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MODS is an association of children's associations that currently gathers 103 members from all over Serbia. We arose from the need for organizations working with children to gather around common goals and perform together.

Today , MODS is an independent platform that works to improve the cooperation of associations, harmonize common positions and increase their participation and the participation of children in creating public policies that will contribute to:

- reducing poverty, social exclusion and inequality;
- that every child lives in a safe family environment;
- that every child has an accessible and quality education;
- that every child has accessible and quality health care and environment;
- that every child be protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

MODS organizes consultations with members, organizations that conduct activities with children and for children and with their parents, on policy changes that can provide a better quality of life for every child. We try to find out the children's opinion and respect their views. We support the participation of our members in working groups that form state institutions in order to change public policies for children.

We have established 5 thematic groups in which the members of the MODS are involved and which serve us to agree on joint actions, exchange of information and learning: 1. Social inclusion and poverty reduction; 2. Protection of children from violence; 3. Children's participation; 4. Quality education and inclusion; 5. Early development and education of children.

MODS has a representative in the Council for the Rights of the Child of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Deputy Protector of Citizens for the Rights of the Child, signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Council for Monitoring the Recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; is a member of the Platform of Organizations for Monitoring the Recommendations of UN Human Rights Bodies; we are a member of international networks and alliances - Eurochild, ChildPact, the global network for ending sexual exploitation - ECPAT and regional networks in the Danube region - Danube Civil Society forum .



Industrija prava
za decu Srbije



THEY SAID ABOUT MODS

"The Network of Organizations for Children in Serbia is becoming richer year by year with new programs and projects that, with innovative ideas and approaches, strive to improve the position of children in Serbia and advocate the full realization of children's rights." Furthermore, MODS regularly informs its members about trends in the social inclusion of children, education, and social protection and tries to involve them in various activities to jointly contribute to achieving equality and fairness for every child. That's why MODS is an exceptional resource!"

Marija Nijemčević Popovski
SOS Children's Villages Serbia

Coordinator of the MODS thematic group
 "Protection of children from violence"



"MODS is based on values and principles that first imply inclusivity, in the sense that every child is equally valuable, but these principles also apply to the organizations that are members of the network. MODS is a meeting place, a place to provide and receive support, MODS is a strength that is the result of synergy and togetherness."

Dragana Vuckovic
 Center for Youth Integration
 ChildHub Serbia Coordinator



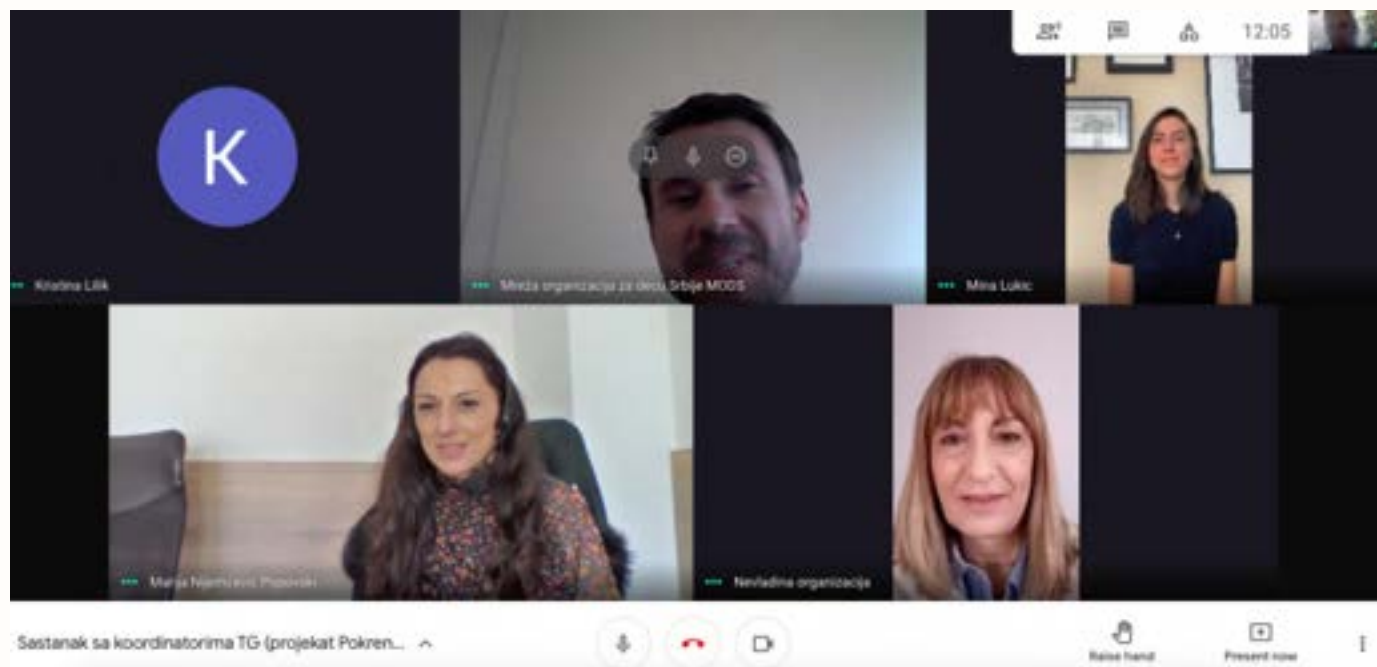


The announcement stated:

- It is necessary to introduce work standards and procedures for protecting children from violence and sexual exploitation as mandatory for all individuals, organizations, associations and institutions that work with children.
- We believe that all organizations (associations, clubs, various private schools) that work with children must have clear procedures for protecting children from violence and sexual exploitation;
- Children must be familiar with the procedures for protection against violence and sexual exploitation in an organization that works with children and young people;

The entire announcement is available at the link [here](#).

