



From the Editor

The last months were marked by a very sad event for Victim Support Europe as our President David McKenna passed away in August. David will be remembered by us all with great fondness; a man passionate in his work to help victims and indefatigable in his efforts to improve their lives across Europe and beyond. His indomitable spirit, charm, wit and intelligence persuaded people from all corners of the world to act on behalf of victims. He will be greatly missed as our colleague and friend, but we believe he will continue to inspire us to help change the situation of victims everywhere.

And this Newsletter again shows how committed Victim Support Europe and our members are in making sure that victims' rights become reality across Europe and that no victim is forgotten. We hope you will enjoy reading it!

*Helgard van Hüllen
Vice President of Victim Support Europe*

CONTENT

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[LIST OF ONGOING PROJECTS](#)

[RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES](#)

- [In Memory of David McKenna – 1958-2015, A tribute from Victim Support Europe](#)
- [Awareness raising campaign on the implementation deadline of the Victims'](#)

[Directive: Raise your voice for #VictimsRights](#)

- [Meeting with Commissioner Věra Jourová](#)
- [Roundtable Discussion with International NGO Networks, 29 September, Brussels](#)
- [A Guide for individual evaluation of victims \(EVVI\) now available](#)
- [VSE Annual Report 2014 published](#)
- [Welcome to our new associate member from Croatia!](#)

[NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS](#)

- [Czech Republic - Bily Kruh Bezpeci](#)
- [Croatia - Bijeli Krug Hrvatske](#)
- [Croatia - Ministry of Justice - Independent Service for Victim and Witness Support](#)
- [Denmark - Offerrådgivningen i Danmark](#)
- [Finland - Rikosuhripaivystys Suomessa](#)
- [France – INAVEM](#)
- [Germany - Weisser Ring](#)
- [Ireland - AdVIC - Advocates for Victims of Homicide](#)
- [Italy - Associazione LIBRA Onlus](#)
- [Italy - I-Care](#)
- [The Netherlands – Slachtofferhulp](#)
- [Portugal – APAV](#)
- [Slovakia - Pomoc Obetiam Násilia](#)
- [Spain - ANVDV](#)

[UPDATES ON ONGOING PROJECTS](#)

- [Project IVOR | Policy Seminar | 14 January 2016](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **VSE workshop on EU funding**, 28 October 2015, Lisbon (for VSE members only, registration closed)

- **PROTEUS seminar "Identity theft online: preventing, fighting & supporting victims"**, 29-30 October 2015, Lisbon. Please find more information [here](#)

- **VSE European Parliament event "Putting victims' rights into practice:**

where are we?", 9 November 2015, Brussels (by invitation only due to limited space, registration closed). This event is part of our [awareness raising campaign](#) around the 16 November deadline for the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive.

- **VSE General Meeting and Leaders Meeting**, 10 November 2015, Brussels (for VSE members only, registration closed).

- **Sixth Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia “New trends in victimology theory and practice: Dilemmas and challenges in protecting victims”**, 26-27 November 2015, Belgrade. Please find more information [here](#)

- **Policy Seminar of Project IVOR** - implementing victim oriented reform of the criminal justice system in the European Union, 14 January 2016, Lisbon.

- **VSE Annual Conference and General Meeting 2016** will be held in the Netherlands on 25-27 May. The venue will be confirmed soon.

[LIST OF ONGOING PROJECTS](#)

- [Infovictims II](#), promoted by APAV (Portugal); partners: Victim Support Scotland, Subvenia Victima (Poland), Weisser Ring Austria, Weisser Ring Germany, Victim Support Europe

- [IVOR](#) - *Implementing Victim-Oriented Reform of the criminal justice system in the European Union*, promoted by APAV (Portugal); partners: Tilburg University (The Netherlands), Leuven University (Belgium), Victim Support Europe

- Project [TEVNAS: Targeted Early Victim Needs Assessment and Support - ACC-access to justice](#), promoted by The Croatian Law Centre (CLC); Partners : Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia and The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

- The Project [STRENGTHENING THE EFFICIENCY OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES SUPPORT SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA](#), Project beneficiaries are officials of the victim and Witness Support Offices at the County courts in Croatia (support staff), officials/employees of Ministry of

Justice and the Independent service for victim and witness support.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES



In Memory of David McKenna – 1958-2015, A tribute from Victim Support Europe

David McKenna was passionate about improving the situation of victims across Europe. He tirelessly strove to strengthen Victim Support Europe and help it become the leading European organisation on victims' rights. David was a wonderful leader of Victim Support Europe and he was much more.

