

ECTP-CEU Young Planners Workshop 2019
Planning on the edge

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AND MEDITERANIAN CITIES – PLANNING ON EDGES AND CROSSROADS

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Introduction

This paper aims to open up a discussion about Fortified Mediterranean cities in the former Yugoslavia's republics: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro. In the focus of the research are cities of Trebinje, Dubrovnik and Kotor.

There are some **fundamental differences** between the countries, but also **some similarities**, as **global social, political and economic processes created similar patterns of development in different countries.**

This research reveals that these three cities are faced with various social and political pressures that are mostly results of general processes of globalization, with **specific expansion of tourism**. This has been reflected on the following categories: 1. socio-demographic and 2. spatial functionality.



<https://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/francuzi-ulazu-937-milijuna-eura-u-luku-gruz-1060213>

Context

When asked what the Mediterranean is, Fernand Braudel answered:
“A thousand things at once. It's not one landscape, it's a sum of countless landscapes. It is not a sea but a sequence of seas. Not one civilization, but many civilizations. The Mediterranean is both a place and a time, a change and a constancy, a stone and a tree, the sea and river, tradition and modernity.”

Knowledge of the Mediterranean is knowledge of geography, history and culture, geology and climate, but also about the sea, trade routes, palm trees, stone, caravans, vines and olives.

Considering the Mediterranean boundaries, one can say that it “extends from the first olive tree to be reached when coming from the North to the first dense palm trees plantations descending from the deserts.” No matter how determined the olive trees and palm trees are, the borders of the Mediterranean are sometimes impermanent and hard to be defined and sometimes clear and carved in stone and water.

Context

The former Yugoslavia was a multi-ethnic state in south-east Europe divided administratively between six republics: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

Its territory and its culture have been created between global and local influences of power and experience,

Through the 60's and early 70's much of the tourist development occurring within the former Yugoslavia took place along the coastline.

Position of fortified cities from previous times is also differently treated. For the far southern-Adriatic as defined by this research the Old Town of Dubrovnik in Croatia and Kotor in Montenegro are the major attractions for the border countries involved.

