

VELIKA HOČA

CASE STUDY SHORT SUMMARY REPORT

Authors

Miloš Gvozdić and Saja Kosanović

Name of the institution

University of Priština in Kosovska
Mitrovica – Faculty of Technical
Sciences – Department of Architecture

Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

Knjaza Miloša 7,
Kosovska Mitrovica, 38220

VELIKA HOČA

Case Study at a Glance

The Velika Hoča case study reveals a compelling narrative of social resilience, demonstrating how a mosaic of initiatives, capitalizing on existing local potential, propelled the community forward after 1999 amidst economic hardship and social fragmentation. External actors played a crucial role in finding resilience solutions for Velika Hoča, with limited initial involvement from residents. Revitalization of historic viticulture and the establishment of cooperatives and private wineries, bolstered by external aid, formed the foundation of economic recovery. Heritage revitalization reactivated cultural landmarks and attracted tourists. Infrastructure enhancements addressed critical spatial needs, while additional agricultural support diversified the economy. Socio-cultural initiatives by prominent figures amplified wider awareness. People-centered external support focused on improving housing quality and aiding vulnerable families and the children. However, challenges such as political instability, income disparities, land disputes, youth emigration, and limited services impede further progress. Strategic planning, diaspora engagement, international heritage recognition, durable political and institutional solutions, and intensified inter-community cooperation are key for long-term sustainability. Velika Hoča's model, leveraging local natural and cultural resources and fostering empathy and collaboration, provides a blueprint for other underdeveloped communities.

This report was prepared by the team of the University of Priština in Kosovska Mitrovica within the UPRUN project. The team of the University of Priština in Kosovska Mitrovica is responsible for the content and the accuracy of the statements presented in this report.

Unless otherwise indicated, the rights to all images, figures, and photographs included in this report belong to the authors or the respective university team. Any third-party materials are used with appropriate permission or attribution where required.

Case Study Profile

Topic

- ☐ Community Gardening & Urban Agriculture
- ☒ Community Hubs & Cultural Activities
- ☒ Urban Design & Planning Processes
- ☒ Public Space Development & Management
- ☒ Local Economic Development
- ☒ Urban Regeneration & Rehabilitation

Scale

- ☐ Metropolitan / city region
- ☐ City scale
- ☒ Neighbourhood scale
- ☒ Block scale
- ☒ Building scale

Resilience Challenge

- ☒ Environmental and ecological resilience
- ☒ social & cultural resilience
- ☒ Infrastructure and technological resilience
- ☒ Economic & livelihood resilience

Duration

- ☐ Immediate (less than 1 month)
- ☒ Project-Based (1–12 months)
- ☒ Programme-Based (1–3 years)
- ☐ Strategic (3–5 years)
- ☒ Structural / Transformative (more than 5 years)

Stakeholders

- ☒ Community members
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- ☒ Private sector
- ☒ Academic and research institutions

Type of Civic Engagement Supporting Neighborhood Resilience

- ☒ Resident-led and grassroots initiatives
- ☒ Collaborative planning projects or processes
- ☒ Advocacy and capacity building
- ☒ Volunteer and community service projects
- ☒ Short-term, more flexible project-based engagement
- ☒ Long-term, more institutionalized engagement (development of stable structures, etc.)
- ☐ Protest and resistance mobilization
- ☒ Art-and culture-based civic Engagement

Level of Civic Participation

- ☐ Information
- ☒ Involvement or participation
- ☒ Collaboration or co-creation
- ☒ Empowerment
- ☐ Resistance and protest-based empowerment

Empirical Basis and Methodological Approach

The Velika Hoča case study details the long-term socio-ecological and structural recovery of an isolated, post-conflict enclave in Kosovo UNSCR 1244 through a non-linear, multi-layered revitalization model spanning over twenty-five years. Lacking a centralized master plan, the settlement successfully leveraged external funding, diaspora capital, and monastic economic anchoring to reactivate its historic viticulture landscape and reconstruct endangered architectural heritage, thereby converting grassroots survival mechanisms into a resilient, tourism-driven local economy.

The research methodology underpinning the Velika Hoča case study combines several methods and techniques that facilitate a comprehensive, multi-layered evaluation of local social and existential resilience. The integrated approach provided the empirical depth required for analyzing how a vulnerable community can achieve profound long-term resilience through a hybrid network ecosystem, one that dynamically fuses internal grassroots agency and local kinship capital with monastic economic anchoring, international non-governmental organizations, trans-border diaspora solidarity, institutional support and strategic civil-military cooperation.

Primary empirical material was gathered through an analysis of historical records, public registries, published research, and media archives. Within this documentary framework, media articles served a critical methodological role, providing the primary source material required to reconstruct the exact chronology of post-1999 events and to analyze how the settlement's resilience challenges were framed in the public sphere. Together with historical texts, this material allowed for the reconstruction of the settlement's post-1999 socio-economic timeline, mapping the transition from a post-crisis state of restricted mobility to a revitalized enclave economy centered on viticulture and cultural heritage tourism. Formal data streams, encompassing institutional regulations, administrative decisions, and project logs from international non-governmental organizations, were audited to assess institutional and external stakeholder engagement.

The fine-grained nuances of community survival mechanisms were captured by formal, semi-structured interviews conducted with three primary categories of actors. The aim was to secure a multi-perspective overview of Velika Hoča's resilience trajectory, incorporating viewpoints from: an initiator driving socio-cultural and economic revitalization through a local non-governmental organization, a government representative managing statutory oversight from the position of a public establishment for heritage protection, and a local beneficiary engaged directly in the settlement's tourism and viticulture sector representing the broader neighborhood community. These formal accounts were enriched by unstructured conversations and ethnographic insights gathered from residents during extensive site visits, providing a ground-level understanding of internal social networks, consensus-building traditions, and generational dynamics.

Finally, the documentary and narrative data streams were grounded through on-site spatial surveys and field observations of Velika Hoča's built environment. The physical auditing enabled a structural evaluation of the settlement's heritage landscape, mapping spatial interventions ranging from the reconstruction of heritage monuments, such as the Gospodska kuća and the St. Stephen Church winery, to public infrastructure projects, including street paving, water supply networks and the remediation of informal landfills.

Compendious summary

Introduction

The settlement of Velika Hoča in Kosovo UNSCR 1244, often called “little Jerusalem” (Ničić, n.d.) for its unique characteristics, holds special autonomy and heritage protection. With a rich history dating back to the 12th century and a legacy of flourishing wine production (Top Srbija, 2019; Mnemosyne, n.d.), Velika Hoča was deeply impacted by the 1999 crisis, which decimated its economy and scattered its residents. The remaining community faced immense challenges, including security concerns, economic hardship, and restricted movement.

