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Submitted to AUK as part of requirement for graduation

The Role of Municipalities in Developing
Kosovo Mountain Villages

A Honors Society Project

Presented to

The Academic Faculty

By

Blerina Halili

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for Membership in the

Honors Society of the American University in Kosovo

ABSTRACT

The mountainous villages of Kosovo are on a verge of development due to a substantial number of challenges hindering their progress. The role that municipalities have in developing these villages is crucial in terms of overcoming these challenges, and through it, ensuring future development. This study has investigated the role this role while placing particular focus upon the municipalities of Shtërpce and Dragash. The study which included 150 research participants has been carried out in eleven mountain villages surrounding these municipalities. Through it several areas have been investigated, such as the quality of the public services offered, current economic standing of the mountain villages, and possibility of utilizing the present natural resources in ensuring local economic growth. The aim of the study was to explore the relationship between the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce and the surrounding mountain villages while examining the role that these municipalities have in the villages' development.

Some of the main findings of the study suggest that the local potential has not been utilized by the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce in order to develop their mountain villages. Such potential includes the use of local natural resources, as well as, tourism potential. Another aspect brought up by the study is that there is a low presence of women in the labor market although some market for hand-made things exists. In order to have an increased local economic development, municipality investment is highly important since it directly impacts the extent to which local potential is being used.

One recommendation in order to enhance the role that the Dragash and Shtërpce municipalities have is to build a better communication system between the respective municipalities and mountain villages. Another important aspect is the municipalities' investment in creating a marketing infrastructure which would not only improve the mountain villages' economic standing, but it would also contribute to an increased income-provider for the inhabitants of these mountainous zones. Overall, the study has revealed that the extent to which municipalities play a role in mountain villages development is crucial in fostering their general progress.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study would not have been completed without the help and contribution of many people. Thus, it is my profound pleasure to thank all the people who have provided their encouragement, guidance, and assistance in completing this Honors Thesis Report as part of the graduation for the American University in Kosovo.

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LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1: Flow chart of the development strategy for a retail market.....	X
FIGURE 2: Physical map of Kosovo.....	X
Figure A.1: Education Level, Mountain Villages	X
Figure A.2: Income Category, Mountain Villages	X
Figure A.3: Level of Support from Diaspora, Mountain Villages.....	X
Figure A.4: Family Size, Mountain Villages	X
Figure A.5: Distribution of Ages, Mountain Villages	X
Figure B.1: The Extent of Municipality Engagement in Development of Natural Resources.....	X
Figure B.2: Municipality Investment in Natural Resources, Mountain Villages	X
Figure B.3: Municipality Contribution in Use and Productivity of Natural Resources	X
Figure C.1: Wild Berries Picked, Mountain Villages.....	X
Figure C.2: Quantity Increased in Collection of Wild Fruits with Municipality Help	X
Figure D.1: Satisfaction from Tourism.....	X
Figure E.1: Market for Hand-Made Products.....	X

Table of Contents

ABSTRACT	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	4
1. INTRODUCTION	8
2. PROBLEM STATEMENT	8
3. BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION	9
3.1 Municipality Contribution in Economic Development	9
3.2 Use of Local Resources and Economic Development	10
3.3 Strategies to Build a Marketing Infrastructure	11
3.4 Overview of Dragash and Shterpce Municipalities.....	13
4. RESEARCH CONDUCTED	15
4.1 Research Sample and Method	17
4.2 Research Design Overview	17
4.3 Data Analysis	18
4.4 Ethical Considerations.....	18
4.5 Limitations of the Study	19
5. RESULTS	19
5.1 Participants Demographics.....	19
5.2 Natural Resources and Municipality Contribution	21
5.3 Fresh Fruits and Market Infrastructure	23
5.4 Tourism Potential	24
5.5 Women in the Labor Market	26
6. DISCUSSION	27
7. RECOMMENDATIONS	30
8. REFERENCES	33
9. APPENDICES	35
9.1 Appendix 1	35

9.2 Appendix 2 **36**
9.3 Appendix 3 **60**
9.4 Appendix 4 **61**
9.5 Appendix 5 **62**

1. INTRODUCTION

Kosovo is currently experiencing a number of challenges in terms of its overall development. This is impacting its economic, social, and political standing. Such a situation is also reflected in the country's mountain villages. These mountainous zones are on a verge of development due to a substantial number of challenges hindering their progress. The role that municipalities have in developing these villages is crucial in overcoming the issues they are facing. Some of the main challenges include a lack of economic progress, deficiency in public services, such as infrastructure, healthcare and education; and lack of women inclusion in the labor market.

Overcoming these challenges is dependent on the investments from the municipalities. This, in turn, creates a close relationship between mountain villages and their respective municipalities. In order for a greater scale of local economic development to occur, these municipalities are in need of restructuring their priorities as a tool to address the issues and challenges present. Until now, such focus has been mostly present in the road and facility building, with a considerable lack of investment in other potential areas.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Provided that the country's mountain villages have an abundance of natural resources, they have not been utilized to foster local economic development. Since the development of these mountain villages is highly contingent upon the support and investments offered to them from the municipalities, examining this role between municipalities and mountain villages leads to better insight in identifying ways through which arisen issues can be prioritized and addressed properly. The extent to which the residents of these areas are being included in public debates about the activities of the municipality and voicing possible recommendations or proposals from their side is questionable. This study is therefore focused on the residents of eleven mountainous villages surrounding the municipalities of Shtërpce and Dragash in order to examine the role municipalities play in the mountain villages' development. The main research question which this study aims to answer is: *How can the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce contribute in developing the mountain villages belonging to them?*

Indeed, the specific objectives of the study include:

- a.) To determine the extent to which municipality support impacts the life quality of the inhabitants of the mountain villages;
- b.) To find out the main and other relevant issues which need addressing due to the importance they pose for the specific mountain village;
- c.) To distinguish the role municipalities play in using local natural resources in fostering local economic development;
- d.) To identify ways of using tourism potential in ensuring economic growth for the mountain villages;
- e.) To determine the possibility of increasing the women participation in the labor force by examining the current market of handmade arts, crafts and textile.

Hence, the main purpose of this study is to investigate these several areas by focusing on the way the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce impact the development of the surrounding mountain villages.

3. BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION

In order to understand the importance of municipalities in developing rural communities, a set of literature was reviewed. This literature comes from scholar articles, publications from institutions, and other similar sources. Reviewing the literature represents one of the important components of this research as it will provide an overview on the role of municipalities, and ways municipalities can contribute to the villages' economic development. This can include using the local natural recourse to foster economic progress, building a marketing infrastructure, and ensuring a greater scale of employment. As the literature review progresses, it will focus on Kosovo and the way the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce are organized in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

3.1 Municipality Contribution in Economic Development

Primarily responsibilities of certain municipalities include meeting the basic needs of the population. This means creating an environment which will aid in creating jobs (both directly and indirectly), engaging actively with the government, and cooperating in implementing the set

policies. However, the policies and organizational structures which are established from municipalities in pursuing economic development should primarily consider the concept of “form follows function” (Blais & Redden 2009). This concept refers to the need to initially identify in exact terms the accomplishments that the municipality tries to attain (Blais & Redden 2009). As a result, this will enable the municipality to obtain a better overview of the economic situation and the actions to be taken in order to address it. Blais and Redden further continue into distinguishing the importance of building the local capacity through acknowledging the existing potential and measuring the results (2009). Therefore, measuring the results and goal attainment is important for many reasons: not measuring the results will not allow to discern success and failure; not identifying achievements will not allow for their reward; not recognizing failures will not allow for lessons to be learnt from them; and not displaying results will certainly allow for an easier gain of public support (Hacek & Baclija 2009).

From the economic perspective, the introduction of the municipal development incentives could be effective in contributing to the economic development of that municipality with the rural community as a part of it (MASC 2010). This will enable the stimulation of the local economy by encouraging various business activities along with a possible expansion of the existing ones (MASC 2010). Another factor that can contribute to the local economic development is identifying a set of focus areas and developing pertinent projects to address them. Such areas can include: (1) improving the local business investment climate, (2) investing in soft infrastructure (providing training or supporting facilities in developing local business associations), (3) encouraging the local business growth, and (4) integrating low income workers, or hard-to-employ workers (qtd. in COGTA 2011). Attempts to develop the local economy and through it ensure local development encourage sustainable growth that is based on local potential and investments from municipality.

