

Analysis of support services for victims of violence with the use of firearms in the Western Balkans

The Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS conducted a project named *Analysis of support services for victims of violence with the use of firearms in the Western Balkans*. The project was part of a larger project implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP-SEESAC IPA/2021/425-067), which is entitled "Support for strengthening the fight against the illegal possession, abuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Western Balkans".

The goal of the project was to provide recommendations for the improvement of victim support mechanisms in the jurisdictions of the Western Balkans. As part of the project, research was conducted with the aim of analyzing the legal, political and institutional framework for the support and protection of victims of violence with the use of firearms in the Western Balkans and developing evidence-based recommendations for improving the position of victims. The research consisted of two parts: a desk analysis, i.e. an analysis of the legal and political framework relevant to the support and protection of victims of violence with the use of firearms, and an empirical research aimed at obtaining data on existing support services in jurisdictions in the Western Balkans. Istraživanjem su bile obuhvaćene sledeće jurisdikcije: Albanija, Bosna i Hercegovina, Crna Gora, Kosovo¹, Severna Makedonija i Srbija.

The following activities were carried out within the project:

- A research methodology was developed, including instruments for data collection within both parts of the research.
- Desk analysis of the existing legal and political framework for the support and protection of victims of violence with the use of firearms in all the aforementioned jurisdictions in the Western Balkans.
- Empirical research of existing support services in jurisdictions in the Western Balkans.
- Data analysis and research report writing.
- Developing and writing recommendations for improving the legal and institutional framework for the protection of victims of violence using firearms in the Western Balkans.

¹ This name is without prejudice to the status and is in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and the opinion of the International Court of Justice on the declaration of independence of Kosovo.