

Annual Report

2007-2008



Victim Support Europe

(formerly known as European Forum for Victim Services)

Victim Support Europe is a network of 21 non-governmental victim support organisations in 19 European countries, which provide assistance and information to victims of crime.

Founded in 1990, Victim Support Europe exists to promote the establishment and development of victims rights and victim services throughout Europe.

Each year, the Victim Support Europe member organisations assist more than two million people affected by crime. Over 3,000 paid staff and nearly 18,000 volunteers provide much needed practical and emotional support and juridical advise to victims of crime.

New name and company logo

In October 2007 the European Forum for Victim Services officially changed it's name into Victim Support Europe. Victim Support Europe chose this new name to illustrate the fact that the organisation is professionalizing itself into a strong European organisation, working as a competent representative stimulating further establishment of the rights of victims of crime in Europe. Victim Support Europe therefore is building a network within the European Commission and authorities from European countries.

New website www.victimsupporteurope.eu expected in 2008

The choice for a new name and company logo requires a new website in the new company style. Right now, a new website is under construction. Until this new website is ready for use, Victim Support Europe uses the current one. The new website is expected to be ready before the end of September 2008.



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President's report

In 2007 the name of the European Forum for Victim Services has been changed into Victim Support Europe. It is one of the steps made in establishing a new organization.

In 2007 Victim Support Europe has focused even more on the future by strengthening and developing relationships with international bodies like the European Directorate for Freedom, Justice and Security and by working more closely with the United Nations.

One of the major events was the launch of the Manifesto for Europe in which the needs of victims of crime within the European Union are highlighted. The manifesto calls on the European Union to protect and promote victims' rights in the next five-year programme.

Furthermore, Victim Support Europe has been invited to participate in the new established Justice Forum. This forum, set up by European Commission's Communication, has been implemented to give stakeholders in the justice systems of EU member states the opportunity to start a dialogue with the European Commission about existing and possible future legislation. The Justice Forum will meet approximately four times a year in Brussels.

A first drive has been made towards expanding Victim Support Europe by including full and associate members from all European Countries. Several (non) governmental organizations have already shown their interest.

An important condition to be set could be structural funding from the EU. In 2007 the first funding was granted for which we express our thanks.

Last year has been one of the most important and exciting periods in the life of the organization and that pace is set to continue in the months and years ahead.

Jaap Smit MA
President



Manifesto for victims' issues in Europe

In 2007 Victim Support Europe noted that the European Union's (EU) most recent priorities do not include victims of crime, which has effected the protection and promotion of victims' rights within the EU. Victim Support Europe decided to try to get victims' issues back on the EU agenda, and started to work on the development of a 'Manifesto for Europe'. At February 20, 2008, Victim Support Europe presented this Manifesto for Europe to the European Commission in Brussels.

Victims' issues back on EU agenda

The purpose of the Manifesto is to highlight the needs of victims of crime within the EU. In particular, Victim Support Europe wishes to have the protection and promotion of victims' rights put back on the EU agenda, by including them in the next five-year working programme within Freedom, Security and Justice, decided in Stockholm in 2009. The Manifesto also calls for assistance in establishing and developing national victim support organisations in all Member States and full implementation of European legislation protecting victims' rights, such as the Council of Europe Recommendation on assistance to crime victims and the EU Framework Decision on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings. Apart from highlighting particular areas where improvements could be made in the provision of support to victims of crime, the Manifesto is also thought to give Victim Support Europe as a whole, including the national member organisations, a common goal to work towards in the run up to the EU Parliamentary election in 2009.

In summary, Victim Support Europe's Manifesto calls on the European Union to:

- Include the protection and promotion of victims' rights in the next 5-year programme for Freedom, Security and Justice.
- Ensure full implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2006)8 on assistance to crime victims and the EU Framework Decision on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings.
- Establish national victim support organisations in every member state.
- Give structured funding for Victim Support Europe to develop quality standards and best practice for all national victim support organisations within the EU.
- Provide additional support for the least developed national victim support organisations and effective support for those that already exist.
- Demand full implementation of the EU Directive 2004/80/EC relating to Compensation to Crime Victims in all member states.
- Supply funding for a European Centre for Excellence within victimology.

Secretary's Report

The last twelve months have been an exceptionally busy and successful period for Victim Support Europe, the Executive Committee and all our members.

The information provided by Victim Support Europe members shows just how important our combined service is to people affected by crime across Europe.



Key successes include the establishment of the new Victim Support Europe organization, the development of a new logo and the publication of a Manifesto for Victims in the upcoming European elections.

Equally important has been the successful bid for structural funds to underpin the work of Victim Support Europe, which made it possible to hire paid staff support for the first time in the history of the organization.

The Executive Committee has had interest in membership expressed from victim organizations in a number of countries including Russia, Poland and Ireland.

Victim Support Europe has also been represented at a number of high profile conferences on victim issues across Europe and worked closely with Intervict and other partners in supporting a conference on terrorism at Tilburg University, the Netherlands, in March and the European Forum for Restorative Justice in Verona, Italy, in April 2008.

In addition to four Executive Committee meetings, Board members have undertaken a wide range of speaking opportunities to raise the profile of victims and victim support across Europe.

The members newsletter has continued to be developed and now offers members a regular comprehensive report on the work of Victim Support Europe.

It also allows members to communicate with each other and promote success in their

home countries. Victim Support Europe now has its own address, phone number and email facility and the further development of the website is a priority for 2008/09.

The year ahead looks to be just as busy as we continue to represent our members and success for victims across Europe.

David McKenna
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The Executive Committee expresses its thanks to Victim Support England & Wales for supporting Victim Support Europe in all bank account business.

The accounts show total income for the year of €11,251.

