

1. PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

Summary of the context and overall objectives of the project (For the final period, include the conclusions of the action)

The SWEVIC project aims to give a better support to victims of hate crime, and to increase the number of reports of hate crimes. This is to be accomplished through a collaboration between the Swedish Police Authority (SPA) and the Victim Support Sweden (VSS), where the latter party will act as an intermediary (bridge) between the victim and the police. The central message for the project is "We support you". The project runs from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020. The EU Commission has granted the funds. The Swedish Police Authority and the Victim Support Sweden shall finance 20% of the project costs themselves. Leading party is the the Swedish Police Authority.

Steering Committee: Lena Frylemo, chairman SPA; Fredrik Mellqvist, acting general secretary VSS; Johan Hasselmark, SPA. Core project group: Eva Sund, project manager SPA; Amal Ahmed, SPA; Cornelia Johansson, VSS.

CONCLUSION

The project has reached its goal of raising confidence in the police and the judiciary by using Victim Support Sweden as a bridge. Furthermore, both the police and Victim Support Sweden have received tools to better identify and provide support to people who have been victims of hate crimes. This knowledge has also been passed on to other countries within the EU by the project organizing an international seminar, containing workshops, which brought together participants from 11 countries outside of Sweden.

Work performed from the beginning of the project to the end of the period covered by the report and main results achieved so far (For the final period please include an overview of the results and their exploitation and dissemination)

MAIN GOALS

- To create a basis of best practice for improved victim support for hate crime victims,
- To build trust between victims of hate crimes and the Swedish Police. VSS will act as a bridge between these parts. As a result, police reports will increase and the investigations of hate crime will be improved. As methods of investigation will be developed and improved, victims will be more willing to follow through the legal process and participate in investigations;
- Increased knowledge of police officers regarding hate crimes, resulting in better and more accurate investigations.

The results of the project will be as following:

- To provide adequate and improved support for victims of hate crime in Sweden;
- Increased knowledge and awareness of hate crimes among police officers and VSS volunteers;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between the component authorities in Sweden as well as in the EU;
- Increased public awareness of hate crime.

WORK PERFORMED AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The project group collected best practice from outside of Sweden and adjusted these methods to a Swedish context. The methods for best practice then became the basis of the e-learning for police employees and victim supporter volunteers that was produced. The knowledge of best practice also

informed the accompanying booklet to the e-learning, as well as trainings during the conferences and local workshop.

The project has trained a total of 245 police employees and victim supporters (trainers) in 5 face-to-face one day conferences. According to the original project plan, the project aimed to facilitate conferences in each police region (7). Unfortunately, the corona pandemic prohibited face-to-face meeting from April 2020. Therefore the two last conferences were changed into one digital Youtube conference.

The project group supported local VSS offices to conduct local workshops. Through this support, the local workshops reached 141 volunteers from 22 different victim support organisations, during 7 local digital workshops. The police carried out a total of 4 local workshops organized by participants from the regional conferences and a total of 550 persons have attended a local workshop. Also a total of 366 persons (in November) have attended the Project Swevic e-learning.

To increase cultural competence and knowledge about vulnerable groups the project arranged three knowledge enhancing seminars online. Over 900 people attended the three seminars.

A campaign in social media ran during 11 September – 18 October 2020. 1,8 million were reached as unique viewers, which is considered as a good result. One of ten Swedes has also noticed information from the police or Victim Support Sweden about hate crime during the campaign period. One out of three reported a more positive feeling towards both organisations.

In December 2020 a one-day international seminar, including two workshops, was conducted digitally. Through the seminar we were able to spread knowledge and findings to other European countries. The seminar was held in English and included participants from 11 countries outside of Sweden. Stakeholders as ODIHR and FRA were represented, as well as the EStAR project.

MAJOR RESULTS AND IMPACT

- a best practice material adjusted to Swedish conditions has been produced and disseminated,
- reported increased awareness of what a hate crime is and how to provide accurate support both within police and VSS,
- reported increased local and national cooperation between the police and Victim Support Sweden,
- and increased public awareness about hate crime and VSS.

During the trainings the project have focused on the sensitivity needed for investigating these types of crimes and supporting the victims. Participants from SPA and VSS have reached out to each other regarding specific cases, to attend events together, and to spread knowledge. This cooperation started after they attended one of the regional Swevic conferences.

A national system for direct transfer of cases from police to VSS has been approved. Such a solution is now included in the planning for 2021. An automatic transfer has been a goal for VSS for a long time, and now partly thanks to Swevic project, all victims of crime whom have made a police report will be able to receive victim support quicker and better.