David will be sorely missed by us all and by the European and international victim support community as a whole.

We would like to share our tribute to our President, David McKenna: [In memory of David McKenna – a tribute from Victim Support Europe](#)



Awareness raising campaign on the implementation deadline of the Victims' Directive: Raise your voice for #VictimsRights

Victim Support Europe raises awareness on #VictimsRights in the run up to the Implementation deadline of the EU Victims' Rights Directive. In 2011, the European Council and European Parliament adopted an historic piece of EU legislation greatly strengthening the rights of victims of crime. In this way all European countries (except Denmark) committed themselves to improve the rights and support for all victims of crime **by the 16th of November of this year**. This Directive, 2012/29/EU, ensures that all victims of crime have **better rights, support and protection**.

Many governments have recognised the importance of acting and have implemented new laws. Yet much still remains to be done, and there are countries which are far behind. On the 16th November of this year, the Member States must have in place the legislation to implement this Directive!

VSE is keen to use 16 November as a platform to highlight the great work of some Member States and to put pressure on those who are not acting through an **AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN**.

Why is this so important? In 2015, it is estimated that nearly 100 million people in the European Union will fall victim to crime. This was the case in 2014 and in previous years and it will most likely be the case in the years to come. The impact of those crimes may be relatively minor for some but for millions of people, the crimes they suffer are devastating and the consequences can be life changing – affecting victims, family and friends alike. These victims have the right to be recognised and treated with respect and dignity; be protected from further victimisation and intimidation from the offender and further distress when they take part in the criminal justice process; receive appropriate support throughout proceedings and have access to justice; and have appropriate access to compensation. **All victims have these rights**. Whether someone is a victim of violence, fraud, kidnapping, human trafficking, terrorism, gender

based violence, sexual violence, child abuse, burglary, robbery, cybercrime, hate crime or any other crime. Whether someone reports the crime or not. They should have these rights.

Through this awareness raising campaign VSE wants to reach **National EU governments** and **European policy makers** to ensure that **rights become a reality for all victims of crime**. We want to call on governments to show what they have done, and encourage Member States to step up.

And VSE is calling on everybody to help make rights a reality for victims by inviting everybody to:

- Join our [Thunderclap](#) – to raise your voice through facebook or twitter
- Use the **#VictimsRights** hashtag
- Follow VSE on [Twitter](#) **@VictimSupportEU** - to support our awareness raising campaign by retweeting or liking
- [Write to your Member of the European Parliament](#) - to engage them to ensure that rights become a reality for victims in all Member States
- **Write to your national government** - to ask them what they are doing to improve rights and support for victims
- **Check [our website](#) regularly** – to follow all our actions around the implementation of the deadline and the European Victims day on the 22nd of February

THANK YOU FOR RAISING YOUR VOICE FOR #VICTIMSRIGHTS!



From right to left João Lazaro (Vice President of VSE, President of APAV), Markéta Vitoušová (Managing Director Prague Branch of Bily kruh bezpeci (CZ)), Sabrina Bellucci (Board Member VSE, Director of the French National Institute for Victims' Aid and Mediation (FR)), Commissioner Věra Jourová, Helgard van Hüllen (Vice President of VSE, Vice President of WEISSER RING (DE)), Levent Altan (Executive Director VSE) and An Vereist (Policy Officer VSE)

Meeting with Commissioner Věra Jourová

On the 2nd of October VSE had a meeting with Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. VSE was invited to update the Commissioner on some of the key priorities and concerns within the victims' field. It was an opportunity to reflect upon the importance of maintaining the momentum by paying attention to victims' issues and in this way ensuring victims will not be forgotten.

Please read the full report on this meeting [here](#).



