

NGO SOCIAL CENTRE

Podgorica, Montenegro

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025



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The Annual Report of the NGO Social Center for 2025 provides a thorough overview of the activities, projects, services, and advocacy initiatives undertaken during the reporting period. This document seeks to transparently and systematically convey the results achieved, the social impact made, the challenges encountered, and the strategic directions for the organization's development.

In 2025, the Social Center executed initiatives aligned with its mission to advocate for human rights, gender equality, and social inclusion in Montenegro. The programs focused on safeguarding and empowering LGBTI individuals, women who have experienced gender-based and domestic violence, youth, and other marginalized and socially excluded groups.

Through the execution of projects as both a lead and partner organization, the provision of complimentary psychological, social, and legal support services, the implementation of educational programs, the publication of analytical reports, and the conduct of public campaigns, the organization has persistently contributed to the establishment of a more equitable, secure, and inclusive society.

This report is designed for donors, partners, institutional stakeholders, associates, and the general public, as well as all individuals who monitor and support the initiatives of the Social Center. Upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and professionalism, we aim to present our accomplishments clearly while also identifying challenges and developmental needs for the upcoming period.

"Our mission has never been merely to provide support, but to create true equality and opportunities for all. Marginalised communities in Montenegro often live in the shadow of the system - facing barriers deeply rooted in social norms, institutional practices and everyday prejudices. Through the projects and programmes we implement, we strive to remove those barriers and open space for autonomy, empowerment and participation."

– Milica Špajak, Executive Director of Socijalni Centar

The previous year, 2025, was characterized by a dedication to fulfilling a mission centered on the promotion of human rights, gender equality, and social inclusion. Our organization persisted in addressing intricate challenges associated with marginalized and vulnerable populations, particularly emphasizing LGBTI individuals, women who have survived violence, and women experiencing economic exclusion.

Through projects, educational initiatives, awareness campaigns, and direct support services, we endeavor to foster a society where the rights of every individual are equally valued and adequately protected. Throughout the year, we concentrated on enhancing community capacity, both through initiatives we led and through collaborations with organizations that align with our values and vision.

Transparency and ongoing development are evident in the establishment of a monitoring and external evaluation system, enabling us to assess project success, identify challenges, and enhance work methodologies promptly. The previous year also marked a phase of internal fortification for the organization. The rebranding and redesign of our visual identity signify our dedication to a more inclusive approach, the expansion of activities, and improved communication with the community, partners, and donors.

The Social Center was established in 2013 with a distinct mission to enhance the democratic capacity of Montenegrin society by systematically advancing human rights, particularly emphasizing social justice, gender equality, and the status of marginalized and socially excluded groups.

Over more than a decade of unwavering commitment, the Social Center has positioned itself as a prominent and trustworthy entity in the realm of human rights advocacy, social inclusion, and the provision of direct assistance to communities frequently subjected to discrimination, violence, and institutional neglect.

Essential information regarding the organization

Year of establishment	2013, Podgorica, Montenegro
Headquarters	Podgorica, Montenegro
Areas of work	Human rights, gender equality, LGBTI rights, protection from violence, social inclusion, providing direct community support to those most often exposed to discrimination, violence and institutional invisibility
Target groups	LGBTI persons, women with experience of violence, youth, persons exposed to poverty, single mothers, elderly persons and other vulnerable social groups

Our initiatives

The organization achieves its goals and priorities through well-developed and interconnected program units that constitute the foundation of its operations:

Victim Assistance Program

For years, we have offered extensive support to individuals who have experienced diverse forms of human rights violations, enabling them to secure protection and restore a sense of safety and dignity.

Psychological and psychosocial assistance

The ongoing delivery of psychological and psychosocial support addresses the repercussions of violence, discrimination, and social exclusion, thereby enhancing the resilience of beneficiaries.

Legal assistance program

We empower users to understand their rights, obtain professional assistance in securing legal protection, and navigate intricate institutional processes with greater ease.

Education and Publications

The creation, publication, and distribution of educational and informational materials, along with the management of a human rights library, enhances the dissemination of knowledge and bolsters public

Capacity enhancement

Through capacity-building initiatives and the enhancement of employee knowledge within institutional frameworks, we have consistently contributed to the improvement of institutional responses to the needs of marginalized groups over the

Advocacy and Initiatives

Engaging in public campaigns and participating in panels, discussions, and forums establishes the Social Center as a credible partner in discussions on critical social issues.

Through all of the aforementioned programs, the Social Center serves as a reliable support for marginalized communities and an engaged partner to institutions and the civil sector, consistently contributing to the development of a more just, inclusive, and solidaristic society in Montenegro.

MISSION, VISION, AND STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Organizational purpose

The mission of the Social Center is to enhance the overall democratic capacity of Montenegrin society through the systematic promotion of human rights, with particular emphasis on social justice, gender equality, and the status of marginalized and socially excluded groups. The organization is founded on the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent, and that the effective protection of these rights necessitates a comprehensive approach that encompasses direct support, advocacy, education, and institutional collaboration.

Organizational Vision

"A Montenegro where every person, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic or social background, enjoys full rights, safety and dignity – in a free, just and inclusive society."

Strategic action areas

Our efforts encompass a broad and diverse array of activities that complement one another, fostering a holistic approach to community support. Throughout the year, various themes emerge based on social circumstances, the needs of the populations we serve, and the intensity of our programs. This dynamic necessitates a continual balancing act between long-term objectives and immediate interventions. Nevertheless, specific areas distinctly shape our contributions and most clearly illustrate where our efforts have been most essential.

In 2025, the organization functioned across four primary strategic domains that illustrate the complexity and interrelatedness of the challenges confronting marginalized communities in Montenegro:

01

Protection and advancement of the human rights of LGBTI individuals

Particular emphasis on healthcare and inclusive education, mitigating discrimination and enhancing access to essential services.

02

Protection against violence towards women and domestic abuse

Empowering victims of gender-based violence through legal assistance and psychosocial support.

03

Gender equity

Particular emphasis is placed on the economic empowerment of marginalized women through educational and mentoring support initiatives.

04

Enhancing social inclusion

Enhancing dialogue and collaboration among communities, fostering an inclusive society and mutual understanding.

In 2025, the NGO Social Center enhanced its team by appointing a program coordinator, thereby ensuring improved efficiency in the planning, coordination, and monitoring of all organizational projects and activities.

We have observed a consistent rise in the number of volunteers seeking to engage with the organization. These volunteers hail from various regions of the country, actively participating in the organization of events, campaigns, and activities. Their involvement facilitates a broader presence of the organization within the community, accelerates the dissemination of information, and enhances support for users.

Team composition

The Social Center team comprises specialists from diverse backgrounds who collectively enhance the effective realization of the organization's mission:

