

Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR)

Project Summary

EStAR is a two-year project, implemented by the OSCE/ODIHR and VBRG - Association of Counseling Centers for Victims of Right-wing, Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence in Germany. The project is supported by the EU Commission and the Government of Germany. The project will have a victim-centered approach, produce tools for improving protection and services for hate crimes victims and build capacity of service providers.

The project pursues the following objectives:

- raise awareness of the OSCE/EU commitments, standards and good practice in hate crime victim support among criminal justice and victim support experts and practitioners
- inform and encourage development of structural co-operation frameworks to protect and support hate crime victims
- provide tools for capacity development of criminal justice system and victim support actors to protect, engage with, and assist hate crime victims.

The project will achieve these objectives through:

- establishing the first dedicated network of experts in hate crime victim support structures and specialist services both from Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and state structures. Membership in the network is open for representatives from EU Member States, as well as candidate or associated countries that are also OSCE participating States, all in all 41 countries. The network is designed to gather and exchange expertise on specific aspects of hate crime victim support, and create a community of experts to channel and exchange expertise, experience and knowledge
- developing structures for hate crime victim support
- providing tools for capacity development of criminal justice system actors to protect, engage with and assist hate crime victims
- producing model quality standards on individual needs assessment
- raising overall awareness on hate crime victim support and conducting advocacy.

Within the framework of the project analytical and practical tools will be developed, among them:

- analytical report of the needs of hate crime victims, focusing on gender and intersectional perspectives
- baseline report on hate crime victims support in selected project countries
- diagnostic tools to assess the state of play in hate crime victims support structures
- guidance of sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims by the authorities, and an accompanying training module
- model quality standards on individual needs assessment (INA)
- policy brief on specialized support.

The project envisions a number of study visits to countries with good practices of effective collaboration between CSOs and government structures; workshops for practitioners in selected countries to pilot the use of diagnostic tools, developed within the project and followed by country-specific recommendations for national authorities; training course on sensitive and respectful treatment of victims, etc. Apart from these activities, the project will organize two conferences for network members and produce webinars on hate crime victims needs assessment and respectful handling in criminal proceedings. The network members will be informed about project activities through a quarterly newsletter, and network members will be encouraged to actively engage with each other using secure online tools.

Overall, the project will contribute to raising awareness, generating information and knowledge to strengthen national systems, producing practical tools for building stakeholders' capacities to ensure support and protection of hate crime victims, as well as improving cooperation among multiple stakeholders and service-providers.



Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) is implemented by OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in partnership with the Association of Counseling Centers for Victims of Right-wing, Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence in Germany (VBRG). It is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020) and the Federal Government of Germany.

