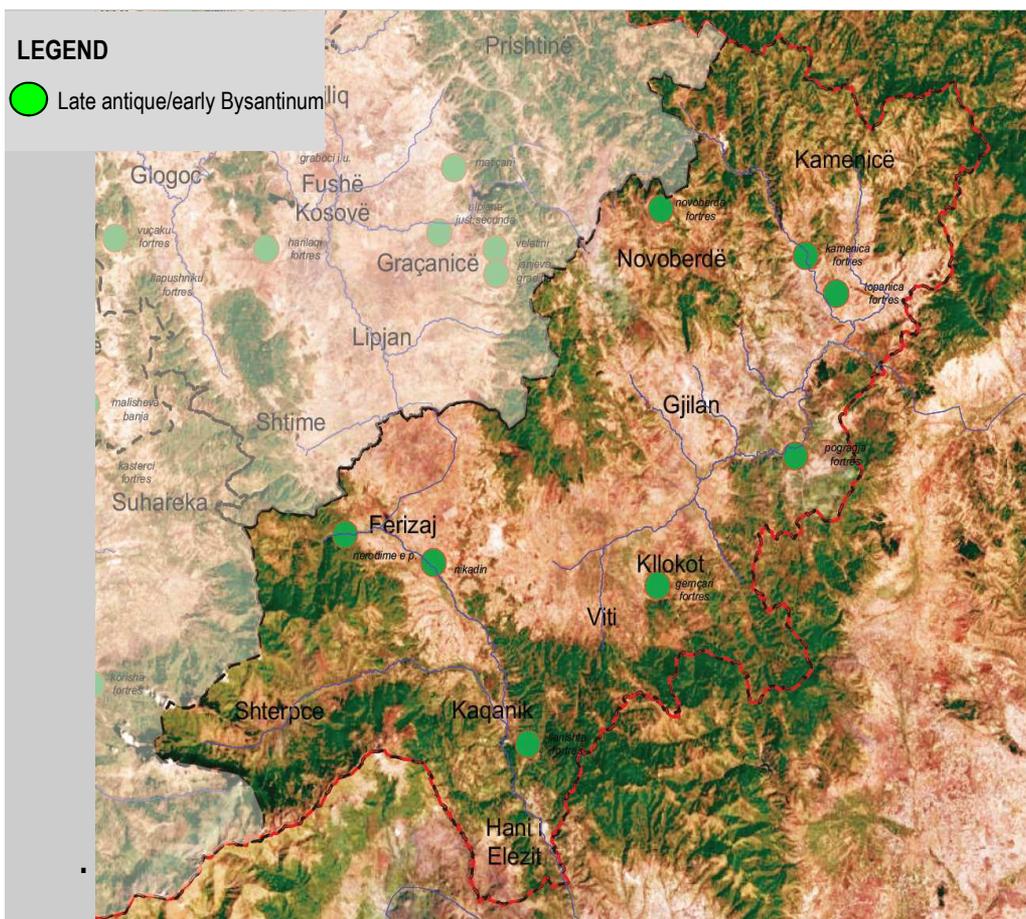
4.3.2. Gjilan and Ferizaj regions- Late Antique/ Early Byzantium

Late Antique/ Early Byzantine settlements in the regions of Gjilan and Ferizaj are located in majority along the eastern border, forming a chain of fortresses from where Dardans, apparently, protected their country from the eastern part.

One of better protected fortresses in this region worth mentioning is Pogragja Fortress, located around 10 kilometers southwest from the town of Gjilan.

Pogragja Fortress (4th-6th century AD)

Archaeological excavations in the Pogragja Fortress have surfaced out numerous remains and foundations of sacral, profane and utilitarian buildings, as well as archaeological material composed such are metal working tools, jewelry, coins, bricks, glass fragments, etc., typical for the Justinian Period



View of the Pogradja fortress



Parts of the stairs inside the circuit walls of the fortress.



Existing walls of the Pogradja fortress citadel.

Figure 4.14. Map of major Late Antiquity/ Early Byzantine settlements in the region of Gjilan and Ferizaj. Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.82)

4.3.3. Prizren, Gjakova and Peja regions- Late antique/early Byzantium

The strip of fortified settlements which can visually communicate with each other and which form the spatial line of division between Dukagjini and Kosovo plain, should be regarded as part of the modern-day layer of the Early Christianity period in Kosovo

The western part of Kosovo which consists of three regions, Peja, Gjakova and Prizren, is distinguished by Late Antique/ Early Byzantine fortified settlements which are mainly located in the region of Gjakova and Prizren or better say, in the spatial division between Dukagjini and Kosovo plains.

Worth mentioning is in specific the Korisha Fortress located in Prizren, with the Early Christian Church (from the 6th century AD) located inside of the fortress.

Although very little is written about the physical form of the settlement, archaeological finds have confirmed occupancy of Korisha and the church during the 4th- 6th century AD.

Besides Korisha in this strip the fortification known as Suka e Cërmjanit is identified in the northern part of the village Cërmjan. The fortification walls follow the contour line of the rocky terrain configuration in a surface of around 1.3ha. The Suka e Cërmjanit belongs to the Late Antique date, although excavations¹¹⁵ have surfaced out prehistoric artifacts, respectively from the Iron Period. Suka e Cërmjanit can visually communicate with Dolle and Jerina castles in Klinë up north, with Radavc and Jabllanica of Peja castles up northwest; also, Gjakova is visible in the horizon towards southwest, and fortress of Zatriq (Rahovec) is visible toward north-northeast and toward the south the countryside of hills and fields are visible up to the verge of the Pashtrik Mountains.¹¹⁵ This confirms that Late Antique/ Early Byzantine castles in Kosovo form a well thought network of settlements whose function besides residing, was the surveillance of mines and crops.

Korisha Fortress with the Early Christian Church (4th-6th century AD)

The archaeological excavations conducted in two seasons; 2002 and 2004 at the Korisha fortress located at the area known by the toponym as the 'Gralishta' hill. Picture is taken from the east, showing the early Christian church set inside the Korisha fortress.

Source: Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.83)

Banja e Malishevës.

Archaeological excavations carried out in 2005 reveal a burial mound (tumulus) which dates back to the Iron Age, and reused during the Early Medieval period.

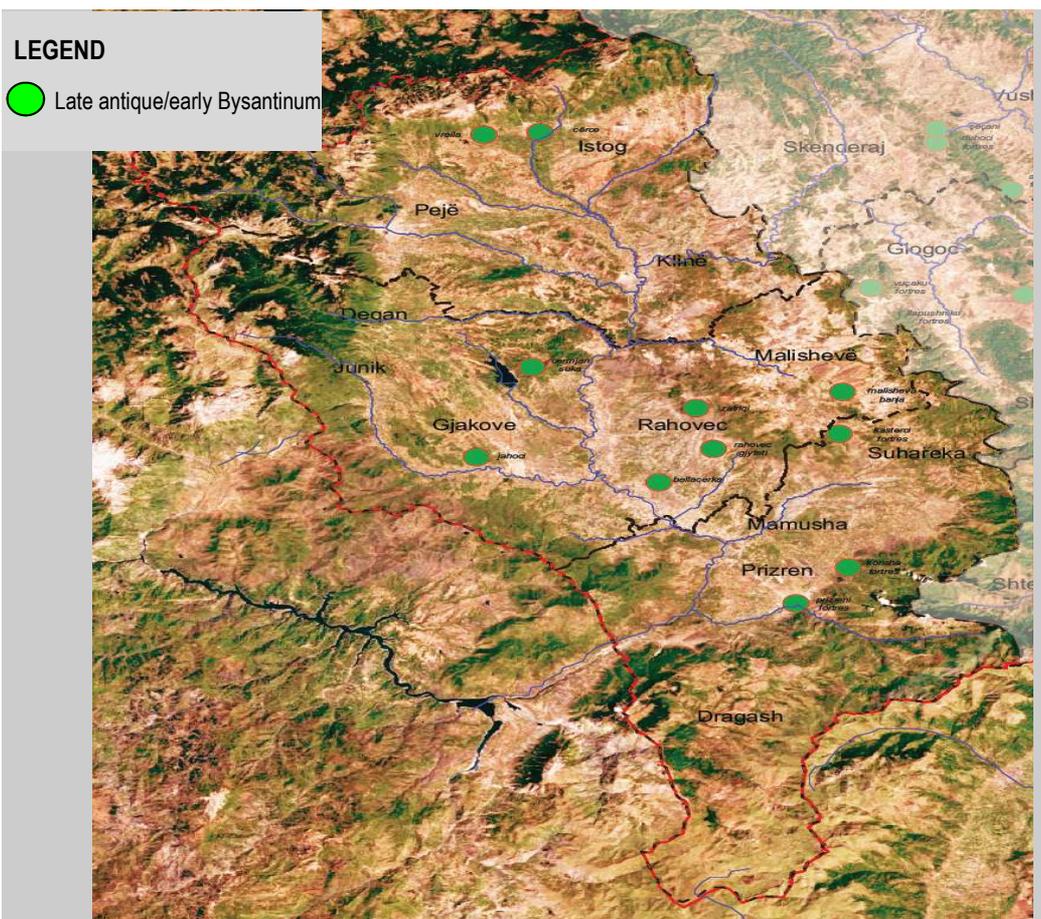
Source: Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.80)

Early Christian Church in Vrella (Early medieval)

A necropolis is found close to the church, and linked to the settlement sited in the upper part of the hill. Excavations revealed a large type of crypt grave, measuring: 2.80m in length, 1.40m in width and 1.40m in height, constructed in the shape of a semicircular arch or vault.

Source: Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.79)

¹¹⁵. Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.77-78)



Early Christian Church in Vrella (Early medieval)



Banja e Malishevës Source: MCYS/AIK (2012) Archaeological Guide of Kosovo, p.80



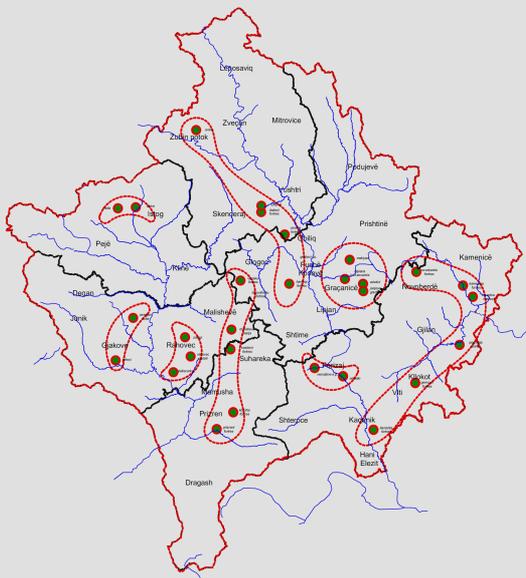
Korisha Fortress with the Early Christian church (4th-6th century AD)

Figure 4.15. Map of major Late Antiquity/ Early Byzantine settlements in the regions of Prizren, Gjakova and Peja . Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from "Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (pp.79-83)

4.3.4. Late Antiquity/ Early Byzantine Fortified Settlements in Kosovo

In conclusion, it may be argued that major Late Antique/ Early Byzantine settlements (archeological sites) in Kosovo point the major high hills in the country with strategic geopolitical positions out looking mines and fertile lands too, while spatial distribution in a longitudinal form of certain fortified settlements indicate that the mountain strips were used to raise fortresses which would allow for the development of the medieval town on the hills while watching lowland settlements and fertile lands around fortresses. The Map shows that the historical layer of the Late Antique/Early Byzantine era may be fostered and developed only through cooperation between regions.

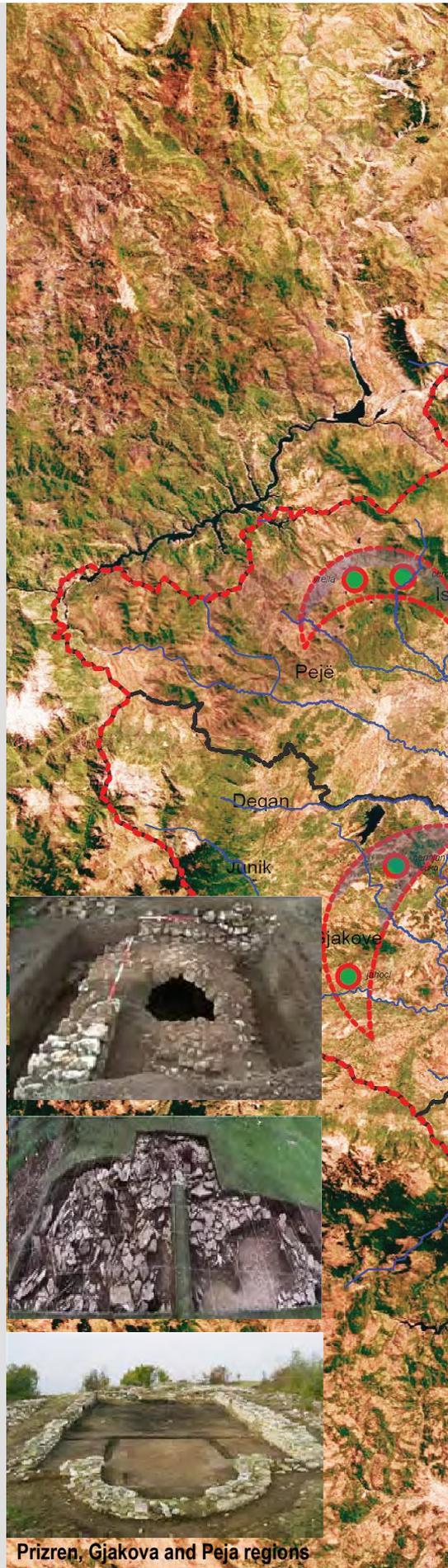
Graphical/ spatial analysis in the map ,shall be used in the third part of this thesis to define the cultural landscape component in the future urban and spatial portrait of Kosovo.



LEGEND

 Late antique/early Byzantium

Map 4.16. Map of major Late Antique/Early Byzantine settlements in Kosovo
 Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK. 2012



Prizren, Gjakova and Peja regions

4.4. Middle ages: fortified settlements and the Orthodox Church architecture (6th to 14th AD)

The Middle Ages settlements in Kosovo which today are identifiable, are protected by law and belong to the period between 13th and 17th centuries.¹¹⁶ Although the historical layer prior to this period, that is, between 6th and 13th century, has lost its relevance in spatial and architectural terms, it can be interpreted through the use of ancient documents, the most important of which is the church-related map of monasteries "Tabula Rogeriana" completed in 1154 by the Arab scholar *Mohammad al Idris*. In the territory of the modern-day Kosovo, this map provides a toponym "Abliu", which according to modern scholars can be attributed to Lipjan, that is, the area which is based on ancient traditions of Ulpiana.¹¹⁷ From this, we may conclude that until 13th century AD (late 12th century), Ulpiana with settlements around, used to maintain the relevance as the central part of medieval Kosovo.

One should recall that after partition of the Roman Empire, the territory of modern-day Kosovo was situated in its eastern part, later known as Byzantium (see map 4.17.). Between years around 850 and 971, the territory of Kosovo and the neighboring Rashka was ruled by Simeon's Bulgaria.



Map 4.17. The Byzantine Empire under Basil II in ca. 1045

The territory of modern-day Kosovo indicated in the map is within the borders of Simeon's Bulgaria. 1045 is the year when the university was endowed with a new charter by Constantine IX, partly to ensure a steady flow of educated civil servants for the bureaucracy.

Source : https://roberthorvat30.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/liimpero_bizantino_nel_1045.jpg

¹¹⁶. UNESCO: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724>

¹¹⁷. Altić S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnicka knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (p.22)

After the collapse of the Bulgarian state, Byzantium reasserted its rule in Rashka and in the territory of Kosovo (see map 4.18.) and ruled until 1216, when Stephen the First - Crowned, the son of the Serbian King Nemanja, finally conquered the whole territory of Kosovo. Further expansion of Serbian despotism in the south removed the territory of Kosovo from the bordering line with Byzantium.¹¹⁸

When discussing the phenomenon of geographical division lines that used to pass through the territory of modern-day Kosovo, as previously argued, one should take into account the broader historical context of the region, that is, cultural and religious contexts.

It is interesting to note in this context that the line which originally marked the division between Roman influence from Italy versus Greek influence from Greece and Byzantium, prior to Slavic invasions- the so-called “Jiricek Line” (which is based on archeological evidence)- used to cut in two parts the territories populated by native Albanians. This line also defines the territorial division of two dialects of Albanians in the Balkans, **Gheg** and **Tosk**, which still today is identifiable. In this context, the territory of modern-day Kosovo belongs to the northern Gheg territorial space. This ancient frontier of the Latin Balkans later marked the division between the Roman Catholic Church versus Greek Orthodox Church.¹¹⁹



Map 4.18. The division line between East and West.

The territory of modern-day Kosovo indicated in the map is located within the Eastern part of the Empire.

Source: http://matrix.msu.edu/hst/guide/history140r/unit8/mod/imgs/later_roman_empire.jpg

¹¹⁸. Altić S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnicka knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (p.22)

¹¹⁹. Albanian and the Paleo-Balkan Dialects and Pagan Religion. In: <http://piereigion.org/albanian.html>

One should recall in this context that the dividing line of the Empire in Western Latin-speaking and Eastern Greek speaking parts, dates to 1054 and is known as the "East-West Schism", although this division in fact is a result of an extended period of separation between the Western Catholicism and Greek Eastern Orthodoxy. Having in mind this context and the division line drawn by Jericek, it is made clear that the territory of Kosovo, although under Byzantium and the Orthodox Church, was close to the Roman Catholic Church based in Italy, throughout the Middle Ages. (map in 4.19.). These complex historical contexts put Kosovo in the crossroad of political, cultural, and religious influences in the medieval Balkans.

According to historical sources, in times of medieval rule of Rashka in Kosovo, many ancient lead, silver and gold mines were reopened and became the most important sources of income in the medieval Serbian state. Due to the mining activities which initiated a migration influx towards the lands of Kosovo's territory, the population of settlements in and around the aforementioned mines grew and diversified in terms of ethnicity and religion. While early Christian/ Catholic churches were destroyed over time and only few ruins are evidenced during archeological excavations carried out in Kosovo until today, Orthodox churches and monasteries from the medieval period are preserved and many have kept monastic function.¹²⁰ Four medieval churches from the 14th century that need attention are inscribed as World Heritage Sites: Patriarchate of Peja, the Deçan Monastery, the Gracanica Monastery, and the Church of Leviska or St. Friday's Church in Prizren. ¹²¹

Beside the aforementioned churches, traces of medieval settlements and forts have also survived the time and most of them are likewise protected by law. While fortresses in Zveçan and Novobrdo are classified as medieval fortified settlements (towns) in the List of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, ¹²² the Prizren castle and some other fortified settlements (Vërboc- Drenas, Pogradjë- Gjilan, etc.) which date back to Antiquity, were used in continuity throughout the Middle Ages. Another category of medieval settlements identified in the Kosovo's List of Cultural Heritage under the category of archeological sites are mostly ruins of medieval settlements or complexes/ neighborhoods, preserved as ruins of medieval towns such as the ones in Popoc and Jabllanica in Gjakova, Vidishic, Zasella, and Mazhic in Mitrovica, as well as Nenkalaja - Pantelija and Potok neighborhoods in the city of Prizren.

¹²⁰. Jerliu F., "Prishtina Reinterpreted. Heritage-Memory-Identity in the contemporary context", Unpublished PhD Thesis, 2014 (p.78)

¹²¹. Assembly of Republic of Kosovo, Law Nr. 03/L-039 on Special Protective Zones, 2008
Apart from being protected by Law, Patriarchate of Peja, The Decan Monastery and the Gracanica Monastery are also protected through a special Law (Law on Special Protective Zones) and enjoy the status of "Special Protected Zones" (SPZ).
See more in: http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008_03-L039_en.pdf

¹²². List of Cultural Heritage of Kosovo under Temporary Protection is a mechanism initially adopted in 2011.



Map 4.19. The division line between Latin and Greek influence, according to the Czech historian Konstantin Jireček in his study of 1911, on the history of the Slavic people. The territory of modern-day Kosovo indicated in the maps is located in the borderline between the within the Eastern part Empire.

Source of the map: <http://origineagherga.blogspot.com/2011/09/mitropolia-ohridei.html>

4.4.1. Prishtina and Mitrovica regions- medieval settlements

Apart from Gracanica Monastery, major medieval sites in the region of Prishtina consist of fortified settlements located in low hills, which were used in continuity since the Late Antiquity. Such are the Harilaq fortress in Fushë Kosova and the Verboc fortress in the municipality of Drenas/ Glogovc. On the other hand, the Mitrovica region is quite distinguished by medieval settlements, which mainly used to have a mining function. Major sites of this type of settlements are located near the area rich with mines in the Mitrovica municipality. Worth noting are the ruins of medieval settlements in Vidisiq and Maziq, located near the old mining town of Trepça, which is a multilayered site dating back to the late Antiquity.

According to the archive material retrieved from Dubrovnik (Ragusa) and Venice, the city of Trepça and Novobërda/ Artana in the region of Gjilan (both mines' areas rich in gold, silver, lead and zinc) were considered during the late medieval period as the largest cities in Kosovo. ¹²³

Not far from the Trepça mine, about 2 km from Mitrovica city is located the fortified medieval city Zveçan, erected during the Late Antiquity period on top of a volcanic hill. Today, the fortress and the surrounding area are abandoned. The castle is fortified with stone walls assembled with lime plaster, and represents a characteristic settlement of the Late Antiquity and mediaeval Byzantine architecture. Inside the fortification walls are found remains of an administrative building and the foundations of a Paleo-Christian (early Christian) church, while outside the wall are found two Christian cemeteries, the exact date of which is not determined. The integrity of archeological remains of the Zveçan castle is considered to have regional importance. According to experts involved in the evaluation of the Kosovo heritage sites and in compilation of the Priority Intervention List as part of the Regional Program for Cultural and Natural Heritage in Southeastern Europe, the Zveçan castle is a potential site for cultural tourism development. ¹²⁴ In terms of architecture, the Graçanica Monastery is the most representative medieval site in the cultural landscape of the Prishtina region and can be regarded as a generator for strengthening of the urban portrait in the area, not only because it is part of the UNESCO list, but largely due to its vicinity with the ancient city of Ulpiana and other listed heritage and natural sites in the close vicinity.

Fortress of Zveçan (11th- 14th century)

Archaeological excavations demonstrated that the mediaeval fortress of Zveçan was built on top of remains of an antique fortification dating back to the 4th century AD. In the 11th -14th century, the fortress became one of the most important castles of Northeast Kosovo.

Gracanica Monastery (13th century)

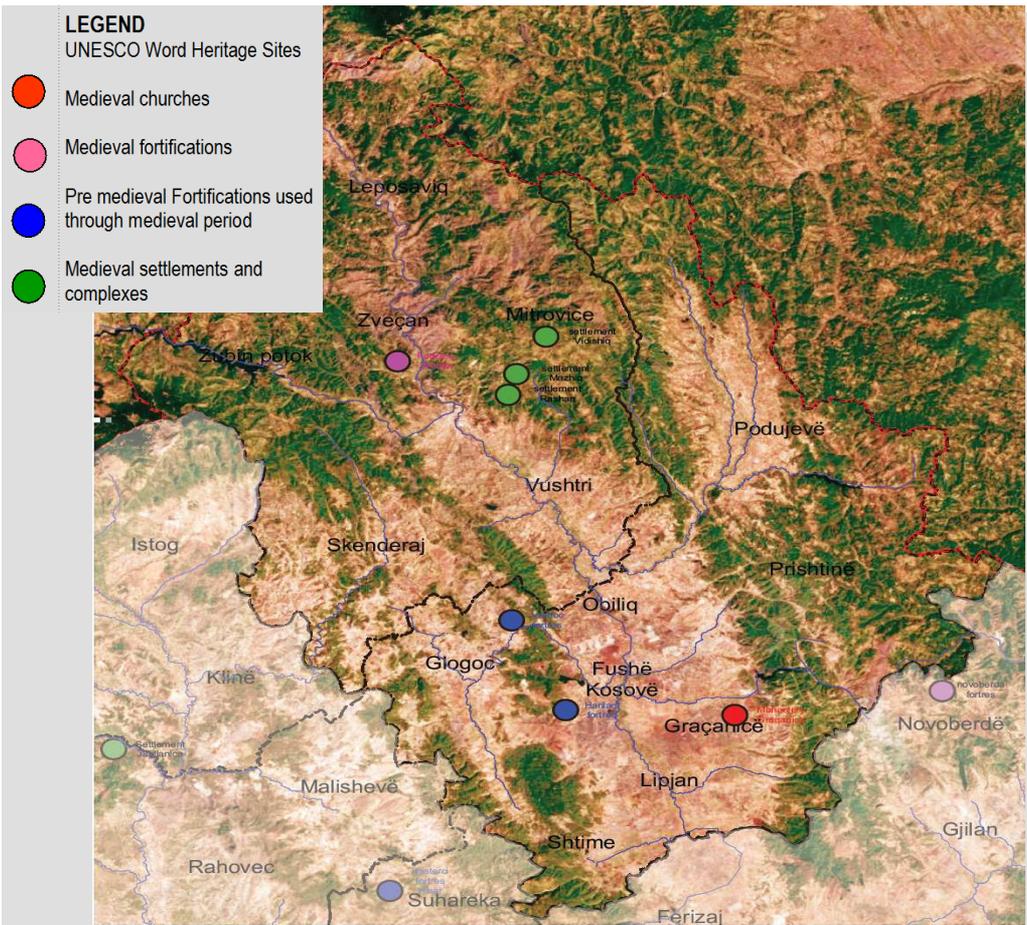
Gracanica monastery is located five kilometers southeast of Prishtina. It was constructed on the ruins of an older 13th century church, which was built on the ruins of a 6th century early Christian three-naved basilica. In 2006, the monastery was placed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List under the name "Medieval Monuments in Kosovo".

Special protective Zone of Graçanica

The Map shows that the zone encircled with red line, which is protected by Law on Special Protective zones adopted after the Ahtisaari document. The area, as shown in the map, encompasses the entire settlement of Gracanica. The Gracanica Monastery is located in the southern part of the settlement, as marked in the map.

¹²³. Hajzeri P., "The castle, the town of Rasha-(Trepça)", European Scientific Journal December 2013. /SPECIAL/ edition vol.4 ISSN: 1857– 7881 (Print) e- ISSN 1857- 7431.
In: <http://eujournal.org/index.php/esj/article/viewFile/2493/2366>

¹²⁴. MCYS. IRPP/SAAH_Kosovo, 2009 (p.49-51)



Special protective Zone of Graçanica
mykosova.weebly.com



Graçanica Monastery (13th century)
mykosova.weebly.com



Fortress of Zveçan (11th-14th century)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zveçan_Fortres

Figure 4.16. Map of major medieval settlements and churches in the regions of Prishtina and Mitrovica. Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from mykosova.weebly.com and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zveçan_Fortres

4.4.2. Gjilan and Ferizaj regions- medieval settlements

The medieval city of Novoberda/ Artana situated in the northern part of the Gjilan region is without doubt the most representative site preserved from the middle ages in Kosovo, and is qualified as one of the most important mining cities in south-eastern Europe. Like the case of Trepça in the region of Mitrovica, Novobrdo/ Artana is an ancient settlement which grew into an important medieval mining town owing to the rich silver and gold mines located in its near vicinity. Based on archeological finds among which are silver coins which date back to the 4th century BC, the size of the settlements, and the fortifying wall made of large stones, Novobrdo/ Artana is thought to be the ancient Illyrian city called Damastion.

The site of Novoberdo and in particular the fortified medieval town has preserved its integrity and exposed impressive monumental features as well as a rich natural landscape; hence, it represents a large potential for cultural and natural tourism development. The medieval town of Novobrdo consists of three parts: the upper city (citadela), lower city and pre-quarters, covering in total an area of 50ha; the fortified part of the city covers a surface of 5.10ha.

The upper city is surrounded by 15m high defensive walls and six tall towers, the lower city is likewise fortified and has two towers, and the pre-quarters, villages, cemeteries and religious buildings stretch around the entire area. Archaeological excavations (in 1951 and 2003) have surfaced out interesting edifices such as the Good Friday cathedral, Saxon monumental church and two smaller churches. ¹²⁵

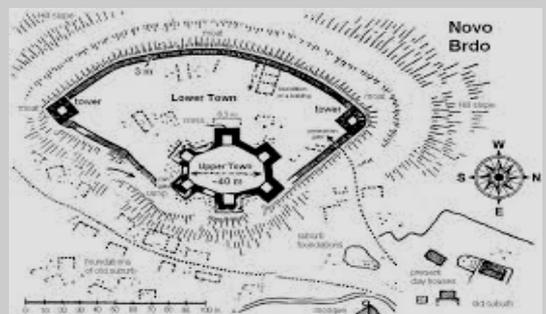
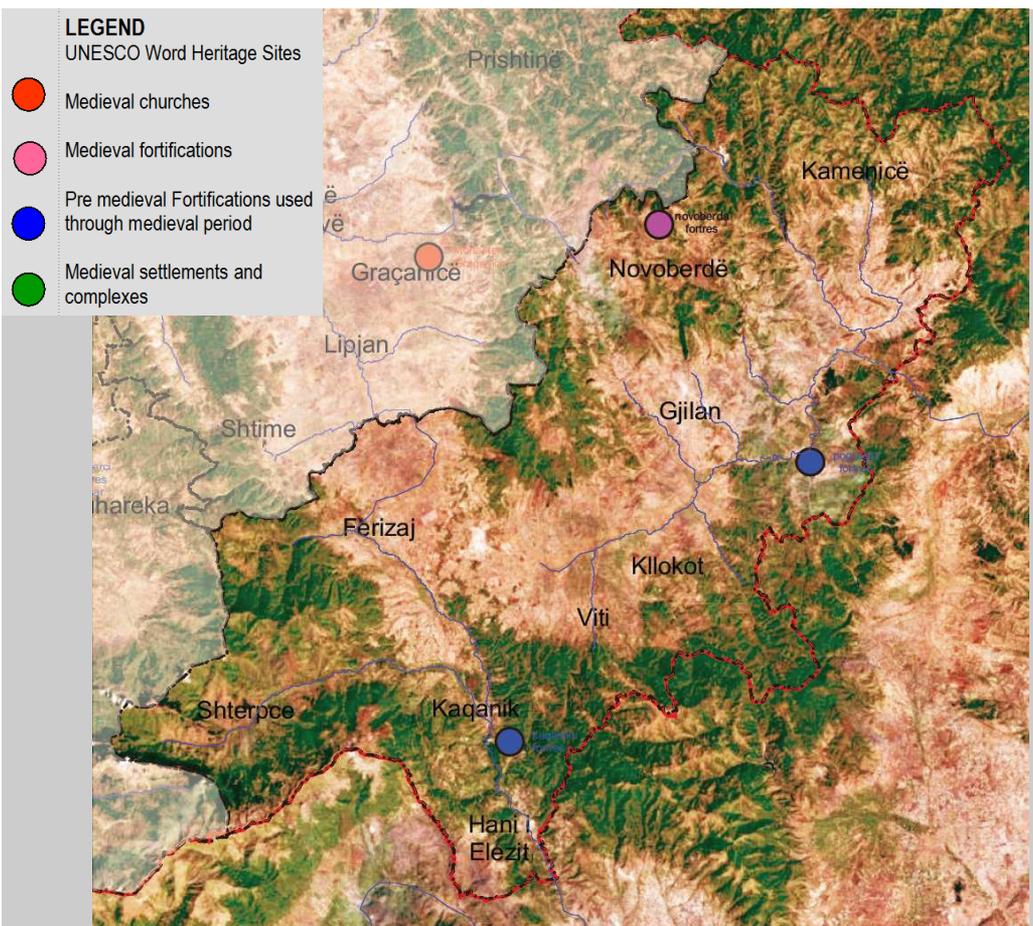
Novo Brdo

The site of Novoberdo/ Artana and in particular the fortified medieval town has preserved its integrity and exposed impressive monumental features as well as a rich natural landscape;

According to heritage experts, "the antique settlement demonstrates the interlacing of the Hellenic culture with local Ilirian culture [while] the medieval city shows the symbiosis of European architectural styles and Ottoman building traditions."¹²⁶

¹²⁵. MCYS. IRPP/SAAH_Kosovo, 2009 (pp.41-43)

¹²⁶. Ibid, (pp.41-43)



Map of Novo Brdo fortress
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novo_Brdo_Fortress



Picture of Novo Brdo fortress

Figure 4.17. Map of Major medieval settlements and churches in the regions of Gjilan and Ferizaj . Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.93)

4.4.3. Prizren region- medieval settlements

Apart from Suhareka and Dragash which have fortresses that were used in continuity since ancient times (the fort 'Hisar of Kasterc' in Suhareka and the fort in Brrut of Dragash), the medieval period in the region of Prizren is best portrayed through the example of the city of Prizren. Three monumental sites protected by law are located in the city: The Prizren Fortress, housing complex of Nënkalaja- Pantelia and Potok, and the Church of Virgin of Ljevishka (St. Friday Church), which is also part of the UNESCO list.

Prizren's Fortress is located on the high hill south-east side of the city and with it dominates the city with its picturesque landscape. It is composed of three sub complexes (Upper Fortress, Lower Fortress, and Southern Fortress). It comprises a number of important historical/ architectural phases, as shown in the plan from the map below (map 4.20.). The Prizren fortress has great potential for being used for cultural events as well as to become one of the most visited cultural and natural landmarks in Kosovo.

