

## **Ecology, tourism and economics analysis of the republic of Macedonia**

**V. Fotiu**<sup>\*,1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute for Geobiology, Archaeology, Ground Water and Ecology” P.O.Box 891 1000 Skopje, R. of Macedonia

**Key words** ecology, tourism, economics

A wide field of action is necessary for the development of tourism; in that sense, it will be necessary to introduce the ecological processes in this entire business activity in which tourism is or will be taking place. Tourism and ecology would represent a whole process, without which there would not be any positive results.

### **1 Introduction**

The countries which are undergoing the process of transition, one of which is the Republic of Macedonia, are ideal areas for the development of tourism. Ecology represents an indivisible part in this process, offering its contribution to the development of tourism, but the same can be destroyed as well. In accordance with this fact, it is necessary that these two fields of activity take synchronous care of the environment, taking into consideration that tourism and ecology should both be included in this process. Tourism and ecology should, in any case, be complementary and only in this way presented as a whole process.

It is necessary to elaborate professional analyses intended to present the current factual conditions in the Republic of Macedonia. Thereby, these researches represent only a small part in the establishment of one entity consisting of ecology and tourism.

### **2 Materials and methods**

The research process includes the analysis of many travel agencies, their operating principle and the obtained field results. Also, the financial investments and profits were analyzed as a result of the combination of the ecological, the tourist and the economic aspect.

There are processed statistical data analyzing the results which were obtained during the investigation.

### **3 Results and Discussion**

The Republic of Macedonia is located in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is a landlocked country covering the surface area of 25,713 km<sup>2</sup>. The population is approximately two million inhabitants with the medium population density of 81% per km<sup>2</sup>.

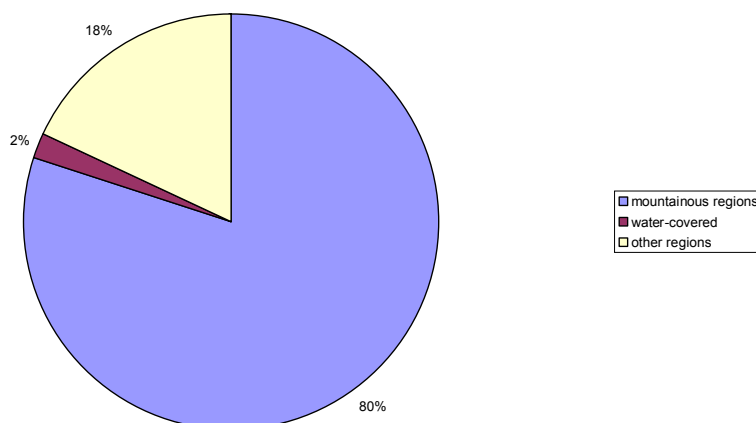
The cleanness is very poor in the rural regions of the Republic of Macedonia. Following this, I herewith present my opinion about the country development and protection of ecology as its most important sector. The government should pay attention and support the development of the village tourism and of healthy ecological environment.

The country has all the conditions for development, so that the appropriate measures should be taken by the authorized institutions.

---

\* Corresponding author: e-mail [contact@igape.edu.mk](mailto:contact@igape.edu.mk)

Regions in the Republic of Macedonia

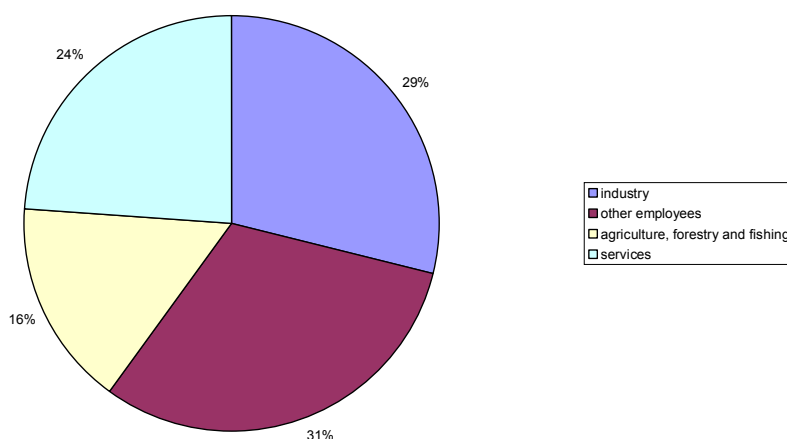


The figure 1 shows that 2% of its total surface is covered by waters. There are approximately 50 artificial lakes, 3 natural lakes (the lakes of Ohrid, Prespa and Doiran) as well as a large number of rivers. The longest of them is the river Vardar.

