



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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The EFRJ is partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe.

1. Foreword

This annual report will provide an overview of the EFRJ's main activities in 2013. Although challenging, thanks to the commitment and active contributions of many people, 2013 was a good year for the Forum. Visibility and recognition further increased. This is a consequence of the many activities namely by the Board, the secretariat with the former and the new executive officer, the research team, the editorial team of the Newsletter, the directors of the summer school program, our senior advisor and many others, members and non-members (project partners and members of the projects' steering committees in particular) who contributed in various ways to the progress. Annemieke, Aarne, Beata, Bruno, Eleonore, Vicky, Monique, Kris, Emanuela, Valery, Edit, Katrien, Malini, Tzeni, Kerry, Martin, Robert, Frauke, Niall and Ivo have to be named here explicitly, many others would deserve it as well.

What were the most important activities and achievements of the year? As always, intense work was done in the various research projects. As has been the case in previous years, research related activities have been one of our core businesses. The advancement of scientific knowledge about all aspects of restorative justice is one of the activities, which are explicitly stipulated in the EFRJ's Constitution. All research projects that have been initiated and conducted by the EFRJ have a focus on issues that are of high relevance for RJ practices. In addition, their findings provide the factual basis for the development of evidence-based criminal justice policies, both on the European Union level and in the national jurisdictions. Additionally, our research projects are usually designed as joint activities in which many of our members, institutional members and other partner organisations have been actively involved as partners. Such as the summer schools, this helps to further strengthen the ties particularly amongst RJ practitioners from all parts of Europe.

A further core activity in 2013 was the policy related work of the EFRJ. Based on the fact that the European Union nowadays is the key actor in many areas of criminal justice legislation, we have undertaken efforts to strengthen the legal basis of restorative justice in the Union. With the 2012 directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime restorative justice has got such a basis. We will be aware that the scope for application will become as wide as possible during the implementation phase of the directive. The general recognition of restorative justice as an inherent component of criminal justice measures has been reflected also by the fact that the EFRJ is part of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe. With this joint initiative the EFRJ, Victim Support Europe (VSE), the Confederation of European Probation CEP and the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris) work together on criminal justice related issues of common interest. These four NGOs represent a broad range of interventions

and services dealing with the consequences of crimes for both victims and offenders, and reflect also the important contribution of all the practitioners represented by these NGOs to the development of a more practice-oriented and better criminal justice system. Through this joint initiative the work of the participating organisations will become more visible and its impact increased. In addition, the political attention for the different aspects of European criminal policy, including restorative justice, will be strengthened. The vision is to reach a better treatment for all affected by crime.

All such activities, however, require stable funding. This has been a constant concern of the Forum throughout the last years, and particularly in 2013. It is clear that the Forum has to find sustainable additional funding streams independent from the EU funds. Generating such funds, however, is much more complicated for the EFRJ than for many other NGOs. We do not have national 'branches' that could deliver parts of their income gained from national sources to their umbrella organisation. Moreover, fundraising with national enterprises has failed so far since such donators always have their focus on national NGOs. The same is true for public resources provided by states or national state agencies. Therefore, I would like to draw your attention on the new 'donate' functionality of our website www.euforumrj.org. Please support us by promoting the important role of the EFRJ and its urgent financial needs.

I am confident that this annual report provides more than sufficient proof that the EFRJ is an important, for not to say indispensable actor for the promotion and further development of restorative justice in Europe. And even beyond.

Michael Kilchling
Chair

Short information about the EFRJ

The European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w. (EFRJ or Forum) is a non-governmental not-for-profit organisation established according to Belgian law. It was officially created during the first General Meeting, organised in Leuven (Belgium) on 8 and 9 December 2000. Its statutes were published in the Belgian Official Journal on 19 April 2001.

The general aim of the EFRJ is to help establish and develop victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices throughout Europe. To further this general aim, the EFRJ pursues the following objectives: promoting international exchange of information; promoting the development of effective restorative justice policies, services and legislation; exploring and developing the theoretical basis of restorative justice; stimulating research; and assisting the development of principles, ethics, training and good practice.

