



MINUTES

EFRJ Annual General Meeting

Tirana, 13 June 2018, 18:00-20:00hr

Hotel International Tirana

17:00 Registrations

18:00 Opening of the Annual General Meeting

Thanks to Michael Kilchling, former Chair of the EFRJ leaving the board by Tim Chapman. Presentation of the [meeting agenda](#) by Edit Törzs.

1. Formal issues and Activities of the Forum

1.1. Approval of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting (Berlin) – [Annex I](#)

Approved.

1.2. Approval of the annual accounts and budget

Rik Defrère shows the figures of year 2017, with comparison with 2016 (balance sheet and income statement). It has been concluded that it has been a positive year. No questions nor comments raised by the public.

Approved.

1.3. Approval of new membership applications and other membership matters

1 individual member terminated the membership. 87 new individuals and 9 organizations applied for EFRJ's membership.

Approved.

1.4. Report of the activities of the Board and the Secretariat

Edit Törzs presented the [annual report 2017](#). The document was sent to all members in the previous weeks. Edit gave not a formal presentation of numbers and formalities, but [a glimpse](#) of the activities run by the EFRJ in 2017. The main aim was to share this information with possible



new members attending the AGM. She moved on by presenting also some 2018 activities and future strategies.

Edit presented the current staff situation, introducing the new administration officer that joined the team in May 2018. She warmly thanked the staff, the board and the executive committee for their work, commitment and good cooperation.

1.5. Approval of the annual report 2017 – [Annex II](#)

Annual report approved.

1.6. Report of the Committees and the Values and Standards working group

- Editorial committee** (Newsletter). Report by Kerry Clamp.
 Committee members are: Kerry Clamp (UK), Robert Shaw (UK), Martin Wright (UK), Nicola Preston (UK), Branka Peuraca (Croatia), Diana Ziedina (Latvia) and Catherine Jaccottet Tissot (Switzerland). The Newsletter was coordinated by Emanuela Biffi at the Secretariat. Kerry expressed the interest of the committee to have new members particularly coming from the Scandinavia or Southern regions. She explained that 4 editions of the Newsletter are produced per year (March, June, September, December) and that, for the first time, there have been more contributions than needed. Nevertheless, everyone is welcomed to contribute. The editorial committee works in remote but in September 2018 it will meet in person. She stressed that they face a challenge in engaging members in improving the Newsletter: do we need the Newsletter, is it useful, what role does it have?
 Kerry gave some ideas for the future as, for instance, to link the "Forum 15" with the Newsletter and/or to make the Newsletter available as a platform for dialogue between countries and between individuals on a same issue
- Values and Standards Working Group:** Report by Tim Chapman.
 The WG originated in the "Forum 15" project to work on values and standards for RJ. The members of the WG have been selected considering a balanced representation of different regions, expertise and gender. The members of the WG are Tim Chapman (UK, chair of the WG), Belinda Hopkins (UK), Gian Luigi Lepri (Italy), Virginia Domingo de la Fuente (Spain), Diana Ziedina (Latvia), Monique Anderson (Belgium) and Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland).
 Two meetings have been organized in order to have philosophical debates on values and what they mean in practice. The outputs of these debates have been presented in December 2017 at the expert meeting organized in Leuven (18 December) in order to have further comments on them. As a result, a draft document on values and standards (third draft) has been produced that will be presented during the EFRJ Conference. Tim concluded by announcing the decision to develop the WG in a Committee within the EFRJ; the role, tasks, composition of the Committee etc. have to be defined.



- Training Committee.** Report by Roberto Moreno.
 The members of the Committee are: Roberto Moreno (Basque country, Spain), Niall Kearney (UK), Frauke Petzold (Germany) and Lars Otto Justad (Norway). The Committee is coordinated by Emanuela Biffi on behalf of the Secretariat. Roberto reported on the successful Summer School organized in cooperation with our organizational member Cesgrem, directed by Grazia Mannozi from University of Insubria in Como, Italy. The event was different from previous ones on different aspects: first, since few years EFRJ members are invited to propose the venue for hosting a EFRJ event (i.e. conference and summer school) and in this case Cesgrem proposed the university as well as a committed local team of organisers for hosting the Summer School 2017; second, the EFRJ team identified within its network experienced members in the chosen theme (i.e. RJ in serious crime) to be the trainers during all week (Vince Mercer and Kristel Buntinx); third, the programme gave visibility to local initiatives (e.g. an Italian group of victims and former terrorists who engaged in restorative encounters; a meeting with the judges of a local court; presentations by the Cesgrem and university teams). After this successful Summer School the EFRJ launched a new call to host it in 2019: Gdansk University and a local team led by our former Board member Beata Czarnecka-Dzialuk will host the Summer School 2019 on child friendly RJ. Roberto concluded by saying that the Training Committee will be reviewed in the future, also because the EFRJ plans more practical trainings in the future.

