



MUNICIPALITY OF SHTIP



Mayor: Prim M-r Ilcho Zahariev

Prim M-r Ilcho Zahariev was born in 1960 in village Zvegor, Municipality of Delchevo. From 1985 until today, he lives in Shtip. He is married and the father of two children. His wife is a pharmacist, his daughter is graduated pharmacist and is currently working on her doctorate, while his son is a high school student in High School-Gymnasium "Slavcho Stojmenski" in Shtip. Prim M-r Ilcho Zahariev, completed primary education in his birthplace, high education in Delchevo, and in 1979 he enrolled in the

Faculty of Pharmacy at the University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje and graduated as the best student of generation in 1983. His first employment was in "Alkaloid" - Skopje in 1983, where he acquired a solid knowledge of the production of drugs. Since 1985, he was employed at the Medical Center in Shtip as head of operating unit Pharmacies. Simultaneously, he was associate professor in medical high school "Jane Sandanski" and contributor to Radio Shtip with his own radio shows. He has conducted over 350 television programs in the field of pharmacology and medicinal plants. In the period from 2001 to 2003, he serves as Director of the Medications Bureau of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2005, he was elected President of the Council of the Municipality of Shtip and he performs that function for two years. In 2006, he was appointed director of the Medications Bureau for the second time and he is successfully involved in the implementation of major reforms in the Macedonian pharmacy ever since. The results of his involvement are the numerous accolades from European institutions, including the European Medicines Agency. At 2013 local elections, as a candidate of VMRO-DPMNE, he was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Shtip.



Municipality of Shtip is located in the central catchment area of the river Bregalnica in the heart of Eastern Macedonia. Situated between the heights of the Isar, Meri and Kumlak, along both banks of the dry ravine Otinja lays the City of Shtip. It is one of the oldest cities in Macedonia and is the center of Eastern planning region. Shtip borders

with seven municipalities. It lies at an altitude of 300 meters, covers an area of 893 km², on which, according to the last census, live 47.796 people in 71 settlements. The total population of this area, which represents 3.1% of the area of Macedonia, includes representatives of various ethnic communities. Shtip multiethnic environment includes: 41.670 Macedonians, 12 Albanians, 1272 Turks, 2195 Roma, 2074 Vlachs, 294 Serbs, 11 Bosniaks and 265 other people. The average density of population is 81.95 inhabitants per km².



The administrative center of the municipality is the City of Shtip, which, along with the suburbs covers an area of 13.5 km². In Shtip can be arrived by highway M-5 (Shtip - Kochani - Delchevo) which is connected to the highway E75 (Skopje - Gevgelija) through the road Shtip - Veles. There are also regional roads R - 601 (Shtip - Mountain Plachkovica) and R-526 passing through the city and connects to the highway bus M-5. There is a plan for building a new road (Shtip - Miladinovci) to shorten the journey to the capital Skopje. Youth in the Municipality of Shtip obtain their education in four primary schools: "Vancho Prke" with local school in the settlement of Novo Selo; "Tosho Arsov" with local school in the UZ Chardaklija; "Dimitar Vlahov" and "Goce Delchev" with regional unit in settlement Tri Cheshmi. High educational institutions in the Municipality of Shtip are: HES "Slavcho Stojmenski" for gymnasium education; HES "Jane Sandanski" for professional medical education; HES "Kole Nehtenin" where education for electro - technicians, cooks, caterers and informatics takes place; HES "Dimitar Miraschiev", known as a textile school. From public high schools in the Municipality of Shtip is located State Music School Centre "Sergei Mihajlov". In Shtip there is also the private music high school Oxia. It is quite understandable if you know that the first opera Paljachi was performed in Shtip in 1924. There are institutions which conduct educational process for people with disabilities. Here we can mention the Center for special education and secondary education "Iskra".



