



**iGeo**



# **14<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad**

**RESOURCE BOOKLET**

# POTENTIALS AND LIMITATIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH TOURISM AT KOŠUTNJAK PARK

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## Introduction to Sustainable and Youth Tourism

**Sustainable tourism** can be defined as:

*"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities"*

Sustainable tourism should:

- 1) Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity.
- 2) Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.
- 3) Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.

**Youth tourism** is a new, fast growing sector in the tourism industry (Khoshpakyants & Vidishcheva, 2010). Youth tourism in a nutshell is young travelers having preference for budget accommodation, emphasis on meeting other travelers, independently organized, flexible travel schedule and longer rather than brief holidays (Haigh, 1995).

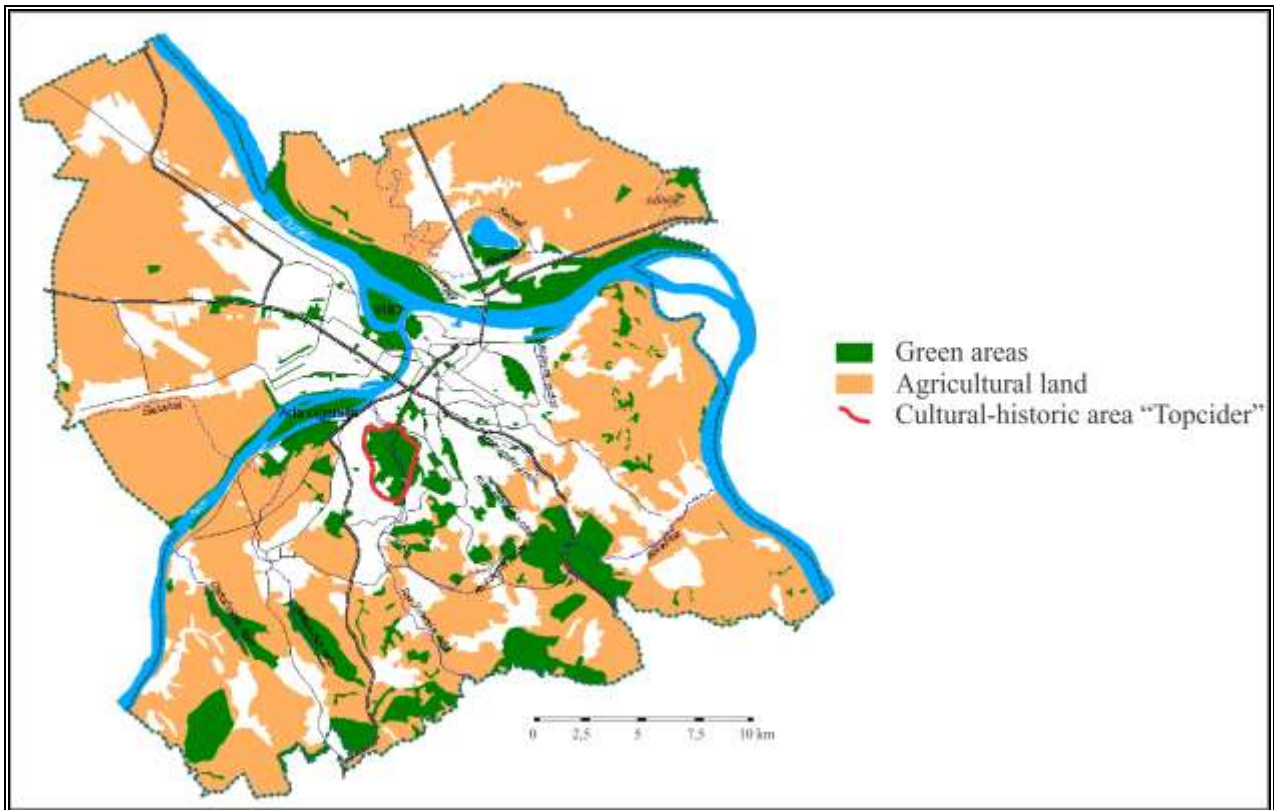
Youth tourism can be seen through modern initiatives including (but not limited to); travel, backpacking, youth hostels, working holiday programs, education, student flights, cultural exchange, backpacker transport, au pair, adventure tours, volunteering, sports events, internships, student travel insurance, youth travel agents, tourism boards, internet cafes, language courses, student identity cards and student exchange (WYSET, 2009).

