**Call for proposals JUST/2014/SPOB/AG/VICT**

**"Access to Justice" strand**

*Note: The requested amount may be in some cases different from the maximum amount of EU grant awarded.*

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**Application:** 7374

**Title:** European Network on Victims' Rights

**Coordinator:** Ministry of Security and Justice **Country:** The Netherlands

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 189,406.00

**Contact Details: not released**

**Summary:**

Objectives

* The **overall objective** of this project is to strengthen the position of crime victims in Europe.

Article 26 of the *directive minimum standards rights, support and protection of victims of crime* (2012/29) obliges Member States (MS) to take appropriate measures to facilitate cooperation between the MS to improve the access of victims to the rights set out in this directive and under national law. Such cooperation shall be aimed at least at the exchange of best practices, consultation in individual cases and assistance to European networks on matters directly relevant to victims’ rights.

* To achieve this overall objective set, The Netherlands proposes to set up and develop a European network on victims’ rights. The network will be launched during the NL EU Presidency.
* This network aims to facilitate cooperation between MS in cross border cases, to improve the access of victims to the rights set out in:
* *directive minimum standards rights, support and protection of victims of crime*
	+ - (hereafter: directive 2012/29/EU),
* *directive on the European protection order* (directive 2011/99/EU),
* *directive compensation to crime victims* (directive 2004/80/EU),
* *Regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters (606/2013).*
* The network also aims to strengthen the position of victims of crime within MS in general.
* With regard to the realization of the directive 2004/80/EC every member state has a contact point assigned. The regular meetings of these contact points can also take place as part of this network. The compensation to crime victims will then be better imbedded in the whole of victims’ rights.
* The **specific objectives** of the project are:
* Share knowledge and best practices between member states on the rights, protection and support for victims of crime;
* Stimulate cooperation in cases of cross border victimization to improve the position of these victims;
* Stimulate bilateral agreements between Ministries of Justice concerning cross border cases
* Stimulate meetings of the contact points related to directive 2004/80/EU.

Activities

* Work stream 0: project management and project support
* Work stream 1: preparatory seminar 17th November 2015
* Work stream 2: meeting of the network 16th February 2016
* Work stream 3: meeting of the network November 2016
* Work stream 4: meeting of the network May 2017

Type and number of persons benefiting from the project

* *Preparatory seminar 17 November 2015:*

 max 2 participants from each member state (f.i. government official responsible for the position of victims of crime, contact point directive on compensation)

* *Network meeting 16 February 2016 (during the NL EU Presidency):*

 max 3 participants from each member state (f.i. high level government director, government official, contact point related to directive 2004/80/EC).

* *Network meeting November 2016 (during the SK EU Presidency) :*

 Max 2 participants from each member state (f.i. government official responsible for the position of victims of crime, contact point directive on compensation)

* *Network meeting May 2017 (during the MT EU Presidency):*

 Max 2 participants from each member state (f.i. government official responsible for the position of victims of crime, contact point directive on compensation)

Expected results

* Kick off European network on victims’ rights during the NL EU Presidency.
* Shared view on the aims and continuation of the European network on victims’ rights and provide input for possible council conclusions. These council conclusions may consist of:
* the goals, participants, frequency, and other relevant topics to set up a European network on victims’ rights
* the imbedding of the contact points in the network
* the anchoring and finances and other relevant topics concerning the sustainment of such a network

Type and number of outputs to be produced

* Setting up of a European network victims’ rights
* Preparatory annotations for the four meetings
* A list of topics that might be discussed during the coming meetings
* Input for possible council conclusions regarding the aim of the network
* Input for possible council conclusions regarding the anchoring of the network
* Input for possible council conclusions regarding the imbedding of the contact points in the network
* Animation about victims rights (as an example of information for victims)
* Report on the management of the project including financial administration

**Partners:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Country** |
| Ministry of Justice | France |
| Ministry of Justice | Slovakia |
| Victims of Crime Office | Ireland |

**Application:** 7394

**Title:** Working Along Key Experts (WAKE)

**Coordinator:** Association for the Prevention and Handling of violence in the Family (SPAVO)

**Country:** Cyprus

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 93,789.00

**Contact Details: not released**

**Summary:**

The project aims overall to improve the real, day-to-day situation of victims of crime to the greatest extent possible and to reduce their discrimination experiences in Cyprus. The specific objectives are the identification of the training needs of the professionals of the relevant government authorities (Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Health, Labour and Social Insurance and Education and Culture) and other practitioners coming into contact with victims of violence and crime and to improve their capabilities through trainings so as to operate in a more respectful, impartial and professional manner. Fostering the exchange of good practices on identification and screening processes of victims and their needs is another objective to be obtained through the proposed project, in addition to sustaining a network and good working relationships between the involved actors.