The EFRJ has a permanent Secretariat, located within the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC) of the University of Leuven (KULeuven), Hooverplein 10, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

The European Forum Board

After the 2012 elections by the General Meeting the Board of the EFRJ in 2013 is composed of:



○ Michael Kilchling (Germany) as Chair



○ Eleonore Lind (Sweden) as Treasurer



○ Annemieke Wolthuis (the Netherlands) as Vice-Chair



○ Vicky De Souter (Belgium) as Secretary



○ Bruno Caldeira (Portugal)



○ Beata Czarnecka-Dzialuk (Poland)



○ Tim Chapman (Northern Ireland)



○ Aarne Kinnunen (Finland)

Katrien Lauwaert, the former treasurer, stepped down in December 2012 from the board as a new project manager for the EFRJ. She will be replaced by a new board member to be elected at the AGM 2014.

The EFRJ Staff

The EFRJ Secretariat is composed by an executive officer, research coordinators, assistants, interns and volunteers, all based in Leuven:



○ Monique Anderson, Executive Officer



○ Kris Vanspauwen, Executive Officer from November 2013



○ Katrien Lauwaert, Desistance and RJ project



○ Tzeni Varfi, Judicial training project



○ Malini Laxminarayan, Accessibility project



○ Valery Broeckx, intern and part time assistant (September-December)



○ Edit Törzs, Alternative project



○ Emanuela Biffi, volunteer and part time assistant (October-December)

Membership

The European Forum has a mixed membership structure. There are full (with voting rights) and associate (without voting rights) members. Both individuals and organisations have the right to become members.

At the 2013 General Meeting, 15 new members were accepted. 8 of them are full members and 7 of them associate members.

By end of 2013, the Forum had 330 individual members (of which 238 with full membership status) and 59 organisation members (of which 52 with full membership status). Members came from 52 different countries. As usual, the 2014 AGM will review the membership status of those who have not paid their membership fee in the last years.

Overview of the activities

1. GENERAL MEETING

The 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was organised in Lisbon, Portugal, on 5 June 2013.

In addition to recurrent formal issues, such as the approval of the report of the previous General Meeting, the approval of the accounts and budget and membership matters, reports of the board, the secretariat and the committees, the following items were addressed:

Election of new board members

In 2014 the AGM will need to vote for three new board members as the mandate of Aarne Kinnunen and Eleonore Lind comes to an end. Also the resigning of Katrien Lauwaert as treasurer due to her new professional activity as project leader for the EFRJ means a need for replacement. To that end, a selection committee must be composed to search for candidates. The proposed candidates for the selection committee were: Martha Ferrer, Frauke Petzold and Karolien Mariën. The proposal was approved by the AGM.

Projects

The AGM was updated on the running projects of the EFRJ and on additional projects in which the EFRJ is a partner or associate (Latvian project on victims coordinated by PROVIDUS, project of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences on RJ in prison settings and the KU Leuven project on Arts for social change).

Work of the Criminal Justice Platform

The board informed the AGM on this new initiative that brings together the different angles of the criminal justice system represented on the European level: the EFRJ, Victim Support Europe, EUROPRIS and CEP (probation).

Activities started 2 years ago with a workshop in Brussels. The past year was dedicated to offer the organisations the possibility to meet and to get to know each other and to work in an open atmosphere. During the first two years several meetings were organised and the partners presented themselves to the European Commission as a Criminal Justice Platform.

Proposals

The board proposed the increase of membership fees and introduction of 1, 2 or 3 years (reduced) individual membership fees. The AGM did not approve the rise of membership fees, however agreed on the 1-2-3 year scheme for individual members.

Two members proposed offering lifetime membership for the founding fathers of the EFRJ. The Chair would like to enlarge this to all board members. The AGM agreed on the principle but respecting the guidelines to stay restrictive in attributing this.

Communications

On the General Meeting it was announced that the 2014 annual General Meeting will take place in June 2014 in Belfast (Northern Ireland) linked to the 8th International Conference of the EFRJ.