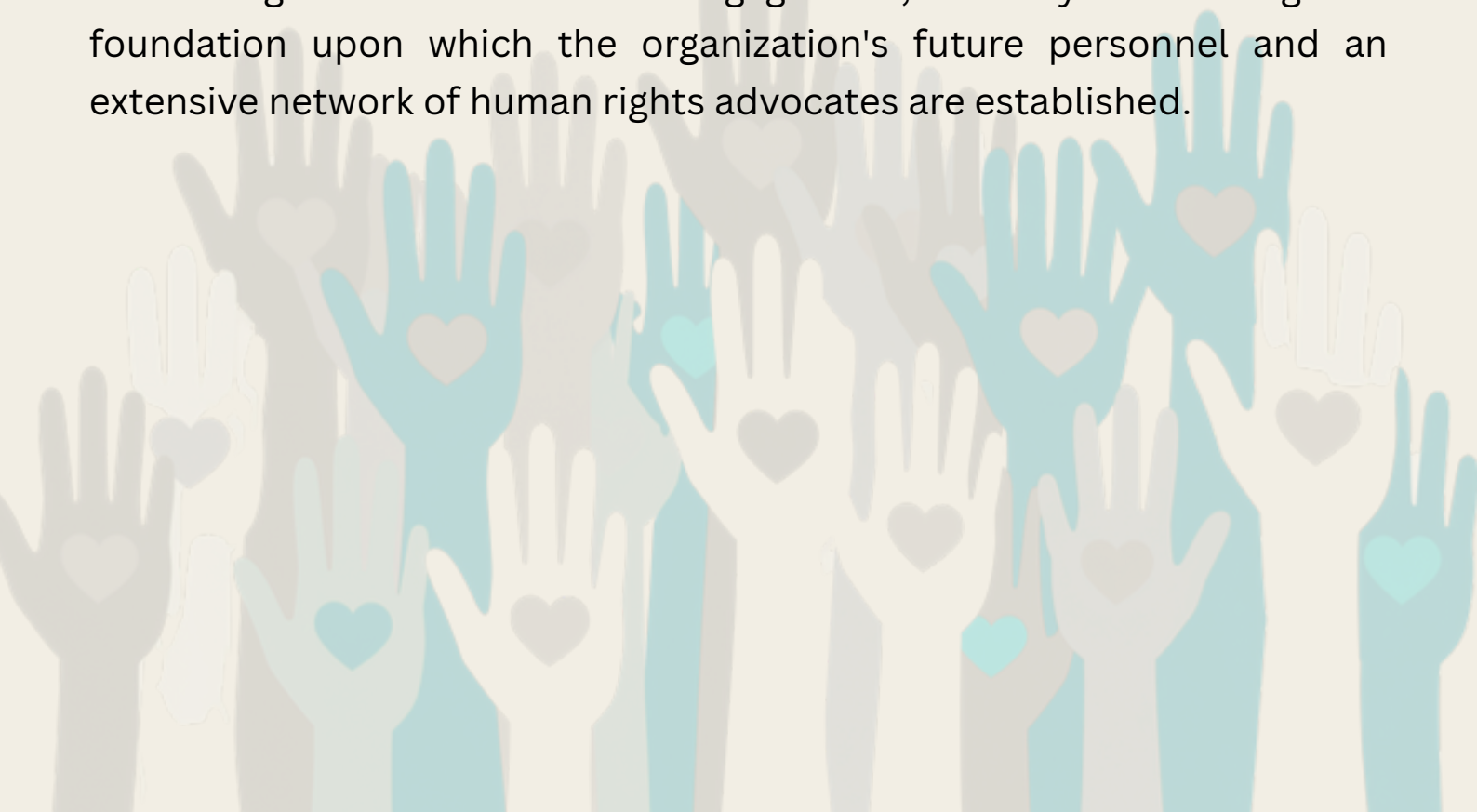
Executive team Director, Program Coordinator	Specialized team Psychologist, Social Worker, Attorney, Educator	Volunteers Youth activists from all regions of Montenegro
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The significance of volunteers within the organization

Volunteers play a crucial role within the Social Center framework. In 2025, their involvement was especially prominent during the Women's Entrepreneurship Fair in Berane, where volunteers from northern Montenegro significantly contributed to the event's preparation, coordination, and promotion.

The organization consistently invests in the development of its volunteers through training programs, experience sharing, and mentoring. This strategy not only enhances the organization's capabilities but also fosters the growth of competencies among young activists who, through their engagement at the Social Center, acquire practical knowledge and experience in the realm of human rights protection.

The project 'Get Active - School of Volunteerism and Human Rights for the Youth of Montenegro,' which commenced its implementation at the end of 2025, directly contributes to the acknowledgment, development, and recognition of volunteer engagement, thereby reinforcing the foundation upon which the organization's future personnel and an extensive network of human rights advocates are established.



IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS - SOCIAL CENTRE AS LEAD ORGANIZATION

#	Project Name	Period
1	Dialogue for Change: Inclusive Education and Strengthening Support for LGBTI Human Rights	2024–2025
2	Safe and Strong: Together in Protection from Gender-Based and Domestic Violence in Montenegro	2024–2025
3	Women in Focus: Support for Economic Empowerment of Marginalized Women from Northern Montenegro	2024–2025
4	Health for All: Improving Healthcare Practices for LGBTI Persons in Montenegro	2025–2026
5	Activate Yourself – School of Volunteering and Human Rights for Young People of Montenegro	2025–2026
6	Health Without Stigma: Empowering Women with Experience of Violence	2025–2026

IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS - SOCIAL CENTRE AS PARTNER

#	Project Name	Period
1	Laws Are There to Be Used!	2024–2025
2	Voice for Justice: Support for LGBTIQ Women Victims of Violence	2024–2025
3	Change Starts with the Young!	2024–2025
4	Education and Networking for a Better Future of Youth in Montenegro	2024–2025
5	Strengthening the Social Support System for LGBTIQ Women Victims of Violence	2025–2026
6	Support Network for the Elderly – Expansion and Integration of Non-Institutional Services for Older People	2025–2026
7	In the Game Together – A Systemic Approach to Combating Hate Speech and Discrimination in Sports	2025–2026
8	Words Have Power: Systemic Fight Against Discriminatory Speech and Misogyny	2025–2026
9	Youth First – Connecting Institutions and Empowering Young People	2025–2026
10	Protection and Advancement of LGBTI Rights Through Implementation of the Law on Life Partnership	2025–2026

Below, we provide a comprehensive overview of projects actively implemented in 2025, with the Social Center serving as the lead organization.

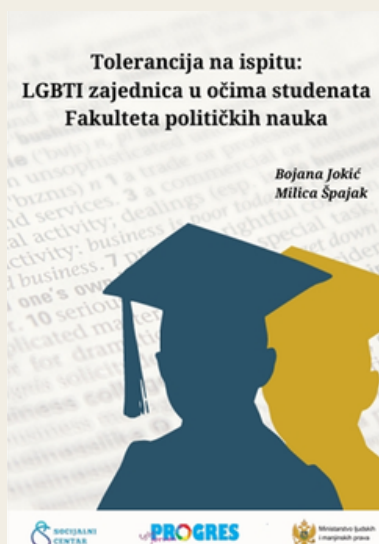
Project 1: Conversation for Transformation

"Dialogue for Change: Inclusive Education and Strengthening Support for LGBTI Human Rights" (2024–2025)

The project aims to enhance collaboration among essential stakeholders and establish a dialogue platform to foster inclusivity in education and advocate for the human rights of the LGBTI community. This initiative is executed with the financial backing of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro.

Publication: Examination Tolerance

As part of the project, a survey was conducted at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Podgorica, the results of which were compiled in the publication 'Tolerance on the Exam: The LGBTI Community in the Eyes of Students of the Faculty of Political Sciences.' The survey aimed to assess attitudes, levels of awareness, and perceptions of discrimination against LGBTI individuals.



The research findings present a nuanced understanding of the academic landscape in Montenegro. A significant proportion of respondents (77.5%) acknowledge the existence of discrimination against LGBTI individuals within Montenegrin society, indicating a heightened awareness of social inequalities among the student body. Concurrently, 78.9% of students perceive the university environment as either closed or very closed to LGBTI individuals.

Despite the aforementioned challenges, the research also revealed a promising potential for enhancing the institutional approach—64.8% of students exhibit a positive or very positive attitude towards LGBTI individuals, and 71.8% acknowledge the necessity for supplementary educational content and workshops on this subject.

77,5% acknowledges discrimination against LGBTI individuals in society	90,2% considers LGBTI issues to be inadequately represented	64,8% exhibits a positive attitude towards LGBTI individuals	71,8% acknowledges the necessity of education
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Based on the findings, a series of recommendations for higher education institutions was established, encompassing enhancements to curricula, the development of institutional support mechanisms, the strengthening of both teaching and non-teaching staff capacities, the establishment of secure and anonymous channels for reporting discrimination, and the intensification of collaboration with civil society organizations.

The publication serves as an analytical foundation for the continued advancement of advocacy and educational initiatives focused on enhancing inclusivity and safeguarding human rights within higher education.

Public course at the Faculty of Political Science

On May 28, 2025, a public lecture focused on the human rights of LGBTI individuals was successfully conducted at the Faculty of Political Sciences. This lecture followed research undertaken at the Faculty, with its findings presented during the event, fostering an open dialogue. The lecture attracted an audience of 24 FPN students.



The selected venue and structure of the public class facilitated a direct dialogue between the academic community and human rights specialists. Students were afforded the opportunity to pose questions, share their experiences, and contemplate specific recommendations for enhancing inclusivity within the academic setting.

Copies of the publication 'Tolerance on the Exam' and informative posters have been delivered to the faculty archives. This initiative signifies the commencement of ongoing academic collaboration focused on disseminating educational content regarding the rights of LGBTI individuals within the higher education context. The Social Center conveyed its appreciation to the Faculty of Political Sciences for its openness and collaboration, believing that through joint efforts, we can enhance the inclusiveness of educational environments and foster social change.

