

REVITALISATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE, ON THE ISLAND OF KORČULA – Cay study municipality Blato

REVITALIZACIJA KRAJOBRAZA NA KORČULI - Cay study Općina Blato

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SAŽETAK

Karakterističnost Mediterana je zahtijevala specifičnu obradu tla čime su se kroz godine generirali kulturni krajobrazi visoke strukturne vrijednosti. Danas, nakon više desetljeća ekonomskih i društvenih preokreta, ovakvi prostori postepeno nestaju. Zbog svoje prepoznatljivosti i rijetkosti kulturni krajobrazi Mediterana bi trebali biti jedan od nosioca regionalnog i nacionalnog identiteta i time doprinosti turističkom i gospodarskom napretku.

S obzirom da važnost takvih krajobraza danas nije prepoznata i obilježena, cilj ovog rada je na primjeru Blata na otoku Korčula, utvrditi postupak i mogućnost njihove zaštite i revitalizacije. Ova lokacija je odabrana zbog svoje prirodne, kulturne i strukturne raznolikosti, čijom revitalizacijom se može ostvariti odnosno vratiti krajobraz iznimne vrijednosti.

Da bi se došlo do rezultata prvo je bilo potrebno detaljno inventarizirati i valorizirati osobine prostora (geomorfološke, strukturne, itd.) kako bi se stvorila baza podataka. Potom su definirane potencijalne poljoprivredne djelatnosti te izrađeni modela privlačnosti koji definiraju optimalne prostore za produktivno privređivanje tih djelatnosti. Usporedno su razmatrane i karakteristike prostora koje bi bile ranjive na eventualne buduće intervencije. Te su vrijednosti združene u zaštitni model.

Preklapanjem razvojnih i zaštitnih aspekata (modela privlačnosti i modela ranjivosti) predloženo je nekoliko alternativnih rješenja. Vrednovanjem alternativa odabran je optimalni model - model pogodnosti. U njemu su prikazani prostori pogodni za organizaciju poljoprivredne proizvodnje i to na način da se štite kulturne i prirodne vrijednosti tog prostora doprinoseći stvaranju identiteta i vraćanja prepoznatljivosti. Na ovaj način se osim revitalizacije krajobraza i krajobrazne raznolikosti, poljoprivreda manifestira kao nešto vizualno atraktivno što se pozitivno odražava i potencijal daljnjeg turističkog razvoja na otoku.

Ključne riječi: Kulturni krajobraz, revitalizacija krajobraza, Mediteran, krajobrazna raznolikost.

ABSTRACT

Cultural landscapes of the Mediterranean should become one among the bearers of the regional and national identity and in this way give their contribution to tourism and economic progress because of their recognizability and rarity.

Since the importance of these landscapes is not currently recognized and designated the aim of this paper, containing the Blato example, on the island of Korčula, is to define a procedure and a possibility of their protection and revitalization. This site is selected due to its natural, cultural and structural diversity, the revitalization of which one can realize, i.e. restore the landscape of an outstanding value.

Apart from revitalization of the landscape and the landscape diversity, agriculture can manifest itself as something visually attractive what is positively reflected in the potential of further tourism development on the island.

Key words: Cultural landscapes, revitalization, agricultural landscape, Mediterranean landscape, landscape diversity.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the very particular world of the Mediterranean basin a specific type of landscape has developed as a result of long-lasting economic use of space with distinguishable agricultural peculiarities: terraced landscapes, vineyards, olive groves, orchards, vegetables gardens, usually interlaced with drystone walls [1].

The changes and processes related to agricultural landscapes, namely modernization of agriculture on one hand and abandonment on the other is a common problem in Mediterranean countries [19]. Both processes are reflected in the landscape and can have positive or negative implications on the landscape [14]. Therefore, it is necessary to develop and put in practice instruments to keep the farmers on the land, which is related to the introduction of new technologies, and to support farmers in the form of subsidies. In parallel, the planning instruments and procedures, such as landscape planning, should be introduced to adequately respond to these needs. In this context, participatory approaches in planning are very important, as the physical plans at local level define mainly land-use, but not structural elements of the landscape, which are essential for a quality spatial development [10], [18]. It is obvious that the financial support to farmers in order to modernize their farming technologies is crucial. And in this case, when the public budget is used for the changes and transformations of the rural landscape, the public has the right to participate in the processes defining which landscape values are to be protected and to what extent the transformations are positive in a specific socio-economic context.

In Croatia the cultural landscape in the karst has also evolved through long historical continuity under the influence of traditional agriculture developing into a regional landscape of unique identity and importance [5]. It is characterized by vast typological variations and authenticity of both natural and cultivated landscape structures, which makes a distinctive element of formation of the human environment [6]. Certain rare landscape sites in the coastal and Dalmatian area in the Republic of Croatia bear witness to our cultural heritage and understanding of real value of these spaces are minor and still unexplored.

Due to their characteristics, these spaces are rather vulnerable and endangered, undergoing changes and anticipating new ones resulting from foreign investment inflow, accelerated tourist development, new infrastructure especially main traffic arteries and the like. However, their decay and disappearance is not inevitable. The solution lies in finding an interest in preserving and protecting some of these through special economic policy, and the most exquisite ones of them through category

of monuments. It is also necessary to establish that this space has no future unless the physical planning strategy guarantees its economic safety [18]

The island of Korčula is a very typical coastal area with the problems very common to other Mediterranean countries and in particular to the islands, i.e. abandoned agricultural land and other developmental pressures that can significantly change the landscape if the transformation process is not supported by expert proposals. It is more than obvious that the landscape transformations are not only a spatial issue but more a socio-economic one.

