



**Annual Report
April 2009 – December 2010**

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President's report



Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in supporting the development of a new EU Directive for victims of crime. Member organisations and our partners have done an excellent job of raising the profile of victims at European level and within member states. There remains much more to be done and we will continue our work on this important development through 2011 and beyond. We want a new beginning for people affected by crime in Europe, defined rights and good quality services.

Over the past 12 months we have seen a tremendous increase in the interest in our work. Victim Support Europe is now recognised as a key partner in social and criminal justice development and in the work to strengthen fundamental rights in Europe. There is considerable interest from new organisations and agencies in joining Victim Support Europe, including from Poland, Croatia, Spain, Turkey and Greece. Presently along with our member organisations and key partners we are involved in six key projects across Europe to better understand the needs of victims and improve services. We will also be party to hosting the tri-annual World Society for Victimology in the Hague in May 2012. Our conference this May hosted by Soprotivlenie in Moscow is an important opportunity to celebrate success and to plan for the future.

Funding remains a critical challenge both for Victim Support Europe and our member organisations. We will work with our member organisations, the European Commission, and member states to ensure continuation of financial partnership and support. It will be important to demonstrate that investment in support of victims is cost effective not just to justice services but the economy as a whole.

My special thanks go to the members of the Executive Board and staff who have done so much over the past 12 months to improve the situation of people affected by crime in Europe. Thanks are also due to the European Commission for providing an operating grant in 2010 without which much of what we have achieved would not have been possible. Finally thanks for all the support of our member services and organisations who have given so much to help others across Europe this past year.

A new future awaits victims of crime in Europe, together let's make it a good one.

Best regards,

David McKenna
President Victim Support Europe

Treasurer's report Helgard van Hüllen



The accounts show total income for the year 2010 of EUR € 490,959. Victim Support Europe received a pre-financing payment of € 130,271 for the 2010 Operating Grant (JUST/2009/JPEN/726/OG) and a pre-financing payment of € 299,637 for the 2011/2012 Action Grant (JLS/2009/JPEN/AG/612).

These amounts, prepaid by member organisations of Victim Support Europe are restricted incoming resources and are to be reimbursed to the member organisations.

Victim Support Europe has now 26 members in 21 countries reflecting the growing recognition. The income out of membership fees was € 13,675. For the year 2010 an operating grant was conceded by the European Commission. The accounts granted in 2010 have to be reimbursed to member organisations. They relate to costs for developing communication supports, the publication of the Newsletters, costs for the secretariat and for the Executive Board as well as the Annual Conference and the AGM. This allowed VSE to develop further.

The year 2010 was the last year for VSE as a company limited by guarantee registered in England and a registered charity. VSE now is an AISBL under Belgian law, situated in Brussels. This will lead to further changes in bookkeeping and auditing.

Executive Officer's report Frank Hengeveld



Victim Support Europe has played an important role in the further development of the new EU directive on victims of crime. This once again emphasizes the legitimacy of our organisation and the credibility the European Commission gives to Victim Support Europe. Although still a lot needs to be achieved, Victim Support Europe is growing into a professional pan-European organisation more and more.

It is time now to build up an efficient and effective financial system, also due to the expected growth of Victim Support Europe. Since 2010 we are now officially an AISBL, association internationale sans but lucratif, with a new constitution and a new legal address. This gives opportunities for the future, especially with regards to a closer cooperation with the European Commission. A new Board was elected during the Annual General Meeting in Berlin on May 29 2010. Since then the Presidency has been taken over by David McKenna and I would like to thank him for the pleasant and effective way in which he has taken over the position of President.

Special thanks go to Weisser-Ring Germany for hosting the 2010 Annual Conference in Berlin. With almost 100 participants and a wide range of both plenary as well workshop speakers the event was very successful.

More than 17 member organisations participated in the Annual CEO meeting, which took place in Brussels on November the 15th and 16th. During this event we started the development of a new strategy plan, targeting at the improvement of both the efficiency and effectiveness of all processes within VSE.

