

# The identification of geoproducts in the village of Jakubany as a basis for geotourism development

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## ABSTRACT

The main aim of this work is to identify the available geoproducts in Jakubany village with focus on the development of tourism. Natural geoproducts of Jakubany supplemented by the products of the local community provides a good potential for the development of the studied area. Moreover, the paper points out the development perspectives of the village through the utilization of integrated development of tourism.

**Keywords:** geotouristic development, geotourism objects, Jakubany

## INTRODUCTION

The main goal of this study is to identify the geotourism products of the village from the aspect of geotourism. The Jakubany village represents a weakly explored territory according to its area, the terrain harshness as well as the 54 year existence of the military district Javorina, which ceased to exist on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2007 where a part of the village was integrated. This fact reflects that the local products appropriate to the development of the geotourism are relatively unknown. The best approach to the development of the tourism in the studied village is the application of a new methodical approach of the Integrated Tourism Development presuming a complex process of natural, socio-economic and cultural-historical harmonization of the region's potential with spatial demands of all economic activity of the inhabitants [7].

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Jakubany is situated in north-west Slovakia, in Prešov County. More exactly,

Jakubany belongs to Stará Ľubovňa area. The village has common borders with Nová Ľubovňa, Kolačkov and Šambron. From historical point of view, it belongs to the district of North Spiš. The village is situated from 580 meters to 1 016 meters above sea level (the centre of the village is 610 meters above sea level). The Jakubianka river flows through it. Jakubany's location is very advantageous; it is located just 8-10 km from Stará Ľubovňa. This town has very good road facilities. There are roads (no. 68. and no. 77.) going to Poland, Prešov, Poprad and Bardejov. There is also a neglected road to Levoča running through Levoča Hills.

## GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

The district of Jakubany is incorporated into Podhale- Magura area. The village is defined by two main geographic divisions: the Levoča Hills and the Intermediate mass of Spiš and Šariš. In a hierarchical unit of the geomorphological divisions of Jakubany are consequently the Levoča

Highland, a part of the division the Levoča Hills and the Jakubany furrow, a part of the division Intermediate mass of Spiš and Šariš. From the geological aspect it is possible to in the territory village: the Paleogene of Inner western Carpathians and the flysch belt represented by the Čergov unit of the magura flysch. The claystone clasts of the north facies are mostly consisted as well as the Jakubany furrow. In some parts of Levoča Hills (2 000 – 3 000 m above sea level) we can find sandstone clasts [3, 5].

### **GEOPRODUCT IDENTIFICATION IN THE VILLAGE**

The definition of products of the geotourism in the literature is varied. Geological attractions are the most frequently mentioned as geoproducts. Very often are involved between them also the products of human activities. Those have very important cultural values and in conjunction with geoproducts create high evaluated system from the sight of the geotourism. A big part of geoproducts of village is connected with geomorphological situation of region [11].

The cadaster of the village of Jakubany contains the river called Jakubianka, which specifies the total inclination of the area. The river Jakubianka starts in the Levoča Hills under the Čierna Hora peak and flows as right-hand inflow into the Poprad river. In the of the Jakubianka river valley, by crossing from the Levoča Hills to Jakubany furrow in the village, are situated claystone formation of northerly facies which are thick several meters and are not connected with the whole course of the river (Fig. 1.). These bench laid claystones can represent as one of the geoproducts of the village.

