



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Towards a better Europe for victims of crime



President's report David McKenna, March 2014



David McKenna

Congratulations to Victim Supporters all over Europe! Over the past 12 months our member organisations, National Justice Ministers and the European Commission have been working hard to ensure the effective implementation of the Victims Directive. Tremendous progress is being made and a better Europe for victims of crime is emerging.

Of course there is yet much to be done. Good legislation needs to be backed up by best practice. The important work VSE is doing to share knowledge and experience has recently been supplemented by the publication of an EC guideline on good practice on implementation. VSE has pursued its manifesto for the 2014 elections and has highlighted the critical importance of ensuring that victims have access to information and practical and emotional support. The team of professionals working with people affected by crime is crucial to the success of the Directive. We have also continued to highlight the plights of cross border victims who are most likely to be in need of support, information and translation services.

Our focus on the year ahead will be to secure a commitment within the next EU programme to continue to work for improvement in the care and treatment of those who fall victim to crimes in the European Union. We will work closely with the European Parliament and European Commission, the Council and the Courts of Europe to ensure that all victims have access to justice and to support.

We will also work to provide direct support in member states with either co-ordinated support for victims as well as those where support is weak. We will do this by providing opportunities for exchange of learning between our member organisations and partners' intent on developing services. We will prioritise effective policy on standard and quality of work and begin to explore a European wide accreditation for people and organisations working with victims of crime. Consideration will be given to the role VSE can play in supporting cross border referrals and also in the development, monitoring and reporting on the success of the Directive and other work proformas such as set out in the EC DG Justice priorities for the years ahead.

Within VSE it has been an exciting year and we have been delighted to welcome four new associate members to the Victim Support fold: I-CARE Italy, the Hungarian Office of Public Administration and Justice, the Independent Sector for Victim and Witness Support of the Ministry of Justice of Croatia and the Swiss Liaison Centre Committee for the Victims of Crime Act. We are working hard to expand our membership across



Europe including victim organisations and government victim services. A new approach will look at developing individual personal memberships. Funding of course remains a challenge for all of us.

In closing I want to thank all of you, the VSE Board and everybody on our exceptionally hard working administrative office, H el ene Heinrichs, ably assisted by Sara Reis, for everything they do to make our job possible. So thank you. In this year we also lost our Director of Policy, Frida Wheldon to a new post back home in Scotland. We are grateful for all Frida has achieved for victims in Europe. We have many challenges ahead and I am sure we will succeed.

Treasurer's Report **Helgard van H ullen**



Helgard van H ullen

Having properly accounted and audited financial figures for the year 2013 ended on 31 December was for me as treasurer again most important. This gives VSE a solid base for the financial management, e.g. to draw up applications for EU grants, and for the financial controlling throughout the year. To me reliable audited figures shape the ground for confidence into VSE for our members as well as for external parties such as the European Commission.

Compared with the challenging times we went through with our finances in the past 2013 has been managed in a much more relaxed way. Due to an EC operating grant and a functioning office in Brussels liquidity was not an issue. Nevertheless there still remains the problem of sufficient own financial means without EU subsidy. We need such income to overcome times without grants and/or to finance VSE contributions requested by grants. Here again I would like to thank for the remarkable financial inputs of some members during 2013. The sound financial situation was the basis for all the work that could be done especially with regard to the implementation of the Directive.

Looking at the main figures for 2013 the total operating income summed up to 312.434,18  with total expenditure in the amount of 323.969,18  leaving at year end an operating loss of 11.535,-- . It looks like this loss could be covered after the financial settlement of all projects. Further detailed figures can be found in the attached short version of the balance sheet 2013.

On the basis of solid and audited financial statements for the third full year under Belgian law I, on behalf of the Executive Board of VSE, ask the GM 2014 to approve the



Balance sheet 2013, including the assets, liabilities and income statement as audited by Madame Martine Piret (audit report dated 11 May 2014).

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this solid financial management of VSE in 2013. The post as treasurer was most challenging and I learned a lot.

Head of Policy's Report Frida Wheldon



Frida Wheldon

Victim Support Europe has during 2013 continued to strengthen our role as a key stakeholder in Europe criminal justice. One of our priorities has been to assist the implementation of the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. We have for instance published a Handbook for Implementation of Legislation and Best Practice for Victims of Crime in Europe, which provides practical suggestions and options for implementing the Directive. It goes beyond legislative requirements to also highlight some best practices and other suggestions to bear in mind when working with people affected by crime. We attended the EU Commission's Expert Meeting regarding the implementation of the Directive to provide practical information regarding the current situation for victims of crime and implications of different implementation proposals. We also provided comments on the EU Commission Guidelines to assist Member States implementation of the Directive and to stress the importance of a holistic, victim-focused approach to the implementation. We shared best practice in relation to key rights and informed key stakeholders and Member States of different practical options, how the rights can be interpreted and implemented in practice to ensure victims are able to access their rights.

In preparation for the European Parliament elections in 2014, Victim Support Europe developed a Manifesto – Towards a Union of Freedom, Security and Justice for Victims of Crime. The document clarifies our visions and hopes for the future by highlighting the areas we feel should be addressed in order to improve the position of victims across Europe. The Manifesto comprises 10 calls, including efficient access for victims support services through improved referral arrangements, improved cooperation in cross-border cases and effective, independent and well-funded victim support services in every EU Member State. The Manifesto was launched at a high profile event in November 2013 in the European Parliament, where we brought together MEPs, national representatives, legislators, criminal justice professionals, academics, victim support practitioners, partner agencies and other key stakeholders



and professionals working with victims of crime. The event also included a CEO meeting for our member organisations, where discussions focused on the future direction and priorities for the organisation.

