

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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The European Forum for Restorative Justice is a founding member of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe

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#### **Foreword**

This annual report provides an overview of the EFRJ's main activities of 2014. Being marked as our "conference year", 2014 was a busy and exciting year for the Forum. The Belfast conference has further increased the visibility and recognition of the RJ network that the Forum has built up in the past decade. The full board including the leaving members, and the elected new members have created another dynamic. The expanding secretariat in Leuven with the former and new executive officer (EO), the new positions of communication & liaison officer (CLO) and a financial & administrative officer (FAO), and the appointment of some project staff has created some more capacity and stability at the operational level. The editorial board of the Newsletter has further secured the publication of the Forum's newsletter. And finally also many other members and non-members have contributed to our goal through their participation as project partners or membership in one of our projects' steering committees.

Apart from our research projects, the primary focus of 2014 was on sustaining and consolidating our position as a network organisation. This was realised through the expansion of the permanent staff at the Secretariat. The CLO was recruited to support the EO in relation to the membership. The FAO was recruited mainly to support the EO in the financial and administrative management of the projects. Apart from this structural investment, the Forum has also intensified its commitment and cooperation in the activities and the strategy within the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJP).

As always the Forum has been quite active in project work. Thus research and research-related activities has been our core business. Several trainings, seminars, and conferences were organised in 2014. 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. 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, 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 three 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 2014. 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.

Michael Kilchling

# **Introduction to the European Forum for Restorative Justice**

The European Forum for Restorative Justice VZW (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 in Leuven (Belgium) on 8 and 9 December 2000. Its statutes were published in the Belgian Official Journal on 19 April 2001. 2015 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forum. 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.

#### Aim

The general aim of the EFRJ is to help establish and develop victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices throughout Europe.

#### **Objectives**

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.

#### **Organisational Structure**

#### **Board**

The Board of the Forum is composed by volunteer members from at least 6 different European countries. After the elections in June 2014 during the Annual General Meeting the board is composed of:

- The chair, Michael Kilchling (Germany);
- The vice-chair, Annemieke Wolthuis (the Netherlands);
- The treasurer, Karolien Mariën (Belgium);
- The secretary, Vicky De Souter (Belgium);
- Five additional board members: Bruno Caldeira (Portugal), Tim Chapman (UK), Beata Czarnecka-Dzialuk (Poland), Aarne Kinnunen (Finland), and Roberto Moreno (Spain).

#### The Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of the executive officer, the financial and administrative officer and the communications & liaison officer. On a project-basis research-coordinators and research assistants are hired. In 2014 the Secretariat consisted of the following team:

- Kris Vanspauwen, Executive Officer
- Mirko Miceli, Communications & Liaison Officer (as of June)
- Jozefina Gjelaj, Financial & Administrative Officer (as of October)
- Katrien Lauwaert, Project coordinator Desistance and RJ project (until 31 December)
- Edit Törzs, Project coordinator Alternative project
- Emanuela Biffi, Project coordinator Accessibility and Initiation project (until 30 August)
- Emilie Van Limbergen, Communications Officer Alternative project (as of August)
- ❖ Monique Anderson, Executive Officer (until 1<sup>st</sup> of September)
- Malini Laxminarayan, Project coordinator Accessibility & Initiation project (until 31 August)
- Tzeni Varfi, Project coordinator judicial training project (until 30 September)

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#### Editorial Board Newsletter

In 2014 the editorial board was composed by Kerry Clamp (chair, Australia), Martin Wright (UK) and Robert Shaw (UK). The newsletter typically contains two to three articles, which usually deal with new developments in European countries. These developments can relate to practice, but also to research, policy or legislation. We aim to provide the readers also with short information about new publications, upcoming events and other news. Finally, there are some smaller sections in the newsletter which can contain information about the Forum, about a past event, or about international developments. In each newsletter, the editorial board tries to include information about the different parts of Europe. It also attempts to balance the interests of the different target groups of the Forum. Some Newsletters are special issues, focusing on specific projects of the Forum itself. In 2014 the newsletter was published 3 times a year. The fourth and last issue of the year, which is usually a printed version, was eventually not realised. The newsletter is only sent to the members of the Forum. After 6 months the issues are available for everyone on the Forum website, on which the complete newsletter archive can be consulted free of charge.

#### **Membership**

The Forum has a heterogeneous membership structure including organisations and individuals. There are full (with voting rights) and associate (without voting rights) members. Both individuals and organisations have the right to become members. Individuals can apply for a yearly, biennial and three years membership, whilst organisations can apply for the one year membership according to their legal status. At the 2014 General Meeting in Belfast, 48 individuals and 5 organisations with full voting rights have been accepted as new members, and 24 individuals and 2 organisations became members with an associate status. The biennial EFRJ conference in 2014 partially explains the higher number of individuals over organisations, which is a clear trend in the Forum's history.

