

## **Project Update: September 2014**

The first field study was conducted in August in the municipality of Danilovgrad and was very successful. We collected valuable data, although during this period the water level was high, thus it was difficult to see and catch individuals. We checked 13 localities along the Zeta River (including surrounding swamps and ponds). In nine localities we detected individuals, but not at other four sites. We collected valuable data: information about threats, DNA samples and morphological measurements. We talked to the locals and the information they gave us was very useful. At some places, where we didn't find any individual, the main problem was illegal electrofishing, as well as usage of fishing nets in which turtles often drown. Additional threats are waste thrown into rivers and road killing. Electrofishing devices are one of major threat for fish fond and directly and indirectly European pond turtle and piscivor birds.



Left: Morphological measurements. Right: Nets setup