



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023.

Belgrade, 2024.

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2023 |

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Publisher: Network of Children's Organizations of Serbia MODS

For the publisher: Sasa Stefanovic

MODS, 2024.

[www.zadecu.org](http://www.zadecu.org)

[office@zadecu.org](mailto:office@zadecu.org)



BBelgrade, 2024.

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.



Jednaka prava  
za svu decu.



## THEY SAID ABOUT MODS

*"The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) is committed to reducing poverty, social exclusion and inequality in our society. Realizing the rights, improving the position, and improving the quality of life of children in Serbia have been common goals for all of us from the beginning. Support, cooperation, synergy, and openness have reigned among the members for ten years with good leadership and selfless sharing of common resources. A wide range of professionals in such a comprehensively assembled group is a great force for the achievement of goals and the welfare of the entire society in every sense."*

**Vesna Cvetkovic**

President

NGO Nexus, Vranje



*"The wealth of experience that member organizations of MODS possess is invaluable. The united power of these organizations creates real change and, most importantly, enables children to be children."*

**Marijana Savic**

Director of the Citizens' Association  
"Atina"



## DISRUPTING HARM

# Disrupting Harm



## RESEARCH WILL ALSO BE DONE IN SERBIA

In early 2019, the Safe Online Initiative at End Violence Partnership invested \$7 million to develop Disrupting Harm, a ground-breaking and innovative research project.

This project aims to understand better how digital technology facilitates the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. The Partnership brought together and funded three global organizations – [ECPAT International](#), [INTERPOL](#) and the [UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti](#) – to undertake new research in 13 countries across Eastern and Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. During 2023, research will also be carried out in Serbia.

Findings from the first phase of Disrupting Harm have already been published and provide key insights into child online sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) and gaps in existing systems at the country level. They also highlight key recommendations for governments and other stakeholders to deal with this problem effectively.

Disrupting Harm is proving to be a key project to create a comprehensive understanding of the threats of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, using the latest data and evidence to develop solutions.

More at the link [here](#).

# COOPERATION BETWEEN UCPD AND THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS IN THE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE



On January 26, 2023, in the Palace of Serbia, a meeting was held between representatives of the Ministry of Sports and the Užice Center for Children's Rights in connection with cooperation on the development of the Special Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence in the Sports Sector adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the development of the Manual for implementation of the Special Protocol.

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

The meeting was attended by the program director of the Užice Center for Children's Rights, an expert on the protection of children from violence, the director of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia and relevant representatives from the Ministry of Sports.

The Ministry highlighted the importance of these documents in preventing and protecting children from violence and expressed willingness to cooperate with the expert team of the Užice Center for Children's Rights in preparing the content. The meeting also established a framework for cooperation and concrete communication methods for working on the documents.

## SAFER INTERNET DAY



Safer Internet Day is celebrated on February 9 to raise awareness of safe and responsible internet use. This day aims to promote the positive use of digital technologies and reduce online risks, such as cyberbullying, hate speech or exposure to harmful content.

More information is available at the following [link](#).

According to [UNICEF](#) data in Serbia, 86% of children and teenagers between the ages of 9 and 17 use the Internet daily. As many as 16% of children in Serbia have experienced abuse over the Internet. It is essential to point out that about half of the children do not know how to change the privacy settings on social networks, which exposes them to possible abuse and blackmail.

In 2022, [the Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) participated in the DeShame survey, which showed that 90% of the surveyed high school students spend seven or more hours on the Internet and that more than 90% of the surveyed teenagers have encountered sexual harassment over the Internet.

# ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF WORK AND OPERATIONS OF LEGAL ENTITIES WHOSE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE CHILDREN



The publication “Analysis of the legal framework of work of legal entities whose activities involve children – in the context of preventing and protecting children from violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse” was created in partnership between the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia – MODS and UNICEF. The publication contains a comprehensive analysis of the existing legal framework for the operation of organizations in the public and private sectors, with a focus on regulations related to ensuring the safety of children and preventing and protecting children from violence.