By the end of 2014, the Forum had over 200 members with a clear prevalence of individual members (around 170). At least one member can be found in each continent and Europe is the best represented continent. The Secretariat was tasked by the AGM to thoroughly review the membership status of both individuals and organisations. The results of this review process will be presented at the AGM in Warsaw.

# **Activity report**

#### **Annual General Meeting 2014**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place at June 11, 2014 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The meeting took place at the beautiful Great Hall of Queens University. Around 80 people, including members, board members, staff and participants of the conference, joined the meeting.

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

#### Election of new board members

The AGM has elected 3 new members for the board. In total there were 6 candidates nominated under the chairmanship of the Elections Committee of Frauke Petzold, who was appointed at the AGM of 2013. Aarne Kinnunen (Finland), Karolien Mariën (Belgium) and Roberto Moreno (Spain) were elected. You can still find the biographies of all six candidates on our website. Many thanks also to the three other candidates: we are sure that the EFRJ will find different ways to collaborate together in the future!

#### **Projects**

The AGM was updated on the 3 running projects for which the Forum is a coordinator, and 3 projects in which the Forum is a partner.

#### 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.

#### Membership matters

The board informed the AGM on the rising number of non-paying members. The Secretariat is tasked to start a review process in order to clarify the situation of these pending members.

#### Communications

On the General Meeting it was announced that the 2015 Summer School will take place in Lisbon (Portugal).

#### **Financial Issues**

In 2014 the EFRJ received an operating grant from the European Commission to cover non-project related costs for the period 28 May – 31 December (7 months). This operating grant could therefore only partially cover the costs of the salary costs of the EO, the CLO and the FAO, the costs for board meetings and the meetings of the Criminal Justice Platform, 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 2014.

An extra source of income was a grant from both the Basque Government and the Finnish Ministry of Justice.

For more detailed information about the 2014 budget is provided by the financial report annexed.

In 2014 the EFRJ applied for a three-year Framework programme in which network organisations can apply for an operating grant.

#### Activities of the board

#### **Board meetings**

As in previous years, the board of the EFRJ had two meetings in 2014: in June (Belfast) and in November (Leuven). The June meeting was connected to the AGM. 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 2016 bi-annual conference, preparation of the Summer School 2014, the development of policy strategies for the coming years, improving of membership services, and an informal meeting between staff and board. 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.

#### Executive committee

The executive committee is composed by the chair, the vice-chair, the secretary, and the treasurer. The executive committee met two times with the executive officer in 2014.

#### **Activities of the Secretariat**

The secretariat expanded in the course of 2014. A half-time CLO (June-December) and FAO (October-December) were recruited. The secretariat completed many core tasks in 2014, including managing finances, dealing with incoming requests, membership administration, coordinating the newsletter, organising the summer school and sending out newsflashes. In 2014 the EFRJ accepted an internship position from the KU Leuven.

#### **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, not only from Leuven but also from abroad.

#### Delegation from The Republic of Tajikistan visit the EFRJ

A study visit for the members of the Working Group on the draft law on mediation of the Republic of Tajikistan to Leuven and Brussels took place on 18-21 October 2014. The delegation visited the European Forum for Restorative Justice too. The visit was organised by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. For more information see: <a href="http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/events/?id=1921">http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/events/?id=1921</a>

#### Dissemination

#### Academic article on RJ and desistance, social justice and peacebuilding (Dutch)

Three of our members have published an article on the potentials of RJ for desistance, social justice and peacebuilding in the Flemish peer-reviewed journal Panopticon. The paper is a reflection of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference held by the EFRJ in Belfast on 11-14 June 2014. The article was written by Tinneke Van Camp, Bart Claes, and Sofie Van Roeyen. The title is: "Van herstelrecht naar desistance, sociale rechtvaardigheid en vredesopbouw. Reflecties bij het 8ste internationaal congres van het European Forum for Restorative Justice."

#### Academic article on Accessibility and RJ (Dutch)

Dr. Katrien Lauwaert, the project coordinator of the project "Desistance and Restorative Justice", published a peer-reviewed academic article on accessibility of RJ for offenders and victims of crime on the journal Panopticon, Vol. 6 (in Dutch only): "Naar een betere toegankelijkheid van herstelbemiddeling voor verdachten/daders en slachtoffers van misdrijven – omzendbrief COL 5/2014 van het College van procureurs generaal bij de hoven van beroep".

#### Website and social media

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. We also managed to grow the number of our followers on Twitter.

#### Newsletter and newsflash

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 was not realized this year. The EFRJ also continued the regular sending out of electronic **newsflashes** to its members and other contact persons reaching more than 1000 e-mail addresses, including organisations.

