

VSE Newsletter #2 2017

After a couple of very fruitful and active months we are bringing you our 2nd newsletter this year. Here you can find an overview of variety of VSE activities as well as interesting developments and initiatives among our members all around the Europe.

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The main story

VSE's latest work for victims of terrorism

Victim Support Europe has been working tirelessly for victims of terrorism since the terrorist attacks in France in 2015. While we

That proposal largely ignored the specific needs of victims of remain an organisation working for rights and services for all victims of crime we saw how the basic needs of victims of terrorism were not being met.

In the last years we have established an international response network which is committed to offering support to victims of terrorism in most countries of the EU as well as other countries in Europe and beyond, including Canada, United States and Brazil. We now cover around 28 countries but must continue to expand so no foreign victim is left alone on their return home. We have also been looking to the long term. We have to ensure that all countries have the right systems - victim oriented systems - to be able to support the victims. We have therefore been developing a coherent set of policies and proposals for laws and services to support victims of terrorism, and have brought together an international group of experts in the field to ensure we advocate for the best practices that exist globally. Based on those efforts, we have been able to support the European Union to include victims' rights in newly agreed European terrorism legislation. At the end of 2015, the European Commission took the initiative to propose a new European Directive on combating terrorism.

terrorism. Working with European Members of Parliament and with the ongoing support of the European Commission, Victim Support Europe was able to introduce around 37 amendments that ensured key rights for victims of terrorism were included in the Directive. The Directive agreed bv the was Council in March 2017.

Since April 2017 we have continued to work victims' with associations, European NGOs, European institutions and victims support improved laws and support for victims of terrorism. In the last few months we have continued our work on victims of terrorism.



RECENT DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Our main activity in recent period was VSE annual conference 2017 which was held in Dublin on 17 & 18 of May. Day before the conference we had a Symposium on terrorism in organisation of International Framework for Dialogue and Information Sharing - IFDIS and in the aftermaths of the conference, on 19th of May the VSE Annual General Meeting was held. In last couple of months VSE had numerous activities and participated in various conferences and seminars.

- Overview of the #VSE2017
 annual conference
- VSE's An Verelst presented at 15th ESTSS conference in Denmark
- VSE's Levent Altan speaks at ERA Summer Course
- New VSE Executive Board member

- Third meeting of the European Network on Victims' Rights
- VSE's Vice-President Helgard van Hullen spoke at EU Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism
- EU Justice Scoreboard 2017
- VSE welcomes signing of the Istanbul Convention

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

In May 2017 Victim Support Europe's network become larger for two new members. VSE now has 46 members represented in 27 countries. Our new members are **Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC)** from Tirana,

Albania and **Associazione Aleteia** from Florence, Italy. We are welcoming our neww members and very much looking forward to work with HRDC and Aletelia. More details about these two organisations you can find on our web site here and at VSE members pages



Our members have always been very active on Victim Support, capacity building, reporting, research and many other issues. Victim Support Europe congratulate all our members on their amazing work and thank them for their important & valuable contribution to VSE activities. If you are interested in VSE membership, please consult our become a member pages. Here are the most recent updates about the activities of VSE members

- <u>Hate Crime Review and Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill Progress as Victim</u> Support Scotland Forges Positive Future
- An overview of activities in VWSS Croatia
- Supporting Justice officially launched the Victims Choice website
- New service introduced by AdVIC
- Mayor of London appoints first Victims Commissioner
- Croatian Ministry of Justice supports the National call center and publishes call for proposals
- News from Offerraadgivningen in Denmark
- Victim support NI receives volunteering quality award
- Understanding victims of crime report by Victim Support England
 Wales
- I Care giving support to victims
- VIII Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia
- France Victimes: 31st National Conference of the Victim Support
- News from White Circle Croatia







UPDATES ON VSE PROJECTS

- <u>Vociare project</u>
- <u>Victim support services in</u>
 <u>Serbia</u>

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About Victim Support Europe

Victim Support Europe is an umbrella organisation which currently consists of 46 national and regional victim support organisations in 27 countries.

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