

THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN R. MACEDONIA AND R. BULGARIA

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Abstract: Respondents' answers clearly defined and justified the set goals that the research tried to prove the fact that religion, as an integral part of the culture, contains significant resources that are in function of the development and affirmation of the tourism in R. Macedonia and R. Bulgaria, in function of their border cooperation. This in turn is a very suitable form through which the values of sacred objects can be affirmed, and thus the values of the cultural and religious traditions in both countries. The research was aimed at discovering state and church mechanisms and resources through which religious sacred objects would be affirmed as forms of border cooperation. The pilgrimage is a kind of introduction to the practice of religious tourism, given the fact that the very act of worship of the saints is accompanied by a series of additional social, cultural and trade economic activities.

Key words: religious tourism; pilgrimage; religious traditions; border cooperation

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