The project activities will begin by undertaking desk and field research so as to establish the current situation and system in Cyprus, when dealing with victims of violence and crime. Thereafter, a training seminar for the trainers on issues interlinked with access to justice for victims will be organized and training material will be formulated, including issues linked with victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual abuse, immigrants and trafficking victims etc. Furthermore, the partnership will organize workshops and case studies tailored to the needs identified through the survey, which will be delivered from local experts. The creation of Guidelines and the design of an application for screening victims will be facilitated through the exchange of good practices, while communication material for disseminating the project progress and results will be formulated and social media engagement will be pursued.

Although the Victims themselves are the “indirect” target group, the partnership feels is very important to refer to them first, since through the amelioration in the provision of services and the coordination and training of the relevant professionals, effective access to justice for all Victims will be ensured. Furthermore, through the introduction of a more respectful, sensitive and impartial approach on behalf of the first points of contact, the level of support and protection given to victims will be enhanced and safeguarded by the Government. Approximately 9000 victims of crime will benefit from the projects’ results. The direct target group benefiting from the project are key government professionals and other practitioners (200 people) likely to come into contact with victims: a) police officials; b) healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, psychologists etc.); c) social services officers; d) educators and; e) legal servants dealing with these cases; f) NGOs or other organizations dealing with relevant issues.

The project aims to achieve the following results: the quality of services provided on behalf of government institutions and professionals when dealing with victims of violence and crime to be improved; the education and knowledge of practitioners in the field to be enhanced; access to justice and information provided to all victims to be ensured and safeguarded better by the authorities; to strengthen inter- services cooperation between all relevant Ministries and to exchange good practices that will help in shaping a more Victim support based system in Cyprus.

The partnership aims to produce high quality outputs including a Final Report, a Quality Assurance Plan, a training Needs Analysis Report for the professionals coming in contact with victims, training material on various forms of violence and crime (4-5 chapters) and on how to deal with victims while safeguarding their needs and rights, Guidelines and application for screening the victims, a Dissemination Plan, a Website, communication material and events (3000 project leaflets, 9000 services informative leaflet, 4 press releases, 2 press conferences, 2 banners, 50 posters.

**Partners:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Country** |
| Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) | Cyprus |
| Enoros Consulting Ltd | Cyprus |
| Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) | Portugal |
| Association for battered and Sexual Abused Women (ADAVAS) | Spain |

**Application:** 7406

**Title:** Developing Directive-compatible practices for the identification, assessment and referral of victims

**Coordinator:** Themistocles & Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation - Centre for European Constitutional Law

**Country:** Greece

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 226,540.40

**Contact Details: not released**

**Summary:**

The Victims Directive, adopted in 2012, is an important pillar of the European criminal law agenda, whose implementation is expected to come with several challenges (FRA, 2015). The proposed project aims to build the knowledge basis for the effective implementation of the Victims’ Directive by proposing model practices for institutions in three critical aspects of victim’s rights: a) victim identification b) individual assessment of victims’ needs (including special protection needs) and c) networking and referral practices between institutions involved in victim support and protection.

Objectives

* toidentify and disseminate model practices for victim identification, individualized needs assessment and referral mechanisms compatible with the standards set in the Directive and transferrable across different systems;
* to build the capacity of victim support institutions in the participating countries and encourage the use of common practices and tools across Europe;
* to encourage the exchange of knowledge, good practice and networking at national and transnational level.

Activities

Workstream 0: Project coordination and management

* Kick off meeting
* Partner coordination meetings
* Project monitoring and reporting

Workstream 1: Data collection and analysis of national practices

Objective: data collection and research at national level on practices for a) victim identification, b) individual assessment of victims’ needs and c) effective and low –cost referral mechanisms.