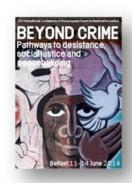
#### The implementation of the Victim's Directive#

#### Academic article on RJ in the Victims Directive

Dr. Katrien Lauwaert, project coordinator of "Desistance and RJ", published the article "Restorative justice in the 2012 EU Victims Directive: a right to quality service, but no right to equal access for victims of crime" on the Restorative Justice International Journal, Volume 1, Number 3, December 2013, pp. 414-425(12).

#### 8th International Conference of the EFRJ in Belfast

The European Forum for Restorative Justice held its 8th International Conference on Restorative Justice in Belfast from 11-14 June 2014. This event — which brought together 300 people from Europe and the rest of the world — was hosted by Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster and focussed on three broad themes of desistance, social justice, and peacebuilding. Among the keynote speakers the EFRJ was delighted to welcome John Braithwaite, Shadd Maruna, and Joanna Shapland. On the occasion of the conference a beautiful short film was produced by the Foresee Research Group.



With this year's theme of the conference "Beyond crime: pathways to

desistance, social justice, and peacebuilding" we aimed to broaden our scope of restorative justice, and therefore try to look "beyond" its application to the criminal justice system. Thus we hoped to bring together a diverse range of perspectives focusing at different levels (the personal, the societal, the political), and inspired by a multitude of backgrounds and disciplines (such as criminology, social and political sciences, peace research, etc.). The European Forum for Restorative Justice welcomed presentations that address these 3 main themes, but contributions on new developments and innovative approaches in RJ were considered as well. More than 140 presentations were held in different formats: individual presentations, dialogue sessions, round table discussions, training sessions, and video documentaries. One entire afternoon was dedicated to thematic fieldtrips. For desistance a visit to the Crumlin Road Prison, for peace making a workshop was held at the Titanic Museum, and for social justice a field visit was planned to a grass-roots peace making organisation. An evaluation survey and a membership survey were conducted at the end of the conference.

#### **Restorative Justice Award 2014**

Christa Pelikan (Austria) received the prestigious 3rd European RJ Award during the conference in Belfast on June 13, 2014. Christa has been one of the founding pioneers of the European Forum. It can be said that Christa was really at the origins of the Forum and turned out to become one of its rocks. Besides her

Forum activities she was one of the level of the Council of Europe. for the preparation 1999 mediation in penal matters. Even finished, Christa remained active restless energy, RJ at national, conferences. A particular focus many strong bonds. Besides European Forum, she also



the most influential promoters at She chaired the Expert Committee Recommendation (No. 19) on when this work was successfully in the field, promoting, with European and international was on Poland where she formed countless projects relating to the participated in the COST action on

restorative justice in Europe which, in the period from 2002 to 2006, prepared the ground and set the standards for joint activities of – and in the meantime more than solid connections between – stakeholders in the RJ field in almost all European countries. She has also been a pioneer in issues relating to the potentials of RJ in intercultural conflicts. Therefore, not surprisingly, she was one of the responsible researchers in the drafting of the successful application of the ALTERNATIVE project. In her own country, Austria, she was likewise influential. Since it was founded in 1973, the Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology in Vienna has always been her home base as a main researcher; even today, after her retirement, she still has a workplace there. With her background as a social historian, Christa has always tried to combine theoretical insights with practice- and policy-oriented developments. She has been successful in building a relationship with the "field" in Austria, including actors from extremely different angles such as the Ministry of Justice, probation service, victim support, and the feminist movement. One of her greatest achievements is certainly her valuable research on the application of RJ in cases of domestic violence, in regard to which she presented strong empirical evidence that largely contributed to the implementation of RJ in this area – notwithstanding high resistance from some groups of practitioners and parts of the women's movement. In this context in particular, Christa always followed her inner voice as a scientist. There is, however, one particular field in which her success was limited, although she tried hard and with a comparable extent of insistency as in the purely scientific area. This is related to her prior role as main organizer and programme officer of most of the Forum's conferences (excerpt taken from the laudatio provided by the chair of the EFRJ, Michael Kilchling).

#### RJ teaching database

The EFRJ was happy to announce in 2014 the creation of a database collecting RJ Teaching Programmes available worldwide! This teaching database project was a joined effort of Emanuela Biffi (EFRJ), Thomas Luyts (MA Student Criminology, KU Leuven), Ian Marder (Ph.D. Student, University of Leeds, and initiator of the Community of Restorative Researchers), Yutaka Osakabe (PhD student, University of Aberdeen), and Masahiro Suzuki (PhD student at Griffith University). The database will be a source of information for people interested in learning more about RJ and for teachers



willing to share the teaching experiences and educational programmes. Among students and teachers, there may be RJ practitioners, legal professionals, academics, or any other interested person in RJ. The database consists of RJ Teaching Programmes within Europe and beyond at the university level. Where RJ is not taught yet at the university level, respondents shared information about other courses on RJ (described as "Other level"). This database includes the following information:

WHERE (Country, city, university, faculty, department); TITLE (title of the teaching program); WHAT (Info on format, content, teaching activities); FOR WHO (Level, target group, prerequisites); and MORE INFO (contact details).