PROJEKAT „POKRENI SE”



In January 2021, the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia began the implementation of the "Pokreni se" project, which aims to involve children and young people from marginalized groups from 12 cities in Serbia in the formulation of policies to reduce inequality in society.

Through the "Pokreni se" project, children and young people from 12 cities in Serbia have the opportunity to express their views and raise issues common to their peers that affect their welfare.

Within the project, it is planned to include 240 children and young people aged 15 to 18 from marginalized groups (boys and girls of the Roma national minority, with developmental difficulties, without parental care, and at risk of poverty) in the development of proposals and recommendations for the improvement of policies for reducing inequality.



MODS ANNOUNCEMENT: "RIGHT TO LIVE IN A FAMILY"



On March 23, 2021, the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia published the statement "The right to family life"

You can view the entire announcement at the following link.



Regarding the actions of the Center for Social Work in Blace and the attempted abduction of children, the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia reminds that one of the fundamental rights of children is the right to live in a family. It is the responsibility of the state and local self-governments and centres for social work to support that right and, working in the child's best interest, to provide adequate and timely support to the family to prevent the separation of children from their families.

Separation from the family is highly traumatic for children and is a last resort and is applied if other possibilities and measures have previously been exhausted after visiting the family, providing support and taking concrete actions.

THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON FAMILY STABILITY



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SERBIA AND MODS - ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY

May 15, International Family Day, is an opportunity to remember the importance of the family as the foundation of society, to support the strengthening of families and thus contribute to the development of the communities in which we live.

SOS Children's Village Serbia and the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) focus their work and engagement on children and families from all over Serbia, with a strong desire to contribute to improving their position and improving the quality of their lives.

It was the time of the pandemic that led to an increased need for support for families and further highlighted the importance of social protection services, especially at the local level. As a result, programs of a preventive nature have become more important than ever, as well as the need to find a mechanism within the social protection system that would provide psycho-social, advisory and material support to families, all with the aim of preventing poverty, discrimination or displacement of children from the family.

More at the link [here](#).

THEMATIC SOCIAL DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



Saša Stefanović and Aleksandra Milutinović (Okular) participated in the thematic dialogue organized on June 10, 2021, on the initiative of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue.

In his presentation, Saša Stefanović pointed out that at the greatest risk of poverty and the most exposed to poverty are children and families with several children. Despite this, the total allocations for child allowance are decreasing. In addition, Saša Stefanović stated that the COVID-19 pandemic showed how children and users of social welfare institutions are vulnerable and that it is necessary to "completely, without exception, prohibit the placement of children under the age of three in institutions".



In her presentation, Aleksandra Milutinović pointed out that children in Serbia are not equal and that the pandemic has further deepened the gap between children. On that occasion, she pointed out the need to establish a Fund for Children, modelled after the EU Child Guarantee.

More at the link [here](#).

MODS AT THE CONSTITUTIVE SESSION OF THE CHILD RIGHTS COUNCIL



фото: Министарство за бринуо породичи и демографију

On July 21, 2021, the constitutive session of the Child right Council was held in the Palace of Serbia.

Members of the Council include Saša Stefanović, director of MODS, and Jasmina Miković, director of the Child Rights Center and president of MODS Board of Directors.

At the constitutive session, which was chaired by the Minister of Family Welfare and Demography Ratko Dmitrovic, new members of the Council were appointed. In addition, 26 members from various ministries, institutions and non-governmental organizations were appointed to the Child Rights Council, with a mandate until March 31, 2022.

Bearing in mind that Serbia still lacks essential strategic documents in the field of child rights, but also coordination of activities and measures in the area of protection and realization of child rights. Thus, MODS expects the Child Rights Council to actively work towards fulfilling these goals in the coming period.

More at the link [here](#).

FOUR MODS THEMATIC GROUPS WERE HELD IN 2021



On May 26, 2021, the TG "Social inclusion and poverty reduction" was held.

On June 16, 2021, the TG "Quality education and inclusion" was held.

On October 13, 2021, the TG "Protection of children from violence" was held.

On November 10, 2021, the TG "Children's participation" was held in Nis.

The meetings in Belgrade and Nis were an opportunity to discuss relevant topics in the field of child protection from violence, child participation, education and social protection, as well as current changes to relevant laws and strategic documents.

The meetings discussed the common approach and understanding of child participation, as well as the Guide to improving the organization's internal mechanisms for child safeguarding.

MODS ESTABLISHED A LAB FOR SOCIAL INNOVATIONS



#DCARELABS - A PLACE FOR IDEAS THAT SHOULD BENEFIT CHILDREN

In June 2021, the first workshops of the Social Laboratory for a better quality of life for families and children with developmental disabilities were organized by MODS and the Play Center. During 2021, 12 workshops were held with ten organizations.

