Victim Support in the Czech Republic

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Victim Directive in the Czech Republic

• Attempt to adopt specific legislation on Victims rights and support since Czech Presidency in 2009
• Victims Act (45/2013 Col.), adopted 25.2. 2013
• Detailed specification of the financial compensation
• NO provisions on training
Victims support and Czech Probation Service

- Victims Act stipulates support to victims by accredited organizations (NGO’s)
- Czech Probation and Mediation Service (PMS) is the only state body entrusted to provide support in accordance with the Act

www.pmscr.cz
Support in numbers

• Since 2013 until 2016 Czech Probation service provided assistance to > 18 560 victims
• In 2016 PMS provided assistance to 6719 victims
• Every year assistance and support is given to 500 victims with special needs
Victims Support - Victims with Specific Protection Needs
Victims with Special Needs
Project to develop victims services

- Victims assistance may be time consuming, for general probation officers such activity may be stressful as they are press by other duties. At the same time victims highly appreciate if they can be heard without time pressure.

- To react to such situation a project to provide services by victims specialist was developed in 2012 called „Why me?“

- At the moment victims specialist assist at 55 Victims advisory centers.

- Next to direct assistance to victims the project aimed to train 660 social workers from Czech municipalities.

- Some numbers regarding victims advisory centers:
  - 2013 – 2015 the project assisted 6658 victims and provided round 15,000 consultations
  - 2/3 of clients are women
  - 31 % clients are victims of property crime
  - 26 % clients are victims of violent crime.
Victims Advisory Centers
Training for victims specialist

• Victims assistance is provided both by core staff of PMS and project based specialist

• Victims related issues represents one of constitutive areas basic qualification training for all probations staff - 8 hours only on victims and victims are dealt also in other topics (penal law, civil law, communication)

• In-service training – 24 hours

• Training for victims specialist is of course more extensive – up to 52 hours

• Developed curricula for victims specialist trainings is also use for training of other helping profession – namely social workers
Work with the offender as part of Victims support – mediation by PMS
European Day for Victims of Crime

Thank you for your attention &