



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA 2021



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA
2021**

Belgrade, 2022.

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Mission, aims and tasks

Victimology Society of Serbia - VDS was established on 12 November 1997 as an independent and non-profit association of citizens. The purpose of founding VDS was to get together as many humanistic oriented professionals as possible, who contribute with their scientific, professional and personal authority, as well as inter-disciplinary research, education and victim support to the development of victimology and improving rights of victims of crime, war and human rights violation, regardless of their gender, religious beliefs, political views or other personal features.

VDS's mission is to advocate for the improvement of rights of all victims and providing favorable social conditions in which victims would be in a position to realize their rights and satisfy their needs, as well as for establishing social structure that would enable all those whose rights are violated, to heal and reintegrate into the community.

The Victimology Society of Serbia is a member of several domestic organizations and networks: the European Movement in Serbia, the "Women Against Violence Network" and the Alliance of Associations "Network of Organizations for Post-Penal Support of Serbia". VDS was a member of the Republic Team for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Initiative for Legal Prohibition and Protection of Children from Corporal Punishment in Serbia. VDS is the founder and member of the Association for *Joint Action FOR Truth and Reconciliation*. VDS was a member of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM) from 2012 to 2017, and became a member of this mechanism again in 2020.

VDS is a member of a number of international and European organizations: The World Victimology Society, the European Forum of Victim Services (now Victim Support Europe), the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program (ISPAC), the International Network of Organizations Combating Violence with Firearms (IANSA).

Over the past twenty-three years, VDS has established cooperation with a large number of individuals and organizations from the countries of the former Yugoslavia, as well as from other European and non-European countries.

The main activities of VDS are:

- Proposing amendments to laws and advocating for their implementation;
- Monitoring the status of victims in criminal proceedings
- Assistance and support to victims of crime;
- Scientific research of various forms of victimization, their consequences and ways of prevention, as a basis for further creation of appropriate policies on improving the status of victims of crime and war and protection of their rights;
- Advocating for raising public awareness about the situation victims endure, their rights and problems;
- Truth and reconciliation;
- Publishing;
- Organizing scientific and professional gatherings and
- Education.

These activities reflect the continuity of the Victimology Society's work on achieving long-term goals in terms of improving the position of victims, creating new institutions, influencing the rule of law and the prevention of crime and conflict.



Activities of the Victimology Society of Serbia in the period 1 January-31 December 2021.

During 2021, VDS activities were carried out according to the VDS Work Program for 2021, adopted by the Assembly of the Victimology Society of Serbia. However, when it comes to the way work and implementation of project and other activities, as well as 2020 and 2021, were marked by numerous challenges due to the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) virus. In periods when the epidemiological situation worsened, work was carried out according to the principle of being on duty, so every on a working day, one or two people were in the VDS office. In periods when the epidemiological situation allowed it, the work was organized entirely in the office. And besides of that, as will be seen later in the text of this report, with certain adjustments, all the planned activities were carried out within the planned deadlines.

General issues

VDS membership, informing VDS member and the public about the ongoing projects and the other VDS activities

During the reporting period, one person became a member of the VDS. Unfortunately, in 2021 two members past away: Lada Protić and Milan Vujin.

During the reporting period, VDS members, who are on the VDS info mailing list, received are regular information about ongoing projects, publications that have come out of the press, gatherings organized by VDS, activities of European support for victims, victimological and other gatherings and the like.

The website of the VDS is regularly updated, where you can find all the information about the work of the Society - projects, publications, gatherings and the like. Information is available in Serbian and English. Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković were responsible for maintaining the website during the reporting period, while Tatjana Orelj was responsible for administering the website.

In addition to the website, since 2012, VDS has its Facebook page, since 2015 – Twitter profile which helps increasing visibility of our activities. Beside that, VDS has a Youtube channel which contains all the video material created within projects and other activities, as well as recordings of guest appearances of the VDS members in the media. Since 2020, VDS also has its Instagram profile.

Posting information about VDS activities via social media, as well as media appearance of the VDS's members help increasing the visibility of the VDS in our community.

All activities related to membership, informing the members, updating the website and social media profiles are self-financing. Sanja Čopić PhD, Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković were in charge of these activities in 2021.

Activities of the VDS bodies

During 2021, a regular session of the VDS Assembly was held (adopting the VDS work report for 2020, the financial report for 2020 and the work program for 2021). In addition, two more sessions of the Assembly were organized - one related to the changes to the VDS Statute and the other for the purpose of electing VDS bodies (the president and the Board of Directors). The Director and the Board of Directors of the VDS performed their regular duties as stipulated by the VDS Statute. The management board held regular (electronic) sessions and made decisions on current issues. In 2021, changes were made to the VDS Statute in the part that concerns the Company's bodies. According to the changes, the bodies of the Society are: Assembly of VDS, president, Board of Directors and director.

At the end of 2021, the elections of the society's bodies were organized for the next four-year period: prof. dr. Slobodan Savić was elected as the president of VDS.; Jasmina Nikolić was elected as the director of VDS, and the following were elected as members of the Board of Directors: prof. Dr. Slobodanka Konstantinović-Vilić, retired full professor of the Faculty of Law of the University of Niš, prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, full professor at the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Belgrade, prof. Slađana Jovanović, PhD, full professor at the Faculty of Law, Union University, Belgrade, Ivana Stevanović, PhD, senior research associate at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade, Sanja Čopić, PhD, senior research associate at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade (president UO), Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović, research associate at the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade, while the director of the Society is a member of the Board of Directors by function

Finally, in 2021, two important acts were adopted for the work of the VDS: the Rulebook on Prevention of Corruption and the Protocol of the Victimology Society of Serbia against sexual exploitation and abuse and the prevention of sexual harassment and rape. Both documents are available on the VDS website.

Awards of the Victimology Society of Serbia for 2021

The Victimology Society of Serbia established three awards in 2009:

- Award for contribution to the improvement of victims' rights
- Award for contribution to the development of a non-conflict and comprehensive approach to dealing with war and war crimes "Third Way"
- Award for a talented young researcher

The Award for contribution to the improvement of victims' rights is awarded to individuals or organizations who, through their activities or efforts, have made a significant and lasting contribution to the improvement of victims' rights and the achievement of the goals for which the Society was founded. This award was awarded to **Jadranski Radovanović**.



Jadranka Radovanović graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade in 1980, majoring in psychology, majoring in clinical and child psychology. In addition to formal education, Jadranka attended and completed various national and international educations in the field of psychosocial support and protection of children from abuse and neglect in the family. For the last four decades, more precisely from the 1980s until today, Jadranka has been actively contributing to the improvement of victims' rights, with a special emphasis on the improvement of the rights and protection of children and young people as victims. She first began to deal with victimology and victims' rights by actively participating in the work of the Yugoslav Society of Victimology, as part of a small group of scientific workers and experts who represented Serbia in that society. She is one of the founders and a long-time member of the Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS). In the period 1997-2001, she was a member of the Executive Board of VDS. Also, in his biography, he has published professional works on the subject of abuse and neglect of children, problems of loneliness and prevention of aggressive behavior among young people. He continuously works on psychosocial support for children and young people, as well as education and raising public awareness of their problems through guest appearances in the media. Until her retirement, she was employed at the elementary school "Jovan Dučić" in Belgrade, where, as a school psychologist, she recognized the problems of child victims of violence and children from the Roma population very early (long before it was recognized by the state), and wholeheartedly helped them and provided protection, both from violence and discrimination. Since 1996, he has been continuously working in the Youth Counseling Center at the Youth Center in Belgrade. In the period 1997-1999. she was engaged in supporting children and women victims of violence in the Counseling Center against domestic violence.

Bearing in mind all of the above, the Executive Board was of the opinion that it is time to recognize Jadranka for all her contributions, and to make visible her decades of work advocating for the rights of victims and providing support to victims, especially children and young people.

During this year, there were no proposals for the "Third Way" award and for the award to a talented young researcher.

Strengthening the capacity of the VDS team

During 2021, work was also done on strengthening the capacity of the VDS team, which was immediately involved in the implementation of activities during 2021. A reinforcement meeting was organized, which was held in Vršac on July 19 and 20, 2021 and a day for relaxation on December 28, 2021 in Belgrade. In addition, efforts were made to strengthen capacities through the participation of members of the VDS team at a series of workshops organized by various organizations and foundations, about which more information is part of the report on the participation of VDS members at scientific and professional gatherings. Also, during 2021, Jasmina Nikolić and Dr. Sanja Čopić passed the Anti-corruption exam course organized by UN Women.



VDS library

During the reporting period, the book fund increased. The VDS library currently has 1839 titles in the fields of victimology, law, criminology, gender studies, truth and reconciliation, human rights, restorative justice, and other areas. In addition, the VDS library has a large number of journals, of which six are regularly received through the journal exchange: Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics, Security Journal, Perjanik, Sociology, Legal Records, and Law: Theory and Practice. Some journals are donated to the VDS by its members or institutions VDS collaborates with: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović donates her copies of the European Journal of Criminology, Criminology in Europe, The International Journal of Restorative Justice, and Contemporary Justice Review to the VDS library, while the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies regularly provides its journal Science, Security, Police. Finally, the VDS library also has a rich selection of audio and video materials.

The VDS library is available to all members of the Society. Since November 2007, library use has been included in the membership fee, while non-members can join the library. Since 2007, 99 people have joined the VDS library.

Information about the library's work and the contents of the VDS library are available at <https://novisajt.vds.rs/vds-biblioteka/>.

Acquiring books for the library is mostly done through gifts and receiving book copies for reviews in the academic journal *Temida*. Library maintenance activities are self-funded and voluntary. Milica Luković Radaković was responsible for the VDS library during the reporting period.



