
ANNUAL PLAN OF THE VICTIMOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA

FOR 2021



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The Victimology society of Serbia - VDS plans to further continue working on activities that the organization has been handling so far, as well as to start and initiate new activities in 2021. In this respect, planned activities are:

I General

1. Further develop the organizational and personnel structure of the VDS.
2. Develop new and amend the existing legal acts and strategic documents of the organization.
3. Continue to involve professionals and young people in the VDS membership and activities as well as develop stronger professional cooperation among VDS members.
4. Develop an institutional framework for consistent and sustainable education for working with victims and victimological research.
5. To keep up and further develop cooperation with state institutions, independent bodies and civil society organizations within the country, as well as to further develop international cooperation.
6. To develop cooperation with domestic and foreign faculties and other institutions and organizations for facilitating student practices in undergraduate and master studies, professional internships (for example, through the National Employment Service *Internship for acquiring special practical knowledge and skills*, through cooperation with the Center for career development of the University of Belgrade etc.). Furthermore, to facilitate research positions for doctoral students, as well as other research and practical training programs and find ways to engage them in the VDSs work, on a longer-term basis.
7. Promotion, expansion and finding new options for volunteer work.
8. Developing a communication strategy in order to define and improve communication and cooperation with institutions, organizations, media, scientific, professional and general public.
9. To regularly notify the VDS members via mailing list *VDS info*.
10. To regularly update the VDS web site, Facebook, Instagram.
11. To seek funds for projects and further develop a longer-term and more stable financing strategy.
12. Establish a fund for urgent victim support.

II Assistance and support to victims of crime

1. Work on further development of the victim support service *VDS info and victim support* through:
 - a. Providing information and other forms of assistance and support to victims of crime. Special focus will be on supporting women whose rights in the field of work and employment have been violated, including gender discrimination and sexual violence victims (activities continue to be funded under the project

Recognize Gender Discrimination, Recognize the Rights Violation in the Field of Labor and Employment! React!, and implemented as part of the Action: 'Improving women's labor rights', funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Swedish Agency for Cooperation and Development within the project *Sexual Violence at Serbian Universities: Raising Awareness and Developing Innovative Mechanisms of Victim Support*).

- b. Organizing training for a new group of volunteers and involving them to work in the *Support Service* (self-financing activity).
- c. Updating the database of state institutions and civil society organizations that provide assistance and support to victims and updating the interactive map of these services, which is available at <https://www.victimservices.eu> (funds will be requested).
- d. Monitoring and analyzing the work of the *Support Service* (self-financing activity).
- e. Promoting the work of the *Support Service* and increasing its visibility through informative materials, lectures, campaigns, talking with citizens etc.
- f. Strengthening the capacity of the *Support Service* through:
 - i. Continuing to cooperate with Welfare centers and the police in order to establish a system of referring victims for support (especially with the municipality New Belgrade at the local level, but also with other municipalities);
 - ii. Cooperation with Victim Support Europe;
 - iii. Cooperation with organizations and institutions that provide assistance and support to victims, especially victims of gender-based violence in Serbia (through the project of *Women Against Violence Network*);
 - iv. Ongoing education of persons involved in the work of the *Support Service*.

III Advocating for the implementation of existing legal solutions and further changes in law and practice, especially equating them with international and European standards

- 1. Advocating for improving the status of victims and establishing a national victim support system (through participation in the work of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) specifically, in working groups for monitoring negotiations related to Articles 23 *Justice and Fundamental Rights* and 24 *Justice, Freedom and Security*, etc.) (ongoing activities).
- 2. Trough continued efforts to improve the services and position of women survivors of male violence within the *Women Against Violence Network* and the project *Decentralization for Empowering the Network Women's against Violence, improving the services and position of women survivors of male violence*.
- 3. Advocating for the development of a system for post-penal reception, assistance and support to persons getting out of penitentiary institutions, through cooperation within the Network of Associations "Post-Penal Support Organizations Network of Serbia".
- 4. Continuing the cooperation with the Protector of Citizens for working on the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.

IV Advocating for raising public awareness about the status of victims and their rights

1. Marking the European Day of Victims, 22 February.
2. Marking the Day of Remembrance of the killed women victims of violence, May 18.
3. Marking 16 days of activism against violence against women.
4. Appearance of VDS members in the media in order to raise public awareness about victims, their needs, rights and problems.

V Research

1. Research on sexual violence against students at universities in Serbia (within the *project Sexual Violence at Universities in Serbia: Raising Awareness and Developing Innovative Mechanisms to Support Victims*).
2. Finishing the research started in 2020 within the project TARGET - Arms trade and its impact on gun violence in Europe.
3. Ongoing research on the actions of competent authorities, institutions and services in cases of domestic violence, during the Covid-19 epidemic, which began in 2020 within the project of the NGO Phenomena *#SOSagainstViolence - Media campaign for decreasing violence against women during and after the Covid-19 epidemic in Serbia*.
4. Participation in the preparations for the new round of the International Juvenile Delinquency Self-Reporting Questionnaire (ISR4).
5. Applying for projects that will include a research component.

VI Education

1. Organizing accredited training programs (specifically, specialist course on gender - based violence, moreover - training on identification, assistance and protection of male victims of trafficking, as well as training for working with victims of violence).
2. Holding training for girls "Power of change" in order to gain self-esteem and violence prevention skills (NGO Phenomena accredited training, conducted within the project The Power of Change-The Power of Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Serbia, financed by the United Nations Fund to Combat Violence against Women (UNTF).
3. Developing, accrediting and organizing other courses and trainings for working with victims, for convicted persons and for researchers (for example, training for professionals dealing with victims of domestic violence; training experts to work with migrants and other minorities groups, moreover, conducting a program to raise awareness of convicted persons about the impact of crime on victims and restorative justice) (seeking funds).
4. Developing and implementing training on 'first response' to sexual violence in universities for students and employees at six faculties of the University of Belgrade (within the project *Sexual violence at the universities in Serbia: Raising awareness and developing innovative mechanisms of victim support*).
5. Conducting a training named *Prevention of harassment in the workplace - manifestations, victim support, legislation and the basics of mediation*.
6. More activities related to promoting existing training programs.

VII Conferences, round tables and meetings

1. Organizing the annual VDS conference.

2. Organizing a round table in the aim of presenting the results of research within the framework project TARGET - Arms trade and its impact on gun violence in Europe.
 - Organizing a final panel discussion on the protection of women from gender - based discrimination and violations of labor and employment rights within the *Recognize Gender project discrimination, recognize the violation of rights in the field of labor and employment! React!*
3. Organizing other gatherings as a need arises.

VIII Publishing activity

1. Journal *Temida*
 - a. Improving the quality of the journal, especially in terms of progress through categorization from RS Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.
 - b. Continue being evaluated by Thomas Reuters on order to include *Temida* in appropriate collections of the Web of Science (Social Sciences Citation Index).
 - c. Inclusion in other relevant databases of scientific journals in order to increase visibility and citations.
 - d. Funding from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development RS is expected and as well as funding from subscriptions.
2. Preparation and printing research findings on sexual violence against students at faculties in Serbia (within the project *Sexual Violence at Universities in Serbia: Raising Awareness and Developing Innovative Victim Support Mechanisms*).
3. Publishing other materials if the need arises.