



From the Editor

The last month was very busy for VSE as we held our Annual Conference and General Meeting in Utrecht where over 225 participants from all over Europe and the world joined together, exchanged practices and committed to future actions. We would like to thank again Slachtofferhulp Nederland who co-organized the conference and helped us to make a great success out of it!

This newsletter gives you an overview of recent developments, activities, past and upcoming events and projects from across Europe and beyond. Again it shows how active our members have been over the past 3 months. We hope you will enjoy reading it!

*Helgard van Hüllen
Vice President of Victim Support Europe*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **9th International Conference 2016 of the EFRJ** *Realising Restorative Justice: Human Rights and Personal Realities*, 22-24 June 2016
 - Leiden, The Netherlands. Please find all information [here](#).

- **ISEC Project Conference** *The Digital World and Sexual Offending-Policing, Cooperation and Victimisation*, 23 June 2016, London. Please find all information [here](#).

- **EUROCRIM 2016** *Crime and Crime Control - Structures, Developments and Actors*, 21-24 September 2016, Münster, Germany. Please find all information [here](#).

- **Conference of project „Targeted Early Victim Need Assessment and Support“**, 22-23 Septemebr 2016, Zagreb, Croatia.

- **2016 Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia**, 24-25 November, Belgrade, Serbia. More information will follow soon.

[RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES](#)



[Solidarity with victims of hateful attack in Orlando](#)

On Sunday 12 June 2016 a terrible mass shooting took place in Orlando, United States. The hateful attack targeted a community of LGBTI persons claiming many lives and leaving many others injured.

Victim Support Europe deplores these hateful attacks and we convey our deepest sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured victims. We stand in solidarity with the victims, the LGBTI community and with America in these terrible moments. Support for the victims and their families now and in the long term will be essential and we

applaud the efforts of American service providers and communities in providing that care.

We stand in solidarity with all victims of the world who are targeted because of what they believe in, where they come from or who they love.



[VSE present at 30 years of INAVEM in Paris](#)

On 8 June 2016, VSE French full member INAVEM celebrated its 30th anniversary. On this occasion INAVEM organised a conference in the “Hotel de Ville” of Paris and VSE was honoured to be present. The topic of the conference was ‘Digitalisation, Business and Media : support or instrumentalisation of victims’.

An impressive line-up of keynote speakers and panel discussions provided the 600 participants with a fascinating colloquium. The presence of numerous partners, former and current ministers and policy makers, volunteers and staff, lawyers, justice practitioners, journalists and representatives of businesses testified to the strong network of supporters and collaborators INAVEM has built over the past 30 years.

French Minister of State for Victim Assistance Juliette Méadel also awarded the medal for The “Ordre du Mérite” (Order of Merit) to Sabrina Bellucci, director of INAVEM and Vice President of Victim Support Europe.

We would like to warmly congratulate Sabrina Bellucci for her outstanding work and for the more than deserved award by the French Government!



[Looking back on a fantastic #VSE2016 Annual Conference](#)

On 25 and 26 May Victim Support Europe and Slachtofferhulp Nederland organised the Annual Victim Support Europe Conference. We welcomed 225 people from all over Europe and the world in the beautiful Muntgebouw in Utrecht. In this unique setting VSE members, practitioners, academics, policy makers, lawyers, victims, colleagues and other people interested in victim issues joined together, exchanged practices and committed to future actions.

The different keynote speakers provided inspiring keynotes that shed light on victimisation from different perspectives. The large variety of workshops were thoroughly appreciated by the participants as they focused on specific types of crime, e.g. terrorism, human trafficking and sexual violence and different aspects of victimisation.

Please see more information about where to find the presentations, conference reports and photos [here](#).



[VSE speaking at LinCT Counter-terrorism Conference in New York](#)

The Leadership in Counter Terrorism Alumni Association (LinCT) invited VSE to speak at its annual conference which was held in New York on 27-29 April 2016.

The conference theme was The Changing Dynamics and Social Implications of Terrorism. The format of the panels was similar to previous years with some high level representation from CT Policing and Security Services.

Topics included:

- Five Eyes overview
- Law Enforcement perspective-managing and responding to the threat
- Beyond the Five Eyes...overview from Indonesia Middle east and Europe
- From Intelligence to operations
- Victims Needs as part of the Strategy
- Recent Case studies, San Bernardino Paris and Australia
- Resilience inc UK Prevent and NYPD Shield
- Counter radicalisation through Social media
- Key media discussion with NBC, CBS NY Times

See more information about the conference [here](#).

