

## Project Update: May 2023

Since the end of March 2023, when the project officially started, we have managed to realise several activities aimed at launching and promoting the Biologer platform and application for Montenegro. After purchasing the biologer.me domain and hosting for a period of several years, the developers have successfully established a platform for Montenegro. Also, applications have been established for Android and iOS phones. In the meantime, a large common taxonomic database was established for all regional platforms, and the newest platform is also connected to it.



After that, the main event happened, and that was the first promotion of the Biologer platform and application for Montenegro, in the form of a workshop. The workshop was held on May 3 2023 in Podgorica, and it made a lot of interest among interested parties. About 40 people were present, and among them, except hosts from Parks Dinarides organisation and lecturers, were representatives of main state and local institutions (Natural History Museum of Montenegro, Faculty of Science and Mathematics - Department of Biology, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection Agency, National Parks of Montenegro, PA Morsko dobro, Agency for Management of Protected Areas Podgorica, representatives of several protected areas and non-governmental organisations, etc.). The founders and editors of the Biologer community from neighbouring countries held a very interesting and useful set of presentations for all participants. In addition to the description of the platform, how it functions and its possibilities, examples of further use of the data collected through the platform were particularly interesting - GIS and statistical processing, modeling of ecological niches and prediction of the possible distribution of species, trends and conservation, possible scenarios related with climate changes, etc. Also, there was a presentation about past experiences and useful and interesting findings from neighboring countries, where the platform started with work several years ago, as well as about future plans and ideas about the development, in the context of the development of artificial intelligence. The participants of the workshop showed a great interest in the platform and all these topics, through a very interesting discussion and a lot of questions they asked the lecturers. After that, there was a detailed demonstration how the application and the web platform work. During the workshop,

participants were given printed manuals with instructions for the application and the web platform, as well as work materials and t-shirts with the logo of The Rufford Foundation, Parks Dinarides and the Biologer.me domain.

The aim of this workshop was to connect representatives of the scientific and professional public in Montenegro during the promotion of the new platform, but it also opened new opportunities for cooperation and promotion of the platform in Montenegro for the general public, which will be realised in the following period of time. Based on the list of participants, an initial mailing list was formed, which will expand over time, and which is going to inform about news and activities on the platform, as well as to exchange opinions and experiences.

