

Seminar - Leuven 20 April 2018

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES A PROMISING FIELD

This seminar is organised within the framework of the EU funded project '**Victims of road traffic offences**' (supported by the Justice programme).

The project focuses on three main topics. The first theme concerns road traffic victims' needs with regard to information and support. Restorative justice for people involved in road traffic offences is the second main topic. Regarding this issue, we aim at developing information for the police, the judiciary and social services about the possibilities of communication between offenders and victims. Finally, the third topic focusses on improving interdisciplinary cooperation between the different professionals involved (such as the police, the judiciary, victim support services, the medical sector, self-help groups of victim volunteers, insurance agencies,...). By spreading good practices from different European countries, we would like to inspire others to further develop this endeavour together.

Two Flemish NGO's (Rondpunt and Moderator) and the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC) of KU Leuven are working together on this project. Our European associate partners are Victim Support Europe, European Federation of Road Traffic Victims and European Forum for Restorative Justice.

During this seminar, we would like to share our first findings and experiences on restorative justice in road traffic offences with restorative justice practitioners and experts from Europe. However, the seminar will also be open for other professionals like victim support officers and victim-volunteers.

The seminar is **free of charge**, but limited seats available.

*Register via the website of the European Forum for Restorative Justice
www.euforumrj.org*



Programme - Leuven 20 April 2018

The partners in this project organise a social activity on Thursday evening (19 April, 20-22hrs), including a film screening followed by a debate to introduce the topic of the seminar. More info will be shared with the registered participants closer to the event.

Venue: De Valk DV3.01.10, KU Leuven Tiensestraat 41, 3000 Leuven

09.00-09.30 Registrations & welcome

09.30-10.30 Plenary session I

- Welcome and introduction - Ivo Aertsen
- **Victims of Road Traffic Offences: a summary of existing knowledge**
- Muriël Booms
 - Legal and conceptual framework
 - The trivialisation of road traffic offences
 - Consequences for individuals involved in road traffic offences
 - Needs on information and support and the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation
- Discussion

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-13.00 Plenary session II

- **Restorative practices for road traffic offences** - Ingrid Marit
 - Why offering restorative justice after a road traffic offence?
 - Needs of victims and offenders, possible outcomes, opportunities and challenges for restorative justice services
 - Good practices in Europe: examples from Belgium, The Netherlands, Hungary and Ireland
- **Testimony on the importance of Restorative Justice for victims-**
Catherine Paulus, who participated in victim-offender mediation after a serious road crash where she lost two of her three children
- Discussion

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-17.00 Workshop sessions

- 14.00-15.25 Workshop 1 on the needs of support and information for victims after a road crash (Joke Castelein) and the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation and the possible link to restorative justice (Muriël Booms)
- 15.35-17.00 Workshop 2 on getting to grips with the practice of victim-offender mediation in road traffic offences: methodological issues, particularities, opportunities and obstacles, cooperation with specific stakeholders like insurance companies, lawyers, hospitals (Ingrid Marit)

17.00-17.15 Closing remarks & goodbyes

Presenters' biographies

Ivo Aertsen



Ivo is Full Professor of Criminology at the University of Leuven (Belgium). He holds degrees of psychology, law and criminology. At the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC) he coordinates the Research Line on 'Restorative Justice and Victimology'. He has been chair of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) and expert for various international organisations including the U.N., Council of Europe and European Union. He acts as Editor-in-Chief of 'The International Journal of Restorative Justice'.

Muriël Booms



Muriël has obtained her Master's degree in Criminology at KU Leuven in 2017. After her studies, she started working at the Leuven Institute for Criminology within the research line 'Restorative Justice and Victimology'. Her main research activities concern the EU-Project 'Victims of road traffic offences'.

Ingrid Marit



Ingrid is mediator at the Belgian organisation Moderator -Forum for restorative justice and mediation since 2009. She is project member in the EU-Project Victims of Road Traffic Offences (2017-2019). She obtained her Master's degree in Criminology at KU Leuven in 1992. She has previous work experience in judicial welfare support and victim support in Belgium.

Joke Castelein



Joke works as project coordinator at Rondpunt vzw, a Flemish organisation which advocates for adequate support for all parties involved in road traffic crashes. She studied Criminology and Social Work in Ghent and previously worked with road traffic victims and offenders in a victim support service in Flanders.

Who we are - Partner organisations

Rondpunt advocates, promotes and develops adequate support for all parties involved in road traffic crashes in Flanders, based on the conviction that a sensitive and respectful approach makes a real difference, to the victims and to society. Rondpunt invests in more and better care and opportunities for all those involved in road crashes. Rondpunt calls upon everyone to give road traffic victims the best care possible. Support, information and guidance are given to the families, friends, colleagues of road traffic victims. Rondpunt also liaises with professionals (social workers, police, doctors, paramedics, lawyers, etc.) who work with road traffic victims.



Moderator – Forum for Restorative Justice and Mediation is an independent and pluralistic non-profit organization in Flanders en Brussels. Moderator carries out victim-offender mediation in all kinds of offences, aims to create a larger support for Restorative Justice in society and tries to contribute to a more participative and communicative justice.



KU Leuven – University of Leuven is an institution for research and education with international appeal. All programmes are based on the innovative research of its scientists and professors. Launched in January 2007, the **Leuven Institute of Criminology** (LINC) is composed of about seventy professors and assistants involved in criminological research and education within the KU Leuven Faculty of Law. One of its eight research lines focusses on restorative justice and victimology.

