



VicTory Newsletter

Edition #2, February 2026

Spotlight on Work Package 3

Promoting Long-Lasting and Effective Multi-Agency Cooperation in the Field of Victims' Rights and Support

As part of the VicTory Project's commitment to strengthening victims' rights through coordinated and sustainable responses, **Work Package 3 (WP3)** has focused on promoting long-lasting and effective multi-agency cooperation in the field of victims' rights and support. Led by the Faculty of Law of the University of Porto (**FDUP**), public authorities, justice professionals, victim support services, and civil society organisations got together to reinforce the importance of structured and victim-centred cooperation across sectors and borders.

Throughout its implementation, WP3 delivered a series of multi-agency cooperation activities, including *National and EU-wide Workshops (VNCWs)* and a *Cross-Country Seminar (VCS)*. These initiatives allowed for exchange, peer learning, and joint reflection, enabling practitioners and policymakers from different countries to share experiences, identify common challenges, and highlight effective cooperation models in the field of victims' support.

Building on these collective efforts, WP3 is now reaching its final stage with the consolidation of its key outputs: **a practical handbook on multi-agency cooperation** and an **online networking platform** designed to support cross-sectoral and international collaboration. These tools capture the knowledge generated throughout in the project to ensure their long-term impact, providing accessible guidance and resources to professionals seeking to strengthen coordinated, rights-based support for victims across Europe.



Project Updates



National (and EU) Cooperation Workshops

During the second semester of 2025, the VicTory Project carried out a series of multi-agency cooperation workshops, aimed at **strengthening awareness of the value of coordinated approaches** in victim support. These events enabled professionals to reflect on shared challenges, exploring practical ways to improve cooperation. Five workshops were held – online and in person – in Helsinki (May 19th, online), Brescia (July 9th, online), Lisbon (July 9th, in-person), Granada (September, 9th, online), and Budapest (September, 19th, online), gathering over 136 participants across sectors and countries. Together, these events fostered meaningful dialogue, reinforced cross-sectoral networks, and laid important groundwork for WP3 outputs, ensuring long-term impact.

[Read more about this!](#)



Cross-Country Cooperation Seminar in Bilbao

The event took place on 18 November 2025 in Bilbao, Spain, as a full-day, in-person event. Bringing together 36 stakeholders from 7 different countries and professional fields to discuss the **main findings of the cooperation workshops** and to strengthen **cross-border and multi-agency cooperation** in victim support. The programme combined plenary sessions, expert roundtables and interactive group work, focusing on inspiring practices in multi-agency cooperation, as well as their transferability. The seminar allowed to present the multi-agency cooperation framework and handbook developed, gathering final insights and expertise, alongside a demonstration of the online platform designed to support cross-sectoral cooperation.

[Read more about this!](#)



Project Updates

Transnational Consortium Meeting (TCM)

The 4th TCM marked the first in-person meeting since the VicTory’s kick-off meeting.



Held over a full day, with the host of the ARARTEKO, Ombudsman of the Basque Country, the meeting was fully dedicated to in-depth **discussion, coordination, and alignment** of the project’s ongoing and upcoming activities. It brought together **consortium partners**, fostering active participation and exchange.

This TCM played a key role in **adequately managing the project’s progress** and proved vital for VicTory’s internal communication strategy, providing a valuable and open space for **reflection, debate, and collaborative problem-solving** within the Consortium.

[**Find more about it !**](#)



VicTory at EuroCrim

The VicTory project was presented on September 4th, 2025 by Pedro Sousa (FDUP) at EuroCrim through a **poster** entitled “Implementing a restorative and victim-centred approach to mitigate hate and (violent) extremism across the EU: Insights from the VicTory project”. The poster showcased the project’s holistic, multi-method approach, highlighting its sequential stages and emphasised its focus on capacitating key professionals, promoting multi-agency cooperation, and advancing restorative and victim-centred practices across Europe. The presentation provided an overview of the consortium’s work and insights into its innovative strategies to support victims and prevent secondary victimisation.



APAV Research Award

On 5 December 2025, during the APAV (Portuguese Association for Victim Support) Research Award 2025 ceremony held at APAV’s headquarters, an honourable mention was awarded to the VicTory project team, for the work entitled “*The needs of victims of hate and violent extremism-related incidents and institutional responses in Portugal and Europe*”.

This award recognises original scientific research that advances knowledge in the fields of victimology, justice, and social support, contributing to the improvement of institutional responses to victims of crime in Portugal.