The waters should not be polluted with chemical waste, but they should be kept clean. This will provide for the increase the fish growing and tourism.

80% of the total surface of the country is covered by the mountains. The priority must be given to the woods because of their considerable ecological importance.

Economic basis in GDP (Gross Domestic Product)

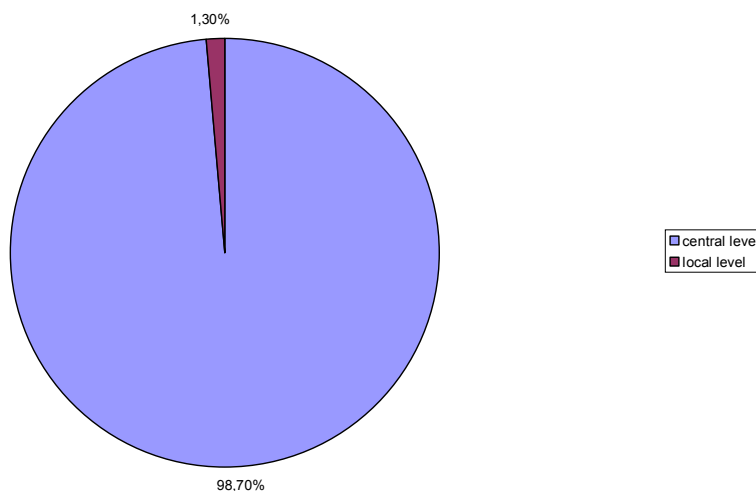


The biggest part of the population is employed in industry (29%), and its smallest part is engaged in agriculture (16%).

As a result of the fact that the Republic of Macedonia is faced with a high level of unemployment, it must encourage the development of the small and medium-scale agricultural enterprises and companies.

Following this, unemployment should be reduced which will lead to the increase of the standard of living increased and to prosperity of village tourism.

Decision on important investments

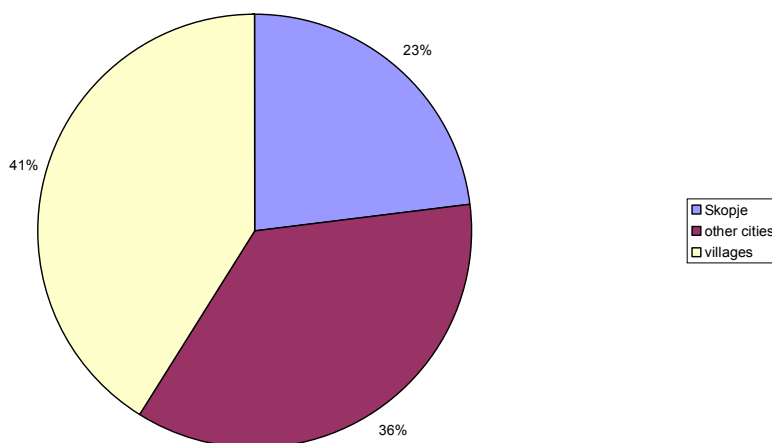


The high fiscal decentralization system is abandoned as a part of the economic and fiscal reform, so that the budget unity system is established, financing the different public utilities. Most of the decisions referring to great investments have been brought by the central institutions applying the budgeted unity system (98%). So, 98.7% of the total budget-related decisions were made by the central institutions during the 1995, while the remaining budget decisions 1.3% were brought by the local institutions.

The introduction of unity makes it possible that more financial resources are used for the key infrastructure projects and for the environmental projects as well.

However, the budget cost percentage intended for the environment should be increased.