Studies show youth tourists travel for *purpose*. Whether to experience a different culture learn a language, volunteer, work or study (Khoshpakyants & Vidischeva, 2010). They are keen to experience the local lifestyle and meet other people (Maoz 2006). In fact, youth tourism heavily promotes opportunities to socialize with fellow travelers (Obenouretal et al., 2004). The majority of youth tourists travel on a strict budget, sourcing cheap accommodation enabling them to have a relatively long duration journey and spend their money on a wide range of activities such as nature, culture and adventure (Maoz, 2006). Interestingly enough, youth tourism spends more money than those in other tourism sectors as they spend 4 times longer travelling than the average visitor (WYSET, 2009). Furthermore, youth tourists value their flexible itineraries. They report the most memorable travel experiences are often those that are unexpected, and the finest discoveries are those they make themselves (Clarke 2004).

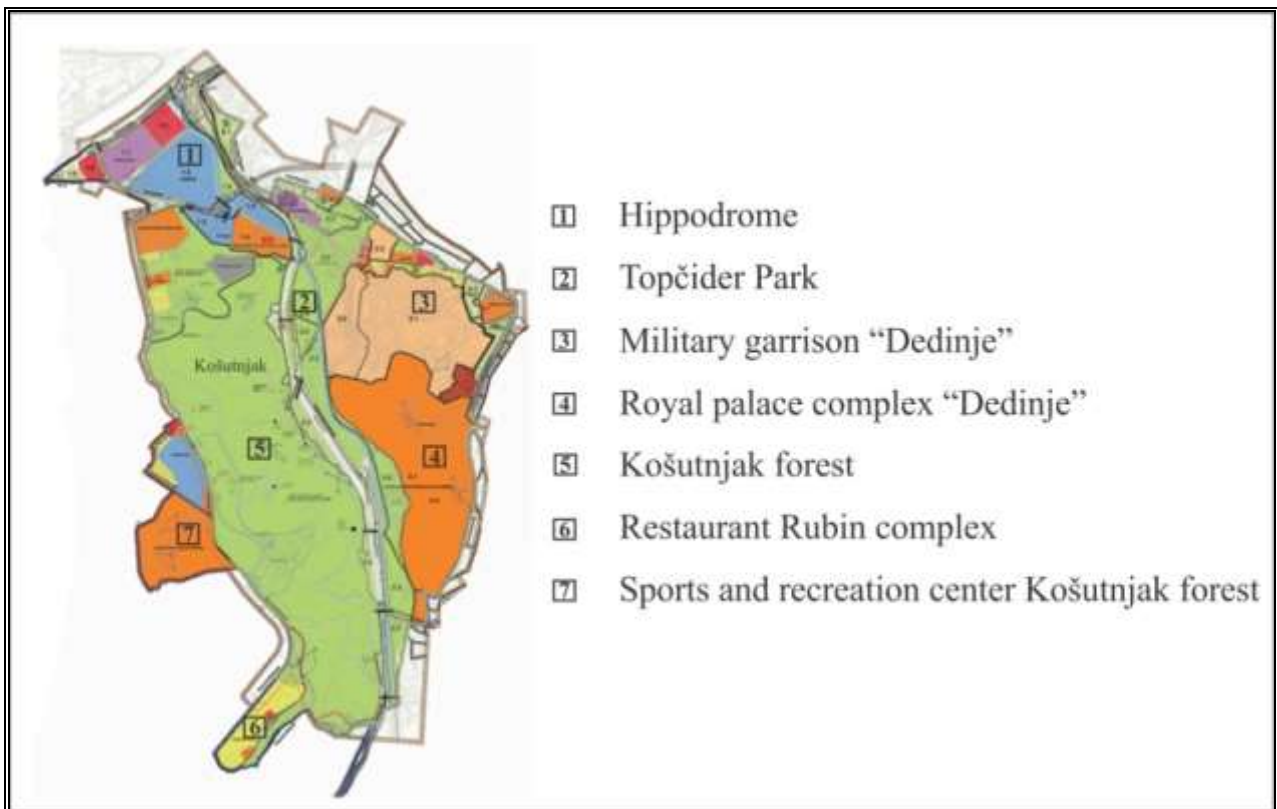
*Return home open-eyed, open-minded, grown-up, laid-back, chilled-out, easy-going, a little more serious and achieve self-development through travel (Clarke, 2004).*



