

1.25 Drugo
1.25 Other

Refike Sülçevsi *

ARCHIVAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE KOSOVO STATE ARCHIVES AGENCY AND ARCHIVING INSTITUTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Abstract:

In the beginning the author presents the status of archival material in the Kosovo archives, especially the status under the Ottoman administration. Furthermore, she talks about the inter-archival cooperation between Kosovo and Turkish archives, starting from the signing of the cooperation protocol in 2005, archival research in the archives of Turkey for the history of Kosovo, the organizing of joint symposiums, study visits etc. This cooperation was very fruitful and it is ongoing with full success.

Ključne besede:

archives, archival material, archives in Turkey, cooperation of archives

Izvleček:

**Arhivsko sodelovanje med Državno agencijo za arhive Kosova in arhivskimi institucijami
Republike Turčije**

Avtorica na začetku prispevka predstavi stanje arhivskega gradiva v kosovskih arhivih, še posebej stanje pod otomansko upravo. V nadaljevanju piše o medarhivskem sodelovanju med kosovskimi in turškimi arhivi, začevši s podpisom protokola v letu 2005, arhivskimi raziskavami kosovske zgodovine v turških arhivih, organiziranje skupnih simpozijev, študijskih obiskov itd. Sodelovanje je zelo plodno in se uspešno nadaljuje.

Key words:

arhivi, arhivsko gradivo, arhivi v Turčiji, sodelovanje med arhivi

Kosovo was under the Ottoman State administration (1389-1912) for complete five centuries. This state had left many traces in tradition, material culture and spiritual culture, in the written documents etc. Therefore, in order to shed light on the history of the population of this area in a more concrete and realistic way, the documents of the Ottoman State, which talk about these territories and are in the archives of the Republic of Turkey, must be used.

There is no doubt that the archives of the Republic of Turkey are the richest with authentic archival documents for the history of Kosovo, and those documents are the most trusted and real sources to shed light on Kosovo history and more. In the Kosovo State Archives Agency, unfortunately a small number of original ottoman documents are preserved. The reason of such deficiency is the long ruling of Serbs in

* *Refike Sülçevsi, director of department, Kosovo State Archives' Agency, Lagia e Spitalit, 38000 Prishtine, Kosovo, email: refikes@hotmail.com.*

Kosovo, since the year 1912, where a huge number of documents with the ottoman script were destroyed or were taken from the country. Due to the lack of these documents, until now, there was no proper approach; scientists of Kosovo were obliged to use documents of Serbian, Austrian, German, Italian, English, French and other archives.

After the end of the war of 1998/1999 in Kosovo, the archives of Kosovo started the consolidation in the organizational, professional, and legislative aspect. However, special attention was paid to the approach and involvement in the world stream of archives. The overall engagement and the proof for professionalism from the workers of archives has enabled that Kosovo Archives, now constituted as a State Agency of Kosovo Archives, in 2002 was accepted in the International Council on Archives, in category A, as a national archives, equal to other archives of independent countries. In the archiving aspect, Kosovo was since then accepted as a state. In 2005 the Directory of Kosovo Archives (now The State Agency of Kosovo Archives) also became a member in the UNESCO Program, The World Memory, by giving the chance immediately to lead the Council for Memory of Kosovo.

The membership in the international framework opened the way to the State Agency of Kosovo Archives to cooperate without any obstacles with many world archives, especially those from the region.

Kosovo Archives did not have any real cooperation with the Directory of State Archives within the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Turkey until year 2005. Some persons that dealt with science in Kosovo individually went to different archives of the Republic of Turkey and used a really small number of documents.

The foundations for the cooperation of the State Agency of Kosovo Archives with the General Directorate of Archives of the Republic of Turkey were set in year 2004, when two leaders of the said institutions dr. Jusuf Osmani and doc. dr. Yusuf Sarıınay met in Vienna, on the occasion of an international congress of archives, and there first talks started for the beginning of cooperation between two countries.

