

CONTINUITY OF TOURISTIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNE OF PUSTEC

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ABSTRACT

The commune of Pustec is a small administrative unit in the region of Korça in the Republic of Albania. It is located along the coast of the Greater Ohrid Lake and it has considerable value in respect of the natural and cultural heritage. The area around Prespa is now part of the Trans-Boundary Biosphere Reserve 'Ohrid-Prespa Watershed. Greater and Lesser Prespa lakes plus Ohrid Lake are included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. This area has been known historically for its diverse natural and cultural features. Those areas are currently covered by Prespa National Parks in Albania and Greece and Galicica and Pelisteri National Parks in Macedonia. Geographically speaking the Commune of Pustec is located in the hollow of Greater Prespa. The hollow lies in the southeastern region of Albania and in the southwestern part of Macedonia, in the region of Korçë, commune of Pustec in the Albanian part, in the Resen commune in the Macedonian part and in the Prespe commune in Greece. The Watershed of Prespa stands at an elevation of 850-1200m above sea level surrounded by mountains assuming thus more continental features in the Macedonian part. In this region it is located the Greater and Lesser Prespa Lakes in the girdle of brown mountainous lands and fulvous forest; in the vegetation girdle of oak, beech and alpine pastures. The natural environment and cultural heritage is a key element designated for the development of the region's sustainable tourism. The study will handle the way tourism has been developed in Pustec starting with its inception until present days. This study was enhanced via the Geographic Info System (GIS) digital presentation showing the opportunities for nature tourism in the Pustec.

Keywords: Tourism, touristic potential, flux of tourists, income from tourism, capacity of touristic infrastructure.