



**Desistance and  
Restorative Justice**

JUST/2011-2012/JPEN/AG/2962

## Desistance and Restorative Justice

Although many studies have shown that participation in restorative justice programs can reduce the likelihood of reoffending, it remains unclear why this is the case, for which groups and under which conditions. The general aim of this study is thus to gain insight in the mechanisms within restorative justice practices that can contribute to desistance from crime and thus reduce victimisation.

Starting from the factors identified in the desistance literature in general, this study develops a conceptual framework for analysing restorative justice and desistance, which is then empirically tested in three European countries through interviews with desisters who participated in VOM or conferencing.

Three regional workshops are organised in the course of the project aimed at the dissemination of preliminary results and obtaining feedback from practitioners and academics.

The project runs until December 2014 and will result in a final report and a good practice guide which will be available at the EFRJ.

**Promoter:** European Forum for Restorative Justice  
[www.euforumrj.org](http://www.euforumrj.org)



**Partners:** Confederation of European Probation (CEP), Institut für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie (IRKS, Austria), Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC, Belgium), Médiante (Belgium), Neustart (Austria), Queen's University (GB) and Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland (GB).

**Contact details:** Katrien Lauwaert at ([katrien@euforumrj.org](mailto:katrien@euforumrj.org))



Supported by  
The Criminal Justice Programme  
of the European Union