Attention was also raised that on the conference in 2014 the RJ Award will be handed out again.

2. FINANCIAL ISSUES

The EFRJ received an operating grant from the European Commission to cover non-project related costs in 2013. This operating grant was used to cover, among others, part of the salary costs of the executive officer, the assistants, the costs for board meetings and the meetings of the Criminal Justice Platform, part of the costs of the Summer School, the costs for the operation of the Secretariat (HR, insurances, stationary, printing etc.), the rent of the offices, costs related to communication and also hosting and improving the website. The EFRJ also received action grants for different research projects that were conducted in 2013.

Despite the fact that the Forum was relatively successful in attracting research funds, the fiscal year of 2013 ended with a loss, due mostly to outstanding membership fees. More detailed information about the 2013 budget and results are provided by the financial report annexed.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD

Board meetings

As in previous years, the board of the EFRJ had two meetings in 2013: in June (Lisbon) and in November (Leuven). The June meeting was connected to the AGM and the November meeting to the meeting of the Criminal Justice Platform in Leuven. Each board meeting covered two full days. Items discussed included: the status of finances, financial planning, funding strategies, the state of affairs of the ongoing projects, follow up of the projects, lobbying with European institutions, preparation for the 2014 bi-annual conference, development of policy strategies for the coming years, improving of membership services, the task of seeking updated data for the 'country information' section of the website and to work towards both disseminating information about devising methods for the sound implementation the EU Victim Directive of 25 October 2012.



Executive committee meetings

In addition to these meetings the board members, and particularly the executive committee (chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer) had regular contact with each other, and with the executive officer and members of the secretariat (based in Leuven). Executive committee meetings dealt mostly with the changes of staff in the secretariat (replacement of Monique Anderson, who had to be replaced due to a long term sick-leave), maintenance of membership services, public announcement of the position, selection and hiring procedure of Kris Vanspauwen.

Policy work and relation to European organisations

The new EU Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crimes, which has replaced the former Framework Decision on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings of 2001 was a core priority of the EFRJ's policy related activities. With its article 12, the Directive provides a basis for a better implementation of restorative justice in many member states. The Board is about to prepare a position paper, which aims to support the implementation process. In 2013, a variety of consultations and meetings with representatives of the EU Commission and the European Parliament were organised.

In addition the EU Directive was also an issue of prime priority of the joint policy-oriented efforts by the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (see below 8.).

Representation

A further new strategy of the board is focusing on an increased visibility of the EFRJ at international conferences and other public events. The aim is to bring in the topic of restorative justice and its potential role in related fields, such as probation, alternative sanctions, prisons or crime prevention. In 2013 the Forum was represented at several international conferences. The chair (Michael Kilchling) gave the keynote speech at the international World Crime Forum organised by the International Society for Criminology (ISC) in celebration of its 75th anniversary which was held in Leuven in May, 2013. He also presented the EFRJ and its agenda on a public seminar of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe at the Center for Legal Studies in Barcelona in June. Further events include the CEP World Congress in London (represented by the vice-chair, Annemieke Wolthuis), the European Crime Prevention Network meeting in London (represented by board member, Tim Chapman), the fifth meeting of the Directors General of Probation in Europe organised by CEP in Oslo (represented by staff member Katrien Lauwaert) and the participation in the seminar "Slachtoffers en Herstelrecht" in Leuven (EFRJ was represented by staff member Malini Laxminarayan).

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

In 2013 the EFRJ has had more project responsibilities than at any time in its history, an increasing number of requests for information, consultation, and assistance from members, network partners and other organisations. That is a positive sign of the EFRJ's growing reputation as a centre of excellence and expertise on RJ. However, given the particular circumstances of 2013 and the lack of human resources in general, it has been a major challenge for the secretariat to fulfill all its tasks. In order to expand the staff and be able in that way to respond to the many requests addressed to the EFRJ and to live up to the ambitions of the EFRJ, strategies had been developed for 2013 to pursuing additional funding and a campaign to increase membership had been planned. The actions linked to these strategic goals were overshadowed by the long and unexpected absence of the executive officer, Monique Anderson as of June 2013. Since the executive officer is the only permanent staff member at the secretariat, this event has had a major impact on the overall functioning of the EFRJ. The operational work of the secretariat was jointly and partially taken over by Katrien Lauwaert and Malini Laxminarayan, supported by two temporary administrative assistants. The recruitment procedure for a replacement of the executive officer started in July, and the appointment of Kris Vanspauwen took place as of 1 November.

