

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2021

CONTENT :

1. FROM THE EDITORS
2. VSE LAST MINUTE NEWS
3. LATEST PUBLICATIONS
4. NEWS FROM MEMBERS
5. MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

- 01.

FROM THE EDITORS

Dear VSE members, partners and friends,

As we all know - 2020 will be a year we will never forget. We've learned to adapt, to be flexible in how we work and learn, and to be creative in providing remote and online support. As we look forwards, we should continue to stay positive and strong, ready to adapt to the changes this year will bring.

Our 2021 starts with the launch of our brand new website, the launch of a new information campaign, three new publications, and two new projects! Our new social hub and a training platform will be premiered in the spring months.

We've said good-bye to 2020 and-jumped into 2021 with renewed vigour.

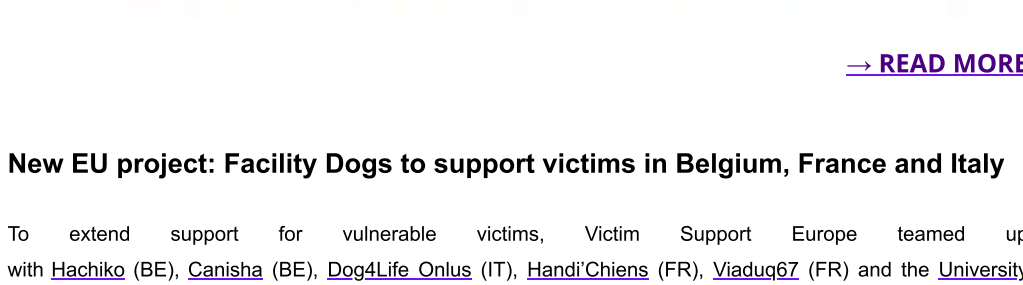
Read on and stay safe and healthy!!!

- 02.

VSE LAST MINUTE NEWS

Victim Support Europe launches new website to expand public's knowledge about victims' rights

WITH COVID-19 creating an unprecedented rise in the number of victims of crime seeking support, Victim Support Europe's new website comes at a time when connecting victims to frontline support services and being able to access digital resources quickly and easily is critical.



[→ READ MORE](#)

Victim Support Europe and partners launch a campaign 'You won't believe it, but it exists' to inform victims about available EU support services

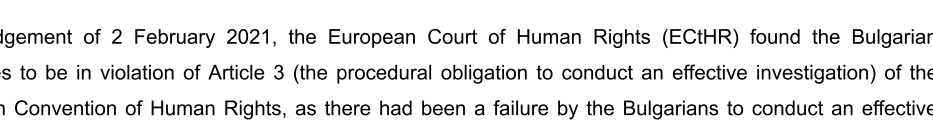
On the European Day for Victims of Crime, Victim Support Europe launched its **"You won't believe, but it exists"** information campaign. Involving 14 partners across 13 countries, the campaign intends to provide the public with information on victim support services and to encourage victims to reach out these services.

The campaign will deliver tailored information about the support services to the estimated more than 9 million of victims of crimes. Animation speed-paintings, videos and other information means (billboards, posters, brochures, stickers, etc.) will be rolled out offline and in social media from 22 of February till the end of 2021 under the hashtag #itexists.

[→ READ MORE](#)

New EU project: Facility Dogs to support victims in Belgium, France and Italy

To extend support for vulnerable victims, Victim Support Europe teamed up with **Hachiko** (BE), **Canisha** (BE), **Dog4Life Onlus** (IT), **Handi'Chiens** (FR), **Viadug67** (FR) and the **University College of Cork** (UCC) (IE), to launch the first multi-national effort in the EU to train and place facility dogs (FYDO) in Belgium, Italy and France. The effort is supported by the experts from the **Courthouse Dogs Foundation** – the global pioneers of facility dogs.



[→ READ MORE](#)

The INFOVICTIMS III project officially kicked off!

INFOVICTIMS III is the third INFOVICTIMS project and aims to develop new, updated information for victims of crime and, in addition to those Member States included in previous editions, to extend the project to even more EU countries. Ultimately, INFOVICTIMS III will provide more information on Member State criminal justice systems, the rights of victims of crime, and how victims can exercise their rights.

Victim Support Europe's role in the project is to raise awareness of the roles the police and judicial authorities play in providing information to victims of crime, and to raise awareness of victims' rights in the broader public domain. As the European Network of victim support organisations, VSE is best placed to take responsibility to disseminate the project at the EU level, bringing together its members in the field of victim support and its European and international networks of experts.

VSE will provide data for Member State fact sheets, integrate the information with the [Victim Support Europe's interactive map](#) and will run an online information campaign to publicly announce.



[→ READ MORE](#)

Bulgarian authorities condemned by the European Court of Human Rights over lack of investigation into allegations of child sexual abuse

In its judgement of 2 February 2021, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) found the Bulgarian authorities to be in violation of Article 3 (the procedural obligation to conduct an effective investigation) of the European Convention of Human Rights, as there had been a failure by the Bulgarians to conduct an effective investigation into allegations of sexual abuse in an orphanage.

[→ READ MORE](#)

The results of the first-ever EU-wide survey on crime victimisation are published

We are pleased to bring to your attention the results of [the first-ever EU-wide survey on crime victimisation](#) published yesterday by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

The FRA survey details the experiences and opinions of 35,000 people from 29 countries. It gives the most detailed picture ever of crimes ranging from violence and harassment to burglary and online fraud.



FRA also breaks down the results by gender, age, income and educational level to help identify and support those most at risk.