Not only the fortress but the city of Prizren as a whole represents one of the most attractive settlements in Kosovo owing to its rich natural landscape and abundant architectural and archeological sites .

The fortress of Prizren

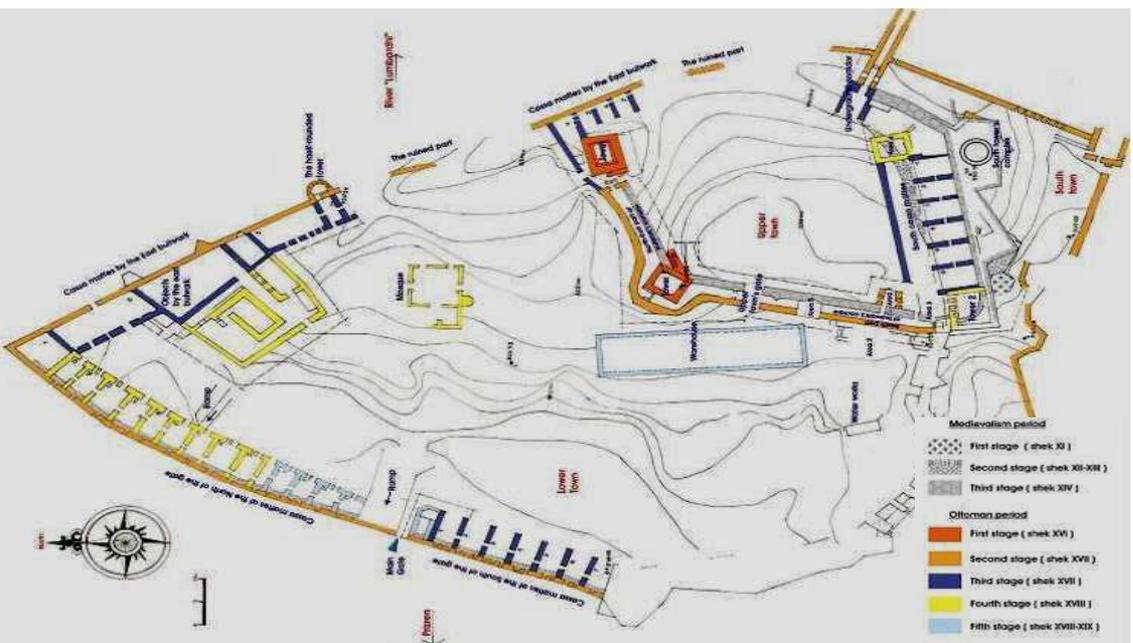
Stratifications of constructions in the Prizren Fortress date from different historic periods: 5th century B.C., 15th and 19th centuries. It is one of the most ancient forts and with extraordinary archaeological, architectural, historical and cultural heritage value for Kosovo, in particular, and South- East Europe, in general.

Nenkalaja– Pantelia and Potok

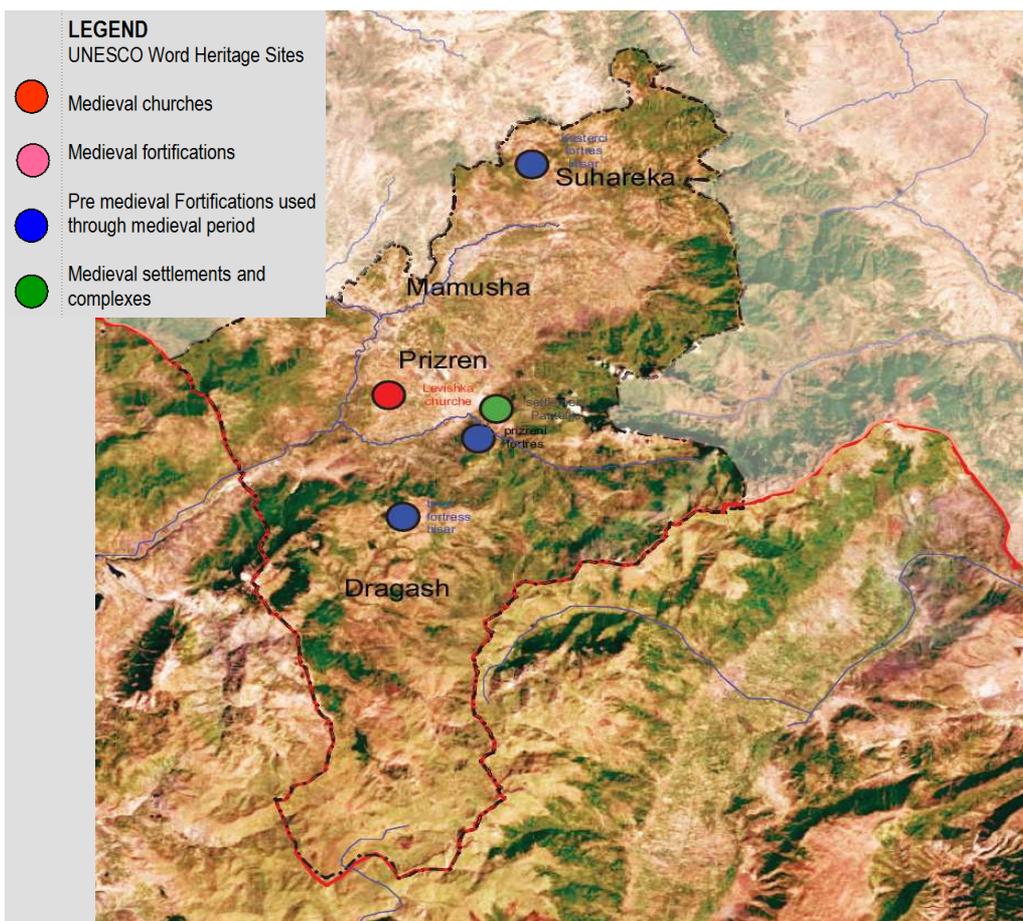
These neighborhoods are located in a hilly area, between the historic core of Prizren and the fortress and consist of traditional houses, with predominantly landscape values.

Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljevishka

Inscribed on the UNESCO world heritage list in 2007, also known as St. Premtja, Bogorodica Ljevishka, Xhuma Xhamia, Xhamia Atik and Fet-hije, the church is built on the foundations of an earlier Paleo-Christian church .



Map 4.20. The Prizren Fortress: Layout of building periods.
Source: MCYS/ PTA (2009). The Prizren Fortress (Kalaja), Prizren.



Nenkalaja- Pantelia and Potok www.coe.int



Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljevishka
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Ljevi%C5%A1



The fortress of Prizren

Figure 4.18. Map of Major medieval settlements and churches in the region of Prizren

Source: map compiled by author, Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK, 2012 (p.94)

4.4.4. Gjakova and Peja regions- medieval settlements

While Peja and Deçan are known for two representative Orthodox Church sites: Patriarchate of Peja, the Deçan Monastery (mid-14th century), the Gjakova region is distinguished for medieval settlements, ruins of which are preserved and protected by law, such as the ruins of medieval settlements in Popoc and Jabllanica, which are preserved and protected by law .

However, it is the very monumental churches which in fact make these regions known in the world. Both sites are located in picturesque landscapes rich in biodiversity, which increases the potentials of this region for establishing national natural and cultural parks with strong tourism vocation. ¹²⁷

Hence, Deçan and Peja deserve top attention in terms of integration of the aforementioned sites in the cities' urban portrait and relevant spatial considerations in the future.

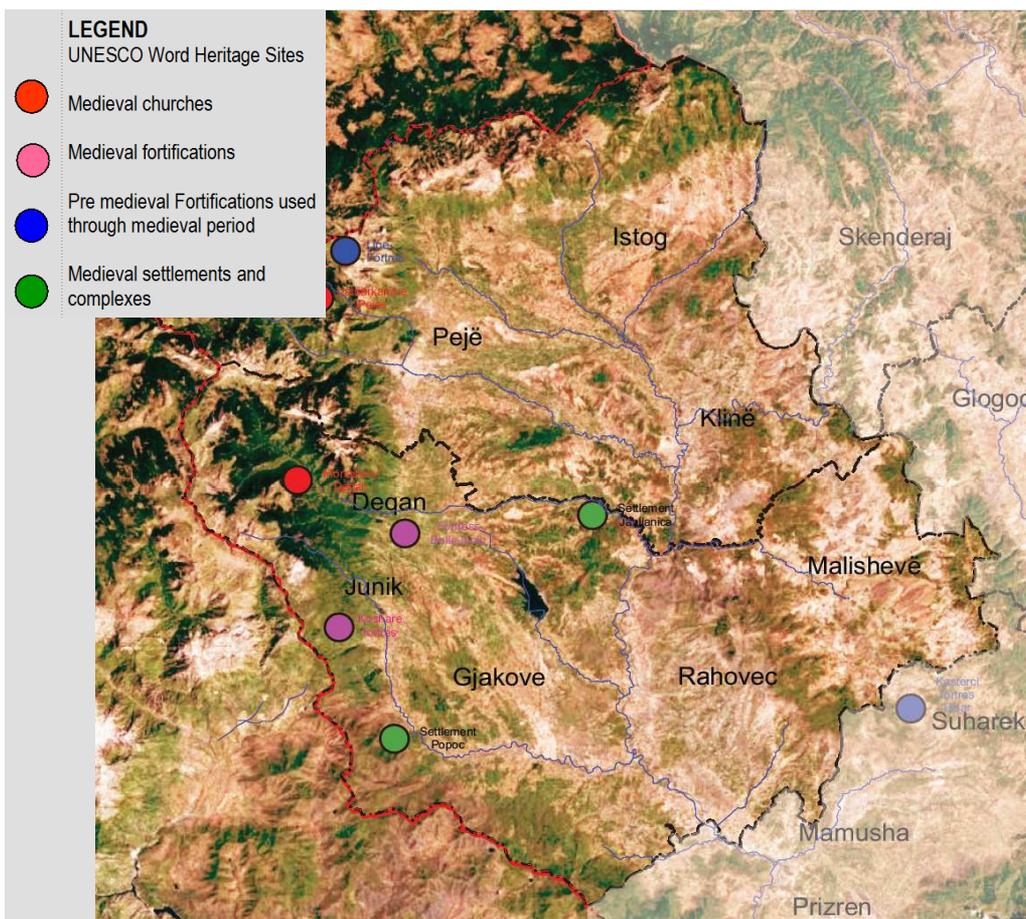
The Deçan Monastery

Inscribed on the UNESCO WHL in 2004, the monastery reflects the high point of the Byzantine-Romanesque ecclesiastical culture, with its distinct style of wall painting, which developed in the Balkans.

Patriarchate of Peja

Inscribed on the UNESCO WHL in 2006, the monastery is a group of four domed churches featuring series of wall paintings.

¹²⁷. MCYS. IRPP/SAAH_Kosovo, 2009 (pp.57-58)



Patriarchate of Peja
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarchate_of_Peja

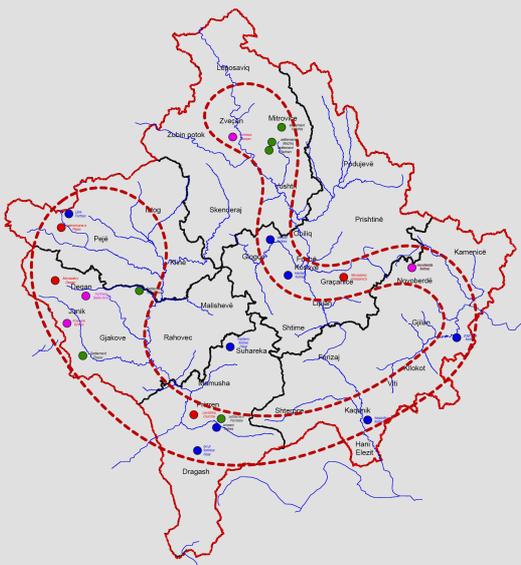


The Deqan Monastery
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deqan>

Figure 4.19. Map of major medieval settlements and churches in the regions of Gjakova and Peja
 Source: map compiled by author ,Information gathered from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarchate_of_Peja and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deqan>

4.4.5. The ring of medieval settlements in Kosovo

In conclusion, it may be argued that major medieval settlements in Kosovo are represented through a spatial ring, as proposed in the map 4.21., graphical/ spatial analysis of which shall be used in the third part of this thesis to define the cultural landscape component in the future spatial portrait of Kosovo.



LEGEND
UNESCO Word Heritage Sites

- Medieval churches
- Medieval fortifications
- Pre medieval Fortifications used through medieval period
- Medieval settlements and complexes

Map 4.21. Major medieval settlements and churches in Kosovo

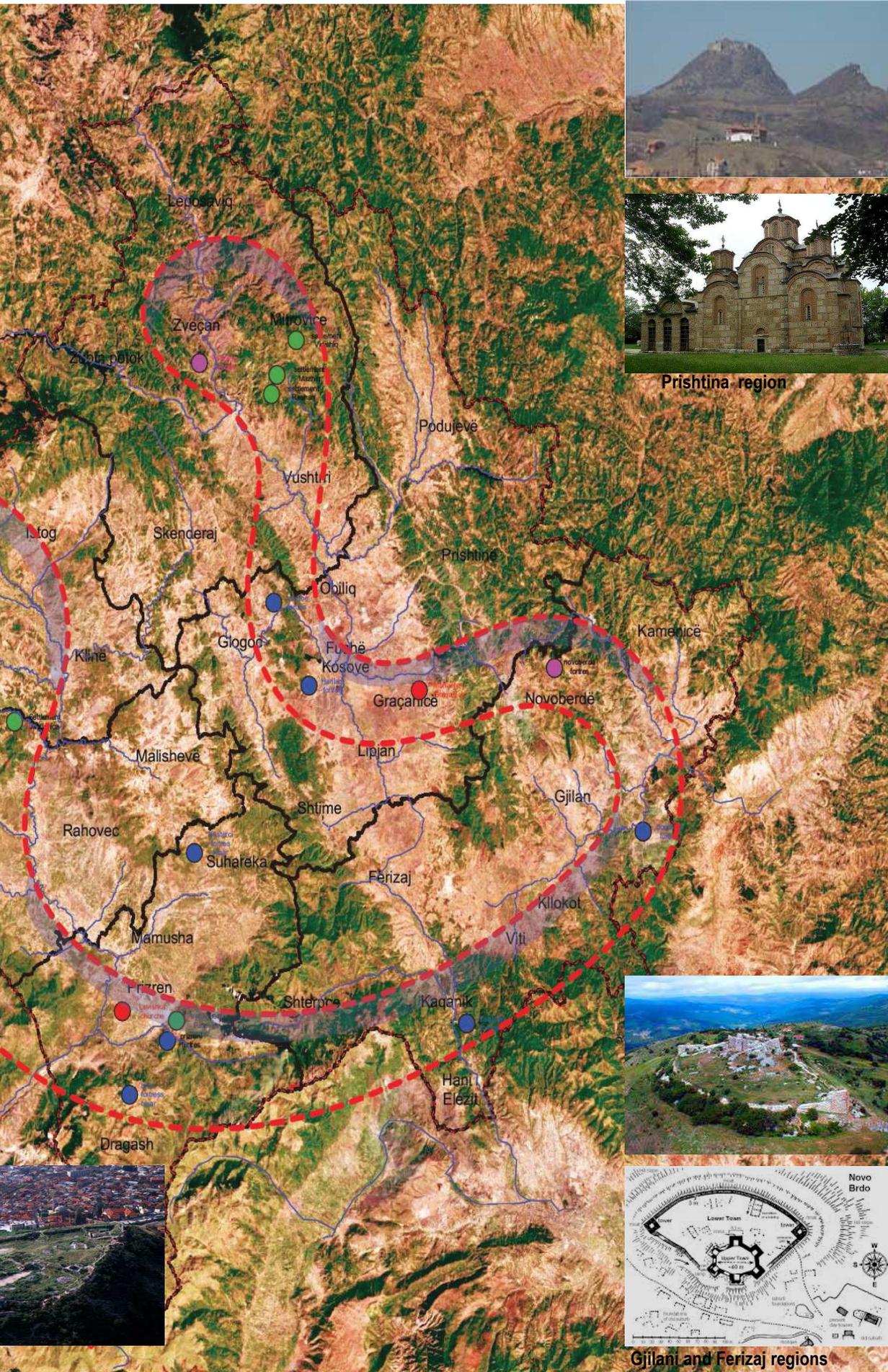
Source: map compiled by author, Information gathered from Berisha M., "Archaeological Guide of Kosovo", MCYS/AIK 2012.

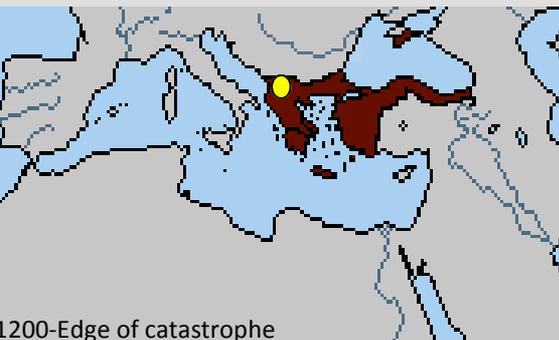
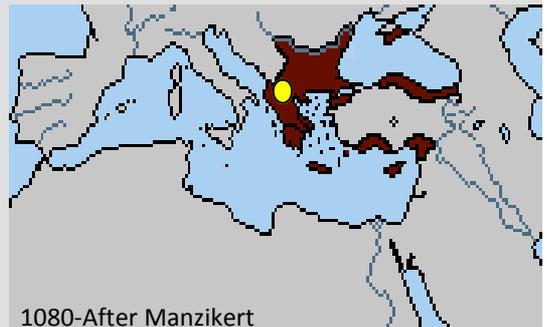
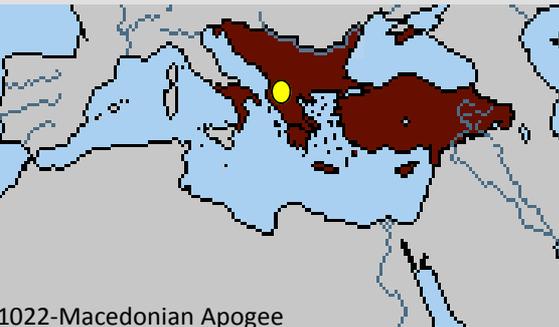
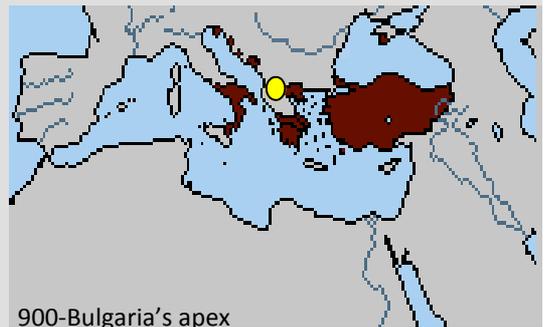
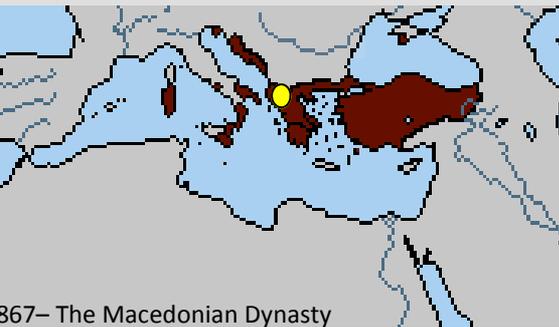
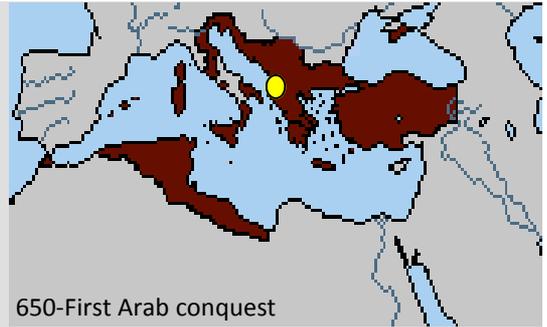
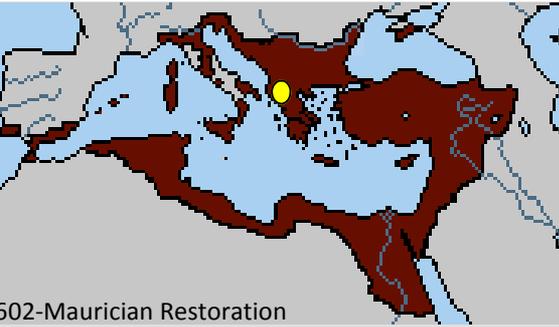


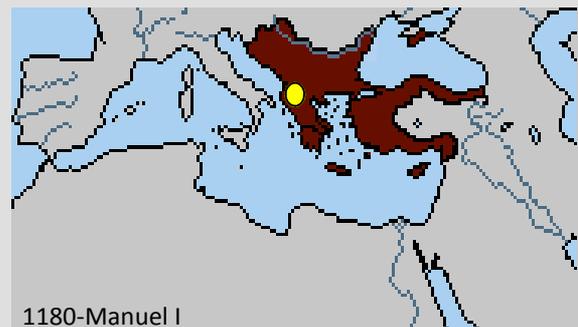
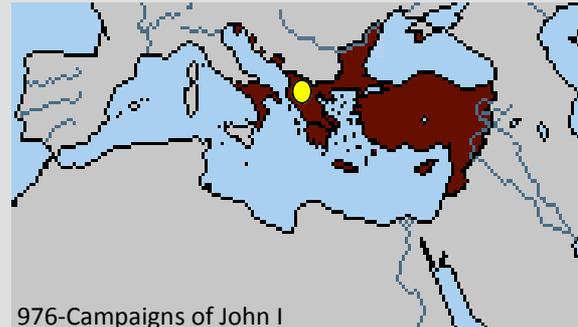
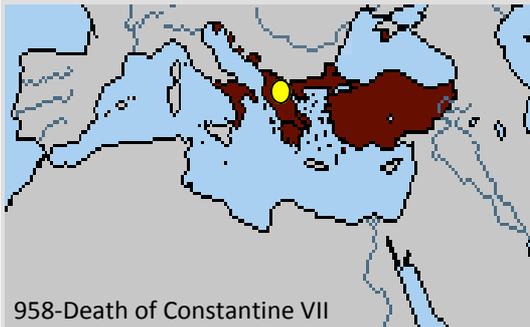
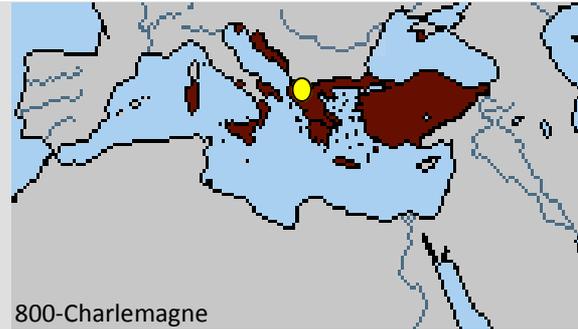
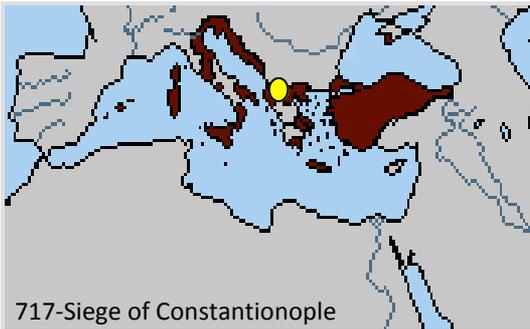
Gjakova and Peja regions



Prizreni region







Map 4.22. Timeline: Kosovo in the Byzantine Empire in 602 -1450

Source: compiled by author ,Information gathered from http://wiki.alternatehistory.com/lib/exe/fetch.php/resources/byzantine_20maps.png

4.5. Ottoman period: Consolidation of the city form (14th to early 20th century)

This chapter explores the context between 14th and 19th century urbanism in Kosovo. It explains urban character of the city in Kosovo, as well as the way in which cities integrated into the Ottoman Empire by analyzing urban architectural features of the period.

Today's Kosovo territory during the Ottoman period was part of the territory of the tribe Balaj, which Ottomans named Rumelia- a historical term which Ottomans used for the Balkans.

The term "Rum" means "Roman", while Rumelia and Rumeli in Turkish meant the "land of the Romans". According to the Ottoman territorial/ administrative division, Rumelia was a separate region named 'Eyalet', in the early formation of eyalets in the Empire; Anatolia was the second.

Rumelia was based in Edirne, estimated to have been founded in 1362. During centuries 15th, 16th and 17th Rumelia temporarily used to belong to the Pashalik of Budim-Timoshfara (after the year 1541) and Eyalet-Pashalik of Bosnia (from year 1580). Rumelia used to have 17 Sanjaks, or provinces/ prefectures- the second smaller territorial administrative units after eyalets. In 1490/91 Eyalet of Rumelia had 26 sanjaks of which, sanjaks in Albanian lands were: sanjak of Vuçitrn, Prizren, Shkodra, Ohrid, Elbasan and Vlora.

Sanjak were further divided into smaller units "kaza" or "kadilic". Those were further divided into smaller administrative unit "nahije", while nahijes in villages. At the same time, sanjak's were divided into vilayets. ¹²⁸

Kaza was a juridical and administrative unit equivalent to an administrative district; "nahije" is a smaller unit than kaza but larger than a village, a term of which was coined to represent spatial units such area, region, suburb, a small settlement. The unit of "nahije" in the 16th century included a wide territory as administrative and military unit.

According to the Defter-books (Muffasal defter) from the second half of the 16th century, Sanjak of Vuçitern, Prizren, Shkodra and Dukagjini, appear as nahije (administrative unit).

¹²⁸. Riza S., "Kosova gjatë shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja, Prishtina, 1982 (pp.49)



Map 4.23. Rumelia: European Turkey

Rumelia was a historical term describing the area now referred to as the Balkans. The term "Rûm" means "Roman", while Rumelia and Rumeli, mean "land of the Romans" in Turkish.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rumelia_map.jpg

4.5.1. Kosovo in the Ottoman Empire between mid 15th and mid 19th century

As the map shows, between 1455 and 1606, the territory of Kosovo was divided into five Sanjaks, as shown in the map above: the Sanjak of Vucitrn, Prizren, Skopje, Dukagjin, and Shkodra. The northern part of the present-day Kosovo used to be administered through the Sanjack of Bosnia, and a small part of it through the Sanjak of Krushevac, a town in modern day Serbia.

Sanjak of Vuçitrn/ Vushtrri - was the first Sanjak of Kosovo which was formed in 1455 and included almost the entire territory of Kosovo that is Kopaonik areas in the north, to the south of Skopje Karadak from Toplica, Gollak Llapi and east to the parish of Sirenices, Sharri and Drenica in the West. The whole Sanjak had 868 villages. According to the Tapu (property register) no. 167 of years 1530-31 Sanjak of Vuçitrn was divided in kaza (district): Novo Brdo, Prishtina, Bellasnica and Vuqiterna, and had nine settlements as Vuqiterna, Pristina, Janjeva, Novo Brdo, Belashnica, Belloberda, Koporiq, Trepça, while Mitrovica and Kaçanik Morava were not in this Sanjak.

Sanjak of Prizren- was established after the year 1459, and included a wide territory, from the south of Sharri to Novi Pazar, and Berveniku Bihori North, east of Drenica district to Peja and Gjakova in the west. The date of formation of Sanjak is disputable because Prizren was invaded several times. According to the defter of year 1485 of the Sanjak of Shkodra, some lands in Sanjak of Prizren and those of Hamza Bey from the nahia of Prizren, were under the kaza (town) of Peja which belonged to the Sanjak of Shkodra. According to the defter of year 1490, Sanjak of Prizren expanded and included these vilayets: Novi Bazaar, Tergovishta (Rozhaja), Prizren, Vlachs of Prizren, (highland Prizren, Dragas, Gora, etc.) Bervenik, Bihor, Shogerla and Komnin.¹²⁹

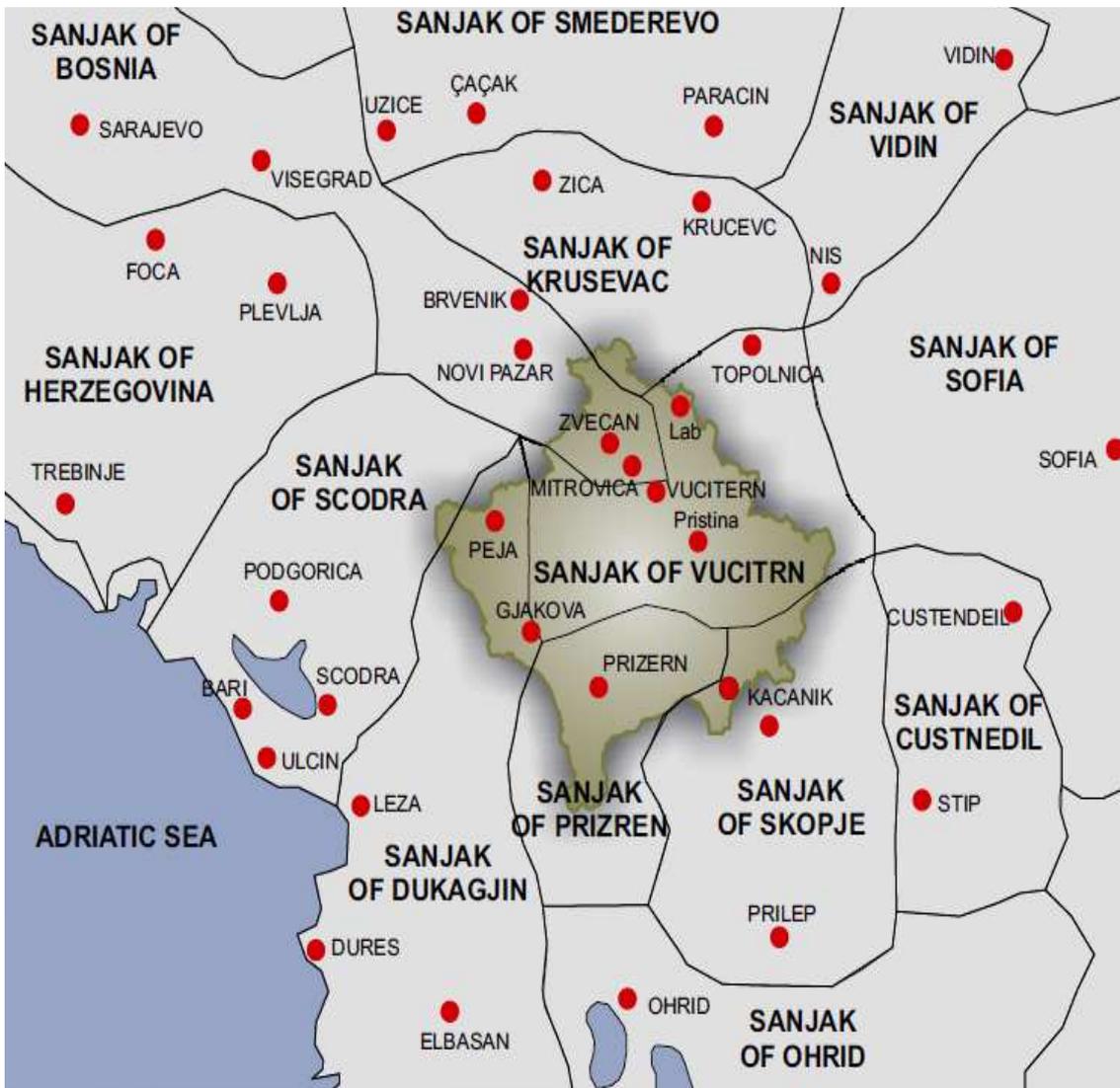
Sanjak of Skopje- Kaçaniku areas, until the end of 17th century belonged to Skopje Sanjak, when the Austrian army entered in Skopje, including Kosovo and Dukagjini plain. The territory of the Sanjak of Vuçitern came under the context of Sanjak of Skopje or under the Skopje jurisdiction (Iuridizedioni Scopia), while the beyler-beg of Rumelia was appointed as Sanjakbej of Sanjak of Dukagjini.

Sanjak of Dukagjin and Shkodra– Ottomans established Dukagjini Sanjak during 1455-76. This included the wide territory from the south Elbasan, Durrës and Lezha, towns in modern day Albania. In north were Peja and Gjakova. Peja as a Kaza comes under the Sanjak of Dukagjini during the time when this region was under Lekë III Dukagjini (1459-1479). When invaded, the province went under administrative reformation into units - sanjaks, vilayet, nahije etc.

In 1485 Sanjak of Shkodra was divided into 4 kazas: Shkodra, Podgorica, Peja and Bihor. During half of the 17th century, Haji Kallfa highlights that the territory included Dukagjini Kadillek, Alltun-Iljia, Peja, Gjakova, Plav, Podmile, Zadrime and Lezha. Ten years later Evlyya Çelebi noted that Gjakova and Peja were also in the Dukagjini Sanjak. The seat of the Sanjakbej was Peja but it also stayed in Lezha.¹³⁰

¹²⁹. Riza S., "Kosova gjatë shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja, Prishtina, 1982. (p.59)

¹³⁰. *ibid*, (pp 60-65)



Map 4.24. Territory of Kosovo between 1455 and 1606 .

