



Territorial diagnosis of 4 poljes watershed ecosystems in Bosnia and Herzegovina Results from the collective fieldwork mission 2023 of SM FNS-IM

**Friday 17th of March - 10 am - 12 am
Conference room - Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
University of Sarajevo, Zmaja od Bosne 8, 71000 Sarajevo**

A "polje", is a specific geological formation forming a large karst slump plain present in the Dinaric Alps (Balkans). These unique hydrographic systems present extensive wetlands and ecosystems of great ecological value forming exceptional agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes. The Livanjsko polje (BiH) is probably the largest flooding polje in the world (408 km²). Located in the west of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the 10th Canton near the border with Croatia, it is divided between the municipalities of Bosansko Grahovo, Glamoč, Kupres, Livno and Tomislavgrad. This polje constitutes a particular territory, sparsely populated and which have known a massive emigration affecting particularly the populations of rural areas in these mountainous zones living mainly from agriculture, pastoralism and tourist activity. The Livanjsko polje is integrated in a larger watershed containing other poljes such as Kupreško, Glamočko and Duvanjsko. These exceptional territories are known as important migration corridors for birds and specific seasonal wetlands, thus benefiting from a remarkable ecological value at the scale of the whole sub-region.

The objective of this study is to produce elements for a comprehensive territorial-environmental diagnosis of the "poljes" of the Livno region in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina. The work also gives insight for evaluate the relevance of an effective "label" to protect these karst region which compose a single watershed tiered from 1500 to 700 meters of altitude. This study also provides keys of understanding for the elaboration of a management plan that could combine protection and development of this territory.