
SUMMARY



As a settlement, Gospić developed in a favourable topographic location in the central part of Ličko polje (Lika field), on the dried out portion of the plateau along the Novčica River, in the vicinity of the most favourable crossings over the Lika and Bogdanica Rivers. Due to its geographic (in the centre of the northern moderate belt) and topographic positions (under the lee of the Velebit Mountain, within the central Lika basin), the wider city area (Central Lika) is characterized by a moderate continental climate with brisk summers and corresponding environmental features. At the same time, the dominant carbonate composition of the underground layers gives rise to the dominance of karst hydrography with high seasonal water level variations. Regardless of traces of older habitations, the city was founded according to physical plans in the first half of the 18th century as a result of the need for a completely new spatial organization in specific geopolitical conditions (Croatian Military Border). Apart from the more favourable local (topographic) position, the comparative advantages of its complex geographic location had a decisive impact on the selection of that site for the development of a new central settlement, which included: its intra-regional position (in the regionally largest and centrally positioned basin between Velebit, Kapela and Plješivica), favourable strategic location (outside the direct borderline position vis-à-vis the Ottoman Empire) serving as a transportation junction (the crossroads of the of longitudinal route along the Lika-Gacka basin and transversal diverging roads over Velebit and central Lika mountain range).

In the course of the historical-geographic development of the region, the position and significance of Gospić changed in accordance with general developmental processes and depending on extra-regional relations, wherein strategic, administrative and transportation purposes came to the fore with changeable significance in terms of time. In the Croatian Military Border period its strategic function had superior relevance while in the county period its administrative function was pivotal and permanently supplemented by transportation and intermediary needs. In spite of all these vital functions, in the traditional period it did not demographically stand out in the network of settlements in the broader Lika region, namely, Lika-Krbava County. A relatively speedier economic and demographic development was registered between the two world wars (as a result of railroad construction) and in the 1950s and 1960s (local polarization as a result of industrialization, namely, the development of the function of labour). The decline of its position in terms of transport and geographic location in the mid-1970s and the growing crisis of the socio-political system resulted in the slower growth of the then municipality and settlement of Gospić in the 1970s and 1980s and consequently the intensification of negative demographic processes. After the devastating effects of the war and gradual post-war reconstruction, the construction of the motorway

through western Lika revitalized its position as a transportation and geographic junction point and created conditions for the fuller revitalization and affirmation of Gospić as a potential focal point of regional and county development. In spite of significant results in the reconstruction of the material structure and enhancement of the functional development of city to a higher level, the revitalization of the city was also faced with serious problems. This related before all to its contemporary demographic development which was characterized by deep structural and dynamical problems. In that respect the considerable aging of the population and consequent negative population trends, both in Gospić and in all the settlements within the city area should particularly be underlined. At the same time, Gospić registered only a moderate immigration rate, in terms of numbers and structure – namely considerably below the need for demographic revitalization and more complex socio-economic development of a potential regional nucleus of development. The development of Gospić as the regional centre of the development of Lika, namely, Lika-Senj County is not only a regional (county) but also a first rate national issue. The stabilization of the population density in that especially important but demographically most problematic region of Croatia depends on the success of that project and therefore, the future spatial functional integration of the state as a whole. This gives rise to the need of processing the prospective development of Gospić as the regional pole of development on expertly elaborated foundations as one of the strategic projects of the Republic of Croatia.

Although the number of inhabitants in the settlement of Gospić already more than doubled in the period from 1900 to 1961, its overall population growth during the entire 20th century amounted to only 84.8%. The main reason for that was the decline of the population between 1991 and 2001 for almost three thousand inhabitants, or 22.5%. Demographic trends from the 1990s were the main cause of the disruption in the demographic characteristics and structures of the population. Therefore, since 1991 the population of Gospić has been registering a constant natural fall. In 2001 the number of young and old inhabitants was almost al par which resulted in a considerable increase in the share of those with a personal income (pensioners) and decrease in the share of dependents (children). However, the greatest change was registered in the nationality structure, where the number of Croats in the overall number of the population increased in the period 1991–2001 from 55.6% to 93.4%. At the same time the number of Serbs decreased from 35.9% to 3.9% due to their departure from Gospić and Croatia in the first half of the 1990s. In regard to the settlement of Gospić, the population of the City of Gospić even prior to 1991 had considerably more negative characteristics which became ever more prominent in the 1990s. Accordingly, throughout all the interim periods between censuses in the 20th century general depopulation was registered and culminated at 41.1% in the period 1991–2001. In the entire period under observation, namely from 1900 to 2001, the overall population of the City of Gospić decreased by 65.9%. Natural depopulation appeared as early as 1973, namely, almost 20 years earlier than in the settlement of Gospić. Along with the overall and natural depopulation an intensified process of population aging was also apparent, so that as early as 1991 an aging index exceeding 100 was registered, namely, the number of the elderly exceeded the number of young people. Due to

