

## Project Update: October 2015

During our field research during May, June and July 2015, we surveyed potentially suitable adder habitats in the Bačka and Banat provinces. The adder was found in seven new localities, one of which is highly interesting, being the southernmost occurrence of *V. b. bosniensis* in Banat. In addition to finding new places inhabited by this highly valuable species, we confirmed that the adders are still present in one of the previously published localities in the Vršački breg Mt.

Other than merely recording new occurrences of the bosnian adder, we noted and recorded factors jeopardising its habitats and individuals. Among the most common and frequent threats are deforestation (but also overgrowing of suitable habitat patches with shrubs and tall grasses), urbanisation, and intentional fires. Because certain localities are highly frequented by tourists, intentional killings of adders by the visitors were recorded, as well as snake deaths on roads in periods of increased traffic towards touristic destinations.

As in previous phases of the projects, we communicated with local inhabitants, giving them talks and lectures regarding the bosnian adder and nature conservation in general. Along with field research, we gave several lectures/presentations: in a kindergarten and in several elementary schools in areas where the Bosnian adders are present.

All project activities were realized by the members of the SHS "Milutin Radovanović".



Left: Vipera berus bosniensis juvenile Right: Habitats



Left: Burned Bosnian adder habitat; Middle: Lecture in primary school; Right: Kindergarten