



MHPSS TWG - Bulgaria

Meeting Minutes

27/02/25

WHO, UNHCR, IOM, Association Animus Foundation, Nadja Centre Foundation, FAR, MDM



Members

1. Up-dates from members

UNHCR's MHPSS activities are currently on hold and further updates will be provided in due time

WHO PM+ training is currently postponed until further notice

IOM is sustaining their MHPSS services, provision of medicines and food vouchers

Association Animus Foundation continues to provide community mental health services and plans the further sustainability of the projects

Nadja Centre Foundation maintains their psycho-social and psychiatric services. At the beginning of January, a new project with support from IRC began with duration until August. The project is oriented towards Ukrainian refugees and services will be provided in Sofia and Varna in cooperation with colleagues from Compass Centers.

FAR is sustaining the interactive mapping of services and service providers on their website [КАРТА НА ДОСТАВЧИЦИТЕ | Refugeelight.BG](https://www.refugeelight.org/bg/karta-na-dostavchicite)



Updates & Achievements

2. Thematic focus of the meeting: Domestic violence and the role of the psychologist

Association Animus Foundation presented the law for protection from domestic violence. Highlights are stated below:

1. As per the amendments of the Domestic Violence Act in 2023 „Domestic violence is any act of physical, sexual, mental or economic violence, as well as the attempt for such violence, the forced restriction of private life, personal freedom and personal rights, committed against persons who are in a family relationship, who are or have been in a family relationship or in a de facto marital cohabitation or in an intimate relationship.“

2. Any domestic violence committed in the presence of a children is also to be considered as a psychological violence against a child

3. The victim of domestic violence have the right to apply for protection to the district court of the place of residence at that time

4. An amendment to the law allows a person who has suffered from domestic violence committed by “a person who is a relative in the direct or collateral line up to and including the fourth degree of the person with whom he/she is or has been in a de facto marital cohabitation or in an intimate relationship” to apply for protection

5. Minors (between 14-18 of age) must sign the application form together with his/her parent

6. Very important to describe the exact date, location, and circumstances of the act of violence and to further enclose all relevant documents alongside with the application form

7. The form should be processed by the Court from 24h up to three days (as per law implementation in practice)

8. The immediate protection order serves to prohibit the offender from approaching the victim (This is one of the protection measures)

9. The immediate protection order is the initial act of restraint issued by the Court and is not subject to appeal

Complete presentation will be further shared to TWG Members after the meeting in March.



Action Points

3. Topics for next month's meetings

1. Finalization of the presentation on domestic violence and the role of the psychologist from legal perspective

4. AoB

Next steps: Members to consider nominations for co-chairing of the MHPSS TWG

