

The Krizevici Village in the Krivaja River Valley

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Abstract— *Kriva Rijeka* is the name for a group of villages located in the valley of the Krivaja river, along the course from its canyon (Krsevi, geographic coordinates: 44°07'54.13"N, 18°33'22.36"E) to the locality of Kamenica (geographic coordinates: 44°13 '09.65"N, 18°29'33.17"E), below the Cunista village. The term „*Kriva Rijeka*“ is in unofficial use today, and in documents it appears for the name of the cadastral municipality. This name is very often used by people from the neighboring regions of the Olovo municipality, and from the Kladanj municipalities, Vares and Zavidovici, in order to refer in a 'concise' way to this geographical area with several villages. Officially (administratively), there are 12 villages within *Kriva Rijeka*: Boganovici, Bukov Dol, Cunista, Glavino, Kovacici, Krizevici, Metilji, Milankovici, Recica, Solun, Vukotici and Zunova. However, there are a large number of settlements there that are administratively included in the already mentioned villages.

Keywords— *Krivaja river, Kriva Rijeka, The Krizevici village, water, fields, orchards*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Krizevici village (Geographic coordinates: 44°08'53.07"N, 18°32'19.16"E, altitude: 511 m) is located to the south of the exposed slope of Gajeva (Figures 1-6). The village is 2.15 km from Solun on the Krivaja river, the center of the local community, and 4 km from Olovo (by air). The area of the village, on its western side, is bounded by the slopes of Mount Osinjaca, on the east by the road Olovo-Zavidovici and the Krivaja river, and on the southern side by the Jasik forest and the area of the Boganovici village. The Krizevici village is accessed by an asphalt road from the Olovo-Zavidovici regional road. According to the 2013 census, 176 people lived in Krizevici, which is significantly less than the number of inhabitants (290), according to the 1991 census. Until the 1992-1995 war, Bosniaks (the Helja family, in several households) and Serbs (several households of the Ostojic family) lived in Krizevici. According to the 1991 census, 174 (60%) Bosniaks, 110 (37.93%) Serbs, 3 (1.034%) others, 2 (0.69%) Yugoslavs and 1 (0.345%) Croat lived in Krizevici. According to the 2013 census, 166 (94.30%) Bosniaks, 5 (2.80%) Serbs, 3 (1.70%) others and 2 (1.10%) Croats lived in Krizevici^[1,2,3].

The name of the village probably comes from the fact that it was the crossroads of the roads: Olovo-Solun-Zavidovici, Olovo-Krizevici-Ocevlje-Vares, and Krive Rijeka and Vrhovina (the term used in *Kriva Rijeka* for the Klincici and Musici villages, according to Dolovi, Bakici, Crna Rijeka, Gojanovici villages...). It is possible that the name of the village has something to do with the famous stecak necropolis in Krizevici (Meoraca hamlet), whose tombstones are richly decorated. Administratively, the Meoraca hamlet, Moguse, Mendrazje, Krce and Budacici also belong to Krizevici.

Meoraca is a hamlet of the Krizevici village (Geographic coordinates: 44°08'45.93"N, 18°31'34.57"E, altitude: 536 m) which is located in a gentle valley where the Ocevisa and Orlja rivers meet. Meoraca is 2.60 km from Solun on the Krivaja river, and 4.8 km from Olovo (by air). The area of the village, on its western side, is bounded by the steep and rocky slopes of Osinjaca and Brusevlja, on the eastern side by the area of the Krizevici village, on the north by the slopes of Gajeva, and on the southern side by the Prisoje forest and the area of the Moguse hamlet. Meoraca is situated at the intersection of the Krizevici-Ocevlje-Vares road and the Olovo-Klecala-Boganovici-Krizevici road. Several households of the Dzinic family live in the village, and until the 1992-1995 war, several households of the Zekic family, who moved there from Mount Osinjaca during the SHS Kingdom, live there.