* Recording of existing practices within the police/ prosecution, health authorities, victim support services and NGOs
* Data collection in additional five MS
* analysis and scrutiny of national practices in the light of the Directive provisions
* proposal for Directive-compliant model practices and a checklist for assessing the compatibility of national practices

Workstream 2: Capacity building for policy makers and professionals involved in victim support

* Development of modules and training materials transferring the knowledge on Directive compatible practices
* Organization of 2 capacity building workshops in each partner country for 30-40 participants from all institutions involved in victim support
* Organization of a transnational training – networking event for the target groups from across Europe

Workstream 3: Dissemination of best practice and project results

* Manual on Directive – compatible practices
* Project website and dissemination through existing networks
* Organization of 1 awareness event in each partner country

Type and number of persons benefiting from the project

* national policy makers involved in transposing and implementing the Victims Directive in the partner countries
* law enforcement officials that come into first contact with victims
* professionals offering services to victims (victim support services, health services) including NGOs

Expected results

* + Directive-compatible practices for victim identification, needs assessment and referral services identified (at least 50 practices for all institutions)
	+ Manual on compatible practices and checklist prepared
	+ Training material and modules prepared
	+ 30-40 national professionals trained in each country (a total of 210-280)
	+ Transnational training with 20 participants from across Europe organised
	+ Project website
	+ 7 awareness events organised in partner countries

Type and number of outputs to be produced

* + Manual on compatible practices and checklist
	+ Training material and modules for professionals involved in victim support
	+ Attendance lists of training events, transnationl training, trining evalution report
	+ Project website

**Partners:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Country** |
| European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy | Austria |
| Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) | Bulgaria |
| Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs (CCEIA) | Cyprus |
| Institute of Baltic Studies | Estonia |
| University of Limerick | Ireland |
| Province of Livorno Development | Italy |

**Application:** 7417

**Title:** VICTIMS AND CORPORATIONS Implementation of Directive 2012/29/EU for victims of corporate crimes and corporate violence

**Coordinator:** Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore **Country:** Italy

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 306,038.36

**Contact Details: not released**

**Summary:**

**Objectives:**

The project addresses the priorities of the access to justice strand, and specifically the implementation of Directive 2012/29/EU in relation to victim support (Arts. 8, 9), individual assessment of specific protection needs (Art. 22), and training of practitioners (Art. 25). Within the scope of the Directive and its definition of “victim”, though, there is a relevant group of exposed and defenceless victims who have not yet received enough consideration, and whose access to justice is at stake. It is the victims of corporate crimes, and particularly of corporate violence, meaning those criminal offences committed by corporations in the course of their activities, which result in harms to natural persons health, integrity, or life. Physical, mental, emotional harms and economic loss caused by these criminal offences are, by nature and extent, equivalent to those provoked by common violent crimes. These victims are not a minority, yet they are vulnerable. Asymmetry of information and of means between individual victims and corporate offenders has heavy repercussions on access to justice and fair judicial decisions. Individual assessment of these victims’ needs still requires further research. Corporate violence hides, among others, in environmental and product safety violations: EU legal tools stress a preventive risk-based approach, together with compensation and reparation remedies. Intersections between these EU instruments and the general vocation of Directive 2012/29/EU represents a strength in victims protection in the EU. Obstacles in access to justice, lack of awareness among practitioners, and lack of legal attention for the position of these victims in criminal justice systems are some of the problems the project addresses through training and practical guidelines. In targeting victims of corporate violence, the project focuses on a relevant area of victimisation, while contributing to the implementation of the Directive in general and to a more victim-sensitive awareness in balance with due process safeguards.

**Activities**

* empirical research
* victims interviews and focus groups
* development of guidelines for individual assessment of victims needs
* international conference
* development of guideline for policy makers/practitioners
* workshops with experts
* development of training packages and multimedia materials
* pilot-training for practitioners, victims organisations, corporations
* dissemination

**Persons benefiting from the projects** are:

Professional trained: 180 police officers, 360 prosecutors and judges, 175 lawyers, 175 personnel of victims support & restorative justice services, 90 corporations personnel.