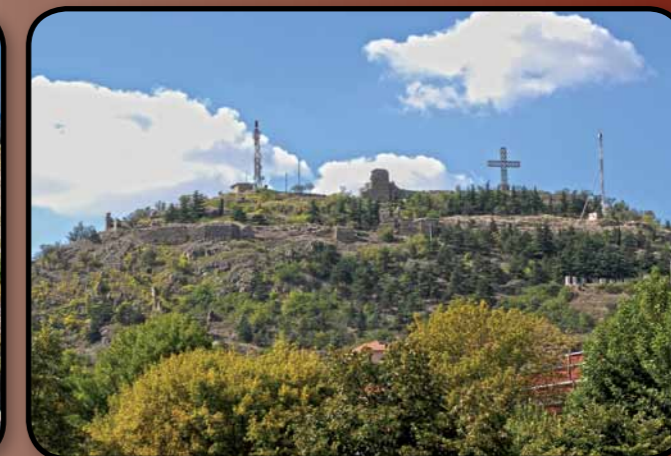


With the opening of the University "Goce Delchev" - Shtip, a huge number of young people in the city, the region and the whole country have the opportunity to gain a university education in Shtip. Although founded in 2007, the University has managed to attract nearly 15.000 students which is a record in favor of the popularity of Shtip University. Shtip has dormitories for faculty and high school students. The name Astibo was first mentioned by the ancient chronicler Polyenus in 3rd century BC. History has left numerous traces here. Shtip has developed a network of cultural institutions, including: NI Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments and Museum where are stored collections and funds

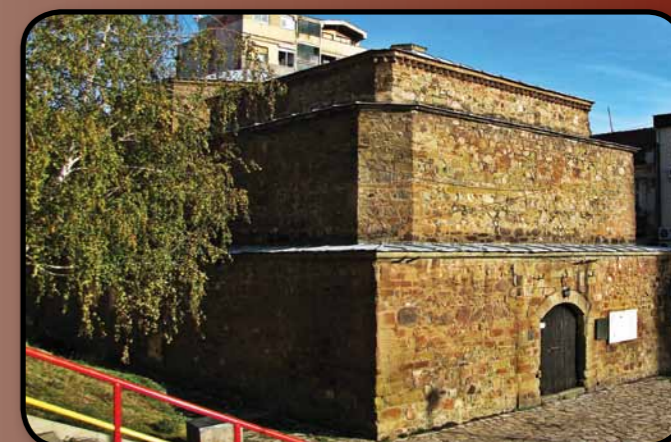
in the field of archeology, ethnology, history and art; NI Library "Goce Delchev", which today has a lot of printed materials. Also, Iskra Literary Club works within the library for more than 20 years; State Archives, an institution of regional character based in Shtip in which are deposited 591 funds with 5740 archival boxes and 5730 books; House of Youth includes cultural activities that are interesting for young population. It organizes Astibo Jazz Festival.



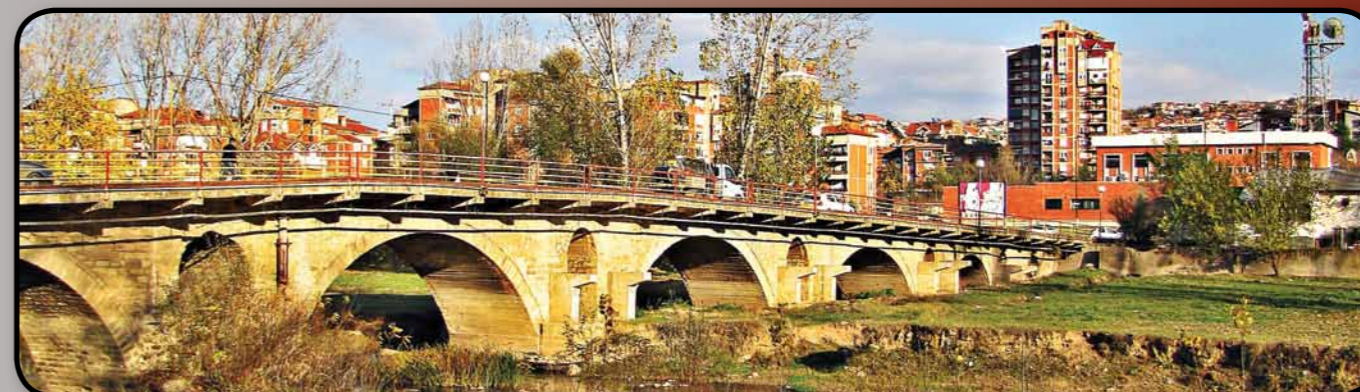
Citizens of Shtip are proud of the cultural events and cultural - historical monuments. Shtip Summer Festival, where artists present themselves with books, photographs, paintings, concerts and more is held for more than two decades. From the events that take place in NI Cultural Center, most presentable is the festival of music, "Makfest", which marked its 28th anniversary. The traditional "Pastramalijada", which is true presenter of the brand "Shtip pastramalija", is held every year. Also, the event "Days of Fashion", organized by the Municipality of Shtip, is held.



Isar Fortress is a special landmark for the city. It is elevated 150 feet above the level of the river Bregalnica. In 2009, researchers discovered 30 meters of the tunnel that leads from the river to the top of Isar. This confirmed the most told Shtip legend for conquest of the city through a secret tunnel under Isar, for which wrote the Turkish traveler Evliya Çelebi in the 17th century. Shtip Clock Tower is a cultural monument of the 17th century and is under state protection. Citizens of Shtip know it as Clock Tower, but it is actually Bey Tower.

