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Thursday, 9 September 2021

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Ministry of Defence of Serbia completed a set of four seminars aimed at increasing capacities to prevent and respond to gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse

At the request of Ministry of Defence of Serbia, UNDP SEESAC organized two-day seminar, on 8 and 9 September 2021, for Persons of Trust on combating gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse. Persons of Trust represent a network of MoD employees who have been selected by their colleagues and who act as the internal complaint mechanism. The seminar in September is the fourth seminar in serial, which enabled capacity building of 14 members of this network, thus increasing the total number of trained Persons of Trust to 86.

The fourth seminar enabled active learning of Persons of Trust on how to effectively respond to cases of discrimination and harassment, from what causes discrimination to creating a discrimination-free workplace. Additionally, they learned about protection mechanisms, laws and regulations, and how to mediate disputes effectively. Finally, participants discussed discrimination cases from practice and tested their understanding of their role of a Person of Trust.

This activity is implemented through the *Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans project* is financed by the governments of Norway and the Slovak Republic. With the support of UNDP SEESAC, the project provides the Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces in the Western Balkans with a platform where, over the next three years, they can exchange ideas and develop policies to ensure long-term and sustainable inclusion of the gender perspective in defence policies and practices.

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