

EUROPEAN CENTRE OF EXPERTISE FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM (EU CVT)

Planning for the Response to Victims of Terrorism

Hybrid Training Course for Professionals

Online and In-person

Objective

Europe has a long history and experience of terror attacks, especially in recent years. Emergency planning systems are in place to deal with major incidents, but there are specific needs and long-term implications for those affected by terrorism – those bereaved, survivors, bystanders and responders.

This interactive and experiential hybrid course will provide professionals who have a responsibility to respond to and support victims of terrorism, with the tools to ensure that the needs of victims of terrorism are taken care of, enabling their journey of recovery to be well supported in the short, medium and long-term following an attack. It includes people affected by attacks taking place in country or abroad.

The course methodology includes online and in-person individual learning exercises, group activities, and scenario-based learning, as well as an assignment after the learning modules have been completed.

Who is it for?

The course is for representatives of national authorities who are responsible for the management and care of victims of terrorism, including law enforcement, members of the judiciary, prosecutors, major incident response planners, emergency services, representatives of compensation authorities, national victim support organisations as well as other professionals with a demonstrated professional interest in issues of victims of terrorism.

What is the commitment?

The course is a combination of self-guided and on-site learning. Further details can be found in Annex 1:

Section 1: Online (4-5 hours)

Section 2: In person training (6-8 hours)

Section 3: Online (5-6 hours including final assignment)

All sections must be completed to receive certification and an invitation to join the EU CVT Hub of Experts.

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On-site learning days

On-site learning days are grouped by country of residence of the participants. The dates and locations are below. Please note that there is a small budget to assist those travelling to a country outside of their normal residence – please indicate if you will need travel support.

EUCVT Hybrid Training				
Course no.	Date	Country of Residence Groups	Training Location	Closing date for applications
1	04 June 2024	Belgium (French part), France, Luxembourg	Paris, France	14 May 2024
2	10 June 2024	Belgium (Flemish part), Germany, Ireland, Netherlands	Brussels, Belgium	14 May 2024
3	13 June 2024	Italy, Portugal, Spain	Madrid, Spain	16 May 2024
6	7 October 2024	Estonia, Finland, Sweden	Tallin, Estonia	TBC

Training dates and locations for other Member States will be advertised soon.

Language

Courses will be held in English (at an active participation level). Provision is being made for French and Spanish versions to take place later this year.

Register

To register for the training, please click on the [Application Form link](#) and complete all sections. There are a limited number of places, so you must be able to commit to participation in all online and in-person sessions. Further information and joining instructions will be sent to you on acceptance of your application.

If you have any difficulties or questions, please email: eucvt@victimsupporteurope.eu.

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Course structure and content

Section 1 - Online Session (Preparation for the onsite training)

Duration: Approximately 4-5 hours

Format: Self-paced learning for participants to complete before the onsite session, virtual presentations.

Unit 1: Information for Victims

- Best practices for providing information for victims.
- Sharing information about available resources and support services for victims.

Unit 2: Effective Communication

- Identifying potential communication barriers and strategies to overcome them.
- Understanding the importance of effective communication when dealing with victims of terrorism.
- Active listening techniques and communication skills.

Unit 3: Prevention of Secondary Victimization

- Understanding secondary victimisation.
- Avoiding secondary victimisation and re-traumatisation.

Section 2: Onsite Training

Duration: One full day (approximately 6-8 hours)

Format: Individual learning exercises, group activities, and scenario-based learning

Unit 4: Psycho-Trauma

- Introduction to Psychological Trauma – definition of trauma and its effects on victims of terrorism victims and their families.
- Common trauma reactions and coping strategies.
- Trauma-informed care and best practices for supporting victims.

Unit 5: Crisis Intervention

- Crisis intervention skills to address immediate needs of victims.
- Assessing risk and safety considerations during crisis situations.
- Techniques for de-escalation and stabilising victims in crisis (e.g. grounding techniques etc).

Unit 6: Psychological First Aid

- Introduction to Psychological First Aid (PFA) principles and guidelines.
- Practicing PFA techniques.

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Section 3 - Online Session (Following the onsite training)

Duration: Approximately 5-6 hours (1.5 for professional well-being and 3-4 for final assignment)

Format: Self-paced learning for participants to complete after the onsite session, virtual presentations.

Unit 7: Introduction to professional well-being

- Recognising the potential impact of vicarious trauma on professionals working with victims of terrorism
- Understanding the importance of self-care for responders.
- Self-assessment and coping strategies for dealing with emotional challenges.
- Strategies to maintain personal well-being and prevent burnout.

Unit 8: Practical application assignment – interventions after a terrorist attack

- Case study of a terror attack
- Application of providing information for victims and effective communication with victims
- Application of crisis intervention
- PFA Brainteaser - potential impact of terrorism on responders

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About EU CVT

The EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EU CVT) is set up and run by the European Commission to offer expertise, guidance and support to national authorities and victim support organisations. The Centre helps to ensure that national structures offer professional assistance and support to victims of terrorism in every EU country. It further promotes exchange of best practices and sharing of expertise among practitioners and specialists across borders.

In February 2023, the European Commission awarded a two-year contract to deliver the tasks of next stage of the Centre to the partnership led by Victim Support Europe (VSE) and joined by France Victimes, Asociación Víctimas de Terrorismo (AVT), V-Europe, the European Network on Victims' Rights (AENVVR) and the Directorate General for Victims of Terrorism of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Spain (the DGAVT).

About the EU CVT Hub of Expertise

Since March 2021, the Hub of Expertise allows national authorities and victim support organisations in the Member States to exchange knowledge and experience on the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. In particular, those who have already assisted victims of terrorism can share knowledge with their colleagues in the EU countries not directly affected by terrorist attacks. The Hub also promotes a better flow of information across borders and contributes to the creation of effective response structures for victims of terrorism in general and cross-border terrorism victims in particular.

Contact

Please contact eucvt@victimssupporteurope.eu, for information about the dates and locations of the training.