



NEVENA MAŠANOVIĆ

RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN CONTINENTAL MONTENEGRO CRITERIA FOR PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THEIR SPATIAL VALUES

RURALNA NASELJA KONTINENTALNE CRNE GORE KRITERIJI OČUVANJA I ZAŠTITE NJIHOVIH PROSTORNIH VRIJEDNOSTI

NEVENA MAŠANOVIĆ was born in 1987 in Podgorica, Montenegro. She enrolled in basic studies in 2006 at the Faculty of Architecture in Podgorica. She completed her specialist studies in 2010. She has been employed at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Montenegro in Podgorica since 2014, and her field of interest is focused on physical and urban planning issues of rural settlements and their future development.

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The dissertation has 343 pages, 51 tables, 16 images and 13 cartograms, 87 notes, 127 bibliographic units, sources (61 literature units, 44 laws and decisions, 10 spatial planning documents, 12 internet sources).

The doctoral thesis is dedicated to the research of rural settlements of continental Montenegro, considering that they represent foundations of the economic development of the country. Continental Montenegro has four municipalities of the greatest state importance, which is the reason for choosing this region and its rural settlements for conducting research. The research points to the natural distinctiveness of these spaces and their insufficient and uncontrolled utilization.

The research is divided into four main steps. The first step is the analysis of previous research on the topic of rural settlements, with the conclusion that the rural areas of Montenegro are insufficiently covered by legislative and spatial planning documents, as the main impetus for this research. The second step was to recognize the identity factors of rural settlements in Montenegro, as well as the development potential of the settlements. Based on these findings, the criteria for preserving and protecting the spatial values of rural settlements are analyzed in detail, which also represents the third step in the research process. Determining the model for the revitalization and improvement of the spatial values of rural settlements represents the fourth step in the research.

Special attention in this research was given to the analysis of 96 selected rural settlements through a catalogue form that confirmed their spatial values. On the basis of these findings, settlements were singled out, which in the further research process served as the basis for establishing criteria and models for their preservation and protection, as well as the improvement of the lives of their inhabitants.

The results of the conducted research include: systematization of scientific and professional research in the country and the surrounding area on the subject of settlements, demarcation of settlements and their appearance in space, recognition of elements of the natural and cultural environment as a tool for evaluating the preservation and protection of rural settlements, as well as creating criteria for the preservation and protection of spatial

values of rural settlements and models for their further development.

In this research, the spatial analysis method, the comparative analysis method (comparative method) and statistical methods were applied. The method of spatial analysis was based on a detailed review and analysis of available studies, strategies, planning documentation, scientific and professional works, legislation and other available literature and research conducted on the topic of rural settlements. At the same time, field tours of the researched area were carried out in order to get to know the reality of rural settlements in Montenegro. The method of comparative analysis was used when considering/determining similarities and differences in the legal regulations of Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia, which observe settlements, the division of settlements and natural and cultural assets within them. Through the analysis of statistical data, available statistical materials were collected on the division and name of settlements and the movement of the number of inhabitants over certain time periods.

The application of the aforementioned research methods contributed to a better overview and understanding of the current state of rural settlements and made it possible to determine proposals for necessary changes, both in legislative documents related to the issue of rural settlements, and in changing expert steps in the creation and adoption of spatial planning documents for these areas and their further implementation. Tabular, cartographic and graphic attachments and photo documentation additionally contributed to an easier overview and monitoring of the complete research process.

The mentioned results of the conducted research provided a double contribution, review scientific contribution and original scientific contribution. In the first part of the dissertation, a critical review of previous research on the topic of rural settlements in Montenegro was given, after which a comparative analysis and systematization of the results obtained in those pieces of research was carried out. An analysis and evaluation

of valid legal documents in Montenegro and abroad, dealing with settlements and their division, was also carried out. The research was additionally extended onto the analysis of spatial planning documentation for the observed area, all with the aim of examining the possibility of establishing new criteria for a settlement to be declared rural, as well as proposing new criteria for selecting rural settlements for continued research. The identity features of the natural and cultural heritage of rural settlements were observed, as an indispensable potential for their future development. An extensive analysis of the characteristics of 96 selected rural settlements was presented through a uniquely created catalogue form, which certainly represents a valuable basis for further research on this topic. The presented analysis and the obtained conclusions presented in the catalogue forms served as a starting point for determining new criteria and guidelines for the preservation and protection of the spatial values of rural settlements. The proposed and used catalogue form, which was applied to 96 selected rural settlements, can be considered original scientific contribution, so different in all established characteristics and criteria. The structuring of this catalogue form, which has led to the original results, certainly represents a certain original contribution because this kind of methodological procedure carried out through a unique catalogue has not been recognized in the scientific literature until now. The original scientific contribution was achieved through the review, analysis and critical review of previous research on the topic of rural settlements and the determination of key terms for the continuation of the research. The analysis and critical review of legal and spatial planning documentation for the area of four municipalities of continental Montenegro represents another scientific contribution that can be further used in scientific research on a similar topic in any other area of Montenegro and beyond. The newly proposed criteria and guidelines for the preservation and protection of rural settlements present a special contribution as they enable their further spatial and economic development.