The program is realized as part of the "D-Care Labs" project, which is implemented in 10 European countries as part of the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Program.

DCareLab is a support program for associations and social protection services providers from Serbia in developing new products and services, which will support the lives of children with developmental disabilities in the family from June 2021 to March 2022.



A MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF EQUALITY



On July 9, 2021, a meeting was held of representatives of organizations (MODS, NORBS, Hrabrisa and the Alliance of Patient Associations of Serbia) who jointly submitted the Initiative for the evaluation of the constitutionality and legality of the Law on Financial Support for Families with Children, which the Commissioner supported.

The reason for the meeting is the Constitutional Court's response to the submitted initiative and the Court's decision that Article 12, Paragraph 7 of the Law on financial support for families with children is not in accordance with the Constitution.

In the decision of the Constitutional Court, parents of children with developmental disabilities can use both rights simultaneously, the right to compensation for wages due to absence from work for the child's special care and the right to an allowance for the help and care of another person.

More at the link [here](#).

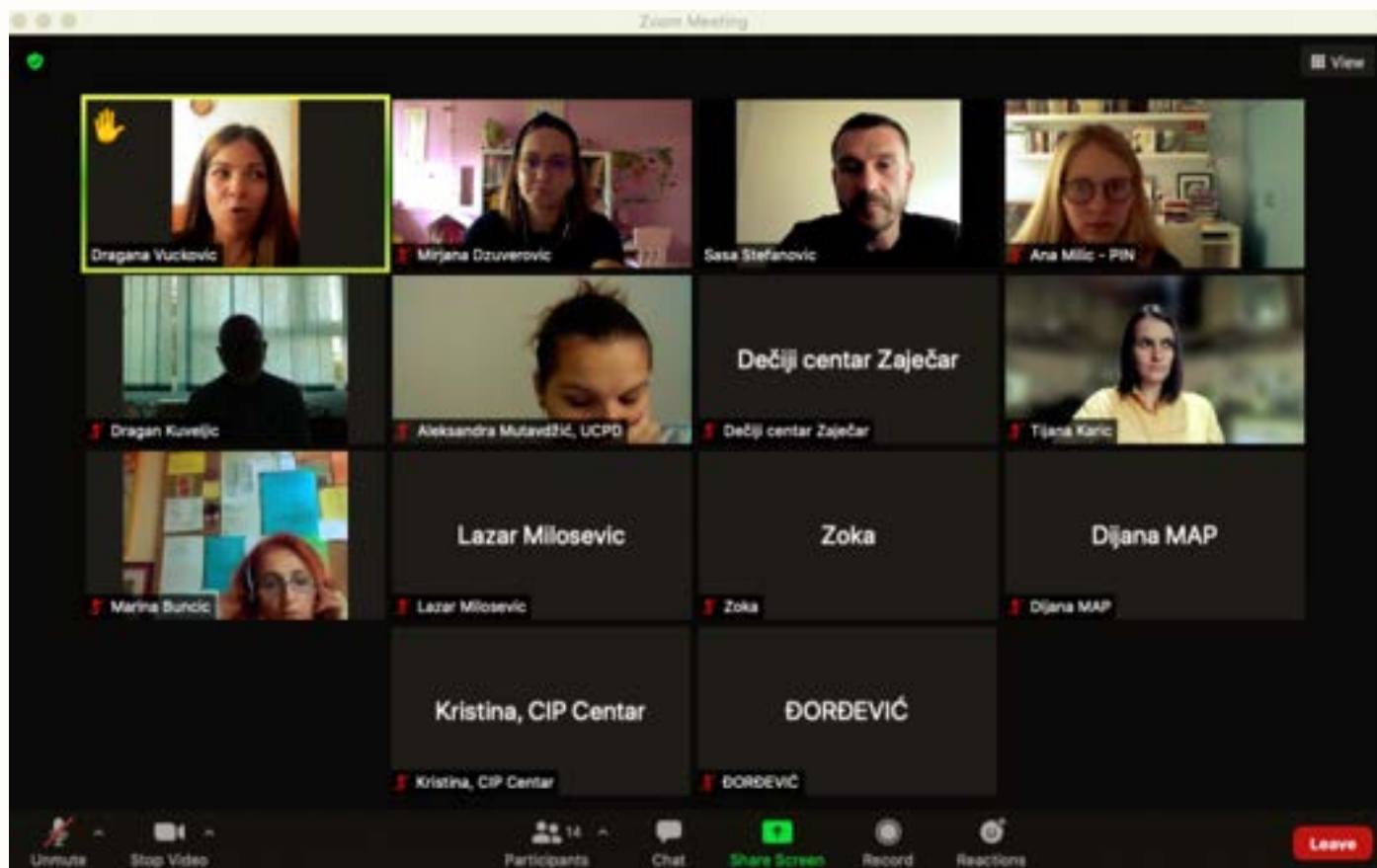
TRAINING FOR CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN ON REDUCING INEQUALITY



On September 29, 2021, a training session was held for consultation with children on the topic of reducing inequality as a preparation phase for the consultation process with children and young people in 12 cities in Serbia as part of the "Pokreni se" project. Consultant Tijana Karic conducted the training.