natural depopulation and immigration this disproportion increased even more up to 2001. All these factors contributed to the fact that in the City of Gospić at the end of the observed period (2001), the share of the active population was considerably lower, and the share of persons with personal incomes higher than in the settlement of Gospić. A great similarity to the settlement of Gospić in the period 1991–2001 was registered in regard to changes in the nationality structure whereby the drastic decrease of the relative share of Serbs in the city was somewhat lower.

Viewed from the historical-urban planning perspective, Gospić is a young city although archaeological artefacts, regardless of how modest they might be, testify to man's need to manage this area and thereby to its significance in various periods of time. The oldest trace of habitation was an accidental find of a polished stone axe which had a fitting-hole and dual function of axe and hammer, such as were used during the Neolithic and Eneolithic periods (cca 6000–2200 BC). During the Intermediate Bronze Age (1600–1300 B.C.), a lowland settlement most probably existed in the area. This can be concluded by an accidental find from a destroyed Bronze Age grave-mound – tumula, in which a damaged bronze sword of the Sauerbrunn type was found. The Gospić sword was decorated in the upper part of the blade, under the handle, with an engraved ornament. It was placed in the grave with the deceased at the very early stages of the Intermediate Bronze Age. To date this has remained a unique find in Croatia and speaks eloquently of the trade and cultural links of the then domicile population with the Eastern Alps area. In the Late Bronze Age the Japodes people settled the area of the suburban settlement of Lipe. Adjacent to it was the pyre necropolis where burial urns with the incinerated remains of the deceased and bronze jewellery as grave goods were found. Gradina Lipe dates from the end of the 9th and early 8th centuries BC. For the time being no archaeological traces of continual settlement in the city area in the periods of Antiquity and the Middle Ages were discovered. However, two round Turkish towers – the tower of Aga Senković, next to the Old Bridge and downstream, the tower of Aga Alić were built on the left shore of the Novčica River most probably after 1527. Both towers were built for defensive purposes, guarding the river crossing, but served at the same time as dwellings too. Together with the other towers in Ličko polje they made part of the Turkish fortification line in the 16th and 17th centuries.

During the Middle Ages, up to the Ottoman threat, the area of present day Gospić was relatively densely populated, testimony to which is the considerable number of settlements mentioned in medieval written sources. They included, before all Kasezi and, in its immediate vicinity, Gaćezezi, Sutpetar and Sičevo. The fertile fields surrounding the downstream area of the Lika River was located on the trade route through Baške Oštarije in the direction of present day Karlobag. Concurrently, the Velebit mountain range provided a specific form of isolation to the medieval county of Lika and enabled the unhindered development of the population there, mainly in the first centuries after their settlement in the region. Apart from the Mogorović nobility, the area was inhabited by serfs, including urban serfs, a social group with special rights and responsibilities. In the area of the Lika county in the 15th century mention is also made of the nomadic Vlach

population. In the area of the medieval Lika county, around the lower course of the Lika River, almost all medieval forms of life developed. The Mogorović nobles had their own judiciary and traditions, they built their fortifications on the slopes of Velebit Mountain and central hills of Lika, that were by the end of the 14th century completely taken over by the Krbava dukes and the Frankapans. Churches were built and trade flourished. In time royal authority became ever more prominent. Daily life evolved in its natural historical course all the way up to the end of the 15th and early 16th centuries, when due to the Ottoman threat it gradually began deteriorating. The population began to evacuate and the area of present day Gospić entered upon a relatively long period of Ottoman rule. Present day Gospić should undoubtedly search for its roots in medieval settlements which existed there all the way to the early 16th century, in the first place, Kasezi and fortifications built by the Mogorović nobles whose few remains can still be found on the slopes of Velebit and Lika hills.