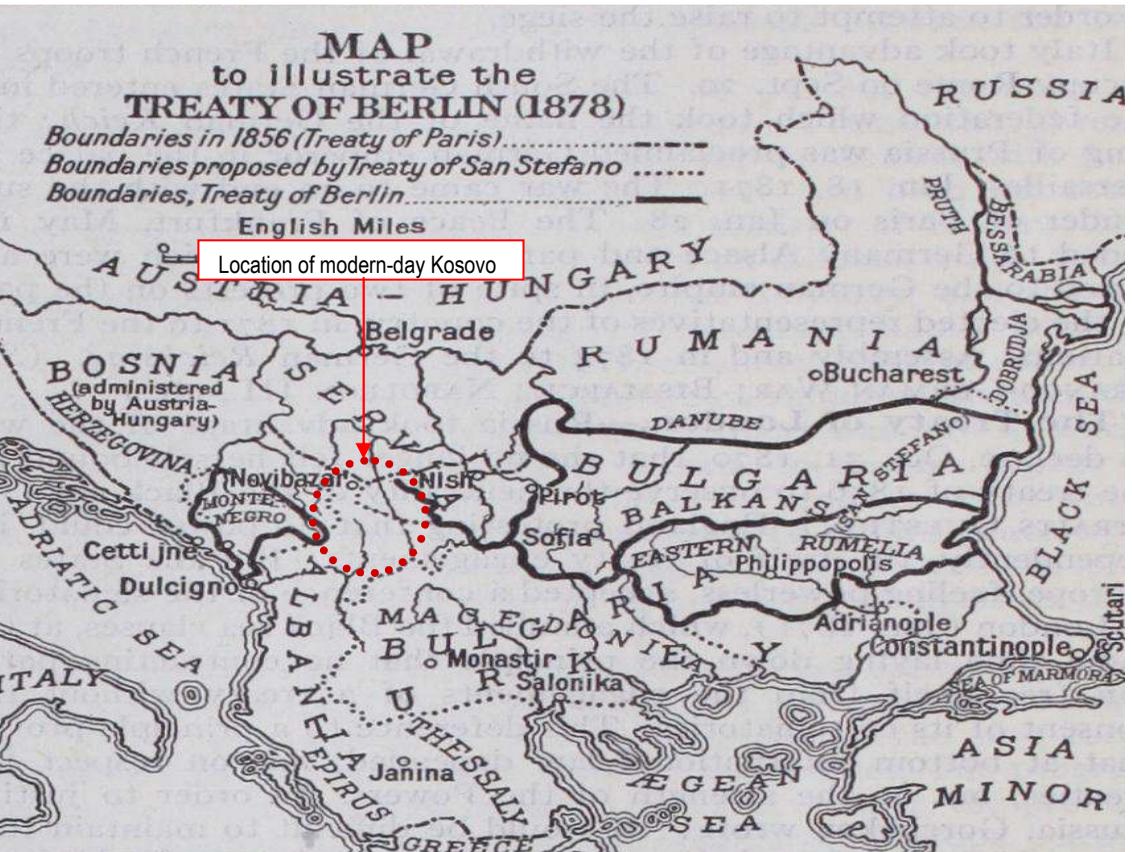
Kosovo within the administrative organization of the Ottoman Empire; The territory was divided in 5 Sanjacks.

Source: compiled by author ,Information gathered from Altic S.M, "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Tehnicka knjiga, Zagreb, (2006). p.34

4.5.2. Kosovo after reformation of the Ottoman Empire between 1839-1912

Territorial administrative division after the Tanzimat reforms (1839-1912)¹³¹ was completely different from what we saw in Western European countries, that is, a national state division carried out along national and ethnic lines. The opening of the Turkish economy to the world economy through the Anglo-Turkish business agreement from year 1838, affected the creation of separate administrative units and of the process of change in urban structure.

The new divisions that came out from the Berlin Congress in 1878 further affected the positioning of Kosovo in the region. The main alterations were: Bulgaria was created an autonomous and tributary state under the sultan of Turkey; the province of Eastern Rumelia was formed, to remain under military and political control of the sultan, Bosnia and Herzegovina was to be governed by Austro-Hungary, Montenegro and Serbia became independent.¹³² Territories which remained under the Ottoman Empire, on the European side (Rumelia) were Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Greece and Bulgaria .



Map 4.25. Map of Balkan Peninsula in 1878

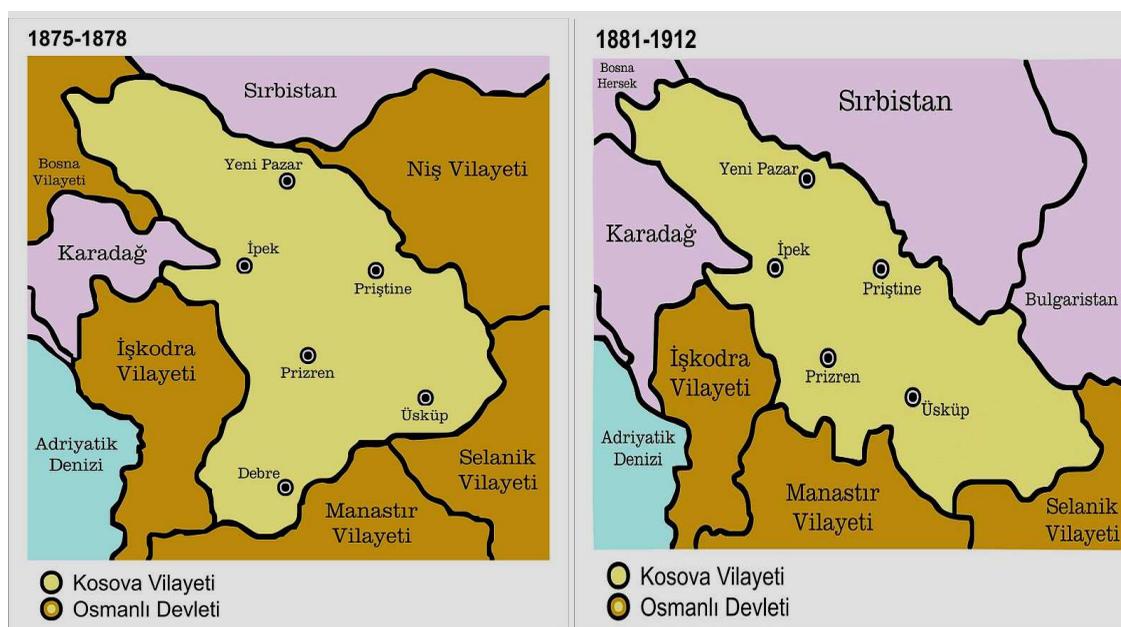
The map showing modifications of frontiers agreed upon in the treaty of Berlin in July 13, 1878. Source: <http://thearesproject.deviantart.com/art/The-Treaty-of-Adrianople-378594707>

¹³¹. The Tanzimat meant reorganization of the Ottoman Empire, characterized by various attempts to modernize the Ottoman Empire under the influence of European ideas. The reforms sought to grant emancipation to non-Muslim subjects of the Empire and to integrate non-Turks more thoroughly into Ottoman society by enhancing their civil liberties and granting them equality throughout the Empire.

¹³². Source: <http://gluedideas.com/Encyclopedia-Britannica-Volume-8-Part-2-Edward-Extract/Andrassy-Note.html>

Albanian territories were divided in 1878 into four large Vilajets:¹³³ Shkodra, with Shkodra as the main center, Kosovo- Prishtina as the main center, Manastir-Manastir or Bitolj, as the main center and Vilayet of Janina with Janina as the main center. As of that time, cities in these territories began to lose their oriental style of building, and continued to develop under the influence of modernizing trends in Europe.

The development of urbanism and architecture in cities of the Albanian vilayet developed throughout centuries under Ottoman rule, entered into a period of national revival, under the influence of the new capitalist system, and created relationships of these areas with European-Western centers. Since the second half of the 19th century, the Albanian bourgeoisie started to adopt the new style in arts and architecture. In all parts of the city, new housing and administrative buildings including shops in the bazaar, began to import significantly different details and forms from what used to be in inherited buildings from the past. Large traders, çifligars, industrialists, as well as foreign concessionaires, used their capital for building hotels and restaurants, and post and telegraph offices, promenades and city parks, a variety of workshops and factories, etc.¹³⁴ The influence of western architecture and urbanism directly influenced a different way of setting buildings in urban environment of the city, outside of residential areas, along the wide streets, and different architecture, large-volume, higher-storey height, and they became prominent buildings in the city in Kosovo.¹³⁵



Map 4.26. Vilayet of Kosovo between 1875-1878 (left) and between 1881-1912 (right)

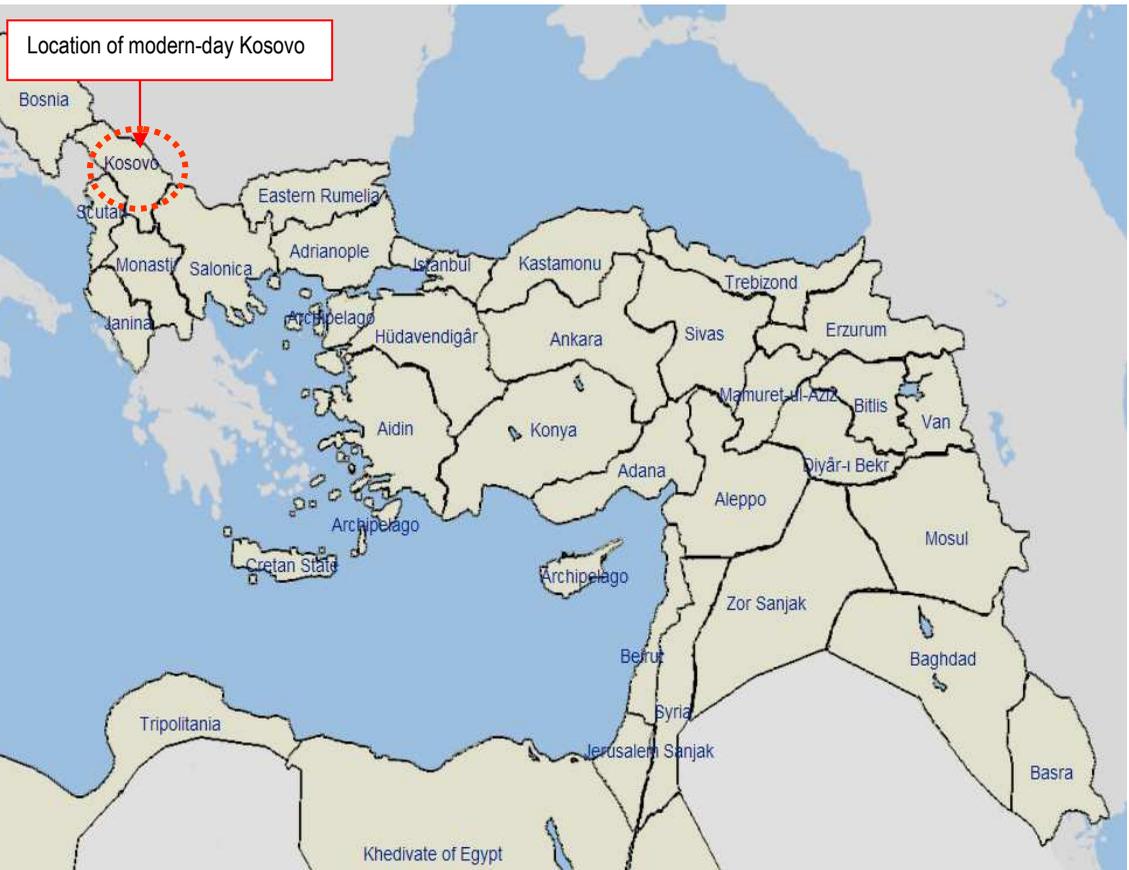
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo_Vilayeti

¹³³. From the second half of the XIX century vilayets became a form of greater administrative unit in the Ottoman Empire.

¹³⁴. Navakazi. V., "Architecture of Public buildings, The Influence of Western Architecture of Kosovo during the 19th and early 20th century", Unpublished PhD, Sarajevo, BH, 2012 (pp.46)

¹³⁵. Ibid, (p.47)

Also, the Empire engaged in building of the technical infrastructure in order to make easier the communication with Istanbul and the connections between the most important cities in the Balkan Peninsula. In 1858, the network of telegraph lines was built, from Istanbul via Selanik/ Thesaloniki, arriving at the town of Manastir/ Bitola in the modern-day Macedonia, and expanded in urban centers of the Albanian vilayets: Janina, Shkodra and Prishtina, all the way to Novi Pazar. In 1873 the railway was built and it connected Thesaloniki, Skopje, Prishtina, bypassing through Mitrovica.



Map 4.27. Ottoman Empire circa 1885.

The vilayet of Kosovo was created in 1877. It included the Sanjak of Novi Pazar, the Sanjak of Nis (until 1878), the region around Plav and Gusinje as well as the Dibra region. In 1868 the Vilayet of Prizren was created with the sanjaks of Prizren, Dibra, Skopje and Nis, but it ceased to exist in 1877.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilayet>

4.5.3. Urban development during the Ottoman era

During the Ottoman era, settlements in Kosovo developed gradually in the spirit of an urban culture which, apart from religious buildings such as mosques, tekkes, etc, brought a rather diverse palette of public facilities, as bridges, public baths, religious schools, public kitchens, public fountains, etc.

The most representative urban intervention that took place during the Ottoman era is the city center consisting of public market – “Çarshia” – which apart of defining the urban economic profile also defined the socio-political core of towns.

The status of cities, called “şehir”, was given to those centers that fulfilled certain requirements: cities (“şehir”) must be open places.

According to Pax Ottomana, cities should not be fortified, as they would usually be in the Middle Ages, in order to make the spread of Islam easier. In this context, cities must have at least four mosques and other facilities, that is, institutions, of Muslim character mentioned before. Such were schools (*mektebes*), public baths (*hamams*), caravan sarays (palaces), as well as hospitals, clock towers, water supply, fountains, etc.

Oppositely from villages, urban inhabitants were to deal with crafts and trade. However borders of towns did not strictly divide agricultural lands, hence, a wide belt of agricultural fields, meadows, vineyards and olives were part of towns.

In general, urban centers developed their local features depending on natural resources and the economic profile inherited from the Middle Ages, yet, their townscape and public functions developed according to the Empire’s politics for consolidation of its economic force. In this respect, major towns in Kosovo can be divided into three main typologies:

- a) **Mining towns,**
- b) **Administrative and socio-economic centers,** and
- c) **Active trade and crafts’ towns.**

4.5.3.1. Mining towns: Novobrda and Trepça

Novoberda or Artana (known also as: *Novos Mons, Novomonte, Monte Novo, Nyeuberghe, New Biri, Novayerde*, and in old ottoman language: *Yeni Brdo*), used to be one of major fortified mining towns in Kosovo, identified as such as of 1325.

A Ragusan colony existed in Novoberda in the period 1379-1450. Novobrda was rich in gold and silver, and was connected in active trade with Sofia, Edirne, Istanbul, Thessaloniki, and Italian towns.

During the ottoman period, Novoberda belonged to the Sanjak of Vuçitrn. Its importance as a mining town was somewhat guarded until the end of the 17th century. Although Novoberda lost its epithet as "*mother of all Towns*",¹³⁶ its urban content was preserved until lately while the historic area is today the most attractive part of Kosovo's historic urban landscape.

Trepça the mining town, in contrary to Novoberda, did neither survive as an urban center, nor in physical terms. It is worth mentioning that the town was based on the richness of the area full of mines of lead, gold, silver and other metals, mentioned for the first time in 1303, and named after the Albanian tribe Trepçi.

During the Middle Ages, it used to be part of the colony of Saxons. Owing to the mining capacities, Trepça during the earlier time of the Ottoman era (in 1488) used to have its own mining law.

Like in the case of Novoberda, mining activities decreased drastically due to the Austro-Ottoman War of the 17th century, after which Trepça never recovered as a living urban center.¹³⁷

Today, the region of Trepça consists of several small settlements- villages and small towns, which used to base until very recently its economy on the Kosovo mining giant corporation called with the same name Trepça.

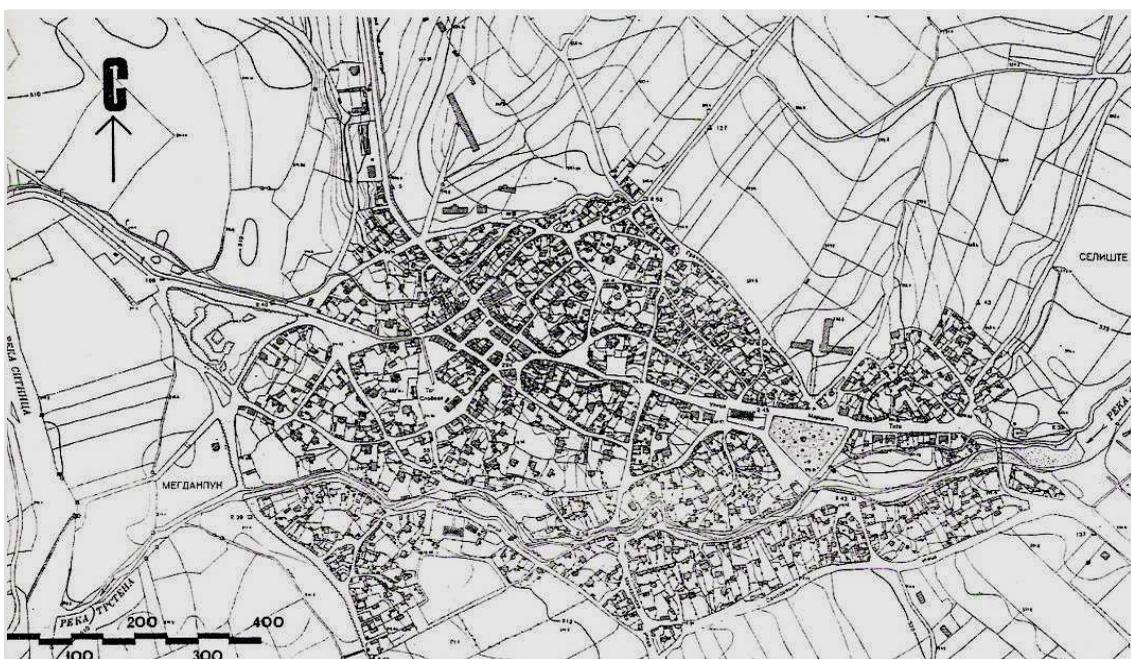
4.5.3.2. Administrative centers: Vushtrri (Vuçitern), Prishtina and later Mitrovica

Vushtrri (known also as: *Vuçitrn, older name Vicianum, today called Vushtrri*), used to be the trading and commercial center as well as the seat of the Vuçitrn Sanjak during the Ottoman Era. According to Philip Difren- Kane, in 1573 Vuçitern was a large town with many mosques and a large stone bridge over the river Sitnica, today known as the Vushtrri Bridge. By the end of the 17th century, Vushtrri's relevance as an important urban center faded; instead the city of Mitrovica which is located in the near northern part gained importance.¹³⁸ Today, we observe in part that Vushtrri still has kept some urban architecture and the street tissue from the Ottoman times.

¹³⁶. Riza S., "Kosova gjate shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja, Prishtina, 1982 (pp.219-230)

¹³⁷. Ibid, (pp.256-262)

¹³⁸. Ibid, (pp.263-267)



Map 4. 28. Old town of Vuçitrn (Vushtrri) as recorded in 1950. Source: Kojic.D.B., “Stari Balkanski Gradovi, varoši i varošice”, Institut za arhitekturu i urbanizam Srbije, Beograd, 1976, (p.77)



Old Stone Bridge, protected arch. heritage site



Clock tower (Sahat Kulla), destroyed after sec. Ww.



Old Bazaar ,destroyed after sec. World war .

Figure 4.20. Pictures of old town of Vuçitrn / Vushtrri.

Source: Vushtrria Antike web page. <http://www.vushtrriantike.info/monumentet.php>

Prishtina, today the capital of Kosovo, was one of major urban centers during the Ottoman rule. In the mid 15th century (by 1475) it was described by an Italian travel writer from Genova, Iacopo de Promontorio, as one of the most important mining towns of Balkans.

The position of Prishtina as the main mining administrative center of Kosovo and Novobarda was later confirmed by many other observers that. In contrast to previous centers, Prishtina managed to maintain its development pace throughout the Ottoman era, either as a center of the region, or of larger administrative units. In 1875 Prishtina became the center of the Vilayet of Kosovo until 1888; after that the center moved to Skopje due to the new railway which linked Skopje with Thessaloniki in Greece, but also because of the liberation activities of Albanians in Kosovo which became more intense in Prishtina.¹³⁹

During this time, the city developed urban features and enhanced its social, political and economic functions. The city gained administrative and military buildings, the printing house, etc.

It is worth noting that besides the fact that Prishtina maintained a sort of centrality during the Middle Ages, its urban character developed during the Ottoman Rule. It was distinguished for its public facilities that identified the city; such were palaces (Saray-Palace of Allajbeg), Mosques, Hammams (turkish baths), Khans (Inn's), etc., as well as the Bazaar (Çarshi) which was the central area of the socio-economic life. At a turn of the 20th century, the city had about 3.760 houses organized in 13 neighborhoods, with approximately 18.800 inhabitants. The Bazaar had some 500 stores and there were 12 Khans too.

¹³⁹. Riza S., "Kosova gjate shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja, Prishtina, 1982 (pp.217-218)



Map 4.29. The city map of Prishtina as drawn in 1939 Source: Strategic Plan- UDP Prishtina, 2004-2020", Municipality of Prishtina, (p.3)



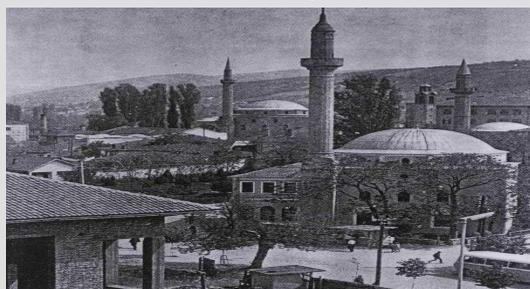
Urban sprawl of Prishtina city, year 1939.



Clock tower (Sahat Kulla).



Old Bazaar in Prishtina, destroyed after sec. Ww.



Old part of Prishtina City, Sultan Fatih Mosque,

Figure 4. 21. Pictures from the old town of Prishtina.

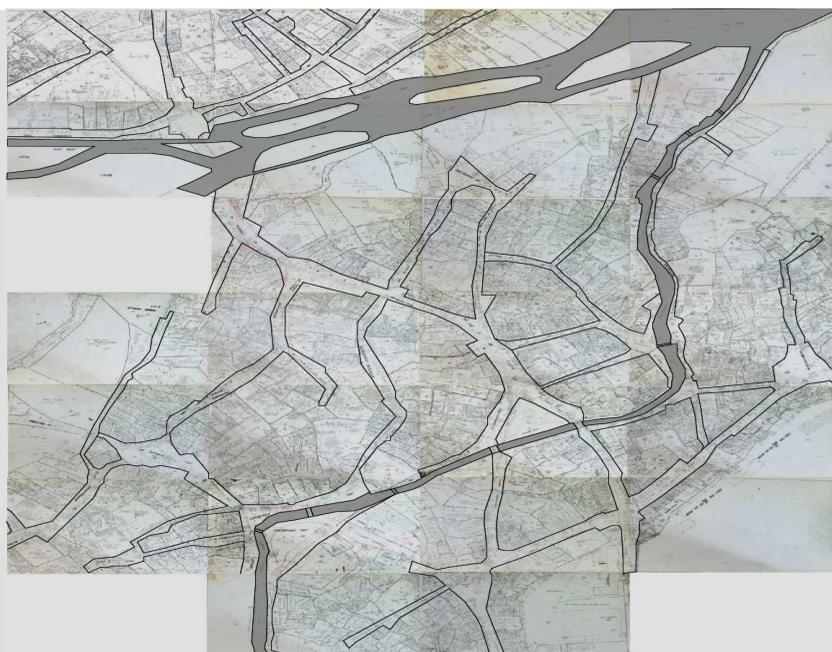
Source: [https://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtina/Galeria-\(1\)/](https://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtina/Galeria-(1)/). Source: flickrhivemind.net.

Source: [https://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtina/Galeria-\(1\)/Prishtina-e-vjeter.aspx](https://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtina/Galeria-(1)/Prishtina-e-vjeter.aspx)

Mitrovica (also known in medieval period as: *Mitrix*, *Dmitrouiza*), used be positioned at the end off the border with the Bosnian Sanjak. The vicinity of the city was well known for the mining area around Trepça which enjoyed a centrality during the Middle Ages.

Old traveler reports (eg. Çelebi, Bogdani etc.), had described the city as one with a large castle, a Bektashi tomb, and about 500 houses, which in late 17th century dropped to only 200 houses,¹⁴⁰ which indicates that the town had decreased in economic aspect. Mitrovica will regain its importortance as an urban center later, after the Second World War.

¹⁴⁰. Riza S., "Kosova gjate shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja ,Prishtina, 1982 (pp.217-218)



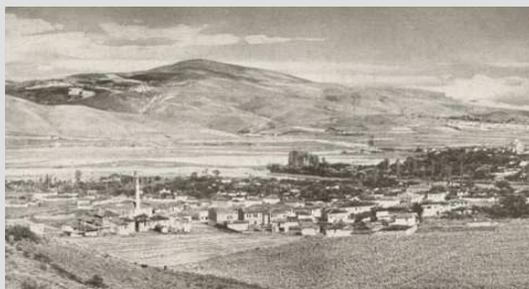
Map 4.30. The city map of Mitrovica as drawn 1951. Source: Maps compiled from author (24 scanned documents from Mitrovica municipality Cadastre)



Old Bazaar in Mitrovica .destroyed after sec. Ww.



Traditional architecture in the town of Mitrovica



Picture of Mitrovica

Figure 4. 23. Pictures in the old town of Mitrovica.

Source. <http://mw2.google.com/mw-panoramio/photos/medium/47755099.jpg>.

Source: <http://static.panoramio.com/photos/>

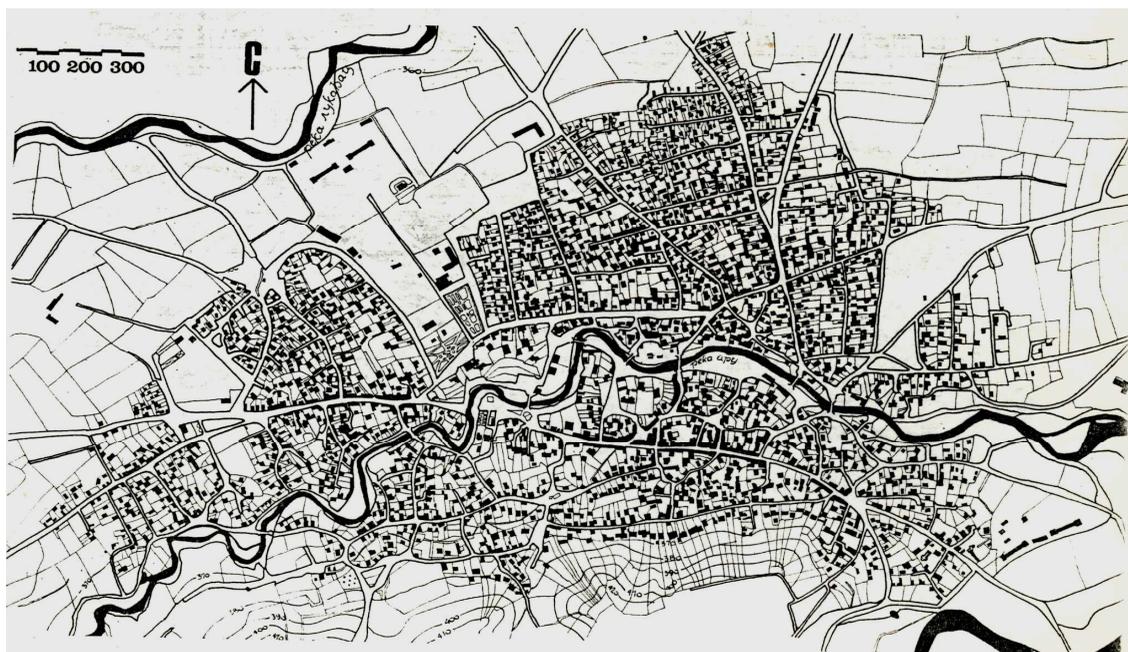
4.5.3.3. Active trade and crafts centers: Gjakova, Peja and Prizren

Gjakova, in the 15th century belonged to Alltun-ili area, based in Junik which included villages: Rugova, Deçan, Monastery of Deçani, Gjakova, Kosturic, Gorazhdevc and Cernish.

In total there were 6 villages, 1 monastery, 253 inns (Han), 78 mucerret and 15 bive. In the 17th century, according to the travel writer Çelebi, the town belonged to the Sanjak of Dukagjini and had 2.000 houses, 2 beautiful mosques, and more neighborhood mosques (mescides), khans, a hammam and about 300 stores in the today well known Bazaar (Çarshia) characteristic for different types of crafts, through which passes the river *Krena*.

By mid 19th century, Gjakova took its major features of an active trade and crafts center due to a great connections it had with Shkodra in Albania and via Shkodra with other trade centers in the Adriatic coast, all the way to Sarajevo.

Today, many buildings inherited from the Ottoman era confirm that the public life was quite vivid and the religious life was characterized with a general tolerance among faiths: there were Muslim mosques and Catholic and Orthodox churches, all in the city center, also a clock tower, many tekkes, family bridges, etc.



Map 4.31. Old town of Gjakova as recorded in 1950.Source: Kojić,D.B., “*Stari Balkanski Gradovi, varoši i varošice*”, Institut za arhitekturu i urbanizam Srbije, Beograd, 1976, (p.76)



Bridge over the Krena river, 1909.



Old Bazaar of Gjakova, destroyed after last war in Ks.



Kulla of Hysni Koshi located inside the old town

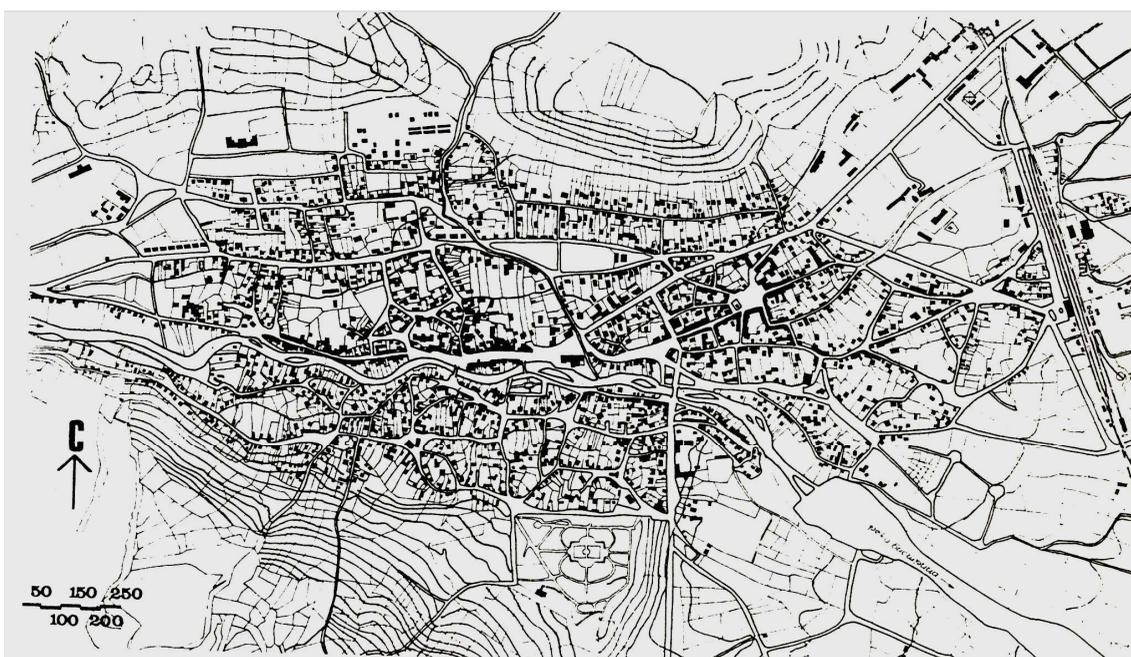
Figure 4.24. Pictures in the old town of Gjakova. Source: www.albanianphotography.net/louisjaray/.
Source: <http://www.gazetajnk.com/?cid=1,979,3771>
Source: Database of the Cultural Heritage of Kosovo. In: dtk.rksgov.net/tkk_objekti.aspx?id=8461index.html

Peja (*old name Siparantum, also known as Ipek, Pec, Pecchia, etc.*) was known during the Ottoman times for the cultivated *silk worm*, from where the name of the city came too (Ipek means silk in Turkish). The city stretches westward toward the plains of Rugova mountains, and is developed along both banks of the Bistrica/Lumbardhi river. The town's trade character had developed as early as in the 14th century during the time when Ragusans' had their colony in the area.

History of Peja is associated with the Albanian tribe of Dukagjini, an area that besides Peja included also Gjakova, Plava, Budima, Zadrima and Lezha- areas from both Kosovo and present-day Albania. According to Turkish statistics (defter of Jizya), Peja in 1490 became part of the Sanjak of Shkodra, and was divided into neighborhoods, of which 9 were located on the left side of the river Bistrica and had converted to Islam, while the ones on the right side of the river, although smaller in number, had been identified as non-Muslim neighborhoods.