2. SELECTION OF SITE LOCATION – BLATO ON THE ISLAND OF KORČULA

Evident proofs of a long agricultural tradition can be noticed in the near surroundings of Blato, on the island of Korčula. Although neglected this cultural landscape along with the Blato settlement still attracts attention by its structural and complex diversity. As the time went by, on the morphologically developed terrain specific landscape structures were generated composed of very different terrace types, above which prevails a process of ongoing degradation. Despite this, according to the measures for selection of a distinguished landscape [17] and the entire Blato area forms a distinguished landscape. It is necessary to quote definition of this spatial category: A distinguished landscape is an area which can express scenery as a reflection of peculiar structures, as a rule, with the presence of these materials:

- unique implementation (land use)
- favourable disposition of natural elements
- special settlement pattern

This part of Korčula offers exceptionally favourable life conditions so many proofs of existing life already in the course of the Bronze and Iron Ages. There are eight prehistorical hillforts and about ten stone tumuli. Those in the elevation served as lookouts for observation and those ones in the lower areas were usually graves. Numerous chapels, as known historical monuments are preserved in the area, while small stone houses of specific structure are located in the field. This very fact, as well as, a possibility to watch upon this landscape as a cultural one and to handle it accordingly stimulated us to investigate a solution of its potential protection and development.

2.1. Social and natural characteristics of the Blato area

The western part of the island of Korčula has always been more populated and more active, due to its favourable relief, climatic and therefore existential conditions.

During the middle Ages there was a case that population kept moving contrary from, one could have expected in the time i.e. people from the town of Korčula would move towards villages. Thus, Blato as the oldest and the biggest settlement on the island was located on the plateau in the middle of its western part at the junction of almost all important routes, next to the karst field, having the same name - the Blato field. The settlement is located amphitheatrically among seven hills covered in pine forest and orchards. Such a peculiar location resulted in genuine settlement pattern where streets, houses and agricultural plots follow the terrain topography up to the very peaks of Mali and Veliki Učijak.

Large cultivated fields dominate in the area of this municipality, around which slopes enclosed by drystone walls once planted in olives and vineyards keep alternating. In the 19th and at the beginning of 20th century the population number in Blato reaches its peak. It was then, when all the necessary urban infrastructure was built such as: hospital, schools, and open public spaces (squares, tree avenues and parks laid out and the like). The most propulsive branch of that period was agriculture; there was 10.000 000 litres (2.193000 gallons) market surplus of wine and 300 000 litres (65000 gallons) of oil exported. In order to increase production they started draining the marshes of the lake by excavating through the tunnel when additional 130 ha of fertile plough-land – the present Blato field was created. With the onset of phylloxera a mass emigrating process was even more

accelerated and its intensity would last all until 1970. After the census conducted in 1991, it was asserted that for the last 80 years the population number was reduced by 53% [3]. In the course of the last 10 years immigration wave went up and it is estimated that population number increased by 20 %, thus stimulating economic growth and further development. Currently, Blato has 4000 inhabitants and is the settlement with the largest population on the island.

Tourism has become a basic strategic branch of economy. Its inhabitants help fostering much greater awareness of the agricultural potential of this traditional cultural space. They wish to return to–agriculture, to their roots, to produce without devastating the existing landscape structures, but the problem keeps arising from small fragmentation of planting lots and unresolved ownership (owners of the title). All these entrepreneurial ideas of revitalization end up on small and non profitable land plots [2]. By restoring vineyards and olive groves a new economic perspective could be generated, not only by means of agriculture but also through agro-tourism. Progress in agriculture will not be possible without regrouping of agricultural land, but the main obstacle is inaccessibility or indifference of its owners living in the overseas countries (South America and Australia).

From times immemorial water shortage has always been a problem on islands, since rain water collecting was its only source. However, Blato has such a location that it disposes of several karst fields at the foothills, which



Photo. 1 : Western part of the island of Korčula [21].

Slika 1.: Zapadni dio otoka Korčule

are just a few metres above sea level, representing the only and the largest natural accumulation of rain-water used in water supply network for settlements in the entire western part of Korčula. The subject matter is a closed karst field before regulation and tunnel construction, its confluent and own waters have frequently flooded vast field areas. Water would sometimes remain for several years but it would often inundate only through autumn and winter periods [12]. Today we can see several wells in the valley connected to the water supply system and quite a few of shallow wells with a depth between 4-20 metres. Their main purpose is irrigation of crops in the valley. Due to some easier usage of new technologies in tillage practices, despite inversion, almost the entire agricultural production has moved from the slopes into the valley. Thus how a diversified structure of cultivable plots developed in these elongated fertile fields, contributing towards its visual quality by their shape, texture and volume of crops diversity. Meanwhile, this intensive production activity threatens nowadays to pollute drinking water, so either



Photo. 2 and 3: View to the settlement Blato
Sl. 2. i 3.: Pogled na naselje Blato



Photo. 4 and 5: View on the west and east site of the Blato field.
Sl.4. i 5.: Pogled na zapadni i istočni dio Blatskog polja

some new production programmes and technologies are being introduced instantaneously, with the least possible impact on the environment or production in the valley is being completely abandoned in order to reoccupy terraces on the surrounding hillsides.