#### **RJ Week**

The International Restorative Justice Week 2014 took place on November 16-23. This year the theme was "INSPIRING INNOVATION".



Short film for the international RJ film



On the occasion of the RJ Week 2014 a short film "Restorative justice. Inspiring the future of a just society for all" has been produced by the EFRJ and the Foresee Research Group. The film can be viewed via the website of the EFRJ.

#### RJ Lunches across Europe during the RJ Week 2014

This year the EFRJ encouraged its network across Europe and beyond to host a "RJ Lunch on Inspiring Innovation" during the RJ Week 2014 around the sub-theme "The future of RJ. The EFRJ coordinated these series of RJ Lunches organised throughout Europe and beyond. The response to the call was amazing. With the support of many members and non-members this year's edition of the RJ week was a successful awareness raising campaign. The following events were organised:

#### **AUSTRALIA**

❖ 20 November (17.30-19.00): the Corrective Services NSW are hosting a research Symposium to showcase the research findings from the first Australian study of Victim Offender Conferencing. The key research findings exploring the promise and prospects of RJ in the aftermath of serious and violent crime will be presented by Dr Jane Bolitho followed by commentary by UNSW Law Professor Julie Stubbs.

#### **BELGIUM**

- ❖ 12-14 November: Conference "Exploring the potential of restorative justice for sexual violence" in Leuven.
- ❖ 18 November (9-11): RJ Brunch with some 40 Criminology Master students at KU Leuven. The initiative has been organized by two researchers at the Leuven Institute of Criminology (Monique Anderson and Emanuela Biffi) in collaboration with the EFRJ staff and some volunteer students who actively contributed in the realization of this project. The lecture was entitled "Building social support for and promoting accessibility of restorative justice" and it referred to two EU funded projects coordinated by the EFRJ during



the past years, "Building Social Support for Restorative Justice" and "Accessibility and Initiation of Restorative Justice". After a short presentation on the EFRJ aims and activities, including the

annual international RJ Week campaigns, the lecture focused on practical ideas for raising awareness and increasing accessibility of RJ. Then students were introduced to a group exercise. Afterwards the RJ Brunch took place. Many students brought food to share with their colleagues during the class.

❖ 28 November (12-13): Inspiring Lunch on merging restorative values in a disciplines and ordered educational system (in Dutch only). This meeting is part of a six-day programme for implementing restorative approaches in seven Flemish schools.

#### **BULGARIA**

❖ 21 November (16.00): The Association "Bulgarian-Romanian Trans-border Mediation Institute" (BRTMI) participated to the RJ Week 2014 with a Discussion for Restorative Justice in Ruse. This was lead by Mr. Ivaylo Ivanov. About 30 people participated to the event "Discussion for restorative justice" held in Ruse. The event was supported by the Law Department of the



University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev". Special guests of the discussion were the Vice Chancellor of the University – Prof. Dr. Juliana Popova and the Dean of the Law Department – Prof. Dr. Lachezar Dachev. The discussion was attended by law students, professors, lawyers and journalists.

#### CROATIA

\* 10-16 November: During the International RJ Week 2014 students enrolled in the course "Out-of-court settlement" will engage in actively raising awareness about RJ among students and professors from the three programs (social pedagogy, rehabilitation and speech pathology) of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (Department for Behavioral Disorders) from University of Zagreb. The event



will be organized by the Croatian NGO "Association for Out-of-court Settlement and Mediation in Criminal Proceedings" together with the university Faculty.

#### **HUNGARY**

❖ 6-7 November: international workshop in Budapest on the potentials of RJ in intercultural contexts (in the framework of the FP7 Alternative project).

#### ITALY

- ❖ 31 October- 23 November: a series of events have taken place in preparation of and during the RJ Week 2014 at the University of Insubria in Como, such as the conference "Restorative Justice. Evidence of complementarity", the screening of the video "Restorative Justice. A discovery journey", the poster presentations about RJ prepared by the students of the course "Restorative Justice and Penal Mediation" and the "Restorative Justice Reading Circle" with students and staff members from University of Insubria.
- ❖ 12 November: more than 150 people attended the seminar on communities of support, associations and restorative justice at the Palazzo Montecitorio (Italian Chamber of Deputies) in Rome. One of our board members, Bruno Caldeira from Portugal, represented the EFRJ during the meeting. Videos and pictures are available via our website.
- ❖ 13 November (21.00): the play "Roma La Capitale" will be performed in the theatre of Rignano Flaminio, Rome, by prisoners, ex-prisoners and prison officers from the theatre company "Stabile Assai" (Rebibbia prison). The play focuses on the relations between citizens and members of the criminal organization "Banda della Magliana". Before the play, the actors will meet the students from some secondary schools in the region. The main objectives of "Stabile Assai" are to raise awareness on the problems of imprisonment and to emphasise and rebuild the crucial relationship existing between victims and offenders.
- ❖ 14-15 November: 47<sup>th</sup> National Congress of SEAC (one of the first organizations introducing penal mediation in Italy) in Rome.
- On 19 November, about 130 people (including prisoners, police officers, victim support workers, volunteers, students, teachers, magistrates, educators, lawyers, local administration officers, etc.) participated in the RJ Lunch in Tempio Pausania (Sardinia) to discuss the future of RJ in Italy. In particular, the RJ Lunch has been a great occasion for presenting an action research funded by the region Sardinia on the construction of a restorative and relational community. The EFRJ documentary, made in occasion of the RJ Week 2014, has been shown during the RJ Lunch. The regional television service from Sardinia recorded the event and showed it on the same evening during the TV regional news (see "Integrazione in Carcere", minutes 16.40-18.40).

