

2nd

**International
Scientific
Conference**

1-3 June, 2017
Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia

2

0

1

7

**TOURISM
IN FUNCTION OF DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

Tourism product as a factor of competitiveness of
the Serbian economy and experiences of other countries



**THEMATIC
PROCEEDINGS**

II



**UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC
FACULTY OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT
AND TOURISM IN VRNJAČKA BANJA**



ANALYSIS OF TOURIST TRENDS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Nikola V. Dimitrov¹; Cane Koteski²

Abstract

This study analyses the decades of tourist movements from Serbia to Macedonia. The main objective of the analysis is to determine the dynamics of attendance, reason and places of residence of tourists based on the statistics on the realized tourist nights. The stages of the life cycle in the country as an important tourist destination for tourists from Serbia are identified in the paper. Descriptive and graphical results are presented as well as recommendations to overcome the problems that the current tourist visits to R. Macedonia are facing.

Key Words: *analysis, tourists, overnight stays, lifecycle, Serbia, Macedonia*

JEL classification: Z3

Introduction

Tourist movements between Serbia and Macedonia have years-long tradition. In fact, the beginnings of tourist movements date back a hundred years. Our research aims to provide a deeper insight into these movements and therefore investigates their several stages. After the proto-tourism stage, lasting from the end of XIX century until 1914, i.e. the First World War, the tourism stage followed including three sub-periods: the Kingdom of Yugoslavia period (1919-1941), the SFR Yugoslavia period (1945-1999) and a period of independent states of the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Serbia (previously FR Yugoslavia, and then Serbia and Montenegro), from 1991 until now.

1 Dr. Nikola V. Dimitrov, Associate Professor, Dean, Faculty of tourism and business logistics – Gevgelija, University Goce Delcev – Stip, Krste Misirkov bb, 2000 Stip, Republic of Macedonia, +38932550351 +38976462745, nikola.dimitrov@ugd.edu.mk

2 Dr. Cane Koteski, Associate Professor, Faculty of tourism and business logistics – Gevgelija, University Goce Delcev – Stip, Krste Misirkov bb, 2000 Stip, +38970212724, cane.koteski@ugd.edu.mk

The survey is focused on the tourist trends during the proto-tourism stage, but only on the route Serbia - Macedonia. The analysis of tourism seen in this direction includes the following facts: first proto tourist contacts date back to the late XIX century, whereas major tourist visits from Serbia to Macedonia date back to the mid-twenties of the XX century.

Guests from Serbia mostly stayed in Skopje, Bitola, Ohrid, and in hotels and restaurants owned by Serbs.

Other data indicative of tourism reveal the following changes since mid-twenties of the last century in Macedonia: many hotels, restaurants, two children's resorts, mountain lodges etc. have been built, bathrooms have been renovated, travel companies set up.

Within the period of the tourism expansion, from the sixties of the twentieth century until today, the contents of the tourist offer have been significantly improved and enriched.

The analysis of tourist movements on the survey route Macedonia - Serbia imposed a collaboration of researchers from the two countries.

Based on an occasion for joint research, the following facts will be thoroughly discussed: firstly, in a proto-tourism stage, an important role was played by the hundreds of Macedonian migrant workers, bakers, inn owners, confectioners and the like, moving to Belgrade, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Niš and other cities to have their bakeries, pastry shops, restaurants and hotels built.

Further, the first group travel from Macedonia to Serbia was organized in 1914, whereas larger groups of tourists from Macedonia to Serbia were recorded in the thirties of last century. The most frequently visited destinations by Macedonian guests were Belgrade, Kragujevac, Niš, and the spas, Vrnjačka Banja, Niška Banja, Soko Banja and others.

The period from the mid-sixties of the twentieth century until today is, certainly, a very intense stage of tourism characterized by mass travel and new contents.

Proto-tourism stage

It is difficult to determine exactly the beginnings of proto-tourism movements from Serbia to Macedonia since, throughout history and prior to separation, the peoples of both countries lived together constituting a whole.

According to the data, the first movements of greater number of Serbs to Macedonian major cities of Skoplje, Bitola and Ohrid started in the end of XIX century. At the time, Macedonia was a part of the Ottoman Empire.

The hotel "Belgrade" (1893), situated in Bitola (Monastir), was the facility where guests from Serbia mostly stayed and which was a gathering of the Serbian colony in Bitola (Matkovski, A. 2005). Also, well visited by the guests from Serbia was Skoplje and, because of the lake, Ohrid and St. Naum Monastery.

