

Project Update: July 2023

During July 2023 we visited two more populations of the European pond turtle. In a small pond near the village of Rudinje, at Stara Planina Mt., we captured and measured 61 turtles (Photo 1.). Only six of the captured turtles were newly marked, five of which are juveniles! This brings us to a conclusion that this population is rather isolated and consists of approximately 100 individuals. All the parameters measured so far point out that this population is rather unique.



Photo 1. Individuals from the Rudinje pond, waiting to be measured. © Ana Golubović.

In contrast to this mountainous population, the population at Ludaš Lake is large and connected with nearby populations via numerous canals. Although we have been working on a relatively small area of the lake since 2011, the numbers of processed turtles are impressive! In a 10-day period, we managed to capture over 250 individuals, more than 100 of which were newly marked for this year! Traditionally, preschool and school children, as well as biology students from Serbia and Hungary were involved in the fieldwork, learning about European Pond Turtles and their habitats (Photo 2.).



Photo 2. A moment from one of the lectures held at Ludaš Lake. © Ana Golubović.