Amidst these adversities, Velika Hoča’s journey towards social resilience began. The ties within the community and their deep connection to the place fostered survival mechanisms. A significant turning point was the 2001 establishment of the first wine cooperative, which helped overcome distribution problems stemming from increased household wine production. This case compellingly illustrates how communities, by uniting in various initiatives and profoundly supported by external stakeholders, can achieve substantial existential resilience, even in the absence of robust governance and facing actively hostile circumstances. The success of resilience-building initiatives has revitalized Velika Hoča, elevating its prominence beyond its 20th-century status, directly due to engaged community and stakeholder efforts.

Neighborhood Challenge

Place description

“Every stone in Hoča is special”. (Miljković, 2020)

Velika Hoča, a peri-urban settlement with an estimated population of 700 (2024 census), though other sources report fewer residents (Kosovo Online, 2024; Radovanović, 2022), is located 4 km from the municipal seat Orahovac and 25 km from the city of Prizren. Renowned for its vineyards, among the Balkans’ most famous, Velika Hoča benefits from an average altitude of 400 meters and shelter from eastern and northern winds. Its open river and stream valleys to the south and west, along with a coastal climate influence, further contribute to successful vine cultivation and traditional wine production.

Residents inhabit individual family homes on privately owned land; of approximately 300 houses, about half are abandoned (Petrović, 2025). While most homes date from the 18th and 19th centuries, some houses and wineries originated as early as the 16th or 17th centuries. Post-1980s construction negatively impacted the settlement’s architectural identity (Gadžić, 2022). Today, new construction requires permits from the “Council for Implementation and Monitoring”, established under the Kosovo UNSCR 1244 Law on Velika Hoča (2007 Ahtisaari Plan). Additionally, the “Cultural Heritage Council of Velika Hoča”, formed by the Orahovac Municipal Assembly, represents local interests in protecting religious and cultural heritage. This council, comprising five members (two municipal appointees, two elected residents, one Serbian Orthodox Church representative), began its first mandate in 2015 (Arapi-Krasniqi and Toska, 2020).

Beyond residential housing, Velika Hoča features various public buildings, unique wineries, and a rich religious heritage. The settlement boasts eight active churches and the remains of five others: St. Nicholas, St. John the Baptist, St. Archdeacon Stephen, St. Luke, Holy Prophet Elijah, Holy Sunday, St. Petka, St. Anne, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Holy Apostles Peter, Holy Virgin, Nameless Church on Dugi Rug, and St. Basil (Blago Fund, n.d.). While many Orthodox monasteries once maintained vineyards here, only the Visoki Dečani monastery continues this tradition, with a winery in the settlement center.

Resilience Challenge in Velika Hoča

After World War II, Velika Hoča's distinct character started to diminish with the rise of industrialization. Many residents, seeking new opportunities, abandoned their traditional agricultural livelihoods for factory jobs in the nearby town Orahovac. These production facilities, including the Orahovac Winery "Orvin" (which purchased grape harvests from local farmers), offered a promise of stable employment. Work migration began to erode the close-knit social fabric of Velika Hoča. Factory workers left rural productive lifestyle, and traditional way of life in Hoča began to fade.

However, the period of industrial employment proved short-lived. The 1999 crisis brought widespread factory closures, devastating Velika Hoča's residents and plunging the community into economic hardship. Families suddenly found themselves without income, struggling to meet basic needs. Even families with their own wineries struggled to market their goods. The loss of jobs had a ripple effect, contributing to the community's decline. Beyond the immediate economic devastation, the crisis also brought security and social challenges. The breakdown of social structures led to a sense of fractured community. Movement was restricted until 2001 due to the conflict, further isolating the settlement. This restriction prompted many residents to leave in search of safety and opportunities elsewhere. The exodus further depleted the local population and contributed to a sense of uncertainty for those who remained.

The residents who remained in Velika Hoča found themselves forced to return to agriculture, particularly viticulture, as a means of survival. However, they faced significant challenges. The increased grape production faced a new bottleneck: a lack of buyers for raw agricultural products. To avoid wasting their harvests, residents expanded household wine production, often using rudimentary, traditional equipment passed down through generations. While this resourceful adaptation provided sustenance, it also created difficulties in wine distribution and market access. Small-scale producers struggled to compete and reach wider markets due to limited resources and lack of established distribution networks.

On the other hand, informal community collaboration began immediately following the 1999 war. Relying on existing networks and connections, people created more secure and acceptable living conditions through mutual aid and community support systems. A strong sense of community and shared values motivated remaining residents to stay and rebuild. This unity subsequently led to the development of economic opportunities based on local traditions.

Response to the challenge

Velika Hoča's resilience is a "mosaic of efforts" by a diverse network of stakeholders, whose independent actions, though lacking an overarching strategy, collectively address local needs across **spatial, economic, socio-cultural, and quality-of-life interventions**.

Spatial interventions

Over the last 25 years, Velika Hoča's landscape has been significantly shaped by a collaborative focus on spatial interventions. These efforts, driven by various stakeholders, primarily fall into two key areas: 1) Preserving and repurposing architectural heritage; and 2) Improving public infrastructure and amenities.

Heritage protection and reactivation

Velika Hoča's rich architectural heritage has seen a remarkable revitalization through the dedicated efforts of numerous stakeholders, transforming historical sites into vibrant community assets and economy drivers.

Cultural institutions, the Serbian Orthodox Church, and various NGOs have been instrumental in restoring Velika Hoča's religious architectural heritage, safeguarding its intrinsic value. This commitment gained legal force in 2012 when the Ahtisaari Plan designated Velika Hoča a protected zone of domestic and international importance. Today, religious heritage preservation continues with the unwavering dedication of individual experts and cultural institutions providing essential supervision and documentation.

A significant post-war step for civic built heritage occurred in 2005 when the Swedish NGO CHwB (Cultural Heritage without Borders) collaborated with the Ministry of Culture to reconstruct Gospodska kuća – Saraj. This 19th-century monument, reflecting old Oriental style, now serves as a dynamic museum, gallery, and cultural event venue.

Around 2009, Velika Hoča emerged as a popular tourist destination, drawing visitors with its local wines, cuisine, and regional attractions. Residents swiftly responded, transforming their homes into guesthouses and restaurants to offer accommodation and draw economic benefits from local heritage. Building on this momentum, CHwB, with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), adapted four traditional houses into tourist accommodations in 2010 (CHwB, 2014). This initiative also led to the establishment of the Settlement Development Council, a non-political local organization dedicated to improving residents' quality of life. CHwB ensured a collaborative process, presenting proposals directly to both the Council and homeowners.

CHwB's heritage preservation efforts extended further, reconstructing the Lazar Kujundžić Tower in 2009 (SANU, n.d.) and the St. Stephen Church winery between 2013 and 2015, utilizing the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation. In a joint effort, the local community, Settlement Development Council, the Serbian Orthodox Church, and CHwB reimaged the winery's use, proposing

its adaptive reuse as a wine restaurant (CHwB, 2014a). The Italian NGO Amici di Dečani later equipped and branded the winery (Amici di Dečani, 2015). Other international NGOs also contributed: IRD (International Relief & Development) reconstructed the St. Stephen Church in 2012 (Petrović, 2025), and the Parish House and St. John the Baptist Church in 2014.