Roundtable Discussion with International NGO Networks, 29 September, Brussels

On 29th of September Victim Support Europe (VSE) invited international NGO networks and institutions dealing with victims' rights and support to participate in a roundtable discussion hosted by the European Commission Directorate-General for Justice. The event was attended by 17 organisations including [ILGA Europe](#), [End FGM European Network](#), [AGE-Platform](#), [PICUM](#), [Inclusion Europe](#), [Women Against Violence Europe](#), [European Network Against Racism](#), [Transgender Europe](#), [European Disability Forum](#), [Amber Alert](#), [Missing Children Europe](#), [European Forum for Restorative Justice](#), [Intervict](#), [Child Helpline International](#), [Confederation of European Probation](#), [FRA](#) and the [European Commission Directorate-General for Justice](#).

Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska of the European

Commission Directorate-General for Justice welcomed everyone to the roundtable and stressed the importance of the role of international NGOs in the implementation process of the Victims' Directive. She underlined that the European Commission value the input of the specialized organisations that can provide grassroots information on the implementation process for their particular field.

Please read the full report on this meeting [here](#)



[A Guide for individual evaluation of victims \(EVVI\) now available](#)

A guide on individual evaluation of victims of crime (EVVI) has recently been published [EVVI Guide English](#).

The objective of the EVVI project was to propose good practices that can be used in different member states to ensure a uniform application of the minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (EU Directive 2012/29/UE). The EVVI project sought to facilitate the transposition of this directive in the different EU member states, focusing on article 22 on individual assessment.

Spanish, Portuguese, French and Polish versions of the guide are also available.

Please read more [here](#)



VSE Annual Report 2014 published

VSE Annual Report 2014 is now available:

[VSEAnnualReport2014](#)

We hope you will enjoy reading it!



Welcome to our new associate member from Croatia!

Next to our full member [Bijeli krug Hrvatske](#) and two associate members, the [Croatian Victim and Witness Support Service](#) and the [Ministry of Justice Independent Sector for Victim and Witness Support](#), we are proud to announce that we now have a new associate member in Croatia: [Bijeli Prsten Hrvatske](#).

We wish Bijeli Prsten Hrvatske a warm welcome to the Victim Support Europe family and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration!

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Czech Republic

Bily Kruh Bezpeci

Visit to our Austrian colleagues

When we discussed with our volunteers which of our local offices to visit, an idea struck us – why confine our selection only to the Czech Republic

when Vienna is so close? The response we received from Mrs. Marianne Gammer, Director of Weisser Ring Austria, to this proposal was more than welcoming and that is how, despite of the searing summer heat, our group consisting of 9 volunteers from the local office of Brno set off on Saturday 18th of July to Vienna.

We were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Gammer and Mrs. Unterlerchner who gave us the opportunity to discuss similarities and differences in our services. Through a long and fruitful discussion we realised that our service is based on similar principles but that not all aspects of our work are the same. What we share is a system combining volunteers and paid professionals supporting our clients. Both our organisations run the free 116 006 helpline for victims. However, resources and financially supported activities are different. For our Austrian colleagues accompanying vulnerable victims to court represents a substantial part of their work as well as a source of funding from the Ministry of Justice whereas we provide this service only occasionally and without special funding.

It was also interesting to learn about various projects focused on special groups of victims (such as victims maltreated by institutions). We also found the practice of compulsory study visits of victim support organisations for future judges very inspiring.

We hope that this first cross-border visit of our local office was not the last one and we offered to host a visit from Weisser Ring Austria in return, should there be colleagues interested.

On our way home we were unable to resist the temptation to have a bath in the beautiful blue Danube. And we gained one more finding – it isn't blue at all. It's turquoise!

Mgr. Vladimír Vedra
jednatel BKB Brno

[More info about this study visit](#)



Udruga
za
pomoć
žrtvama
kaznenih
djela

UDRUGA BIJELE KRUG HRVATSKE

Croatia

Bijeli Krug Hrvatske

In June we presented our brochure „Guide for victims“ in the Split county headquarters (Please read the brochure [here](#)). The brochure was published as a part of the Reference centre project, with the intention to inform the public about victims rights, functioning of the criminal legal system and the victim and witness support system in general and also to sensitize the public about the domestic violence problem. Please see press article [here](#)

In August various associations met with the Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović in Split and presented their work and accomplishments. We presented the Reference centre project and our work in general. The President acknowledged our work in the victim support system and said that we will continue to have her support in our future work. Please see press article [here](#)

On September 22. (National domestic violence prevention day) we presented our brochure „Guide for victims“ in Omiš with the intention of presenting our association. Omiš is a small town unfamiliar with our work and the services we provide. As we are the only association in our county and even the neighbouring counties we feel that is necessary to raise awareness about our organisation and our services.