Even during the Austro-Hungarian administration (1878-1918), a branch of the forest railway was built to Meoraca, from the Zavidovici-Olovo-Han Pijesak-Kusaca railway, from point "66" in Krizevici (which means 66 km away from Zavidovici), in order to more efficiently export wood assortments from the area of Osinjaca and Zvijezda, which were transported to Meoraca by 'cekrk' (funicular), and to the funicular by oxen and horses. This system functioned until the 1950s^[4].



Figure 1. The Krizevici vottage. Location

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/88/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina_in_Europe.svg, Accessed August 14, 2023

Source: Right: Google Earth, Accessed August 14, 2023

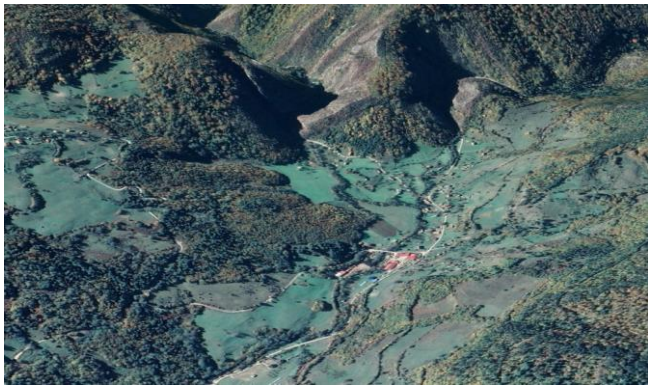


Figure 2. The Meoraca hamlet. Location

Source: Google Earth, Accessed August 12, 2023



Figure 6. View of Meoraca hamlet from the stecak necropolis on the slopes of Gajevi

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

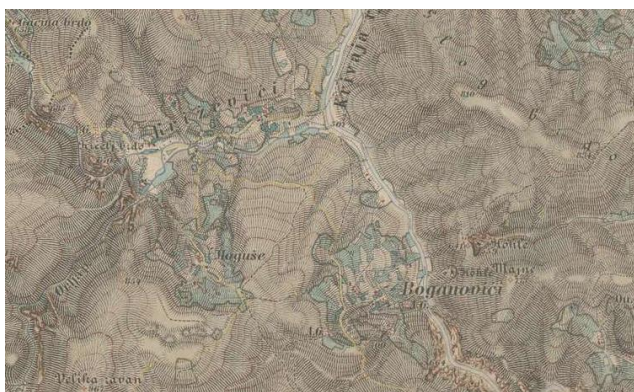


Figure 3. The Krizevici, Boganovici and Moguse villages on an Austro-Hungarian map from the 19th century

Source: <https://maps.arcanum.com/en/map/europe-19century-thirdsurvey/?layers=osm%2C160%2C166&bbox=2055426.2516786915%2C5486046.798740778%2C2073608.7097820279%2C5492945.2405435145>, Accessed August 12, 2023.

II. ENVIRONMENT

We consider the environment to be every potential possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence [5]. When we talk about the environment, we don't mean only those givens 'in themselves' provided by nature; here we also mean all the results of human work and presence in a certain place: built settlements, cultivated terrain, infrastructure, and cultural tradition, socio-economic relations, forms of consciousness (philosophy, science, religion, morality...). Different environments place different demands on an architecturally defined space, which results in a practically unlimited number of aspects in which it can appear. The environment is a fundamental feature of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS). As a complex expression of human struggle, architecture is simultaneously a strictly defined empirical phenomenon that is always realized in a concrete natural environment in which it must survive as a physical structure, resistant to more or less aggressive natural influences. At the same time, many inputs from the social environment give architecture the characteristics of a concrete society in the historical-time period context.



Figure 4. Crossing of roads in the Krizevici village: Olovo-Krizevici-Zavidovici road and Olovo-Krizevici-Vares road. Old road Krizevici-Solun, from Krizevici runs parallel to the Olovo-Krizevici-Zavidovici road

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

1.1. Natural environment

By 'natural environment' we mean all those features provided by nature, on which man (mostly) has not achieved his influence: geographical location, geomorphology, watercourses and water reservoirs, flora and fauna, available soil, climate [5]

The main resources of the Krizevici village are its geographical and traffic location (close to Olovo), the Krivaja river, the Ocevica river where watermills were previously installed, fertile fields along the Krivaja and Ocevica rivers, fields and meadows on the southern exposed slope, orchards and forests (Jasik, Groves and forests along the Ocevica and Orlja rivers), (Figures 7-22).