Victim Support Europe has continued to play a key part in the advancement of victims' rights in Europe and beyond. We are one of the key partners in the development of the global initiative "Victims of Crime International", aiming at catalysing a voice and improve global access to rights and services for victims of crime. During 2013, we have continued to work closely with the countries holding EU Presidencies, to highlight the importance of maintaining victims high on the EU agenda. This is particularly important given the European Parliament elections this year and the replacement of the Stockholm Programme as the five-year working programme within Freedom, Security and Justice. We have attended a range of conferences and key events to represent the needs and interest of people affected by crime in the advancement of European criminal justice policy and practice. We organised a very successful Annual Conference in Edinburgh where we attracted key speakers from both current and upcoming EU Presidencies, Members of the European Parliament and other stakeholders who play crucial parts in the advancement of European victim policy. The event also offered a wide range of training and networking opportunities for VSE members.

EU-funded projects



Carmen Rasquete

In 2013 Victim Support Europe accepted to be a partner in two projects proposals which were approved by the European Commission. Both projects started in April 2014:

Project IVOR - Implementing Victim-Oriented Reform of the criminal justice system in the European Union

The EU directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime offers the promise of a victim-oriented reform of the criminal process across the EU Member States. Nonetheless, the extent to which the Directive will fulfill its potential remains to be seen. Project IVOR aims to foster insight on the current research into and experience with victims' rights and services, identifying lacunas in the knowledge base and offering a model which can serve to connect experience and research from one area to another. That is, the historic models in terms of victim support and judicial systems already in place, as well as financial constraints that may or may not pose obstacles for the full implementation



of the Directive within the compulsory timeframe.

Project IVOR is promoted by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) and co-financed by European Commission under the Civil Justice Programme. The Project also counts with the partnership of the Tilburg University (The Netherlands), KU Leuven, University of Leuven (Belgium) and Victim Support Europe.

Project Infovictims II

One of the major obstacles still faced by victims of crime all over Europe is the lack of information and ways to access it in an easy and clear fashion.

The development of information concerning the rights of victims of crime has been one of main concerns of the victim support organisations, which developed in partnership Project Infovictims (October 2011 - September 2013). In a conference organised by Victim Support Europe in November 2013 Vice-President of the European Commission Viviane Reding defined Project Infovictims as a best practice to be followed in other Member States.

As a result of dissemination activities of the materials developed under this project, other Member States demonstrated their interest in developing and adapting these materials to their own realities. This is how Project Infovictims II, promoted by APAV, came to life. It is now starting with the partnership of Victim Support Europe, Weisser Ring Germany, Weisser Ring Austria, Victim Support Scotland, Polish Victim Support Network "Subvenia Victima" the Portuguese Pubic Safety Police and the Portuguese Directorate-General of Justice Administration. Co-financed by the European Commission under the Civil Justice Programme, Project Infovictims II aims to contribute to increase the information given to victims of crime concerning the criminal justice system, their rights and the ways to exercise them in Portugal, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Balance sheet for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013

	Code	2013
ASSETS		
FIXED ASSETS	20/28	5.998,68
Tangible fixed assets	22/27	1.100,29
Plant, machinery and equipment	23	1.100,29
Owned by the association in full property	231	1.100,29
Financial fixed assets	28	4.898,39
CURRENT ASSETS	29/58	333.662,44
Amounts receivable within one year	40/41	58.422,27
Trade debtors	40	1.101,44
Other amounts receivable	41	57.320,83
Cash at bank and in hand	54/58	137.772,02
Deferred charges and accrued income	490/1	137.468,15
TOTAL ASSETS	20/58	339.661,12
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	10/15	71.908,63
Association Funds	10	38.026,03
Opening equity	100	38.026,03
Accumulated profits (losses)	(+)/(-) 14	33.882,60
AMOUNTS PAYABLE	17/49	278.601,09
Amounts payable within one year	42/48	278.601,09
Trade debts	44	34.807,65
Suppliers	440/4	34.807,65
Taxes, remuneration and social security	45	5.875,00
Remuneration and social security	454/9	5.875,00
Miscellaneous amounts payable	48	237.918,44
Miscellaneous interest-bearing amounts payable	4890	237.918,44
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10/49	350.509,72
INCOME STATEMENT		
Operating income and charges		
Gross operating margin	(+)/(-) 9900	67.654,27
Operating income	70/74	312.434,18
Contributions, gifts, legacies and grants	73	312.434,18
Raw materials, consumables, services and other goods	60/61	244.779,91
Remuneration, social security costs and pensions	(+)/(-) 62	78.055,68
Depreciation of and other amounts written off formation expenses, intangible and tangible fixed assets	630	1.100,29
Other operating charges	640/8	33,30
Operating profit (loss)	(+)/(-) 9901	-11.535,00
Financial income	75	867,77
Financial charges	65	618,96
Gain (loss) on ordinary activities before taxes	(+)/(-) 9902	-11.286,19
Extraordinary income	76	437,59
Gain (loss) of the period	(+)/(-) 9904	-10.848,60

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (from 1 June 2013 onwards)

PRESIDENT

David McKenna, CEO of Victim Support Scotland, UK



VICE-PRESIDENT

João Lázaro, President of Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima (APAV), Portugal



TREASURER

Helgard van Hüllen, Vice-President of Weisser Ring Germany



Sabrina Bellucci, Executive Director of INAVEM, France



Victor Jammers, Policy Director of Slachtofferhulp Nederland, The Netherlands



Jo Keaney, Corporate Director Finance of Victim Support England and Wales, UK



Tiina Rantanen, Regional Director of Rikosuhripaivystys Suomessa, Finland





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