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## THE EUROPEAN SYSTEMS OF COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES TO CRIME VICTIMS

**Summary:** *The paper presents the systems of compensation for crime victims in Croatian, Swiss, German and Austrian law. The introduction provides an overview of Directive 2004/80/EC relating to compensation to crime victims. The relevant decisions of the Court of Justice of the EU are then analysed, concerning the issue of “fair and adequate” financial compensation and the issue of justification for excluding the right of certain persons to compensation. This is followed by an overview of the regulations in the mentioned countries. The following issues are analysed: the circle of persons entitled to compensation, the nature of the compensation (whether it concerns compensation for damage or social benefits), the list of criminal offences for which there is a right to compensation, the reasons for excluding or reducing the right to compensation, the types and amounts of compensation, the procedure for obtaining compensation. It is concluded that there are certain differences regarding the nature of compensation, but there is no essential difference in the assumptions for exercising the right to compensation. The only evident difference is the amount of compensation that is obtained in individual systems (this is especially true for the Croatian law in relation to the other systems observed).*

**Keywords:** *damage, compensation, victim, crime, European Union.*