Croatia

Ministry of Justice - Independent Service for Victim and Witness Support

The Ministry of Justice in Croatia is partner in 2 projects which will start in 2016:

- **The Project “[TEVNAS: Targeted Early Victim Needs Assessment and Support - ACC-access to justice](#)” (JUST 2014 ACTION GRANTS)**

Project duration : 2 years (2016-2017); Applicant organisation: The Croatian Law Centre (CLC);



Partners : Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia and The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The project objectives are:

1. To improve knowledge of the optimal normative and implementation framework of the relevant provisions of the Victims' Directive, and develop recommendations for their improvement in Croatia.
2. To develop the tools for early and targeted individual assessment of protection and support needs, and referral protocol of collaboration among all relevant agencies and institutions involved with victims of crime.

The project activities will be:

- Individualised assessment of victims' protection and support needs: Research on the current state of relevant regulation and institutional practice
- Civil society organisations' (CSOs) resources for victim support: Fieldwork research to map the current state and future potential
- Conference on individualised victims' needs assessment
- Development of individualised needs assessment tools
- Development of referral protocols
- Final Conference

Type and number of persons benefiting from the project

- Members of professional groups involved with victim support and protection, 130
- Victims of crime, indirectly

- The Project “[STRENGTHENING THE EFFICIENCY OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES SUPPORT SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA](#)” (Transition Facility – Institution Building Envelope)

The project duration will be 2 years (2016-2017) and its **purpose** will be the improvement of victims and witnesses support system in Croatia through systematic training in order to enhance the competencies and skills of the support providers

(provision of supervisions and workshops) and by raising public awareness via promotional materials (especially of victims and witnesses) about available procedures for exercise of their rights (leaflets and brochures)

The Project **beneficiaries** are officials of the victim and Witness Support Offices at the County courts in Croatia (support staff), officials/employees of Ministry of Justice and the Independent service for victim and witness support.

Specific problems to be addressed:

Victim and Witness Support System in Croatia is still developing. In order to create a quality Victim and Witness Support System it is necessary to enable professional development, and acquiring of new knowledge and skills to officials.

As a result of supervisions and workshops a general improvement of the victim and witness support system and higher quality of service provided through systematic training (ensuring the development of competencies and skills of support providers) are expected. Through the supervisions and workshops support staff will gain new knowledge and better understanding of their own behaviour.



[Denmark](#)

Offerrådgivningen i Danmark - Victim Support Denmark

New Chairman

Victim Support Denmark has had a new Chairman since 15th September 2015 when Steen Knudsen chose to resign with immediate effect from this position. The new Chairman is Else Marie Buck. She is a victim counsellor. She has been a Board Member of Victim Support Denmark since April 2014 and Vice Chairwoman since April 2015. She has also chaired a few committees on Organisational Development, development of a Strategy for Information, PR and Communication,

and a policy paper for Volunteer Maintenance.

Status of Nationwide Information Campaign

A nationwide information campaign was visible on busses and posters at the bus and train stations during 5 weeks in August/September to help raise awareness about Victim Support Denmark, with a focus on four major categories of crime and on the availability of support.

We are about to receive figures and final data from a user survey "Opinion" that will show which effect the campaign has had. The campaign was extended locally by the local victim support units.

New Political Scenario in Denmark

After the Danish election in June and a new right-wing government, Victim Support Denmark has continued to have meetings with the new Minister of Justice and with the Chairmen of Legal affairs Committees in all parties to raise awareness about the important voluntary work carried out by Victim Support Denmark. Some parties, the Police, a few NGOs, Industries, Trade Unions and others are networking to raise awareness about the importance of a "Yes" at the election on 3rd December, where Denmark will vote on a package of 28 EU directives, excluding the victims' directive. Victim Support Denmark is trying to emphasize its areas of concern, but without getting politically involved.