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Over the past months VSE has extended its membership with 3 new associate members: [ATENIN](#) (Spain), The [Commission for Victims and Survivors in Northern Ireland](#) (UK) and Rete Dafne Onlus (Italy). The [Victims' Rights Alliance](#) (Republic of Ireland) has become a supporter member of VSE.

We are delighted to have them on board and we warmly welcome them to Victim Support Europe!



[ATENIN - Spain](#)

[ATENIN](#) is a non-profit entity created in late 2004 as an initiative of four professionals from different fields with the same concerns: criminological research, attention to victims and crime prevention.

ATENIN manages two major projects: the Victim Support Service in Andalusia (SAVA) and the Family Meeting Point for situations of gender violence.

The SAVA in Huelva, managed by ATENIN since

2005, provides guidance and support to victims of crime or offense from the triple legal, psychological and social perspective. This is a free public service at provincial level that primarily provides information, advice and legal, psychological and social care, to all those who have been victims of any crime or misdemeanour. The SAVA Huelva is composed of a multidisciplinary team of professionals with specialized training.

The second project, the Family Meeting Point for situations of violence, is also implemented at provincial level. It started in March 2007 and was set up as a public resource for the prevention of violence whose purpose is to ensure the right of minors to engage with the non-custodial parent in situations of domestic violence.



[Commission for Victims and Survivors - Northern Ireland](#)

The [Commission for Victims and Survivors](#) (CVS) was established in May 2008 under the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. It is a Non Departmental Body of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) and it has a key role in OFMDFM's Strategy for Victims and Survivors 2009-2019.

CVS's vision is to improve the lives of all victims and survivors of the Conflict and its mission is to address the needs of all victim and survivors by ensuring excellent service provision, acknowledging the legacy of the past and building for a better future.

CVS's strategic priorities are:

1. To ensure excellent service provision to all victims and survivors
2. To raise awareness of the impact of the past on all victims and survivors
3. To empower and support victims and survivors to make a contribution to a better and shared future
4. To promote and enable best practice by all service providers to all victims and survivors

5. To raise awareness of victims and survivor's issues amongst Government, the media and wider society
6. To demonstrate effective corporate governance



[Rete Dafne Onlus - Italy](#)

The project "Rete Dafne" was established as a non-profit association (Rete Dafne Onlus) in November 2015. The association is a network of 6 organizations.

The mission of the organisation is to assist and provide direct services to all victims of any type of crime.

The staff of the association consists of skilled and qualified professionals (8 psychologists, 3 psychiatrists, 2 lawyers, 4 mediators, 2 social workers and 2 secretaries).

Rete Dafne Onlus implement activities directed to victims as well as "indirect" activities aimed at operators, the network of services and the local community. The services provided to victims are divided into four phases: 1. Information; 2. Welcome; 3. Orientation; 4. Specialised itineraries.

Since 2008 more than 1400 victims have been assisted.



[Victims' Rights Alliance - Ireland](#)

The [Victims' Rights Alliance](#) (VRA) is an Alliance of victim support and human rights organisations in Ireland.

The Alliance was formed with one key goal: to ensure the Victims' Rights Directive is implemented in Ireland within the proposed time frame, with all victims of crime in mind.

The VRA was launched by the then Minister for

Justice Alan Shatter on the 15th of November 2013. This date was chosen as it marked a two year countdown to the implementation of the Directive. Since that date many more organisations have joined the VRA and many more organisations have expressed an interest in becoming members.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

WEISSER RING

AUSTRIA

Weisser Ring

Pilot projects with police and trade unions

Currently, only about 10% of crime victims contact WEISSER RING Austria. This is partly due to the lack of awareness about support opportunities within society and, secondly, to the insufficient assignment of cases by law enforcement agencies.

One of the initiatives which aims at increasing the number of contacts of victims with WEISSER RING, is a pilot project with the police in Vienna.

According to victim protection legislation in Austria law enforcement agencies are obliged to inform crime victims about available support and about services provided by WEISSER RING as the only generic support organisation operating nationwide. However, current available information materials distributed by the police are not presented in a comprehensible way for all groups of victims, who are characterized by a great variety in terms of language skills and understanding of the justice system. WEISSER RING - in cooperation with the Vienna police – has therefore designed an information folder that fulfills “easy-to-read” criteria so that it can be understood by a wide range of crime victims, including people with learning difficulties or poor language skills.

