



European Forum **for** Restorative Justice

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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Mariën and Jolien Willemsens
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Foreword

This year is marked, on the one hand, by the continuing high level of activity and the willingness of the Secretariat to shoulder the challenges that come with increased work load. On the other hand, a threshold was reached regarding funding and staffing within the Forum. Jolien Willemsens, the Forum's Executive Officer from the beginning, who had contributed so much to the development of the organisation, moved to new pastures at the end of 2008. Jolien's departure heralded many changes within the Secretariat: new staff were hired, and during the autumn a plan was made to enable the Forum to manage during the transition period. Even at this time of writing, the organisation is still in this period of transition, and it is realistic to reckon it will take another year before we are 'on top' again.

In 2008 there have been two main strands of activities: projects and the biennial conference; and a high focus on developing a sustainable structure within the organisation, i.e. to clarify and describe the tasks and responsibilities of the Board and the Secretariat and between the Forum and the University of Leuven. There will be two descriptions: the ideal one (a sketch, only) and the one accommodated to the situation today, with the resources available at present.

Also, the persistent work done by the Secretariat, the Board and Ivo Aertsen (member and also University of Leuven representative) to secure more long term funding for the Forum, has been successful. The fact that the Forum in 2008 was recognised by the European Commission as an organisation in a *de facto* monopoly situation gives us a modest but firm hope that the Forum will survive and thrive further into the future. The *de facto* monopoly situation gives us certain privileges regarding funding from the Commission, but there remain a number of challenges; the Forum has to contribute with 30% by its own means to be entitled to financial support. This, you might imagine, is a concern when the organisation does not have any income apart from membership fees, and no capital to invest. Nevertheless, 'restorative justice people' have over time proved that they do not give up easily. Why? Because they believe in the potential of positive societal change that lies in the restora-

tive justice approach, this is worth fighting for.

2008 has hopefully proved to be a turning point for the European Forum in more respects. Our now former Executive Officer has kindly finalised the accounts for 2008 and helped the new staff to find their way. The Forum is slowly but surely emerging into a new era - from the difficult and uncertain early years to a more stable phase with clearer internal structures and a better financial situation. It will be a challenge for the new staff to operate within the new structures - to take the step from nice paper plans to living reality. Also, I wish my successor, Niall Kearney, who will take over as Chair from the Annual General Meeting 2009 on, all the best in bringing the Forum forward into a more sustainable era.

If you have comments on this report, or on the activities or functioning of the European Forum, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat or the members of the Board.

Siri Kemény
Chair

Short information about the Forum

The European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w. 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 Forum is to help establish and develop victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices throughout Europe. To further this general aim, the Forum pursues, amongst others, 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 *target groups* of the Forum are restorative justice practitioners and services, researchers, legal practitioners and policy makers.

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

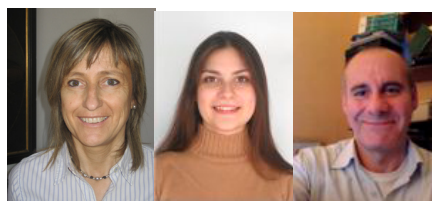
The European Forum Board

The Board of the Forum, which was elected during the 2008 General Meeting, is composed of:

- Siri Kemény (Norway) as Chair
- Inge Vanfraechem (Belgium) as Vice-Chair
- Eleonore Lind (Sweden) as Treasurer
- Michael Kilchling (Germany) as Secretary

- Aarne Kinnunen (Finland)
- Marta Ferrer Puig (Spain)
- Vira Zemlyanska (Ukraine)
- Niall Kearney (United Kingdom)

Marko Bosnjak (Slovenia) resigned from the Board in the middle of 2008, due to changes in his working situation.



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 (governmental and non-governmental) have the right to become members.

At the 2008 General Meeting, 65 new members were accepted: 44 full members with voting rights and 21 associate members without voting rights.

Overview of the activities

General Meeting

The 2008 General Meeting was organised in Verona, Italy, on 17 April 2008. It was attended by 57 members and 6 non-members. 4 members were represented by proxy. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the website (<http://www.euforumrj.org>), under the heading 'Activities'.

Next to recurrent formal issues, like the approval of the report of the previous General Meeting, the approval of the accounts and budget and membership matters, following issues were handled:

Elections

The election of 3 new Board members. Frauke Petzold (Germany), Jaume Martin (Spain), Joao Lazaro (Portugal) stepped down from the Board after having served their term of six years. The following people were elected to the Board: Aarne Kinnunen (Finland), Marta Ferrer Puig (Spain) and Eleonore Lind (Sweden).

