



EVALUATION OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN VISITATION RATE OF SELECTED AREA AND ITS NATURE PROTECTION & CULTURAL-HISTORICAL VALUE (NITRA TOWN AND ADJACENT AREA)

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INTRODUCTION

- aesthetic value or visual attractiveness has gained great importance for human well-being, not only in public perception but also in socio-economic research
- quantification of the aesthetic value, that people place on different parts of the landscape, represents an innovative approach to the mapping of cultural ecosystem services
- one of the potential metrics of landscape aesthetic value can be found in the spatial distribution of photographs of the natural environment that people send online so they are creating visitation rate “hot spots” of aesthetically interesting landscapes
- this paper presents an assessment of the relationships between nature protection and cultural-historical value of the selected area, its aesthetical value and the related potential visitation rate



RESEARCH AREA

- town Nitra and 8 adjacent municipalities (Lužianky, Zbehy, Čakajovce, Jelšovce, Podhorany, Žirany, Štitáre, Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce)
- the size of area is 187.6 km², 88 834 inhabitants lived here in 2016, 77 374 of which are living within the town Nitra
- the central part of research area is an urbanized and industrialized landscape of Nitra town
- the surrounding area belongs to the intensively used agricultural landscape
- the northern part of the area (so called Zoborské vrchy) belongs to the Trábeč mountains



METHODS

- the map of nature protection significance of the area was expressed on the basis of the existing spatial layers of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (layer of Protected Landscape Area Ponitrie, Natura 2000, small-scale protected areas)
- the layer of the Protected historical reserve Nitra and the historical zone was used (www.pamiatky.sk), outside this area, a map of the current landscape structure was used for the selection of the significant cultural-historical elements in the adjacent municipalities
- maps of the nature protection and cultural-historical significance of the area were compared with geolocalised photos from Google Panoramio that were uploaded to this application between 2006 and 2014



CLASSIFICATION OF THE NATURE PROTECTION SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY AREA

- 5 – extremely high importance - the area with the highest degree of nature conservation (V.) within the Protected Landscape Area Ponitrie and the Natura 2000 network (Zobor forest-steppe area), area - 22.0ha
- 4 – high importance - the area with overlay of three categories of protected areas – national network of protected areas, Protected Landscape Area Ponitrie, Natura 2000 (e.g. Nature Reserve Žibrica), area - 100.9ha
- 3 – average importance - the area with overlay of two categories of protected areas (most frequently Protected Landscape Area Ponitrie and Natura 2000). Also, the most significant elements of the landscape outside of protected areas (broad-leaved forests, semi-natural meadows, open bedrock areas, natural and semi-natural water courses and wetlands, area - 2607.4ha
- 2 – low importance - the rest of the protected areas, also other significant landscape elements (mixed forests, small woods and linear woody vegetation, scrubland, pastures, artificial water bodies), area - 1211.6ha
- 1 – no importance - other landscape, without nature protection values, area 14 814.7ha

