



Victim Support
Europe

VICTIM
SUPPORT
EUROPE
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2014

DEVELOPING VICTIM SUPPORT ACROSS EUROPE

"In order to encourage and facilitate reporting of crimes and to allow victims to break the cycle of repeat victimisation, it is essential that reliable support services are available to victims and that competent authorities are prepared to respond to victims' reports in a respectful, sensitive, professional and non-discriminatory manner."

Recital 63
DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU¹



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Victim Support
Europe

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTS

Helgard van Hüllen and João Lázaro



Helgard
van Hüllen

In 2014 our member organisations as well as national governments have been working hard to ensure progress in the implementation of the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. We would like to warmly congratulate everyone for their efforts and to encourage victims' supporters across Europe to carry on with their excellent work. By 15 November 2015 the EU Directive has to be fully implemented in all Member States and although some of them are already almost complying with the new requirements, much still needs to be done in many countries.



João
Lázaro

This report gives you an overview of Victim Support Europe activities over the past 12 months. In 2014 our main objective continued to be the further development of Victim Support Europe in order to better represent the voice of victims across Europe and work towards ensuring that every victim can access their rights in the aftermath of crime. Most of our activities further contributed to increase our members' knowledge and to develop closer networks between them as well as to offer support and information regarding the implementation of the EU Directive on victims' rights. We also managed to strengthen our capacity by employing our first Executive Director, Levent Altan, at the end of the year and we are confident that 2015 will mark the next stage in VSE's evolution with plans to deliver more and better services for our members and for victims.

All this was only possible thanks to the increased involvement of our Executive Board Members as our President David McKenna has been ill for some time now and has not been able to carry out his usual activities. In his absence we, as Vice-Presidents, have taken over the President's responsibilities. David has very recently indicated that he wishes to step down from his position of President of Victim Support Europe. We are planning to have new elections at our next General Meeting in November. Until then, we will continue to fulfil David's duties. In the meantime, we wish David a speedy recovery. And we are extremely thankful to the other Members of the Board who gave a lot of their time to replace David on several occasions and to ensure that all our objectives for the year were met. Finally we would like to express our gratitude to our Brussels based staff members, Hélène Heinrichs assisted by Sara Reis until the summer and Levent Altan who joined the team in November, for their excellent and successful work during that demanding year.

We hope you will enjoy reading this report over a successful year 2014 and we look forward to 2015!

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Jo Keaney



Jo Keaney

In 2014 we again received an EU Operating grant, but as the call for proposals was late, the funding covered the period from 12 May 2014 to the end of the year. This meant a delay in some of the planned work but as this report shows, we were still able to undertake many of the activities over 8 months rather than a calendar year and it was a successful year for the achievements and activities of VSE.

The delay in the funding grant also helped VSE to improve on its financial position as we were required to be self-sufficient up until May 2014 and then match the EU grant thereafter. The outcome of the year is that, with the help of the special donations made by a number of VSE members, we have been able to create a surplus in the year of 74.999€. This has helped put us on a much better financial footing. Our available reserves position (accumulated profits) has improved to 98.033€ which will help to give us future sustainability and the ability to obtain further EU grants with match funding.

As such, it has helped us to secure from 2015, a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for 3 years with the EU. Grants continue to be made annually, but this creates a more stable operating environment for us.

However, the increase in reserves has only been achieved due to the special donations mentioned above and so VSE is looking to identify future income streams through increased membership opportunities, commercial activities and fundraising. This forms part of our new three year strategy.

The main figures for 2014 are that the total operating income was 287.637€, with total expenditure of 211.333€, leaving a year-end profit of 74.999€. Further detailed figures can be found in the attached short version of the balance sheet 2014.

The financial statements, as prepared and audited under Belgian law, show a healthy Audit Report, and so I on behalf of the Executive Board of VSE, ask the GM 2015 to approve the Balance sheet 2014, including the assets, liabilities and income statement as audited by Madame Martine Piret (audit report dated 3 May 2015).

Additionally, I would like to thank the office staff in Brussels and my fellow VSE Executive Board members for their hard work and support in 2014 and I look forward to 2015.

3

OVERVIEW OF VICTIM SUPPORT EUROPE ACTIVITIES 2014

3.1

Events and meetings

3.1.1

Annual conference and AGM 2014

"This conference created the opportunity to hear the voice of the victim and to come up with practical solutions. That's what Victim Support Europe is about."