*Sport events - one way of youth tourism (Košutnjak, 2012).*



Map 1 – Green areas and agricultural land in Belgrade.



Map 2 – Units of cultural-historic area "Topčider".

## Cultural-historic area “Topčider” and Košutnjak forest

“Topčider” is an important Belgrade area, both in terms of its culture and history and in terms of its natural features. This is the largest area covered by greenery in the urban part of Belgrade (Map 1). The cultural-historic area “Topčider” consists of several smaller units (Map 2), with the Natural Monument “Košutnjak“ as the largest one. Other significant units, in addition to Košutnjak, include the racecourse – The Hippodrome, Military Garrison “Dedinje”, Topčider Park with the House Museum of Prince Miloš Obrenović and the Royal Palace Complex of the Karadjordjević family.

Košutnjak is the remaining part of the forest belt that used to surround old Belgrade. At that time, Belgrade was located on Terazije Hill, above the confluence of the Sava and the Danube rivers. Until 1903, Košutnjak was the hunting grounds of the royal family and their guests. It was enclosed and hinds (female deer) were kept there, so this fact might account for the origin of the name Košutnjak (hind is *košuta* in Serbian). Since 1903, Košutnjak has been open to the public and has become a city picnic area.



Photo 1 – Košutnjak forest



Photo 2 – Plane tree-lined path in Košutnjak For.

The first regulation plan of Košutnjak was made in 1911. The paths were made then which led from the railway station Topčider to the top where a large “Sokolska” Meadow was (*Sokoli* means falkons – a Serbian word for scouts). The first golf course used to be here in the eve of the Second World War.

In April 2014, Košutnjak Forest was declared as a protected area. This natural resource is a natural monument. Today, Košutnjak Forest is under the authority of “Srbijašume” – State Enterprise for Forest Management, Forest Estate “Beograd“.

### Natural monuments in Košutnjak forest area

There are 521 plant species at Košutnjak. As there are 3730 plant species in Serbia, this number depicts the high floral diversity of Košutnjak, which is in the third position among the greenery complexes in the territory of Belgrade according to the number of plant species (There are nearly 650 plant species at Avala Mountain and nearly 600 at Kosmaj Mountain).

The presence of protected species is evident in such floral diversity. There are 48 protected species at Košutnjak. Ten species are strictly protected (as they are considered as extremely rare and endangered in Serbia and it is therefore prohibited to destroy and endanger both them and their habitats) and other 38 species are protected species.

Since 1981, The Common Oak and Hornbeam Forest at Hajdučka fountain in Košutnjak has been protected as a nature reserve. Total protected area amounts to 3.48 ha. Under the specific microclimate and edaphic conditions, at an altitude of 130-165 m, a forest of common oak, hornbeam and Turkey oak with linden has formed (*Carpino-Quercetum roboris tilietosum*). As it is located in the vicinity of the popular picnic area Hajdučka fountain, it is constantly endangered by humans.

There are several facilities of geological heritage within the protected park-forest Košutnjak. Those are open geological profiles (Map 3) near the Mint and the monument to Prince Mihailo (Photo 3). These profiles include the abandoned quarry partly covered by lower cretaceous reef limestones. Their presence indicates paleo conditions of sedimentation in shallow warm seas, which existed in part of the area of the current Serbia at the end of the Mesozoic.