Applying for projects

One of the ongoing activities of VDS is seeking funds for projects and further developing the strategy more long-term and more funding strategy. During the reporting period, VDS, independently or in partnership, applied for a total of 7 projects or project activities within projects 10 other organizations. From that number, funds were obtained for the realization of 4 projects, that is activities related to the projects of other organizations

Advocacy for changes of laws and practice

Participation in the working groups of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU)

VDS is an active member of two working groups within the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU): Working groups responsible of monitoring negotiations in Chapter 23 and Working Groups responsible of monitoring negotiations in chapter 24. During the reporting period, VDS, through regular information, monitored the work of the NCEU Working Groups for chapters 23 and 24. Representative VDS, Dr. Sanja Čopić, participated in the NCEU meeting with the EU Delegation in Serbia, which held online on March 9, 2021, as well as at an internal chapter 24 working group meeting. Additionally, VDS, as a member of both working groups within NCEU, supported the announcements that were submitted competent authorities, namely: Repeal of the regulation that prevents research in the area defense is a picture of the state of democracy in Serbia and the security of journalists is seriously threatened KRIK journalists. NCEU's requests to extend the public hearing on Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code and Draft Law on Internal jobs.

Monitoring of court proceedings and actions of institutions in gender-based cases discrimination and other violations of women's rights in the field of work and employment

Project Recognize gender discrimination, recognize the violation of rights in the field of work and employment! React!, was part of the Promotion of Women's Labor Rights Action, financed by by the European Union and co-financed by the Swedish Agency for Cooperation and Development. The main goal of the project was to recognize gender discrimination and violations of other rights

women in the field of work and employment and providing information on how they can achieve this their rights in the field of work and employment and who they can turn to for help and protection in in case of their violation. The project was supposed to contribute to increasing the impact of organizations civil society in calling on relevant institutions to apply positive regulations in order to ensured the protection of women's right to work and contributed to the empowerment of women to protect their rights.

Within the project, in the reporting period, the collection of data on individual cases of discrimination and other violations of women's rights in the field of work and employment and conclusions and recommendations related to the actions of competent institutions are based on them and organization in cases of gender discrimination and other violations of women's rights in the field of work and of employment, which were presented and discussed at a panel discussion on the protection of women from gender based on discrimination and violations of rights in the field of work and employment, about which more information given below in the report.

Also, Dr. Sanja Čopić and Jasmina Nikolić reviewed the study Gender Discrimination in areas of work and employment in Serbia, Kvinna till Kvinna.

The project was implemented in the period from February 3, 2020. until February 2, 2021. with an extension until May 2, 2021. U this activity included: Jasmina Nikolić, Dr. Sanja Čopić, Mirjana Tripković, Dr Mirjana Dokmanović and Mina Mijailović.

VDS research group on femicide and its work within the European Observatory for Femicide

The European Observatory for Femicide is one of the most important results of the Femicide project throughout Europe (implemented within the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) program - 2013-2017), in which Serbia participated (the project's management board included: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, dr Sanja Čopić, and Msc. Ljiljana Stevković). The European Observatory for Femicide (EOF) was established in 2018. EOF's mission is to prevent femicide through data collection, data visibility, awareness raising, and to: create a unique European data collection system that will provide measurement and comparison of femicide rates throughout Europe; raise public and expert awareness; analyze individual femicide cases throughout Europe to identify gaps in responses to violence against women. More about EOF can be found at <http://eof.cut.ac.cy/>.

EOF has four bodies: Coordinators who change every two years, a Council, National Research Groups, and two thematic groups (for quantitative and qualitative research). The role of research groups is to work together with EOF on data collection and analysis of femicide cases - data collection for a pilot study is underway. The research group for Serbia consists of VDS members: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, prof. dr Sanja Čopić, dr Vida Vilić, and Msc. Ljiljana Stevković. The research group for Serbia has been involved in EOF since the beginning.

During 2021, the research group for Serbia conducted the following activities:

- Continuation of data collection in the EOF case study pilot femicide during 2020, and in order to create a unique database of cases of femicide in Europe. The key sources of data are: police records and media texts, and additional sources of data: records of the prosecution, the social system protection, NGOs and others. Data are collected about the case, the victim, the perpetrator, theirs relationship, situational factors, the context of the murder (preceding violence), the system support, the outcome of the case. In Serbia, the key source of data were

media articles about murders of women in the context of partner violence. A database of media texts was used about the femicide of the Autonomous Women's Center, as well as additional texts printed and electronic media. The database for 2020 has been completed and submitted EOF coordinators.

- Dr. Sanja Čopić presented the EOF and the research group for Serbia and its activities at round table on femicide organized by the Women Against Violence Network, which is organized on May 18, 2021 in the Media Center on the occasion of the day of remembrance of the murdered women victims of violence.

The following are directly involved in this activity: prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Dr. Sanja Čopić, Dr. Vida Vilic and MSc Ljiljana Stevković.

DA LI ZNAŠ ŠTA JE FEMICID?



Towards a fair redistribution of unpaid care work in Serbia

Project Towards a fair redistribution of unpaid care work in Serbia implemented by Fenomena Association, in cooperation with the Center for the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles - Center E8. The project is supported by UN Women. Within the project, the Victimology Society of Serbia participated in the development of an advocacy plan for the redistribution of unpaid care work in to the local community. The goal of the project was to contribute to solving the redistribution problem unpaid care work. In the final phase of the project, which was realized in the period that included in this report, advocacy plans are presented.

The Victimological Society of Serbia presented an advocacy plan called "Reconciliation of family and professional obligations" at the final online conference, which was held on 26 January 2021. The advocacy plan developed by VDS is aimed at companies, employers and employees as a target group. The theme of advocacy was alignment family and professional obligations in such a way that both men and women are equally involved on the labor market, as well as around childcare and other unpaid care work. General goal of the advocacy plan is to raise employers' awareness of the impact and importance of work alignment and family obligations for the efficiency and quality of business. The specific objectives were related to: Developing a work

culture that is sensitive to the family demands of both mothers and fathers; Encouraging employees and employers to use parental leave by fathers; Eliminating the gender gap in earnings (because it is one of the reasons why employees become fathers rarely decide to use leave to care for a child); Implementation of certain measures (flexible working hours for parents with young children; part-time for both parents) in companies through pilot programs.

The activity was implemented from October 15, 2020 to January 20, 2021. In the implementation of this Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković were directly involved in the activities.

Advocacy for raising awareness about victims' rights and their position

Marking the European Victims' Day

On the occasion of February 22 - the European Day of Victims, VDS representatives held lectures at Belgrade faculties with the aim of sensitizing students to the needs of the victims, informing about VDS info and support services for victims and other services for victims and promotion of volunteering work in them. In addition, the project Sexual violence at universities was presented Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms to support victims (about what more information is available below in the report) and the announced research on sexual violence against students studying at faculties in Serbia. Lectures are organized as follows faculties:

- Jasmina Nikolić held a lecture to students at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade and Faculty of Law and Business Studies "Dr. Lazar Vrkatić" of Union University in Novi Sad,
- Dr. Sanja Čopić held a lecture to students at the Faculty of Law of the University Union and Criminal Police University;
- Mirjana Tripković held a lecture to students at the Faculty of Political Sciences University of Belgrade, Union of Social Work Students;
- Marijana Nedić held a lecture to students at the Faculty of Media and Communication In Belgrade. The lecture was organized by the psychology student club "Action Plan";
- Milica Luković Radaković gave a lecture to students at the Faculty of Special Education education and rehabilitation of the University of Belgrade.

Online conference of the Victimological Society of Serbia "Victims and the contemporary social context: Challenges and perspectives"



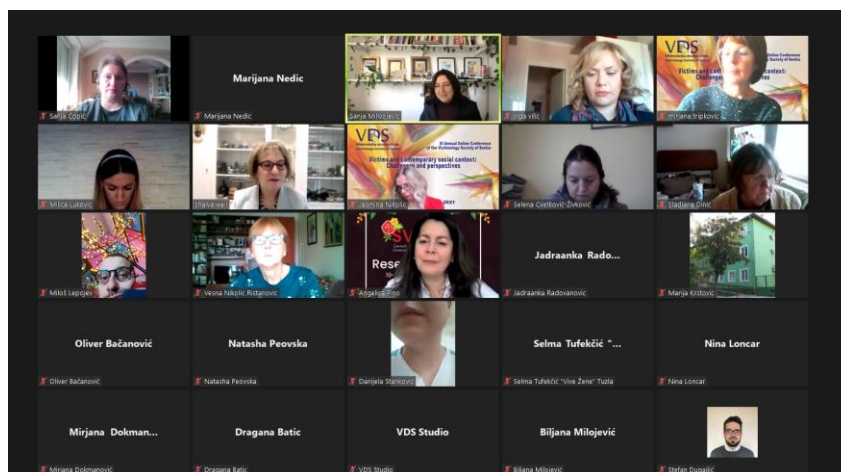
Annual conference of the Society of Victimology of Serbia, "Victims and contemporary social context: Challenges and perspectives" was held on the 25th November 26, 2021 in Belgrade. The conference gathered over 70 participants and participants from Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, Israel, Canada, South Africa and India. Due to epidemiological situations caused by the COVID-19 virus in necessity of observing preventive measures, the conference was held online, via ZOOM platforms.