Borders/contacts Natural / Cultural landscapes Networks/connections

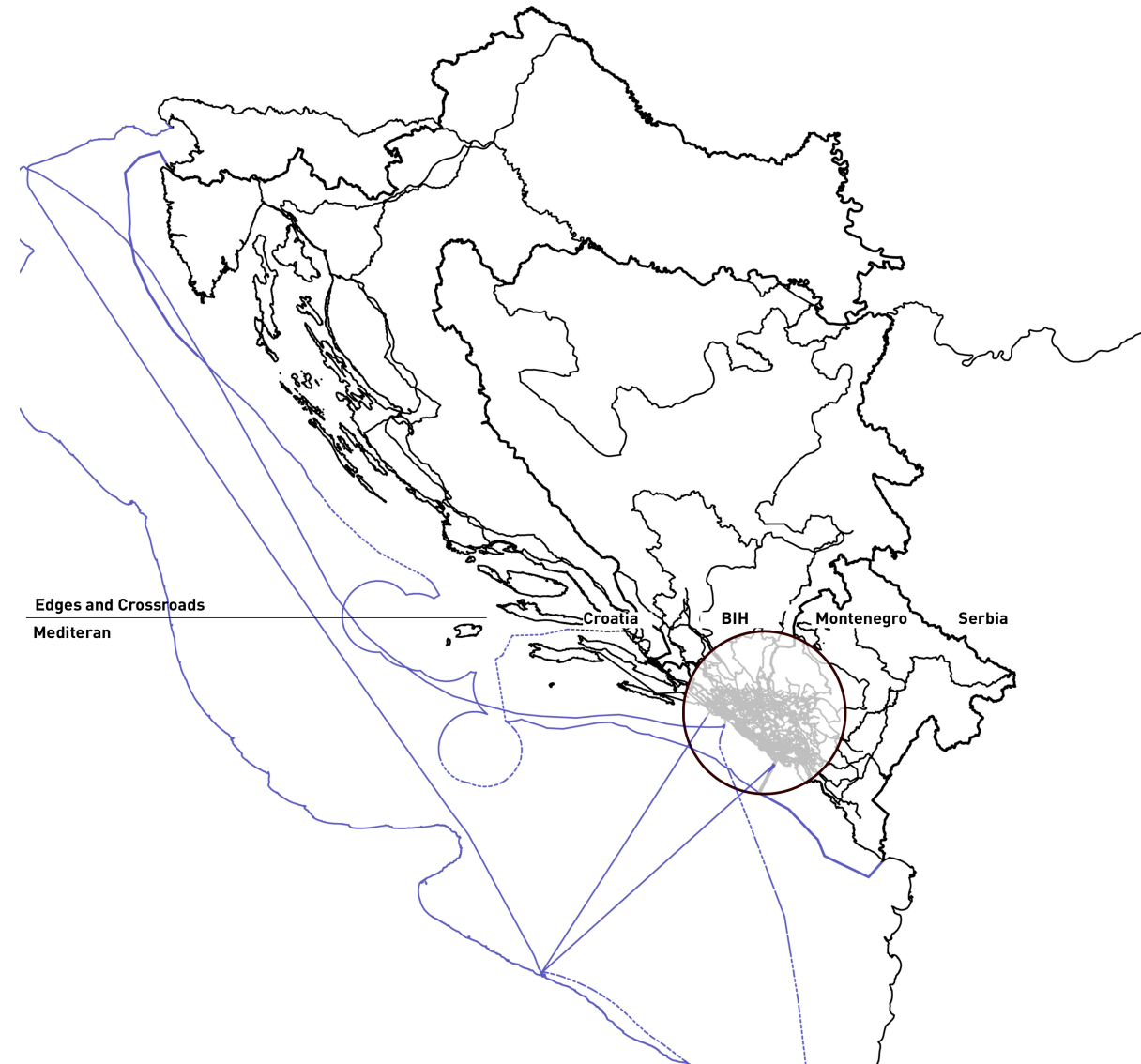
Borders / Contacts

The three cities that present subject areas are located in the vicinity of three borders.

- Trebinje: equally away from the borders of Croatia and Montenegro (21km).
- Kotor: located 53 km from the Croation border and 58km from border with BIH.
- Dubrovnik: situated only 10km from the border with BIH and 38 km from the border with Montenegro.

Beside the borders, the edge between those cities is defined by the contacts that cities established over the time.

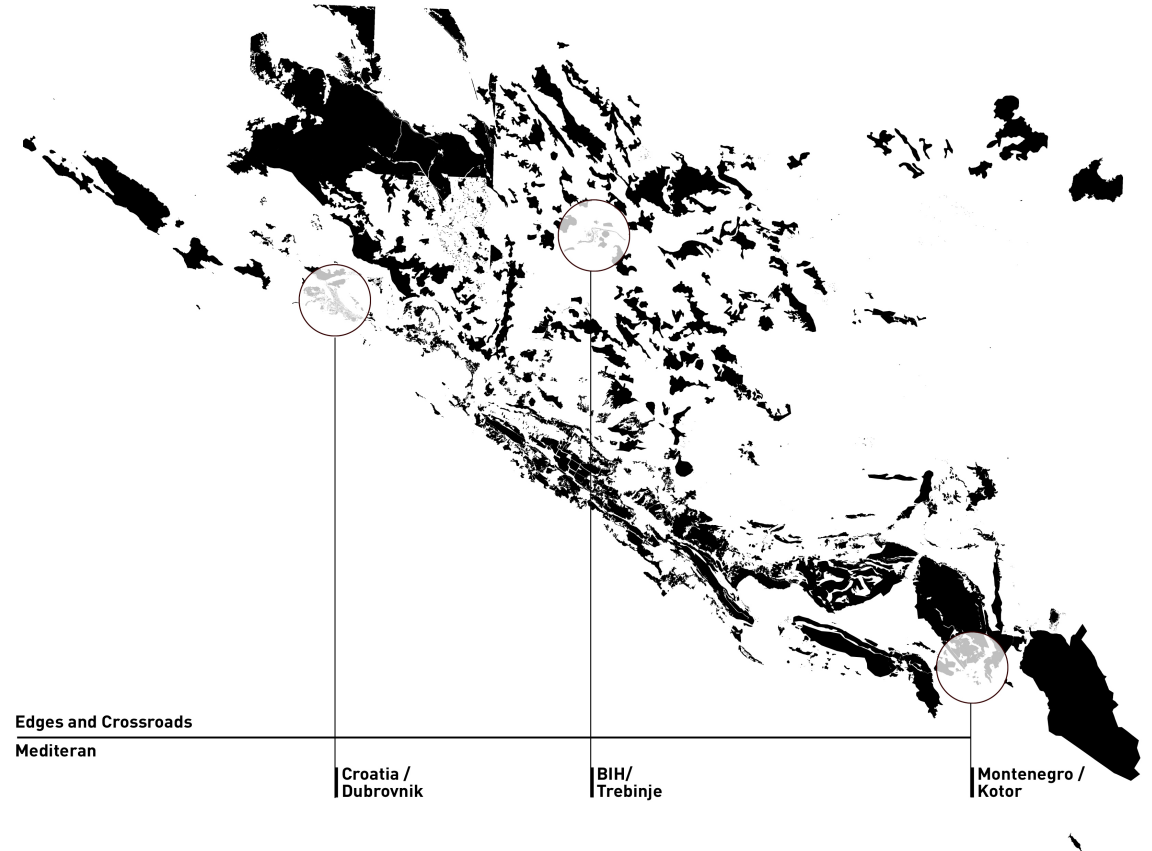
- Dubrovnik is more oriented towards Western tourist markets due to the fact that Croatia is in EU
- Montenegro is more oriented towards attracting Eastern European, Russian and former Soviet tourist and developers.