Progress beyond the state of the art, expected results until the end of the project and potential impacts (including the socio-economic impact and the wider societal implications of the project so far)

Despite the impact of the corona-pandemic, the project has succeeded in training a large number of staff from both participating organisations. Local workshops have been conducted digitally instead of face-to-face, although not as extensively as intended. The project has reached out well with its message to the public through its campaign on social media. One in ten Swedes has been reached by information about hate crimes. The public's knowledge of Victim Support Sweden's operations

has been increased. The project has also reached several other countries within the EU and there met stakeholders regarding hate crimes.

The socio-economic impact that the Swevic project has contributed cannot be measured yet. But about 20% of Sweden's residents have a foreign background. Many of these state that they are exposed to hate crimes and other marginalization. According to a study by the Swedish Council of Crime Prevention (Brå) published in 2020, the interviewed who in the National Security Survey stated that they had been exposed to crime, stated that 22 percent of men and 18 percent of women perceived that there was a hate crime motive involved. This corresponds to one in five crimes having a hate crime motive. Against this background, it is important that the Police Authority and Victim Support Sweden continue to work together to increase trust in the police and other authorities. Project Swevic can be seen as a start of a longer cooperation against hate crime. Not only to provide a good victim support, but also to be a voice in society to safeguard human rights for equal treatment.

Address (URL) of the project's public website

<https://www.brottsofferjouren.se/om-oss/forbundets-projekt/swevic-tillsammans-mot-hatbrott/>

