





## **Summary Article 21**

- In most countries, there is still a lot of work to do to protect the privacy of road traffic victims.
- Except for 3 countries, there exist no bodies which monitor the privacy rights of victims with regard to the media (Q1).
- However, in 2 of the 3 countries where such body exists, it is easily accessible for victims (Q2).
- Most governments did not take any new or specific actions following the Directive in order to protect the rights to privacy of victims (Q3).
- The situation concerning self-regulatory measures taken by the media is very different between the countries (Q4).

### Recommendations

- It is recommended that countries with no monitoring body for the privacy of victims take steps to set up such a body.
- Furthermore, most Member States need to reflect on actions needed in order to protect the rights to privacy of victims, as the Directive dictates.







### **Conclusions**

As exposed in the DG Justice Guidance Document the aim of the Directive is to strengthen the rights of the victims of crime so that any victim can rely on the same basic level of rights and receive appropriate support and protection in an individual manner, based on an individual assessment and that they can participate in the relevant criminal justice system in a respectful, tactful, individualized, professional and non-discriminating manner.

The Directive is fully binding legislation, but the extent to which victims can rely on their rights depends on the implementation (" the transposition") of the Directive by the Member States. It is important to know how victims themselves experience this implementation. This is precisely the aim of this survey focused on the experience of an often forgotten category of victims, namely road traffic victims. The survey is based on the data collected from respondents of organisations for traffic road victims from 15 different EU Member States.

This report had several limitations. First of all, information is limited to 15 of the 27 European Member States, bound by the Directive ( Denmark opted out). Further, as mentioned in the introduction, the interpretation of the collected data was not easy (due to: the complexity and the scope of some questions, the great variety in the quality of collected data, ...). Finally, the questionnaires were completed during the summer of 2015, i.e. several months before 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, the deadline fixed by the Directive.

On the other hand, we hope that this research collected interesting information, containing useful suggestions for improving the situation for road traffic victims and/or their relatives.

#### Recommendations

#### On the general position of road traffic victims:

- Effforts are needed to convince the Member States:
  - 1° that road traffic offences should always be criminalised when they result in people being injured or killed and
  - 2° that, to the largest extent possible, any act or failure to act which causes the injury of death to another person should be criminalised in order to offer the victim of such act the protection envisaged by the Directive."
- In many Member States extra efforts to communicate unambiguously about the legal status of road traffic victims are needed.
- Road victim associations furthermore ask to include also the families of severely injured victims, they should have the same rights as the bereaved families.

#### With respect to the right to understand and be understood:

- State authorities could spend more efforts to provide simple and accessible information to victims.
- Especially, more attention is needed for the clarity of this information.
- Moreover the vulnerability and personal characteristics of the victims, such as disabilities, should be taken into account.







#### With respect to information:

- Victims should get all relevant information about their rights and about all aspects of their case.
  - In a majority of the countries more attention is needed to guarantee the rights of victims to receive information about their case.
  - The distribution of all sorts of useful information to victims can be improved in most countries.
- Victims should be informed rapidly, without any delay and in a pro-active way, tailored to their characteristics and specific needs.
- More attention is needed for the quality of the provided information, and victims should have the possibility to discuss and review information.
   Since the understanding and comprehension of victims in shock is limited and victims are very vulnerable after the road crash and possibly unable to read or access information in their grief, any information provided should be clear and simple.

### With respect to victim support:

- Existing organisations for road victims should be supported, since they meet a major need of road victims.
- It would be a huge improvement if victims would automatically get information about these organisations, as soon as possible after the crash.
- Coordination between services and/or regions on this is recommend to guarantee that victims receive this information in all situations and places.

#### With respect to compensation:

- Member states should pay more attention to realise compensation within a reasonable time.
- Furthermore, although this is not within the Directive, from the point of view of FEVR, the family of the severely injured should have the right to claim compensation for moral damage.

#### With respect to the privacy:

- It is recommended that countries with no monitoring body for the privacy of victims take steps to set up such a body.
- Furthermore, most Member States need to reflect on actions needed in order to protect the rights to privacy of victims, as the Directive dictates.