Natural Landscapes / Cultural Landscapes

Mediterranean borders are not defined by geography, are not historical, not national, not carved in space or time as much as they are constantly being identified and erased, expanded or reduced. (Matvejevic, 2006).

Due to these circumstances, landscapes, both natural and cultural remained an unifying factor of this region.

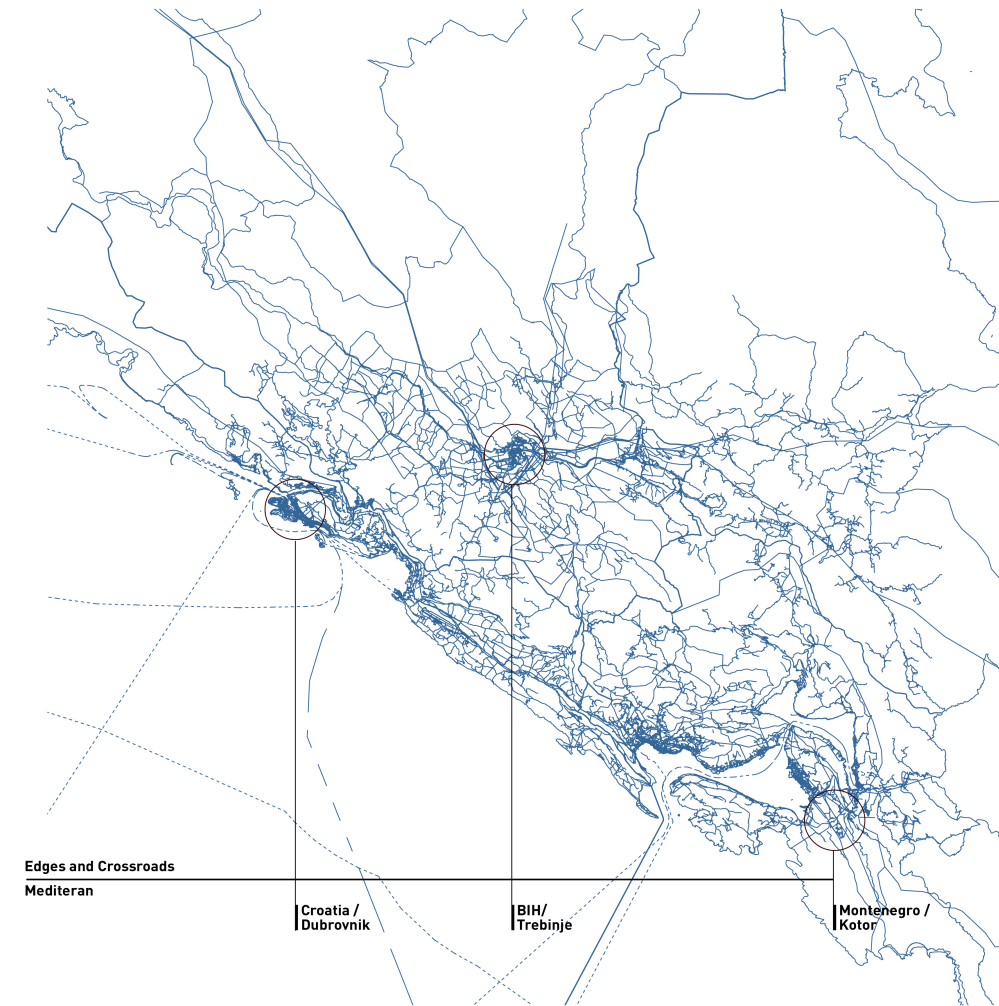


Connections / Networks

The distance between Dubrovnik and Trebinje is 32km, while the distance between Dubrovnik and Kotor is 91 km. Additionally, Trebinje is 81 km away from Kotor.

Even though, the spatial proximity creates preconditions for functional and spatial connections and networks to be developed, they are still underdeveloped.

Additionally, the **insufficient capacity of borders control and visa regime** complicates the development of physical connections. On the other hand, as previously mentioned, **the historical instability and distrust affect the speed and diversity of functional networks.**



Subject description

The notion of a **cultural landscape** which at the same time could present significant material evidence of place evolution over time, a proof of human activity in the natural environment or a testimony of religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural elements (UNESCO, 2019) has been recognized as one of the central topics in the planning.

The subject area, characterized by the political instability and constant changes of borders in past, has become more exposed to the uncontrolled urbanization, unplanned development, and market pressures, tourists inflow and globalization.

