



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 4
JULY 2023

INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I greet you on behalf of myself and Domovik organization, and welcome you to the fourth edition of our newsletter. We have the honor to present to you an edition dedicated to all our activities carried out in the past few months in order to exercise the right to a happy, safe and fulfilled childhood.

With this newsletter, we want to inspire and focus everyone on engaging to create a society where every child feels loved, supported, and respected.

With our continuous commitment and expertise, we strive to raise awareness of the importance of children's rights and to act as the voice of those who are most sensitive and most vulnerable in the society.

We also provide an opportunity for you to get acquainted with our associates, volunteers, and all those who work in the field to improve the well-being of children.

Thank you for your support. I hope that our newsletter will provide you with useful information and raise awareness about the importance of children's rights. Only together can we create a world where every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.



Savica Milović

Youth Coordinator

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF – IT'S NOT SELFISH

A new campaign has also been launched! In the video we recorded with the members of the children's group "UM" we touched on the topic of mental health of children and young people, encouraging young people to talk about their problems.

According to available data, a large number of young people and adolescents face mental problems such as anxiety, depression, loneliness/feeling rejected by society. In addition, the social stigma, when it comes to the demand for professional help, is still present. Young people and adolescents who cope with this type of problem do not receive the necessary psychological support, which causes further deterioration of their condition. Also, a large number of young people and adolescents do not know who to turn to for help.

Bearing all of the above in mind, it is essential to talk about the importance of preserving mental health, to influence the reduction of social stigmatization, and encourage young people to talk about their feelings and problems, and seek help if they feel that they need it.

You can watch the video [HERE](#).



INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY: DATA COLLECTION



The data collection workshop, which was organized in Skopje from 28-26 April 2023 with the representatives of civil society, highlighted the importance of collecting data and using them to achieve a better position of children and young people at the local level.

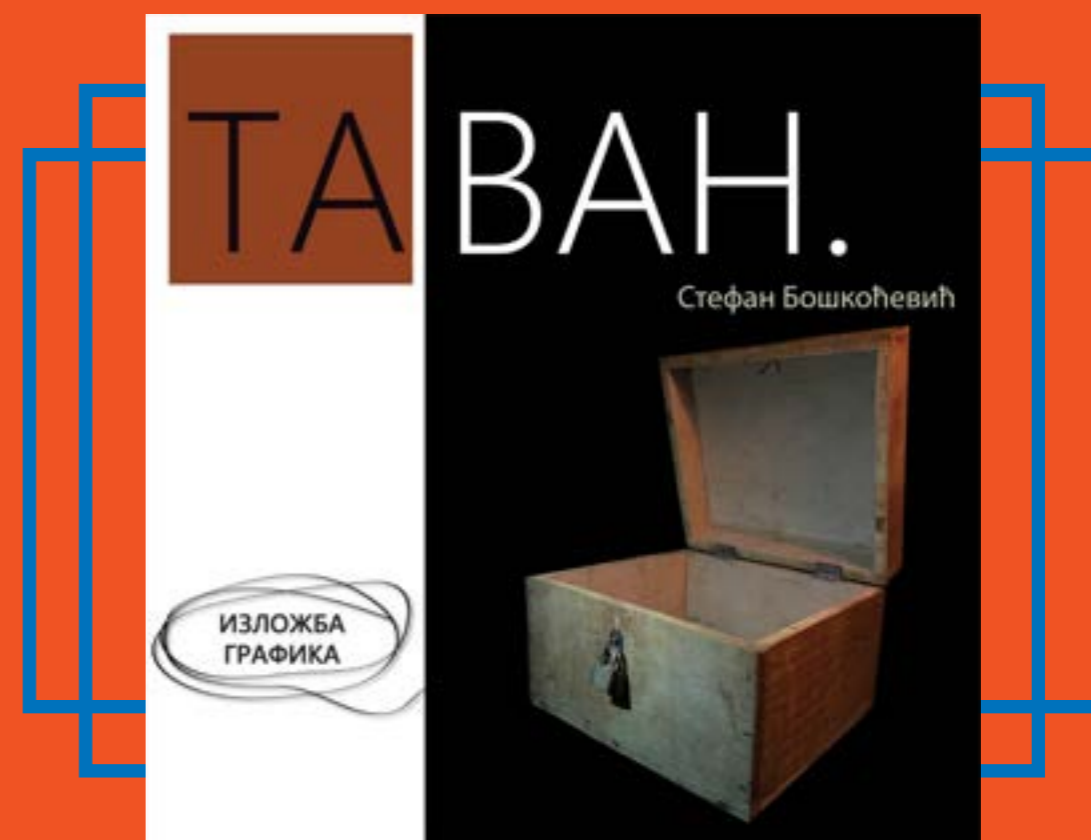
Seventeen representatives of civil society participated in this activity, from six organizations (Santa Maria, Caritas – regional office Mitrovica, Parental Association "Support Me" North, Roads of the Sun, Center for Social Affirmation of Youth, and Domovik) from four municipalities in northern Kosovo, Gračanica and Ranilug, whose primary focus is working with children.

