



Secondary Traumatic Stress within the Judiciary and Judicial Staff: What measures to be taken?

This seminar is organized by the Judicial Training Institute (Belgium) in conjunction with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the '*Studiecentrum Rechtspleging*' (the Netherlands), the National Institute of Magistracy (Romania), the '*Escuela Judicial de Espana*' (Barcelona, Spain) and the '*Centro de Estudios Jurídicos*' (Madrid, Spain), and with financial support from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice (Specific Programme 'Criminal Justice' 2007-2013).

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Target audience

- Investigating judges,
- Judges,
- Public prosecutors,

interested in the area of victim support and in the debate on what type of psycho-social support measures should be made available for the judiciary.

Objectives

The overall objective is to sensitize magistrates for the position of victims in criminal proceedings and to identify specific psycho-social support mechanisms (with special focus on tertiary prevention) which are available within other EU Member States coping with secondary traumatic stress among judicial staff (judges, prosecutors, registrars).

The training seminar will contribute to:

- 1) the improvement knowledge of the implementation of the EU Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime which has been adopted on 25 October 2012. Member States have adopted recently new legislation and administrative provisions in order to comply with this directive.
- 2) the improvement of knowledge of the criminal law systems of the Member States by focusing on the implementation of its victim support legislation.

- 3) sensitize judges for the important position of victims in criminal proceedings;
- 4) get an overview of good practices available in other Member States on psycho-social support measures for judicial staff suffering from secondary traumatic stress.
- 5) provide a forum to exchange experiences among judicial staff from different countries.

Context

To consult the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime report please click on [Directive 2012/29/EU](#)

The directive was adopted on 25 October 2012 and entered into force on 15 November 2012. The EU Member States have to implement the provisions into their national laws by 16 November 2015. DG Justice of the Commission has issued a [guidance document](#) to assist Member States in this process. This document aims to clarify the provisions of the victims' rights directive, helping to make the rights it lays down a reality everywhere in the EU.

Dates

From Wednesday 24 September 2014 (starting at 19:00) to Friday 26 September 2014 (ending at 15:30)

Venue

Hôtel Jean de Bohême – Place aux Foires, 2 – 6940 Durbuy - Tel. +32.86.21.28.82 – www.jean-de-boheme.be

Comments

- The working languages of the seminar are English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.
- The number of participants is limited to 40 Belgian judges and public prosecutors and 52 judges and public prosecutors from the other Member States and candidate countries.
- A question time is foreseen after each presentation.
- The participants will receive appropriate documentation on the subject. The institute has a paperless-policy whereby only for exceptional cases (like practical exercises) hard-copy documentation is provided. Because of this, we ask the participants to bring their own device (laptop or tablet computer) by which they can consult the documentation. This documentation will be available via the web the week before the start of the seminar.

Programme

Chair: Ms **Edith VAN DEN BROECK**, magistrate, director of the Judicial Training Institute

Rapporteur: Ms **Inge VANFRAECHEM**, senior researcher at the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC)

1) Wednesday 24 September 2014

During the afternoon and evening: arrival of the participants at the seminar centre

18:00 Welcome - Check-in
19:00 Reception
19:45 Dinner

2) Thursday 25 September 2014

7:30 - 9:00 Breakfast

Morning session: **Does the European minimum standard encounter on a sufficient way the special needs of different kinds of victims? Best practices in the Member States.**

9:00 Registration of participants

9:15 Opening of the seminar - Welcoming speech
Ms **Edith VAN DEN BROECK**, magistrate, director of the Judicial Training Institute

9:25 ***General introduction of the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime***

Speaker:

Mr **David Mac KENNA**, President of Victim Support Europe (TBC)

9:50 ***The first aid of victims***

Speaker:

A Senior Inspector, Stress team, Federal Police (Belgium) (TBC)

Ms **Patricia VANDERLINDEN**, Senior Inspector, disaster coordinator, Disaster Victim Identification Team, Federal Police (Belgium)

10:30 ***The Belgian policy for victim support in connection with judicial proceedings: good practices in Belgium - in the different stages of the procedure until the execution of the sentences)***

Speakers:

Mr **Pierre RANS**, Advocate General at the Brussels Court of Appeal and a representant of the Directorate General Justice Houses involved in victim support

