



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

THE NATIONAL PARK OF VJOSA –The dialogue
of science, culture, and sustainable development

28th-29th June 2024
Gjirokastrë, Albania

<https://shorturl.at/dmqVc>

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Topic: Vjosa, the Drino valley and the archeological miracle in it
6. **Prof. Dr. Klodiana Gorica**
University of Tirana, Albania
Topic: A critical approach to guide the implementation of a sustainable tourism in the park of the year

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ABSTRACTS

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF THE MIDDLE COURSE OF THE VJOSA RIVER VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

The valley of the middle course of the Vjosa River represents a very rich area with exceptional cultural values. These values, in addition to carrying a long historical reference, also reflect the cultural diversity of our people, but at the same time prove the unique and unified character of our national culture. Therefore, the study and evidence of these values represent a special scientific interest not only in the field of ethnographic studies but also in the historical aspect, cultural heritage, and in the field of tourism.

The cultural heritage values of this segment of the river Vjosa are numerous. One of its main features is the many tourist attractions. The diverse relief where mountains, plains, river valleys, numerous canyons, and even the Ionian coast are combined like in no other country, are an extraordinary asset. But just as interesting is the spiritual culture of its inhabitants. Here we can mention not only the way of life but above all the Labe song, this song which today has been

declared a UNESCO property. All these values that this province carries and the historical values that it has produced over the centuries, turn it into a very attractive tourist attraction not only for local tourists but also for foreigners. In this province, all types of tourism can be developed, starting from mountain tourism to sea, cultural, historical one, an many more.

Key words: *river, river tourism, culture, history, ethnography, etc*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE VJOSA VALLEY AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa river valley together with its branches, Drino, Shushicë, Bënçe, Langaricë, has played a vital role in the movement of people and goods since ancient times. A significant number of prehistoric sites, ancient cities, medieval castles, churches and monasteries, mosques, aqueducts and medieval bridges are unmistakable indicators of the identity and historical importance of this river valley in the lives of people who have inhabited it since prehistoric times until today.

This great variety of archeological values and tangible cultural heritage present to this day make the Vjosa watershed a living and uninterrupted link of the historical and cultural identity of the ancient Illyrians and their Albanian successors.

Vjosa Valley in antiquity served as the main communication route to pass from the Adriatic Sea to South Illyria in Epirus and vice versa. The Illyrians, the Epirotas, the Macedonians and the Romans fought in the Vjosa valley and passed through it to realize their conquering goals. Over the centuries, they created a series of ancient roads along this

valley, traces of which are still found today.

The presence of a large number of rare and unique natural, historical and cultural resources in the Vjosa valley on a national, regional and even global scale as well as traditional activities and non-material cultural values are relevant and representative examples of the harmony and combination of the economic and social activities with the natural landscapes. In these circumstances, ecotourism and cultural tourism along the Vjosa valley are considered as an opportunity for the sustainable development of the area.

Key words: *Vjosa in ancient times, ancient roads, natural landscape, ecotourism, cultural tourism*

**EFFECTIVE HRM TECHNIQUES AS A SUCCESS FACTOR
FOR TOURIST ENTERPRISES IN THE VJOSA VALLEY,
ALBANIA**

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ABSTRACT

This study explores some of the effective human resource management (HRM) techniques and their impact on the economic success of tourism enterprises operating in the Vjosa Valley, which is a region with a great economic potential that must be exploited in an efficient sustainable manner. The focus is on identifying HRM strategies that maximize employee engagement, innovation and productivity, contributing to the sustainable economic growth of enterprises.

Through a combined methodology that includes qualitative and quantitative analysis, detailed surveys with employees, interviews with managers of tourism enterprises in the Vjosa Valley, the study tries to evaluate the efficiency of HRM practices, such as strategic recruitment, training, performance management, and organizational cultures that foster innovation and inclusion. The study focuses particularly on the importance of creating a work environment that supports the development and well-being of employees and argues the role of this environment in the economic and social success of tourism enterprises.

The results show that the modern and innovative approach to HRM has a direct impact on the economic development of local enterprises by increasing their competitiveness and sustainability, on improving the

lives of local residents, but also on unlocking the potential for the development of the valley by making it more attractive for new investments from different interest groups.

In conclusion, the study provides recommendations based on success cases for the implementation of HRM practices that can help transform the Vjosa Valley into a center of economic growth and innovation. These recommendations are provided to both tourism enterprise managers and policy makers and can serve as guidance for the development of HRM strategies that will not only improve enterprise performance, but also contribute to the overall economic and social well-being of the region.

Key words: *Human Resource Management, Regional Economic Development, Vjosa Valley, Albania, Employee Engagement, Organizational Innovation, Strategic Recruitment, Talent Development.*

THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATORS AND GUARANTEED TRADITIONAL SPECIALTIES ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE VJOSA VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the role and impact of Geographical Indicators and Guaranteed Traditional Specialties on the economic development of the Vjosa Valley, a region rich in biodiversity and cultural traditions in Albania. Using a mixed research approach, the study aims to analyze the economic contribution of these products, the challenges they face in local and international markets, and identify effective strategies for promoting and expanding their market. Through the analysis of data collected from interviews with local producers, consumer surveys, and case studies from other regions with similar success, the study reveals that the registration of traditional specialties with the General Directorate of Industrial Property has a significant positive impact on income growth, market expansion, and tourism promotion.

The results show that guaranteed traditional specialties offer a unique opportunity for sustainable economic development by fostering fair

competition, protecting biocultural diversity, and preserving traditional knowledge. The main challenges include the need for more institutional support, investment in marketing, and consumer education on the value of certified products. The study proposes strategic recommendations to address these challenges, including the development of supportive policies, encouraging collaborations between producers and other market actors, and the use of digital technologies to reach wider markets.

In conclusion, this study makes a significant contribution to the literature on rural and economic development by highlighting the potential of guaranteed traditional specialties as a driver for economic growth in rural areas. The findings can serve as a guide for policymakers, the business community, and non-governmental organizations aiming to promote sustainable economic development through the promotion of cultural heritage and biodiversity.

Key words: *Guaranteed Traditional Specialties, Economic Development, Vjosa Valley, Biodiversity, Tourism, Intellectual Property Protection, Marketing Strategy.*

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM IN THE VJOSA BASIN**

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ABSTRACT

In Albania, the tourism sector has become one of the four most important sectors of economic development, especially during the last years when attention has increased in the international arena. The economic and social impact has started to be felt, when almost all the figures in the tourism components show growth. All governing structures, taking advantage of the opportunities and natural resources of the country, have set up planned strategies for the transformation of this sector into a coveted sector for investment as well as the practical way to promote it in the global sphere as well. Since 2023, Vjosa is a unique National Park for Albania and for Europe, which puts our country in another category of the European tourist map and opens another new path for sustainable economic and social development.

Local communities are an integral part of tourism development because they are the main stakeholders in tourism development, as the main beneficiaries of benefits and costs associated with tourism development. The role of local communities is basic in the sustainable tourism development, as these communities have the knowledge and opportunity to have a key role in the management and promotion of destinations. This paper focuses on the role and the importance of the local community in the development of sustainable tourism in the Vjosa basin.

Key words: Local Community, Sustainable Tourism Development, Vjosa Basin

THE INTERACTION OF NATURE AND MAN: SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN VJOSA NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa River, known as one of the last wild rivers in Europe, serves as a center for ecological sustainability and biodiversity conservation in the National Park of Vjosa. This research supports the creation of visitor centers and interpretive materials aimed at increasing environmental education and promoting sustainable tourism practices. The methodology used in this research includes an interdisciplinary approach containing ecological studies, interviews with stakeholders and the creation of informational materials, all designed to promote the natural landscape while minimizing the environmental impact traces.

In particular, this study includes the design of detailed tourist guides by

trained naturalists and educational programs for schools and universities, with the aim of improving awareness and behaviors towards environmental sustainability.

The preliminary results of the study show a high expectation for positive changes in visitors' perceptions regarding tourism sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Furthermore, the integration of these information initiatives has a high potential to stimulate the local economy, attracting environmentally conscious tourists and creating new job opportunities. This approach provides a sustainability model that can serve as an example for similar regional initiatives, emphasizing the link between biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development.

Key words: *Vjosa National Park, Ecological Sustainability, Environmental Education, Sustainable Tourism, Biodiversity Conservation*

MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN VJOSA NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

In the last decades, Tourism has emerged as one of the most dynamic and fastest growing sectors of the economy. Many policymakers have understood the importance of the tourism sector and how it affects the increase in income, creates job opportunities, earns foreign currency. The importance of tourism becomes even more decisive in the small areas or regions that are far from the large and developed centers of the country, which, unable to benefit from this development, face various problems such as lack of investments, rigidity of the economic sectors, lack of innovation and technology, demographic shrinkage, lack of perspectives. The region of the south of Albania is one of them and this region is trying to "reinvent" itself through the orientation of energies towards the tourism sector.

This study analyzes the development of tourism in the Vjosa River National Park in the context of sustainable tourism and protecting the environment. Through an analysis of the current situation of tourism in this park, including its impact on the natural environment and local culture, challenges and opportunities for sustainable development are identified. It is important to manage tourism in a sustainable way to

protect the integrity of the environment and to involve local communities in the development process.

Through a sustainable and responsible approach, this national park can serve as a model for the development of tourism as a whole, combining the wonderful tourist experience with the protection of the precious natural heritage.

Key words: *sustainable tourism, environmental protection, economic development, ecotourism, tourist infrastructure*

**TOURISM-ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
PEREMET DISTRICT, TRADITIONAL FOOD PROCESSING
AND TYPICAL PRODUCTS OF THE AREA**

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ABSTRACT

The district of Përmet is located inside the bay of a valley traversed by the Vjosa river and is surrounded by high mountains with special flora and fauna of the area. It is also worth mentioning the large natural parks of great interest, such as Bredhi i Hotova and hot sulphurous water sources. In addition to these, there are also many monuments of great historical value, including many churches, monasteries of the Byzantine period, archaeological ruins and remnants of Turkish rule (castles, bridges, etc.). Another aspect that makes this valley special are the typical agro-nutritional characteristics. The typical agricultural products of the area are of high quality, especially the viticulture,

orchards (specifically cherry), aromatic and medicinal plants and agricultural and livestock products are of high quality. Përmet wine and brandy are ranked among the best of their kind in Albania. Other typical products of the area are also popular, such as cheese, meat, oregano, jams, etc. This study aims at the activation of local institutions and the involvement of agro-nutrition and tourism actors with the aim of utilizing the economic capacities of the Përmet district, recognizing the promotion of historical, cultural and artistic objects and putting them at the service of the local community. The expected results aim to sensitize the civil society on topics related to the environment, promoting the development of tourism through the evaluation of the landscape of the territory, as well as the tourist products of the typical territory of the area.