3.2 Strategies to Build a Marketing Infrastructure

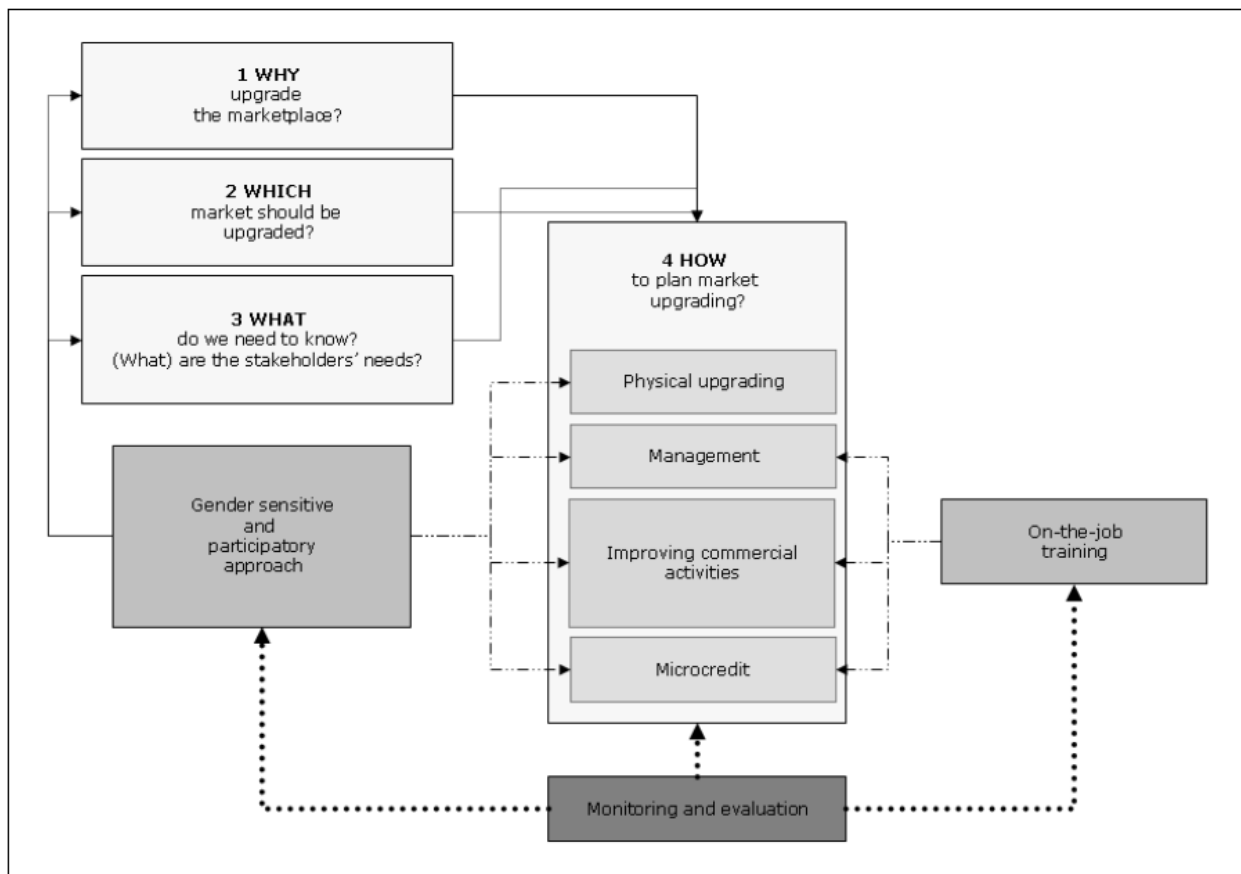
Developing the local economy, as identified previously, requires for focus on possible areas of potential for economic development. One way through which this can be reached is by building a marketing infrastructure, which Kosovo in particular lacks and rural communities even more so. Having an efficient and helpful marketing system represents a precondition for having

agricultural diversification, better prices for producers and consumers in a competitive market (Tracey-White 1999). There are a number of strategies that can be used to build a marketing infrastructure. However, let's first define the notion of marketing infrastructure and what it encompasses. The term *infrastructure* can be defined broadly in which case it refers to a "basic framework that supports or underlies a system;" however, in more specific terms infrastructure can be viewed as essential in supporting economic activities and development by operating as a network which facilitates the distribution of goods and services (Lee 2009). Focusing on the concept of the marketing infrastructure, it could refer to the physical improvement of the market infrastructure (rural and urban included) through which emphasis is put upon the improvement of the marketing of fresh produce (i.e. fruits, vegetables, dairy products, etc) and access to them (Tracey-White 1999).

Developing the marketing infrastructure means defining the marketing channels and their functions. These types of channels incorporate market intermediaries such as: direct selling in the market by farmers (mostly common in rural markets), traders, wholesalers and semi-wholesalers, and retailers (Tracey-White 1999). Among the other types of marketing channels there is the rural primary market. This market is characterized by selling small quantities by producers to the consumers from the village or outside it (Tracey-White 1999). Other marketing channels are also available, but for the purpose of this research, the emphasis will be placed on the rural component.

Strategies for developing market infrastructure involve various factors which try to ensure its attainment. In order to develop a functional marketing infrastructure, consideration should be placed upon marketing infrastructure in the context of a social development project which incorporates the social and gender factors (Marocchino 2009). This is important since upgrading the retail market might represent more focus on the financial and economic parts of it while placing the social function's role as secondary (Marocchino 2009).

Figure 1. Flow chart of the development strategy for a retail market



Source: Marocchino, 2009.

Moreover, according to Marocchino, a strategic market infrastructure approach should include an integration of both, soft and hard elements, while also bringing together different stakeholders (Marocchino 2009). The convergence of soft and hard elements translates into broadening the community participation through interventions in improving the marketing infrastructure. The *soft* elements put emphasis on the social factor which means involving the local population in the project, providing them with training/s, and skills for building capacity (Marocchino 2009). In building an effective market infrastructure, attention should also be placed on the road infrastructure since is important in ensuring the functionality of markets. The *hard* elements, hence, put emphasis on the infrastructure improvements by upgrading facilities and buildings, roads and other similar components (Marocchino 2009). The availability of facilities and roads fosters investments in the local market, improves the distribution and processing of the local products while allowing a greater access to such markets for producers and consumers

simultaneously. Part of the strategy for the local economic development is also developing a decision-making process which is inclusive, and thus, it incorporates different stakeholders (e.g. women and men who are merchant representatives, local government representatives, key informants, and other participants) (Tracey-White 1999; Marocchino 2009).

Creating this marketing strategy will enable the rural community to develop a market for their local products along with the possibility to insure their income from it. Nevertheless, one of the most important components of having an efficient marketing infrastructure is creating an effective and suitable to the needs of the municipality and rural community while considering the steps questions pointed out in the Figure 1.

3.3 Overview of Dragash and Shtërpçe Municipality

The municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpçe are located in the South-East of Kosovo which is an area in border with Macedonia and Albania. The three countries, as a result, share the Sharr Mountains which account for the mountainous villages located in the two indicated municipalities. Both municipalities are characterized with an abundance of natural resources which could be used for fostering the much needed economic development in the respective villages, and in particular, mountainous ones.

Shtërpçe Municipality

Shtërpçe municipality consists of a diverse ethnic composition including Serbs, Gorani, Bosniaks, and the Albanian population.

Figure 2: Physical Map of Kosovo



Source: Elizon Maps

According to the latest statistical data from the 2011 National Census of Kosovo, the Shtërpce municipality has a population of 6,949. The total area of this municipality covers 247 km² while it includes 16 villages along with the Shtërpce town (OSCE 2011). A considerable number of these villages are regarded as mountainous zones due to the elevation of more than 2000 meters. Due to political tensions between the Kosovo Government and the Serbian Government, there are parallel structures operating in this municipality. One of these structures is the Kosovo municipal administration, while the other structure is the Serbian one which was elected through the local elections. As a result, many of the municipal responsibilities are divided among these two structures which inevitable has consequences for the inhabitants of this region among which is the lack of economic development to the desired degree.

Dragash Municipality

Dragash municipality is populated by Albanians, Gorani and Bosniaks while having a total population of 33,997 (KSA 2011). This municipality covers about 435 km² and has a total of 35 neighboring villages which are surrounded by the Sharr Mountains (OSCE 2011), among other mountains like Koritnik, turning many of these villages into mountainous zones due to the high elevation degrees they are situated in. These zones, therefore, provide to the Dragash region many opportunities for development of tourism, especially winter tourism which would consequently contribute toward economic growth of the municipality. Indeed, this municipality is divided in two regions, namely the Opoja and Gora region. This division separates the Albanian population residing in Opoja from the Gorani population located in the Gora region. Overall, the Dragash municipality is renowned for its local products and profusion of natural resources, which it could utilize to foster economic changes for its many villages.

Economic Standing of the Municipalities

The economic standing of both municipalities, Dragash and Shtërpce, is in a need for progression. Indeed, the municipality of Dragash is mostly based on small trade businesses and agriculture, and similarly, the economy of the Shtërpce municipality is based on small trade businesses, agriculture, as well as, tourism (OSCE 2011). The number of registered businesses

operating in Dragash is 740, while Shtërpce has only 84 registered businesses (OSCE 2011). As such, Dragash has a high potential for developing tourism despite the difficulties encountered in making this happen. Shtërpce, on the other hand, has this revenue-source already developed although further improvements on its functionality are still needed. In general, the mountain villages belonging to both municipalities are characterized by high elevations and presence of a variety of natural resources ranging from wild fruits, to diverse tea plants, herbs, water sources and

Concerning the economic standing of municipalities, the Law of Local Self-Governance ensures the right of the municipalities in having their own budget and respective finances, but in reality the municipalities still depend on the grants provided by the government in implementing the foreseen projects and plans (Progress Report: Made in Kosova, 2011, p.16). Overall, both municipalities as such are experiencing a low economic progress which can be attributed to the need of reprioritizing the priorities of the municipalities.

4. RESEARCH CONDUCTED

The purpose of this study is to investigate the role that municipalities play in developing Kosovo mountain villages. The mountain villages of two municipalities have been selected to explore this relationship between the municipality and mountain villages. The first one is the municipality of Dragash and the mountain villages belonging to it, while the second one is the municipality of Shtërpce along with its mountain villages. The reason why these municipalities have been chosen is that both of them have villages that belong to a certain elevation degree making them mountainous. Moreover, both of them have a diverse ethnic composition which is a representation of the Kosovo's overall population.

