



European Perspective on Rights for Victims of Crime

VSE Annual Conference

DEVELOPING VICTIM SUPPORT ACROSS EUROPE

Quality, Standards, Capacity Building

15 May 2014

Warsaw, Poland

The European legal framework on the rights of victims: A success story

- Regulation (EU) 606/2013 of 12 June 2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters
- Directive 2012/29/EU of 25 October 2012 on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA
- Directive 2011/99/EU of 13 December 2011 on the European Protection Order
- Directive 2011/92/EU of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA
- Directive 2011/36/EU of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA
- Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004 relating to compensation to crime victims

Perspectives on the EU victim protection regime

1. The common perspective: Creating coherent national Victim Protection Schemes
2. The individual perspective: Promoting focused action
3. The Union perspective: Ensuring a balanced and measured approach

Perspectives on the EU victim protection regime

1. Coherent national Victim Protection Schemes

Proper and timely transposition of EU legislation in all Member States

- EPO Criminal Directive: 11 January 2015
- EPO Civil Regulation: 11 January 2015 (direct effect)
- Victim's Directive: 16 November 2015

DG Justice Guidance Document related to the transposition and implementation of the Directive (see press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-165_en.htm)

Perspectives on the EU victim protection regime

2. Focused action

E.g. on

- Referrals and provision of support services to victims
- Individual assessment of victim's needs
- Specific groups of victims of crime (gender-based violence, hate and homophobic crime)
- The Greek example: Restorative justice (RJ)
 1. Implementation of Article 12 of the Victims Directive
 2. Development of protocols and guidelines for providing RJ, with the aim of improving victims' safeguards;
 3. Development of training programmes and materials for professionals, with the aim of improving their skills and knowledge on how they treat and interact with victims;
 4. Development of best practice guidance that will enhance multi-agency, cross-sector cooperation among RJ services and national agencies, with the aim of minimizing the risks of secondary and repeat victimization.

Perspectives on the EU victim protection regime

3. A balanced and measured approach

- Measures for the protection of victims are not intended as an effort at the expense of the rights of the offender.
- The emancipation of the victim in the criminal justice system does not entail that offenders' rights are taken lightly.

Proposal for a Directive on procedural safeguards
for children suspected or accused in criminal
proceedings



Thank you!

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