The history of Gospić in the Ottoman period (16th and 17th centuries) is considered within the framework of a number of topical categories. The general geo-political, economic, ethno-cultural and demographic processes are examined in the context of the Ottoman border-area administrative units (*nahija*) of Lika (1550 census) and Novi (censuses from 1574 and 1604) of which the present day city area was part of. The other topical category relates to the issue of the physical and functional structures of the settlement which an Ottoman source from the early 17th century named the *Gospić mezra*, and touched upon its origin and location. Proceeding from the analysis of the Ottoman cadastre registries, various aspects of historical development (continuity and discontinuity) are scrutinized, primarily in regard to the cult of Mary to which the name of Gospić is connected, and attention drawn to the problem of the site of the “Church of Virgin Mary”. Although the area of the lower flow of the Novčica River was the main settlement region, the Ottoman border-land structures recognized the strategic value of this area. The Gospić area, owing to its favourable natural position gradually became an increasingly important factor within the Ottoman border-land in Lika, clearly confirmed by the fortification structures which could be considered specific predecessors of the future city (Senković tower, Alić tower, market town as well). In the changed historical circumstances of the 18th century these structures anticipated the urban development of Gospić.

The period of military border-land Gospić was characterized by numerous economic, demographic and social aberrations. The historic development of the city coincided with the liberation of Turkish Gospić and the establishment of the Lika regiment. The era in which, on modest Turkish foundations, Gospić became a planned headquarters, is characterized by great poverty and modest foundations for the future development of an urban centre. The main reason for such fragmented development can primarily be found in the agrarian traditions of the border-land population and inadequately adjusted measures of the Austrian authorities. The period from the mid-18th to the early 19th centuries is characterized by the planned development of the city. The subsequent period of the military border-line city of Gospić (1815–1881) provided for the social and socio-economic mechanisms out of which Gospić, owing to the abolition of the centuries old military

system and taking on of a new role as the centre of Lika-Krbava County, became in the 20th century the city it is today.

In spite of the fact that it became the centre of the Lika-Krbava County in the 1880s, Gospić did not acquire the legal status of a city but was until World War I categorized as a “market town”, i.e., neither a city nor a village, and along with that a district and municipal centre although it could have been, as the county seat, informally considered a city. Considering that at the time the birth rate was higher than the death rate, this natural population growth, in spite of immigration to Slavonia and foreign countries, was a positive sign. Numerous families from the Gospić area lived in modest wooden single-storey houses. In the city itself, at that time there was a number of built one-storey and two-storey houses (for example the building of the Gospić secondary school built of dressed stone) and only two three-storey buildings (the county correctional facility was one of them). Agriculture was the basic economic activity in the Gospić region at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The few craftsmen in the city mostly worked independently and to the most part satisfied the modest needs of their fellow townsmen and inhabitants of surrounding villages, while only a small number of entrepreneurs employed up to five or more workers. At the same time, only one fifth of school-age children attended public schools in the Gospić district, mostly boys. Girls accounted for a very small percentage and those were mostly from the city with a considerably smaller number from the rural areas. For that reason more than half the men and an even larger number of women from the district over the age of five were illiterate. By the life style of the majority of its population the administrative centre of the Lika-Krbava County did not considerably differ from the rural areas but was as an urban nucleus more defined and developed in urban terms and had at the time a relatively scarce middle class: mostly craftsmen, tradesmen, clerical workers, officers, clergymen, teachers, etc. On the Novčica River there was a public bathing-place for citizens while nearby Jasikovac was a favourable destination for walks and festivities of the old inhabitants of Gospić.

Between the two world wars Gospić went through significant political and socio-economic changes. At the time of the reorganization of the Yugoslav state in the first half of the 1920s, Gospić did not become the administrative centre of the Primorje-Krajina district which resulted in the drain of clerical workers from this region and the closing down of numerous institutions which operated till then in the centre of the former Lika-Krbava County. In spite of that Gospić remained throughout the entire inter-war period the centre of the administrative municipality and Gospić district and the centre of Lika. Numerous cultural and educational institutions were active in the city. In addition, numerous intellectuals who left a considerable mark in Croatian culture lived and worked there. Before World War II there were numerous large and small stores, two large hotels and a number of small restaurants.