Individual vision also plays a key role. Architect and businessman Nebojša Glišić initiated a reconstruction project for historic buildings to preserve heritage and boost the economy. In 2024, this expanded into a partnership with the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Kosovska Mitrovica. Alongside residents Srđan and Milan Petrović, they established the Summer School of Architecture. This program focuses on documenting and developing reconstruction projects for resident-owned structures, aiming to restore them for tourism and supplement household incomes.

The Petrović family has also been instrumental in fostering heritage initiatives. Inspired by figures like Francesco Scarfi and Peter Handke, they established the “Pearl of Metohija” association in 2021, becoming local guardians of tradition. Their partnership with the Summer School of Architecture aims to preserve valuable traditional houses, and they’ve even implemented temporary repairs to protect weather-damaged structures until long-term preservation efforts are possible.

These collective investments and projects have substantially improved Velika Hoča’s heritage, raising community awareness and strengthening residents’ sense of belonging and ownership. This empowerment has, in turn, spurred residents to launch their own small-scale initiatives, further contributing to Velika Hoča’s ongoing development.

Interventions aimed at improving public infrastructure and spatial amenities

Velika Hoča’s public spaces and infrastructure have seen significant improvements thanks to the combined efforts of national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, KFOR peacekeeping forces, and the empowered residents themselves.

In the early 2000s, NGO Procom funded Velika Hoča’s first Youth Center. Although it closed in 2007 when funding ceased, an initiative with KFOR in 2021 began reactivating the space, renovating the roof and installing solar panels.

The Serbian government played a crucial role, financing a new water supply network in 2007, and later, in 2021, the road to the cemetery, including a parking lot and access stairs (Kossev, 2021). In 2022, the Government funded a new urban square (Kossev, 2022), and in 2023, it financed the paving of the House of Culture and Library entrance, and reconstructed the local health station (Kossev, 2023).

Various NGOs also stepped in to enhance community spaces. In 2014, Solidarité Kosovo renovated the Radnički sports club, revitalizing a key social hub (Solidarité Kosovo, 2014). In 2016, the Municipality of Orahovac partnered with the Kosovo Government for a new summer stage and with NGO IOM for a basketball court (Kossev, 2016). The Kosovo government also supported the renovation of the central street and riverbed (Kossev, 2016a).

Notably, in 2016, Amici di Dečani, led by Francesco Scarfi, embarked on an ambitious plan for Velika Hoča. Though not fully realized, it brought benefits like the reconstruction of the literary hostel dedicated to Peter Handke (Petrović, 2025) and a bike-sharing park in collaboration with Italian KFOR (Amici di Dečani, 2019). Amici di Dečani also beautified public areas with flower donations in 2021 and 2022 (Amici di Dečani, 2022).

Finally, residents themselves took initiative. In 2018, Milan Petrović spearheaded a new youth center, completed in 2022. Its construction was notably funded by diaspora NGOs and substantial local youth efforts, with a third of the funds raised by selling tourist merchandise. Additional support came from NGOs and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (Petrović, 2025).

Interventions aimed at building the economic resilience

Grape growing and wine production

Economic interventions, particularly in grape growing and wine production, have profoundly shaped Velika Hoča's resilience, turning tradition into a cornerstone of recovery.

A significant turning point arrived in 2001 with the founding of Velika Hoča's first wine cooperative. This was a collective stride by local wine producers to pool resources, enhance techniques, and collaboratively market their wines, rekindling hope and commitment to rebuilding the community.

The drive to establish these cooperatives came from NGO IOM (International Organization for Migration) (Petrović, 2025). Recognizing Velika Hoča's inherent potential, IOM financed several small cooperatives between 2001 and 2003, equipping them for modern wine production. These early initiatives also garnered support from other international NGOs and the European Union (Petrović, 2025). Complementing these efforts, the Visoki Dečani monastery renovated its winery, further contributing to the local economy by purchasing grapes from local farmers and distributing its wine.

Parallel to the cooperative movement, private wineries began to emerge. Vinarija Petrović, established in 2002 by the Petrović family, marked the first post-war private winery. Drawing on a winemaking legacy dating back to 1911, the family renovated their winery and, with crucial equipment funding from IOM in 2002, modernized their production (Petrović, 2025).

Between 2003 and 2010, Velika Hoča's wines gained significant recognition. Local producers proudly showcased their products at regional fairs, expanding distribution and firmly establishing Velika Hoča wines as a respected brand.

Today, roughly ten private wineries thrive in Velika Hoča. About 60% of the local adult population are engaged in wine production. This vital business continues to receive ongoing support from various NGOs, EU programs, and the governments (IOM, 2016; IOM, 2021; Kosovo Online, 2023), underscoring a collaborative effort that sustains the settlement's economic vitality.

Other support to local agriculture, and entrepreneurship and craftsmanship

Non-governmental organizations have repeatedly provided vital agricultural assistance to Velika Hoča community. This aid includes donations of machinery, seedlings, and equipment for fishponds and livestock, directly bolstering the livelihoods of local farmers (RTS, 2023; Srbi za Srbe, 2017; Srbi za Srbe, 2019a; Solidarité Kosovo, 2016).

Beyond agriculture, Serbian government championed local entrepreneurship by supporting the establishment of small non-agricultural businesses, such as workshops for souvenirs and promotional materials (RTS, 2023). This commitment is ongoing, with the annually announced competitions for economic and agricultural donations and subsidies. Similarly, the Kosovo government provides annual subsidies for agricultural production, further cementing this vital support.

NGO Amici di Dečani has consistently encouraged local entrepreneurship and craftsmanship, nurturing the community's creative and economic potential (Amici di Dečani, 2020). Even the Serbian diaspora has played a role, with businessmen donating to a local fish restaurant in 2017, demonstrating a broader network of support for the settlement's economic well-being (AP, 2017).

Socio-cultural revitalization

Velika Hoča's journey of socio-cultural revitalization has been a testament to the power of diverse stakeholders in breathing new life into a cherished heritage. The local community took the first step in 2002, successfully renewing the traditional Michaelmas Summer artistic manifestation, a cherished event first held in 1992. This local initiative laid a foundation for future cultural endeavors.

The Serbian government, recognizing the profound cultural significance of Velika Hoča, funded the Center for the Preservation of the Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija – "Mnemosyne" in 2003. Their research resulted in the publication of "Velika Hoča – Pearl of Metohija", a vital contribution to understanding the settlement's rich history and cultural sites. Following its reconstruction in 2005, the Gospodska kuća – Saraj became a central venue, hosting a continuous stream of cultural and artistic events, solidifying its role as a community hub.

A pivotal moment arrived in 2006 with the first visit of renowned writer Peter Handke. His subsequent returns and profound engagement, notably expressed in his essay "The Cuckoos of Velika Hoča" (2008), drew unprecedented international attention to the region. While Handke also provided a very significant financial support, his most notable impact was on raising international awareness, arguably contributing to Velika Hoča's later designation as a site of major cultural importance. As one former local community leader observed (Baljošević, 2019), Handke's activism stemmed from a deep commitment to justice and truth. This external spotlight amplified the settlement's unique narrative.

