

Newsletter

Newsletter Victim Support Europe

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Victim Support Europe Newsletter August 2010

From our President

Dear Colleagues,

May I take this opportunity to say how honoured and delighted I am to have been appointed to the role of President of Victim Support Europe at our AGM in Berlin. I am looking forward to continuing the excellent work of past years in promoting, improving and developing the position of victims in Europe. These are exciting times full of opportunity and we must make the most of this. The Lisbon Treaty and the Stockholm Programme have opened up the potential for major improvements in the position of people affected by crime within the European Union. We are fortunate to be involved in the development of a new directive on victims of crime that is expected to be agreed sometime in 2011. All of us have a role in ensuring that this directive results in new and better outcomes for victims of crime. Members will have an opportunity to meet together again in November in Brussels to consider our future direction and new developments within Europe for people affected by crime.

As you will see below in this newsletter we have a new, strong, skilled and experienced Executive Board and a commitment to represent our members' interests widely throughout Europe. We will work to encourage and support the involvement of all our members in the work of victim support in Europe.

The knowledge and skills we hold collectively are the future for victims of crime across Europe. We all have a part to play to make it better for victims of crime.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with either myself or Frank Hengeveld if we can be of any help or support.

Sincere best wishes.

David

President
Victim Support Europe

General News

New Board Victim Support Europe

As has already been mentioned by our President, a new Board of Victim Support Europe was elected during the Annual General Meeting in Berlin, May 29 2010. The Board now consists of the following members:

David McKenna, Scotland, President
Joao Lazaro, Portugal, Vice-President
Helgard van Hüllen, Germany, Treasurer
Lyane Sautner, Austria
Marketa Vitousova, Czech Republic
Owen Sharp, England & Wales
Vesna Nikolic, Serbia
Victor Jammers, The Netherlands

Thank you all for your nomination and your contribution to Victim Support Europe!

Finance and audit

During the last months of 2009 Victim Support Europe applied for funding from the European Commission, through both an Operating Grant and an Action Grant. We finally got the good news from Brussels that we have been awarded both Grants. With the funding out of the Operating Grant Victim Support Europe can cover (part of) its operational costs: the secretariat, meetings of the Board and the Annual Conference. The Action Grant covers a two year project, running from the 1st of January 2011 until the 31st of December 2012. Should you want more information about the exact content of these grants, please contact Frank Hengeveld, Executive Officer.

In July 2010 an audit took place of the 2007 and 2008 Operating Grants. An external auditor from London, Moore Stephens, audited the eligibility of costs that were made out of the Operating Grant. The European Commission will inform us about the final outcome of the Audit by the end of November.

Expert Meeting Brussels February 17 & 18

On 17-18 of February an expert meeting took place in Brussels. During this expert meeting, organized by the European Commission (EC), experts from all over Europe discussed the further development of support to victims and their rights. As you all may know, the EC is currently evaluating European legislation addressing the rights of victims, such as the 2001 Framework Decision and the 2004 Directive on compensation to victims of crime. Recommendations and comments regarding the implementation of these treaties and any other victim related matters, given during the meeting, will be taken into account. An impact assessment will serve as a starting point for the development of a new directive in 2012.

European e-Justice internet portal offers quick answers to citizens' legal questions

"The EU launched the European e-Justice portal – an electronic one-stop-shop for access to justice throughout the EU. The web site benefits citizens, businesses, lawyers and judges with cross-border legal questions and boosts mutual understanding of different legal systems by contributing to the creation of a single area of justice. With more than 12,000 pages of content, the first version provides information and links on laws and practices in all Member States. For example, the portal offers information on legal aid, judicial training, and videoconferencing, as well as links to legal databases, online insolvency and land registers. Justice information is now at the fingertips of more than 10 million citizens involved in cross-border judicial procedures each year."

For more information: <https://e-justice.europa.eu>

Source:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/956>

Commission promotes the right to information in criminal proceedings

"The European Commission (...) proposed new rules to ensure that EU countries will inform anyone suspected or accused of a criminal offence of their rights in a language they understand. Anyone arrested – or the subject of a European Arrest Warrant – will have to be informed in writing with a Letter of Rights listing their basic rights during criminal proceedings. While EU countries are free to choose the exact wording of the Letter, the Commission proposal provides a model in 22 EU languages. This will provide consistency for people crossing borders and limit translation costs."

