

## VSE GENERAL MEETING 2022

06/06/2023, 14:00 – 18:00 CEST

Venue: Meeting Room Grenander 1 / H4 Hotel

Address: Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 32, 10178 Berlin, Germany

### Minutes

KEY		
Rosa Jansen	<b>RJ</b>	President
Petra Klein	<b>PK</b>	Vice-President
Levent Altan	<b>LA</b>	Executive Director
Iris Lokerse	<b>IL</b>	Policy Assistant
Keti Varoshlija-Botterman	<b>KVB</b>	Junior Administrative Officer
Bianca Biwer	<b>BB</b>	Weisser Ring Germany

#### Welcoming Remarks by VSE President Rosa Jansen

RJ opened the Annual General meeting by expressing her gratitude to Weisser Ring for organising and hosting the event, and to the entire membership for their work. She also gave members information on the next conferences: **in 2024, Zagreb Croatia, hosted by Victims and Witness Support Service Croatia and in 2025, Lisbon Portugal, hosted by APAV.** She noted that this year's meeting will be more dynamic and will only address the work issues that are most relevant and beneficial to VSE members. The Meeting will not feature updates and achievements from the first half of 2023. All relevant information is available on our intranet. She then outlined the day's programme, highlighting the discussion session devoted to VSE's strategy and its future, as well as 116 helplines.

**Minutes from previous meeting:** members voted on the minutes of the 09 December 2022 General Meeting. Minutes were approved with minor changes.

#### Victim Support Europe: Presentation of the Financial Report

LA thanked the members for their presence today. Before he spoke about VSE's finances, he apologised for the delay in producing the finance report. He mentioned that we faced major difficulties in conducting the audit in February and March. However, we have now completed the 2022 operating grant audit and

are able to submit our report to the commission on time. The final audit will be conducted by a new accountant and an online meeting will be organised to vote on and approve the annual accounts.

LA gave an overview of the 2022 and 2023 financial report. He noted a 23% increase in income as compared to 2021, as well as a 38% increase in expenditure, compared to 2021. He highlighted that, from these income and expenditure figures, as determined by our accounts, in 2022 VSE had a deficit of 76,020 euros, which represents 0.5% of VSE expenses. (20k of this deficit was because part of OPP contract income couldn't be recognized in 2022 and was thus moved to income for 2023). Due to this deficit, we have a 25% decrease to our 2021 reserves. Furthermore, he mentioned that, with the growth of VSE (number of staff, number of projects, total income and expenditures), requires that VSE reviews its reserves policy and sets a new reserve level in the next 24 months, to meet this growth and to keep VSE safe from future risks.

As for the 2023 financial situation, based on anticipated income and expenditure, we expect to have a surplus of 29,785 euros, a 12% increase in income as compared to 2022, and a 4% increase in expenditure as compared to 2022. This will increase our reserves by 13%.

### **Presentation and short introduction of new VSE members**

IL presented VSE's new members with help from their representatives:

- Guernsey Victim Support and Witness Service – Guernsey – in-person presentation by Ms. Jenny Murphy.
- Vilnius Institute for Advanced Studies (VILIAS) – Lithuania, presented by IL
- VALIDITY – in-person presentation by Ms. Paola Grenier.
- Office for the Commissioner for Victims of Crime - Northern Ireland – video presentation.
- DROGA Association – Poland - video presentation.

### **Presentation of new VSE Staff members**

KVB introduced the new VSE staff members and noted that VSE has not only grown as an organisation but has increased its staff numbers. In 2019, there were 7 staff members, while today we number 26 staff members, including our contractors, volunteers and interns.

She gave the floor to each of the staff members present and introduced the new staff member.

**Wali Jan Farhodi** – Senior Project officer

### Voting for new Board members

KVB presented the three candidates and gave them each the opportunity to present themselves either in-person or via a short video presentation.

First, she gave the floor to **Martyn Herward from VS England and Wales** who was present at the meeting.

She announced that, due to force majeure neither of the other nominees, **Miren Spek from Victim and Witness Support Services Croatia** and **Tobias Koertner from Weisser Ring Austria**, were able to join the meeting in-person; she ask for those present to pay attention to their video presentations instead.

Before the voting began, she announced the voting procedures. As 11 out of 17 full members were represented at the meeting, a quorum was met. All three candidates were voted in, with support of the members present.

### Round table discussion on members' activities and VSE operational priorities and challenges led by Capacity Building Team.

The second part of the day was devoted to round table discussions on VSE's strategy, the future of VSE, and 116 helplines.

### Closing Remarks by VSE Vice President Petra Klein

PK thanked everyone for bringing their expertise and experience to the table and engaging in such a fruitful, constructive and open session on the future of VSE. She also welcomed VSE's new Board members

After that, she briefly gave the floor to BB, who introduced the upcoming programme of conference side events.