



VLingS

Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia

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**Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia** is a research project supported by the [Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia](#) within the frame of the [IDEAS Program](#), the biggest research program of the Science Fund so far. The public call for the IDEAS Program closed on October 7, 2020. A total of 917 project proposals were submitted, out of which 105 received financial support.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over the past decades, it has become obvious that many languages spoken around the world are threatened with extinction. As linguistic diversity is essential to human existence, researchers started focusing on language documentation, maintenance and revitalization, raising awareness of the need to safeguard the linguistic heritage, and creating databases of endangered languages. When it comes to Serbia, these databases differ widely in terms of assessing language endangerment, and often give insufficient or inaccurate data on the varieties spoken here. Our Project's ambition is to create a precise tool for assessing the degree of language endangerment and vulnerability, and to apply it to a statistically significant sample of speakers in Serbia. The tool will be applied to the following linguistic varieties, carefully chosen based on the international assessment, as well as our own field research: Aromanian, Banat Bulgarian, Vojvodina Rusyn (Ruthenian), Judezmo (Ladino), Romani (Vlax and Balkan varieties), Megleno-Romanian, Vlach and Bayash Romanian. The result will be an accurate assessment of the vulnerability of the linguistic varieties in Serbia, which could be used as a solid reference in the future for any sociolinguistic research. The absolute novelty of the research proposal is that, in parallel with the application of the carefully conceived sociolinguistic questionnaire, it will also document and archive speech samples of vulnerable linguistic varieties, over three generations of speakers. Based on the collected data, a database, a graded scale of vitality and an interactive map will be created that would provide insight into the vulnerability of specific varieties in the studied communities. Furthermore, it will help build support for language communities, NGOs and the government in their efforts to maintain and revitalize these languages, and may serve as a reliable tool for vulnerability assessment in language communities worldwide.

## AIMS

### The specific aims of the project are:

1. Creating a sociolinguistic questionnaire for the assessment of endangerment/vulnerability of linguistic varieties in Serbia.
2. Applying the questionnaire in the envisaged communities.
3. Creating a graded scale of endangerment of particular varieties.
4. Documenting the linguistic varieties over three generation of speakers and archiving the collected material.
5. Generating an interactive map that contains data on the level of endangerment and available speech samples for each variety.

The collected material will be stored in the Digital Archive of the Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the [Digital Archive of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#), as well as in international repositories.

## PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- › Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade
- › Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade
- › Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad
- › Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš
- › Department of Interpreting and Translation, University of Bologna

## FUNDING AND DURATION

Funding for the project is provided through the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the World Bank project – the Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Entrepreneurship Project (SAIGE). The project will last 36 months, from January 2022 until December 2024.



УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ У БЕОГРАДУ – ФИЛОЛОШКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ  
UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE – FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY

**Conference Invitation Letter**

The Conference Organizing Committee is kindly inviting Sashka Jovanovska, Assistant professor at the Department of English language and literature, Faculty of Philology, Goce Delcev University in North Macedonia, to take part in the international scientific conference *Vulnerable and Endangered Languages in Europe* (VELE2024) that will be held on October 2-4, 2024 at the University of Belgrade, and present her paper titled “The Importance of Mother Tongue Learning”.

VELE2024 is the result of the *Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia* (VLingS) project, carried out between 2022 and 2024 by the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade, the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Niš, and supported by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. VELE2024 aims to extend the scope of the VLingS project by bringing together both established and emerging researchers who focus on language endangerment in Europe, to meet, present and discuss their work in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere.

Looking forward to seeing you in Belgrade.

On behalf of the VELE2024 Organizing Committee,

Belgrade, April 30, 2024

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## CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This certificate is presented to

**Saška Jovanovska**

from the Faculty of Philology, Goce Delcev University

for her active participation with the conference talk:

**The Importance of Mother Tongue Learning**

presented at the international conference *Vulnerable and Endangered Languages in Europe (VELE2024)*, organized by the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology, on 2-4 October, 2024, as the result of the project "Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia" (VLingS), funded by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia.

Place for stamp

Prof. Dr. Iva Draškić Vićanović  
Dean of the Faculty of Philology,  
University of Belgrade



Science Fund  
of the Republic of Serbia

