

Project title: Mental Health in the Community

Project leader: Stichting Coalition for work with psychotrauma and peace Vukovar

Partner 1: Association for the improvement of mental health Vrapčiči

Partner 2: Ludruga association

Partner 3: Association for the promotion of the mental health Feniks

Project implementation period: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

Project total value: 28.548,88 €

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Link to relevant internet pages: <https://www.cwpp.org/o-nama.html>

Project summary:

The World Health Organization highlights the importance of mental health for all, yet social services for individuals with mental health difficulties are generally unavailable, especially in underprivileged areas like Vukovar. This project aims to develop community-based services and improve access to care for individuals with psychosocial difficulties.

Project activities focus on:

- Initiatives to improve care accessibility and promote the human rights of individuals with psychosocial difficulties,
- A public campaign to destigmatize mental health through the Mental Health Festival,
- Establishing peer support groups for community mental health protection, and
- Strengthening the capacities of the association to ensure the sustainability and scalability of project results.

In line with the project's objectives, peer support groups are central to the initiative. These groups serve as spaces for mutual assistance networks, crisis support, and the exchange of new opportunities. Peer facilitators, or experts by experience, are individuals with lived experience of mental health challenges who are trained to support others in need.

The applicant and partners are jointly working on establishing peer support groups. Key activities include:

- **Ludruga Association** provides supervisory consultations,
- **Vrapčiči Association** contributes its expertise through the Mental Health Festival, and
- **Feniks Split** manages social media campaigns and shares experiences in engaging young user groups.

The project also emphasizes support for underdeveloped and deprived geographic areas, empowering and including vulnerable groups and national minorities, and fostering intergenerational cooperation.