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POTENTIAL OF LAZAREVAC MUNICIPAL AS FRAMEWORK OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Lazarevac Municipal disposes of significant resources which could have decisive role in tourism development. During work on the paper, beside official statistical data of Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia also was use available data of the Municipal. Results of this research shown that Lazarevac Municipal with its all settlements has a great chance for significant tourism development. Aim of the paper was to point out potential of the Municipal, on the one side and tourism development on the other side. Natural values of Lazarevac enable development of tourism, first of all recreational. Numerous water potentials (river Kolubara with new simplex lake, Stara and Nova Očaga, several artificial and natural lakes and pools) are wealth of Lazarevac and well development base especially for recreational, fishery and rural tourism. Mentioned resources, comparative advantages and development programs also give chance for tourism development.

Key words: *resources, municipal, tourism, comparative advantages, household.*

View and method

Aim of paper is to point out resources of Lazarevac in function of further tourism development. In paper are shown some handles of natural values and capacity of Lazarevac Municipal based on statistical data published in reviews of Republic institute for statistics of Serbia and Municipal of Lazarevac. Specific review was given on rural settlements, households and farms. Beside statistical data from study named “Study of local economy development in Lazarevac Municipal” in the paper was also mentioned potential for development of households and tourism.

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Research results

Lazarevac Municipal is placed near River Kolubara, about 55 km south-east from Belgrade at average 147 m above sea level. Settlements of Municipal are outspread an area of 379 km².

In this area the most significant resource is coal (lignite). Quality of exploited coal belongs to category of low quality fuels with high concentration of water and ash. Under forest is around 18% of area, that is 7,024 ha, from which 800 ha are planted in period from 1973 to 1993 on barren soil and near 35 ha on ash dumps. Lazarevac Municipal is consisting of 33 settlements, namely 34 land registry (Sakulja is not populated). On area of 379 km² it consists of 44 local communities and 11 local offices.

Lazarevac is the biggest settlement and administrative and economical and cultural centre of Municipal. According to its significance and according to model of area organization and regional centers from Organizational plan of Republic of Serbia Lazarevac represent sub regional centre.

In Lazarevac Municipal polarization in system of settlement is very emphatic. According to basic functions villages are categorized as primary and centre of village congregations. Primary villages are the most numerous categories in Municipal. Their basic characteristic is small number of inhabitants and mostly agricultural population. Some of villages, with big number of nonagricultural population (working in town), are in fact suburban settlements and are functionally connected with town.

Primary villages in Lazarevac Municipal are: Cvetovac, Sokolovo, Leskovac, Vrbovno, Kruševac, Prkosava, Strmovno, Mali Crljeni, Trbušnica, Medoševac, Zeoke, Brajkovac, Barzilovica, Čibutkovicica, Arapovac, Mirosaljci, Županjac and Bistrica.²

Centers of village congregations consist of several primary villages which make one area unit. They are settlements of highest category in regional organization of villages, and differ on number of inhabitants, geographical location, infrastructural accomplishment, formed nucleus of public services, production activities etc. So in Lazarevac Municipal we have: Veliki Crljeni with belonging villages Cvetovac and Sokolovo, Stepojevac with Leskovac and Vrbovno, Rudovci with Kruševica, Prkosava, Strmovno, Mali Crljeni and Trbušnica, Vreoci with Medoševac, Baroševac with Zeoke, Dudovica with Brajkovac, Barzilovica, Čibutkovicica and Županjac, Junkovac with Arapovac and Mirosaljci.

Tourism development

Tourism in previous decade share destiny of economy and it also record decrease in Lazarevac Municipal. Insufficient infrastructural accomplishment and investments, low economic activities, social problems, undeveloped and maladjusted market, inadequate valuation of natural, material and cultural values and unmatched

² See more in Local ecological programme in Lazarevac Municipal, Elvod-print, Lazarevac, 2006. page 5-19.

economy structure had influence on tourism development. In order to develop tourism more intensively it is necessary to have integral approach in creation of conditions for implementation of existing natural values and capacities.

Tourism development gives possibility for better employment of local population. That is very significant considering unemployment rate, depopulation of Municipality and inadequate educational structure of employed.

Municipal resources offer different possibilities for establishment and development of small and medium utilities based on family principle. In contemporary economical and social tendencies special attention is given to small and medium utilities from tourism and complementary activities in function of further affirmation of tourism.

Municipality in year 2003. visited 1,627 tourists and made 4,780 overnight stay. Structure of tourists was predominantly domestic.³ It is necessary to have in mind that tourism also contribute to development of commerce, traffic, construction industry, agriculture and other departments.

Lazarevac Municipality has great possibilities for development of fishing and hunting based on natural resources such as forestry, mountainous areas, numerous rivers, creeks, lakes, pools and beautiful landscapes. At several locations is planed to carefully set river banks and make watering places not only for recreation of people from Municipality but also for tourists. It is also planed to make a few shooting areas.

