

Project Update: August 2017

During the second part of the project, we continued field research of suitable habitats along the Sava River. Based on the conducted ecological analyses of habitats we defined a few more potential new localities (in the area of municipalities: Brod, Oštra Luka and Gradiška) which we will additionally visit in the following period. We were prompted to perform additional field research by the fact that, although in October 2016 we found a large number of the European mudminnow (*Umbra krameri*) in the area of the Gromiželj wetland, when revisiting it in May and June 2017 we were not able to locate any specimens again, indicating the existence of certain specificities in its behaviour and potential withdrawal to deeper and colder water during the summer months. During this period, we included students of the Faculty of Science in Banja Luka that were interested in field research, we prepared the project logo and started distributing part of the promotional material (t-shirt) to students and local people. The results of the research so far have been transferred to the Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, for the purpose of making a Red List of protected and strictly protected animal species. Finding the European mudminnow in October 2016 in the Gromiželj wetland area, as part of this project, could serve as a significant argument for restoring the protected status to this area in the coming period. For technical reasons we moved lectures in schools and the Faculty of Science for September. The difficulties we encountered during the field work relate to one part of the Sava River having mines (municipalities: Šamac and Brod) because of which we were unable to thoroughly explore this part of the terrain.



Project logo and Rufford logo on the T-shirt



Research of suitable habitats



Students on the field



Mines on fields