Project activities

The following projects were reported upon:

- The finalisation of the AGIS 3 project, "Restorative justice: an agenda for Europe". The results were presented at the conference.
- Assistance to the research project in Turkey "Promoting the practice of victim-offender mediation".
- The finalisation of the research project "Developing standards for assistance to victims of terrorism", including its final event, a conference held in Tilburg, the Netherlands.
- The project "Building Social Support for Restorative Justice" which had just started.
- The project on "Restorative justice and crime prevention", which was introduced by the Juvenile Justice Department of the Italian Ministry of Justice, and in which the Forum is a partner.
- The project "Restorative justice versus juvenile delinquency", which is run by Providus, a Latvian NGO, and in which the Forum is also a partner.

Fundraising and financial concerns

The challenges and difficulties with funding were discussed.

Policy work and the relation to the European Union

The relations to the Council of Europe and the European Union were mentioned and commented upon. Contact with these international bodies is maintained.

Proposals

- The Board proposed to increase the membership fee.
- It was proposed to introduce a 'restorative justice day'.
- It was proposed by two of the members to broaden the scope of the Forum and to include restorative practices in other sectors beyond the justice sector.

Board meetings

In 2008 the Board met twice: on 15-16 April in Verona, and on 16-18 October in Leuven.

Important topics of discussion during these meetings were:

- Finalisation of the AGIS 3 project, the project "Developing standards for assistance to victims of terrorism" and the cooperative project with the Bilgi University in Turkey;
- Current and planned projects: "Building Social Support for Restorative Justice", "Conferencing: A way forward for restorative justice in Europe";
- Projects in which the Forum is a partner: "Restorative Justice and Crime Prevention" (Italy), "Restorative Justice vs Juvenile Delinquency: The Baltic States in European Dimension" (Latvia), "Mediation and Restorative Justice in Prison Settings" (Hungary);
- Publication of project results;
- Financial concerns;
- Application for an operating grant for 2008 to the European Commission;

- Stable funding and the development of a strategic approach;
- Clarification of the relationship within between “permanent” staff, project staff and Board members;
- The relationship of the Forum with the University of Leuven;
- The work of the committees and the newsletter;
- The national promoters, i.e. how to involve the members in promoting the work of the Forum;
- Summer school- function and timing;
- The task of the Secretariat, job-sharing and daily work.

Strategic planning meetings

To move the strategic development of the Forum forward, the Board agreed that four members of the board (i.e. the chair, the vice-chair, the secretary and another board member) and also the Executive Officer should meet an additional 2-3 times in between Board meetings in Leuven. The idea behind this effort is threefold: to work out an organisational strategy and structure for the Forum; to help make the Forum a sustainable organisation; and to give support to the Executive Officer in her daily work. The group met three times in 2008. The need for change was illustrated by the fact that members of the group also had to lend a hand to complete immediate tasks while in Leuven; this meant that progress on the strategic planning work was slow.

Policy work

In December the executive committee further elaborated, in co-operation with Ivo Aertsen, a policy paper for submission to the E.U. Commission where currently a revision of the Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings is being considered. The paper provides a proposal as to how the current provision on penal mediation should, from the point of view of the European Forum for Restorative Justice, be amended and improved in the context of a new E.U. instrument. The proposal which was made by the Forum is available on the Forum's website.

Committees

Five committees have been set up within the Forum.

The *information committee* gathers and processes information on restorative justice developments in the different countries.

The *communication committee* provides the mechanisms of dissemination of information to the outside world and within the Forum. The main activity of this committee is to plan and organise the biennial conference of the Forum. The *newsletter editorial board* is part of this committee.

The *practice and training committee* identifies, promotes and supports principles of good practice.

The *research committee* promotes and develops research that informs and supports practice and policy developments.

In 2006, a *committee on restorative approaches in schools* was added.

As in previous years, it proved quite difficult to get active participation in the committees.

The *information committee* has had no chairperson since 2005. Nevertheless, it has not been proposed to terminate the committee.

In 2008 the *communication committee* (Chair: Christa Pelikan, Austria) contributed substantially in the planning and organising of the programme of the conference “Building Restorative Justice in Europe. Cooperation between the public, policy makers, practitioners and researchers”, which took place in Verona, Italy on 17-19 April.

During 2008, the *practice and training committee* (Chair: Niall Kearney, UK) planned a third summer school to take place in Hungary. Due to the fact that there were not enough registrations, the summer school was cancelled.

The chair of the *research committee* (Borbala Fellegi, Hungary) regularly sent out information concerning conferences, research initiatives, etc. to the members of her committee. The committee functions as a network of interested persons.

The *committee on restorative approaches in schools* (chair: Belinda Hopkins, UK) did not develop any activities in 2008.

Newsletter

In 2008 Vira Zemlyanska has been the co-ordinator of the newsletter editorial board.

Three issues of the newsletter were published in 2008.

Articles covered results from the AGIS 3 project, reporting on the conference on developing standards for assistance to victims of terrorism, the topic of forgiveness and reconciliation in restorative justice conferences, group counselling for victims of crime, relationship building in the context of the youth justice reform in England and Wales. The Bulletin Board, Newsflash and Readers' Corner were regular sections in the newsletter.

