

Project: “Improvement of praxis in prevention, identification and elimination of domestic violence by professional specialisation”

The submitted project endeavours after significant change of praxis in the field of prevention, identification and elimination of domestic violence by the engaged professionals (especially police authorities, public prosecutors and courts, child protection authorities, social workers etc.) by creation of platform for specialisation within key professions involved in the process of solving domestic violence. Project already carried out in some of the localities of the Czech Republic as well as abroad show, that professional specialisation of institutions represents the way towards significant raise of reaction efficiency in cases of domestic violence.

Bearer of this project is the Association of Intervention Centres, which is association of organisations providing specialised social services for persons endangered by domestic violence in the territory whole Czech Republic. This unique position brings the following advantages for the project:

- Direct contact with victims of domestic violence which gives us the possibility to gather feedback regarding functionality of the system designed to help these victims and consequent transmission of this feedback to the institutions concerned as well as identification of real needs in the system of effective support of victims.
- Countrywide province of the impact through members of the Association active in all regions of the Czech Republic
- Strong link to institutions involved in domestic violence related issues (according to the § 60 par. 4 of the Act no. 108/2006 on Social services ensure intervention centres cooperation and mutual sharing of information with all institutions concerned)

The applicant intends to create by means of this project the conditions for implementation of countrywide system of specialisation within key institutions in view of prevention and elimination of domestic violence. The desired result is to establish persons primarily responsible for the topic given and consequently education of these specialists to better understanding and more effective solving of domestic violence cases within their competences by thorough approach while reducing secondary victimization at the same time.

During their work with victims of domestic violence workers of intervention centres often experience situations when obvious cases of domestic violence are not properly assessed and risk of danger for victims in danger is underestimated as well as for children living in the families where domestic violence takes place. At the same time it is frequently the opinion of representatives of institutions concerned denying existence of the mentioned deficiency. Solution to this problem is seen in creation of professional specialisation system, in order to ensure sufficient erudition and understanding of domestic violence phenomenon resulting into competent experts being able to use their existing legal powers efficiently for prevention and elimination of domestic violence.

Crucial point is anchoring of professional specialisation in the documents regulating internal organisational structure of competent authorities so entrusting of specialist has permanent systematic character, not only applied to individual worker, so the idea of specialisation is not abandoned with departure of the specialist to other position or retirement.

Starting point of this project are creation of a country-wide research, international survey and analysis pointing out the persisting deficiency of praxis. The research provides insight enables to map

the current situation from the point of view of the persons endangered by domestic violence, experts and general public. From these results we expect to gather feedback for the experts (confirmation or disapproval of the opinion on current situation regarding prevention and elimination of domestic violence), which will be groundwork for establishing of professional specialization followed by education of entrusted specialists.

The goals of the project are also supported by a massive campaign, purpose of which is to point out specific situation and needs of persons endangered (including various vulnerable groups).

It can be summarized, that the aim of this project is change of the system with countrywide impact resulting in permanent substantial improvement of the situation of the victims of domestic violence, when addressing institutions concerned and more effective usage of legal options provided by current legislation designed for protection against domestic violence in praxis.