

newsletter



CAB
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Capacity building for EU
crime victim support



WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE



Victim Support Europe

What is CABVIS Project?

CABVIS Project is a Victim Support Europe project which arose from the necessity to harmonise responses and services to victims of crime across Europe.

What is Victim Support Europe?

Victim Support Europe is an association of European organisations that work with victims of crime.

What can you find in this newsletter?

Leaflets in several languages; Seminars; Training Manual; Event The Voice of Victims in the European Parliament.

CABVIS PROJECT LATEST UPDATES

CABVIS means Capacity Building for European Union crime victim support. Insofar, the whole project was designed to provide those who most directly deal with victims (namely police officers, judicial practitioners and victim support workers) with the tools and sensitivity to better deal with them.

In this newsletter you will find an update of what has so far been produced under this Victim Support Europe Project co-funded by the European Commission.

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LEAFLET



After long discussions, we soon realised that the best asset of this project would be to provide training on a topic that our own victim support organisations have less knowledge of: cross-border victims.

Hence we decided to fill the void of cross border specific materials and write down a leaflet aimed at these victims. This leaflet is easy to read, uses “son speak” language, provides case examples to illustrate what is explained, and makes use of bullet points to list victims’ rights. Written originally in English and kindly revised by Victim Support England & Wales and Victim Support Scotland (both partners to this project),

the leaflet was translated into all partner associations’ mother tongues and customized to them.

An opportunity came up to translate this leaflet, in its Victim Support Europe (VSE) specific version, into 32 different languages, including European Union (EU) and non-EU official languages, and among them the native languages of all VSE member associations. This wide range of translations will benefit more countries than those of the project partners and furthermore the minority communities within them.

Highlighting

- The leaflet provides information useful for cross border victims;
- 17 out of the 32 translated leaflets are now ready to be published and were shared with all VSE member associations.

SEMINARS



On the 2nd of February 2012 the first CABVIS Seminar took place in the Portuguese city of Oporto. The Seminar entitled **Looking ahead in the EU agenda for victims' rights** counted with 72 participants, among which were several police officers, prosecutors, victim support workers and Law and Psychology professors. The Seminar focused on the new Directive on Minimum Standards for Victims of Crime.

The day started with a first plenary session in which experts presented the opportunities and changes this legislative pack entails. The invited speakers were Professor Marc Groenhuijsen and Frida Wheldon, who marvelled the audience with their inspiring presentations.



The second part of the Seminar consisted in a set of workshops run in World Café model. Four trainers promoted discussion about 4 different topics, also introducing the major changes the Directive can bring about in those areas.

These topics were: right to information, right to protection, right to compensation, transnational victimisation.

Finally, the conclusions of the workshops were summed up by the Chair of the event, Dr. Miranda Pereira, in a plenary session; right after the presentation of 3 best practices.

Highlighting

- The first CABVIS Seminar took place in February with 72 participants;
- CABVIS Seminars are aimed at judicial practitioners and other professionals who deal directly with crime victims.

SEMINARS

The Scottish Seminar took place on March 29th in the Scottish Police College, in Edinburgh. It aimed at high rank judicial practitioners and was entitled “European Union Directive on Minimum Standards for Victims of Crime – Implications for Criminal Justice Agencies in Scotland”. Representatives of the Scottish government, of the Judicial Studies Group, of the Crown Office, among other honourable guests, gathered to discuss how to promote effective improvement on the recognition and consideration of victims needs inside the judicial system.



David MacKenna, President of Victim Support Europe; Frida Wheldon, Head of Policy for Victim Support Europe; and Gary Cox, Head of the Scottish Government Victim and Witness Unit, opened the debate by providing the audience with information that proved essential for the discussion that followed.

Baroness Vivianne Stern led the session, guiding the participants through diverse key questions to be addressed.

Highlighting...

- The topic proposed for the day was the European Union’s proposal for a new Directive establishing minimum standards for the protection of victims of crime and its impact in Scottish law and practice.

THE VOICE OF VICTIMS IN EUROPE

Event that took place in the European Parliament on the 7th of March



The event "The Voice of Victims in Europe – victims of crime express their demands for stronger rights", promoted by Victim Support Europe, took place on the 7th of March in the European Parliament, in Brussels.

This was a unique moment to reinforce the importance of the the proposal for a new Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, which strengthens the rights of crime victims in Europe and guarantees the establishment of victim support services throughout the Member States.

David McKenna, President of Victim Support Europe, mentioned that Union's Ministers of justice probably spend more on pens and paper than they do allocate funds to victims' protection.

The representatives of European legislators (European Commission, Council of Europe's Presidency and European Parliament) reaffirmed their commitment to the European Commission's proposal of a new Directive.

However, this event was not just a new political statement; it was the moment to hear the victims' testimonies. Victims from 6 different EU countries (Czech Republic, Portugal, Scotland, Austria, Sweden, England) talked about what they went through, the challenges they faced, the way victim support organizations helped them and the importance of a de facto implementation of the new Directive.

Highlighting...

- On the 7th of March, victims from various EU Member States were heard by Members of the European Parliament;
- The aim of the event was to bring together people with practical experience of victimization and the European legislators currently negotiating the new Directive.

TRAINING MANUAL

Within the project activities, a training manual was developed and is currently being produced.

This manual is mainly a collection of training materials developed along the years by different victim VSE member associations. However, some materials are completely new, created especially for this training manual. The new materials are of added value as they fill in some gaps assessed within time and others created by the challenges brought about by the present EU pack on victims' rights.

Insofar, materials focusing on cross border victims and the shift in victims' rights that the new Directive might entail are also included.

Besides these training materials, we also provide you with an introduction on cross border victims' rights and needs, deepening the current legal framework and the changes the new Directive can bring in law and in practice.

Highlighting...

- A training manual is soon to be released;
- This training manual is a collection of materials from different VSOs and contains a summary on the changes the new Directive might bring for victims' rights guarantee.

COMING SOON ...

More leaflets will soon be released! We expect that by the end of May all the translated leaflets will be available for your usage. All leaflets will be made available on VSE's website;

The German Seminar is already scheduled as well. The event will happen in Trier, in the European Law Agency's building, on the 19th of April;

Other Seminars are still being planned, one for July in England, and another one in early September in the Netherlands;

CABVIS final Seminar will take place in Lisbon on the 26th and 27th of September, simultaneously with Victim Support Europe's annual meeting and general assembly.