At the political level, soon after the establishment of the new state two contrasted political ideologies clashed: the Yugoslav unitarianist and the (con)federal concepts. The majority of the Croatian population in Gospić and Lika in the inter-war period gathered round the Croatian (Republican) Peasants' Party. It may generally be stated that the political circumstances in Gospić between the two world

wars were marked by pressures from the authorities, election frauds, coercion and violence against the opponents of centralization and unitarianism, primarily against the Croatian population and Croatian Peasants' Party in the entire Lika region. Terror was widespread particularly during the January 6th dictatorship when the authorities in Belgrade attempted to rattle Croatian opposition parties by way of liquidations, arrests and imprisonment. The situation was somewhat stabilized in Gospić and its surroundings in the late 1930s with the re-establishment of political life and activities of various organizations of the Croatian Peasants' Party with their exceptionally well organized and successful actions not only on the political but also cultural-educational and economic levels. On the eve of World War II the activities of illegal Ustasha and communist organizations intensified in the Gospić area. The hitherto peacekeeping policy of the Croatian Peasants Party began increasingly withdrawing before the aggressive revolutionary demands of its political opponents who actively advocated their mostly nationalistic, namely, class positions. The attack on the Kingdom of Yugoslavia by the Axis Powers and the disintegration of the Yugoslav state in the April 1941 war created a new situation in the Gospić area.

After the establishment of the Independent State of Croatia in April 1941, the Serbian population revolted in the region of Lika and the Gospić district as early as the end of July of the same year. At the same time, from the very beginning the Communist Party organization opted for armed actions and the creation of insurgent (rebellion) units. In early August 1941 with a view to suppressing the uprising the Lika unit was formed in Gospić under the command of General Mihajlo Lukić. By their actions and open sympathy toward the insurgents (Serbs) and condemnation of the actions taken by the Ustashes, the Italians supported the insurgents. The authorities of the Independent State of Croatia in Lika were active continuously during World War II only in the largest centre – in Gospić, an exceptionally important stronghold, resulting in the exertion of considerable efforts in its defence.

Gospić embarked upon the socialist era and the second Yugoslavia with deep wounds its population suffered under communist rule after the collapses of Nazi Germany and the Independent State of Croatia. Nevertheless, not long after, the city began rapidly developing as a political, economic, educational, cultural and sport centre of Lika. In the period from 1945 to 1990, Gospić experienced its greatest boom. Its population doubled which was followed by intensive housing construction. Vital infrastructure was developed: electrification, paving of roads, water supply and sewerage systems, trade, including, in part, industry and agriculture. The Serbian aggression on Croatia in the early 1990s left deep marks on Gospić in which the population decreased by a third and numerous housing, economic, cultural and sacral structures were destroyed. As the winners, the inhabitants of Gospić greeted freedom in independent Croatia, and in the last two decades have been healing their war wounds and putting their human and economic resources in the function of development for a more prosperous future.

During the Homeland War, the year 1991 was the most difficult for Gospić. The city experienced a fate similar to that in other surroundings in which the percentage of the Serbian population was sufficient to bring into question their

appurtenance to the Republic of Croatia. War was therefore inevitable and in it, precisely the Serbs who revolted were its greatest losers. Certain war episodes from 1991 and 1993 were processed by the Croatian judiciary after the war.

Little has been written about Lika and its traditional culture, the “lives and customs of the common folk” as they are called. There are only two monographs on two villages, Kompolje and Ivčević Kosa, the sole two detailed accounts of traditional life in a specific area of Lika. In ethnology, in order to find our way more easily and come to terms with the (cultural) environment, we use such terms as cultural zones, cultural areas so that accordingly, on the basis of discovered traditional culture phenomena, both Gospić and the Gospić region fit into such cultural frames of reference. Due to the mentioned determinations but also due to the author’s targeted selection, in this monograph special attention is devoted to still unpublished materials, and to an analysis of specific atypical and interesting phenomena, namely, those that are, due to their “exotic traits”, outside the usual frameworks of describing “common folk life styles”.

The speech of the inhabitants of present day Gospić was formed and transformed in the course of history under the influence of the movement of peoples of which the last one occurred during the Homeland War. The characteristics of the western (new štokavian ikavian) dialect spoken by the Lika Croats in this area after banishing the Turks in the 17th century and the then movements of the population is predominant, along with the characteristic speech of the Lika Serbs (Lika sub-dialect of the eastern Herzegovina-Krajina dialect of iekavian pronunciation) whose number diminished considerably due to their immigration in the last war. A special annex contains, in the form of a popular local distinguishing dictionary, characteristic words and phrases used in Gospić and its surroundings based on the personal linguistic experience of the author and on existing dictionaries of ikavian dialect from Lika. A specific anthology of poems about Gospić as a poetic motif presents the poets who wrote about Gospić and its surroundings. The first part contains poems (one) by various poets selected by the author and the second part evaluates the poetry of Grga Rupčić as the most prolific poet of Gospić and Lika.