2.2. The Blato landscape

The Blato landscape is thoroughly cultivated, all natural relief formations were exploited for agriculture in the past. It was abandoned by agriculture altogether and has become covered with natural vegetation (underwood or forest). It was not until the last fire that these centennial terraces were discovered, as nobody was aware of their previous existence. In Blato environs two basic types of cultural landscape can be noticed. Division is made according to structural features since it is possible to identify processes effectively and have them easily surveyed only by means of monitoring the alterations in landscape. Based upon this understanding it will be possible to fix guidelines for its development and space

management.

Among different types in the surroundings of Blato we can trace field landscape and drystone walls landscape. Drystone walls landscape is dominant and can be divided into two subtypes: drystone walls landscape as the element of escarpments and terraced drystone walls. Terraces occupy the major part of agricultural land and represent the main symbol of recognizability of this location. One can clearly distinguish two types of terraces: long regular terraces on sloping terrains and assymmetrical wider terraces on somewhat milder slopes. The Blato elongated field spreads on the very foothills direction EW. The quality soil which is obtained from lake drainage favoured viticulture so a field landscape was created in the field. Parcelling and land distribution policy has conditioned some varieties such as: symmetrical, elongated, asymmetrical and irregular planting lots. These tilled fields are rather complex in the structural sense and are also visually impressive.

3. DEFINING PROBLEMS

Succession represents a major issue in this space, since in a developed cultural, but structurally diversified space, on the one hand, the natural potential keeps regenerating, which on the other hand, represents a potential danger from fires and a permanent loss. Frequent fires cause soil erosion and threaten with a lasting devastation of terraces and stone structures. Drystone walls are being pulled down and are going to disappear, while stone is used for building purposes. Uncontrolled and exaggerated use of pesticides and pertaining agricultural measures tackle the key issue of drinking water quality and their sources in the valley, dolina. A high degree of depopulation is a serious problem in Blato. Depopulation has not only dragged this problem tackling the lack of farming people, but also a non-definable ownership, thus discouraging local residents in their plans to restore the existing abandoned agricultural planting plots, whether the subject matter is aiming at enlarging land plots or renting them for production purposes. Should agriculture be reactivated on these elevated sloping terrains around Blato field, we would come across the problem of present-day technologies. Inaccessible terrain renders the use of modern equipment impossible, since it could destabilize terraces. It is also necessary to mention that understanding of these problems and values of distinguished landscapes, contributing towards identity in general public is very low.

3.1. Objectives

- identification of cultural and natural landscape values

- defining degraded cultural values
- recognizing of existing trends in further development processes in space with their consequences
- defining type of production in the future and commitment to dominant activities
- proposing models of developing activities (those ones which are going to have the greatest impact on environment) along with protective measures to achieve landscape development optimum
- defining areas suitable for revitalization and description of space use, having in mind each specific activity.

3.2. Working method

Method of work was based upon some aforementioned problems in order to obtain the plan of land use which is integral with regard to technological and economical, ecological and cultural requirements of the newly created landscape [9], [16], [8], [20]. The first steps taken comprised inventarization, analysis and valorisation of the monitored area. Inventarization comprised collecting elementary and inferred particulars on this space which are presented in sequence of thematic maps (pedology, vegetation, hydrology, inclinations of terrain et al).

These data were further used for analyzing and valorization of space, elaborated and based on two essential starting points. Firstly, it was necessary to ensure the attractiveness of the area for productive economy and secondly to guarantee the pursuit of landscape values in the newly arranged area. In analyses of attractiveness, to locate certain activities for a productive economy, we sought for the most attractive areas. As distinguished from them, the landscape values (protective model) had to be incorporated within natural and cultural features of this space [15]. They can be manifested in different ways (as visual characteristics, through degree of preservation of the traditional land use or parceling et al).

As an outright result of this analysis and valorisation maps, the graphic surveys of areas with the greatest attractiveness (models of attractiveness) were obtained for productive economy, as well as the maps of landscape values (models of landscape values).

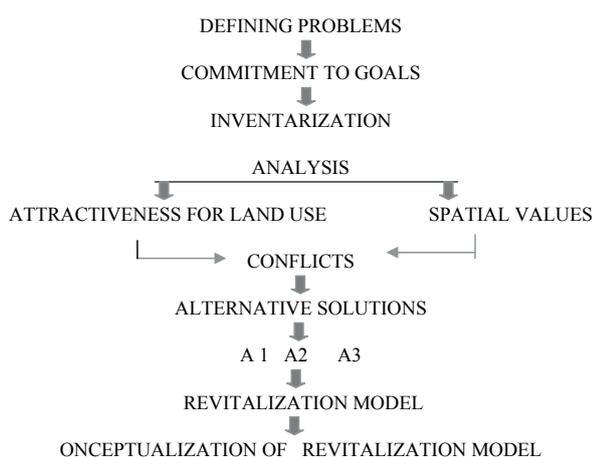
Putting these models into mutual relations- for productive economy and model of landscape values the possible spatial conflicts are reduced to the smallest possible degree. This is depicted by means of several alternative solutions. They can favour technological and economical visions to a smaller or a greater degree, and respect ecological i.e. cultural landscape values, just as well. As an optimal model, and simultaneously, a final product of the planning process a plan of the land use was created, which in a newly structured landscape

ensures preservation of ecological and cultural values to the highest degree. But, on the other hand it ensures far the most profitable engagement in agriculture. The importance of such an approach is derived from the fact, that this kind of landscape, can offer a basis for different forms of rural tourism retaining the original landscape values along with possibilities for proportionally profitable agriculture.