Victor Jammers, VSE Board Member and Member of the Board of Directors of Slachtofferhulp Nederland

Victim Support Europe's Annual Conference and AGM 2014 "Developing Victim Support across Europe – Quality, Standards and Capacity-Building" was held in Warsaw, Poland, from 14 to 17 May 2014 and was hosted by VSE Polish member organisation Subvenia Victima.

The conference counted more than 200 participants including victim support practitioners, EU Member States' representatives, academics and journalists. With more than 50 presentations divided into 5

plenary sessions and 14 workshops, the conference was an excellent opportunity for fruitful best practice exchange, particularly regarding the implementation of the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The main topics for discussion and debate were quality and standards in victim support, next steps to successful delivery of the EU Directive on victims' rights, capacity-building for victim support organisations as well as new challenges and victim support beyond 2015.

VSE was honoured to count among the speakers the Justice Minister of Poland as well as other prominent representatives from the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, EUROPOL, the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union and from the upcoming Italian EU Presidency.

Presentations and speeches from the event can be found on the VSE website.



3.1.2

Launch of Victims of Crime International [VOCI]

The new organisation Victims of Crime International (VOCI) was launched at the beginning of June. David McKenna represented VSE at the launch which took place in New York and in Washington.

VOCI is a network of victim support organisations from all over the world (Europe, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, India). VSE is a member of VOCI and support the development of VOCI particularly to foster cross-border collaboration for victims worldwide. The mission of VOCI is to catalyze a unified global voice:

- To represent the needs and views of people affected by crime.
- To create and sustain an international agenda by collating insights from key actors, practitioners, academ-

- ics and decision makers in the area of victims' rights.
- To conserve views and experiences from victims of crime from around the world, providing a platform for their voices to be heard and initiating a dialogue on how best to support their needs.
- To develop and expand practical access to rights and services for victims of crime across the globe, including countries and areas where crime and victimisation often goes unreported and no services or assistance exists for victims in the aftermath of crime.
- To support the development of global standards for service delivery to victims of crime.
- To assist the development of national victim support services in countries where no services currently exist, improving global access to rights and services for victims of crime.

3.1.3

Workshop for members on EC funding for Action Grants

"Apply for EU funding may be confusing!! (...) Don't worry! There is a logic"

Carmen Rasquete, VSE Project Coordinator

In order to enhance capacity relating to sustainability, future resilience and resource planning of member organisations, VSE arranged a workshop on EC funding for action grants in Lisbon on 1 September. The workshop was organised and led by VSE Project Coordinator Carmen Rasquete.

During the first part of the workshop EU funding in general and the new Justice Programme 2014-2020 in particular as well as planned calls for proposals were presented to the 8 participants. Questions like how to apply, how to find partners and how to draft a successful application for funding were addressed. In the second part of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to present project ideas and the discussion was about how to translate these ideas into an effective project proposal.

VSE members from Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Spain were represented.

Carmen Rasquete's presentation "Introduction to EU funding" is available for members on the VSE intranet under Internal News -> Workshop on EC Funding.

3.1.4

Roundtable discussion with international NGO networks

On 8 September VSE invited international NGO networks to participate in a roundtable discussion in VSE Brussels office. ENAR, PICUM, Missing Children Europe, ICCL/ JUSTICIA and Fair Trials International were represented. The roundtable was led by VSE Executive Board member Victor Jammers. The purpose was to bring together a group of representatives from international NGOs dealing with specific groups of victims of crime in order to better get to know each other's work, to exchange ideas and to discuss possible areas of cooperation.

The roundtable started with the introduction of the participants and their respective organisations. Based on this presentation part, themes for discussion were identified, all focused on the Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime:

- Transposition of the directive into national law
- Implementation of the directive
- Training activities required by the directive
- Monitoring of the implementation
- Information material about the directive for victims and service providers

As a result of a fruitful discussion all participants agreed that the roundtable was very beneficial and that it would be useful to repeat this kind of meeting in the future as tangible possible areas of cooperation were identified.

The meeting also paved the way to future co-operation with organisations for example partnerships in EU funded projects, and joint statements.

3.1.5

Study visit for representatives of the Latvian Ministry of Justice

On 28 October VSE Vice President João Lázaro organised a study visit for representatives of the Latvian Ministry of Justice to his national organisation APAV. The aim of this visit was to learn from the Portuguese experience on providing victim support, to help the Legal Aid Administration promote victim support in Latvia, in light of the obligations brought about by Directive 2012/29/UE. João Lázaro took the opportunity to explain the nature and mission of Victim Support Europe, its role in the drafting of and in fostering the new Directive and in promoting victims' rights in Europe. João Lázaro further explained the different models existing within VSE member organisations and how the one or the other could be more suited

to the Latvian reality. As a result, the Latvian delegation showed great interest in future partnership with Victim Support Europe and in understanding through contacts with other organisations how to better guarantee the right to victim support in Latvia.

