



Bijeli krug Hrvatske



Newsletter



Co-funded by the
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This newsletter is dedicated to "Survive, Overcome and Support Victims of Crime" (S.O.S. for victims) project. This is the first of a total of four issues that we will publish quarterly. With this issue we will introduce you to the content, goals and the most important activities of this project as well as our partner organizations.

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PROJECT SUMMARY

In May 2022 the White Circle Croatia began implementing a two-year project "Survive, Overcome and Support Victims of Crime" (S.O.S. for victims) co-financed by the European Commission from the JUST-2021-JACC program.

Project objectives:

- increase knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis and national laws regulating victims' rights to information and protection, individual assessment of victims' needs, access to safeguards in restorative justice services, referring victims to the relevant support services, rights of victims' resident in other Member-State, use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial
- increase capacity of national practitioners to address victims' rights
- improve cooperation between the competent national authorities, NGOs and/or professional organizations in field of victims' rights, enhancing aspects where this cooperation may take place
- increasing the quality of the victim services
- promote compatibility of judicial and administrative practice related to victims' rights with the EU acquis

Project activities:

- first partners' meeting (online kick off)
- second partners' meeting (Split, Croatia)
- research (2 questionnaires implemented in 4 EU Member States)
- 8 trainings for professionals (Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia)
- 3 national meetings (Ireland, Italy, Slovenia)
- 1 final conference (Zagreb, Croatia)
- a Final Report based on the research and consultations with other relevant stakeholders in each country

Project results:

- improve knowledge on specific provisions regulating victims' rights and on if and how these rights are being addressed in practice
- increase the capacity of professionals and CSOs to address victims' rights
- improve inter-agency cooperation and mutual trust between practitioners

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Newsletter

THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Project coordinator is White Circle Croatia (WCC), Split, Croatia. Partner organizations are: Rete Dafne Italia (RDI) from Turin, Italy, Association for Nonviolent Communication (ANC), Ljubljana, Slovenia and Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), Dublin, Ireland.

White Circle Croatia (WCC)



White Circle Croatia Association was established in April 2011 as a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political organization with HQ in Split, Ljudevita Posavskog 14. The main objective is the protection of victims of criminal offences and delicts with elements of violence regardless of victims' age and sex.

White Circle Croatia provides victims with legal, psychosocial and emotional support, carries out individual treatments with victims to reduce secondary victimization and educational workshops to empower victims, conducts psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence outside of health care institutions, cooperates with institutions at national and EU level in order to improve victim's position and implements projects for preventing violence among children and young people.

White Circle Croatia Association launched a free SOS line for victims of violence (0800 63 29) with the aim of providing legal aid and psychosocial support to all citizens in the Republic of Croatia. In its work, the Association engages both professionals and volunteers.

<https://www.bijelikrug-hrvatske.hr/>

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Bijeli krug Hrvatske



Newsletter

THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)



The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) is Ireland's oldest independent human rights body. It has been at the forefront of every major rights advance in Irish society for over 40 years. ICCL helped legalise homosexuality, divorce, and contraception. It drove police reform and defended suspects' rights during dark times. In recent years, ICCL led successful campaigns for marriage equality and reproductive rights. ICCL founded the Victims' Rights Alliance in Ireland and is an advocate for victims' rights in the criminal justice system.

<https://www.iccl.ie/>

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Bijeli krug Hrvatske



Newsletter

THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Rete Dafne Italia (RDI)



Rete Dafne Italia is a non-profit organization that aims to support victims of crimes as requested by European Directive 2012/29/UE. The association was funded in 2018 with commitment in promoting and enriching the culture about victimology on the territory of Italy. However, the story of “Rete Dafne” started back in 2010 as Rete Dafne Torino with strong sponsorship from the Prosecutor's Office of Turin City.

Today, the association is constituted by seven main branches in the regions of Piemonte, Toscana, Sardegna, Puglia, Campania, Veneto and Lombardia. Each branch is composed by various institutions, which cover the needs of the Italian national territory. In addition to the geographic presence, the association has developed vast collaboration with public and private partners. (Details are available on www.retedafne.it)

The association offers victims free-of-charge services such as emotional and psychological support, legal advices on victim's rights, legal mediation, medical advice, and self-help groups by involving people to share comparable experiences. Other than focusing only on victims, Rete Dafne Italia collaborates actively with key stakeholders, such as police officers, lawyers, magistrates, social services and health operators, by providing training programs and consultancy. Through these collaborations, Rete Dafne Italia continuously promotes its principles in creation of new assistance and protection services for victims without distinction on their race, gender, age, religion, nationality, and social-economic-health condition.

<https://www.retedafne.it/>

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Bijeli krug Hrvatske



Newsletter

THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Association for Nonviolent Communication (ANC)



DRUŠTVO ZA
NENASILNO
KOMUNIKACIJO
association
for nonviolent
communication

Association for Nonviolent Communication (Društvo za nenasilno komunikacijo) is a non-governmental, non-profit and humanitarian organization dedicated to preventing and reducing violence and its consequences. It was founded in 1996 when it was the first non-governmental organization in Slovenia with programs for victims of violence as well as for perpetrators of violence.

We believe that violence is a social and public health problem and it should never be considered a private home matter. We strive for an integrated solution to the problem of violence and therefore want to prevent violence and mitigate its consequences with programs for everyone who experiences it. Furthermore, we organize preventive and educational activities and different social actions. We consider it very important to cooperate with other institutions and organizations, on state and European level, as violence is a problem that requires integrative and systematic approach. Main objectives are: To reduce society's tolerance of violence, to help those who experience violence, to help those who commit violence to change their behavior.

<https://www.drustvo-dnk.si/>

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RECENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Topics: project objectives, questionnaires and future activities.

We agreed on the following activities:

- developing questionnaires and semi-structured interview model (June - October)
- desk research and reviewing questionnaires draft
- second partners meeting in Split (October) – finalizing the questionnaires, monitoring of project progress and preparing of next steps of project implementation
- first digital newsletter (October) – introducing the project to the public and presenting all the project participants



Our research team, together with a research expert, Barbara Herceg Pakšić, professor of criminal law at the Faculty of Law in Osijek, designed research tools for analyzing specific provisions of the Victims' rights Directive regulating victims' rights and on if and how these rights are being addressed in practice. Considering that we created two types of questionnaires: **Questionnaire for the assessment of victims' needs** and **Questionnaire on the attitudes and experiences of competent authorities regarding Directive 2012/29/EU**.

Questionnaire for victims will be used to better understand the position of the victim in the national legal system and questionnaire for institutions will be useful for insight and a better understanding of the application of Directive 2012/29/EU in everyday practice in your national legal system.

1. KICK OFF meeting
June 20th – online

**2. DESK RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH TOOLS**
June - October 2022

**3. SECOND PARTNERS' MEETING
IN SPLIT**
October 5th – face to face

Face to face partners' meeting in Split was the opportunity to get to know our partners better. We presented the necessary elements for project implementation and successful reporting to the European Commission. As the most important novelty we informed our partners about the change in the method of calculating travel and accommodation costs. Instead of actual cost method we needed to implement the unit cost method to track project expenditures.

We have prepared two draft versions of the questionnaires. Partners have reviewed the questionnaire for assessments of victims' needs while the second questionnaire intended for institutions is still under a process of revision. During mid to late October we should begin the dissemination of both questionnaires. Methods of dissemination as well as risk mitigation were discussed.

Along with the dissemination of the questionnaires, two-day training sessions for professionals should be organized in the near future. It is planned to be held in period from November 2022 to May 2023.

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Thank you for reading Project S.O.S. for victims
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