

Project Update: November 2018

ON 27th and 28th September 2018, the project gave its presentation at the Rufford Small Grants Conference 2018 in Serbia at Silver lake, entitled "Explore and protect the natural beauty of Balkans". The conference was organized well and it was useful in context of presenting work, sharing good things about different projects and topics, both as problems during realisation each of them. Little part of whole conference you can find at our website, following the link below:

<http://springs.bddsp.org.rs/rufford-conference/>

In June 2018 we organised an educational lecture about importance of freshwater ecosystems and organisms. We conducted one training course of identification of macroinvertebrates with master students of Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Niš. Firstly, we presented our project and aims; we tried to explain why this is important and talked with students about solutions and actions needed for saving our waters, starting with springs. After this interactive lecture, using binoculars, identification keys and samples of freshwater macrozoobenthos, we showed them how to do identification. Photos are uploaded at our website (<http://springs.bddsp.org.rs/promotion-and-education/>).

Unfortunately, an unexpected event occurred. The Facebook page was lost sometime since the last update that took place in September 2018 and we could not do anything to get it back. In the end, we decided not to start all over, but we are working on Serbian version of our website, since Facebook page was mostly for promotion of project activities in Serbian. It should be finished soon.

We were waiting for promotion material, but it is finally done. We could not find good place for printing hats, so instead of hats, we printed two types of notebooks and stickers with logo of Rufford Foundation and with logo of the project. All promotion material (brochures, notebooks, badges and stickers) was designed by graphic designer Miljan Ristić.





At the end of October 2018, we had promotion of the project and education of young students in cooperation with Office for the young in Babušnica, near Pirot. We presented the project to the young students, among this topic we were discussing about ecology, importance of rising awareness and protecting the nature. Here are few photos from promotion.



Last field trip was conducted in November 2018. Samples were taken by Surber net from two sites per locality. Samples were divided into subsamples, according to microhabitats inside every sampling site. Physico-chemical analyses were performed on waters samples in laboratory at Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Niš. Photos of this activity are available at our website:

<http://springs.bddsp.org.rs/autumn-season/>

In cooperation with biological society 'Dr Sava Petrović' from Niš, this project is presented on the official website of biological society: <http://bddsp.org.rs/planinski-izvori-i-akvakultura/>



Collecting data from a spring.



Working in the laboratory.