3.1.6

European Parliament event in Brussels

"The EU laws on victims adopted since 2011 must not become a dead letter. We will not allow them to become dead letter. The measures agreed at EU level should be made into national law."

Viviane Reding, 2013¹¹



On 18 November Victim Support Europe organised a conference on "Victims of Crime Beyond 2015" in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The event was hosted by Ana Gomes, MEP. Speakers included Claude Moreas, MEP, Chair of the LIBE Committee, Iratxe García Pérez, MEP, Chair of the FEMM Committee, Olivier Tell, Head of Unit "Procedural criminal law" (DG Justice, EC), Olimpia Monaco, Representative of the Italian EU Presidency and Inga Melnace, Representative of the upcoming Latvian EU Presidency.

The purpose of the conference was to advocate for the full implementation of the EU Directive on victims' rights as well as to highlight the current needs of victims of crime in Europe by presenting Victim Support Europe's strategy 2014-19 to the newly elected MEPs.

3.1.7

VSE Leaders meeting

VSE organised a meeting for the leaders of Victim Support Europe's member organisations to further support the exchange of knowledge and best practice models for service delivery at national level and in cross-border cases. The event was held in Brussels on 18-19 November. Three workshops were organised and chaired by VSE Executive Board members. The topics were training, cross-border collaboration and accreditation.

During the training workshop participants brainstormed about training for professionals and for volunteers and exchanged training practice from their own country.

The workshop on cross-border collaboration highlighted the importance of networking between VSE member organisations and underlined the challenge in collaborating with member states where no victim support services can currently be identified.

Participants in the workshop on accreditation discussed how an accreditation system could work in three phases. The first phase would consist in defining standards. Two aspects should be considered: standards from the point of view of the victim to ensure that services have a certain quality level and standards from the point of view of the donors to make sure that funds are spent adequately. Standards in relation to volunteers or to paid staff should be differentiated as the requirements are different. The second phase would be a self-assessment for organisations wishing to be accredited on how they comply with the standards. The third phase would be a control phase to check if standards are really complied with by these organisations.

The workshops report is available for members on the VSE intranet under Internal News -> VSE Leaders meeting, 18-19 November 2014.

This meeting was also the opportunity for VSE to hear short reports from members about the progress of the implementation of EU Directive 2012/29/UE in their home countries.

3.1.8

Seminar on Procedural Rights

“The Victims’ Directive and to some degree also the Framework Decision (see Section 1.3) contain a set of procedural rights and safeguards that are to be available to victims to protect them from further harm. (...) these rights are of fundamental importance in empowering victims to play a role in criminal proceedings without exposing them to further victimisation.”

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014ⁱⁱⁱ

On 19-21 November VSE arranged for its members a study visit on procedural rights to Slachtofferhulp Nederland in Utrecht, enabling victim support organisations to learn how Slachtofferhulp operates with a particular focus on supporting victims to access their procedural rights. Speakers included representatives from the

Dutch Ministry of Justice. VSE members from Portugal, Belgium, Denmark and Spain were represented.

Presentations made at the seminar are available for members on the VSE intranet under Internal News -> Seminar on Procedural Rights, 19-21 November 2014.

3.1.9

Workshop on Needs Assessment

“Article 22 of the Victims’ Directive obliges EU Member States to ensure an individual assessment of victims to identify possible specific protection needs, including victims who have suffered considerable harm due to the severity of the crime, victims of a crime based on bias or a discriminatory motive, or victims made vulnerable by their relationship to and dependence on the perpetrator.”

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014^{iv}

A workshop to provide practical information and suggestions to Member States and victim support national representatives on how to implement EU Directive 2012/29/UE with a focus on article 22 (“Individual assessment of victims to identify specific protection needs”) was organised in Paris on 5 December. This was the opportunity to present European projects on the needs assessment of victims and to discuss what the needs assessment tool brings to victims and victim support groups. Participants also learned

about the implementation process of the Directive in France thanks to the participation of representatives from the French Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior. VSE members from Austria, Croatia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and England and Wales were represented.

Presentations made at the workshop are available for members on the VSE intranet under Internal News -> Workshop on needs assessment, 5 December 2014.

