



SCIENTIFIC REPORT FOR STSM BOARD	
<b>Reference</b>	Short Term Scientific Mission COST FA1304
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<b>Period</b>	07-04-2016 to 30-04-2016
<b>STSM Reference Code</b>	COST-ONLINE_STSM-FA1304-27714 ECOST-STSM-FA1304-010416-072779
<b>STSM Title</b>	STSM to Danube Delta to study Pontic shad ( <i>Alosa immaculata</i> ) during migration

## 1. Summary

*Alosa immaculata* is an anadromous shad species that migrates from the Black sea into the Danube River to spawn. The Danube delta constitutes a crucial part of their spawning migration route. In Serbia, the species migrates as far as the Iron Gates II dam (rkm 863.35) (only 17 rkm from the border). In addition to exchange of knowledge and skills with Romanian colleagues from DDNI on the ecology of the species, the practical part of the STSM was dedicated to collecting *A. immaculata* specimens and data. After field surveys on the Danube delta and collection from fish markets in Tulcea town, the material was processed in the DDNI lab, or frozen for subsequent processing at IMSI. The main idea is to compare data from the delta (RO) and the Iron Gates (RS) populations to obtain better knowledge of the migration patterns and species characteristics. Further collection was planned throughout the 2016 migration season, as well as collection of larvae drifting downstream to the Black Sea. The methodology included measuring and weighing individuals, collecting tissue for genetic analyses, photos for geometric morphometrics analysis, dissection and otolith extraction, species determination by gill raker counts, etc. The total number of Danube delta individuals collected and analysed was 145. With the methodology practiced and good collaboration established, we will continue to collect and exchange data throughout the migration season, as well as later on when larvae sampling will be finished. I was fortunate to be very well received by my hosts and get a significant amount of work done during my stay. Our exchange of knowledge and experience was at an even higher level than I hoped for and will certainly continue into the future.