Similar to other cases major urban centers in Kosovo, Peja too had suffered an economic catastrophe and a decrease in population in late 17th century due to epidemic plague, but mainly also because of the Austro-Ottoman wars ¹⁴¹ to which Albanians contributed by being in the side of the Austrian Army.

¹⁴¹. Riza S., "Kosova gjate shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja, Prishtina, 1982 (pp.230-242)



Map 4.32. Old town of Peja as recorded in 1950. Source: Kojić D.B., "Stari Balkanski Gradovi, varoši i varošice", Institut za arhitekturu i urbanizam Srbije, Beograd, 1976, (p.76)



Mosque and Clock Tower in Peja.



Old Bazaar of Peja, destroyed after last war in Ks



An old house in Peja (photo from 1925)

Figure 4.25. Pictures in the old town of Peja .Source: <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/53965611>
Source: www.panoramio.com/photo/84425345
Source: www.skyscrapercity.com/showthread.php?t=1682300

Prizren- (also known at old times as *Prizdrijan, Prizren, Prisreni, Prezerin*) during the Ottoman era transformed into a large crafts and trade center. Even before in the 13th and 14th century, Prizren was mentioned as a large trading center where traders from the nearby region including Italy and Greece would station, given the fact that Prizren had also hosted a major Raguzan colony.

Under the ottoman rule, as early as 1518, the district of Prizren was reorganized in territorial terms, forming the Sanjak of Prizren. The town itself flourished; Çelebi in 1660s wrote that as of 1531, beside mosques. Prizren gained a primary school which stored books and can therefore be considered as one of the first libraries in Kosovo.

By 16th century, Prizren marked progress in the development of trade, crafts, education as well as cultural life. At this time, apart from public buildings and mosques, the city gained mills, shops, caravanserais, schools, and the great Hammam/ Turkish bath. In early 17th century (1610), a Christian travel writer Marin Bici wrote that Prizren had 8600 large houses and a Latin church.

According to Pjeter Mazreku, in this period (1623-24), Prizren had 12000 Albanian/ muslim residents, 2000 Albanian/ catholic residents and also 600 Serbian residents.⁴²

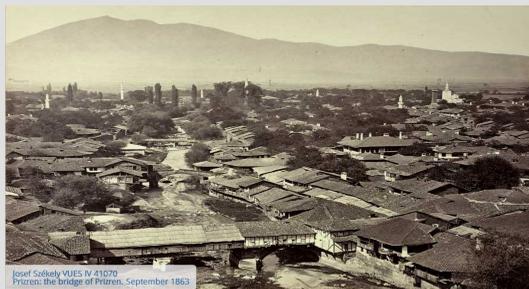
It should be mentioned that of all cities categorized in this study as active trade and crafts centers, Prizren retained the most characteristic features portraying many historic and heritage layers of the past.

Today, Prizren is an active cultural and spiritual center which has its own law that defines and protects the historic center of the city.

¹⁴². Riza S., "Kosova gjate shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja ,Prishtina, 1982 (pp.249-255)



Map 4.33. Site plan of the old town of Prizren as recorded in 1950 . Source: Kojić D.B., “*Stari Balkanski Gradovi, varoši i varošice*”, Institut za arhitekturu i urbanizam Srbije, Beograd, 1976 (p.19)



The bridges of Prizren.



Slope of the fortress of Prizren .



View of the river Lumbardhi in Prizren .

Figure 4.26. Map and panoramic views from old town of Prizren.

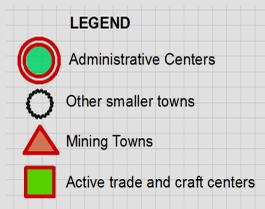
Source: www.albanianphotography.net/szekely/ Source: www.albanianphotography.net/szekely/
 Source: <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/84424054>

4.5.3.4. Urban centers consolidated during the Ottoman Rule in Kosovo

In conclusion, it may be argued that city development and urbanization in Kosovo during the Ottoman era in terms of the inherited features and relevance to-date, can be divided into three major groups:

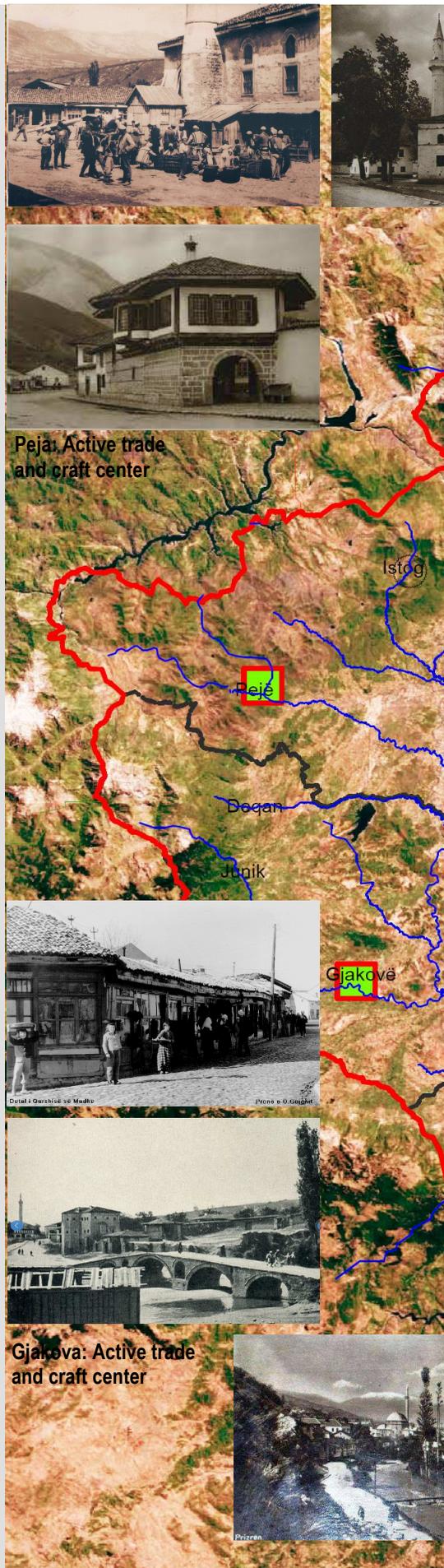
- a/ Mining towns (Novoberda and Trepça);
- b/ Administrative centers: (Prishtina, Vushtri and later Mitrovica);
- c/ Active trade and crafts centers: (Gjakova, Peja and Prizren).

Major cities that developed during the Ottoman Era are represented through a spatial ring which connects the western half of urban Kosovo, namely, the group c/ Active trade and crafts centers: (Gjakova, Peja and Prizren), with the eastern half consisting of the group b/Administrative centers: (Prishtina, Vushtri and later Mitrovica) and group a/ Mining towns (Novoberda and Trepça) which as the era passed ceased to exist. (see map 4.33). Graphical/spatial analysis of these shall be used in the third part of this thesis to define the cultural landscape component in the future spatial portrait of Kosovo.



Map 4. 34. Urban centers consolidated during the Ottoman Rule in Kosovo

Source: map compiled from author. Information's gathered from: Riza S., "Kosova gjate shekujve XV, XVI dhe XII", Rilindja, Prishtina, 1982.





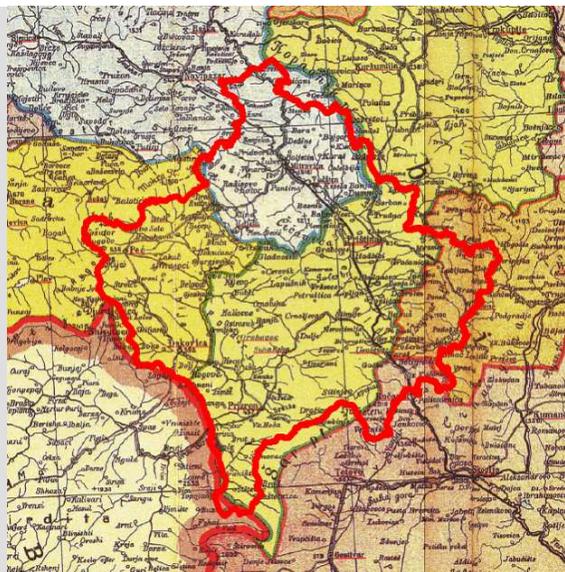
4.6. Socialist Modernization: Fragmented urbanization and the survival of the traditional

4.6.1. The Interwar period in brief (1912-1945).

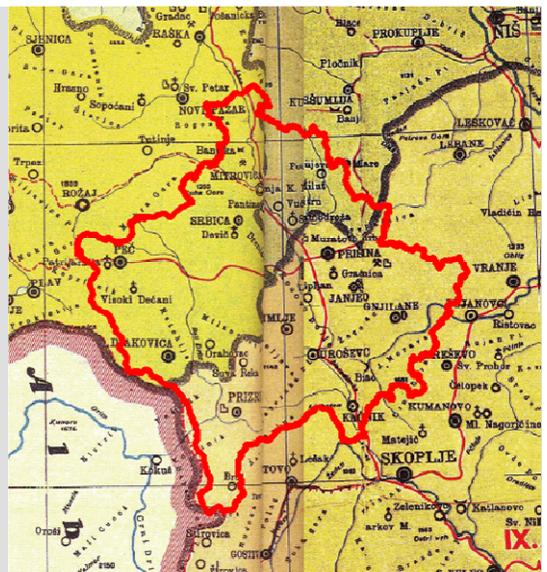
After the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1912, Kosovo was occupied by Serbs and integrated into the Kingdom of Serbs Croats and Slovenians, later called the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. This interwar era of 1913-1941 is also known in history as the Colonization of Kosovo which was characterized with formation of new settlements for the newcomers, mostly Serbs and Montenegrins. In order to organize the colonization, the Kingdom engaged in aerial documentation which was used to survey lands and plan the development of new settlements. During this period, more than 330 new settlements and villages were created throughout Kosovo, a process which also impacted the shift in ethnic composition of major towns in Kosovo. ¹⁴³

In 1922, was part of efforts to organize the territory in administrative terms, Kosovo was once again parceled and into five parts, each attached to newly created districts (*Oblast*). In this new division, the largest part of Kosovo fell to the District of Prishtina which encompassed Fushë Kosova with Prishtina, and the entire southern Kosovo with Prizren. The western part of Kosovo with Peja and Gjakova fell under the District of Montenegro, with the centre in Cetinje; the northern part with Vushtri and Mitrovica was put under the District of Čacak of Serbia; the south-eastern Kosovo with Gjilan under the District of Vranje, while the far southern part of Kosovo around Kaçanik under the District of Skopje. According to Altić M.S, this division was to assure that the suppression of the Albanian movement in the territory of Kosovo. ¹⁴⁴

Later, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia introduced a new administrative division into larger regions (*Banovina*) and the territory of Kosovo was again divided among three of them: the western part with Peja and Gjakova was now in the Zeta Banovina, the north-eastern part with Vushtri and Podujevo in the Morava Banovina, and the remaining southern part together with Macedonia went to the Vardar Banovina. ¹⁴⁵ Maps below (map 4.35) show the position of present-day territory of Kosovo in the context of divisions made during the interwar period.



Division of Kosovo into five districts (*Oblasti*) in 1922



Division of Kosovo into three regions (*Banovine*) in 1931

Map 4.35. Territorial division of Kosovo during the interwar period (1912-1945)

Source: compiled by author, information gathered from Altić S.M, "Povjesna Geografija Kosova",2006 (pp.108-110)

¹⁴³. Warander G. & Verena K., "Kosovo", google book, 2010 (p.16)

¹⁴⁴. Altić S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova",Golden marketing-Tehnicka knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (pp.138-139)

¹⁴⁵. ibid, (p.145)

4.6.2. Urban planning and construction in Kosovo during the socialist era

After the Second World War, the territory of Kosovo was consolidated within the present-day borders and in 1945 was named "Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohia," (KSAKM) within the newly created state of the former Yugoslavia. As of these early postwar days and in terms of administrative regulation, Kosovo consisted of 28 municipalities. Prishtina was declared the center of the Province.

After the adoption of the Constitution of Yugoslavia in 1963, Kosovo got renamed into "Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosovo" (KSAK) in the Republic of Serbia. The status of Kosovo as a province was considerably upgraded with almost equal right as other republics after the new Constitution of former Yugoslavia adopted in 1974.

Kosovo *'de facto'* lost this status with Milošević gaining power and *'de jure'* ended it by abolition in 1989. It should be noted that between 1953 and 1981, Kosovo was having the highest population rate increase in comparison to other parts of former Yugoslavia, and the majority of inhabitants were Albanians, comprising approximately 90% of total population in Kosovo.

Sources from socialist times that one consults have often made justification for the destruction of the inherited historic towns, especially in Kosovo, on the basis that those were of a low quality, without isolation and sufficient ventilation, rural-like and with primitive lifestyles.

Based on this propaganda and motive by the new modernist urbanism of the time, former Yugoslavia engaged in a planning policy which consisted of the removal of 'disagreements' in urban form through an urbanization process which aimed at developing modern cities, and creation of new types of agricultural settlements, by the use of the so called displacement system, which provided for the uniform distribution of life and cultural development throughout the country.

This transformation was aiming at the important role in the achievement of the socialist policy and the socialist values within the context of the social economic and cultural development of the entire country. Such major task attributed to urbanism created the conditions for spatial organization of towns and settlements according to the political programs and plans. ¹⁴⁶

In an attempt to classify historic periods depending on the urbanization outputs in Kosovo, we can identify four major periods which go in line with the general political development in the former socialist Yugoslavia:

- a/ Renewal and Reconstruction (1948-1961);**
- b/ Urban growth and socio-economic reforms (1961-1974);**
- c/ Self-management and development (1974-1990);**
- d/ Stagnation, occupation and the end of Socialism (1990-1999).**

¹⁴⁶. Maksimović B., "Urbanizam-Teorija Prostornog Planiranja i Uređenja Naselja", Naučna knjiga, Beograd, 1986 (pp.6-8)



Map 4. 36. Kosovo in the map of Former Yugoslavia in 1963.
Source: Altic S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova", Golden marketing-Tehnicka knjiga, Zagreb, 2006 (p.118)



Figure 4.27. The role of urbanism in state creation: Tito and Urbanists in front of a model of an urban development scheme.
Source: Kolerović R & Brajčić T., "Presentation from SE_280_315 -Planning _System _Serbia", in TU Viena. 2013.

4.6.2.1. Renewal and Reconstruction (1948-1961)

As early as 1948, the former socialist Yugoslavia passed two decrees, one for construction and one for urban planning. The main objective was to reconstruct settlements that came out devastated from the World War II. In this endeavor, as the type of decrees suggest, urban planning and construction of devastated settlements and urban fragments that were to accommodate newly created institution were dominant until the adoption of spatial plans (as of 1975).

The basic concept of this process relied on land management which was carried out through land appropriation instruments. The product of early postwar urbanization was the type of planning document entitled "General Urban Plan" (GUP), which got drafted for major cities as of 1949. General characteristic of this type of plans was the lack of scientific analysis in terms of both socio-cultural and territorial context. Hence plans were mainly presented in the form of maps showing land use and projected functions, accompanied by vague textual justifications. In the case of Kosovo, justification made for the demolition and reconstruction, but not renewal, of vast urban heritage was grounded solely in the perception propagated by the state, that cities in Kosovo had "primitive values", thus, need total reconstruction.

As alleged later by planning professionals, GUP's were design-led plans that had no communication with other disciplines and had very little or no support for the existing physical strata. Those were addressed through other types of policies that fell under the economic development domain, the output of which had totally disregarded the complex problems connected to space. ¹⁴⁷



Figure 4.28. Fragment of modernization output in the Prishtina city center, 1960.

Source: <http://pmagazine.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/pr1.jpg>

¹⁴⁷. Brković B.M, "Predavanja iz urbanog i prostornog planiranja ", Architecture Faculty , Belgrade, 1992 (pp.7-13)

4.6.2.2. Urban growth and socio-economic reforms (1961-1974)

The practice of fragmented urban planning was substituted by Spatial planning process from early 1960s. Between years 1961 and 1965, two laws were enacted with this respect to urban and regional spatial planning (in 1961 and 1965). During this period, the planning discipline is established and the planning documents became the task of institutions. In general terms, changes encompassed integration of economic development goals into the planning process.

Great attention was given to the mythological issues of the planning documents themselves, which did not initiate at all a scientific work and multi sector approach, in which case, still, complex problems related to social inclusion remained at the periphery of the professional interest. ¹⁴⁸

For illustration, the General Urban Plan of Gjakova adopted in 1960, had entirely disregarded the city's historic core (see Figure 4.29.).

The same is valid for all other cities in Kosovo, with an exception of Prizren, Peja and Mitrovica, known for their bazaars which managed to survive the modernization process. In any case, the spatial planning process did not follow the general rule per se in the case of Kosovo, as employed in the rest of the former Yugoslavia, due to the anti-Albanian political engagement of Aleksandar Rankovic in Kosovo, which culminated with views of expulsion of Albanians and their deportation to Turkey between 1956 and 1966.



Figure 4.29. General Urban Plan of Gjakova, land use plan, (1960-65)

Source: archive of the municipality of Gjakova

¹⁴⁸ Brković B.M, "Predavanja iz urbanog i prostornog planiranja", Architecture Faculty, Belgrade, 1992 (pp.7-13)

4.6.2.3. Self-management and Development (1974-1988)

As of 1974 when Kosovo gained its autonomy, the planning process was institutionalized and was gradually handed over to the local Kosovo administration. It should be mentioned here that until this point, all planning activities for Kosovo were centrally directed and were delivered by architects and planners from other parts of Yugoslavia, mainly from Serbia.

In general, the concept of “general planning” continued to develop by including the planning of economic and social systems, yet, the physical dimension of space remained paramount. In terms of the process, planning became subject to consultations, review and acceptance by the body of professionals from academia and relevant institutions.

During the period between 1974-1990 and especially during the 1980's, planning for Kosovo cities became a problem-oriented process that took account of socio-spatial, economic and cultural values of settlements. It should be mentioned that spatial planning became a respectful scientific discipline, which often took a long time to conclude.

It is important to mention that during this period major investment was directed towards development of buildings and road infrastructure.

New neighborhoods were created and many buildings were erected in the modernist spirit. Apart from a grand development input, the problem of fragmentary approach to the redevelopment of city centers remained unsolved.

In addition, parts of street network were never concluded, which furthered the fragmentation of neighborhoods in spatial and social terms, both in the cities themselves, and in their peripheries. This approach is even today readable in major cities' geodesic layers.

The period following period between 1988-1999 is known as the “Period of Stagnation” in Kosovo which, by the end of the decade, culminated in an armed conflict. During this time, the planning activities ceased and construction decreased substantially.

4.6.3. Spatial Planning: The state planning Atlas and the Kosovo Plan (1975)

4.6.3.1. The Planning Atlas of Yugoslavia (1975) ¹⁴⁹

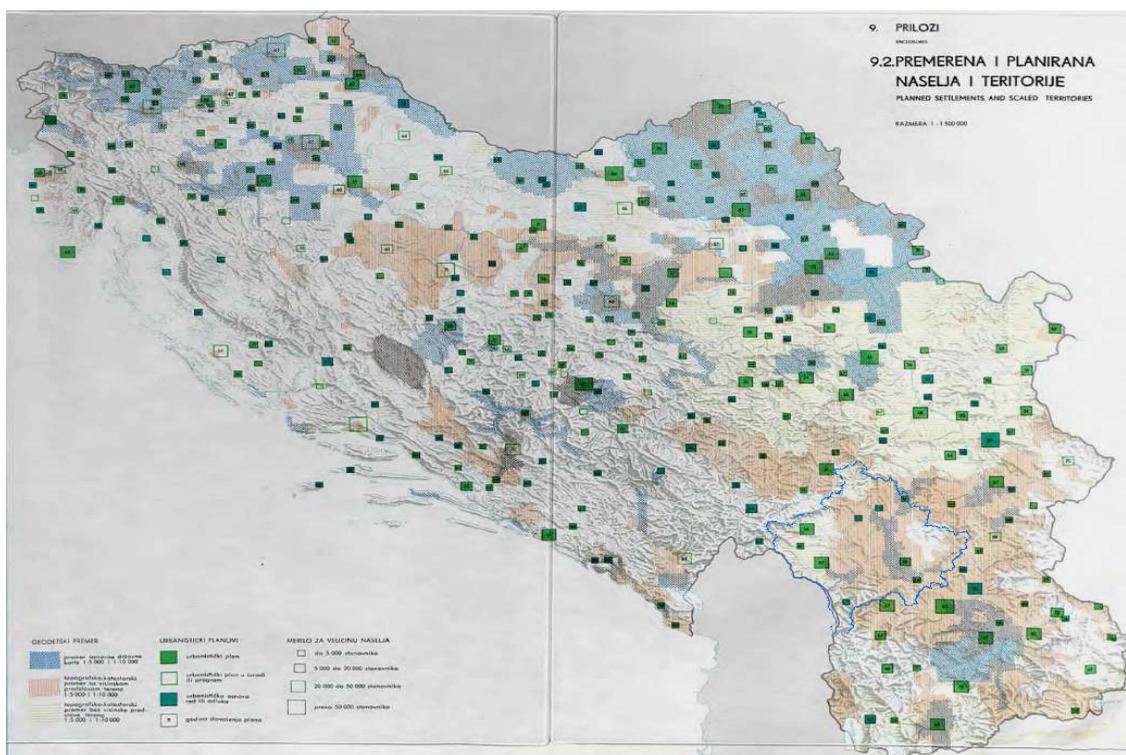
A major work in terms of planning documentation that took place in early 1970's is the "Planning Atlas of Yugoslavia", drafted by the Yugoslav Institute of Urbanism and Housing based in Belgrade in a period of six years (published in 1975).

This document was used for upgrading the regulation of spatial planning in different issues such as investments, infrastructure, housing, and for preparation of municipal urban plans, regulatory plans as well as regional plans, etc.

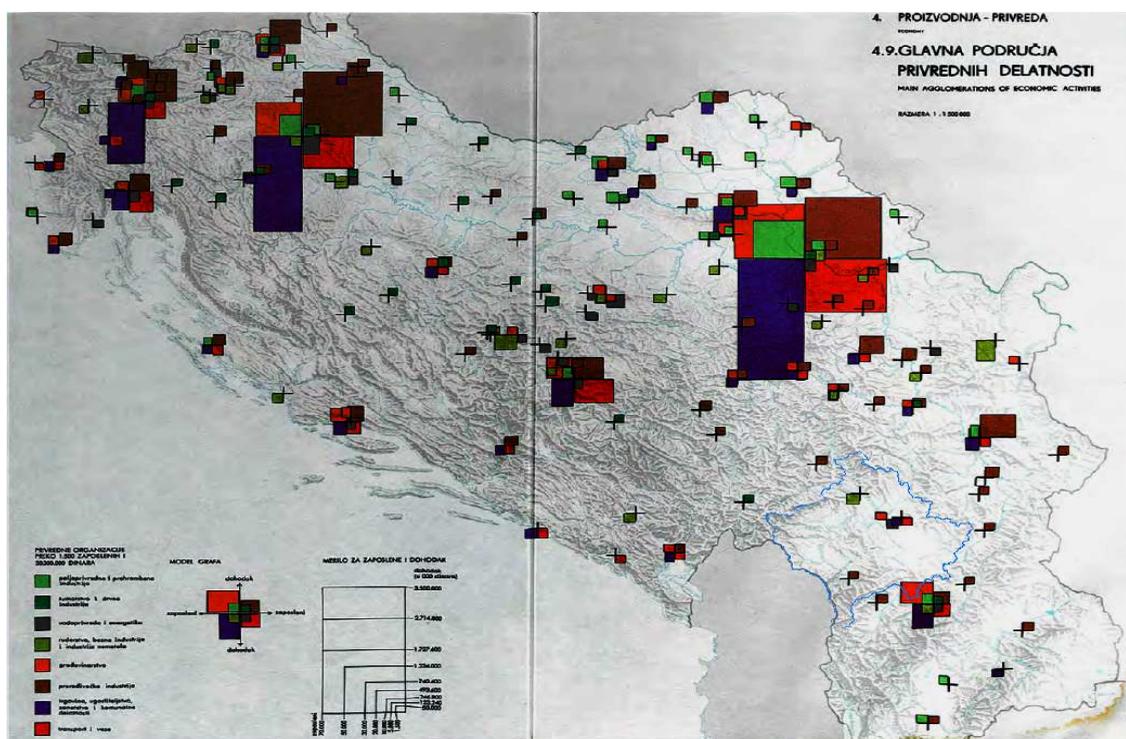
From the content of the Atlas we can emphasize that the planning discipline had developed a methodology that started to take account of major domains in the city development:

- *Natural Conditions*: relief and water, soil and its stability, mineral resources, climate, protected natural areas, and endangered areas;
- *Population*: density, growth, population by activities and age, labor force survey, migration and national income;
- *Housing and urban facilities*: areas for settlement, housing, primary and secondary schools, faculties and scientific institutions, cultural institutions, health and social care facilities, and services;
- *Economy*: agricultural and food industry, forestry and wood industry, water economy and energetic, mining, basic industry, non metal industries, construction industry, transport and communication, trade, catering, crafts and public utilities, and main agglomerations of economic activities;
- *Tourism*: Areas for leisure, Areas and places for tourism, areas and facilities for excursion and recreation, green areas and facilities for daily recreation, and capacities of tourism;
- *Infrastructure*: Infrastructure of waters, road network, railway network, river-marine transport, air transport, post and telecommunication network, and energetic infrastructure;
- *Urban centers*: urban heritage, distribution of settlements, development of urban population, active population structure, economic structure, housing, urban facilities, urban infrastructure, and city areas' structure;
- *Spatial synthesis*: Spatial development of Yugoslavia through history: Middle Ages, Roman period; Yugoslavia within broader spatial framework, housing areas, production areas, recreational areas, spatial infrastructure, urban centers, level of spatial arrangement, and structure of allocated areas.
- *Enclosures*: Spatial arrangement, planned settlements and scaled territories

¹⁴⁹. Krstić B, et.al, "Planerski atlas prostornog uredjenja Jugoslavije "Jugoslovenski institut za urbanizam i stanovanje, Belgrade, 1973 (p.6)



Map of planned settlements and measured territories



Map of main agglomerations of economic activities

Map 4.37. Planned settlements ,measured territories and main agglomerations of economic activities -samples from YU planning atlas

Source: Krstić B, et.al, "Planerski atlas prostornog uređenja Jugoslavije "Jugoslovenski institut za urbanizam i stanovanje, Belgrade, 1973. (map.4 and map 9)

4.6.3.2. Spatial plan for Kosovo- proposal (1975) ¹⁵⁰

The Spatial Plan for Kosovo which remained a draft, was soon produced based on the principles and guidelines of the Planning Atlas of Yugoslavia elaborated above.

This document was produced by the Yugoslav Institute of Urbanism and Housing seated in Belgrade, and in later phase more institutions were involved, such as: the branch of the Institute in Kosovo with its office in Prishtina, public enterprises like "Energo project" and the "Road Institute", as well as "OTAM" from Paris. Although it remained unimplemented, it is worth recalling the content of the plan in order to have a better understanding of methodology and issues addressed in the plan.

The document consisted of five parts, as follows:

- *Part I. Basic development issues:* 1) Geographical position and Historical heritage; 2) Socio-economic development (demographic, economic and social development, both, by activities and living standard, and the major development feature by importance); 3) Evaluation of spatial problems, which tackled the distribution of productive capacity, buildings by social standard, distribution of physical infrastructure, touristic regions, natural rarities and cultural historic monuments, networks and systems of settlements, urbanization processes and environment.
- *Part II. Basic issues and development goals:* 4) Preconditions for development perspectives, that is: natural conditions, created conditions, human factors (population growth factor, sociological aspect of development), social conditions, spatial context, basic spatial considerations (industry and mining, agriculture and forestry, tourism and recreation) and limiting factors; 5) Main (global) goals of long-term development of Kosovo until 2000
- *Part III. General concept for socio-economic development until 2000:* 6) Projection for population development, that is: performance of the population, changes in population structures, family (number, structure) and forecast of spatial mobility and population patterns' policy; 7) Global economic development concept, namely: basic orientation, pace of economic growth, global changes to the structures, investments, inclusion, projection of infusion needed to scale the qualification and international exchange; 8) Basic characteristics of major development of economic activities for spatial plan: mining industry, energy, agriculture, forestry, hydro economy, construction, traffic, business, hotel and tourism and craftsmanship; 9) General concept for social development, namely: overall development concept, living standard, development of social activities (education and scientific research work, health protection, culture, physical culture, social protection), accommodation and water supply for settlements and evacuation of dirty water (water supply of settlements, evacuation and cleaning of dirty waters); 10) General assessment of needed investment for the implementation of the spatial plan until 2000.

¹⁵⁰. Enti i urbanizmit dhe projekteve, "Plani hapësinor i Krahines Socialiste autonome të Kosovës- Propozimi ", Prishtina, 1975 (pp.1-5)

- Part IV. The concept of spatial organization:* 11) General concept of spatial organization; 12) Spatial infrastructure as a system for functional organization, namely, basic needs and principles of new spatial units and physical infrastructure; 13) Structure of the territory by basic designation: main areas of agriculture, forestry, key areas for development of mining industry and tourism. Main territorial development axes, global assessment of areas needed for construction. Basic development parameters by spatial units: selection of elements for review and development through spatial units (Region of Kosovo: Mitrovica area, Prishtina area, Ferizaj area, Gjilan area. Dukagjini region: Peja area, Gjakova area, and Prizren area); 14) The concept of urbanisation, system and the network of settlements: concept and type of urbanization, network and settlement systems (general conceptions, network and system of settlements, network of settlements with central functions, settlements by the character of urbanization, rural territories and settlements) and options for spatial development of major urban centers until 2000; 15) Spatial distribution of tertiary activities/services: basic conceptions and goals, and spatial distribution of services; 16) Natural and environmental protection: the role and importance, potential areas of pollution, erosive areas and floating areas, protection of rarities and natural environments, and protection of cultural-historical monuments, architectural and urban sites.
- Part V. General development concept by spatial units:* 17) Spatial differentiation of Kosovo, namely, basic needs and principles for new spatial organization into units and differentiation as spatial unit; 18) Basic development parameters for spatial units, namely, selection of elements for review, development through spatial units (Region of Kosovo: Mitrovica area, area Prishtina, area of Ferizaj and Gjilan area; Region of Dukagjini: area of Peja, Gjakova and Prizren).
- Part VI. Strategic preconditions, measures and priority tasks for implementation of the plan:* 19) general strategic concept including elements of strategic conceptions (trends and shares, place and position, subjective forces in the implementation of the plan), strategic preconditions and their spatial application (rural, semi-urban, and urban population), mobility (efficiency) relations and communication tools, and control instruments; 20) Measures for implementation of the plan; 21) Common and specific measures by Areas and Regions; 22) Short term recommendations.

Appendix, consisting of Synthetic map for year 1985 (S= 1: 200,000), Synthetic map for year 2000 (S= 1: 2,000,000), and Development of Spatial Options for year 2000 (S= 1: 200,000).

4.6.4. Types of Urban Settlements in Kosovo during the socialist era/ period

Within the course of definition of urban situation in Kosovo during 1970's which would serve the creation of the structure of urban categorization, many studies were carried out in order to inform the process of spatial planning.

One of monographs that took the task to explain the nomenclature of spatial planning and categories of settlements as appeared and projected through the spatial planning document of 1975 was "Kosovo cities, an Urban study" written in 1977 by Qazim Lleshi. (*Lleshi Q. "Tipet e vendëbanimeve urbane– Qytetet e zhvilluara në Kosovë në mes të viteve 1945-1970"*).

According to Lleshi, between 1945 and 1970, urban settlements in Kosovo developed in several identifiable types, which shall be elaborated further in this chapter: ¹⁵¹

- Regional centers (urban): Prishtina, Mitrovica, Prizren, Gjakova, Peja, Ferizaj, and Gjilan;
- Sub-regional centers (urban): Vushtrri and Podujeva;
- Small sub-regional Centers (towns): Rahovec, Dragash, Istog, Skenderaj Kamenica, Magure. Janjeva, Kacanik ,Suhareka and Lipjan;
- Industrial centers (sub-urban): Obiliq, Fushe Kosova and Zvecan

Settlements (sub-urban rural), further sub-categorized into;

- Sub-urban/ administrative centers: Klina, Vitia, Decan and Leposaviq;
- Sub-urban/ traffic points: Fushe Kosova, Shtime and Gjurakoc;
- Rural rudimental: Janjeva and Brod.

Although not categorized under a certain type of urban centers, there are also settlements that distinguish for their function that derive from natural resources, thermal wells and mountainous regions, and are used as Spa and leisure centers.

Settlements located near thermal wells have been named Spas, of which are: Banja e Pejes and Banja e Klokotit, or name 'Banjska' such is the settlement Banjska in Mitrovica (banja/banjska meaning 'spa'). There are also small settlements located in the Sharri Mountain, of which Brezovica is developed into an important ski resort.

4.6.4.1. Regional Centers (urban)

According to the spatial planning directives, Kosovo was planned to develop seven regional centers, which by population criteria were those cities that had approximately 20.000 to 100.000 inhabitants. It should be mentioned that in 1970's none of the Kosovo cities had 100.000 inhabitants. However, the projection took into account three categories of regional centers:

- Large urban centers (Prishtina with 69.524 inhabitants and Mitrovica with 42.241 inhabitants); Prishtina was declared the center of Kosovo thus came to accommodate certain functions of centrality.
- Middle urban centers (Prizren xy , Gjakova 29.638 inhabitants and Peja with 42.113 inhabitants).
- Small urban centers (Ferizaj 22.372 and Gjilan 21.271 inhabitants).