Figure 1: *Hotel "Belgrade" in Bitola, 1893*



Source: *Naidov, D. (2014). Bitola through old postcards, p. 23*

Tourism stage

Tourism stage, which started in the mid-twenties of the XX century, includes three sub-periods: the Kingdom of Yugoslavia period (1919-1941), SFR Yugoslavia period (1945-1991) and the travel period of the

independent states of R. Macedonia and R. Serbia - previously FR Jugoslavija, and Serbia and Montenegro (1991 until today).

First tourist period (1919-1941)

The first tourist period begins in 1919 and lasts until 1945. During this period, the territory of R. Macedonia is part of the Kingdom of SHS - the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1919-1941), which ended with the outbreak of the Second World War (1941-1945).

In 1925 and 1926, were built the first collective accommodation facilities in Macedonia - two children's resorts, "Shtamparevac" or "Sanatorium" Pelister (4 barracks and 200 beds) and "Sula Mina" near Kruševo (6 boarding houses and 200 beds). Besides Macedonian children, these resorts provided accomodation to many children from the area of Serbia, as well.

Figure 2: *Children's Resort "Shtamparevac" Pelister*



Source: *Naidov, D. (2014). Bitola through old postcards, p. 143*

Figure 3: *Children's Resort "Shula Mina" Kruševo*



Source: *www.delcampe.net (20 March 2017)*

In the period from 1924 to 1938 in Skopje, Bitola, Ohrid, Prilep, Tetovo, Shtip, Krusevo, Kumanovo, Veles, Kocani, tourism and mountaineering associations were formed and the first mountain lodges built. In that period were recorded and organized the first ascents of the highest Macedonian peaks with visiting climbers from other parts of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, especially the climbers from Serbia.

In 1927 the first tourist company "South" was established in Skoplje. The founding of the Advisory Board for tourism development followed in 1930, and in the same year a branch of the travel agency "Putnik" from

Belgrade (founded in 1923) was opened. As later on travel companies were set up in several cities in Macedonia, a Board Association of tourist companies started working and became a member of the Mountaineering Association of Yugoslavia. With the expansion of tourism activity, numerous travel companies were established in Skoplje, Tetovo, Ohrid, Bitola, Prilep, Stip and other cities. (Spirovski, S. 1974. Stamenkov, C. 1987; Stojmilov, A. & Toshevska, B. 1992).

Not long afterwards, it was also printed the tourist guide featuring major hotels and restaurants in Skoplje, Ohrid and Bitola. In 1928 the army had 6 buildings erected in the Osogovo Mountains in place Ponikva for the puposes of its members. Army personnel, in fact, had been coming here since 1924, but stayed in tents at first.

Figure 4: *Ponikva - military resort, 1928*



Source: *Stojmilov, A. (1976) Attractive - recreational features and tourist sites of the mountain Osogovo - spatial planning prouchuvnja year-old collection, Faculty of Geography, Volume 22, p. 48*

The first published statistics on tourism (number of tourists - domestic and foreign overnight stays, hotels, rooms, beds etc.) covered the period from 1929 to 1941 showing the statistical items separately for each administrative territorial unit - regional unit (*banovina*).

According to the statistics from 1929 to 1940, at the territory of Macedonia (then Vardar Banovina, which, besides Macedonia, covered parts of southern Serbia with Kosovo and Metohija) 11 resorts are mentioned including: Skoplje, Ohrid, Bitola, Kruševo, Prilep, Veles, Kumanovo, Tetovo, Katlanovo, Debar Kosovrast resort and spa.

Of all abovelisted, the most attractive destination was Ohrid lake that attracted great number of tourists for holidays who visited Biljana sources Studencica, Gorica monastery St. Naum and Struga and the monastery St. Mary in Kalista. Apart from the area of Macedonia, tourists come from Serbia, especially from Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Niš and other cities.

Based on the statistics, we found out that for 10 years (1929-1939), the number of tourists traveling ranged from 78193 to 55122, and overnight stays from 135.792 to 195.788 with the average number of days of stay at 1.7 to 3.5 days. It should be noted that there is no detailed review of the movement of domestic tourists in regional units, only of the movements of foreign tourists by the country of arrival and stay in their regional units.

The statistics reveals the number of hotels, rooms and beds. In the period 1919-1941, the maximum number of hotels in R. Macedonia was 160, of which 56 in Skoplje, Bitola 25, Shtip 12, Ohrid 8, Kumanovo 7, Đevđelia 6, Prilep 6, Veles 5, Strumica 4, Tetovo 4 etc. (Statistical yearbook 1929-1940).

The data also shows that the first hotels in Macedonia whose owners were Serbs were opened in Skoplje, Bitola, Ohrid, Stip, Struga, Strumica, Tetovo and probably there were some in other places.

