

GOOD PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING VICTIMS

inside and outside the criminal process

Report of the final conference of the project

Vittime di reato e giustizia penale. Standard europei e buone pratiche nazionali

Held in Milan on 9 and 10 October 2014 at the University of Milan - *Sala Napoleonica*



The event has been organized within the research project Good practices for protecting victims inside and outside the criminal process (JUST/2011/JPEN/AG/2901), funded by the European Commission within the program Criminal Justice. Prof. Luca Lupária is the project coordinator.

With the purpose of fixing the data collected, presenting the best practices created and compare in a critically way the results of the research, we organized a final, international Conference, held at Milan University - Sala Napoleonica (the most prestigious and ancient hall of the Institution) lasting two days: 9 and 10 October 2014. The title of the conference was '*Vittime di reato e giustizia penale. Standard europei e buone pratiche nazionali*'.

About 150 people attended the 2days conference. The event was inaugurated by the President of the Court of Appeal of Milan, Mr Giovanni Canzio, one of the most important judicial authorities in Italy. This circumstance strengthened the strong relationship and dialogue between the 'academic world' and the operators (in particular, judges, public prosecutors and lawyers) that characterized the entire 2 days conference. In fact, as already mentioned, the event was organized in collaboration with the Italian Superior School for Judges (<http://www.scuolamagistratura.it/>). Especially in the second day of works, eminent Judges attended the conference as speakers, included a Judge of the Court of Cassation expert in protection of victims (Mrs Sandra Recchione). Besides, the entire event was recognized, publicized and supported by the Bar association for lawyers of Milan.

The conference has been organized in four sessions.

1. In the first one, we focused on the supranational statute and position recognized to victims within the criminal proceedings, according to the EU legislation (in particular, the recent Directive 29/2012) and the International Criminal Court (the focus on the ICC has been particularly appreciated by the attendees, that among many things spoke also about the ICC Victims and Witnesses Unit).

2. In the second one, we focused on the gender-based violence, which has become a real social emergency in recent years. During this session, the existing legal status in Italy, France and Spain has been analyzed, together with an interesting comparison with the Brazilian legislation on gender violence, thanks to the presence of prof. Rodriguez de Assis Machado from San Paolo. At the end of this session, a roundtable was organized, during which the attendees could discussed with criminal law professors and an important public prosecutor of Milan.

3. On Friday 10 October the third session started: it was focused on procedural aspects of the protection of victims. In particular, on restorative justice, informative rights and initiative powers. Italian, French and Spanish experts discussed for all the morning, together with an interesting focus on the Canadian legal framework (thanks to Jo Anne Wemmers, from Montreal).

4. Finally, an entire session was dedicated to the existing and the future possible good practices, in the light of the finished research project and the Judicial reality, thanks to the great experience brought by some of the most famous and expert judges in Italy. In particular, it is necessary to mention Sandra Recchione (Court of Cassation) and Antonio Balsamo (Court of Assise). Besides, the Public Prosecutor Office of Milan, together with the Municipality of the city, presented the project on which also we are working with, on victims of cybercrime.

At the beginning of the first two days, teaching-training material has been distributed (a folder for each participant, containing the evaluation questionnaire and documents useful for an intelligent and informative participation).