11:00 Coffee break

11:20 Continuation of ***The Belgian policy for victim support in connection with judicial proceedings***

11:45 ***How to avoid / How to manage secondary victimization and victimization among judges, prosecutors and court staff?***

Speaker:

Ms **Martine STASSIN**, psychologist, Unit for social help to victims, Brussels 2
Mr. **Jacques ROISIN**, doctor in psychology, psychoanalysis, Unit for social help to victims, Charleroi, professor at the UCL

12:30 End of the morning session

12:30 Lunch

Afternoon session: Practical exercises in workshops

14:00 ***Introduction of the different workshops***

Ms **Edith VAN DEN BROECK**, Director, Judicial Training Institute

[Note: For this purpose, the participants will be divided into four workshops in which practical case studies will be discussed and examined. The four workshops take place simultaneously and are held twice so that all participants can successively attend two of them. The attribution to two workshops shall be made on base of the priority list made by the inscription. The practical case studies will be sent to the participants shortly before the seminar. A rapporteur will be designated in each workshop to present the conclusions. The rapporteurs will be designated from amongst the registered participants before the seminar.]

14:15 ***First session of the 4 workshops***

Workshop 1: ***Emotional impact of the work: the right balance between work and private life - recognizing when one needs help - recognizing when a colleague needs assistance.***

Chair:

Mr **George SMITS**, psychologist, senior trainer at Smits en Beerend (Netherlands)

Workshop 2: ***How meeting the needs of the members of the judiciary in case of an emotional impact on their function?***

Chair:

Mr **Jacques ROISIN**, doctor in psychology, psychoanalysis, Unit for social help to victims, Charleroi, professor at the UCL, and Ms **Martine STASSIN**, psychologist, Unit for social help to victims, Brussels 2

Workshop 3: ***If one person suffers, the whole network suffers.***

Chair:

Mr **Kris DECRAEMER**, psychologist at Interactie-academie (Belgium)

Workshop 4: ***Effective management of post-secondary stress through the development of magistrates' emotional intelligence.***

Chair:

Ms **Ramona RICHITEANU**, Representative from NIM (National Institute of Magistracy - Romania)

- 15:45 Coffee break
- 16:05 ***Second session of the 4 workshops***
- 17:30 End of the workshops - break
- 17:45 ***Summary and syntheses of the workshops (in plenary session)***
- 18:15 End of the afternoon session
- 18:25 Cultural activity (optional)
- 19:25 End of the cultural activity
- 19:30 Dinner
- 21:30 Optional: sensitizing for the impact of a crime by way of a movie
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3) Friday 26 September 2014

7:30 - 9:00 Breakfast

Morning session: **Improving best practices - recommendations**

9:15 **Introduction**

Speaker:

Ms **Marta VALCARCE LOPEZ**, prosecutor in Seville and expert of the CPJ

9:20 **Testimony of prosecutors dealing with high impact crimes:**

9:20 **Testimony of a Belgian prosecutor**

Speaker:

To be determined

9:40 **Testimony of a Dutch prosecutor**

Speaker:

10:00 **Testimony of Spanish prosecutors**

Speaker:

To be determined

10:20 Question time - Discussion

10:50 Coffee break

11:10 **Good practices in Belgium**

Speaker:

Ms **Isabelle DE TANDT**, senior prosecutor at the prosecutor's office of East Flanders

11:35 **Recommendations for an optimal training of judges, prosecutors and their staff**

Speaker:

Ms **Ramona RICHTEANU**, Representative from NIM (National Institute of Magistracy - Romania)

12:00 **Recommendations on improving the legislation on victim support**

Speaker:

Ms **Marta VALCARCE LOPEZ**, prosecutor in Seville and expert of the CPJ

12:25 End of the morning session

12:30 Lunch

Afternoon session: **Restorative justice in the European Union**

- 14:00 **When providing any restorative Justice - art. 12 and 24 of the EU Directive**
Speakers:
Ms **Katrien LAUWAERT**, research-coordinator at the European Forum for Restorative Justice, senior researcher at the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC), and Mr **Antonio BUONOTESTA**, coordinator of “Mediante”, Association without lucrative purpose (TBC)
- 15:10 Question time - Discussion
- 15:30 **Conclusions and suggestions for a better stress management within the judiciary and judicial staff**
- 16:00 End of the seminar
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