Subject description

Thus, the places with specific values that are recognized as a cultural landscape
By observing cities of Dubrovnik, Trebinje and Kotor, the most evident changes
can be perceived through city form, city land uses/economy and city life.

The city form in relation to cultural landscapes:

city expansions, disposition of new investment zones, insertion of new buildings into the historical city cores and individual treatment during restoration and reconstruction.

City land uses and economy:

constant changes of the uses in fortified city cores, changes in land value and living costs.

City life:

the change of the population number and structure, employment trajectories, daily commuting between cross border cities and introduction of cruiser tourism along with all opportunities and threats.

Kotor – listed by UNESCO as a heritage site

The most intense changes of urban structure in the last three decades emerge in the bay of Kotor, especially in the western coastline and at the outskirts of the fortified city. **Even though this transformation affects the narrow line of the coast due to morphological and topographical limitation, the change of landscape is more than evident.**

The official UNESCO report states that if the explained practice of urban development continues to take place, The city of Kotor will be removed from the list of World Heritage.

The Kotor is also exposed to the expansion of tourists coming by cruisers.



Kotor – physical changes 1990-2018





Dubrovnik – listed by UNESCO as a heritage site

Regarding city economy and city life, Dubrovnik has completely changed the way how city **works: from 1953 to 2001 the historic core changed its function from an administrative political centre to a tourist district:**

- 55% of economic activities
- 63% of accommodation buildings
- twice as many working position that citizens (attracting workers from Bosnia and Hercegovina)

The change of urban structure on Dubrovnik appears to be more concentrated in the western area along the coast and the bay. The inner area is faced with the process of identification and urban infills.



Dubrovnik – physical changes 1990-2018





Dubrovnik – listed by UNESCO as a heritage site

After the 1992 war, Trebinje population increase had an impact for the construction to occur in the southwestern and western part of the urban area thus violating the historical protection of the agricultural area near the city (Milojević, 2013).

Extra profits draw workers who daily travel on the Trebinje-Dubrovnik route, because they have the opportunity to earn twice as high salaries than in Trebinje:

around 10% of inhabitants of Trebinje already work in the Dubrovnik area (Hercegovinapromo, 2019).



Trebinje – physical changes 1990-2018



Trebinje



Trebinje

Tracing impacts on urban form, city economy and city life.

Short term impacts

Positive:

- The increase of touristic flow positively affects both city and republic budget
- **Inner core regeneration** and beautification of facades
- Investments in façades refurbishment

Negative:

- **disruptions in the built environment caused by the lack of understanding of tradition and historical underpins**, market orientation and violation of public interest
- land appropriation and uncontrolled development along the coastline

Medium-term impacts

Positive:

- the development of activities from small producers and craftsmen
- **the emergence of new jobs in the service sector**
- fostering communication, exchange of ideas and information, stimulating cultural horizon broadening.

Negative:

- Gradual landscape and built environment degradation
- **Transforming a fortified city core to a showcase due to the domination of service and touristic services and a large number of tourists**
- Increasing pressures for local residents to leave the city

Long term impacts

Positive:

- Increase of property values in the city core and servicing areas
- **Increase of tourist inflow in bordering areas**
- Increasing site popularity and changing the negative perception of the Balkan region

Negative:

- The uncontrolled development without a broader urban development vision
- **Devastation of the cultural landscape.**
- Changes in consuming habits
- **Increase of prices and living costs**
- Underdevelopment of the rest of the sectors apart tourism

Many of the mentioned impacts on urban form, city economy and city life **can be traced to most of the Mediterranean cities, as well.**

The problem of “overtourism” that changes the cultural landscape of cities in Mediterranean region is even highly perceivable in cities such as **Barcelona – Spain** (2.68 millions of tourist per year), **Civitavecchi in Italy** (2.34), **Venice – Italy** (1.6), **Marseille – France** (1.59), Naples in Italy (1.31), Piraeus (Greece) (Smith 2018).

The historical values of the site and the coastal position are not the only preconditions for a city to be exposed to the variety of impacts that have been highlighted in this research. As witnessed by economic sources, Naples doesn’t have nor problems nor benefits from a Mediterranean closeness due to the low level of self-promotion, bad waste management, lack of sightseeing amenities, crime rate, social standard of citizens, interregional differences and infrastructural problems (Schmalbruch 2015)

The research reveals that it is not sufficient to sample different types of hybrid urban formations and models of development, but to look into different typologies of **urban change in relation to the transitional social, political and economic processes that are taking part across these territories.**

Each change in cultural landscape is expected to provide different features of locally-translated socio-economic trends (depending on the pre-existing situation, specific local processes, actors, values, etc.), while simultaneously exhibiting some general features of social, political and economic restructuring that is taking place across three cities that are analysed.

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