The aim of the workshop was to familiarize the participants with the data collection instrument, developed by Domovik, and to develop their knowledge of the data collection process, techniques, and tools that they can implement in the given process, which will be conducted in the coming period.

LEADER OF STORIES – STEFAN BOŠKOČEVIĆ

Art is very important for human development and culture. It allows us to express our ideas, emotions, attitudes, and thoughts in a way that can be understandable and inspiring to others. A young artist from our region wanted to express his thoughts and attitudes through his first solo exhibition of graffiti. Stefan Boškočević is a student of sculpture and graphic design at the Faculty of Arts in Zvečan. He has participated in several collective exhibitions, exhibiting his works. He found the motive of these works in his attic, which always associated him with something mysterious and rejected until he peeked into it and found some interesting and valuable things. With this young artist, we discussed the exhibition itself, its symbolism and success, as well as the activism of young people.

You can read the full interview with Stefan on [Leader Online](#).



PEER MEDIATION FORUM

Experts in the field of peer mediation, pedagogues, psychologists, and peer mediators, were participants in the panel at the event "Peer Mediation Forum", which was held on May 24 at the Cultural Center in Zubin Potok. Elementary and secondary school students, who were in the audience, were approached about the concept of peer mediation, its techniques, and usage, and were familiarized with the role of "Teams for protection against discrimination, violence, abuse and neglect", which exist at all school levels. In the previous period, peer mediation was one of

the focuses of Domovik's work. More than 600 trained peer mediators and educators came out of the workshops, having acquired skills to recognize conflict, but also mediate in its resolution. In addition, there was training for educators, who can independently conduct mediation workshops in their schools.



The importance of mediation was also discussed by young people

“Peer mediation is a form of non-formal education that is very important for supplementing the formal knowledge we receive in schools. Mediation has helped me become more resourceful, identify conflicts and violence, and try to resolve them in the best possible way.”

Elena Božović,
peer mediator

“Peer mediation is a very important topic, which should not be ignored. Today I noticed that children who were in the audience – our peers, younger and older – showed great interest in this topic. We have, I believe, effectively demonstrated what techniques and methods they can use to resolve conflicts peacefully.”

Ognjen Radivojević,
peer mediator

“In my opinion, solving problems through peer mediation is something that our society needs. I think that preparation for peer mediators is very important and that everyone should go through that training.”

Sofija Jakšić, peer mediator

"UM" ACTIVITIES

Children's group "Associated Youth" ("Udruženi mladi" - UM) was formed by Domovik, with the support of Save the Children. The goal of establishing the group was to educate young people and empower them to organize actions and youth campaigns in order to solve problems and/or meet their needs, which would actively participate and contribute to the better exercise of their rights. In the past few months, UM members have been active in creating online campaigns and taking part in various types of activities.