As such, the *main* research question is: how can the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce contribute in developing the mountain villages belonging to their municipalities?

This question has been examined through a research of primary and secondary data. For the primary data, a combination of quantitative and qualitative data inquires have been used in the

questionnaire (See Appendix 2). The main factors that have been explored in the questionnaire are divided in these categories:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A) Healthcare | H) Employment |
| B) Education | I) Fruits & Plants |
| C) Natural Resources | J) Wildlife Species |
| D) Forestry & Energy | K) Infrastructure |
| E) Municipality Planning | L) Textile and Clothing |
| F) Dairy Products | M) Interviewee's Data |
| G) Tourism | |

For the purpose of specifically examining the relationship between municipalities and mountain villages, a set of factors have been more carefully analyzed over others.¹ As such, these include: natural resources, municipality planning, tourism, employment, fruits and plants, infrastructure, textile clothing, and interviewee's data. Using this combination of quantitative and qualitative approach has allowed for an exploration of main issues in an attempt to quantify the problem. It has also enabled a greater understanding through various perspectives among groups and different categories of the population. By doing so, the study is investigated and assessed in order to project results to other possible Kosovo mountain villages and their relationship to their respective municipalities.

Additionally, the use of secondary data has provided another research source for exploring and evaluating this study. The reports of OSCE on municipal profiles have been used to provide an overview of the two municipalities, while the data on population composition and size have been extracted from the latest National Census of Kosovo. Moreover, the guidebooks provided by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation have been utilized in listing strategies for marketing infrastructure, and a number of scholarly articles have been also included in this report. Overall, the use of primary and secondary data has shown to be an effective method in analyzing the extent to which municipalities can contribute to mountain villages' development.

¹ *Note:* This questionnaire has also been compiled based on the recommendations from the funding institution NINA (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research). The questionnaire, thus, contains more data overview that needed to analyze this study. Hence, for the purpose of this study, only a set of factors have been analyzed.

4.1 Research Sample and Method

A total of 150 research participants have been questioned in 11 villages belonging to the municipalities of Shtërpce and Dragash (See Appendix 3 for a map of villages interviewed). The research sample for the questionnaire has been selected based on the number of the total population of the particular mountain village. The questionnaire contained open-ended questions and multiple choice questions. The data obtained from these questions are quantified to draw results based on the main research question and its implications.

The criteria for inclusion in the questionnaire were: (1) the research participant should be above 16 years old, (2) the research participant should not be a member of the diaspora community, and (3) there should be approximately an equal distribution of men and women participation rate in the research. The reason why these criteria have been included in the selection of the research participants is to ensure consistent, correct, and ethically considerable information. Moreover, the research participants were of different educational, ethnic, and religious composition. The ethnic composition of the subjects was Albanian, Bosniak, Gorani, and Serbian. The random sampling strategy has been used to collect the data. The data has been collected by going door-to-door in a random selection of households. This method of selection has been considered as the most appropriate due to the randomness it represents as it fulfills the goal of an unbiased collection of information. Indeed, the simple random method is highly representative if all subjects agree to participate in the research undertaken (Black 1999). In this research, the response rate was very high indicating that this method and the sample data obtained through it are representative in analyzing the issue at hand.

4.2 Research Design Overview

In assessing the role that municipalities of Kosovo can play in developing their mountain villages a specifically designed questionnaire has been used. Nevertheless, the questionnaire underwent through a set of phases in order to be eligible for extracting data from it. The first stage involved compiling the questionnaire through constant feedback and recommendations on ways to frame questions while being tentative to the lexical and pragmatic meanings communicated by the questions. Attention has also been placed on possible framing effects due to the variation in wording of the questions, order of the presentation, and even choice set. In drafting the

questionnaire, a set of visits to the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce have also been conducted. The purpose of these meetings was to assess the areas in need of addressing, while at the same time, identify from the municipalities' perspective the role that they have in developing the mountain villages. Further input has been provided by the NINA research team, and the head of it, Dr. John Linnel. Through these meetings with the municipality officials of both municipalities and NINA feedback, the questionnaire was able to be finalized. The second stage consisted of a pretest of the questionnaire which was conducted in the Brod village, municipality of Shtërpce. Following the results of the test questionnaire and feedback obtained from the terrain, another set of questions were added and modified. The final phase, involved drafting a final questionnaire which was altered based on feedback from the terrain and previous recommendations.

4.3 Data Analysis

The data obtained from the questionnaire have been input into the statistical program known as SPSS. Through the help of this software, the data has been analyzed against a set of parameters and the results have been obtained. Since the questionnaire contained both qualitative and quantitative data, the qualitative data have been analyzed through a coding process. This has enabled to quantify the responses while providing a more accurate and better overview of the research participants' opinions. The results have been displayed in tables and graphs showing percentages, as well as, correlation between the answers for each factor analyzed.

4.4 Ethical Considerations

As in any other research, ethical considerations were part of this study. Thus, by making use of the informed consent and ensuring confidentiality, the study has tried to address any ethical issues that might arise (See Appendix 4 for the informed consent). Moreover, attention has also been put on avoiding subjectivity in interfering with the research process. This has enabled for consideration of all sides while trying to be unbiased. Another consideration of this research was avoiding easy subjects for interviewing based on convenience of the researcher. Taking into account these ethical and trustworthiness issues, the process through which this research has been carried out tried to adhere to the established research guidelines.

4.5 Limitations of the study

The study encountered some limitations although it reached its objectives. Firstly, due to the length of the questionnaire, the responses obtained toward the end of it might have not been thought out in particular. In addition to this, the formal language used in the questionnaire might not have been completely understandable by some of the respondents. This in turn might have impacted the answers provided which may not represent the person's typical standing on the asked question/issue. Moreover, the study has mainly relied on quantitative research method (although the qualitative aspect was used to some extent) making the data collection restrictive. Thus, a broader inclusion of qualitative data could be undertaken to wider the perspective of the study.

5. RESULTS

The results from the data collection have been grouped based on the following categories:

5.1 Participants Demographics

The research participants of the 11 villages of Dragash and Shtërpce municipalities belong to different educational levels. By looking at the education level of these mountain villages, the majority or 87% of the population has only primary and secondary school finished. A much smaller percentage of only 13% has finished the university degree (Figure A.1). This data suggests that the inhabitants of the mountain villages have obtained a limited amount of education which also limits their job prospects. This can be also reflected on the income category with the most dominant being the range of 151 to 300 €/month (Figure A.2).

Indeed, the level of education based on gender dispersion is even lower for females, where a vast number of them have only finished their primary school. Most of the inhabitants' income comes from agriculture, diasporas' remittances, private sector, and even collection of wild fruits during season times. However, finance for most of the mountain villages represents a constant challenge since the mountain villages' inhabitants suffer from lack of employment opportunities. For an average family size of 4 to 6 or even bigger families, the struggle to overcome the monthly expenses is evident.