The literary world continued to acknowledge Velika Hoča in 2017 when famous poet Mošo Odalović published "Good morning, Velika Hoča", a book that subsequently received several prominent awards.

As the settlement's foundations strengthened, the local community further empowered itself by forming various associations dedicated to promoting intangible cultural heritage. Groups like the women's association producing "šaraljajke" (Easter egg decoration tools) and the "Jefimija" association, which

creates and sells traditional folk costumes, not only preserve ancient customs but also contribute to the settlement's socio-economic resilience.

Today, Velika Hoča thrives with a vibrant calendar of cultural, sports, and tourist events, hosted by various local and international organizations, cultural institutions, and community groups. These include cinema screenings, theater performances, religious ceremonies, wine festivals, music programs, painting colonies, exhibitions, sports matches, and humanitarian events, ensuring a rich and dynamic cultural life for residents and visitors alike (Amici di Dečani, 2016; KiM, 2022; Kosovo Online, 2022; Kosovo Online, 2024d; Novaković, 2022; Pavlović, 2023).

Support for quality of life

The enduring social resilience of Velika Hoča is profoundly shaped by a shared understanding among a diverse array of stakeholders: that addressing fundamental needs, ensuring stable housing, and enhancing overall quality of life are paramount. This recognition has catalyzed a broad spectrum of external support, delivered through both targeted, one-time contributions and sustained, ongoing initiatives. These committed stakeholders include governmental bodies; various non-governmental organizations (NGOs); diaspora associations; national and international foundations; Italian KFOR; The Serbian Orthodox Church; foreign embassies; political parties; higher education institutions; individuals from the country and abroad, and other.

Their comprehensive assistance encompasses vital provisions, such as: donations of construction materials and furniture; the provision of newly built houses; heartwarming Christmas and New Year's gifts for children; enriching summer vacations and student scholarships; steadfast support for local kindergartens; essential medical treatments; and the donation of sports equipment, along with the organization of engaging tournaments and other events for children. Direct financial aid also forms a crucial part of this multifaceted support. (Amici di Dečani, 2018; Amici di Dečani, 2018a; Generalni konzulat Republike Srbije Herceg Novi – Crna Gora, n.d.; Jugpress, 2018; Kancelarija za Kosovo i Metohiju, n.d.; Katarina, 2023; Kossev, 2016a; Kossev, 2020; Kosovo Online, 2024a; Kosovo Online, 2024b; Kosovo Online, 2024c; MDJ, n.d.; Mondo, 2009; Nedeljnik, 2024; Petrović, 2025; Prva TV, 2021; Radio Goraždevac, 2023; Radio Goraždevac, 2024; RTS, 2017; RTS, 2021; Srbi za Srbe, 2019; Srbi za Srbe, 2019b; Srbi za Srbe, 2019c; Srbi za Srbe, 2020; Srbi za Srbe, 2022; Srpska pravoslavni manastir – Carska lavra Visoki Dečani, 2016; Srpska solidarost, 2021; Srpska solidarnost, 2024; Tucakov, 2024).

An exceptional example of individual contribution to Velika Hoča's enhanced quality of life is Francesco Scarfi. Arriving from Italy in 1999, he was immediately captivated by local cultural heritage (RTS, 2012). He subsequently relocated to Velika Hoča, residing there until he became an Orthodox monk in 2016 (Bogoslovija Prizren, 2016). Between 2013 and 2014, preceding the second reconstruction of the St. Stephen winery, Scarfi personally renovated the space, transforming it into a vibrant hub for community gatherings (Petrović, 2025). Demonstrating remarkable initiative, he also restored an abandoned house, converting it into a medical clinic where Italian doctors provided free examinations to the local populace (Petrović, 2025).

Scarfi cultivated a strong partnership with the Italian KFOR contingent, a collaboration he continued through his organization, Amici di Dečani. As Scarfi himself noted, Amici di Dečani was founded at the behest of Father Andrej, abbot of Crna Reka Monastery, to coordinate Italian aid (Građansko novinarstvo, 2022). This organization, comprised of Italian volunteers and monks from the Dečani monastery, actively promotes Velika Hoča's cultural heritage and significantly strengthens the community's socio-cultural dynamics, with a particular focus on children, through numerous activities, most notably the "Games in Hoča" (Gioca Hoča) event (Amici di Dečani, 2013; Amici di Dečani, 2013a; Amici di Dečani, 2015a; Amici di Dečani, 2016a; Amici di Dečani, 2017; Amici di Dečani, 2018b; Amici di Dečani, 2018c). Furthermore, Amici di Dečani has actively participated in the restoration of Hoča's historic houses. The dedication and profound contributions of Francesco Scarfi and Amici di Dečani to the development and welfare of Velika Hoča are widely regarded by locals as immeasurable.

Mechanisms of civic engagement

The mechanisms of civic engagement in Velika Hoča have been diverse, evolving with specific projects and events. Paradoxically, the gradual and understated nature of this development may have been crucial for its success amidst turbulent social and political circumstances, where overtly political public involvement can often be counterproductive.

Public involvement in Velika Hoča was particularly notable in reconstruction efforts, exemplified by Frančesko Skarfi's "Village Hoča" project. Global engagement, though difficult to quantify, notably stemmed from Peter Handke's work. Local public participation was driven by a desire to tailor projects to specific local needs, ensuring residents understood intentions and potential outcomes.

Velika Hoča's close-knit community, where many residents are related, traditionally relied on consensus-building rather than formal decision-making processes. As initiatives gained momentum, the community recognized their potential, and people rallied around promising ideas and events that revitalized the settlement. In Velika Hoča, scarred by war, any activity that shifted focus from security concerns was welcomed, enriching daily life. Crucially, community problems often directly drove project design, showcasing a bottom-up approach to problem-solving. While local government involvement was largely procedural, the community's proactive role was evident.

Initiators played diverse roles, from promoting tradition, culture, and identity to influencing spatial planning and investing in architectural heritage. Their individual and organizational engagement fostered networks that encouraged others to launch their own initiatives. In Velika Hoča, local initiators typically began as individuals before formalizing their efforts through associations and NGOs. Collaboration among multiple actors is a hallmark of this development, making it difficult to attribute success solely to one organization or individual.

While post-war NGO initiatives were common across Kosovo UNSCR 1244, Velika Hoča stands out for the profound influence exerted through its various forms of civic engagement.

Case study findings and lessons learned

From the outset, community empowerment in Velika Hoča stemmed from a desire to leverage local potential through direct support, such as donations to cooperatives. Initiators like Peter Handke and Francesco Scarfi were driven by a need to assist in facing specific challenges within a historically rich environment. The interplay of Velika Hoča's unique space, people, and deep history motivated significant contributions, effectively reversing decline.

