



Bijeli krug Hrvatske



Newsletter



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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 second 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.

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Dear readers,

you have the opportunity to read the second Newsletter of the S.O.S project for victims, whose coordinator is the White Circle Association of Croatia in partnership with Rete Dafne Italia, the Association for Nonviolent Communication and The Irish Council for Civil Liberties! In this issue of the Newsletter, the project team will share with you the activities carried out in the period from the 1st Newsletter until today.

In the last few months, systematic work has been done on the dissemination of the Questionnaire for assessing the needs of victims and the Questionnaire on the attitudes and experiences of competent authorities in relation to Directive 2012/29/EU. The results of the questionnaire for victims will be used for a better understanding of the position of the victim, and the questionnaire for institutions will be useful for insight and a better understanding of the application of Directive 2012/29/EU in everyday practice in the national legal system. We hereby thank all the victims of criminal acts, institutions and organizations that helped us in the dissemination of the questionnaire in Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Ireland.

Also in this period, we conducted semi-structured interviews with relevant professionals who work with victims in all four partner countries.

In Croatia and Slovenia we successfully conducted two training sessions for professionals as well as one in Italy. This edition of the Newsletter will describe the above-mentioned activities as well as an overview of upcoming activities.

We hope you enjoy reading, with respect,

S.O.S. team

Association White Circle of Croatia (WCC), Rete Dafne Italia (RDI), Association for Nonviolent Communication (ANC) and The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)

Project S.O.S. for victims is co-financed from the Justice Program of the European Commission. The main goal of the project is to improve knowledge about special provisions that regulate victims' rights, to increase the capacity of experts and CSOs to deal with victims' rights, and to improve intersectoral cooperation. If you want to know more about the project and partnership, read our 1 NEWSLETTER (<https://www.bijelikrug-hrvatske.hr/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Bijeli-Krug-newsletter-quarterly-1.pdf>)

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CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Questionnaire for assessing the needs of victims and Questionnaire on the attitudes and experiences of competent authorities in relation to Directive 2012/29/EU and a semi-structured interview for experts

At the end of October 2022, we started the dissemination of both questionnaires and interviews. We put a lot of effort into disseminating the questionnaires, and special attention was paid to the victims of criminal offenses who participated anonymously in filling out the questionnaires and this research.

The plan was to collect a total of 200 questionnaires for victims, 100 for institutions and 10 semi-structured interviews with experts who work with victims of criminal acts. The results of our research are shown in the table below and refer to the time period from the end of October 2022 to the end of March 2023.

Table 1. Research results

Organization	Questionnaire number for institutions	Questionnaire number for victims	Number of interviews
White Circle of Croatia	64	71	2
Rete Dafne Italia	29	40	3
Association for Nonviolent Communication	57	52	1
Irish Council for Civil Liberties	35	47	3

Training for professionals

- *Republic of Croatia*

Two two-day training sessions "Protection of the Rights of Victims of Criminal Offenses" were held, one in Split, the other in Zagreb. The trainings were held in cooperation with the Judicial Academy. The leaders of the training were Ljiljana Stipišić, judge of the High Criminal Court of the Republic of Croatia, and Julijana Stipišić, deputy county state attorney in Split. The training covered domestic and international instruments that regulate the protection of victims' rights with special reference to the Directive on the Rights of Victims 2012/29/EU, the procedure for implementing individual victim assessment and work on examples from practice.

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CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The training in Split was held on January 26th and 27th, 2023, and the training in Zagreb was held on February 6th and 7th, 2023.



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CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- *Italy*

The first training session for professionals on the topic "Acceptance and support of victims of crime" was held in Turin. The training lasted two days, on January 18th and February 1st, 2023, and was intended for various experts dealing with victim support (lawyers, psychologists, educators, social workers). The training program was divided into two parts. The first part about the European Directive (2012/29/UE), about victimology, about what is traumatic, about the concept of vulnerability and about primary and secondary victimization. The second part about the reception of people and the way in which specialized services can work (emotional and psychological support, medical-psychiatric counseling, information about rights, restorative justice). The exchange of good practices and methods was the most important goal of this interesting two-day training.



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CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- *Slovenia*

Two trainings were held in Slovenia under the name "Education on support services to help victims of criminal offenses and prevention of secondary victimization in the process". The first training was held in Ljubljana on March 28th, 2023, and the second in Koper on April 6th, 2023. The lecturers were Katja Škerget, head of the Victim Assistance Service, a special service operating at the District Court of Ljubljana, Simona Mikec, director of the House for Children (Barnahus) and Anita Bregar, deputy director of the Center for Social Work Gorenjska, Jesenice. They presented their work with special reference to the rights of victims in criminal proceedings and the effort to reduce secondary victimization to a minimum. Special attention is paid to child victims of violence and their needs and rights.



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

3 trainings for professionals (Ireland, Italy)

**Final report based on research and consultation
with other relevant stakeholders in each country**

3 national meetings (Ireland, Italy, Slovenia)

Final Conference (Zagreb, Croatia)

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