3.1.10

Meeting with partners from the South

On 12 December, João Lázaro and Carmen Rasquete organised a meeting with partners from the South in Lisbon. Italian and Spanish victim support organisations were represented. The purpose was to discuss what the standing of the services and rights given to victims in Portugal, Italy and Spain is, to exchange

best practice and to give advice to the participants on how to develop victim support services in their home countries. New possibilities for improved co-operation between national partners was explored with it being agreed that greater co-ordination in Italy and Spain would improve the delivery of victim support.

3.1.11

Visits to member organisations

VSE representatives visited two member organisations in Bulgaria and in the Czech Republic to provide support and information.

VSE President David McKenna visited SVCCC Foundation in Bulgaria and gave advice on how to develop their victim support services. He also had meetings with government officials to discuss the progress of the implementation of the EU victims' directive in Bulgaria. He gave advice on the implementation of the Directive as well as on the 116006 helpline to the Expert committee to the National Council for assistance and compensation to victims of crime in the Ministry of Justice.

VSE Vice President Helgard van Hüllen visited Bily Kruh Bezpeci in the Czech Republic. Bily Kruh Bezpeci was in the preparation phase of launching their 116 helpline and Helgard van Hüllen (also Vice President of Weisser Ring Germany who has been running the 116 helpline for several years) gave advice and support on how to implement the helpline.

In the context of the meeting with partners from the South, VSE Executive Director Levent Altan, also met with APAV in Portugal to their ongoing victim support work as well as their discussions with the Portuguese government on the implementation of the Directive. APAV also showcased their new script management system to assist those working on APAV's victim helpline. The system guides APAV staff and volunteers through a series of questions and relevant replies, whilst leaving them flexibility to ensure their replies are relevant to each individual.

3.1.12

Meetings with stakeholders

In 2014 VSE further strengthened its stakeholder relationships with the European Commission, European Parliament, EU Presidencies and other key EU partners. Regular contacts and meetings with representatives from the European Commission took place. Contacts were made with both new Chairs of the LIBE and FEMM European Parliament Committees who accepted to speak at the VSE European Parlia-

ment event organised on 18 November in Brussels. Representatives of EU Presidencies (Greek and Italian Presidencies) were invited and spoke at the Annual Conference in Warsaw as well as at the European Parliament event. Representatives from the Council of the EU, Europol and FRA were invited to speak at the Annual Conference in Warsaw.

Conferences attended by VSE representatives

On 21 February VSE President David McKenna attended and spoke at the Annual Conference of the Hungarian Office of Justice in Budapest.

On 28 March VSE President David McKenna attended and spoke at the EC specific workshop for Member States on Articles 8, 9 and 22 of EU Directive 2012/29/UE.

On 10-11 April VSE President David McKenna attended the ERA conference "Access to Justice for Crime Victims in the EU" in Trier.

On 5 May VSE President David McKenna attended and spoke at an international conference organized by White Ring Hungary.

On 24-25 September VSE Executive Board Member Sabrina Bellucci attended and spoke at the conference "Secondary Traumatic Stress within the Judiciary and Judicial Staff: What measures to be taken?" organized by the Belgian Judicial Training Institute in conjunction with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN).

On 29 September VSE Executive Board Member Victor Jammers attended and spoke at the EC High Level Conference on Renewing the EU Internal Security Strategy organized by DG Home and by the Italian Presidency.

On 7 October VSE Vice President Helgard van Hüllen attended and spoke at the EuranetPlus debate on the Rights of victims in the European Parliament in Brussels.

On 20-22 October VSE Vice President Helgard van Hüllen attended an expert meeting on volunteers organized by Slachtofferhulp where VSE members from Germany, Denmark, Portugal, Finland and the Czech Republic were represented.

On 30-31 October VSE Vice President João Lázaro attended and spoke at the Victims' Rights Symposium in Ankara, Turkey and provided advice to government officials on the EU victims' directive and on how to organize country-wide victim support.

On 14 November VSE Vice President Helgard van Hüllen attended and spoke at the Victims' Rights Alliance conference in Dublin "Implementing and Enforcing the Victims' Rights Directive in the European Union".

On 2 December VSE Vice President João Lázaro attended and spoke at the conference "The Victim in the Criminal Procedure" organised by Universidad Camilo José Cela in Madrid.

On 2 December the newly appointed VSE Executive Director Levent Altan attended and spoke at the training seminar on the rights of victims organized by Justicia in Budapest.

