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## VSE ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST UPDATE

We are pleased to share with you this Autumn 2019 edition of the VSE newsletter. The VSE newsletters are issued on a quarterly basis to allow for a strong focus on our work, challenges and successes as well of each of our 56 member organisations.

Please, share this newsletter with colleagues, partners and other colleagues who might find the information and contacts useful.

## Victim Support Europe at the E-PROTECT Conference in Bucharest

VSE's Treasurer and the chief executive officer of Victim Support Northern Ireland Geraldine Hanna was a keynote speaker at the E-PROTECT Conference at Cervantes Institute in Bucharest. Geraldine conducted a presentation 'Victims' Rights - EU Directive'.

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## Successful PREVICT Project Start and Kickoff Meeting

Victim Support Europe hosted a kickoff meeting of the PREVICT project in Brussels. The project is focused on the analysis of the best practices of information campaigns in the victims' field and on the development of a toolkit for the evaluation of communication activities.

The PREVICT project will contribute towards:

- victims' better information about their rights and the support they can claim and receive;
- better understanding of how to provide information to victims in an effective and inclusive manner;
- measuring the impact of information provision on victims of crimes.

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## Victim Support Europe participated in the third meeting of VICTORIA project partners in Mantova

Victim Support Europe's Policy Officer Léa Meindre-Chautrand attended the third meeting of VICTORIA project partners in Mantova, Italy. The meeting aimed at discussing and presenting the different practical tools to foster the best practices identified on referral, individual support needs assessment and provision of information.

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## Victim Support Europe presented its 'Crime Is Crime.Even Online' campaign at 'Call It Hate' Conference in Budapest

The conference was a meeting point to present the results of a 2-year project 'Call It Hate: Raising Awareness of Anti-LGBT Hate Crime - CIH'. The project partners from 10 EU countries shared with the attendees the analysis of the implementation of the Directive 2012/29/EU with regard to victims of anti-LGBT hate crime and presented their awareness raising campaigns that took place in their respective countries.

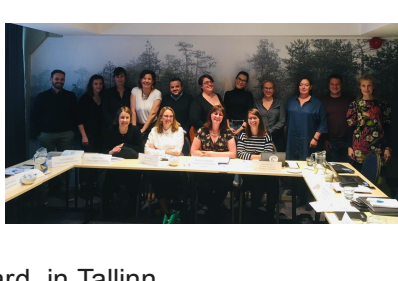
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## Victim Support Europe conducted Centre of Excellence Workshop in Tallinn

On 3 and 4 October, Victim Support Europe and member organisations, running the 116006 helpline and/or providing distance support services, participate in the annual Centre of Excellence Workshop. This year's edition is co-organised by VSE and its new member from Estonia, the Social Insurance Board, in Tallinn.

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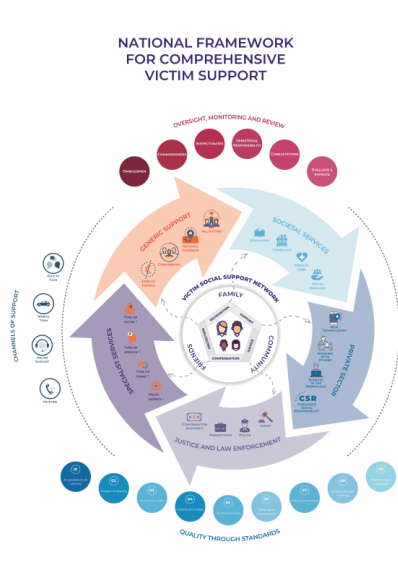
## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

### Successful completion of 'Project Vociare: Victims of Crime Implementation Analysis of Rights in Europe'.

This accomplishment was entirely a result of collaborative team effort of 21 project partners from around the EU.

The project aimed at studying the current status of implementation of the Victims' Directive and, more importantly, on providing a mapping of common gaps which indicate the need for improvement in all Member States and which create space for cross border debate and exchange of best practices hoping that all actors comprehend that it is necessary to keep improving victims' enjoyment of their rights while they walk towards recovery.

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### EMDR's latest publication on how to explain terrorism to children.