MODS held consultations with children from marginalized groups to develop proposals and recommendations for improving policies to reduce inequality. Consultations were carried out by: the Center for Youth Integration, SOS Children's Village Serbia, Society for the Development of Children and Youth - Open Club, EduLink, Sombor Educational Center - SEC, Association "Na Pola Puta", StartHub, Children's Center Zajecar, Okular, Center for Creative Development, Center for children and youth Vrnjacka Banja; Association for helping children with special needs "Nasi snovi". More at the link [here](#).

TRAINING - PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



"WHY GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE ARE SO IMPORTANT"

On September 2, 2021, an online meeting was held "Why guidelines for protecting children from violence are important."

At the meeting, MODS presented the activities on developing adapted tools for creating "Guidelines for the protection of children from violence" for MODS members.

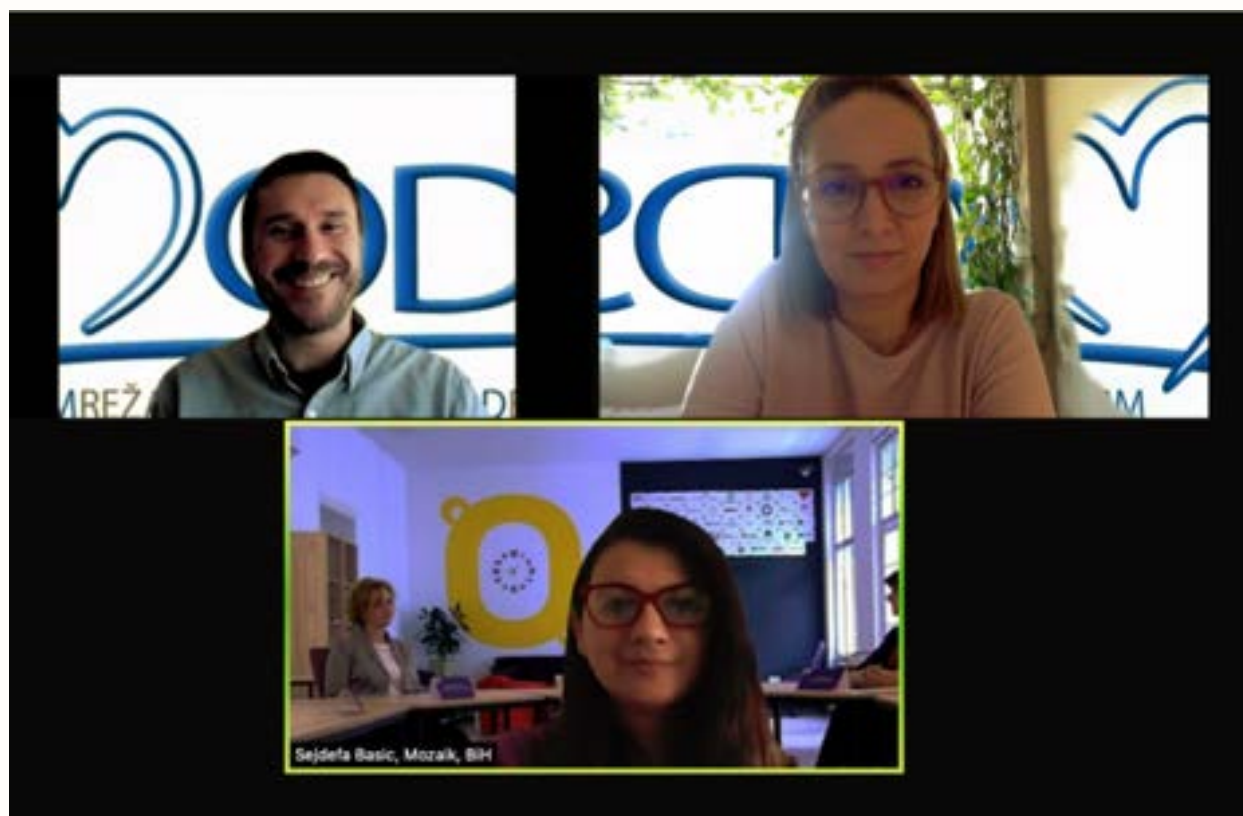
The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) has started designing a tool that will help MODS members develop their guidelines for protecting children from violence with the support of the Australian Embassy.

At the same time, MODS conducted research on the views of MODS members on the importance for organizations to have developed guidelines for protecting children from violence. The research was the first step in the development of model guidelines for organizations working with children and for children.

Consultant Tijana Karić presented the results of this research.

See more [here](#).

MODS AND MOZAIK FOUNDATION SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION



On October 28, 2021, the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia - MODS and the Mozaik Foundation signed a Memorandum of Cooperation guided by common visions and goals to help young people and young entrepreneurs to develop.

The memorandum sets the framework for launching joint initiatives and projects, future action in the field of social entrepreneurship and social innovation in the area of home care, and promotion of the D-care Lab regional laboratory activities on the LONAC platform.

MODS and the "Mozaik" Foundation established the cooperation thanks to the "D-Care Labs" project, which is implemented in 10 European countries within the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Program.

See more at the following [link](#).

CONSULTATIONS WITH CHILDREN IN 12 CITIES IN SERBIA



From September to December 2021, 12 MODS organizations from 12 cities in Serbia organized consultations with children and young people on inequality and implemented a common approach for children's participation.

