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Looking into the future: Romania and the rights of victims of crime

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Steps needed to be done - INFORMATION ON VICTIMS' RIGHTS

- ▶ Measures should be taken to ensure that **information** on victims' rights is brought to their attention **by the first authority** they come into contact with, in simple accessible words and in a language they understand.
- ▶ **Informative materials** should be made available throughout the country in key locations such as police stations, courts, hospitals, Social Services etc.
- ▶ Delivery of **national** comprehensive information and raising awareness **campaigns** targeting all types of crimes, and the most vulnerable categories of society.

Steps needed to be done - *SERVICES*

- ▶ Romania needs to develop **national generic support services for victims of crime**
- ▶ Services to have national coverage, receive **enough funding**, and that they have appropriate numbers of adequately **trained** staff to deal with victims of all crimes.
- ▶ Specialised support services need to be expanded and diversified, and the state should ensure their financial stability.

Steps needed to be done - REFERRAL

- ▶ To identify, evaluate, centralise and continuously **update information** on existing support services
- ▶ If centralised/ national referral system not possible at the moment, creation of **local/ regional referral procedures** between actors (thus enhanced collaboration between the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, courts, the Social Services, and NGOs providing support services to victims.
- ▶ Procedures and clear guidelines

Steps needed to be done - **INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- ▶ Setting up a procedure/ formalised guidelines for the Police/ judicial authorities to carry out an initial assessment of protection needs for the victims (risk assessment) - based on the model of domestic violence law
- ▶ Setting up procedures of immediate collaboration with representatives from Social Services or victim support organisations for individual needs assessment.
- ▶ Assessment must take into consideration the criteria outlined in Article 22 of the Directive (including the **personal characteristics of the victim, the type of crime, and the circumstances of the crime**) and the victim's wish to benefit from protection measures and **should pay particular attention to victims that are most vulnerable**, as seen by para. 3 and 4 of Article 22.

Steps needed to be done - **TRAINING**

- ▶ Suitable **training** for all professionals who come into contact with victims of crime, especially **police**, prosecutors, judges, and representatives of Social Services and NGOs providing support services, lawyers

- ▶ **Initial training & Continuous training**
 - ✓ Vulnerable groups
 - ✓ Trauma and victimisation
 - ✓ Barriers in accessing justice



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THANK YOU!

