

# Udruženje "Zemlja djece u BiH" Tuzla

Novembar, 2024. godine



# About „Land of Children in BiH „...

Children's rights are our primary concern.

We are one of the most active organizations for children.

The Association "Land of Children in BiH" is a non-governmental organization founded in 1995, with the primary goal of realizing children's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The mission of the Association is to raise awareness in society about the suffering of children and to organizedly provide assistance to children and their families with resources that are best suited to their needs.

We advocate for the establishment of a legislative and institutional framework for the realization of children's rights and provide social services for the most vulnerable groups of children.







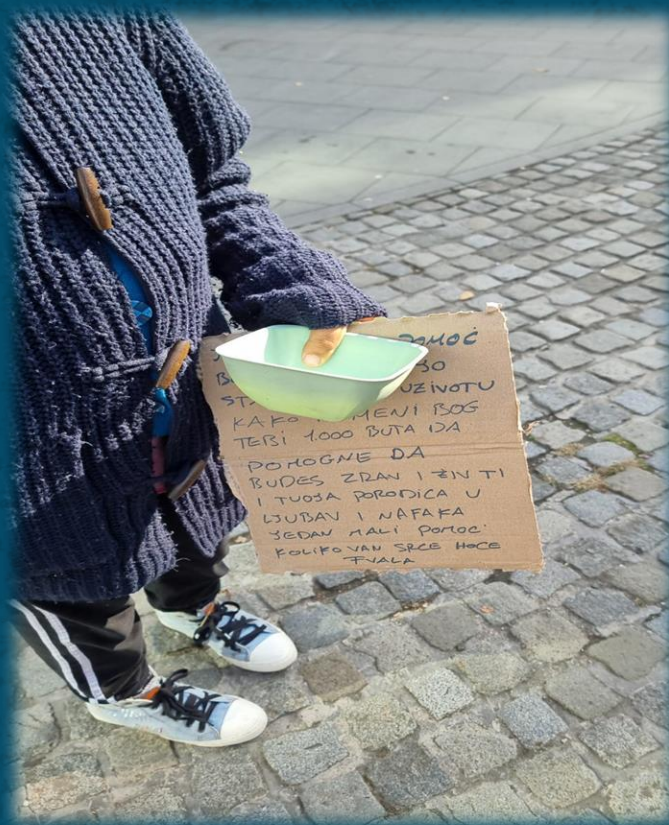
# Work in communities

Activities in our communities focus on strengthening family capacities through various educational and preventive measures. Our goal is not only to keep children in the school system but also to provide support to their families in order to prevent adverse behaviors that may lead to exploitation and other forms of violence.





Empowering families and communities is crucial for preventing phenomena such as begging, human trafficking, child labor, early marriage, and juvenile delinquency. Our activities encompass working with children and youth, as well as with their parents, through various educational programs, workshops, and support regarding scientific and administrative challenges.





In the context of regulation, we have achieved significant results, including the creation of 40 protocols for prevention and intervention in cases of begging in various municipalities and cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. These protocols help local authorities and institutions respond more effectively to these issues and provide clear guidelines for working with vulnerable groups.

Additionally, statistical data indicates a troubling trend, as last year, 271 individuals were registered as victims of human trafficking, 70% of whom were children. These cases highlight the urgent need for protection and support for the most vulnerable in our communities.

In collaboration with relevant institutions, we have established mobile teams that are engaged in combating these phenomena, thereby strengthening the community's capacity to face challenges and provide adequate assistance to those in greatest need. Our efforts are based on an approach that includes all relevant stakeholders, as we work together to create a safer environment for all children and youth.



We have been engaged in activities that are crucial for providing health insurance to individuals who are unable to secure it themselves. We are proud to report that we have achieved positive changes through amendments to the Adult Education Law. As an organization, we have been designated to represent the NGO sector on several important councils: the Council for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which serves as a professional and advisory body to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Council for Children of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an advisory body to the Government of the Federation; and the Coordinating Body for Combating Human Trafficking in Tuzla Canton.

Additionally, we initiated the establishment of the Municipal Integration Team (MIT) in the city of Tuzla, of which we are a member. This model has since been replicated in 11 cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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# „Be a men club“

We are also working on youth resilience against crime are exemplified by our "Budi Muško" (Be a Man) Club. What does this club represent? The "Budi Muško" Club is a project designed to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent peer and gender-based violence, and reduce juvenile delinquency, ultimately enhancing adolescents' resilience to the risks they face. Initially intended for boys, we recognized the need to include girls in our efforts. In the Western Balkans, young people in their late adolescence face numerous developmental risks and daily life challenges. This stage is critical for adolescents, particularly concerning social and peer influences. Regional tensions and economic crises contribute to uncertainties about their futures. Many young individuals encounter violence regularly, either as victims or perpetrators, and often hold biased views regarding gender relations, which further exposes them to unhealthy lifestyles.