VSE Executive Director Levent Altan attended an EIGE Seminar "Towards a common approach for the collection of administrative data on gender-based violence in the EU" on 8 December as well as the launch of an EIGE study on the costs of Gender-based violence "A Europe free from Gender-based Violence" on 10 December in Brussels.

On 12 December VSE Vice President Helgard van Hüllen attended and spoke at the conference organised by VSE member organisation White Ring Hungary for their 25th anniversary.

EU-funded projects

In 2014 Victim Support Europe participated as a partner and provided expert advice in two European projects funded by the European Commission. Both projects started in April 2014:

Project IVOR - Implementing Victim-Oriented Reform of the criminal justice system in the European Union

The EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime offers the promise of a victim-oriented reform of the criminal process across the EU Member States. Nonetheless, the extent to which the Directive will fulfil its potential remains to be seen. Project IVOR aims to foster insight on the current research into and experience with victims' rights and services, identifying lacunas in the knowledge base and offering a model which can serve to connect experience and research from one area to another. That is, the historic models in terms of victim support and judicial systems already in place, as well as financial constraints that may or may not pose obstacles for the full implementation of the Directive within the compulsory time-frame. Ultimately, this research should allow for the development of different models of victims services which would be applicable in different scenarios.

Project IVOR is promoted by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) and co-financed by European Commission under the Civil Justice Programme. The Project partners are the Tilburg University (The Netherlands), University of Leuven (Belgium) and Victim Support Europe. The project started on 3 February 2014 and will end on 2 January 2016.

Project Infovictims II

One of the major obstacles still faced by victims of crime all over Europe is the lack of information and ways to access it in an easy and clear fashion.

The development of information concerning the rights of victims of crime has been one of main concerns of the victim support organisations, as a result a number of them developed the original Project Infovictims (October 2011 - September 2013). In a conference organised by Victim Support Europe in November 2013 Vice-President of the European Commission Viviane Reding defined Project Infovictims as a best practice to be followed in other Member States.

As a result of dissemination activities of the materials developed under this project, other Member States

indicated their interest in developing and adapting these materials to their own situation. This is how Project Infovictims II, promoted by APAV, came to life. It started in April 2014 with the partnership of Victim Support Europe, Weisser Ring Germany, Weisser Ring Austria, Victim Support Scotland, Polish Victim Support Network "Subvenia Victima" the Portuguese Public Safety Police and the Portuguese Directorate-General of Justice Administration. Co-financed by the European Commission under the Criminal Justice Programme, Project Infovictims II aims to contribute to increase the information given to victims of crime concerning the criminal justice system, their rights and the ways to exercise them in Portugal, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom. The project started on 14th April 2014 and will end on 13th April 2016.

Partnership in EU project proposals

VSE gave advice to several project promoters (VSE members and non-members) on the content of their draft application for funding under the Justice programme and the Daphne programme. If these project applications are successful, VSE will be associate partners in the following action grants starting in 2015:

- *Educating and Protecting children about their rights in justice systems.* The main objective is to improve practitioner knowledge of child friendly justice through e-learning. Lead organisation: Associazione LIBRA onlus (IT)
- *Victims' Human Rights. The Evolution of Human and Fundamental Rights: Defining and Securing Victims' Rights in Europe.* The main objective is to organize a conference on the following topics:
 - Who is a victim? Are there victims of abuse of power in the EU?
 - Should we speak of especially vulnerable victims, or of discrimination and social vulnerability?
 - Punitivism and secondary victimization vs. prevention
 - Models of victim assistance services and their impact on victims' rights

Another objective is to provide training on the development of victim assistance models. Lead organisation: Asociación Nacional de Víctimas de Delitos Violentos - ANVDV (ES)

- *Project T@LK.* Online support for victims of crime. Objectives: Raise knowledge on arising possibilities in terms of online support for victims

of crime; Adapt victim support services' response to victims' current needs and expectations on victim support; Make victim support services accessible for victims who cannot reach regular traditional model services. Lead organisation: Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV)

- *Trans Empowerment in Partnership – Supporting Trans Victims of Gender-based Violence*. The main objective is to provide training to victim support and other organisations on the needs of transgender people. Lead organization: Transgender Europe

- *Project VICT*. The main objectives are: a research on how the Victims' Directive of 2012 has been implemented in EU member states resulting in

a strategy for better multi-disciplinary cooperation to better support child victims; a training for specialists in Latvia, Poland and Bulgaria; Pilot projects – put results into practice and improve support to child victim; Publicity and knowledge sharing events. Lead organization: Centre for public policy PROVIDUS (LV)

