

MOSTÁČEK.CZ, z.s. and the Counselling Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence

Mostáček offers a wide range of services, including counselling for victims of domestic violence.

The Romani Counseling Center for Victims of Domestic Violence in Most was established as a **project under the OPZ+ No.44**. The center primarily focuses on clients of Roma origin from socially excluded areas in the Most region.

In its first year of operation, the Mostáček team of social workers built the counseling service, gained the trust of clients, established cooperation with other professionals in the system, provided counseling, and supported prevention. The project period runs from January 2024 to December 2025.

The project addresses the following needs:

- Immediate and accessible support for victims of domestic violence
- Long-term stabilization of victims' situations
- Early identification of domestic violence and prevention of its escalation
- Raising awareness about domestic violence, which is often stigmatized
- Interdisciplinary collaboration for better systemic support

MAIN FINDINGS

COUNSELING FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The counseling center provides victims of domestic violence with **a safe and less formal environment**.

Social workers offer broad support, from addressing material insecurity to assisting with legal proceedings and providing psychosocial support.

Collaboration with the counseling center **increases clients' trust in other parts of the system**. The center helps victims find long-term solutions for their independence and safety.

BROADER SYSTEMIC ACTIONS

The counseling center supports **closer interdisciplinary collaboration** among professionals **dealing with domestic violence** (police, child protection services, healthcare providers, judges).

The organization co-organizes round tables, case conferences, and participates in community planning. Social workers **establish direct cooperation** with specific experts. Additionally, they organize awareness-raising lectures for youth and seniors who may be at risk of or witnesses to domestic violence.

“The social worker supported me during police interrogations, called doctors, and made appointments for me. She was there with me at the police station and in court. She gave me confidence and support – exactly what I needed.”

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(Client describing the support received from a counselling center worker)



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CHANGES IN THE LIVES OF THE TARGET GROUP

The counseling center assists victims of domestic violence in each step. **Without its support, victims would only receive short-term help** from the regional intervention center. **The center achieves more long-term solutions.**

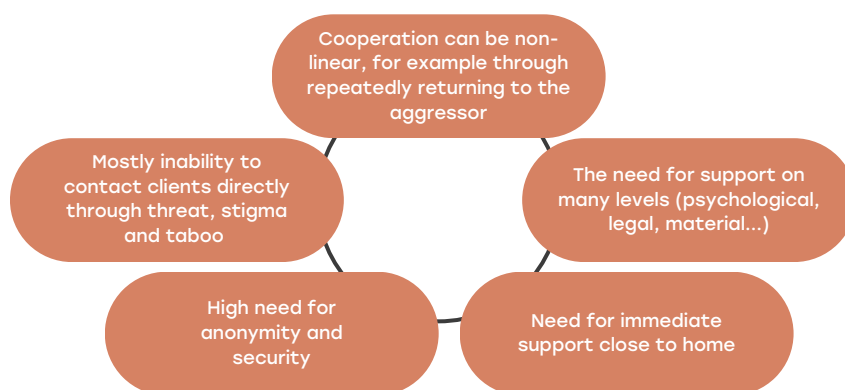
The center supports not only direct victims but also serves as **a counseling service for witnesses of domestic violence.**

“ I was depressed and often cried. Whenever I wrote to her or called, she always supported me. She gave me the strength to get through everything. I truly appreciate her. No one in my family offered me that kind of help.

”

(Client about the ability to contact the social worker by phone)

SPECIFICS OF SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCE

The counselling team encountered **systemic barriers** to implementation. One of them is, for example, **the slow judicial process**, which leads actors **to lose motivation and confidence** that it is possible to resolve the situation.

There is also **a lack of specialised services targeting aggressors** in cases of domestic violence.

The solution to domestic violence would be advanced if it were possible **to offer victims social housing for a temporary period**. However, in the Most region, **the capacity of shelters is at capacity and there is a minimum of public housing.**



“ When the intervention center ends its support, the client is often not fully stabilized. She is not capable of functioning independently. She is frequently financially dependent on the abuser, has small children, cannot go to work, and does not have access to a bank account. We step in after the intervention center and try to support the client in the longer term.

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(Founder of the organisation)



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