Plans dating from the end of the 18th h and early 19th centuries show the urban development of Gospić and the introduction of new structures: commander quarters, prisons, mills, saw-mills, bridges. The plan from 1822 shows that the city was divided into boroughs a division implemented according to communication directions. Located in the centre of Gospić were some of the prominent historical buildings: parish church of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, military facilities from the 18th century (presently a student dormitory), the Krajina administrative buildings (today the Lika Museum), corner building in F. Binički Street no. 18, Murkan’s Mill and a row of houses in Mlinarska Street, an apartment-office building opposite a parish church dating from 1850, St. Mary Magdalena’s chapel in the cemetery, the buildings of the secondary school, State Archives, barracks, county administration, student dormitory (today the seat of the Gospić-Senj diocese and a number of apartment buildings from the periods of historicism and Secession in Kaniška Street.

After the demilitarization of the Croatian Military Border (1871–1881), when the official language was German, and its annexation to civilian Croatia in 1881

and establishment of the Lika-Krbava County in 1886 with Gospić as its seat, conditions were ripe for the publication of the first Gospić journal in Croatian. The same year the journal for popular education, the economy and entertainment *Ličanin* began coming out. The journal supported the then current authority of the empire and governor. The journals that appeared later, during the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Kingdom of Yugoslavia) and communist Yugoslavia were instruments of political parties since they initiated and financed them. The exceptions were the journals that appeared in independent Croatia: *Vila Velebita* (due to war and other circumstances it was published in Zagreb), *List*, *Lički planinar* and *Lička revija*. Various anthologies and Lika calendars that were published from 1922 to 2005 were actually a reflection of their environment and their times. Catholic religious journal *Župa* and *Ličke župe*, that came out from 1979 to 1985 were edited in the spirit of Christian tolerance and in the then communist one-track politics they introduced a breath of democracy. After the establishment of the Gospić-Senj Diocese in 2000 seven religious journals appeared (national, episcopal, parochial and military) of which four are still published, either occasionally or regularly. Gospić, as the county and municipal seat does not have its own paper.

One of the most influential families in Gospić at the end of the 19th and first half of the 20th century was the widely branched out family of Lovro Pavelić, wholesale merchant, large estate owner, building entrepreneur, founder of the First Lika Savings Bank and co-owner of the shipping company seated in Senj. His right hand in all his business transactions and after his death the head of the family was his younger son Nikola. Lovro's oldest son was Dr. Ante Pavelić (dentist), representative in the Croatian Parliament, vice president of the National Council, submitter of the „Address“ to the Serbian regent Aleksandar Karađorđević in Belgrade, senator in the Parliament of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The youngest son Stipe (Stipica), land owner, was particularly active in the local Lika economic chamber. One of Lovro's sons-in-law was Dr. Živko Petričić (lawyer), also a representative in the Croatian Parliament, member of the National Council and minister of trade in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. His other son-in-law was Dr. Ferdo Grospić (district physician), the father of the prominent orthopaedist Dr. Ferdo Grospić, while his third son-in-law was Dr. Marko Tomičić. Among the members of the extended family, particularly worth mentioning are Dr. Mile Miškulin, lawyer, publicist, national representative, minister of justice, etc., and Ivan Marković, land owner and representatives in the Croatian Parliament. According to written records, apart from family ties, they all had a common trait and that was social sensitivity and social engagement. Their wives headed numerous women's associations and lead various humanitarian actions. For a few decades the members of these families represented Gospić's social elite and left a mark on the rich social life of the city. The considerable contribution they gave to economic prosperity, cultural identity and reputation of a civilized Central European city can be discerned from writings in the newspapers, journals and literature published in Gospić at that time.

Today, the Lika Museum in Gospić is significant as the most important, general, regional museum in the Lika-Senj County and is by its content and activities

the central cultural institution in Gospić. The main purpose of the Museum is to acquaint visitors with the rich local cultural-historical heritage through the collection, protection, processing and presentation of materials. Of exceptional value are the Lika Art Annals which have become a component part of the visual arts climate in Gospić and blended into current visual art trends in Croatia. In the 50 years of its existence the Museum grew and changed its physiognomy and location, and by moving into a building in the old city centre in which it is located today it has augmented its collections through donations, acquisitions and research, trying to keep abreast with new trends in museology. It was awarded, commented and at times criticised but was constantly present and indispensable in the fostering of the cultural values of the city of Gospić and the Lika region.