The consultation's goal was to determine to what extent children in Serbia perceive inequality among children, what forms of inequality they notice and encounter, how they understand them, and what suggestions and recommendations they have for reducing inequality.

See more about the "Pokreni se" project [here](#).
See what children and young people think about inequality [here](#).

MODS AT THE SOCIAL DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Social dialogue as a forum for exchanging ideas and views was organized by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs on October 18, 2021.



"The concept of social entrepreneurship and examples of good practice in the Republic of Serbia" was the social dialogue topic in which MODS director Saša Stefanović partook.

Social dialogue was presented as a priority in the work of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The goal of this gathering was a joint contribution to finding good solutions, creating new and innovative opportunities for solving social problems, problems of individuals or groups of citizens, preventing the emergence and elimination of the consequences of social exclusion, strengthening social cohesion and solving other issues in local communities and society as a whole.

See more at the [link](#).

CONFERENCE "SAFETY AND SECURITY OF CHILDREN FIRST!"



SAFETY AND SECURITY OF CHILDREN FIRST!

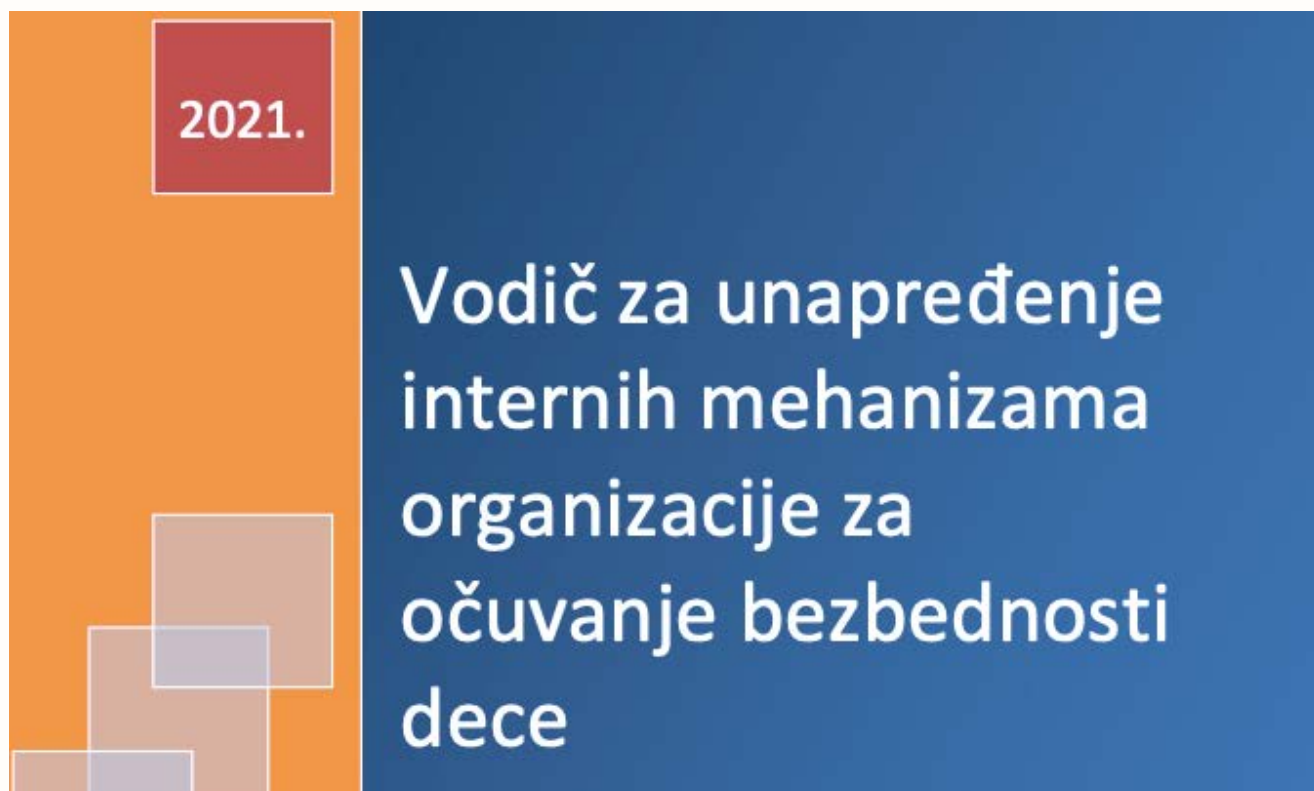
On November 18, 2021, just before the International Day Against Violence Against Children, a media conference was organized by the Embassy of Australia in Serbia and the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia - MODS.

At the conference, MODS presented the Guide for safeguarding children (A guide for improving the internal mechanisms of an organization for safeguarding children).

MODS prepared a Guide with the support of the Embassy of Australia to help organizations that work directly with children or sometimes come into contact with children to be and remain in a surrounding where every child is safe, secure and protected.

Find more information at the following [link](#).

GUIDE FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN



In order to help organizations that work directly with children or occasionally come into contact with children to be and remain a safe environment for every child, we have prepared a Guide for improving the organization's internal mechanisms for safeguarding children.