Within the same project, the initiative to create and display informative posters at Montenegrin faculties was executed, aimed at enhancing the awareness and understanding of both male and female students regarding the human rights of LGBTI individuals, the significance of embracing diversity, and the necessity of combating discrimination within the academic environment.

LJUDSKA PRAVA SU PRAVA SVIH NAS

- Šta su ljudska prava?**

Ljudska prava su osnovna prava i slobode koja pripadaju svima, bez obzira na pol, seksualnu orijentaciju, rodni identitet ili bilo koje druge lične karakteristike.
- Ko su LGBTI osobe?**

LGBTI je akronim koji označava lezbejke, gayne, biseksualne, transrodne i interseksualne osobe. Ove kategorije obuhvataju različite identitete i seksualno orijentacije, ali im je zajedničko to što se često suočavaju sa nezamislivim, diskriminacijom i društvenim predrasudama.
- Koji su najčešći problemi sa kojima se LGBTI osobe suočavaju?**
 - Diskriminacija u obrazovanju, zapošljavanju i zdravstvenim uslugama;
 - Fizičko i verbalno nasilje;
 - Ograničen pristup ljudskim pravima, uključujući pravo na brak i porodični život;
 - Društvena stigmatizacija i izolacija.
- Kako možeš pomoći?**
 - Informiši se i edukuj o LGBTI pravima;
 - Budi saveznik – podrži prijatelje, kolege i sve koji se suočavaju sa diskriminacijom;
 - Imajvi glasno mišljenje i nasilje – ljudska prava su odgovornost svih nas;
 - Uključi se u inicijative i organizacije koje promovišu ravnopravnost i inkluziju.
- Potrebno ti je pomoć? Obrati nam se za savjet, podršku ili resurse koji ti mogu pomoći.**

✉ Email: info@lgbtiq.me
🌐 www.lgbtiq.me

SOCIJALNI CENTAR | **PROGRES** | **Ministarstvo ljudskih i manjinskih prava**

Ova materijal je izdat u okviru projekta "Podrška za promjene kulturne okoline" koji je podržala sa LGBTI i politički aktivisti i članovima NGO Socijalni Centar i partnerstvo sa LGBTI Forumom Progres za ravnopravnost i inkluziju u Srbiji. Inicijativa je podržala sa LGBTI i politički aktivisti i članovima NGO Socijalni Centar i partnerstvo sa LGBTI Forumom Progres za ravnopravnost i inkluziju u Srbiji. Inicijativa je podržala sa LGBTI i politički aktivisti i članovima NGO Socijalni Centar i partnerstvo sa LGBTI Forumom Progres za ravnopravnost i inkluziju u Srbiji.

Billboard to enhance public awareness

The Social Center launched a strategic awareness campaign regarding the status of LGBTI individuals in Montenegro by installing a billboard in front of the American Embassy in Podgorica. The selected location near the embassy ensured that the billboard reached a varied audience, including students, diplomatic personnel, embassy visitors, and general passersby.



The billboard is meticulously crafted both visually and conceptually. The central motif features symbols that embody diversity and unity, accompanied by the inscriptions 'Education', 'Freedom', and 'Support'.

Spanning a three-month duration, the estimated reach of the campaign was significantly amplified due to its high-traffic location. The message was viewed by thousands of citizens, including individuals who would typically not engage with LGBTI human rights issues.

Ongoing psychological support and social assistance services for LGBTI individuals

The social center offered ongoing psychological and social support to over 120 individuals from marginalized groups, including LGBTI individuals, women who have survived violence, people with disabilities, members of minority ethnic communities, and those experiencing economic and social exclusion. Each individual utilizing these services was assured of anonymity and discretion, fostering open dialogue regarding personal challenges, experiences of discrimination, and daily hardships.

Psychological support was provided through individualized and group sessions, customized to meet the specific needs of the beneficiaries. Throughout a 12-month period, a team of professional psychologists and social workers consistently monitored the beneficiaries' progress, offering expert assistance in overcoming trauma, enhancing self-confidence, and formulating strategies for managing stress and social isolation. In group workshops, beneficiaries were afforded the opportunity to share experiences with others encountering similar challenges, which further fostered a sense of belonging and empowerment.



Social support encompassed direct aid in accessing resources, including counseling in legal, educational, employment, and social protection matters. Through personalized engagement and collaboration with pertinent institutions, beneficiaries obtained practical assistance in navigating challenges and asserting their rights.

The outcomes of this ongoing support were diverse. Beneficiaries indicated a notable decrease in feelings of social isolation, enhanced self-confidence, improved stress management capabilities, and a heightened sense of security within the community. Furthermore, the service facilitated the acquisition of tangible skills for independent action and active participation in social processes, thereby further promoting inclusivity and equality for marginalized groups in Montenegro.

Thus, the service has established itself as a safe and supportive environment where every marginalized individual can access assistance, understanding, and professional guidance. The experiences of users are leveraged to perpetually enhance the program and create new support models that address the genuine needs of the community.

Project 2: Secure and Resilient

"Safe and Strong – Together in Protection from Gender-Based and Domestic Violence in Montenegro" (2024–2025)

Throughout the project, spanning 12 months, social, psychological, and legal counseling services were developed and executed for women and girls who have encountered domestic and gender-based violence. The initiatives aimed to deliver comprehensive, confidential, and ongoing support. The services ensured individual access for each beneficiary, as well as a secure environment where women and girls could obtain professional assistance, information, and support during their recovery and reintegration process.

Specialized training for service providers.

Over the past year, specialized training was organized and conducted for staff and service providers from non-governmental organizations, concentrating on assisting women and girls who have encountered gender-based and domestic violence. The training was facilitated by psychologist Irena Abazović.

The training program encompassed the subsequent thematic modules:

- Community outreach - strategies and techniques for identifying and engaging marginalized or isolated women.
- Intersectional approach to service delivery - an analysis of how various factors (gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, disability) impact experiences of violence.
- Practical support competencies - managing crisis situations, providing psychosocial assistance, establishing secure environments
- Security and ethical standards encompass data protection, respect for user dignity, and integrity in handling trauma.

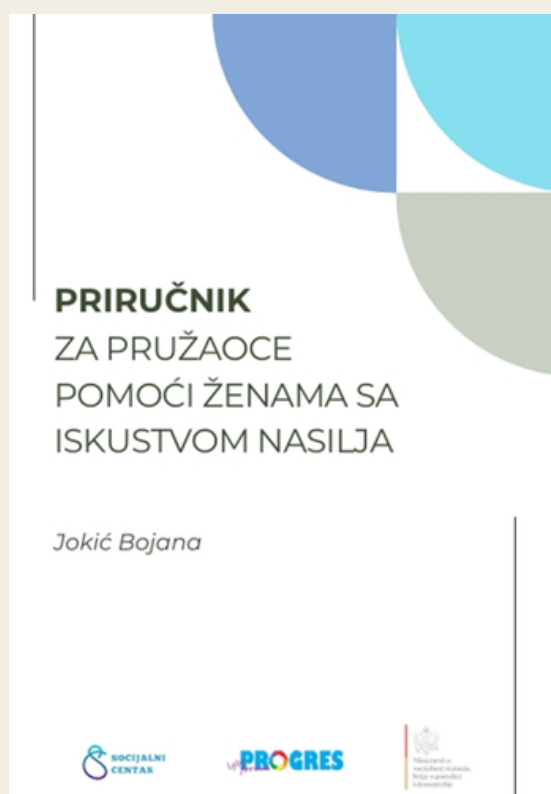
The training was conducted through a blend of theoretical lectures, practical exercises, and case simulations. Particular emphasis was placed on the exchange of experiences among organizations, fostering an environment for mutual learning and the cultivation of best practices.

Service Provider Handbook

A manual has been released for service providers assisting multiply marginalized women who are victims of violence, emphasizing community access and the intersectional aspects of service delivery.

The manual offers a comprehensive overview of the national legal framework, encompassing pertinent provisions of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and the Criminal Code of Montenegro, alongside international standards established by the Istanbul Convention. Particular attention is given to the implementation of a victim-centered approach, risk assessment, and inter-institutional collaboration.