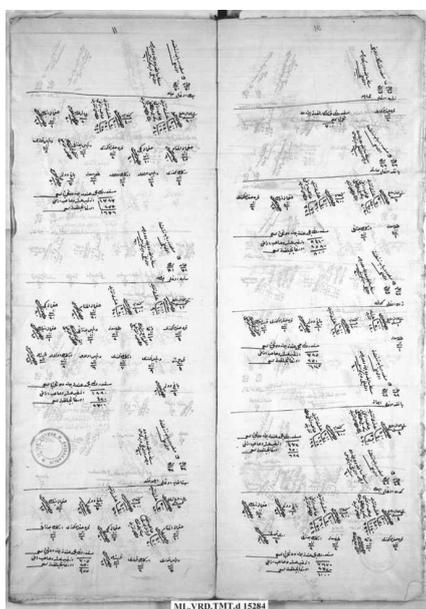
On July 29, 2004 the Directorate of Kosovo Archives submitted the first application to the General Directorate of Turkish Archives, for the cooperation and for signing the protocol. The Turkish Government, within the frame of which is the General Directorate of Turkish Archives, reviewed the application at the highest level and accepted the proposal for cooperation, hence from January 31, until February 4, 2005, the general director of the State Archives of Turkey doç. dr. Yusuf Sarıınay and his partner Cevat Ekici visited the Directorate of Kosovo Archives. On this occasion on February 1, 2005 in a solemn manner, the cooperation protocol was signed. On the same day, its implementation began by organizing a joint seminar for archival documents in the archives of Turkey regarding the past of Kosovo.



Picture 1: February 1, 2005 - the signing of the agreement protocol for cooperation between the Kosovo State Archives Agency and the General Directorate of State Archives within the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Turkey

The implementation of cooperation continued in the same year and will continue in future in different forms:

1. In years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008, for 15 days, the official of the Kosovo State Archives Agency, Refike Sülçevsi, did archival research in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul, where tens of thousands of archival documents in digital form were brought to Kosovo regarding its past, mainly from the periods of centuries XV-XIX, as well as different documents of the Ottoman administration period until 1912.



Picture 2 and 3: Defters Temettuat for Kosovo

2. In 2005 two representatives from Kosovo took part in the International Symposium in Istanbul, for enlightening the historiography of Balkan countries that were under administration of the Ottoman State.

3. From September 4 to November 21, 2006, for the first time in Kosovo, a course of Ottoman language for decoding Ottoman manuscripts was organised in the Kosovo Archives. The course was supported by the General Directorate of State Archives of Turkey, who sent dr. Mustafa Küçük, a known expert for Ottoman language. The ottoman language course type of writing RİKA was attended by 27 successful candidates from different institutions of Kosovo, whereby the participants were certified with certificates signed by the director of the Directorate of Kosovo Archives dr. Jusuf Osmani and general director of State Archives of Turkey doc. dr. Yusuf Sarinay.



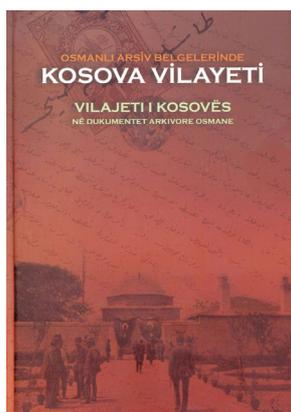
Picture 4: January 30, 2007 - solemn distribution of certificates of Ottoman language course

4. Twenty (20) geographic and ethnographic maps were brought from Archives of Turkey, regarding the past of Kosovo that were exposed in the exhibition "Kosovo on maps among centuries".



Picture 5: Kosovo map no. 152 Peja and Gjakova, XIX century.

5. In 2007, the joint edition in Turkish language and in Albanian language "The Vilyaet of Kosovo in Ottoman Archival Documents" was published, where all expenses were carried by the General Directorate of State Archives of Turkey



Picture 6: The Vilyaet of Kosovo in Ottoman Archival Documents

6. In 2007 the Directorate of Archives in Kosovo received an invitation from the General Directorate of State Archives of Turkey, to visit the archives of different institutions in Ankara, a visit that was implemented from September 5-9, 2007. Dr. Jusuf Osmani, Refike Sülçevsi, Gazmend Berisha and permanent secretary of the Prime Minister's Office of Kosovo mr. Fitim Krasniqi took part in the visit to Ankara.

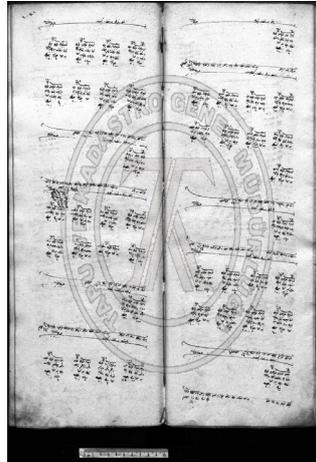
During the visit at General Directorate of State Archives in Turkey, the delegation from Kosovo also visited the General directorate of land-patents and cadaster of the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning of the Republic of Turkey, the Directorate of Temples at the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Turkey and the institute of History in Ankara. The discussions during this visit were about taking the Tefters and land-patents that belong to Kosovo Vilayet, in a digital form.