¹⁵¹. Lleshi Q, "Tipet e vendëbanimeve urbane- Qytetet e zhvilluara në Kosovë në mes të viteve 1945-1970", Prishtina, (1977) p.84

4.6.4.2. Sub-regional Centers (urban): According to this qualification, as sub-regional centers were qualified those urban centers that had a population figure between approximately 8.000 to 12.000 inhabitants. Such were Vushtri (Vuçiterna) and Podujeva. At this level of urban hierarchy, belong centers which connect with smaller areas of gravitation through basic functions. In general terms, the common features of centers falling under this category are that none can be categorized into cities due to the small number of inhabitants. They are closer to urban than to rural areas .

4.6.4.3. Small sub-regional centers (towns): -These have approximately 1.000 up to 5.000 inhabitants, except for Rahovec which at the time of the study had 10.070 inhabitants, but was nevertheless classified under this category. Other towns that fall under small sub-regional centers were: Dragash, Istog, Skenderaj/ Serbica, Kamenica, Magure, Janjeva, Kacanik, Suhareka, and Lipjan. Except for Lipjan which is located in the central part of Kosovo and in the intersection of both traffic and rail network (highway Belgrade-Skopje and Prishtina-Prizren), Kaçanik (railroad Prishtina-Skopje) and Suhareka (road station on the Prizren-Prishtina road) the rest of the towns classified in this category had poor communication connections until late 1980's. Although each has distinct secondary function, all towns categorized here are important centers of collection of agricultural production from their surrounding settlements. It is worth noting that Rahovec and Suhareka are distinguished for grape collection and wine production.

4.6.4.4. Industrial centers (Sub-urban): Under this category fall three urban centers that are located in the suburb of two major regional centers: Fushë Kosova and Obiliq in the suburb of Prishtina, and Zveçan in the suburb of Mitrovica. Communication of these industrial centers with their gravitating regional centers is frequent thereby they form together urban agglomerations with typical function as important industrial centers. Due to significant secondary activities in the postwar period, Obiliqi and Fushë Kosova have had a rapid increase in demographic aspect. In a 1970's Obiliq doubled the number of inhabitants, while Fushë Kosova even tripled. Obiliq has become one of the major centers of processing and extraction of lignite where as Fushë Kosova a large industrial and food enterprise. Zveçan on the other hand is inherited as a mining center which retained its function, although the population rate has not increased during the given period of elaboration. Zveçan and Obiliq are formally treated as urban type settlements, while Fushë Kosova is a mixed settlement also being important for its central position in the crossroad of two major railway lines: Belgrade-Skopje and Nish-Peja.

4.6.4.5. Settlements (sub-urban rural)

a).Sub-urban/ Administrative centers Klina, Viti, Deçan and Leposaviq are centers of mixed type, with 40-50% of agrarian/ rural population. According to the census of 1961, these small settlements had a number of inhabitants less than 2.000 therefore are qualified as rural settlements. Within the administrative system, those are also municipal centers. It is their administration function that makes these centers different from previous variations of towns. Owing to the bauxite mines in the nearby vicinity, Klina (1.929 inhabitants in 1971) becomes after 1963 an important point of road and railway network. On the other hand, Viti (2.630 inhabitants) is a gravity center of the nearby area that carries the same name. Deçan was proclaimed an urban center owing to the architectural attractions and touristic functions. Lastly, Leposaviq got the function of the municipality and its territory encompasses mine exploitation and processing points of Trepça.

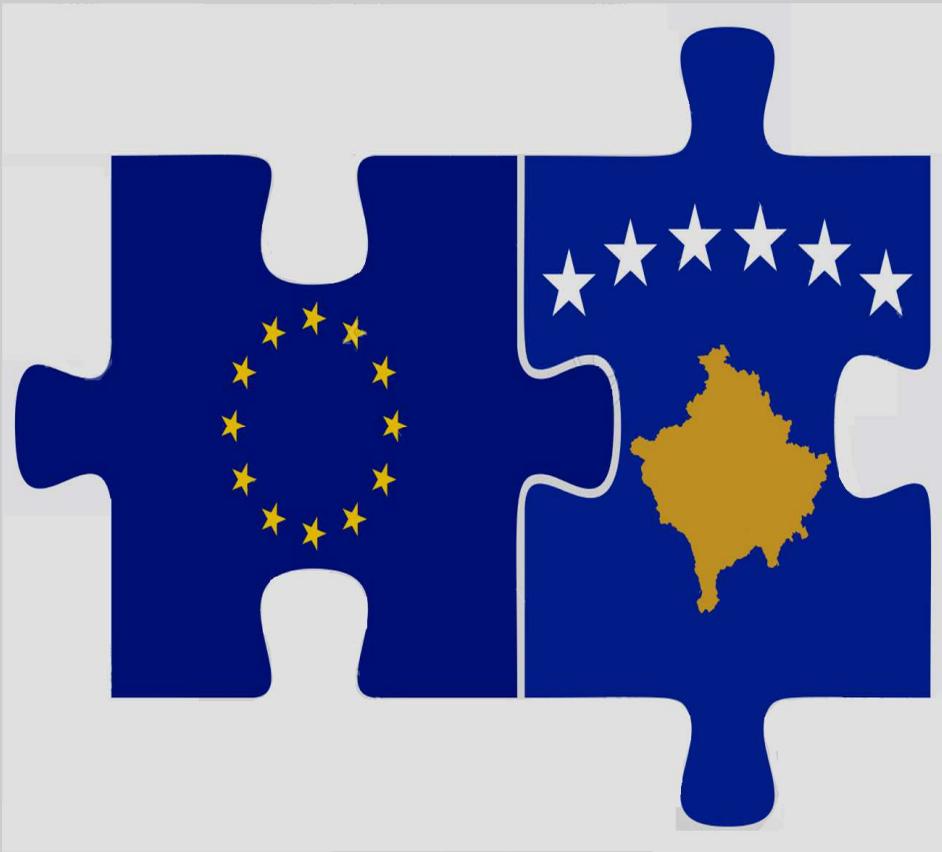
b). Sub-urban/ Traffic points-This category encloses three settlements: Fushë Kosova, already categorized under sub-regional centers, for being within the agglomeration of the city of Prishtina; Shtime, and Gjurakoc. Beside Fushë Kosova which in the Kosovo level maintains the most favorable position in terms of road and railway communications, Shtime (3.879 inhabitants in 1961) also is a traffic point, being located at the intersection of roads between Prishtina-Prizren-Skopje, as is Gjurakoc in the road intersection of roads Peja-Mitrovica-Istog. Owing to this context, Shtime had managed to develop since prewar period trade-craft functions and administrative functions, and to maintain links with Lipjan. Gjurakoc on the other hand maintains communication and activities with Istog and Klina municipality.

c). Settlements (rural rudimental)- Janjeva and Brod are two small settlements that appear in the vicinity of larger centers and are qualified as rudimental rural because of the fact that their nature is not urban, but used to be since before an important mining extraction and production centers. They are also quite well connected with important rail and road points.



Map 4.39. Types of urban settlements in Kosovo in 1970s, according to Q.Leshi

Source :compiled by author ,Information gathered from, Lleshi Q, "Qytetet e Kosovës ...", Rilindja ,Prishtina, 1977.on top of the map from Altic S.M., "Povjesna Geografija Kosova",Golden marketing-Tehnicka knjiga, Zagreb, 2006



The fifth part consists of proposals which would bring Kosovo closer to its objectives, majority of which are identified in the “Spatial Plan of Kosovo”.

5. TOWARDS EUROPEAN KOSOVO- Discussion

5.1. Theoretical basis

New understanding of the urban, as previously discussed in this study, takes account of productive differences in the realm of networks which overcome territorial border realities, as a new way to analyze and manage the urban reality today. This approach is based on determining the dynamics and processes of interaction, instead of size, density, or heterogeneity that makes a city today.

Today, we acknowledge that new tendencies in urban theory see the future urbanism abandoning traditional spatial categories, such as for example that of the region, and engages in framing a system of places that inserts elements of urbanity, which are capable to influence collective behaviors and interaction between collective representations and the value systems of the territory. ¹⁵²

In a wider context, we should also acknowledge that, the distinction between the city and the urban, as proposed by Lefebvre, is becoming obvious.

The shift from the city to urban society coincides with the recent phase of globalization; hence, this should be taken into account when theorizing the social space in general today. ¹⁵³

In this endeavor, Lefebvre's hypothetical scale from zero to maximum urbanization could be used to comprehend the magnitude and trend of urbanization in places that are characteristic for their socio-economic, political, and spatial transitional character. It is within this 'group' of places that Kosovo is viewed in this study.

Kosovo is experiencing the influence of globalization while coping with multiple transitions that emerged after the war of 1999. This is to say that the shift from the traditional spatial categories to the system of values of territory is still untouched due to conventional understanding of urban politics. In order to channel the changes emerging from transitions, it is important to, as Lefebvre suggests, engage in radical urban politics as one of the possibilities that would change the perception of urbanization, thus, its future orientation.

One way, or better to say, the most sustainable line of approach, that would bring Kosovo's urban policies into a new level of comprehension and development, is the consideration of European policy options for spatial development.

Rather than arguing about the choice among different types of spatial categories, urban planning systems or approaches, be those conventional or nonconventional, an urban portrait- that would adapt to the context as a transitional pavement towards more sustainable development- would be an option for cases such like Kosovo.

This portrait, as foreseen with this study, takes account of the inherited natural and socio-cultural cohesion of the territory in order to overcome the political and territorial boundaries of the 20th century and move towards the appreciation of differences and natural networks created through time.

In practical terms, as suggested above, this approach takes account of policy options provided in the European level, while trying to contribute in the possible upgrading of the spatial planning approach in the national level.

¹⁵². Pittaluga P, "Images of Local Societies and Projects for Space". In: Giovanni Maciocco, Ed. *The Territorial Future of the City*, Springer Science+ Business Media, B.V. 2008 (pp.87–104), (p.95)

¹⁵³. Madden J.D, "City becoming world: Nancy, Lefebvre, and the global–urban imagination", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, volume 30, 2012 (pp.772–787), (p.779)

5.1.1. Policy options

As argued by scholars, there are two fundamental points that characterize the European engagement to bringing joint spatial development perspectives: "European planning implies the conceptualization of European space, shaped by people's attitudes towards European integration, and secondly, the process of European Spatial Development Perspective, which emerged in 1999, had a dominant view of Europe shaped by the nations.¹⁵⁴ In years to come, the process has advanced to involve the pan-European territoriality.

"European Spatial Development Perspective: Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory– ESDP" (1999) is used as a guiding document in this discussion, in order to develop the framework for a future urban portrait of Kosovo. The following three fundamental goals of the European policy are proposed as pillars of spatial development framework in the case of Kosovo:

- Economic and social cohesion;
- Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage; and
- More balanced competitiveness of the European territory



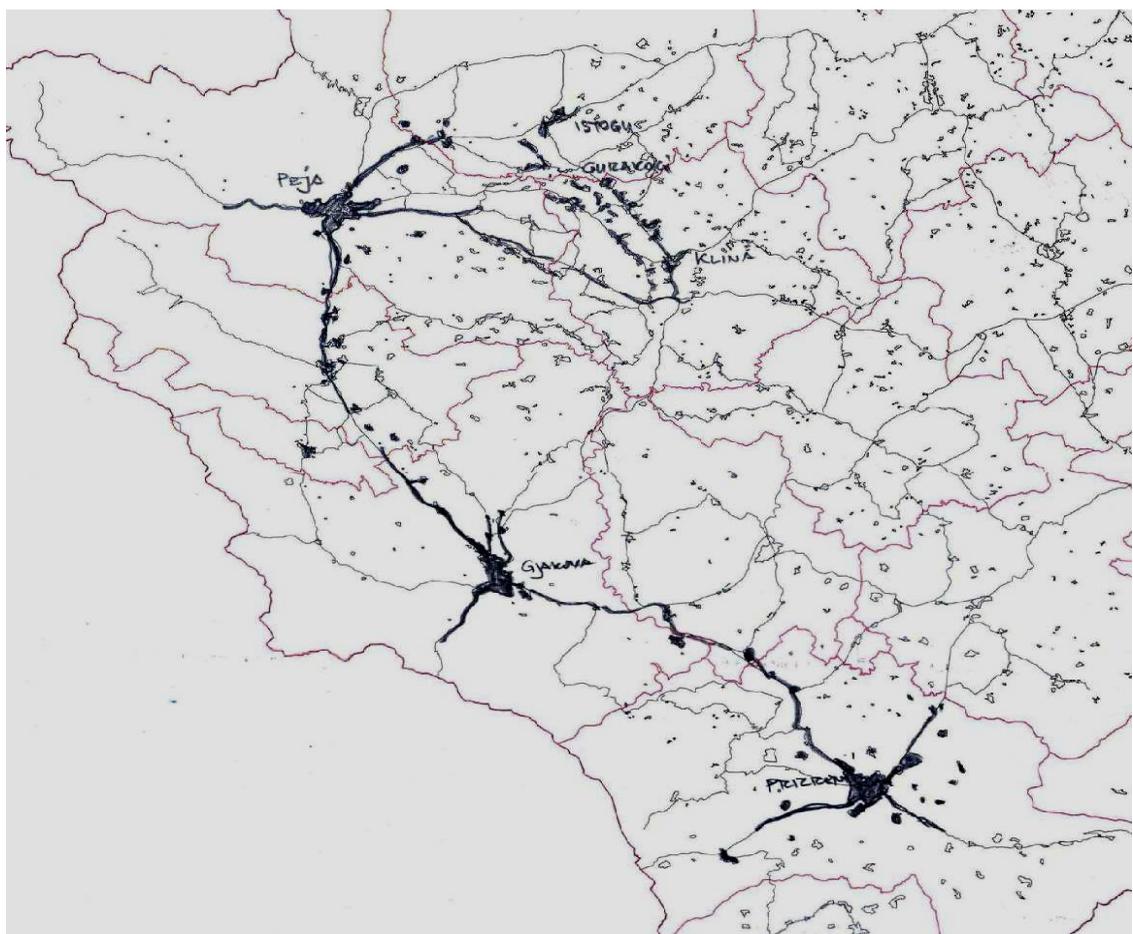
Figure 5.1. Triangle of objectives: A Balanced and Sustainable Spatial Development, in ESDP, 1999. (p.10)

¹⁵⁴ Madden J.D, "City becoming world: Nancy, Lefebvre, and the global–urban imagination", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, volume 30, 2012 (pp.10-17)

Based on these three fundamental goals, three spatial development guidelines are devised to orient the balanced and sustainable spatial development, which should inform urban politics in Kosovo. ¹⁵⁵

Development of a polycentric and balanced urban system and strengthening of the partnership between urban and rural areas. As stated in ESDP, this involves overcoming the outdated dualism between city and countryside. In the case of Kosovo, polycentric urban system would be appropriate given the dispersive character of settlements and their insufficiency to consolidate in territorial terms and service delivery.

Although the tendency to overcome the urban-rural difference and engage in partnership of these two categories, and urban sprawls of the post 1999 have moved the level from “zero urbanization” to a certain percentage of urbanized settlements, which fail to consolidate into cities with profoundly active socio-economic functions.



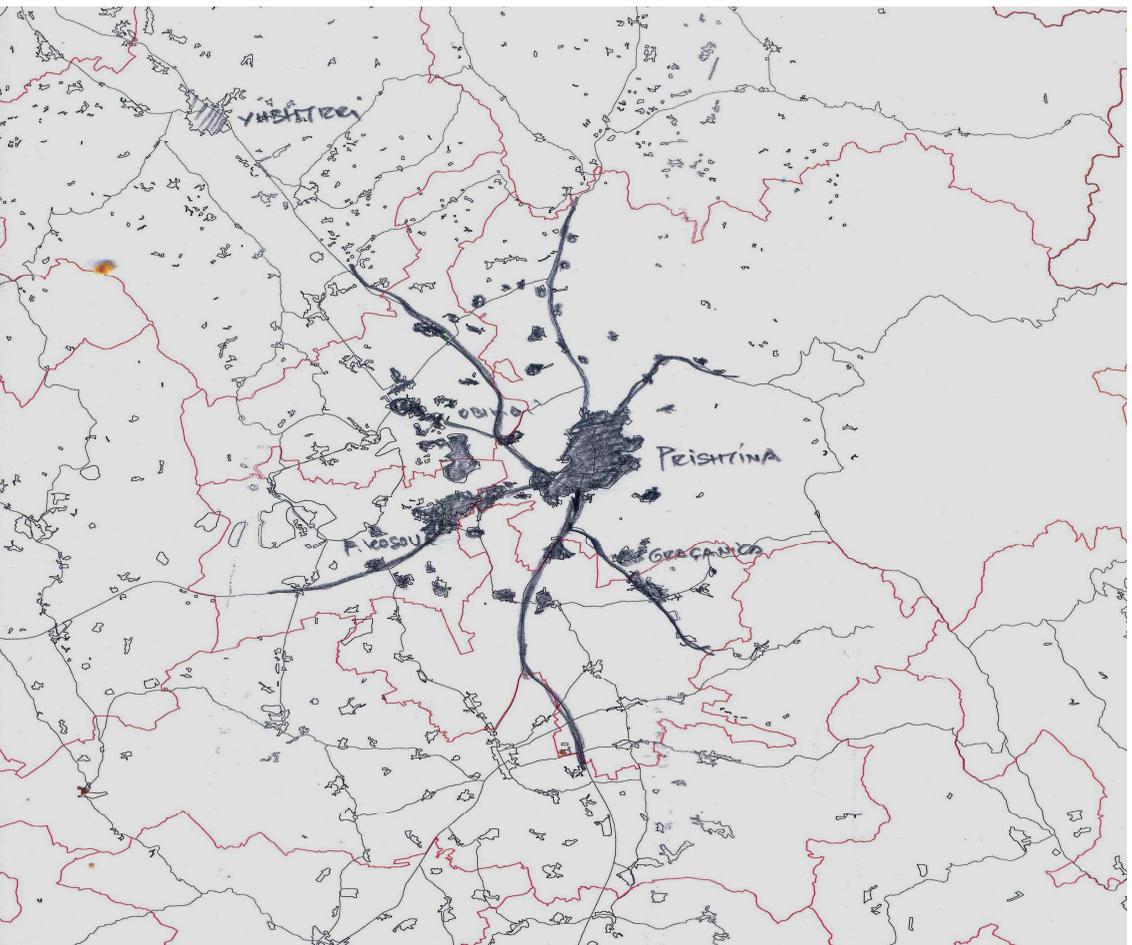
Map 5.1. The pattern of settlements showing the relative size and territorial distribution tendency in Kosovo. The polycentric development would frame areas in territorial and development terms, suggesting a balanced urbanization. Source: drawing by author

¹⁵⁵. European Spatial Development Perspective: Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory– ESDP, (1999). p.20

A polycentric and balanced urban system is likewise envisaged in the "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+" through the introduction of regions and their characteristic development features.

Yet, the regionalization scheme presented in the Plan is merely methodological, as it follows the division from the past century and does not adapt to the newly emerging urbanization trends .

This goal is used in this Discussion section to address and reframe the network of cities, or better say, network of settlements, which have potential to reach a certain level of urban compactness and centrality. In this endeavor, the potential of Prishtina - the capital city, to form the prime agglomeration in the country is acknowledged and proposed within the framework of the metropolitan concept.



Map 5. 2. The potential of the capital city Prishtina to frame the metropolitan region and to guide the polycentric development in other parts of Kosovo.

Source: drawing by author

Promotion of integrated transport and communication concepts, to support the polycentric development. According to ESDP, this should take account of the parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge, and should be implemented gradually. It is also said that this goal should be based on the regionally adapted solutions.¹⁵⁶ In the case of Kosovo, as already discussed in previous chapters, the transport and communication networks are in a developing phase, although the potential of reaching the integrated communications stands better than the integrated concept in terms of transport. It is important to notice that the integrated approach in developing the transport and communication networks throughout Kosovo should be the primary concern in relation to the network of cities' pattern, promoted in this study.

Development and conservation of natural and cultural heritage through wise management. As stated in ESDP, this contributes both to preservation and deepening of regional identities and the maintenance of natural and cultural diversity of regions and cities, in the age of globalization.¹⁵⁷ It is important to mention that this very fundamental goal is promoted in this study as the generator that would move Kosovo from conventional spatial system to a more contemporary based approach. Therefore, this goal is used in this study as the fundamental guide for defining polycentric areas in Kosovo.

¹⁵⁶. ESDP: "Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory", ESDP, 1999 (p.20)

¹⁵⁷. Ibid, (p.21)

5.1.2. ESDP criteria as a general study and cooperation platform

These ESDP criteria which are currently being examined under a study programme of the European Commission involve the following considerations:

- Geographical position;
- Economic strength;
- Social integration;
- Spatial integration;
- Pressure on land use;
- Natural assets;
- Cultural assets.

While the first three criteria are well informed in the spatial development policies in Kosovo, spatial integration along with land use pressures are only dealt with, within the first three considerations, that is, geographical and socio-economic development.

Spatial integration and by that, the control of land use, are important categories which this study finds crucial in the introduction of polycentric schemes in geographical terms.

On the other hand, natural and cultural assets, although dandified and protected, are not used to enhance the socio-economic aspect of spaces, as they appear in the present planning system.

The study finds that the needed balance and sustainability in spatial planning in Kosovo should be tested and upgraded through the already established cooperation in Europe.

More precisely, the support provided through transnational cooperation program (Interreg II C) on the basis of mutually developed programs introduced in 1996, should be regarded crucial in strengthening the national institutions in the field of spatial development in Kosovo, with the area defined as Central European, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (CADSES), (see map 5.3.). According to ESDP, transnational cooperation on spatial development projects is being tested for the first time, using common organizational, administrative and financial structures (see table 5.1).

It is important to notice that the ESDP provides a framework for closer cooperation between the EU states and the Council of Europe with regard to pan-European spatial development. In this endeavor, a particularly intensive cooperation is sought with the accession countries, including Kosovo. In this context, the main focal points of the Council of Europe are as presented below:

- Greater emphasis on the continental dimension of the spatial development of Europe;
- Analysis of the specific situation and requirements of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in comparison to Western Europe and discussion of the respective guiding principles for spatial development;
- Investigation of financial models for spatial development projects.

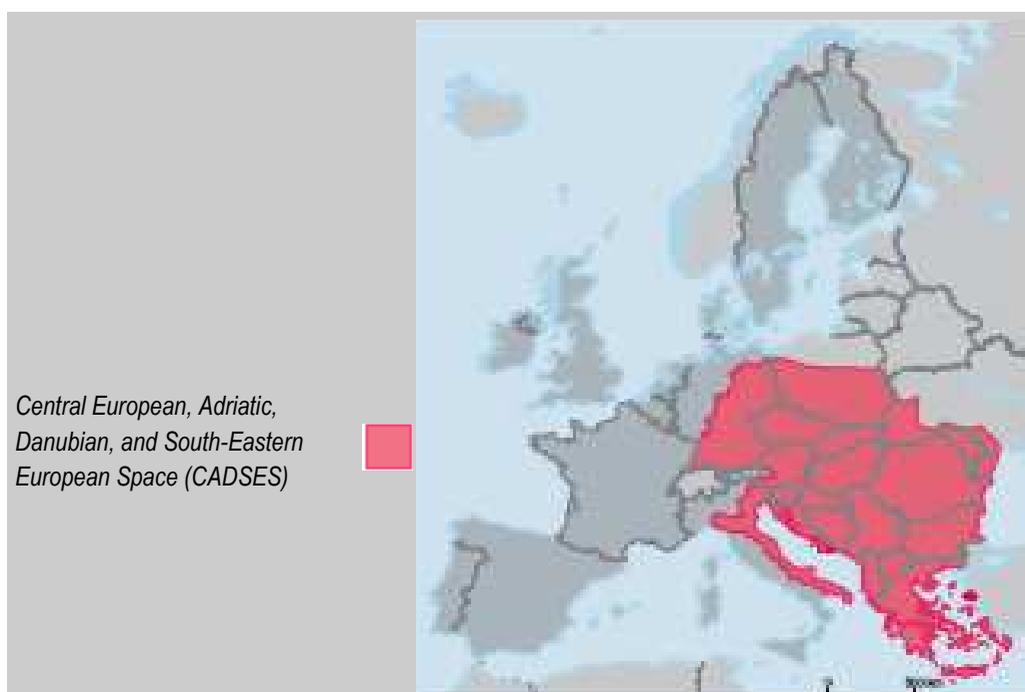
The third point involves the support in planning activities like, project management, networks, pilot actions, exchange of experience, feasibility studies, and to a limited degree, complementary investments in infrastructure .

Co-operation-Area	Decision-making committees	Secretariat	Financial Handling of the EU-Funds
INTERREG II C - Transnational Co-operation for Spatial Development			
Baltic Sea	Joint	Headquarters in Rostock, D Branch in Karlskrona, S	Centrally through I-Bank Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel/Rostock
North Sea	Joint	Headquarters in Viborg, DK	Centrally through Jyske-Bank in Viborg
CADSES	Joint	Networking of national institutions	National institutions
NWMA	Joint	Headquarters in London, UK	Centrally through Lloyds Bank in London
Atlantic Area	Joint	Networking of national institutions supported by a central secretariat in Poitiers, F (in preparation)	Centrally through appointed bank
South-Western Europe	Joint	Networking of national institutions	National institutions
Western Mediterranean	Joint	Networking of national institutions	National institutions

Table 5.1. Structures of Transnational Operational Programs for Spatial Development in Europe

Also, different national experiences in areas such as public administration, planning, law, management and public-private partnership are being exchanged across borders.

158



Map 5.3. Kosovo in the CADSES region in the framework of transnational cooperation program, 1999. (p 41) 159

158. European Spatial Development Perspective: "Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory", ESDP, 1999 (pp.39-40)

159. Ibid, (p.41)

The future member states, and in this, Kosovo too, are envisioned specific tasks in the domain of European Spatial Policy. Under the given circumstances, as stated in ESDP, spatial co-ordination plays a greater role in the Accession Countries, which concerns, in particular the following tasks:

- The planning for the expansion of transnational transport infrastructure and the Community’s transport policy,
- Measures for ecological restoration, in particular, of old industrial zones, and
- Measures for structural adjustments in rural regions.

Key tasks in Transnational Co-operation in Europe
<p>It is proposed that the European Commission and the Member States continue the project-oriented transnational co-operation for spatial development within the framework of the Community initiative INTERREG III and create appropriate basic conditions for this. This will be an important instrument for the application of the ESDP. The key tasks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of suitable co-operation areas and further development of common transnational administrative, financing and management structures for programs and projects; • A more intensive cooperation of regional and local authorities in decision-making processes and program implementation; • Further promotion of spatially integrated projects, taking into account sectoral policy issues, in order to ensure synergy; • Removal of legal obstacles in the Member States which hamper cross-border and transnational co-ordination for spatially significant plans and measures; • The use of projects for creating investment measures and for further development of instruments of spatial development, in particular cross-border territorial impact assessments; • Support of cooperation with neighboring non-Member States, in particular with Central and Eastern European states as well as with Cyprus, to prepare them for accession to the EU, and with countries bordering the Mediterranean; • Evaluation of the results of transnational co-operation, within the framework of NTERREG and ERDF Article 10, against the background of the ESDP, by the responsible bodies of the EU and the Member States.

Table 5.2 Key tasks in Transnational Co-operation in Europe ¹⁶⁰

The study finds that proposed typologies, call attention to the most profound qualities of socio-spatial spaces and can become the platform for future development of Kosovo’s spatial and urban profile through the use of policy options as presented in ESDP.

¹⁶⁰. European Spatial Development Perspective: "Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory" ESDP, 1999 (pp.39-40)

5.2. Metropolitan Capital

5.2.1. The concept of the metropolitan area

The definition of metropolitan regions varies depending on continents, research and policy makers. As opposed to the USA and Japan, where cities having 2 to 3 million inhabitants, define as relatively small ones, in Europe, such cities are considered as large urban areas.

The dominant pattern of urbanization in Europe is that of cities which rank between 200.000 inhabitants to 1 million, with exception of e.g. Paris or London, which are cities with several million inhabitants.

According to this definition given by FORSTALL, a metropolitan area is generally larger than the urbanized center with a considerably larger population.

According to this, it is the size of the core area and the interconnection with the periphery that qualify the metropolitan area.

Also, the concept of a metropolitan region is used as a policy tool which is applied by policy makers and planners to make a certain region more competitive, based on the five functions qualified as metropolitan functions: politics, economy, science, transport and culture. ¹⁶¹

In the United States, there is a definition of metropolitan small areas (MSA) which contain cities of 50.000 or more inhabitants, or urbanized area (UA) with at least 100.000 inhabitants.

Further in USA, the measures of metropolitan character specified in the standards include required levels for the county's:

- (1) Population's density;
- (2) Percentage of population that is classified as urban;
- (3) Percentage growth in population between the previous two decennial censuses; and
- (4) Percentage of inhabitants within the UA that qualifies the MSA. ¹⁶²

The European Union's statistical agency, (EUROSTAT), has created a concept named Larger Urban Zone (LUZ), later renamed into Functional Urban Area (FUA), with a goal to have an area from a significant share of the resident commute into the city in the European Continent. According to EUROSTAT, likewise, Metropolitan Areas in Europe consist of a city and its commuting zone.

¹⁶¹ Forstall, R. L, Greene, R. P. & Pick, J. B., "Which are the largest? Why published lists of major urban areas vary so greatly". *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geographie*, 2009 (pp.277-297).

¹⁶² <http://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/GARM/Ch13GARM.pdf>

5.2.2. Metropolitan capital Prishtina

The concept of the Metropolitan Region of Prishtina was first introduced in 1970's. Back at that time, the justification had considered that the population figure doesn't call for such a concept, but it validated the fact that the city was to develop institutions and multiple profiles that add to the capital city the epithet of the regional metropole of Kosovo. Further, the vision of the socialist period had validated the fact that Prishtina was urbanizing in such a rapid tempo that was distinctive comparison with other urban centers in the former socialist Yugoslavia, but also in South Eastern Europe as well. ¹⁶³

The features that Prishtina had developed back at that time remain relevant: central administration, international airport, a crossroad of inter-urban transport and communication networks, a functional link with industrial areas of Fushë Kosova, Obiliq, Ajvalia and Kishnica in the west, etc. Hence, the functional links and connections that Prishtina created in time with its industrial periphery, that is, neighboring towns and rural regions, suggests that Prishtina is the core of the agglomeration which could potentially grow in the future as a large urban zone– a concept existent in the western Europe. Even back in the 1970s this agglomeration zone used to have 100.000 inhabitants, a figure which was considered a relevant limit for a metropolis. ¹⁶⁴

Metropolitan Capital Prishtina as a concept has been likewise promoted by the Municipality of Prishtina since 2009. ¹⁶⁵ On the other hand, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo (SPK), which transmits the stance of the central governance, envisages the function of Prishtina as a capital city. This has limited the efforts for development of the metropolitan concept within the administrative boundaries of Prishtina municipality, which, yet, depends on the will of neighboring municipalities (Fushë Kosova, Obliq, Podujeva, Graçanica, Lipjan and Vushtrri) to associate strategically with Prishtina being the center of the metropolitan area concept. However, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo envisions that Prishtina, as the center of one of seven regions in Kosovo, and shall foster its role as a regional center in serving neighboring centers shall strengthen its role as the capital city, developed in relation to the region. ¹⁶⁶

The SPK plan has identified the Prishtina region as "The Harbor of Kosova" (blue area), distinctive for administrative and education functions, health care, service and trade, light industry, agricultural industry and tourism. According to the Plan ,the area covers the northeastern parts of Kosova, comprised of Municipalities: Prishtina, Obiliq, Podujeva, Fushë Kosova, Lipjan, Drenas and Shtime, with Prishtina in the center.