- ❖ 20 November (10.00-15.00): RJ Coffee Degustation and Dialogues organized by the Cooperativa C.R.I.S.I. inside the coffee bar of the prison of Bari. In the afternoon, prisoners and students will participate in a theatre workshop simulating RJ role-plays.
- ❖ 28 November (21.00): the play "Roma La Capitale" will be performed in the theatre of Circolo Posillipo in Naples by the theatre company "Stabile Assai" (more info above). Before the play, a debate on the conditions of minors living in Scampia will be held.

#### **LATVIA**

❖ 1-9 December: Latvian State Probation Service (providing also Victim- Offender Mediation since 2009) organized a week of public activities for raising awareness on RJ and implementing RJ in working places. The local organisers have chosen a different week to celebrate this international event The State Probation Service has 28 local structures around Latvia and every structure had

the possibility to voluntarily organize a one-day event about a Restorative Working Place. Colleagues from 18 local structures and central office agreed to participate; all together 210 people were involved! In the central office of the State Probation Service a peace-making circle took place.



#### **SPAIN**

- November: RJ Lunch in Madrid.
- ❖ 20-21 November: conference "Circles4EU" in Barcelona organised by our CJP partner CEP.

#### **SWEDEN**

❖ 13 November: conference "Success Factors for family mediation and victim offender mediation" organized by the Swedish Forum for Mediation and Conflict in Gothenburg. Our former board member, Ms. Eleonore Lind, provided a short keynote raising awareness on the RJ week.

#### THE NETHERLANDS

- 10-13 November: "The Restorative Practitioner", event delivered by IIRP Europe in Amsterdam.
- ❖ 17-19 November: Conference 25 Years CRC (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). Restorative justice will be presented by the EFRJ vice-chair, Annemieke Wolthuis, in the context of juvenile justice.
- ❖ 20 November: RJ Lunch in at Verwey-Jonker Institute in Utrecht.
- 21 November: RJ Lunch at the court in Amsterdam.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

- ❖ 16-23 November: The Ministry of Justice developed a range of communications materials to support the campaign "What Would You Do?" taking place on social media during the RJ Week 2014. The campaign aims at encouraging people to reflect on what would they do if they had a chance to meet the person who committed a crime against them.
- To November (12-14): RJ Lunch with the North East Crime Research Network and the Centre for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, Durham University. Over 30 people attended including members of the police, the office of police crime commissioner, youth offending teams, council, housing, neighborhood resolution panels and universities



from across the region. There was some fantastic networking with people arranging to meet to discuss working together as a direct result of the lunch! There was also some structured discussions around restorative justice, including people's vision for the future of RJ! [...] We enjoyed watching the film produced by the European Forum for Restorative Justice and thought the lunch idea for 2014 was fantastic!"

- ❖ 17-21 November: intensive course "Foundation Skills" in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- 21 November (14.00-16.00): RJ Networking Event and film screening (with refreshments) organized by RJ Working Community and Cube Theatre in Cornwall

#### **Representation at Conferences**

#### Seminar on Communities of Support and RJ in Rome



More than 150 people attended the seminar on communities of support, associations and restorative justice at the Palazzo Montecitorio in Rome (Italy) on 12 November, organized by by Psicolus (the Roman school of forensic psychology), AICS (the Italian Association of Culture and Sport) and the Università degli Studi in Sassari (Sardinia). Representing the EFRJ, board Member

Bruno Caldeira was invited to give a keynote at the seminar.

#### Exploring the potential of restorative justice for sexual violence



The conference "Exploring the potential of RJ for sexual violence" took place in Leuven (Belgium) on 12-14 November 2014. Our Communications & Liaison Officer Mirko Miceli was on the organizing committee of the conference. Flyers and leaflets were provided in the conference bags for the participants.

#### Victimology Society of Serbia

On 27-28 November 2014 the EFRJ participated in the fifth Annual Conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia in Belgrade entitled "Victims' protection: International law, national legislation and practice".