On August 3-7, 2008 the delegation from General Directorate of Land-Patent and Cadaster of the Republic of Turkey, led by dr. Bekir Tarık Yiğit, directors Adnan Torun and Ümit Toprak, expert Mustafa Engin, as well as officials Metin Öztürk and Mehmet Yıldırım visited the Kosovo State Archives Agency and during this visit they carried out meetings at ministries and different institutions of our country.



Picture 7: Delegation from the Directorate of Land-patents and Cadaster of the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning of the Republic of Turkey at the Kosovo Prime Minister's office

Whereas, in 2009 from the Kosovo State Archive Agency and Urban Planning of the Republic of Turkey researches were done and 1.895.871 land patents were brought concerning the former Vilayet of Kosovo.



Picture 8: Records of Land Patents (Registry Of Land Patents) Gjilan Region

On April 4-5, 2009, an International Symposium "Kosovo and Ottoman Empire in Archival Documents" as well as the opening of the exhibition "Kosovo Vilayet in Ottoman Archival Documents" was organized at the Grand Hotel in Prishtina.



Picture 9 and 10: International Symposium and Opening of the Exhibition - April 4, 2009 Prishtina

Whereas on October 30, 2012 in the Kosovo State Archives Agency, a protocol of cooperation between the Kosovo State Archives Agency and the General Directorate of the Vakufs at the Turkish Prime Minister's Office, was signed in a solemn way by Ramë Manaj, chief executive and Adnan Ertem, general director.

The main aim of this protocol is that the archival material of Vakufs, located in the Republic of Kosovo, i.e. archival documents stored in Turkey that relate to Kosovo, to be opened to the public, to be digitalized, transcribed, to be analyzed and evaluated, and those that are important to be translated in English and Albanian language, to be handed over to the Kosovo State Archive Agency, as well as documents that are of special importance to be published as books.



Picture 11: October 30, 2012 - signing of the protocol for cooperation between the Kosovo State Archives Agency and General Directorate of Archives Temples within the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Turkey.

Within the cooperation with General Directorate of Archives of Vakufs in the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Turkey we managed to return the oldest document (Vakfije) regarding Kosovo in digital form that was created in the year 904 H/ 1498 M. during the ruling of Ottoman Empire.



Picture 12: ŞEMSEDDİN AHMED BEY BİN ALİ BEY - 733 numaralı defterin 64.Sahife ve 31.Sirasında kayıtlı (Şemseddin Ahmed bey bin Ali Bey) vakfına ait 904 H.(1498 M.) tarihli Arapça vakfiyesi

CONCLUSION

The Kosovo State Archives Agency cooperates with many archives in Europe. However, based on the fact that there is a huge amount of archival material regarding the history of Kosovo in Turkish archives, since Kosovo was for more than 500 years under Ottoman Administration, particular attention is paid to inter-archival cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and Turkey. This cooperation will increase further, especially in publishing archival documents that speak about history of Kosovo and are located in Turkish archives. It must be emphasized that apart from the documents that speak about Kosovo in the Archives of Cadaster and land patents in Ankara, about 2 million documents of land patents regarding the territories in the Balkans were returned.

POVZETEK

ARHIVSKO SODELOVANJE MED KOSOVSKO DRŽAVNO ARHIVSKO AGENCIJO IN ARHIVSKIMI INSTITUCIJAMI REPUBLIKE TURČIJE

Kosovska Državna arhivska agencija sodeluje s številnimi arhivi po Evropi. Največ pozornosti pa je namenjene medarhivskemu sodelovanju s Turčijo, saj je v tamkajšnjih arhivih spričo dejstva, da je bilo Kosovo več kot 500 let pod otomansko upravo, ogromno arhivskega gradiva, ki se nanaša na zgodovino Kosova. To sodelovanje se bo v prihodnosti okrepilo, še zlasti z izdajo arhivskih dokumentov, ki se tičejo Kosova in jih hranijo arhivi v Turčiji. Potrebno je poudariti, da je bilo iz arhiva v Ankari vrnjenih okoli 2 milijona zemljiškoknjižnih oz. katastrskih dokumentov, ki se nanašajo na Balkan, z izjemo dokumentov, ki se nanašajo na Kosovo.