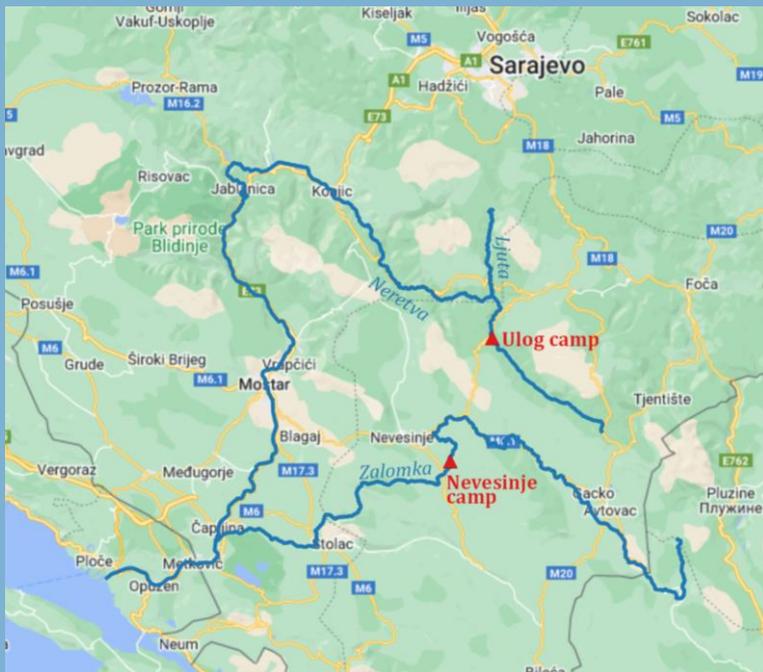




We would like to invite you to the

# NERETVA SCIENCE WEEK 2023

30th May – 7th June 2023



**THE MISSION** to contribute to protecting rivers as knowledgeable experts and scientists

**THE AIM** of collecting data and increasing visibility for a unique river system

**THE APPROACH** of concentrating relevant expertise in an inspiring collaborative field campaign

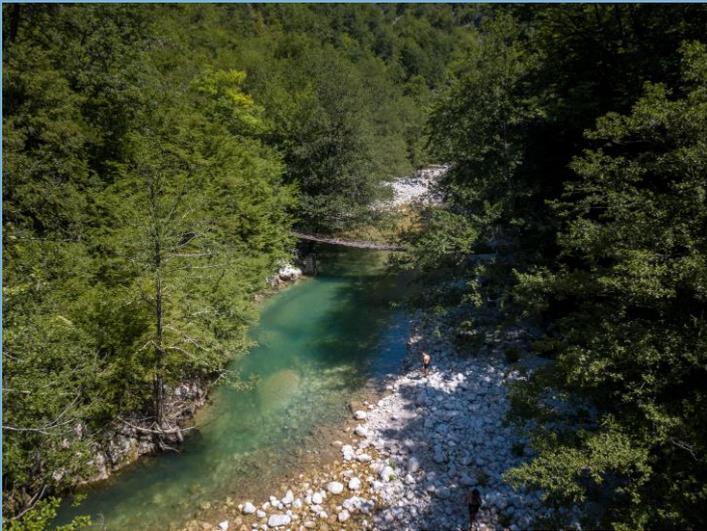
## NERETVA SCIENCE WEEK

A diverse team of over 50 scientists, together with artists, activists and NGO representatives will spend a week at the banks of Neretva. The collected data will help to fight the foreseen hydropower projects that are threatening these unique ecosystems.



## NERETVA RIVER

is a 230 km long river that flows through Bosnia and Herzegovina and enters the Adriatic Sea in Croatia. The Neretva and its tributaries are among the most valuable and diverse river systems in the Balkans. At the same time, it is the most threatened river in Europe, with more than 70 dams planned. A highlight is the upper Neretva, the "Gornja Neretva", still an intact river system with pristine forests around.



## SCIENCE MEETS ART

In addition to the 50+ scientists, we have invited local and foreign artists to join the event and capture the findings of the scientists, as well as the atmosphere.



## PROGRAM

The scientists will explore areas described on the next page. Please contact us for more info.

**TUE** *Welcome and Introductions*  
**May 30** *Basecamp: Ulog*

**WED-SUN** *Research of Neretva, Ljuta*  
**May 31 - Jun 4** *Basecamp: Ulog*

**MON** *Research of Neretva, Ljuta*  
**Jun 5** *Excursion to Nevesinje*  
*Basecamps: Ulog, Nevesinje*

**TUE** *Nevesinje team returns*  
**Jun 6** *Evening social event*  
*Basecamp: Ulog*

**WED** *Goodby day*  
**Jun 7** *Basecamp: Ulog*



## LOGISTICS

The base camp will be in Ulog village, with an optional excursion to Nevesinje from Jun 5th to Jun 6th. Ulog is located 2 hours drive from Sarajevo. We can arrange the transfer from Sarajevo and back. We will camp next to the river. Bring your camping equipment. If this is not an option for you, please let us know and we will try to arrange a room for you. Breakfast and dinner will be provided.

## AREAS TO EXPLORE

In 2023, several research areas will be explored.

**The Upper Neretva** Hydropower is damaging the whole ecosystem, not just the river. Therefore, the scientists will not only explore the rivers, but also the pristine forests at the slopes of the valley. Everything is connected. This part of the river is threatened by seven hydropower projects.



**The Ljuta** is a tributary to Neretva. Little or nothing is known about its biodiversity, scientific research has never been done before. A small team of scientists will assess the biodiversity in the canyon of Ljuta and other challenging tributaries. The Ljuta is threatened by eight hydropower projects.



**Nevesinjsko polje** is a karst field connected with the Neretva by underground waters. In the heart of the polje is Zalomka River, which flows through the polje, disappears in the karst system and appears again near Mostar as Buna and Bunica rivers. It is threatened by a huge hydropower project from the 60ties „Gornji Horizonti“, that aims to dam the Zalomka and divert it to another river basin.



**THE SCIENCE WEEK IS ORGANISED** as part of the [Save the Blue Heart of Europe](#) campaign. It follows the model of the previous Science Weeks (see [Vjosa](#) and [Neretva](#) videos for an impression) and engages national and international scientists to assess the values of the Neretva and its tributaries.

We hope we can welcome you in Ulog. Please let us know if you are interested to join, by sending an email to one of the contacts below.

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