The second measure to increase the number of

contacts is a project with two Austrian trade unions. Using the slogan "crime scene workplace" we are creating a common platform for victims of violence in the workplace. Victims shall be provided with fast and efficient support and will receive legal and psychological advice in court cases. An information campaign is planned to promote this platform across the media.



Udruga
za
pomoć
žrtvama
kaznenih
djela

UDRUGA BIJELI KRUG HRVATSKE

CROATIA

White Ring Croatia

Since the last VSE newsletter in March we have been busy with our clients providing a large number of them with emotional and legal help.

On 11th May our President Livija Plančić and our therapist were guests on TV Jadran, where they talked about our association, results of our work and how important it is to talk about violence and to report it.

On 15th April Livija Plančić was a guest speaker at a seminar organized by WONET (Women's network for future of Europe) on the island of Hvar. She talked about the problem of domestic violence and the ways a victim can be helped either in our association or by contacting other institutions.

On 26th April Livija Plančić was also a guest speaker at the conference "Violence against children" organized by ELSA (The European Law Students Association) at the Split university where she also spoke about the importance of reporting domestic abuse and the impacts of domestic violence on children.

Please find more information [here](#).

CROATIA

Croatian Victim and Witness Support Service

UDRUGA ZA PODRŠKU
ŽRTVAMA I SVJEDOCIMA

Ongoing project

The Croatian Victim and Witness Support Service (VWSS) is currently implementing the project “Strengthening the capacities of CSOs for providing support” (July 1st 2015- July 31st 2016) which is funded by National Foundation for Civil Society Development (operator of the EEA and Norway grants in Croatia). The main goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of CSOs for providing victim and witness support in areas where the support is insufficient or non existing. Activities are aimed at selecting and educating volunteers in the area of law and psychology in order for them to be able to give emotional support, legal information and practical guidance to victims and witnesses. So far, support has been implemented in Dubrovacko-neretvanska, Pozesko-slavonska county, Varazdinska and Istarska county and VWSS has educated 40 new volunteers.

National Call Center for Victims of Crimes

In April 2016 basic education was provided for 16 new volunteers for the 116 006 helpline and the National Call Center participated in the First European Peace Summit in Budapest.

In May 2016 the National Call Center participated in the 116 006 helpline meeting organized by Bily Kruh Bezpeci in Prague.

Volunteers who work on 116 006 helpline organized an event entitled „Croatia volunteers!“ in Zagreb where they offered information about VWSS Croatia, educated about the importance of „civil courage“ and made a promotional video about victim support system in Croatia

VWSS was awarded by The Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs in Croatia for promoting volunteering among students with the award „PR support for socially beneficial NGO programs“

More information can be found [here](#).



CROATIA

Croatian Ministry of Justice - Independent service for victim and witness support

National strategy for Victim and Witness Support

The Independent service for victim and witness support of the Croatian Ministry of Justice as well as offices for victim and witness support at courts are **conducting activities according to measures from the National strategy for Victim and Witness Support** and have so far organized 49 lectures/presentations for the police and 12 lectures/presentations for officials of social welfare centres.

Also, according to the articles 4 and 8 of Victim's Directive the police are providing victims with information about their rights in written form as well as contacts of offices for victim and witness support, the National call centre for victims of crime and misdemeanour and civil organizations that provide help and support to victims and witnesses (information and referral)

Lottery Funds - Financing NGO's

This year, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia has for the first time received **lottery funds for financing civil society organizations which will provide support to victims and witnesses** in the counties of Croatia where there are no established offices for victim and witness support at courts. Civil society organizations will be provided with specialized education to ensure the high standard and quality of their work with victims and witnesses. Selected organisations will provide emotional/psychosocial support, practical information, information on their rights and support at court to victims and witnesses.

Ongoing project: TEVNAS Project

The Croatian Law Centre is currently implementing the **project „Targeted Early Victim Need Assessment and Support“** in cooperation with the

Croatian Ministry of Justice and the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities.

A conference will take place in Zagreb on 22 and 23 of September 2016 where the results of the research that is currently being conducted as well as national and EU best practices with regards to Articles 9 and 22 of the Victim's Directive will be presented to national and international experts as well as practitioners in this field.