Source:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/989>

Austria Weisser Ring

New publication

Lyane Sautner, Victims` Interests and the Theories of Criminal Law. Also a Contribution to Restorative Justice, Schriftenreihe der Weisser Ring Forschungsgesellschaft, Viktimologie und Opferrechte (VOR), Studienverlag, Innsbruck–Wien–Bozen 2010, ISBN: 978-3-7065-4802-1, 448 pages, EUR 49,90 (in German)

The theories of criminal law traditionally do not focus on the victim. Despite the inferior role the victim therefore plays in the theoretical concepts of the criminal justice system the position of the victim in the Austrian criminal justice procedure, which is typical for Continental Europe, has continually improved during the last two decades. Against the background of this development Sautner explores the objectives that a criminal justice system, in view of the victim, should fulfil. She analyses the interests of victims on the basis of victim surveys and reports from experts. She then asks to which extent it is

legitimate to satisfy these interests, especially with regard to the interests of the accused and the fundamental principles of the criminal procedure. Thus a new theory of criminal law is drafted, the so called victim-prevention (see in German: <http://www.weisser-ring.at/index9.htm>)

Project "Crime Victim Support Network/Prevention and fight against crime" Poland, May/June 2010

Weisser Ring Competence Center was partner of the Ministry of Justice of Poland in a project financed by the European Commission in order to establish a national Crime Victim Support Network in Poland. Weisser Ring Competence Center took part in a 3-days training seminar about the methodology of work with crime victims, where input about victim protection and crime victims' rights in criminal and civil proceedings in Austria was provided. They also hosted a delegation of representatives of the Ministry of Justice and victim support organisations for a 3-days-study visit in Vienna. Furthermore, one representative took part in the final international conference of the project in Warsaw, where different victim support systems of several European countries were presented and discussed and common considerations for future developments for Victim Support networks in Poland.

Czech Republic Bily kruh bezpeci

BKB trained police psychologists

BKB provided a specialized training for 30 police psychologists – new specialists focused on support to victims of violent crime and survivors. Psychologists will be newly obliged to support also victims of rape and vulnerable victims. In a case of need and with victim's agreement police psychologists will intermediate psychological and other support of Bily kruh bezpeci.

BKB runs a new accredited course

BKB obtained an accreditation of another specialized course from Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. 150 hrs long specialized course in phone crisis intervention is focused on support to victims of crime and victims of domestic violence. This specialized course enables new consultants of help lines to get qualification.

Dissemination of BKB's know-how to Kazakhstan

State administrative of Kazakhstan invited Petra Vitousova (founder and director of BKB) to lecture about protection of domestic violence victims. Two days long training in August 2010 in Astana is intended for policemen, social workers and health workers. This training reassumes on previous trainings of BKB in Armenia and Georgia.

World Economic Forum on Europe – Renewed Leadership, New Vision

Petra Vitousova, as one of 15 European social entrepreneurs recognized by the Schwab foundation for social entrepreneurship, was invited to attend the World Economic Forum on Europe in May 2010 in Brussels. Over 400 leaders from more than 40 countries representing business, government, academia, civil society and media gathered in Brussels to take part in one of the most important meetings of the region. Petra represented work of BKB and also the importance of co-operation within Victim Support Europe.

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France INAVEM

National Day for Victims

On February 22nd, 2010, INAVEM in France organized the creation of a painting

in one of the rooms of the Law Courts in Paris, where more than a hundred people, partners of INAVEM and famous people from the sport and artistic world, met to take part and support this national Day for Victims.

Around thirty initiatives of associations local INAVEM contributed to this Day. Mrs ALLIOT-MARIE, Minister of Justice in France, and the President of INAVEM appended their signatures to the painting dedicated to the solidarity and the empathy to the victims. They also initiated the new advertising campaign about number "08 VICTIMES". Nicole GUEDJ, past Secretary of State of the right of victims, was present, as well as Mrs and Mr. PERBEN, respectively member of the "Foundation pour l'Enfance" and past Lord Chancellor.

More than about fifty partners signed the Open letter to the European authorities to have a true European Day for Victims of Crime, every February 22nd.

Contact: Olivia Mons, public relation officer: communication@inavem.org

116 000, the European phone number for the disappeared children

On the 25th of May, for the international day for the disappeared children, the "Fondation pour l'Enfance" and INAVEM organized a press conference around 116 000, the European number for the families of disappeared children, and gave official data on the disappearances in France. Mrs Nadine Morano, Secretary of State for the Family opened the press conference by a vibrating tribute to the services and to all the participants working on disappeared children. Géraldine Bouhedja, for the INAVEM, promoted number 116 000 and spoke about the mobilization of the network of victims support, close to the families, beside the case managers' help to the disappeared children's families.