3.3. Vision

Landscape in the surroundings of Blato has a very high value, due to the presence of terraces as the best proof of a long-standing traditional agriculture. Working hypothesis prescribes, that only through a successful economy one could prevent further demographic decline and restore vital traditional landscape. It is impossible to stop spatial processes which radically change traditional features of rural areas, but it is possible to direct and build these processes on the principle which follow the historical continuity of the space. This could lead towards creation of a new type of landscape which is going to satisfy economic, cultural and ecological vision.

3.4. Working Process



4. INVENTARIZATION

Inventarization procedures are related to identification and description of landscape structure as well as their processes (parts and structures). Result of each inventarization is a database making a true copy of the entire area under observation with all particulars considered relevant regarding commitment to goals. Data collected through inventarization serve as a basis for further analytical steps and spatial assessment. In compliance with these goals the database completed by means of thematic maps comprise the following relevant data for the area of Blato:

hypometric map; terrain expositions; land use; slopes; pedological map; hydrological characteristics; parcelling of land; visual characteristics.

Basic state map (Osnovna državna karta) - Scale on 1: 5000 and an aerial photo served as basis. At the same time we used data on demographic and economic characteristics including relevant figures from the physical plan. An informative discussion took place with the local community representatives, who got us presented with problems of development in their region.

5. ANALYSIS AND VALORISATION OF THE AREA

A) Analysis and valorisation for productive economic operation from the feasibility standpoint

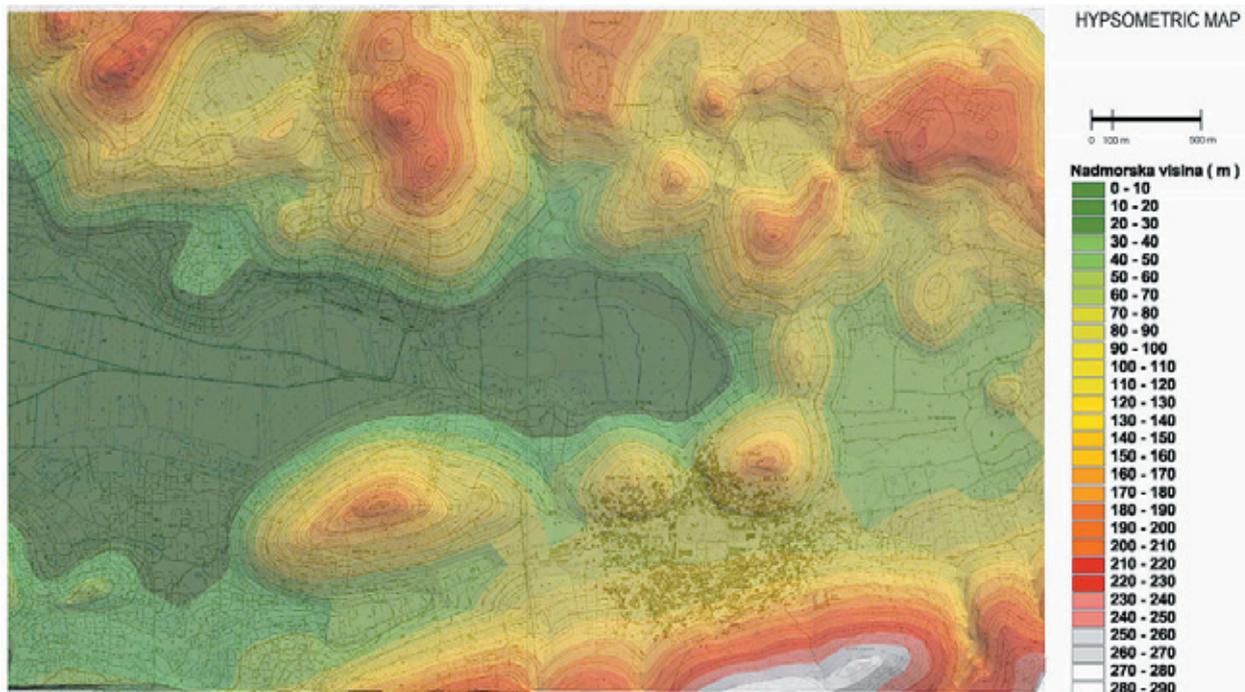
Feasibility for productive economic operation of this area is related to the identification of possibility of different type of soil use for particular purposes.

