

## Project Update: May 2023

Our field work for this year's season started at the locality closest to Belgrade, at Pariguz Lake. For 1 week, we captured and processed 95 European pond turtles! Two newly caught turtles were recently hatched juveniles moving toward the lake (Photo 1.). We measured and marked all the captured individuals and took blood samples for genotoxicity and parasite analyses from several selected individuals. All European pond turtles were released back to the lake immediately after processing.



Photo 1. Adult female of European Pond Turtle with a freshly hatched juvenile on her back, for size comparison (© Ana Golubović).

Among the numerous European pond turtles, we also captured nine red eared sliders from the Pariguz Lake (Photo 2). They were also measured, had blood samples taken for genotoxicity and parasite analyses and quarantined. After the completed quarantine, individuals were taken to the Belgrade Zoo refuge.

Huge help during the field work at Pariguz was provided by eight undergraduate biology and ecology students, from Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade. During these field trips, students managed to have hands-on experience in capturing, marking and measuring the animals, which provides them with the basic knowledge for conducting capture-mark-recapture population studies.



Photo 2. The autochthonous *Emys orbicularis* (on the left) and the allochthonous *Trachemys scripta* (on the right-hand side) from Pariguz lake (© Jana Kovačević).