*Photo 3 – Open geological profile*



*Photo 4 – Hajdučka česma (fountain)*

The protected natural and historic resources also include Hajdučka fountain (Photo 4), refurbished karst spring at the foothills of Košutnjak. This is the best-known fountain at Košutnjak and it is frequently visited and famous for good quality water. It has often been related to St. George's Day - Djurdjevdan and May Day picnics. The spring was turned into a fountain most probably in the period of Prince Milos and Prince Mihailo, when Košutnjak became the royal hunting grounds.

### **Culture monuments in Košutnjak forest area**

In addition to Hajdučka fountain, there are several more protected areas of cultural heritage in Košutnjak forest area (Map 3). They are:

#### **The place of death of Prince Mihailo Obrenović**

On 29 May 1868, Serbian Prince Mihailo M. Obrenović was killed in an ambush during his afternoon walk. Today, the iron fence on the plateau of granite pillars bordered by a wrought iron chain (set in 1912), marks the place of his death (Photo 5).



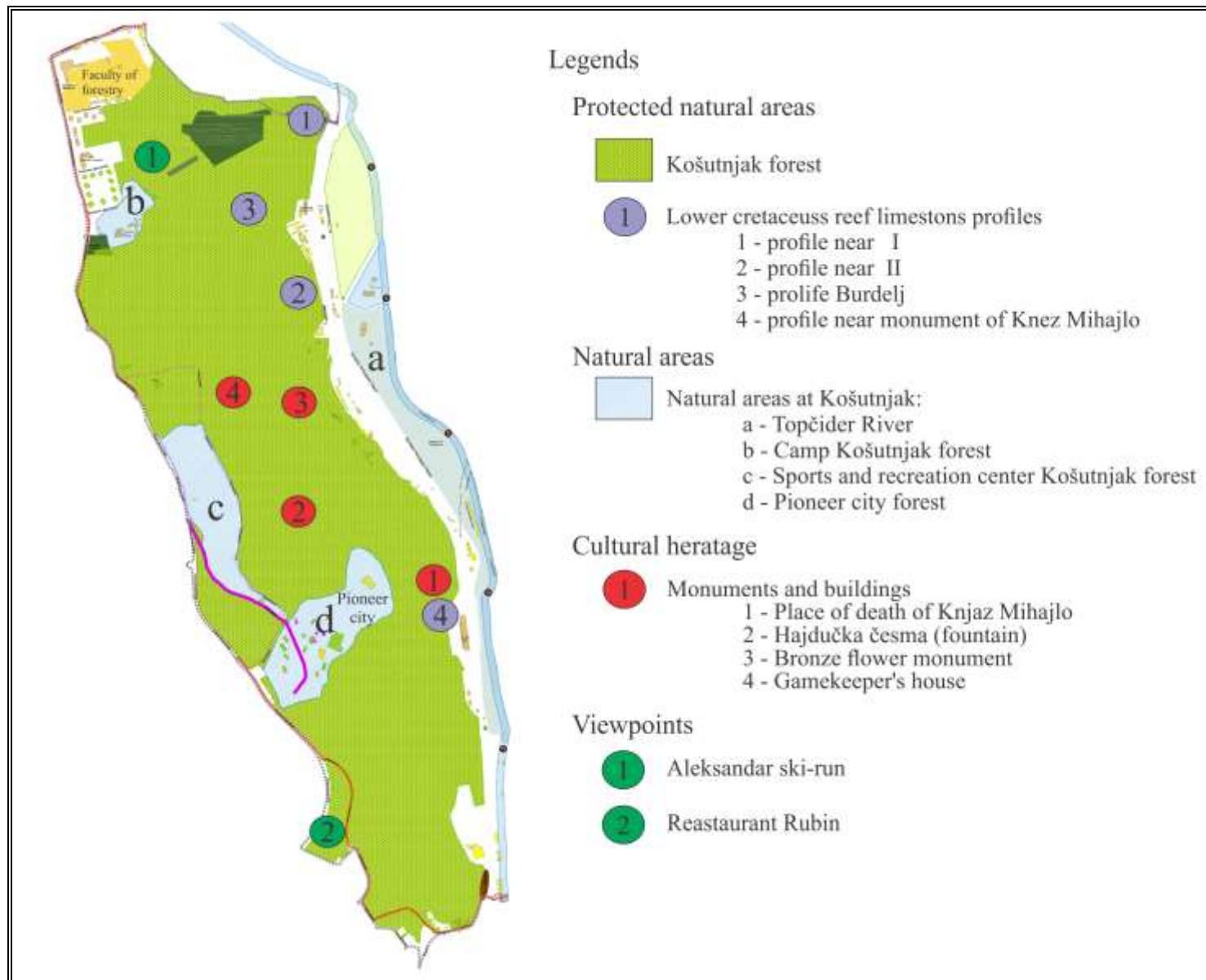
*Photo 5 – The place of death of Prince Mihailo*