The region continues to experience youth violence, stemming from nationalism, political situation, gender-based and homophobic violence, as well as bullying in schools. Patriarchal societies remain heavily influenced by religious institutions, while the political elite and media perpetuate unhealthy masculinity narratives that negatively impact girls and women across the region.

Given the rising concerns about gender and peer violence in the region, it is crucial for civil society and governments to enhance their understanding of gender norms, attitudes, and behaviors related to sexual violence and juvenile delinquency among youth. Effective interventions must be developed to address these pressing issues.





# Working with People in Transit

Through our organization, we have been engaged in activities that involve working with people in transit, specifically migrants. Recognizing that Tuzla has been significantly affected by the migration crisis, we have made concerted efforts to assist in this regard and respond to their needs. Our humanitarian efforts were exemplified by the work of our mobile team dedicated to assisting migrants. This mobile unit was stationed at the main bus station, where migrants arrived, providing them with various forms of humanitarian aid. However, our support did not end there. Through educational workshops, we aimed to equip them with knowledge about the similarities and differences between human trafficking and human smuggling. Individuals in transit, especially, are vulnerable to risks that expose them to danger in relation to these issues.





# Smart Balkans

The initial undertaking involved the development of a comprehensive manual designed to implement a localized approach for effectively engaging with at-risk youth, particularly those who are considered vulnerable. It was imperative to identify a partner possessing both the requisite experience and expertise in the field of safety, while also providing high-quality engagement and skills development through interactive workshops and collaboration with relevant stakeholders. A notable challenge was the adaptation of this Community-Based Safety approach to ensure its alignment with our local principles and its conformity with the established legal framework.



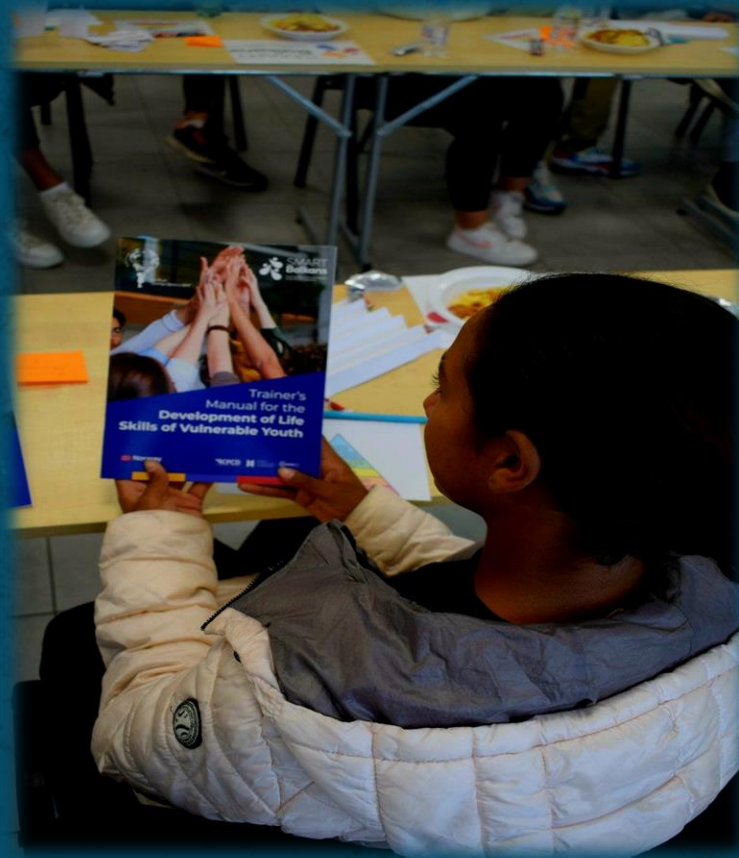


We found collaborators, experts in various fields who implemented project activities. For example, we had a psychologist who works on youth employment projects, trainers from a Krav Maga club who conducted energizers and self-defense sessions, as well as a trainer with many years of experience working with youth and in youth councils of the Federation and the city. They were also in contact with the author of the manual and tailored the workshops.





Three full-day workshops were held, focusing on vulnerable youth in Tuzla and Živinice, particularly within a rural Roma community. The aim was to provide essential education to participants, most of whom have not completed primary school, face unemployment, and experience discrimination. The workshops included practical activities and discussions to enhance their resilience to criminal activities. Future plans involve strengthening their job market competencies and connecting them with employers willing to hire unskilled workers.





