

Inform, empower, support: That older fellow citizens become winners, not victims!

In the period from June to November 2025, the Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS implemented a project called ***Inform, empower, support: That older fellow citizens become winners, not victims!*** The project was financed by the City of Belgrade, the City Administration of the City of Belgrade, the Secretariat for Social Protection.

The general goal of the project was the prevention of victimization and re-victimization of domestic violence through activities of informing, educating and providing support to potential victims and victims of domestic violence, with a special emphasis on the elderly.

Special objectives related to strengthening the capacity of employees in the local community (including gerontological centers and associations of pensioners) for prevention, intervention and prevention of re-victimization in cases of domestic violence; Rational use of existing resources for prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence at the local level in general and especially related to sensitive groups such as the elderly, children and persons with disabilities, as well as raising the capacity of victims and their children to recognize, respond and use their own capacities to respond to domestic violence and other types of violence.

The main activities within the project were:

- 1. Rational use of existing resources for prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence at the local level*
- 2. Support for victims of violence*
- 3. Application of the program "From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence"*
- 4. Individual workshops for children of women who are included in the program "From victim to winner" and support in the neighborhood*
- 5. Support in the neighborhood for elderly fellow citizens*
- 6. Raising the capacity of employees in GCSR and Gerontological Centers and associations of pensioners in New Belgrade through the accredited training of social service providers to work with victims of violence (with a special emphasis on the support system, recognition and practical guidelines for working with elderly victims)*
- 7. Round table for employees of the Gerontology Center Belgrade*
- 8. Designing and printing information material for all citizens, with a special focus on the elderly "How to recognize and react to violence"*
- 9. Raising the capacity of employees in GCSR and the gerontological center and associations of pensioners from New Belgrade through participation at the 15th annual international conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia*

***10. Fair of services and projects in the field of prevention and protection from violence
"New Belgrade safe municipality"***

The most important results of the project:

1. Established cooperation at the local level raised to a higher level

New cooperation with institutions at the local level was established, continued and improved (Municipality of Novi Belgrade, Center for Care of Elderly Children and Persons with Disabilities, GCSR Department Novi Belgrade, as well as MUP RS PS Novi Belgrade, Gerontological Center Belgrade and City Organization of Pensioners Belgrade).

2. Raised personal capacities for prevention and getting out of domestic violence

- For 48 victims of violence, support was provided through direct conversations in the VDS office and by telephone. A total of 178 telephone consultations were conducted.
- With 13 women, victims of domestic violence, they worked according to the program "From victim to winner: Using one's own capacities to get out of violence". A total of 19 conversations were held in the VDS premises and 31 telephone consultations.
- During the reporting period, nine individual workshops were conducted with five children of women who are included in the program "From victim to winner: Using their own capacities to get out of violence" (more than one workshop was conducted with some children).
- Help and support was provided for 11 elderly fellow citizens who turned to the VDS Info Service and support for victims for help and support. In total, 19 telephone consultations and 13 conversations were held in the premises of the VDS and the local community of Gazela

3. Increased capacities of employees in the City Center for Social Work and the Gerontology Center Belgrade

- 15 representatives of the City Center for Social Work (GCSR) of the Novi Beograd, Obrenovac, Surčin and Grocka Divisions underwent a four-day accredited training of social service providers for working with victims of violence (with special emphasis on the support system, recognition and practical guidelines for working with elderly victims).
- 23 representatives of the Belgrade Gerontological Center participated in the round table "Recognition and reaction to violence against the elderly".
- 10 representatives of the GCSR, the Gerontological Center and the Association of Pensioners participated in the 15th annual VDS international conference entitled Contemporary Technologies and Victims: Risks of Victimization and Opportunities for Improving Social Responses



4. Increased awareness of citizens regarding existing resources for prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence

- 300 leaflets were printed with contacts and information related to the help and support that people who contact the VDS Info and Victim Support Service can get, which were distributed to competent institutions and citizens.

- A large number of citizens visited the fair of services and projects in the field of prevention and protection from violence "Novi Belgrade safe municipality", where institutions and organizations from the territory of New Belgrade that actively contribute to community safety and violence prevention presented their work.





Initial meeting held within the project Inform, empower, support: That our elderly fellow citizens become winners, not victims!

"The first Fair of Services and Projects in the Field of Violence Prevention and Protection Held – 'New Belgrade, a Safe Municipality'"

Held training for social service providers to work with victims of violence

The Victimology Society of Serbia held a Roundtable on "Recognizing and Responding to Violence Against Older Adults"