2. Board member elections

The Annual General Meeting is in charge of the election of the Board members. During the AGM 2018, 2 new Board members need to be elected in order to replace those whose mandate had expired (Tim Chapman and Michael Kilchling).

2.1 Introduction of the Selection Committee and the procedures, appointment of an election committee

Ivo Aertsen chaired this session on behalf of the selection committee that was composed by him, Ian Marder, Diana Ziedina and Branka Peuraca. The tasks of the selection committee are to seek and approve nominations of candidates, to prepare the elections and to control the election procedures.

Ivo explained that the selection committee received some spontaneous applications and encouraged others to apply. He underlined the important function of the Board within the EFRJ: it has to be familiar with local RJ developments, to have a vision and strategy of future developments of the EFRJ and to work in close cooperation with staff and members. Considering this leadership role, Ivo clarified how the selection committee proceeded in the selection of the candidates and the criteria used for it. Two main aspects have been considered. On the one hand, the personal characteristics and profile of the candidate as, for instance, his/her RJ backgrounds, expectations and communication skills. In this regards, commitment and dedication of time are





further features that are expected from the Board members. On the other hand, an equitable composition of the Board. More specifically, the three areas of practice, research and policy is to be represented, as well as a balance in both regional and gender representation. Accordantly, Ivo stressed that Eastern Europe is under-represented so members coming from this area were encouraged to apply. He reminded that the new members will be elected for 6 years (although the constitutional changes that were proposed after the election contemplate a reduction to 4 years).

2.2 Introduction of the candidates - [Annex III](#)

At the end of the selection procedure, 6 candidates have been approved: Tim Chapman (Northern Ireland), Maia Chochua (Georgia), Kerry Clamp (United Kingdom), Rasim Gjoka (Albania), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Katerina Soulou (France).

Ivo asked the 6 candidates to briefly present themselves by answering 3 questions: what is their RJ background, what are their ideas for future priorities of the EFRJ and their (envisaged) contribution to the EFRJ. See [Annex III](#) for an introduction of the candidates.

2.3 Voting

The AGM proceeded with the voting. Voting has been done by secret voting ballot. Each participant with voting right received the voting form in which they could express 2 preferences. An election committee had been previously appointed composed by one staff member (Rik Defrère) and two full members (Katrien Lauwaert and Gert Jan Slump). The election committee supervised the election procedure, collected the filled voting forms and counted the votes.

The election committee then announced the results of the election:

- 84 valid voting form with a total of 163 preferences expressed.
- **The 2 new members elected by the AGM have been Tim Chapman and Katerina Soulou.**

3. Forum 15 Presentation and Changes in the Constitution

3.1. Concept and proceedings in 2016 and in 2017, experiences with the Experts Workshop in 2017

Just before the Annual General Meeting 2015, the Board, jointly with the Secretariat, decided to start and commit to the project "Forum 15". The name of the project reflects the 15th anniversary of the EFRJ. It aims at reviewing the role and strategy of the EFRJ, looking at internal structures and operations of the EFRJ as well as at the external strategies for promoting RJ across Europe, and beyond, by involving its members. Two working groups have been established (an external and an internal one) including all members of the Board and Secretariat.





As part of the “Forum 15” project, in 2016 the Board launched a new strategy with the purpose of pursuing the vision that every person in Europe shall have the right of access to high quality restorative justice. To support its vision the EFRJ focused on: raising awareness of RJ and its benefits; influencing public policy; promoting excellence in research and practice.

To achieve this ambitious and wide-ranging vision, members of the EFRJ were invited to join an expert consultation meeting on the “Forum 15” project and on the future of RJ in Europe that took place in Leuven on 18 December 2017. The aim of the meeting was, on the one hand, to further explain the Forum 15 vision as well as to inform on current RJ developments in Europe. On the other hand, to involve the members and obtain their advice on how the expertise of EFRJ members can be more used to develop restorative justice in Europe. For more details [click here](#).