Regarding the restaurant, the top restaurant in Skoplje, the restaurant "Zrinski", was built in 1912. It was the largest and most facility which offered local and foreign cuisine with various drinks. The restaurant hall could accommodate about 400 guests. In the same year, the restaurant "Marger" was opened.

The second largest was the restaurant "Palas", which mentioned that it was the most visited in 1920. Other famous cafes in Skopje were: restaurant "Apollo", built in 1925, the tavern "Metropol" opened in 1935, the tavern "Paris," "Cekichevik basement", "Theatar Cafe Lux" cafe "Zagreb", "Mostar", "Ujedinjenje", "Greater Serbia", "Car Dusan", "Brcko", "Hajduk Veljko", "Bosnia", "Serbian Crown", "Kosmaj", "Bačka", "Bečar", "Kragujevac", "Crown", "Jelen", "Sarajevo", "Beograd", "Herzegovina" and others.

Among very famous restaurants and hotels restaurants were Hotel "Serbian King", the owner - hotelier Vasa Avramović, which operated with 42 rooms containing 60 beds with hot and cold water and central heating and the cafe "Metropol". The hotel "Serbian Queen", the owner - Miloje Todorovic-Miche, had 30 beds at its disposal.

Figure 5: Hotel "Bristol" and hotel "Serbian King"



Figure 6: Hotel "Ujedinjenje", Hotel "Sarajevo" and Theater Cafe "Lux"



Source: http://www.build.mk/forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=830&OB=DESC&PN=2 (20 March 2017)

The hotel "Splendid", opened in 1932, offered 25 modernly decorated rooms, with 60 beds, with warm and cold water, bathroom and central heating. The hotel bar and reception was shared with the hotel "Bristol". The owner of both hotels was hotelier Vladan A. Bogdanović, who also served as president of the Association of Hoteliers and an advocate for the development of hotel business in Macedonia before World War II.

Hotel "Bristol", owned by Vasilije Avramović, was renovated in 1933. It offered 35 modern rooms with hot and cold water, central heating, with 60 beds and featured a hotel pub and a room for meetings and banquets. (Kocevski, D. 2008)

In the period 1923-25, a modern hotel "Moscow" was built, which was equipped with modern and elegant furniture, delicious homemade dishes, clean and natural drinks and fast attendants. Owners were Dorothea and Nikola Stojanović C. Siddic.

Other respectable hotels were the Hotel "Bitolj" (with 25 beds, the owner Jovan Račić), "Yugoslavia", "Beli Orao", "Sarajevo - Marger," "Ujedinjenje," "Apollo Beograd", "Jadran", "Russia", "Grand", "Car Dusan", "Bečar", "Kragujevac "hotel" Crown "and others.

The further development of the hotel included the investments in modern comfort and they were below anything with regards to the other cities, which contributed to the development of tourism in the former Vardar Banovina.

In Bitola, in the period between the two world wars were registered the following hotels whose owners were Serbs. It is a hotel "Bosnia" and "Grand Hotel Jeftić", which were often visited by guests from Serbia. (Dimitrov, N. 2015/17)

Figure 7: *Hotel "Bosna"*



Figure 8: *Grand Hotel "Jeftić" with poster*



Source: *Catalog (2000). Bitola Babam Bitola Museum Bitola*

Source: *Najdov, D. (2014): Bitola through old postcards, p.156 and 161*

The owner of the Grand Hotel "Jevtic" was Nikifor Jeftic. The hotel operated with 22 rooms, 33 beds and an excellent restaurant. The rooms offered full comfort, each room had running water (Najdov, D. 2014).

In Bitola, famous restaurants included: "Belgrade", "Šumadija", "Yugoslavia" (hotel and restaurant), "Serbian King" and others.

After the War, the first hotel in Ohrid was built in 1923/24. The hotel "Serbian King", built in the attractive architecture appropriate to the

downtown area, erected on the town square, the hotel strongly attracted the attention of visitors. It offered 14 rooms and 24 beds and the ground floor housed a restaurant with 200 chairs and a modern kitchen and a summer terrace for 120 guests. Then followed the hotel "Radić" with 12 rooms and 20 beds.

Greater tourists visits Ohrid recorded in 1929, and especially in 1930, when it was visited by 2000 tourists from various places in Yugoslavia, but also from Slovakia, Chehija and others.

Figure 9: *Motorized tourists in Ohrid, 1929*



Source: *Stefanovski, M. (2001) Traffic in Macedonia, p.23*

Figure 10: *Motorized tourists before monastery of St. Naum*



Source: <http://www.build.mk/forum/forumposts.asp?TID=1011> (23.03.2017)

The tourism in Ohrid was initiated by the company "Putnik" from Belgrade and "Fruska Gora" from Novi Sad. In 1931 the number of tourists increased by 30-40%, and from 1938 to 1941, Ohrid was visited by 3,000 to 4,000 tourists: Yugoslavs - (Serbs, Croats, Slovenes and others.), Czechs, Germans, British, Austrians, and other tourists.

