

## General Meeting of the European Forum for Restorative Justice Lisbon (Portugal), 10 May 2007, 11.00-13.00

### Proposal: Organisational structure for committees and working groups

The functioning of the committees of the European Forum is a recurrent topic for discussion at the Board meetings. There are currently six committees:

- information committee
- communication committee (of which the editorial board of the newsletter is a subgroup)
- practice and training committee
- research committee
- selection committee
- committee on restorative approaches in schools

Some of these committees work better than others, and an evaluation of their work seems needed in order to assess whether they should be continued in their current format.

At the Warsaw Board meeting, an evaluation of the existing structure of the committees was done. This resulted in a proposal to differentiate between committees and working groups.

When looking at the list of committees above, it is clear that the first five are of a more general nature, while the sixth committee is dealing with a very specific topic. Indeed, the first four committees gather information for the benefit of members and others, provide communication possibilities, and focus attention on research, good practice and training. The selection committee is brought together on an ad hoc basis to take care of nominations for the Board of the Forum. The committee on restorative approaches in schools is, on the other hand, focusing on a very specific topic. The Board would recommend this group to become a working group instead of a committee. In the future, more working groups dealing with various other topics could be created.

In general, the Board invites the General Meeting to support the proposal to reserve the title 'committee' to those groups that are undertaking activities that promote the aims and objectives of the European Forum in a more general way, whilst 'working groups' would be used for those groups that focus on a very specific topic.