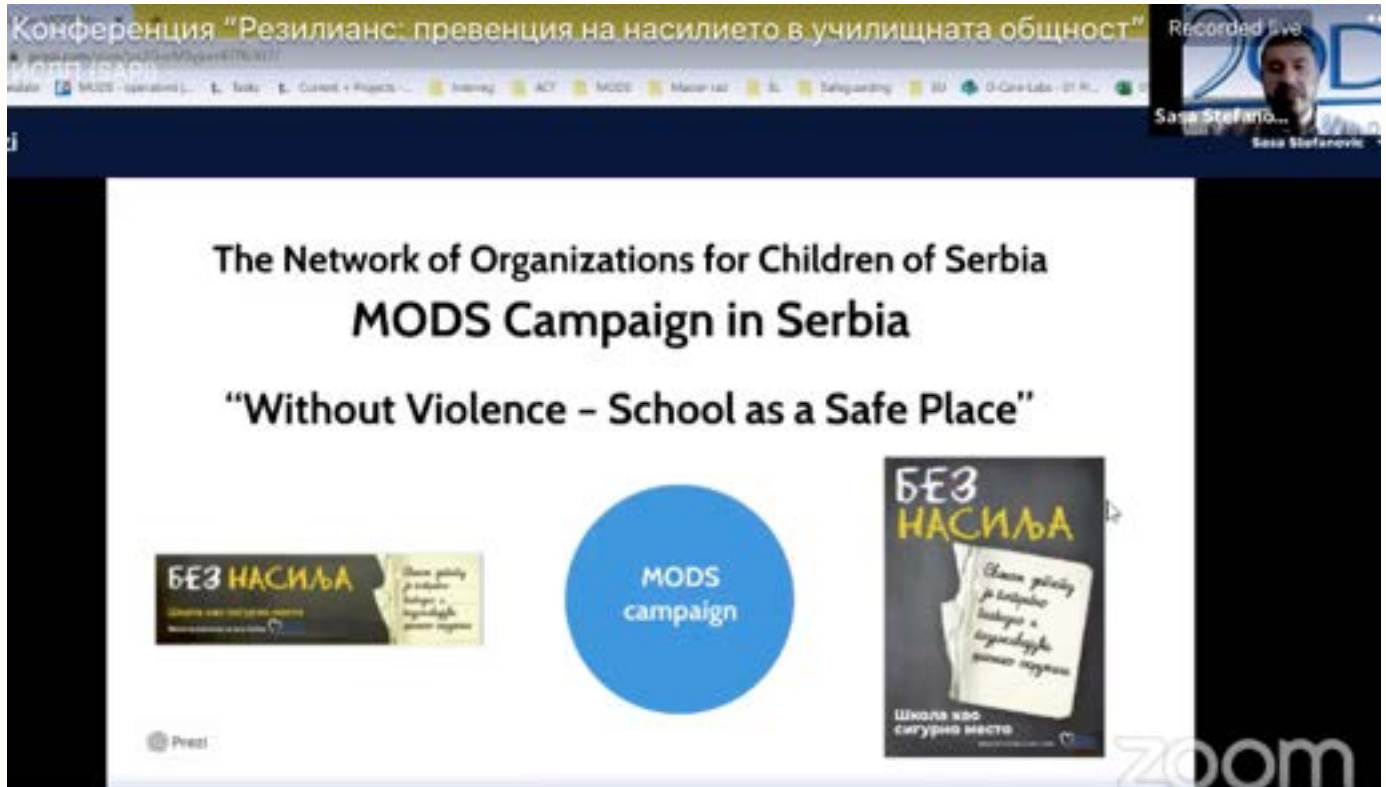
A Guide for improving the organization's internal mechanisms for safeguarding children can be found [here](#).

The guide contains a description of the process, explanations and tools to help organizations:

- to estimate how safe the organization and the activities you carry out are for the children you work with and to assess the risks to children that exist in the organization;
- to find out what the standards are for keeping children safe and check to what extent you meet them;
- to map the local context that is important for child protection;
- to create a plan for the improvement of internal mechanisms and procedures in the organization to preserve security;

Find more information at the following [link](#).

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE "RESILIENCE: PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY."



On November 25, 2021, the online conference "Resilience: Prevention of violence in the school community" was organized by ISDP (SAPI) from Bulgaria.

The conference is part of the project "Strengthening the child's strengths to prevent violence," which was implemented in 8 countries - Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Macedonia, Moldova, Albania, Latvia and Serbia.

Katarina Majkić (Play Center) and Saša Stefanović (MODS) participated in the conference "Resilience: Prevention of violence in the school community" organized by ISDP (SAPI) and presented the results of the project "Strengthening the child's strengths to prevent violence". You can watch the video at the following [link](#).

During the event, partners shared their experiences of participation and good practices and discussed how they could be more widely applied in the school community.



