



Regional cooperation of scientists and young researchers of the Western Balkans in the field of mammal ecology

In January 2023, preparations and implementation of the project "**Regional cooperation of scientists and young researchers of the Western Balkans in the field of mammal ecology**" began. The project is implemented by the Ecology and Research Association (EID) from Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), with the cooperation of eight main partner organizations from the Western Balkan region and other (four) partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project is managed by assistant professor Dr. Igor Trbojević (Faculty of Ecology, Independent University of Banja Luka and Ecology and Research Association - EID). The project was financed by the European Union and the Western Balkans Fund. **Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad (FSUNS)** participates in this project as a main partner in the implementation of individual project activities. The responsible person in front of the organization is **prof. Dr. Mihajla Đan**. The project is financed by the **European Union** and the **Western Balkans Fund (WBF)**. The project contributes to the improvement of regional cooperation between environmental civil societies (CSOs) in the Western Balkans and Capacity building of environmental organizations and young researchers working on valorization, monitoring and protection of mammalian biodiversity in the Western Balkans.

Activities:

- Collection of data on mammals:
 - Collection of data on cross-border movement of certain animal species (mammals) and presentation of findings at the summer school (assignments for organizations: EID, CZIP, WLMNE, MES, ERA),
 - Collection of data on cross-border exchange of genetic material (mammals) and presentation of findings at the summer school (assignments for organization: FSUNS),
 - Analysis of the best solutions from practice on resolving conflicts between humans and wild animals, and presentation of the findings at the summer school (assignments for organization: PPNEA),
- Holding a summer school for students and young researchers (assignments for all partners),
- Collection of data on the distribution of mammals in Bosnia and Herzegovina (assignments for organizations: EID, CKS, TMSFBiH),
- Creation of the electronic Atlas of mammals of Bosnia and Herzegovina (assignments for organizations: EID, CKS, TMSFBiH).

Students and young researchers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro (20 students) will have the opportunity to be trained and taught by eminent experts from the region. **The school will be held from July 17-26, 2023** in the Mountaineering House "Volujak", on the mountain Volujak (B&H), organized by the EID, NUBL, FSUNS, CZIP and PDV.

Teaching staff: Prof. Dr. **Maja Manojlović** (FNSM and EID), Prof. Dr. **Mihajla Đan** (FSUNS), Dr. **Jasminko Mulaomerović** (CKS), Dr. **Dime Melovski** (MES), Dr. **Aleksandër Trajçe** (PPNEA), **Marina Radonjić**, MSc (WLMNE), **Aleksandar Perović**, BSc (CZIP), **Admir Aladžuz**, BSc (TMSFBiH), **Dejan Radošević**, BSc (RZZKIPN and EID), **Bardh Sanaja**, BSc (ERA) and Assist. Prof. Dr. **Igor Trbojević** (EID and NUBL).

An expert team from Bosnia and Herzegovina is preparing a database on the distribution of mammals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in September 2023, the first Mammal Atlas of the Republic of Srpska will be published, and hopefully also the Mammal Atlas of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Immediately afterwards, in October, the first Atlas of Mammals of BiH (electronic form) will be published.

Main Project Partners: Ecology and Research Association (EID) – Bosnia and Herzegovina; Center for Karst and Speleology (CKS) – Bosnia and Herzegovina; The Mammal Society (TMSFBiH) – Bosnia and Herzegovina; Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad (FSUNS) – Serbia; Center for Protection and Research of birds (CZIP) – Montenegro; Wildlife Montenegro (WLMNE) – Montenegro; Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) – North Macedonia; Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) – Kosovo; Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) – Albania.*

Other Project Partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Mountaineering Society "Volujak" (PDV); Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of the Republic of Srpska (RZZKIPN); Independent University of Banja Luka (NUBL) and Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Banja Luka (FNSM).