

## Project Update: March 2013

As the beginning of the project, we gave lectures in two universities in Serbia. The attendees (biology students and professors, and citizens with no biological background) were given a questionnaire composed to provide an insight into their knowledge of the tortoises' main life-history traits and ecology. Among our examinees we revealed a significant percentage of misdirected opinions, resulting from prejudices or insufficient information. For example, many thought that Hermann's tortoises live from 3 to 300 years, and reach pubescence at 1 to 30 years of age. According to young biologists, number of eggs per clutch varies from 1 to 30, and the hatchlings' size is from 0.5 to 30 cm. Two fifths of the examinees refused to answer the questions considering the significance and natural role of tortoises in ecosystems. These startling findings provided additional guidance for brochure and poster preparations. For more information please visit our website.

[http://www.shdmr.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=3&Itemid=16&lang=rs](http://www.shdmr.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=3&Itemid=16&lang=rs)

### Project Mascot