Key words: *Përmet, tourism, economy, flora - fauna, Vjosa.*

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETENCE IN FOSTERING THE INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN TOURISM INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

In today`s globalised world the ability to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds is vital for hospitality practitioners at various levels and all the communities engaged in the tourism industry. Tourism involves intercultural interactions and this is further developed through the acquisition of foreign languages with English playing a pivotal role as well as multilingualism a process which needs to be encouraged especially to the new generation.

A major part of the human resources that have currently been engaged in the tourism industry in our region are the youth and for this reason their linguistic competence should be enhanced during their studies not only university but also pre university education. Currently the primary schools are developing foreign language skills particularly English, but the proficiency in multiple foreign language is a basic prerequisite for a successful communication and the proper hospitality and service to the tourist who visit the region. The diverse nationalities, who visit our region and with the view of endeavouring to ensure a sustainable and qualitative tourism in the future is imperative to expand the type of foreign languages the new generation and all the HR involved in this

sector. It should not be focused on English language, but introducing in the different levels of study languages as Spanish, Italian, German, Chinese.

With the flourishing tourism in the region of Gjirokaster and with Vjosa –the national park we are witnessing a new reality: the educational institutions, the local governing bodies and the tourism industry should collaborate in order to meet the requirements of the foreign guests who need to be treated, served and supported in a contemporary, advanced and appropriate manner.

This paper focuses on the current situation, the need analysis in the aspect of linguistic skills the potential to induce changes and the future perspective of building a sustainable and successful tourism industry which need to have some solid foundations not only with the surrounding and tourist attractions but mostly adding to the enhancing the capacity of HR of the tourism industry. Foreign languages are one of the crucial tools in developing the intercultural connections in the tourism industry and improving the quality of the provided service.

Key words: *Foreign languages, competence, hospitality and tourism industry, acquisition, educational system.*

ALTERNATIVE TOURISM AND ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMY CASE STUDY: SOUTHERN REGION OF ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

The word "tourism" and "tourist" was used in beginning in western Europe in the 17th century, although it has antecedents in Classical antiquity. Today this term is used in whole word and in all global languages which has to do with people moving in different places for cultural and entertaining reasons. Tourism development is seen today as a result of many economic changes such as revenue growth. People travelled frequently changing their places of residence to look for better conditions of life. They move as historians, as writers, as culturologist, as creators, etc.

The history of tourism is therefore of great interest and importance. That history begins long before the coinage of the word tourist at the end of the 18th century. In the Western tradition, organized travel with supporting infrastructure, sightseeing, and an emphasis on essential destinations and experiences can be found in ancient Greece and Rome. While in the 30s, Albania suddenly turned into one of the tourist destinations, where Italian agencies generally brought one-day tourists

and continued their cruise to Corfu. We can compare this type of travel as one of the cruises of that time. Italian archaeologists highlight Butrint through their archaeological excavations in 1928. From these excavations, interesting traces from the Roman empire were discovered in the la Albania, in its beginnings in tourism, did not accept foreign tourists except Eastern tourists (the communist bloc of that time). Ships with East German tourists landed in the port of Durrës to get to know Albania and the local culture. The new hotel in the city of Durres called "Hotel Adriatic" was the resting place for these foreign tourists. Dhërmi beach, wet by the Ionian Sea, became another centre for coastal vacations. Albania, as one of the smallest countries in Europe, offered tourists special panoramas due to its geographical structure and a very favourable climate end of the Illyrians, ancestors of the Albanians. There are different ways you can become an alternative traveller, but these three basic rules are at the heart of them all: be original, be intentional and be sensitive.

Key words: *tourist, culturologist, alternative traveller, sustainable tourism, economic impact.*

**MANAGEMENT OF THE VJOSA RIVER NATIONAL
PARK: BENCHMARK ANALYSIS AND
INTERNATIONAL MODEL**

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ABSTRACT

Vjosa River National Park is one of the most important natural protected areas in Albania, representing a rich treasure of biodiversity and natural landscape. However, its management can have great challenges such as the preservation of open ecosystems, the protection of fauna and flora, and the implementation of sustainable development policies. This study aims to present an analysis of the management of the Vjosa River National Park using international models as a benchmark. Through an in-depth analysis, this study will compare the current management practices of the Vjosa River National Park with successful international models. Data from well-known models such as Yellowstone in the United States, Banff in Canada, and the Serengeti in Tanzania will be used. Through this analysis, the strengths and weaknesses of the current management will be identified, as well as opportunities for improvement in line with international best practices.

The results of this analysis will provide important guidelines for local and international authorities to advance Vjosa River National Park

management practices. This research aims to contribute to the improvement of the conservation and promotion of this important natural treasure, ensuring that it remains a sustainable resource for future generations especially through the framework for the design, implementation and monitoring of management plans.

Key words: *benchmark, management plans, development policies, management challenge*

DEVELOPMENT OF THE VJOSA AREA IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC-SOCIAL IMPACT

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ABSTRACT

The declaration of the Vjosa River as a National Park helps preserve one of Europe's last wild rivers. It will not only protect the rivers, but is also expected to turn into a tourist attraction and a source of income and social development for the area. For this, our study aims to analyze the impact on the development of the area along the Vjosa National Park in economic and social aspects. Through a detailed analysis, the main factors that influence the development of this area and the role that this park plays in this context will be identified. Economic, social benefits and challenges will be analyzed, including increasing income, creating jobs, improving social infrastructure and promoting local tourism. Through the analysis of structural changes, including investment, employment growth, and infrastructure development, we describe their impact on increasing income levels, the sustainability of the local economy, and the improvement of social conditions for local communities.

Through this study, it is intended to provide recommendations for policies and strategies necessary to maximize the benefits from the economic development of the area by all stakeholders at the local and national level.

Key words: economic impact, social impact, tourism development, benefits and challenges

THE PERSPECTIVE OF CONVENTIONS AND JURIDICAL- CIVIL LEG ISLATION ON THE RADIKA AND VJOSA RIVERS

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ABSTRACT

For the entire historical period from the gaining of independence of Albania in 1912 until today, the Albanian state has had no bilateral water agreements with the border points with the state of Greece. Only in 1926, an agreement was concluded between the Republic of Albania and the Kingdom of Serbo- Croatian-Slovenian.

The same agreement was agreed quietly in 1947, between Albania and Yugoslavia, in a time when the political and economic relations between the two countries were very good. After a few years, in the second half of the last century, with the creation of new state configurations, according to this conventional relationship, the Albanian communist state "donated" 10.5 m³ of water to the Yugoslav side from the Radika river, a common river between Albania and Yugoslavia, and which is 1/3 of the Radika river (32 m³ of water in total).

As is known, the Radika river is one of the main branches of the "Drini i Zi", and at the same time of the "Drini i Bashkuar". Regardless of the

bilateral relations between the two states, i.e. between the Socialist People's Republic of Albania and the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Party has never implemented this agreement according to international principles and conventions for transboundary waters, according to the Latin principle ex benus ex meglis.

The paper aims to shed light by comparing the guarantee instruments, on legal-civil conventions and values in particular, but also on international legal legislation and cases from European and international practice, on how river waters are protected, in order to develop fauna, flora and ethno- cultural values, especially biodiversity and ecosystem protection. This, as the issues of transboundary waters, are issues with a very high sensitivity, and have even proven to be capable of igniting strong passions between bordering states as well.

Key words: *Juridical-civil legislation; agreement between states; border crossing points; principles of European and international law; biodiversity; natural eco*

POLICY DYNAMICS: SHAPING AREA DEVELOPMENT - INSIGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL PARK OF VJOSA

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ABSTRACT

The rippling waters of the Vjosa, Europe's last wild river, wind through the heart of a burgeoning debate on conservation, development, and cultural preservation. Envisioned as the National Park of Vjosa, this unique ecosystem stands at the precipice of a monumental transition aimed at preserving its untamed beauty while unlocking its potential as a conduit for sustainable growth.

Policy-making plays a pivotal role in shaping the development trajectory of various regions, including protected areas such as the National Park of Vjosa. This paper examines the intricate relationship between policy formulation and its subsequent impact on the development of the Vjosa area. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing policies, strategies, and regulatory frameworks, as well as their practical implementation, the paper aims to elucidate the ways in which policy decisions influence economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects of area development. By identifying key challenges and opportunities, this study offers insights into how effective policy-making can foster sustainable development, preserve natural resources, and enhance the overall

well-being of communities within the Vjosa region.

The very mention of the Vjosa evokes images not only of pristine landscapes but also beckons questions surrounding environmental stewardship and socioeconomic upliftment. It is in this milieu that we find ourselves positioned at an intersection: balancing ecological integrity with human ambition. My contention aligns with the formidable goal underpinning this conference—to outline a blueprint that prioritizes conservational efforts without stifling the potential economic advantages inherent to judicious park management. Through deploying scientific research alongside historical narratives and sociocultural discourse in policymaking processes, I believe we can distill an innovative framework for the sustainable advancement of not just the proposed national park but as a prototype for similar undertakings globally.

Key words: *National Park of Vjosa, science, culture, sustainable development, interdisciplinary, policy-making, economic value, historical significance, social wealth, area development.*

POLICYMAKING' ROLE IN VJOSA'S NATIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT: A THEMATIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Protected areas, particularly national parks, are critical for conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. This study explores the intricate relationship between policymaking and the development of VJOSA's National Park, a significant conservation area in Albania. Using a thematic analysis approach, this research examines the policies that have shaped the establishment and management of the park, focusing on key themes such as ecological preservation, community engagement, tourism development, and stakeholder collaboration.

Through an analysis of policy documents, interviews, and stakeholder perspectives, this paper uncovers the multifaceted roles of policymaking in the evolution of VJOSA's National Park. Findings reveal the challenges and opportunities in policy implementation, the influence of political dynamics, and the importance of adaptive governance frameworks. By shedding light on these themes, this research contributes to the broader discourse on the effective management of protected areas and the critical role of policymaking in their development.

Key words: *Vjosa, National Park, development, policy making, analysis*

**THE EVOLUTION OF LEGISLATION ON NATURAL AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING THE TRANSITION IN
ALBANIA. THE CASE OF THE VJOSA RIVER**

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ABSTRACT

An important part of the reforms undertaken by Albania during the transition was also the reform of the Albanian legislation, which has evolved over the years to be in line with the legislation of the European Union.