The aim of the conference was to enable the exchange of experiences and knowledge and to point out the challenges, but and on the directions of further work and to point out the challenges, but also the directions of further work and efforts related to the status of crime victims in the modern social context and the development of victimology. Special attention was paid to the consideration of the concept of justice for victims and what justice for victims means in the contemporary social context, and has it become synonymous with stricter punishment, repression and revenge. It pointed to the elderly persons as victims of discrimination and violence, with a special focus on the risk of femicide when they are in to the issue of older women, then to current problems in protecting children from

abuse and neglect and on who are the victims of corruption and organized crime and how to protect them from victimization. The issues of victimization and protection of victims were analyzed in the context of new ones digital technologies, with a special focus on fraud, identity theft, peer violence and similar, but the possibilities of modern digital technologies in providing support were also discussed victims. In addition, attention was focused on ethical and practical issues related to research on violence against women in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the challenges they face researchers face, as well as lessons learned that can serve for some future research different forms of victimization. With all of the above, the results were presented during the conference recent research related to partnership, gender-based, sexual and family violence. The potentials and possibilities of applying affirmative research in victim support programs, and the importance of first aid and psychosocial support was pointed out in crisis and emergency situations and accidents.

The official opening of the conference was marked by a welcome speech by the president of VDS, prof. Dr. Slobodan Savić and the director of VDS, Jasmine Nikolić, and presenting the winner annual award of the Victimology Society of Serbia, Jadranka Radovanović.

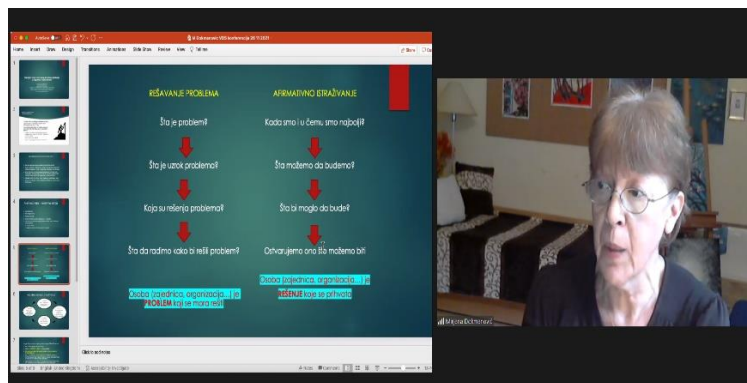
The work at the conference took place through the following sessions: Victims and challenges of contemporary research social context; Victims and the Covid-19 pandemic; Victims and responses to victimization in contemporary society; Problems of victim protection and innovative responses to victimization; Different categories of victims; Different forms of victimization.



At the online conference, presentations were made by:

- Dr Sanja Miličević, La Trobe University of Melbourne, Australia, Border Criminologies, Oxford University, UK
- Angelica Pino, Elizabeth Dartnall, Anik Gevers, Sexual Violence Research Initiative, South Africa
- Prof. dr Shalva Weil, Seymour Fox School of Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel:
- Prof. dr Oliver Bačanović, Faculty of Security - Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" 'Bitola, Northern Macedonia, prof. dr Natasa Peovska, Faculty of Security - Skopje University "St. Kliment Ohridski" 'Bitola, Northern Macedonia
- Prof. dr Dragana Batić, Faculty of Security - Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" 'Bitola, Northern Macedonia, Natka Pacoska, Clinical Psychologist, Northern Macedonia:
- Dr Vida Vilić, Clinic of Dentistry Niš, Serbia
- Selma Tufekčić MA, UG "Vive Žene" Tuzla

- Prof. dr Ezzat A. Fattah, Founder and Professor Emeritus, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University, Canada whose work was read by prof. Dr. Vesna Nikolić Ristanović
- Dr Uglješa Zvekić, Ambassador, Head of the Office of the European Public Law Organization at the UN, Advisor in the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (Geneva / Vienna), Prof. Dr. Nando Dalla Chiesa, University of Milan, Italy
- Dr Mirjana Dokmanović, Institute of Social Sciences and Victimology Society of Serbia
- Prof. dr Slobodan Savić, Institute of Forensic Medicine "Milovan Milovanović", Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Serbia
- Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Victimology Society of Serbia and the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Dr Sanja Ćopić, Victimology Society of Serbia and Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, Milica Luković Radaković, Victimology Society of Serbia
- Prof. dr Irma Kovčo Vukadin, Department of Criminology, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Dr Zorica Mršević, Institute of Social Sciences Belgrade, Serbia
- Svetlana Janković, MA, Fund for Social and Democratic initiatives
- Prof. dr Ivana Kronja, Belgrade Academy of Business and Art's Applied Sc. Studies, Serbia
- Prof. dr Jasna Hrnčić, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade, Serbia, Nina Lončar, Senior home "Pljevlja", Pljevlja, Montenegro
- Filip Mirić, LL. D, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, Serbia, prof. dr Danica Vasiljević-Prodanović, Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade, Serbia



Members of the Program Committee of the Conference:

- Prof. dr Gorazd Meško, full professor, vice dean for research and head of the Institute for Criminal Justice and Security at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor (Slovenia)
- Prof. dr Oliver Bačanović, Faculty of Security - Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" 'Bitola, Northern Macedonia
- Academician prof. dr. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, full professor at the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Belgrade, member of the Board of Directors of the Victimology Society of Serbia, honorary member of the World Victimology Society and former president of the European Association for Criminology (Serbia)
- Prof. dr Irma Kovčo Vukadin, Department of Criminology, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Dr Sanja Milivojević, La Trobe University of Melbourne, Australia, Border Criminologies, Oxford University, UK

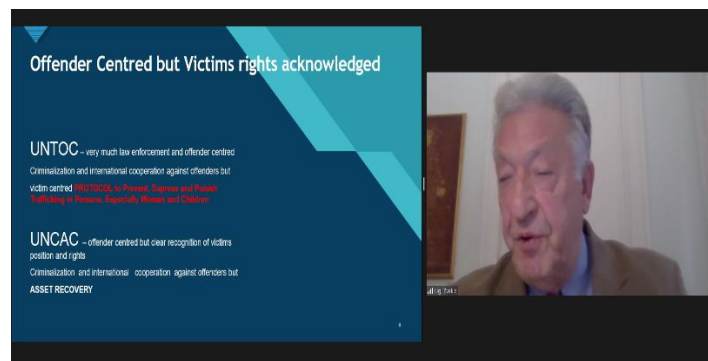
- Dr Sanja Čopić, senior research associate at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade and president of the Board of Directors of the Victimology Society of Serbia (Serbia)

Members of the Conference Organizing Committee:

- Jasmina Nikolić, director of the Victimology Society of Serbia
- Dr Sanja Čopić, senior research associate at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade and president of the Board of Directors of the Victimology Society of Serbia (Serbia)
- Milica Luković Radaković, assistant at the Victimology Society of Serbia



As in previous years, the VDS conference was a contribution to the 16 days campaign of activism against violence against women, which began on November 25, International Day fight against violence against women and ended on December 10 with the International Human Day rights.



By decision of the Chamber of Social Protection of the RS, the online conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia it is categorized as an international conference. In accordance with the Score List of requirements for acquiring points for renewing the license of professional workers in social protection, for active 20 points are earned for participating in an international conference, and 10 points for passive participation.

Funds for organizing the conference are provided from paid registration fees and funds Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

National mechanism for the prevention of torture

VDS is one of the six civil society organizations with which the Protector of Citizens 2020 concluded an agreement on cooperation in performing the duties of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture (NPM). The signed agreements regulate the cooperation that will take place The Protector of Citizens to achieve with the selected associations in the performance of the tasks of the NPM and on basis of the Decision of the Protector of Citizens from June 19, 2020 on the selection of associations with which The Protector of Citizens shall cooperate in the performance of NPM duties in accordance with Article 2a. paragraph 2. Law on Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, inhumane or degrading punishments and procedures.

Cooperation is carried out through the participation of representatives and permanent professional associates of the association in visits to places where persons deprived of liberty are or may be, preparation of reports or parts of the report on the visits, making recommendations for eliminating the identified ones deficiencies in the work of institutions where persons deprived of their liberty are or may be, giving expert findings and opinions on the state of health, especially the resulting physical injuries and suffered from psychological pain as a result of any form of abuse. Also, cooperation reflected in the preparation of reports or parts of thematic reports on the situation in the area of the position of the deprived persons of freedom, making analyzes and/or opinions on regulations or draft regulations governing them position, rights and obligations of persons deprived of liberty.

During the reporting period, one visit to the Penitentiary for Women was organized in Pozarevac. Jasmina Nikolić was visiting on behalf of VDS. In addition, at the invitation of NPM VDS is gave his comments and suggestions on the proposal of the Law on Amendments to the Law on minor perpetrators of criminal acts and criminal protection of minors.

The following persons were responsible for cooperation with NPM: Dr. Sanja Čopić, Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković.

Panel discussions on the protection of women from gender-based discrimination and rights violations in the area of work and employment

Within the project Recognize gender discrimination, recognize the violation of rights in the field of work and employment! React!, which was mentioned before, was organized in the reporting period final panel discussion on the protection of women from gender-based discrimination and rights violations in areas of work and employment.



The aim of the panel discussion was to bring together experts from different perspectives engaged in providing assistance and protection to victims of gender-based discrimination and rights violations in areas of work and employment and contribute to the establishment of dialogue, networking and better using existing resources to help and support victims at the local, regional and national level. During this last panel discussion, the main conclusions were presented and recommendations for improving the position and protection of women from gender-based discrimination and injury rights in the field of work and employment. Finally, this panel discussion also aimed to present a Guide for the protection of women against gender-based discrimination and rights violations in the area of work and employment. The panel discussion was held on April 15, 2021, online. It was followed by 31 participants via the ZOOM platform and another 10 people via the VDS FB account.