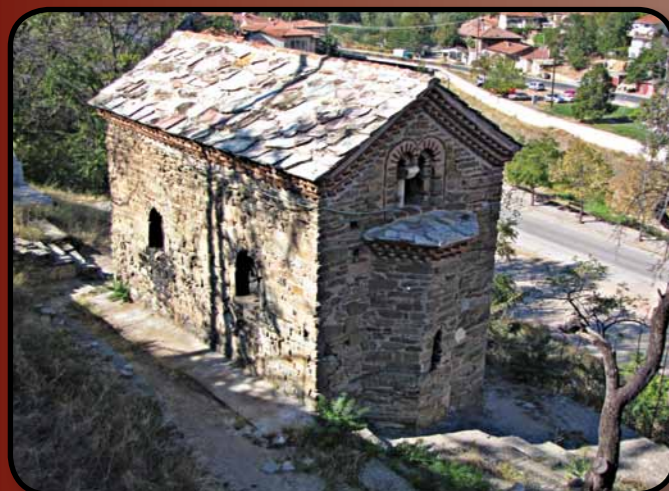


Husa Medin Pasha Mosque is built on a hill on the left side of the city. The building is known as the Church of St. Ilija because it is believed to have been built on the foundations of an ancient Christian temple. Bezisten, object which with its architecture reminds of medieval Islamic market, is located in the center of Shtip. It is named by a Turkish word which means market. Art gallery Bezisten today is used for cultural performance: art exhibitions, promotion of books, paintings, mini-concerts, etc. Sultan Emir Kucuk's Bridge is a very important historical monument of the city. It is located at the entrance in Shtip. According to the data, the bridge was built in 1672 and is among the few examples of Turkish architecture. The bridge is named after Sultan Emir Kucuk. Kadin Ana Mosque is still functional and in it Muslims perform their religious Muslim customs. The cultural heritage of Shtip is overwhelming.





There are over 300 churches in the city and in close proximity. Many of them are older than 3-4 centuries. According to the age, most famous is the church St. John the Baptist, which dates from 1350. Pride of the city is cathedral St. Nicholas, which is a seat of Bregalnica Diocese. Built by protomaster Andreja Damjanov, replacing old Sifij church dedicated to St. Nicholas (1341) built by protomaster builder Gjorgji Novakov - Dzhongar. There is an inscription plate built over the main west entrance, and the text says that the church was built in the time of the Metropolitan of Kyustendil and Shtip, Ignatia, on 10th of May 1867. In order to present the rich collection of icons and sacred items to the general public while they are well protected and nurtured, in 1990, in the gallery of church St. Nicholas, was opened Gallery of icons.



In Novo Selo are located the churches "St. Spas" and "St. Mary" which is a masterpiece of famous Macedonian master Andrea Damjanov. In the churchyard of "St. Mary" is the school in which the Macedonian revolutionary Goce Delchev worked as a teacher. Next to the school is the house in which he lived at the time. The school "Goce Delchev" was renovated in authentic style and on one of the walls there is relief in honor of Goce Delchev. Today, it is the main office of Rectorate of the University "Goce Delchev". The road that leads to the fortress on the eastern side of the hill, also leads to church St. Archangel Michael, medieval church, erected in the first half of the XIV century by protosebastos Hrelja and in 1334 it is attached to Hilandar by Tsar Dushan.



Shtip area has mostly mountainous and hilly location. It is characterized by moderate - continental climate with some influence of modified Mediterranean climate. The average annual temperature is 12.90°C. The highest temperatures were measured in August and lowest in January. Winds blow throughout the year. Of 365 days, Shtip has 270 days of airflow. This condition results in predominantly fresh air. In the last two years, Spanish, Slovenian, Italian and Canadian companies expressed interest in building a field with windmills for power generation. Two rivers, Bregalnica and Otinja, flow through Shtip. The smaller river, Otinja, with length of 3 km divides the city into two parts. On the right bank of the river Bregalnica, about 2 km southwest of the center of Shtip, at the exit from Novo Selo, are located thermo-mineral waters Kezhovica and L'gi. Today, here there is regulated bath with pools and rehabilitation center. Chemical analysis confirmed that the water temperature is constant 58°C, and it abounds with a variety of minerals that positively affect human health. According to its radioactivity, Kezhovica bath ranks among the most radioactive thermo-mineral waters, not only in Macedonia, but on the Balkans. Underworld of the Shtip region abounds with large amounts of thermo-mineral waters.



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