



PROBAČNÍ A MEDIAČNÍ SLUŽBA

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Invitation to participate in the international conference on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the Council of Europe

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Prague 29 June 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Please accept my sincere invitation to participate in the international conference organized by the Probation and Mediation Service on the occasion of **the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU - Victims of Crime, Possibilities of Restorative Approach in Probation and Prison** - , which will take place on **13 and 14 October 2022** in Congress Center in Prague.

The focus on the victims of crime is not coincidental. Work with the victims of crime is an integral part of the activities of the Probation and Mediation Service. Every year approx. 5.000 victims of crime contact the Probation Service Centers. It is through such work it fulfils the principles of restorative justice. The form and concept of the Act on Probation and Mediation Service was notably influenced by the ideas, experience and practice of restorative justice programmes primarily from abroad. The Service helps not only the victims of crime to get their lives back into their own hands, but also the offenders - it leads them towards not breaking the law and trying to make an important change in their lives.

The aim of the autumn conference is enhancing mutual cooperation and sharing experience and information across the criminal justice agencies on the work with the victims of crime. This topic has currently been of high importance not only in the Czech Republic but also on European level. Probation and Mediation Service has had a unique experience in working with victims and will be honoured to share it with colleagues from abroad.

Since the entry into effect of the Act on Victims of Crime in 2013, the Service has been a state-guaranteed place where victims of crime can ask for legal information, psychosocial assistance and support, accompaniment in criminal proceedings, assistance in the preparation of victim's statement about the impact of crime on their lives or requests for the provision of financial assistance, or for the procuration of further assistance.

The conference will focus on **victims of crime in the context of probation and imprisonment**. We would like to reflect on the role of victims and the importance of effective treatment in probation work, provide an overview of victims' rights in European context, and discuss the role of victims in offender's rehabilitation. The practical seminars will be oriented at presenting practical examples of the programmes focused on both victims and offenders from the point of view of probation, prison and NGOs. The panel discussions will touch the EU directive on victims of crime.

For more information, please follow the website of the Probation and Mediation Service (link below), where you will download the programme:

[Conference 2022 - PMS - Probační a mediační služba PMS – Probační a mediační služba \(pmscr.cz\)](https://pmscr.cz)

Registration

The registration form will be available approximately 2 months before the conference. Now, please confirm your interest by e-mail on konference@pms.justice.cz.

Hotel

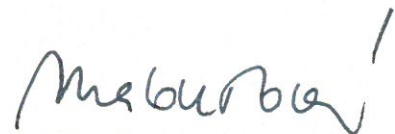
If you are interested in accommodation in Prague, we recommend [the Main Page Panorama Hotel Prague \(panoramahotelprague.com\)](https://panoramahotelprague.com), which is ready to offer conference participants a great location and a special price. A link for the reservation will be published on the website of the Probation and Mediation Service.

In case of questions, you can contact Ing. Daniela Vrtišková from the International and Press Department: dvtiskova@pms.justice.cz.

Ladies and gentlemen, we would be honoured to have you at the conference. The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU and the forthcoming 10th anniversary of the Act on Victims of Crime are a unique opportunity to emphasize together the importance of working with victims of crime and applying the principles of restorative justice in criminal justice as broad as possible.

If you will not be able to use this invitation in person, we will be happy to welcome a nominated representative from your institution.

With respect



Andrea Matoušková
Director General

This conference takes place on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the Council of Europe.