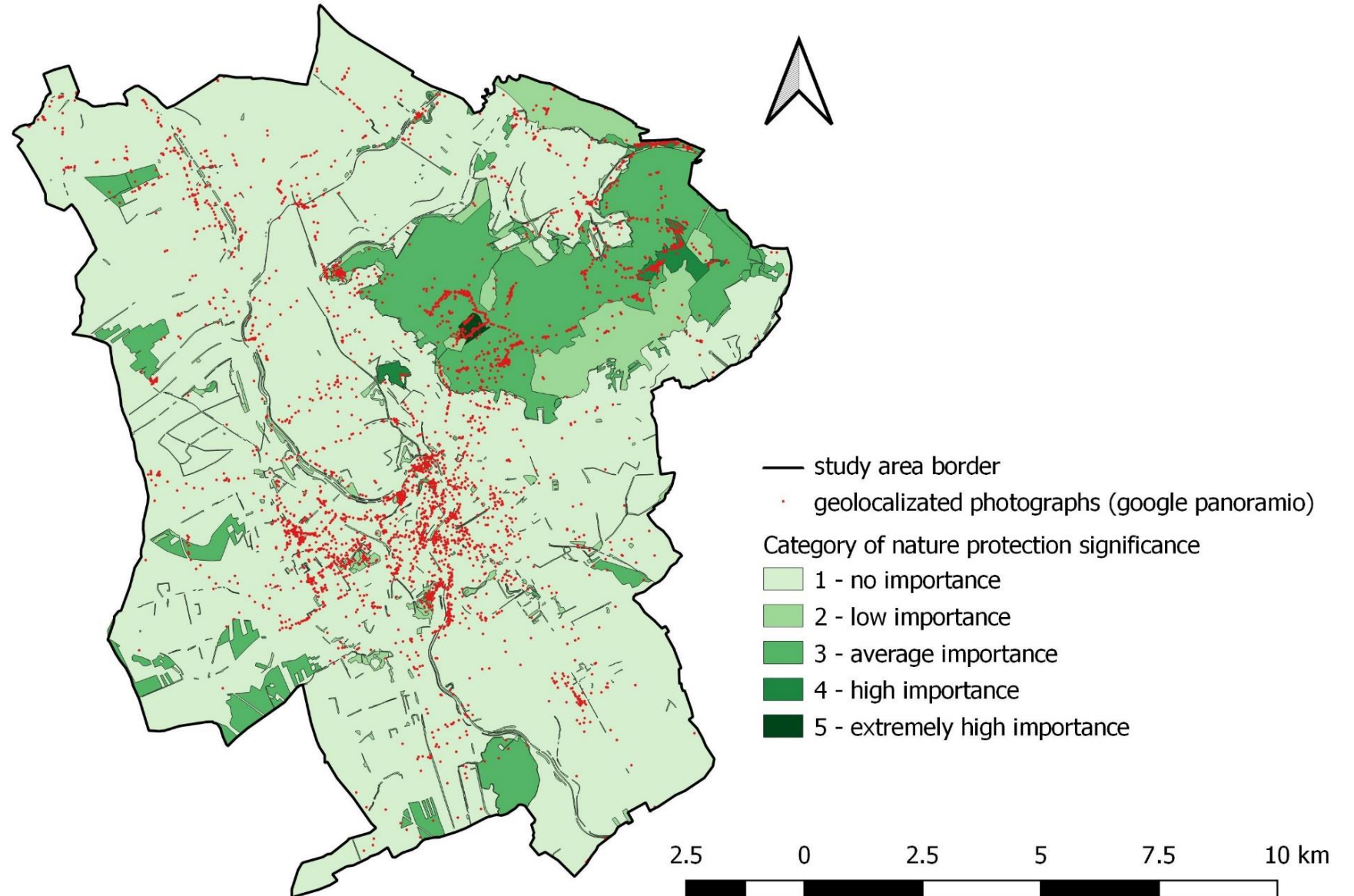


CLASSIFICATION OF THE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY AREA

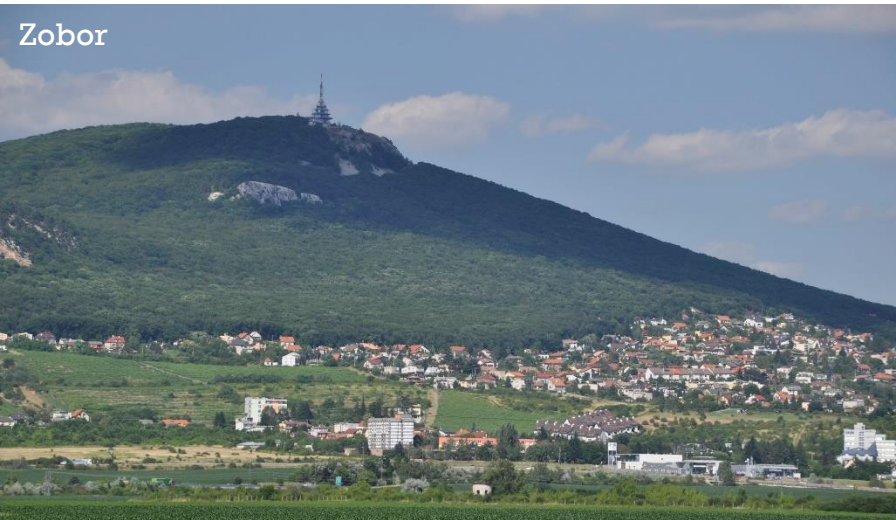
- 3 – high importance, protected historical reserve Nitra, Important historical sites outside reserve: Kalvária, Dražovce church, Zobor historical hillfort, 25.5ha
- 2 – average importance, the historical zone of the Nitra town and other adjacent areas to the Protected historical zone, cultural-historical objects within the municipalities (mansions, churches, historical cemeteries) park areas, traditional small-scale vineyards and gardens in the neighbourhood of Nitra town, 626.3ha
- 1 – no importance, other landscape without cultural-historical values, 18 104.8ha



