

## Project Update: September 2018

The project was accepted in November 2017. The first activity was at the end of November, when we took part in conference of students of biology, ecology and protection of nature 'EkoBioMorfa', organized at Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Novi Sad by the biological society NIDSBE 'Josif Pančić' where we presented our project and invited all students to join us in our activities for this project.

After this, in cooperation with biological society 'Dr Sava Petrović' we had one radio session about the project in radio show 'Prirodnim tempom' on Super Radio Nis. We presented the Rufford Foundation and the project, sites and activities and invited all interested people to join us.

<http://www.superradio.rs/info/dobra-stara-stara-planina/>

<http://bddsp.org.rs/prirodnim-tempom-emisija-13-sezona-2/>

In December 2017, first field trip was organised for preliminary review of sites and mapping target springs and fish ponds. We took GPS coordinates and photos of investigated sites and measured physico chemical parameters of water in springs *in situ* (pH value, conductivity and temperature). Also, we took coordinates of springs which were near this spring-fish farm systems on Stara Planina Mountain and Suva Planina Mountain.

For the purposes of the project, promotion, education and updates, website and a facebook page were created in January.

Website : <http://springs.bddsp.org.rs/en>

Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/Mountain-springs-in-Serbia-174096003257400/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Mountain-springs-in-Serbia-174096003257400/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

Also, t-shirts were designed and printed. Illustration for t-shirt in the front side was done by Dimitrija Savić Zdravković and design of logo for the project was done by designer Miljan Ristić.





Before field trips, needed equipment was bought as well as chemical for analysis of water. We conducted field trips in three seasons (winter, spring and summer). The planned localities Krupac and Gornji Dušnik were not processed in winter season due to bad weather conditions so we could not reach these two sites. During this activity, we started cooperation with public company of water supply and sewerage because one of the springs is used for supplying city of Pirot with water and special permissions are needed for conducting any activity there.

Dynamics of field trips and laboratory work was changed in order to both phases of the project should be finished in the most effective way. Water samples needed to be analysed no later than 24 h after sampling. Procedures for water chemistry we decided to do took us a lot of time that is why we needed to modify field trips. We sampled one or two sites per day and took sediment and water samples to the laboratory for analysis. After this samples were finished, field work was continued in the same manner until all the sites were done.

Collected data both from the field and from laboratory will be available in final report. We are glad to announce that during this project we had students from Faculty of Science and Mathematics from Niš as volunteers both for field trips and for laboratory work. Also, students from Germany and Tunisia was volunteering on the project during their internship in Serbia. Two students from Faculty of Science and Mathematics from Niš decided to join this project and do their master theses regarding to the topic of the project.

We took part in international traditional camp on Stara Planina Mt. 'Temska'. We found and mapped two springs and also promote the project to the students who participants of the camp.

In September 2018, biological society 'dr Sava Petrović' organized second camp on Stara Planina Mt. 'Crni Vrh'. We have found another fish pond supplying with water from

spring but it stopped working a long time ago, so we took GPS coordinates only. We presented our project and invite all participants of the camp to join us in our research. All activities are updated on our website and pictures are available there.