

## **SVETLANA SOVILJ PRESENTATION**

Dear colleagues, on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro I would like to greet all participants of this meeting. I will briefly introduce you with the activities performed by our country in order to protect the rights of children from violence, abuse and neglect.

In order to improve practice and provide more quality services to children who are victims of violence, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in partnership with UNICEF and UNHCR in 2002 began the implementation of the Program protection of children's rights from violence, abuse and neglect. Multidisciplinary teams have been formed in eight of 10 centers for social work in Montenegro.

This model proved as very successful, and about that is the evaluation of the project made by UNICEF. It is complied with the practice of child protection within the framework of social and child protection in Montenegro.

This project has demonstrated that there is a need for the existence of teams. It shows a constant increase of number of reported cases.

By including professionals from other systems it increases the level of knowledge and professional skills as to the centers for social work, that and in other institutions of other systems.

Law on Protection against Domestic Violence prescribed the obligation to adopt National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence, which was adopted by the Government of Montenegro in June 2011. The Law as well as the National Strategy for protection against domestic violence give particular attention to protection of children against violence.

By accepting the obligations under international treaties and documents, and recognizing the significance of this problem, the Government of Montenegro has adopted a big number of normative acts regulating the area of domestic violence and giving particular attention to protection of children.

The Constitution of Montenegro stipulates that everyone has the right to equal protection of the rights and freedoms, and that the family shall enjoy special protection and children shall be guaranteed special protection from psychological, physical, economic and any other exploitation or abuse.

There are activities in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare around the development of the Rules governing the manner of implementing protective measures

mandatory psychosocial treatment of perpetrators of violence, as well as organizing training activities for experts who will conduct psychosocial treatment.

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, is also involved in drafting the Code of Conduct in domestic violence cases, to all relevant institutions to facilitate implementation of the Act, as well as National Strategy for protection against domestic violence.

Our goal is to establish in Montenegro sustainable and effective system of measures in reducing domestic violence, and to establish measures that will lead to better implementation of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, in order to systematically reduce the impact of domestic violence and ensure that victims receive adequate support with particular emphasis on protection of children.

Thank you for your attention.