Figure A.1. Education Level, Mountain Villages

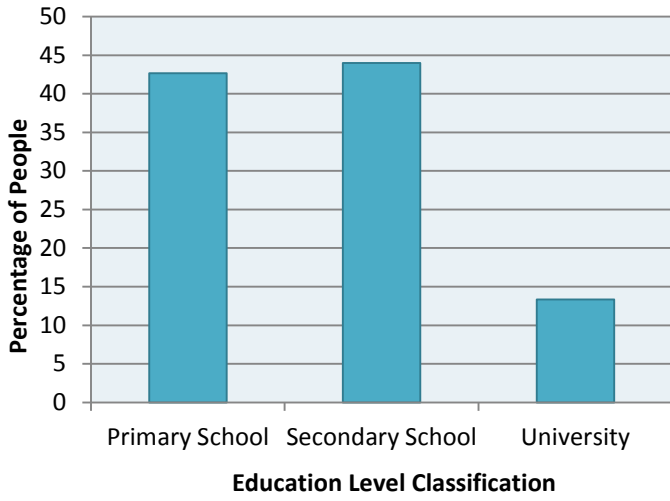


Figure A.2. Income Category, Mountain Villages

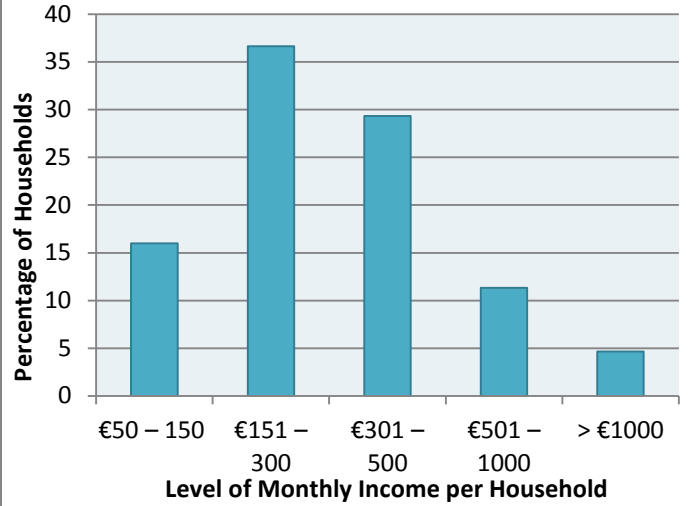


Figure A.3. Level of Support from Diaspora per Year, Mountain Villages

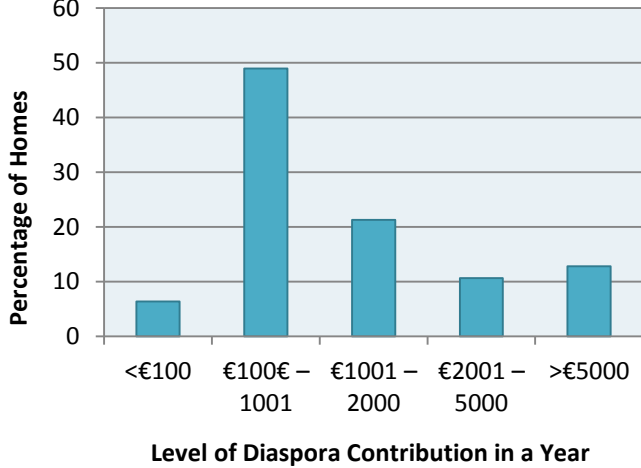


Figure A.4. Family Size, Mountain Villages

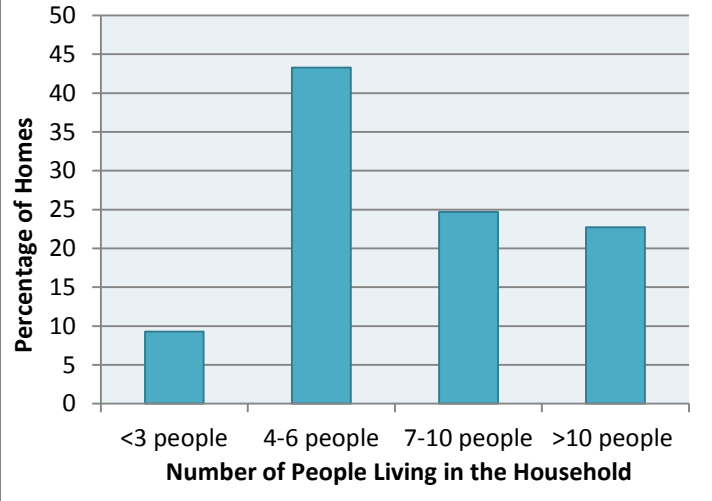
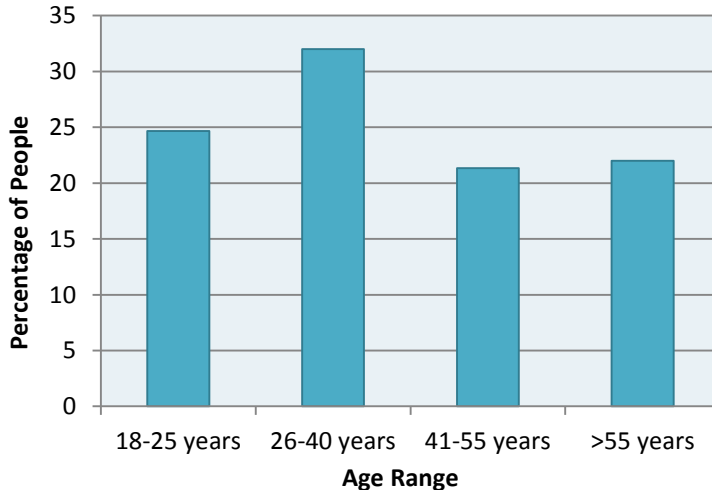
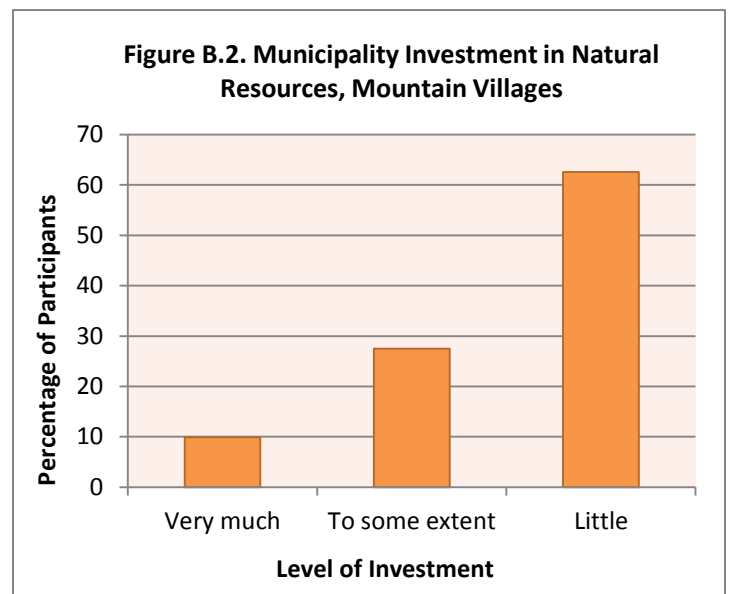
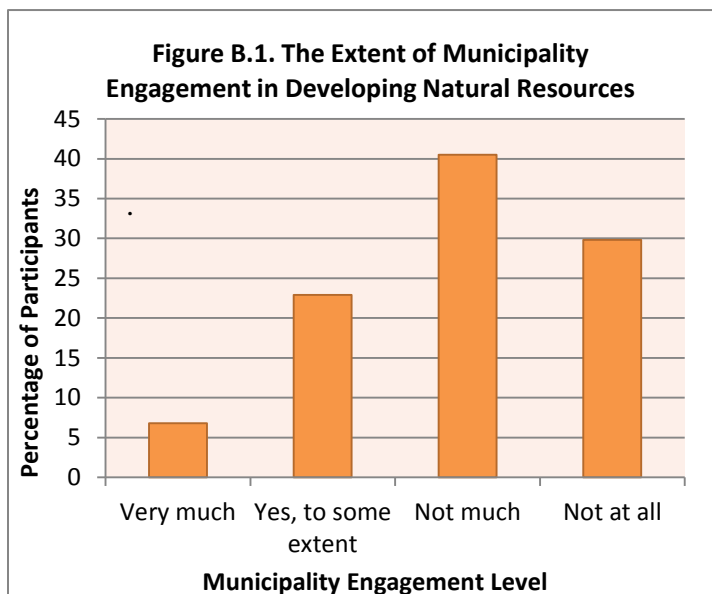


Figure A.5. Distribution of Ages, Mountain Villages

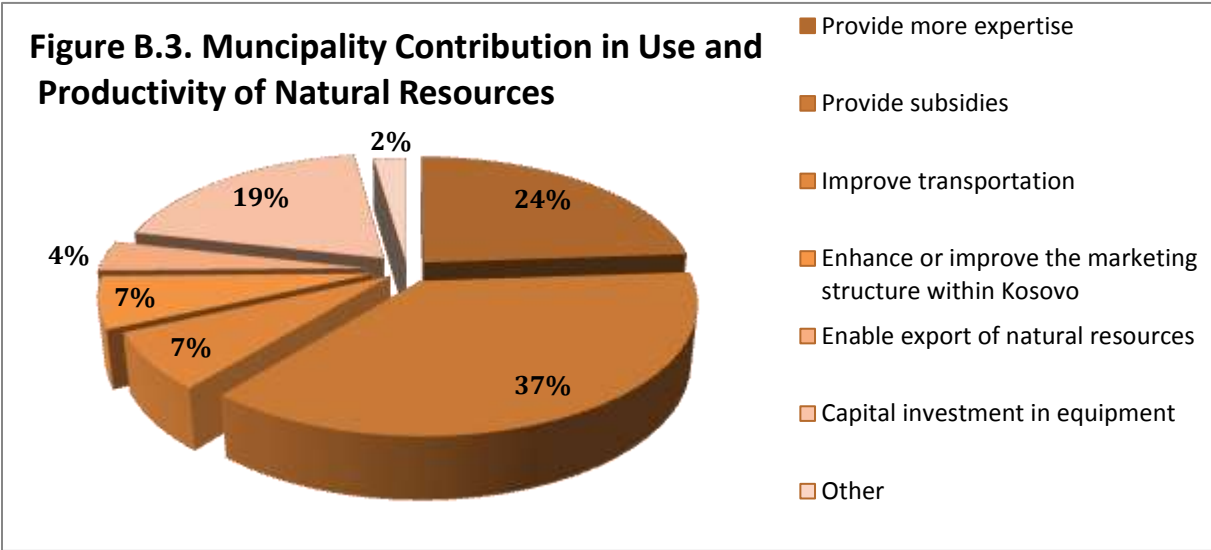


5.2 Natural Resources and Municipality Contribution

The mountain villages of Shterpce and Dragash are rich in natural resources. This has also been reflected when research participants have been asked to list them. The categories of natural resources mostly mentioned include water sources, forests/wood, pasture, fruits, wild fruits (i.e. blackberries, blueberries, cranberries, juniper, etc.), medical plants, and mushrooms. Most of these natural resources are used for fulfilling the needs of the inhabitants' elementary activities such as drinking, eating, and heating. Only a fraction of natural resources (fruits, wild fruits, medical plants, and mushrooms) are being used for commercial purposes. This, however, is limited by seasonality, and even more, by a lack of a proper and functional marketing infrastructure. The role of municipality comes now into play. Considering the abundance of these natural resources, attempts to develop them from the municipalities of Shtërpce and Dragash seem to be in low levels. The majority of the research participants concluded that these municipalities lack engagement in developing the natural resources of their mountain villages (Figure B.1). Lacking municipality engagement translates also into a lack of investment from the municipality, which is also evident from the gathered data (Figure B.2). Both these factors can be related to the economic standing of the mountain villages itself. Characterized by low income, the inhabitants of these villages seek ways to ensure their living and/or income. One of these ways is represented by utilizing the natural resources of their mountain villages, and in particular through wild fruits, fruits, medical plants, and mushrooms. Although these products are being sold on individual bases in the market, investment from municipality in such resources would ensure a greater spread of local products. Moreover, this would provide a basis for income on a more systematic level.