The initial activities of Matica hrvatska (Central Croatian Cultural and Publishing Society) date back to 1843. Its commissioner, the Gospić merchant Antun Prpić, and the founding members pledged to financially support Matica with an annual amount of 50 forints. They were: Antun Maćevević, Grgur Pavičić and Antun Prpić. Only from 1876 did the commissioners begin to operate in the legal sense of the word. Their task was to popularize Matica and distribute as many of Matica's books as possible among the population. Members included not only numerous citizens, but many associations, schools and institutions. It contributed to the creation of the middle class in Gospić during the 19th century. In 1941 the activities of Matica hrvatska ceased. Only in 1966 were they revived in Gospić and lasted till 1971 when its work was prohibited. In that period emphasis was placed on the preservation of the Croatian language to which purpose numerous books were published and a number of memorial plaques put up. The revival of Matica hrvatska came with democratic changes in 1990 when its restitution assembly was held in Gospić. Since then to the present the Gospić chapter has been registering numerous successful activities. A dozen books have been published, numerous lectures, round tables and literary events held for the citizens of Gospić. Its greatest success to date was the publishing of the *Gospićki spomen zbornik* (Gospić Memorial Volume). Since 2000 the Chapter has been publishing its journal *Lička revija*.

The Mountaineering Club "Visočica" was established in Gospić in 1898 as the first mountaineering club in Croatia outside of Zagreb. In contrast to mountaineering in other European countries Croatian mountaineering was at the same time a cultural movement. This idea was also pursued by mountaineers in Gospić as many intellectuals from Gospić were members of the club. In addition to hiking expeditions, building of mountain lodges and developing hiking tracks, considerable attention was devoted to organizing lectures, photograph exhibitions, research of depopulated villages, natural and cultural heritage and flora and fauna of Velibit which became the foci of attention of the Gospić mountaineers. In order to spread their ideas, observations and research as effectively as possible the mountaineers of Visočica initiated the publishing of their own journal *Lički planinar*. The numerous names mentioned are proof of the great interest for mountaineering in Gospić and the activities of which were recognized by the Croatian Mountaineering Union through a number of awards.

Gospić is not mentioned in the Middle Ages. Its sudden growth is registered in the 18th century when it became the military administrative centre and seat

of the Lika regiment. This growth was followed by the development of church administration. By the end of the Croatian Military Border it became the seat of the military chaplain. In 1756 it became an independent office of the Episcopal chaplain which included the setting up of branch bureaus. It became the parish seat in 1779 and at the same time the seat of the Lika-Krbava archdeacon. All the way up to 1945 the parish priest was also the archdeacon. After the liberation of Lika and Krbava from the Turks there were plans to re-establishment the Episcopal seat although the idea was abandoned in mid-18th century. Until 1833 the region was considered a component part of the Modruša diocese or as an independent administrative unit under the Senj bishop. After the above mentioned year it was part of the Senj diocese. From that time the archdeacon would cover three deanships: Gospić, Peruša and Udbina. After 1969 they fused into only one – the Gospić deanship. The Gospić parish had a number of reputable and prominent parish priests. Among them, mention should be made of Grgur Pančić (1810–1865), Dragutin Kukalj (1940–1945) and the bishop Josip Pavlišić (1966–1970). In 2000 Gospić became the seat of the newly established Gospić-Senj diocese while the parish church was raised to the level of cathedral. In addition to the parish church, there are two larger chapels in Gospić: of Saint Ivan Nepomuk in Krajiška Street and of Saint Mary Magdalena in the cemetery.

In the life of every community, education and schooling represent a vital force without which progress is inconceivable. Although Gospić shared the diverse historical fate of Lika we can nevertheless follow the powerful force of the development of education which is testimony to man's century old struggle to survive in this environment. Through the numerous historical changes the city underwent, the very beginnings of schooling remain obscure, but were most probably linked to the life of the church, meaning that even in the past there were literate and educated people. From the very beginnings of Gospić as a city it was evident that it became the centre of education. We can follow this process from the 18th century and the opening of the first public school up to the organizational structure of contemporary schooling. General secondary school and teacher-training education have a long tradition in Gospić. Today, the city has one primary school, two secondary schools and is the centre of higher education. The activities of the schools reflect on the social and cultural life of the city.

