

EVALUATION ROADMAP

Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Evaluation of the Victims' Rights Directive
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	JUST B2 - procedural criminal law
INDICATIVE PLANNING (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Q1 2021 – Q4 2021
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/criminal-justice/protecting-victims-rights_en
The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.	

A. Context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Context

The [Victims' Rights Directive](#) is the main EU instrument applicable to all victims of all crime. It lays down a set of rights for victims of crime and corresponding obligations on Member States. The Victims' Rights Directive was adopted in 2012 and entered into application in the Member States in 2015. The Commission launched infringement proceedings against several Member States for incomplete transposition of the Directive and in May 2020 adopted an [implementation Report](#) on the Directive.

The main objective of the Victims' Rights Directive is to ensure that victims of crime¹ receive appropriate information, support and protection and are able to participate in criminal proceedings. The Victims' Rights Directive also aims at ensuring that victims of crime are recognised and treated in a respectful, sensitive, tailored, professional and non-discriminatory manner (including with respect to their residence status) in all contacts with competent authorities. Another objective of the Directive is to ensure the child's best interests when the victim is a child.

After five years of application, the Commission undertakes this evaluation as one of its key actions set out in the [EU Strategy on victims' rights \(2020-2025\)](#).

Purpose and scope

The evaluation will assess the impact of the Victims' Rights Directive from the date of its entry into application in 2015 until the end of 2020. The evaluation will cover all EU Member States that are bound by the Directive².

It will also assess whether and to what extent the Directive has fulfilled its objectives. The evaluation will cover the correct application, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the Victims' Rights Directive. The effectiveness analysis will assess the extent to which the Victims' Rights Directive has achieved its specific objectives. The efficiency analysis will assess the benefits and costs of the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive in the Member States. The coherence analysis will focus on the Directive's coherence with other instruments in the area of victims' rights, such as the [Compensation Directive](#), [Directive on the European protection order](#) and [Regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters](#). The relevance analysis will check to what extent the Directive has been (and still is) relevant to its objectives. The EU added value analysis will check the impact attributed to the Victims' Rights Directive and whether it could not have been achieved by the Member States acting alone.

¹ A victim of crime is a natural person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss, which was directly caused by a criminal offence. Family members of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence and who have suffered harm as a result of that person's death are also considered victims of crime – definition under Article 2(1)(a) of the Victims' Rights Directive.

² All EU Member States except Denmark in accordance with Protocol 22 to the TEU and TFEU.

The results of the evaluation will indicate whether and which follow-up actions might be necessary.

The Commission will present the results of the evaluation in a Report.

B. Better regulation

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

Several consultation activities are planned to gather evidence (such as data, facts and views) to assess the Victims' Rights Directive against all evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value).

A broad range of stakeholders will be consulted at EU and national level, including national experts from Member States, EU agencies, EU networks, civil society organisations with a special focus to victims' associations and victim support organisations, academia, think tanks, and the general public. To this end,

- An online public consultation of at least 12 weeks will be launched in the second quarter of 2021, in all 24 official EU languages (stakeholders will be able to provide their input in all of these). The Commission will announce its launch on the "[Have your say](#)" portal and publish a factual report on its results.
- Targeted stakeholder consultations and informal consultations will be organised through meetings and interviews.

Data collection and methodology

The evaluation will draw on previous and newly available sources of information from studies and public sources.

The evaluation will take into consideration the information contained in existing reports and other sources of information, including the [EU Strategy on victims' rights \(2020-2025\)](#), the [Commission report](#) assessing the extent to which Member States have taken the necessary measures to comply with the Directive. In addition, several reports in the area of victims' rights, including the [report of the Special Adviser to President Juncker on victims' compensation](#), [Fundamental Rights Agency reports](#), [Victim Support Europe report](#) and an [European Parliament report](#) provide for the assessment of the state of play, gaps in victims' access to justice and detailed recommendations on how to improve the situation of victims in the European Union.

Additional evidence will primarily be sought through a support study led by an independent consultancy, which will carry out and analyse the results of extensive consultation activities, including an open and targeted consultations.