The publication provides an analysis of regulations related to the safety of children and the prevention and protection of children from violence in different areas of work with children, including sports and recreation, volunteering, establishing and operating associations, endowments and foundations, the business sector, culture, tourism and hospitality, transportation, and other areas.

The results of the analysis provide the basis for formulating recommendations for improving laws and regulations to ensure a safe and secure environment for children and protect them from violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse in various areas of work with children.

See the following [link](#) for more information.

## WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



World Day of Social Justice is celebrated every year on February 20, aiming to draw attention to the importance of fighting for a fairer society that will enable equality for all people, regardless of their social position or origin. In Serbia, as in most other developing countries, social justice is still a big challenge, and children suffer the most.

Children in Serbia face various problems that prevent them from realizing their full potential. One of the biggest problems is poverty (and growing inequality), which affects about 30%\* of children in Serbia. Children from low-income families face a lack of basic necessities, such as food, clothing and shelter, which affects their health, education and other aspects of life. Another problem facing children in Serbia is discrimination. Children of Roma nationality, children with developmental disabilities and disabilities, children from rural areas and children without parental care are often exposed to discrimination in various areas of life, most often in the educational system, preschool institutions and schools.

More information is available at the following [link](#).

The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia launched the "GUARANTEE FOR EVERY CHILD" initiative.

## SAŠA STEFANOVIĆ WAS RE-ELECTED AS DIRECTOR OF MODS



On Thursday, March 2, 2023, by decision of the Board of Directors, Saša Stefanović was re-elected as director of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS). Saša Stefanović successfully performed the function of MODS director in the previous term, and with his leadership, he achieved significant success.

More information is available [here](#).

In his new mandate, Saša Stefanović will continue to focus on the goals and mission of MODS, while at the same time, he will be open to proposals and suggestions from members of the organization. Numerous members welcomed this decision of the Board of Directors of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS).

The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) is an organization that advocates for the realization of rights, improvement of positions, and the quality of life of children in Serbia.



The re-election of Sasa Stefanovic as the director of MODS represents a strong confirmation of the work and effort invested in this organization and hints at the positive changes that will take place in its future work.

## MODS RECORDED THE CHILDREN'S ANTHEM "FOR EVERY CHILD"



On Monday, March 6, 2023, a video for the children's anthem, "For Every Child", was filmed in Studio 9 of RTS. The composition was performed by Ana Stanic, accompanied by the "Kolibri" children's choir, the "Soldozar" choir of the "Svetozar Marković" school, the RTS Big Band orchestra and a harpist from the Music School "Stevan Mokranjac".

The video included children from vulnerable groups and children from Kosovo and Metohija, and elementary schools in Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad, and Sremska Mitrovica. The company BebaKids provided costumes for the children participating in the video.

The anthem of children's rights was composed by Ana Stanic, a pop singer and composer, the ambassador of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia, and the text of the anthem was written by children's poet Dejan Aleksić.

The author, Ana Stanić, participated in the audio recording of the composition in studio 6 of RTS accompanied by the children's choir Kolibri, the choir of the "Svetozar Marković" elementary school, a harpist from the Music School "Stevan Mokranjac" and accompanied by the RTS Big Band orchestra. Ivan Ilić, composer, arranger, conductor, jazz musician, and assistant professor at FMU, did the musical arrangement.

More information is available at the following [link](#).

## WORKSHOP ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN VRNJAČKA BANJA



On March 24, in cooperation with the Center for Children and Youth Vrnjačka Banja, a workshop was held with children and young people from Vrnjačka Banja on economic and social rights. This workshop was an opportunity to present to young people the results of an online survey conducted by MODS in May 2022—the survey aimed to determine the opinions of youth concerning economic and social rights as fundamental human rights.

More information is available at the following [link](#).