# **Appendix A: Members of FEVR**

Note: Associations in bold have co-operated with this study.

England and Wales (member)	<ul> <li>RoadPeace</li> </ul>
Turkey (member)	Suat Ayoz TRAFFIC Victims (SATMD)
Switzerland (member)	- Roadcross
Spain (member)	<ul> <li>Prevención de accidentes de Tráfico (P(A)T – AP(A)T)</li> </ul>
Slovenia (member)	Zavod Varna Pot – Safe Journey Institute (ZVP)
Scotland (partner)	Scotland's Campaign against Irresponsible Drivers (SCID)
Portugal (member)	Associação de Cidadãos Auto-Mobilizados (ACA-M)
Poland (partner)	<ul> <li>Droga i Bezpieczenstwo, Road and Safety Organisation (DIB)</li> </ul>
The Netherlands (members)	<ul><li>NAH Zorg Foundation (NAH Zorg)</li><li>Vereniging Verkeersslachtoffers (VVS)</li></ul>
Luxemburg (member)	Association nationale des Victimes de la Route (AVR)
Lebanon (members)	<ul><li>Youth Association for Social Awareness (YASA)</li><li>Foundation Zeina Hauch (FZH)</li></ul>
Romania (member)	<ul> <li>Centre Of Consultancy For The Road Victims (CCRV)</li> </ul>
Ireland (member)	<ul> <li>Irish Road Victims Association (IRVA)</li> </ul>
Italy (member)	<ul> <li>Associazione Italiana Familiari e Vittime della Strada – onlus (AIFVS)</li> <li>Fondazione Luigi Guccione (FLG) (part I)</li> </ul>
Greece (member)	<ul> <li>Hellenic Association for Road Traffic Victims (EFTHITA)</li> <li>Kostas Kouvidis - You are what u do (part I)</li> </ul>
Germany (member)	Verkehrsunfall Opferhilfe Deutschland eV (VOD)
France (member)	<ul><li>Esperanza (part I)</li><li>Victimes et Citoyens (VEC)</li></ul>
Bulgaria (partner)	<ul> <li>Association in defense of insured and injured in road crashes</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Parents d'Enfants Victimes de la Route (PEVR) / Ouders van Verongelukte Kinderen (OVK)</li> <li>Rondpunt vzw</li> </ul>
Belgium (members)	<ul> <li>Association de Parents pour la Protection des Enfants sur la Route (APPER) / Vereniging van Ouders voor de Bescherming van de Kinderen op Wegen (VO- BKW)</li> </ul>

http://fevr.org/member-organizations/

# Appendix B: Overview of replies to FEVR questionnaire

Treated Articles per country

Country			Treated	articles		
	3	4	6	8	16	21
Bulgaria	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Greece	Х	Х	Х	X	X	X
Ireland	Х	Х	Х	X	X	X
Luxemburg	X	Х	Х	X	X	X
The Netherlands	Х	Х				
<b>England and Wales</b>	X	Х	Х	X	X	
Romania	Х	Х	Х	X	X	X
Scotland	X	Х	Х	X	X	X
Belgium	Х	Х	Х	X	X	Х
Italy	X	Х	Х	X	X	
France	Х	Х	Х	X	X	X
Portugal		X	X	X		
Spain	X	Х	Х	X	X	X
Slovenia	X	X	х	X	X	X
Germany	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х
Total (of 15 countries)	14	15	14	14	13	11

## Road victims as 'victims of criminal offences'

### Definition under Article 2 (1) a

### English:

- (i) a natural person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss which was directly caused by a **criminal offence**;
- (ii) family members of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence and who have suffered harm as a result of that person's death.

### **Questionnaire FEVR-members**

DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARDS ON THE RIGHTS, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF CRIME, AND REPLACING COUNCIL FRAMEWORK DECISION 2001/220/JHA

#### Dear FEVR-members

By November 2015 all EU Members States (except Denmark) have to implement European Directive 2012/29/EU, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. At the general meeting of FEVR in September 2015 we will discuss the progress of this implementation.

