



Needs of victims of Terrorism

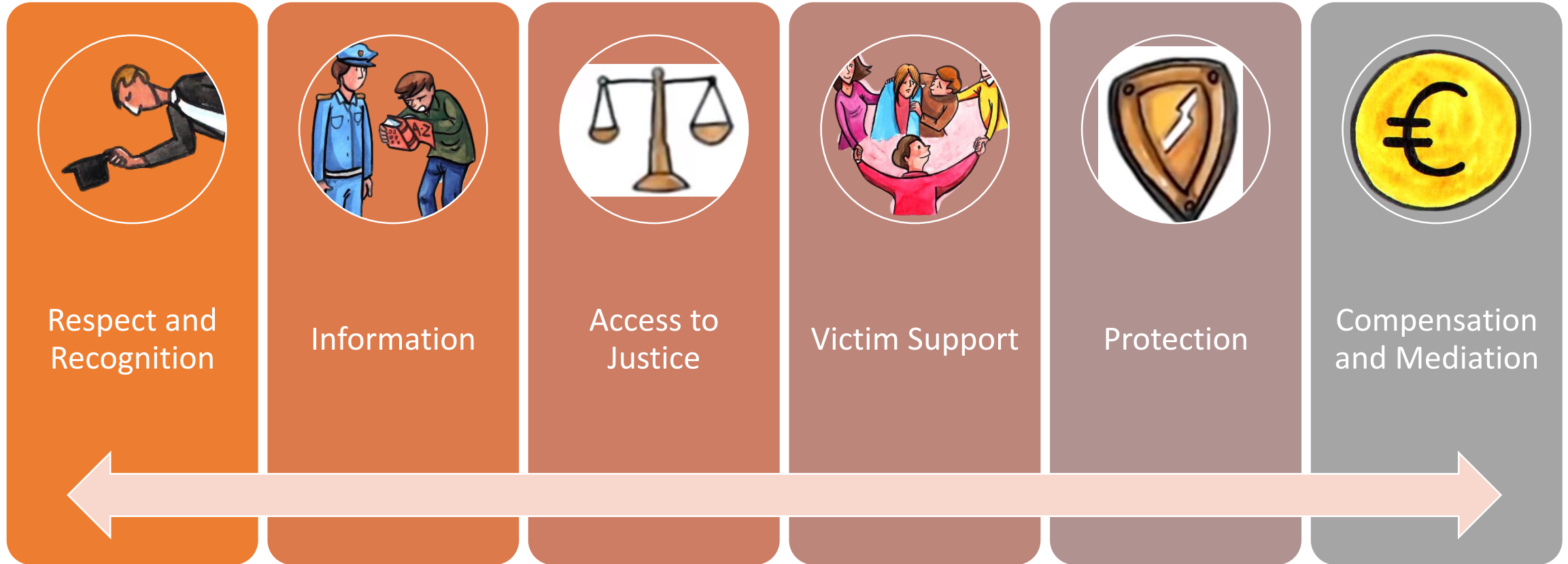
An Verelst, Victim Support Europe

Impact of terrorism on the individual and society

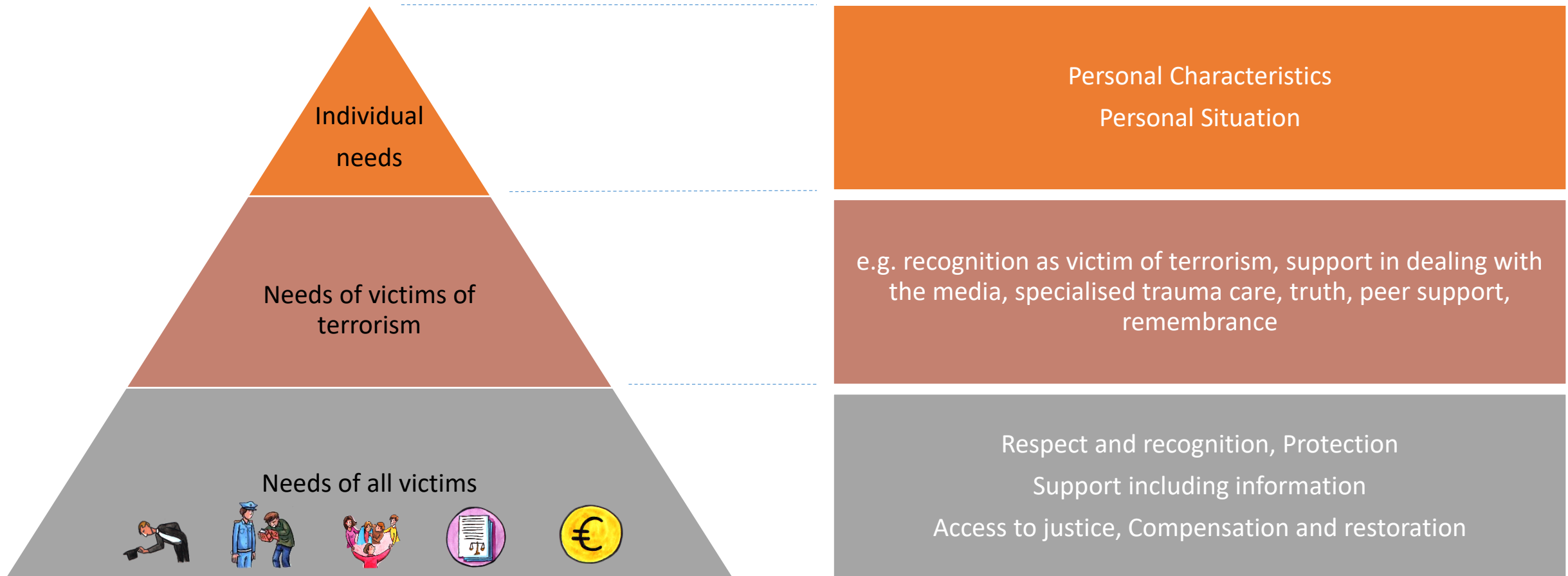


Impact on Society
Social costs
Economic Costs
Justice costs

The needs of victims of crime – a European framework



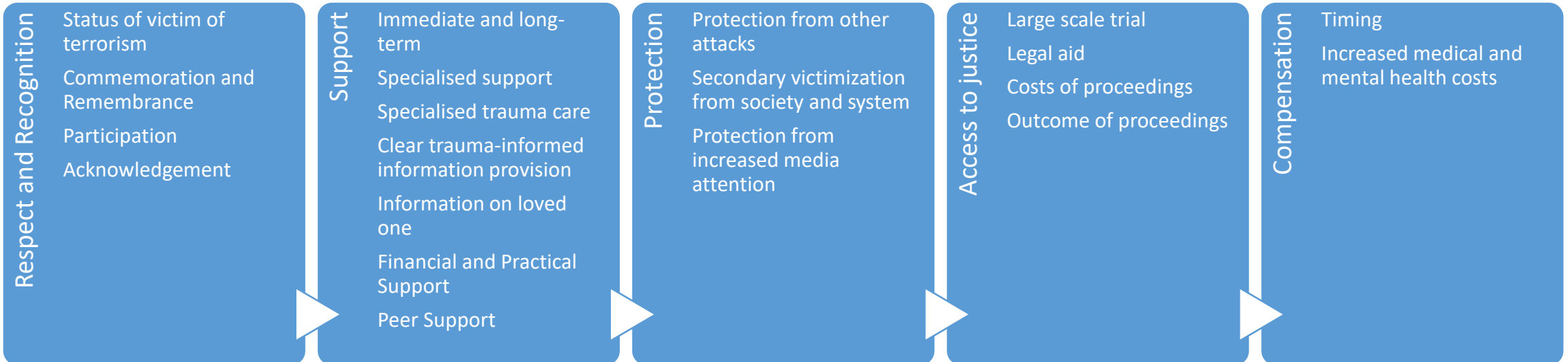
Needs of victims of terrorism



Victims of Terrorism – similar or different?

- o Victims of terrorism – similar or different ?
- o All groups of victims are different & All individual victims' needs are particular
- o Characteristics of terrorist attacks that influence specific needs
 1. Terrorism aims to harm individuals as representatives of the larger society, the state or values
 2. Impact of terrorism on the whole society
 3. Chaos in daily life
 4. Immediate news story

Specific needs for victims of terrorism



Respect and recognition

- o Recognition as victims of terrorist attacks and Acknowledgement
 - o A greater responsibility for the state
 - o A victims' statute
- o Participation – beyond criminal, civil, administrative proceedings also in policy and legislation – in a genuine and timely manner – outcome that reflects this. Consider hurdles of e.g. cross-border victims
- o Commemoration events and setting up memorials

Support

- o Rights under the EU Directive on Victims' Rights
- o Immediate phase & Long-term
- o General and specialist
- o Comprehensive support
- o Victim-oriented

Support - Information

- o Balance between public interest and need to protect individual vulnerabilities
- o Consistent – between channels
- o Swift– social media
- o Correct - truth
- o Avoid unnecessary waiting – communication about the procedure
- o Trauma-informed communication
- o Information on direct victims for loved ones

Support – Emotional and psychological

- o Increased risk of psychological problems
- o Increased risk of development of Post Traumatic Stress disorder – need for specialised care