They comprise three kinds of agricultural intended use - viticulture, fruit-growing, cultivation of olives. In order to find an area with the highest potential for their development models were made (depicted by maps of attractiveness) with fixed position for each of these branches in space. Models are established on predetermined criteria in compliance with spatial conditions required by a specified branch and their most desirable development (types of soils, topographic characteristics, planting plot sizes for profitable use and the like). For each of these activities criteria are singled out as evaluation instruments (depending on spatial demands of these activities), and each criterion specified was discussed and evaluated separately. This evaluation is to define certain criterion assessment, depending on the feasibility level for development of the activity [11], [13], [4]. For example criteria on terrain exposition for fruit-growing is divided into several categories- the most favourable exposition (S), less convenient (SE) and the least adequate exposition (SW), while the other expositions are evaluated as unfavourable ones.

Based upon criteria determined within each single branch for these three agricultural intended uses a graph is made (model of attractiveness) showing attractive areas for location of these activities.

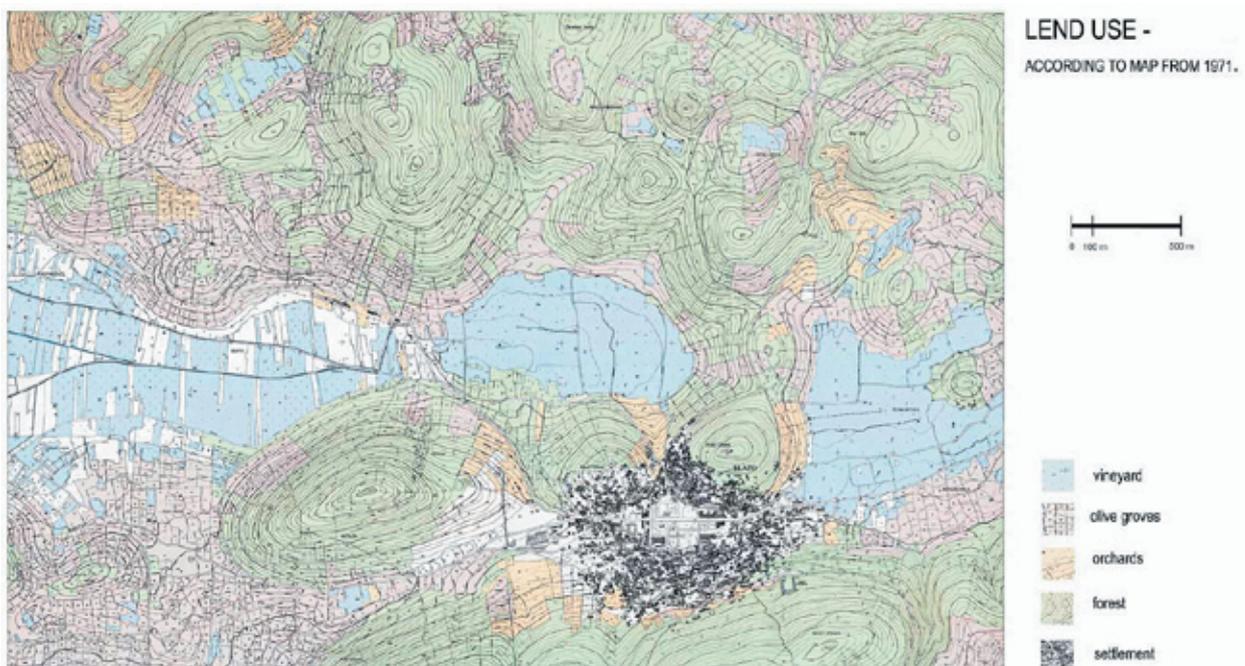
B) Analysis and valorisation of the area in regard with spatial values

Since models of attractiveness represent development aspects i.e. maximum possible development of each agricultural activity, it is also necessary to take the protective model into consideration. We define spatial values, which could become endangered with introduction



Example: Hypsometric map - depicts elevation above sea level from 0- 290 m on a 10 metres gradient.

Primjer: Hipsometrijska karta – prikazuje nadmorske visine terena od 0-290 m gradacije po 10 m.



Example: Land use - survey of the elementary zone of land use: inhabited area, cultivated areas (olive groves, orchards, and vineyards).

Primjer: Korištenje zemljišta – prikaz osnovne zone korištenja zemljišta: šumske površine, naseljeno područje, obrađene površine (maslinici, voćnjaci i vinogradi).