#### **Memorial bronze flower**

Memorial bronze flower is near the restaurant Košuta and it was made in 1970 to mark the site of a bloody confrontation between gendarmes and students on 8 September 1940.

#### **Gamekeeper's house**

The gamekeeper's house was built in the middle of 19th century next to the game reserve. In 1891, the first District Forest Management of Serbia started to work in this house. That is the only building in the forest. It was often used as a film location, and some of those Yugoslav films have become iconic.



Map 3 – Protected natural and cultural heritage features at Košutnjak forest.

## Pionirski grad (Pioneer City)



Ever since the 19th century, there has been a sanatorium on the slopes of Košutnjak, where children came to recover and improve their general health. Away from the city, with a thick forest, and the effects of a climatic health resort, Košutnjak provided ideal conditions for recovery and refreshment of the body. A lot of rich people therefore built their holiday homes in the foothills of Košutnjak. After the Second World War the Pioneer City was built by young volunteers in 1947.

Besides the central building which covers 5000 square metres, there are other premises (classrooms, a discoteque, an amphitheatre with 400 seats, sports halls etc.) for educational, recreational, entertainment and cultural purposes, as well as the restaurant with 400 seats. The centre also has pavilions for accommodation (see photos below).



*Pionirski grad some years ago  
(Children playground).*



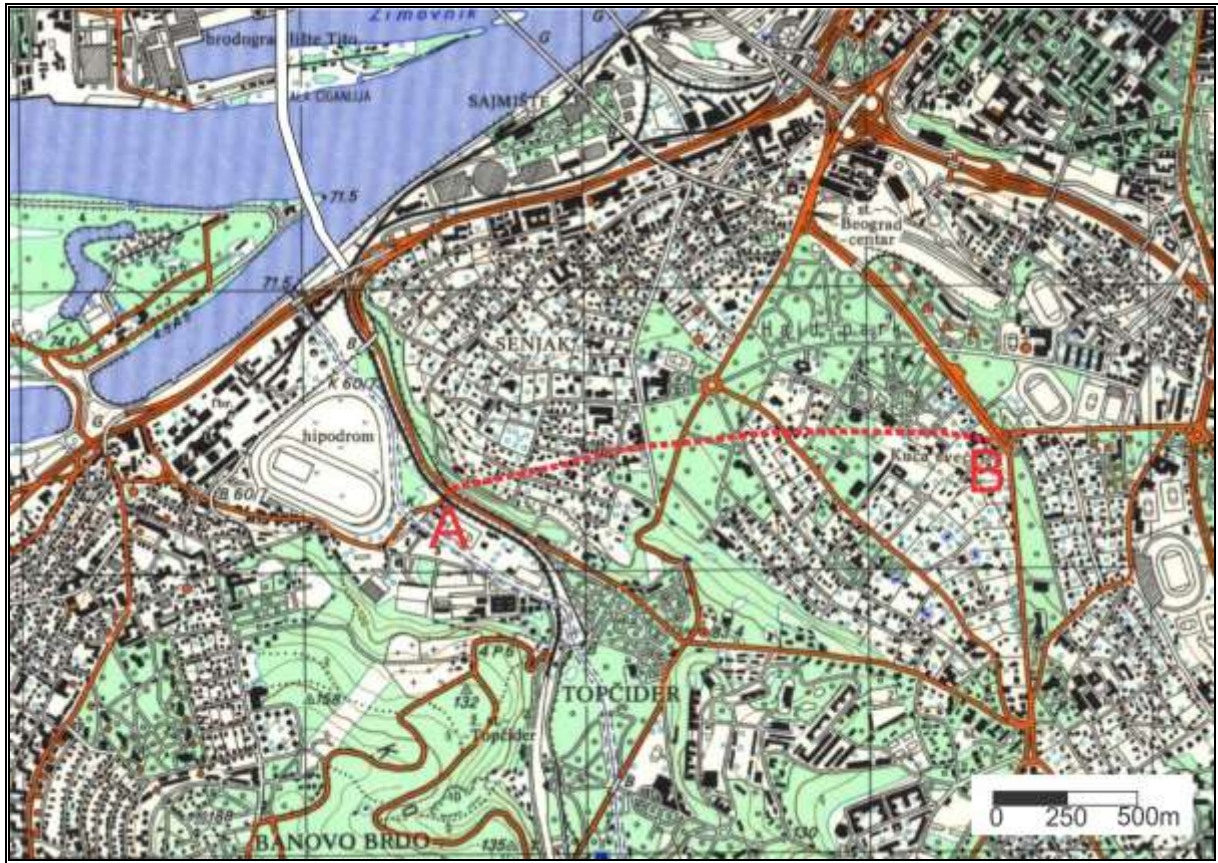
*Pionirski grad at present day  
(Renovated pavilions).*