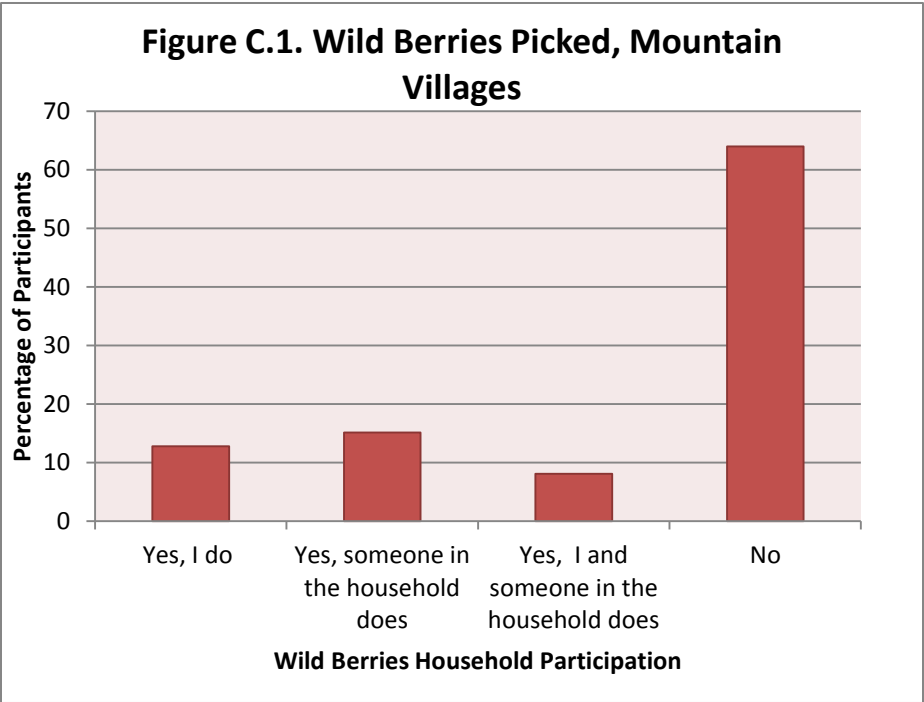
The lack of municipality contribution in developing natural resources has been identified as a primary cause of the villages’ deficiency in ensuring sustainable economic development. Moreover, regarding the ways in which the municipality has neglected the mountain villages, around 55% of respondents claimed that the municipality officers rarely or almost never visit the village. Approximately 12% of respondents believe that the municipality does not respond to complaints from the inhabitants of the mountain villages, while the remaining percentage of respondents believe that the municipality does not have available funds to address the needs and complaints of them. Others, or around 10%, claim that the municipality lacks skills in finding creative solutions, and 7% identify municipality as biased in offering investments and support. A percentage of the population also believes that corruption, lack of investment in infrastructure and natural resources, along with an improvement of the municipality officials managerial skills are factors of importance. This ultimately means that the satisfaction level from the inhabitants of mountain villages is quite low considering the extent to which municipality is neglecting or providing insufficient attention and investment to them. However, the respondents have identifies ways through which the municipality could contribute to the use and productivity of their villages’ natural resources (Figure B.3). Starting from support in trainings and expertise, to offering subsidies and improving transportation, along with improving the marketing infrastructure and enabling the exportation of some of the natural resources, the inhabitants have identified diverse areas of focus and need of addressing from the municipality side.

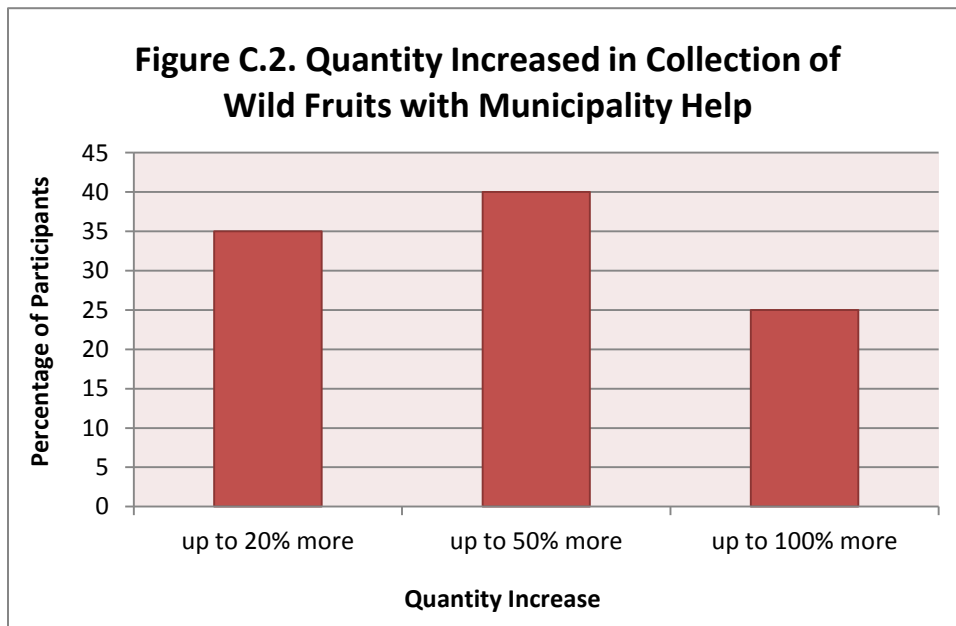


Overall, the presence of natural resources in these mountain villages is an indicator of a possible economic progression. This could be fostered by municipal attention and investment in ensuring a sustainable use of them. However, this is not happening and the consequences of it are present in forms of poverty, distrust in governing capabilities, dissatisfaction from municipality and low levels of employment and income.

5.3 Fresh Fruits and Market Infrastructure

A sufficient portion of the mountain villages’ natural resources is represented by fruits and wild fruits. Most of the time, the collection of them happens on individual basis rather a collective one. Although some companies exist, and thus, provide incentive for a broader collection of these fresh fruits, they are still not sufficient for ensuring a stable income for many of the inhabitants of these areas. This is also the reason why there is not much incentive present in their collection. As reported from the terrain, the majority or around 64% of respondents reported that they do not collect wild berries. The remaining people who do collect these wild fruits are usually the ones that collect it for selling purposes. About 58% of those who collect wild berries sell them, 3% sell them sometimes, and 39% pick wild berries for their own use. The average quantity collected is 100 to 200 kg/year, although some respondents reported to collecting as much as 500 kg/year. This quantity, in turn, becomes 20 to 50 kg/year for those who collect if for their own use. This amount of wild fruits and other similar natural products can be increased if there is help from the municipalities’ side. The majority of respondents believed that with such help the quantity would be increased by a range of 20 to 100% (Figure C.2).





These percentages could be taken as indicators to a need of a strategy from the municipality side. Creating an effective and need-based strategy would provide a systematic collection of these fruits and allow inhabitants of these zones to benefit from it. One such strategy can be building a marketing infrastructure. The benefits of having this marketing infrastructure include a greater access to the local market, short-run and long-run benefits in terms of local product placement in the marketplace, increased interest in collection of local fruits, easily adaptable income-provider for some inhabitants, and ultimately, local economic development. However, the critical factor here is the role played by the respective municipalities and their willingness to make such an investment.

5.4 Tourism Potential

Moreover, the mountain villages of Shtërpce and Dragash have a huge potential for tourism development as well (Appendix 5 shows some pictures of these areas). Although it is being used to some extent in the area surrounding Shtërpce, its potential has still not been reached. This is also evident from the statistics gathered which show that around 75% of respondents see a lack of tourism in their mountain villages, while only 25% reported of having tourism. From those that reported having tourism in their villages, most of it fell in the range of ecotourism, escorted tour, and winter tourism such as skiing. Although this limited existence of tourism is present, further improvements in developing it should be present. This is also reflected by the level of

satisfaction from the presence of tourism and the way it has been going (Figure D.1).



