

GRAVELIJADA VŠ 2025

A group of enthusiasts was exploring ideas how to promote healthy lifestyle, sustainable living and environmental protection. Searching for an appropriate partner, we came across Palladio East in our neighbourhood, whose mission and aims are fully compatible with our ideas: to create an opportunity for people to get together, spend time outdoors and notice the beauty of local nature. Even though nature oriented, we still had to use social networks to reach out for more people interested in similar activities. And it worked – very soon we received many questions showing there is a lot of interest in our initial idea and we developed a common project together.

Gravelijada is conceived as an activity combining walking and cycling through the protected habitat called [Mali vrsacki rit](#) and nature park [Vrsac mountains](#) located in the Banat region near the city of Vršac. The aim was not to once again collect sportsmen and professionals, but to attract everybody interested in spending two days in splendid natural setting, regardless of their age, sex or level of physical fitness – local people.

The weekend of May 10th – 11th was chosen to realize these activities. More than 40 people (around 30 of them walking and 10 cycling) got together and spent two days in the nature in great spring weather, being physically active, getting to know not only each other but the beauties and values of the two sites they walked and cycled through. A group of strangers became a community recognizable not only by the great mood they created, but also by green T-shirts with the Palladio East logo reflecting exactly what we initially had in mind: **people, ideas, community and the planet**. This was also an opportunity for all of us to remind ourselves that, instead of spending non-renewable energy, we can walk and ride our bicycles more in our everyday lives with manifold benefits not only for ourselves but for the planet, creating better lives for ordinary people and cherishing and sustaining our already endangered natural resources.

The dates have not been chosen arbitrarily – they are associated with certain international actions:

- [Move to Health](#) International Day – 10th of May
- [World Migratory Bird Day](#) – 10th of May
- [EU Open Day](#) – 10th of May
- [International Compost Awareness Week \(ICAW\) 2025](#) – May 4th – 10th, 2025