Contact: Sylvain Dhomé, referent of 116000: sdhome@inavem.org

Meetings between prisoners and victims

This year, in France, INAVEM, the prison service of insertion and probation and a penitentiary in Yvelines contributed to implement meetings between victims and prisoners, who do not know each other.

Three institutions worked on specifications to organize the first French "prisoner victim meetings" whose experiment took place on several sessions.

These meetings allow to create the opportunity to speak for both of them, to offer a possibility of understanding the act towards the victims who may need it and to allow convicted people to realize the consequences of their acts and to understand the situation of the victims. Only volunteers take part in this process which allows them to discuss about their own courses and about crimes.

The agreement signed between the various partners is going to offer a tool to reiterate this experiment somewhere else, with the purpose of making the offenders feel responsible and fully aware of their acts and for the victims to recover.

Contact: Sabrina Bellucci, director:
sbellucci@inavem.org

Netherlands Slachtofferhulp

Leave of Jaap Smit

On May 21 2010 the official farewell reception of Jaap Smit took place in the Janskerk in Utrecht. About 200 official invitees and employees joined this reception. Amongst them Caroline Morgan of the European Commission and the Dutch Minister of Justice Mr. Hirsch Ballin. During the reception a new publication of Victim Support Netherlands was presented: "Kramp na de ramp", written by Sonja Leferink (please see separate item). Victim Support Netherlands has already started the selection procedures of a new

CEO. It is foreseen that the new CEO will start his work before the end of 2010. Until then, Victor Jammers, Policy Director, will replace Jaap Smit.

Tripoli

On May 12 2010 an aircraft of Afriqiyah Airways crashed in Tripoli, Libya. 70 of the 104 killed passengers had the Dutch Nationality. Victim Support Netherlands has been very much involved in the support given to relatives of the people who died in this crash. The Ministry of foreign affairs officially asked Victim Support Netherlands to support the victims of the crash. Each group of relatives (family) has been appointed a central contact person within Victim Support Netherlands. Further more a special website that provides information and serves as a forum has been managed by the organisation.

On the 8th of July, Victim Support Netherlands held a special meeting for relatives. During this meeting legal aspects of the crash were discussed and explained. And on Friday July 23 Afriqiyah Airways relatives visited the site of the crash in Tripoli. Employees of Victim Support Netherlands joined this flight to support the relatives during the weekend.

New book presented

Do we use the word victim too often or too fast? Should we be careful to not overreact after for instance a disaster? Specifically the media and the governance tend to overreact by calling a minor calamity a disaster. On March 1 2010 a Symposium was held to discuss these questions. Jaap Smit, former CEO of Victim Support Netherlands, argued that the victim should always be at the center of our attention. But we should also not forget to realize that a victim is often able to deal with the aftermath of a serious crime by its own. Friendliness, giving information and practical support often are enough to

get a victim back on track. During the symposium the book "Kramp na de ramp", written by Sonja Leferink, was presented. In this book an overview is given of the way the Dutch Society has dealt and deals with disasters and risks. Based on interviews and literature the support to victims after a disaster is described. Part of the book is dedicated to the discussions held during the symposium.
Contact: Sonja Leferink,
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Portugal APAV

Seminar Victims of Terrorism in Europe – Media & Victim Support

The Seminar Victims of Terrorism in Europe – Media & Victim Support, will be held 21-22 October 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal. This is an important opportunity for researchers, professionals and journalists interested in the subject of the support to victims of terrorism, their families and friends.

The Seminar Victims of Terrorism in Europe will focus on two main dimensions and approaches: the role of the Media and the role of Victim Support organisations. On the first day of this event, participants will have the opportunity to hear the personal testimony of victims, families and friends of victims of terrorism and ask them questions. Also during the Seminar a European manual on how to support victims of Terrorism, their families and friends will be presented.

This seminar will be organized by APAV - Portuguese Association for Victim Support, in cooperation with the Network of Associations of Victims of Terrorism, following the activities of Project PAX, co-financed by the European Commission - Programme Prevention of and Fight against Crime.

Information and registration:
www.apav.pt/pax

APAV - 20 years supporting victims every day

APAV celebrated its 20 years anniversary on 25th of June. From the year of its foundation, APAV has supported thousands of people: from 1990 to 2009 93 422 cases of support were registered, which corresponds to an estimated universe of approximately 187,000 people. Together with the celebration of its 20 years, APAV is developing a national awareness campaign with the message: "There are crimes that leave scars." This campaign was developed by Santa Fe and aims to raise awareness to the work developed by APAV supporting victims of all crimes.