Illustration 3 together against hate crime

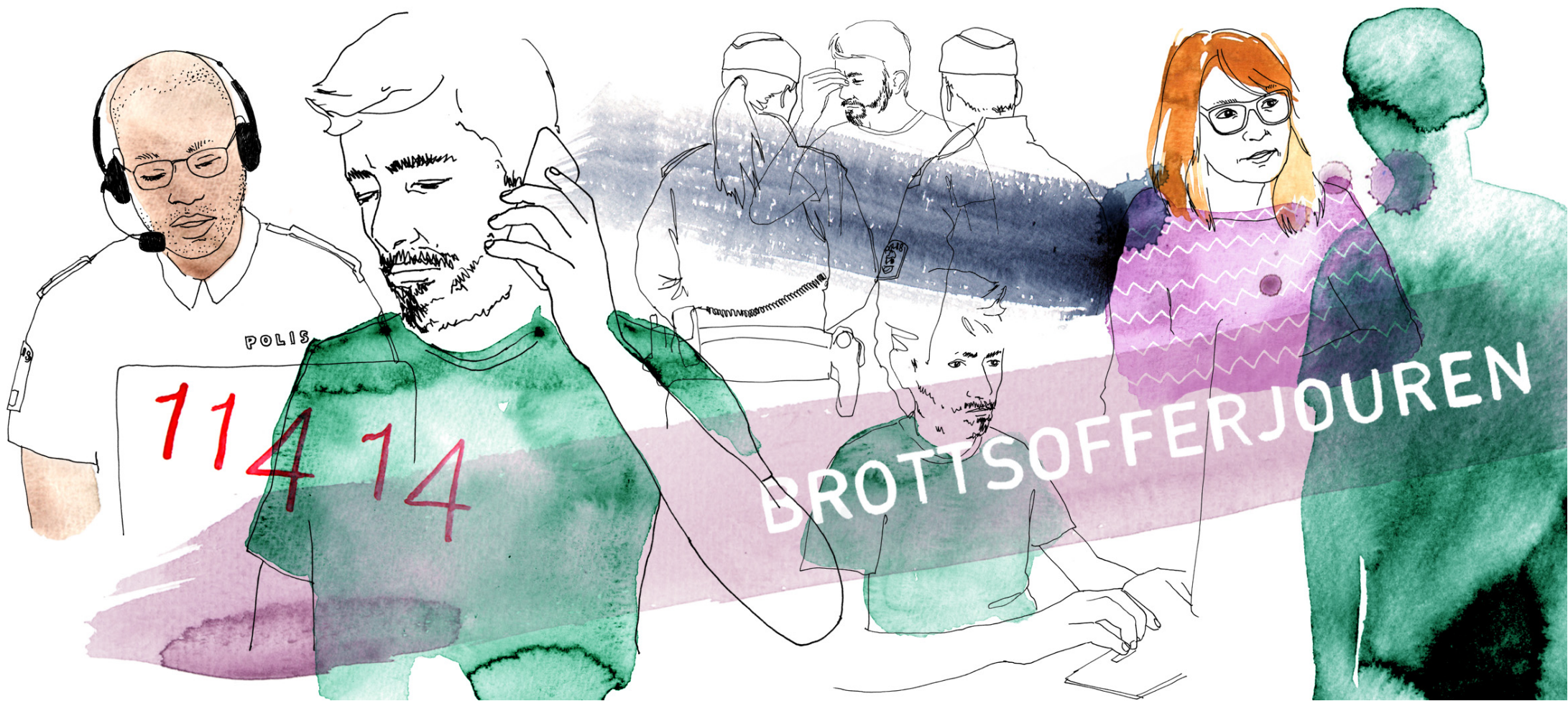


Illustration 2

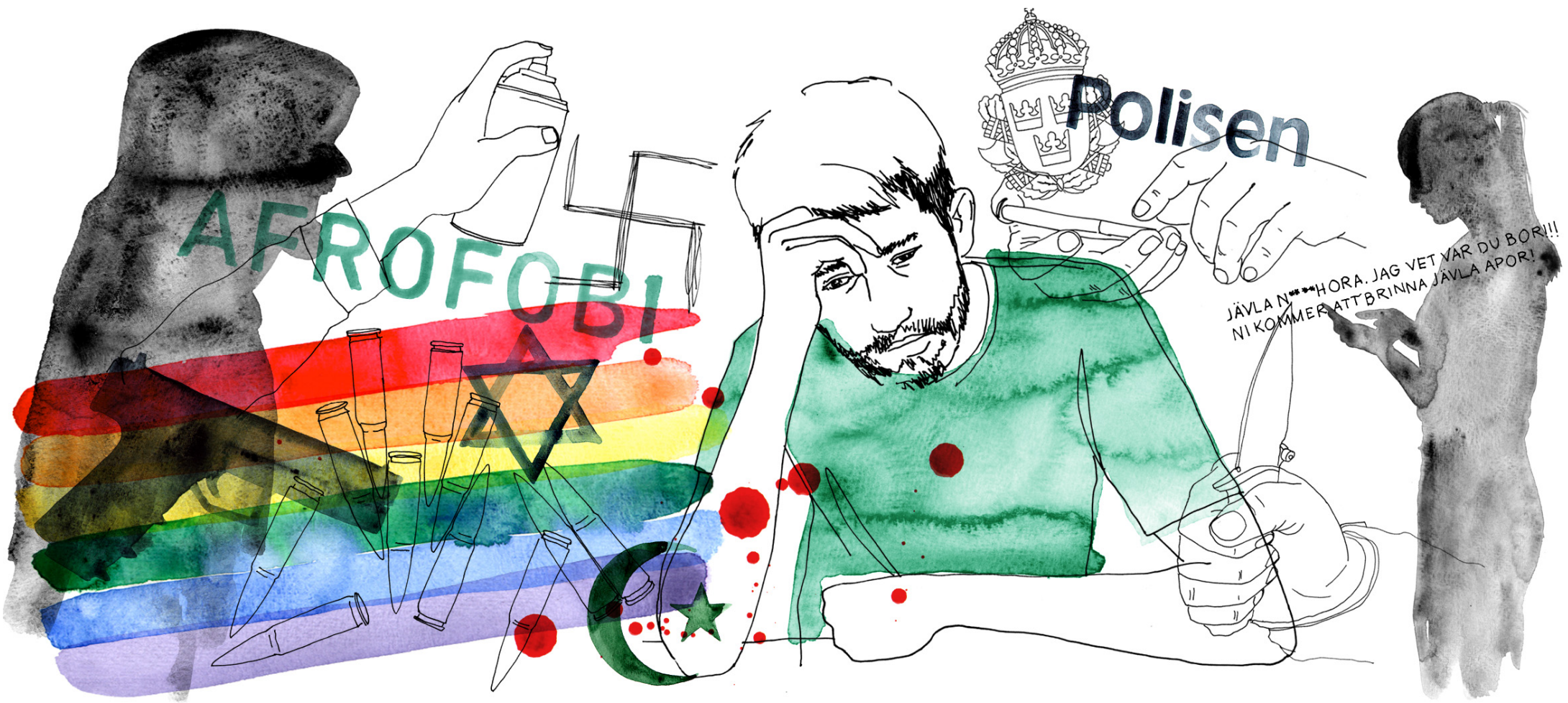


Illustration 1