The first law in the field of cultural heritage during the transition of Albanian was law No. 7867, dated 12. 10. 1994 of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Albania, on “the protection of movable and immovable cultural property.” This was the first law in this field in which the communist heritage was finally renounced in the field of heritage and in its 33 articles this law dealt with the cultural heritage from the perspective of a democratic state and society as Albania was already.

Regarding the natural heritage, the first law approved after 1990 is Law No. 8906, dated 6.6.2002 "On protected areas" which had as its

object the announcement, preservation, administration, management and sustainable use of protected areas and their natural and biological resources, as well as facilitating the conditions for the development of environmental tourism. The most typical case to understand the sensitization of many actors inside and outside the country for the protection of natural heritage is the campaign for the protection of the river Vjosa. This campaign took place over a period of nearly 10 years and involved a number of actors within the country such as the Albanian Government, local and foreign environmental organizations, local and foreign scientific institutions, outstanding personalities of science and art with international fame, the Council of Europe etc. And after nearly a decade of campaigning for the protection of the last wild river in Europe, the Vjosa river was crowned with the declaration of this river as a National Park with VKM no. 155, dated 13.3.2023.

Key words: *EU legislation, natural heritage, cultural heritage, protected areas, Vjosa river*

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN PROTECTED AREA OF VJOSA VALLEY

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Abstract

The integrated management of community development in protected areas aims to harmonize conservation objectives with socio-economic growth. This paper tends to explore some strategies and methodologies for achieving sustainable community development while maintaining the ecological integrity of protected regions. The research focuses on qualitative methods, based on semi-structured interviews and comprehensive case studies to gather in-depth insights. Key research questions include: How local knowledge and social behavior change are integrated into the planning and management of protected areas of Vjosa Valley? How do community members view the impact of integrated management strategies on their livelihoods and well-being and how do community development initiatives within this protected area affect social and economic outcomes for residents? How the adaptive management practices focused on collective memory, space and place, identity, culture, and behavior change, are incorporated into the governance of protected areas? Semi-structured interviews with government officials, community leaders, NGO representatives, and residents provide access to conservation efforts. These interviews are complemented by detailed case studies of successful integrated management projects in regions such as the Vjosa in Fest Festival (Vjosa n`Fest), and other massive activities in

the region. The findings highlight the importance of community involvement, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and adaptive management frameworks in balancing human needs and social behavior change with health and environmental preservation (Folke et al., 2005). Key challenges include aligning policies with sustainable development goals and overcoming obstacles in stakeholder cooperation. By examining case studies it identifies best practices and key challenges in implementing integrated management plans (Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2004; Brown et al., 2016). The paper advocates for policies that promote sustainable livelihoods, education, and capacity-building among local communities, alongside healthy environmental protection measures (Pretty et al., 2010). In conclusion, the integrated management of community development in protected areas is crucial for achieving long-term sustainability. The study provides some actionable recommendations for policymakers, conservationists, and community leaders, emphasizing the need for continuous evaluation, innovation, and community-centric approaches in the management of protected landscapes (Holling, 1978), but not only.

Key words: *integrated management, community development, protected areas, conservation, sustainable development, behavior change.*

**DATA ON SOME HEXAPODES FOUND IN THE
WATERSHED REGION OF THE KARDHIQ RIVER AS
PART OF THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE VJOSA RIVER
NATURAL PARK**

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ABSTRACT

In the following paper some illustrative data on some invertebrate collected during some expeditions carried out in the field at the time of summer practice are presented. In this process a number of invertebrates have been collected (mainly from the Hexapoda Class of N / Type Mandibulata). It must be said from the beginning that, from the large number of representatives of this group, in the following material, it is not that we have identified all the species that can be found in this ecosystem, but only those species that we have been able to collect. The fund of species that we have been able to collect and that we have presented in this work are species that express a considerable diversity for this environment. This conditioned by the wealth and specifics of the trophic and abiotic ecological factors of this ecosystem. Thus, 38 species with high incidence (according to the definitions in our work methodology) have been identified, 9 species that meet less often in this ecosystem and 14 species that are species at risk of extinction and that are therefore currently included in the Book Red of the Fauna of Albania. Based on the analysis of the data obtained in this case, we have also come up with some conclusions,

the most important of which is the one that suggests that we have other species that should already be included in the fund of species at risk of extinction (vulnerable).

Key words: *Biodiversity, fauna, hexapod, ecosystem, species, endangered.*

**SOME PARAMETERS OF MICROEVOLUTIONARY
PROCESSES IN THE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF
GIROKASTRA ASSESSED THROUGH THE METHOD OF
ISONYMY**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to evaluate several parameters and different indicators which are characteristic to understand the microevolutionary processes in the human population of the city of Gjirokastra. Adjectives are used to estimate various parameters and factors of the population. Surnames meet almost all the conditions of the neutral theory of evolution since, in most populations, being inherited in the paternal way, they are considered alleles of a gene on the Y chromosome. This property of surnames was used to analyze the genetic structure of the population.

All data were collected from marriage registers starting from 1946 to 2006 for every 5 years. In total, the data for 2503 marriages were analyzed. From the data processing, parameters such as: Fisher's coefficient α as an indicator of the wealth of surnames in the population, Karlin-McGregors v as an indicator of the migration rate and the inbreeding coefficient as an indicator of the genetic isolation

of the population were evaluated.

In the population under study, resident individuals dominate over newcomers and endogamous marriages over exogamous ones. Fisher's α values indicate the presence in the population of the wealth of surnames. From the Karlin-McGregors v calculations, it is observed that the city of Gjirokastra has a high migration intensity. Migration was mainly carried out individually or in small family groups. Comparison of the progress of the coefficient of total inbreeding F_t and Fisher's α showed that we find a very good agreement for the progress of the richness values of surnames (Fischer's α) with the progress of total inbreeding (F_t) which indicates the progress of genetic isolation of the population. The opening of the population and the increase of its genetic wealth are in harmony with factors of economic development, political and social.

Key words: *isonymy, population structure, surname distribution, marital structure, migration.*

A REVIEW OF ACUTE APPENDICITIS' POSTOPERATIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

It is a daily challenge to be part of the medical staff in these times when scientific research blooms and there is higher pressure to improve health service quality. With this review article, we aim to highlight key research findings and suggest to developing countries' medical staff, some takeaways from European and American guidelines recommended to be used for postoperative pain management.

We collected data in the hospital of Gjirokaštër from June 2016-December 2019. We studied 278 cases confirmed with AA, 134 females, and 144 males. The software used was SPSS. Later we searched Pub Med, Google Scholar, and Science Direct for articles regarding our topic, and several articles were selected to compare our findings to conclude with recommendations about our healthcare system's weak points.

We witnessed that postoperative pain evaluation is not standardized with a pain evaluating scale but rather done by nurses' subjective and objective examination. The most frequent analgesic drug was paracetamol, administered in 58.12% of patients. Monotherapy was more frequent than the combination of two drugs, respectively 59.78% over 34.32%. The mean number of used analgesic drugs was slightly higher in females than males, respectively 1.51 over 1.41.

After analyzing our findings and comparing them with European and American guidelines and scientific articles, we concluded with several suggestions addressed to Albania's medical staff as follows: consider multimodal analgesia; use oral over IV opioids; avoid IM administration of analgesics; paracetamol's analgesic effect is dose-dependent so can be used up to 1gr every 6 h in adults; consider an infiltration of incision site with long-acting anesthetics in the first 24h after surgery.

Key words: *acute appendicitis, Albania, pain management, postoperative pain*

A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF ADOLESCENTS' HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this scientific research was to identify the level of exposure and awareness of high school students about high-risk behaviors to which they are exposed.

This is a descriptive, quantitative and qualitative, retrospective study. The population of the study consists of all pupils of public and private high schools of Gjirokaštër, Lazarat, and Cepo Administrative Unit. The sample consisted of 150 pupils. The instrument used was a questionnaire. The software used was SPSS v. 21. In regards to

nutrition, 74% of the sample consumes three to four meals a day, but only 67.77% of them consume most of the food groups. About 13.04% of the sample consumes fast food daily. In regards to physical activity, 37.23% of the sample practices one sport. In regards to social life, about 74% of the sample declared that they are not interested in social activities. In regards to screen time, 83% of males and 92% of females use their mobile phone several hours a day or continuously, and their perception is that they are moderately involved. In regards to smoking, 30% of the sample declares that they have tried it once. About 16% of them declared that they are regular smokers. In regards to alcohol, about 30% of the sample declared that consumes alcohol sometimes. In regards to drugs, about 5.8% of the sample have tried it but didn't like it. In regards to STDs, about 21% of females and about 10% of males don't know the ways of getting a STDs infection. About 32% of females and 15% of males don't know how to prevent a STDs infection.

Key words: *high school, high-risk behavior, nutrition, physical activity, smoking, alcohol, drugs, STDs*

**BIA AND ITS APPLICATION IN MEDICINE: THE
IMPORTANCE OF IMPEDENCIOMETRIC ANALYSIS IN
INDIVIDUALS WHO PRACTICE SPORTS (MOTOR
ACTIVITIES) BUT NOT ONLY**

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ABSTRACT

Obesity and overweight is one of the main problems of human health and has consequences both in terms of combinations with multifactorial health but also with consequences in the economy. Being overweight creates physical disabilities for normal work and life routines and is the leading cause of premature death.

In Albania, according to national estimates corresponding to a population survey conducted in 2018 by INSTAT, almost 21.3% of the adult population are obese (BMI greater than 30 kg/m²). A study with data from the Global Obesity Map shows that Albania will have a much higher prevalence in 2035 where about 37% of adults will be overweight, an increase of almost 16 percentage points compared to

2023. This is a high level of obesity and is considered alarming by the study, especially for children for whom the situation will aggravate. The study shows that obesity in Albania until 2035 among children will increase by 6.7% and among adults by 2.6%.

Global studies show that every country is affected by obesity, but the lowest income countries have shown the highest increases in the last decade. Prevention and treatment of obesity require financial investment but at the same time, not treating it costs even more.

Overweight and obesity will cost the global economy over \$4 trillion in income by 2035, nearly 3% of the current global GDP. Early identification and usage of modern techniques that enable the most accurate identification of problems are the focus of present-day studies in order to be as close as possible to the healthy or at-risk individual, with the main goal being the consultation and prevention of further consequences of obesity.

Key words: BIA, obesity, diet

**GLOBAL WARMING, ITS EFFECTS ON CLIMATE
CHANGES, THE IMPACTS ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN GJIROKASTRA DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

In the last decades it is often talked about the global warming, which means the average global temperature increase in the atmosphere near the Earth's surface, a problem that is increasingly taking disappointing sizes.