The following were directly involved in the realization of this activity: Jasmina Nikolić, Dr. Sanja Čopić, Dr Mirjana Dokmanović and Milica Luković Radaković

Power of Change - Power of Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Serbia



The project Power of Change - Power of Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Serbia was implemented within the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF). The project aimed to contribute to reducing harmful, gender-based stereotypes associated with discrimination and violence against women and girls by raising the level of knowledge and awareness among youth and influencing the change of negative attitudes and behaviors. The Victimology Society of Serbia was one of eight organizations that participated in the project. Activities were carried out in eight cities/municipalities in Serbia: Kraljevo, Novi Sad, Zaječar, Novi Beograd, Čelarevo, Aleksinac, Prijepolje, and Sombor. The project was implemented from June 10, 2020, to September 30, 2022. The main activity during the reporting period was the:

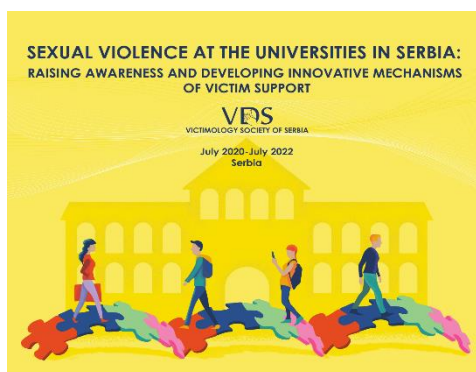
- Organization and realization of a series of eight in total workshops, lasting 150 minutes each, intended girls, according to the 'Power of Change' model. More about see that in the part of the report on educations.
- Supporting a group of young people in organizing local advocacy activities for prevention of gender-based violence: two participants of the "Power of Change" training organized by Victimological Society of Serbia attended the Summer Camp, during which it was agreed to join the Novi Sad group of women participants in organizing local advocacy groups activities. During the campaign 16 days of activism against violence against women, the girls who attended the Summer Camp designed and created announcements in the form of posters that shared on the social networks of the Victimology Society of Serbia (Facebook, Instagram).
- Sharing information about the 'Power of Change - Power of Prevention' campaign via social networks.



The project is being implemented in the period from June 10, 2020. until 30.9.2022. Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković and Marijana Nedic.

Research

Sexual violence at the universities in Serbia: Raising awareness about sexual violence and developing innovative mechanisms of victim support



Victimology Society of Serbia was one out of nine research institutions from around the world who won the SVRI (Sexual Violence Research Initiative) and World Bank Group Development Marketplace Award for Innovation in the Prevention and Response of Gender Based Violence 2020 (see: <https://www.svri.org/what-we-do/research-support/svri-grants/svri-grant-2020>). The award was given for the implementation of the project *Sexual violence at the universities in Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms of victim support*. More information

about the award and the other awarded institutions and organizations can be found at <https://www.svri.org/what-we-do/research-support/svri-grants/svri-grant-2020>.

The project *Sexual violence at the universities in Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms of victim support* aimed to raise awareness of sexual violence at universities in Serbia and to improve institutional responses by proposing innovative mechanisms for prevention and response to cases of sexual violence at universities/faculties in Serbia. The project consisted of four groups of activities: research on sexual violence at faculties in Serbia, development and piloting of the “first response” training on sexual violence at faculties, development of mechanisms for preventing sexual violence and supporting victims at faculties, and distribution/communication of project results.

During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out:

- Research on sexual violence against students at faculties in Serbia:
 - Desk analysis: continuation of work on collection, analysis and preparation of review results of previous research on scope, structure and characteristic sexual violence at colleges in the world and in Serbia; collecting examples of good practices related to training for "first response" to sexual violence on universities/faculties in other countries, as a basis for developing and piloting training for first response/first support in case of sexual violence on faculties, which will be implemented at six faculties during 2022.
 - Empirical research: 1) Preparatory activities for conducting empirical research: obtaining opinions and consent for the implementation of research from VDS Ethics Committee; establishment of cooperation with selected faculties in 4 cities in Serbia (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kragujevac); establishment of cooperation with contact persons from each of the 22 faculties where it was then conducted research, and informing students about research as part of lectures in as part of the commemoration of February 22 - the European Day of Victims, which is discussed in more detail either forward in the report; 2) Data collection, online, via Survey Monkey platforms; data entry, processing and analysis and research writing report, which,

along with the review of the results of previous research, will be published 2022 in the form of a book.

- Developing and piloting training for 'first response' to sexual violence at colleges:
 - Based on research findings and cooperation with contact persons in within the research part of the project, six faculties were selected where the pilot training for 'first response' to sexual violence at colleges and work on developing and improving mechanisms for the prevention of sexual violence and victim support; cooperation and contact with these faculties have been established persons; a training plan aimed at capacity building was created of employees and students at faculties for responding to sexual violence, which will be conducted in the form of 8 thematic workshops; defined criteria for selection of training participants from teaching and non-teaching staff and students with six faculties. The training will be conducted in the first half of 2022.
- Project/research results were disseminated through:
 - Media appearance of members of the research team, about which more information is given in the part of the report on the media appearance
 - Presentation of research findings at scientific conferences, forums and panels. See more about this in the section of the report on the participation of VDS members at scientific and professional gatherings
 - Presentation of the project to students as part of a lecture at the faculties commemoration of the European Day of Victims, which was discussed in more detail in the previous section part of the report; presentation of research findings to students of the Faculty of special education and rehabilitation of the University of Belgrade within lectures on the subject Victimology;
 - Work published in the scientific journal Temida: Ćopić, S., Luković Radaković, M. (2021) Sexual Violence Against College Students: A Review of Results of previous research, Temida, 24(3): pp. 279-302
 - A brochure for students on how to recognize sexual violence, which is made by the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad, available at

The project lasted from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022, and was funded by the World Bank. Following persons were involved in project activities: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, dr. Sanja Ćopić, Jasmina Nikolic, Milica Luković Radaković.

Illicit firearms trafficking and gun violence in Europe: In-depth analysis of Serbia

Project TARGET project - Illicit firearms trafficking and gun violence in Europe conducted by the Flemish Peace Institute (Belgium) and the Institute of Security and Global Affairs at Leiden University (Netherlands). It is a large international research project about gun violence in Europe and Illicit firearms trafficking. It consists of an in-depth analysis of gun violence and the impact of illegal weapons arms trade to the violence that is perpetrated in seven countries: Belgium, Estonia, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Spain and Sweden.

VDS conducted research aimed at determining the extent and nature of gun violence in Serbia and the characteristics of firearms used in cases of violence, identifying existing measures and practices to prevent violence through the use of firearms, combatting illicit arms trafficking, and limiting the impact of illicit arms trafficking on violence, as well as developing proposals for collecting and

recording data on the impact of illicit arms trafficking on gun violence to improve information collection on these issues.

Collaborators on the project are: Europol, Dutch National Police, UNDP-SEESAC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Monitoring Centre drugs and drug addiction (EMCDDA). The project is financed by the General Directorate for Migration and internal affairs at the European Commission within the Internal Security Fund – Police 2019. More information about the project can be found at <https://vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/en/target/>.

During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out:

- Desk analysis: data analysis and writing the first part of the research report
- Empirical research: data collection through interviews (SEESAC, UNODC, Customs Administration) and surveys (MUP RS); data analysis and writing of the second part research report (country report); finalization of research report according to comments by SEESAC and the project coordinator.
- Reading and commenting on the text of the comparative analysis of the situation in Europe in terms of violence committed by the use of firearms, with a focus on seven countries, including Serbia, where the research was conducted.
- Presentation of research findings conducted in Serbia: Stockholm Criminology Symposium, June 15 and 16, 2022 (online); lecture organized by Studio research group for gender equality and public policies of the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade, October 20, 2021 (online) and lecture to students of the Faculty of Special Education education and rehabilitation, in the subject of Criminology with a minor delinquency, February 19, 2021 (online).
- Participation of VDS researchers, Dr. Sanje Čopić and Dr. Mirjana Dokmanović online meeting of researchers on the Target project, 11.3.2021, as well as an online seminar of the project team on 27.9.2021.

The project lasted from September 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. Persons involved in the project activities: dr Sanja Čopić, dr Mirjana Dokmanović, and prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović.

Conducting research and related activities within the project "#SOSagainst Violence - Media campaign to reduce violence against women during and after the Covid-19 epidemic in Serbia"

Project "SOS against Violence - Media campaign to reduce violence against women during after the Covid-19 epidemic in Serbia", realized by the NGO Fenomena in partnership with the Agency UN for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Within this project, the Victimology Society of Serbia was hired to carry out research, which had for the goal is to find out about the response of the competent institutions and services for the suppression of violence in family in the Republic of Serbia during the Covid-19 epidemic and developing recommendations for improvement practical rights-based crisis response policies, needs and experience of victims.

During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out:

- Finalization of the analysis of existing literature, i.e. available data (desk analysis), with a focus on: a) normative framework relevant for protection from domestic violence and for crisis management (during and after the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 epidemic); b) existing research related to response and implementation of existing solutions in cases of domestic violence during the Covid-19 epidemic; c) data of state authorities, institutions and

organizations of civil society related to the response of state bodies, institutions and services in cases of domestic violence during the Covid-19 epidemic; and d) data on media coverage of cases of domestic violence, available services and response of competent authorities, institutions and services during the Covid-19 epidemic.