The special focus of this year's conference on European legislation is linked to the accession negotiations of Serbia to the European Union. Serbia is in the process of looking into the harmonization of its national legislation and policies with the EU acquis and specific ally with the European standards that contribute to better



protection of victims. Two plenary presentations were dedicated to restorative justice. EFRJ research coordinator Katrien Lauwaert spoke about EU policies on victims of crime in restorative justice. Building on the work done by the Council of Europe, the EU has introduced provision about RJ in its legislation on victims of crime, first in the 2001 Framework Decision and more recently in the 2012 EU Directive on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (Victims Directive). The Directive focuses strongly on safeguards for victims participating in restorative justice processes in order to protect them from secondary victimization. Other equally important elements for victims, such as the possibility of self-referral and the availability of RJ for all types of crime and at any stage of the criminal proceedings are not addressed. Probably we need more development and awareness at the national level before there is sufficient political support for a more elaborate EU instrument on restorative justice processes.

Besides the major topic of European Victim legislation, many other themes were discussed in about 50 presentations. The conference was attended by around 100 participants from Serbia, neighbouring countries and other parts of the world, who engaged in intensive and inspiring discussions.

#### 8th Biennial Conference of the Indian Society of Victimology

The vice-chair, Annemieke Wolthuis, represented the EFRJ in Chennai (India) on 9-11 October 2014 during the Fourth International & Eight Biennial Conference of the Indian Society of Victimology (ISV). The focus of the conference was on children's rights, child victims of different type of crimes and juvenile justice. Annemieke presented her PhD research on RJ and children's rights.

VSE Conference "Victims of Crime beyond 2015"



The conference "Victims of Crime Beyond 2015" took place on 18 November in the European Parliament in Brussels. Victim Support Europe (VSE) organized this conference with the purpose of raising awareness on the implementation of the <u>EU Directive on victims of crime</u> and to present VSE's strategy 2014-19. Among other participants, two staff members of the EFRJ attended the event, Mirko Miceli and Emanuela Biffi. Concerning the implementation of the EU Directive by November 2015, much attention has been given to the importance of raising awareness and increasing cooperation to strengthen victim's rights, support and protection across all EU Member States. Special consideration has been given to the significance of training the criminal justice authorities and victim support officers and of properly informing victims of crimes about their rights and support services.

#### 25th CRC Conference

The vice-chair Annemieke Wolthuis attended the <u>25 years CRC (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)</u> <u>Conference</u> in Leiden on 18 and 19 November 2014. The Conference was opened by prof. Ton Liefaard who holds the UNICEF chair on children's rights at the University of Leiden. Annemieke presented during

the juvenile justice/restorative justice workshop on 18 November on restorative justice and children's rights, the topic of her dissertation/book of 2012. In 1989 when the CRC was launched, the concept "restorative justice" was not yet used so much and does not yet appear in the Convention, but every other international instrument (conventions, guidelines, recommendations) released after 1995 do. The Committee on the Rights of the Child launched in 2006 General Comment 10 stating that "The protection of the best interests of the child means, for instance that the traditional objectives of criminal justice (repression/retribution) must give way to rehabilitation and RJ objectives in dealing with child offenders. This can be done in concert with attention to public safety." These documents create an obligation for states to arrange RJ in the juvenile justice scene.

#### Final conference COREPOL project

The EFRJ, as partner of the ALTERNATIVE project, attended the final conference of the FP7 <u>COREPOL project</u>. The conference, entitled "Restorative Justice in Policing Ethnic Minorities" was held in Brussels, Belgium, 4 December 2014. The objective of the one-day conference was to spread basic knowledge about the concept of conflict resolution, their implementation and varieties across the legal cultures. The focus was on the policing of minorities in particular, as well as the potential of police and law enforcement for handling conflicts and peace building within democratic societies. The aims and topic of the COREPOL project are very close to the main issues in the FP7 <u>ALTERNATIVE project</u>, in which the EFRJ cooperates with 6 partners on developing alternative understandings of security and justice by applying restorative approaches in intercultural conflict settings. The conference suggested that one promising way of improving these factors could be a more frequent use of restorative justice methods and approaches.

#### International Juvenile Justice Observatory Conference, Brussels

The 6th International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) Conference entitled "Making deprivation of children's liberty a last resort – Towards evidence-based policies on alternatives" was held in Brussels (3-4 December 2014). The event brought together around 300 participants from all over the world. During the presentations and workshops, restorative justice was one of the key elements in offering alternative ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and avoiding deprivation of liberty of children.



The EFRJ was honoured to be invited to this conference. Edit Törzs, Project Officer at the EFRJ was given the floor to present the brand new short film of the EFRJ "Restorative justice. Inspiring the future of a just society for all". Participants welcomed the short movie, which introduced the topic of the following plenary session on "Implementing effective restorative justice practices to interrupt the cycle of violence and juvenile crime". The plenary focused on the potentials of using restorative justice in crimes involving young offenders. In presenting the

findings of extensive academic research David Farrington, Emeritus Professor at Cambridge University, stressed the importance of identifying specific factors in youth behaviours that can be associated with persistent criminal conducts and recidivism. Tim Chapman, Lecturer at the University of Ulster and Board member of the EFRJ, pointed out how restorative justice can effectively break this cycle of juvenile crime by engaging the parties and stimulating the sense of responsibility for the harm they have caused among young offenders.