The objectives of this study include the study of climate impacts in the last 5 years in the district of Gjirokastra, implementation of economic, social and environmental issues for a better management of agricultural products.

The study includes a period of a 5-year survey and aims at giving a contribution, however small in:

- *Determination of surface soil planted with cultures that are*

affected directly by climate change.

- *Effects of climate change in the quantity and quality of agricultural products,*
- *Effects in Gjirokastra district economy as a result of these changes.*
-

Key words: *global warming, climate change, economy, Gjirokastër*

CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE VJOSA RIVER NATURAL PARK: INSIGHTS FROM LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa River, Europe's last undammed waterway, presents a critical case study for climate-resilient development in the face of global environmental change. This literature review assesses the potential climate change impacts on the Vjosa River's ecosystem and explores sustainable development strategies for the proposed natural park. The review highlights the river's ecological significance, including its role in maintaining regional biodiversity and providing essential ecosystem services.

Key findings suggest that climate change poses significant risks to the Vjosa's hydrological regime, habitat stability, and species survival. In response, the review advocates for adaptive management approaches that prioritize the river's natural flow patterns and connectivity. Strategies such as floodplain restoration, conservation of riparian zones, and the establishment of ecological corridors are emphasized for their ability to enhance the river's resilience to climate-induced alterations.

The review also identifies the need for comprehensive climate modeling and monitoring programs to inform proactive management

decisions. By integrating scientific research with traditional ecological knowledge, the development of the Vjosa River natural park can serve as a model for climate-smart conservation.

In conclusion, the review proposes a development framework that aligns with international conservation goals and climate change mitigation efforts. It underscores the importance of preserving the Vjosa's wild character as a cornerstone for building a resilient ecosystem capable of withstanding the uncertainties of a changing climate.

Key words: *Vjosa River, climate change, sustainable development, natural park*

ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION OF THE DRINO RIVER

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ABSTRACT

The Drino River, despite the fact that it falls under the category of "small rivers", as it passes areas closer to communities, reflects the ecological state of the environment of these areas. The river collects the water of numerous streams that descend from the heights of surrounding mountain slopes, avoiding the flooding of the Dropull plain and beyond. Simultaneously, the Drino River is under the pressure of many harmful and external factors with negative impacts on the environment as a result of natural phenomena and actions, as well as activities of anthropogenic origin. Based on the poor condition of the Drino River and the problems that have persisted over time and continue to deepen affecting the water quality, this study aims to assess the environmental conditions in which the Drino River is currently situated from its entrance into the Albanian land to its union with VJosa River near Tepelenë city. The realization of the study objective was carried out through the analysis of water quality (physical-chemical analysis) and the assessment of the pressure exerted by internal and external factors with negative impacts, such as natural phenomena and anthropogenic activities. In the river segment under study, several sources of soil and water quality degradation have been identified, such as floods, river

erosion, the use of river inert, landslides, and the lack of plant cover on the riverbanks. From the evaluation of the environmental indicators obtained in the study, it results that, mainly, the waters of the Drino River are polluted as a result of the mismanagement of urban waste and the discharge of untreated urban water. An important point of this study is the proposal of protection measures in the framework of the rehabilitation of the hydro-ecological features of the river as well as the prevention of further deterioration of the environmental and socio-economic indicators in the area according to a protection plan. The environmental problems presented in this study must be dealt with continuously and be an inseparable part of local planning and general studies since the quality of the water of the Drino River determines the quality of life of the residents of the area.

Key words: *river, environmental assessment, pollution, environment, water quality, erosion, flooding.*

UTILIZING ICT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION IN THE VJOSA NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa National Park, known for its rich biodiversity and cultural heritage, faces challenges in effectively managing and preserving its resources. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is promising for enhancing community engagement and cultural preservation within natural reserves.

This study assesses the potential of specific ICT tools, such as mobile applications and virtual tours, to improve community involvement and cultural heritage preservation in the Vjosa National Park. Specifically, it evaluates the feasibility and impact of introducing these tools to enhance the visitor experience and support conservation efforts.

The research utilizes a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews and focus groups involving park visitors, local community members and other interested parties. Additionally, case studies from similar conservation efforts globally are reviewed to inform the study's context and recommendations.

The study finds a high level of interest among stakeholders in adopting ICT tools. Survey and interview responses indicate strong support for mobile applications and virtual tours, which are perceived as beneficial for improving access to information and engaging younger audiences. However, challenges such as the need for infrastructure development to bridge technological disparities and the long-term sustainability of ICT implementations are also identified.

The introduction of ICT tools in Vjosa National Park could significantly enhance visitor experiences and conservation outcomes by making cultural and natural heritage more accessible and interactive. Addressing the identified challenges will be crucial for successfully integrating these technologies. Recommendations for phased implementation and ongoing evaluation are proposed to ensure the tools effectively meet the needs of all park stakeholders.

Key words: *Vjosa National Park, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Cultural Heritage Preservation, Community Engagement, Conservation Technology*

**SOME METAPHORS OF 'WATER' IN THE PHRASEOLOGY
OF THREE BALKAN LANGUAGES FROM A COGNITIVE
LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE: AN ONGOING RESEARCH
PROJECT**

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ABSTRACT

This article analyses, within the framework of cognitive linguistics, the use of some WATER metaphors in the phraseology of three Balkan languages, Albanian, Macedonian and Modern Greek. Water, which occupies a significant place in human experience and perception,

provides a versatile framework for metaphorical expression in various aspects of human life. In phraseology, these metaphors are likely to play a crucial role in conveying abstract concepts and cultural ideas rooted in the experience of water and its various manifestations in the three Balkan languages. This research project aims to shed light on the complex relationship between language, culture, and cognition, highlighting the role of water as a potent metaphorical resource in the Balkan linguistic repertoire. Our study is based on the variety of spoken and written language used by the average educated person, including newspapers, fiction and mass media. We have not considered the rich dialectal heritage of each of the three languages. We hope to extend the phraseological analysis of water to some of the dialects of these languages in the future.

Key words: *Balkan Languages; Cognitive Linguistics; Phraseology.*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE STANDARD IN ORIENTATION AND INFORMATION BOARDS

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, problems of implementing the standard in the writing of orientation and information boards in the district of Gjirokastra will be addressed. These signs serve to orient and inform not only the Albanian-speaking population, but also foreign visitors, whose number has recently increased significantly. In this situation, it is important to write them according to the standard of the Albanian language, applying the spelling norm in every language system.

The material supporting the work is concrete and from its examination, some of the violations of the linguistic norm are: the absence of writing the vowel -ë- in different positions of the word and its replacement with the vowel -e-; writing feminine words with unstressed -e- in the nominative case of the prominent form; writing words in a foreign language; writing words with a hyphen in the middle; writing words in the genitive case; replacing sh with ç and ç with c in different words; writing the number “tre” instead of the number “tri”; writing quotes in different denominations; the use of proper names in nameplates, etc.

Key words: *words, standard Albanian, language norms, orientation tables, spelling errors.*

**THE WEALTH OF LIFE, THE RESEARCH AND
PROCESSING OF THE POETIC WORD IN THE POETRY OF
PETRIT RUKA**

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ABSTRACT

Petrît Ruka is among the creators of Albanian literature in the genre of poetry and a prominent individuality of it. Analyzing the creativity of this author, especially after the 90s, we say that his poetry has moved and continues to move on a well-defined artistic and moral flow, gaining new values, thematic breadth and elaboration and research of the Albanian word.

His poetry is and remains poetry of the time, fine, with nerve, with subtext and at the same time noble. It is emotional and reflects the essence of life.

This creative nature, this sensitivity and individual temperament is also embellished by the keen nature of observation, the nature of creative expression, the nature of meaningful shaping and layering, as well as the nature of multiple images.

In his poetry, we find true words packed with emotion, a humane and realistic look at life, a breadth of impressions through a found form, a deep worldview from a poet who is thoughtful and concerned about

time, which is expressed in a diverse poetic language, with striking and original figuration, with varied rhythms and rhymes.

We will argue that Petri Ruka's poetry has a chosen poetic word, variety of problems and aesthetic demand for diverse verse, chosen language and musicality of rhyme, but above all content embodied in art.

In his creative path, Petrit Ruka has aimed for the closest possible connections with life and the reader, citing facts, details and different episodes from life, which he processed in the creative "laboratory" and turned into artistic facts.

Key words: *poetic word, processing, layers of meaning, artistic facts, musicality of rhyme.*

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE DISCOURSE OF PETRIT RUKA

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ABSTRACT

Understanding the characteristics of a poet's discourse is not solely about determining his role and place within a specific period of time, but rather it is more closely tied to the factors and contexts that have influenced the system of linguistic structures, the innovations and achievements of the language he employs. This has brought to light the various interactions between language, culture and the natural environment, which have notably impacted his discourse.

In this paper we will explore several aspects of the discourse of poet Petrit Ruka, elucidating his correct relationship with the literary and linguistic values from generation to generation, the peculiarities of his poetic discourse in the semantic and structural fields, the innovations and new paths opened by this poet's creativity. His entire discourse emerges as a hierarchical totality of values, interpretations, experiences and diverse perceptions.

We will present the communication established by the author with generations, traditions, the social life of his birthplace and region, his relationship with nature, as well as the influence they have had on his language and style. Through linguistic analyses, generalizations and comparisons, we will assess the poetic language, delving into its role in conveying messages.

Through his poems, the poet unfolds the close relationship he establishes with his birthplace, but on the other hand, also the correct relationship with poetic language, through rhythm and metrical forms, through lexicon and morpho-syntactic connections and syntactic structures.

Key words: *discourse, birthplace, influence, characteristics, poetic language*

WEDDING SONGS IN THE PROVINCE OF TUSCËRIA ALONG THE VJOSA RIVER

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa River has a great geographical, economic and cultural significance in South Albania. Vjosa is not a river like all the others, it is one of the most important rivers not only in Albania, but also in Europe.

In this paper we will focus more specifically on the evidence of some traditional wedding rites and songs in the area of Tepelena in the Tuscëria region. As an artistic production of several centuries, wedding songs represent an inexhaustible source of extraordinary informative value. In the wedding songs, you can find expressions with characteristic elements of nature, the birthplace, the pastoral environment, vegetation, from the world of flowers or fauna, which are beautifully interwoven with stylistic figures. Wedding songs are diverse, at southern weddings not only songs related to this particular rite are sung, but also other love, cheerful or patriotic songs. Humor and jokes are an inseparable part of Albanian weddings, especially when the atmosphere is ignited by the toasts and the young couple is at the center of the jokes. All these songs exalt love, marital fidelity, family, children, continuity of life, etc. In human life, the wedding marks one of the most important events, through which two individuals celebrate the beginning of married life.