Young people in Vrnjačka Banja, students of several secondary schools, discussed the development of human rights and children's rights and whether there could be too many children's rights. They recognized economic and social rights, such as the right to education, health, housing, social protection and the environment, as human rights. They acknowledged that the state is responsible for realizing these rights. They emphasized the need for the state to invest more in education, creating a stimulating environment in schools and better student living standards.

They believed it is crucial to invest in health institutions to ensure high-quality healthcare and treatment are accessible to all citizens.

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MARCH 2023 |

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## THE CHILDREN'S ANTHEM, "FOR EVERY CHILD" WAS PRESENTED - A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN SERBIA



On March 29, 2023, the MODS children's anthem "For Every Child" premiered during the morning program on RTS. The anthem was composed by Ana Stanic, the ambassador of MODS and a pop singer and composer, with the lyrics written by Dejan Aleksic, a children's writer.

This anthem is dedicated to children's rights, serving as a reminder of the importance of respecting and protecting these rights. It represents the voice of children and conveys a powerful message that every child deserves love, respect, equality, and fairness.

With the support of over a hundred MODS member organizations, we aim to send the message that every child deserves equal opportunities for growth, development, and the realization of their potential.

The video is available [here](#).

More information is available at the following [link](#).

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE ECPAT NETWORK



Representatives of ECPAT France and Serbia, Guillemette Vuillard and Jelena Hrnjak, met in New York and discussed the improvement of cooperation between the members of ECPAT – a global network working to end the sexual exploitation of children.

The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) became a full member of the ECPAT network in 2019 and since then, as ECPAT Serbia, it has been carrying out activities within this network that are dedicated to protecting children from sexual exploitation. In this venture, MODS Network is represented by Jelena Hrnjak, a long-time activist of Citizens' Association Atina.

ECPAT network currently coordinates research, advocacy and activities to end sexual exploitation of children together with 124 civil society organizations, members from 103 countries around the world. ECPAT is guided by the principle of cooperation that it promotes at all levels of work, considering strong partnerships a necessity to protect children from sexual exploitation at national, regional and global levels.

More information is available on the following [link](#).

## MODS IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD



### **THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA ADOPTED A DECISION TO ESTABLISH THE COUNCIL FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.**

The Council for the Rights of the Child was established by the Law of the Government of the Republic of Serbia to monitor and improve the situation in the area of children's rights protection. The Council consists of a president, a secretary, and a number of members appointed from various departments and civil society organizations.

Among these members are Saša Stefanović, director of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia; Jasmina Mikovic, director of the Child Rights Center; and Olgica Cekic, Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

More information is available at the following [link](#).

The Council for the Rights of the Child is responsible for protecting and promoting children's rights. The Council's duties include submitting initiatives, proposals, opinions, and analyses related to the realization of children's rights in the country to the government. Additionally, the Council monitors the application of legal regulations in exercising children's rights and proposes initiatives for their changes.

One important role of the Council is to initiate, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan for Children, as well as the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence and the General Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence.

## MODS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION AND PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION



At the April 6, 2023 session, the Government of the Republic of Serbia established the Council for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination for the period from 2022 to 2030. Jelena Zunic Cicvaric from the Uzice Child Rights Centre is among the members of the Council representing MODS.

More information is available [here](#).



The Council for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination includes Jelena Zunic Cicvaric and representatives of other members of the MODS. Among them are Maja Simic from the Foundation SOS Children's Villages Serbia and Aleksandar Karov from the Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The Council will be a temporary working body of the Government. Its task will be to monitor the progress in the implementation of the measures provided for in the Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination Strategy for the specified period, as well as the implementation of the activities determined by the action plans for the implementation of the Strategy.

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MAY 2023 |

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# MODS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE SHOOTING AT THE BELGRADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## SAOPŠTENJE

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3.maj 2023

Mreža organizacija za decu Srbije

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The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia expresses deep sadness and concern regarding the recent shooting at a Belgrade elementary school. We extend our sincere sympathies to the families and children affected by this tragic event.

We believe it is vitally important to support children who have survived trauma.