- Collection of data on the actions of competent authorities, institutions and services in cases of domestic violence during the Covid-19 epidemic, through research, using a group interviews and surveys. The goal of this part of the research was to obtain additional data about the actions of basic public prosecutor's offices, centers for social work, safe houses and civil society organization in cases of domestic violence during and after state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Data were collected using a survey from safe houses and civil society organizations, while for data collection from organized group interviews of basic public prosecutor's offices and centers for social work, which were held online through the ZOOM application. The data were analyzed and, with the results desk analysis, a research report was prepared, which is available at <http://www.vds.rs/File/SOSprotivNasiljaIstrazivanjeORaduInstitucijaTokomCovid19.pdf>
- Developing recommendations for improving the response to domestic violence, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, but also in other crisis situations, which are given in the last part of the research report
- A summary was prepared based on the findings of the research (<https://www.fenomena.org/sosprotivnasilja/postupanje-nadlenih-institucija-ipreporuke-za-unapreenje>) and a document with recommendations for improvement support and protection of victims (<https://www.fenomena.org/sosprotivnasilja/preporuke-zaunapreenje-podrke-i-zatite-rtava>).
- Dissemination of research findings and recommendations:
 - Final conference of the project #SOSagainstViolence, Association Fenomena, 10. November 2021 (online) - research findings and recommendations were presented by Milica Luković Radaković.
 - Round table "Trust in institutions" - Who should report violence to?, Provincial protector of citizens - ombudsman, Novi Sad, June 7, 2021 (findings of research and recommendations were presented by Jasmina Nikolić) and Sremska Mitrovica, June 21, 2021. (research findings and recommendations were presented by Dr. Sanja Čopić).
 - Interviews with Dr. Sanja Čopić, which are available at:
<https://www.fenomena.org/vesti/postupanje-nadlenih-institucija-i-slubizasuzbijanje-nasilja-u-porodici-tokom-epidemije-dr-sanja-opi-istraivaica-ipredsednica-upravnogodbora-viktimolokog-drutva-srbije>
<https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/12/take-five-it-is-crucialtostrengthen-the-capacities-of-institutions>

The activities were carried out from October 2020 to June 2021. In the realization of this activity directly involved were: dr Sanja Čopić, prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković, Marijana Nedić and Mirjana Tripković.

Evidence-based capacity building and support to the Groups for Coordination and Cooperation in response to domestic and other forms of gender-based violence

The project *Evidence-based capacity building and support to the Groups for Coordination and Cooperation in response to domestic and other forms of gender-based violence* was part of the program *Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing norms, Changing minds*, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the UN Women. The overall goal of the VDS project was to strengthen the capacities of the groups for coordination and cooperation in Serbia to effectively assess the needs of victims and develop individual safety plans for victims of domestic and other forms of gender-based violence defined by the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence. The project consisted of two main components. The first was a research aimed at getting to know the work of the groups for coordination and cooperation (GCC) and the needs of group members for capacity building and improved coordinated responses in cases of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. The findings of the research provided the basis for the second component of the project, which aimed at strengthening capacities of GCC to work with victims of gender-based violence, as well as mapping the needs of victims and developing individual protection and support plans which is realized in two ways: 1) By organizing two trainings for members group for coordination and cooperation: a) Training for working with victims of gender-based violence, which is accredited by the Republic Institute for Social Protection, and b) Needs mapping training victims, risk assessment and development of an individual support and protection plan; and 2) By providing support groups for coordination and cooperation when developing and making individual plans support and protection - through consultations, interactive online platforms for sharing experience and practices, and technical support.

The main activities carried out within the project during the reporting period were:

- Analysis of the situation and assessment of the needs the GCC:
 - Desk analysis: literature and statistical data relevant to the work of GKS were collected; systematization and analysis of data was carried out; the first part of the research report is written.
 - Empirical research: In order to prepare for empirical research two preparatory meetings were organized with representatives of basic public prosecutions, which were held on September 30 and October 5, 2021. There were a total of 16 people at the meetings representatives from 14 Republic Public Prosecutor's Office in Serbia; A research methodology was developed; in order to collect data (from the minutes of GKS meetings and individual victim support and protection plans) and implementation of other project activities cooperation with the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office was established; Through Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, the minutes of GCC meetings and/or individual meetings were collected support and protection plans for victims from selected places (a total of 20 GCC), for period from January 1 until June 30, 2021. years.
- Strengthening the capacity of GCC to work with victims of gender-based violence:
 - The project was presented, as well as the training program for working with gender victims based violence through three one-hour online info sessions, which are

organized for representatives of: centers for social work (October 14, 2021); of basic public prosecution offices (November 17, 2021) and RS MUP (December 22, 2021), On info sessions, there were a total of 50 participants from the above-mentioned states authorities, institutions and institutions, as well as three VDS representatives and one representative of UN Women.

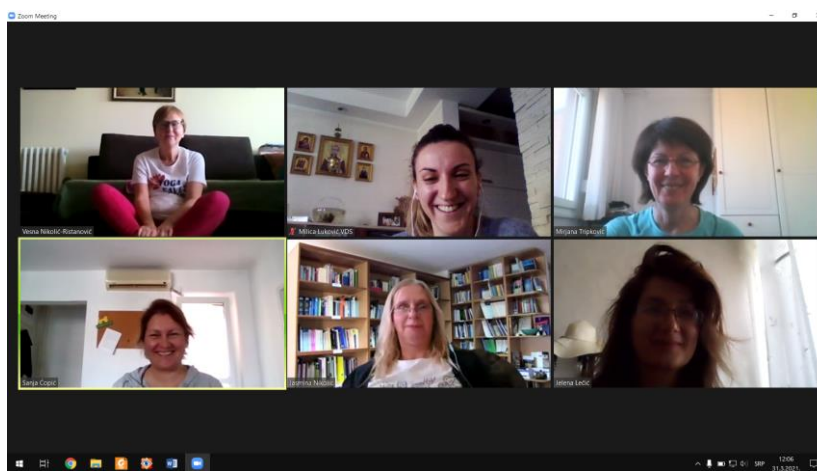
- The training program has been updated and adjusted for online training, as well as for trainees from public prosecution offices and Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RS;
- The Training Manual for working with victims of gender-based violence was updated;
- Training for working with victims of gender-based violence was conducted, for two groups of Center for Social Works representatives and one group of public prosecution offices representatives. More about that see in the part of the report on educations.
- GCC support in the development of individual support and protection plans for victims:
 - Cooperation was achieved with the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, which approved its initiative to award one tablet computer to selected public prosecutor's office, that are involved in project activities;
 - Tablet computers were purchased and distributed in order to provide technical support to GCC: 21 a tablet computer was assigned to a total of 18 OJTs in Serbia (out of a total of 22 Public Prosecutor's Office involved in project activities) namely: one Public Prosecutor's Office received 3 tablet computers, one received 2, and 16 received one tablet computer each, while 4 Public Prosecutor's Office expressed the opinion that they tablet devices are not required;
 - A special page was created on the VDS website called Forum for experts who work with victims, which is available at <http://vds.rs/phpbb/>, which will be activated and filled with relevant materials in the following period. The idea is that this site serves as a resource center and platform for exchange experiences, knowledge and examples of good practice in handling cases of violence in family and other forms of gender-based violence.
- Providing support to victims of family and other forms of gender-based violence, more of which can be seen in the part of the report that refers to the work of the VDS info i Service victim support

The project is implemented in the period from June 21, 2021 to November 21, 2022. In the implementation of project activities during the reporting period directly included: prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, dr Sanja Čopić, dr Mirjana Dokmanović, Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković, Mirjana Tripković and Marijana Nedić.

Education

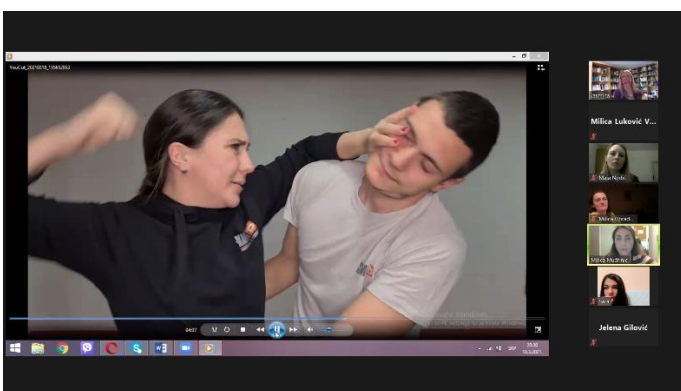
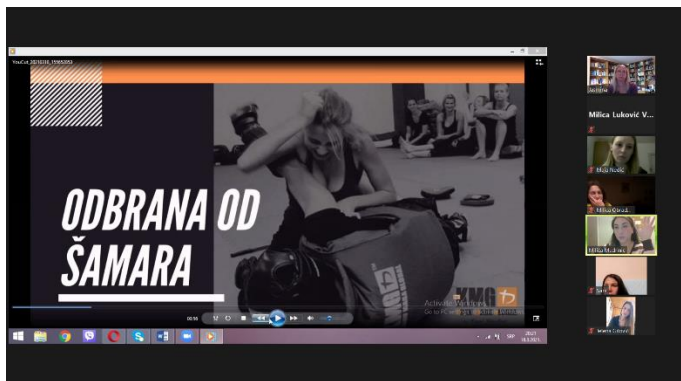
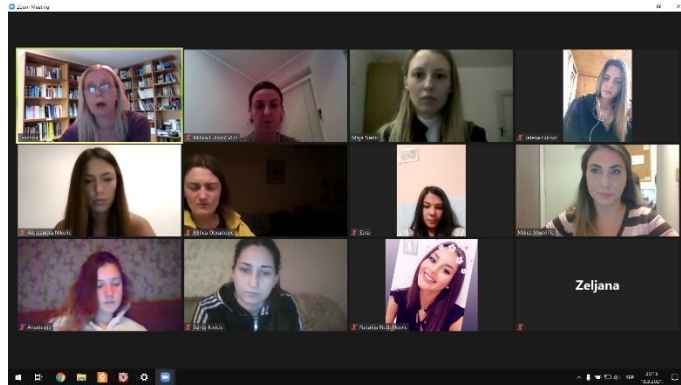
Training on breathing techniques, relaxation and focusing on the present moment

As part of the project named Decentralization to Empowerment of the Women Against Violence Network, improvement services and position of women who survived male violence, it was realized Training on techniques was implemented Breathing, relaxation and focusing on the present moment, for members of the Women against Violence Network , Belgrade region. The goals of the training were for the participants to learn to use breathing, relaxation and focusing techniques to the present moment in working with victims, as well as to train victims for independent use learned techniques. Also, one of the goals was to prevent burnout in the work of the participants training. The training, which was created and led by prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, was held online during March and April 2021.