The secretariat completed many core tasks in 2013, including managing finances and staff, organising meetings, dealing with incoming requests, membership administration, coordinating the newsletter, organising the summer school, preparing the conference in Belfast in 2014, updating the website and sending out newflashes, preparing the campaign for the Restorative Justice Week in November 2013 and organising the Annual General Meeting and the other internal meetings of the Forum (Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings).

2012 saw the launch of the EFRJ's new website, which had over 11.000 visits in 2013. The secretariat worked with the web designers on updates to increase the website functionality, including a search option, a password protected membership area and a functionality allowing the EFRJ to use forms to collect information through the website (for membership applications, contact detail updates, registrations etc.). The secretariat was also involved in supporting a number of grant application for projects for which the EFRJ is to be a project partner. In 2013 the EFRJ accepted for the first time to be part of the KU Leuven student internship system and a final year criminology student spent her internship at the EFRJ. Based on the good experiences gained during this process, the EFRJ would like to continue to host student interns at the secretariat.

The members of the secretariat, based at the Leuven Institute of Criminology, KU Leuven are also part of the Restorative Justice Research Line of LINC and take part in the monthly research line and thematic meetings.

The secretariat also played a major role in the administrative and practical support of the projects of which it is the promotor. Members of staff were actively involved in the activities developed within the CJPE, they attended meetings with the EC and were actively involved in events organized by the EC, such as kick off meetings of projects and the two day seminar on the implementation of the Victims Directive (15-16 May 2013).

5. COMMITTEES

During 2013 five formal committees were operational: the communication committee (chaired by Christa Pelikan), the practice and training committee (chaired by Frauke Petzold), the editorial committee (chaired by Kerry Clamp), the research committee (chaired by Borbala Fellegi) and the committee on restorative approaches in schools (chaired by Belinda Hopkins). Work of the committees is varied, the most active were the practice and training committee involved in the Summer School organisation and the editorial committee of the Newsletter, which produced 3 issues and a printed compilation in 2013. We are thankful to all of our members who contribute to the Forum through their work in committees. The work of the committees will be reviewed in 2014.

6. INFORMATION PROVISION

The secretariat dealt with numerous requests for information about the EFRJ and its activities, about contact persons or institutions in other countries, information about training or educational programmes in restorative justice, and about specific aspects of restorative justice. As the secretariat is based in Leuven, information and literature is provided on a regular basis to students and RJ practitioners, from Leuven and from abroad.

The EFRJ **website** was completely re-designed in 2012 in order to make it more user-friendly and better accessible for smartphone use. Since its launch in November 2012, the new website has had over 11.000 visits. In 2013 the EFRJ continued to update the website and provided up to date information on its ongoing

projects, events and activities. The **Facebook** page of the EFRJ also became livelier and we could engage our audience to share ideas and reactions to our activities. The Facebook 'likes' of our page increased with 71% since 2012. We also managed to grow the number of our followers on **Twitter**, which increased with 90% in 2013. The EFRJ managed to increase with 40% the number of its members on **LinkedIn** in 2013.

From the early days of the Forum the EFRJ **newsletter** has always been an important means of communication with its members and the broader RJ community worldwide. From 2013 the EFRJ switched from printed newsletter to electronic ones. While the newsflash shares information on events, trainings and shares updates on projects, the newsletter contains longer articles written by our members on new research results, developments in specific countries, new projects and current issues in restorative justice. One printed edition is still made compiling the best articles from the year's issues at the end of the year. This issue is sent to EFRJ members and is further used on conferences, meetings to increase the visibility of the content of our work. The EFRJ also continued the regular sending out of electronic **newsflashes** to its members and other contact persons reaching more than 800 e-mail addresses, including organisations.

