

CONNECTING PEOPLE

Victims, Offenders and Communities in Restorative Justice

7th International Conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice

14 – 16 June 2012, Helsinki (Finland)

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

We invite practitioners, researchers, legal practitioners and policy makers to submit proposals for presentations on the workshop topics suggested below. Proposals on related subjects might be considered as well if there is a clear link with the conference programme.

The proposal must be accompanied by:

- An abstract of the presentation (250 words)
- A biography of the presenter (50 words)

As the aim is to encourage a maximum of exchange of ideas and information, each presentation will be strictly limited to 20 minutes. Visual aids and an interactive style of presentation are encouraged. Proposals must reach Karolien Mariën (karolien@euforumrj.org), **by 29 February 2012** at the very latest. Applicants will be contacted regarding the acceptance of their proposal by 18 March 2012.

1. Victims and Restorative Justice

Although restorative justice puts victims and offenders at the heart of the response of crime, concerns are voiced about the position of victims in restorative justice practices. The European Forum is the promoter in a research project on the needs, experiences and position of victims in restorative justice. Preliminary results of this research will be presented and we invite people to hold workshops on this topic – victims and restorative justice – to enrich the debates and distinguish crucial themes. Furthermore, the European Commission has drafted a new Directive on Victims (18 May 2011) to replace the current Framework Decision on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings (2001); an update on the restorative justice elements of the draft will be available at the Conference.

2. Offenders and Restorative Justice

When it comes to offenders and restorative justice, a first focus often lies with recidivism but broader issues are at stake such as offender rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. We explicitly invite people working in probation and the criminal justice system to submit workshop proposals focusing on their experience of restorative justice and working with offenders.

3. The Community and Restorative Justice

As restorative justice develops, we see more ways of how it can progress to include more meaningful participation by the community, for example through different forms of conferencing and circles. Furthermore, more areas within the community can be distinguished where restorative justice practices can be used in schools and the workplace, for example. We invite workshop proposals on bringing restorative justice in the community.