Population distribution

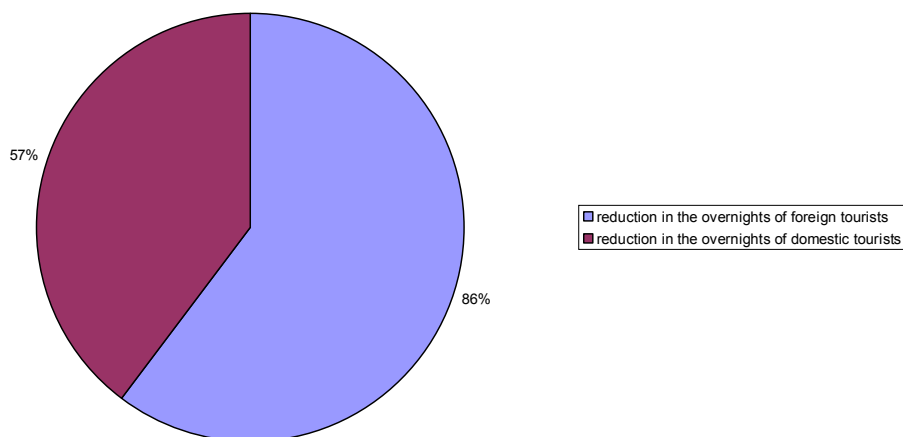


As we have already mentioned above, the total population in the Republic of Macedonia is approximately two million inhabitants. With time, we have observed a gradual migration of the population towards the bigger urban centers, so that in the present time approximately 59% of the population lives in 29 cities with very high level of population density, and 41% of the inhabitants live in the villages. The capital city of Skopje has 450,000 inhabitants. Other big cities are: Bitola, Prilep, Ohrid, Kumanovo, Tetovo etc. Around 80% of the rural population in the villages has less than three hectares of land intended for agricultural cultivation. The limited amount of arable land forces the village population to migrate to the big cities looking for job and better life.

On the other hand, overpopulation in the big cities creates many problems (adequate water supply, unprofessional treatment of waste, increase of traffic etc). The city of Ohrid, which is the biggest tourist center in the Republic of Macedonia has not the appropriate infrastructure to accept the great tourist influx during the summer. This is a serious problem because the unprofessional treatment of the waste endangers the Ohrid lake. Besides, the overpopulation is dangerous for the social and the economic structure of the urban population; therefore, it is necessary to reduce the population in the cities. The villages should be activated through appropriate stimulation and agricultural measures, as well as by offering special subventions and satisfactory loans for the people who intend to return to the villages (renovation, re-building, repair). It is necessary to advertise the village tourism, because the rural regions are the greatest potential for the production of clean and healthy food.

On the long run, the government should be oriented towards the reduction of the people's migration towards the cities, through appropriate agricultural policy, as well as by the implementation of an agricultural program intended for the stimulation of the agricultural business (small and medium-scale enterprises).

**Reduction in the overnights of domestic and foreign tourists in the Republic of Macedonia during the period from 1987 to 2001**



Tourism in Macedonia was marked by a successful growth during the 80-ties. During that period, the country was visited by tourists coming both from East and from West Europe, but unfortunately the crisis that followed shocked the Balkans, rapidly reducing tourism in the recent period.

We can observe the tendency of reduction in the number of overnights of the domestic and foreign tourists in the Republic of Macedonia on the Figure 5. The overnights of the foreign tourists were reduced by 86% during the period of 1987-2001, and those of the domestic tourists were reduced by 57% in the same period. In the present time the typical foreign tourist is a businessman or a person who has come to our country to attend a congress or a seminar.

## 4 Conclusion

In accordance with the above mentioned, it can be concluded that there have been very little investments in the field of ecology and tourism in the Republic of Macedonia until the present time, so that tourism and ecology, although close and mutually connected branches, are not sufficiently developed.

The forthcoming investment projects will help their development, which will influence the field of ecology, tourism, economics and the budget of the Republic of Macedonia in general.

## References

- [1] Културно наследство, Републички завод за заштита на спомениците на културата-Скопје, 1987, Скопје.
- [2] Boiko D. Baikov, Ekologija za vseki, Nov Bugarski Univerzitet, Planeta 3, 2000, Sofia.
- [3] Patrick Francis, Jurg Klarer, Nelly Petkova, Sourcebook on environmental funds in economies in transition, Phare, 1999, Paris.
- [4] Рубин Зарески, Одење по работ, ИНФОПРЕС, 2003, Скопје.
- [5] Stojan Velkoski, Georgi Kotevski, Frank Otten, Gordana V. Zlateva, Jadranka Denkova, Analysis of technical devices for protection against electromagnetic radiation, Third Scientific Conference with International Participation SPACE, ECOLOGY, NANOTECHNOLOGY, SAFETY, 27-29 June 2007, Varna, Bulgaria
- [6] Slavko Milosavleski, Ivan Katardzhiev, Mirche Tomovski, Lazar Kitanoski, Facts about the Republic of Macedonia, Gorenjski list, 1996, Kranj – Republic of Slovenia.
- [7] Dragan Markovski, Premka, Reklam EN-ES – Скопје, 2005 Скопје.
- [8] Стефанка Хаџи Пецова, Михаило Зиков, Пене Пенев, Планинскиот масив Јакупица, НИП Студентски збор, 1999 Скопје.