A key lesson learned is that empowering individuals through identifying genuine needs and fostering direct discussions enables profound participation. This creates a chain reaction, inspiring residents like Milan Petrović and his family to launch their own community-focused projects, demonstrating far-reaching positive implications.

NGOs played a crucial role in resilience building processes, effectively bypassing political obstacles and providing direct access to resources. Direct communication with residents ensured funds addressed real needs, enabling rapid progress. While this agility was beneficial, the absence of detailed plans occasionally led to irregular spending and missed strategic development opportunities. Conversely, comprehensive planning risked vulnerability to the unstable political landscape (Petrović, 2025). Significant contributions from both Serbian and Kosovo governments were observed, with Serbia's support for economic resilience, vulnerable groups, and heritage preservation being particularly notable.

Heritage sustainability

Velika Hoča's urban and architectural heritage has undergone continuous transformation through processes of construction, decay, and reconstruction. Deterioration, evident from the early 20th century due to neglect, war, and weather, prompted preservation efforts in the early 21st century. While reconstruction has saved many churches, hostels, wineries, and houses, numerous structures remain endangered or have already collapsed.

New construction, though necessary, often negatively impacted existing heritage by demolishing older buildings or constructing too close to historic ones. This trend intensified in the 21st century with large, aesthetically disruptive structures. Spontaneous activities, like post-1999 illegal landfills, initially worsened conditions, but as stability improved, residents alone enhanced their properties, improving the settlement's visual appearance. A critical finding is the Cultural Heritage Council of Velika Hoča's inability to act when local and central authorities bypass consultation, underscoring a systemic challenge. Further coordinated efforts are essential to protect the remaining valuable buildings and maintain the settlement's character.

Current resilience challenges

Despite huge advances, Velika Hoča's resilience building faces ongoing challenges. The unstable political situation remains a threat, risking irreversible damage to tangible cultural heritage due to slow progress stemming from a lack of planning and broader consensus. This slow pace also risks discouraging younger residents and exacerbating emigration.

Nevertheless, the primary challenge to Velika Hoča's social resilience is its unfavorable demographic profile and generational imbalance. Many young people leave for education or employment and do not

always return, creating a poignant tension between deep familial ties and fears for the future (Handke, 2020). Other obstacles include limited specialized healthcare and education, scarce employment opportunities, and the absence of a unifying local organization to consolidate and promote local capacities. Income disparities and economic divisions persist, and resistance to cooperation stemming from established social ties limits potential. Furthermore, unresolved issues regarding illegally usurped land prevent full economic development, and safety concerns deter some locals from utilizing valuable property like vineyards.

Conclusion

Velika Hoča's post-1999 journey exemplifies a remarkable transformation, with winemaking and viticulture remaining its enduring constant amidst significant change. This study highlights the crucial mechanisms that built local resilience and offers key lessons for other vulnerable communities.

Settlement's development was driven by a multifaceted engagement strategy that leveraged external support while gradually involving the local community. Key layers included heritage reactivation, infrastructure improvement, economic empowerment, agricultural and tourism support, prominent advocacy, and social support.

Initially, external stakeholders played a crucial role in identifying solutions and inspiring action, as the community's post-war challenges obscured its own potential. Their fresh ideas, unbiased assessments, and ability to integrate Velika Hoča into broader networks proved invaluable. This study underscores a crucial message: social resilience, especially in vulnerable communities, demands sustained, long-term commitment. Over 25 years, consistent efforts have transformed Velika Hoča from a community on the brink of collapse into a thriving one, evidenced by:

- Extensive reconstruction (seven churches, two museums, a monastery inn, parish house, House of Culture, health station, primary school, and numerous family homes and returnee houses);
- Significant infrastructure improvements (sports facilities, children's playgrounds, youth centers, a reconstructed square, illuminated paths, a new water supply system, and an access road with a bridge);
- Environmental remediation (landfill removal, cleaned riverbed);
- A revitalized economy, with 60% of the working population in viticulture and wine production (approximately 50 households), and a consistent increase in tourism as a significant economic contributor; and
- An active socio-cultural scene and ongoing reconstruction of historic houses.

Velika Hoča's development is an ongoing, layered process encompassing investments in planning, viticulture, winemaking, and infrastructure, alongside public awareness campaigns that highlight its importance to local, regional, and global cultural heritage. The community's active embrace of primarily external ideas for survival and prosperity, fueled by hope for a brighter future, dispelled false narratives and allowed its true potential to flourish.

Velika Hoča offers a distinctive model of community resilience where residents coalesced to overcome shared adversity, cultivating robust local communication and problem-solving mechanisms. While its

unique values, forged by specific history and geography, may not be directly replicable, the universal emotional connection to homeland suggests untapped potential in many underdeveloped communities.

However, potential alone is insufficient. Velika Hoča's transformation required the sustained impetus of initiatives and dedicated individuals, fostering ongoing engagement in viticulture, tourism, and heritage preservation. This model, emphasizing the leveraging of existing local potential, can be adapted. Its linchpin is a meticulously crafted plan requiring collaborative involvement from planners, funders, organizations, and governments committed to strategic and sustainable investment.

For Velika Hoča's continued development, broader recognition within world cultural heritage is crucial. Inclusion on world heritage lists would attract greater expert attention and the influence over reconstruction and protection decisions. While the initial lack of a general plan paradoxically led to spontaneous, positive development in post-war chaos, predictable and stable local, urban, and architectural plans are now essential to guide future spatial interventions, ensure continued success, and further strengthen emotional, social, and economic ties.

Implementation tactics must be coordinated by experts who consider economic, cultural-historical, and socio-political impacts, effectively communicating with authorities to address community needs within professional and legal frameworks. Harmonized, persistent, and well-coordinated cooperation among residents, initiators, organizations, and planners is vital.

Finally, Velika Hoča's diaspora community represents a significant untapped resource. While cautious, their strong ties to home, financial resources, international knowledge, and experience offer immense potential for development and global promotion. Actively engaging the diaspora through effective communication and joint projects, extending beyond just financial contributions to fostering a deeper sense of community, is vital for Velika Hoča's future progress.