[→ READ MORE](#)

Become our Victim Support Ambassador

Our Victim Support Ambassador initiative is the ultimate next level of engagement for those committed to advancing victim support services and victims' rights around the world. Your ideas and unique perspective, plus our EU-wide reach and expertise, equals an unstoppable force for good.

Victim Support ambassadors are on the frontlines of victim support community, leading the online and offline activities to engage the public and inspire real change. Victim support ambassadors host entertaining and educational events and activities, participate in campaigns, and meet with politicians and business leaders.

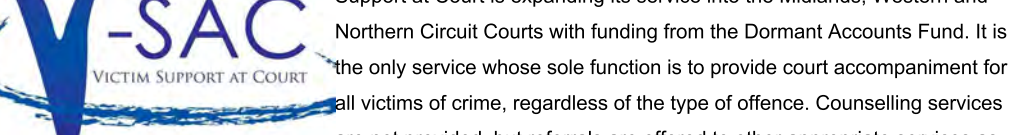
Do you know someone who should be our Victim Support Ambassador? Spread the news! If you are interested in being our ambassador, you can also apply directly! Check out more info at this [link](#).

[→ APPLY TODAY](#)



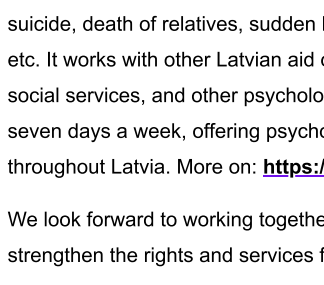
BECOME OUR VICTIM SUPPORT AMBASSADOR

<http://itexists.vse-campaign.eu/>



- 03.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS



Victim Support Europe is proud to launch its position paper on 116 006 helplines for victims of crime

In 2009, the European Commission created the **116 006 helpline**, a pan-European number for all victims of crime.

In many cases, victims do not seek face-to-face support provided in an office, but they may call a helpline or search for information online. The 116 006 helplines can offer a wide range of services to those who have been involved in a crime: they can receive information about their rights, they can receive tailored support, and can be redirected to another service if necessary.

In 2021, only **13 Member States** have operational 116 006 helplines in place.

VSE sets out recommendations for the European Union and its members States and calls for:

- The establishment and funding of 116 006 helplines in all EU member States
- Minimum operational requirements for service providers running a 116 006 helpline
- Minimum quality standards for service providers running a 116 006 helpline

[→ DIRECT DOWNLOAD](#)

- 04.

NEWS FROM VSE MEMBERS

CROATIA: We are pleased to inform you that on January 22, 2021 we've organised the first mobile team on the island of Brač (Bijeli Krug).

[→ READ MORE](#)

FRANCE: Orphée, a dog which helps release the words of victims (Viadug France Victims 67)

[→ READ MORE](#)

FINLAND: Large scale data breach against a psychotherapy center (RIKU)

[→ READ MORE](#)

GERMANY: Improving coordination of victim support in Berlin (Arbeitskreis der Opferhilfen)

[→ READ MORE](#)

GERMANY: Victims' rights – early psychotherapeutic intervention in trauma outpatient care (Weisser Ring)

[→ READ MORE](#)

ITALY: Winter 2021 News from Associazione Libria Onlus, Italy

[→ READ MORE](#)

NORTHERN IRELAND: Winter 2021 News from Victim Support Northern Ireland

[→ READ MORE](#)

PORTUGAL: Winter 2021 News Update from The Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV)

[→ READ MORE](#)

- 05.

VSE NEW MEMBERS

We are thrilled to welcome two new members from Ireland and Latvia to our victim support family: Victim Support at Court (Ireland) and Association "Skalbes" (Latvia).

V-SAC has a national presence in the Criminal Courts of Justice at Parkgate Street, Dublin, but the cases it handles originate from all parts of the country. V-SAC also operates in Tallaght District Court, Blanchardstown District Court and the Eastern and South Eastern regional courts. Victim Support at Court is expanding its service into the Midlands, Western and Northern Circuit Courts with funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund. It is the only service whose sole function is to provide court accompaniment for all victims of crime, regardless of the type of offence. Counselling services are not provided, but referrals are offered to other appropriate services as and when required. More on: www.vvsac.ie

Association "Skalbes" was established in 1997 as Crisis Telephone and was the first crisis intervention centre in Latvia. Crisis Centre "Skalbes" was opened in 1999 with support from the Phare Consensus program, and was the first professional crisis intervention centre in Latvia. Since then, the centre has received substantial funding from Riga Municipality for its project "24-hour psychological help for citizens of Riga city". The aim of this non-governmental organization is to provide 24-hour intervention services for for children and adults in crisis situations. "Skalbes" primary activity is to provide in-walk and telephone psychological consultations for spousal abuse, child abuse, suicide, death of relatives, sudden loss of work, loneliness, terminal illness, etc. It works with other Latvian aid organizations in Latvia: police, hospitals, social services, and other psychological aid organizations. Crisis Telephone line **7222922** is available 24 hours, seven days a week, offering psychological consultations and information about available aid throughout Latvia. More on: <https://www.skalbes.lv/en/>

We look forward to working together with you, dear members, as we continue to expand our global reach to strengthen the rights and services for all victims of crime in Europe and beyond.

- **Editor:** Marina Kazakova

About Victim Support Europe

Victim Support Europe is the leading European umbrella organisation advocating on behalf of all victims of crime, no matter what the crime, no matter who the victim is. VSE represents 61 national member organisations, providing support and information services to more than 2 million people affected by crime every year in 31 countries.

- **Contact Victim Support Europe:**

+32 23460455 | info@victimsupporteurope.eu <https://victim-support.eu/>

With Financial support from the Justice Programme of the European Union