Out of a total number of 50 settlements or their parts (iokonyms) which belong to the administrative area of the City of Gospić it is possible to determine their diversity on the semantic and structural levels conditioned by linguistic-historical, economic and geographic factors. The iokonyms substantially linked to man and his activities in historical sequences are relatively equally represented, as well as those motivated by the specificities of the land or the flora and fauna, while the motivation for a smaller part of the Gospić iokonyms is unclear. One part of the iokonyms motivated by human labour relate to specific cultural-historical activities (Lički Novi, Bužim, Bilaj, Široka Kula...), others are connected with the economic activities of the population (Kalinovača, Mušaluk, Brušane, Budak, Donje Pazarište, Gornje Pazarište, Lički Čitluk...), the third are determined by spiritual life (Gospić, Popovača Pazariška), and the fourth connected to antroponyms (Aleksinica, Mogorić, Rizvanuša). The oikonyms whose names

are linked to some of the geographic determinants belong to the second category. Some of the names are motivated by images and specific traits of the land (Debelo Brdo, Podastrana, Podoštra, Klanac, Mala Plana, Velika Plana, Smiljansko Polje, Ornice, Vaganac), while others indicate their connection with the name of plants (Brezik, Drenovac Radučki, Kruškovac, Novoselo Trnovačko, Smiljan), some with the names of animals (Lički Ribnik, Žabica...) and some of the names are motivated by water (Kaniža, Rastoka, Zavode...). As far as their structural determination is concerned, the almost equal share of one-word (Medak, Brušane...) and two-word (Pavlovac Vrebački, Veliki Žitnik...) oikonyms is evident and we can find among them toponymic syntagmas: adjective+oikonym (Lički Osik, Lički Čitluk), adjective+adjective (Lički Novi), oikonym+adjective (Kaniža Gospička). The formational structure of Gospić oikonyms is therefore diverse and includes the already mentioned two-part structure, then the names adopted as nouns with effective supplements including those created on the basis of prefixes (Podoštra, Podstrana, Zavode...), and suffixes (Kukljić, Mušaluk, Trnovac, Vaganac...) as well as fusion (Divoselo, Novoselo). There are more oikonyms of Slavic and Turkish origin than those of Roman origin. The oikonyms of the administrative area of the City of Gospić are actually indispensable linguistic monuments that testify by their semantic and structural diversity to the rich history of one part of Lika stipulated by its natural, economic, political and cultural specificities.

Considering that cemeteries, graves, tombs and tombstone in them are always an authentic reflection of the historical events that took place in the region of their location, the monograph also elaborates on the historical, military, social and sacral conditions in the Lika region and particularly in the city of Gospić and within the framework of the topic of Gospić cemeteries and their tombstones. The analysis shows a large number of preserved memorials in the City Cemetery of Saint Mary Magdalena, both anonymous and of numerous prominent individuals and families from Gospić. It also contains the work – tombstone of the Pavelić family with the bust of „Hercegovka“ – by the great Croatian sculptor Ivan Rendić and other works as well that are by their appearance, form and written content valuable tombstones. In addition, it also shows that this cemetery was at the same time the place of expressing the anger and helplessness of many survivors from Gospić and their descendants who survived the Partisan crimes that took place after 1945 and who by erecting special memorial plaques on the outer walls of the cemetery wanted to warn not only the existing City of Gospić, County and State authorities, but any passer-by and visitor that the earthly remains of innocent victims were not adequately buried in spite of the sacrifice they made for the creation of modern Croatia. The analysis devotes particular attention to the sepulchral iconography and symbolism. In addition, the Orthodox cemetery on Jasikovac is the burial ground of many prominent and ordinary Gospić Orthodox Serbs including Serbs members of the Partisan and communist movements. There are two tombstones in the cemetery commissioned by Nikola Tesla for his parents. Then, there are the memorials to the killed members of the Partisan movement during World War II. It is possible to determine the financial and social status of individuals, as well as their position in given social and church communities by the cemetery tombstones, their size and shape, type of material they were built of as well as place in the

cemetery where they were erected. Apart from that, the purpose of the analysis, with the author's authentic photographs, was to show how human life does not evolve exclusively in the realm of everyday life but in places where a reflection of not only man's religious but also, national, ideological, cultural and social habitus can be found. And these two cemeteries demonstrate and testify to this in full.