The secretariat also cooperates with the editor in chief of the **Restorative Justice: An International Journal**, which is a new, peer-reviewed academic journal, dedicated 100% to the topic of restorative justice. Besides offering reduced subscription fees for its members, the EFRJ also serves as an information channel in suggesting contributions, as well as one of our project officer, Katrien Lauwaert published an article on the 2012 Victims Directive and its implications for restorative justice.

For the **restorative justice week** (17-23 November 2013) the EFRJ designed 5 different postcards with explanation on RJ or quotations from victims or offenders involved in RJ processes. These cards were sent to interested partners to distribute them locally. We also posted one card each day on the EFRJ Facebook page.



7. EVENTS

EFRJ Summer School 2013

The summer school of 2013 – which took place in Vienna on 29 July-2 August – was organised for restorative practitioners from all over Europe. The EFRJ summer school is both an innovative and unique event in Europe as there are no other similar events offered to restorative justice practitioners at the European level. The theme of this year, Restorative justice in intercultural conflict settings, was inspired and built on the features of the Seventh Framework Programme funded “ALTERNATIVE project”. The summer school involved 31 skilled and experienced practitioners as well as researchers from a number of different European countries. The 2013 edition was facilitated by Frauke Petzold (Germany) and Niall Kearny (UK), and included two one-day parallel workshops by the partners in the ALTERNATIVE project (Foresee Research Group from Hungary and University of Ulster, Northern Ireland). A new feature of the summer school in 2013 was a half day dedicated to visits to local RJ organisations, which was very well received by participants. It was also the first summer school of the EFRJ from which we tweeted regularly.



Seminar

On October 1, 2013 the EFRJ organised a seminar in cooperation with LINC (KU Leuven) entitled “*Asian Pacific Perspectives on Restorative Justice – Values and challenges for diverse needs.*” We welcomed Brian Steels, the director of the Asia Pacific Forum for Restorative Justice and coordinator of the Institute for Restorative Justice & Penal Reform in Australia, who presented their work as well as the main challenges of RJ in the Asian Pacific region.



8. CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLATFORM EUROPE

The Criminal Justice Platform Europe is a joint initiative by the Forum, Victim Support Europe (VSE), the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) and the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris). It aims at reaching a closer cooperation on criminal justice related issues of common interest. In 2013 the EFRJ continued its cooperation with and activities in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe.

Meetings

Three meetings were held:

- Utrecht, March 2013 hosted by CEP.
- Barcelona, June 2013. The CJP working meeting included a meeting with the Catalanian Minister of Justice, who expressed his interest in the work of the Platform and invited us to accept logistical and financial support and the possibility to use the Center for Legal Studies (CEJFE) as a home base for the Platform's future meetings and also as a secretariat.
- Leuven, November 2013 hosted by EFRJ. For this meeting Ms. Helga Ezendam of the Dutch Ministry of Security and Safety was invited as an expert in order to discuss possibilities for a joint activity on the implementation of the 2012 Victims Directive under the working program of the Dutch Presidency in 2016.

Workshops

Barcelona, June 2013

- Public seminar on implications of the 2012 Victims Directive for the work of the 4 Platform partner organisations. The seminar was also used as an opportunity to present the CJPE to a wider audience.
- Expert meeting in world cafe format. It was a multi-disciplinary workshop on implementing the EU's Victims Directive. Main outcomes: ideas on cultural change on communication, on RJ and on other implementation aspects.

Further Activities

Further activities of the CJPE include development of joint lobbying activities for promoting a better justice in Europe and meetings with the European Commission on content and funding.