In that perspective it would be very helpful if FEVR-members were to complete this questionnaire. We will present and discuss the results of our small research at the meeting in September.

Eventually the results of our findings and of the discussion at the FEVR meeting will be provided to the European Commission which, in the two coming years, will have to prepare a report on the implementation of the Directive to the European Parliament and to the Council.

If our report shows serious flaws or loopholes in the way in which the issues covered by the Directive are addressed at national level, we hope that the Commission will include this in its report and, hopefully, will also put some pressure on the Member States concerned to take the necessary action.

#### Questionnaire

We selected 6 articles of the Directive which, in our opinion, were the most relevant in order to evaluate the implementation from a road traffic victim's point of view. We added questions enabling us to check the implementation of each of these 6 articles.

May we ask you to do the following:

#### Questionnaire part I - deadline July 5:

- 1) Answer the preliminary question;
- 2) Let us know which 2 or more articles (which you consider the most relevant in your country) you will treat, in addition to article 8.

#### **Questionnaire part II - deadline August 15:**

- 3) Send us your answers relating to article 8;
- 4) Send us your answers to the 2 or more articles you selected.

For each topic you will first find a copy of the article in question. The questions you are requested to answer are then submitted below.

If you need any help or information, you can send an e-mail to president@fevr.org.

Thank you very much in advance!

### **Questionnaire part I**

(Before the July 5)

### 1. Data

Name	Add Text
Organization	Add Text
Member ass. delegate,	Add Text
for eventual questions (contact details)	
Country	Add Text

### 2. Preliminary Question

Is it clear in your country that road traffic victims (both injured and/or deceased) and their relatives are considered as 'victims of criminal offences' and must therefore benefit from the protection of the directive?

A al al 4 a 4			
Add text			

### 3. Articles you will treat (in addition to article 8)

Article 3 - Right to understand and to be understood	
Article 4 - Right to receive information from the first contact with a competent authority	
Article 6 (part a, b and c) - Right to receive information about their case	
Article 16 - Right to decision on compensation from the offender in the course of criminal proceedings	
Article 21 - Right to protection of privacy	

### **Questionnaire part II**

(Before the August 15)

### Article 3 - Right to understand and to be understood

- 1. Member States shall take appropriate measures to assist victims to understand and to be understood from the first contact and during any further necessary interaction they have with a competent authority in the context of criminal proceedings, including where information is provided by that authority.
- 2. Member States shall ensure that communications with victims are given in simple and accessible language, orally or in writing. Such communications shall take into account the personal characteristics of the victim including any disability which may affect the ability to understand or to be understood.
- 3. Unless contrary to the interests of the victim or unless the course of proceedings would be prejudiced, Member States shall allow victims to be accompanied by a person of their choice in the first contact with a competent authority where, due to the impact of the crime, the victim requires assistance to understand or to be understood.

### Questions

Yes	
No	
Undetermined	
Please explain:	
Add text  What do you thir accessible inform characteristics, ir	nk about the efforts of these authorities in general: do they provide simple and nation to road traffic victims and/or their relatives, taking into account personancluding disabilities if necessary?
Add text  What do you thir accessible inform	nation to road traffic victims and/or their relatives, taking into account persona
Add text  What do you thir accessible inform characteristics, in Add text  Are road traffic v	nation to road traffic victims and/or their relatives, taking into account persona
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Add text  What do you thir accessible inform characteristics, ir  Add text  Are road traffic v person of your ch	nation to road traffic victims and/or their relatives, taking into account personal necluding disabilities if necessary?  victims and/or their relatives in your country allowed to be accompanied by a