Attachments

References

- Amici di Dečani (2013) GiocaHoča 2013, 12.09.2013. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/giocahoca-2013-0> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2013a) il workshop di giocahoca, 05.09.2013. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/gallery/il-workshop-di-giocahoca> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2015) La Vinica di Sveti Stefan, 31.05.2015. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/la-vinica-di-sveti-stefan> (accessed 22.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2015a) Cirkus Myskin, 30.03.2015. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/cirkus-myskin> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2016) Inaugurazione, 16.08.2016. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/inaugurazione> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2016a) La Regata – HočaBrod, 22.05.2016. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/la-regata-hocabrod> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2017) GiocaHoča 2017, 24.08.2017. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/giocahoca-2017-0> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2018) Le piccole cose, 09.11.2018. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/le-piccole-cose> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2018a), DOCs for KiM, 13.04.2018. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/docs-kim> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2018b) GIOCAHOČA 2018, 25.06.2018. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/giocahoca-2018> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2018c) Video Hoča, 30.08.2018. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/video-hoca> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2019) Le nuove Bici, 21.11.2019. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/le-nuove-bici> (accessed 22.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2020) Adesso al lavoro, 15.11.2020. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/adesso-al-lavoro> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Amici di Dečani (2022) Fiori e gentilezza, 11.05.2022. Available online: <https://www.amicididecani.it/notizie/fiori-e-gentilezza--le-fioriere-di-velika-hoca-si-vestono-di-nuovo> (accessed 22.02.2025).
- AP (2017) Donacija dijaspore za riblji restoran Velikoj Hoči na Kosovu, 11.03.2017. Available online: <https://www.novimagazin.rs/vesti/143840-donacija-dijaspore-za-riblji-restoran-velikoj-hoci-na-kosovu> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Arapi-Krasniqi, N. and Toska, E. (2020) Slon u sobi: Profesionalna i „nepolitička” perspektiva kulturnog nasleđa srpske zajednice u odnosu na Kulturno nasleđe Kosova. Priština: Kosovo Democratic Institute.

Baljošević, D. (2019) Ekskluzivno: Sećanja na druženje sa Peterom Handkeom, 10.12.2019. Available online: <https://izmedjusnajave.rs/хандке-највећи-пријатељ-са-србима-из/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Blago Fund (n.d.) Medieval Churches in Velika Hoča. Available online: <https://www.blagofund.org/Archives/VelikaHoca/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Bogoslovija Prizren (2016) Vesti, 06.11.2016. Available online: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1049955271797982&id=100064875543355 (accessed 23.02.2025).

CHwB (2014) Velika Hoča bed & breakfast. Available online: https://chwbkosova.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Publication_2010_3.pdf (accessed 22.02.2025).

CHwB (2014a) Restoration and revitalization of the winery of St. Stefan Church in Velika Hoča / Hoča e Madhe, 04.11.2024. Available online: <https://chwbkosova.org/projects/restoration-and-revitalization-of-the-winery-of-st-stefan-church-in-velika-hoca-hoca-e-madhe/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Gadžić, N. (2022) Traktat o ruralnoj arhitekturi Velike Hoče. Patrimonijum MK, 15(20), 365-374. Available online: http://www.kalamus.com.mk/pdf_spisanija/patrimonium_15/25%20-%20029_1%20=%2031%20Nebojsa%20Gadzic%20-%20Patrimonium%202022.pdf (accessed 22.02.2025).

Generalni konzulat Republike Srbije Herceg Novi – Crna Gora (n.d.) Boravak dece sa Kosova I Metohije na području Herceg Novog. Available online: <http://hercegnovi.mfa.gov.rs/lat/newstext.php?subaction=showfull&id=1663071524&ucat=118&template=HeadlinesLat&> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Građansko novinarstvo (2022) Otac Benedikt Skarfi: Ugostiti anđela, Documentary movie, 10.05.2022. Available online: <https://youtu.be/jis4La9Zksc?si=VH5wsBa9K1d5tORI> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Handke, P. (2020) Kukavice iz Velike Hoče. Beograd: Prometej.

IOM (2016) Stabilization of non-majority communities in Kosovo, 24.06.2016. Available online: <https://www.facebook.com/KosovoIOM/photos/stabilization-of-non-majority-communities-in-kosovo-the-eu-community-stabilizati/1338443256169023/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

IOM (2021) Wine and Spirits Producer Receives New Technology, 22.03.2021. Available online: <https://kosovo.iom.int/news/wine-and-spirits-producer-receives-new-technology> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Jugpress (2018) Manastir Visoki Dečani uručio pomoć porodicama u Velikoj Hoči, 30.09.2018. Available online: <https://jugpress.com/manastir-visoki-decani-urucio-pomoc-porodicama-u-velikoj-hoci/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kancelarija za Kosovo i Metohiju - Vlada Republike Srbije (n.d.) Šta Kancelarija za KiM preduzima u cilju stambenog zbrinjavanja srpskog i nealbanskog stanovništva na KiM- tj. izgradnje i rekonstrukcije stambenih jedinica radi obezbeđenja uslova za održivi opstanak domicilnog stanovništva i povratak IRL na KiM. Koje su dostupne vrste pomoći? Available online: <https://www.kim.gov.rs/lat/np8.php> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Katarina (2023) Predstavnici HO Solidarnost za Kosovo dele pomoć Srbima na KiM, 02.01.2023. Available online: <https://www.rasejanje.info/2023/01/02/predstavnici-ho-solidarnost-za-kosovo-dele-pomoc-srbima-na-kim/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

KiM (2022) Festival vina u Velikoj Hoči: Potomcima u amanet, 17.06.2022. Available online: <https://kossev.info/festival-vina-u-velikoj-hoci-potomcima-u-amanet/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kosovo Online (2022) Velika Hoča: Dva dana kulture, umetnici sa Kosova u muzičkom i likovnom programu za decu, 12.05.2022. Available online: <https://www.kosovo-online.com/vesti/drustvo/velika-hoca-dva-dana-kulture-umetnici-sa-kosova-u-muzickom-i-likovnom-pogramu-za-decu> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kosovo Online (2023) Kancelarija za KiM obezbedila opremu za deset vinarija iz Velike Hoče, 26.01.2023. Available online: <https://www.kosovo-online.com/vesti/drustvo/kancelarija-za-kim-obezbedila-opremu-za-deset-vinarija-iz-velike-hoce-26-1-2023> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kosovo Online (2024) Novčana pomoć za osamnaestoro dece u Velikoj Hoči, 27.01.2024. Available online: <https://www.kosovo-online.com/vesti/drustvo/novcana-pomoc-za-osamnaestoro-dece-u-velikoj-hoci-27-1-2024> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Kosovo Online (2024a) Organizacija “Solidarnost za Kosovo” omogućila deci iz enklava na Kosovu prvo letovanje. Available online: <https://www.kosovo-online.com/vesti/drustvo/solidarnost-za-kosovo-deca-iz-enklava-na-kosovu-prvi-put-na-moru-17-7-2024> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kosovo Online (2024b) Počela isplata užinskog dodatka: Pomoć nam mnogo znači da opstanemo na svom ognjištu, 14.11.2024. Available online: <https://www.kosovo-online.com/vesti/politika/pocela-isplata-uzinskog-dodatka-ova-pomoc-nam-mnogo-znaci-da-opstanemo-na-svom> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kosovo Online (2024c) Novčana pomoć za osamnaestoro dece u Velikoj Hoči, 27.01.2024. Available online: <https://www.kosovo-online.com/vesti/drustvo/novcana-pomoc-za-osamnaestoro-dece-u-velikoj-hoci-27-1-2024> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kosovo Online (2024d) U Velikoj Hoči otvorena izložba fotografija i akvarela „Velika Hoča, 20 godina kasnije”, 07.07.2024. Available online: <https://www.kosovo-online.com/vesti/drustvo/u-velikoj-hoci-otvorena-izlozba-fotografija-i-akvarela-velika-hoca-20-godina-kasnije> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kossev (2016) Velika Hoča: Počeli radovi na uređenju rečnog korita i centralne ulice, uskoro rešenje problema vodosnabdevanja, 12.07.2016. Available online: <https://kossev.info/velika-hoca-poceli>

radovi-na-uredjenju-recnog-korita-i-centralne-ulice-uskoro-resenje-problema-vodosnabdevanja/ (accessed 22.02.2025).