This manual serves as a practical resource for enhancing the competencies of professionals within the social and child protection system, aimed at improving the quality of support and protection for women who are victims of gender-based and domestic violence.



Project 3: Women in Perspective

"Women in Focus: Support for Economic Empowerment of Marginalized Women from Northern Montenegro" (2024–2025)

The project seeks to enhance the capabilities of non-governmental organizations that assist women and girls facing gender-based and domestic violence by improving their knowledge and skills in community outreach and the implementation of an intersectional approach in their efforts.

As part of the project, training was effectively conducted for representatives of non-governmental organizations that assist women and girls facing gender-based and domestic violence.

The objective of the training was to enhance participants' ability to implement a community-based and intersectional approach when engaging with beneficiaries, particularly emphasizing women who are multiply marginalized.

The training encompassed essential subjects including:

Understanding gender-based and domestic violence through an intersectional lens.

identification of distinct needs among various groups of women,

development of inclusive and accessible support services,

enhancing community engagement and outreach,

Enhancing awareness to engage with LGBTQ women and other marginalized communities.

The outcomes of the training are evident in:

enhanced knowledge and skills of participants for engaging with multiply marginalized women, a deeper comprehension of the significance of an intersectional approach in service delivery, enhancing the capability of organizations to deliver improved quality and accessible services, enhanced collaborative efforts and networking among organizations.

The implemented training constitutes a substantial advancement in enhancing the support system for women who have endured violence, fostering a more professional, empathetic, and inclusive approach to service delivery.



Two-Day Women's Entrepreneurship Expo

As part of the inaugural ceremony of the first Women's Entrepreneurship Fair, 'Women in Focus', held on February 28, 2025, at the Berane Hotel, a literary evening was organized featuring the esteemed author of the contemporary regional literary scene, Brankica Damjanović. Her work has garnered widespread readership and has significantly influenced female audiences for years. This segment of the program was designed as a cultural and inspirational prelude to the two-day event, aimed at further promoting the values of empowerment, visibility, solidarity, and professional development of women through literature and personal narratives.

BERANE, 2025.
ŽENE U FOKUSU

Febbruar 28 2025
Petak, 19:00h, Hotel Berane
Književno veče
Veče sa književnicom Brankicom Damjanović - Ulaz besplatan.

Mart 01 2025
Subota, 12:00h, Gradski Trg - Berane
Sajam ženskog preduzetništva
Uživajte u bogatom kulturnom programu, autentičnoj gastro ponudi i jedinstvenim ručnim radovima preduzetnica

SOCIJALNI CENTAR **IVANA PANTOVIĆ ORGANIZATORKA** **Ministarstvo ljudskih i manjinskih prava**

Aktivnost se realizuje u okviru projekta "Žene u fokusu: Podrška ekonomskom osnaživanju marginalizovanih žena sa sjevera Crne Gore" koji sprovodi NVO Socijalni Centar uz finansijsku podršku Ministarstva ljudskih i manjinskih prava Crne Gore

The event attracted a substantial number of attendees, including women entrepreneurs from diverse industries, representatives from civil society institutions and organizations, as well as residents of Berane and neighboring municipalities. Remarkable attendance and a heightened level of interest were noted, underscoring the demand for content that integrates a cultural dimension with themes of personal and professional empowerment.

In the evening, Brankica Damjanović, through her interpretation of excerpts from her works and an open dialogue with the audience, addressed themes of personal courage, perseverance, self-esteem, and the navigation of life and professional challenges, alongside the significance of taking responsibility for one's own development. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of women in contemporary society, the balance between private and professional obligations, and the importance of mutual support and networking.

Following the formal proceedings of the evening, an informal gathering was arranged, which further facilitated networking among the fair participants, fostering the exchange of experiences and the establishment of new connections. This segment emerged as a significant opportunity for initiating future collaborations and reinforcing solidarity among women from diverse professional backgrounds.





The literary evening featuring Brankica Damjanović held considerable significance for the project's realization. Beyond its cultural value and enhancement of the program's quality, this event robustly supported the fair's primary objectives—promoting women's potential, bolstering self-confidence, and fostering greater participation of women in economic and social trends. This provided a representative and substantively strong commencement to the event, establishing a foundation for the continued execution of fair activities and contributing to the overall visibility and success of the project.

The central event of the fair occurred on March 1st at 12:00 in the Town Square of Berane, where an exhibition and sales area was established featuring over 20 stands showcasing the work and products of women entrepreneurs from various regions of Montenegro, particularly the north. The exhibitors displayed a wide array of products, ranging from handmade items and distinctive handicrafts to local culinary specialties and cosmetic innovations. Several hundred visitors engaged with the offerings, and a substantial number supported the entrepreneurs through their purchases, thereby directly contributing to their economic empowerment and the independent promotion of their products.

The fair featured an extensive live music program and food service, complemented by a structured creative workshop for children. This blend of offerings rendered the event appealing not only to business-oriented women but also to the broader community, including visiting families and local residents.



The economic and social impact of the fair was multifaceted:

Women's Economic Empowerment: Exhibitors were afforded the opportunity to promote their products directly, generate sales, establish connections, and strengthen business networks.

Visibility and Promotion: The fair played a significant role in enhancing public awareness regarding the importance of female entrepreneurship, particularly in northern municipalities where visibility and support for women in business are frequently constrained.

- **Community support:** The presence of numerous citizens and their active engagement highlighted the influence of the community in bolstering local women entrepreneurs, thereby reinforcing the sense of community and mutual solidarity.



20+
exhibition
displays

500+
visitors

2
duration in days
Feb 28 – Mar 1

1
innovative
workshop
for youth

In addition to the dedicated team at the Social Center, volunteers from the northern municipalities of Montenegro played an active role in organizing the Women's Entrepreneurship Fair. Their energy, enthusiasm, and local expertise significantly contributed to the event's successful execution. Volunteers assisted in preparing stands, coordinating visitors, providing information, and promoting exhibitors, ensuring the Fair operated seamlessly and that attendees enjoyed a pleasant and informative experience.

At the conclusion of the two-day event, the director of the Social Center personally awarded certificates of appreciation to the exhibitors, emphasizing their contributions and efforts in the execution.

This gesture not only held symbolic significance but also reinforced the sense of community, recognition, and motivation, affirming the importance of collaborative engagement and participation among local stakeholders.



Campaign:

ODVAŽNE E USPJEŠNE E

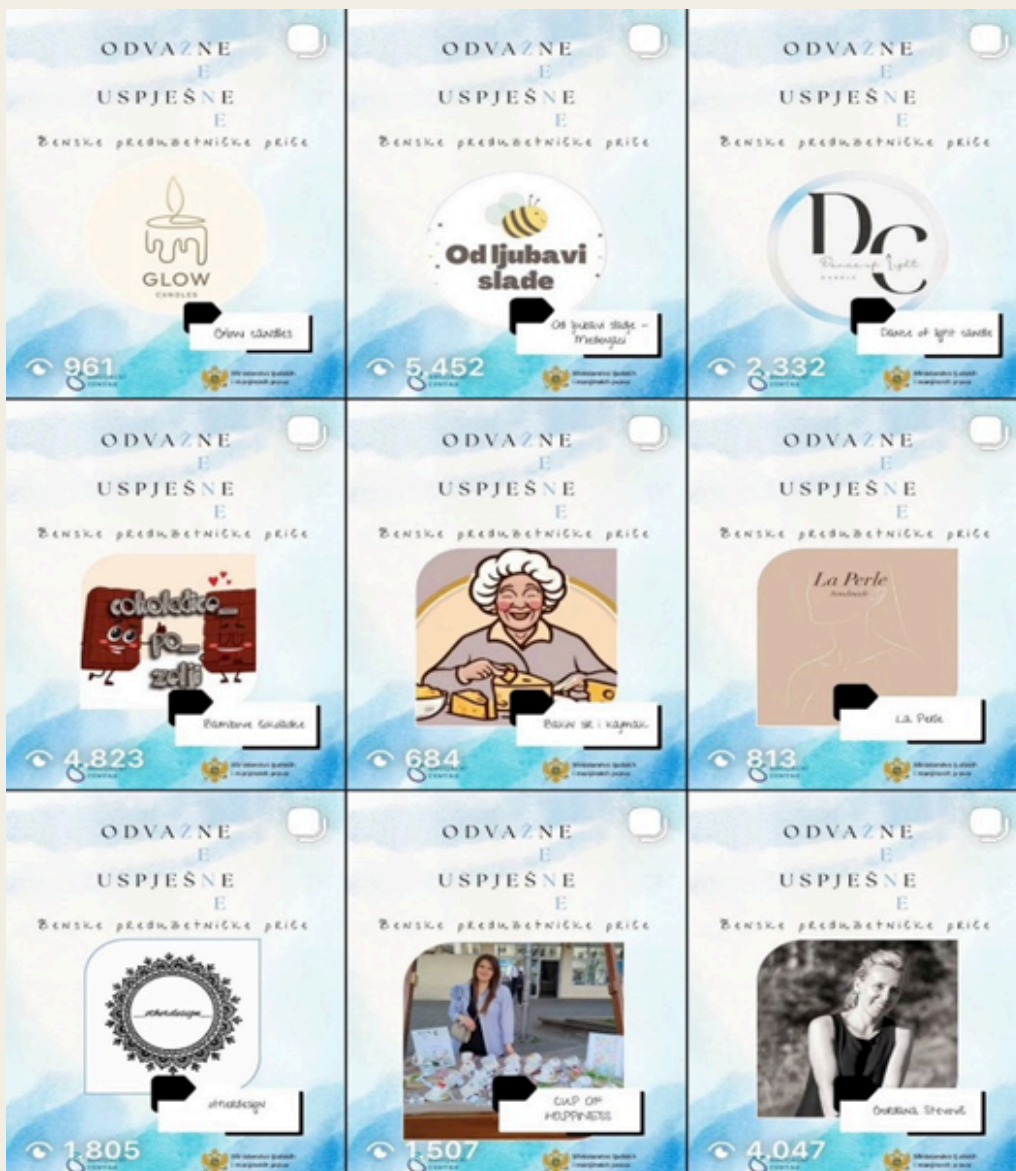
Ženske preduzetničke priče

To enhance public awareness regarding the significance of female entrepreneurship and to offer tangible support to marginalized women entrepreneurs in northern Montenegro, the Social Center developed and executed the media campaign 'Courageous and Successful Women: Women's Entrepreneurial Stories!' This initiative sought to highlight positive, authentic, and inspiring narratives of women who, despite facing numerous challenges, successfully cultivate their own businesses. Through this initiative, the Social Center has diligently endeavored to gather, curate, and publicly present the personal and entrepreneurial narratives of women from northern Montenegro, particularly emphasizing those who encounter various forms of marginalization, such as geographical isolation, restricted market access, insufficient institutional support, and gender stereotypes.

The campaign was predominantly executed on the Instagram platform, featuring a series of meticulously crafted and visually appealing posts that showcased personal narratives of female entrepreneurs regarding their origins, challenges, and motivations; presentations of products and services; an emphasis on the significance of handmade and local production; as well as messages of empowerment and solidarity.

In addition to its online promotion, the campaign featured a significant social dimension, contributing to the dismantling of stereotypes regarding women in business, particularly in rural and northern regions. By showcasing authentic and successful narratives, a clear message was conveyed to the public: women from northern Montenegro possess the knowledge, creativity, and potential for economic transformation.

This initiative further reinforced the position of the Social Center as an organization that, through contemporary communication channels, actively fosters the economic empowerment of women and the advancement of gender equality in Montenegro.



Each narrative was accompanied by images of the products or the entrepreneurs themselves, featuring clearly delineated profiles and contact information, which facilitated direct connections between interested buyers and the women whose products were showcased. Consequently, the campaign was not only informative and motivational but also strategically focused on enhancing sales, visibility, and the economic empowerment of the participants. Special emphasis was placed on the continuity of posts to ensure a sustained presence of these narratives in the public domain and to gradually cultivate audience interest. Content was disseminated in various formats, including posts and story content.





In contemporary society, where social media and traditional media significantly influence public opinion and enhance organizational visibility, the Social Center has devoted particular attention to this domain. Over the past year, all activities of the Center, including the organization of the Social Services Fair, have been meticulously promoted through diverse channels to ensure that information reaches the broadest possible audience. The Fair was showcased through social media posts, stories, and photographs, as well as video materials, enabling those unable to attend to gain insight into the event's content and significance.

Media appearances by team members greatly enhanced the visibility of the Center through interviews and guest spots on various programs. These engagements facilitated the promotion of activities and heightened awareness regarding the significance of supporting marginalized groups. Public relations efforts were ongoing and seamlessly integrated with all projects, resulting in an increase in followers and the reach of posts. In addition to the team, volunteers from the north also contributed to the promotion, thereby broadening the regional impact. The Social Center further amplified its social influence through coordinated campaigns and collaborative projects designed to empower target groups.

Project 4: Universal Health Access

"Health for All – Improving Healthcare Practices for LGBTI Persons in Montenegro" (2025–2026)

The project seeks to address discrimination and enhance the health and social protection of LGBTI individuals in Montenegro. Research indicates that LGBTI individuals in Montenegro frequently refrain from utilizing healthcare services due to concerns about discrimination, resulting in significant repercussions for their physical and mental well-being.

Project 5: Engage in Activity - School of Volunteerism

"Activate Yourself – School of Volunteering and Human Rights for Young People of Montenegro" (2025–2026)

The project seeks to enhance the information and awareness of youth across all Montenegrin regions regarding the significance of volunteerism in activism and human rights, with the objective of boosting their social engagement and employability.

Project 6: Health Free from Stigma

"Health Without Stigma: Empowering Women with Experience of Violence" (2025–2026)

The project seeks to enhance the accessibility and quality of health services for women from marginalized communities who have faced violence, through research, training of healthcare professionals, and the establishment of psychosocial support services.

IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS - ORGANIZATION AS A COLLABORATOR

In addition to actively enhancing human rights in Montenegro through project leadership, in 2025 the Social Center served as a key partner in the execution of ten initiatives led by partner organizations.

The Social Center acknowledges the significance of collaborative partnerships as a means of consolidating resources, exchanging expertise, and attaining a more substantial social impact. Such partnerships are founded on common values, mutual respect, and well-defined roles and responsibilities.

Project Name	PERIOD
Laws Are There to Be Used!	2024-2025
Voice for Justice: Support for LGBTIQ Women Victims of Violence	2024-2025
Change Starts with the Young!	2024-2025
Education and Networking for a Better Future of Youth in Montenegro	2024-2025
Strengthening the Social Support System for LGBTIQ Women Victims of Violence	2025-2026
Support Network for the Elderly – Expansion and Integration of Non-Institutional Services for Older People	2025-2026
In the Game Together – A Systemic Approach to Combating Hate Speech and Discrimination in Sports	2025-2026
Words Have Power: Systemic Fight Against Discriminatory Speech and Misogyny	2025-2026
Youth First – Connecting Institutions and Empowering Young People	2025-2026
Protection and Advancement of LGBTI Rights Through Implementation of the Law on Life Partnership	2025-2026

The most notable activities within the context of partnership projects

Youth Camp 'Transformations Begin with the Youth'

As a notable example of effective collaborative partnership, we specifically emphasize the involvement in the youth camp 'Changes Begin with Youth,' organized by the LGBT Forum Progress with the backing of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, in which the Social Center participated as a partner. The camp took place at the Bali Mountain Resort in Bijelo Polje.

The camp program was crafted as a platform for inspiration, connection, and the empowerment of young individuals eager to engage in fostering positive change within the community. Through interactive lectures, workshops, and social gatherings, participants were afforded the opportunity to broaden their understanding of socially significant topics, cultivate practical skills, and forge connections with peers and experts.

Five distinguished lecturers—Rebeka Čilović, Milica Boca, Bojana Jokić, Milan Sekulović, and Aleksandar Dragičević—facilitated workshops and lectures, enhancing the program's quality and empowering participants with tangible examples and practical guidance. This camp primarily offered young individuals the chance to be inspired, connected, and equipped for active community engagement, thereby affirming their roles as catalysts for societal change.

KAMP ZA MLADE
**Mijenjaj
s(v)e!**



SEP
27
OKT
01

Virtual seminar on activism



Aleksandar Dragičević

Gradanski aktivista



Milan Sekulović

Gradanski aktivista

Milan Sekulović, a representative of the "Save Sinjajevina" initiative, shared insights into civic activism, emphasizing the organization of protests, international collaboration, and strategic actions. The lecture was interactive, fostering a dialogue on the avenues for civic engagement.