As part of the discussion, the participants were invited to give their comments on the document developed by the Values and Standards Working Group establishing the basic values the EFRJ would engage with. As a result a new version of the above mentioned document on values and standards has been drafted.

Furthermore, in 2017 the work in the framework of “Forum 15” focused on internal developments of the organization and on creating, with the help of an external consultant, a new business model for the EFRJ. Internal regulations on HR matters, financial procedures, and a description of different board functions were adopted. An internal guideline for organizing events and a basic communication strategy were also developed. The new business plan will focus on enabling the EFRJ to become more independent from EU funding as well as on service delivery based on the expertise present in the EFRJ membership. More information can be found in the [Annual Report 2017](#).

3.2. Detailed presentation of the proposed changes in the EFRJ constitution – [Annex IV](#) and [V](#)

Brunilda Pali explained the Constitutional changes proposed by the Board.

She firstly explained the state of the art of actions already undertaken. The Constitutional changes were proposed and discussed during the AGM in 2016 in Leiden, but voting on them was not possible due to the fact that the required quorum of two-thirds of the full members were not represented. On 30 March 2017 the EFRJ sent an e-mail to the membership to look at the changes proposed and to comment them. The comments were discussed on the EFRJ Board meeting in Berlin (31 May-1 June 2017) and were presented at the AGM 2017. As the proposal had new elements compared to Leiden, and the AGM had no the quorum required, voting was not possible again.

Brunilda moved forward by explaining the rationale for proposing constitutional changes and presented the changes in detail.





She summarized the main reasons behind the changes that are, for example, that some things in the constitution are outdated and do not reflect the current state of affairs in the EFRJ or in the policy terminology. Some items are not precise or correct anymore and some others need to be changed for legal and technical reasons. Some items need to be changed because they do not reflect best practice and others have been reorganized or rephrased.

For more details: [Annex IV – Constitutional amendments for AGM 2018](#) and [Annex V– Explanatory document on constitutional changes](#).

3.3. Voting on proposed changes of the Constitution (please note: as this is the second time we have this proposal on the agenda, voting is possible regardless of the number of full members present)

The proposed changes of the Constitution have been unanimously approved.

3.4 Proposal regarding membership

Brunilda Pali presented the draft document on the proposed reform of the EFRJ membership policy. Brunilda stressed that the document will be sent after the AGM to all members for comments in order to have a final document for discussion and voting during the next AGM 2019.

The main points discussed in the document are:

- Membership status (Associate vs. Full members) and Membership types (Individual vs. Organisational members). The main changes proposed concern a distinction of the voting rights and benefits between the different membership status and types, i.e. only full members will have voting rights (as before); the full membership is not available for student members (under the age of 27); organizational members can choose up to 3 representatives and will have, therefore, 3 votes; they will have also different benefits compared to individual members (more visibility in the EFRJ website, priority to host an event, special discounts for EFRJ's events for 5 staff members, project partnerships etc.). Furthermore, the new proposal introduces a variation of the membership fee according to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. Given the big GDP differences in Europe, a distinction should be made for the GDP index higher than 100, or lower than 100. Still, independently from the GDP, members can always contact the EFRJ in case of financial difficulties to pay the full fee.
- Board and Committees. Main issues discussed are that the Board is composed by full members only, instead the Committees can be composed by all members; a staff member can join the EFRJ membership and get the right to vote but not the right to become a Board Member.
- Procedure for applying and formal approval. According to the Constitution, members must be formally approved by the AGM. The EFRJ membership runs from 1 January to 31 December but supporters should join/renew the membership before 15 May: in this way, the updated list of members will be proposed at the AGM (normally scheduled for each





June). Nevertheless, if supporters apply for a membership after 15 May - and the formal approval will then take place the year after - they still have full access to all benefits reserved to members.

3.5. Discussion

No comments/questions from the public.

4. Proposals

No proposals from the audience.

5. Next General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be organized end of May/early June 2019 in Bilbao, alongside with an RJ event.

6. Communications

The venue of the next EFRJ's Summer School has been announced: it will be organized in Gdansk (Poland) on 22-26 July 2019.

20:00 Closure of the Annual General Meeting

Drinks reception in the hotel.

