

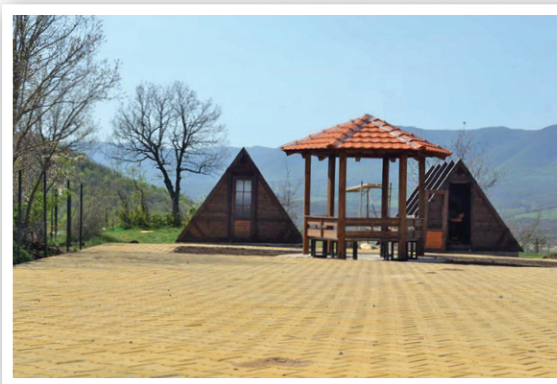
Workshop: „Appropriate behavior with the clients“ – aiming to strengthen the capacities of tourism actors to provide effective services and care to tourists (01-03 February, 2018).



Workshop: Sustainable use of nature and culture for tourism development – aiming to transfer knowledge and skill to local participants to effectively use natural/cultural resources for creation of competitive touristic products.



Urban landscaping - installation of urban equipment, system for watering and fancing of the location "Touristic settlement – Mantovo lake".



Овој проект е кофинансиран од Европската унија преку Interreg – ИПА Програмата за прекугранична соработка Бугарија – Македонија;

This project is co-funded by European Union through the Interreg - IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria – The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;



A Sustainable Joint Future

Project:

**ENHANCING THE TOURISM POTENTIAL
OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
KYUSTENDIL AND KONCHE -**

A SUSTAINABLE JOINT FUTURE

Contract No.: ПД-02-29-211/17.10.2016

Main goal:

Improving access to natural and cultural heritage in the municipality of Kyustendil (BG) and Konche (MK) to leverage the potential on both sides of the border

Expected results:

1. Established basis for sustainable tourism development, establishment and promotion of competitive offer in the Cross-border area;
2. Strengthened cooperation and increased awareness on preservation and promotion of the natural/cultural values;
3. Improved capacities (Human Resource, equipment/ infrastructure) for sustainable tourist and economic development.

Time duration: 18 months

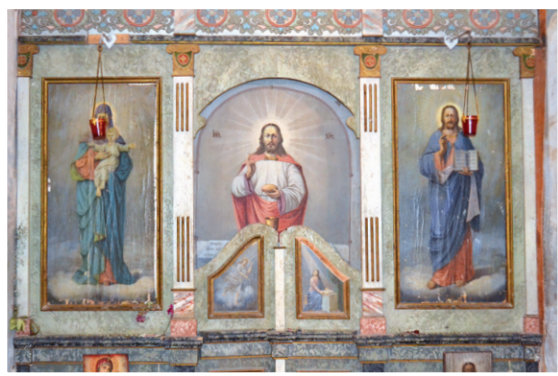
NATURAL AND CULTURAL-HISTORICAL POTENTIALS

The municipality of Konce is located in the east-central part of the Republic of Macedonia, on the upper part of the basin of the Kriva Lakavica river, surrounded from three sides by low mountains: Konechka mountain together with Gradesh Mountain from the west and south side and Smrdesh mountain from the east side.



The north side is open along the valley of the river Kriva Lakavica towards Bregalnica. It is a typical rural municipality, the configuration of the terrain is predominantly hilly and mountainous.

From the history we find out about Konce, it is a former medieval episcopal center that represented the church - administrative seat with a monastery complex. This data points to the fact that life in the past in this rural area was dynamic, rich and sustained.



Konce is one of the most ecologically clean municipalities in the country. Besides its own potentials for healthy food production, the municipality also has extensive forest and water wealth. This potential makes the municipality one of the most interesting locations in which rural tourism can be revived and developed with a seriously authentic offer.



Lake Mantovo is considered as one of the most attractive tourist resources in the area of Konche Municipality. It is located at a distance of 15 km from the village of Konce, 18 km from Radovis and 25 km from Shtip. The lake was created in the late 70's, with a partition of the river Kriva Lakavica. The lake is 4.5 km long and has an average width of 600-800 m. The coast is 15.2 km long with 6 prominent bays and several peninsulas.

On the lake Mantovo there is a tourist location „Sunny lake settlement Mantovo“.

One of the most representative religious objects is the Church from the Monastery Complex „Saint Archdeacon Stephen“, also known as the „Holy Mother of God“. The church was built in a period from 1366 to 1371 by the great duke Nikola Stanovic, during the ruling of Emperor Dushan, and by its artistic value takes an important place in the history of the Macedonian middle age culture. The church was frescoed right after its construction, and according to experts' opinion, the existing frescoes date back from the 18th and 19th centuries.



The most impressive story related to the monastery is the one of Katerina Kantakuzina, the daughter of the Serbian despot Gjurg Brankovic and Irina Kantakuzina (the daughter of Theodor Kantakuzin and niece of the Byzantine emperor, John VI Kantakuzin). Katerina Kantakuzina spent the last years of her life in the monastery, staying in the tower next to the church.

