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Is the future now?

1) Effective practical implementation

i) Not just in law

- practical mechanisms
- Protocols
- partnerships
- Provision of services
- Sufficient funding – different options for funding services

ii) Change in practitioner cultures

- Include victim issues in job objectives
- Regular training – legal rights and soft skills
- Victims education at earliest stages – universities etc

– Effective practical implementation

i) Mainstream victims rights

- Victims issues shouldn't be an afterthought
- Any measures in justice and other areas should consider impact on victims and how those measures can help

ii) EU Action to:

- Facilitate implementation: research and data collection, range of funding options, use of EU Agencies and EU funded organisations
- Enforcement for failure to implement – preparation and court action

2) Mechanisms for long term change

i) A long term, co-ordinated and comprehensive approach

ii) Significant benefits best achieved in this way:

- reduce impact of crime on victims
- help victims back to work and be more productive
- reduce burdens on health systems,
- help children be more successful in school and in their future lives,
- improve effectiveness of criminal justice system e.g. more successful prosecutions
- reduce police burden by reducing repeated follow up with officers.
- reduce crime and improve prevention of crime e.g. awareness raising of risks
- improve life chances of victims, improve their well-being and their life expectancy.

iii) Policy infrastructure

- Long term strategic planning coupled with annual delivery programmes
- Evidence based policy making and research mechanisms
- victim focused teams in Ministries and front line services
- Assessment and review systems
- Inclusive consultation processes

iv) Data collection and analysis

- Data in the victims field: scarce, sporadic, not comparable
- EU Directive obligations – only existing data
- Needed to determine - what to do, what is working and how effectively and efficiently.
Benefits beyond victims
- Some data already available just not collated
- Need to start process now

v) Monitoring

- Establish indicators, collect data
- Internal and external monitoring mechanisms:
- Ombudsmen, Commissioners, Inspectorates, civil society
- Regular reviews

v) Role of Civil Society

- Victims policy to be driven by what victims need
- Historically NGOs have driven policy development
- Situation in each country varies – Need to find a balance
- Recognise limitations and strengths of State services and NGO services e.g. geographical distribution, opening hours, types of service provided, trust in the service
- Accessibility for all victims
- Facilitate Civil society – Legal and policy framework, funding



Thank you!

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