Aleksandar Dragičević delivered a lecture on the development of successful campaigns, underscoring the significance of well-defined objectives, strategic alliances, and effective communication. By presenting concrete examples, he acquainted the participants with the role of public advocacy as a mechanism for social transformation.

COMPLIMENTARY SUPPORT SERVICES: PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND LEGAL SUPPORT

Providing direct support services to beneficiaries constitutes a fundamental aspect of the Social Center's operations. In 2025, these services were accessible to individuals from diverse marginalized groups, with particular emphasis on LGBTI individuals and women who have faced violence.

150+
support users

12
months of uninterrupted
service

100%
complimentary service
to all users

3
categories of services
psychology, sociology, law

Psychological assistance

The Social Center offered ongoing psychological support to over 120 individuals from marginalized groups, including LGBTI individuals, women who have survived violence, people with disabilities, members of minority ethnic communities, and those experiencing economic and social exclusion.

Psychological support was provided through individualized and group sessions, customized to meet the specific needs of the beneficiaries. Throughout a 12-month period, a team of professional psychologists and social workers consistently monitored the beneficiaries' progress, offering expert assistance in overcoming trauma, enhancing self-confidence, and formulating strategies to cope with stress and social isolation.



In group workshops, participants had the opportunity to share experiences with others encountering similar challenges, which further fostered a sense of belonging and empowerment. Each individual utilizing these services was assured of anonymity and confidentiality.

Social assistance

Social support encompassed direct access to resources, including counseling in the domains of law, education, employment, and social protection. Through personalized engagement and collaboration with pertinent institutions, beneficiaries obtained practical assistance in navigating challenges and asserting their rights.

The organization's social worker consistently monitored the cases of beneficiaries, coordinated with the relevant institutions, and ensured that individuals in need received all available assistance. Particular attention was directed towards those in crisis situations, for whom emergency support protocols were implemented.

Legal assistance and advocacy

The organization's initiative to offer legal aid, counseling, and representation empowers beneficiaries to understand their rights, obtain professional assistance in securing legal protection, and navigate complex institutional procedures with greater ease.

The engaged attorney offered complimentary consultations, assistance in drafting written submissions, accompaniment at institutional meetings, and representation in administrative proceedings. In instances of discrimination, violence, or rights violations, beneficiaries were directed to the appropriate institutions with professional support.



However...

While the outcomes of ongoing psychological and social support for marginalized groups over the past year have been remarkably positive, the current state of the service raises concerns. The services are entirely organized and funded within the confines of a project-defined program, which means their duration and availability are contingent upon time-limited project funding. This model complicates long-term planning and the continuous availability of support for beneficiaries, many of whom, having made significant strides in psychological and social empowerment over the year, now confront the potential discontinuation of this essential support.

The lack of permanent funding and institutional support jeopardizes the continuity of services and diminishes their effectiveness, leaving extremely vulnerable beneficiaries without a secure environment for assistance. Consequently, the Social Center acknowledges the pressing necessity for these services to be integrated as a permanent component of the Center's essential offerings, ensuring that all beneficiaries, irrespective of their circumstances, can access safe, professional, and confidential psychological and social support.

Incorporating these services into the Center's routine operations would guarantee long-term sustainability, quality, and accessibility of assistance, thereby consistently enhancing social inclusion and support for marginalized groups within the community, while mitigating the risk of disruption or loss of outcomes achieved through project-specific, time-limited activities.

Advocating for systemic change and enhancing public awareness of critical issues are fundamental aspects of the Social Center's mission. Through meticulously crafted campaigns, the organization aims to shape public perceptions, policies, and legislation.


Campaign for the Menstrual Leave Legislation

'Pain is not a work obligation' – Video campaign for the adoption of a legal solution on menstrual leave

The NGO Social Center, in collaboration with the LGBT Forum Progress and Montenegrin Member of Parliament Jevrosima Pejović, has initiated a video campaign aimed at advocating for the adoption of a legal framework regarding menstrual leave. This campaign seeks to illuminate the challenges encountered by women experiencing secondary dysmenorrhea, a condition characterized by painful menstruation resulting from organic disorders such as endometriosis, myoma, or uterine polyps.



BOL NIJE SRAMOTA



BOL NIJE SRAMOTA

The Law on Menstrual Leave grants the entitlement to two days of paid leave each month, contingent upon medical documentation and the requirement for regular gynecological examinations. The campaign received media coverage through various channels, including television and radio programs, online portals, and social networks. Video content was disseminated on platforms with extensive reach, enabling the message to resonate with a broader audience.

Milica Špajak, the Director of the Social Center, provided an interview to the media, underscoring the significance of acknowledging menstrual pain as both a health and workplace concern, while also emphasizing the necessity for institutional support for women. The campaign elicited a substantial public response and fostered a dialogue regarding women's rights and their healthcare.

Activities for the Day Against Hate Speech

As part of the organization's initiatives, online monitoring was consistently performed to identify and report hate speech targeting LGBTI individuals. Documented cases were appropriately submitted to the relevant authorities for further action.

This activity is crucial in the battle against discrimination, as hate speech frequently serves as the initial step toward more severe forms of violence and threats to the safety of LGBTI individuals.

The organization will persist in its monitoring and advocacy efforts, aiming to enhance the institutional response and foster a safer, more inclusive social environment for the LGBTI community.

**"Silence is not
neutral,
because it
encourages and
enables
violence and
injustice."**

Education and capacity building represent a strategic priority for the Social Center. Through diverse educational formats, the organization enhances the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of various target groups, including healthcare professionals, lawyers, students, volunteers, and the broader community.

During the reporting period, the organization fostered ongoing and significant collaboration with partner organizations and pertinent stakeholders in the realm of human rights protection, particularly emphasizing the collective execution of educational initiatives.

Through this collaboration, we actively engaged in the planning, organization, and execution of training sessions, encompassing the development of work programs, preparation of educational materials, logistical support, and participant coordination. A particular emphasis was placed on the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among organizations, which further enhanced the quality of the activities conducted.

Collaboration with partners has facilitated a more effective strategy for engaging target groups and has enhanced the capabilities of organizations dedicated to supporting marginalized populations. Concurrently, this approach has fostered the establishment of sustainable partnerships and reinforced the network of organizations operating in the realms of gender equality, violence prevention, and human rights advocacy.



Visit by students from Mediterranean University

In 2025, the offices of the NGO LGBT Forum Progres and the Social Center welcomed students from the University of the Mediterranean for practical classes, accompanied by teaching assistant Ms. Marija Nikolić. This educational visit provided the students with insights into the extensive work of our organizations and the current status of marginalized social groups in Montenegro.

Representatives from the organizations provided a comprehensive overview of the campaigns conducted throughout the year, which significantly enhanced public awareness of critical social issues. Students were afforded the opportunity to explore the programs and services offered by the Center and the Forum, as well as the methods by which the civil sector impacts the formulation of policies and legislation.

The visit generated significant interest and enthusiasm among the students, who conveyed their eagerness to engage actively in future volunteer activities. The students proposed collaboration through lectures delivered by representatives of the organizations at their faculty in the future.

His voice spread far beyond Manchester. Letters arrived some praising him, others wishing him. Factory owners called him a sentimental fool. Workers called him a brother. And in Parliament a few began to whisper his name as one of the new men, those who rose not by inheritance, but by will. One

The name fell from her lips like the closing of a long-forgotten book. For a moment, the noise of the hall vanished—the murmur of voices, the hiss of steam, all swallowed by the gravity of what she represented. Samuel bowed his head, not from deference, but from something older—gratitude born across

"This," he said, "is what built for. Not copper, the chance to live, not swimming over on steel, but always to smelt of sunset by the

Samuel walked among the displays with both wonder and unease. It was magnificent, yes, but also merciless. Everywhere he looked, he saw beauty born of sweat, brilliance born of exhaustion. The world was opening forward again, and he feared that in its haste, it might trample the very souls that gave it motion.

As he passed before a new model locomotive—a gleaming monster of steel, painted crimson and gold—he noticed an elderly woman standing nearby, her gloves worn upon a wall. He

invention, but it but they parties hand a folded That spring, a The Every Six Learning. It at of the wealthy factories, but had all long coal-stains learning only less it opens

Research and publication activities constitute a vital component of the Social Center's operations, facilitating the establishment of evidence-based policies, the dissemination of knowledge, and the enhancement of public awareness regarding significant social issues.