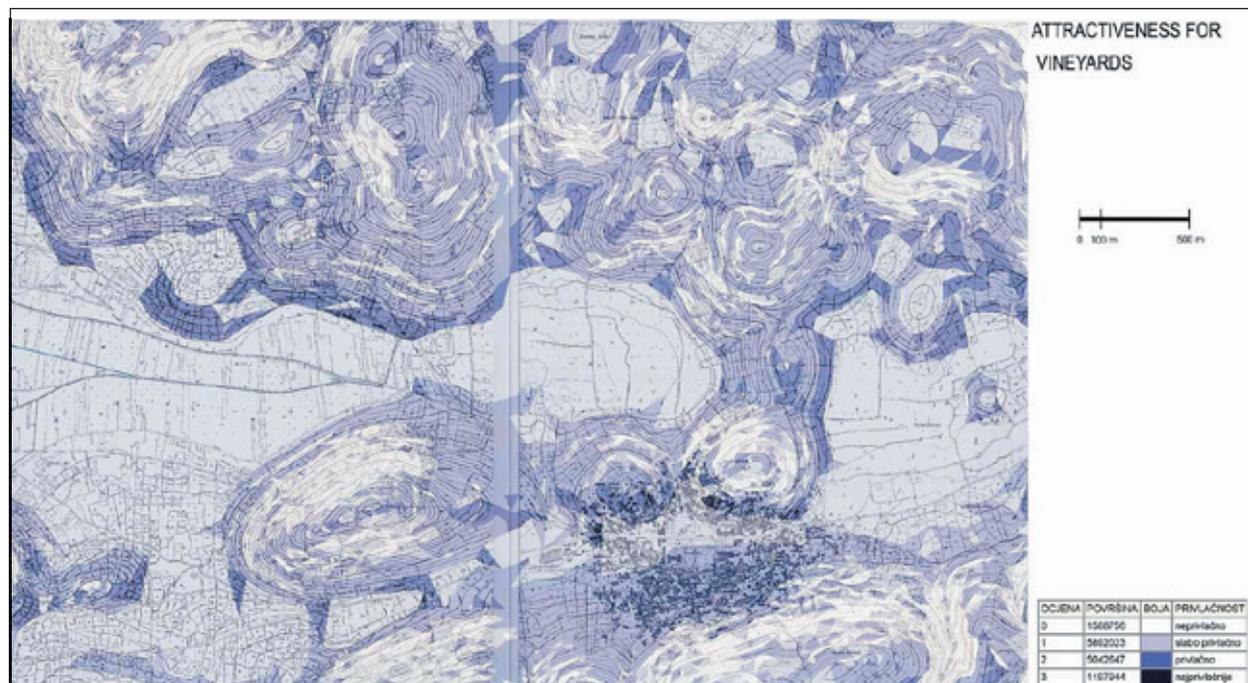
of planned interventions. By means of protective model we can see the following spatial qualities: water-protective belt, the existing forests and historical heritage (prehistorical hillforts from Bronze and Iron Ages, tumuli as well as some Roman buildings). Forest lands are just as valuable and should be preserved, as for their natural resource, so for their site specific character [7]. Through overlapping this map with attractiveness these valuable spaces will be eliminated as potential ones for production.

6. CONFLICTS

Upon completion of development models and models of landscape values, zoning of this district is formulated. It has established a mutual relationship between development vision of monitored activities (viticulture,

fruit-growing, cultivation of olives) and spatial values (protection model). With their overlapping we can separate sources of conflicts in space, which are mainly related to competitiveness of diverse activities on the same locations as well as overlapping in attractiveness of certain activities with their spatial values. In resolving these conflicts the two basic dilemmas are comprised: location of activities and their internal analytical break down –i.e. where it will be located (land use plan) and in what way it is going to be assigned (structural plan). Several propositions which were considered have determined the final decision:

- to take into account how big the total proportion of each single activity in space occurs with the competitiveness of more activities on the same location(decision on location will give preference to the activity with better



Primjer – Mogel privlačnosti za vinogradarstvo

Kriteriji za optimalan uzgoj vinove loze su:

Ekspozicija - južna, jugozapadna i zapadna kao najprivlačnije

- jugoistočna i istočna kao osrednje privlačne i

- sjeverna, sjeverozapadna i sjeveroistočna

kao slabo privlačne

Nagibi terena - 10 - 20 % najprivlačnije

- 20 - 35 % srednje privlačno

- 0 -10 % slabo privlačno

Oblik terasa - prednost imaju uske terase na strmijim terenima

Example of the Model of attractiveness for vineyards

Criteria for the most desirable location:

Exposition: - southern, southeastern and western as the most attractive

- southeastern and eastern as medium attractive and

- northern, northwestern and northeastern as the least attractive

Slope inclination: - from 10 to 20 %, the most attractive

- from 20 to 35 %, medium attractive

- from 0 to 10 %, the least attractive

Terrace shape: narrow terraces on steeper terrains are considered preferential



Model of attractiveness for cultivation of olive trees - criteria for site location:

Exposition: - southern, southwestern southeastern as the most attractive

- southeastern, southwestern, western and eastern as medium attractive and

- flat as the least attractive

Slope inclination: - from 0 to 5 % - the most attractive

- from 5 to 15 % - medium attractive

- from 15 to 35 % - the least attractive

Elevation - acceptable 10 m above the sea level

Terrace shape: wide terraces are considered preferential

Primjer - Model privlačnosti za uzgoj maslina

Kriteriji za smještaj su:

Ekspozicija - sjever, sjeverozapad, sjeveroistok najprivlačnije

- jug, jugoistok, jugozapad, zapad, istok privlačno

- ravno slabo privlačno

Nagib - 0 – 5 % najprivlačnije

- 5 – 15 % privlačno

- 15 - 35 % slabo privlačno

Nadmorska visina – prihvatljiva iznad 10 m

Oblik terasa – prednost imaju široke terase

opportunity for development).

- consider a wider context of development range, for example if tourism activity is planned during decision making procedure on implementation and structuring of new landscape a very important criterion is to respect visual significance of such a landscape (for example: agriculture cannot occupy the entire landscape, nor agriculture can be permitted to assume an intensive character).