#### **External cooperation**

#### Catholic University of Leuven – Leuven Institute for Criminology

#### Thinking Days of the RJ Research Line

On 12 and 13 December 2014, the EFRJ staff based in Leuven participated in the "thinking days" organised by the Restorative Justice Research Line of the KU Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC). The EFRJ's staff

are members of this research line. The two-days meeting took place in the training centre for penitentiary staff based in Merksplas, 75 km from Leuven (Belgium). During the first session, Prof. Ivo Aertsen, one of the founders of the EFRJ, presented on the history of the RJ Research Line at the Law Faculty of KU Leuven. A former researcher of the EFRJ, Brunilda Pali, contributed to this presentation by mapping the research carried out so far by the RJ Research Line.





The first sessions was starting point to further discuss the identity of the RJ Research Line. The second session focussed on the internal functioning of the RJ Research Line, and was chaired by the former executive officer of the EFRJ, Monique Anderson. In this session special attention was paid to the relation between the EFRJ and LINC, to identify how the two can keep on interacting and supporting each other in the future. The "thinking days"

ended with a guided tour in the prison/school centre of Hoogstraten. This prison is reserved for a selected group of 180 prisoners who attend professional learning programmes. During their time in prison they have the opportunity to learn a profession and obtain a diploma. The prison in Hoogstraten has limited protection measures and focuses mainly on the rehabilitation of the offender.

#### Criminal Justice Platform Europe

The CJP is a joint initiative by the EFRJ, CEP, and EuroPris. It aims at reaching a closer cooperation on

criminal justice related issues of common interest. Through this initiative the interest for the work of the partner organisations shall be increased. In addition, the political attention for the different practical aspects of European criminal policy shall be strengthened. In 2014 the platform met 3 times. The Catalonian government has signed a gentle men's agreement to host the meetings of the platform at the Centre for Legal Studies, in Barcelona.



### **Projects**

In 2014 the EFRJ ended three 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, hereafter FP7; and Sexual violence and Restorative Justice, JUST/2011/DAP/3350).

#### **Project coordination**

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

The four year Alternative project aims at providing 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 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. In August, Emilie Van Limbergen joined the EFRJ team to work specifically on dissemination. 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 2014 - The EFRJ staff:

- participated in two steering committee meetings (Belgrade and Leuven), as well as in the advisory board meeting in Leuven, organized the steering committee meeting and the advisory board meeting in Leuven;
- published a report on relevant European policies;
- published an academic article in *Temida* entitled 'Restorative justice approaches in intercultural conflict settings findings of a survey and implications for practice';
- contributed substantively to the organisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> bi-annual conference of the EFRJ; ensured that ALTERNATIVE was extensively represented through key note speeches and workshop presentations; presented the research on EU policies and RJ at this conference;
- finalised a new dissemination strategy and realised some new elements of the dissemination strategy, such as the launch of a blog with regular updates and new posts, a list of conferences to be attended, the creation of a new social media account, the creation of contact database;
- submitted three chapter abstracts for the books to be published by the project;
- submitted a report on the Summer School;
- coordinated the preparation of the four regional workshops;
- continued to coordinate the film making and prepared the film editing workshop in Leuven;
- started preparing the Practitioners' Manual;
- contributed to the preparation of the final conference;
- made regular website updates;
- organised local dissemination activities participated in conferences and provided project flyers;
- attended local team meetings and research meetings.

#### Accessibility and initiation of restorative justice

The research examining restorative justice procedures is very often positive, emphasizing 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: Melding.nu (Sweden), Ars Publica (Croatia), Centre for Peace Studies (Croatia), Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC, Belgium),

Verwey-Jonker Institute (Netherlands), Restorative Justice Services (Ireland), Polish Centre 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.

The core activities in 2014 were:

- mid-term reporting to the EC;
- ❖ 4 regional trainings (Croatia, Ireland, Poland, the Netherlands);
- 2-days workshop in Leuven with 25 international participants;
- Final reporting;
- Development of a practical guide.

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

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 was thus to gain insight in the mechanisms within restorative justice practices that can contribute to desistance from crime and reduce victimisation. Starting from the factors identified in the desistance literature in general, a conceptual framework was developed for analysing restorative justice and desistance, which was then empirically tested in three European countries, Austria, Belgium and Northern Ireland, in collaboration with a regional or national practice organisation.

The research questions were the following:

- How does participation in RJ influence the desistance journey of people who have offended?
- Which factors within RJ practices support positive subjective and social changes that help initiate or maintain desistance from crime?
- For whom and under which conditions are these factors relevant?