Recreational facilities in Lazarevac include City recreational centre, open swimming pool, recreational centre on Lake Očaga, Recreational centre Kolubara (new sports hall, football court FC Kolubara, balloon hall).⁴

Cultural heritage of Municipality is very diverse. The most important buildings are Church-crypt St. Velikomučenik Dimitrije in Lazarevac, Monument of Knez Stanoje in Zeoka, Family house Vasić – Karadjordjeva Street, Mortuary of Knez Aksentije Miladinović in Čibutkovića, Family houses Dimitrijević in Leskovac, Đurđić in Dudovića, Miletić in Vreoci and Perlić in Dudovića.

Lazarevac also have well known archeological sites such as: Lugovi – Županjac, Batašina in Stepojevac, Ravnice in Leskovac, Petkovića in Mali Crljeni, Watchtower in Rudovci, Brekinje in Vrbovno.

Famous buildings are Church of Pokrov Bogorodičin from 1845 in Baroševac, Wooden Church of St. Georgije from beginning of 19th century in Brajkovac, Church in Čibutkovića from 1848, Church of St. Trojica from 1863 in Junkovac, Church of St. Dimitrije from 1891 in Leskovac, Church of St. Paraskeva from 1862 in Petka, Church of St. Arhangel Gavriilo from 1869 in Šopić, Wooden Church of St. Georgije from 1815 in Vreoci.

Lazarevac also have buildings of rural engineering, village cemeteries and monuments such as: old house of Anđelija Milić – middle of 19th century, old house

3 See more in: Study of local economy development in Lazarevac Municipal, Belgrade, 2005. page 13-14.

4 Ibidem, page 16-18.

of family Negovanović – Serbian shack from beginning of 19th century, old house of Zorka Milošević – first half of 19th century, old house of Lila Đurđević – middle of 19th century, old house of family Kržalić – middle of 19th century, old house of Borisav Lazić – second half of 19th century, complex of buildings of elementary school – second half of 19th century, old house of family Ranković – first half of 19th century, five monuments placed in front of communal building from 1876 – 1914, etc.

On territory of Municipality Lazarevac there are Modern gallery (legacy of Lepa Perović), collection of sculptures in Primary School in Dudovica, Studio of naive sculptor Bogosav Živković in Leskovac, Painters colony in Rudovci etc.

Development of rural tourism should take significant place in tourist offer of Lazarevac Municipality. Lazarevac has several villages with adequate resources and tourist motives (lakes and rivers for fishing, forests and hills for hunting, interesting landscapes for pleasure going...) and as such must be included in tourist offer. Rural tourism is attractive to those tourists who enjoy in rural atmosphere, use natural characteristics of rural area, stay in family households, consume domestic food and participate in its gathering and cooking. On their demand tourists could participate also in agricultural and stock farming activities.

Development of rural tourism has influence on total economic development of village, enabling family households marketing of their products. It is obvious that rural tourism in Lazarevac have significant tourist potential that must be realized. Among households who lead in tourism development should be emphasized household of family Vujnović.

Household Vujnović

Household of family Vujnović is placed on periphery of Lazarevac town (5 km from centre on town on Lazarevac-Arandelovac road, 7 km from Ibarska Highway, 55 km from Belgrade, 35 km from Arandelovac and 80 km from Čačak), in village Dren, on 300 m above sea level. Central building is placed on yard of 3600 m². House have central heating, ADSL internet connection, two phone lines, SAT programs, air conditioner, three bathrooms, garage, associated objects with different workrooms in which guests can have fun and with help of host learn something new like stiffening, needlework, tissue, paint on pottery, drying fruits and herbs and distilling of liquor. .

On guests demand could be organized excursions to memorial script of battle on Kolubara, wooden church in Brajkovac, rural house in Lazarevac, indoor and outdoor pools in Lazarevac, Coal mine Kolubara, heights of Kruševica and Stubica etc.

Conclusion

Lazarevac Municipal has comparative advantages for tourism development such as:

- It is placed on crossroad of important main roads,
- Lazarevac proximity to neighboring Municipalities and to Capital of Serbia,
- Connectivity of local communities with adequate infrastructure,
- Accomplishment of significant number of households with necessary facilities for tourism development.
- In aim to improve tourism in Lazarevac Municipal it must be taken following activities: making program of tourism development and acceptance of documents in accordance with standards for planning and regulation of tourist places on Municipality area, improvement of communal conditions for visits and stay of tourists, beneficiation and improvement of quality tourist offers, organization of informational and promotional agency, organization of cultural, sport and other manifestations interesting for development of tourism, activation of Municipality in regional and national activities and programs for tourism development, improvement of informational systems in Municipality, planning and installing of road signaling, presentation of Municipality on tourist fairs and tourist markets, publishing of advertising materials.
- Local authorities should compete for bankrolls in new established Fund for development of tourism by Ministry of commerce and tourism of Republic Serbia. Resources of Fund could be used for making strategies for tourism development, financing of tourist infrastructure, financing of professional training for tourist staff, consolidation of local tourist organizations and financing of other activities from tourist areas.

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