



Bijeli krug Hrvatske



Newsletter



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This Newsletter refers to the project "Survive, Overcome and Support Victims of Crime" (S.O.S. for victims). This is the fourth and also the last one we will release. With this number, we will introduce you to the content, goals and final activities of this project.

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Dear readers,

you have the opportunity to read the latest Newsletter of the „S.O.S. for victims“ project, whose sponsor 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 final activities in the period from the 3rd Newsletter until today.

In the last few months we systematically worked on dissemination of our Final Report. We organized two national meetings, one in Dublin and other in Ljubljana, and the Final Conference which was held in Zagreb this month. The aim was improving cooperation between civil society organizations and institutions and presenting the results of the research in relation to Directive 2012/29/EU implementation in practice of partner countries. You can find the Final report on our website (<https://www.bijelikrug-hrvatske.hr/2023/10/27/final-report-s-o-s-for-victims/>) in Croatian and English.

Hereby, we once again thank all the victims of criminal acts, institutions and organizations, and primarily Professor Barbara Herceg Pakšić, whose effort and engagement led to the successful realization of the project.

This edition of the Newsletter will describe the above-mentioned activities.

We hope you enjoy reading!

Sincerely,

SOS. Team: Association White Circle 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 previously issued newsletters. NEWSLETTER 1 (<https://www.bijelikrug-hrvatske.hr/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Bijeli-Krug-newsletter-quarterly-1.pdf>), NEWSLETTER 2 (<https://www.bijelikrug-hrvatske.hr/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Bijeli-Krug-quarterly-newsletter-no.2-HRV.pdf>), and NEWSLETTER 3 (<https://www.bijelikrug-hrvatske.hr/2023/10/30/newsletter-3-s-o-s-for-victims/>).

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CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

National conferences

- *Ljubljana, Slovenia*

On November 23, 2023, the National Conference was held in Ljubljana at Hotel Čad. Representatives of civil society institutions and organizations that work with victims were present at the Conference. President Livija Plančič presented the project, the Results of the research and future perspective of victims' rights. At the conference, the speakers talked about problems and good practices in providing information, support and protection of victims of crime.



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CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- *Dublin, Ireland*

On December 12th, 2023, the National Conference was held in Dublin. The conference consisted of presenting the results of the Research and 4 panel discussions on current challenges, alternative paths of justice and the future of victims' rights. Key stakeholders from the Ministry of Justice's Victim Support Service, the Prosecution Service, members of the Gardaí, civil society organizations and the academic community participated.



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CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Final conference in Zagreb

A conference was held in Zagreb entitled 'Victims' Rights: Where are we today?' as the final part of the project 'Survive, Overcome and Support Victims of Crime' - 'S.O.S. for victims'.

In general, it can be concluded that great progress has been made in realizing the procedural rights of victims in partner countries, but there is still a lot of room for improvement in terms of better provision of information, support and protection to all victims of criminal offences.

Support to the victim should be available from the moment the competent authorities learned about the victim and during the entire criminal procedure, as well as after the procedure for a certain period, in accordance with his individual needs. The victims, mostly women, express, however, the need for greater availability of specific services such as psychological and mental support services, psychotherapy, adequate accommodation, free legal aid, advice on financial and practical issues arising from criminal proceedings, etc. On the other hand, professionals express a lack of knowledge about the importance of support services and, as a result, are often inactive when referring to support services, so continuous education of professionals is proposed in this regard.

Speakers at the Conference were the president of the Association Livija Plančić, Nikica Hamer Vidmar, head of the Victim and Witness Support Service at the Ministry of Justice and Administration, Barbara Herceg Pakšić, professor at the Faculty of Law in Osijek, Anita Matijević, head of the Department of Juvenile Delinquency and Crime Against Youth and Families from of the Directorate of Police, Natalija Slavica Deputy County State Attorney in Zagreb, Ljiljana Stipišić Judge of the High Criminal Court, Vanja Saftić Director of the Polyclinic for the Protection of Children and Youth in the City of Zagreb, Ana Ergović Kuzmanović Head of the Victim and Witness Support Department at the County Court in Zagreb and Maja Štahan Coordinator of the National Call Center for Victims of Crimes and Misdemeanors from the Association for Support of Victims and Witnesses.

Even with all the aforementioned problems in practice, it can be concluded that the Republic of Croatia is well on its way to meeting all the conditions prescribed by this Directive with the condition of further monitoring of the implementation of the law, integrated action of all institutions and organizations responsible for the support and protection of victims, and continuous education and sensitization of all people who, through their work, come into contact with victims of criminal acts, it was said, among others, from the meeting.

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Final conference in Zagreb



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