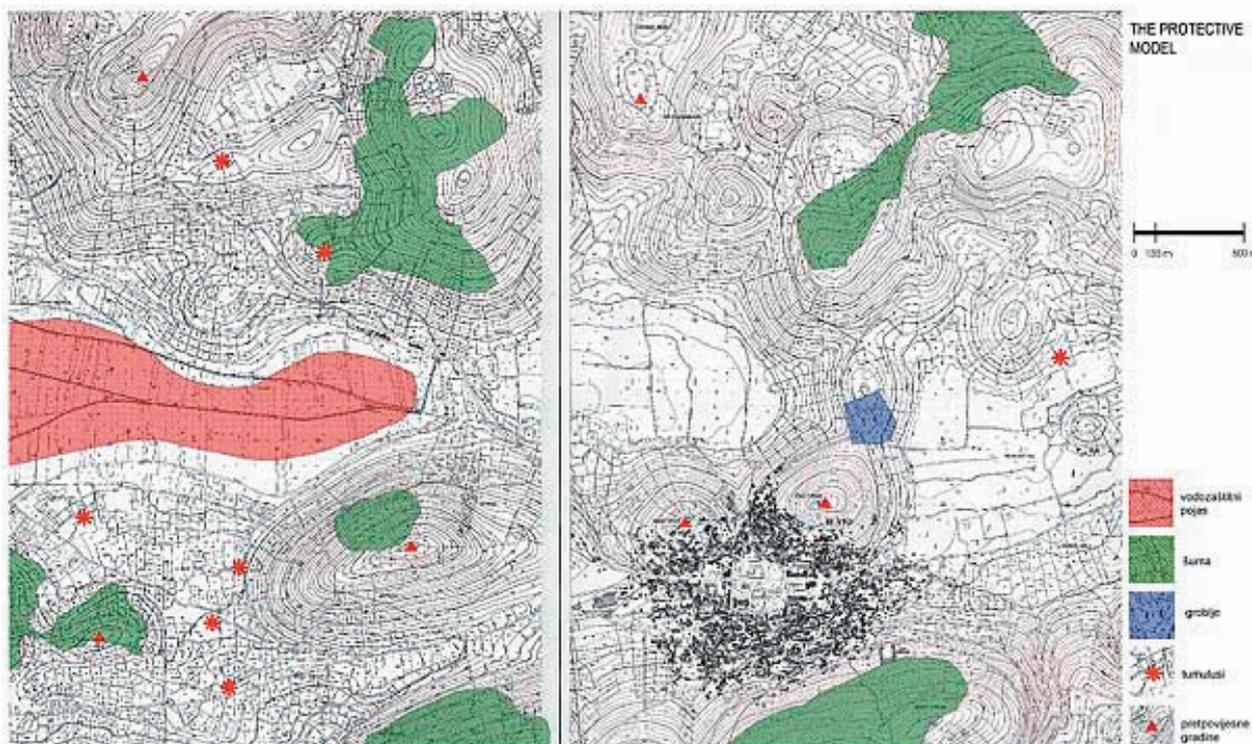
- determination of proportion of each activity will depend on wider context of space development.(for example: fruit-growing and viticulture are more attractive for development of tourism than farming and growing of vegetables).

- possibility that decisions about structuring and manner of land use for certain activity are based on spatial values

(for example: new parcelling of land coinciding exactly with traditional parcelling, decision on protection of the existing parcelling fostering crops which are profitable on such planting plots.

7. REVITALIZATION MODEL

Alternative solutions based on these propositions were considered. The final outcome is an optimal model of revitalization made, i.e. plan of land use which represents possibilities of special restructuring that could be economically feasible, but at the same time to contribute to a more complex landscape picture. The most cost-efficient areas in which agricultural production can develop without jeopardising the traditional pattern were defined. Thus, in this model structure of future



The protective model
Zaštitni model

planting plots is clearly depicted consistently following land configuration and respecting the existing parcelling shapes. With overlapping of these attractiveness preference is given to viticulture, as to the most profitable and the most recognizable crop cultivation in this region. The second most widespread field crops are olives spreading all over northern expositions on wider terraces with access for mechanization. Orchards are the least present ones, being located on more or less accessible locations due to the very character of their growing. We propose semi intense crops such as fig-trees (*Ficus carica*), almond trees (*Prunus amygdalus*), carob-trees (*Ceratonia siliqua*), pistachio (*Pistacia vera*), jujuba-tree (*Zizyphus jujuba*) and strawberry-tree (*Arbutus unedo*) to justify the selection of location. Shapes of these plots are adapted to the land configuration. The goal is to achieve an optimal relation in sizes and shapes of these elements (forest, vineyards, orchards and olive groves) in such a manner to create the more complex image of the space, so to avoid large level surfaces of identical crops. There exists cultivation of a single agricultural product to the exclusion of other uses of the land - areas under monocultures in the hollows, while smaller plots alternate with other kinds of crops and belts of greenery on the terraced slopes.

Apart from the existing forests which were worth preserving, some new ones were added and their joint growth is conceived in several ways. Most of the forestlands are surrendered to a spontaneous succession, but in order to create diversity in a visual and economic sense a directed succession is rendered possible by planting pine-trees and holm-oaks.