This specific natural environment includes free activity areas (climbing frames, swings...) as well as the grounds for five-a-side football, handball, basketball, volleyball, a running track (800 m), athletics track, circular asphalt path and glades for playing.

It is the member of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF).

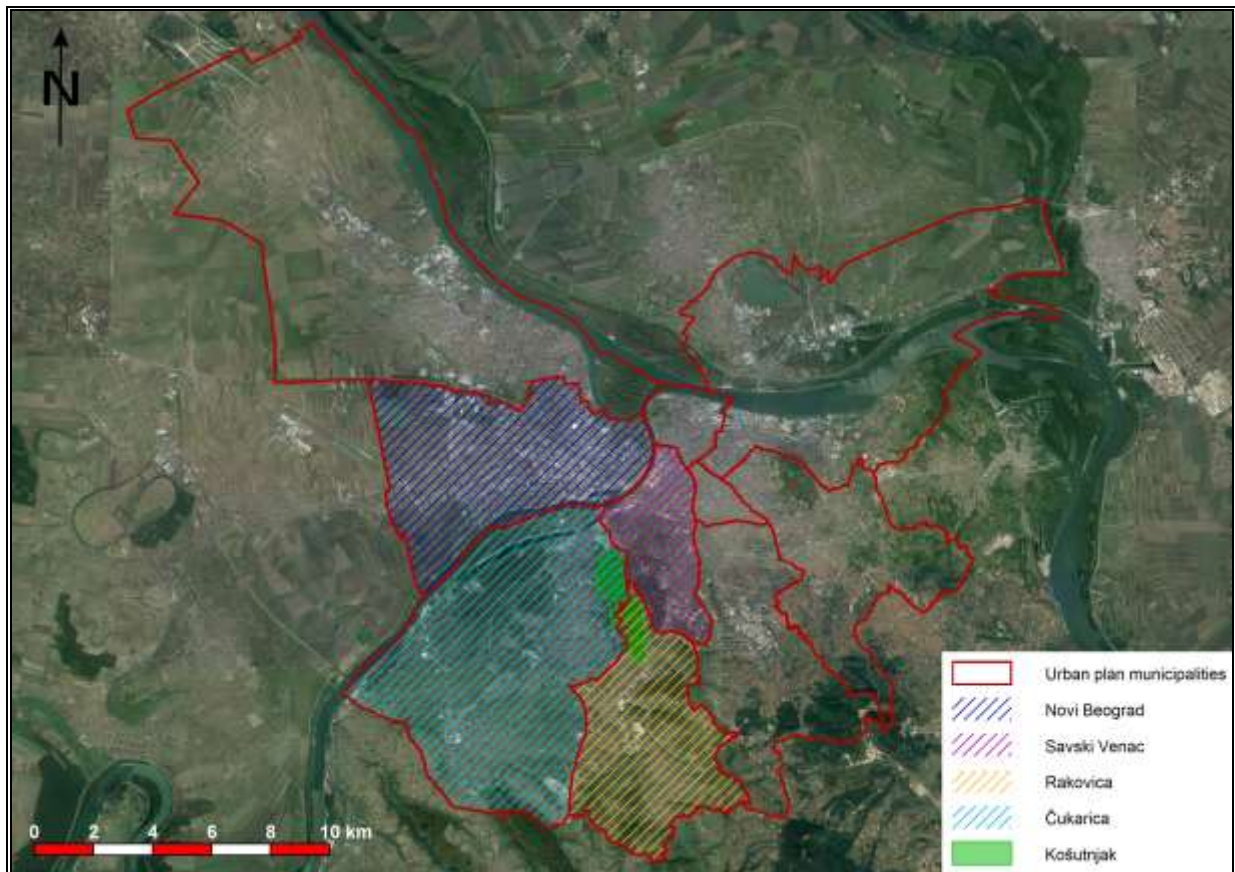
Since the establishment of the Pioneer city there have always been construction and development plans, but they have not been entirely fulfilled.