Figure 5. Left: View of Krizevici from the regional Olovo-Zavidovici road. Right: View of the Krizevici village from the Moguse hamlet (Veliki Kabun and Bijeli vrh can be seen in the background)

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 7. Krivaja river in Krizevici (the confluence of the Ocevica river with the Krivaja river)

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 8. Ocevica river in Krizevici

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 9. Left: The ‘Velika luka’ (Large field) in Krizevici (bordered by the Krivaja and Ocevica streams). Right: Field in Krizevici along the Krivaja river

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 10. Left: Field along the Ocevica river in Krizevici, Right: Greenhouses for growing vegetables in the Krizevici village

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

The most important resource of the Meoraca hamlet is its geographical and traffic location (crossroads of important roads for the municipalities of Olovo and Vares) and two rivers - Ocevica and Orlja (Figure 14). Over time, these small rivers formed a fertile field, on which the inhabitants of Meoraca arrange their fields suitable for irrigation. To the north of Meoraca rises a south-facing slope that passes into the Gajevi forest at its top. The lower parts of this slope, along the

road Olovo-Ocevlje-Vares, are arable and there are cultivated fields and orchards, while the highest parts of the slope are pastures. The proximity of the forest, along the streams of the Ocevica and Orlja rivers and the Gajevi hill-forest provided the basis for construction wood and firewood, and the proximity of the Ocevica and Orlja canyons and stone as building material.



Figure 11. Fields and meadows in the Krizevici village

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 12. Orchards in the Krizevici village

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 13. Left: Meadows and pastures in the Krizevici village. Right: Former central public fountain with watering hole for cattle in Krizevici

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 14. The confluence of the Orlja river with the Ocevica river (in Meoraca)

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 15. The Ocevica river in Meoraca

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 18. Fields and meadows in the Meoraca hamlet

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 19. Pastures in the Meoraca hamlet (on the slopes of Gajevi)

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 16. The garden of the Dzinic family by the Ocevica river

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 20. Orchards in the Meoraca hamlet

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 17. A fruitful field next to Orlja and Ocevica in the Meoraca hamlet

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

1.2. Social environment

The social environment (society) is a group of individuals involved in a more or less permanent social interaction or large social group sharing the same geographic or social territory, usually subject to the same political authorities and dominant cultural expectations. Societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) among individuals who share a characteristic culture and institutions. A given society can be described as the sum of such relationships between its constituent members. In the social sciences, the larger society often shows patterns of stratification or dominance in subgroups^[5]. According to the “Comprehensive List of the Bosna Sandzak from 1604”^[6], Krizevici is mentioned as part of Olovo nahija, where a detailed overview of its inhabitants, their income and tax obligations is given¹[6,7,8].

¹ 20. The Krizevici village 14, belongs to Olovo:

Heritage of Mehmed Pavelov, in Mema, Ferhad - on the heritage of Mustafa; to the property of Alija Nesuhov; Hamza, Nesuha; Heritage of Korkud, owned by Mehmed, Piri, Hamza; now in the possession of Kurd-Allia; Ahmed, Vukmana - on his father's inheritance; Hurrem, Ferhada; Jusuf, Memisaha;

Next to the branch for Ocevlje from the Olovo-Zavidovici regional road, there used to be the railway station Krizevici (also known as point “66”, which meant a place on the railway line that is 66 km from Zavidovici) and a warehouse for wood assortments that were loaded into railway wagons, and were transported from the forests along the Ocevica and Orlja rivers via the forest railway from Meoraca, where, according to Osinjaca, there was also a 'cekrk', i.e. funicular.