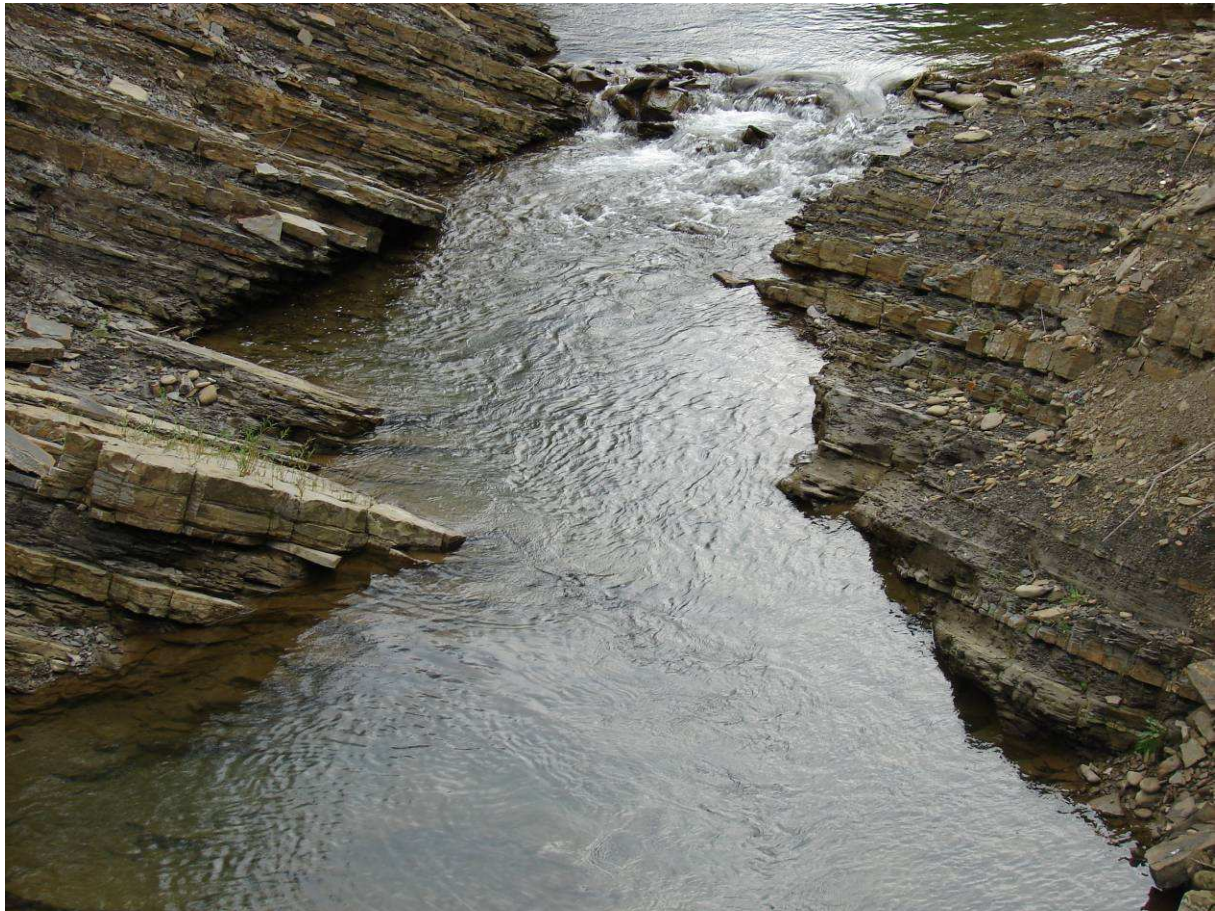
The terrain depressions are worthy of the attention within the cadastre of Jakubany and the geoproducts identification, located in Levoča Highlands. One of them, situated in Voškové Valley north-east to Repiska (1 250 m) is enclosing the valley in the way