Other beneficiaries: practitioners, national policy makers, victim associations, victims of corporate violence, and the general public

**Expected results**:

- put into place a more victim-sensitive approach at all institutional and social levels, rising awareness of rights and specific needs of victims of corporate violence among practitioners across EU, therefore complying with the general aims of the Directive and with the priorities of the Call in a replicable and sustainable manner

- teach/train subjects coming in contact with victims of corporate violence to recognize and deal with them; to best assess their specific needs; to address their specific problems in accessing justice; to support them

- foster corporate social responsibility and reduce controversy loads, while enhancing the chances of fair compensation and restorations

**Outputs**

* 1 interview instrument
* 1 guidelines for individual assessment of victims needs
* 2 videos
* 15 focus groups
* 30 interviews
* 1 international conference
* 3 workshops
* 5 guidelines for policy makers, enforcement agencies, court staff, lawyers, victims and RJ services, corporations
* 1 booklet
* 1 poster
* 18 training sessions
* 1 training package
* 1 final publication
* 2 reports
* 4 project meetings
* 1 data collection
* 1 website

**Partners:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Country** |
| Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaft | Germany |
| Katholieke Universiteit Leuven | Belgium |

**Application:** 7458

**Title:** T@LK - online support for victims of crime

**Coordinator:** Associação Portuguesa De Apoio À Vítima (APAV) **Country:** Portugal

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 95,630.55

**Contact Details:** **carmenrasquete@apav.pt**

**Summary:**

Online support is a means that can guarantee in the medium to short term a closer to national-wide coverage of victim support, and one that is updated to modern times’ demands. By increasing victim support organisations’ knowledge of the possibilities, benefits and challenges of victim support through online support, sharing best practices in the field and learning from existing models, project T@LK shall build capacity to proceed with a pilot implementation of such a model, to complement the traditional model already in place.

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.

Activities

* Desk research on existing online support methods and tools, their appropriateness to victim support, their benefits and pitfalls and identifiable best practices;
* Survey to victim support organisations (VSOs) on the online support they already provide and if and how such tools could be beneficial;
* Production of a handbook on online support to victims of crime, gathering the information collected through desk research and survey analysis, giving practical advice and promoting best practices;
* Study visit by the partners and associate partners to a key organisation identified as best practice in the field;
* Development of an online direct support tool and implementation of pilot online direct support tool in three partner countries;
* Focus group with selected group of victims to test if the solutions and methods of the tool developed respond to their needs, in the three partner countries that shall implement the tool;
* Development of procedures and guidelines for victim support workers providing support through the created online support tool;
* Pilot training for victim support workers on the online support tool created in the three partner countries that shall implement this tool (to be attended by the non-implementing partner);
* Meeting with key stakeholders in one of the non-implementing partner countries (i.e.Lithuania) to ensure further increase of victim support through awareness raising on the possibilities of online support;
* Online dissemination campaign.

Type and number of persons benefiting from the project

* victim support workers will be given more tools and knowledge to provide support to crime victims from different platforms. Not only 45 victim support workers will be the direct beneficiaries of the pilot training, but also many more will be able to see their capacity build on in the future by the creation of procedures and guidelines. These shall be included in the partner VSOs’ training programmes, after this project tests their appropriateness to the reality (via group discussion with victims, pilot training and online tool implementation).
* victims of crime will be the end beneficiaries of this project. More profound knowledge of the possibilities for online support in the victim support field will arise from the creation of the handbook. This increased knowledge will guarantee a more suited response to victims’ needs. The online tool will be implemented as a pilot to be extended and become a tool for the VSOs after the results of the project are known and it will be widely disseminated to increase the number of victims who access it.

Expected results

* **Regarding to knowledge**, map the existing methodologies and practices in terms of online support and identify best practices, focusing in particular on what is already provided in the EU in the field of victim support;
* **Regarding to capacity building**, create guidelines for online support and train professionals to implement an online support tool, capable of meeting the needs of many victims of crime, especially those living in remote areas or with particular frailties;
* **Regarding to pratical support**, implementing an online support tool (direct chat support w/ possibility of audio and video chat).

Type and number of outputs to be produced

* **tangible outputs:** handbook;training materials package; procedures guidelines for victim support workers on online support; group discussions final report; reports of the pilot implementation; web adds.
* **intangible outputs:** group discussions; training sessions; study visit; implementation of an online support chat tool; 45 victim support workers trained.

**Partners:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Country** |
| Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI) | Lithuania |
| Victim Support Finland (Riku) | Finland |
| Victim Support Malta (VSM) | Malta |

**Application:** 7465

**Title:** Justice befriends the child - training of practitioners for better cooperation

**Coordinator:** Social Activities and Practices Institute (SAPI) **Country:** Bulgaria

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 98,298.76

**Contact Details:** **sapi@sapileg.org**

**Summary:**

Objectives

The overall project objective is to contribute toward the fulfilment of the requirements of the Directive at a national scale in Bulgaria.