Also, we urge the media to respect the rights of children and to avoid publishing information that could endanger their privacy or violate their rights after experiencing trauma.

To prevent such tragedies in the future, we call on the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the relevant ministry to promptly and comprehensively improve the safety of children in our schools. This should include increasing the number of school psychologists, pedagogues, and social workers to support students and teaching staff while improving cooperation with parents to respond proactively to warning signs of potential violence. Also, we urge parents to take responsibility and ensure that firearms are out of reach of children.

The entire press release is available at the following [link](#).

## MODS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SERBIA 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia was invited by the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia to contribute to the report on Serbia's progress in 2023. The report focuses on the improvements made in the child rights and the situation of children from vulnerable groups.

More information is available at the following [link](#).

You can download the entire report using the following [link](#).

The report highlights that Serbia still faces numerous challenges in ensuring equal access to the rights of all children. Serbia still lacks a strategic and institutional framework for state policy in the area of child rights, leading to insufficient protection of their rights.

Activities related to child rights are mostly ad hoc and without a clearly defined strategic plan. The Government of Serbia should provide more support to vulnerable groups, such as families living below the poverty line, families with four or more children, and families with children with disabilities. Also, current financial, welfare and child benefits should be increased to cover the actual cost of living. In addition, the Government should take adequate measures to ensure that social protection is available to all children without discrimination and that the benefits are sufficient to enable children's proper and healthy development.

# PLATFORM ANNOUNCEMENT: UPR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADDRESSED TO SERBIA



## SAOPŠTENJE

The Republic of Serbia presented to the Human Rights Council a state report on fulfilling the recommendations received within the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. On that occasion, an interactive dialogue was opened in which 94 delegations of UN member states participated, sending Serbia 260 recommendations for improving human rights. The State of Serbia has accepted 193 recommendations, while for the remaining 67 recommendations, it is obliged to submit an answer by September 11, when the 54th session of the Human Rights Council begins. The final recommendations adopted to improve human rights are five years until 2028.

The Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms expresses concern over the fact that Serbia has yet to progress in numerous human rights areas. Many recommendations sent to Serbia are identical to those from the previous cycle from 2018.

Platform members were actively involved in the UPR process. They monitored the implementation of the recommendations given to Serbia during the third cycle by submitting an alternative report to the Human Rights Council, engaging in dialogue with decision-makers, and carrying out advocacy activities to address issues related to human rights protection and improvement measures.

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

JULY 2023 |

## MODS AT THE THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE CONSULTATIVE MEETING



Jelena Zunic Cicvaric (UCPD) was among the participants of the consultative meeting of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue with civil society organizations (CSOs), which was held on July 3, 2023, in Belgrade.

This meeting, which was organized by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue in cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights team in Serbia, aimed to strengthen cooperation between the Ministry and CSOs that deal with the protection and promotion of human rights.

During the two-hour discussion, the participants discussed various topics, including the implementation of strategic documents in the field of anti-discrimination, protection and improvement of the rights of vulnerable groups, and exchanged important data and experiences from the field.

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



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JULY 2023 |

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## **MODS IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CREATION OF A STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY**



### **REPRESENTATIVES OF MODS ARE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

On July 11, 2023, Sasa Stefanovic and Iva Erakovic from the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (Friends of the Children of Serbia) were elected as members of the Council for the creation of a stimulating environment for the development of civil society. The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, along with the Commission responsible for selecting representatives of civil society, compiled a ranking list of the chosen candidates who had received support from civil society organizations across the country.

The published list represents an important step in the candidate selection process that began on June 23, 2023, when civil society organizations were invited to vote for candidates from the final list of accepted candidacies for Council membership. Votes were sent by email until June 30, 2023.

More information is available at the following [link](#).



## CHILD RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



# PRAVA DETETA U EVROPSKOJ UNIJI

In September 2023, a new MODS publication, "Child's Rights in the European Union" by Sasa Stefanovic, was published.

