

Text for the TV program - promotion of the "Strength is in us" Project.

Lecturer:

Countering domestic violence is a statutory obligation of every municipality. In our city for years there have been various activities, initiatives in this area. Efforts are evident to ensure that assistance to families caught up in violence is effective, comprehensive and professional. The city of Pulawy, while implementing tasks in the field of counteracting domestic violence, has several times obtained additional funds to increase the effectiveness of the assistance realized to people caught up in violence. To date, there have been 4 competitive projects in this area, co-financed by external funds, including one under the Norwegian funds.

Beata Wagner

The Municipal Social Assistance Center in Pulawy is very active in obtaining external funds. These funds come from various sources, from the European Social Fund, from government programs, from Norwegian grants. Last year we entered a competition held by the Ministry of Justice, which is the Operator of the "Justice" Program, financed from Norwegian grants as well as from domestic funds. Within the framework of this Program, we took care of the funds for the implementation of the "Strength is in us" projects. This project is financed by the Small Grants Fund, which aims to counter domestic and gender-based violence.

Mr. President

We are one of eight municipalities in Poland that have just received money for these projects. This testifies to the great commitment and great professionalism of the employees of the Municipal Social Assistance Center in Pulawy. The ladies are really making an effort there and we have the results, and this program is directed to people who are at risk of violence, primarily the elderly, primarily people with disabilities. And it's gratifying that this money, 330 thousand, it's a considerable sum, can help prevent this type of situation, but above all I think it will improve the quality of life of those people who need our help, because unfortunately they are often excluded and we do everything, the Municipal Social Assistance Center, so that this is not the case.

Lecturer

The "Strength is in Us" project is implemented with financial support from the Norwegian funds, a form of non-refundable foreign aid granted by Norway to EU members since 2004. The edition currently being implemented (2014-2021) is the third in succession.

Projects co-financed by Norwegian funds must be implemented in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the so-called Istanbul Convention), according to which the implementation of the Convention's provisions by the Parties, especially measures to protect the rights of victims, will be ensured without discrimination of any kind, including without discrimination based on age and disability.

All programs and activities are based on common values such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including those of persons belonging to minorities.

Karolina Mroczek-Chabora

The need for a project on countering violence against the elderly and people with disabilities stems from the fact that this group of people is usually the most vulnerable to experiencing various forms of violence. This is due to a number of conditions such as, for example, health, age, dependence on the person taking care of them, social isolation and lack of knowledge regarding the mechanisms of violence.

According to data from the Interdisciplinary Team for the Prevention of Family Violence in Pulawy from the last few years show that on average, the Blue Cards procedure annually involves approx. 80 elderly people and about 60 people with disabilities, including children. The actual number of cases of violence is not known to us due to the difficulty of making a diagnosis in these families.

Analyzing the demographics of our city, we can clearly see a significant increase in the elderly compared to all residents of the city of Pulawy. This ratio is about 25%. We can also clearly see the increased demand of the elderly and people with disabilities for support offered by local institutions and entities. Polish society is aging, Poland is one of the fastest aging countries in Europe. Therefore, we can presume that this phenomenon of violence will increase, so taking any action to counter violence for these social groups is very important.

Anna Górzyńska

The "Strength is in Us" project is aimed at residents of Pulawy, especially the elderly and people with various disabilities, who are at risk of and have suffered violence. Through the activities we have planned in this project, we want to help these people rebuild their sense of strength and self-esteem, which are necessary to resist violence, to get out of such a situation. We are aware of how difficult and complex this process is, the more difficult the longer a person has experienced abuse from loved ones. Therefore, in this project we have planned various forms of specialized support to maximize the chances of overcoming violence or preventing it. With the elderly and people with disabilities in mind, we will implement psychological support, legal support and psychiatric support. It will generally take place at the Specialized Support Center at 64 Kollataja Street in Pulawy. However, in situations where a person, due to their functional limitations, will not be able to reach a specialist, this support will also be able to be carried out in their place of residence. A very important aspect of this project will be

education, providing knowledge to different audiences. As for the elderly, who are participants of the DDPdOS, Senior Citizens' Club, UTW, lectures on the phenomenon of violence, their rights and the possibility of obtaining support are also planned. Educational activities will also be aimed at disabled youth, for this group workshops have been planned, which will address such issues as the acquisition of skills, knowledge of social behavior that counteract violent behavior, such preventive-educational activities. A very important group of participants in this project will also be caregivers of the elderly and people with disabilities. These are people who, often physically and mentally overburdened, who are not always prepared to take on the hardship of caring for an elderly, sick or disabled person. These people need psychological support, they need stress relief, but they also need to acquire knowledge of the needs of the dependents over whom they provide this care. That's why a training course in this area has been planned for them and, above all, two support groups, which we intend to launch in late April and early May. One group will be a group for caregivers of people with disabilities and the other for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and dementia diseases.

Lecturer

Recipients of the Project are also people working directly with the elderly and people with disabilities, providing support services to them (including social workers, caregivers providing care and specialized services, nurses from long-term care or employees of institutions working for the elderly and people with disabilities. Also, those who carry out tasks in the area of counteracting domestic violence or services established for this purpose are an important link in the system of counteracting violence. These are primarily participants in the "Blue Cards" procedure, so police officers, social workers, representatives of the Municipal Commission for the Solution of Alcohol Problems, court probation officers, representatives of education and health care.

Anna Górzyńska

Training courses are planned for these groups, which will improve their competence in working with the elderly, with people with disabilities who are at risk of violence and are experiencing this violence.

Lecturer

The project also envisages activities that will increase the level of knowledge of Pulawy residents about the phenomenon of violence, including against the elderly and people with disabilities. Therefore, there will be a social campaign, in which, in addition to a variety of activities, a key event will be a conference with the participation of the elderly, people with disabilities and communities working on their behalf and dealing with the problem of violence in our city. Also planned is a festival with the participation of seniors, people with disabilities and representatives of entities working on their behalf.

Beata Wagner

The beneficiary of the project "Strength is in us" is the municipality of the city of Puławy, the direct implementer is the Municipal Social Assistance Center in Puławy. At each stage of this project, for example, at the stage of recruitment, at the stage of implementation of substantive activities or implementation of social campaigns, we will need the support of various institutions. It is worth mentioning the District Court in Puławy, the District Police Station in Puławy, the Commission for Solving Alcohol Problems, the Addiction and Co-Addiction Treatment Clinic, the District Family Assistance Center. It is also worth saying that we will need the support of various organizations and people working in the area of counteracting violence against the elderly and people with disabilities. We are currently at the stage of recruiting participants for the project, so I strongly encourage you to cooperate with us, I also encourage you to direct potential clients to Ms. Anna Górzyńska, project coordinator, and Ms. Karolina Mroczek - Chabora, manager of the Specialized Support Center. We will provide everyone with the necessary information, about the implementation of the project, as well as the terms of participation. Each new project means new opportunities and new possibilities, so I am very pleased that we can strengthen the support offer to the residents of Puławy with the support we offer in the project, that we will be able to carry out educational and preventive tasks, strengthen the interdisciplinary system for the benefit of people who particularly require our care, people with disabilities and the elderly.