Honouring the past, looking to the future, the year 2010 will be guided by the motto: APAV - 20 Years supporting victims every day.

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Petition Stop sex trafficking of children & young people

Realizing the scale of the phenomenon of Human trafficking, that is the third largest criminal industry in the world¹ and it is thought that 1.2 million children and young people are trafficked every year for sexual exploitation and cheap labour¹, The Body Shop and the Portuguese Association for Victim Support launched in Portugal the Petition "Stop the Trafficking of Children and Youth".

This initiative is part of a global campaign, developed internationally with ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking Of Children for Sexual Purposes). APAV (which is the Portuguese partner) provides specialized support to victims of trafficking, specially children, through UAAVDRE – Support Unit for Migrant Victims and Victims of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination.

The petition can be signed online:
<http://www.thebodyshop.com/en/vv/va-lues-campaigns/stop-trafficking-select-country.aspx>

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Russia Soprotivlenie

March 2010

The interregional conference "Childhood without abuse and violence" was held on 2 to 3 March in Smolensk. The event was organized by the regional public organization "The right of the child" with the support of the Public Chamber Working Group of Childhood and Youth Policy and the human rights movement "Soprotivlenie". The conference was attended by more than one hundred professionals from seventeen regions of the Russian Federation. One of the main topics of the conference was the establishment of an inter-regional coalition "Childhood without abuse and violence". This coalition will require close and systematic cooperation of public organizations profiled in the first place to monitor children's rights in Russia and to develop innovative approaches to protect children from violence.

On March 26 Olga Kostina - President of Soprotivlenie - participated in the meeting of the Public Council under the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor of the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg. The main issue focused on how to improve the work of the investigating authorities with public organizations, medical institutions, social security and rehabilitation centers for victims of violent crime.

April 2010

On the 8th of April the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation with the support of the victim support organization "Soprotivlenie" held an extended meeting on the problems of victims in the judicial system and law enforcement. This event was attended by the Chairman of the Investigative Committee at the Prosecutor's Office Minister Alexander Bastrykin, the Chairman of the Moscow City Court, Olga Yegorova, the State Duma deputies Vladimir Pligin, Vladimir Vasilyev, Vladimir Gruzdev, the Deputy Director of

the Marshals Service of Russia, Vladimir Voronin, as well as by members of the Public Chamber of Russia and representatives from public organizations.

June 2010

On June 18 NGO Soprotivlenie held a seminar called "Social engineering in the competition for the grants of the President of Russia to support non-profit non-governmental organizations in 2010", organized by the Government and the Public Chamber of the Oryol region. On June 23 the first International Seminar for employees of the Investigative Committee of the Procuracy of the Russian Federation "Investigation of crimes against minors" was opened in St. Petersburg. Olga Kostina, President of Soprotivlenie, presented a workshop "Methodology of the investigation of crimes against minors". The book is a co-work of the experts from the Investigation Committee and Soprotivlenie and offers practical advice on the investigation of certain types of crimes against minors, in particular, non-violent sexual offenses, rape and murder.

Victim Support Scotland

As part of Victim Support Scotland's 25 year anniversary celebrations, we are hosting an international Victimology conference in Edinburgh entitled "To Report or Not Report – the choice facing victims". The conference is the first of its kind. It provides a unique chance for practitioners, researchers and statutory criminal justice representatives from across the world to exchange knowledge and to develop best practice in service provision to victims of crime. The conference will reflect on victim engagement in the justice system and have a particular focus on unreported crime, an area where very little information currently exists. There are still places available for this exciting conference – log on to www.vssconference2010.org.uk for more information.

Victim Support Scotland has recently launched a new fundraising campaign called Dine&Donate. The idea is to encourage people to host a dinner/supper/lunch/brunch party and ask their guests to make a donation to Victim Support Scotland. Money raised from this campaign will go towards establishing a new interactive website for young victims of crime, with a view to reducing unreported crime amongst this demographic. See www.victimssupportsco.org.uk for more details.

Victim Support Scotland is currently developing a new manifesto for victims' rights for the upcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections next year. The document will be used to lobby all political parties regarding what changes we would like to see for victims and witnesses in Scotland and Europe.

Colofon

The Victim Support Europe newsletter exists to inform all Victim Support Europe members about recent developments, research, documents for collective use and training materials.

Victim Support Europe members have the opportunity to contribute to this newsletter as follows: every member organization appoints one contact person. This contact person compiles information for the newsletter and communicates this to the editor.

This contact person is also responsible for spreading the newsletter through his or her own victim support organization after he or she received the newsletter.

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