In 1930/34, the engineer Thomas Krstić, the industrialist from Niš, built the hotel "Belvi".

The first tourists who popularized tourism in Ohrid were Serbs and Czechs, including Branko Adzimovic a diplomat, Siniša Stanković a university Professor, Director of the Belgrade National Theater in 1934, Dragoljub Goločević - the industrialist from Belgrade and other Belgrade, Novi Sad, Skopje and other cities. (Ahiv Ohrid. Fund SAP, Ohrid, Doc. Br.897)

Figure 11: *Hotel "Belvi"*



Figure 12: *Hotel "Serbian King"*



Source: <https://okno.mk/node/58985> (23 March 2017)

In the thirties of the last century, in Ohrid were built hotels "Greater Serbia" and "Serbian King" and the Struga hotels "Southern Serbia", "Beograd", which were closed due to unclean unhygienic conditions. At that time, despite Ohrid and Struga, the monastery St. Naum was very well visited. In Štip, in 1920 the hotel "King Alexander" was built, which was named as "Serbian King" or just "Kralj" and then followed the hotel "Savin Hotel" with 30 beds, and the hotel and restaurant "Grand Hotel", later renamed "New Belgrade", as well as the hotel and restaurant "Spring" (erected in 1928, the owner Lazar Tasić) with 25 beds, the hotel "Nice view" and cantina "Avala" and others.

Figure 13: *"Savin hotel" in Stip*



Figure 14: *Hotel "Serbian King" in Strumica*



Source: *Museum of the town of Shtip* <http://stipskokorzo.weebly.com> (23 March 2017)

Source: *Museum of the town of Strumica*

In Strumica, the hotel "Serbian King" was built. With a capacity of 35 beds it also featured a restaurant in the ground floor and a hotel - brothel on both floors. In Tetovo, the working hotel and restaurant "Beograd" with 40 beds, as well as hotel and restaurant "Yugoslavia", with 35 beds, were well visited. In Kumanovo operated the hotel "Moscow" Stevan Sremac, with a capacity of 30 beds. (Dimitrov, N. 2015/17)

Second tourist period (1945-1991)

The second travel period, covering 45 years, is a period when Serbia and Macedonia are part of FNR Yugoslavia, or SFR Yugoslavia. The analysis of the movement of tourists and overnight stays for the period from 1961 to 1991 follows.

During this period we may distinguish several stages in the life cycle of tourism (Butler, R. W. 1980, 5-12), in relation Serbia - Macedonia. Thus, based on the number of tourists for this period the following phases can be singled out.

The research phase (1953-1960) It followed the period of the centralized administrative system of planning and management, and the introduction of workers' self-starting process stimulation of tourism.

That phase introduced recourses in catering facilities for the discount, donations for lodging and food, which resulted in an increased tourist traffic. The republic statistical data for this period are not available, but it is considered that the number of tourists from Serbia was insignificant.

The involvement phase (1961-1969) It is characterized with building new accommodation facilities offering discounts for domestic tourists and steadily increasing number of tourists. The Tourist Federation of Yugoslavia started working at the level of federation and the like. The number of tourists and overnight stays from Serbia begins to increase.

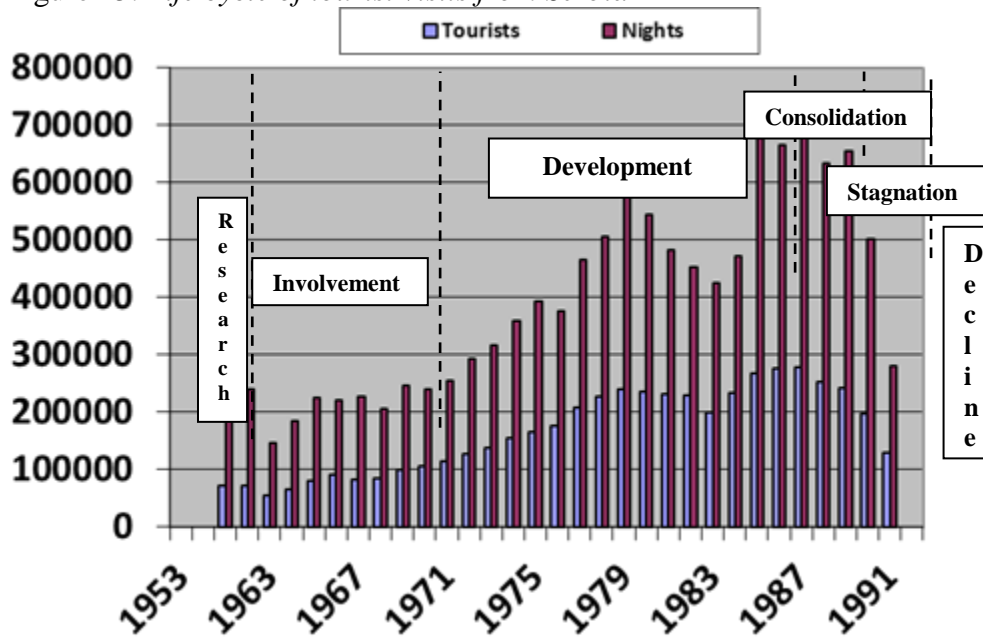
The development phase (1970-1984) Tourism was identified as a priority sector, introducing tax incentives to stimulate the development, build bigger accommodation capacities, build tourist villages, resorts, overall domestic tourism show continuous growth and visit of tourists from Serbia in growth.