- o Perspective of victims: Need for specialised practitioners – Terrorist attacks affect also practitioners

Support – Financial support

- o Not financial compensation by the state – financial needs that are not necessarily covered by these compensation systems
- o Financial support to deal with the different consequences of the attack
 - o E.g. buying glasses, transport, flight to victim, loss of income, costs of changing jobs,...

Support – Practical support

- o transportation from the place of the incident back home and finding, a place to stay if they are not close to home, to arranging and rescheduling travel back home, if they are from abroad, dog that is home without food
- o Individual and victim-oriented approach
- o Community response – social media offers

Support – Peer support

- Sharing a particular experience
- Helping each other
- Trying to recover memory
- Examples in all EU MS that were faced with terrorist attacks
- Online peer support initiatives

Protection – Physical Protection

- o Absence of personal relationship
- o Especially when is under threat

Protection – Secondary victimisation

- o Unsupportive, victim-blaming reaction – ETA or IRA
- o Information about death or injury
- o Difficult administrative procedures, unrespectful reactions, minimisation of harm, additional burden

Protection – Victimization through media

- o 24/7 coverage can increase PTSD in the general population
- o Triggers
- o Privacy and confidentiality
- o Social media and changing of the news methodology

Access to justice

- o Access to justice or compensation require often a lawyer
- o Need for support throughout the procedure
- o Legal Aid
- o Cost of proceedings
- o Outcome of proceedings

Compensation

- o Recognition of the harm
- o Financial restitution for the harm done by the attack and its direct effects
- o Solidarity
- o Challenges
 - o Complex
 - o Bureaucratic
 - o highly variable
 - o High financial burden
 - o Timing