

FOOTBRIDGES OVER VARBITZA RIVER – THE ONLY LINK BETWEEN REMOTE VILLAGES AND THE RAILWAY

Authors: Stoyan IVANOV^{1,2}, Lazar GEORGIEV²

Affiliation: ¹ Chief Assistant Professor, Univ. of Arch., Civil Eng. And Geodesy, Sofia, Bulgaria – sdenkov_fce@uacg.bg

² Managing Director, Schimetta Consult Engineering Ltd., Sofia, Bulgaria – stoyan.ivanov@schimetta.at

³ Associate Professor, Univ. of Arch., Civil Eng. And Geodesy, Sofia, Bulgaria – lazar_fte@uacg.bg

Summary

This article reviews the service condition of three pedestrian suspension bridges. They are located in the Rodopi mountains, outside urbanized area. These bridges are crossing Varbitza river at different locations along its length and are mainly used by the locals in order to access the railway line (stations) running along the river. All bridges are suspension bridges with main span varying from 120m to 260m. Originally, they were built more than 50-60 years ago. Reconstruction of their superstructures took place 10 to 15 years ago. Visual inspection, made in the summer of 2021, reviews their service condition, which is further discussed in this article.

Keywords: long span suspension bridges; remote villages; structural concepts; reconstruction; service condition; detailing.