CZECH REPUBLIC

[Bily Kruh Bezpeci](#)

International 116 006 Helpline Seminar

Bílý kruh bezpečí organized an international seminar bringing together representatives from 8 European 116 006 helplines on May 4-6, 2016 in Prague. This event was a part of the "First Aid to Individuals in Danger of / Suffering from (Domestic) Violence" project that was a part of the programme "Let's Give a Chance to Women(us)" financed by Norwegian Funds. The seminar was under the patronage of JUDr. Jiří Pospíšil, Member of the European Parliament, who attended the event.

The participants included representatives from Slachtofferhulp Nederland (the Netherlands), Offerrådgivningen i Danmark (Denmark), Crime Victims Helpline (Ireland), APAV (Portugal), Nacionalni pozivni centar za žrtve kaznenih djela i prekršaja (Croatia), Weisser Ring Germany, Weisser Ring (Austria) and Bílý kruh bezpečí (Czech republic)

This three-day seminar offered its participants not only the opportunity to share experience but also an interesting comparison of victim support helplines in each country. After mutual introduction the topics statistical output and technical solutions, helpline financing, human resources and public relations were discussed.

Participants also visited the 116 006 helpline run by Bílý kruh bezpečí that was established within the

programme “Let’s Give a Chance to Women(us)” financed by Norwegian Funds through the foundation Open Society Fund in Prague.

The reasons why the victims of crime contact European 116 006 helpline are very similar in most countries. Among the most frequent issues of the ones calling 116 006 helplines are domestic violence and violent crime such as stalking, assaults and sexually motivated offences. Statistics of calls show the difference in ratio between male and female callers searching for help at 116 006 helplines. Czech men are more reluctant to ask for help comparing to the other countries. They make only 22% of all callers. Only Portugal recorded lower number of men calling (18%). On the other hand 41% of incoming calls come from men in Austria and the Netherlands.



DENMARK

[Offerrådgivningen i Danmark \(OID\) - Victim Support Denmark](#)

Victim Support Denmark, Annual General Meeting

At our annual general meeting on 16th April – Else Marie Buck was elected with great applause as National Chairman of Offerrådgivningen i Danmark (OID) for the next 2 years. On the day before, the local victim support organizations exchanged experiences and discussed lessons learned from projects funded by the Victim's Fund that is based on traffic fines. The organisational development committee also presented a proposal for constitutional changes and an updated paper on the collaboration with the Police. The proposal was adopted by the delegates.

Ministry of Justice's package on rape prevention initiatives

To ensure the implementation and quality of the package on rape prevention initiatives, an advisory group of various NGOs and researchers, the Police

and Legal institutes meet semi-annually. Likewise, the advisory group meets regularly with the National Police to provide inputs and monitoring. OID is in both advisory groups.

Ongoing project from Victims' Fund 2016

One of the 4 OID projects approved by the Victims' Fund is about "Counselling of victimized children and their parents" and is currently ongoing. The first weekend course was very successful. The next course will take place in September in Jutland.

EU Directive on Victims' Rights

OID is still advocating for the Victim Directive in Parliament and where else relevant, addressing specific items, and we have been approaching Danish MEPs for example on 14th November 2015 and on Victim's Day in February 2016.

After the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March OID collaborated with VSE regarding the coordination for returning Danish citizens. We are currently discussing how to implement local emergency plans to share with the Police and with other emergency partners. Also to ensure that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is aware of OID's availability.



FINLAND

[RikosuhripäivystysSuomessa - Victim Support Finland](#)

New instructions for the Finnish police

Due to the implementation of the new legislation which introduces the individual evaluation to identify the specific protection needs of the victim, the Ministry of the Interior has published a new handbook for the police. The handbook introduces methods for making the individual assessment in the criminal proceedings starting from the pre-investigation. The evaluation is done in 2 phases. If the victim is considered clearly not to be in need of

protection the process does not continue. However, if there are some indications that the victim is in need of special protection measures, then a more thorough evaluation will be processed and a special form will be filled. After filling the form in cooperation with the victim, the decision of the protection measures will be made. However, protection measures can be implemented even before filling the form. The new handbook also includes instructions for the police for referring the victim to victim services.

Please find the handbook in Finnish [here](#).

GERMANY



[Weisser Ring](#)

WEISSER RING online advice - Selection and training of advisers

This summer, WEISSER RING will launch its online advice service. A central focus of the implementation process is the selection and training of volunteers. We were able to disseminate our call on the Internet and in print media, thanks to press releases sent to all newspapers and radio broadcasters in the region.