Workshops for Girls “Power of Change”

As part of the previously mentioned Power of Change - Power of Gender-Based Prevention project of violence in Serbia, a series of a total of eight workshops was organized and implemented, lasting from 150 minutes each, intended for girls according to the 'Power of Change' model. The topics of the workshops were: The power of change, Gender-based violence, Self-esteem and self-care, No, you're female / No, that is for boys / Pink vs blue, Needs and expectations in a relationship, Emotions: anger, guilt, sadness and fear, assertiveness and endings and new beginnings. The aim of the workshops was to raise the level of knowledge about gender-based violence (GBV) and improving the skills of recognizing GBV, informing about relevant services to help victims of RBN, understanding the concept of self-esteem, self-confidence, boundaries and self-care, raising the level of knowledge about gender differences, gender roles, as well as gender stereotypes and discrimination, recognition of personal needs in family and partner relationships, understanding and acceptance of human feelings, sadness, fear and guilt and improvement of knowledge and skills of constructive management of these emotions, as well as methods of overcoming agitation and anxiety, improving coping skills shame and raising the level of knowledge about the importance of the danger of unresolved anger or anger expressed at in the wrong place, raising the level of knowledge on the subject of assertiveness and aggression, improvement the skill of assertive behavior and the mastery of martial arts. The workshops were attended by 13 girls. The workshops are organized online in the period February-March 2021. Workshops were designed and realized by Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković, Marijana Nedić and Milica Mudrinić.



Training for working with victims of gender-based violence

Training for working with victims of gender-based violence is accredited by the Republic Institute for social protection. During the year 2021, it was carried out within the framework of the Capacity Building project and support to groups for coordination and cooperation in response to domestic violence and other forms gender-based violence. During November and December 2021, two four-day events were held training for representatives of centers for social work and women's organizations of the civil sector, with a total of 43 participants (40 women and 3 men), while one four-day training organized for 20 representatives of basic public prosecution offices (16 women and 4 men). The goal training is to provide basic knowledge for working with victims in an appropriate manner, with special with an emphasis on victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking, as well as acquisition the necessary skills and knowledge that will enable the provision of appropriate assistance to potential and current victims of gender-based violence and victims in a broader social sense. Training course puts special emphasis on the views of experts in state institutions, institutions, independent bodies and civil society organizations in Serbia on gender equality and gender-based violence, as well as experiences and challenges in working with victims gender-based violence. The main topics covered during the training are: Defining and definition of basic terms; Scope, structure and characteristics of individual forms of RBN; Factors that contribute to the occurrence of RBN and risk situations; Victimization, victims' needs and significance appropriate support and assistance to victims, especially women and children; Legal protection of RBN victims; Stereotypes and prejudices related to RBN; System of protection, support and assistance to victims; Fiery weapons as a risk factor for domestic violence and a form of control of the victim by the abuser; Challenges in work and analysis of individual protection and support plans for victims. Lecturers at the conducted trainings were: dr Sanja Čopić, Jasmina Nikolić, Milica Luković Radaković and drn Mirjana Dokmanović, while the assistant was Tamara Đorđević.

Strengthening of institutional capacities to combat domestic violence

At the invitation of the Institute for European Affairs, within the framework of the project Institutional Strengthening capacity to combat domestic violence, which is implemented by the Institute for European Affairs a supported by the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement and The US Embassy in Belgrade, Jasmina Nikolić, participated in the realization of part of the training aimed at strengthening institutional capacities to combat domestic violence. Training course is organized for young lawyers, more precisely interns in courts and prosecutors who will work on cases of domestic violence in their further work. The theme workshop led by Jasmina Nikolić was Consequences and needs of victims. It's a workshop realized on December 9, 2021 in Kragujevac.

Victim support

VDS info and victim support service

The VDS info and victim support service is the first generic service for victims of crime, founded in 2003 within the Victimology Society of Serbia. The service is aimed at all victims of crime, both men and women, members of all ethnic groups, regardless of any personal features (LGBTI, sick, disabled persons, etc.). Assistance and support are provided to both direct and indirect victims (family members of direct victims and other individuals indirectly affected by criminal behavior). The target group also includes victims of crime who appear in court as witnesses or in some other role, as well as victims of violence who are in prison, former, current and future prisoners, related to their rights and victimization. The services provided to victims within the Service include the following:

- Emotional support;
- Information (on psychological reactions and recovery dynamics, practical information for re-establishing life trajectories after a traumatic event, information on victims' rights and ways in which they can exercise them, on the possibilities of using restorative approaches, especially mediation and other ways of peaceful problem solving, etc.);
- Referral to specialized (state and non-state) services and organizations or individuals in Belgrade and Serbia depending on specific needs;
- Support in the court, in contacts with state institutions, and in the process of mediation.

All forms of assistance and support for victims are free of charge. The basic principles of the Service's work, which are also the principles of work of all organizations of this type gathered around the Victim Support Europe, are trust, respect for the victim, their rights, needs and feelings, confidentiality of information and autonomy of the victim's will. Assistance and support are based on an empowering and supportive relationship towards victims, which can be significant for their recovery, but also for activating them in seeking solutions to the problems they face.

During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented:

- Providing support to victims - in 2021, the Service was contacted by 190 victims of different forms of victimization. A total of 281 contacts were made, which means that a certain number of victims contacted the Service more than once. Of the total number of victims, 152 were female and 38 were male. The most common forms of victimization for which victims approached the Service were: domestic violence and violence at work, and besides therefore, support was provided to persons due to dissatisfaction caused by the treatment institution or the impossibility of exercising rights within the framework of the employment relationship.
- Regular updating of the database of state institutions and institutions and organizations civil societies that provide assistance and support to victims and interactive maps of these service, which is available at <https://www.victimservices.eu>.
- In order to increase the visibility of the Service, on social networks Facebook and Instagram and on the VDS website, examples of addressing the Service, as well as others, are regularly posted materials intended for victims and potential victims.
- Throughout 2021, reports on the work of the VDS info and victim support service were posted on the VDS website, and disseminated through social media (Facebook and Instagram) every month.

Funds from paid membership fees in 2021 and donations from AstraZeneca representative office of Serbia are donated for humanitarian purposes, that is, they are aimed at aid Marina Minic, who is a victim of attempted femicide, for continued treatment.

Regarding support for victims, it is important to note that the Victimology Society of Serbia in 2021, participated in testing and promoting SOS (Sound of Soul) SOS Vojvodina mobile application for reporting violence against women. A list of women was made who agreed to be "silent ambassadors", in the sense that they are women who are influential enough and known in their local communities, as well as nationally and that they want to be included to further spread information about the application itself through their contacts. They were distributed to them instructions related to installing and using the SOS mobile application. VDS also ran the base data, which is located on a specially protected server, in which all reports of women are entered victims of violence and sent monthly reports to the Women's Support Center. Also, VDS in the frame this project also received a mobile phone with SOS mobile installed application.

Support for victims was provided within the project Recognize gender discrimination, recognize it violation of rights in the field of work and employment! React! where they worked on providing legal help women related to discrimination and violation of rights in the field of work and employment, as well as within the framework of the project Capacity building and support for coordination and cooperation groups in response to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, within which the emphasis was on providing support to victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. The work of the Service was also supported within the initiative "Isolated, not alone" which it finances Avon Foundation for Women. Funds from the Avon Foundation project were used for support organizations within the Network of Women Against Violence in Serbia, in order to satisfy their urgent needs to cover additional operating costs, costs for staff working on SOS telephone lines for victims of domestic violence, as well as for security costs necessary protective equipment (face masks and gloves) for direct support personnel women and work in the field. The project also included immediate financial assistance to the most vulnerable women victims of domestic violence - for their needs such as food and medicines. Finally, work on providing support to victims was also supported within the projects *Through decentralization to the strengthening of the Network of Women Against Violence, improvement of services and positions women who survived male violence, Formation of a national telephone SOS line for women with experience of gender-based violence that will work according to feminist principles and SOS Vojvodina.*

The working hours of the Service were from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



The following persons were involved in the work of the service during the reporting period: Jasmina Nikolić, Mirjana Tripković, Marijana Nedić, Milica Luković Radaković and Ljiljana Kos.

Victims support was provided within the projects *Evidence-based capacity building and support to the Groups for Coordination and Cooperation in response to domestic and other forms of gender-*

based violence (UN Women) and *Advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence, particularly in the family, workplace, and educational institutions* (Kvinna till Kvinna). The focus was on providing support for victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. Victim support activities were also supported through the projects *By decentralization to the Empowerment of the Women Against Violence Network, Improvement of Services and Position of Women who survived Male Violence; From a Victim to the Winner; Establishing the National Telephone SOS Line for Women Experiencing Gender-Based Violence, which will work according to feminist principles, and Women's NGOs - pioneers in defining tools for monitoring the implementation of GREVIO and CEDAW recommendations to Serbia for ending violence against women* (through the SOS - Sound of Soul application).