Key words: wedding songs, rites, Vjosa river, love lyrics

LINGUISTIC AND ETHNOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TEPELENA DISTRICT ALONG THE VJOSA RIVER

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ABSTRACT

Vjosa river runs through the district of Tepelena. Beyond the stunning view that it offers along the entire valley, this river also serves as the dividing line of the Tosk dialect in: the northern Tosk dialect (areas on the right side of Vjosa) and the southern Tosk dialect, (on the left side of this river, the Lab dialect).

Albanian dialectology asserts that the defining characteristics separating these Tosk sub-dialects were established earlier than those distinguishing Geg sub-dialects, underscoring the region's indigenous roots. However, in our paper, we do not intend to make an in-depth analysis of the phonetic, morphological and lexical differences of the Tosk sub-dialects and their interpretation, but we seek to bring a picture of the linguistic and ethnographic diversity that includes the villages of the district of Tepelena, in both sides of the Vjosa river. Between them there are similarities and differences in terms of language, ethno linguistic and folklore, which makes this whole region richer and more attractive. The inhabitants of those parts are aware of these distinctive features and try to preserve the identity formed in the historical course of the creation of their villages.

Key words: *linguistic variation, ethno linguistics, ethnography, Tosk dialect, Lab dialect*

THE INTERTEXTUAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE POETRY OF THE AUTHORS OF THE VJOSA VALLEY WITH POPULAR CULTURE/ORALITY

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ABSTRACT

The article entitled "The intertextual relationship of the poetry of the authors of the Vjosa valley with popular culture/orality" deals with the poetry of Qazim Shemaj, Sadik Bejko, Majlinda Nana, Ilirjan Zhupa, Bardhyl Londo, etc. from the comparative and intertextual point of view to arrive at a general overview of the presence of cultural and anthropological heritage elements in the content and poetic expression of their work.

The poetry of this group of authors (Sadik Bejko, Qazim Shemaj, Majlinda Nana Rama, Ilirjan Zhupa, etc.) was partially written before and after the 1990s and has become part of the modern, realistic and innovative Albanian poetic traditions. Based on modern and postmodern tendencies to create multiple poetic images, universal philosophical themes and reflections, original poetic syntax, these lyrics prove a lively communication with popular artistic discourse in particular and orality in general. As a result of this intertext, the poetry of the Vjosa valley has also documented in verses the nostalgic and idealized image of the cultural, ethnographic and regional identity of the environment from which it originates.

In this article, we intended to achieve the study of the refunctionalization of elements of orality through the study of intertextual relationships such as:

- the presence of popular mentality/philosophy in the poetry of S. Bejko, I. Zhupa, M. Rama, Q. Shemaj, B. Londo, etc.*
- the presence of religion in the poetry of S. Bejko, I. Zhupa, M. Rama, Q. Shemaj, B. Londo, etc.*
- the presence of forms of popular artistic discourse such as the proverb, phraseology, song, etc. in the poetry of S. Bejko, I. Zhupa, M. Rama, Q. Shemaj, B. Londo, etc.*

From this approach, the study aims, not only to shed light on a common way of conceptualizing the artistic subject, but also to highlight the preservational, conductive and perfecting value that the cultural heritage of the Vjosa Valley receives in the artistic work of its authors.

Key words: *Vjosë, poetry, intertekst, orality, poetic image*

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC OVERVIEW IN THE VJOJA ESTUARY AREA

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ABSTRACT

The valley of the river Vjosë, for its rare nature and the historical and cultural values that characterize it, today enjoys a special status. In the framework of these discussions with diverse topics, we thought to mention the last point of this valley. The area near the Vjosa estuary is an important settlement where other values of material culture are highlighted. The reflection of the culture and some linguistic phenomena for these inhabitants would be of interest for such comprehensive studies.

The religious coexistence and harmony among this heterogeneous community is to be singled out among many other important aspects. This is also well reflected in the mutual respect of traditions and customs that the residents have long cultivated for each other. The villages located closest to the Vjosa estuary are: Qarr, Martinë, Bishan and Pishë-Poro. The linguistic features of these inhabitants are close to the other languages of Myzeqe, where elements of the northern Toskretian stand out, but with few differences as a result of heterogeneity and contacts with the surrounding areas. Due to continuous immigration, the number of inhabitants has decreased significantly year after year. This phenomenon, perhaps the most painful for these plain and prosperous areas, has brought not only the departure of the young generation, but also the fading of dialect

phenomena for the middle and young generation. Despite the above factors and language changes over the years, local residents still maintain typical features of the Myzeqe area.

Key words: *Vjosa valley, estuary, coexistence, Myzeqe's speech.*

PROVINCIAL DIALECT FEATURES IN THE VJOSA VALLEY (MALLAKASTRA PROVINCE)

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ABSTRACT

The linguistic and ethnic diversity of the Vjosa valley is one of the important material and cultural aspects of our heritage and serves as a living testimony of it. This diversity creates a rich environment for linguistic, cultural and economic exchange as well as the advancement of cooperation between different communities within a country. Despite the many changes that have occurred over time, many linguistic elements have been replaced, supplemented with new elements, some of them have even been forgotten, but the basic element that connects the inhabitants of a country is language. As such, literary language needs such elements, even the demand for them is its constant tendency.

In this paper we will dwell on some issues related to some linguistic phenomena of the Vjosa valley, specifically of the Mallakastra province. The speech of the province of Mallakastra, as a sub-dialect of Northern Tosk, has common features with all the other words of Tosk, this is due to commercial, historical and family relations. But, in addition to common features, they also have differences. These differences are not only on the phonetic and morphological level, but are also differences on the lexical level. In this perspective, we have

devoted special importance to dialectalisms and regionalisms as a continuous source for the enrichment of the Albanian language. Being independent creations, they have a wider scope and can also be found in the speech of another dialect, i.e. inter-dialectal.

Based on the collected material, tracking, classifications and analyzes of popular words and expressions, we will bring the current state of discourse to the inhabitants of this province.

Key words: *diversity, language, dialectalism, regionalism, differences*

LYRIC REFLECTIONS IN THE WORK "ITS NAME IS LOVE" BY BARDHYL LONDO

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the lyrical poetry of Bardhyl Londo and focuses on the dimensions of love imposed by his work. Through an in-depth analysis of the poetry, the main goal is to reflect on how the author has managed to unfold his emotions and thoughts through lyrical poetry.

Furthermore, the study will highlight how Bardhyl Londo has used lyrical poetry as an effective tool to express and emphasize his emotions related to love, leaving an indelible mark on Albanian literature. The study examines the lyrical poetry of Bardhyl Londo, concentrating on his work "Its Name is Love."

Regarding the work "Its Name is Love," it will be explored how the poetry reflects and impacts the reader in a unique way. Bardhyl Londo's poetics will be examined in the context of the time and environment in which it was created, attempting to understand the depth of the connection between the name and love in his poetic context. The analysis will offer a profound perspective on the work while also encouraging the reader to reflect on the connection between word and feeling that lyrical poetry unfolds, with a particular

focus on "Its Name is Love" by Bardhyl Londo.

This study aims to emphasize the significance of the work "Its Name is Love" in Bardhyl Londo's literary corpus and its contribution to contemporary Albanian literature. By analyzing the central theme of

love, the paper explores how Londo uses this motif to build a rich and sensitive poetic universe. The work stands out for its use of powerful metaphors and complex symbolism, creating a deep emotional atmosphere akin to reality. Londo's style is characterized by rich and figurative language, reflecting the author's deep feelings and personal experiences. The paper will analyze the poetic structure, rhythm, imagery, and literary techniques used in this work, highlighting their impact on creating a unique aesthetic and emotional experience for the reader.

Key words: *study, lyric, reflection, reader, interpretation*

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME MICROTOPONYMS ALONG THE VJOSA RIVER, KELCYRE

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we will discuss microtoponymy and microhydronymy along the Vjosa river. Specifically, the paper is based on a certain segment of Vjosa, Piskovë (Përmet)-Peshtan, (Tepelenë), along its banks and in the city of Këlcyra. For the realization of this paper, several study methods have been combined, such as survey, description, lexical-semantic and grammatical analysis, as well as synthesis. We conducted surveys in the field, then we classified toponyms according to the words that make up their structure, for example: toponyms that have the words shore, cave, field, etc.

We hope this paper shows that the study of microtoponyms and microhydronyms is of interest not only to linguistics, but also to anthropology, history, etc. In fact, we believe that the paper offers additional material or information for the benefit of the preservation and promotion of culture, as well as the development of tourism in these areas. Also, our paper can serve as an impetus for our further work, further expanding the study in this field, but also for other researchers.

Key words: *microtoponyms, microhydronyms, survey, description, lexical-semantic structure of the word.*

TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN ILIRIAN ZHUPA'S POETRY

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ABSTRACT

Ilirian Zhupa, one of the most inspiring poets of Albanian literature, stands out for the depth of his poetic spirit which paves the way for his verses towards a modern and contemporary poetry. Through his poetry, Zhupa invites the reader on an emotional journey, where each verse has its own weight and tells a deep and inexhaustible story. In his verses, we find a lyricism that goes beyond words, revealing the lost soul and finding what is universal in humans.

Zhupa is not just a creator of poetry, but a deep discoverer of the human mind. Through the use of strong images, he manages to touch the foundations of our senses, leaving a memorable impression on the reader. Many of his poems touch themes related to national identity, history and traditions, expressing love and pride for his country. He often uses images from nature to express feelings and thoughts, creating a close connection between humans and the surrounding environment. His poems are rich in literary imagery enriching his verses and giving them a deep poetic dimension. Many of his poems are introspective, offering a window into the poet's inner world and meditating on existential and philosophical questions.

The depth of Zhupa's poetic soul appears in his ability to capture beauty, sadness and joy, part of his life and not only, in unexpected and strong forms. Many of his creations reflect on time and often meditate on how the past affects the present and future, creating an ongoing dialogue. Maintaining a simplicity and clarity in his expression makes it possible for the poems to be accessible and sensitive to different readers and for this poet to have a special place in contemporary Albanian literature.

Key words: poet, universal, inspirational, emotional, philosophical, contemporary

OVERVIEW OF CASES OF LANGUAGE CONTACT IN THE TECHNICAL VOCABULARY OF ALBANIAN AND GREEK

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ABSTRACT

The Albanian language's lexical system has been significantly impacted by recent social and economic developments; we will highlight the new terms in Albanian language's technical and professional lexicon. The paper's goal is to present the findings of observations made regarding lexical changes brought about by the influence of a different language system, respectively, the Greek language. These words have filled in the gaps in the Albanian lexical system after the 90' regarding new words used in the technical vocabulary.