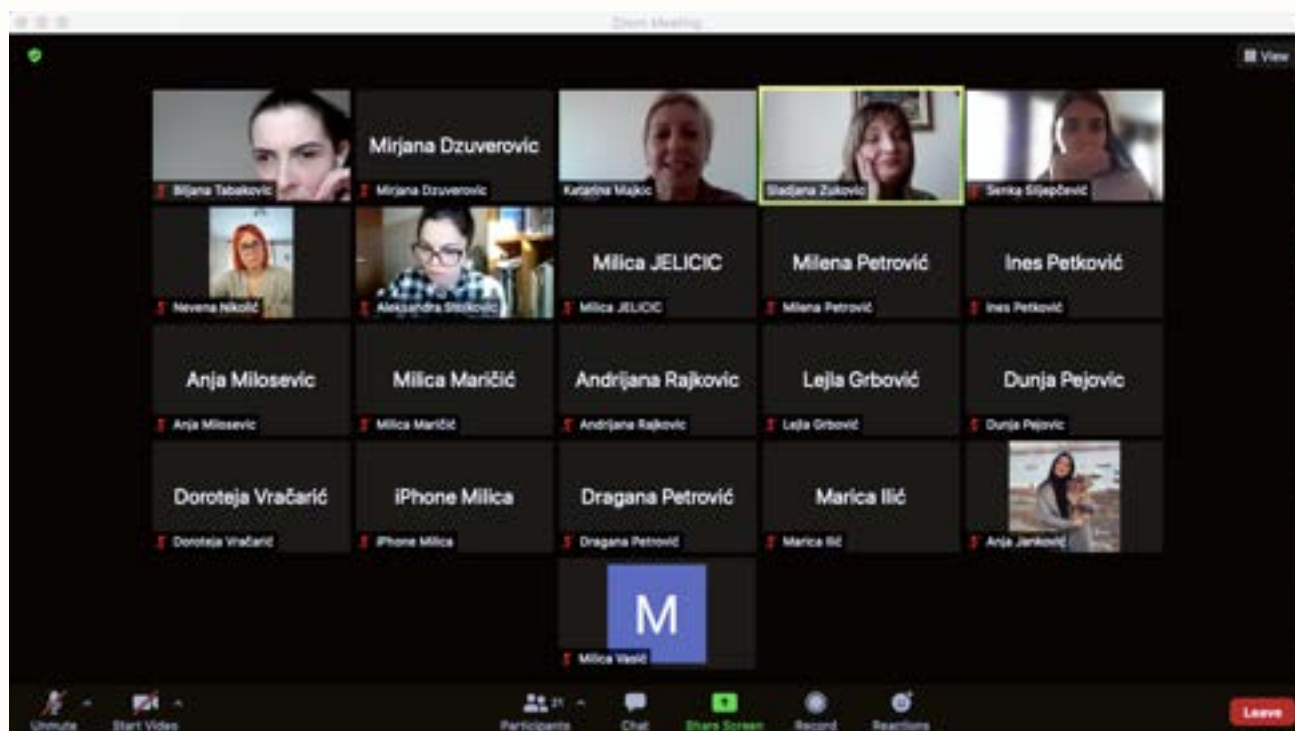
ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



On the occasion of World Children's Day on November 20, the Network of Children's Organizations of Serbia reminds that poverty and growing inequality have a harsh impact on children and their prospects for quality and dignified life. Poverty threatens the fundamental rights of children - the right to life, survival and development, the right to education, the right to participate and make decisions, and the right to play and affects the occurrence of child labour and discrimination. Poverty and inequality not only imply the current absence and disrespect for human rights but also reduce the chances for normal development of children and affect their entire future.

See the entire announcement at the [link](#).

TRAINING "STRENGTHENING THE CHILD'S STRENGTHS AND CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO SUPPORT A CHILD WITH AN EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY OR PEER VIOLENCE."



During November and December 2021, organized by MODS and the Play Center, training was held for pedagogy, psychology and social work students as part of the "Strengthening the child's strengths to prevent violence" project.

Katarina Majkić conducted the training from the Play Center.



The MODS implemented the project "Strengthening the child's strengths to prevent violence" in Serbia for the last five years in partnership with the Play Center. As part of the project, several training sessions were held for professionals who work with children and families based on the concept of resilience (Resilience approach).

The goal of education is to develop the competence of professionals, especially professionals from education, how recognize children's needs and adequately respond to them, especially when it comes to children with traumatic experiences. In addition, several workshops were held with students in the field of violence prevention and strengthening their emotional competencies.

MODS PRESENTED THE INITIATIVE "GUARANTEES FOR EVERY CHILD."



On December 17, 2021, a session of the Child Rights Council was held in the Palace of Serbia.

Find more information at the following [link](#).

Saša Stefanović, director of MODS, presented the MODS initiative "GUARANTEES FOR EVERY CHILD" at the session of the Child Rights Council.

5 REQUIREMENTS FOR EVERY CHILD

For every child to realize their full potential, the Government of the Republic of Serbia must guarantee every child:

1. **Decent and adequate living conditions;**
2. **Quality education;**
3. **Protection from all forms of violence and exploitation;**
4. **Quality and affordable health care and environment;**
5. **Full support to live and stay in a family that is a safe and supportive place.**



The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) and the Friends of Children of Serbia (PDS) express their protest and call for accountability regarding the media statement of Žarko Popović, former head of the department for blood crimes of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, from December 28, on Pink's News channel.

You can view the announcement in its entirety at the [link here](#).

MODS AND ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMME 2022-2024



The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia has prepared recommendations and comments on the Economic Reform Programme 2022-2024.

