

# INVEST IN ŽEPČE – THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOOD HOSTS



## A Word from the Mayor

Dear partners,

Žepče is a municipality located in the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with total population of 31.000 inhabitants, spreading on surface of 282km<sup>2</sup>. It is a multiethnic environment of Croats, Bosniaks and Serbs living together. Žepče has a very long history, and it was first mentioned in 1458, in a charter issued by the Bosnian king Stjepan Tomaš.

Numerous natural and cultural treasures, clean environment and diversified economy based on the small and medium enterprises; create an interesting and attractive surrounding for investment, development of tourism and ecological agricultural production.

We will develop municipality Žepče into an entrepreneurial centre on a European level. Our attention and support is on the existing and new development initiatives in all segments of socio - economic development in municipality Žepče.

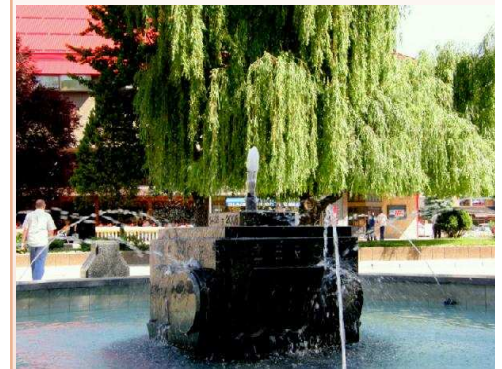
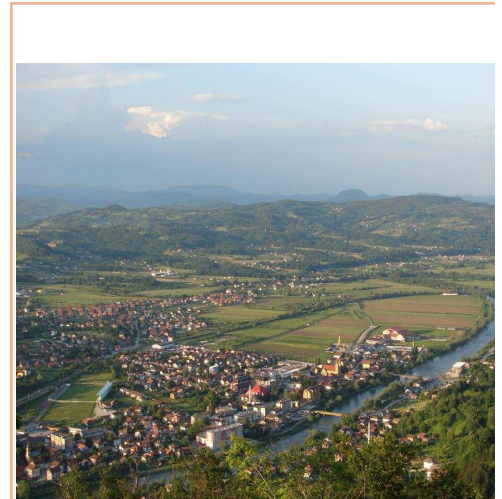
Our vision of development is: „**a modern, open and economically competitive municipality, recognizable by its developed family households and family businesses, nurturing of the cultural and historic heritage, and high social standards, in the framework of balanced and sustainable development**”.

Considering that Bosnia and Herzegovina is approaching EU integrations, our goals are to bring closer our citizens with other EU citizens, getting to know new cultures, unity, mutual assistance, cooperation, partnership in future projects, especially through work on EU funds, on the basis of which we can, with joint strengths, knowledge and experience, improve the infrastructure of local communities, increase economic growth and the quality of life of our people.

In this letter, on behalf of citizens of municipality Žepče, I would like to express our wish for town – twinning with European towns and municipalities which share the similar vision and developing goals in the framework of balanced and sustainable development.

Welcome to Žepče!

Municipal Mayor  
Mato Zovko



## All roads lead to Žepče

Municipality Žepče is located in the heart of Bosnia, in Zenica – Doboј canton, beside the main traffic lifeline, motorway M-17 (harbor Ploče – Slavonski Brod) and the railway hub connecting Easter Europe and Adriatic Sea, with the route Ploče – Sarajevo – Šamac – Budapest. Future regional highway Corridor Vc (harbor Ploče – Budapest) is passing with the planned route through municipality Žepče, bringing us closer to – You.

Žepče has excellent traffic connections with all main cities in the region - Zenica (40 km), Doboј (53 km), Sarajevo (114 km), Banja Luka (160 km), Tuzla (76 km) , Zagreb (385 km), Belgrade (310 km), airports – Sarajevo 110 km, and harbours – sea harbour Ploče (300 km).

## Natural resources – the treasure of Žepče

With the rich forest resources, and mineral resources of diabase, magnesia and other mining ores, municipality Žepče, with the river Bosnia, as the largest river that flows through the municipality, is also rich in small rivers and streams filled with freshwater fish, with drinking water sources, and its special treasure are 14 sources of mineral and thermal water with healing characteristics. There are fertile fields that are unpolluted by harmful substances and suitable for organic farming. Numerous natural values of municipality are unexplored caves, rich flora and fauna, characterized by originality, diversity, specificity and attractiveness.

## Diversified economy - partners for each investor

Economic strength of Zepce municipality is based on the 256 small and medium enterprises, mainly in construction, wood, metal, and textile industries and 318 micro businesses mostly represented in hospitality and trade business.

Most developed industries are: wood, textile, construction and metal industry, and new technologies that generate new jobs are also developing.

Local companies are present on foreign markets through various partnerships and exports, and are open for cooperation with foreign companies.

Agriculture in municipality Žepče is represented by 670 registered family farms, and over 2,000 independent farmers who operate in 10 agricultural associations and cooperatives. The most developed agricultural areas are: fruit growing, livestock farming and crop husbandry. Municipality Žepče is among the leaders in growing raspberries in BIH. Increasing productions with steady growth are also the greenhouse production, beekeeping, and cultivation of medicinal plants.

Municipality Žepče supports the development of SME sector through various instruments of local economic development: two business



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incubators and six business zones, two associations of entrepreneurs are active, and in 2010, municipality has established the Development Agency Žepče - RAŽ.

Helpful and efficient administration is our pride. Municipality Žepče has ISO 9001:2008 certification by accredited office Det Norske Veritas, in general operations of public administration. In addition to the Municipal Centre for Services, there is One Stop Shop Centre for investors in the offices of Development Agency Žepče, available to all potential and current investors for all necessary information and services in establishing their business

Municipality Žepče is a 100% owner of the new industrial zone "Polja" Žepče, which is available to all future investors. Geo-strategic position of the municipality, natural resources, a long industrial tradition and entrepreneurial experience, highlights "Polja" Žepče on the map of desirable destinations for investment. Qualified local workforce with a high degree of knowledge and skills and efficient municipal administration are the competitive strength of the local economy.

### The place of rich history, pleasant living and relaxation

Municipality Žepče is an excellent place for Your business, as well as pleasant for living and vacations. As a municipality where over 31,000 people form a harmonious multi-ethnic unity of Croats, Bosniaks and Serbs, Žepče is an example of peaceful coexistence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thus the right place for risk-free investment and development of long-term business cooperation.

The tourist potentials of municipality Žepče reflect in the gentle hilly countryside, clean environment, richness of flora and fauna, with 10 endemic plant species, a network of rivers, rivulets and streams that surround the picturesque villages around the municipality. Herein are many facilities for various forms of tourism: rural tourism, sports-recreational tourism, cultural-historical tourism, religious tourism. In rural areas of municipality available for relaxation and recreation in the rural are: mountain lodge "VIS", six sports - recreation centres, and approx. 20 hunting lodges.

The civil sector is most developed in the field of culture and sport, where is active 10 folk cultural - artistic associations and organizations, and 17 sports clubs.

Residents of Žepče are particularly proud of the distinctive spirit of hospitality and heartiness, which makes each guest, passengers and tourists feel welcomed in this small municipality with a big heart and a long history and tradition.

**INVEST YOUR TIME IN GOOD QUALITY COOPERATION –  
COME TO MUNICIPALITY ŽEPČE!**