Consolidation phase (1985-1987) It is characterized by activities and measures to encourage the development of tourism, promote and enrich the tourist offer. At this stage were registered maximum values of tourism turnover realized from Serbia.

The stagnation phase (1988-1989) It show unfavorable trends in tourism as a result of economic and political crisis, shrink investment in hospitality and tourism, thereby reducing the number of tourist trade in general, and even the Republic of Serbia.

The decline phase (1990-1991) In this period economic and political crisis continued and ended with armed conflicts and disintegration of SFR Yugoslavia. This phase is characterized by the start of a continuous process of reducing the total number of tourists and overnight stays, especially the tourist trade of the Republic of Serbia.

Figure 15: *Life cycle of tourist visits from Serbia*



Source: *Statistical Yearbook of the SRM (1962-1991)*

Table 1: *Development of tourist trade in the Republic Macedonia and tourists from the Republic of Serbia in the period 1961 - 1991 (for 55 years)*

Year	Total tourists	Foreign tourists	Tourists from Serbia	Total nights	Foreign tourists	Tourists from Serbia
Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY)						
1961	327024	144688	71499	1005891	359442	210022
1962	340585	152111	71411	1183384	400881	239470
1963	253792	121964	55380	762743	275171	146879
1964	295938	159466	66301	929600	376258	184943
1965	330392	196954	79843	967677	447717	224224
1966	378572	220853	91483	1141467	490861	221579
1967	380758	234104	83410	1040420	516364	227042
1968	389583	224556	85580	1089205	464476	206797
1969	432952	242214	98808	1342048	541747	247314
1970	465450	270762	106770	1281891	565826	239991
1971	507385	308558	114009	1426398	612850	254846
1972	549652	331800	126287	1579065	686976	293336
1973	612141	384785	138046	1663438	773327	315849
1974	600112	361986	153985	1828910	800586	359196
1975	685314	431008	166541	2033038	927567	393240
1976	715629	452534	175624	2006973	892492	376240
1977	820746	511723	207633	2307136	1016952	465012
1978	869571	536781	226916	2519690	1105737	506652
1979	885010	532282	240572	2912045	1210657	581663
1980	970387	578327	234940	3081372	1202005	544934
1981	973518	566425	232498	3122190	1114355	482325
1982	1006104	566469	228999	3305140	1066652	453041
1983	985224	519356	200249	3334031	998237	424111
1984	1059246	584207	234310	3300412	1077966	471534
1985	1141599	658644	267873	3707354	1448719	678197
1986	1180806	671903	275754	3907111	1461270	666149
1987	1183160	689016	278858	3978028	1551920	694666
1988	1111187	645097	252213	3734832	1416692	634231
1989	1032072	590230	242872	3522747	1348095	654221
1990	974537	562411	197087	3099508	1170516	500913
1991	710278	294323	128316	2740484	576338	281411
Вкупно	22168724	12745537	5134067	69854228	26898652	12180028
Federal Republic of Yugoslava (FRY)						
1992	585699	219062	85305	2139631	382376	137631
1993	647728	208191	66570	2706373	362663	99810
1994	613154	185414	65638	2476998	335530	105871

