

*The implementation of the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime is challenging for all of us. These are busy times in our organisation and in our countries. The diversity of possible ways of implementation could be experienced at the "Workshop on Victims' Directive" held by the EC on 28 March 2014 in Brussels. Our president David McKenna spoke on behalf of VSE and I had the honour to present the procedures of victim support at WEISSER RING Germany.*

*We can exchange our experience and results in our countries at the conference in Warsaw. I am looking forward to meeting you there.*

*Helgard Van Hüllen, Editor*

## **VSE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

### **"Developing Victim Support Across Europe"**

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On 14-17 May 2014 Victim Support Europe will hold its 2014 Annual Conference and General Meeting in Warsaw. **Registrations close on 15 April.** [Read more](#)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

##### **ERA Seminar - Access to Justice for Victims of Crime in the EU**

10-11 April 2014, Trier

[Read more](#)

##### **VSE Annual Conference & General Meeting**

***Developing Victim Support Across Europe: Quality, Standards and Capacity-building***

14-17 May 2014, Warsaw

[Read more](#)

**The European Criminal Justice  
Observatory (ECJO)**

## **Introducing the European Criminal Justice Observatory**

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Chaired by the President of Victim Support Europe, a former President of Eurojust and members of the Defence and Judiciary the European Criminal Justice Observatory provides online videos by leading experts, materials and networking on European Criminal Law for legal practitioners and others interested in

joining. It is of particular interest to prosecutors, defence lawyers, judges, officials, decision makers and NGOs. Members can watch videos on European Criminal Law by experts in the field, read materials on EU Criminal Law, include their details in the members' directory and list their events in the area of European Criminal Law in the events' directory. See [website](#) or email [susan.clements@ecjo.eu](mailto:susan.clements@ecjo.eu) for further details.

**Take a look at how the European Victim's Day was marked across Europe:**



## France

### INAVEM

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INAVEM, a French federation of 135 associations of victim support, organised in Paris (*quai aux Fleurs*) a morning of information exchange about the new EU Directive on victims' rights and its implementation in France. Representatives from the European Commission and the French Justice Ministry were present. Numerous other initiatives on the issue of victims were conducted by local member organisations across France.



## Hungary

### Office of Public Administration and Justice

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The Victims' Unit of the Office of Public Administration and Justice in Hungary celebrated the European Day for Victims of Crime with a conference. Speakers included Sándor Pintér, Minister of Interior, David McKenna, president of Victim Support Europe, Monika Balatoni, the Minister of State for Public Diplomacy and Relations, József Hatala, ministerial commissioner of the National Council on Crime Prevention, Zoltán Kunfalvi, vice-president of the Office of Public Administration and Justice and Matthew McVarish, Scottish actor and ambassador of the organisation 'Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse'. More information is available in English [HERE](#) (link).

## The Netherlands

### Slachtofferhulp

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"Victims of sexual violence or abuse should have a stronger position in the criminal process in the Netherlands." This statement was presented by Harry Crielaars, chief executive of Slachtofferhulp Nederland, on February 21 in the Hague at Slachtofferhulp's yearly conference on the European Day for Victims of Crime. 'Victims of sex crimes' was the theme of the conference. Victims, support organisations, police and public prosecutors discussed this vulnerable group. Slachtofferhulp Nederland called for more cooperation: "That's the way to make the difference for victims of sexual violence and abuse".





## Spain

### Asociacion Nacional de Víctimas de Delitos Violentos

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On the European Day for Victims of Crime, ANVDV sent a message of support to families who have not yet seen their rights as victims respected. The example is given of a ruling made in February by the Spanish Supreme Court about a violent death of a minor (Seseña-Toledo case) where her parents are not considered victims and therefore are left without any compensation.

ANVDV is also conducting campaigns of information on the EU Directive on victims' rights and organising conferences in the Madrid Bar Association.



Udruga  
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pomoć  
žrtvama  
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djela

UDRUGA BIJELI KRUG HRVATSKE

## Croatia

### Bijeli krug Hrvatske

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Croatia is in the process of building a victim support system so the activities for the European Day for Victims of Crime were directed towards the networking of organisations that work with victims. A key event on 24 February was a panel discussion held on the theme: "The role of local communities in improving the status of the victim" which was attended by the mayors of the county, representatives from the police, social welfare centres and NGOs.