Gospić is a city which suffered excessively during the Homeland War, particularly in demographic and economic terms. If it is at all possible to speak of any positive consequences of the war and particularly of the consequences Croatia's independence and its social and political restructuring, then in the case of Gospić it was the overall remodelling of socio-political relations which contributed to the speedy growth of administrative authority concentrated by necessity in the County centre, as well as the number of its functions, services and activities. Therefore, in spite of a fall in the number of inhabitants and economic activity, it is possible to say in the case of Gospić that it experienced a boom of sorts and positioned itself as the protagonist of development in the region. Gospić has always been a regional centre, a fact that regardless of the lack of understanding and inadequate support in some historic periods, always served as an unavoidable additional impetus to its present day development. The promotion of territorial networking based on the local attractiveness of the city and a feeling of belonging to the local community, which, although modernized, does not imply the same thing as autarky but rather enables a step forward toward global efficiency.

Cultural heritage is an important element in the articulation of local and regional identity. Therefore, the monograph also detects environmental aspects of the local/regional culture specific to the city of Gospić and environmental values promoted by that culture (common knowledge of the local environment, traditional local practices, local events which symbolize connections between local culture and life processes in the natural environment, etc.) On the example of Gospić as well, it is evident that the connection between man/society and nature takes place through the re-discovery of some aspects of traditional wisdom. The content of that wisdom safeguards old, but not obsolete perceptions on the mutually stimulating relations between human community and nature. In Gospić this new discovery of traditional wisdom is taking place primarily through the creation and presentation of the tourist supply. We are dealing with a process that is beneficial in manifold ways given that it not only creates the content through which a community will present itself to others but it also raises awareness of its actual position and perspectives.

„Autumn in Lika“ is an event that presents through the tradition and cultural heritage of the Lika region new opportunities and possibilities of development. Characterized as a fair of sorts, as „an invention within the traditional“, „Autumn“ is depicted as an event with a future, namely, an event intended to secure a better future. Ideas promoted by the exhibitors at the „Autumn“ fair are undoubtedly useful guidelines that can be applied in the development of this region. Integral sustainability, and therefore, sustainable development, represent concepts of a desired way of development in the future, and therefore, Lika should pursue a road that leads in that direction. Precisely for that reason „Autumn“ is an adequate way

of presenting the past on the basis of which future development and prosperity can and should be planned. By exhibiting old handicrafts, souvenirs, foodstuffs and other products and by presenting old crafts, this two-day event symbolizes in a specific way what in modern sociological theory is called the „re-traditionalization of social life“. Individualization, upheld by the retreat of traditions and customs is certainly not one of the accompanying elements of this event. On the contrary, the City of Gospić, its rural surroundings and the whole of Lika become through „Autumn in Lika“ the place and opportunity for acquiring experiences and adopting knowledge based precisely on heritage. More than ten years ago the event was initiated as an idea conceived by only a few enthusiasts but in time developed into the largest economic event in the Lika region. The City of Gospić, as the host of „Autumn in Lika“ contributed to its leading position the Lika-Senj County.

The chapter on social identity analyses the identity of the inhabitants of Gospić on the basis of a theoretical and methodological background developed within the framework of social psychology and sociology and a poll questionnaire taken on a representative number of Gospić citizens. The poll covers aspects of the identity of social and national identity, devotion to the city, stereotypes and perception of inter-group confidence and security. In addition, the questionnaire also deals with the relationship of the citizens toward the key strongholds of city development and perception of the role of the local public in development planning. According to the majority of the identity determinants the citizens of Gospić are similar to other inhabitants in the region and notwithstanding some specific characteristics, to citizens of other Croatian cities. These specific characteristics relate to the geopolitical position of Gospić in Croatia and the human victims and consequences of devastation during the Croatian Homeland War to which Gospić, similar to Vukovar and some other cities, was extremely exposed.

The development of Gospić in the 21st century will be determined to a great degree by the capacities of the city elites to: a) understand trends in the social environment, b) to lead in an innovative way the rehabilitation process of the City within the framework of the „Law on the rehabilitation of areas under special state care“. In other words, trends in the surroundings, described in the Developmental Operational Programme (DOP) clearly indicate the developmental orientation of the county toward the service sector, particularly, tourism and toward locally acceptable forms of agricultural production and the lumber industry. On the other hand, the „Law on the rehabilitation of regions under special state care“ (Official Gazette, 2008) places Gospić in the category of settlements completely covered by the law. Given that in the mentioned Law, rehabilitation“ is primarily treated as „compensation for property destroyed in the war“, without emphasis on the element of development in the sense underlined in the DOP, let us hope that through the process of exchanging information the local self-government will know how to find space for creative breakthroughs and innovative interventions.

Translated by Vesna Racković