In particular, the project aims **to multiply best practices** developed in the country under previous European and national initiatives; to contribute toward **improving the capacity of the practitioners**; to build an **effective multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional network for coordination and cooperation** at local, regional and national levels.

Activities

**Management and Coordination of the Project** - National Support Councils will be established on the national level in Bulgaria. An internal and external monitoring will be conducted, as well as evaluation from an international expert. The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of project results will involve the users - victims of crime. Regular working meetings are envisaged at national level, as well as regular reports and activities for evaluation of the results

**Raising the Capacity of the Professional Community** - this is a group of activities which aim to ensure a holistic approach to enhance the capacity of the professionals. The activities are: Developing framework of competencies; Adapting the model for individual assessment and inter-institutional cooperation;create a package with training materials; organizing and delivering trainings for regional teams from 28 judicial regions; delivery of supervision/methodological support for the introduction of a new work approach.

**The publicity and dissemination of the model for better cooperation and integrated approach** is a package of activities, aimed at transforming attitudes and raising awareness of the professional community, ensure publicity of the results and access to information to the victims of crime through the conduction of regular public events (regional press conferences, articles in media, final conference), the creation of website with information for professionals and victims of crime, the creationa training movie on the integrated approach model’s application in Bulgaria, and publications of project products.

Type and number of persons benefiting from the project

1) practitioners - judges, prosecutors, police officers, social workers and psychologists from the child protection system and the system of social services; doctors - pediatricians, general practitioners, forensic doctors; municipal officials and lawyers. In total, 980 practitioners will be trained.

2) Decision makers - representatives and experts from ministries - MJ, MI, MH, MLSP, SACP, ASA, and Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office (SCPO). In total will be trained 50 decision makers.

Indirect beneficiaries of the project are also the victims of crime - children and adults in Bulgaria, with which will be applied the new model of work and support by the Justice system. Around 400 users.

Other indirect beneficiaries are members of the general society, media, NGOs and organizations working for the rights of victims - around 1000 participants in the public events.

Expected results

* enhanced competence of professionals working with victims through the entire system - legal, law enforcement, social, health fields;
* improved and effective cooperation and coordination at the regional and local level for guaranteeing the rights and protection of children and adults who are victims of crime;
* 980 professionals will be trained to prepare individual assessments and for effective interaction in cases of children and adults victims of crime;
* we expect the formation of 28 territorial structures (teams) for cooperation and coordination in cases of children and adults victims of crime, with a forecast achievement of 75% (the number of cases) of effective cooperation and victim support.

Type and number of outputs to be produced

- Publications of: 1/ Framework/profile of competencies; 2/Adapting an assessment model for adults; 3/ Manual with training programs and materials; 4/ Code of Ethics for interaction with victims; 5/Working groups for validating the publications;

- Meetings of National Support Councils; meetings for supervision; Evaluation with users;

- Report of external evaluation; case analyses of practice;

- Regional trainings;

- Website; Training movie with subtitles in English and French;

- Regional press conferences, brochures; Final conference.

**Partners:** not applicable

**Application:** 7467

**Title:** TEVNAS: Targeted Early Victim Needs Assessment and Support

**Coordinator:** Croatian Law Centre **Country:** Croatia

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 87,708.00

**Contact Details:** **hpc@hpc.hr**

**Summary:**

Objectives

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.

Activities

* 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

Expected results

1. Improved knowledge of the normative framework and practical implementation of the relevant provisions of the Victims’ Directive, and recommendations for their improvement. The existing regulatory and procedural framework for the implementation of the Directive will be reviewed, in view of identifying good practices, and gaps preventing the full implementation of the Directive. EU best practices will be presented at the conference targeting professional groups and decision-makers. Through comprehensive stakeholder consultations, the recommendations for the improvements of the normative and practical improvements of the current system will be compiled. This will feed into the consequent project activities, but will also serve as the input into the policy process, and will, by allowing the evidence-based decision-making, create benefits for all the professional stakeholders groups and decision-makers involved with criminal justice system.

2. Development of tools for early and targeted individual assessment of protection and support needs. Here, the questionnaire for first-line professionals will be developed, to assist them in the assessment of the victims’ individual and specific protection needs, it will be peer-reviewed and pilot tested. This will benefit the institutions with the mandate in providing victim services, but will ultimately benefit indirectly, but substantially, the future victims of crime, by facilitating their early access to protection and support, and by setting standards for it.