1995	503837	147007	48423	1804310	275749	82731
1996	476205	136137	33509	1696930	277265	63296
1997	451871	121337	30079	1587146	265524	61033
1998	575080	156670	31112	2426461	359538	70199
1999	549630	180788	29346	2313142	474394	58269
2000	632523	224016	35522	2434639	493867	79087
2001	333308	98946	16429	1254582	212751	31946
2002	441712	122861	23239	1850384	274720	50496
Вкупно	5810747	1800429	465172	22690596	3714377	840369
Serbia and Montenegro (S-M)						
2003	483151	157692	27325	2006867	346200	58799
2004	465015	165306	30771	1865434	360589	63415
2005	509706	197216	39147	1970041	442988	87125
2006	499473	202357	38208	1917395	442845	84513
2007	536212	230080	44661	2019712	518088	116909
Вкупно	2493557	952651	180112	9779449	2110710	410761
Republic Serbia (RS)						
2008	605320	254957	45134	2235520	587447	99985
2009	587770	259204	38744	2101606	583796	88882
2010	586241	261696	35840	2020217	559032	74959
2011	647568	327471	35692	2173034	755166	72601
2012	663633	351359	36530	2151692	811746	71153
2013	701794	399680	38127	2157175	881375	74076
2014	735650	425314	41013	2195883	922513	76630
2015	816067	485530	43613	2394205	1036383	85042
Total	5344043	2765211	314693	17429332	6137458	643328
A total of						
1961-2015	35817071	18263828	6094044	119753605	38861197	14074486

Note: *SFR Yugoslavia (1945-1991), data from 1961 to 1991; Yugoslavia, data from 1992 to 2002; Serbia and Montenegro, data from 2003 to 2007; R.Serbia, data from 2008 without Kosovo. Source: Statistical Yearbook of the SRM (1962-1991) and Macedonia (1992-2016). Calculated by the author.*

From Table 1, the following details can be outlined. On the whole, with a few exceptions, over the entire period sizable movement of tourists from Serbia to Macedonia increased. Thus, in 1961, Macedonia registered 71.499 tourists from Serbia who realized 210.022 overnight stays. Maximum values of the Serbian tourists visits was in 1987 with 278.858 tourists and 694.666 overnight stays. The increase was about 207.359

tourists (almost 3 times or 290%) with an increase of 484.644 overnight stays (2.3 times or 231%).

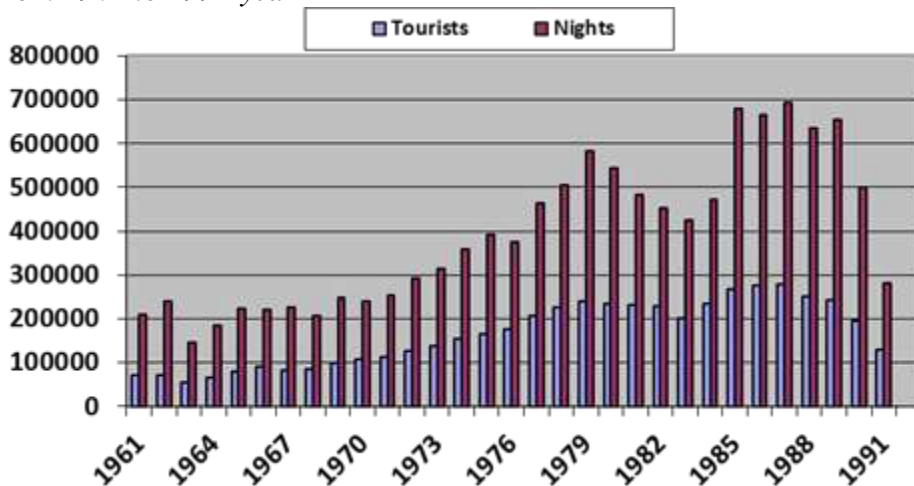
Immediately after a process of gradual reduction of the tourist visit until shortly before the dissolution of Yugoslavia, in 1991 the number of tourists dropped to 128.316 (or a decrease of 150.542 tourists, or 54%, and realized 281.411 overnight stays, or cut for 413.255 overnight stays, i.e. 59.5%). See Table 1.

The tourist travel was organized through travel agencies, among which t dominated "Putnik", "Feroturist" Centroturist " and other agencies, or carried out independently. The stay was realized in private accommodation or workers resorts.

Several labor organizations from Serbia, especially from Belgrade, Kragujevac and Niš (Hotel - Resort "El Niš" with 70 beds and a restaurant in Dojran) had their resorts on the shores of Ohrid Lake (in 1957 camp settlement with 150 beds was opened by car factory "Crvena Zastava" from Kragujevac) and fewer on Prespa Lake (a resort since 1958 was transferred to the Central Board of Trade unions of railway workers of Yugoslavia) and Dojran Lake (children resort "Tito's pioneers" in which children from Serbia spent summer holidays). In Pretor there was Ferijal company at state and federal level, where guets from Serbia came.