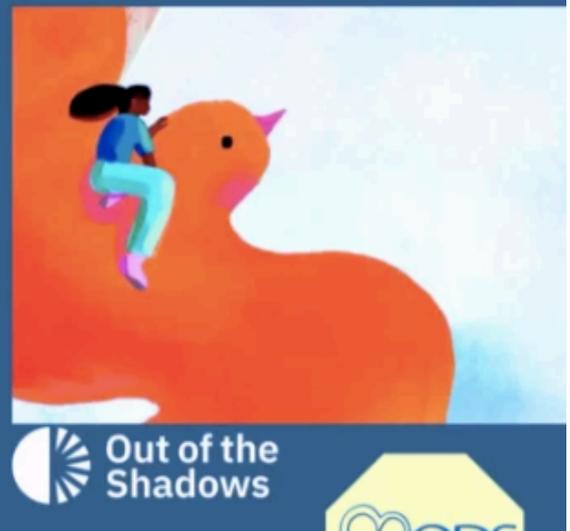
The book provides a comprehensive overview of child rights within the European Union (EU), including core EU values, the definition of a child, the EU's institutional framework and legal instruments protecting child rights. Special attention is paid to the economic, social and cultural rights of the child, along with research into protection measures against abuse and exploitation. The author also analyzes EU policies regarding children in crises and migration, examining how child rights are maintained and promoted in these challenging circumstances.

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

You can download the entire publication using the following [link](#).

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT "SAFE TRAVEL" - PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE HAS BEGUN

### SAFE TRAVEL - Protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse



In September 2023, the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia started the implementation of the project "SAFE TRAVEL" - Protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse, in cooperation with the institution of the Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia and the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia.

This project aims to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse through evidence-based policy change initiatives. The main goal is to improve the legal framework in Serbia, including setting minimum provisions for companies that provide services in the travel and tourism sector (including airlines, hotels and travel agencies).

This problem was identified in the Index "Out of the Shadows" 2022 \*, where our country was evaluated with a low score (0) in the area of solving the issue of trafficking and exploitation of children in this sector.

To achieve the goal of ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children, we need policy changes, improvement of regulations and establishment of minimum standards, especially in the Tourism Act. We also need the involvement of private sector companies that work with children.

More information is available at the following [link](#).

# SECTORAL TRAINING - "IMPROVING THE CSOS INTERNAL MECHANISMS FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S SAFETY" HELD



On October 12, 2023, the sectoral training "Improving the organization's internal mechanisms for safeguarding children's safety" was held.

