**EWDA STUDENT CHAPTER** presents:

A deer with antlers and map

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**2025 Workshop: Applied Disease Ecology & Epidemiology**

**Location**: Gorski Kotar & Zagreb, Croatia

**Dates**: 7th to 11th of April 2025

**Costs**:

* €150 (Eastern European\* EWDA member)
* €180 (Other EWDA member)
* €200 (Eastern European\* non-member)
* €220 (Non-member)

**Overview & Programme**

In 2025, the EWDA Student Workshop will take place in beautiful Croatia, supported by wildlife health experts from the University of Zagreb. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from esteemed wildlife biologists and veterinary professionals, gaining practical experience in applying ecological and epidemiological techniques to study wildlife diseases. The workshop also provides an excellent platform to connect with fellow students from across Europe, fostering valuable relationships with the next generation of wildlife veterinarians and biologists. The EWDA Student Chapter will **welcome 25 students for a week-long program**, starting in the wilderness of Gorski Kotar and ending in Zagreb. **Five spots will be reserved for students from underrepresented Eastern European\* countries**. Students with backgrounds in biology, ecology, veterinary science, or any related fields are encouraged to apply.

To view the preliminary programme, [click here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jFvjRTinEGCRM3_im42E8s7TDBtK08ryXcvbO8CKlDU/edit?gid=0#gid=0).

**Disclaimer: Field research can be unpredictable, so practicals will be finalized closer to the date. Please note that Wednesday's activities may need to be adjusted depending on field conditions.**

To register your interest/send in your application, [click here](https://forms.gle/qwTCgU3QZJJGQezz9).

**Applications close on 31/12/2024.**

Please note that submitting your application does not guarantee a spot. Your registration for the workshop will only be completed after you have been selected to participate AND have paid the registration fee. The EWDA Student Chapter will review all applications, and **applicants will be notified of the outcome in January.**

\*The following countries are considered as Eastern European countries: Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, European Russia, Georgia, Turkey, as well as Greece and Cyprus.

**Meet our workshop speakers!**

A person with a backpack in the woods

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***Prof. em. Djuro Huber*** *has been conducting the study of large carnivores in Croatia since 1981. This research includes all aspects of biology, as well as management issues. Since the start of the study, he conducted 18 different projects and published 165 scientific papers. He is the member of relevant national and international professional organizations like IUCN SSGs for Bears, Canids, and Veterinary Medicine, and Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe. Djuro Huber is currently professor emeritus at the Biology Department of the Veterinary Faculty in Zagreb.*

***Dr. Agnieszka Sergiel*** *is a biologist and has been working on bears since 2002, initially focusing on physiological and behavioural effects of stress and then expanding into ecology. Currently, she is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Nature Conservation of Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków, investigating brown bear stress ecophysiology and chemical communication. Her research interests also include integrated population health surveys. She has been a member of International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) since 2007, the IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group since 2009, and board member of Bear Care Group since the end of 2020. Agnieszka has also been involved in captive bear welfare projects in Poland and other European countries that aimed at ending illegal keepings and at relocations to bear-appropriate conditions.*

**A person holding a camera

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***Prof. Dean Konjević*** *is an active Diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine and holds the title of European Veterinary Specialist in Zoological Medicine (Wildlife Population Health). After earning his veterinary degree in Zagreb in 2000, he began his career as a scientific novice at the Department for Game Biology, Pathology, and Breeding. He completed his PhD in 2009 at the University of Zagreb, focusing on the non-invasive monitoring of adrenal glands in fallow deer, during which he conducted research stays at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Košice, Slovakia, and Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Canada. In 2023, he was appointed Full Professor at the Department of Veterinary Economics and Epidemiology. His research focuses on wildlife diseases, management, and conservation, with particular emphasis on pathology, epidemiology, and public health. He has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific and professional articles, and three books.*



A person and a bear

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***Dr. Slaven Reljić*** *has been a member at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Zagreb since 2009, contributing to several international projects, including Hunting for Sustainability (HUNT) and LIFE DINAL BEAR. In 2019, he earned his PhD with a dissertation titled “Sustainability of Brown Bear Management in Croatia and Slovenia: Integrating Ecological, Economic, Cultural, and Institutional Aspects”. He has been involved in teaching elective courses at the Department of Biology, such as Zooecology and Biology and Ecology of Predators. Dr. Reljić has published 26 scientific articles and participated in over 50 scientific conferences. He is an active member of international organizations, including the International Bear Association (IBA) and the IUCN Bear Specialist Group. Currently, he leads the EU-funded CARNIVORA DINARICA project at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Zagreb.*