The most common destinations for tourists from Serbia were: Ohrid, Struga, St. Naum, Customs, Oteševo, Pretor, Dojran, Skopje, Mavrovo, Popova Shapka, Krusevo, Pelister, Katlanovo, Debar Baths, Bitola and others. Also worth mentioning are children's resorts on Pelister, Kruševo, Bunec - Mavrovo, "Tito's pioneers" in Dojran, mountain huts in Macedonia, ferial resort vacation and Scout Association (in Ohrid, Pretor, etc.) and so on. The number of young people from Belgrade, Kragujevac, Subotica, Nis, Novi Sad and other cities in Serbia spending their summer holidays in Macedonia was distinctive. Throughout the specified period, tourists from Serbia were the most numerous and in the total number of foreign tourists participated with values of 35 to 50%, and the overnight from 41 to 60%. Serbs were the most numerous tourists, with stable numbers without major fluctuations, and then follow tourists from other areas of Croatia, Greece, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Montenegro, Great Britain, Italy and so on, but with variables.

Figure 16: *Movement of Serbian tourists and overnight stays for a period from 1961 to 1991 year*

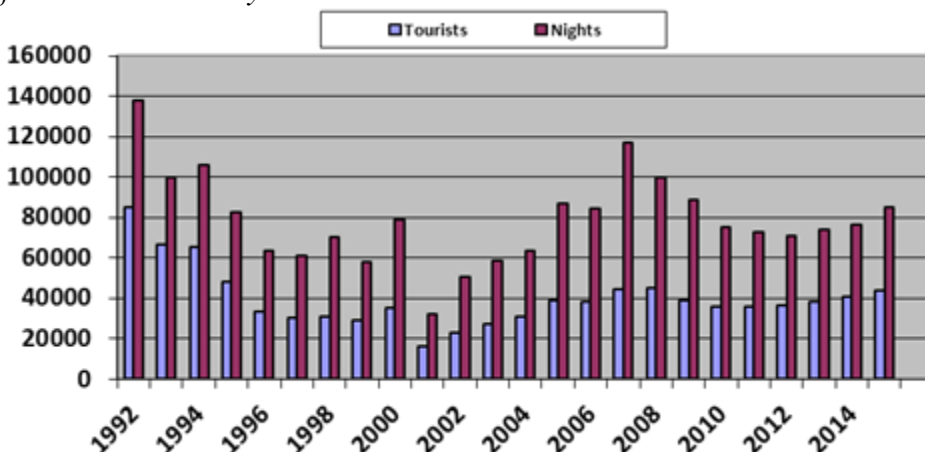


Source: *Statistical Yearbook of the SRM (1962-1991)*

Third tourist period (1992 onwards)

The third tourist period begins after the breakup of SFR Yugoslavia. Namely, it is the period of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (statistics from 1991 to 2002) then the joint state of Serbia and Montenegro (Statistics 2003-2007) and the period of the Republic of Serbia (statistics from 2008 onwards).

Figure 17: *Movement of Serbian tourists and overnight stays for a period from 1992 to 2015 year*



Source: *Statistical Yearbook of the R. Macedonia (1992-2016)*.

Throughout the third period, the variables of tourists and tourist visits are registered as a result of the political and economic situation in both countries and the immediate surroundings. The highest values of tourists and overnight stays made by the Republic of Serbia in the Republic of Macedonia were in 1992, 85305 tourists and 137.631 overnight stays, then began the process of continuous decline, with minimal values in 2001 of 16429 tourists (down by 80, 7%) and 31946 overnight stays (decrease of 76.8%).

The process of the gradually increasing values was registered in 2002 onwards. Thus, in 2002 it recorded 23239 tourists and 50496 nights stays in 2015, 43613 tourists with 85047 overnight stays, an increase of 87% in the number of tourists by 30% in overnights. However, it is significantly lower when compared with tourists from Turkey, Greece and the Netherlands.

The following facts confirm this, namely, the dominance of tourists from Serbia in the total number of foreign tourists lasted until 2010 (with 35840 tourists), and from 2011 onwards primacy was taken by the tourists from Greece (45,509) and Turkey (39251).

The number of foreign tourists in Macedonia for 2015 is as follows: tourists from Turkey are the most numerous (90857), followed by tourists from Serbia (43613), Greece (38829), the Netherlands (32217), Bulgaria (29314), etc.

The same is with the values of nights, dominated by nights realized by tourists from Turkey (135.255), the Netherlands (169.413), whereas the third place in overnight stays was occupied by tourists from Serbia (85042), then Greece (64176), Bulgaria (52748), etc.

The reasons for changing the leading role of Serbian tourists should be sought in the tourist offer, promotion, increased interest of tourists from these states to the Republic of Macedonia and others.