Income for membership fees for the year increased to €11,250 under a revised fee structure, enabling further development of the organisation.

Total expenditure was €13,557.

Total unrestricted expenditure was €13,557. Within this figure, €5,738 related to operational costs, €5,000 for secretarial costs, €1,909 for website development costs, with the balance being largely banking and accounting in nature.

In the accounts 2007 donations in kind contributed by member organisations are not considered. In 2007, Victim Support Europe submitted to the European Commission an Operating Grant Application for the period April 2007 to March 2008. In February 2008 the European Commission confirmed this Operational Grant of €79,405,- for developing Victim Support Europe.

Thanks are also due to our auditors, Newnham and Co, 65 Morden Hill, London SE13 7NP.

Marianne Gammer MA
Treasurer



Projects

From within Victim Support Europe several projects are carried out by Victim Support Europe members, to improve the support for or the position of victims of crime.

Terrorism

The European Forum for Restorative Justice has been awarded a project by the EU on 'developing standards for assistance to victims of terrorism'. The partners involved are the International Victimological Institute Tilburg, the Netherlands (INTERVICT), the Centre for Study of Terrorism and Political Violence of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium (KU Leuven) and Victim Support the Netherlands. The project aims to develop more extensive European standards (both legal and non-legal) for the aid of victims of terrorism. The standards have been developed in two seminars (November 2007) attended by academic experts and practitioners involved in the assistance of victims. The final event of the project was the conference on March 10 and 11, 2008 (Tilburg, the Netherlands), where the standards were presented. By the end of June 2008, the final publication will be sent to the European Commission. President Jaap Smit stated that Victim Support Europe endorses the standards and emphasizes that the standards for victims of terrorism must not be disadvantageous to other victims of crime, nor should possible measures for restorative justice impair the right of every victim to receive assistance to cope the effects of crime.

Project Victims in Europe

Project VinE (Victims in Europe), to be promoted by the victim support organization in Portugal (APAV), on behalf of Victim Support Europe, aims to provide the European Commission and other interested parties with richer and more comparative scenery of the results of the Framework Decision.

This project aims to:

- develop crucial knowledge on the implementation of the Framework Decision in each of the 27 EU member states;
- perform a comparative analysis between the results achieved;
- carry out global evaluation on the implementation of the Framework Decision at a European level;
- promote discussion around the relevancy of the Framework Decision in what concerns victims' rights in the process of criminal justice.

In fact Project VinE results will deliver a rich portrait of the position of victims across the European Union, through the additions of implementation into material law, implementation into organisational practise and impact of legislation. The project runs from December 2007 until December 2009.

The Project VinE has special participation from (as partners and members of the project core group):

- Victim Support Europe;
- INTERVICT (the Netherlands);
- Weisser Ring (Germany);
- Bílý Kruh Bezpečí (Czech Republic) ;
- Victim Support Malta.

Project VinE has a real European dimension since it will also have twelve member organisations from Victim Support Europe as partners, namely:

- Fehér Gyuru Közhasznú Egyesület (Hungary);
- Victim Support Scotland;
- Brottsofferjourernas Riksförbund (Sweden);

- Victim Support Northern Ireland;
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (Belgium);
- Pomoc Obetiam Násilia (Slovakia);
- Weisser Ring (Austria);
- Supporting Victims of Crime and Combating Corruption Foundation (Bulgaria);
- INAVEM (France);
- Slachtofferhulp Nederland (the Netherlands);
- Victim Support England & Wales;
- Victimology Society of Serbia.

Victim-Offender mediation

Since 2006, the victim support organization in Portugal (APAV) has been promoting the project Victims & Mediation in partnership with the Department for Extra-Judiciary Administration (DGAE), the International, European and Co-Operation Relations' Office (GRIEC), the Portuguese Catholic University (UCP), Victim Support Scotland, Slachtofferhulp Nederland (the Netherlands) and the German Servicebüro für Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich und Konfliktschlichtung. This is a project co-financed by the European Commission, aiming to contribute to the protection of victims' rights and interests within victim-offender mediation, by promoting a transnational cooperation, information and best practices exchange, as well as the development of further research in this field.

Immigrant and discrimination victims

In January 2008 the victim support organization in Portugal (APAV) published the UVIDRE Manual, focused on the support to immigrant victims and victims of discrimination. Aiming to help victim support professionals, this manual is the result of the experience and knowledge gathered for more than 10 years of Victim Support Portugal existence. This manual, developed by UVIDRE – Support Unit for Immigrant Victims and Victims of Ethnical and Racial Discrimination (created in May 2005) – begins to serve the professionals with adequate tools to support these vulnerable groups.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2007

	Year Ended 12.31.07		Year Ended 12.31.06	
	€	€	€	€
Incoming resources	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Voluntary Income				
Donations	-	-	-	88,200
Activities for Generating Funds				
Bank Interest	-	1	1	11
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities				
Membership Fees	-	11,250	11,250	10,750
Total incoming resources	-	11,251	11,251	98,691
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	-	7,819	7,819	99,176
Governance	-	5,738	5,738	3,515
Total resources expended	-	13,557	13,557	102,691
Net income for the year	-	(2,306)	(2,306)	(3,730)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	-	18,569	18,569	22,299
Total funds carried forward	-	16,264	16,264	18,569

All the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance Sheet December 31, 2007

	12.31.07	12.31.06
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	-	-
Investments	-	-
Current Assets		
Debtors	2,000	750
Cash at bank	14,864	19,219
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16,864	19,969
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	600	1400
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Current Assets	16,264	18,569
Net Assets	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	16,264	18,569
Funds		
Restricted funds	-	-
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	11,000	11,000
General funds	5,264	7,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16,264	18,569
Total Funds	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	16,264	18,569

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