Interested parties were able to apply online via our [website](#). A standardised questionnaire and initial "help request" served as the basis for finding out how applicants express themselves. The documents were evaluated by a team of members from various sections of the association in accordance with criteria specified in advance. This selection team carried out the entire process. The next step was a telephone interview with the candidates. All candidates considered to be suitable were invited to an information event where they were given an introduction to the work that WEISSER RING does. They were also able to take part in a simulation request that they had one hour to respond to. Part of this task also involved completing a reflection sheet where applicants stated both their answers and the emotions they felt

while carrying out the task.

The final selection was then carried out based on this information. From 60 applicants at the start of the process, 20 were selected for training at the end.

The training comprises three stages: in an initial seminar where potential online advisers are taught about the principles of WEISSER RING and victim support. In two further seminars, they are trained in reading and answering emails and in case documentation.



GERMANY

[ado - Arbeitskreis der Opferhilfen](#)

Following an Austrian example, German legislation now provides stronger support for victims especially when heard as witnesses during criminal trials with the adoption of a new article 406g within the code of criminal procedure. Titled “Psychosoziale Prozessbegleitung” (= “PP” - psychosocial escort during procedure), the article complements already existing legal support for victims provided by lawyers.

Specially trained social workers accompany victims during the police hearings and the trial. This aims at stress reduction for the victims and at avoiding their secondary victimization.

Victims of sexual offence who were under the age of 18 when the crime was committed as well as victims of robbery, kidnapping and serious injury who are under the age of 18 at the time of the investigation are entitled to this support.

The courts bear the costs incurred: 520 € during the investigation, 370 € during the trial, and 210 € for post-sentence support.

As the law emphasizes, PP is characterized by strict neutrality concerning the criminal procedure. PP does not have to contribute to the procedural

research of truth. A very clear separation between the initial counselling of the victim (especially concerning the victim's decision to report the crime to police or not) and her/his escort is therefore mandatory. The escorting person is strictly obliged to avoid any conversation with the victim concerning the matter of the accusation and the statements the victim has eventually made before in examinations.

Who is entitled to render PP? A federal law requires for the escorting person a degree in Social Work or Psychology and an additional special PP training. **ado** offers such a training already. The legal acceptance of the PP-training is introduced to the 16 Federal States of Germany, who are in the process of developing their own laws right now.

ado welcomes this new type of support for victims, which will enter into force in January 2017. By this, for the first time in Germany, the law will provide a professional social service for victims.

However, for small institutions, the obligatory separation between counselling and escorting may create capacity problems, due to the requirement of involving two support persons in each single case. Moreover, from **ado**'s point of view, the separation does not seem necessary: the juridical institutions we cooperate with accept that our counselling is neutral and that it does not influence the victims' statements.

Finally: The payment of 1.100 € only is not sufficient if the escort is required during several days – under German law this is quite probable in complicated cases.

ado is very interested in collecting practical experience with this new instrument – and will report on the issue again in the next newsletter.



ITALY

I-CARE

From January 2016 to May 2016, 69 women have been supported through I-CARE's free hotline and 27 women have been housed in the shelters.

All victims have received:

- basic assistance: their physical and/or psychological needs are listened and responded to;
- meal preparation, portioning and distribution; the victims who wanted to join in these activities were given the opportunity to do so;
- laundry and wardrobe;
- transportation from and to hospitals (for physically traumatized victims), law courts or police stations, lawyers' offices or any place they had a reasonable need to go to;
- protection of victims from unneeded intrusions; protection of their privacy from the press;
- support and counseling towards obtaining redress and reparations;
- timely and reliable information on the development of the judicial procedures.

I-CARE's support services consist of:

- 7 hidden shelters which operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Tutors which guarantee individual support to each single victim in each stage of their journey away from the abuse situation and towards a rebirth into a new, abuse-free life.
- Former or present victims of domestic violence collaborate with I-CARE in the management of shelters, so that decisions about the daily management of victim's lives are not taken by an impersonal bureaucracy far from victims' actual needs: on the

contrary, the shelters are managed by victims, with victims, for victims. Victims are empowered and made to feel trusted as responsible adults, fully able to make decisions about their own lives and welfare.



ITALY

[Associazione LIBRA Onlus](#)

LIBRA is partner in the EU project "Developing Research Informed Good Practice Policing and Industry Collaborative Models in Preventing Online Child Abuse and Profiling Child Victims" coordinated by Middlesex University of London.