[Finland](#)

Rikosuhrapäivystys Suomessa - Victim Support Finland

Several law changes due to the Victims' Directive

A law package will be presented to the Finnish Parliament in October concerning the implementation of the Victims' Directive. Changes will be made to 6 different laws since victims' issues are divided into several laws. The main impact will

be that victims will have more rights in receiving information and that an individual evaluation to identify specific protection needs will be made according to article 22 of the Directive. It is estimated that the legislative changes will come into force in the beginning of 2016. Articles 8 and 9 of the Directive concerning support services will not affect the legislation but Victim Support Finland is currently negotiating with the Ministry of Justice on how its services and funding can be strengthened in order to meet the requirements of the Directive.

Pilot project to test a mobile application for the youth

A new mobile application Help.Some for the youth will be taken into use in the near future in Finland. The application is being developed in co-operation with Internet police (Helsinki), Save the children and Victim Support Finland. The application is created with the purpose to facilitate access for young people to one of the three organizations. They can choose whom they want to have a chat conversation with or send a question to. Mobile operators will advertise the application to parents who are buying phones for their children.



France

INAVEM

Law of the 17th of August 2015

Through the Law of 17th of August 2015 the French Parliament transposed the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. To respect the minimum standards, it is necessary to develop an individual assessment in order to determine if the victim has specific needs for its protection during the procedure. INAVEM is working hard to develop tools and skills to do the needs assessment on the whole French territory. As an upstream work, in 2014, seven of our members were selected to be pilot sites for the implementation of the experiment.

Restorative Justice

The Law of 15th August 2014 integrates the principle of restorative justice in its Article 10-1. INAVEM and the [IFJR](#) continues to work on the promotion of these restorative justice measures through training and awareness raising days. A [documentary movie](#) was created with the protagonists of the 2014 session in France.

INAVEM in Palermo, 28th of October 2015

INAVEM's Executive Director, Sabrina Bellucci will be in Palermo to present the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and its current implementation in France. Her speech will be part of a symposium entitled "*Look at victim in a different way. The importance of a change of perspective.*"

INAVEM Celebration

INAVEM will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year! We hope to see you on the **8th of June 2016** at the main city Hall of Paris to exchange and share about the evolution of victim rights through the last 30 years.

[Germany](#)

Weisser Ring



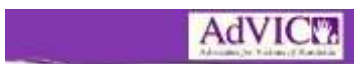
As part of the project Infovictims II WEISSER RING Germany organized two conferences "Infovictims – Informierte Opfer" . One was held on September 23rd, 2015 in Goettingen. A second conference took place on October 21st, 2015 in Augsburg. Infovictims II is promoted by APAV (Portugal); partners are Victim Support Scotland, Subvenia Victima (Poland), Weisser Ring Austria and Victim Support Europe. The project continues until April 2016.

This EU project aims at raising the awareness on

how to meet the need of victims of crime to be quickly and competently informed about where and how to get help – a main concern for the implementation of the Directive 2012/29/EU.

The conferences are an important part of the project to disseminate information at national level. They promote a country specific website and a brochure as well as a poster which includes information on the rights contained in the Directive 2012/29/EU. The German website will be launched this year.

Reactions from the participants to the conferences were very positive. Prof. Dr. em. Heinz Schöch, member of the Board WEISSER RING, chaired the first meeting. The second conference was headed by Dr. Helgard van Hüllen, Vice President of VSE and Vice Chairwoman of WEISSER RING. Presenters included Dr. Ursula Gasch, a noted expert from the management board of the Institute for Criminal Psychology in Tübingen and Norbert Wolf, Prosecutor General from the Prosecutor's office in Braunschweig. The specialist presentations on victims' rights in Europe and on specific aspects in Germany enabled members of different professional groups in the audience to report about their professional experiences which was very interesting for all participants.



[Ireland](#)

AdVIC - Advocates for Victims of Homicide

Review of s.120 of Irish Succession Act

In November 2014 the Law Reform Commission in Ireland set out an issues paper to review s.120 of the Succession Act. The section provides that anyone guilty of the murder, attempted murder or manslaughter of another shall be precluded from taking any share in the estate of that other.

