

Change and development

75% of respondents indicated that money from emigrant relatives is crucial to their survival. Lack of employment in Thethi is the major reason for the exodus, although the villagers also voiced the need for adequate electricity, a better school and roads, a hospital, phone lines, and an emergency evacuation service.³ These, and foreign investment for tourist development would lessen the need for the people of Theth to search elsewhere for employment.

It is exactly these problems that the Cross-border Balkans Peace Park aims to address.

Conclusion

It became evident, that national interest in this remote village (as in so many others of Northern Albania) is minimal and that every family observes the laws of the *Kanun* (even though these were outlawed during the rigid Communist era 1945-90). What is exceptional in Thethi is that recent blood feuds have been minimal, and quickly resolved. This is quite contrary to the situation in many other villages where there are many 'closed' families (families in feud, whose only protection from revenge attacks is to stay in their homes). In these cases even the children are kept home and do not attend school.

What has become apparent from working in Thethi is that possibly it is the feeling that all the families are descended originally from five brothers, which helps them to live reasonably peacefully among themselves.

Study will continue for two more years, moving down the valley of Thethi. A final publication is due in 2008.

³ The aforementioned extended family (HH028) has five children attending the local school, one quarter of its population. There is now only one teacher (there were three in 2002, ten in Communist times) serving the entire eight-grade school.