80 semi-structured interviews were conducted with persons who had participated in a restorative justice process and had not reoffended since. The interviews were taped, transcribed and analysed. Austria, Belgium and Northern Ireland have a different institutional context of restorative justice, and diversification has been the leading principle for the sampling. As a result the sample contains persons with or without a previous criminal lifestyle, adults and juveniles, who took part in victim-offender mediation or family group conference, which were either diversionary measures, part of the sentencing procedure or organised in parallel with the criminal proceeding or the execution of the sentence.

The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) was promoter of the project. The partners were: the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), the Institut für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie (IRKS, Austria), the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC, Belgium), Médiante (Belgium), Neustart (Austria), Queen's University (UK) and Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland (UK).

The academic supervisor of the project was prof. dr. Ivo Aertsen (KU Leuven) and the coordinator was dr. Katrien Lauwaert (EFRJ).

The most important project activities in 2014 were the following:

- mid-term reporting to the EC;
- continued selection of participants for the interviews; interviews with desisters; analysis of the empirical data;
- one workshop for feedback on preliminary findings and dissemination of the project in each region (Belfast, Vienna, Leuven);
- organisation of the bi-annual conference of the EFRJ which was held in June 2014 in Belfast and at which desistance and RJ was one of the main themes; presentation of the project at this EFRJ conference;
- two steering group meetings (one in Belfast and one in Leuven);
- final reporting.

#### 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 promotor 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 2014:

- mid-term reporting to the EC;
- one steering group meeting;
- expert meeting;
- final reporting;
- Publication of a research report and practical manual.

#### **Project partnerships**

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 in 2014:

- Dissemination and support for expert meetings in Freiburg;
- Final conference in Leuven;
- Final reporting.

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. 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. The EFRJ is responsible for dissemination and provides a senior researcher and expert on the topic of domestic violence.

Main activities in 2014:

First and second steering group meeting (Utrecht, Helsinki)

## **New Project Applications**

Carlos III University of Madrid – Specialised judicial training to enhance abilities of judges and prosecutors concerning RJ instruments

CRISI (Italy) – Learning for legal users: open lab for training courses and exchange to support criminal proceeding (LUCE project)

KU Leuven (Belgium) - Preventing and combatting hate crime and intolerance through restorative practices

# **Appendix: Financial Report**

# Costs

	Budget 2014	Result 2014	Budget 2015
Employment	-300.640,00	-307.931,35	-125.000,00
Operating	-39.900,00	-40.462,77	-40.000,00
Communication	-20.175,00	-15.977,04	-10.000,00
Travel & Meetings	-142.800,00	-121.630,06	-7.000,00
Extraordinary costs	0,00	-23.713,32	0,00
TOTAL COSTS	-503.515,00	-509.714,53	-182.000,00

# Income

	Budget 2014	Results 2014	Budget 2015
Operating Grant	112.500,00	114.000,00	
EC- Grant Desistance	127.363,88	118.047,04	
EC - Grant Accessibility	51.718,13	65.385,81	
EC- Grant Judicial Training	40.108,70	24.663,79	
EC- Grant Sex violence	6.400,00	5.857,92	
EC- Grant Dom Violence	7.121,60	9.413,01	
FP7 Project – Alternative	110.000,00	52.944,22	160.000,00
Sale of books	150,00	10,00	150,00
Summer School 2013 Vienna	0,00	0,00	0,00
Member fees	15.000,00	13.961,99	15.000,00
Various grants	0,00	5.600,00	0,00
Conference fees	35.000,00	50.044,78	0,00
Reimbursement tax on wages	500,00	616,52	600,00
VIA-reimbursement	450,00	1.466,69	1.500,00

Interests	1.000,00	1.881,47	1.500,00
Payment differences	50,00	254,57	0,00
Exceptional income	0,00	172,73	0,00
TOTAL INCOME	507.362,32	517.199,02	178.750,00

# Result

	Budget 2014	Result 2014	Budget 2015
TOTAL COSTS	-503.515,00	-509.714,53	-182.000,00
TOTAL INCOME	507.362,32	517.199,02	178.750,00
RESULT	3.847,32	7.484,49	-3.250,00

# **Balance Sheet**

	End of 2014	End of 2013
Investments	1.898,27	2.024,36
Current assets	291.471,32	340.312,51
- Claims	42.982,18	38.121,06
- Cash and cash equivalents	245.340,98	300.358,84
- Carry over costs > next year	3.148,16	1.832,61
TOTAL ASSETS	293.369,59	342.336,87
Capital and reserves	154.689,25	147.204,76
Debts	138.680,34	195.132,11
- Debts <1 year	68.092,10	60.686,08
- Carry over income > next year	70.588,24	134.446,03
TOTAL LIABILITIES	293.369,59	342.336,87