Under Irish law, jointly held property does not form part of an estate so does not fall under s.120 of the Succession Act.

In Ireland a married couple, for example, typically own property as joint tenants. This means that, in such a scenario, if one spouse kills the other, the killer is then entitled to the entire property, this would also include pensions and proceeds of insurance policies.

AdVIC responded with a submission on the various issues under examination.

The review culminated with the Law Reform Commission releasing its report on 24 July 2015. The report ultimately recommended that the joint tenancy is severed, with typically, half going to the victim's estate, and the other half to the killer. Crucially though they have suggested that the courts should have discretion to reduce the half going to the killer - even to zero in appropriate circumstances.

This recommendation does not go quite as far as hoped. AdVIC will continue to push for the default position to be that the killer gets zero.

In summary, this is a positive report broadly welcomed by AdVIC. We now strive to ensure changes are enacted and signed into law at the earliest possible opportunity.

AdVIC appoints John O'Keefe as CEO and Senator Maire-Louise O'Donnell as first patron

John is Director of School of Psychology & Institute of Criminology & Policing Studies City Colleges and a Teaching Fellow Forensic Psychology/Psychology of Criminal Behaviour Trinity College, Dublin.

AdVIC also appointed its first patron; Senator Maire-Louise O'Donnell. This is a really positive development as it will help drive issues on the political front. Part of Maire-Louise's patronage will include drawing attention to the inadequacies of the criminal justice system in addressing the needs of families of victims of homicide.

Victims of Crime Bill 2015

The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill 2015 will implement the victims' rights directive in Ireland. AdVIC who are members of the Victims' Rights Alliance (VRA) believe that the initial draft heads of bill introduced by the Irish Minister of Justice needs to be strengthened if it is to give full effect to the victims directive in Irish law. The Victim's Rights Alliance has now completed submissions to the Irish Department of Justice on the Draft Heads of the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill 2015. AdVIC will continue to work closely with the VRA, assisting wherever possible to ensure the directive is properly implemented.

Fundraising activities

AdVIC Committee members have been very busy for the last few months continuing to raise not just awareness of AdVIC but also much needed funds. Efforts have included a fund raising quiz evening, sponsored walks and public lectures from both Committee members and also a well-known Irish journalist. Our Memorial day in September raised funding through the sale of dedicated AdVIC Candles for those to remember their loved ones. These events alone have raised over 5,000 euro. A Christmas carol service is planned in December in a central Dublin location as is a further fund raising evening. The generosity of the general public - and indeed AdVIC members - cannot be underestimated when it comes to supporting the families of the victims of homicide and for this, AdVIC are eternally grateful.



[Italy](#)

Associazione LIBRA Onlus

Since 2013 the FDE Institute of Criminology of Mantua has been conducting researches and studies about urban security and social cohesion within the European triennial programme [INNES | Intimate Neighbourhood Strengthening](#). An Italian Crime Prevention Pilot Programme for Small Cities

has been developed in partnership with the Foundation Politecnico of Milan (Programme EC-ISEC 2011). The INNES Research Group, with the operational support of LIBRA Association, is committed in studying citizen insecurity within small residence areas, thinking about which are the potential incentives for inverting the deviation of individualism. It promotes the practice of construction and strengthening of neighbourhood bonds among citizens to decrease the feeling of isolation especially for victims of crime. LIBRA Association collaborated with the FDE Institute during meetings with citizens to support the creation of bonds among them.

Research findings will be discussed during the final international conference [“URBANITY 2015 | PERSON, GROUP & SOCIETY. From \(in\)Security of Places to Security and Safety of Bonds”](#), that we will be organized **from 26th to 28th November 2015 in Mantua**, Italy. The conference intends to gather outputs, research findings, projects and initiatives coming from research as well as civil society at EU level.

The conference will host national and international speakers as the Emeritus **Prof. Zygmunt Bauman** and the Emerita **Prof. Aleksandra-Jasinska Kania** that will present a *lectio magistralis* on **“Globalisation of Insecurity, Localisation of Insecurity”**.