And of course a thank you goes to all member organisations who have been supportive to both Victim Support Europe and to me in my functioning as Executive Officer.

Kind regards,

Frank Hengeveld
Executive Officer
Victim Support Europe

Policy report Frida Wheldon

Victim Support Europe is working hard, every day, to put the rights and needs of people affected by crime back on the EU agenda. We have been very active in working with the European institutions and the EU Member States holding the presidency to highlight the importance of victims' rights and promote support for new legislative proposals. We have strived to demonstrate that a fair criminal justice system must balance the right of the accused with the rights of the victim and provide a proportionate and appropriate outcome for all parties involved. During the last couple of years, we are happy to notice that increased attention has been paid to victims of crime across the EU.

Stockholm Programme

During 2009 our work was particularly focused on lobbying for the inclusion of victim issues in the next five-year programme (2010-2014), decided in Stockholm in 2009. During the development of the Stockholm Programme, we had regular contact with the Swedish EU Presidency and the EU institutions to provide any assistance required. After that focused effort, we are very pleased that victim issues are expressly highlighted in the Stockholm Programme. The Programme recognises support for and protection of victims as two main tasks for the EU as well as Member States, and adds that "[a]n important issue is how to offer better support to victims, possibly through European networks that provide practical help".

In addition to the Stockholm Programme itself, Victim Support Europe is delighted with the Council of the European Union's Council Conclusions on a strategy to ensure fulfilment of the rights of and improve support to peoples who fall victim to crime in the European Union. The Council Conclusions cover many important aspects of ensuring victims' rights are promoted and protected throughout Europe.

For instance, the Council stresses that in particular: "specialised services and non-governmental organisations acting at national, regional or local levels throughout the European Union should be given possibilities of offering appropriate services to persons who fall victim to crime".

EU Directive

In 2009, the EU Commission published their second report on the implementation of the 2001 Framework Decision on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings. In addition to the reviews conducted by the Commission, two independent reviews have also been carried out; one by APAV and INTERVICT on behalf of Victim Support Europe and one by a Bulgarian research institute. All these surveys reached the same clear conclusion – no European Member State has fully implemented the Framework Decision and provided victims with all the proscribed rights. Many countries relied on old legislation, in place before the Framework came into place, and others have only focused on providing a few rights while disregarding the rest. There seem to be two main reasons for the Framework Decision's lack of impact; the vague language used in the articles and the lack of sanctions or enforcement mechanisms. Following the introduction of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU Commission started developing an EU Directive to strengthen the rights of victims to minimum services and standards. The new EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding has been very active in this work and is a strong supporter of enhancing victims' rights. Victim Support Europe has been in regular contact with the Commission from the very beginning of this development. Adopting EU legislation that sets out equal rights for victims in all Member States will improve the situation for victims, increase the trust between countries and facilitate the mutual recognition of judgements and judicial decisions in the wider area of justice.

Victim Support Europe is very pleased with the overall advancements made and the attention given to victims across the EU during the last 20 months. We will do our utmost to ensure that any developments relating to victims' rights are fulfilled and implemented in practice to provide tangible improvements for victims in all EU Member States.

Miscellaneous

New Constitution and legal address

On August 18 2010 Victim Support Europe officially became an AISBL: association internationale sans but lucratif. As a consequence Victim Support Europe now officially operates under the Belgium law. Together with this new legal constitution VSE received a new legal address at the Avenue Louise 65 in Brussels. It is the strong intention to further establish a staffed office in Brussels. One of the main changes in the new constitution refers to the membership policy. Apart from becoming a full member it is now allowed to become an associate member of Victim Support Europe.

This gives smaller, regional organisations and even individuals the opportunity to join VSE. Associate members may attend the Annual General Meeting but are, contrary to full members, not allowed to vote.

