

Project Update: September 2014

June, July and August are the months when sandfly activity is most pronounced, so the main activity during these months was fieldwork. Although, the weather conditions were not favourable due to the frequent and heavy rains accompanied by wind, field work was organised and carried out whenever it was possible.

All information gathered from veterinarians, local people, questioners etc. concerning sandflies and potential leishmania sick animals were reviewed, and all promising locations were visited.



Photo 1. *Placing traps near the chicken and duck shelters*



Photo 2. *Placing traps near the cow shelter*



Photo 3. *Placing traps near the horse shelter*

Good collaboration with our Turkish colleagues that we had at the beginning of this project is now confirmed and strengthened. A team of experienced scientists from Turkey joined us on several field trips, and except for field training we had the chance to expand our previous knowledge about sandflies and together make plans for the future exploration of sandflies in Serbia.

New traps that we designed at the beginning of the season were successfully tested and showed promising results. But, for patenting this trap, like for all previous traps some additional testing must be performed.

Last field trip for this season was organised at the beginning of September 2014 after which we started to work on our specimens. After identification of sandfly species all specimens will be tested on pathogen presence.

During these few months simultaneously with field activities we worked on our project promotion and education of local people and people involved in animal (and human) health and care. We are very pleased because now we find a much greater understanding than before this project and people are in much greater percent ready to collaborate and help us in any way they can.

At the end of September 2014 when we finish all laboratory work, we will sort all of our data and present them at faculties involved in the project (Faculty in Serbia and in Turkey).