The cooperation also included mutual exchange of information about all activities of the partners at the regular meetings. In addition, representatives of the partner organisations were invited and contributed to conferences and public events of other partners. Member of staff Katrien Lauwaert presented as key note speaker at the Conference for Directors General of Probation entitled 'Probation, reintegration and restoration' and organised by CEP in April 2013 in Oslo. Vice-chair Annemieke Wolthuis represented EFRJ at the World congress on probation in London, October 2013, EO Kris Vanspauwen attended a VSE event at the European Parliament in October 2013 concerning the Victims Directive.



pictures used for and the collages by Willem van der Brugge (CEP)

9. PROJECTS

In 2013 the EFRJ started three new European projects (Desistance and Restorative Justice, JUST/2011-2012/JPEN/AG/2962; Accessibility and Initiation of Restorative Justice, JUST/2011/JPEN/AG/2968; and Judicial training and Restorative Justice, JUST/2011/JPEN/AG/2977), and was partner in two European projects (ALTERNATIVE Project, within the Seventh Framework Programme; and Sexual violence and Restorative Justice, JUST/2011/DAP/3350).

Current projects of the EFRJ

a) Accessibility and initiation of restorative justice

The research examining restorative justice procedures is very often positive, emphasising numerous benefits. Victims are found to be more satisfied, offender recidivism is reduced, victims are less fearful and angry, and the process allows for more feelings of involvement and empowerment. Furthermore, research has shown that victims do show an interest in mediation when approached with the opportunity. Despite these findings, in addition to support from various legal and support personnel, the use of restorative justice processes in practice is lacking. Small numbers of referrals are being reported in countries across Europe suggesting that

the potential of restorative justice is not being reached. Research suggests that many victims would like to attend restorative justice processes, even when they are not provided with access to such procedures and that the number of people who refuse restorative justice procedures is limited.

The European Forum for Restorative Justice is promoter, the partners in this project are: Molding.nu (Sweden), Ars Publica (Croatia), Center for Peace Studies (Croatia), Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC, Belgium), Verwey-Jonker Institute (Netherlands), Restorative Justice Services (Ireland), Polish Center for Mediation (Poland), Association of Schools of Social Work (Romania)

The project is supervised by Prof Dr Ivo Aertsen and the coordinator of the project is Dr Malini Laxminarayan.

Most important project activities in 2013: two steering group meetings in Leuven, research based on literature review and an online questionnaire answered by respondents from 17 countries and a 2-days workshop in Leuven with 25 international participants.

b) Desistance and Restorative Justice: mechanisms for desisting from crime within restorative justice practices

Although many studies have shown that participation in restorative justice programs often reduces 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 will develop a conceptual framework for analysing restorative justice and desistance, which will then be empirically tested in three European countries.

The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) is promoter and partners are: 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). The supervisor of the project is Prof. Dr Ivo Aertsen and the coordinator is Dr Katrien Lauwaert

Most important project activities in 2013: two steering group meetings (one in Leuven and one in Vienna), literature review and development of a conceptual/methodological framework for the empirical research, preparation of interview guidelines and selection process of potential interviewees in 3 countries.

c) Developing judicial training for restorative justice: Towards a European approach

In order to enhance the role of the judiciary (public prosecutors and judges) in restorative justice, more knowledge and expertise has to be built on how to effectively train members of the judiciary to best secure their cooperation with victim-offender mediation and conferencing programmes. This research project aims to develop good practices around providing such training for the judiciary, to deliver training and to support the building of networks amongst legal professionals in the field of RJ. Existing research will be used to describe the relation –cooperation between the court related actors and the Restorative Justice (RJ) services, in order to better know the particularities and the requirements of the role of the judiciary applying the RJ practices.

The European Forum for Restorative Justice is the promoter and the partners are: Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC) at the University of Leuven (Belgium), University of Ulster (Northern Ireland), University Carlos III de Madrid (Spain), Verwey-Jonker Instituut (The Netherlands), Mediation Development Foundation (Poland) and, Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey). The supervisor of the project is Prof. Dr Stephan Parmentier and the coordinator is Tzeni Varfi.

Most important project activities in 2013: two steering group meetings, research based on literature review, a survey and consultations, a second research report based on a survey on judicial training and RJ, development of training modules, which have been translated to Dutch, Spanish and Polish.