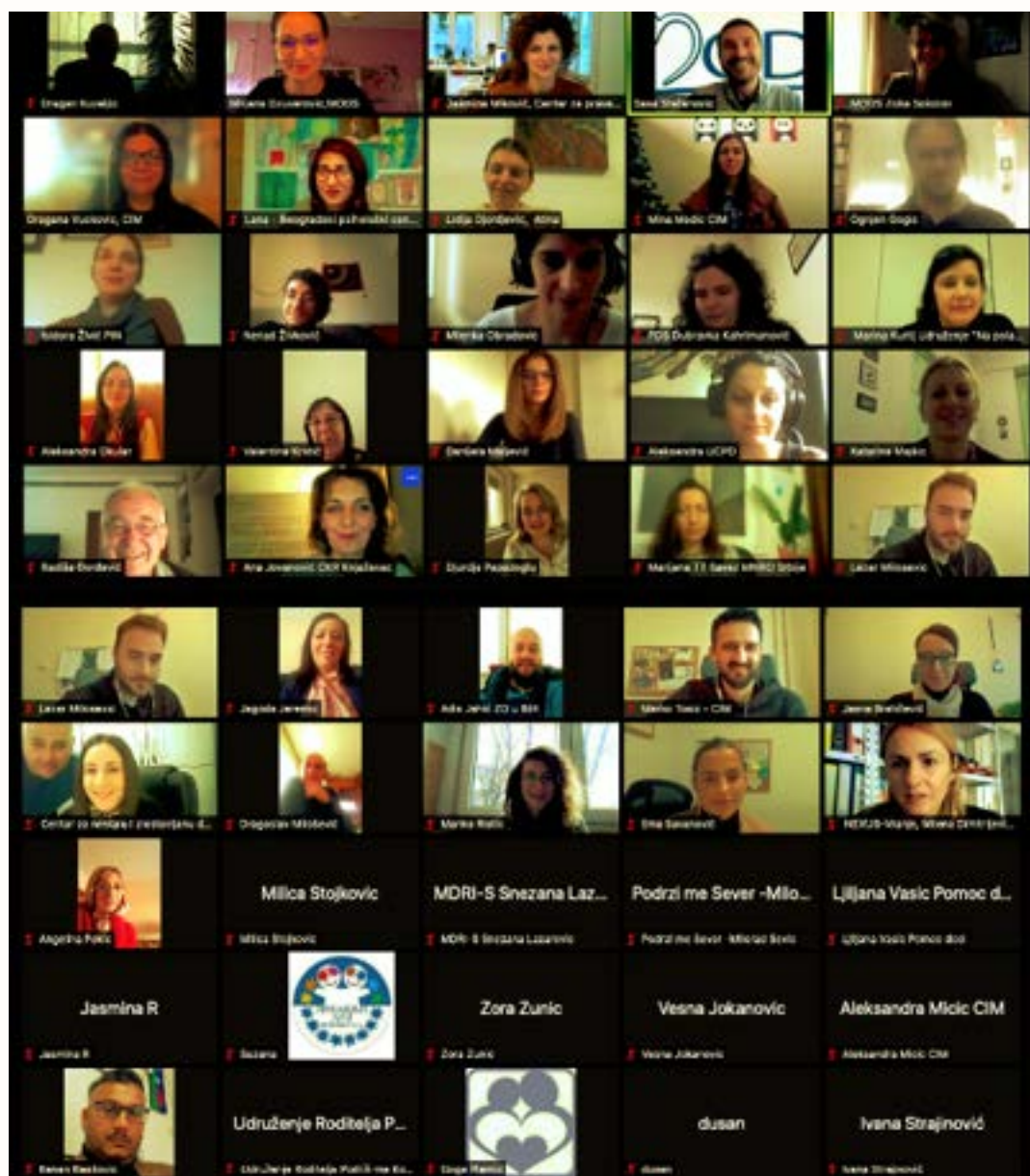
The Economic Reform Programme - ERP is the most important strategic document of the Republic of Serbia in the economic dialogue with the European Commission and the member states of the European Union.

MODS prepared proposals for ERP 2022-24 measures within the area of SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION.

Within the 5.2.12 area of the draft Economic Reform Programme 2022-2024, there is a lack of STRUCTURAL REFORM in the field of SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION. This gap is visible mainly in the lack of measures and activities related to increasing the coverage and adequacy of social benefits, as well as improving the quality of social protection. Thus, it is of the utmost importance to establish and expand the reform by introducing measures that will directly contribute to the improvement of the situation of the poorest and most vulnerable categories in the country. Recommendation no. 6 of The EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council states: "Reduce poverty by increasing the adequacy of benefits of the Financial Social Assistance (FSA) scheme for individuals and families with children" [1]

See the MODS proposals at the link [here](#).

MODS ASSEMBLY 2021



The regular annual Assembly of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) was held on December 9, 2021, in an online format. Dragana Vuckovic from the Center for Youth Integration chaired the session of the Assembly.

The assembly of MODS elected five new organizations as members of MODS: Belgrade Psychological Center; StartHub, Kosjeric; Parents Association "Support me", Kosovska Mitrovica; Union of MNRO of Vojvodina, Novi Sad; Ecological Discipline, Belgrade. The MODS Assembly elected a new member of the Supervisory Board, Natasa Raičević, executive director of the Center for Social Preventive Activities GRIG. MODS now has 107 organizations in its membership. See more at the [link](#).

