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FACULTY OF EXACT AND NATURAL SCIENCES

PHD GEOMORPHOLOGY AND CARTOGRAPHY

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PhD seminar 1

**GORDI-KINCHKHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES**

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## **Gordi-Kinchkha touristic development perspectives**

Gordi and Kinchkha are highland villages of historic Egrisi, today both of them are the settlements of Imereti region with a population of 470 people. The climate of Gordi is similar to the standards of mountain-climatic resorts, thus, it was widely popular among recreant-vacationers. Due to the unstable condition of the country in the 1990s the village almost became deserted, the infrastructure was destroyed and massive population migrations began.

The list of protected areas included two natural monuments from the study area – Okatse canyon and Kinchkha waterfalls. The construction of Okatse Canyon began from 2011 and it hosted its very first visitors in 2014, since that the number of sightseers has been growing annually and according to the statistics it's been listed #5 by visiting quantity of the protected areas. In 2018, the infrastructural arrangements of the roads towards Kinchkha waterfalls were completed and in 2019 it was visited by more than 22 000 native and foreigner visitors. Some of the sightseers remain there for several days. There was founded the chain of family-hostels. Local dairy and other products became demanded. Horse-riding tours were set up. Local inhabitants began breeding and renting horses. In case of necessity transporting services are available as well. Everything mentioned above facilitated the comeback of local inhabitants, the resumption of the agricultural activities, the involvement in touristic services and the development of rural tourism.

The principal objective of the study is to determine the role of the natural monuments existing in the region in developing local tourism, based on a comparative analysis of statistical subject matters.