Project partnerships

I - Partnership in current projects

a) **FP7 – Alternative - "Developing alternative understandings of security and justice through restorative justice approaches in intercultural settings within democratic societies"**

ALTERNATIVE
ALTERNATIVE

The four year Alternative project aims to provide an alternative and deepened understanding based on empirical evidence of how to handle conflicts within intercultural contexts in democratic societies in order to

set up security solutions for citizens and communities. In its methodology, it combines theoretical research (on three large topics as (1) alternative epistemologies of justice and security, (2) conflict intervention in intercultural contexts and (3) existing methods of restorative justice and their relevance in intercultural conflicts) with action research carried out in four different countries with different types, levels and settings of conflicts (with local and migrant residents in a social housing neighbourhood in Austria, with Roma and non-Roma inhabitants in a small town in Hungary, three different kinds of conflicts involving gangs, immigrants and different religious groups in the United Kingdom, and in conflicts between Serbs, Albanians, Muslims and Croats in Serbia).

The EFRJ is involved in most of the different work packages of the project, but mainly responsible for one work package of theoretical research on restorative justice and for the dissemination of the project. Ms Edit Törzs is working as project officer for this project.

Partners in the project are: KU Leuven (Belgium) as promoter, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA) (Norway), European Forum for Restorative Justice (Belgium), Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology (IRKS) (Austria), Foresee Research Group (Hungary), Victimology Society of Serbia (Serbia) and University of Ulster (UK). More information on this project can be found on the project website: www.alternativeproject.eu.

Most important project activities in 2013: the EFRJ took part in two steering committee meetings (one in Vienna and one in Budapest), published the first report on RJ practices on the project website, made a survey study on experiences with restorative justice within intercultural conflict settings, prepared a study on EU policies regarding security, justice, diversity from the perspective of restorative justice, presented the survey results on the ESC EUROCRIM 2013 conference in Budapest, published a special issue of the EFRJ Newsletter on the project, made a short introductory film on the project team in Leuven (also available on the project website) and organised the EFRJ Summer School in cooperation with the project partners.

b) Developing integrated responses to sexual violence: An interdisciplinary research project on the potential of restorative justice. Funded by the EC Daphne Programme - JUST/2011/DAP/AG/3350.

Coordinator: KU Leuven LINC, BE

The main research questions of this project are: (1) To which degree can RJ contribute to a more integrated and balanced response to offenses of sexual violence (SV)? (2) Are RJ interventions and programmes compatible with the specific characteristics of different types of SV? (3) Could they help address more appropriately, in an integrated and balanced way, the needs and responsibilities of those immediately

involved, i.e. victims, perpetrators, their communities of care, and concerned institutions such as the criminal justice system?

The project is based and coordinated at KU Leuven but 3 other European research institutions actively participate in the research. In addition to the researchers taking part, three practitioners are also in the steering group and will take an active role in the conception and realisation of the practical guide. A special effort will be made towards the dissemination of the project results through the organisation of two workshops (Dublin/Freiburg) and one seminar (Leuven).

Main activities of the EFRJ in this project in 2013: Kick-off meeting in Leuven.

II – Partnership in completed projects

- a) The EFRJ was a partner in the **“Substantial support for victims: Towards a holistic response to crime. Latvia and beyond”** project. The promoter of this project was Providus, based in Riga, Latvia. The overall objective of the project was to prevent victimisation by enhancing support for victims and fostering a more holistic response to crime, where the needs of the victim, offender and society are equally acknowledged. The Forum provided a research advisor (Edit Törzs) in the project and also had a role in dissemination.
- b) The EFRJ was a partner in the **“Art for social change: Exploring justice through new media documentary”** project, which ran between October 2011 and September 2013. This interdisciplinary international arts research collaboration explored the use of new media technologies and documentary strategies to document and actively participate in the practice of restorative justice in an effort to test the potential for activist art to have a direct role in changing social conditions. This research was translated into the design of a new form of new media documentary work that both represents and embodies the practice of restorative justice, engaging with the public in a qualitative analysis of the structural inequalities underlying current systems of retributive justice and modelling strategies to achieve a more productive, democratic and humane civil society. This new media documentary was presented during the exhibition ‘Convictions’ in the art centre STUK in Leuven.