On 23rd of June the [final event](#) linked to the project will take place in London. This one-day conference aims to bring both experts and the research team together for a presentation of the findings and illustrations of the models developed over the duration of the investigation. Two research-led panels will take centre-stage, focusing on the country-specific findings of research with police and young victims respectively.

In general, this research shows that boys pose more risk behaviour on the Internet than girls, except for sharing photos/videos online; boys are more often engaged in sexting than girls but girls are significantly more frequently invited to show sexual activities on the internet than boys. They are more likely than boys to be invited for posting sexual information about themselves on the Internet and to post sexually suggestive photo's/videos of themselves on the Internet. Especially older Internet users were primarily interested in younger girls to exhibit sexually behaviour. In the research group, formal and informal help-seeking behaviour was hardly mentioned. Only the consultation of a friend was in one in three cases notified when something bad happened on the Internet.

In general boys show more online and offline risk behaviours than girls, and girls are more at risk to be victimized online.



PORTUGAL

[APAAV - Portuguese Association for Victim Support](#)

Awareness Raising towards Cybercrime

The Portuguese spend 20 minutes per day online and share all kinds of information and data on their professional and personal life, often without realising it. This happens not only in Portugal and one might say that IT is a worldwide phenomenon. This overwhelming sharing leads out for many persons to fall victims of several types of cybercrime such as phishing, stalking, cyberbullying, amongst others.

In order to raise the awareness to this dangerous phenomenon, APAAV carried out several activities during these last few months, of which the highlight goes to the “**Unexpected Biography**” written by the nominated Portuguese writer, João Tordo, and to the celebration of the Stalking Awareness Day, last April 18th.

The João Tordo’s “Unexpected Biography” results from the writer’s acceptance of APAAV’s invitation to write a person’s biography based only upon the data posted on the Social Networks. This “Unexpected Biography” was compiled in a book, which was publicly launched on the 15th of April 2015.

Similarly to the previous years, APAAV dedicated the 18th of April to raise the awareness towards stalking, by remembering the campaign launched in 2015, “**It starts with a message and ends up taking over your life**”. The campaign was developed with FCB Lisboa’s sponsorship and aims at raising stalking victims’ awareness to seek support and information at APAAV. The date was also celebrated through the promotion of a Workshop on Stalking, at APAAV’s Training Centre in Lisbon, targeted to college students and professionals.

APAAV alerts for the apparent harmless nature of

stalking and to the almost flattering manner in which stalking behaviours may occur. APAV aims to raise the awareness for the possibility of these behaviours becoming more intense and serious, even intimidating, frightening and dangerous to the victim. Stalking became a crime in Portugal in August 2015 as established under article 154 A of the Penal Code. Only in 2015 APAV registered 445 cases of stalking, against 341 cases in 2014.

Presentation of the game “vamos prevenir!” (let’s prevent!) – primary prevention of sexual abuse for children

On the 28th of April the game - “**Vamos Prevenir! As Aventuras do Búzio e da Coral**” (“Let’s Prevent! The Adventures of the Whelk and the Coral”) was publicly presented in Lisbon with about 400 participants. This is a game of Primary Prevention of Sexual Abuse for Children between the ages of 6 and 10 years old, authored by researchers at the ISCTE University.

APAV’s representative, José Félix Duque, thanked the authors for the partnership invitation and stressed out the importance of the use of scientific instruments in the prevention of sexual abuse. José also noted APAV’s work on the support to children victims of sexual violence, with highlight to Project CORE, co-financed by the European Commission in 2002 and the recent establishment of the CARE Network, with the support of the Gulbenkian Foundation. It is also important to point out that part of the games’ sale profits reverts to APAV.



ROMANIA

[ACTEDO](#)

ACTEDO's Pro Bono Network for Human Rights Wins 3rd Prize at the Civil Society Gala!

Monday, June 6th 2016, after a tight competition between many initiatives of nongovernmental organisations from all over the country, The Pro Bono Network for Human Rights was awarded 3rd prize at the Civil Society Gala, at the section

Protection of Individual/ Collective Human Rights. The prize is a public recognition of The Pro Bono Network's contribution to solving the legal issues of numerous vulnerable people in Romania. In 2015, the Network's first year of activity, with the help of our Pro Bono Lawyers, over 100 individuals received free legal assistance in diverse human rights areas: infringements of the rights of people with disabilities, violence against women, forced evictions of Roma, parental rights, access to health, hate speech, discrimination, etc.