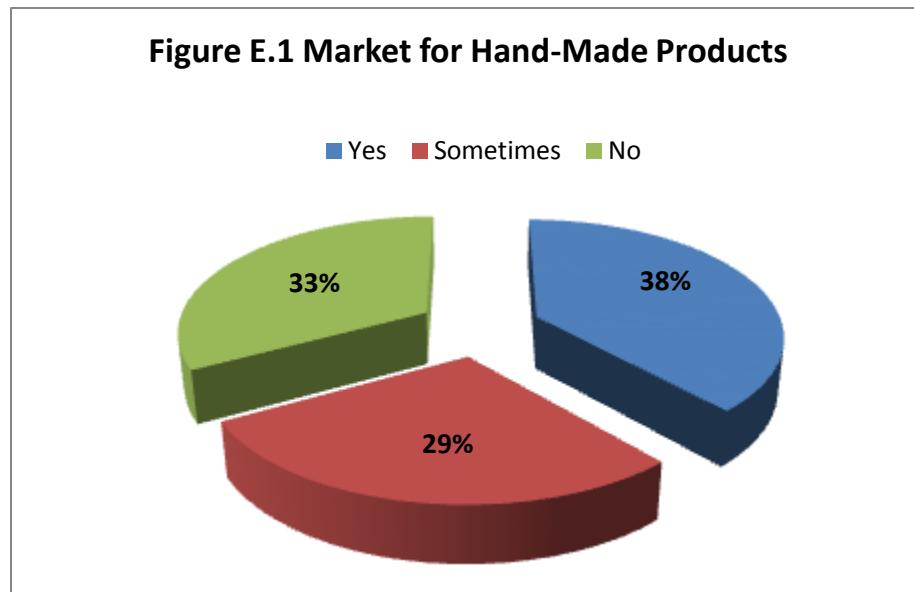
Considering that most of the respondents have been mostly somewhat satisfied indicates that there are areas of improvement which need to take place. According to some of the respondents' suggestions these improvements should include municipality investment for attraction of tourism by providing:

- Better marketing in promoting these mountain villages,
- Investment in road infrastructure, and
- Investment in maintaining a clean environment.

It is evident that the role that municipalities can play in developing tourism in these mountain villages is crucial in improving the scale of its presence. Such investment would have a direct impact on the economy of the mountain village since it will provide income for a number of inhabitants.

5.5 Women in the Labor Market

While the unemployment scale for the inhabitants of the mountain villages is quite high, this number becomes much higher when it comes to women participation in the labor market. Considering that there are a sufficient number of women in the mountain villages that do not work, this adds to the general unemployment rate in these zones. The education levels of the mountain villages suggest that the majority of the inhabitants do not receive high education levels, and this number diminishes even further for women. As such, income earning for most of the families is based on the obtained earnings from the male figure in the household. Nevertheless, women can also make a contribution. This can be done by using their skills in crafting various local artifacts, arts, and generally, hand-made products.



The survey showed that around 78% of respondents believed that women have special customs in their respective villages. The remaining ones, or approximately 22%, believe that women do not have any customs from which they could get earnings. The existence of women that have these skills and abilities suggest that this could represent a way through which additional income could be provided to their families. The Figure E.1 shows the difficulties of having a market for these hand-made products. Based on this, finding a market to sell these products is difficult and represents the challenge of earning sufficient and sustainable income from it.

6. DISCUSSION

The post-conflict period we are living in has carried the burdens of developing the country's economy, establishing a democratic political system, and especially the process of reformation of the local self-government. These changes have impacted the development structure of the municipalities and through them their respective mountain villages. This has also been shown by the data which have analyzed the issue of development through the scope of municipalities' role and inputs.

The mountain villages belonging to Dragash and Shtërpce struggle with economic prosperity as the job prospects are limited. A portion of income is obtained through remittances, while the remaining income is attributed to local jobs which include private jobs (e.g. construction work), occasional collection of wild fruits and agriculture to some limited extent. Professional jobs are less present and this can be related to the education level that many of these mountain villages' inhabitants have. Considering that only 14% of the respondents reported to have finished their university degree, it significantly impacts the job possibilities for the remaining population that does not have this level of education. Many of them seek to find solutions by leaving their village and migrating to the city where there is a higher number of employment possibilities. However, this represents only a fraction of the population. The remaining one deals with the struggles of earning income by any means possible. Although the municipality has contributed to the development of the villages through improvement in infrastructure (e.g. roads, transportation modes) and school building for the most part, the impact of these investments is limited. The main reason as to why this is the case is related to the fact that they do not represent an income-provider for the inhabitants of these zones.

These investments and similar ones should not be taken for granted, nonetheless. They are important because they represent the first steps of future possible improvements, and the inhabitants know this and acknowledge it. However, the role that the respective municipality has is crucial in attaining a better economic standing for most of the villages since they can improve it considerably. The question raised by this is: How can municipalities improve the economic standing of mountain villages? In order to answer this question, a number of factors have to be considered.

The first factor that plays a role in helping the economic development is the use of the local resources. These mountain villages pertinent to the Dragash and Shtërpce municipalities have an abundance of natural resources ranging from wild fruits to medical plants to herbs and mushrooms among other possible resources. Until now these resources have been utilized only on individual basis and for individual gain. By doing so, some inhabitants have managed to provide some income for their families. However, the limitations due to seasonality, lack of a marketing infrastructure, lack of expertise/knowledge, and low income from collection of natural resources have hindered a greater interest and engagement in their collection from other inhabitants. In order for municipalities to encourage wild fruits and other plants collection two aspects have to be considered. The first one is distinguishing the natural resources that can be used for profit. This is an important aspect as some natural resources as wood/forests and water sources do not represent a means through which people and/or private companies can benefit without prior license to do that. Regarding wood and profit from it, the municipality handles it through licensing issuing which comes from the central government as part of mandatory policy that should be implemented. The second aspect that should be considered is identifying the mountain villages that are rich in such natural resources. From the 11 villages that were part of the survey, two of them did not have natural resources in terms of wild fruits. These villages need to be excluded from the strategy that focuses on using natural resources in developing the local economy. These factors represent important elements in attaining economic development.

Collection of wild fruits and other resources would provide income for many families that are part of the mountain villages. Investment in improving the system of collection of wild fruits and other resources is important in order to ensure sustainable income for the inhabitants of the mountain villages. These investments should be provided by municipalities as part of the strategy in fostering economic development and improving the quality of life in these zones. Taking the investment into account, the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce should plan accordingly the yearly budget spending for their activities on focus. Until now, Dragash and Shtërpce priorities have been on road infrastructure and school building. These, however, are not income-providers for the inhabitants of the mountain villages. Nevertheless, investments in a marketing infrastructure would have two effects. The first effect is the overall improvement in the use and productivity of the local natural resources. Improving the infrastructure translates into improving the system of collection. This will create a more efficient system where inhabitants will know

how to collect, where to deliver it and when – set according to a specific timetable. The role that municipality has here is crucial in providing such an investment as it will enable a functional collection system.

The second aspect that the municipality can contribute in developing the mountain villages is utilizing the tourism potential they have. This will immensely help the local economy and even encourage women participation in the labor force. Retail tourism is one aspect through which this can be attained as it will help employ more labor force, among which a greater number of women can be present. The presence of a limited extent of market for hand-made things could be expanded due to tourism since women could provide these products and through it enlarge this market. Moreover, the benefits of investing in tourism relate to the image of the municipality and the attention it will bring to this type of investment. This is positive since it might provide a model for other municipalities to follow. Providing investment for an area which contains potential represents a tool through which a municipality directly impacts the development of that area and the mountain villages that correspond to it.

Another important aspect to be considered by the municipality is its effectiveness itself in identifying and addressing the issues present in the mountain villages. Without being effective in understanding the issues and challenges hindering the progress of the mountain village, the municipality is unable to create a strategy or plan for investments. This study has revealed that communication between the municipal officials and the inhabitants of the villages is limited. This limitation represents a challenge which municipalities have to overcome. As such, an increase in the communication between mountain villages' inhabitants and municipal officials represents a tool for better comprehension of issues present in the area.

The role that municipalities have in developing the mountain villages is primarily related to the effectiveness of the municipality itself. With an increased capacity of effectiveness, the municipality can manage to identify and address the issues, challenges, and potential spheres of the mountain villages. It is through it, that the municipality can identify the focus areas where investments should be placed. This is particularly relevant to the mountain villages which are characterized by even lower employment rates and lower income. The role, in this regard, of the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce is important in developing the current potential (e.g. local resources as

wild fruits, plants, berries; then tourism, and other aspects) in order to foster the economic development that these mountain villages need and seek.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the study which explored the relationship between municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce the following recommendations could be drawn:

- *Improve the local municipal capacity by developing the governance capacity of the elected officials;*

The respondents of the mountain villages have reported that the lack of a strategy from the municipality in dealing with the present issues in their villages is evident. This suggests the need to further train and enhance expertise of the elected officials who are responsible for managing and identifying the issues that hinder the development of the mountain villages. As such, the link between the actual performance of the municipal officials and the issues addressed and in-need of addressing should be strengthened. As such, developing the skills and managing techniques of the municipal officials represents a strategy through which the municipal capacity is increased, while both, directly and indirectly, the mountain villages benefit from greater attention placed to their needs and issues.

- *Ensure communication building with the inhabitants of the mountainous zones since many of their complaints are often unheard and/or unknown for the municipality;*

Another important aspect which can contribute to municipalities playing a proactive role in the development of the mountain villages is building better communication bridges between the municipality and respective mountain villages. Considering that the number of inhabitants that file complaints for certain issues is not so high, this strategy could result in more effective identification of issues in the mountain village. This, in turn, provides an incentive for the inhabitants of the mountain villages to contribute to their development by voicing the challenges and problems they are experiencing. This strategy could work by having a certain number of quarterly terrain visits to the mountain

villages. By doing so, the municipality shows a greater scale of engagement while the inhabitants have the opportunity to express more effectively their needs and issues.

- *Reprioritize the municipal focus areas and divide the budget accordingly;*

Until now, both the municipalities of Dragash and Shtërpce have placed particular interest on the road infrastructure and facilities building such as schools. Understanding the availability of natural local resources as a way to increase the local employment is a focus area that these two municipalities should consider. This is particularly important for the inhabitants of the villages since such shift in the municipal focus would benefit the inhabitants' income in the long-run. This is the case since placing focus on such alternative areas means investing in them, and it is through investment, that the structure of market development is developed and improved.