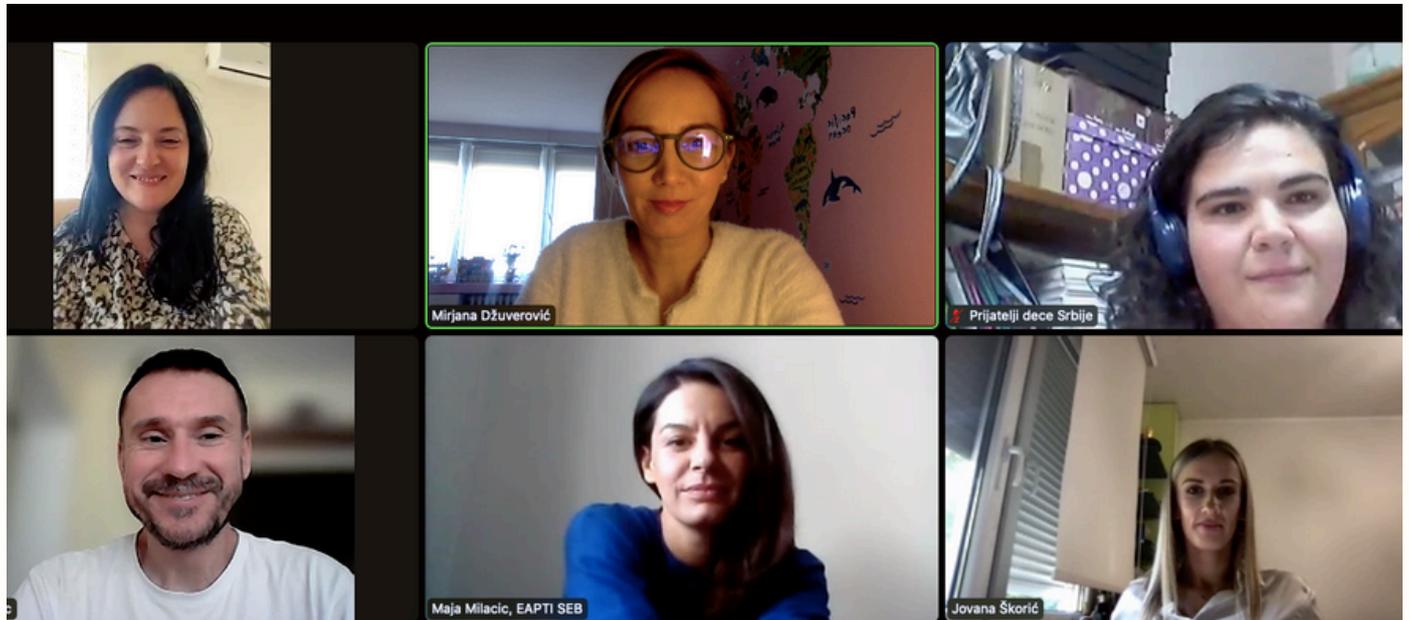
To help organizations that work directly with children and come in contact with children from time to time to be and remain a safe environment for every child, the Užice Center for Children's Rights and the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) organized training for the improvement internal mechanisms of the organization for the protection of children's safety.

The training also includes individual mentoring so organizations can incorporate child protection standards practically.

Organizations aim to improve the position of individuals and families in society in different ways. For organizations to demonstrate their commitment to the protection of children and to treat this topic systematically and responsibly, it is important that they establish and improve mechanisms to preserve the safety of the children they work with, that they do everything not to harm them, that they take care of it who comes into contact with children at activities, to act preventively and to have a mechanism for reacting and reporting any doubt and concern for children's safety.

More information is available at the link [here](#).

## A MEETING OF MODS THEMATIC GROUPS COORDINATORS HELD



On October 18, 2023, a meeting of coordinators of MODS thematic groups was held. The new coordinators of MODS thematic groups attended the meeting:

- **Maja Milacic** (GRiG), coordinator of TG Social and health care (housing),
- **Aleksandra Milutinovic** (Okular), coordinator of TG Education, culture and media (media literacy, early development),
- **Dubravka Kahrmanovic** (Friends of Children of Serbia), coordinator of TG Sustainability (environmental protection, innovation, digitalization) and
- **Jovana Skoric** (Center for Missing and Exploited Children), coordinator of the TG Protection of Children from Violence and gender violence and gender equality.

The topics of the meeting included:

- An overview of the past work and contributions of the thematic groups.
- Defining plans and priorities, consideration of key advocacy activities.
- Improvement of communication and cooperation between members of MODS that are thematically connected.

The thematic groups are based on priorities from the Strategic Plan of MODS for the period 2023-2028 with the aim that this format of cooperation contributes to better monitoring of public policies relevant to the rights of children of MODS members, as well as improving cooperation with relevant state bodies, institutions and international organizations.

More information is available at the link [here](#).

## THE 10TH ASSEMBLY OF THE MODS - JOINT COMMITMENT TO THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



Belgrade, November 15 - The 10th Assembly of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) was successfully held at Kafe Bar 16 in Belgrade. The gathering was chaired by Iva Erakovic, executive director of Friends of the Children of Serbia and a MODS Steering Committee member.

The Assembly started by reviewing the MODS's 2022 report presented by director Sasa Stefanovic. Jasmina Mikovic, from SOS Children Villages Serbia, presented the Steering Committee report and Natasa Raicevic from GRiG provided insight into the Supervisory Board's report for the same year. The members of the Assembly unanimously adopted all reports.