Considering the terminology used by numerous Albanian emigrants who have returned from Greece, where they worked for several years as electricians, carpenters, plumbers, welders, mechanics, etc., the study is mainly centered in the Gjirokastra region. About 120 professionals in the field were interviewed to get the information

needed concerning the language they use daily.

The approaches and corresponding lexical context are taken into consideration while analyzing and classifying the results. This study is a preliminary step toward a larger focus on the need to provide the necessary words for Albanian technical vocabulary.

Key words: *language contact, borrowing, technique, Greek, professional*

**THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE IN THE FORMATION OF
ETHNIC IDENTITY AND ENVIRONMENTS OF USE OF
THE MINORITY GREEK LANGUAGE IN ALBANIA**

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ABSTRACT

In today's linguistic and ethnolinguistic studies, it is widely accepted that language plays a primary role in the formation of the ethnic identity of a community. Language acts are acts of identification, in the sense that language uses represent and point out identity since in this way they discover linguistic elements and attitudes towards themselves and others. In a bilingual environment or not, when we want to identify with a group in contrast to another group (mainly against the majority), we use our mother tongue.

Moreover, minority or diaspora communities are contoured and strengthened in efforts to preserve the minority language. In this case, the symbolic function of language expresses solidarity within the group or even the exclusion of the "other". Also function communicative language is a constituent element of ethnic identity. Members of a community (minority) assert their identity, creating their own communication networks.

In bilingual situations or in cases where a language is designated as a minority language, regardless of prestige, history, book production this language can have, or its status official in another country, there is a big risk of being shrunk or even lost in extreme cases, if this language loses its main domains of use, or to the language and the speakers it follows a policy of prohibitions or repression. That was not the case with the language of the Greek minority, a language that in adaption to the concrete socio-political conditions and the goals of the communist government, was supported and developed within the possibilities and ideological frameworks of that system.

The most important domains, which have a positive effect, in the preservation of language and culture are: family environment, social environment, education, religious institutions, profession, etc.

Key words: *Identity, minority language, domain.*

**THE CHRISTIAN CULT OBJECTS, CULTURAL
MONUMENTS AND CHRISTIAN FAITH HOLIDAYS IN THE
UPPER VJOSA VALLEY AS A PROMOTER ELEMENT OF
RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TOURISM DRIVING**

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa Valley is a territory with a very rich history. Based on the historical, cultural, architectural, etc. values of this valley, its cultural heritage is a rich source for the development of cultural tourism, which is still in its early stages. The religious tourism is also a very important part of cultural tourism. Since this territory is quite wide, I have focused my study only on the upper part of this valley. This area has an impressive heritage of Byzantine and post-Byzantine period religious buildings.

By exploring Christian cult objects, this paper engages in a critical discussion of the opportunities and challenges of their use and religious activities in the further development of the religious tourism. In this paper, I will examine the efforts made so far to give life and further development of the religious tourism of the church in this area. While religious tourism presents opportunities to increase income and for the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, it presents

challenges to the authenticity and identity of the local community and the integrity of the natural environment.

For the realization of this work, the descriptive and analysis method was used. Considering the technique of using bibliographies, studies and articles of Albanian and foreign researchers, the qualitative data have been examined, consulted and interpreted to highlight issues related to the objects of Christian worship.

Key words: *Christian cult monuments, religious tourism, heritage, challenges, opportunities*

CULTURAL INTERACTION, A LIVING BRIDGE BETWEEN VJOSA VALLEY AND DRINOS VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

This study will present the Vjosa National Park from a special perspective. The main purpose of it is to open perspectives for local and foreign researchers from the ethno cultural point of view, not only of the population of the area along the banks of the Vjosa River, but also of its feeder branch Drino, where Gjirokaštër is part of and in particular the province of Lunxhëria with its docks, costumes and traditions.

The purpose is to promote the coexistence and ethno cultural heritage of the population of these areas.

This study will present the dresses, songs and dances on certain celebrations, without excluding the language as the main connection and also special architecture of old buildings and bridges.

Detailed data analysis will bring the style and the form, the materials and the ornaments, the cultural meaning and historical evolution of these traditional clothes. It is worth mentioning the wedding ceremony, bride's wedding or women in general dress of Lunxhëri (Lunxhi or Lunxhe for short).

The biggest challenge nowadays, which the rapid development of the

technology, is the effort to preserve and spread the unique cultural identity of Lunxhëria as it is, rich and unknown at the same time.

The results of this study provide an active consideration of cultural heritage and the importance of passing it onto the future generations. The source used during this study can serve as a starting point for more detailed studies about costumes, songs and lyrics of these areas in the future.

Key words: *cultural heritage, common features, special features, folk clothing, Lunxhi costumes, Vjosa National Park*

VJOSA RIVER NATIONAL PARK: NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE TO PROMOTE TOURISM

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ABSTRACT

The object of this study is the National Park of Vjosa, when it enters the territory of the Republic of Albania (where the lower flow of the Sarandaporos river begins, the right branch of the upper flow of Vjosa) until the beginning of the middle flow. The Vjosa Valley has been the center of civilization since ancient times, when the river was called Aaos, Aous, etc., it was the axis of natural roads, as a connecting road between the territories of Illyria in the south and the shores of the Aegean and Adriatic, along which settlements and economic activities were developed. By Decision of the Council of Ministers, no. 155, dated 13.3.2023 "For the declaration of the natural ecosystem of the Vjosa River "National Park", category II", the protected area of the park, has a total area of 12727 ha. Geomonuments, biomonuments and hydromonuments, terraces of Përmet-river Vjosë, of national importance; karst caves, of local, regional and national importance; river mouths and canyons of national and international importance, formed as a result of river activity as well as archaeological excavations; tumulus cemeteries; traces of early settlements; the cities of the ancient and medieval period represent a huge warehouse of natural and cultural heritage, with great scientific, didactic, ecological, aesthetic, spiritual and

exploratory values of great interest to researchers and tourists.

Key words: *ecosystem, ecotourism, geotourism, sustainability, geoconservation, natural and cultural heritage.*

THE TIPOLOGY OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS AND HUMAN POTENTIALIN VJOSA VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

The largest number of settlements, in national and regional point of view are located in rural areas, which is an oposite situation compare to the territorial distribution and localization of the population as it observed (after 1990 year). Geographers have offered numerous contributions on the territorial analysis (horizontally and vertically acording to the hypsometry), related to the physiognomy and human potential of rural settlements, spatial and temporal dinamics of settlements etc. In this point of view we bring this paper with the case study of the Vjosa valley in the function of sustainable rural development. This study will be based on physical-natural, social-economic knowledges and integrated scientific-study methods. Administrative- territorial reforms, rural exodus, the responsibility of local and central government etc, have influenced the number, dimensions, tiplogy, functions and distrubutions of settlements also their population in territorial aspect.

Key words: Vjosa valley, typology of settlements, human potential, territorial (spatial) analysis, sustainable rural development.

VJOSA, THE GOD RIVER OF MYTHS, LEGENDS AND TRADITIONAL ALBANIAN CULTS

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ABSTRACT

The personification of rivers as gods is a biblical concept. During the period of paganism, the people of prehistoric era and antiquity considered some rivers as sacred. The Nile, Ganges, Euphrates, etc. were considered such. In Albania, only Vjosa river has been mythologized. It is considered sacred from the source to the river's mouth by the inhabitants, who have populated its valley from ancient times to our days. Vjosa's source is located in the mountains of Pindi and it is worshiped as the god Bind. Bind was the Illyrian god of waters. Meanwhile, in the estuary, archaeologists have identified the sculpture of the god Aos, a sculpture depicting an old man leaning on his right side, with wavy limbs symbolizing the waves of Vjosa. The tradition of holy water in Vjosa comes from Homeric times (Theophany). Numerous authors from different historical periods write about the gods, myths, legends and cults that the population of the Vjosa valley praised. Among them, Vjosa is considered the life-giving river. There are many myths and legends collected in this valley, including the legends of gods such as Zeus, Poseidon, Apollo, Artemis, Hermes (the Roman Mercury), Bind, Medaurus, Besa, Pan, Aura, Aurora, Fecunditos, Nymphheu etc. Some of the traditional cults that are frequented even today by Albanians and that are found in an

uninterrupted chronological line in this valley are: the cult of the Sun, the Moon, the Earth, Demeter, the oak, the stone, the fire (hearth), the ox, the eagle, the horse, the snake, fairies, nymphs, extras, genies, etc.

Historical figures and personalities of different historical times have travelled through this valley, such as Cadmus, Harmonia, Neoptolemus,

Glaucus, Sylabinus, Alexander the Great, Pyrrhus of Epirus, Antigonus II Gonatas, Philip V of Macedonia, Skerdilajdi Monomi, Mytyl, Paul Emil, Julius Caesar, Gjin Zenebish, Sultan Bayazid, Evliya Çelebi, Ali Pasha, Lord Byron, François Pouqueville etc. Vjosa has had several names like Aos, Aoos, Anus, Anio, Auos, Aea, Aia, Labron, Eos, Aura, Baiasa, Spinarica, Vjinossa, Vovousa, Vajusha, Vjosa. Tribes that lived in the Vjosa valley: the Apollons, the Bulyns, the Amants, the Antitans, the Parues, the Mollos, the Kaons, the Hyllens, the Lapins, the Messaps, the Dassaretii, the Ergherins, the Antigones, the Hierastamnes, etc.

Key words: *Vjosë, myth, mythology, cult, eagle*

NATURAL HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VJOSA

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ABSTRACT

Within the framework of sustainable development, in recent years, in Albania, a great importance has been taken on the identification, declaration and management of protected areas, part of natural heritage. As an important environmental asset, natural heritage serves as a model of sustainable development where balances are maintained in the human-nature-economic triangle. Heritage is an important way in which people relate to and value the environment and thus provides a useful perspective on sustainability challenges. What is meant by heritage is rarely elaborated in sustainability research, and heritage is often regarded as something that exists alongside, but is external to, the natural environment.

Viewed in this focus, the announcement of the Vjosa National Park will affect the ecological improvement of this space, the regeneration and rational utilization of natural resources, in the development of the branches of the economy and especially tourism, as a priority branch of our country.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the protected areas in the Vjosa watershed, their typology, the environmental values they have, and the possibilities for their future expansion as part of a national, regional or wider ecological network.

The use of mapping, descriptive, analyzing methods etc., will highlight the importance of protecting natural heritage in the sustainability of the region with natural and tourist potentials such as the southern region of Albania.