[READ MORE ?](#)

## VSE NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome on board our latest members.

### Federation for Victim Assistance (Rep. of Ireland)

The Federation for Victim Assistance, founded in 2005, is a voluntary non-profit charity comprising of fully trained Volunteers offering Emotional and Practical Assistance to all Victims of Crime and those that have experienced a Traumatic incident. Since coming being, Victim Assistance has helped 1000's of victims and they continue to do so on a daily-basis. They work tirelessly on behalf of the victim and are uncompromising in their efforts to ensure victims recover after crime or traumatic incident. All their Volunteers are fully trained, Garda Vetted and are governed by the Constitution of the Federation for Victim Assistance and abide by the Federations Code of Conduct.



### Associazione Sponde

Founded in 2014, the organisation aims of promoting a culture of peace, strengthening civic culture's standards, contributing to the prevention and restraint of social alarm, and focusing on victims' rights. Associazione Sponde's projects take place in 3 different cities: Rome, Palermo and Viterbo. The final goal of the organisation is to create a strong network able to operate in their local area. By cooperating with European partners, the team expects to spread a new attitude about interpersonal conflicts management, by the means of dialogue and agreement, and by promoting the assumption of responsibility towards victims and society.



### Humanitarian Law Centre (Serbia)

The HLC was established in 1992, a human rights-based non-governmental organization that would document the egregious human rights violations that were then being perpetrated on a massive scale across the former Yugoslavia, during the armed conflicts in Croatia, in Bosnia, and later on Kosovo. The HLC supports post-Yugoslav societies in the promotion of the rule of law and acceptance of the legacy of mass human rights violations, and therefore in establishing the criminal responsibility of the perpetrators, serving justice, and preventing recurrence.



## VSE UPCOMING EVENTS

### Register online: VSE Annual Autumn Conference in Brussels 20 November 2019



This year's conference will be held at the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the European Union on the 20 November in Brussels, with the pre-conference VSE General Meeting and workshop for members only on the 19th of November.

[READ MORE ?](#)

### VSE' Fundraising Gala in Brussels 20 November 2019

#### WHAT IF A NIGHT OUT COULD IMPROVE THE LIVES OF VICTIMS OF CRIME?



The 2019 VSE's Fundraising Gala event will be a spectacular evening with a huge amount of fun and festivities. Every guest will have an opportunity to feel the magic atmosphere of the Automobile Museum by night. A sit-down 3-course dinner will be accompanied by an MC, an After Dinner Speaker Callin C E Mackenzie - first responder and trainer; live spoken word performance by Melanie Maria - an artist from the Netherlands; a raffle and, of course, dancing orchestrated by a prominent Belgian DJ - DJ QUIVR.

The funds provided by our event will be used to strengthen national support services in the EU member states to continue developing victims' policies and laws and to establish new national support services in European Countries which don't yet have them.

### After Dinner Speaker: Callin C E Mackenzie, PhD

'Responses matter, it's not *if* or *when*, it's *how*'

 Victim Support Europe  
After Dinner Speaker  
VSE Autumn Fundraising Gala 2019  
Autoworld, Brussels 20 November 23.00



CALLIN  
C E MACKENZIE, PH.D.  
First Responder and Trainer

Responses matter, from the shared pot of tea and shoulder to cry on to fully deployed disaster relief. We may not choose what we face, but we can often choose our response, before, during, or after. Those choices can help ourselves and those who come into contact with us. Callin is a first responder, she has drunk cups of tea and cried, and she has been part of an emergency response to a terrorist attack. She has seen the aftermath of good and bad responses, and knows there is something we can all do, whoever we are, and however unprepared we thought we were. Join us at the VSE Gala Dinner, and hear her share her experiences and thoughts, hopefully without too many tears and quite possibly with a cup of tea in hand.

[See the preliminary conference programme?](#)

[Register and buy your tickets online?](#)

## SAVE THE DATE: 13-14 MAY 2020

VICTIM SUPPORT EUROPE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020 WILL TAKE PLACE IN BERLIN. The theme of the next year's edition is '30 Years of Victim Support in Europe: Celebrating Our Past, Shaping the Future'.