Please read more [here](#).



SERBIA

[Victimology Society of Serbia](#)

The Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) and SEESAC marked the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence (1-8. May 2016). The title of the campaign was "Hear out the Voice of the Victims: Reduce the Misuse of Firearms – Increase our Safety!" and it aimed at raising public awareness about the consequences of firearms misuse for the survivors and the families of those who succumb to the injuries, as well as dissemination of information about the existence of the service "VDS info and victim support".

The campaign was implemented through many activities including a joint press release of VDS and SEESAC to mark the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, a social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter which used media reports on gun violence and draw attention to the related consequences faced by the victims, a space created on the [website](#) where victims were able to describe the consequences of the misuse of firearms as well as guest appearances on TV and radio. The representatives of VDS also talked to citizens of Novi Beograd about their feeling of safety and their opinion of the misuse of the firearms. At the same time we distributed leaflets and information on the Service "VDS info and victims support".



An analysis of the collected experiences of victims is used for planning further activities with the aim of providing complete support to the victims of gun violence, lobbying for the respect of their rights and needs.

SWEDEN

[Brottsofferjouren - Victim Support Sweden](#)

Victim Support Sweden has received increased funding during 2016 from The Crime Victim Fund and The National Board of Health and Welfare. We are now able to develop our work in many different areas including domestic violence, young victims of crime and multilingual victim support. We will also strengthen our efforts in areas such as education and communication.

“Say Something” - New Documentary

The documentary “*Say Something*” premiered in Swedish cinemas in March 2016. “*Say Something*” is a documentary where a young person’s teenage years have been characterized by witnessing domestic violence. “*Say Something*” joins “*My life my lesson*” as the completing part in a documentary diptych on children growing up in homes where there is domestic violence. The documentaries are made by filmmakers Åsa Ekman, Oscar Hedin and Anders Teigen (Film and Tell) in collaboration with Victim Support Sweden and other Swedish NGOs. The documentaries’ purpose is to open up a discussion on the subject of children growing up in witnessing domestic violence. Both movies are available with English subtitles. Please find more information on the [website](#).

UK

[Victim Support England and Wales](#)

On 16 May Victim Support held a roundtable discussion in Westminster that brought together senior representatives from the Foreign Office, Counter-Terrorism Command, clinical psychology



and crisis response. The seminar, hosted by Tom Brake MP, challenged the group on their preparedness to meet the needs of victims of terrorism in the event of a future attack either in the UK or abroad. The group discussed Victim Support's research findings which confirmed the significant psychological impact of terrorism and highlighted the financial difficulties that are often experienced by victims. There was a strong consensus among the expert group that victims of terrorism (including witnesses) must be supported in the long and short-term and that action should be taken now to achieve this. We were delighted with the level of engagement on the issue. The event generated a commitment from those that attended to be involved in the development of a programme of support for victims of terrorism. A report on the research findings will be published in the autumn.

Please contact [Alexandra Barker](#) in the policy team for further information.

UK

[Victim Support Northern Ireland](#)



Victim Support NI to launch unique sexual violence advocacy service

Victim Support NI, the leading organisation supporting victims of crime in Northern Ireland, is to deliver a pioneering service to victims of sexual violence from September 2016.

The organisation, which helps victims of crime in communities and courts throughout Northern Ireland, has appointed two Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) to represent victims across the region. This project is funded by Comic Relief and the Department of Justice.

Victim Support NI Chief Executive, Geraldine Hanna said:

“This specialist service for victims and survivors of sexual violence is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and we are really excited to be leading the

way in delivering this unique level of support to people in need.

“Sexual violence can be devastating for victims and their families. Our advocates will support victims in the immediate aftermath of the incident, right through their journey to recovery and in their engagement with the criminal justice system, if they chose to report the crime.

“They will also fight the victims’ corner to gain access to health, housing and other crucial services and will assist them with employment issues if necessary.

“As well as helping individuals cope with the consequences of crime and support them on the road to recovery, our advocates will lobby government to improve its understanding of the needs of people affected by sexual violence and to better cater for their needs by influencing public policy and the delivery of services.

“While many other countries already have ISVA roles which are well established, this is new territory for Northern Ireland and we are keen to learn from others who have already set up an ISVA service. If you have experience in developing and running an ISVA service and would be willing to share your learning this with us, please contact maddi.oneill@victimsupportni.org.uk .”