### Article 4 - Right to receive information from the first contact with a competent authority

- 1. Member States shall ensure that victims are offered the following information, without unnecessary delay, from their first contact with a competent authority in order to enable them to access the rights set out in this Directive:
  - (a) the type of support they can obtain and from whom, including, where relevant, basic information about access to medical support, any specialist support, including psychological support, and alternative accommodation;
  - (b) the procedures for making complaints with regard to a criminal offence and their role in connection with such procedures;
  - (c) how and under what conditions they can obtain protection, including protection measures;
  - (d) how and under what conditions they can access legal advice, legal aid and any other sort of advice;
  - (e) how and under what conditions they can access compensation;
  - (f) how and under what conditions they are entitled to interpretation and translation;
  - (g) if they are resident in a Member State other than that where the criminal offence was committed, any special measures, procedures or arrangements, which are available to protect their interests in the Member State where the first contact with the competent authority is made;
  - (h) the available procedures for making complaints where their rights are not respected by the competent authority operating within the context of criminal proceedings;
  - (i) the contact details for communications about their case;
  - (j) the available restorative justice services;
  - (k) how and under what conditions expenses incurred as a result of their participation in the criminal proceedings can be reimbursed.
- 2. The extent or detail of information referred to in paragraph 1 may vary depending on the specific needs and personal circumstances of the victim and the type or nature of the crime. Additional details may also be provided at later stages depending on the needs of the victim and the relevance, at each stage of proceedings, of such details.

Do road traffic victims and/or their relatives receive, immediately after being victim, from the authorities (which ones?), all the necessary information about the way to ensure their rights

#### Questions

0	
ndetermined	

2)	Do they receive this information spontaneously from the authorities (which one: police, public prosecutor, insurance?) or do they have to take the initiative themselves (where)?				
	Add text				
3)	Do the road traffic victims and/or their relatives receive information about:  - How and where to make a complaint?  - The criminal procedure and the position of the victim within this procedure?  - The way and the conditions to receive compensation?				
	Yes  No  Undetermined				
	Please explain:				
	Add text				
4)	<ul> <li>Do road traffic victims and/or their relatives receive information about:</li> <li>Legal advice, legal aid or other sorts of advice?</li> <li>If and how they can receive interpretation and translation of the information and during procedure?</li> </ul>				
	Yes				
	No 🗆				
	Undetermined				
	Please explain:				
	Add text				
5)	<ul> <li>Do road traffic victims and/or their relatives receive information about:</li> <li>How and where to make complaints when their rights are not respected by the authorities?</li> <li>Available restorative justice services?</li> </ul>				
	Yes				
	No 🗆				
	Undetermined				
	Please explain:				
	Add text				
6)	Do road traffic victims and/or their relatives receive information about the possibilities about reimbursement for the expenses incurred as a result of their participation in the criminal proceedings?				
	Yes				
	No 🗆				
	Undetermined				

	Please explain:	
	Add text	
7)	) Are there special measures about the dent in another Member State than	ne way information is transmitted when the victim is a resiwhere the road crash happened?
	Yes	
	No 🗆	
	Undetermined	
	Please explain:	
	Add text	
8)	•	ake into account the specific needs and personal circumes and/or their relatives (for example the problems with the
	Yes	
	No 🗆	
	Undetermined	
	Please explain:	
	Add text	

### Article 6, part a - Right to receive information about their case

1. Member States shall ensure that victims are notified without unnecessary delay of their right to receive the following information about the criminal proceedings instituted as a result of the complaint with regard to a criminal offence suffered by the victim and that, upon request, they receive such information:

	(a) any decision not to proceed with or to end an investigation or not to prosecute the offender;  (b) the time and place of the trial, and the nature of the charges against the offender.					
	(b) the time and place of the trial, and the nature of the charges against the offender.					
Que	estions					
1)	Do the competent authorities (police, public prosecutor's office, tribunal or court registrar) provide road traffic victims and/or their relatives with all necessary updated contact details through which they can request the desired information (cf. Recital 29)?					
	Yes					
	No 🗆					
	Undetermined					
	Please explain:					
	Add text					
2)	Are road traffic victims and/or their relatives rapidly informed on their right to receive information about:  1° any decision not to proceed to an investigation?  2° any decision not to prosecute the offender?  3° the time of the trial?  4° the place of the trial?  5° the nature of the charges against the offender?					
	Yes					
	No					
	Undetermined					
	Please explain:					
	Add text					
3)	Is it easy for road traffic victims and/or their relatives to file a request to obtain the above information?					
	Yes					
	No 🗆					
	Undermined					
	How is the request to be submitted? Is an oral request sufficient? Are any adapted forms pro-					

posed?