This area, represented in blue, covers seven cities, with Prishtina as a center, and is characterized a dense region of urban and rural centers in development, high quality agricultural land, underground resources (lignite, Ni, Pb, zinc, gold etc.), important archaeological and cultural premises and objects, open green spaces, while according to economic activities it is characterized by industrial, trade and service, administrative, domestic and international government services, and the academic, education and scientific center. ¹⁶⁷

¹⁶³. Lleshi Q, "Qytetet e Kosoves– Studime urbanologjike", Prishtina, 1977 (pp.86-88)

¹⁶⁴. Ibid, (p.91)

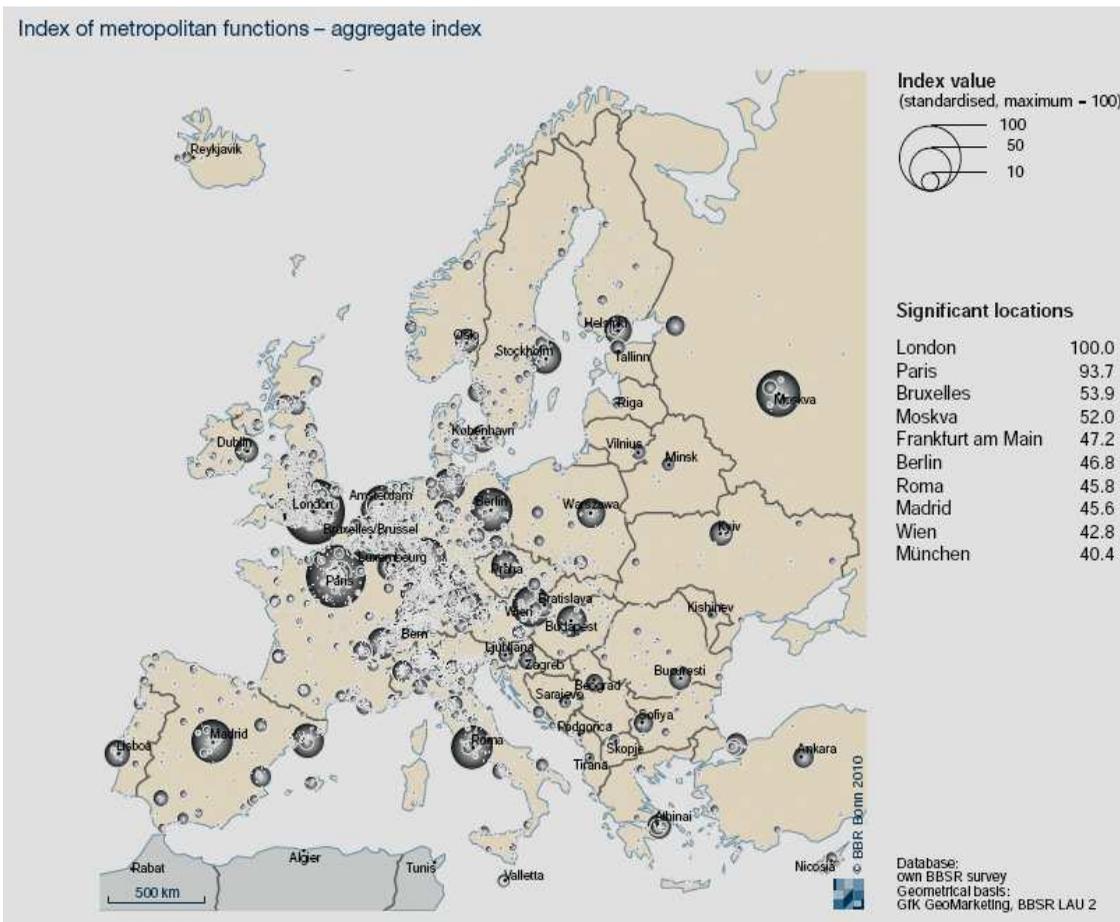
¹⁶⁵. As stated before, the "Capital City Governance Program 2010-2013" promoted Prishtina as a metropolitan center, 2010 (pp.7-9)

¹⁶⁶.Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+",MESP, 2010 (pp.126-127)

¹⁶⁷.Ibid, (p.136)

It is interesting to review Prishtina in the context of a report produced about metropolitan areas in Europe. In 2010 the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development in Germany (BBSR) published a study, which identifies metropolitan regions in whole Europe, defined based on five metropolitan functions: politics, economy, science, transport and culture; each function measured with 20%.

Although, strangely, Prishtina does not appear in the map, and Kosovo state border either, the study and mapping methodology, when applied in Kosovo, undoubtedly highlights Prishtina as a metropolitan center with metropolitan functions.¹⁶⁸



Map 5.4. Metropolitan areas in Europe in 2010

Source: BBSR-Berichte KOMPAKT Metropolitan areas in Europe Abstract of a new BBSR study ,2010 (p.9)

¹⁶⁸ Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development in Germany – BBSR Metropolitan areas in Europe, 2010 http://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/EN/Publications/BerichteKompakt/Issues/DL_7_2010.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

Firstly, the urban core of Prishtina has a population number which by standards fulfills the criteria of metropolitan center, discussed earlier in this chapter. The city itself has an urban population of 145.149 inhabitants while the municipality in total has 198.897 inhabitants. The region, as defined in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, encompasses the area of Prishtina, and the following municipalities: Podujeva, Obiliq, Fushë Kosova, Lipjan, Drenas and Shtime. With the creation of new municipalities, Graçanica also falls under this region. Also, Novoberda was historically identified with the Prishtina region, due to its links with mining administrative functions, hence, this proposal includes Novobërda in the Prishtina area too .

Data according to the census			
City	Urban area	Municipal area	Category
Prishtina	145,149	198,897	Larger cities
Podujeva	23,453	88,499	10,000 - 30,000
Fushë Kosova	12,919	33,997	-II-
Shtime	7,255	27,324	Under 10,000 inh.
Obiliq	6,864	21,549	-II-
Lipjan	6,870	57,605	-II-
Drenas	6,143	58,531	-II-
Graçanica	2,686	10,675	-II-
Novobërda	183	6,729	-II-
Total area	211,522	503,806	

Table 5.3. Data according to the census 2011

With figure 5.2. Prishtina could rank as a metropolitan city after Graz 608.420, Ljubljana 567.098 and Venice 541.969 inhabitants.

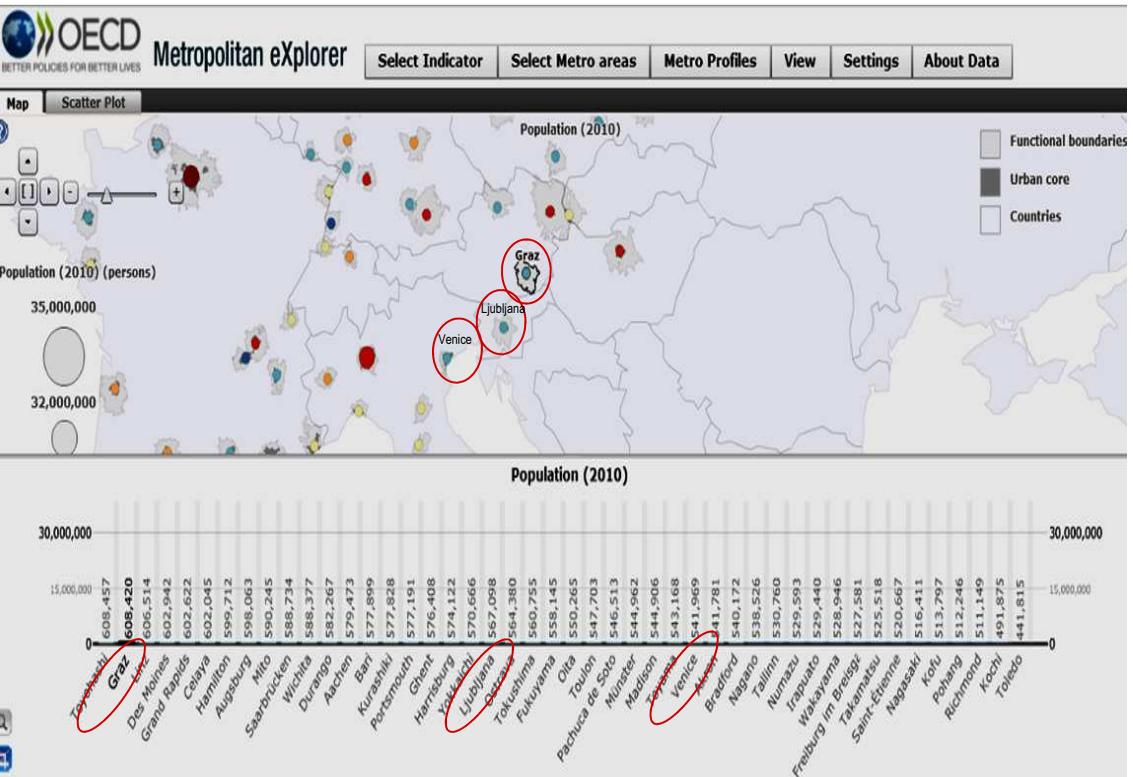
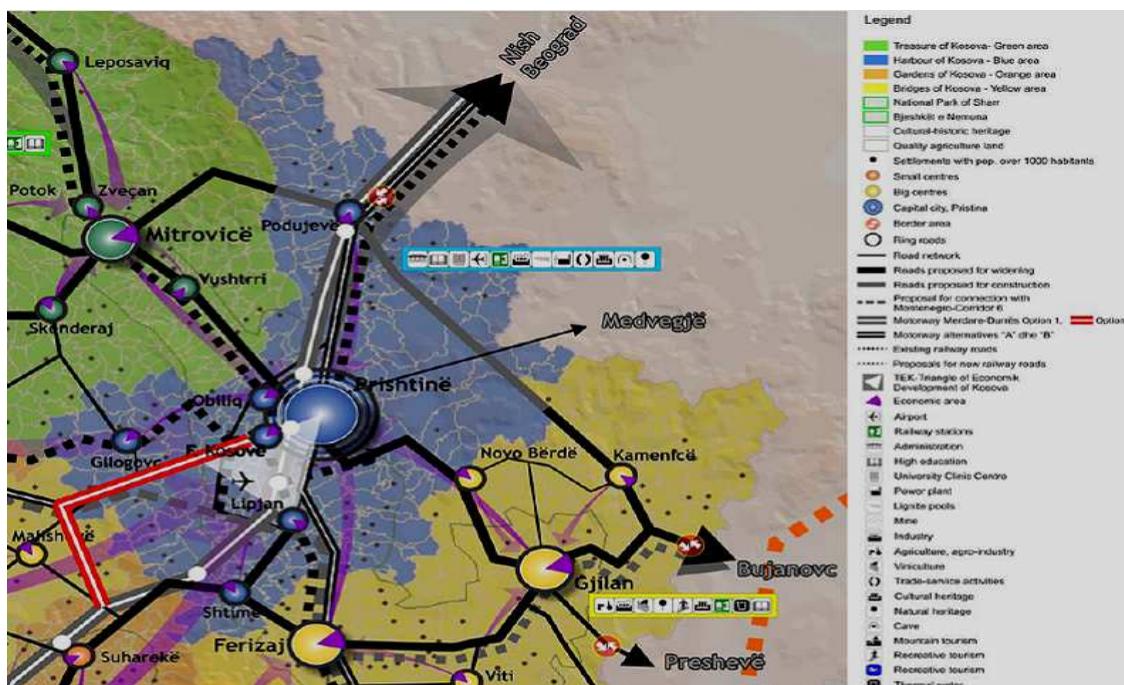


Figure 5.2. Interactive map OECD / Metropolitan eXplorer, showing the cities in Europe ranked according to the population.

Source: <http://measuringurban.oecd.org> #

In this context, it is important to draw a lesson from the case of Lisbon Metropolitan Area, the creation of which was conditioned by a legislation with a purpose of creating metropolitan communities and clear structures, which enabled groups of municipalities to apply for EU funds. The main requirement for the creation of such areas was the condition of territorial continuity and a minimum number of inhabitants, specifically 9 municipalities with 350.000 inhabitants for large metropolitan areas, and 3 municipalities with 150.000 inhabitants for urban communities. This concept created by means of legislation has reinforced the unbalanced distribution of urban areas in Portugal. ¹⁶⁹ This characteristic is also found in Kosovo, hence, a legislation that would introduce the metropolitan and urban community's concepts should be considered in the case of Kosovo too.

Prishtina is the capital of the new state of Kosovo, which declared its independence in 2008. The Spatial Plan of Kosovo defines it "The Blue Area" as the Metropolitan Area, the capital, which accommodates the government and foreign diplomatic offices, has good access to neighboring cities within Kosovo and abroad, through a physical infrastructure network (road, rail, air, energy) and administrative and institutional networks. It maintains a network which creates potential conditions and premises favorable for economic, industrial, commercial and service activities. Lastly, the Plan identifies the so called Economic Development Triangle (EDT) centered in Prishtina, which foresees to be the backbone of economic development of a national interest, a source of income for Kosovo's economy, and a potential location for multi-national company investors. ¹⁷⁰ This too is a concept that fits to the overall tentative of creation of metropolitan areas in Europe.



Map 5.5. Spatial Development Strategy- Blue Area,

Source: Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (p.137)

¹⁶⁹. Silvia P, "Territorial Changes in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area". From a Capital of an Isolated Country to a European Partner City. In: Luigi Doria, Valeria Fedeli, and Carla Tedesco. Eds. Rethinking European Spatial Policy as a Hologram. Actions, Institutions, Discourses, Ashgate, 2006 (pp. 59-72), (p.63)

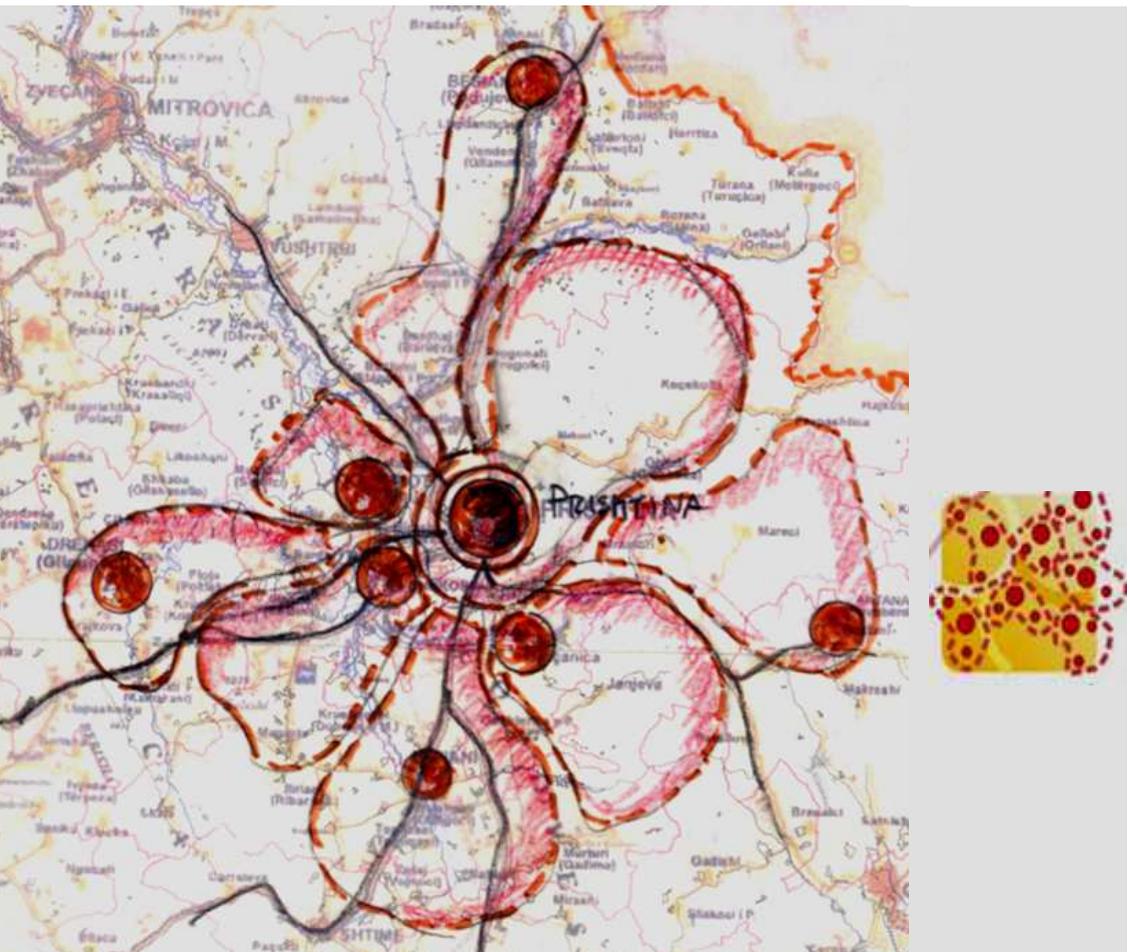
¹⁷⁰. Institute for Spatial Planning, "Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+", MESP, 2010 (pp.136-137)

5.2.3. Policy Options

Based on the abovementioned considerations, two policy options provided in the ESDP are proposed for furthering the metropolitan agenda in the case of Prishtina.

A) Polycentric Spatial Development and a New Urban-Rural Relationship. Under this policy, the polycentric and balanced spatial development as vital in pursuing the metropolitan concept. Further, two policy options are important to take into consideration:

- Strengthening of several larger zones of global economic integration in the EU, equipped with high-quality, global functions and services, including the peripheral areas, through transnational spatial development strategies. (Policy Option 1. in ESDP)
- Strengthening a polycentric and more balanced system of metropolitan regions, city clusters and city networks through closer co-operation between structural policy and the policy on the Trans-European Networks (TENs) and improvement of links between international/national and regional/local transport networks. (Policy Option 2. in ESDP)

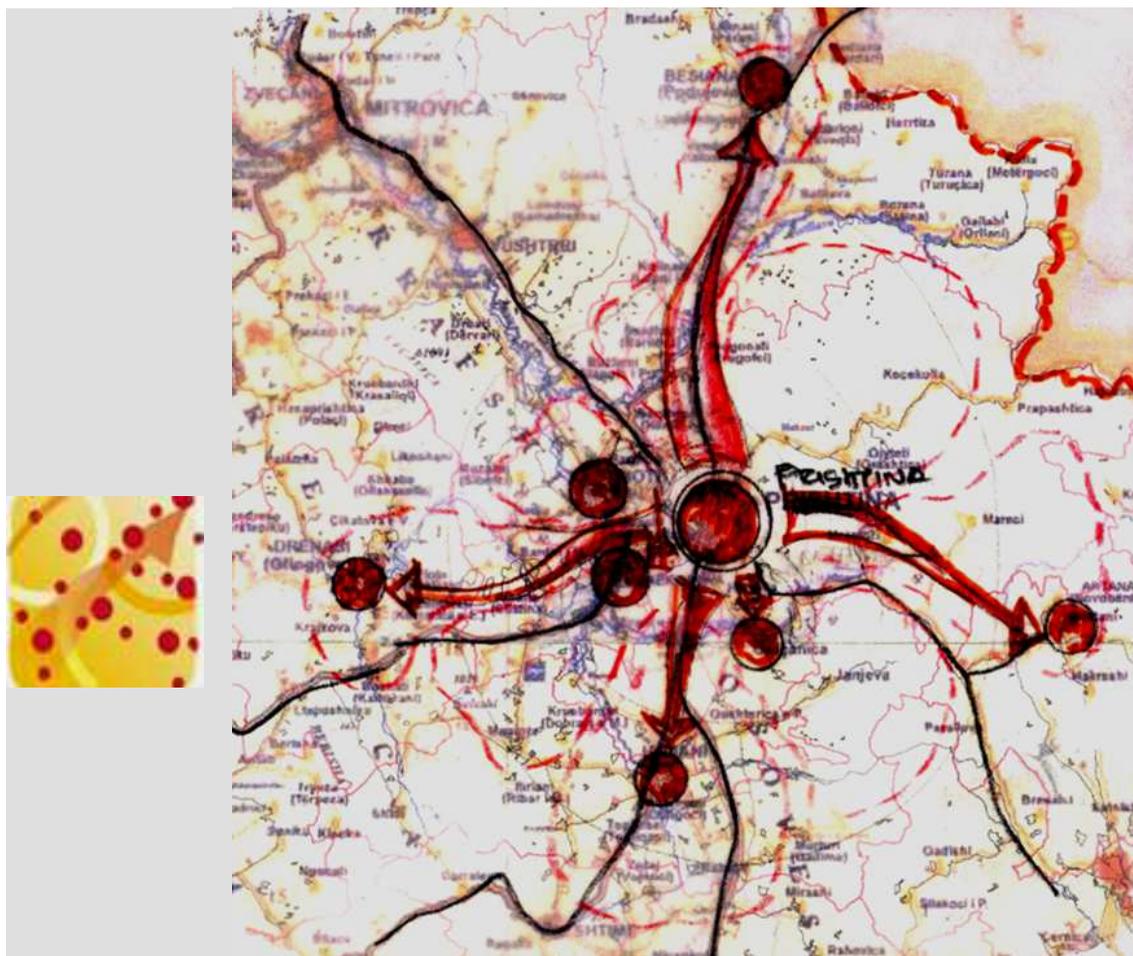


Map 5.6. Polycentric and balanced spatial development – case of Prishtina According to the model provided in ESDP.

Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP, (p. 20)

B) Polycentric Spatial Development and a New Urban-Rural Relationship. Under this policy, the Polycentric and Balanced Spatial Development are vital in pursuing the metropolitan concept. Further, two policy options are important to take into consideration:

- Expansion of the strategic role of metropolitan regions and “gateway cities”, giving particular attention to the development of peripheral regions of the EU. (Policy Option 6. in ESDP)
- Support for effective methods of reducing uncontrolled urban expansion; reduction of excessive settlement pressure, particularly in coastal region (Policy Option 12. in ESDP)



Map 5.7. Dynamic, attractive and competitive cities and urbanised regions – case of Prishtina, According to the model provided in ESDP.

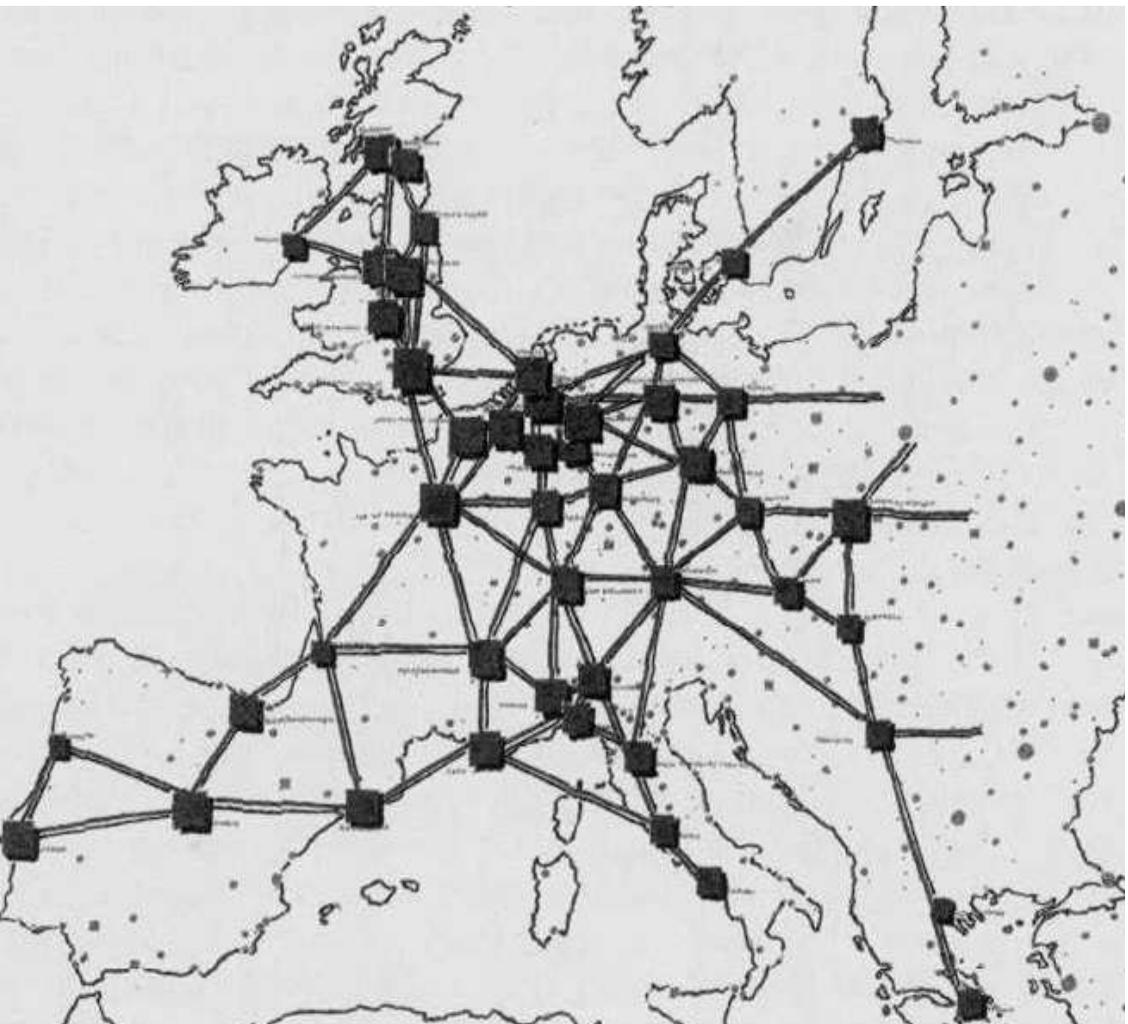
Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP, (p. 22)

5.3. Network of cities

5.3.1. The European network of cities: discussion

Urban Networks in Europe, as already demonstrated through numerous publications, are substantial in organization of the data network– ESPON, preparation of a 'Compendium' of planning systems in the member states; promotion of cross-border planning, including in the origin countries, and expansion of inter-regional and inter-urban networks of co-operation. ¹⁷¹

The map below shows urban networks in Europe which also promote the polycentric concept perused by the member states. However, as argued by experts, this concept is a bit vague if we take into consideration the territorial aspect of the European Continent, that is, the pan-European space.



Map 5. 8. Urban networks in Europe

Source: "The Making of the European Spatial Development Perspective. No Master plan". (p.55)

¹⁷¹ Faludi A., & Waterhout B., "The Making of the European Spatial Development Perspective. No Masterplan" Routledge London and New York, 2002 (p.56)

Although polycentricism nowadays is considered as a normative concept and is adopted by many countries based on ESDP, there still remain some issues which need to be addressed in the European level, in fulfilling the pan-European territorial dimension. The main issue is linked to the classification by size of cities and urban centers in different countries, with the focus in small countries in Southeastern Europe like Kosovo, as well as apparent conflict between the European urban network as a whole, and urban networks at the levels of countries and regions. In this context, small-sized countries experience great difficulties in achieving the polycentric development. This situation is identified in many EU projects such as those under the ESPON Program. ¹⁷²

Goal	Policy	Goal conflict
Competitiveness at global scale (Lisbon)	Strengthen highest-level global cities in the 'Pentagon'	Polarisation between the global cities in the 'Pentagon' and the cities in the rest of Europe will increase. The European urban system will be less balanced and polycentric.
Territorial cohesion at European scale	Strengthen major cities outside of the 'Pentagon'	The competitiveness of the global cities in Europe may decrease. The urban systems of individual countries will be less balanced and polycentric.
Territorial cohesion at national scale	Strengthen medium-level cities in the new member states and accession countries.	Competitiveness of major cities in the new member states and accession countries may decrease.
Sustainability (Gothenburg)	Strengthen lower-level cities in the new member states and accession countries.	Competitiveness of major cities in the new member states and accession countries may decrease.

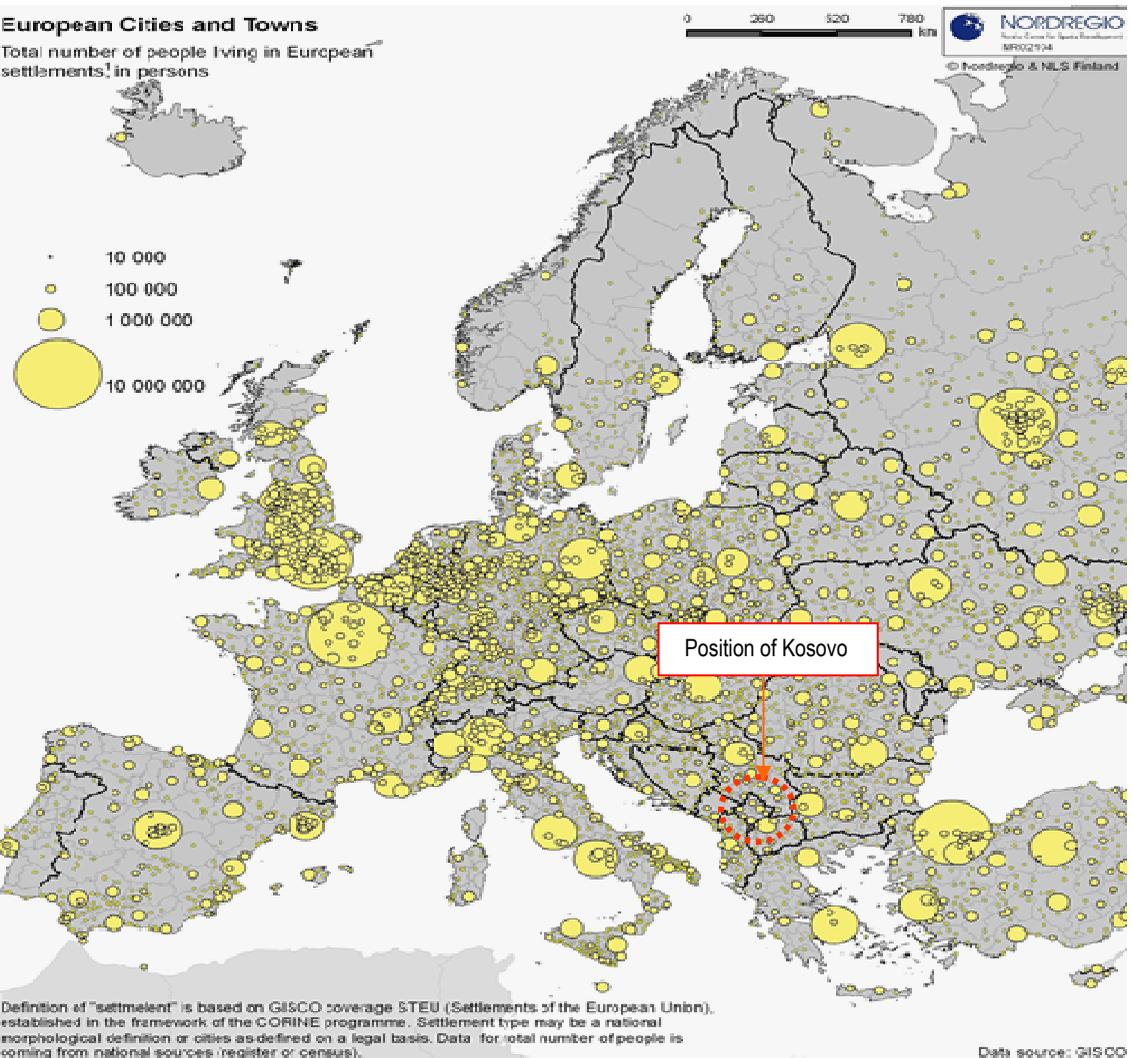
Source: ESPON Project 1.1.3. 2006

Table 5.3. Goal conflict of polycentrism policies

Source: Lamovšek Z.A., "Settlement Patterns in Europe"..., (p.236)

¹⁷². Lamovšek Z.A., Settlement Patterns in Europe: Elements and Comparative Typology. In: Getimis P., & Kafkalas G., Overcoming Fragmentation in Southeast Europe. Spatial Development trends and Integration Potential, Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2007 (pp.235-266)

Difficulties arising in this context are linked to the level of wealth of diversity of the European space, not limited only to geographical features of countries in SEE, but also referring to the differences of a political, cultural and economic character. This heterogeneity is complex when aiming the measures needed to achieve territorial integrity and polycentric spatial development of the entire region. In addition to this, SEE countries' transition processes have had an extreme impact in their urban system, which has consequently centralized public services and capital in urban centers as centers of power. Hence, the comprehension of urban systems in SEE should not be based on the methodology commonly used in the EU, which take account of socio-economic indicators only, but also should devise indicators which take account of the historical and administrative/judicial aspect of settlements. ¹⁷³



Map 5.9. Kosovo cities in the map of European cities and towns.