Research and publication activities constitute a vital component of the Social Center's operations, fostering evidence-based policies, disseminating knowledge, and enhancing public awareness of critical social issues. We consistently submit all our publications to the library, ensuring their availability to the broader public and facilitating access to pertinent information.

Interactive access: When visitors click on a publication image, they will be directed to our SDO publications page, where they can download the document, view the abstract, or explore information about the authors and topics. This facilitates easy access to knowledge and enhances the transparency of our research findings.

In this manner, we integrate physical accessibility via the library and digital accessibility through our website, ensuring that the outcomes of our research reach the broadest possible audience and are utilized in the formulation of policies and social initiatives.



the book carried the or new silver Every School, then's laughter as Berkeley

that he had built and that held a him like an answered father of Thomas walking of Mary bent over her sewing, aim to speak when silence was safer, not bridges, yes—but this school, he most monument to their names

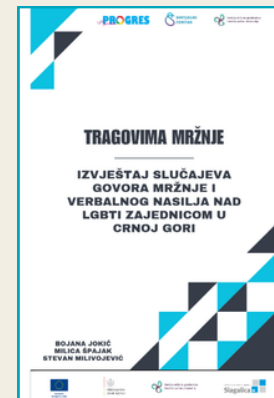
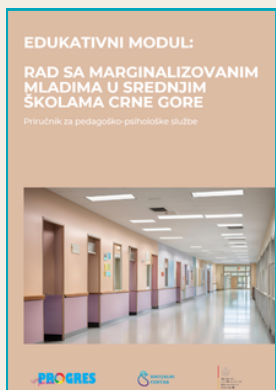
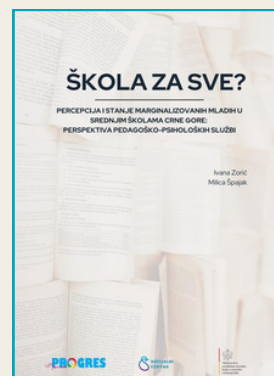
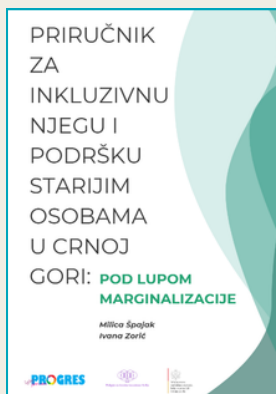
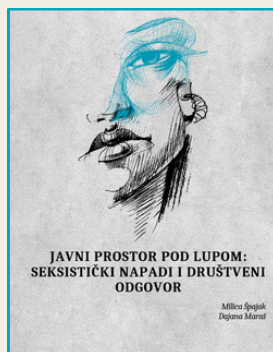
and to the ironworks for what would be the final and shinning was quiet now. Only one furnace all like the base of an old giant, slaying gracefully. The last burning before the new electric furnace opened across turned to greet him—not with the stiff formality once given with of equals. Many were sons of the men who had followed a century before. They looked to him not as a commander, but approached his face streaked with coal dust. "Mr. Every," he said, "is it?"

He took the long iron lever that controlled the furnace door. The heat rolled inside, the coals glowed with a soft, almost holy light. For a long moment, and watched. Then, slowly, he closed the door. The fire dimmed, then died.

nd. Someone began to sing a low, rough hymn once sung by the workers in his way. Others joined, their voices rising until they filled the great hall with sound. He were old, half-forgotten, yet the meaning was clear, remembrance, endurance. When the last note faded, Samuel spoke quietly. "We built Alderbridge. It built us all. Let its last warmth remind us not of lost, but of

Overview of Publications in 2025

By clicking on the publication, you can access the complete text.



In contemporary society, media visibility and proactive engagement with the public are essential instruments for enhancing awareness, promoting change, and bolstering organizational credibility. Throughout 2025, the Social Center engaged in a diverse array of media formats.





Media engagements and interviews

The Director of the Social Center, Milica Špajak, along with other team members, conducted numerous interviews with print and online media, as well as television and radio programs. This media presence allowed the organization to showcase its activities, achievements, and objectives, while also educating and informing citizens about critical issues related to human rights, gender equality, and the inclusion of marginalized groups. Furthermore, active engagement in public appearances, interviews, panels, and conferences significantly enhanced the visibility of the Social Center and its impact within the public sphere.

Digital and social networks

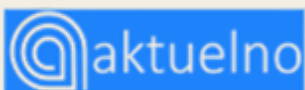
In 2025, the Social Center enhanced its digital presence, particularly emphasizing Instagram as the main communication channel for engaging with a younger audience.

The content is disseminated in various formats (posts, stories, reels), with each piece meticulously crafted to suit the intended audience and communication objectives. Particular emphasis is placed on the visual identity of the content, which embodies the organization's professional image and effectively communicates its core values.

Collaboration with the media

In 2025, we established stable and ongoing collaboration with the media, which consistently reported on our activities and allocated space for issues of social significance.

The media covered our training sessions, panels, campaigns, and support programs, as well as broader social issues that we highlighted through public appearances and official statements.



The Social Center is committed to fostering partnerships, understanding that collaboration is essential for empowering the community as a catalyst for positive societal change. By consistently building trust and sustaining relationships with relevant organizations, institutions, and local stakeholders, the Center aims to establish a platform for collective action.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

LGBT FORUM PROGRESS



ILGA EUROPE



IGLYO



CIVIL COALITION



DJAKOMO ADRIATIC



YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - YHIR



MONTENEGRIN YOUTH NETWORK



TRAINING GROUND FOR WOMEN'S EXCELLENCE - SOFIJA



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS - ECHR



SAVE SINJAJEVINA



DECAPLUS



ILGA WORLD



DO NOT THROW AWAY BOTTLES



FRAMEWORK



ESWA



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATORS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



MONTENEGRO

UNITED NATIONS



A PSEA GROUP

INSTITUTIONAL DOMESTIC PARTNERS



PROTECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF MONTENEGRO - OMBUDSMAN



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND POLICE ADMINISTRATION



PUBLIC INSTITUTION HOME OF OLD PODGORICA

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND CHILD WELFARE



Zavod za socijalnu i dječiju zaštitu Crne Gore

CENTER FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



CENTAR ZA STRUČNO OBRAZOVANJE

BUREAU FOR EDUCATION SERVICES



Crna Gora
Zavod za školstvo

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND INNOVATION



Ministarstvo prosvjete, nauke i inovacija

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION MONTENEGRO

OF



UNIJA POSLODAVACA CRNE GORE

SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS



JU Centri za socijalni rad
Crna Gora

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH



EMPLOYMENT AGENCY



ACADEMIC COLLABORATORS



The Social Center regards the monitoring of project activities as an ongoing and essential component of its operations, rather than merely the concluding phase of implementation. Monitoring is conducted through well-defined internal mechanisms that facilitate regular assessments of progress.

Internal oversight

Internal monitoring encompasses the assessment of the quality of executed activities, the efficiency of resource utilization, and the actual impact on target groups. Through regular internal meetings, evaluation reports, and performance analyses, the organization guarantees that each segment of the project aligns with established objectives and that activities are conducted in accordance with the planned timelines and program frameworks.

Monitoring at the Social Center encompasses systematic procedures for financial and program accountability, which include regular reporting to donors, maintaining transparent financial records, and implementing internal business controls. These mechanisms ensure the responsible management of funds and enhance the trust of donors and partners.

External assessment

In addition to its internal monitoring processes, the Social Center places significant emphasis on independent, external project evaluation. Involving external experts and associates offers an objective perspective on the implementation process, outcomes, and challenges encountered by projects.

The Social Center's extensive experience as an organization that independently executes numerous projects enables us to conduct evaluation processes grounded in practical application and the actual conditions under which activities are carried out. This methodology guarantees that evaluation transcends theoretical confines, serving as a genuine instrument for enhancing our work.

Transparency of excessive exposure

The Social Center prioritizes financial accountability with diligence and transparency. All pertinent financial reports and documentation are accessible to the public via the organization's official website, providing clear insight into fund management and the outcomes achieved. This commitment to transparency not only enhances the trust of donors and partners but also reaffirms the dedication to responsible and ethical practices.