Add text	
----------	--

	No  Undetermined  Undetermined
	How rapidly? Under what form? Orally, in writing, by electronic communication?
	Add text
5)	Is the information provided satisfactory as to its content:
	<ul> <li>Are any reasons given for the decision not to proceed with the investigation, to end it or not to prosecute the offender?</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Are these reasons given in extensive form or as a 'summary'?</li> </ul>
	<ul><li>Is there an opportunity to discuss and comment?</li></ul>
	Yes
	No 🗆
	Undetermined
	Please explain:
	Add text

4)

Yes

Is the information provided when requested?

### Article 6b - Right to receive information about their case

- 2. Member States shall ensure that, in accordance with their role in the relevant criminal justice system, victims are notified without unnecessary delay of their right to receive the following information about the criminal proceedings instituted as a result of the complaint with regard to a criminal offence suffered by them and that, upon request, they receive such information:
  - (a) any final judgment in a trial;
  - (b) information enabling the victim to know about the state of the criminal proceedings, unless in exceptional cases the proper handling of the case may be adversely affected by such notification.
- 3. Information provided for under paragraph 1(a) and paragraph 2(a) shall include reasons or a brief summary of reasons for the decision concerned, except in the case of a jury decision or a decision where the reasons are confidential in which cases the reasons are not provided as a matter of national law.

#### Questions

1)	Are road traffic victims and/or their relatives rapidly informed on their right to receive infor-
	mation about:

• An	y final
• The	e state
Yes	
No	
Undetermined	
Please explain:	
Add text	
nation?	
Yes	
Yes No	
No Undetermined	ed? Is
No Undetermined	ed? Is
No Undetermined How is it submitt Add text s the information	
No Undetermined How is it submitt Add text s the information	
No Undetermined How is it submitt Add text s the information	

- 4) Paragraph 3 of Article 6 imposes an obligation to provide reasons or a brief summary of reasons of the decision to end proceedings (i.e. not to proceed with or to end investigations or not to prosecute the offender). What is the situation in your country with regard to this type of decision:
  - Is it always and rapidly notified to the road traffic victim and/or his relatives?
  - If so, are any reasons given and is it exposed whether and how such decision can be appealed against?

Yes	
No	
Undetermined	
Please explain:	
Add text	

### Article 6c - Right to receive information about their case

- 4. The wish of victims as to whether or not to receive information shall bind the competent authority, unless that information must be provided due to the entitlement of the victim to active participation in the criminal proceedings. Member States shall allow victims to modify their wish at any moment, and shall take such modification into account.
- 5. Member States shall ensure that victims are offered the opportunity to be notified, without unnecessary delay, when the person remanded in custody, prosecuted or sentenced for criminal offences

that	U	eased from or has escaped detention. Furthermore, Member States shall ensure med of any relevant measures issued for their protection in case of release or r.	
whe	re there is a dang	request, receive the information provided for in paragraph 5 at least in cases er or an identified risk of harm to them, unless there is an identified risk of harm would result from the notification.	
Que	estions		
1)		ctims and/or their relatives informed that they may, at any moment, modify r not to be kept informed?	
	Yes		
	No		
	Undetermined		
	Please explain:		
	Add text		
2)	unnecessary dela	ctims and/or their relatives offered the opportunity to be notified without the y when the person remanded in custody, prosecuted or sentenced for criminal ing them is released from or has escaped detention?	
	Yes		
	No		
	Undetermined		
	Please explain:		
	Add text		