Mark your calendars! We have started to work on putting together an inspiring programme. The conference will be a two-day event (13-14 May), traditionally preceded by the International Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism (12 May, invitation-only event) and followed by the VSE's Annual General Meeting (15 May).

WEISSER RING is kindly hosting this important event.

Further details will follow soon.



## NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS

### Autumn Update from WEISSER RING Austria

Do EU-States Abandon Victims of Violent Crimes? [READ MORE ?](#)

### Autumn 2019 News from APAV - Portuguese Association for Victim Support

APAV awarded with the Gulbenkian Cohesion Award 2019 | Carolina Reis wins APAV's Prize for Journalism 2018 | Preventing and combating online radicalisation. [READ MORE ?](#)

### Autumn News from Victim Support Netherlands

Annual target 2019 Victim Support Netherlands already achieved before summer [READ MORE ?](#)

### Autumn 2019 Update from White Circle Croatia

Youth Activism Project | 'Hate crime and hate speech' seminar | 'Positive side of volunteering' National conference in Zagreb [READ MORE ?](#)

### Autumn 2019 Update from I-CARE, Italy

Most of the support that I-CARE provides to victims is through 7 house-shelters located in north of Italy. [READ MORE ?](#)

### Autumn 2019 Update from the Irish Tourist Assistance Service

The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins hosted a reception at his State residence, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Irish Tourist Assistance Service, ITAS. [READ MORE ?](#)

### Autumn 2019 Update from VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT SERVICE CROATIA

public action as part of the project "Support and Cooperation Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crimes" | National Call Center for victims of crimes was established [READ MORE ?](#)

### Autumn 2019 Update from Victim Support Finland (RIKU)

Growing number of trafficking victims in Victim Support Finland's services | New Government proposes several improvements to victims' rights [READ MORE ?](#)

**Victims' Voices: The Justice Needs and Experiences of New Zealand Serious Crime Victims**  
Victim Support New Zealand has released research into crime victims' experiences of the justice system. [READ MORE ?](#)

### Victim Support Switzerland Launched a New Website

Victim Support Switzerland has launched a new Website in German, French, Italian and English. [READ MORE ?](#)

### I-Predator Conference, Action Against Stalking, Glasgow, 6 November

### VIIIth International Congress for Victims of Terrorism

## FEATURED INTERVIEW: Melanie Maria | Survivor Ambassador - Domestic Violence

Melanie Maria is a Dutch performance artist, recently graduated from Bachelor Fine Art (BEAR) at ArtEZ University of the Arts Arnhem in The Netherlands, and survivor of domestic abuse.



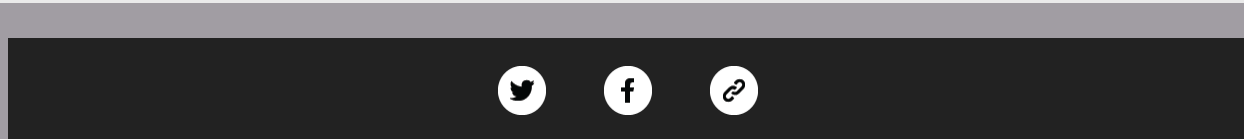
Melanie Maria  
Survivor Ambassador

On the 20th of November, Melanie Maria will speak at [Victim Support Europe's Autumn Conference 2019](#) in Brussels, sharing her own experiences and highlighting the importance of educating young people about healthy relationships.

**VSE: Most people know you as an artist, but you've also been an activist. How did you become Survivor Ambassador?**

Melanie Maria: I am now almost a year and a half out of my abusive relationship. In these past year and a half, I experienced a lot of support by talking freely and being open with doctors, with social workers, with various experts and specialists, moreover, even just when talking to friends, family and strangers. Speaking openly about how mad and how sad I was because of what the abuser did to me and how mad and how sad I was with myself, made it all just real. I admit it was hard to become conscious of the reality, it is super important to notice what is real and what is not, since I lost this sense of reality while being in the relationship.

[READ MORE ?](#)



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*Read again: Domestic Violence*  
Victim Support Europe is an umbrella organisation which currently consists of 56 national and regional victim support organisations in 30 countries.  
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[www.victimsupport.eu](http://www.victimsupport.eu)



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