

Who

This project targets groups of victims of hate crimes and organizations advocating for their rights, namely: migrants – in particular undocumented ones, asylum seekers and refugees, Roma people and LGBTI persons. A particular attention will be paid to refugees and asylum seekers who are at the moment among the most vulnerable victims of hate motivated offences across Europe.

When

From August 2017 to July 2019

Where

- Austria
- Germany
- Italy
- Croatia

Information

For more information visit our website at:
www.vstart.eu

Partnership



COSPE Onlus | www.cospe.org



Human Rights House Zagreb | www.kucaljudskihprava.hr



ZARA - Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work
www.zara.or.at



Efms - European Forum for Migration Studies
www.efms.uni-bamberg.de

This publication was funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020). The content of this publication represents the views of the authors only and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

V-START

Victim Support
Through Awareness
Raising
and neTworking



Co-funded by the European Union's
Justice Programme

The project

A hate crime is any crime or incident which targets at a victim because of the offender's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group to which the victim belongs. (i.e. migrants, minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ persons etc.). This type of crime constitutes a message sent not only to the individual victim, but also to other persons who belong to the same group as the victim. A bias-motivated offence has also the potential to incite followers.

Hate crimes are daily realities throughout the EU and a major challenge in countering them is the phenomenon of under-reporting of such of crimes. The reasons for not reporting hate incidents include the failure to identify them as crimes, fear of retaliation, distrust of law enforcement services and the criminal justice system, lack of knowledge of support services and how to access them.

This project will contribute to overcome these problems through the creation of national victims support networks which will strengthen the present capacity of CSOs advocating for victims' rights to support victims. Through the networks, victims will be encouraged to report incidents and made aware of their rights and the opportunities offered by specific victim support services. Information and awareness raising activities of the project aim to ensure that these crimes do not remain unreported and unprosecuted, thereby making victims invisible.

Objectives

V-Start focuses on the implementation of the EC Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

V-Start's main goal is:

- to strengthen victims' awareness of support services
- making it easier for them to access existing legal remedies and protect their fundamental rights

The project also aims at:

- improving the system of support services for victims of hate crimes
- enhancing knowledge and skills of professionals
- linking up support services, CSOs and legal practitioners
- promoting cooperation and exchange amongst them

What

The main activities and outputs of the project include:

- **A study in each country** to map and outline the characteristics of national systems of victim support services and to identify ways of improving assistance and support for victims of hate crimes.
- **Local networks of CSOs** dealing with discrimination and hate crimes and offering victims support will create an **exchange mechanism** among the main stakeholders, in order to improve their knowledge base and victims support activities.
- **Training courses for CSOs, public services, legal practitioners and police officers** will be conducted and four manuals will be compiled to enhance knowledge and skills of professionals working with real or potential victims of hate crimes.
- **Information and awareness raising campaigns**, including four practical guides for real and potential victims of hate crimes, to spread information about support services and increase awareness about available assistance, support and legal resources, will be conducted.