3. Advocacy and dissemination of project results carried out. The knowledge products developed under the project will be disseminated widely among the key professional groups and decision-makers, by the use of the combined networks of the participating organizations. The final conference of the project will present the results, recommendations, and tools developed for the benefits of early and targeted victim protection and support, in view of their ultimate incorporation in the national policies and instruments in this area. In addition to the direct and indirect benefits to the target groups described above, the project will, through this, assist in the full harmonization of the national practices with the spirit and the letter of the Victims’ Directive

Type and number of outputs to be produced

* Desk review of legislation
* Recommendations for the improvement of regulatory framework and practices
* Report on the results of survey and interviews with CSO representatives
* Conference on national and EU best practice
* Summary report on the feedback of the piloting of the tool
* Modular tool for individualised assessment of victim’s specific protection and support needs
* Protocols for referral of victims to support and protection services
* Recommendations on protocols for referral
* Final conference

**Partners:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Country** |
| Ministry of Justice, Republic of Croatia | Croatia |
| Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia | Croatia |

**Application:** 7475

**Title:** Enhancing the efficiency of the public prosecutor´s offices of BG & RO in the field of dealing with victims of crime and promoting their cooperation with local and foreign victim support organisations

**Coordinator:** German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ)

**Country:** Germany

**Requested amount (EUR)**: 221,401.25

**Contact Details: not released**

**Summary:**

Objectives

* Promoting the implementation of the EU directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (hereafter referred to as: the directive) in all participating EU Member States.
* Enhancing the capacity of the public prosecutor´s offices and further investigation bodies, involved in the tasks of the public prosecutor´s offices in the field of their everyday contact with victims of crime by improving their knowledge of the purpose and the contents of the regulations of the directive named above.
* Developing recommendations and/or guidelines for dealing with victims of crime in a respectful and professional way and for identifying the special needs of victims of crime during the investigation and criminal proceedings and supporting them while they participate in these stages of criminal procedure.
* Creating and supporting an intensive national referral system between judiciary, the police and victim support organisations to ensure the exchange of all relevant information in general and in specific cases through official channels, taking into account the consent of the victim and personal data protection.
* Efficient support and information for victims of crime in order to facilitate an effective access to justice and to provide them with the most suitable help without unnecessary delays.
* Improving the cooperation between the public prosecutor´s offices and victim support organisations and the cooperation among victim support organisations in cross-border cases.
* Strengthening the public awareness in all participating Member States.

Activities

* Trainings (seminars) for practitioners.
* Train the trainer units in each training seminar.
* Exchange of best practices.
* Round tables to improve the cooperation between prosecutors and victim support units and organisations at national and cross border level.
* Workshops for the development of recommendations and guidelines for the practitioners.
* Workshops for the development of an information form (brochure, online information) for victims, including their rights in criminal proceedings as well as their rights of recovery and a detailed information about the accessibility and the work of all victim support organisations on national level.

Type and number of persons benefiting from the project

* 105 prosecutors from the Public Prosecutor´s office of the Republic of Bulgaria, staff from the National Investigation Service, police officers;
* 105 prosecutors from the Public Prosecutor´s office of the Republic of Romania, police officers;
* app. 30 prosecutors and MS experts from Germany who will participate in the seminars and study visits;
* Experts from victim support units and organisations from all participating Member States;
* Indirectly crime victims and public.

Expected results

* app. 330 professionals trained to deal with victims of crime in an impartial, respectful and professional manner with the help of a deepebr understanding for the content and the values of the directive named above.
* Improved communication between prosecutors, investigation officers and police officers and victim support organisations at national level.
* Improved cooperation between all stakeholders in cross-border cases.
* Opportunity for the victims of crime to get more information on the possibilities of support.
* Raising the public awareness for the rights of victims of crime and for the organisations that are able to help and to support them.

Type and number of outputs to be produced

* Informative material (handbook) crystallizing the views of outstanding experts and participants as a source of information, reference and inspiration for the participants, their colleagues as well as professionals from other, not participating, Member States.
* Recommendations/guidelines for the practitioners.
* National methods/system for the referral of victims to the victim support organisations.
* Information brochure for crime victims
* - Memorandum of understanding

**Partners:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Public Prosecutor´s Office of the Republic of Bulgaria | Bulgaria |
| Public Ministry of the Republic of Romania | Romania |
| Weisser Ring | Germany |