- *Create a marketing structure in order to promote the natural resources present in these mountainous areas which can be used as a means for economic growth;*

Following a greater focus on using the local natural resources, a concrete strategy that the municipality can undertake is investment in building a marketing infrastructure. This infrastructure would represent an investment according to the available resources. Since the mountain villages are rich in natural resources they could be used for attaining a better economic development. This is possible through an increase in the income of the inhabitants through the wild fruits and other plants collection. Since until now this collection has been limited, the municipal investment in it would benefit the inhabitants due to a more systematic collection, and through it, the mountain villages and their economic development.

- *Focus on tourism potential as a tool for local economic development*

The extent that tourism has been used for economic growth by the mountain villages and areas surrounding the two municipalities is quite limited, although huge potential exists. These municipalities should take note of that and invest in the infrastructure, facilities,

and other activities (e.g. marketing, campaigns, etc.) to attract tourists and visitors. This will help develop the local economy, and simultaneously, the image and the municipality itself.

➤ *Create greater corporation between municipalities with similar issues*

Exploring the extent to which municipality contributes in the development of a certain mountain villages has brought forward issues that are also experienced by other municipalities. In order to deal effectively with them, these municipalities can share their experiences in overcoming the challenges and developing the pertinent mountain villages or even other areas of interest. Such corporation is important as lessons can be derived and shared thus ensuring even a more effective role in ensuring economic and other type of development.

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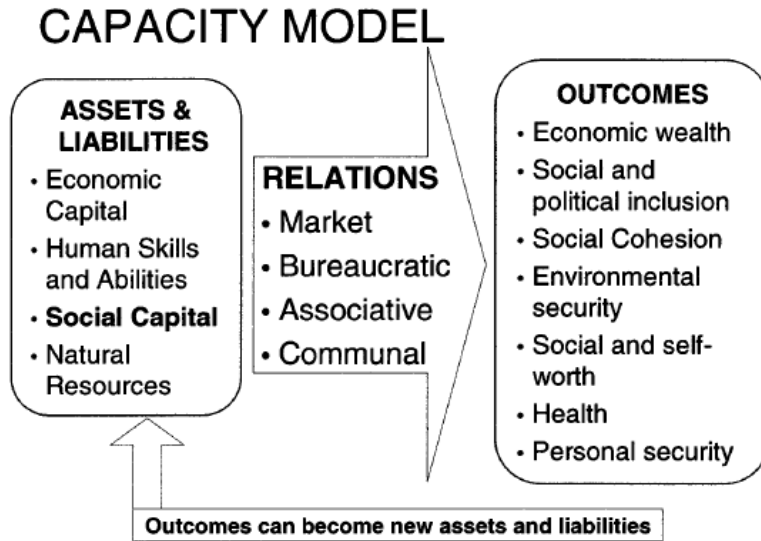
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Another model to be used by municipalities

Figure 4. The New Rural Economy Capacity Model



Source: http://nre.concordia.ca/_ftp2004/Whathavewelearned/SocialCapitalFlyer02.pdf

Appendix 2 – Final Questionnaire with Quantitative and Qualitative Questions

NINA Questionnaire

Interviewee #: _____

Village: _____

Zone: _____

TEXT IN CAPITAL LETTERS IS NOT TO BE READ OUT LOUD TO THE RESPONDENT, IT IS ONLY MEANT AS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE INTERVIEWERS.

Presentation

My name is _____ and I am part of a research project concerning the state of the village in terms of healthcare, education, natural resources, tourism, infrastructure, and other similar topics; while relating these issues to the way municipalities deal with them.

I would like to go through the questionnaire together with you where I will ask you some questions about you and your household's opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality in addressing the issues present in your village.

We are collecting information from several villages in various areas, here in Kosovo, as well as in Albania, Macedonia, and Croatia.

All the obtained information will be treated with confidentiality and used anonymously.

Section A
HEALTHCARE

A1. How far is the closest public health service from your home?

A2. How often do you use the public health service?

A3. What do you use the public health service for (what kind of treatment)?

-
-
-
-

A4. How often does a doctor or a nurse visit the village?

A5. Rate the quality of healthcare in your village.

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Low

A6. Do you have ambulance service for your village?

- Yes
- No

A7. Rate the quality of healthcare in your municipality.

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Low

A8. What health problems has your family suffered/experienced?

Specify:

-
-
-
-

A9. How would you rate the effectiveness of the treatment for A4?

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Low

Section B

EDUCATION

B1. How many children does your family have?

B2. Does your village have a school?

- Yes
- No

B3. If yes to B2, to which level?

- a) Primary school 1-5
- b) Primary school 1-9
- c) Secondary school
- d) Both, primary and secondary school

B4. How far is the school (km)?

B5. Rate the quality of education in your village.

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Low

B6. How many students does your village school have?

- (a) < 50
- (b) 50 – 100
- (c) 100 – 200
- (d) > 200

B7. How many primary school teachers are at your school?

- (a) 1
- (b) 2 – 3
- (c) 3 – 5
- (d) > 5

B8. How many high school teachers are at your school?

- (a) 1
- (b) 2 – 3
- (c) 3 – 5
- (d) > 5

B9. Rate the quality of education in your municipality.

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Low

B10. What is your experience or perception of how many students from the village school have proceeded to high school?

B11. By giving an estimated percentage, how many students from the village school have proceeded to university?

- (a) 0 – 20%
- (c) 21 – 50%
- (d) 51 – 70 %
- (e) 71% >

B12. For the students that finish university, do they return to the village?

- Most of them do
- Some of them
- They do not

Section C

NATURAL RESOURCES

C1. What natural resources does your village have? List in order of priority

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)

C2. What are the existing natural resources used for?

Specify:

-
-
-
-

C3. How important are natural resources for the village life?

- Very Important
- Important
- Not so important
- Unimportant

C4. To what extent is the municipality engaged in developing the natural resources of your village?

- Very much
- Yes, to some extent
- Not much
- Not at all

C5. What might the municipality do to improve the use and productivity of natural resources from around your village?

- Provide more expertise
- Provide subsidies
- Improve transportation
- Enhance or improve the marketing infrastructure within Kosovo
- Enable export of natural resources
- Capital investment in equipment
- Other,

C6. How much has the municipality invested in developing the natural resources of your village and ensuring economic growth?

- Very much
- To some extent
- Little

C7. In what ways has the municipality neglected your village (list in order or priority):

- Municipality officers never visit the village
- Municipality does not respond to complaints when visited by villagers
- Municipality complaints have no funding available
- Municipality lacks creativity in finding technical expertise
- Municipality gives no support or encouragement to NGOs
- Municipality shows partiality in providing support
- Other,

Section D
FORESTRY & ENERGY

D1. Are you or someone in the household associated with the forestry industry?

- Yes, I am | SEVERAL ANSWERS ARE POSSIBLE
- Yes, someone in the household is |
- Yes, I and someone in the household is |
- No

D2. How well does the municipality regulate the use of wood?

D3. Which of the following do you do?

- (a) Cut your own timber
- (b) Purchase timber
- (c) Both a & b

D4. If you cut your own timber, where do you cut it?

- (a) Private land
- (b) Public land
- (c) Both a & b

D5. How much timber do you cut on an average year?

_____ m³

D6. How much timber do you purchase on an average year?

_____ m³

D7. Where do you purchase your timber from?

D8. How much did you pay in 2011 for 1 m³ of timber?

_____ €

D9. How many rooms in your house do you heat during the winter months?

D10. What is your main fuel for cooking? (List in order of priority)

- Wood stove
- Electricity
- Natural gas
- Other

D11. Do you perceive any problems in cutting timber in your village?

- Yes
- No

D12. What percent of your timber cut in your village has a license?

- 0 % – 10 %
- 11 % – 30 %
- 31 % – 70 %
- 71 % – 100 %

D13. Do you have sufficient electricity supply?

- Yes
- No

D14. How much do you spend in the summer months? (€ / month)

- 10 € – 30 €
- 31 € – 50 €
- 51 € – 100 €
- 101 € – 200 €
- > 200 €

D15. How much do you spend in the winter months? (€ / month)

- 10 € – 30 €
- 31 € – 50 €
- 51 € – 100 €
- 101 € – 200 €
- > 200 €

D16. What percent of your monthly income goes for paying electricity?

- 5 % – 10%
- 11 % – 20%
- 21 % – 30%
- 31 % – 50%

Section E

MUNICIPALITY PLANNING

E1. Do you pay any tax to the municipality?

- Name the type of the tax: _____
- Payment made per year: _____

E2. What are the main issues in your village that need immediate addressing by the municipality? List in order of priority.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____

E3. Is the municipality effective in identifying the main issues in your village?

- Yes, it is
- Yes, to some extent
- No, it isn't
- Not at all

E4. How effective is the municipality in addressing the identified issues in your village?

- Yes, it is
- Yes, to some extent
- No, it isn't
- Not at all

E5. What is your level of satisfaction with the way the municipality is handling issues in your village?

- Highly satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Highly dissatisfied

E6. What is the main contribution that your municipality has provided to your village? List in order of priority?

-
-
-
-

Section F

DAIRY PRODUCTS

F1. How many cows does your family own?