### Article 8 - Right to access victim support services

- 1. Member States shall ensure that victims, in accordance with their needs, have access to confidential victim support services, free of charge, acting in the interests of the victims before, during and for an appropriate time after criminal proceedings. Family members shall have access to victim support services in accordance with their needs and the degree of harm suffered as a result of the criminal offence committed against the victim.
- 2. Member States shall facilitate the referral of victims, by the competent authority that received the complaint and by other relevant entities, to victim support services.
- 3. Member States shall take measures to establish free of charge and confidential specialist support services in addition to, or as an integrated part of, general victim support services, or to enable victim support organizations to call on existing specialized entities providing such specialist support. Victims, in accordance with their specific needs, shall have access to such services and family members shall have access in accordance with their specific needs and the degree of harm suffered as a result of the criminal offence committed against the victim.
- 4. Victim support services and any specialist support services may be set up as public or non-governmental organizations and may be organized on a professional or voluntary basis.
- 5. Member States shall ensure that access to any victim support services is not dependent on a victim making a formal complaint with regard to a criminal offence to a competent authority.

#### **Questions:**

Yes			
No			
Undetermined			
Please explain:			
Add text	ort service for roa	d traff	ic victims and/or their relatives exists, is it a public, a
Add text  If a special supponongovernment	al or a private org		ic victims and/or their relatives exists, is it a public, a ion and is it lead by professionals or voluntary people?
Add text  If a special supponongovernment  Public organiza	al or a private org		•

support services,	with	:h contact details —	} <b>?</b>	
Yes		1		
No				
Undetermined				
Please explain:		_		
Add text				

3) Do road traffic victims and/or their relatives automatically obtain the information where to find

### Article 16 - Right to decision on compensation from the offender in the course of criminal proceedings

- 1. Member States shall ensure that, in the course of criminal proceedings, victims are entitled to obtain a decision on compensation by the offender, within a reasonable time, except where national law provides for such a decision to be made in other legal proceedings.
- 2. Member States shall promote measures to encourage offenders to provide adequate compensation

Please explain:

to v	ictims.
Que	estions
1)	Is it possible in your country for road traffic victims and/or their relatives to obtain compensation from the person responsible for the road crash or his/her insurer in the course of the 'criminal procedure' or can such compensation only be obtained through a separate 'civil' procedure?
	Compensation trough criminal procedure
	Compensation trough civil procedure
	Please explain:
	Add text
2)	If it is possible in your country for road traffic victims and/or their relatives to obtain compensation in the course of the 'criminal procedure', is the 'reasonable time' mentioned in the Directive respected?
	Yes
	No
	Undetermined
	Please explain:
	Add text
3)	Is the 'moral damage' (= non-material and/or nonphysical damage: e.g. grieving, psychological damage as a consequence of physical impairment etc) suffered by the victim compensated?  Yes  No  Undetermined  Please explain:
	Add text
	Add text
4)	Is the moral damage suffered by the family or the relatives of the victim compensated?
	Yes
	No 🗆
	Undetermined

ured, are other	mech	nanisms foreseen to compensate the victims and/or their relatives?
Yes		
No		
Undetermined		

Add text

### **Article 21 - Right to protection of privacy**

1. Member States shall ensure that competent authorities may take during the criminal proceedings appropriate measures to protect the privacy, including personal characteristics of the victim taken into account in the individual assessment provided for under Article 22, and images of victims and of their family members. Furthermore, Member States shall insure that competent authorities may take all lawful measures to prevent public dissemination of any information that could lead to the identification of a child victim.

	or a crima victimi	
with	respect for freed	the privacy, personal integrity and personal data of victims, Member States shall, om of expression and information and freedom and pluralism of the media, entake self-regulatory measures.
Que	estions	
		your country which monitors the privacy rights of road traffic victims and/or the regard to the media?
	Yes	
	No	
	Undetermined	
	Please explain:	
	Add text	
2)	If so, is this body	easily accessible for road traffic victims and/or their relatives?
	Yes	
	No	
	Undetermined	
	Please explain:	
	Add text	
		nent take any new or specific actions following the Directive in order to protect acy, especially those of road traffic victims and/or their relatives?
	Yes	
	No	
	Undetermined	
	Please explain:	
	Add text	

No					
Undetermined					
Add text					
Which various ty	pes of appea	I does the citizen hav	e in your cour	ntry in this matter, among	which

4) Have the media taken self-regulatory measures 'In order to protect the privacy, personal integ-