Above the Meoraca village, on the slopes of Gajevi, there is a medieval necropolis of stecaks. Stecci are decorated with interesting stone carvings. One of the motifs on the stecak can be found on the Bosnian 10 KM banknote. Rich stecak necropolises are located above on the hill between the Boganovici village and the Moguse hamlet [9], and in the Budacici hamlet, while one stecak is located next to the yard of a house in the Moguse hamlet (Figures 21-24).



Figure 21. Stecak necropolis in the Meoraca hamlet
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

Ibrahim, Iskendera; Mehmed, Husejna; Seid, Hasana, m; Kurd-Ali, Lutfije; Kurd, Mustafa; The inheritance of Ali, in the possession of Kasim, now in the possession of Piria, the son of Hamza; Heritage of Milos, in the possession of Pasajigita, now in the possession of Hasan-celebije; Heritage of Grgur Ivanisev, in the possession of Mustafa, Berisha's son; Heritage of Jurica Ivanisev, in the possession of Bajezid Djuricina; Lutfi, Vukasa - on his father's inheritance; The inheritance of Rados, in the possession of Pava, now in the possession of his son Alija; The inheritance of Ivan, in the possession of Alisah, now in the possession of his son Memisah; Kurd, Lutfije; Veli, Nikola; Heritage of Juraj Vlac, owned by his son Petko; The heritage of Radonje Bogdanovi, in the possession of Memija, son of Mustafa and co-owner; Memisah, Husejna - on the heritage of Marko Bozidarov; Abdi, Nesuha - on Petka's heritage; Alisah, Pir-Alije; Heritage of Vukas Ivanisev, owned by Husejin Djuricin; Hurrem, Pir-Alije; Alisah, Bayezida; But, Mark; Cifluk Lutfije, son of Davud and other co-owners, these are the Krstjan Seliste, Bogilova and Alijina njiva fields, and the land known as Pogledine, Ravne, Resline and Trkaj. Those who make him happy give usury to the owner of the land; Zemin Durica and his son Alija - couple; Mustafa, Pirie; Non-Muslims: Petko, Juraja - on his father's heritage; The heritage of Vladosav Vukovo, now in the possession of Gaspar Grgurovo; Ibrahim, Hasana, m; Besir, Timura, m; Gregory, the approacher; Besir, Timura, m; Jovana, Dure; Jerko, Djure; Dragisa, Bartola; Vukman, Bartola; Mezra Obrad Kovaca, prince Petko enjoys it, above his house, since long ago prince Prebić used to pay ushur spahija on it because these are the fields he cleared himself; Wow, God; Bozo, Friday; Jovan, Petka; Nesuh, Abdullaha - on the heritage of Marko.

Muslims with heritage 32, non-Muslims with heritage 8, unmarried 3;

Income:

resmi pair, bennak and mujerred 764

sponge 300

of wheat, 12 bushels, amount 264

mixed race, size 20, amount 260

oats, 42 kilos, amount 294

lenses, size 1, amount 22

vegetable leek 40

linen cord 60

ushur made of hay 80

ushur from beehives 80

white and red onion leek 4

3 mills, fee 90

1 mill, new, tax 30

half of badihav, youth fee, field tax and deed fee on land 580

Total: 2800



Figure 22. Stecak Necropolis “Mramorje” (between the Boganovici and Moguse villages)
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 23. Stecak necropolis in Budacici hamlet
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 24. Stecak at the entrance to the courtyard of the house in the Moguse hamlet

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

A mosque was built (2010) in Križevici² (Figure 25). In the Meoraca hamlet, a hair memorial fountain was erected in honor of the martyrs of this region^[10] (Figure 26).



Figure 25. The new mosque in Križevici (along the Olovo-Zavidovici road)



Figure 26. Memorial (hair) fountain to the martyrs of Meoraca (from the 1992-1995 war)

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

III. MAN

Space acquires meaning only if it stands in some relation to man. This relationship ranges from the relations of the already known dimensions of space, through those that can be sensed, to those that are currently beyond the reach of human imagination. In other words, man is a being on the way, a being that continuously learns, a being of open possibilities^[5]. The oldest families in Meoraca are Camdzic and Dzinic, who built their houses on the slope of Gajevi, above the road, port and Ocevisa river. The Zekic family³, which lived with several

² The project of the mosque was done by the author of this work.