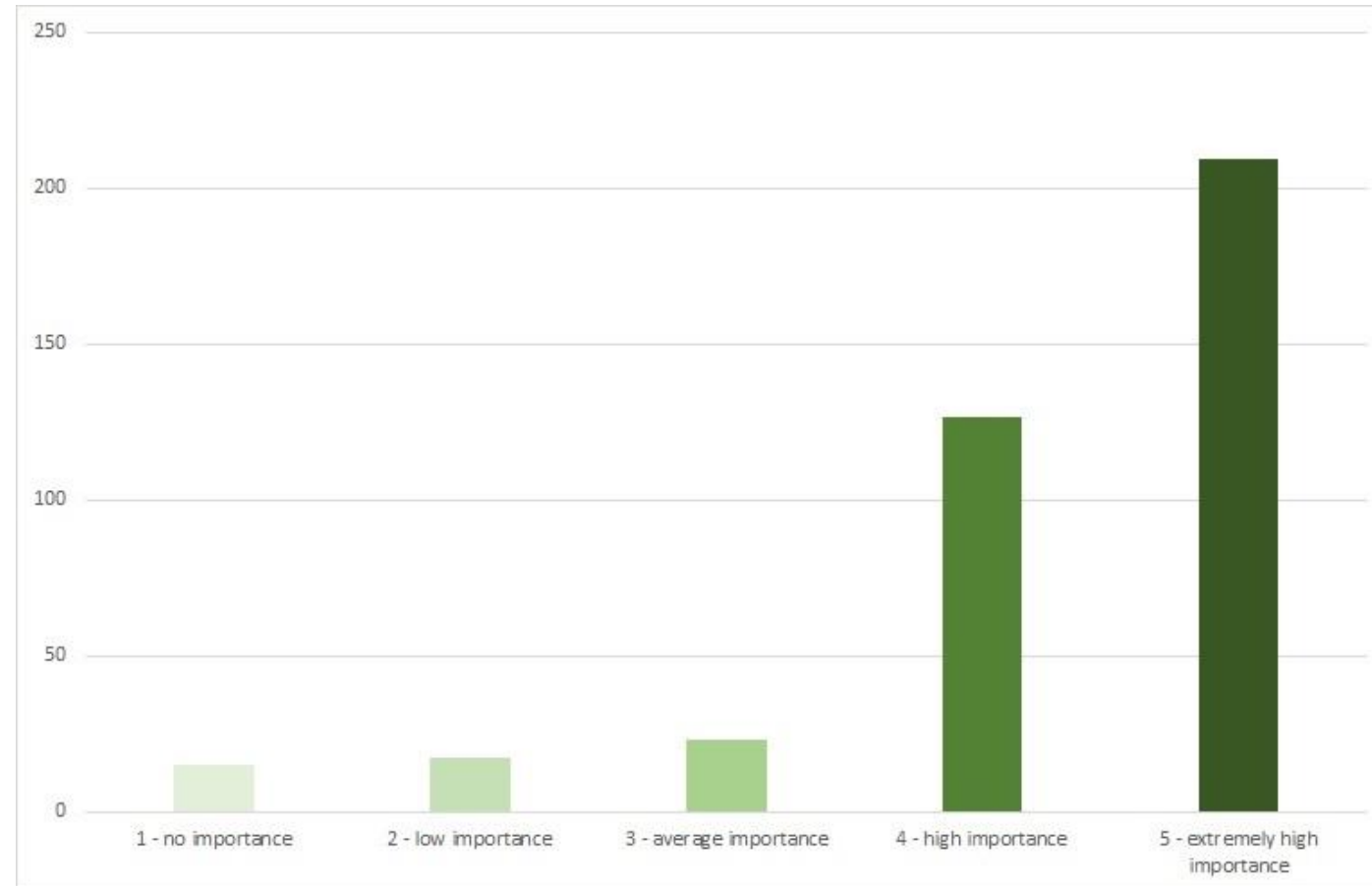
RESULTS



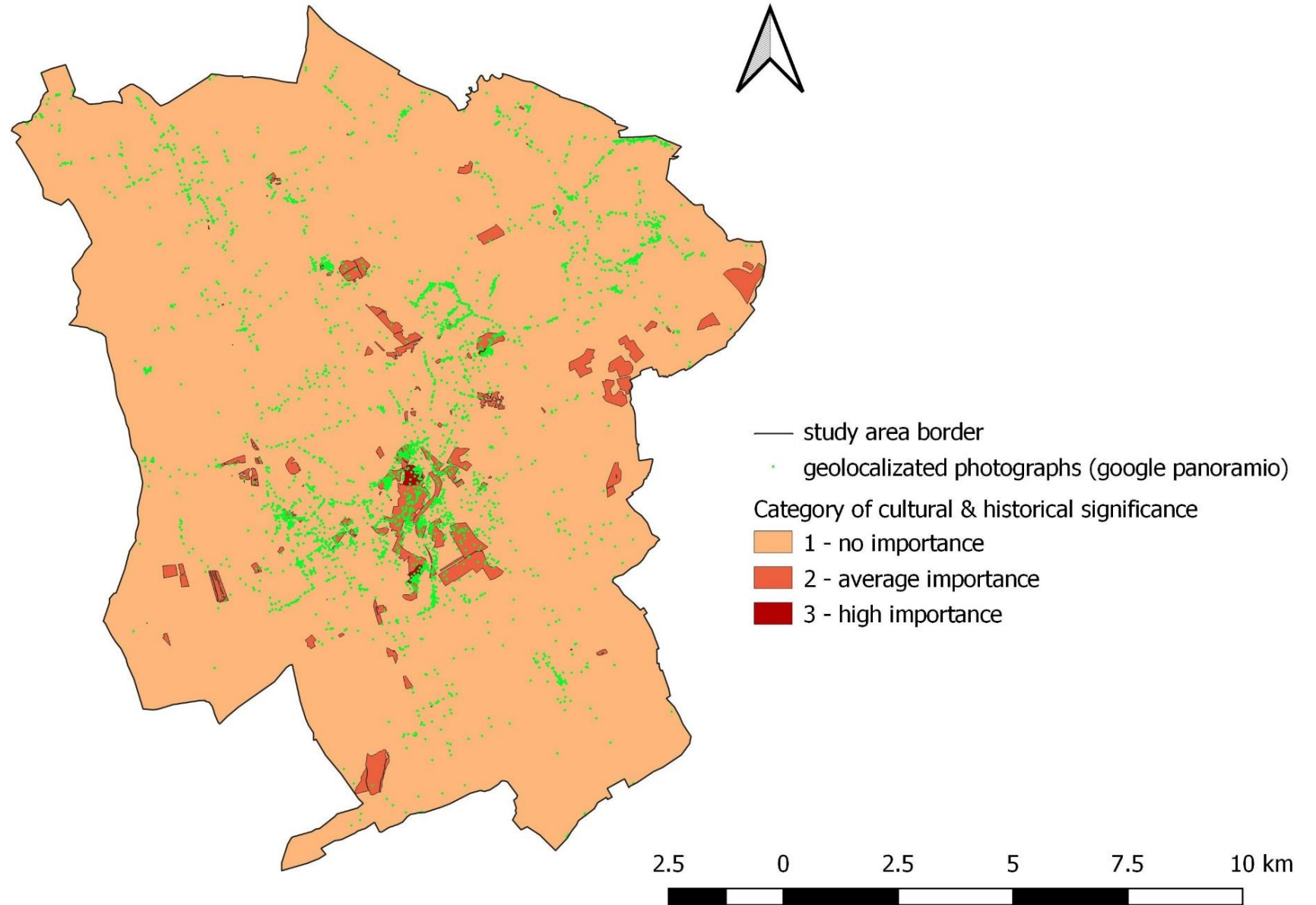
RESULTS



The density of geolocalized pictures from Google Panoramio per 1 km² in different categories of nature protection significance of the landscape



