Historic Trading Routes in Kosovo and Albania and their Potential in Improving Rural Tourism through Cross National Approaches

ARNISA KRYEZIU
University for Business and Technology - UBT, arnisa.kryeziu@ubt-uni.net

CAROLINE JAEGGER KLEIN
Technische Universitat Wien, caroline.jaeger-klein@tuwien.ac.at

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/icomos_isccl

Part of the Architectural Engineering Commons, Cultural Resource Management and Policy Analysis Commons, Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons, Landscape Architecture Commons, and the Tourism and Travel Commons

https://scholarworks.umass.edu/icomos_isccl/2019/posters/1

This Poster/ Affiches is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rural Heritage - Landscapes and Beyond / PATRIMOINE RURAL: Paysages et au-delà by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.
Historic routes in Kosovo and Albania and their Potential in Improving Rural Tourism through Cross National Approach

ABSTRACT

Trading routes have been aligning different parts of the world since prehistoric times transporting scarce commodities from one area to another. Primarily, the majority of these routes had military character used during wars in enlarging territories but with flourishing of the trade in agriculture, craftsmanship and mining, they gained important economic value. Parallel to this exchange of goods, these communication systems expedited influences and cultural exchanges in cuisine, traditions, arts and architecture. Main centers of the present days' Kosovo and Albania were part of this dense communication network for trading activities, for example Via Egnatia, Via de Zenta and more. The infrastructural substance remaining today such as bridges, khans (inns), bazaars, road defense towers, remaining of road pavements are testimonials of this worldwide trading interchange. Such structures were monetary investment of powerful guilds, carefully created from widely renowned local masters and stone cutters with an intuitive awareness in creating complementary harmony between the nature and tectonics of the structure; these deep roots from rural and urban tissue. This article identifies these forgotten cultural and trading structures as potential touristic accelerators in rural and urban communities, especially in remote regions far from main centers of tourist attractions. As these structures were part of a large trading constellation, they surely cannot be interpreted, neither understood as singular structures, therefore revival strategies should be based on holistic, cross national touristic strategies and recognition. One strategic methodology can easily link different sites into a singular or several cross national-themed trails with combined and representation through land and sea, therefore creating alternatives for community based rural tourism as a part of wider touristic circuit, returning the economic prosperity what primarily these routes brought.

Gozde Anlar-Andac, Atif M. Kolelioglu (Leth-Nis). This road intersected with Via Militaris (or Via Diagonalis) at statio Naissus (Nis) and connected with Via Egnatia at the statio Dyrrachium (Durrës) through Lissus (Lezhë), both routes heading to Constantinople [9].

Via Egnatia as continuation of Via Apia (Italy) used to connect east and west passing through Dyrrachium, Claudiana (Peqin), Aggolina, Maso Scampa (Elbasan), continuing to present Ohrid, Bitola, entering in Florina to Thessaaroni reaching finally Constantinople [9].