Conclusion

Tourism as an economic activity can contribute to linking the two countries and peoples. Travel data present evidence of the mutual cooperation between the Republic Serbia and R. Macedonia, which has a long tradition. To extend and increase tourism cooperation, a well-

designed tourist offer and promotion of the two countries are required. Also, in addition to the presented research, the exploring the tourist movements from the Republic of Macedonia to the Republic of Serbia could be useful. The research could reveal many unknown facts that can initiate cooperation based on firmer grounds.

References

1. Archive of the city Ohrid. *Fund SAP*, Ohrid, document br.897 (in Macedonian)
2. Baseski, I. (1976). *Review of thirty Tourism Development*, Proceedings of the National Symposium – tourism and environmental protection – Geographical Society of SR Macedonia, Skopje, pp. 123-133 (in Macedonian)
3. Butler, R. W. (1980). The concept of tourism area cycle of evolution: Implications for management of resources. *Canadian Geographer*, 24(1), 5–12
4. Dimitrov, N. & Koteski, C. (2015). *Tourism geography*, Shtip (in Macedonian)
5. Dimitrov, N. (2015/17). Project: The historical and geographical overview of tourism and hospitality in the country, book preparation (in Macedonian)
6. Karanfilovski E. (1967). *The current tourism development in the Socialist Republic of Macedonia and its prospects, geographical considerations*, Book 4, Skopje, str.78-90 (in Macedonian)
7. Kocevski, D. (2008). *Skopje on my youth*, Skopje (in Macedonia)
8. Matkovski, A. (2005). *Macedonia in the works of foreign writers 1889-1898*, Skopje, pp. 190, 268 (in Macedonian)
9. Naidov, D. (2014). Bitola through old postcards, Bitola, pp. 23 (in Macedonian)

10. Panov, N. (1996). *Tourism development in the country*, I Proceedings Congress geographers of Macedonia held in Ohrid 26-28.11.1995, Skopje, pp. 311-321 (in Macedonian)
11. RZS: Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Macedonia in 1991, 1992, 1998, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016. (in Macedonian)
12. RZS: Tourism 2003-2007, 2004-2008, 2005 – 2009. (in Macedonian)
13. RZS: Tourism in the Republic of Macedonia, Statistical Review, Skopje, 2006-2010, 2007-2011, 2008-20012, 2009-2013 2010-2014 2011-2015 (in Macedonian)
14. RZS: National Institute of Statistics. Statistical Yearbook of SFR Yugoslavia, PRM and SRM, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1988. (in Macedonian)
15. RZS: National Institute of Statistics. Statistical Yearbook of SFR Yugoslavia, PRM and SRM, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1988. (in Macedonian)
16. RZS: National Institute of Statistics. Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Macedonia in 1991, 1992, 1998, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016. (in Macedonian)
17. RZS: National Institute of Statistics. Travel 2003-2007, 2004-2008, 2005-2009; Tourism in the Republic of Macedonia, Statistical Review, Skopje, 2006-2010, 2007-2011, 2008-20012, 2009-2013 2010-2014 2011-2015 (in Macedonian)
18. Spirovski, S. (1974). *Vodno*, Geographic sight, book 5, 1974 г. стр. 173
19. Stamenkov, V. (1987). *Guide to mountain in Macedonia, Mountaineering Union of Macedonia*, Skopje, pp. 10-11 (pp.102) (in Macedonian)
20. Stefanovski, M. (2001) *Traffic in Macedonia – then and now*, Matica Makedonska, Skopje, p.23 (in Macedonian)

21. State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia (SSO). Statistical yearbook for SFRJ, PRM, SRM, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1988, Skopje (in Macedonian)
22. Statistical Yearbook 1929-1940, Kingdom Yugoslavia, general state statistics Books 1-10 (in Macedonian)
23. Statistical Yearbook of SFRY and SRM, 1954, 1961, 1962, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1988. (in Macedonian)
24. SSO. Statistical yearbook for Republic of Macedonia, 1991, 1992, 1998, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, Skopje (in Macedonian)
25. SSO. Tourism 2003-2007, 2004-2008, 2005-2009 (in Macedonian)
26. SSO. Tourism in Republic of Macedonia, Statistical review, 2006-2010, 2007-2011, 2008-2012, 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015, Skopje (in Macedonian)
27. Stojmilov, A. & Tosevska A B. (2016). Socioeconomic Geography of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, pp. 374 (in Macedonian)
28. Stojmilov, A. (1976). *Attractive - recreational features and tourist sites of the mountain Osogovo - spatial planning research*, Yearbook, Faculty of Geography, Book 22, Skopje, p. 48 (pp. 31-55) (in Macedonian)