Annual Conferences

Lisbon May 2009

The theme of this conference was dedicated to the project Victims in Europe, a cooperation between Intervict Tilburg and Victim Support Europe with a leading role for APAV Portugal. The outcome of the project shows that the implementation of the 2001 Framework decision was rather poor. Victim Support Europe has set up a list of recommendations to the European Commission that, together with the outcome of the research project, were presented during the conference.

The conference was opened by the Chairwoman of APAV, Joana Marques Vidal and by Mr Jaap Smit, President of Victim Support Europe. Plenary sessions dealt with the preliminary results of the assessment of the implementation of the Framework decision in the 27 member states, discussing the concept of Victims of crime today and coordinating the victims' rights instruments in the European Union. The more than 15 workshops informed the participants in an interactive way about studies that had been undertaken and victims of diverse crime like transnational crime and property crime. A workshop dealing with overcoming difficulties in the countries without a national Victim Support Organisation outlined the importance of having a national organisation in every single member state.

During the Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning a resolution was adopted concerning the legal movement of Victim Support Europe to Belgium. This was the first important step in the process of transferring VSE into an AISBL.

Berlin May 2010

The May conference in Berlin focussed on "Justice for victims in Europe". As mentioned earlier, the new directive on victims of crime will be presented in May 2011. To anticipate to this new legislation several plenary sessions and workshops were dedicated to legal matters and improving the judicial position of victims. More than 100 participants joined this two day conference and the AGM on Saturday May 29.

The conference was opened by the Chair of Weisser Ring Germany, Reinhard Böttcher and by a video statement of Mrs. Viviane Reding, European Commission Vice-President in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship. Plenary sessions throughout the conference dealt with new developments within the Justice System, The Lisbon Treaty & Stockholm Programme and the emancipation of victims. The conference was closed by Levent Altan from the European Commission. During his speech he elaborated the Impact assessment on Victims as part of the new Directive on victims of crime.

During the Annual General Meeting of Saturday morning a new Board was elected making Mr. David McKenna from Scotland the new President of Victim Support Europe.

CEO meetings

November 2009 Brussels

The first CEO meeting of Victim Support Europe was organised to give all CEO's the possibility to meet and to exchange information & knowledge. About 20 CEO's and supporting staff attended the two day meeting and discussed the current situation of Victim Support Europe and the long term strategy of the organisation. Main part of the event focused on giving the individual members the opportunity to give an update of the current situation their organisation was in. It became clear that apart from staffing problems the financial situation needed most attention. Financial support, both from the national government as well as from a European level is necessary to be able to improve the support to victims of crime.

November 2010 Brussels

The second CEO meeting also took place in Brussels and was attended by an even larger number of CEO's then the year before. A total of 25 participants joined again for two days. Main topics discussed were the local and regional issues of all individual members and an interactive workshop was given concerning the strategic plan VSE 2011 – 2015. By filling in a SWOT analysis members were encouraged to give an overview of both the strengths and opportunities as well as the weaknesses and threats of the organisation. This SWOT analyses will serve as the starting point for the final plan.

Projects

Cabvis Project and free 116006 number

In August 2010 the final approval of the application for funding from the EC was given to the Cabvis project. Although this project will only start on the first of January 2011, an important part of the project has already been provisionally implemented within several member countries throughout 2010, being the free 116006 number.

The "Capacity building for EU crime victim support" project aims at promoting the implementation of EU measures for supporting victims of crime and improve services for victims of crime. Given the gap between availability and need of victim support the project aims to overcome the many difficulties arising from the non harmonisation of EU member States' victim support services and legal implementation of EU measures.

As said, part of the project deals with the implementation of the 116006 helpline for victims. In 2007 the European Commission adopted the 2007/116/EC decision that obliges member states to reserve a six digit helpline number range starting with 116 for services of social value. The Communication Committee approved an application of VSE for a free European 166 helpline number for victims to receive support and advise. The project will facilitate the implementation, will provide information on organisational measures surrounding the implementation of the helpline and will give support to staffing and financial issues.