³ There is a 'folk story' about the etymology of the name 'Meoraca', similar to the names of other villages in Kriva Rijeka. Although the historical foundation of this story is questionable (since it was passed down from generation to generation), we mention it here. Namely, at the time of the arrival of the Zekic family from Osinjaca, a certain Meho Raca lived in the area of today's

households in Meoraca until the 1992-1995 war, moved from the Osinjaca mountain, during the time of the SHS Kingdom. The Zekics settled on the estates of the Balta and Kobas families. The Zekics built their houses on the harbors, along the rivers Orlja and Ocevisa, and just before the war in 1992-1995 – on the slopes of Gajevi.

During the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, in Križevici, on the Mehanovica field (along the Ocevisa river, before the railway bridge), there was a sawmill of the Mehanovic brothers. This locality retained the characteristic of a 'business zone' even later, since until after the 1970s, between the Križevici-Solun road and the railway line, there was a Taiba Mehanovic lime kiln, a store of the Helja family and (today) a store in Mehanovic's field, near the bridge on the Olovo-Zavidovici road (Figures 27, 28).



Figure 27. The location of the former limestone (plant for the production of quicklime) of Taib Mehanovic in Križevici

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 28. Left: Shop in Križevici. Right: Tailor shop in Križevici (Owner Esad Helja)

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

Source: <https://avaz.ba/vijesti/teme/170061/nekada-samo-dobro-zaradivali-ali-danas-se-od-zanata-ne-zivi>, Accessed: August 12, 2023.

The war of 1992-1995 brought many changes to the Meoraca village. All Serbian families moved out and sold their properties. The biggest buyer of these estates is the well-known Olov entrepreneur, Edhem Merdan, who built a modern sawmill on a poor part of his new estate. In other parts of the estate, he built a pond (Figures 29, 30, 31), in some places he is engaged in farming, and in others he is engaged in animal husbandry.

In principle, there have been no major changes in the way of life of the Meoraca village, except for those that are

Meorača. Meho lived a dissolute life and spent a lot. When he ran out of money to spend, he would "cut off" a part of the estate and sell it to someone named Zekić. As the Zekići were Serbs, who did not pronounce the sound "h", Meho was 'Meo', so by combining his name 'Meo' and the surname Raca, with which he often mentions, the term 'Meorača' was born. (The author heard this story on May 14, 2020 in Meoraca, from Salem Smajic (1957) who bought a property here after the Recica village was hit by a massive landslide, after heavy rains and floods in 2014).

common to all the villages of Krive Rijeka, which are the result of new social relations after the 1992-1995 war.



Figure 29. Sawmill of Taib Mehanovic in Krizevici
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 30. Sawmill of Edhem Merdan in Meoraca hamlet
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 31. Edhema's Merdan pond with restaurant in Meoraca hamlet
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

IV. BOUNDARIES: ARCHITECTURE AS A FRAMEWORK OF LIFE

Boundaries are places in an environment where the found states are controlled in compliance with all man's concrete needs. States are all those discovered and undiscovered phenomena in space affecting man in a stimulating or degrading way. Boundaries, therefore, have a task to enable the selection of impacts. In an architectural sense, they enclose, but they also integrate man in the states of an environment. Speaking about architecture, experiences always refer to the wall, roof and foundations, i.e. physical barriers set up suitable for the influencing conditions in the experience of life on Earth^[5].

In the Krizevici village, there are several preserved houses built in the 1960s. These houses were built according to the same model of houses in all other villages of Krive Rijeka from that time. According to the verula, they were developed through the basement (storage), ground floor and first floor. The walls of the basement are built of hewn stone, while the construction of the ground floor and first floor is made of wood, both the walls and the mezzanine structure (Figures 32, 33, 34).