Upcoming/On-going Events

Date	Event	Location
10.02.2026 – 12.02.2026	1st Experience and Expertise Exchange (EEE)	Brescia, Italy
21.04.2026 – 23.04.2026	2nd Experience and Expertise Exchange (EEE)	Budapest, Hungary
June of 2026	3rd Experience and Expertise Exchange (EEE)	Helsinki, Finland

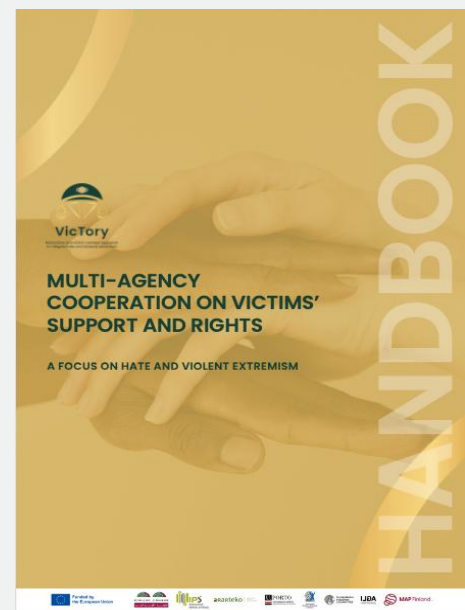
In Focus

A **framework on multi-agency cooperation in victim support** was elaborated by FDUP, in close collaboration with all project partners and external experts, ensuring its coherent and evidence-based nature, in close alignment with European standards.

This framework, structured as a handbook **aims** to:

- △ Showcase principles and processes for effective, coordinated victim support across agencies.
- △ Highlight the difference between general victim measures and tailored responses for hate crimes and violent extremism.
- △ Turn EU policies and legal instruments into practical guidance for daily professional use.
- △ Provide a foundation for tools, case studies, and good-practice examples.

A particularly important contribution was made by the **Framework Revision Committee**, which met online on three occasions to guarantee quality, practitioner relevance, and practical applicability. The Revision Committee





was composed by external professionals, as well as Consortium members. These revision milestones focused on refining the content, defining the structure, and tailoring the guidance to the needs of professionals working with victims, including both general recommendations and specific guidance for victims of hate crime and violent extremism-related incidents.

With the final revision underway, the **handbook will be launched soon** – stay tuned!

Resources & Publications

Justice Trends Publication

An article on the VicTory project was recently featured in **JUSTICE TRENDS**, a leading publication developed and published by IPS Innovative Prison Systems.

The article highlights the prevalence of hate-motivated incidents across European societies, and the challenges victims face in coming forward and obtaining the support and reparation they need.

The piece introduces the VicTory project and its core objectives, focusing on the need to strengthen victim-centred responses to hate crimes and violent extremism across Europe. It outlines how the project addresses existing gaps in victim support by promoting coordinated, multi-agency cooperation and by supporting professionals from both governmental and civil society organisations.

Finally, it also presents VicTory's holistic and restorative-led approach, aligned with the EU Strategy for Victims (2020–2025), highlighting how this framework aims to prevent secondary victimisation, improve access to support and information, and empower both victims and affected communities.

See it [here!](#)

Next important steps



To deepen the project’s commitment to invest in cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation, a digital cooperation platform is under development.

This platform aims to promote clear pathways to cooperation, bringing professionals together to benefit from shared events, participatory forums, case management databases. Moreover, the platform will provide practitioners with access to key resources developed throughout the project.

By facilitating the exchange of information, the platform aims to improve cooperation opportunities and reduce fragmentation in victim support responses.

Voices From The Field



Eszter Kirs | Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Corvinus University of Budapest

The drafting and review of the VicTory Handbook on Multi-Agency Cooperation on Victims’ Support and Rights were inclusive at all stages of its development. The authors repeatedly consulted experts representing the perspectives of several relevant agencies and different national contexts throughout the work process, from outlining its concept to finalising its text. Online meetings and written exchange of ideas ensured that key conceptual and practical concerns regarding victims’ support and representation were duly reflected on and addressed in the Handbook.



Dra. Emanuela Biffi |
Programme Coordinator
and projects event officer
at the European Forum for
Restorative Justice

I think it's also really important in these cases [hate crime and violent extremism] to think about multi-agency cooperation, how different services cooperate. There should be a crossover of information to avoid the overburden of repeating the same story all over again, and to allow that these stories are shared among the people themselves who wish to engage in such a dialogue.



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