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Subject:	COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA

Delegations will find attached document SWD(2022) 180 final.

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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION**

**of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA**

{SWD(2022) 179 final}

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Staff Working Document presents the evaluation of the Victims' Rights Directive<sup>1</sup>. The Directive provides victims with a right to information, a right to understand and be understood, a right to access support and protection in accordance with their individual needs, as well as with a set of procedural rights.

The evaluation<sup>2</sup> considers the Directive in light of five evaluation criteria<sup>3</sup>: effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, coherence and EU added value.<sup>4</sup>

This Staff Working Document aims to provide the Commission with a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the Directive's impact as well as with lessons learned. Based on the evaluation, the Commission will, if necessary, decide on appropriate follow-up actions. This evaluation will form the basis for an Impact Assessment<sup>5</sup> for any future action by the Commission.

### Key conclusions and lessons learned:

With regard to **effectiveness**, the evaluation shows that the Directive has had a generally positive impact. Nonetheless, several challenges have been identified. Some of them are related to: the content and the provision of information to victims of crime; the lack of certain types of specialised support services; the lack of measures for victims' physical protection.

With regard to **relevance**, the evaluation study shows that the Directive in general remains relevant and adequate. Nonetheless, several limitations have been identified. For instance, the evaluation found that there is room for improvement of the Directive with regard to the role of the digital space and use of common technologies.

When it comes to **efficiency**, evidence shows that the aspects which are the most expensive to implement have differed greatly between individual Member States. According to the evaluation, the Directive is internally and externally **coherent** to a satisfactory level.

Evidence found that the Directive has generated **added value**. Nonetheless, in certain cases, the added value of the Directive was limited by the lack of specificity of some provisions.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA.

<sup>2</sup> An external evaluation study was carried out by a contractor to support the Commission, following a call for services under a framework contract: ICF (2021). Study to support the evaluation of Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, final report.

<sup>3</sup> The evaluation also assesses the impact of the Directive on fundamental rights.

<sup>4</sup> The evaluation criteria are assessed from the date of entry into force of the Directive, i.e. 15 November 2012, until October 2021 and cover the entirety of the Directive and all Member States that are bound by it.

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13096-Criminal-justice-EU-rules-on-victims%20%80%99-rights-update- en>

The evaluation presented possible **follow-up measures** that should not prejudice any decision to review the Directive. For instance, such measures could include: introduction of a requirement in the Directive that victims receive information in multiple formats; extension of free psychological support and medical treatment for as long as needed, at least for vulnerable victims; introduction of measures for victims' physical protection.