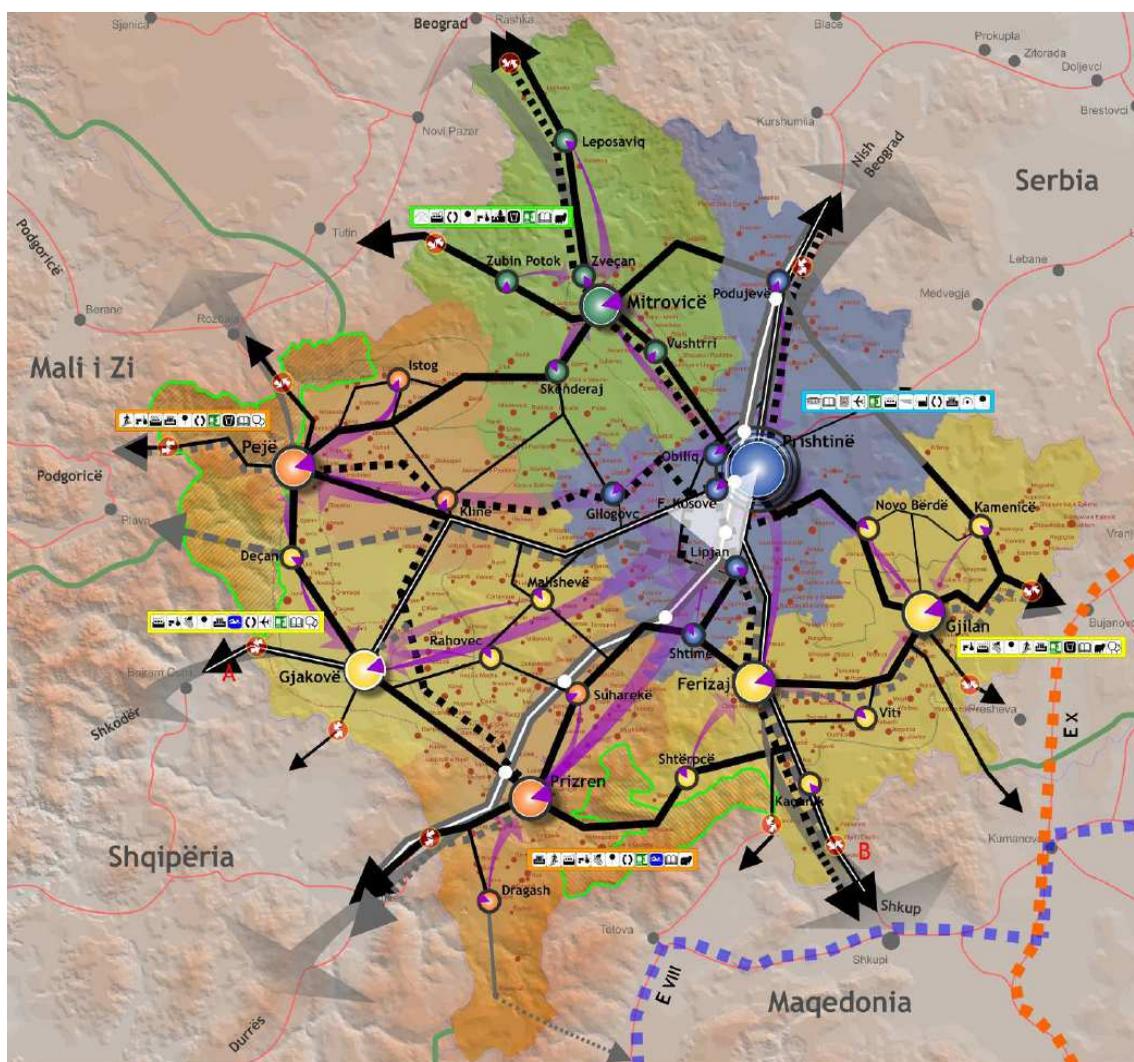
Source: <http://www.nordregio.se/en/Maps--Graphs/08-Urban-and-regional-divisions/European-cities-and-towns/>

¹⁷³. Lamovšek Z.A, "Settlement Patterns in Europe: Elements and Comparative Typology", In: Getimis P, & Kafkalas G. Overcoming Fragmentation in Southeast Europe. Spatial Development trends and Integration Potential. Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2007. (pp.235-266)

5.3.2. Network of Cities in Kosovo

Spatial Plan of Kosovo addresses the network of cities, yet very schematically. The spatial development is based on the concept of four spatial areas defined on the basis of common features such as geographic, economic and potentials for future development.

As the map 5.10. shows, in the strategic level, settlements that create the prime network of settlements in Kosovo are main cities, and only some of the secondary towns connect to the main city in agglomeration given the existing road structure. It should be noted that this schematic presentation must reflect in more concrete terms the network of settlements and the concept, whether adopted of the polycentric development, as recommended in the urban planning agendas in Europe, shown in the following pages of this chapter.



Map 5.10. Strategy of spatial development according to the Spatial Plan of Kosovo

Source: Institute for Spatial Planning “Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-2020+MESP”, 2010.(p.156)

5.3.3. Policy Options

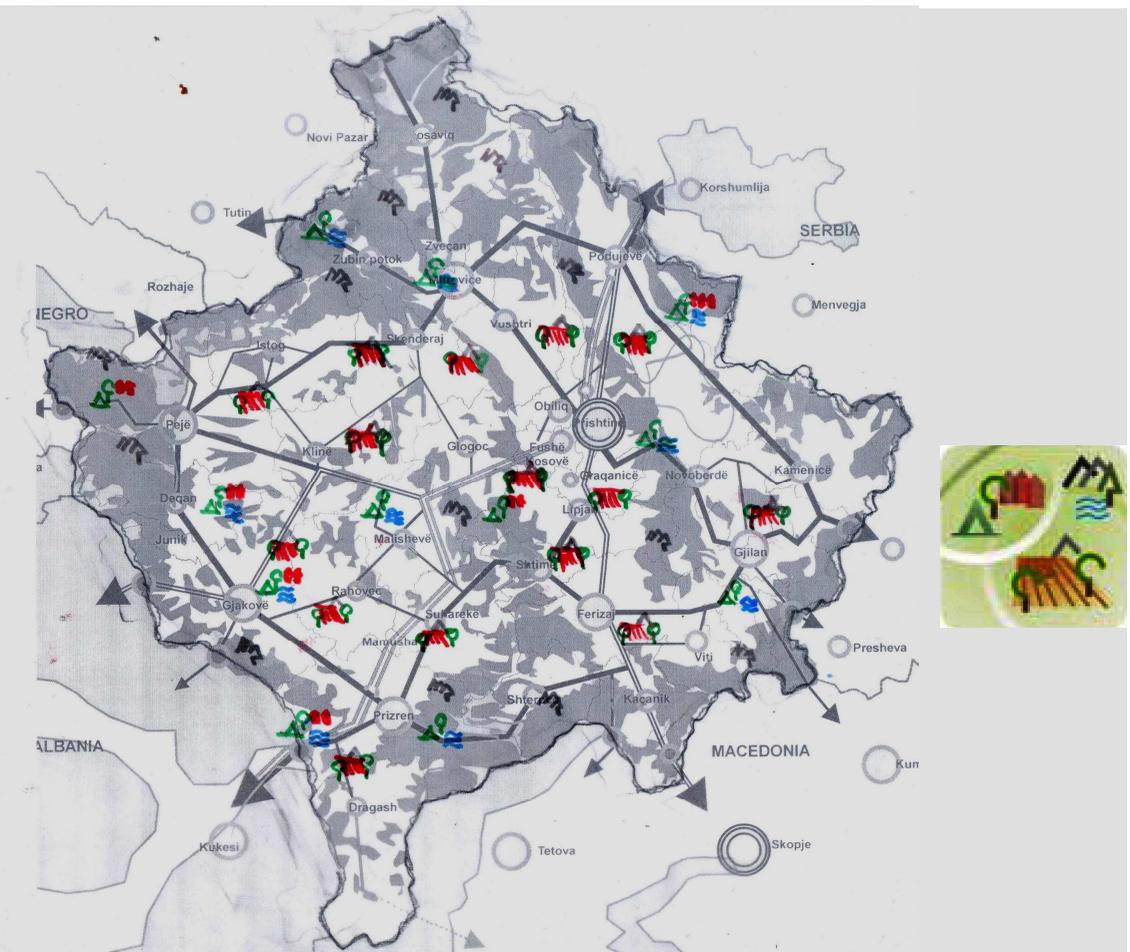
Based on the abovementioned considerations, six policy options provided in the ESDP are proposed for furthering the network of cities in Kosovo. These are :

A) Polycentric Spatial Development and a New Urban-Rural Relationship. Under this policy, the Polycentric and Balanced Spatial Development are vital in pursuing the urban-rural relationship. Further, two policy options are important to take into consideration:

- Strengthening of several larger economic zones, equipped with high-quality functions and services, including the peripheral areas. (Policy Option 1. in ESDP) .

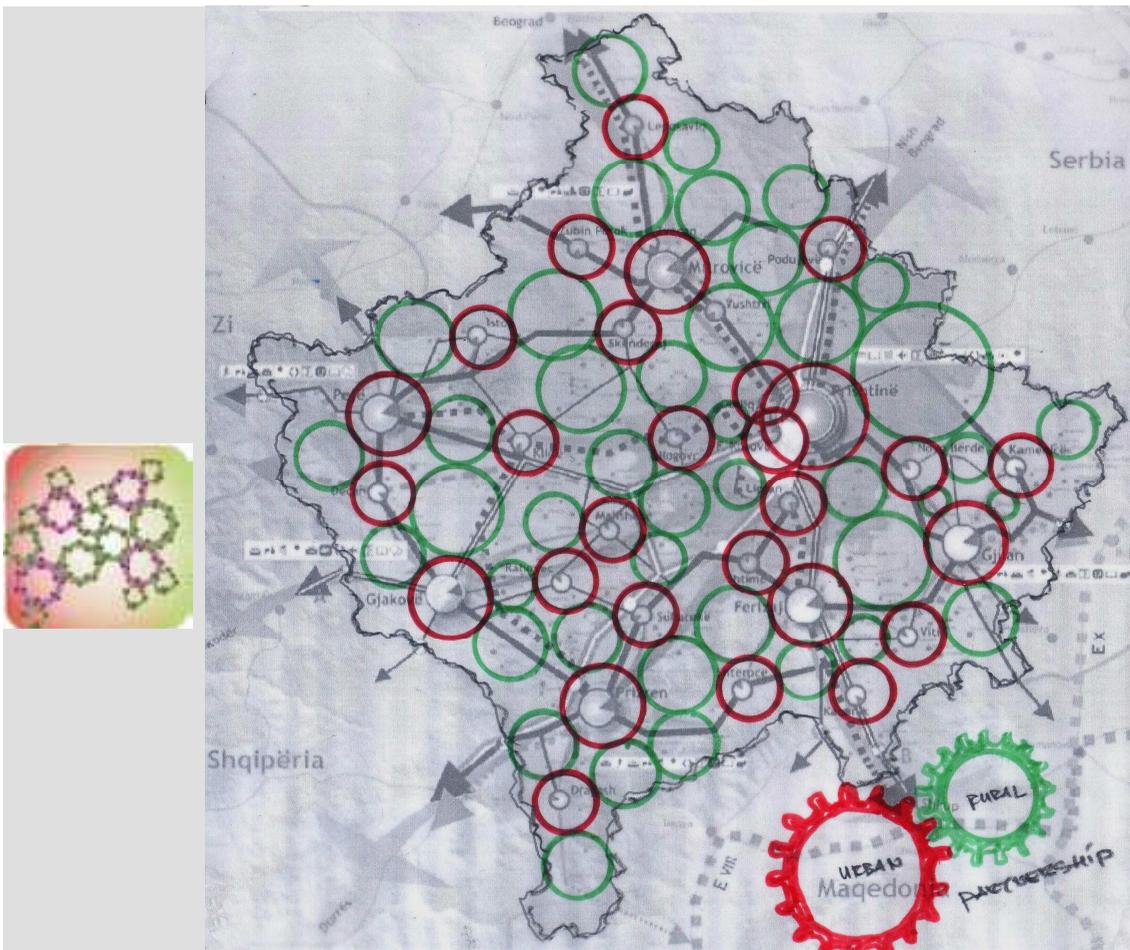
B) Indigenous Development, Diverse and Productive Rural Areas. Pursuing of this policy in areas determined under point A) above is important in the economic development in rural areas. Three policy options are important to take into consideration:

- Strengthening small and medium-sized towns in rural areas as focal points for regional development. (Policy Option 14. in ESDP).



Map 5.11. Polycentric spatial development and a new urban-rural relationship
According to the model provided in ESDP
Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP. (p.23)

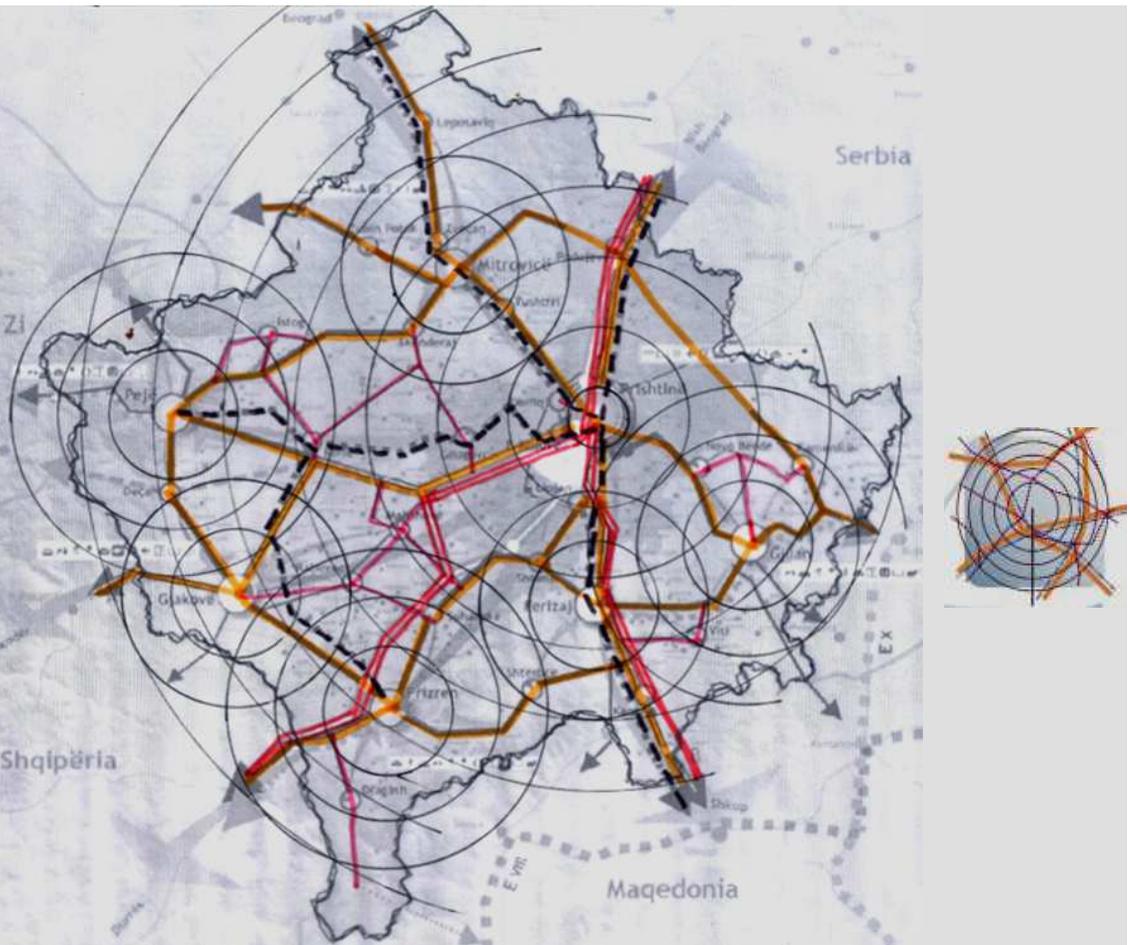
- Securing sustainable agriculture, application of environmental measures and diversification of agrarian land utilization. (Policy Option 15. in ESDP).
 - Exploitation of the development potential of environmentally friendly tourism. (Policy Option 18. in ESDP).
- C) Urban-Rural Partnership. This is crucial in infusing the concept of polycentricism in the case of Kosovo, given the fact that small settlements and rural areas are naturally connected to main cities. Policy option 20. Remains vital for implementation:
- Promotion of cooperation between towns and countryside aiming at strengthening functional regions. (Policy Option 20. in ESDP).



Map 5.12. Urban-rural partnership, according to the model provided in ESDP

Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP. (p. 25)

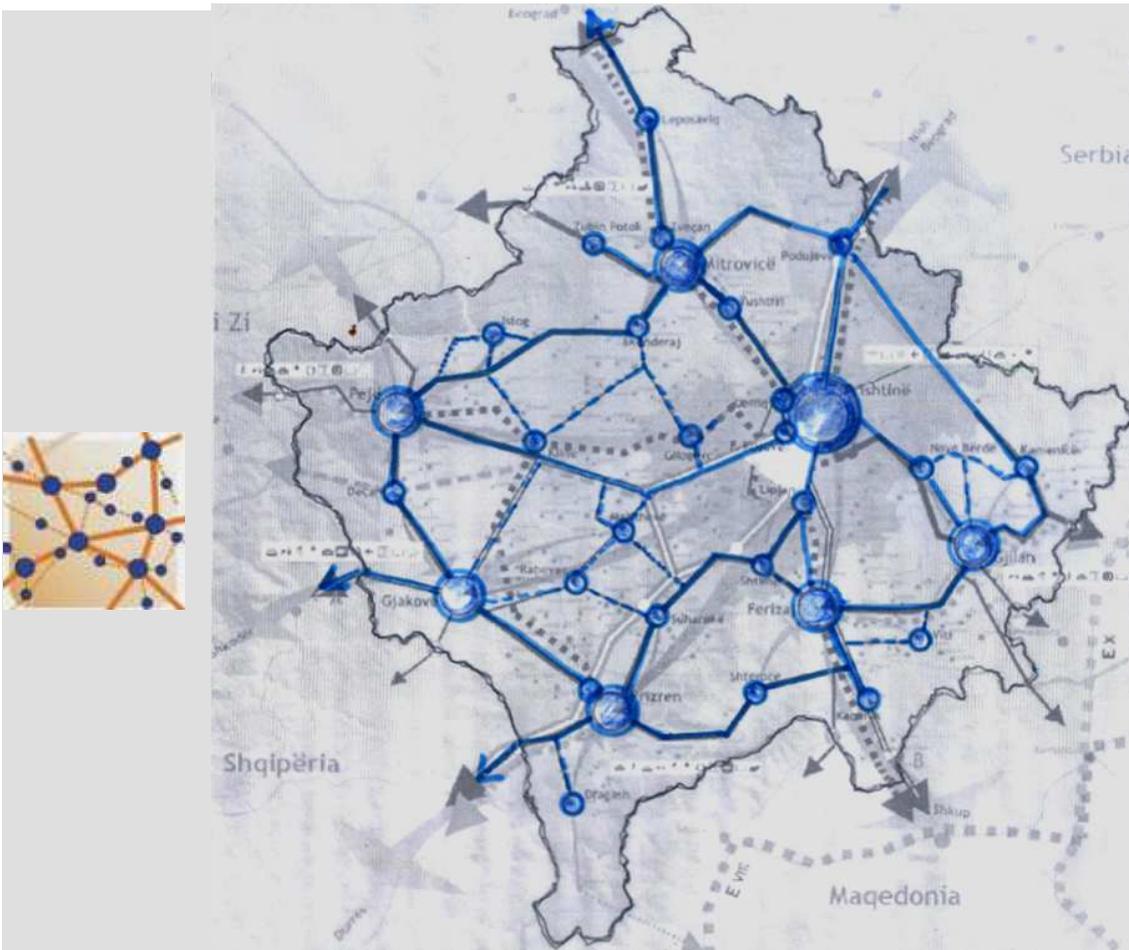
D) Parity of Access to Infrastructure and Knowledge. In this point, it is necessary to integrate into a national strategy the potentials that Kosovo is building in relation to road networks; also access to knowledge is being improved given the fact that the higher education system is being centralized. Today we have several public universities in main cities, which however, need to integrate into a network of knowledge.



Map 5.13. Parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge. According to the model provided in ESDP.

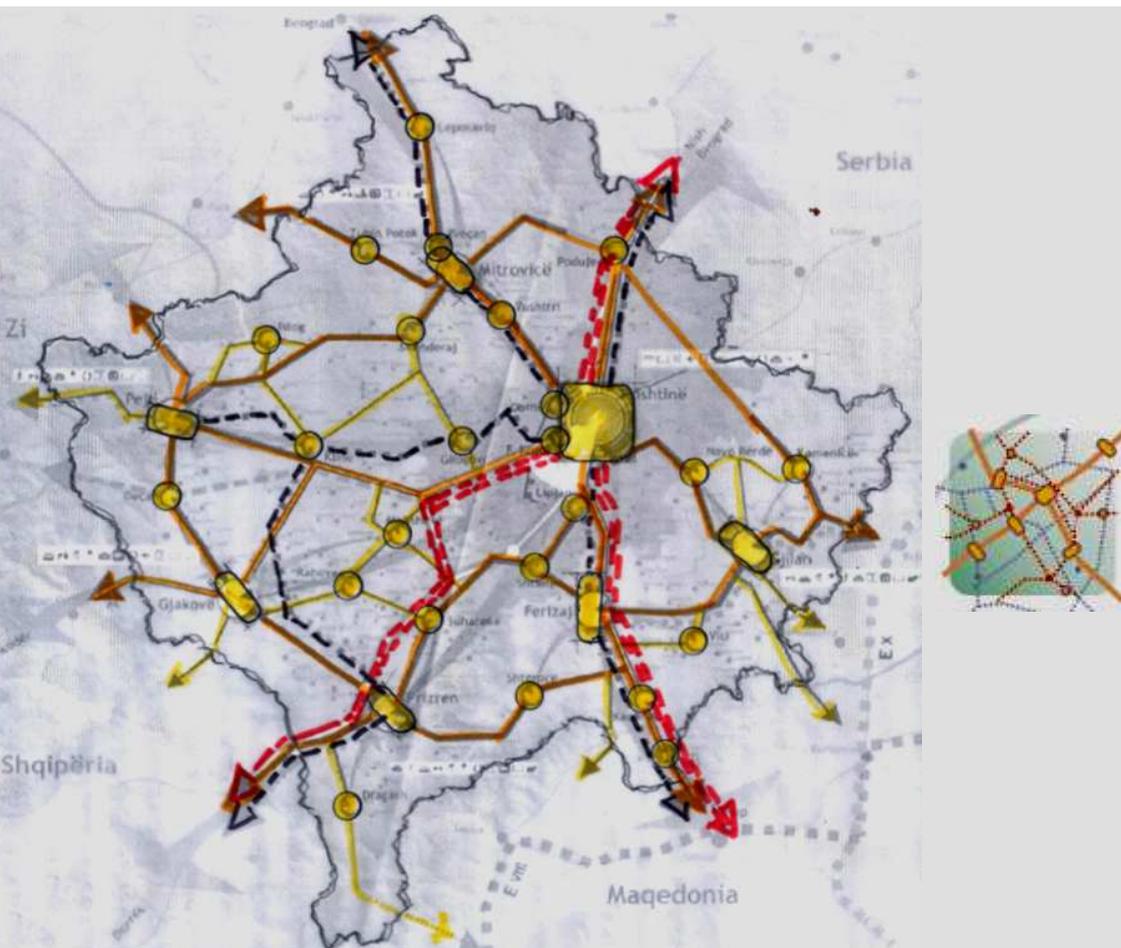
Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP, (p.26)

- E) Polycentric Development Model: A Basis for Better Accessibility. This model would to be decided in the national level, that is, in the revised and updated version of the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, in order to allow for the creation of the basis of better accessibility, through strengthening of secondary transport networks.
(Policy Option 24. in ESDP).



Map 5.14. Polycentric development model. According to the model provided in ESDP
Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP, (p.26)

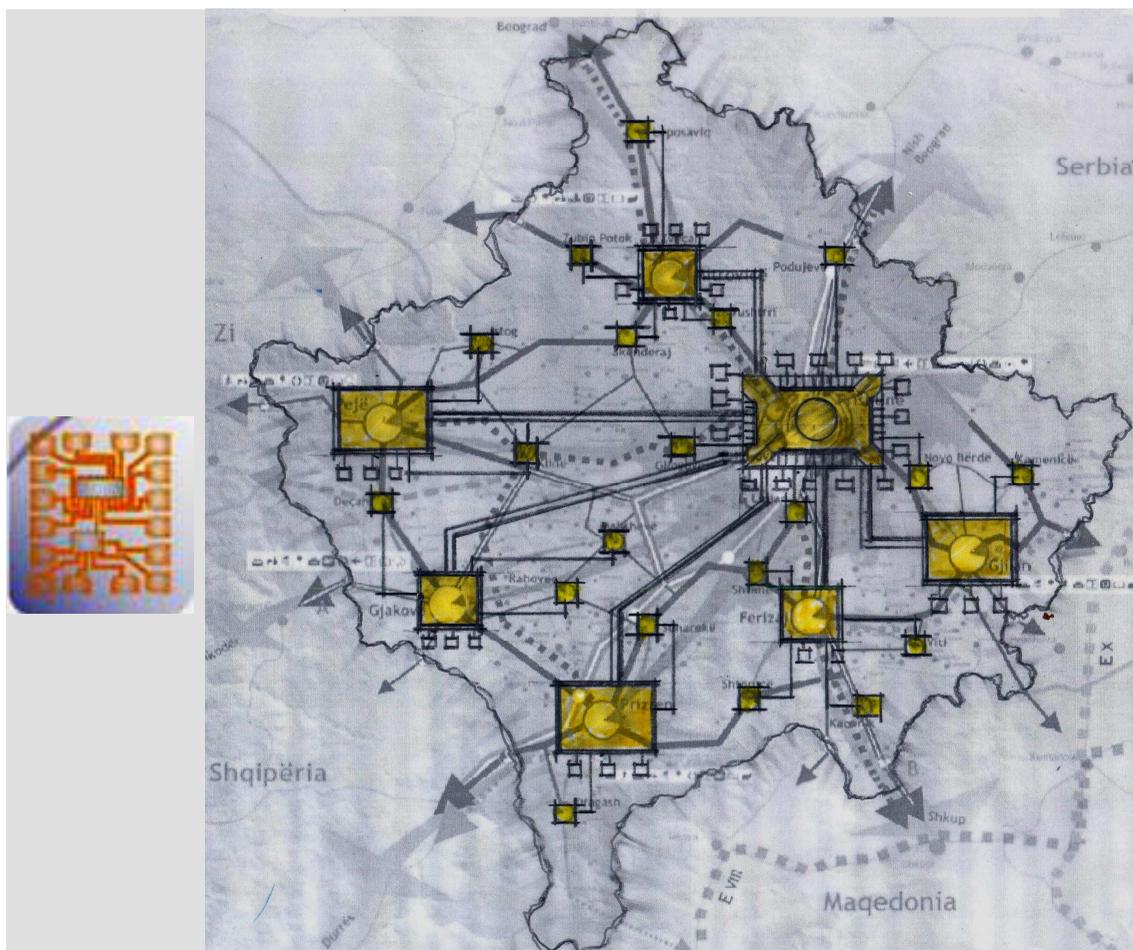
F) Efficient and Sustainable Use of the Infrastructure. Consideration of A to D above leads to a better co-ordination of spatial development policy and land use planning with transport and telecommunications planning. (Policy Option 30. in ESDP)



Map 5.15. Efficient and sustainable use of the infrastructure. According to the model provided in ESDP.

Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP. (p.28)

- G) Diffusion of Innovation and Knowledge. Wide-range integration of knowledge-relevant policies, such as the promotion of innovation, education, vocational training and further training, research and technology development, into spatial development policies, especially in remote or densely populated areas. (Policy Option 35. in ESDP).



Map 5.16. Diffusion of Innovation and knowledge. According to the model provided in ESDP
Source: compiled by author, Information gathered from ESDP. (p.29)

5.4. Regional cooperation

As argued earlier in this study, regional cooperation is widely encouraged through national strategies, but it still remains in margins of the statutory actions in Kosovo. According to Kosovo's legislation, Kosovo is divided in municipalities, while regions are maintained through territorial components of central institutions. The regional division which is also presented in the Spatial Plan divides Kosovo into thematic-territorial regions; yet, the Law on Spatial Planning regulates this activity only in the national and municipal level. Therefore, when it comes to spatial and urban planning and management in the regional level, no mandatory regulation or strategies are encouraged.

The study finds that the regional component in the socio-spatial considerations facilitates the networking of cities, and therefore, it should be thought in the context of polycentricism and the network of settlements, which share common perspectives, especially in the domain of natural and cultural realm. This proposal is founded in Lefebvre's looks at transformational urbanism- a perspective which helps us understand the global trends and their impact in the local urbanization pace, as well as in the identification of possibilities for transformation that an urban world might still contain. ¹⁷⁴

In this respect, the regional cooperation in Kosovo shall be that of spaces of mediation between subjectivity and objectivity, which surpasses the classical regionalist approach and call for an active system which reveals the territorial identity, and establishes the relationship with the environment in a systemic vision of place and context. ¹⁷⁵

Such regions, as envisioned by this thesis, spring from common features and potentials:

1. Natural landscape regions which more often than not are subject to cross border cooperation especially in the bordering areas with Macedonia and Albania;
2. Cultural landscape regions, considering potential in Kosovo as well as potentials to connect thematically with neighboring countries and beyond due to the cultural uniqueness and diversity in the Balkans.

Promotion of natural and cultural landscapes regions in Kosovo shall enrich the country's profile in one hand, while in the other hand, extension of the natural and cultural landscape approach beyond national borders and through the regional cooperation guarantees development in the regional context and by this, integration in the European political and economic context.

¹⁷⁴. Madden J.D., "City becoming world: Nancy, Lefebvre, and the global–urban imagination", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, volume 30, 2012. pp.(772-787)

¹⁷⁵. Pittaluga P., "Images of Local Societies and Projects for Space". In: Giovanni Maciocco, Ed. *The Territorial Future of the City*, Springer Science+ Business Media, B.V. 2008. (pp.87-104)

5.4.1. Policy options

Under the heading “Wise Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage”, the ESDP calls for the consideration of natural and cultural heritage as a development asset. According to this policy document, spatial development is to play an important role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at local and regional level. Because of the fact that the natural and cultural heritage is in permanent threat, its protection and management should be integrated into spatial development strategies for larger areas.

The reason why this component is important for the case of Kosovo is its potential to generate economic growth. This is also acknowledged in ESDP:

(134) The natural and cultural heritage are economic factors which are becoming increasingly important for regional development. The quality of life of towns and cities, their hinterland and rural areas play an increasingly important role in the location decisions of new companies. Natural and cultural places of interest are also an essential precondition for the development of tourism. ¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁶. ESDP: Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory. ESDP, 1999. (p.30)

5.4.2. Natural and cultural landscape regions

As recommended in ESDP, preservation and development of the natural heritage calls for the preparation of integrated spatial development strategies for protected areas, environmentally sensitive areas and areas of high biodiversity which in the case of Kosovo are mountain areas. This policy orientation would help in balancing protection and development on the basis of territorial and environmental impact assessments and involving the relevant partners.

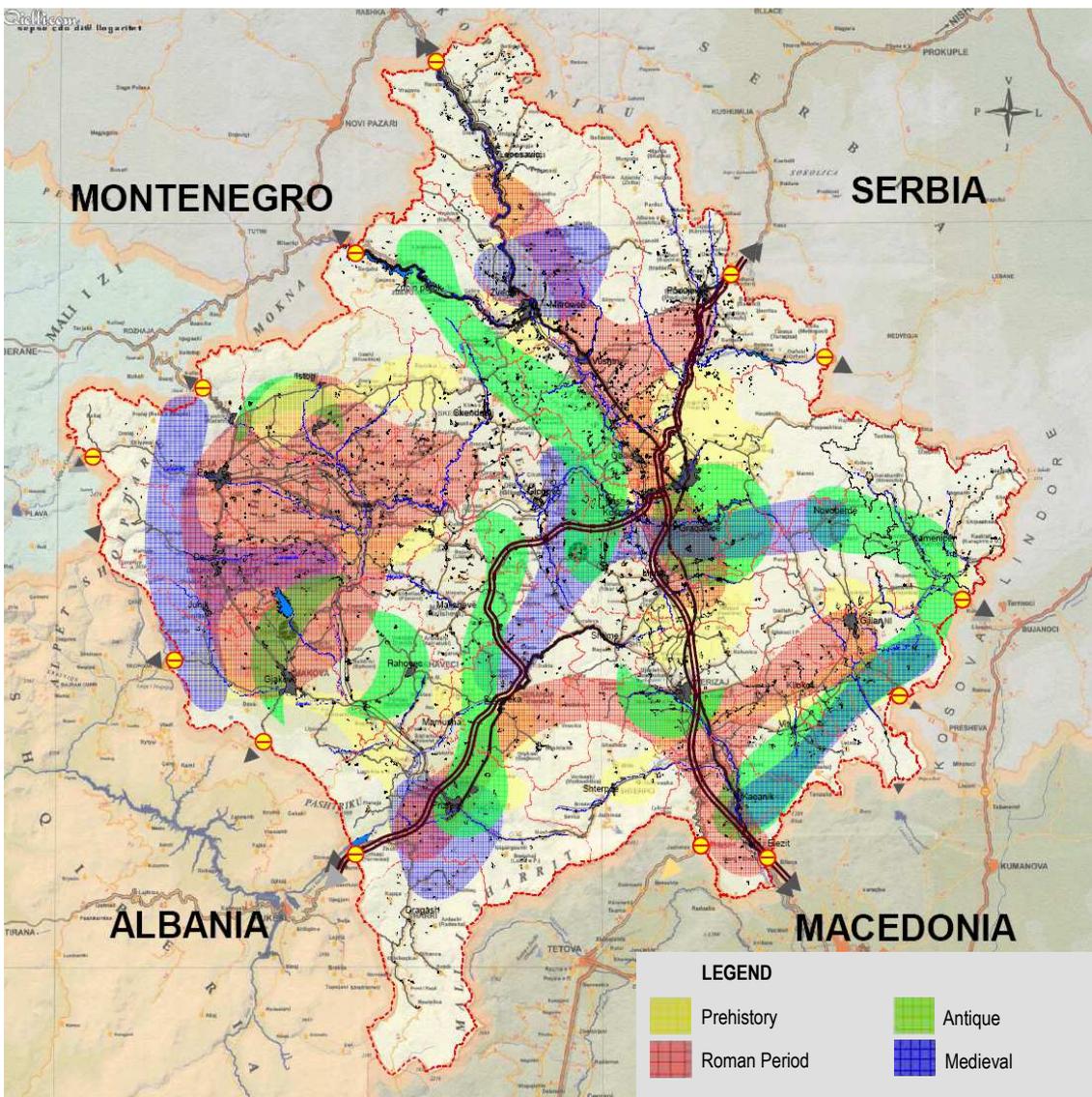
(Policy Option 42. in ESDP).

A special challenge for Spatial Development in this context is the improvement of balance between water supply and demand, particularly in areas which are prone to drought. As recommended in ESDP, Kosovo should engage in development and application of economic water management instruments, including promotion of water-saving agricultural methods and irrigation technology in areas of water shortage.