[Italy](#)

I-Care

In Italy there are 127 centres for the support of domestic violence victims. Unfortunately, less than half of these have homes or shelters for women who are victims of violence or stalking. Moreover, the location of most of the shelters which do exist is not hidden; as a consequence, they can only be used as a first resort in an emergency.

In contrast, I-CARE's support services can rely on:
– 6 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 victims' 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.

From January 2015 to September 2015 over 200 women have been supported through I-CARE's free hotline and 98 women have been housed in the shelters.

Victims have sought out I-CARE through four different paths:

- 56% have been directed to I-CARE by the police;
- 11% by social services;
- 26% have contacted I-CARE of their own accord; I-CARE has then alerted the police to their plight;
- 7% have been directed to I-CARE by other NGOs.

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.



[The Netherlands](#)

Slachtofferhulp

In the past months, Slachtofferhulp Nederland started the project 'Slachtofferhulp 2.0'. Over a period of two and a half year, the organisation will develop its online services.

First step will be to broaden the possibilities to contact our (paid and voluntary) staff. It will become easier to find and contact the organisation. In addition to the traditional ways (predominantly by phone) it will be possible to reach us through WhatsApp, e-mail and chat. Slachtofferhulp Nederland wants to deliver the right service at the right moment. People want to be in charge of their own life. Even when they have become victim of a (serious) crime. Slachtofferhulp 2.0 will provide victims with a number of possibilities to play an active role in overcoming the consequences of the crime. We will develop 'My Slachtofferhulp Online' (MSO) where victims will find information that is relevant for them, among which their contact persons in the organisation. Through MSO they can chose to come into contact with other victims, or work with e-health instruments or 'serious games' that can provide them with information or insights. The online instruments will not replace the face-to-face contact with our staff, but will be additional possibilities to what already exists.

Slachtofferhulp 2.0 will be developed in close cooperation with our partners in the criminal justice system: the police and the public prosecution.

In three to five years Slachtofferhulp 2.0 will lead to an increase of 30 to 50% of the number Slachtofferhulp Nederland is supporting.



[Portugal](#)

APAV

English version of the website about the Criminal Justice System for children and young people launched

APAV has launched the English version of the website about the Criminal Justice System for children and young people www.abcjustica.pt, developed under the [Project ABC Justice](#). This innovative resource aims to inform children and young people aged between 12 and 17 about the functioning of the Portuguese criminal justice system and the rights of victims of crime. With uncomplicated and child-friendly language, the rights of victims of crime and its implementation are explained. Children and young people are also provided with an overview of the different phases of the criminal proceedings and the roles of relevant figures that participate in the criminal justice system. Explanatory videos are also presented.

The English version is available [here](#). Feel free to join us on a visit!

Project Briseis Manual “Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking for Forced Labour – Strategies for Professionals”

Hundreds of thousands of victims are trafficked across the EU each year. Figures from the International Labour Organisation reveal that almost 21 million people are victims of forced labour worldwide – 11.4 million women and girls and 9.5 million men and boys.

In order to counter situations of human trafficking, especially for forced labour, it is urgent to call the private sector to act on this issue and to adopt good practice and procedures intended to prevent the use of victims of human trafficking as manual labourers in their respective supply chains.

To increase and strengthen the engagement of the private sector in combatting human

trafficking, APAV | Portuguese Association for Victim Support launched the Project Briseis Manual “Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking for Forced Labour – Strategies for Professionals”, in partnership with various national and European partners, namely:

- Soros Foundation (Romania);
- The Tavistock Institute (UK);
- Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority (Sweden);
- Authority for Working Conditions (Portugal);
- Immigration and Border Service (Portugal);
- General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (Portugal);
- Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings (Portugal);
- The International La Strada Association.

This handbook aims at promoting the understanding of human trafficking and to establish strategies for professionals in different areas who come into contact with possible victims of human trafficking for labour exploitation.

Please click [here](#) to download the Manual.

Launch of Project Impact Final Report

APAV | Portuguese Association for Victim Support just launched the final report of Project IMPACT entitled “**IMPACT: Assess for Impact – an organisational impact assessment**”. Under **Project IMPACT– social impact on victim support** and through the successful implementation of an innovative organisational assessment, APAV was able to assess the impact of its victim support services.

