

The Fundamental Principles of Work with Users

The Parents' Association "Step by Step" conducts the MAMA JE MAMA programme with the aim to prevent risky behaviour among young people and provide psychosocial assistance and support to minor pregnant women, parents, and their families.

The fundamental principles of work include the availability of information, the freedom to decide on one's own and respecting the right of choice.

- ✓ Through the MAMA JE MAMA programme, the Parents' Association "Step by Step" advocates the availability of information based on scientific knowledge. The counsellors in the programme will ensure the information to users regarding reproductive health, responsible sexual behaviour, and available forms of protection from an unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases with the aim to prevent risky sexual activities.
- ✓ While facing a pregnancy in adolescence which is often not planned, girls are confronted with several possibilities. They have the possibility to give birth and keep the baby, to give birth and give the baby up for adoption and to terminate the pregnancy in accordance with the legislation in force. Through the MAMA JE MAMA programme, the Parents' Association "Step by Step" advocates the freedom of choice, while the counsellors ensure the information to users regarding all available options and are neutral in their approach. The counsellors treat the users with equal respect, irrespective of the choice they make and shall not, under any circumstance, condemn the user's choice.
- ✓ It is the counsellors' responsibility to inform the users about available options, risks and dangers, legal frameworks, and relevant legislation in a neutral manner and to endeavour to help the user to find the best solution for her and her situation on her own. Under no circumstance shall the counsellors advise what is the best choice for the user or impose their own views.
- ✓ The counsellors shall apply and follow the Principles of Work of the Counselling Centre MAMA JE MAMA. The counsellors in the programme are professionals in various fields, psychologists, social workers, physicians, and legal practitioners, while other professionals may be included if needed. These principles shall be implemented by the counsellors while working directly with the users but also while cooperating with other professionals and institutions included in the process of providing help and support to users.



mama je mama