An additional aspect of monitoring is evident in public communication and transparency of operations, particularly through social media and other accessible channels. By consistently updating the public on activities and outcomes, the organization garners direct feedback from users, partners, and the broader community.

The effectiveness and sustainability of programs and projects largely rely on the ongoing support of donors. Notably, state institutions acknowledge the strategic significance of this work, alongside civil society organizations with which enduring partnerships founded on shared values and objectives are cultivated.

Donors serve as the foundation of our efforts.

Long-term donors hold a unique position within the network of associates, as their steady and unwavering support forms the cornerstone of our efforts, facilitating responsible planning, effective implementation, and the advancement of essential initiatives. The confidence they place in the mission and vision of the Social Center guarantees the continuity of activities and enhances the program's long-term sustainability.

Over the past year, the efforts of the Social Center have garnered recognition from new donors, thereby enhancing capacities and broadening opportunities for the promotion of human rights, social justice, and inclusivity in Montenegro.



Sustainable financing approach

One of the strategic priorities is to secure ongoing funding for programs that have been in place for many years. The sustainability of new initiatives is a crucial element of stable and efficient operations, facilitating consistent support for vulnerable groups and the community at large.

Consequently, the organization systematically observes public calls for proposals and other avenues for project financing, acknowledging sustainable financing as a crucial prerequisite for the ongoing execution of the program and the attainment of established objectives.

Fiscal accountability

<p>Public accessibility of data All financial reports are accessible to the public via the organization's official website.</p>	<p>Consistent reporting to donors Donors consistently receive comprehensive program and financial reports regarding project implementation.</p>
<p>Diversification of funding streams Proactive oversight of public tenders and the cultivation of new partnerships.</p>	<p>Internal financial oversight Established internal business control mechanisms guarantee the transparent management of funds.</p>

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHS AND RECOGNIZED CHALLENGES

During the reporting period, the Social Center further solidified its status as a dependable and accountable entity in the realms of human rights, social protection, and social inclusion. Through ongoing collaboration with partner organizations and institutions, the organization established a robust framework for the execution of project activities.

Core competencies of the organization

<p>Years of expertise</p> <p>Over a decade of sustained effort in the realm of human rights advocacy and social inclusion in Montenegro.</p>	<p>Interdisciplinary team</p> <p>Experts in psychology, social work, law, and communications, committed to the organization's mission.</p>
<p>An extensive network of collaborations</p> <p>Established collaborations with the civil sector, institutional systems, and the academic community.</p>	<p>Direct assistance services</p> <p>Complimentary psychological, social, and legal support services are accessible to all users of the organization.</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation Framework</p> <p>A framework for internal monitoring and external evaluation has been established to guarantee the quality and</p>	<p>Public acknowledgment</p> <p>The Social Center is acknowledged as a significant entity within the public and professional sphere of Montenegro.</p>

Recognized challenges and opportunities for growth

Despite the accomplishments attained, the organization acknowledges the necessity for additional enhancement in specific areas of its operations. A primary challenge continues to be the matter of long-term financial sustainability. In this regard, it will be essential to further diversify funding sources, refine strategic planning, and cultivate new partnerships to guarantee the continuity of current programs and services.

Furthermore, there is a necessity to enhance the accessibility of services, both in terms of geographical reach and in accommodating the diverse needs of users. By refining communication channels and creating more adaptable support models, the organization aims to address the escalating and increasingly intricate challenges encountered by marginalized communities.

Internal processes and procedures present a significant opportunity for enhancement, particularly regarding the standardization of reporting, the improvement of internal coordination, and the further strengthening of organizational capacities. These initiatives are designed to enhance efficiency, transparency, and the overall quality of organizational management.

Development potential and opportunities

- Enhancing collaborations and networking with local, national, and international stakeholders to achieve long-term stability and amplify social impact.
- Enhancing digital strategy and visibility to facilitate greater accessibility of information and resources, thereby fostering increased community engagement.
- Development of educational and advocacy initiatives that enhance understanding of human rights, gender equality, and inclusion.
- Strategic financial planning and the implementation of diverse financial mechanisms to ensure long-term stability.
- Enhancing current services and implementing innovative support mechanisms aligned with community needs.

In 2026, the Social Center intends to launch a series of new and ongoing initiatives designed to promote inclusion, safeguard human rights, and empower marginalized groups throughout Montenegro. These activities signify essential progress toward establishing a safer, more equitable, and inclusive society, particularly for the LGBTI community, women facing violence, youth, and other vulnerable populations.

Our vision for 2026.

Continue building an inclusive society in Montenegro through direct support, advocacy, education, and partnerships — ensuring every marginalized person has access to resources, protection, and opportunities they deserve.

Projects operating as a carrier that will extend into 2026.

1. Health for All - Enhancing healthcare practices for LGBTI individuals in Montenegro (2025–2026)
- 2.2. Engage Actively - School of Volunteerism and Human Rights for the Youth of Montenegro (2025–2026)
- 3.3. Health without stigma - Empowering women who have experienced violence (2025–2026)

Partnership initiatives that will persist in 2026

- Enhancing the social support framework for LGBTIQ women who are victims of violence in the northern region of Montenegro.
- Support Network for the Third Age – Expansion and Integration of Non-Institutional Services for Seniors in Montenegro
- We are united in this endeavor – A comprehensive strategy for addressing hate speech and discrimination in sports.
- Words possess power: A systemic struggle against discriminatory language and misogyny within Montenegrin society.
- Youth First – Bridging Institutions and Empowering Youth within the Montenegrin Education System
- Protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTI individuals through the enforcement of the Law on Same-Sex Life Partnerships.

Strategic priorities for 2026.

Upcoming projects and activities in 2026 will integrate direct support with an educational and advocacy framework, ensuring that marginalized groups are not merely passive beneficiaries but active participants in the creation of their rights and opportunities.

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK

→ EMPOWERING WOMEN

During 2023, the Social Center implemented programs aimed at the economic, psychological, and legal empowerment of women, with a special focus on those from the northern region and those with Roma experience. Through the Empower Women's Initiative, media campaigns, and direct service programs, a path was created to lead to dignity, independence, and escape from economic deprivation. By providing individual and group support, women gained the necessary skills for violence prevention, economic stability, and continued activity in society.

→ COMBATING VIOLENCE

Over the past year, the Social Center provided comprehensive support to survivors and worked on establishing systemic solutions to combat domestic violence. This included psychological, social, legal, and housing support, along with specialized services, and creating practical and legal solutions for a safer environment. Through public campaigns, educational workshops, and policy advocacy, the focus was on raising awareness and systematically addressing the suppression of violence.

→ SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

Through research, educational workshops, public classes, and counseling, the Social Center provided support to LGBTQ individuals and worked towards improving the visibility and rights of same-sex couples and trans persons. The activities spanned Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo, strengthening the capacities of LGBTQ organizations and making legal efforts to protect the law.

→ ADVOCATING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Through advocacy initiatives and campaigns for legal solutions and policy changes that lead to a fairer society, the Social Center has been actively working on reducing systemic injustices and institutional discrimination by engaging in discussions with relevant social actors, media campaigns, lobbying, and highlighting key issues to create change in public policy.

The Social Center's plans for 2026 embody a strategic and considered response to the needs of marginalized communities in Montenegro, particularly emphasizing LGBTI individuals, women who have survived gender-based and domestic violence, youth, and the elderly. These groups, confronted with various forms of discrimination, social exclusion, and institutional obstacles, frequently lack access to the resources, information, and support necessary for their full participation in society.

Through our initiatives, the Social Center not only addresses needs but also actively establishes frameworks for systemic changes that empower vulnerable groups and enhance social cohesion over the long term. This network of collaboration fosters sustainable support models that not only tackle present challenges but also establish the groundwork for the enduring promotion of social inclusion and human rights in Montenegro.

“The past year was marked by the continuous commitment of the Social Center to building a society in which every person, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, social status, or geographical origin, has an equal chance for a dignified life. Work with marginalized communities shows how structural injustices and social barriers persist, and how important it is to act continuously through education, support, and advocacy for change.” - Milica Špajak, Director of the Social Center

The Social Center remains a voice for the marginalized, a collaborator in community development, and a leader in fostering a society where diversity, solidarity, and equality are not mere abstractions, but a tangible reality for all citizens of Montenegro.

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