RESULTS



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Dražovce chapel

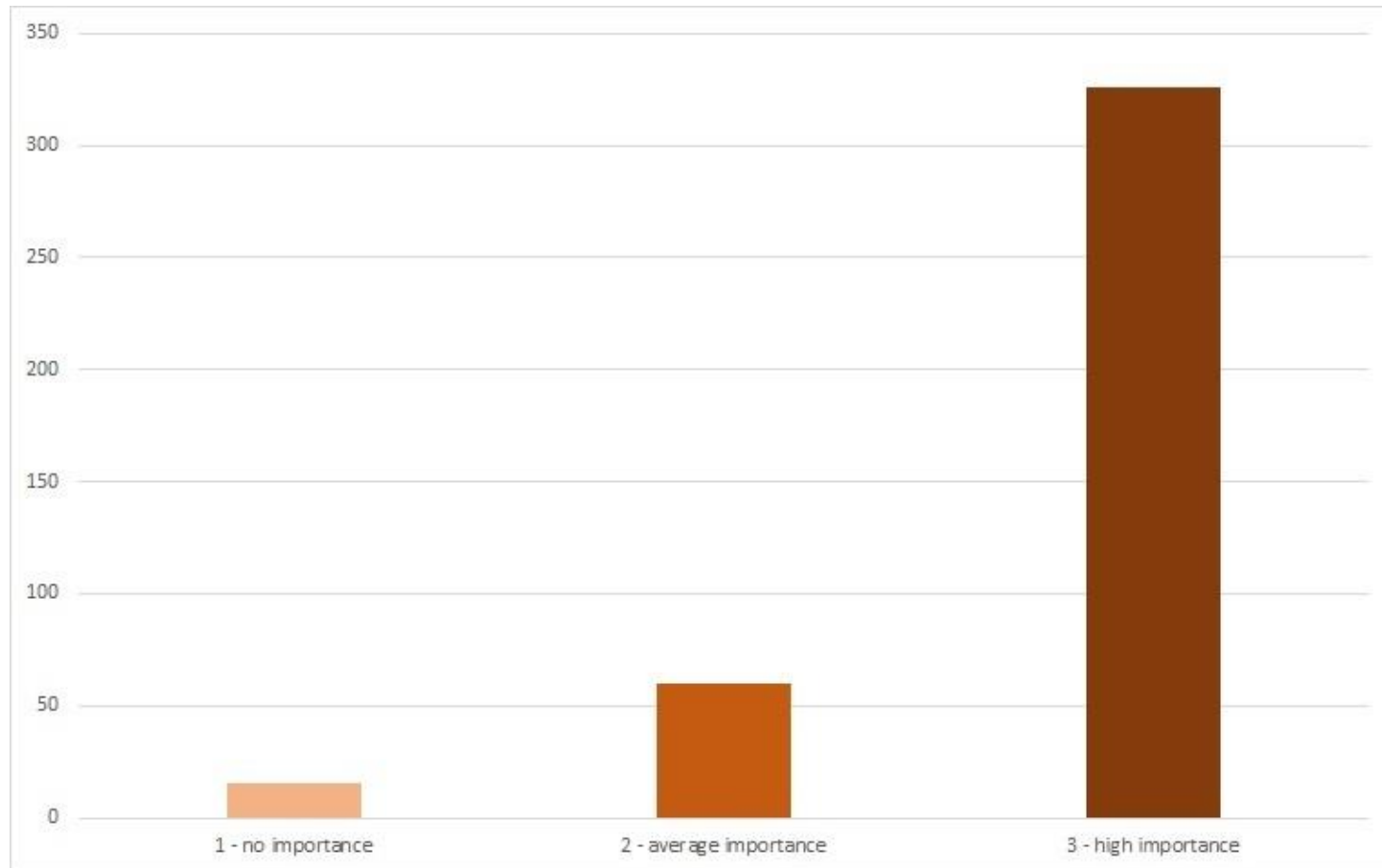


Nitra castle



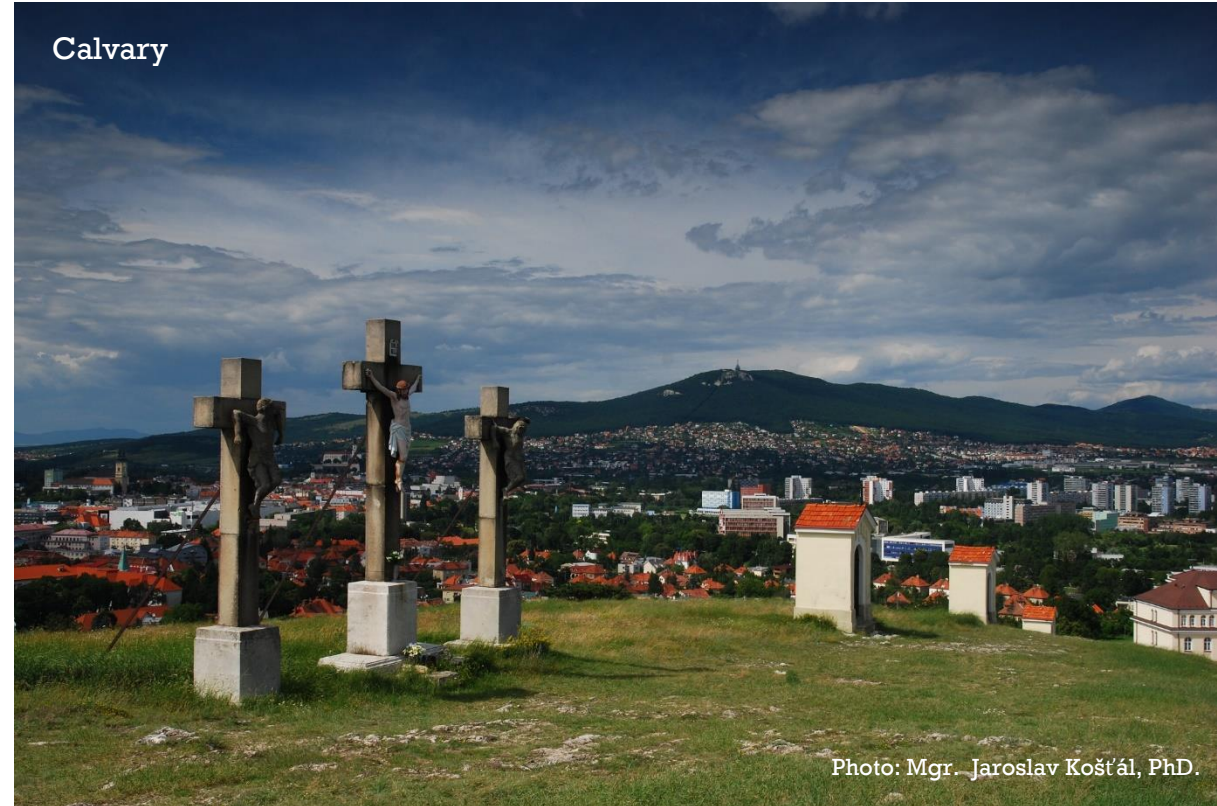
Photos: Mgr. Jaroslav Košťál, PhD.

Density of geolocalized images from Google Panoramio per 1 km² in different categories of cultural-historical significance of the landscape



CONCLUSION

- in this paper, we pointed out the relationships between natural and cultural-historical values and visitation rate of the area
- it has been proved that the areas with highest nature protection or cultural-historical significance could be valued as aesthetically the most attractive and potentially the most visited ones
- therefore, it is clear that conservation of nature and cultural-historical landscapes brings a high added value for the society.



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