UK

[Supporting Justice](#)

An exciting development since the last VSE newsletter has been the launch of the new Witness Service delivered by Citizens Advice which went live on 25 April 2016. This service has been the product of a year of research and consultation with volunteers, staff, key stakeholders and witnesses to design a preparation and support service that is tailored to individual need. Rather than a one size fits all there is a range of options of support including a new outreach service for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses.

This outreach service provides those witnesses

with pre-trial information and support away from the court in a location that best meets the witnesses needs; which might be the home or another community venue or a school or workplace. The service is supported by a new digital case management system which ensures that the needs of witnesses that are identified are met throughout their witness journey and avoids the witness having to repeat their story. It will also allow Citizens Advice to report on the support provided and begin to draw out data on the impact the support being provided has on the witness experience.

Supporting Justice has provided critical expertise to help design the service and has also written and delivered training in order to roll out this new service across the 3000+ staff and volunteer team across England and Wales. These changes will see strong improvements for the almost 180,000 witnesses that Citizens Advice Witness Service supports each year.



US

[ICV - International Cruise Victims Association](#)

International Cruise Victims Members Travels to Washington

Members of ICV traveled to Washington DC, yet again at their own expense for several reasons. Their purpose was to lobby for new legislation introduced in both the House and Senate; another was to celebrate and honor all who have helped us since our inception, 10 years ago, on January 1, 2006, when four families formed ICV which is today known in 35 countries around the world as the voice of victims and others seeking improved safety and security for cruise ship passengers.

It was a jam-packed, ambitious, and exciting two days--filled with many calls in congressional offices, meetings at the headquarters of the FBI and Coast Guard to discuss legislative compliance issues with the 2010 CVSSA, a standing room only reception in

the Capitol with a number of Congressional members from both the Senate and the House and an even larger number of key staff members from the House and Senate, and finally a Congressional Hearing where Ken Carver was invited to testify on behalf of the many issues we are dealing with including proposed U.S Coast Guard regulations and much needed new legislation.

While Senator Blumenthal, Congresswoman Matsui, and Congressman Himes, all spoke at the reception so eloquently and powerfully stating the issues, it was the ICV victim/members bravely and courageously telling their powerful stories who served as the largest call to action for everyone in the room.

UPDATES ON PROJECTS



Projects Infovictims I and II: new websites available

New infovictims websites

Don't miss the opportunity to visit the Infovictims.com websites, now with updated contents, new contexts and new languages available!

Visit and check out the updates on the [Portuguese website](#) and see how the criminal justice system works in Poland, Germany and Scotland. For more information, please see www.infovictims.de, www.infovictims.pl, www.infovictimscotland.co.uk.

The infovictims websites were developed under Project Infovictims I and II, promoted by APAV and with the financial support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.



Infovictims app selected by the "pc guia" magazine

The computing magazine “PC GUIA” published an article with a selection of the best apps for smartphone and the Infovictims app, developed by APAV, was one of the highlighted apps under the “National” category.

The Infovictims app is available for iPhone, Android, Windows Phone and may be downloaded at: infovitimas.pt/pt/app/



Final report of Project IVOR available

The **IVOR Report – Implementing victim-oriented reform of the criminal justice system in the European Union** is now available. The Report is the final output of Project IVOR, promoted by APAV and developed in partnership with the International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT, The Netherlands), University of Leuven (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Victim Support Europe, with the co-finance support of the European Commission, under the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.

The Report provides an analysis on the position of victims of crime in the EU Member States, offering a rich and analytical overview of the recent developments on the implementation of victim assistance, of the current research into and with victims’ rights and services and of the ecological background affecting victim assistance in the EU. The Report also contains practical recommendations and measures to promote the transposal of the Victims’ Directive.

At the microsite www.apav.pt/ivor, developed under the Project, you may also find other additional information, including country factsheets about the developments on the implementation of victim assistance mechanisms in the EU Member States and practice sheets with some practices

underway in different Member States to promote the implementation of the rights of the Victims' Directive.

The Report can be downloaded [here](#).

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[About Victim Support Europe](#)

Victim Support Europe is an umbrella organisation which currently consists of 43 national and regional victim support organisations in 26 countries.

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<http://victimsupport.eu/>

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With financial support from
the Justice Programme
of the European Union