Kossev (2016a) Velika Hoča: Domu zdravlja medicinski aparati, završeni radovi na uređenju rečnog korita i centralne ulice, 17.12.2016. Available online: <https://kossev.info/velika-hoca-domu-zdravlja-medicinski-aparati-završeni-radovi-na-uredjenju-recnog-korita-i-centralne-ulice/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Kossev (2020) MZZP: Odobrena izgradnja još 29 kuća za povratnike i raseljena lica, 17.09.2020. Available online: <https://kossev.info/mzzp-odobrena-izgradnja-jos-29-kuca-za-povratnike-i-raseljena-lica/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Kossev (2021) Kancelarija za KiM: U toku je uređenje puta ka groblju u Velikoj Hoči, 26.07.2021. Available online: <https://kossev.info/kancelarija-za-kim-u-toku-je-uredjenje-puta-ka-groblju-u-velikoj-hoci/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Kossev (2022) Petković: Velika Hoča dobija novi gradski trg, 25.05.2022. Available online: <https://kossev.info/petkovic-velika-hoca-dobija-novi-gradski-trg/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Kossev (2023) Kancelarija za KiM: Završeno popločavanje balkona i stepeništa u Velikoj Hoči, 11.10.2023. Available online: <https://kossev.info/kancelarija-za-kim-završeno-poplocavanje-balkona-i-stepenista-u-velikoj-hoci/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

MDJ - Humanitarna organizacija Eparhije raško-prizrenske - Majka devet Jugovića - Narodne kuhinje na Kosovu i Metohiji (n.d.) Donirajte za našu decu na Kosovu i Metohiji. Available online: <https://narodnekuhinjekim.com> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Miljković, I. (2020) Na izvoru: Sava Garić iz Velike Hoče. Riznica, 12.06.2020. Available online: <https://www.riznica.net/na-izvoru-sava-garic-iz-velike-hoce/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Mnemosyne (n.d.) Projekti. Available online: <https://web.archive.org/web/20140608192731/http://www.mnemosyne.org.rs/index.php/sr/projekti.html> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Mondo (2009) Humanitarna pomoć Velikoj Hoči prošla smetove, 20.02.2009. Available online: <https://mondo.rs/Info/Srbija/a126904/Humanitarna-pomoc-Velikoj-Hoci-prosla-smetove.html> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Nedeljnik (2024) Punih 20 godina zajedno sa Srbima na KiM, počeo božićni konvoj Solidarnosti za Kosovo, 31.12.2024. Available online: <https://www.nedeljnik.rs/punih-20-godina-zajedno-sa-srbima-na-kim-poceo-bozicni-konvoj-solidarnosti-za-kosovo/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Ničić, P. (n.d.) Velika Hoča Management Plan. Restoration of Vineries and Lodgings. Available online: https://www.hdm.lth.se/fileadmin/hdm/alumni/papers/CMHB_2007/Kosovo__Predrag_Nicic__Velika_Hoca.pdf (accessed 22.02.2025).

- Novaković, K. (2022) Foto esej – Bela vila u Velikoj Hoči, 26.05.2022. Available online: <https://pescanik.net/foto-esej-bela-vila-u-velikoj-hoci/> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Odalović, M. (2017) Dobro jutro, Velika Hočo. Beograd: Zadužbina „Desanka Maksimović“ i Narodna biblioteka Srbije. Available online: <http://zdm.nb.rs/dokumenti/Dobro-jutro-Velika-Hoco.pdf> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Pavlović, A. (2023) Igra pauna i paunice i Bela vila u Velikoj Hoči: Proslava Uskrsa uz bogatstvo običaja, 18.04.2023. Available online: <https://alternativna.com/igra-pauna-i-paunice-i-bela-vila-u-velikoj-hoci-proslava-uskrsa-uz-bogatstvo-obicaja/> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Petrović, M. (2025) Interview with the Initiator.
- Prometej (2020) Kukavice iz Velike Hoče. Available online: <https://www.prometej.rs/prodavnica/esejistika/kukavice-iz-velike-hoce/> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Prva TV (2021) Radna akcija sa Tamarom - kod Simića u Hoči. Available online: <https://youtu.be/4peTXsJhHSo?si=ncyKxql14vZbS6> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Radio Goraždevac (2023) “Srcem za Kosmet” za decu Orahovca i Velike Hoče, 28.03.2023. Available online: <https://radiomitrovicasever.com/2023/05/28/srcem-za-kosmet-za-decu-orahovca-i-velike-hoce/> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Radio Goraždevac (2024) “Srcem za Kosmet kup” okupio više od dvesta dece u Velikoj Hoči, 08.10.2024. Available online: <https://kossev.info/kosovo-online-najnovije-vesti-srcem-za-kosmet-kup-okupio-vise-od-dvesta-dece-u-velikoj-hoci/> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- Radovanović, G. (2022) Čekajući Handkea. Documentary movie.
- RTS (2012) Očaran Kosovom i Metohijom, 22.08.2012. Available online: <https://www.rts.rs/lat/vesti/drustvo/1160402/ocaran-kosovom-i-metohijom.html> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- RTS (2017) Monah Benedikt prenosi istinu o životu Srba u enklavama, 02.09.2017. Available online: <https://www.rts.rs/lat/vesti/drustvo/2849129/monah-benedikt-prenosi-istinu-o-zivotu-srba-u-enklavama.html> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- RTS (2021) Pomoć đacima u Velikoj Hoči od Fondacija Novaka Đokovića, Ane i Vlade Divac i Mohandji, 19.09.2021. Available online: <https://www.rts.rs/lat/vesti/drustvo/4518215/pomoc-djacima-u-velikoj-hoci-od-fondacija-novaka-djokovica-ane-i-vlade-divac-i-mohandji.html> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- RTS (2023) Pomoć Kancelarije za KiM za 10 vinarija u Velikoj Hoči, 26.01.2023. Available online: <https://www.rts.rs/lat/vesti/drustvo/5101401/.html?print=true> (accessed 23.02.2025).
- SANU – Srpska akademija nauka i umetnosti (n.d.) Kula Lazara Kujundžića. Available online: <http://spomenicikulture.mi.sanu.ac.rs/spomenik.php?id=229> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Solidarité Kosovo (2014) Lancement des travaux de rénovation du club sportif de Velika Hoča. Available online: <https://www.solidarite-kosovo.org/lancement-des-travaux-de-renovation-du-club-sportif-de-velika-hoca/> (accessed 22.02.2025).

