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This leaflet was funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020). The content of this publication represents the views of the author only and is his / her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

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Support VoC

Development of a Generic
Support Services Model
to enhance the Rights of
Victims of Crime



Co-funded by the European Union's Justice
Programme (2014-2020)

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The SupportVoC project seeks to contribute to the promotion and protection of rights of Victims of Crime (VoC), with a particular focus on Spain, Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus through the following interrelated activities:

- Analysis of the European and national legal frameworks regarding the protection of victims of crime.
- Development of a Strategic Plan Model for Generic Victim Support Service, adaptable to different national contexts.
- Promotion of the cooperation between authorities and organisations coming into contact with victims of crime.
- Awareness raising activities to all target groups below.
- Promotion of cooperation between authorities, organizations and professionals who work with the victims.
- Training and awareness measures for the groups and organizations detailed below.

TARGET GROUPS

The main target groups are stakeholders involved in the protection of the rights of victims of crime:

- Victims of crime.
- Public/state authorities/agencies and private organisations providing services to victims of crime or are likely to come into contact with victims.
- Practitioners, including police officers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and staff of victim support services.
- International NGO / Civil society.
- EU networks / Policy makers.
- Research institutes and academia.
- Media.
- The general public.

FINDINGS FROM THE TRANSNATIONAL ANALYSIS

- The Legal country frameworks are grounded on very diverse historical and socio-economic situations, which has a direct impact on the diverse implementation of the legal provisions.

"There isn't a clear circuit for these victims and then, this support that perhaps should be given by the public sector, is being taken on by organisations." (Spain)

- It is common understanding that the needs of the victims are complex and multileveled. Yet, whilst the available services can contribute to the victims' empowerment for a specific time frame, these do not address basic issues that concern women victims of domestic violence.

- All countries under examination have transposed the Directive 2004/80/EC regarding compensation for the victims of violent intentional crimes into their national legal order, although such transposition adopts very different configurations.

"Unfortunately, the system aiming to recognize and provide support to the victims has yet to be changed in a way that it no longer revictimizes the survivors on a psychosocial level." (Bulgaria)

- A common ground is that special measures have been taken for witnesses with specific protection needs in all countries such as human trafficking victims and sexual-abused minors.

"The victim is not able to obtain compensation for what she/he suffered, any provisions are paid from the condemned people who often don't have any capital and incomes." (Italy)

- Whilst all four countries have provisions for specialised services (e.g. for gender-based violence) there is a main lack of generic services.

"The witness protection process, provided for in the legislation, is not implemented in practice." (Greece)

- There is a need for better collaboration between organisations and services and better monitoring in terms of role definition between organisations and authorities.

"The main challenge that should be addressed is the generalization of the term 'victim' and the development of more services for the support to all victims of any criminal act." (Cyprus)