Project Victims in Europe

In the beginning of 2010 the Portuguese Association for Victim Support finalized, together with Intervict from Tilburg University and on behalf of Victim Support Europe the project "Victims in Europe". The project aimed at developing knowledge on the implementation of the Framework Decision within each of the 27 European Union member states. Furthermore, a comparative analysis between the results was performed and an global evaluation on the implementation of the Framework decision was carried out.

The main results of the project show a poor implementation of the 2001 Framework Decision: the majority of the European Union member states do not offer victims the opportunity to report crimes committed abroad once they return home. As this Framework requirement lies at the heart of the FD, improvements on this issue are called for. In some EU member states no services to victims are provided through non-governmental organisations at all.

Victim Support Europe has given its recommendations on the outcome of the survey in the final report of the project. The report was send to the European Commission in order to inform them about the outcomes of the by the EC funded project.

International victims day

On the 22nd of February Europe celebrates its national victims day. Many of our organisations organised special events to pay attention to the importance of proper support to victims of crime. Some of the actions undertaken on that day have been the following:

INAVEM France organised a meeting during which a painting was created in one of the rooms of the Law Courts in Paris. More then a hundred people attended, partners of Inavem as well as celebrities from the sport and artistic world. The Minister of Justice, Mrs. Alliot Marie signed the painting.

Soprotivlenie from Russia opened a photo exhibition called "Victim against domestic violence and sexual abuse of children at the Moscow University of psychology". Furthermore a hotline for crime victims was opened during the victims week by the President of the Russian organisations.



Victim Support Netherlands organises a seminar every year as well. The 2010 seminar focussed on how to deal with major disasters. It appears that minor incidents often get labelled as a "disaster" with as a consequence an overkill of media attention.

Bily kruh Bezpeci from the Czech Republic organised a ceremony concerning the European Victims' Day in Prague. BKB awarded a prize "Andel" (a wooden statue of an angel). The aim of the ceremony was to highlight the best practice in support to crime victims in the Czech Republic in 2008. The ceremony was accompanied by a press conference. BKB welcomed around 100 guests including Czech police president, representatives of Ministry of Justice, NGO sector, foundations and donors.

Statement of financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2010
Victim Support Europe

			Year ended 31.12.10	Year ended 31.12.09
	€	€	€	€
Incoming resources				
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Other income				
European Commission	477,284	-	477,284	51,095
Activities for Generating funds				
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources Charitable Activity				
Membership Fees	-	13,675	13,675	13,925
Total incoming resources	477,284	13,675	490,959	65,020
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4,055	-	4,055	46,646
Governance	-	3,748	3,748	2,372
Total resources expended	4,055	3,748	7,803	49,018
Net income for the year	473,229	9,927	483,156	16,002
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	129,109	39,099	168,208	152,206
Total funds carried forward	602,338	49,026	651,364	168,208

Balance sheet December 31, 2010
Victim Support Europe

	Year ended <u>31.12.10</u>	Year ended <u>31.12.09</u>
	€	€
Fixed assets:		
Tangible fixed assets	-	-
Investments	-	-
Current assets:		
Debtors	2,075	3,750
Cash at bank	<u>650,094</u>	<u>165,263</u>
	652,169	169,013
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>805</u>	<u>805</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>651,364</u>	<u>168,208</u>
Net Assets	651,364	168,208
Funds:		
Restricted funds	<u>602,338</u>	<u>129,109</u>
	602,338	129,109
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	11,000	11,000
General funds	38,026	28,099
	49,026	39,099
Total Funds	<u><u>651,364</u></u>	<u><u>168,208</u></u>

Member organisations

During the period covered in this report more and more applications for new membership came in. Meanwhile five new applications are running. Currently 26 members from 21 member states are full or associate member of Victim Support Europe. One of the main goals of the organisation is to attract organisations within member states where currently no national organisation exists. This would broaden the work field and would give the organisation even more power to positively influence the development of new legislation.

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