Key words: *sustainable development, natural heritage, National Park, Vjosa River, Albania.*

**REGIONAL PARK OF ZAGORIE AS AN INTEGRAL PART
OF VJOSA NATIONAL PARK - NATURAL, CULTURAL
AND FOCLORIC HERITAGE**

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ABSTRACT

Vjosa and its watershed cross a large area of southern Albania. In its upper course, one of the tributaries that supplies it and flows into the Vjosa River, is the Zagoria River, with surface waters flowing throughout the Zagoria basin and underground waters emerging in the cross section of the Këlcyra Gorge. and originate from the underground river of Dhëmbeli mountain, forming the most picturesque ensemble of Këlcyra Gorge.

The valley of Zagoria begins at this estuary. The topic that we will address in this scientific conference is about the natural park of Zagoria and its impact on the Vjosa valley. This valley has an extraordinary natural wealth, which is endangered by human factors, not respecting its status as a protected area.

Zagoria is located between the Trebeshinë-Dhëmbel-Nemërçkë and Shëndëlli-Lunxhëri-Bureto mountain ranges. The surrounding mountains of Zagoria are Dhëmbeli as the mountain with natural and economic resources, the Mountain of Lunxhëria, which extends from Këlcyra Gorge to the gorge of Selcka. The special thing is that here it is lied the Çajup pit, one of the rare natural monuments. This climatic pearl of Albania should be treated not only as a climatic and touristic place, but also as an underground water deposit among the largest in the country.

Also, the cultural heritage of Zagoria is presented with the Illyrian fortress at the entrance of the valley.

Zagoria also has a rich folkloric heritage, with a wide reach as the most vital part of polyphony.

Just as the springs and the river supply Vjosa, the folklore of Zagoria, ballads, legends, myths, epic and lyrical songs, traditions and customs are the greatest spiritual and folkloric wealth of this region at the national level. It is precisely these main issues as well as general and valuable considerations that we will address in this paper.

Key words: *Vjosa, Zagoria, regional park, natural, cultural, popular heritage*

BIODIVERSITY AND TOURISM IN THE VJOSA NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa River is rich in species and supports the life of wild animals. This river flows from the forest slopes of the Pindis Mountains in Greece to the Adriatic coast of Albania. The Vjosa River, which is 270 km long, is a symbol of human history and an important part of the history of our country.

On March 13, 2023, this river was declared a National Park. The declaration as a National Park helped preserve biodiversity on the three branches of the river Vjose, Drino, Bence, Shushice and turns it into the first park of a wild river in Europe. In the future, it is hoped that the villages around Vjosa will be economically developed and special importance will be given to the touristic-cultural aspect.

The park covers the entire area of the river Vjosa, its 3 main branches and some areas that are at risk of flooding. In the protected areas, tourism and some other activities such as fishing will be allowed for the 60,000 inhabitants. In the upper and middle reaches of the Vjosa in the mountainous areas, the interest of tourists for the white water increases. Recently, there has been an increase in the development of river tourism through which the adventure tourism preferred by the young age group is realized.

The ecosystem of Vjosa is the habitat for 1175 species. Of these, 150 are insects, 60 are molluscs, 31 are fish species, 31 reptiles, 257 bird species and 70 mammals. 13 species are endangered, including birds, fish and frogs. These species are known as globally endangered in the IUCN red list of the endangered species.

Key words: *protected area, symbol of human history, tourism, biodiversity, endangered species.*

ALBANIAN NATURALIZED BEKTASHISM AND PANTHEISM

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ABSTRACT

The natural majesty of the Vjosa River also carries the dimension of human worship (behavior) towards it. Clearly, it expresses the symbolism of the deification of nature, which has a religious source reference to Bektashism, but which is reflected as a product of pantheistic popular culture. Pantheism (the cult of nature), is a universal cultural phenomenon of pagan origin, but Bektashism converted it as a philosophical doctrine, in accordance with its own Quranic principles and hadiths (recitations, expressions).

It is known that nature is an inexhaustible source of life and a factor of existence for human society. Therefore, care and respect for the laws of its development, remains an indicator of the level of cultural emancipation of a people. From this point of view, this statement tends to generalize the collective (human) standard in the rational use of natural assets, without defining it in time, in order to sound as close as possible to actuality. Indirectly, it also makes a theoretical assessment on the traces and influencing force of Bektashi pantheistic preaching in the mentality (psychology) of popular citizens. Because the Bektashi perception (concept) imagines God, not as a supernatural (transcendent) being, but as an earthly (immanent)

being fused with nature and man, on the basis of which the so-called divine unity is formed.

In addition, the theme undertakes to promote some good practical values; It comes as a reflection on the current, often destructive approach to the environment and biodiversity. The fact that the River (Vjosa) has still remained untouched by "urban aggression", or undiscovered in mysteries, for the experts, (even for the citizen reaction) constitutes a rare precedent. This opinion has already received almost comprehensive support, and it is also generalized as a unique case, but unfortunately also as the last case in Europe.

Key words: *Pantheistic preaching, Naturalized Bektashism, Bektashi dialectic, Perfect man, Divine reality (unity), Natural worship, Liberal Bektashism*

**VJOSA, “THE RIVER THAT DOES NOT STOP”
MULTIMEDIA DOCUMENTARY**

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ABSTRACT

"Vjosa, the river that does not stop" is a documentary that comes on the first anniversary of the declaration of Vjosa as a National Park as a tribute to the battle and victory of the defenders of nature against the forces of destruction and concretization. The documentary presents a journey through the history and natural beauty of the Vjosa River and its valley, highlighting the ecological and cultural importance of this unique region.

The documentary reflects the multi-year efforts of a broad coalition of environmental organizations, scientists, activists, and local communities to protect Vjosa from the construction of dams and hydropower plants. This mobilization culminated on May 17, 2023, when Vjosa was officially declared a National Park. The win has been associated with many positive impacts in the region, including increased sustainable tourism, improved tourism infrastructure, and economic benefits for local communities, showing how residents have benefited economically and socially from increased sustainable tourism and new tourism activities such as hiking, rafting, and observing flora and fauna.

An important aspect of the documentary is the role of academics, who

with their studies and scientific data have strongly supported the efforts to protect Vjosa. Through conferences, articles, and scientific reports, they have contributed to the awareness of the public and policymakers about the importance of preserving this special river.

The documentary includes statistics that illustrate the positive impact of the declaration of Vjosa as a National Park, showing the increase in the number of visitors, the development of sustainable tourism activities, and the improvement of the lives of local residents. This documentary is a testament to the power of unity and commitment to nature, showing that environmental protection and economic development can go hand in hand, creating a lasting legacy for future generations.

Key words: *Vjosa, national park, ecological treasure, cultural heritage, biodiversity, protection of the environment, local community, sustainable development, academics' role, collective efforts, storytelling*

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN EDUCATIONAL CURRICULA

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ABSTRACT

Climate change represents an unprecedented challenge for the education of current generations, requiring a comprehensive approach that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking needed to navigate and address this global issue. As climate change increasingly affects geographic regions, ecosystems and communities around the world, including significant impacts in Albania, such as increased frequency of extreme weather events and challenges to water resources, there is an urgent need for education systems to integrate climate knowledge into their curricula. This includes understanding the scientific basis of climate change and

analysing its multifaceted impacts on environmental, economic and social structures within Albania and beyond. This study will take a quantitative and qualitative mixed methods approach to comprehensively explore the interaction between human development, sustainable development and climate change in educational curricula. Through a multidisciplinary approach, climate change education will prepare students to critically evaluate information, understand the consequences of inaction, and participate in creating and implementing innovative solutions tailored to the unique challenges facing Albania. Educators can cultivate informed and proactive citizens who can significantly contribute to global efforts against climate change, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Key words: *climate change, integrated curriculum, environmental structures, sustainable development, education.*

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE AS PART OF INFORMAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

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ABSTRACT

Beyond formal education at school, non-formal pedagogy brings other forms of education and extracurricular education, which are integrated alongside teaching at school for the development of learning topics. In the curriculum, extracurricular activities are planned as part of the educational program, enabling the development, integration and application of key competencies with real-life situations.

In this research topic, the application and impact of learning through experience, through planned visits and excursions to natural parks, as alternative learning environments, for the development of subject competencies. This paper is based on theoretical arguments, research findings of the study literature as well as on research results outlined from the review of the subject teaching programs.

Experiential learning is directly related to experimental learning, is becoming more prominent in schools, and finds application in project-based learning. Experiential learning is in full coherence with the aims and objectives of the educational curriculum for the development of competences in contextual learning situations. Depending on the varied learning contents, teachers can plan visits and excursions to natural parks as well as build real learning situations. Experiential learning helps students understand, deepen knowledge, and find

effective solutions to school assignments. It also enables them to apply subject knowledge and skills in real-life situations.

Key words: *learning through experience, extracurricular activity, informal learning, natural parks, subject competence*

**EDUCATION OF STUDENTS AS ACTIVE CITIZENS
THROUGH INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION WITH A
FOCUS ON THE NATIONAL PARK, THE VJOSA RIVER**

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ABSTRACT

Observations in nature are of great value for the formation of scientific concepts, since in this way the connection between the abstract concepts that the student learns and the observed objects is realized. The more observations in nature, the richer and more stable the images that are created will be.

This study will bring attention to the fact that observations in nature encourage the student to work in a scientific way, ask questions and build ideas, which he must investigate and prove. A lesson centering on the Vjosa National Park, the teacher will integrate several subjects and make the students better understand the subject content as well as make teaching and learning interactive.

This lesson will also affect the students' environmental education. The announcement of the Vjosa River National Park will help solve the protection challenges even from school students.

The study analyzed the third class of the 9-year-old school "Koto Hoxhi" and analyzes the role and influence of teaching models on the education of students as active citizens in the defense of the National Park.

The purpose of the paper is the effectiveness of cross-cultural integration in the learning of students as well as the education of the new generation as active citizens in environmental protection.

This paper used an interactive methodology combined with different techniques.

Key words: *Vjosa National Park, integrated learning, environmental education, active citizens*

**INCLUSION OF STUDENTS IN BUILDING
ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE NEAR VJOSA
NATIONAL PARK**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the role and practices of primary education teachers in building environmental knowledge for students near the Vjosa National Park, using educational games and other activities, with a focus on the inclusion of students with special needs.

The main goal is to identify the most effective strategies and practices to ensure an appropriate learning environment for all students, including those with special needs.