By decentralization to the empowerment of the Network of Women Against Violence and improving services and position of women who survived male violence



In 2021, the Victimology Society of Serbia continued to coordinate the Belgrade region of the Women Against Violence Network (WAVN) for the four year in a row, as well as the activities planned for the Belgrade region as part of the project *Establishing the National Telephone SOS Line for Women Experiencing Gender-Based Violence*, which will work according to feminist principles. The project aims to reduce violence against women and girls in Serbia by establishing support services, raising public awareness and education, monitoring and improving policies and public administration, and advocating for policies and laws. The specific objectives of the project are to increase the network's influence on the public, national, and local policies by participating in decision-making, accessing funds, and implementing activities; improving the position of WAVN members as service providers; and establishing a joint SOS line (national SOS phone) coordinated by the network as a leading service for women experiencing violence in Serbia.

VDS coordinates the Belgrade region, which consists of the following organizations: ASTRA, Atina, Autonomous women's center, Roma center for women and children Daje, ...Iz kruga-Belgrade and VDS. It's a project financed by the OAK Foundation. In the implementation of the project was directly involved Jasmina Nikolić and Milica Luković Radaković.

Institutionalization of quality services for support and integration of women who survived violence

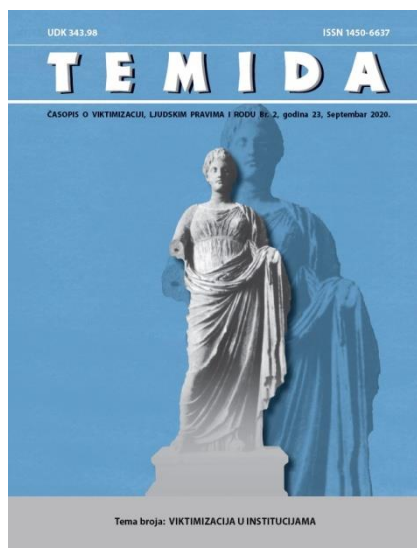
This project is a part of the program implemented by the Autonomous Women's Center entitled *Institutionalization of Quality Services for Support and Integration of Women who Survived Violence*, funded by the Austrian Development Agency through the Austrian Development Cooperation Program. The project implemented by the VDS is focused on advocating for the recognition and financing of general services for victims, *VDS info and victim support* at the local level. The *VDS info and victim support service* collaborates with the Center for Social Work of Novi

Beograd, which has included the service in its programs for handling victims of domestic violence and referring victims to continuous psychosocial and psychological support to the VDS, free of charge. Additionally, with the approval of the Ministry of the Interior, VDS collaborates with the Novi Beograd police station and its department in Bežanijska kosa, which regularly distributes informative materials and sporadically refers victims to the service. The project started on September 1, 2021 and will last 9 months.

Establishing the National Telephone SOS Line for Women Experiencing Gender-Based Violence, which will work according to feminist principles

Project *Establishing the National telephone SOS Line for Women experiencing Gender-Based Violence which will work according to feminist principles* is the continuation of the project *Through decentralization to the strengthening of the Network of Women Against Violence, improvement of services and positions women who survived male violence*. Therefore, this project also aims to reduce violence against women and girls in Serbia by establishing support services, raising public awareness and by educating, monitoring and improving policies and public administration and by advocating policies and of the law. The specific goals of the project are: to increase the influence of the Network on the public, national and local policies through participation in decision-making, access to funds and implementation of activities; better position of members of the Women Against Violence Network as service providers; establishment joint SOS line (national SOS phone) coordinated by the Network as a leading service intended for women with experience of violence in Serbia.

The project is implemented by the Network of Women Against Violence, and the activities of the Belgrade region are implemented and coordinated by the VDS. Financial support is provided by the Trag Foundation through the OAK Foundation.



In 1998, immediately after its establishment, Victimology Society of Serbia started the journal on victimisation, human rights and gender, which was named after the Greek goddess of justice Temida. First, inspection copy was published in 1997. *Temida* is the first and still the only journal dealing with issues of victimisation, human rights and gender in Serbia, but it has also been recognised as such in the region of the former Yugoslavia and even broader. *Temida* has been published regularly since 1998. From 1998 to 2017 it was published quarterly, while from 2017 it is published three times a year. *Temida* is an Open Access journal. *Temida* publishes articles in Serbian and English. Articles are subject to double-blind peer review.

According to the categorization of scientific journals by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation for the year 2022, the *Temida* journal is categorized as a national journal of international importance (M24).

Temida has been in the international DOI system since 2007. It has been indexed in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) since 2010, and in the EBSCO research database since 2013. In 2015 it was included in the new edition of the Web of Science – Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), a new edition of journals that extends the content of the Web of Science and makes it possible searching, finding and quotation of journals that are included in this edition. This allows publishers to see their citation rates, while the evaluation process and inclusion in other collections within Web of Science are ongoing.

During 2021, three issues of *Temida* were published:

- Issue 1: Covid-19: Patterns of victimization and victims' rights
- Issue 2: Challenges of victim support
- Issue 3: Sexual violence

During the reporting period, some of the key activities related to the *Temida* journal were:

- Regular communication among members of the Editorial Board.
- Regular meetings of the Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, and Journal Secretary.
- An online meeting of the members of the Editorial Board was held with the aim of informing members of the Editorial Board on the status of works for the period from the beginning of 2019 to October 2021 and discussions on the possibility of improving the visibility and citation of Themis. According to the number of works received in the mentioned period, it was established that there is the interest of authors from the region and the world to publish works in Themida. It is indicated on the importance of preserving the quality of journals and returning them to a higher category of scientific journals. In connection with that, the insufficient visibility and citation of Themis was pointed out, and it was pointed out the necessity of improvement in this area. Everything that was discussed at the meeting, constructive suggestions for improving the visibility and citation of the journal are listed.

- Regular promotion of *Temida* on social media and sending calls for papers to mailing lists of scientific institutions and universities in the country and abroad, as well as to prominent scientists and professionals dealing with victimological issues, human rights, and gender.
- The participation of the secretary of *Themida* magazine at the Web of Science Journal Evaluation webinar and Selection Process, organized by Clarivate and Kobson. It was shown on the webinar the process of evaluation and selection of journals within the Web of Science, which is special the focus was on impact criteria. There was talk of a re-evaluation process of the periodicals by which the periodicals are included in more significant collections, as well as the conditions which ESCI journals must satisfy in order to be included in this process. Around that, JCR, MJL and PUBLON are presented as relevant sources and tools for finding and awarding reviewers and increasing the visibility of the journals themselves. Also, speakers at to this webinar were: Mireia Guardingo (Head of Editorial Outreach), Dragan Marinković (editor of *Facta Universitatis-Series Mechanical Engineering*), Massimiliano Carloni (Country Account Manager), Enikő Tóth Szász (Regional Solutions Consultant), Tatjana Timotijević (Head of the Department for Scientific information in the National Library of Serbia) and Bojan Marinković (representative Belgrade offices of the company Clarivate).
- The *Temida* page on the VDS website was regularly updated, where all key information about the journal, its history, editorial policy, author guidelines, as well as full issues in PDF format can be found.
- The *Temida* page on Wikipedia was regularly updated.
- The evaluation process by Thomas Reuters for including *Temida* in the Web of Science (Social Sciences Citation Index) is still ongoing.
- During 2021, three legal entities and one individual subscribed to the journal.
- During 2021, the exchange of *Temida* journals with seven journals from the country and abroad continued.

VDS received financial support from the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia for publishing issues in 2021.



Collaboration with higher education institutions, associations and independent bodies, professional practice and international exchange programs

In 2021, an agreement on scientific, educational and professional cooperation was signed between Victimology Society of Serbia and. The goal is to establish scientific-educational and professional cooperation on the basis of long-term mutual cooperation interests, with the aim of improving and expanding the existing educational, scientific, research and professional activities of both institutions. The agreement was signed on July 1, 2021. They signed the agreement prof. dr Saša Mijalković on behalf of Criminal Police University in Belgrade and Jasmina Nikolić on behalf of VDS.



The Victimology Society of Serbia is a scientific unit of the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Belgrade (FASPER). During the 2021/2022 school years:

- Members of the VDS, dr Sanja Čopić, doc. dr Nikola Petrović, dr Mirjana Dokmanović and prof. dr Slobodan Savić, gave lectures at FASPER within the following courses: Criminology with Juvenile Delinquency, Victimology and Violence against Children.
- Under the subject of Victimology, a virtual visit to the Victimology Society of Serbia was organized, during which students were introduced to the organization and main activities of the VDS. The visit was organized on December 10, 2021.

On December 18, 2021, Jasmina Nikolić, director of VDS, gave a lecture on the master's studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade. The topic of the lecture was Development of services for victims in the world and in Serbia.

VDS hosted a service for victims of the White Circle Association of Croatia. They were visiting four representatives of this association. The visit took place in the premises of the VDS on September in 2021. On that occasion, they were introduced to the activities of VDS, with a special focus on exchange of experiences and knowledge related to providing support to crime victims.



Participation of VDS members in the work of international and domestic organizations and networks

Jasmina Nikolić, Director of the VDS, participated in the work of the Coordination Committee of the Network Women against Violence, as a member.

Dr. Sanja Čopić was engaged by UN Women in Serbia to prepare the Work Report of the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality for 2020. Also, as a member of the World Society of Victimology Communication Committee, dr Čopić attended this meeting of the committee on April 8, 2021, which was organized online.

Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, dr Sanja Čopić, dr Mirjana Dokmanović and Msc. Ljiljana Stevković are involved in the COST Action CA18121 - Cultures of Victimology: understanding processes of victimization across Europe, which aims to develop an innovative, functional, and comprehensive theoretical framework for cultural victimology. Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović is a member of the Management Committee. The action lasts for four years (2019-2023).

Individuals engaged in the implementation of the VDS activities in 2022

During the reporting period for the implementation of projects and ongoing activities at VDS, the following people were engaged:

- 2 full-time employees - Jasmina Nikolić, director of VDS and head of the VDS info and victim support service and Milica Luković Radaković, assistant
- 5 people were engaged under a copyright contract - Prof. Dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Prof. Dr Sanja Čopić, Dr Mirjana Dokmanović, Marijana Nedić and Mr Ljiljana Stevković.
- 1 accountant - Bernadica Ljubinković.
- 1 person who administers the VDS website - Tatjana Orelj.
- 1 volunteer - Ljiljana Kos

Participation of members and volunteers of the VDS in professional and scientific events and seminars in the country and abroad (on behalf of the VDS or with presentations of VDS activities and related victimological topics)

Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović:

- European Society of Criminology Conference Criminology in a time of pandemic, prezentovan rad "Sexual violence at universities: from survey to evidence – based policy change", 8-10 septembar 2021. (online)
- Round table organized by VDS entitled "Sexual violence at the universities in Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms of victim support - challenges and so far results" at the conference Days of Applied Psychology Psychology in the function of the well-being of the individual and society, Faculty of Philosophy Niš, 25-26. September 2021 (online)
- OSCE conference Victims of a criminal act and criminal legal instruments of protection (international legal standards, regional criminal legislation, implementation and measures improvement of protection), presented paper "Training of experts who come into contact with victims of criminal acts and its importance for the prevention of subsequent victimization", 22. October 2021 (online)
- XI Annual VDS Conference Victims and the Contemporary Social Context: Challenges and perspectives, presented the co-authored paper "Sexual violence against students at faculties in Serbia", 25-26. November 2021 (online)

Prof. dr Sanja Čopić:

- Capacity building workshops organized by the Kosovo Women's Fund: Communication and Visibility Strategy, February 26, 2021, Writing Public Policy Briefs, 6 April 2021 (online)
- Conference Femicide: the Forgotten Global Pandemic, Israel Observatory on Femicide March 8, 2021 (online)
- Online conference Three decades of crime and criminal justice statistics in Europe: Methods, trends and the impact on policy making, March 22, 2021.
- Meeting of the EU Delegation in Serbia with civil society organizations Gender country profile and Country level implementation plans, June 7, 2021 (online)
- Expert meeting on legal and institutional response to domestic violence misuse of firearms in Serbia, UNDP, Belgrade, June 9, 2021.
- The Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2021, The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå), 15-16. jun 2021. (online), presented co-authored work M. Dokmanović „Firearm homicides in the family context in Serbia“.
- Round table "Trust in institutions" - Who should report violence to?, Provincial Protector citizens - ombudsman, Sremska Mitrovica, June 21, 2021. Networking meeting, Kvinna till Kvinna, Silver Lake, 28-30. June 2021
- Regional coordination meeting, Kosovo Women Network, 16-17. July 2021 (on line)
- Consultative meeting with NGOs in the process of drafting the National Gender Strategy equality, 30 August 2021 (online)
- Data Equity, SVRI and We All Count workshop, September 14 and 17, 2021 (online)
- Round table organized by VDS entitled "Sexual violence at the universities in Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms of victim support challenges and so far results" at the conference Days of Applied Psychology Psychology in the function of the well-being of the individual and society, Faculty of Philosophy Niš, 25-26. September 2021 (online)

- Lecture with M. Dokmanović "The gender dimension of the misuse of firearms in family context in Serbia" organized by the Study Research Group for Gender equality and public policies of the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade, October 20 2021 (online).
- Panel Problems of harassment and abuse in educational practices within the Day prevention of violence and harassment, organized by the Student Parliament of the Faculty of Dramatic Arts and the Faculty of Music of the University of Arts in Belgrade, Belgrade, October 28, 2021, presented the findings of research on sexual violence at faculties in Serbia
- XI Annual VDS Conference Victims and the Contemporary Social Context: Challenges perspectives, presented the co-authored paper "Sexual violence against students at faculties in Serbia", 25-26. November 2021 (online)
- Round table Action plans for achieving gender equality: challenges and opportunities for universities, OSCE and University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, December 6, 2021. the findings of research on sexual violence at faculties in Serbia are presented.

Jasmina Nikolić

- Consultations on the United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development 2021- 2025 (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework), in to the organization of the Permanent Coordinator of the United Nations in Serbia and the Gender Group United Nations equality, February 11, 2021.
- Capacity building workshops organized by the Kosovo Women's Fund: Communication and Visibility Strategy, February 26, 2021, Develop a Specific Training Plan for Each Staff Member and Create an Organizational Salary Scale, March 9, 2021. Public Speaking, 23 March 2021, Writing Public Policy Briefs, 6 April 2021, Developing a Fundraising Plan, April 27, 2021 (online)
- Annual Conference Victim Support Europe Transforming victim support from dream to reality, May 2021 (online)
- Round table "Trust in institutions" - Who should report violence to?, Provincial Protector citizens - ombudsman, Novi Sad, June 7, 2021.
- Presentation of the research of the Belgrade region, July 2021.
- Consultations with Ms. Cela and the UN Women Serbia team on the topic of Strategic of the UN Women plan for the period 2022-2025, September 8, 2021.
- Storytelling and fundraising workshop, Trag Foundation, July 2021.
- Fifth Serbia Country Technical Working Group meeting for the Regional Project on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds", phase II, September 28, 2021.
- OSCE conference Victims of a criminal act and criminal legal instruments of protection (international legal standards, regional criminal legislation, implementation and measures of Protection Improvements), October 22, 2021 (online)
- Round table organized by VDS entitled "Sexual violence at the universities in Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms of victim support - challenges and so far results" at the conference Days of Applied Psychology Psychology in the function of the well-being of the individual and society, Faculty of Philosophy Niš, 25-26. September 2021 (online)

Milica Luković Radaković

- Capacity building workshops organized by the Kosovo Women's Fund Undertake Advocacy and Develop Advocacy Strategy, 16 February 2021, Project Proposals Writing, February 23, 2021, Communication and Visibility Strategy, March 2, 2021, Digital Security, April 13, 2021 (online)
- Digital conference "Gender responsible management - Redistribution of the unpaid of work", UN Women, 24 February 2021 (online)
- Panel discussion, Presentation of the results of the research conducted within the project "Improving institutional practices in preventing discrimination against women in the market work in Serbia", A 11 - Initiative for economic and social rights, April 1, 2021. (on line)
- Training (De)construction of narratives: tools for creating a successful campaign, Association woman Peščanik, Belgrade, 23-24. October 2021.
- Final conference of the project #SOSagainstViolence, Association Fenomena, 10. November 2021 (online)
- XI annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia Victims and contemporary social context: Challenges and perspectives, 25-26. November 2021 (online)
- Third Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships, UN Women Europe and Central Regional Office, December 1, 2021. (online)

Mirjana Tripković

- Seminar for improving the knowledge and skills of specialized women's NGOs for management mobile application for reporting violence in Serbia, Belgrade, 16-17. September 2021
- Professional meeting on the topic - Entrusting children and determining the child's personal relationships with a parent who is not trusted - in the context of violence in the intimate relationship of parents/violence in to the family, organized by Autonomous Womens Center, December 8, 2021 (online)
- Third Regional Forum on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships, UN Women Europe and Central Regional Office, December 1, 2021. (online)

Marijana Nedić

- Webinar „Ending trafficking and violence against girls and women in the context of global migrations“, June 10, 2021.
- Webinar: Presentation of the report Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on implementation of the NAP for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council in the Republic of Serbia, on at the local level, June 22, 2021.

Appearances of VDS members in media

Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović

- Al Jazeera, Topic: Sexual violence at universities in Serbia, 19.01.2021.

Dr Sanja Čopić

- Al Jazeera, Topic: Sexual Violence, 19.01.2021.
- TV RTS1, Morning program, Topic: Femicide, 18.06.2021.
- RTV Vojvodina, Dnevnik I, Topic: Protection of victims of violence, 22.11.2021.
- Portal Danas, Topic: Women victims of violence, 23.11.2021.
- Al Jazeera, Topic: Violence against women, 27.12.2021.

Jasmina Nikolić

- TV Kurir, Topic: The verdict on the Malčan barber, 06.01.2021.
- TV K1, Topic: Sexual violence, 20.01.2021.
- TV Nova S, Tema dana, Topic: Sexual violence, 24.01.2021.
- TV Pink, Nacionalni dnevnik, Topic: Sexual violence, 27.01.2021.
- TV Vesti, Topic: Sexual violence in the workplace, 22.02.2021.
- TV N1, Topic: Sexual violence in the workplace, 16.04.2021.
- TV Nova S, Među nama, Topic: Sexual violence, 30.06.2021.
- TV Nova S, Topic: Sexual violence, 14.07.2021.
- TV N1, Topic: Violence against women, 27.12.2021.

Donors

During the reporting period, the implementation of VDS projects and other activities was supported by:

- The Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia
- The Sexual Violence Research Initiative and the World Bank for Innovations in Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence
- The European Commission within the Internal Security Fund
- The OAK Foundation
- UN Women/European Commission
- Avon foundation
- Company AstraZeneca representative office Serbia

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Other forms of funding:

- Membership fees
- Subscription to the scientific journal Temida.

In Belgrade, February 2022.