III - Partnerships in new projects

Restorative justice in cases of domestic violence - Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs. Funded by the EC Justice programme - JUST/2013/JPEN/AG/4587. Coordinator: Verwey-Jonker Institute, NL

The objectives of the research in this project are to get a clear picture of the regulation of RJ/mediation and practical approaches concerning domestic violence in different European countries, to get insight in the needs of victims of domestic violence concerning RJ and to get insight in the conditions under which RJ is possible in cases of domestic violence. What are risk points and best practice? The project aims to deliver a practitioner's manual translated to different languages on these specific cases as well as to set up a network of RJ professionals working with domestic violence cases under the umbrella of the EFRJ. In 2013 the preparation of this project and the related grant application process took place, the project starts in 2014.

Appendix: Financial Report

	BUDGET 2013	RESULT 2013	BUDGET 2014
COSTS			
Rent	11300.52	11904	12000
Utilities KUL	4704	0	4800
Website hosting	1378.2	2027.41	2100
Website development	4600	4186.6	4200
Board and other meetings	18697	16182.97	18000
Documentation center	700	201.7	500
Printing	3750	3850.03	10000
Copies	600	511.83	600
Newsletter	2400	363	1000
Office supplies	1519.88	3056.78	3500
Communication costs	70	11.5	100
Insurance civil liability	635.86	0	640
Postage	600	790.39	800
Postage newsletter	0	948.25	1000
Overhead current account KUL	500	0	250
Software	863	206.91	500
Bookkeeping/accounting	7744	8997.56	9000
Social bureau	2650	4108.85	4200
Medical bureau	365	326.46	350
Other fees	0	1582.3	1000
Travel costs	54466	19455.72	55000
Representation	600	4155.18	4500
Seminars	0	35	100
Publications	368.7	201.83	300
Conferences	250	1666.03	10000
Member fees	165	175.01	175
Conferences Travel/Accommodation	2775	10707.44	50000
Summer School	9107	6673.31	0
Team building activity	500	691.3	750
Training materials	136	0	200

FP7 - Alternative	7000	0	5000
	138445.16	103017.36	200565
Gross wages	306976	177099.33	210000
Holiday pay	0	2233.1	15000
Social security employer	0	44920.63	64000
Insurance labor accidents	1629.45	1983.36	2500
Travel home-work	0	1488.4	2500
Provision vacation	0	19138.46	6000
	308605.45	246863.28	300000
Depreciations ICT Office	1410.72	933.86	2000
	1410.72	933.86	2000
Taxes on interests	75	595.91	250
	75	595.91	250
Bank costs	150	389.5	400
Costs Visa/Mastercard	400	244.38	250
Payment differences	0	61.28	50
	550	695.16	700
Extraordinary costs	0	38242.05	0
Write-off claims	2000	0	0
	2000	38242.05	0
TOTAL COSTS	451086.33	390347.62	503515

INCOME			
Sale of books	150	15	150
Summer School	4550	6706.63	0
	4700	6721.63	150
Member fees	27500	29070	15000
EC- Grant Desistance	76396	33012.7	127363.88
EC - Grant Accessibility	88900	48144.8	51718.13
EC- Grant Judicial Training	57809	50750.15	40108.7
EC- Grant Sex violence	0	0	6400
EC- Grant Dom Violence	0	0	7121.6
Operating Grant	116342	100722.95	112500
FP7 Project - Alternative	75000	52944.22	110000
	441947	314644.82	470212.32
Conference fees	600	0	35000
Reimbursement tax on wages	250	448.33	500
VIA-reimbursement	0	324.05	450
	850	772.38	35950
Interests	500	5395.26	1000
Payment differences	0	69.74	50
	500	5465	1050
Exceptional income	0	23293.01	0
	0	23293.01	0
TOTAL INCOME	447997	350896.84	507362.32
RESULT/YEAR	-3089.33	-39450.78	3847.32