- *Developing an EU Implementation Model of the Victims' Directive*. The main objective is to assist in the implementation of the Directive in Ireland and other Member States of partners. The focus is on establishing referral mechanism, needs assessment and a training programme. Lead organisation: Irish Council for Civil Liberties - ICCL

3.4

Dissemination work

3.4.1

VSE Manifesto 2014-2019

A dissemination strategy was developed in 2014 to ensure that VSE Manifesto 2014-2019 reaches the widest audience possible:

In the run-up to the European elections in May 2014 VSE, the Manifesto 2014-2019 was widely disseminated including to all MEPs electronically and a hard copy was sent to all MEPs from the LIBE and FEMM Committees. Hard copies were also sent to the 28 Justice Ministers of the European Union.

Following the elections, it was further disseminated to newly elected MEPs on the occasion of the European Parliament event in November and to all participants of all VSE events organised in 2014.

Members were encouraged to use the Manifesto nationally.

The Manifesto is available in several languages on VSE website.

3.4.2

Handbook for Implementation of Legislation and Best Practice

The VSE "Handbook for Implementation of Legislation and Best Practice for Victims of Crime in Europe" as a support tool for the implementation of the EU Victims' Directive was largely disseminated at all VSE events and members were encouraged to use it at national level. In order to help members from the South to use it nationally, VSE supported the Italian translation of

the handbook which was done by LIBRA Onlus, an Italian victim support organization who became associate member of VSE in December 2014.

The Italian translation of the handbook is available on VSE website.

3.4.3

Website

VSE continued to maintain the website as a key tool for the exchange of knowledge and best practice

(please see: www.victimsupporteurope.eu).

3.5

New Members

3.5.1

AdVIC – Associate Member, Ireland

At the VSE AGM on 17 May, a resolution was voted to allow VSE to have an unlimited number of members per country (the number of associate and full members used to be limited to 3 per country). This change was proposed and accepted by members in order to help Victim Support Europe to better adapt its policy to the reality of certain countries where, for example, there is no national but only a regional coordination of victim support services or where there is no organisation providing generic support but several organisations offering specialised services.

In 2014, this change allowed the Irish organisation AdVIC – Advocates for victims of homicide to become a member of VSE. Their membership became official in June 2014. AdVIC is a national, non-profit charity which was founded in 2005 by a group of families trying to cope with the unlawful violent killing of a family member.

AdVIC was formed to ensure that the rights of families of homicide victims are not ignored within the Criminal Justice System and to bring about a fairer, more balanced system for such families. For further information, please see AdVIC's website: www.advic.ie

3.5.2

LIBRA Onlus – Associate Member, Italy

In September, Helgard van Hüllen visited a prospective new member "LIBRA Onlus, Network for the Study and Development of Mediation Dynamics" in Mantova, Italy and gave them advice on possible cooperation with other organisations in Italy regarding the implementation of the EU Victims' Directive.

As a result, LIBRA Onlus applied for associate membership and their application was approved by the Executive Board on 17 November. Their membership became official in December 2014.

LIBRA Onlus was born in 2010 and focuses on the study and development of mediation dynamics, considered as the best way to fulfil the expectation of a society based on solidarity. LIBRA is actually working in the field of victim's support and offender's reintegration, through restorative justice perspective.

Contributions to LIBRA activities have been made by several experts, coming from academic and profes-

sional fields as lawyers, criminologists, clinical and social psychologists, psychiatrists, investigators and law enforcement representatives. Also volunteers are involved in different activities, after a specific training provided by LIBRA professionals.

Since May 2012 LIBRA is managing the Support Centre for Victims of Crime. Services provided are: reception, empathic listening, emotional support, first free legal advice, psychological support, link with public and private services in the territory.

Libra's methodology is empowerment based, for which the strengthening of self-determination ability of victims is capital. Self-determination ability is possible thanks to several meetings with the operators, specifically trained in psychological, emphatic, criminological and victimological skills.

For further information, please see LIBRA Onlus' website: www.associazionelibra.com/index.php/en/

4

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015

For VSE, 2015 looks to be an exciting, if busy, year. We have high hopes that it will mark the next stage in VSE's evolution with plans to deliver more and better services for members and to increase the impact and effectiveness of VSE actions.

4.1

Human resources development

We started 2015 with our first Executive Director, Levent Altan, at the helm who is charged with planning and implementing VSEs objectives and developing VSE in the coming years.