Solidarité Kosovo (2016) Solidarité Kosovo dote un village d'une moissonneuse-batteuse, 29.06.2016. Available online: <https://www.solidarite-kosovo.org/solidarite-kosovo-dote-un-village-dune-moissonneuse-batteuse/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srbi za Srbe (2017) Završena Vidovdanska akcija na Kosovu i Metohiji, 20.07.2017. Available online: <https://www.srbizasrbe.org/završena-vidovdanska-akcija-na-kosovu-i-metohiji/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srbi za Srbe (2019) U Vaskršnjoj akciji na Kosovu i Metohiji pomognute 24 porodice i Narodna kuhinja, 05.09.2019. Available online: <https://www.srbizasrbe.org/u-vaskrsnjoj-akciji-na-kosovu-i-metohiji-pomognute-24-porodice-i-narodna-kuhinja/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srbi za Srbe (2019a) Traktor za vinariju u Velikoj Hoči, 12.08.2019. Available online: <https://www.srbizasrbe.org/traktor-za-vinariju-u-velikoj-hoci/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srbi za Srbe (2019b) U novembarsko-decembarskoj akciji na KiM pomognute Narodne kuhinje, selo Rudice, Prizrenska bogoslovija i 22 porodice!, 31.12.2019. Available online: <https://www.srbizasrbe.org/u-novembarsko-decembarskoj-akciji-na-kim-pomognute-narodne-kuhinje-selo-rudice-prizrenska-bogoslovija-i-22-porodice/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srbi za Srbe (2019c) Vidovdanska pomoć za 18 porodica na Kosovu i Metohiji, 12.12.2019. Available online: <https://www.srbizasrbe.org/vidovdanska-pomoc-za-18-porodica-na-kosovu-i-metohiji/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srbi za Srbe (2020) U Božićnoj akciji u Metohiji pomognuto 11 porodica, 12.07.2020. Available online: <https://www.srbizasrbe.org/u-bozicnoj-akciji-u-metohiji-pomognuto-11-porodica/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srbi za Srbe (2022) Kosmet je naš dom, a isporukom nove pomoći našem narodu, to i potvrđujemo na delu!, 26.12.2022. Available online: <https://www.srbizasrbe.org/kosmet-je-nas-dom-a-iskorukom-nove-pomoci-nasem-narodu-to-i-potvrđujemo-na-delu/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srpska solidarnost (2021) Stomatološka ordinacija u Velikoj Hoči otvorena, 18.10.2021. Available online: <https://www.srpskasolidarnost.com/stomatoloska-ordinacija-u-velikoj-hoci-otvorena/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srpska solidarnost (2024) Stipendiranje dece sa Kosova i Metohije. Available online: <https://www.srpskasolidarnost.com/stipendiranje-dece-sa-kosova-i-metohije/> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Srpski pravoslavni manastir – Carska lavra Visoki Dečani (2016) Potvrda, 05.05.2016. Available online: [https://www.srbizasrbe.org/racuni/2016/potvrda-berac-kukuruza-velika-hoca-kim\(1\).pdf](https://www.srbizasrbe.org/racuni/2016/potvrda-berac-kukuruza-velika-hoca-kim(1).pdf) (accessed 23.02.2025).

Top Srbija (2019) Ljubomir Brkić: Proizvodnja vina je veliki užitek, 07.03.2019. Available online: https://www.topsrbija.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9276:ljubomir-brki-proizvodnja-vina-je-veliki-uitak&catid=297:vino&Itemid=569 (accessed 22.02.2025).

Tucakov, A. (2024) Novčana pomoć za decu i najugroženije: Vlada Srbije usvojila je zaključak kojim se usvaja paket na KiM, 14.09.2024. Available online: <https://www.sd.rs/vesti/kosovo/novcana-pomoc-za-decu-i-najugrozenije-vlada-srbije-usvojila-je-zakljucak-kojim-se-usvaja-paket-na-kim-2024-09-14> (accessed 23.02.2025).

Photos



Figure 1. Patrnogić family's winery reconstruction, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 2. Rudimentary equipment for wine production and storage, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)

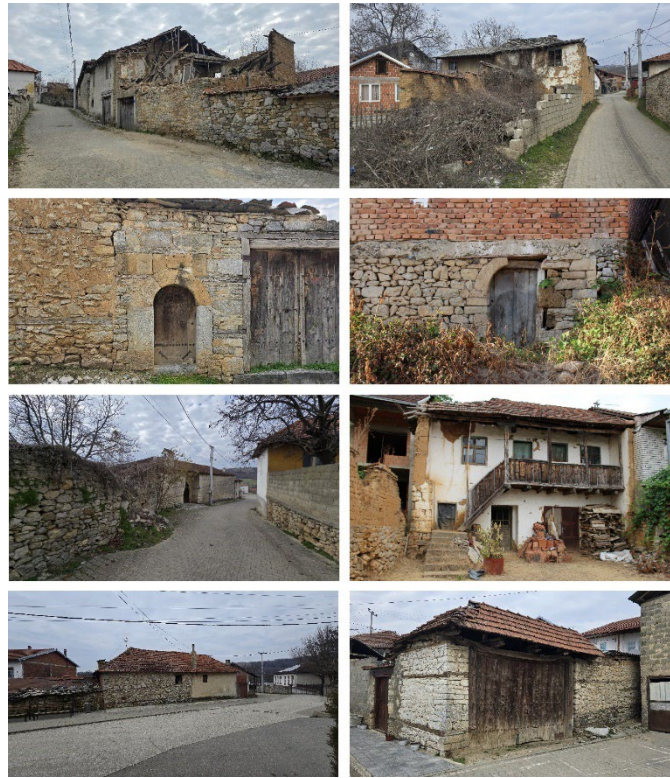


Figure 3. Abandoned traditional houses, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 4. St. Archdeacon Stephen Church, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 5. St. Luke Church, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 6. St. Anne Church, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 7. Visoki Dečani monastery winery, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 8. Gospodska kuća – Saraj, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 9. House of the Spasić family, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 10. Lazar Kujundžić Tower, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 11. Winery of the St. Archdeacon Stephen Church, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 12. Summer stage in front of Gospodska kuća, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 13. Hostel “At the end of the village”, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 14. House of Culture



Figure 15. Watermill of the Brkić family, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 16. Petrović winery, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 17. Former house of the priest Ilija Stolić, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 18. The inn of the Monastery of Marko Koriški, today the house of the Lukić family, 2024. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 19. The playground in the school yard of “Svetozar Marković” Primary School, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)



Figure 20. Souvenir shop, 2025. (photo: M. Gvozdić)

UPRUN was cofunded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Erasmus+ National Agency for Higher Education (German Academic Exchange Service). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



This project has received funding under ERASMUS+ Cooperation Partnerships programme. Project No 2023-1-DE01-KA220-HED-000167004.

