

## **„From victim to winner”**

In the period from **July 7<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**, the Victimology Society of Serbia implemented a project entitled ***From victim to winner***, which was financed by the Secretariat for Social Protection of the City of Belgrade.

The goal of the VDS project ***was to prevent domestic violence through the activities of identifying, informing, educating and providing support to potential victims and victims of domestic violence. The project had a special emphasis on strengthening the capacity of employees in the local community and rational use of resources for prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence at the local level, as well as piloting an innovative program for working with victims.***

***The main activities within the project were:***

1. Designing and implementation of the training ***"From victim to winner: Using own's capacities to get out of violence"***
2. Strengthening the capacity of employees in the local community for prevention and response to domestic violence.
3. Piloting the program ***„From victim to winner”***
4. Providing support to victims of violence
5. Designing and printing informative material

***The most important results of the project are:***

1. The training curriculum ***„From victim to winner: Using own's capacities to get out of violence”*** was created
2. A two-day training was held for representatives of the City center for social work Departments Novi Beograd, Zemun, Surčin and Palilula as well as for employees of the VDS (a total of 24 participants). In the



evaluation, the participants expressed their satisfaction with participating in the training. They emphasized the importance of the topic as relevant both for their personal growth and development, but also for application in practical work and work with victims of violence. They rated the methods of work used during the training (video materials, presentations, exercises, role playing) as clear and appropriate. They rated the training as very informative, with a pleasant and stimulating atmosphere, where each of the participants had the opportunity to present their thoughts on the

given topic. As the most important topics for their future work, the participants singled out the affirmative interview, as a model of a positive approach when conducting conversations and interviews with victims. Also important to them was the topic related to post-traumatic growth, as well as the methods and exercises that show how victims can use their potential, strengthen themselves and be winners. They stated that the knowledge and skills they acquired during the training will improve their future work. The common conclusion of the training participants is that the approach to working with victims of violence that was presented during the training can be applied to certain victims of violence in order to overcome the consequences of victimization in the best way and at the same time achieve personal growth and development. According to the participants, this was an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with other colleagues and to initiate some new topics for reflection.

3. Psychosocial support was provided to 48 victims of domestic violence
4. 600 leaflets were printed and distributed with contacts and information related to the help and support that people who contact the VDS Info and Victim Support Service can get.
5. Guidelines have been created for the implementation of the program from Victim to Winner, according to which we work with victims of violence who contact us



***During the project:***

1. Cooperation with institutions at the local level continued and improved (City center for social work Departments Novi Beograd, Zemun, Surčin and Palilula), as well as the Ministry of Interior Republic of Serbia, Police station Novi Beograd.
2. The capacities of employees in the local community for prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence were strengthened.
3. The personal capacities of victims were strengthened for successfully overcoming the consequences of victimization and getting out of violence while simultaneously achieving personal development and growth.
4. Awareness was raised about the problem of violence in to the family and the existence of the VDS Info and victim support service, to which potential victims, as well as

victims of domestic violence (direct victims, but also indirect victims, i.e. family members of direct victims) can turn.