



- 01.

VSE NEWS

SAVE THE DATE! - Annual Conference 2024 Announcement



Victim Support Europe and [Victim and Witness Support Services Croatia](#) are happy to announce the VSE Annual Conference 2024, titled “**The Bridge Over Troubled Water – Celebrating and Strengthening Victim Support**”. The event will be hosted by VSE member Victim and Witness Support Services Croatia and will take place in Zagreb, Croatia.

[→ READ MORE](#)

Launch of the Victims of Crime Model Provisions Paper



The [Victims' Rights Directive](#) (VRD) sought to address issues surrounding victimisation and created a solid foundation for victims' rights. Yet, the vast majority of victims never report a crime to the police and never seek justice, but those who do, may suffer further harm as a result. VSE's 'Model Provisions Paper' (MPP) sets out a vision for a revised VRD, based on the idea that States must adopt a comprehensive framework; one

that is designed to implement all victims' rights and to provide support to all victims.

[→ LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MPP](#)

VSE Takes Stage at International Seminar on Victims of Terrorism



Levent Altan, the Executive Director of Victim Support Europe (VSE), took part in the [international seminar on victims of terrorism](#). The event, held in conjunction with Spain's Presidency of the EU, focused on formulating proposals to enhance protection of victims of terrorism across the EU. Representing the [EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism \(EU CVT\)](#), Aleksandra Ivankovic contributed significantly to the

discussions, emphasizing the importance of building expertise on terrorism issues and providing support across EU countries.

[→ READ THE ARTICLE](#)

VSE and Lore Van Besien Deliver Successful Workshop

On Friday, October 13th, Victim Support Europe and Lore Van Besien of [AdSpecialist](#) held a successful and highly engaging workshop where some of



our members learned how to harness the potential of Google ad grants to better reach their advertising goals. Over the hour, Lore, a Google ads expert and founder of AdSpecialist, brought her knowledge and expertise to member's of our Victim's Rights Communicators

Network.

[→ READ THE ARTICLE](#)

2023 Annual Conference Report is Out!



Victim Support Europe (VSE)'s 2023 Annual Conference – a hybrid event with in-person participation in Berlin, Germany and online participation via the [BoostEvents platform](#) – entitled [“Protecting Fundamental Freedoms, A Victim's Perspective”](#), took place from 7 to 9 June. While plenary sessions and panel discussions were livestreamed, the workshops were in-person events. The conference was

hosted by [WEISSER RING e.V.](#) Explore the report by following the link below.

[→ READ THE ARTICLE](#)

- 02.

VSE PROJECT NEWS

VSE and Partners Collaborate for FYDO Webinar

On October 12th, Victim Support Europe (VSE) in collaboration with FYDO network partners (Dog4Life, Viaduq67, Handi'Chiens, Canisha, Hachiko and University College Cork) held the successful webinar 'Fur-ever Friends: FYDO Dogs Supporting Victims of Crime', with roughly 80 attendees. With an



introduction by Aleksandra Ivankovic, VSE deputy director, speakers from Canisha, Hachiko, Dogs4Life and Viadug 67 covered the achievements and applications of facility dogs.

[→ READ THE ARTICLE](#)

[CHAT for Victims Project](#) - Madrid Training



On 26th – 29th September, partners from the CHAT for Victims project met in Madrid (Spain) for a 2-day training and field visits. The training, developed and led by Victim Support Europe, focused on effective communication with victims with disabilities. The training supported project partners in implementing the live-chat service developed through the project, which aims to provide information and support in a manner adapted to the needs

of victims with disabilities.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

[DISRUPT Project](#) - Consortium Gathers in Malta for First In-Person Meeting

On 11 and 12 October, the [DISRUPT project](#) consortium met in Malta for their first in-person partner meeting. To respond to the lack of reliable evidence, the high risk of secondary victimisation when testifying, and the safeguarding of children, DISRUPT aims to improve investigations, prosecutions, and judicial responses that depend on digital evidence in cases dealing with the trafficking of children. Follow the link below for more.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)



[BeneVict](#) - Project Update



VSE is analysing the results of the research conducted in 26 EU member states to evaluate the practical and legal implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive. Moreover, the research team is developing a methodology for a Victim's Rights Index which will be used to rank member states according to their performance in the sphere of victims' rights. In addition, partners from 4 EU member states are collecting data on

the cost of victimisation which will later be analysed and presented in a report that quantifies the cost of victim support.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

- 03.

NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS

CYPRUS: Since April 2023 and following a Ministerial Decision of the Deputy Ministry of Welfare, the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family has undertaken the operation of a program, called Sofi's House, for migrant young and underage mothers who have arrived in Cyprus as asylum seekers or victims of trafficking. Currently the program hosts 12 young women and 11 newborns and children.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

SWEDEN: COVIS (court based victim and witness support service), led by Victim Support Sweden, aims to build knowledge and provide tools to establish

and deliver quality court based support services for victims and witnesses of crime and to meet the needs and rights of all victims/witnesses participating in criminal proceedings. To better learn how court-based victim support is delivered in the Netherlands ([registration link](#)), Australia ([registration link](#)) and the U.S. ([registration link](#)), three webinars will be held in November, December and January.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

CROATIA: Victim and Witness Support Service Croatia was awarded by the Office for Cooperation with NGOS with the award - *Communication Support for socially useful programs of NGOS*. As a part of the award, financial and communication support will be helpful for further informing the public about the work and existence of the 116 006 helpline by the end of the year. In addition to this, VWSSC organized the conference "Yesterday, today, tomorrow - the needs of victims and witnesses" which presented the amendments to the Victims' Rights Directive to the public along with the successes of the 116 006 helpline.

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

PORTUGAL: APAV (Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima) is a member of the recently formed working group to develop a National Strategy for the Protection of Victims of Crime. This working group aims to strengthen a transversal response and multidisciplinary support for victims of crime. APAV has also launched two new awareness campaigns, [Untouchable Children](#) and [The Real Terror](#).

[→ LEARN MORE](#)

- 04.

OPINIONS

In 2022, we launched the [OPINION section](#) on our website. The section aspires to be the destination for sharing compelling, first-hand accounts of overcoming challenges on the road to improving victims' lives around the world. Explore the latest opinion pieces written by our members and partners!

ASTRID PASSIN

[The Importance of Recognition and Acknowledgement](#)

For many decades, the topic of supporting victims of these acts has been an unpleasant and uncomfortable one for politicians, because the threat of an



attack always hides an ideological component that no one wants to examine. This has led to cases being ignored, only being

examined if a victim or a journalist raises the subject of State responsibility following a terrorist attack.

[→ READ MORE](#)

- 05.

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Our interview series 'In Conversation With' sees victims' rights visionaries, innovators and disruptors take the hot seat.



This month, we talked with Maher Rekik, founder of creative agency Elastik, about the importance of terrorism preparedness and

the CREST campaign.

[→ READ: Addressing the Crucial Need for Terrorism Preparedness](#)

Editor: Marina Kazakova | Senior Communications Officer, VSE

About VSE: Victim Support Europe is the leading European umbrella organisation advocating on behalf of all victims of crime, no matter what the crime, no matter who the victim is. VSE represents 78 national member organisations, providing support and information services to more than 3 million people affected by crime every year in 36 countries.

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