On the UM Children's Instagram page, run by members of our children's group, we marked many significant international dates, shared inspirational stories, and reported on the activities UM had in the previous period. We marked World Day Against Child Labour, World Environment Day, International Family Day, Europe Day, Planet Earth Day, and highlighted stories of successful women and women who changed and moved the world. Domovik also held regular meetings with UM members, where children were presented with work plans and upcoming activities.

They discussed the identification of problems of children and young people, determining topics for the youth campaign, and creating mini-research on mental health and other topics that affect the community and themselves.



WORKSHOPS ON PUBLIC ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN



Members of the children's group UM in the previous period worked on the preparation of a public advocacy campaign, whose focus will be on environmental issues. These activities were conducted through two workshops: the first one was organized in early April, and the second in the second half of May.

UM's children, with the support of experts, improved their knowledge in modern tools and strategies on practical examples, which is necessary for campaigning. While working on the workshops, a concrete idea was recognized that helps the local community, which can be put into focus of the public by the realization of the campaign, in order to achieve its goal.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE ORGANIZATION

In parallel with dedicated work in the community, we are working on the improvement of our capacities. In mid-March, we organized a team-building activity for our staff on Brezovica mountain. On that occasion, we worked on revising Domovik's policies that strictly determine the code of conduct, policy on corruption, and child protection, as well as guidelines for the safe participation of children at events, and policies against abuse, intimidation, and harassment.

Also, at several sessions in Mitrovica, we worked on getting acquainted with the understanding of the documents that our organization manages - both internal and those that are necessary for working with all actors in the community.



IMPROVEMENT OF FOSTER CARE SERVICES

In cooperation with the Centers for Social Work from Mitrovica, Zvečan, Zubin Potok and Leposavić, two trainings of their representatives were conducted: in February, we covered the topics of emergency foster care and support to children and young people in crisis and traumatic situations, while in March, we worked on how to prepare and provide all the necessary support to foster families for the reception of children with Down syndrome. In addition, a workshop with foster parents

was organized, with the aim of improving their skills in working with children. In the coming period, it is planned to continue and expand cooperation with foster parents and Centers for Social Work in order to increase their capacities.



AN ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE

As one of the important factors, with the school "Teams for Protection against Discrimination, Violence, Abuse and Neglect" from schools in northern Kosovo, we worked on the development of a program that should contribute to reducing violence in schools.

The objectives of the training are to gain new knowledge and develop sensitivity to respond to conflict situations, such as those that may occur in schools, on the street, and generally among peers. Also, it was about encouraging active listening without judgement and creating alternative strategies for resolving conflicts.

The trainees have learned to recognize the development needs of young people and how to help them transform the challenge into constructive action.

WE ATTENDED:

URBANI PULS (URBAN PULSE)

Program manager, Miljan Stanišić, spoke about the programs that Domovik implements, what we offer to children and young people, and other topics related to the work of our organization in the show "Urban puls", which is broadcast on TV Dankos from Mitrovica. You can find the show at the [LINK](#).

SKILLS FAIR

The week of Europe was marked at the European House in North Mitrovica by organizing the Skills Fair. Our organization also participated in the event: program manager Miljan Stanišić spoke at the panel discussion "Skills for the Future", and at our stand, visitors were introduced to the work of Domovik and what we provide to children and young people through our work.

THEY VISITED US:

Partners and donors Save the Children Kosovo and the Swedish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (SIDA) visited Domovik's office at the end of March. On that occasion, we discussed the projects being implemented, the challenges we face in our work, and the programs we implement. The meeting was also attended by members of the children's group UM, who expressed their opinion on the given topics, programs, and work with our organization.

**PLEASE FIND
US AT!**

📍 Sutjeska bb, LI, Mitrovica
☎ 028/423-801
✉ office@domovik.org
🌐 www.domovik.org

📘 facebook.com/NGODomovik/
📷 @ngodomovik
📺 @ngodomovik
🐦 @NGODomovik



Domovik is implementing Strategic plan for 2018-2023, with support from the European Union Office in Kosovo through a four-year Framework Partnership Agreement, and Kosovar Civil Society Foundation through an institutional grant