(Policy Option 47. in ESDP)

Finally, what remains the task of the Spatial Plan of Kosovo in the future is the promotion of the creative management of cultural landscapes. The following five policy options are to be viewed as backbone to the future policy in the Spatial Planning documentation in Kosovo:

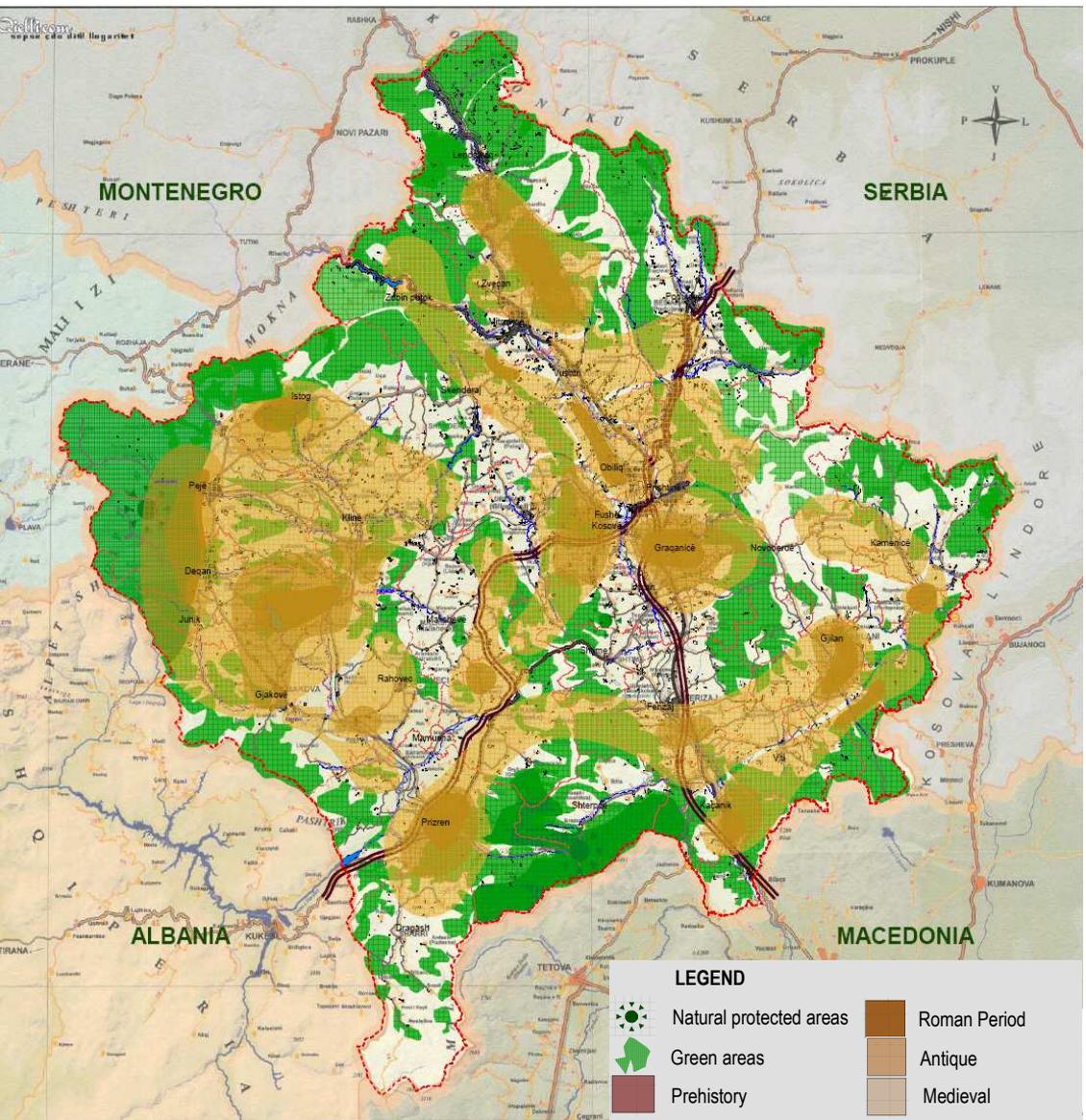
- Preservation and creative development of cultural landscapes with special historical, aesthetical and ecological importance.
(Policy Option 53. in ESDP)
- Enhancement of the value of cultural landscapes within the framework of integrated spatial development strategies.
(Policy Option 54. in ESDP)
- Improved co-ordination of development measures which have an impact on landscapes.
(Policy Option 55. in ESDP)
- Creative restoration of landscapes which have suffered through human intervention, including re cultivation measures.
(Policy Option 56. in ESDP)
- Increasing awareness of the contribution of urban and spatial development policy to the cultural heritage of future generations.
(Policy Option 60. in ESDP)



Map 5.17. Cultural landscapes of Kosovo. Extrapolation of cultural layers (by historic periods).

Source: compiled by author.

Map gathered from Meha M., "Kosovo map", Qielli.com, Prishtina, 2010.



Map 5.18. The integrated map of cultural and natural landscapes of Kosovo (areas of cultural landscapes showed in gradients as extrapolated by historic periods)

Source: compiled by author.

Map gathered from Meha M., "Kosovo map", Qielli.com, Prishtina. 2010

5.4.3. Cross-border cooperation

The future spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo cannot be understood outside the context of the Western Balkans and its future integration in the European socio-political, cultural and economic agenda. Although encouraged at the national level, cross-border cooperation is promoted mostly at the local level by a variety of organizations, such as universities, cultural associations, and other non-governmental actors.

While these initiatives are mostly based on mutual interests of areas entering cross-border cooperation, the potential and the model of Euro regions is not explored enough so far. It is important to note in this context that Euro regions, which are well established in Western Europe and which are the focal point for local cross-border initiatives supported by Brussels, should serve for the South Eastern Europe, and for Kosovo too in that matter, as a significant part of the regional agenda. Moreover, Euro regions are voluntary associations without any independent legal identity, but the fact that they are supervised by local governments, gives them a level of legitimacy, which guarantees the credibility and the sustainability of cooperation.¹⁷⁷ Basing its initiatives in those seen as successful stories in Europe, Kosovo should look at the potential of cross-border cooperation, initially with Albania and Macedonia.

In this, it is important to investigate components of the Kosovo spatial and urban portrait that highlight the most profound characteristics of the country's spatial potentials, as one of many aims of cross-border projects such are: economic cooperation, sustainable development and tourism, and cultural exchange, based on common traditions, education and communication, forging, or reviving a common regional identity.

The study finds that the following cross-border cooperation guarantees a sustainable spatial, social and economic development of Kosovo in the context of the regional engagement, and by that, a new urban profile for the country:

- 1) Natural and cultural landscape management and promotion, considering potential in Kosovo as well as potentials to connect thematically with those neighboring countries and beyond, due to the cultural unique's and diversity in the Balkans;
- 2) A new and enhanced concept of the metropolitan capital Prishtina, involving opening of development corridors with Skopje and Tirana; thus creation of nodes in which new spatial organization means a new layer of networks of cities may emerge in the border zones but also in the suburbs of metropolitan areas.

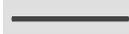
In conclusion, promotion of natural and cultural landscapes regions in Kosovo, in line with ESDP policy options, shall enrich country's profile and extend active management beyond national borders and through the regional cooperation, which guarantees development in the regional context and by this, integration in the European political and economic context.

¹⁷⁷. Kramsch O., & Hooper B., Eds, "Cross-Border Governance in the European Union", Routledge, 2004. (p.111)

Urban Potential of Kosovo

Map showing the integrated cultural and natural areas also the corridors in a wider regional context (potential cross-border cooperation) according to the model provided in ESDP

LEGEND

-  National borders
-  Municipal borders
-  Lakes
-  Rivers
-  Highway
-  Magistral roads
-  Main roads
-  Railways
-  Airports
-  Main cities
-  Metropolitan region
-  Network of Cities
-  Green areas
-  Agriculture lands
-  Natural protected areas
-  Free economic areas
-  Cross borders

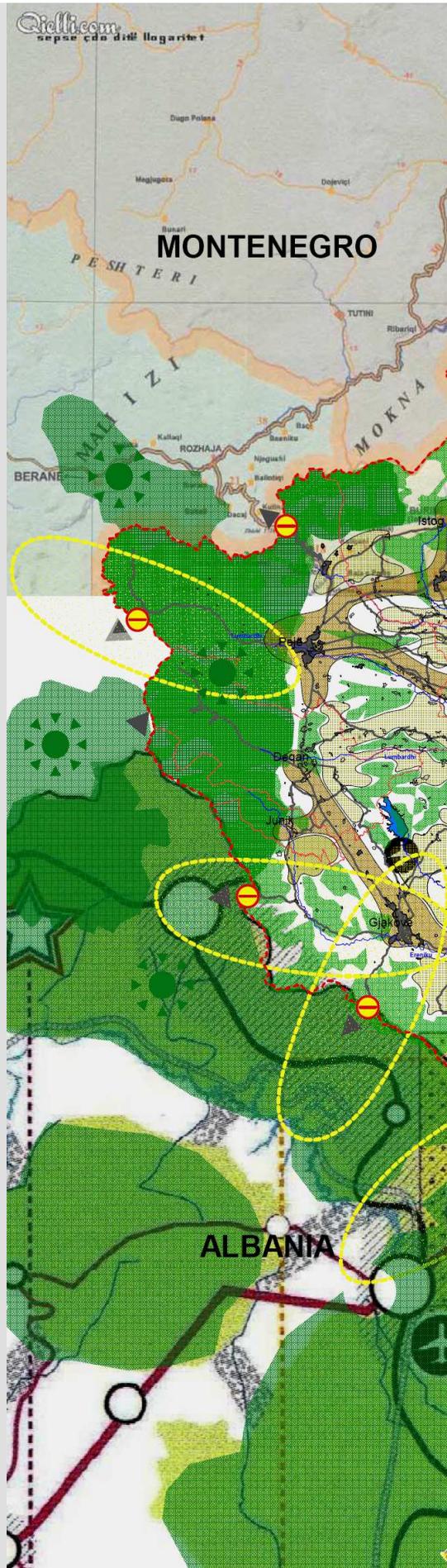
Map 5.19. The map of urban potential of Kosovo .

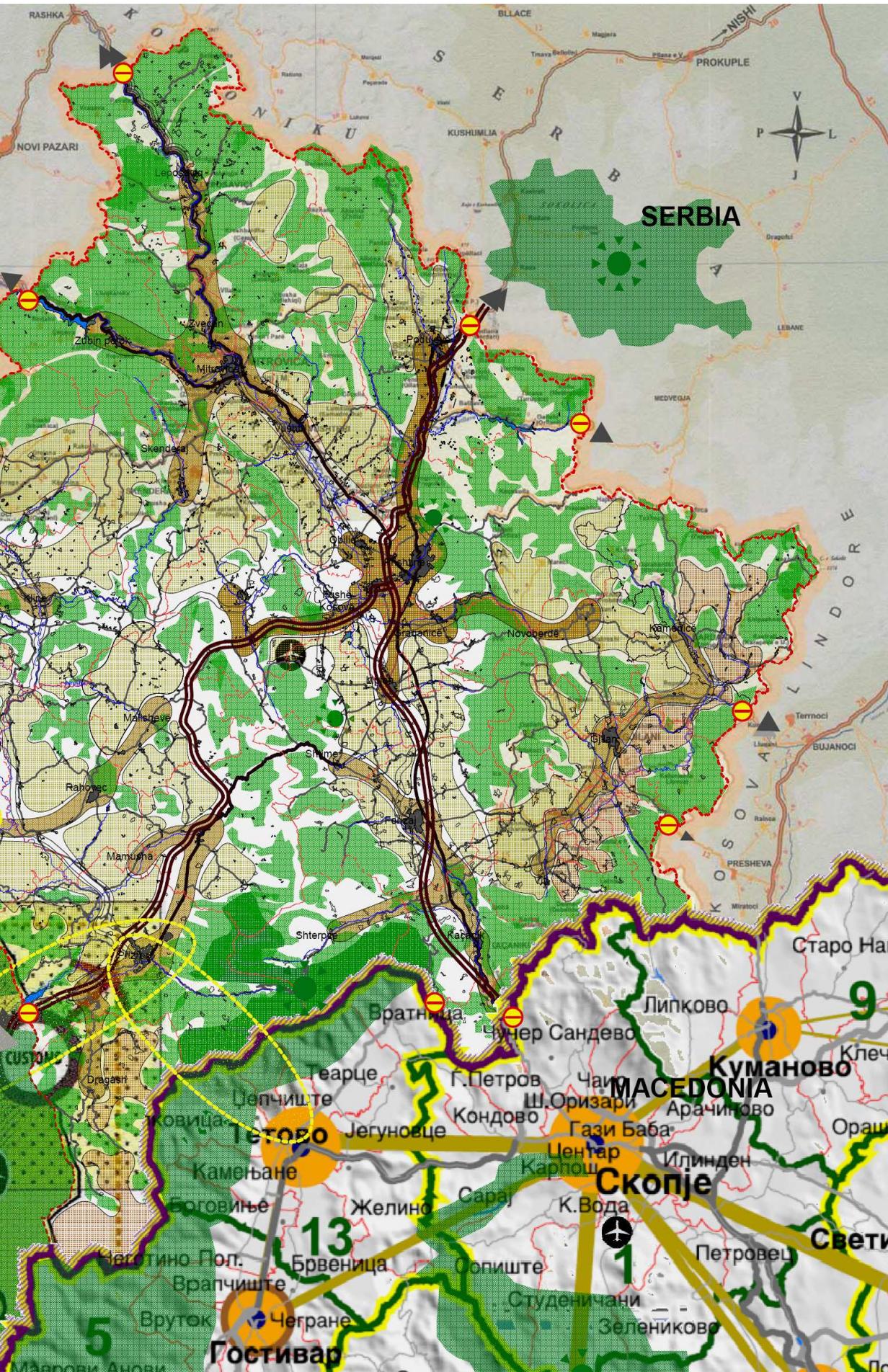
Source :compiled by author, information gathered from different sources:

Kosovo- Meha M., "Kosovo map", Qielli.com, Prishtina, 2010.

Albania- Aliaj B., Janku E., Eds, "Manifesto 2030"-A National Spatial Development Vision", Pegi,Tirana 2014. (p.155)

Macedonia- "Spatial plan of the Republic of Macedonia 2002-2020" map No10, 2002. (p.181)







**The new spatial portrait of Kosovo,
integrates Kosovo's natural and cultural resources,
by introducing their historic perspective and their
future prospect within the framework of
socio- spatial network**

6. CONCLUSIONS

Since the termination of the conflict in Kosovo (1999), being the last one in the wave of conflicts as well as the shift in ideologies, which took place in the Balkan countries in late 20th century, the entire region and Kosovo in particular has been struggling to develop its statehood and good governance based on the principles and guidance of the European development and association agendas. Characteristic for Kosovo, in comparison with other emerging states of the former Yugoslavia, is the fact it developed its peaceful and democratic institutions under international administration of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the NATO-run political trusteeship. In 2008, Kosovo declared its independence and became the youngest country in Europe. Under this new situation, Kosovo continued struggling with internal social, political and economic issues, with its final aim towards gaining the membership in international bodies. However, general postwar context and the fragile economic development continue to be the biggest challenge. This is reflected in peoples' life as much as in the reformatting of Kosovo's spatial development in terms of both city and regional urbanization and development.

In terms of urbanization, Kosovo can also be regarded as a special and challenging case to comprehend and interpret. While one of the most critical challenges of the first postwar decade was the reconstruction of the country, substantially supported by the international community and funds, the state of subsequent urbanization implied not only war destruction amendments, but also the vast challenges to amend decades' long state of underdevelopment, which has characterized Kosovo since the termination of the Second World War. In other words, Kosovo has always been the less developed part of ex Yugoslavia; hence, the reconstruction efforts after 1999 did not substantially address the development issues from the past, and subsequently, the new pressures from the present. The research finds that the above-mentioned context is one of the factors why the present-day Kosovo is still facing the challenge of unfinished urbanization.

In 2010, the Spatial Plan of Kosovo was adopted, and legal and institutional framework on spatial development is almost complete. However, the problem of unfinished urbanization was not addressed profoundly and therefore did not answer the questions that would help to understand the physical reality of cities and landscapes in this contemporary context. In contrary, this understanding remains utterly conventional in Kosovo: it is mainly based on understanding the potentials found within administrative boundaries as well as on limitations of cultural and economic considerations of respective regions .

This is in a way acknowledged in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo as well. The research finds that there are two main reasons for this:

- **Firstly**, the history of urbanization which takes into consideration spatial potentials of Kosovo and their backgrounds, that could guide country's profile and its spatial planning and development in the 21st century, is not comprehensively researched or utilized in devising urban and spatial strategies and policies. This was not considered in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo (2010), either.
The research finds that it is paramount for Kosovo to take account of its historical continuity in the formulation of its new spatial and urban portrait. In this point, the research proposes the building on the new spatial portrait by integrating Kosovo's natural and cultural resources, by introducing their historic perspective and their future prospect within the framework of networked socio-spatial spaces, as opposed to present-day fragmented territories, enclosed by boundaries of cultural, economic, and political character.
In this endeavor, this research contributes by bringing up basic facts about Kosovo and also looking at certain features from the regional and ESDP, which debates over the historical placement of Kosovo in the region and Europe, as a *"marginal place of meeting of different cultures, traditions and state arrangements"*, and by that, its current territorial status: the position of Kosovo in Europe (?), the position of Kosovo in the Balkans (!), the position of Kosovo in the continental map as the newest small country in Europe, its topography and demographic trends, as well as indicators implications. The study finds that not only socio-economic and political indicators are the ones that predetermine Kosovo's position in the European territory, but also the value of the place as a spatial-historical entity which adds value to the pan-European territorial identity and balanced development.
- **Secondly**, despite the fact that the general goal, as proclaimed in the body of the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, is country's overall development in line with European development and global trends, the specific urban character of Kosovo remains poorly explored and rather underutilized in the quests for achieving development goals. The research finds that Kosovo's spatial and urban portrait cannot be understood outside the context of the Western Balkans and its future integration in the European socio-political, cultural and economic agenda. This means that Kosovo strategic orientations for spatial and urban profiling of the country should meet the requirements that spring from the integration process. In other words, Kosovo as a geographic, natural and cultural unit belongs to the European continent; therefore the question that needs to be addressed in the Kosovo context is the revealing of solid basis for its future integration strategies in the domain of spatial integration.

The research proposes that good examples already researched and established in certain European countries could be used as solid basis and could be contextualized in the case of Kosovo, as a model that would guarantee implementation of European-based principles and policies for spatial development and integration.

In order to add value to the two issues addressed above, this research adopts an approach which theorizes urban planning based on a new urban portrait opposite conventional systems of planning, by basing its discourse in the case adopted for Switzerland. The philosophy and methodology, devised in the recent study for the “*urban portrait of Switzerland*” is adopted in this thesis as a model for a new spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo. Contextualization is initiated by adopting the basic concept of networks, borders, and differences, and by understanding the new portrait of Kosovo, as in the case of Switzerland, as a phenomenological approximation.

Hence, the research presents Kosovo in terms of networks, borders and differences, as opposed to size, distance and statistical figures. The research finds that in the process of defining the notions and policies based on this framework, the most critical challenge lies in the comprehension and in the effective use of **networks** of cities for the purpose of economic and social development.

This would require exploring **differences** encountered in the demographic, economic, and spatial nature of Kosovo, which has challenged a diverse imposition and the use of **borders** in territorial, social, economic, political and cultural terms. Therefore, the new spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo suggests a different pattern which highlights the diversity of Kosovo’s cultural and natural settings and the potential **for regional networking**, which needs to be validated and promoted in the future. The study concludes here that the new understanding of the spatial and urban Kosovo should take account of productive differences in the realm of networks which overcome territorial border realities, as new ways to analyze and manage the urban reality today .

In order to achieve the abovementioned, the study finds that it is vital to understand urbanization trends and forms in Kosovo by comprehending the historical geography of the territory. Therefore, this study engaged in mapping and interpreting of the places, and found that the understanding of the transitional nature of Kosovo’s urban reality today is in fact crucial in inspiring the comprehension of Kosovo’s future development within the European context.

- Firstly, the study finds that historically, Kosovo was a territory jammed in the crossroads of various influences, since the antiquity, while at the same time Kosovo has maintained its centrality in the region. Seven historic layers are analyzed and the findings support the argumentation given above:

- 1) Prehistory, characteristic for the networked settlements (6500 BC to 1 AD);
- 2) Roman settlements and roman itineraries (1st to 4th century AD);
- 3) Late antiquity and early Byzantium: fortified settlements and the Paleochristian church architecture (4th – 6th AD);
- 4) Middle Ages: fortified settlements and Orthodox Church architecture (6th to 14th AD);
- 5) Ottoman period: Consolidation of the city form (14th to early 20th century);
- 6) Socialist Modernization: Fragmented Urbanization and the Survival of the traditional (1945-1999);
- 7) Postwar transition (from 1999 onwards).

The research finds that spatial integration of these cultural and natural layers form the basis of the socio-spatial framework for the new portrait of Kosovo. Their integration into a comprehensive spatial network shall contribute to the regional networking and development of settlements, based on local resources.

- Secondly, analysis shows that places in Kosovo that are interpreted through the network of settlements and in their full diversity, while not constrained in terms of socio-political borders, represent a vital recourse. Kosovo as a geographic, natural and cultural unit belongs to the European continent; therefore, the revealing of the solid basis of its resources is crucial for Kosovo's integration strategies in the domain of spatial integration. At this point, the study provides an answer to the question of research by introducing urban typologies, as a solid alternative for strengthening the spatial and urban profile of Kosovo, and thus its future development and representation in Europe.

The study finds that the following proposed typologies highlight the most profound qualities of socio-spatial spaces and can become the platform for future development:

- Metropolitan capital (Prishtina);
- Network of cities ;
- Regional cooperation, under which shall be promoted:
 - a) natural and cultural landscape regions, as well as
 - b) cross-border cooperation.

Building of the new spatial and urban portrait of Kosovo based on the above mentioned typologies, contextualized for Kosovo from the Swiss model, is suggested in this thesis as a positive alternative that fits into European norms and policy options in relation to polycentric development. The study has delivered a clear strategy that suggest ways to foster the theme of natural and cultural landscape management, and cross-border cooperation, by aligning the policy options as presented in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), networks, projects and programs (ESPON, etc.), that stream from such joint European efforts.

Typologies proposed in this thesis, along with indicators (capital Prishtina, topography, landscape, population structure and growth, municipal size, branch structure, etc.) should be used as a set of tools in bringing forward unaddressed issues in the Spatial Plan of Kosovo (2010) which are crucial in defining Kosovo's urbanity. In this context, 'Kosovo- A Spatial Portrait' is indented to add value to the Spatial Plan of Kosovo, once the decision is brought for its revision and updating. This would mean extensive consultations, upon the publishing of the thesis, with responsible bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning on open questions and possible scenarios for Kosovo's future development, based on the findings and categorization of typologies provided in this study. Given the fact that consultations with the Ministry from the position of the lecturer in the University of Prishtina has been our method of work since over fifteen years now, anticipated limitations in considering the outcomes of this research are rather minimal.

Yet, the challenge ahead is the Kosovo's governmental priorities with regards to the European Perspective, its specific prospect in implementation of policies and recommendations, by becoming part of European networks, projects and programs ESPON, etc.). In order to manage and promote the abovementioned without being constrained to the membership problems of Kosovo in the European platform of integration, in the Kosovo context, it is required to provide, extensive argumentation about positive output of the adopted Swiss model, the performance of the contextualized Kosovo model, and its harmonization with the European perspective policy options.

A way forward would be to adopt a regulation or an urban policy paper that complies with policy options on Polycentric Spatial Development in the European continent, provided in this thesis:

- a) polycentric Spatial Development and a New Urban-Rural Relationship;
- b) indigenous Development, Diverse and Productive Rural Areas;
- c) urban-Rural Partnership;
- d) parity of Access to Infrastructure and Knowledge;
- e) polycentric Development Model: A Basis for Better Accessibility;
- f) efficient and Sustainable Use of the Infrastructure;
- g) diffusion of Innovation and Knowledge.

This would create the solid basis to promote natural and cultural landscape regions in Kosovo as provided with this thesis, in line with ESDP policy options, and subsequently, this would form the new framework for the revised Spatial Plan of Kosovo.

In conclusion, this contributes to guarantee Kosovo's development in the regional context and by this, its integration in the European political and economic context.

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8. CURRICULUM VITAE



1. Personal information

First name/surname: **Dukagjin S. HASIMJA**
Date of birth: 31.03.1961
Nationality: Kosovar/ Albanian
Civil Status: Married
E-mail: dugihas@gmail.com

2. Education

Technical Faculty ,University of Prishtina (1978-1986)-
Diploma engineer of Architecture
Faculty of Architecture ,University of Belgrade (1986-1988)
Postgraduate Studies in Master course: "Development of Architecture and dwellings". (interrupted because of political situation in Serbia)

3. Employment History

2008– onwards	AAB University, Prishtina, Kosovo
1986– onwards	University of Prishtina, Kosovo
2001- 2009	"Urban Plus " Urban design Studio
2009- onwards	"Urban 3 A" Urban design Studio
1990- 1999	"DUGI engineering " Architectural Studio
1985– 2000	Institute for Monument Protection of Kosovo

4. Language skills: (1- excellent; 5 - basic)

Albanian	1 (Native)
Serbian-Croatian-Bosnian	1
English	2
German	4

4. Membership of relevant professional bodies

2010- ongoing	Member of Executive Council of Planners Association of Kosovo
2000- ongoing	Member of Architect Association of Kosovo
2000- 2003	IFHP-International federation for Housing and Planning
2007-2008	SCUPAD

5. Other skills :

Competer literacy, communication skills, management skills.

6. Present Positions:

Lecturer at the University of Prishtina

Lecturer at the Faculty of Applied Arts, AAB University, Prishtina

Director of the company "Urban 3A" in Prishtina

7. Publications:

Translation and publishing of two books (from Croatian language)

Urban Planning and *Urban Forming* from author, prof Dieter Prinz (prof.in Fachhochschule in Koln-Germany)

8. Participation in International Conferences/ Seminars/ workshops

2015-Participation on the workshop with 6 Universities,"Linking - Kosovo ,Macedonia and Albania", (cross border cooperation project).

2003-SCUPAD- Presentation in congress- Salzburg Austria Theme: "Planning the housing area".

2003-Presentation in congress " Metropolitan myths, density and urban sprawl " in TU Wien, Austria.

2003-Proposal for urban development plan for city of Lipjan. (with students of faculty of Architecture Prishtina)

2003-2004-ATA Summer University-Prishtina, co lecturer, summer university – project: urban design for "Mother Teresa" street Prishtina –Kosova.

2003-Master program for planning and urban management Copenhagen (Denmark) and Prishtina (Kosova).

2003-Presentation in congress "Metropolitan myths, density and urban sprawl" TU Wien, Austria. Theme:"Planning the housing area".

2002-The Fifth symposium of the International Urban Planning and Environment Association. Theme: "Creating Sustainable Urban Environments, Future Forms for City Living", Oxford, UK.

2002-Study visit the cultural heritage institutions in Paris and Grenoble.- France

2002-Survey of the informal buildings in location "Emshiri", Prishtina (600 buildings) and improvement of the urban infrastructure by applying community planning programme .(with students of Architecture)

2002-The fifth symposium of the International Urban Planning and Environment Association. Theme: "Creating Sustainable Urban Environments, Future Forms for City Living", Oxford, UK.

2001-"Community based planning" UNHCS-Habitat and CO-Plan/Tirana.

9. Inter collegiate cooperation:

- 2015- Joint workshop, Prishtina-Wiena. (UP, UBT, AAB, USHT & TU Wien)
- 2004- Joint exhibition, Prishtina. (UP & TU Wien)
- 2002- Workshop, with students of UP & TU Wien: proposal for the urban development, plan for Suhareka- Kosova
- 2002- Workshop and exhibition-Space between. (UP & North London University)
- 2001- Workshop: informal buildings in "Emshiri" neighborhood- Prishtina. (UP & TU Wien) with prof. Jerg Sierig
- 2001- Workshop and exhibition Space between .(UP & North London University) place: Vushtrri and Prishtina
- 2000- Workshop: "Reconstruction of war affected architectural heritage in Kosova" with Department of Culture from Prishtina, Institute for Monuments Protection from Gjakova, & Harvard University. Place: Gjakova and Prishtina.
- 2000- Exhibition in Gallery of Cultural Department, Prishtina. (UP & Harvard University).

10. Professional Experience in Spatial Planning, Urban Planning and

Architecture:

The following are the most important design projects

- 2013- UDP for Prishtina (manager of the project in comp Hidroing)
- 2012- Detail plan for three Apartment buildings in Prishtina –zone Mati 1
- 2012- Detail plan for two Apartment buildings in Prishtina –zone Arberia
- 2010- Detail plan for one Apartment building in Prishtina –zone Mati 1
- 2010- Detail plan for city Stadium in Peja
- 2009- Consultancy for "A Design" Studio -UDP and MDP for Skenderaj
- 2009- Idea project for Cultural center in Obiliq
- 2009- Idea project and Detail plan for Memorial center in Vushtrri
- 2009- UDP for suburban zone Vrella –Istog
- 2009- UDP for suburban zone Rakosh –Istog
- 2009- Consultancy for "A. Design" Studio -UDP for suburban zone Gurakoc.
- 2009- Urban design plan for "river Klina "in Skenderaj
- 2008- Urban Regulatory plan in location Fidanishte-Gjilan
- 2008- Urban Regulatory plan for Industrial zone in Suhareka
- 2008- Urban design plan for "river Terstena" in Vushtrri
- 2005- UDP for Klina city-manager
- 2005- Urban Regulatory plan for location "Center 1"-Prishtina-manager
- 2006/2009-"UDP and MDP for Suhareka city"Urban +" & TU Wiena"-local manager of the project

- 2006- Urban Regulatory plan for location “Tranziti”– Gjakova-
- 2006- Urb-architectural plan for Business and apartment buildings in Peja
- 2005- Urban Plan for Location Queen Teuta in Gjakova
- 2003- UDP for Fushë Kosova,
- 2004- Urban Regulatory plan for city of Fushë Kosova
- 2004- Urban Plan for Location Dardanija in Gjakova –competition first price
- 2003- Conceptual urban plan for location “Emshiri” in Prishtina- 213Ha,
- 2003- Pilot project for “Mother Teresa” street.Prishtina-Cooperation with City Hall of Prishtina, UNDP and UN-Habitat
- 2002- Detail plan, building for central administration of University of Prishtina. Investor University of Prishtina
- 2002- Conceptual plan for costumes terminal in Merdare, area: 3 ha
- 2002- Detailed urban design for the area of 250 ha – “Qarku”-Gjilan
- 2002- Conceptual plan for the area of 250 ha- “Rezina” -Gjakova, competition first price
- 2002- Detailed urban and architectural plan for Urban block in city of Podujeva
- 1986-2001- Consultancy, Institute for Monuments Protection—Prishtina.
(Survey of the existing buildings, preparation and design of the program, development of the design phase, managing and monitoring work in buildings .Development of the data base for 120 houses in Prishtina. Preparation of documentation for reconstruction of Sahat Kulla (Clock Tower) in Prishtina and supervising the building process.
- 2001- Detail plan for High School in Kijeva.-investor ADRA -Japan.
- 2001- Detail plan for ‘Producing Danish School’ in Mitrovica. Investor: Danish Production Schools
- 2000- Reconstruction of the buildings for UN Habitat needs, Prishtina and Gjilan
- 2000- Detail plan for High School “Shtjefën Gjeqovi” Prishtina. Extension of the attic floor.-investor: DRA (Dutch rehabilitation agency).
- 1988- Detail plan for the shopping center in Vushtrri.
- 1987- Detail plan for the shopping center in Ferizaj.
- 1987- Detail plan for petrol station, Smolicë, Gjakova.
- 1987- Detail plan for petrol station, Zhur, Prizren,

Private Houses: approximately 150 buildings overall Kosovo .

Abstract ,... Content,...**ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**....
Preface, ...Introduction,... **Why a Spatial portrait for Kosovo ?**... Research Questions,...Methodology ,...
Basic Facts,... **Presented in terms of Networks, Borders And Differences**,... **Network of Settlements Roads, Railwais, Airports, Telecommunication**,... **Borders**...Political, global boundaries,...**Administrative Borders**,...Differences,... Unequal economic development,...Unequal demographic and social development,...Differences in territorial development,...urban patterns,...toward a theory of the urban,... I n t h e crossroad,... **prehistory in brief: the networked settlements**,...roman settlements and roman itineraries...late antiquity and early Byzantium,... **fortified settlements and the paleochristian church architecture**,...middle edges,...the periphery and the orthodox church architecture,...**ottoman urbanization**,... **consolidation of the city form**,...**socialist modernization**,... fragmented urbanization and the survival of the traditional,...**towards european Kosovo**,...Theoretical basis,...**Policy options**,...**ESDP criteria**,... **as general study and cooperation platform**,...**Metropolitan Capital-Prishtina**,...The concept of metropolitan area,...**Policy options**,...Networks of cities,...**The European network of the cities**,...discussion,...**Network of cities in Kosovo**,...**Policy options**,...Regional cooperation,...**Natural and cultural landscape regions**,...Cross border cooperation,...**conclusion**, ...**Bibliography**... **Curriculum Vitae** .