

No. 23 NG International Expert Conference "Vulnerability of the Child's Soul"

As part of the Norway Grants, PDP1 "Increasing police competence in preventing and combating crime, strengthening communication skills with the public and awareness of human rights" a conference on the topic "Vulnerability of the child's soul, mental health support, resilience building, and finding paths to prevent risky behavior" was held on March 20, 2024, in the conference hall of the Ministry of the Interior. The goal was to provide new perspectives on a topic that, especially in light of recent events, we perceive as extremely important, but it has not received the necessary attention and space.

The first part of the conference addressed topics related to family pathology and the transgenerational transmission of pathological behavior, risk factors for the emergence of extreme aggression in children, and, if an event occurs, the psychosocial support system and resilience-building for individuals and the public. The second part focused on prevention in schools, support and services available for working with children, and identification tools for multidisciplinary collaboration. Emphasis was also placed on the prevention of violence, i.e. working with perpetrators of violence. Unmanaged anger often leads to violent behavior. Both physical and psychological violence have a negative impact on intimate relationships and relationships with children, erode trust, evoke fear, and are transmitted as behavioral patterns.

Inter-ministerial efforts aim to find and establish a nationwide functioning system that, after identifying a child at risk, will offer timely, comprehensive, and coordinated assistance and support to both the child and the family. The Early Intervention System, which has been operating regionally for years, is an important tool that will provide the family with support and professional help when necessary. Collaboration among all individuals or institutions interacting with children within their scope of work, from educators to social workers, doctors, police officers, NGOs, and others, is crucial. The system should be transparent and provide equal support in any region of the Czech Republic, teams should exchange experiences and ideally meet regularly. Such a system could be one part of the mosaic towards ending the transgenerational transmission of violence in close relationships.

Representatives from the Czech Police, child protection authorities, preventive workers from regional authorities, colleagues from educational departments of regional authorities, non-profit organizations, representatives of intervention centers, the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic, and colleagues from the Slovak Republic attended the conference.

The conference was under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The Commissioner for Human Rights Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková and the Head of the Internal Security and Police Education Section of the Ministry of the Interior, Jan Paďourek, opened the conference.