Considering that we are satisfied with the content of the manual and that educational professionals from our region have recognized the content as useful, we have informed the Pedagogical Institute and the relevant ministry about the activities and possibilities for reproducing this content through community classes, which are classes of the class community. Currently, another problem has emerged in schools in the Canton - a large number of false bomb threats. It is precisely because of such issues that our work in schools must continue, as there is a daily need for children, even at the elementary school level, to acquire knowledge and skills that will distance them from radicalization, juvenile delinquency, and crime in general. Although we have been recognized in our community through our work, it is always a challenge to establish cooperation with institutions, and it is always a substantial and difficult task, taking into account the political situation in the country and the region



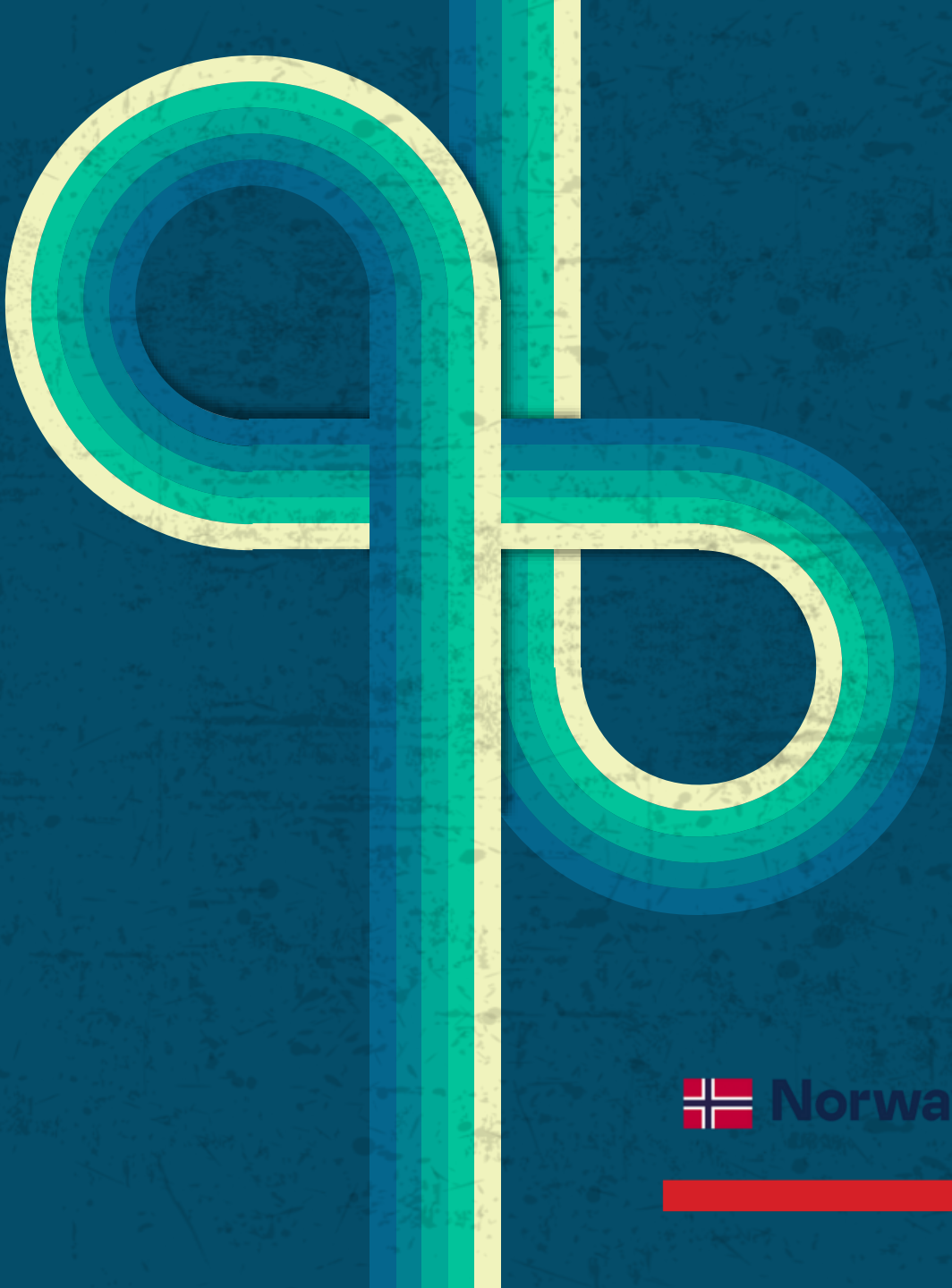


# Plans through SMART project for the future

We believe that such networking and exchange of experiences are of exceptional importance for the very transformation of youth work in our context. Currently, the focus is also on the prevention of digital violence, hate speech on the internet, and all potential dangers and consequences that arise from improper internet use. The next steps involve advocacy campaigns that we will encompass, along with work with Youth Councils.







Thank you for  
your attention!