Through a qualitative and quantitative research, this study analyzes the practices and experiences of the teachers of a class in the 9-year educational institution "Naim Frashëri" in the use of educational games and other activities in the environment of the Vjosa National

Park to develop the students' environmental knowledge. Individual interviews with teachers to understand their practices and perceptions in inclusion, group discussions to analyze challenges in the inclusion of students with special needs, observations to assess their impact on the inclusion of students with special needs, use of surveys or questionnaires to get feedback from students about their experience in learning environmental knowledge through educational games and other activities will provide a thorough understanding of the practices and experiences of teachers and students.

Key words: *Environmental knowledge, students with special needs, work strategies, teaching practices, Vjosa National Park.*

**THE NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS AND INTRODUCE
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF THE COMMUNITIES
LIVING NEAR THE ESTUARY OF VJOSA RIVER**

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ABSTRACT

The estuary of Vjosa River is on the administrative border between Vlora and Fieri. A region with a lot of natural resources, a lot of biodiversity, landscape, and cultural heritage. The main economic development in the villages, Poro and Pishë-Poro, Novosele e Delisuf located in both sides of Vjosa River is agriculture and forestry. Also, there is a big potential for livestock production and handicrafts products. The community living in the area is in the first steps of practicing ecotourism and agrotourism. The restaurants are offering clean and natural products of the zone, but accommodation structures are limited. The paper presents a preliminary assessment of the communities' knowledge about the environment, potential resources, and sustainable development. It presents the necessity to introduce these concepts as part of environmental education of pupils in the

schools and of people in the community. Knowledge about nature, biodiversity, landscapes, and ecosystem services are the focus when we are discussing plants, animals, and ecosystem as part of ecotourism.

For the moment they are not so familiar with the concepts of term – ecosystem service and biodiversity use. This new perspective of environmental education should stimulate not only nature protection but also filings to be part of nature and biodiversity with the idea of an economic perspective. The community should know the benefits from biodiversity use and agrotourism end ecotourism development as they will to be in harmony with nature and if they want to live in a sustainable life.

Key words: *environmental education, ecotourism, biodiversity use, agrotourism, ecosystem services*

HOW DOES EXPOSURE TO NATURE AFFECTS CHILDREN WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES?

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ABSTRACT

Exposure to natural environments has been shown to significantly reduce stress levels and improve mental well-being in differently abled children. The calming effect of nature can help manage symptoms of anxiety, ADHD and autism. Green spaces, the sound of rustling leaves and the sight of flowing water can create a peaceful environment that soothes the mind.

Children with disabilities often face challenges in emotional regulation. Nature provides a peaceful environment that can help these children develop better emotional control.

The unpredictable nature of nature encourages children to develop problem-solving skills.

Exploring nature allows differently-abled children to practice and gain confidence in their independent skills. Tasks such as walking, setting up a picnic, or identifying different types of plants can

empower them to take initiative and feel a sense of accomplishment. Natural environments provide rich sensory experiences that can be incredibly beneficial for children with sensory processing disorders. Nature provides a less structured and more relaxed environment for children to interact, fostering teamwork, communication and social bonding.

Many natural settings and outdoor activities can be adapted to be inclusive, allowing differently-abled children to participate alongside their peers.

Nature-based therapies, such as horticultural therapy or animal-assisted therapy, can provide additional support for differently abled children. These therapies use natural elements to create therapeutic experiences that can improve physical, emotional and social well-being.

Key words: *children with different abilities, environment, mental well-being, therapies, nature*

**THE POWER OF HYDRO-NEGOTIATIONS IN
PREVENTING
WATER INSECURITY: THE CASE STUDY OF THE VJOSA
RIVER**

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa River, flowing through Albania and Greece, is a critical natural resource highlighting the intersection of environmental conservation and international cooperation. This paper investigates the significance of hydro-diplomacy in managing the Vjosa River, underscoring the essential need for collaborative efforts between Albania and Greece. While Albania has designated its portion of the Vjosa as a protected national park, Greece has yet to implement equivalent protections.

This discrepancy underscores the urgency for bilateral negotiations and shared decision-making to ensure sustainable management and prevent water insecurity for communities reliant on the river. Through discourse analysis of speeches and statements from key stakeholders involved in these negotiations, this study aims to explore the dynamics of hydro-diplomacy in addressing transboundary water issues.

The findings will offer insights into the effectiveness of diplomatic talks in fostering cooperative solutions, potentially serving as a model for other regions facing similar challenges. By focusing on the Vjosa River, this research contributes to the broader understanding of how

international collaboration and strategic communication can mitigate environmental conflicts and promote sustainable resource management.

Key words: *hydro-negotiations, water insecurity, environmental cooperation, Vjosa river*

VJOSA NATIONAL PARK AS A STRONG SUPPORT PILLAR FOR THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

Higher Education in Albania is facing the challenge of internationalization set as a priority by the Albanian government, as a necessary element to align with international counterpart institutions in terms of the quality of teaching, learning, scientific research, and the contribution to community, otherwise known as the third mission of universities.

Since recently, the only wild river in Europe, Vjosa, which originates in the northwest of the neighboring country, Greece and stretches along the entire southern region of Albania, has been transformed into a protected National Park, Higher Education in Albania is in favorable conditions to accomplish the objectives set in the framework of internationalization.

This article describes the importance of Vjosa not only as a geographical, environmental and cultural bridge between the two countries, but also as an extremely important resource for the further development of academic collaborations that strengthen the ties between Higher Education institutions operating in the neighboring countries with the common goal of contributing through joint study

programs, curriculum improvement and development, student staff exchange or projects funded by national and international sources, to the preservation, maintenance and conservation of the park which would then bring about growth in the economic and social sectors of both countries and beyond.

Through observations of UGJ collaborations with partner universities in neighboring countries, through questionnaires and surveys with students and academic staff members who have been or intend to be part of joint projects of various types, the article comes to the conclusion that the internationalization of Higher Education in Albania would result in the protection of the park and the promotion of sustainable development, the academic and cultural cooperation of staff and students from different backgrounds. At the same time, international expertise, partnerships, exchanges and shared resources would play an irreplaceable role in addressing environmental challenges and maintaining the Vjosa National Park and its surrounding areas.

Key words: *internationalization, Vjosa National Park, joint study programs, projects, exchange programs, curriculum, teaching, learning, scientific research, environmental challenges, regional development*

MATOHASANAJ, A FORTESS AND A TRADITIONAL VILLAGE: A JEWEL OF POTENTIAL TOURISM IN THE VJOSA VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

Matohasanaj is a village in the Vjosa Valley, often referred to as the "Little Gjirokastra" due to its architectural resemblance to the famous city. Nestled on a mountain slope with tightly clustered houses, Matohasanaj stands out from other villages in the Labëria region due to its unique layout. The village is notable for the nearby Matohasanaj fortress, which dates back to the 3rd century BC. This area has significant potential to become a valuable asset for tourism and sustainable development by leveraging its rich archaeological and cultural heritage. This potential is further amplified by the recent growth in tourism in the Tepelena region.

Key words: *Matohasanaj, fortress, Tepelena, sustainable tourism*

ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SYSTEM OF THE DRINO VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

The archaeological research conducted by the University of Macerata and the Archaeological Institute of Tirana in the Drino valley, in particular in Hadrianopolis, Antigonea and Palokaster, but which involved numerous sites in the territory, made it possible to acquire important information on the ancient history of the valley, and to bring to light monuments and public areas currently under study and accessible to the public.

However, in order for this work to have repercussions on the social, economic and cultural growth of populations, it is important that these resources are integrated into coherent planning processes and used in territorial development projects.

It is for this reason that since the start of the research in 2016 the Italian-Albanian team has worked both on the development of a "master plan" of the management plans of the Hadrianopolis and Antigonea Parks, and on an important project called "Strategic Plan

for the Drino valley: Archaeological parks of Antigonea and Hadrianopolis" which, starting from the two main archaeological emergencies, has as its objective the systematization of all the archaeological resources of the valley for the purposes of the development of the territory.

Key words: *Valley of Drinos, Antigonea, Hadrianopolis, archaeological heritage, tourism, local community engagement.*

CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE VJOSA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

The Vjosa Valley National Park is located in the south of Albania and represents one of the parks with ecosystems with rich biodiversity and a diverse landscape. This park presents great opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism, based on its potential and the analysis of current tourism developments. The development of tourism in this park faces many challenges and complex obstacles that require the undertaking of studies that suggest finding solutions. In this context, this study aims to identify, analyse, and address the main issues that affect the development of sustainable tourism in this protected area.

This study utilized qualitative methodology by combining the research conducted in the field with extensive literature on sustainable tourism and protected areas. The collection of data was carried out from direct sources, both in the case of interviews with the main actors and from approximate studies in this field. The study also examines the strategies that have been designed to protect this park as well as to

develop the economy, especially the tourism sector. The data analysis was carried out in accordance with the thematic structure of the study, in order to fulfil the goals of the main issues and sub-issues.

In the framework of the analysis of challenges for the development of sustainable tourism, environmental challenges, social challenges, and economic challenges have been addressed. In order to identify the main obstacles to the development of sustainable tourism, the legal and political contexts, coordination and cooperation between actors, and financial resources have been evaluated. One of the issues where the study is stopped is the strategy of sustainable tourism development in this protected area. In this issue, the focus has been on the sustainable planning and management of the territory, the way of promoting sustainable tourism products and services, and the cooperation between public and private actors. In conclusion, the study proposes the undertaking of some measures for the protection of the natural and cultural values of this national park in the framework of the importance that the development of tourism has taken, respecting the principles of sustainable development.

Key words: *Vjosa River, national park, sustainable development, ecotourism, cultural tourism.*

ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL VALUES OF REAL ESTATE IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

The term "Real Estate" includes parcels of land, and all things permanently attached to land, such as houses, apartment buildings, factories, shops and the like, and which may be "owned" by the State or by private individuals or companies. "Movable Property", "Personal Property" and similar terms refer to objects which can be owned but which move or can be transported from one place to another, such as livestock, automobiles, factory machinery, clothing, furniture, etc.

The article focuses on: The real estate registration system in Albania. The Real Estate Registration Act is procedural, but it creates the platform for a dynamic use of technical concepts that will lead to a more intensified and understandable wealth management. The registration system opens the door for the creation of a geographic information system that will serve as a tool in the transformation of Albania.

The purpose of the paper is to provide an overview of the creation of the Real Estate Registration System and five basic principles that are being followed: 1) The "mirror" principle, which means that the information on real estate that is contained in the Offices of The registration should be a reflection of what really exists. To achieve this goal, information is being collected about the interest of the assets from the field teams from the existing and recent decisions about the

privatization of these rights.

Keywords: *Cultural Value, Real Estate, Valuation, registration, cultural value*

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