that it formed a small lake (Fig. 2.). Originally the area of the lake was larger, to the north-west and to the south-east 112 m long and 25 m wide in its lower parts. Its original area was 1790 m<sup>2</sup>. The depth of the lake was approximately 3,5 m. In due to the spreading alluviums and galingale-like grasses the area of the lake rapidly decreased recently. There is a possibility that the lake will eventually completely disappear. The second great depression is located in Jakubianka Valley on the north-east to the with ground elevation 1 091 m [2]. An unidentified leak of size about 4 m<sup>2</sup> can be also mentioned as one of the geoproducts. It is unknown if this geological formation is created artificially or naturally. The leak forms an entrance to the narrow underground space, which is similar to the underground shafts or caches. There is no sign of an existence of a case, it is formed by straight stone walls. It is supposed caches were formed artificially during the World War II, however the possibility of natural origin is also considered (Fig. 3). Within the frame of the geoproducts of Jakubany we can mention two of the caves inaccessible to the public, both being natural sanctuaries and having geological and geomorphological significance. The Dere-žová Cave found in Derežová Massif and the one located in Predné Kohútovo, which is situated above the valley of Jakubianka River.

### **GEOPRODUCTS VERSUS PRODUCTS OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES**

Natural geoproducts supplemented by the products of the local people significantly increases the geotouristic attractiveness of the studied area. The origin of the most significant human activities in the area is connected with the name of St. Andrew Probstner.

The historical road of St. Probstner is connecting the city Stará Ľubovňa with Levoča and Jakubany. The road is routed



**Fig. 1** Sandstones in the valley of Jakubianka river, **Photo by:** Author

trough Šemberovka, Bedňarovku, Jankovec to Levoča. It was built right after the year 1825 when St. Probstner gained the settlements Nová Ľubovňa a Jakubany. By connecting Levoča with Stará Ľubovňa, trough the mointain pass at Mníšek nad Popradom directing to Halíč, Probstner connected the two lower parts of the area. Now, the road is abandoned and it is called Probstner'shistorical road. While most of its parts are devastated the road's direction can be clearly identified by the preserved bases of the rest houses along the road to Levoča and Jakubany (Fig. 3) [6]. With the activities of St. Probstner is also connected the classicistic curia in Jakubany built in the 19. century (Fig. 3). The curia was served for the Probstner family for more then one century. At the present, there is no considerable public attention on the preserving of this historical building and it is used as a public school of Jakubany [6].

With the building of the historical road and with other interests of St. Probstner is related the run of an iron smelter. Today, only a part of the smokestack and the base of the iron smelter can be seen. The smelter is located 5 km from the village (in the direction of the military zone) and 1 km in a deep forest. The iron smelter (Maša-Hámre) operated between the years 1760 and 1870.

The ironstone processed in the high smelter was mined directly in the mountains of Levoča. After exhaustion of the mine, the ironstone was delivered from Krompachy. The historical importance of the smelter can be explained by its age. It can be assumed, that it is the only preserved iron smelter in Slovakia from its era (Fig. 4).