Map 4 – Planned tunnel beneath the Topčider Hill.

Map 5 – Municipalities of Belgrade closest to Košutnjak Park.



Map 6 – Scheme of public transport in Belgrade.



<i>Municipal.</i>		<b>total</b>	<b>0-4</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>10-14</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45-49</b>	<b>50-54</b>	<b>55-59</b>	<b>60-64</b>	<b>65-69</b>	<b>70-74</b>	<b>75-79</b>	<b>80-84</b>	<b>85+</b>
Novi Beograd	total	214506	10203	9189	8447	9615	11762	16175	17860	16558	13956	13201	14354	18250	16842	9707	10640	9026	5539	3182
	male	99477	5271	4704	4296	4930	5910	7707	8582	7830	6762	6036	6390	8050	7299	4144	4436	3694	1974	1462
	female	115029	4932	4485	4151	4685	5852	8468	9278	8728	7194	7165	7964	10200	9543	5563	6204	5332	3565	1720
Rakovica	total	108641	5501	5190	4936	5447	5908	7771	8859	8647	8178	7361	6803	7814	7582	5338	5919	4421	2061	905
	male	51267	2808	2649	2575	2791	2905	3805	4190	4205	3917	3578	3168	3509	3072	2242	2613	2023	865	352
	female	57374	2693	2541	2361	2656	3003	3966	4669	4442	4261	3783	3635	4305	4510	3096	3306	2398	1196	553
Savski Venac	total	39122	1726	1494	1384	1838	2295	3033	3000	2538	2280	2332	2796	3694	3523	1702	1734	1472	1305	976
	male	17868	891	771	660	956	1148	1466	1430	1217	1027	1039	1249	1626	1585	790	702	526	437	348
	female	21254	835	723	724	882	1147	1567	1570	1321	1253	1293	1547	2068	1938	912	1032	946	868	628
Čukarica	total	181231	9100	8701	8576	9384	10702	13901	14710	13826	12570	11885	12471	14435	13064	7739	8247	6754	3610	1556
	male	85903	4732	4461	4358	4800	5418	6735	7025	6713	6098	5644	5655	6564	5762	3368	3581	2907	1477	605
	female	95328	4368	4240	4218	4584	5284	7166	7685	7113	6472	6241	6816	7871	7302	4371	4666	3847	2133	951

Table 1 – Demographic data for four Belgrade municipalities (2012 Census).

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