Yet another category of forest areas which might contribute towards their diversity would be an intervention of level surface plantations. This type of planting would be adequate for exposed and enhanced smaller areas among plots or passing over from flat terrains onto terraces. Species, such as heather (*Erica mediteranea*, *Erica arborea*), flowering ash (*Fraxinus ornus*), mock privet (*Phillyrea latifolia*) might be taken into consideration. Planting of fruit bearing flowery ligneous species is possible alongside the main access paths.

The problem of accumulation in Blato field and potential pollution of drinking water owing to more intensive growing is solved by planting autochthonous resistant species of grapevines which demand protection to a lesser degree, as well as with partial leaving out in agricultural production.

Rural landscape shaped in this manner is attractive for tourism purposes not only for its visual complexity but

also an opportunity to develop tourism in rural households. According to the revitalization model, a simulation of the possible revitalization of Blatsko field was presented on the principle of intensifying agricultural production, through regrouping of plots of vineyards around water protective belt and renewal of olive groves and terraces with orchards and all this in compliance with the existing spatial structures (Photo. 7).

Finally simulations of the expected consequences in this valuable space caused by abandoning agriculture were finally elaborated. Terraces will gradually be covered by maquis and by forest and will become in the long run completely amalgamated with the forest. This represents a

lasting loss of these valuable structures and consequently this visually diversified and attractive place of abode will become transformed into a uniform landscape of exclusively natural features as depicted in the pictures (Photos. 8 - 10).

8. DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the end a comprehensive presentation of the entire work where prepared, which was open to all local residents from Blato. The Mayor of Blato also took part with his associates. Subsequently, a discussion was generated on the possible implementation of this plan as well as the



Photo. 6: View of the Blato field with
Blato settlement from the west
Slika 6.: Pogled sa zapada na Blatsko
polje i naselje Blato



Photo. 7: Proposal of revitalization of the Blatsko field
Slika 7.: Prijedlog revitalizacije kulturnog krajobraza
Blatskog polja



Photo. 8: Present view of Blato field.
Slika 8.: Današnji izgled Blatskog polja.



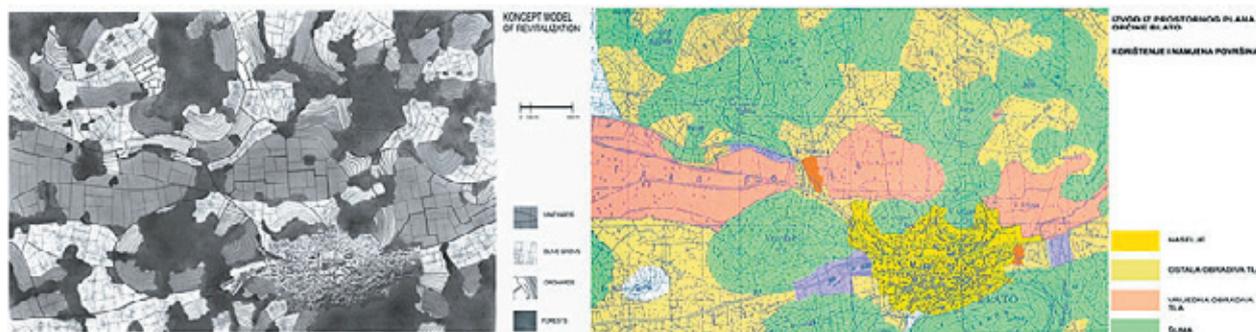
Photo. 9: Aspect in case of partial succession, several small plots with vineyards are visible in the valley and olive groves up in the mountain

Slika 9.: Izgled u slučaju djelomične sukcesije, vidljivo je par malih parcela vinograda u dolini i maslinika u brdu



Photo. 10: Complete overgrowth, the space without identity and complexity

Slika 10. Potpuno zarastanje, prostor bez identiteta i kompleksnosti



Proposal of revitalization and Adopted physical plan (land use and intended plan of land use)
Prijedlog revitalizacije - lijevo i Usvojeni prostorni plan - desno (korištenje i plan namjene površina)

use of this method to achieve optimal spatial solutions of revitalization of the cultural landscape.

At the end revitalization plan was overlapped with the adopted physical plan, which was carried out by using another method. This confronting was especially useful to indicate to the incompleteness of these plans with regard to revitalization of this valuable agricultural space, as well as to the benefit of development in agricultural production.

The adopted plan (map right) has completely disregarded cultural features of the traditional landscape. Still further neglect i.e. surrender of major part of agrarian areas to the forestland (green areas) is anticipated, the Blatsko field is classified as a very valuable agricultural soil (brown areas), without any guidelines what to do and how to act in this particularly delicate area. The rest of surfaces, other than the settlement itself are marked (yellow) and classified only as other cultivable land (ocher) have also remained without guidelines for further activity.

On the contrary cultural and natural landscape values are identified in the plan of revitalization model (map left). Fundamental agricultural branches which are the most productive ones for this location are defined. Priorities are also defined: viticulture as the predominant activity, olive growing and finally vegetables growing. Revitalization model indicates to the possible more intensive agriculture, based on principles of sustainable development in which exploitation of natural resources is rationalized, agro-technical measures restricted and the traditional parceling pattern respected.

With overlapping it was ascertained that a great number of cultivable areas was lost in the physical plan and those planned to serve the purpose are located on the most unsuitable locations, without any support for further agricultural development of the commune. Nor has it supported revitalization of this cultural landscape, in general.

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