## Croatia

### Victim and Witness Support Service

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Victim and Witness Support Service Croatia organised a press conference on 20 February to mark the European Day for Victims of Crime. Executive director, Barbara Veličković presented activities of the organisation and invited Croatian citizens to call 116 006 if they had been a victim or witness of crime. For that purpose the line in the National Call Centre for victims of crime was opened for Croatian citizens on 22 February from 9 am to 3 pm.



## Czech Republic

### Bily Kruh Bezpečí

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To mark the European Day for Victims of Crime, Bily Kruh Bezpečí organized ten seminars on the new legislation on victims for helping professionals in ten regions of Czech Republic. BKB also introduced the new website with information for victims of crime – [www.infovictims.cz](http://www.infovictims.cz). The press release highlighted the new accessible and easily understandable informations about the criminal proceedings in Czech Republic that are now available to every victim of a crime.



## Serbia

### Victimology Society of Serbia

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On the occasion of the European Day for Victims of Crime in 22 February 2014, Victimology Society of Serbia called on all relevant authorities in Serbia to take measures within their competence in order to promote and support volunteer work and services for victims. The aim was to ensure the sustainability and continuity of services for victims and the provision of resources for the achievement of volunteer work. This year, VDS held a series of lectures at Belgrade faculties with the aim of raising the awareness of students to the needs of victims, to inform them about the existence of victim support services and to promote volunteer work in these organisations.

*Find out more about the projects that VSE members are currently involved in:*



## Croatia

### Victim and Witness Support Service

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Victim Support and Witness Service from Croatia is currently involved in the project "**Capacity Building of the Support System for Victim and Witnesses of Crime**" financed by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. This project is in partnership with Legal Clinic of Faculty of Law in Zagreb. The aim is to strengthen civil society in the provision of services and support to victims and witnesses of crime and partnership building with the Ministry of Justice and court system.



Udruga  
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[UDRUGA BIJELI KRUG HRVATSKE](#)

## Croatia

### Bijeli krug Hrvatske

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Bijeli Krug is currently a partner at project "**ABC Justice**", promoted by APAV and whose main objective is to increase the level of knowledge of young people about their national criminal justice system.



## Czech Republic

### Bily Kruh Bezpečí

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"**Kruh bezpečí**" is the name of Bily Kruh Bezpečí's new project financed by the grant from ESF and co-financed by the Czech government. The project lasting 2,5 yrs (1.1.2013 – 30.6.2015) is focused on support for vulnerable victims of crime. Direct support is delivered by nine case managers from BKB around the country.



## Finland

### Victim Support Finland

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Victim Support Finland is currently involved in the project "**Right to choose – End to sexual violence and harassment**" (December 2013 to December 2015). The main objective is to reduce sexual offenses and sexual harassment against women and increase awareness of sexual violence and harassment. The main target group is young women and men between the ages of 15 and 25. The purpose of the project is to promote civil and human rights through the prevention of gender-based violence and empower women. Particular attention will thus be paid to the role of men in promoting gender equality and ending gender-based violence.

## Hungary

### Office of Public Administration and Justice

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The Victim Service of the Office of Public Administration and Justice in Hungary is participating in an ISEC-funded project, called "**Form a Chain to Safeguard Children**" (FACTSC). This project will make recommendations and offer guidance, in the form of an online training guide, on how to form a successful professional (multi-agency) chain for children exposed to different forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. The project lasts until 30 June 2015 and it is coordinated by the Belgian Province of Limburg with several organisations from around Europe taking part. More information will be available later at <http://formachain.edev.khlim.be/>



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## Portugal

### Portuguese Association for Victim Support

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**Project ABC Justice**, currently ongoing (September 2013 to August, 2014), is promoted by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) and co-financed by the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) of the United States Embassy. The main objective is to provide youngsters between 12 and 17 years old with accurate, yet attractive, age-appropriate and friendly information about the criminal justice system and the rights of victims of crime. Among its activities we highlight the development of an interactive website and the production of guidelines and technical resources for conducting informative sessions.

**Project UNISEXO 2:** prevention of sexual violence in higher education is promoted by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) and co-financed by the National Strategic Reference Framework (QREN), under the Human Potential Operational Programme (POPH). With its start in December, 2012 and end in June, 2014, this Project represents a continuation of the previous Project UNISEXO. The main purpose is to prevent



sexual victimization and perpetration among students from higher education.

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[About Victim Support Europe](#)

Victim Support Europe is an umbrella organisation which currently counts with 34 national and regional victim support organisations throughout Europe.

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