The results reveal that this organisational assessment, which was focused on APAV’s performance on its several units and areas of work, facilitates and strengthens the decision making processes. In this sense, the capacity building of APAV’s leaders was also improved as they now have a tool that will help them anticipate needs and to better adapt to any changes that may occur. Hence, Project IMPACT was an important step and

a milestone in strengthening APAV's action and preparing the Association to thrive and reinforce its role as an organization of excellence in the pursuit of its fundamental mission to support victims of crime, their families and friends.

Please click [here](#) to download the final report "IMPACT: Assess for Impact – an organisational impact assessment" and to learn a little bit more about this important groundbreaking organisational assessment. We are sorry that it is only in Portuguese, but maybe Google translate can help!



[Slovakia](#)

Pomoc Obetiam Násilia

Victim Support Slovakia (Pomoc Obetiam Násilia) is about to mark its twentieth anniversary.

The Pomoc Obetiam Násilia's founder and former director Jana Šípošová decided to enter politics. As a Member of Parliament she works to ensure that victims have real support and enjoy a better status: "I am disappointed that the Slovak Government failed to retain its promise and has not drawn a new bill on victims that was to be adopted this year. The Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA will not be implemented in 2015. I further underline the need to introduce such legislative framework and practical measures that will help us to provide better services to victims. This entails better public funding, which, in turn will facilitate continuous professional training and development, and compensation of victims of crime."

Lucia Faltin has recently joined Pomoc Obetiam Násilia. Having spent twelve years in Cambridge (UK), working in the field of European integration from the perspective of civil society and interfaith relations, she was then Deputy Chairperson of the

Slovak Government Council of Human Rights, Ethnic Minorities and Gender Equality. She is also search and rescue volunteer. Pomoc Obetiam Násilia brings together all her personal, academic and professional interests and experience.

Pomoc Obetiam Násilia is up and running, ready for its third decade, and to work more closely with partners within Victim Support Europe and beyond.



[Spain](#)

ANVDV

On this occasion, we wish to draw attention to the refugees tragedy in Europe which is testing the “European cohesion”. The “Illegal” immigrants called undocumented migrants, are often victims of labor or sexual exploitation. They are also victims of many other crimes, which often go unpunished for lack of investigation. It is obvious that crimes are not investigated when are unreported, and that undocumented migrants are afraid to report crimes because they are illegal immigrants. Even when they are victims of serious crimes that happen in European countries, those crimes are not investigated and they do not have the opportunity to defend themselves. Not to mention the right to redress or to receive a compensation; this is not even considered. To put it in other words, undocumented migrants are not visible. We think that it is necessary to make them visible and protect them and therefore ANVDV calls for a law to protect and defend undocumented migrants.

UPDATES ON ONGOING PROJECTS



Implementing
VICTIM RIGHTS DIRECTIVE OF THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



Project IVOR | Policy Seminar | 14 January 2016

How are EU Member States prepared to implement the Victims Directive?

How do economical, historical and social backgrounds of each Member State influence the transposal of the Directive's Articles?

Will each and every EU Member State be able to fully implement the Directive in its legal framework?

The Policy Seminar of Project IVOR will be an utmost important and unique timing opportunity to reflection and debate on these and other cross cutting questions on the implementation of EU victims' rights.

Practitioners (judiciary, victim support organisations) and policy-makers are invited to debate the current victim assistance models and will be offered ready-to-use recommendations for implementing the EU Directive.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear and discuss these transversal topics with our fantastic invited speakers!

We look forward to a diverse and specialized audience, ensuring the active participation of professionals from the criminal justice system, both national and transnational.

This Policy Seminar, promoted by APAV | Portuguese Association for Victim Support, will be held in Lisbon, on the 14th of January 2014. We look forward to seeing you in January! Save this date in your agenda!

Editor: Helgard van Hüllen
Contributor: H el ene Heinrichs

[About Victim Support Europe](#)

Victim Support Europe is an umbrella organisation which currently consists of 40 national and regional victim support organisations in 26 countries.

Contact to Victim Support Europe:

+32 2 231 01 12 | info@victimsupporteurope.eu
www.victimsupporteurope.eu

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)