Before joining Victim Support Europe, he worked as Principal Legal Advisor at Milieu Ltd, a multi-disciplinary consultancy specialising in providing legal and policy services for public sector clients.

From 2009 to 2012, he was Criminal Justice Legislative Officer at the European Commission where he was responsible for victims' rights. During that time he was in particular responsible for drafting and negotiating the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. He also worked in the European

Commission from 2003-2005 on a wide range of criminal justice matters.

Levent had been working for several years as a civil servant for the UK Ministry of Justice, Cabinet Office and Home Office before being seconded as a National Expert to the European Commission.

We also hope to expand the team in the summer with a new policy officer and will consider the most appropriate way to establish policy teams and expert groups. In this period, we will also look to improve the VSE website and the information provided to Members through it whilst continuing the daily work of contacts with European institutions and organisations, supporting Members with their work and promoting victims' rights.

4.2

Financial development

At the end of 2014, we submitted to the European Commission an application for EU funding through a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA). If successful it will effectively secure reliable funding for VSE for the next three years.

Even with such funding much still needs to be done on the part of VSE to improve its financial independence and reduce its reliance on special contributions from some of our members. This will be an important aspect of our work in the coming years and is likely to be driven by a strengthening in the work of VSE, the services it delivers to members and the membership of VSE.

4.3

Objectives

The FPA application, which is in part based on VSE's strategy and manifesto, sets out VSE's objectives for 2015 and for the following two years:

- Strengthening VSE capacity and services provided to members;
- Developing VSE's membership policy to better allow it to meet its objectives;
- Developing victim support services in Member States or helping to develop existing ones;
- Supporting and monitoring the implementation of EU legislation;

- Examining options relating to standardisation and accreditation of victim support services;
- Helping to improve support to victims in a cross-border situation;
- Identifying training needs for support services and practitioners.

There is much to do but we are confident that with a strong team, a committed Board and with of course all the help from our members, we will be able to deliver much already in 2015.

5

BALANCE SHEET

1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

	Code	2014		2013	
		01/01/2014 - 31/12/2014	01/01/2013 - 31/12/2013		
ASSETS					
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	20/28	4.936,01		5.998,68	
Plant, machinery and equipment	22/27			1.100,29	
Owned by the association in full property	23			1.100,29	
	231			1.100,29	
Financial fixed assets	28	4.936,01		4.898,39	
Other financial assets	284/8	4.936,01		4.898,39	
Amounts received and cash guarantees	285/8	4.936,01		4.898,39	
	29/58	233.957,50		333.662,44	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Amounts receivable within one year	40/41	4.144,33		58.422,27	
Trade debtors	40	4.144,33		1.101,44	
Other amounts receivable	41	-0,00		57.320,83	
Cash at bank and in hand	54/58	236.938,79		137.772,02	
Deferred charges and accrued income	490/1	2.874,38		137.468,15	
TOTAL ASSETS	20/58	238.893,51		339.661,12	
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Association Funds	10/15	136.059,06		61.060,03	
Opening equity	10	38.026,03		38.026,03	
	100	38.026,03		38.026,03	
Accumulated profits [losses]	[+]/[-]	14		98.033,03	
	14	98.033,03		23.034,00	
AMOUNTS PAYABLE					
Amounts payable within one year	17/49	102.834,45		278.601,09	
Trade debts	42/48	102.834,45		278.601,09	
Suppliers	44	67.049,67		34.807,65	
Taxes, remuneration and social security	440/4	67.049,67		34.807,65	
Taxes	45	7.838,96		5.875,00	
Remuneration and social security	450/3	0,00		0,00	
Miscellaneous amounts payable	454/9	7.838,96		5.875,00	
Miscellaneous interest-bearing amounts payable	48	27.745,82		237.918,44	
	4890	27.745,82		237.918,44	
Accruals and deferred income	492/3	200,00		0,00	
GL accounts not in the standard Belgian schema	BXX				
	10/49	238.893,51		339.661,12	
TOTAL LIABILITIES					
INCOME STATEMENT					
Operating income and charges	70/74	287.636,65		312.434,18	
Contributions, gifts, legacies and grants	73	279.546,41		312.434,18	
Other operating income	74	8.090,24		-0,00	
Operating charges	60/64	211.333,26		323.969,18	
Services and other goods	61	134.949,32		244.779,91	
Remuneration, social security costs and pensions	[+]/[-]	62		78.065,68	
	62	75.283,65		78.065,68	