F2. Do you plan to purchase more cows? If yes, how many cows would you like to purchase?

F3. How much does a cow cost?

- 200 € – 500 €
- 500 € - 1000 €
- > 1000 €

F4. How many liters of milk does the cow produce on a yearly basis?

F5. How many liters of milk are required to produce 1 kg of cheese?

F6. How much do you normally charge to sell 1 liter of milk?

F7. How much do you normally charge to sell of 1 kg of cheese?

F8. To whom do you normally sell your milk?

F9. To whom do you normally sell your cheese?

F10. Is it difficult for you to find a market for the self-produced products such as cheese, milk, yogurt and others?

- Highly difficult
- Somewhat difficult
- Difficult
- Not difficult at all

F11. What's the name of the company that collects milk and cheese?

F12. Are you satisfied with companies that collect your milk and cheese?

F13. What would you recommend for improving the collection of milk and cheese?

- Increase the frequency of collection
- Improve the quality of collection services
- Increase in revenue from milk and cheese
- Other, _____

F14. How frequently is milk collected each week from your house /farm?

F15. What would you like the collection rate to be?

- Daily
- Every other day
- Twice a week

F16. Are you aware that the municipality offers you funds/small grants for domestic animals such as cows and/or sheep?

- Yes
- No

F17. Have you ever applied for such funds/small grants?

- Yes
- No

F18. If yes to F17, have you obtained the grant?

- Yes
- No

F19. Is it important to have municipality aid/subsidies in establishing farms (with domestic animals such as cows, sheep, chickens, etc)?

- Yes, (state the reason why) _____

- No, (state the reason why) _____

F20. Do you think the municipality can help you more in improving your dairy products?

- Yes
- No

F21. If yes to F20, what should the municipality do?

- Increase grants
- Provide more technical expertise
- Improve infrastructure
- Facilitate improved marketing procedure
- Other, _____

F22. How many sheep does your family own?

Specify the number: _____

F23. Do you plan to purchase more sheep?

- Yes
- No

F24. How much does purchasing the sheep cost?

F25. Which is more important to you:

- The revenue from the sheep's meat
- The revenue from the sheep's wool

F26. Who will purchase the sheep's wool for you?

F27. What quantity of wool do you sell each year?

Specify (kg/year): _____

F28. How much revenue do you get from selling 1 kg of wool?

F29. How many chickens do you have in your family?

F30. On average, how many eggs do your chickens produce each week?

F31. What percentage of eggs do you sell?

F32. To whom do you sell your eggs?

- Directly to the customer
- Through a retailer

F33. How much revenue do you get from eggs (cost per egg)?

Section G
TOURISM

G1. Is there tourism in your village?

- Yes No

G2. If yes, what type of tourism is it?

- Cultural tourism
 Ecotourism
 Escorted tour
 Other, _____

G3. Are you satisfied with how tourism is going on in your village?

- Highly satisfied
 Somewhat satisfied
 Dissatisfied
 Highly dissatisfied

G4. If not, how could it be improved?

Section H
EMPLOYMENT

H1. How many people from your family are above the age of 18?

H2. How many of them are still living in the village?

H3. What are the jobs that your children have?

H4. Is the population of the village?

- Increasing
- Staying the same
- Decreasing

H5. How do you the villagers earn their income or make a living in your village?

- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Diaspora
- Other,

Section I

FRUITS & PLANTS

I1. Do you or someone else pick up wild berries?

- Yes, I do
- Yes, someone in the household does
- Yes, I and someone else in the household do
- No

I2. If yes to I1, do you sell these wild berries?

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

I3. List the name of the wild fruits that you collect each year:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

I4. What is the average quantity that you collect each year from the above-mentioned wild fruits?

- _____ kg/year
- _____ kg/year
- _____ kg/year
- _____ kg/year

I5. With further support from the municipality, what is the increase in the quantity that you might collect?

- up to 20% more
- up to 50% more
- up to 100 % more
- more than 100%

I6. Do you or someone else pick up mushrooms?

- Yes, I do
- Yes, someone in the household does
- Yes, I and someone else in the household do
- No

I7. If yes to I6, do you sell these mushrooms?

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

I8. How much revenue do you get from selling 1 kg of mushrooms?

I9. Do you or someone else pick up plants (medical plants, herbs, tea, etc)?

- Yes, I do
- Yes, someone in the household does
- Yes, I and someone else in the household do
- No

I10. If yes, do you sell them?

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

I11. How much revenue do you get from selling 1 kg of wild fruits?

I12. To whom do you sell your wild fruits?

- Directly to the customer
- Through a retailer

I13. What's the name of the company that collects wild fruits?

I14. What other companies do you know that purchase wild fruits from your own village?
Please name them: _____

I15. Does the municipality regulate your access to plants?

- Yes
- No

I16. Can the municipality help you in any way regarding the marketing of your fruits?
Specify how:

Section J
WILDLIFE SPECIES

J1. Which of the following species are present in the vicinity of your village?

- Chamois
- Roe deer
- Red deer
- Hare
- Fox
- Bear
- Wolf
- Lynx
- Wild boar

J2. If yes to Lynx, have you seen any of them and when?

J3. Do you or someone else in the household hunt any of these species?

- Yes, I do
- Yes, someone in the household does
- Yes, I and someone else in the household do
- No

J4. Which of these species are strictly protected (no hunting)?

J5. Do you or someone else have an interest of photohunting or observing of any of these species?

- Yes, I do / Species: _____
- Yes, someone in the household does/ Species: _____
- Yes, someone from outside of the village does / Species _____
- No

J6. Is there an active hunting organization in the village, municipality, or region?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

J7. What types of hunting organizations exist in the country?

J8. Are you a member of a hunting organization?

- Yes
- No

J9. Are you paying a membership fee?

- Yes / How much: _____
- No

J10. What are obligations to fulfill for a member of hunting organization to gain right to shoot certain game?

- Fee
- Voluntary work
- Other, _____

Section K
INFRASTRUCTURE

K1. Do you have sufficient water supply?

- Yes
- To some extent
- No

K2. Where do you get your tap water from?

- Well
- Municipality reservoir
- Piped from spring or reservoir
- Directly from the spring

K3. Are you satisfied with the quality of your water?

- Yes
- To some extent
- No

K4. Do you drink water directly from your tap?

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

K5. Do you pay for your water supply?

- Yes
- No

K6. If yes to I5, how much do you pay?

K7. Is the municipality doing enough for your water supply?

- Yes
- To some extent
- No

K8. Is the municipality doing enough for your water quality?

- Yes
- To some extent
- No

K9. What do you believe the municipality should do with regard to your water supply?

K10. How would you classify the quality of the main road through your village?

- Good
- Average
- Poor

K11. Do you have regular bus service?

- Yes
- No

K12. If yes, what's the frequency of the bus service?

K13. Where do you normally deposit your garbage?

- Rivers
- Dumpsters
- Dump sites
- Other, _____

K14. Do you think the current garbage disposal is appropriate?

- Yes
- No

K15. What would you like to be done to improve the garbage disposal?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

K16. Would you support the idea of opening a rehab center in your village?

- Yes
- No

K17. Would you support the idea of opening a retirement house in your village?

- Yes
- No

Section L

TEXTILE AND CLOTHING

L1. Do women in your village have special customs of knitting or making other traditional things?

- Yes
- No

L2. If yes, is there a market for these hand-made things?

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

Section X
INTERVIEWEE'S DATA

1. Tick the gender

- Male Female

2. What is your age?

- 18 – 25 26 – 40 41 – 55 > 55

3. What is the level of your education?

- Primary School University
 Secondary School Graduate and/or Postgraduate Studies

4. How many people live in your household?

- (a) 3 or less
(b) 4 – 6
(c) 7 – 10
(d) > 10

5. Do you receive any level of support from diaspora?

- Yes No

6. Per year, what level of support comes from diaspora / out of the country?

- < 100 €
 100 € – 1000 €
 1001€ – 2000 €
 2001€ – 5000 €
 > 5000 €

7. Which of the following categories does your income fall into?

- 50 € – 150 €
 151€ – 300 €
 301€ – 500 €
 501€ – 1000 €
 > 1000 €

8. What's your job?

Appendix 3 – List and Map of Kosovo Mountain Villages Interviewed

LIST OF VILLAGES

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Pllajnik | 5. Brod (1) | 9. Plavë |
| 2. Brezna | 6. Brod (2) | 10. Shajnë |
| 3. Kuki | 7. Mushnikovë | 11. Zaplluxhë |
| 4. Gorna Sellë | 8. Dikanca | |



Figure 1.1: Villages visited during the NINA research project are marked with red

Appendix 4 – Informed Consent



Center for Energy & Natural Resources, CENR

30 May, 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

CENR Research Project during the summer

Throughout the summer of 2012, the Center for Energy and Natural Resources at AUK (CENR) will conduct a research project on the role that municipalities play in developing Kosovo mountain villages.

I would appreciate if you would take some time in answering the questions of the AUK/CENR Research Assistant. I can ensure you that your questions will remain confidential at AUK.

Thank you for your corporation in this research project.

Sincerely,

Brian H. Bowen, PhD
CENR Director, Vice President for Academic Affairs
American University in Kosovo

Germia Park, Prishtina, 10,000

Ph: 381 (0) 608 608 Ext 115

www.aukonline.org

Appendix 5 – Pictures of Some Mountain Villages in Shtërpce and Dragash Area