During the Assembly, new organizations were presented for admission to membership in MODS. The association "Children with Achondroplasia of Serbia" from Kikinda and the Academic Inclusive Association from Belgrade became part of MODS after a unanimous decision by the Assembly.

Director of MODS, Saša Stefanović, presented the importance of networking: "Improving the capacity of organizations through networking", emphasizing that through networking, organizations can improve their capacities, increase their influence and become more visible.

More information is available at the link [here](#).

# MODS WITH THE PROTECTOR OF CITIZENS' YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

## BEZBEDNO PUTOVANJE - ZAŠTITA DECE OD SEKSUALNE EKSPLOATACIJE I ZLOSTAVLJANJA INDEKS "IZLAZAK IZ SENKE"



Заштитник грађана  
Zaštitnik građana



As part of the project "SAFE TRAVEL - Protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse", which is implemented by the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) in cooperation with the Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia and the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia, a meeting was held with the Protector of Citizens' Youth Advisory Panel.

The aim of the meeting with the Protector of Citizens' Youth Advisory Panel was to gather insights and unique perspectives from children and young people on the subject of sexual exploitation and abuse of children during travel.

During the discussion, participants talked about the various types of violence that children may experience while traveling. These include physical, peer, psychological, and sexual violence. It was highlighted that every child, regardless of their background, can be at risk, with specific focus on certain groups of children who are more vulnerable to these dangers.

The discussion also covered specific risks that children may encounter during excursions, such as unwanted contact with strangers, potential exposure to illegal substances, and the possibility of losing luggage and personal documents.

More information is available at the link [here](#).

# GLOBAL CAMPUS SOUTH EAST EUROPE FOUND THE REGIONAL CHILD LEADERSHIP TEAM



In 2019, the Global Campus (GC) and the Right Livelihood (RL) entered into a long-term cooperation with the main purpose of enhancing children's rights worldwide. The cooperation aims to realise this by strengthening the participation of children in all matters affecting their lives in the present and in the future.

The Child Leadership Team included children from the following MODS organizations: Children's Center (Zaječar), Nexus (Vranje), Center for Child Rights Center (Belgrade), Center for Local Democracy LDA (Knjaževac), Indigo (Nis), Friends of Children (Kruševac).

More information is available at the link [here](#).

In the summer of 2023, with the support of the Global Campus and the Right Livelihood Foundation, the Global Campus South East Europe (GCSEE) formed its own Child Leadership Team in cooperation with its regional partner organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, Naša Djeca Sarajevo (Our Children Sarajevo), Mreža organizacija za decu Srbije (The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia), respectively.

The regional CLT gathers over 30 children from BiH and Serbia from the ages of 12 to 17 and plans to expand to other areas of the region in the future. The members of the CLT SEE are a valuable consulting and leading body on all children's rights-related issues, projects, ideas, and activities.

# THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE TOURISM AND TRAVEL SECTOR



On December 27, 2023, representatives of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) and the Center for Missing and Abused Children met with the Minister of Tourism and Youth, Husein Memić, and his associates to discuss the fight against sexual exploitation of children in the tourism sector and travel.

This meeting was realized as part of the project "SAFE TRAVEL - Protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse", which is implemented by the MODS in cooperation with the Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia and the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia.

More information is available at the link [here](#).

The tourism and travel sector is a particularly vulnerable area when it comes to sexual exploitation and abuse of children due to its mobility and transit nature. Children are often exposed to the risk of becoming victims of exploitation by tourists, travellers, and residents.

A serious problem has been recognized in this sector, which is also confirmed by the "Out of the Shadows" Index for 2022, the first global benchmark looking at how countries are addressing child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Index examines how stakeholders are preventing and responding to CSEA in 60 countries, which covers approximately 85% of the global child population.



[www.zadecu.org](http://www.zadecu.org)