



"Let the victims remain winners: inform, empower, support!"

The Victimology Society conducted a project titled "Let the victims remain winners: inform, empower, support!" from August 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The project was funded by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of Belgrade, and the Secretariat for Social Protection.

The aim of the VDS project was to **prevent victimization and re-victimization of domestic violence through activities such as information dissemination, education, and providing support to potential victims and victims of domestic violence. The specific objectives of the project were focused on strengthening the capacities of the local community's workforce and the rational use of existing resources for the prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence at the local level, both generally and particularly related to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, and Roma.**

The main activities within the project included:

1. Providing support and legal assistance to victims of violence.
2. Implementing the program "From Victim to Victor: Using Personal Capacities to Escape Violence."
3. Enhancing the capacities of local community workers for the prevention and response to domestic violence through accredited training for providers of social services dealing with gender-based violence victims.
4. Capacity-building through a joint presentation of VDS, CSR Novi Beograd, MUP RS PS Novi Beograd, and the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children, and Persons with Disabilities "Novi Beograd" at the 13th annual VDS conference.
5. Organizing a panel discussion titled "Empowering Victims: Inform, Strengthen, Support! Novi Beograd is with you!"
6. Designing and printing informative materials, brochures, posters, including materials in Braille.

The most significant project outcomes include:

- **Established collaboration at the local level elevated to a higher level:** A four-



day training program titled "Training for Providers of Social Services for Working with Victims of Gender-Based Violence" was successfully conducted. A total of 26 participants, representatives from the City Center for Social Work (CCSW) Departments of Novi Beograd, Palilula, Zemun, and Surčin; the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children, and Persons

with Disabilities "Novi Beograd"; the City Municipality of Novi Beograd, and the Citizens' Association "Centar Zvezda" attended the training. Participants expressed satisfaction with their participation, emphasizing the relevance of the topic for personal growth and development, as well as its practical application in working with victims of violence. They rated the training as highly informative, with a pleasant and encouraging atmosphere, providing each participant with the opportunity to share their thoughts on the given topic. Additionally, participants highlighted the significant theoretical knowledge gained about the legal framework, victimology, secondary victimization, and criminogenic factors influencing gender-based violence. They particularly valued the information about all existing institutions and specialized organizations providing assistance and support to victims of gender-based violence. The common conclusion among participants was that the approach presented during the training could be applied to victims of violence to effectively prevent and overcome the consequences of victimization and provide comprehensive help and support to victims of gender-based violence. Participants saw this as an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences with colleagues and initiate new topics for consideration. In this regard, they emphasized the need for involving colleagues from other systems that come into contact with victims to attend such training alongside professional staff from the City Center for Social Work.



- Signed a collaboration agreement with the Center for the Care of the Elderly, Children, and Persons with Disabilities "Novi Beograd."
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- Presentation of local-level collaboration at the 13th annual VDS conference.



1. Empowered individuals who received continuous assistance and support through the VDS Information and Victim Support service:

- Provided psychosocial support to 41 victims of domestic violence.

2. Increased awareness among citizens regarding existing resources for the prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence:

- Printed and distributed brochures containing contacts and information related to the assistance and support that individuals seeking help from the VDS Information and Victim Support service can receive.

VDS



- Over 30 participants at the panel discussion *"To ensure that the victims emerge as victors: Inform, Strengthen, Support! Novi Beograd is with you!"* where they had the opportunity to learn about violence, prevention and protection options, as well as appropriate forms of assistance and support at the local level, particularly related to vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and Roma.