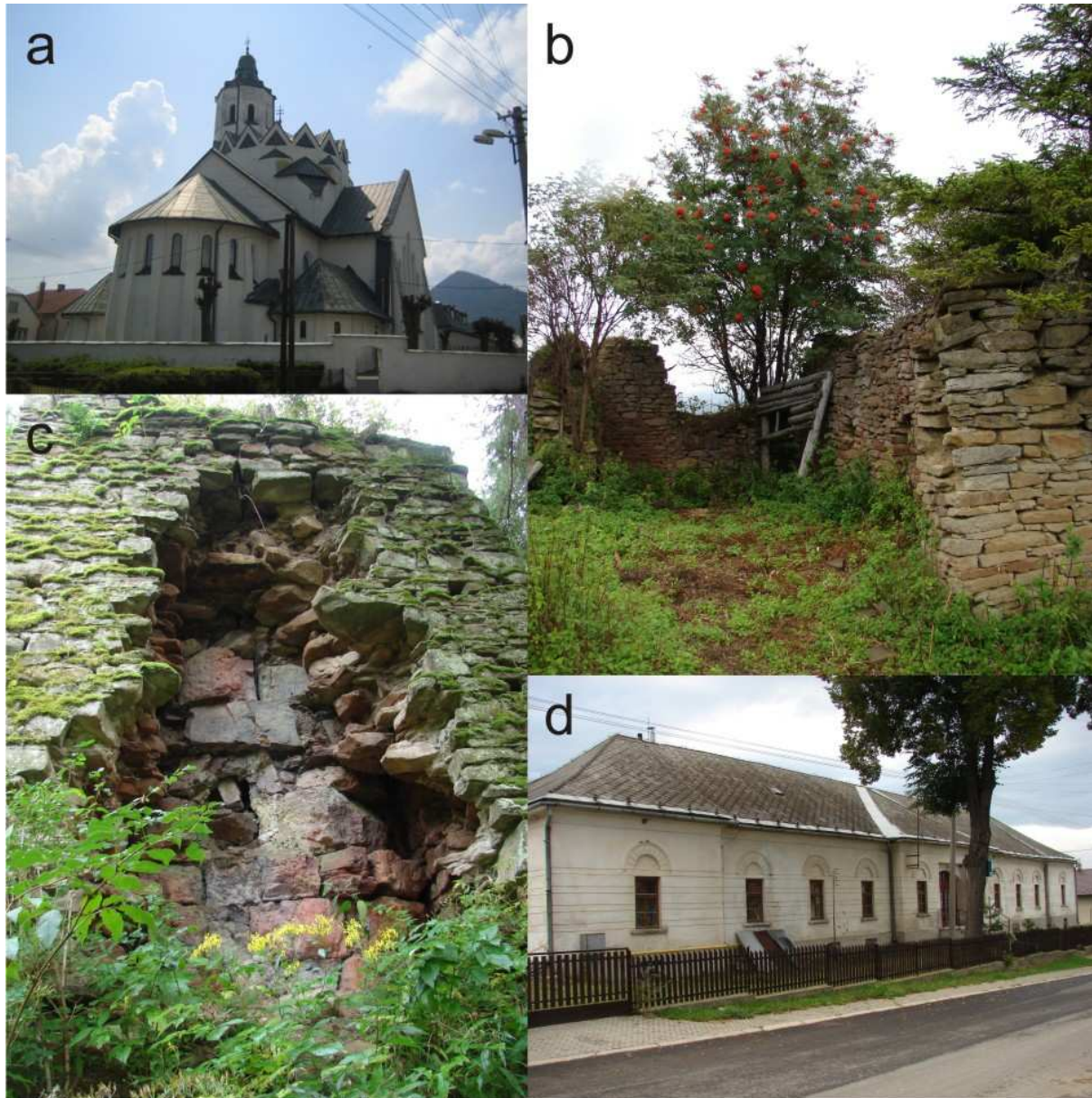
The temple of St. Peter and Paul also deserves wide attention. It is built in the art-nouveau style influenced by the Byzantine and Romanesque architecture (Fig. 4) [12].



**Fig. 2** Unknown lake, **Photo by:** Author



**Fig. 3** Unknown hole (size of the leak is about 4 m<sup>2</sup>), **Photo by:** Author



**Fig. 4** Possible geoproducts in studied area of Jakubany, a – church of St. Peter and Paul, b – the basic building on the Probstner road, c – iron smelter (Maša-Hámre), d – classicistic curia lineage of Probstner; **Photo by:** Author

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of the area of Jakubany showed, that described geoproducts can significantly offed the development of the geotourism in the village. The slow development of basic services of tourism, at qualitative an quantitative side create barrier of this development. The research of the studied area from natural, social-economic and cultural-historical point of

view in connection with some spatial requirements of development have an important effect on integrated development.

## SUMMARY

The identification of geoproducts in Jakubany plays an essential role in development of geotourism in the village. The natural geoproducts, the especial

geomorphological properties of area (laminated claystone successions, slipped areas, caves, diverse aboveground and underground forms of embossment area), the human products related to the name of St. Andre Probstner (historical road, classicistic curia, iron smelter), the cultural patterns and architecture of the village are the most important components of complex analysis of the geotouristic potential of studied area.

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