Depreciations of and other amounts written off formation expenses, intangible and tangible fixed charges	630	1.100,29	1.100,29
Other operating charges	640/8		33,30
Operating profit [loss]	[+]/[-]	9901	76.303,39
Financial income		75	379,22
Other financial income	752/9		379,22
Financial charges		65	606,80
Other financial charges	652/9		606,80
Gain [loss] on ordinary activities before taxes	[+]/[-]	9902	76.075,81
Extraordinary income		76	
Other extraordinary income	764/9		437,59
Extraordinary charges		66	1.076,78
Other extraordinary charges	664/8		1.070,17
GL accounts not in the standard Belgian schema		WXX	6,61
Gain [loss] of the period available for appropriation	[+]/[-]	9904	74.999,03

6

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

[from 17 May 2014 onwards]

**PRESIDENT**

David McKenna
CEO of Victim Support Scotland, UK

**TREASURER**

Jo Keaney
Corporate Director Finance of Victim Support England and Wales, UK

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

João Lázaro
President of Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima (APAV), Portugal



Helgard van Hüllen
Vice-President of Weisser Ring Germany

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Sabrina Bellucci
Executive Director of INAVEM, France



Victor Jammers
Member of the Board of Directors of Slachtofferhulp Nederland, The Netherlands



Tiina Rantanen
Regional Director of Rikosuhripaivystys Suomessa, Finland

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SECRETARIAT



Levent Altan
Executive Director



Hëlène Heinrichs
Administrative Officer

MEMBERS' LIST

[status April 2015]



Weisser Ring

(full member)

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 Website: www.weisser-ring.at



Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk

(full member)

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 Tel: +32 3 340 49 00
 Website: www.steunpunt.be



SVCCC Foundation - Support Victims of Crime and Combating Corruption

(full member)

ul Gen. Gurko 37 - Sofia 1000
 Email: stopcrimes@abv.bg
 Tel: +359 2-9800262
 Website: www.stopcrimes-bg.net



Bily kruh bezpeci

(full member)

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 Website: www.bkb.cz



Bijeli krug Hrvatske - White Circle Croatia

(full member)

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 Tel: +385 2 1783 449
 Website: www.bijeli.krug-hrvatske.hr

Croatian Victim and Witness Support Service

(associate member)

J. J. Strossmayera 25 - 32000 Vukovar
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 Tel: +385 1 3714 007
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Ministry of Justice - Independent Sector for Victim and Witness Support

(associate member)

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Offerrådgivningen i Danmark

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Hjælp Voldsofre

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Ohvriabi

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Rikosuhripaivystys Suomessa

(full member)

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INAVEM - Institut National d'Aide aux Victimes et de Médiation

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Weisser Ring

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ADO - Arbeitskreis der Opferhilfen

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Fehér Gyűrű Közhasznú Egyesület

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Office of Justice, Victim Support Unit

(associate member)

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 Tel: +36 30 280 7594
 Website: www.igazsaguyihivatal.gov.hu



Crime Victims Helpline

(associate member)

Harcourt Centre, Block 2 - 50-53 Harcourt Road - Dublin 2
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 Tel: + 353 1 408 6118
 Website: www.crimevictimshelpline.ie

Irish Tourist Assistance Service

(associate member)

6-7 Hanover Street East - Dublin 2
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 Website: www.itas.ie

Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime

(associate member)

Floor 2 Montague Court - Montague St. - Dublin 2
Email: csvc@justice.ie
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Website: www.justice.ie

Advocates for Victims of Homicide

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ITALY

I-CARE – Associazione Italiana di Supporto Vittimologico

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Associazione LIBRA onlus

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MALTA

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NETHERLANDS

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POLAND

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PORTUGAL

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Victimology Society of Serbia

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A.N.V.D.V - Asociación Nacional de Víctimas de Delitos Violentos

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SWEDEN

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SWITZERLAND

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SVK-OHG - Swiss Liaison Centre Committee for the Victims of Crime Act

(associate member)

c/o Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Social Affairs
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Website: www.victimsupportscotland.org.uk



USA

ICV - International Cruise Victims Association

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Website: www.internationalcruisevictims.org

Footnotes

⁴ Recital 63, *EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime*

⁴¹ Viviane Reding, 6 November 2013, SPEECH/13/885, *Strengthening victims' rights – Doing justice for the victims of crime*

⁴¹¹ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014, *Victims of crime in the EU: the extent and nature of support for victims*, p.47

^{4v} European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014, *Victims of crime in the EU: the extent and nature of support for victims*, p.77

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