Figure 32. Forester's house in Krizevici. Right: Radet Ostojic's house in Krizevici
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 33. Houses in Krizevici built since the 1960s
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

Houses built in the 1960s in Meoraca hamlet follow the same patterns of construction and design of houses in other villages of Kriva Rijeka from that time. Bosniaks and Serbs

lived in Meoraca, but in the architecture of their houses, stables and auxiliary buildings, no differences can be observed.

There were differences in the details of the arrangement of the house complex, since the Serbs in Meoraca had pig barns.

Houses built after the 1980s were mostly built according to the project, usually catalog solutions (Figures 35, 36).



Figure 34. Houses in Meoraca hamlet built in the 1960s
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 36. Houses in the Meoraca hamlet built in the 1980s
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 35. Houses in Krizevići built since the 1980s
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



A former store in the Meoraca hamlet at the crossroads of the roads to Vares and Orlja

Figure 37. Houses in the Meoraca hamlet built in the 1980s
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

Houses in the Meoraca hamlet built in the 1980s were built 'according to the project', mostly according to the catalog solutions that were popular at that time (Figures 36,37).

The Krizevici village is a typical village in the Krivaja river valley where the population (until 1945) was mainly engaged in agriculture. Because of this, stables for domestic animals, grain storages ('hambars') and various buildings were integral parts of the rural structure (Figures 38, 39, 40).



Figure 38. Preserved old watermill and new watermill (owner Edhem Merdan) in the Meoraca hamlet

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

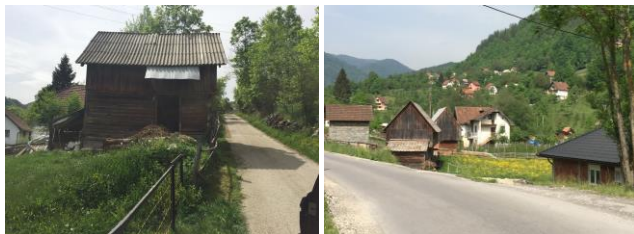


Figure 39. Stables and auxiliary facilities in the Krizevici village
Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 40. Stables and auxiliary buildings in the Meoraca hamlet built in the 1960s

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)



Figure 41. Left: Local cemetery in the Krizevici village of. Right: Local cemetery in the Meoraca hamlet

Source: Author (May 14, 2020.)

V. CONCLUSION

According to its origins, the Krizevici village is one of the oldest villages in the valley of the Krivaja river, as evidenced by several medieval necropolises of stećaks. Some of the stećaks are located next to the houses themselves, as is the case in the Moguse hamlet and in the Budacici hamlet. The existence of relatively abundant natural resources in the Krizevici village near Olovo generated people's life in the past, and sustains it today with promising prospects in the future. The name of the village probably comes from the fact that it was the crossroads of the roads: Olovo-Solun-Zavidovici, Olovo-Krizevici-Ocevlje-Vares, and Kriva Rijeka and Vrhovina (the term used in Kriva Rijeka for the Klincici and Musici villages, according to the Dolovi, Bakici, Crna Rijeka, Gojanovici villages...). It is possible that the name of the village has something to do with the famous stećak necropolis in Krizevici (Meoraca), whose tombstones are richly decorated. Administratively, the Meoraca hamlet, Moguse, Mendrazje, Krce and Budacici also belong to Krizevici. With the arrival of the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the construction of the narrow-gauge railway Zavidovici - Olovo - Han Pijesak - Kusace (it was put into traffic on June 10, 1902 for freight traffic, and for passenger traffic in 1919), first of all, the inhabitants the Krizevici villages were getting closer and closer to that railway and the Krivaja river where, in the beginning, they built businesses - sawmills, lime plants, taverns and their houses. After the war (1992-1995), there was a change in the social system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the system of self-management (and social property) was replaced by capitalism. In that process, many social enterprises were 'privatized', after which many of them failed. Such was the situation in the Olovo municipality, where the former companies, „SIP Stupčanica“ above all, employed the largest part of the working-age population - failed. Similar to other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (and other countries of the Western Balkans), an increasing number of young people graduate from university and stay to work and live in cities.

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