The newsletter was sent to all the members as part of their membership benefits. It was also presented at restorative justice and related conferences as promotion material. One organisation is buying the newsletter for its library without being a member of the Forum. With other organisations the Forum has established an exchange of newsletters.

Information provision

The Secretariat dealt with numerous requests for information: information about the Forum and the Forum's activities, information about contact persons or institutions in other countries, information about training or educational programmes in restorative justice, and information about specific aspects of restorative justice.

As the Secretariat is hosted by the Catholic University of Leuven, information and literature is provided on a regular basis to students, not only from Leuven but also from abroad.

Website

In 2008 the work to refresh the design of the website was finished. The new design gave the website a more up-to-date appearance. It is a challenge with the resources available to keep the information on the website updated, but during 2008 it has slowly started moving in the right direction, so that the website now provides up-to-date information on restorative justice events, practices and research in Europe and beyond.

New leaflet

A new leaflet was produced for the promotion of the Forum for funding reasons.

Representation of the Forum

In 2008, members of the Board and Secretariat staff participated in the final conference of the project on "Developing standards for assistance to victims of terrorism" in Tilburg. The conference was hosted by INTERVICT which, in co-operation with the Forum, was also the local organiser. Furthermore, the Forum was asked to contribute with expertise at a seminar for legal professionals in Istanbul.

Financial situation and funding applications

In 2008, the Forum did not receive any financial support from a government, governmental body or private foundation.

The incomes of the Forum have been membership fees, an operating grant awarded by the European Commission and project funding linked to specific projects also awarded by the European Commission.

Last, but not least, the Forum applied for and was awarded by the European Commission the status of an organisation in a de facto monopoly position which means that the Forum is entitled to apply for project funding from the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Commission any time. As before, the Forum must contribute with 30 % of the amount applied for by its own means. In order to find additional external resources that may cover this 30%, the executive committee, during one of the strategic planning meetings, composed letters to selected governments requesting financial support. As to date, 2 of the governments announced a contribution. The Flemish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will contribute 7000 euro, the Finnish Ministry of Justice will contribute 3000 euro and the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will contribute 5000 euro. The effort will be continued in 2009.

Projects

AGIS 3: Restorative justice: An agenda for Europe

The project was finalised with the conference in Verona. Two reports resulting out of the project can be found on the website of the Forum. The first one deals with the 'Going South' aspect of the project and describes difficulties as well as opportunities for introducing restorative justice in Southern European countries. The second one deals with the possible contribution of the European Union in the further development of restorative justice.

Building social support for restorative justice

The European Forum for Restorative Justice has been awarded a project by the European Commission on "Building social support for restorative justice". This project, running from December 2007 till March 2010, will examine ways to cooperate with the media, civil society organisations and individual citizens on restorative justice. The European Forum for Restorative Justice, as the promoter of this project, is collaborating with several partners with extensive experience in the field like the Leuven Institute of Criminology and the School for Mass Communication Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), the Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology (Austria), the Restorative Justice Consortium (UK), the National Mediation Service (Norway), the Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution and Radio La Benevolencija (the Netherlands). In the course of the project a workshop, several steering group meetings and an international seminar are foreseen.

Conferencing: A way forward for restorative justice in Europe

The Forum applied to the European Commission for the project "Conferencing: A way forward for restorative justice in Europe". This two year project consists of an explanatory study of conferencing practices and their applicability in Europe. The research will result in a scientific report. The researchers will also provide a practical guide on setting up conferencing programmes in Europe. The project was awarded in 2008.

Developing standards on the assistance to victims of terrorism

This project was finalised in 2008 and the results were presented and discussed at a conference in March in Tilburg, organised by INTERVICT, the partner in the project. A publication on the results is foreseen for 2009.

Other activities

Support to members with project applications

In 2007 the Forum assisted in the writing of two project applications: Restorative Justice and Crime Prevention from the Department of Juvenile Justice in Italy, and Restorative Justice vs Juvenile Delinquency: The Baltic States in European Dimension from the Latvian NGO PROVIDUS. The two applications were successfully awarded in 2008. The Forum has partner status in both of the projects.

Also in 2008, the Forum supported the application of the Hungarian organisation FORESEE RESEARCH GROUP NONPROFIT LTD, Mediation and Restorative Justice in Prison Settings. This project has been awarded in 2009.

If this project gets awarded, the Forum will hire a researcher for 15 months starting from April 2008 to deal with points 1 and 3 as described above.

Summer School

The Summer School was planned to be held in Hungary in 2008. Due to a lack of registrations, the summer school was cancelled.

Financial report

Letter from the accountant

ABS

NAAMSEVEST 94
3000 LEUVEN
TEL. 016-23 72 19
FAX 016-20 70 06

ACCOUNTANTS

To whom it may concern

7nd of mai 2009

Re: Auditors' report of the vzw European Forum for Victim-Offender Mediation and Restorative Justice, Hooverplein 10, 3000 Leuven (abbreviation : the Forum).

As auditor we have examined the balance of 31 december 2008 of the vzw European Forum for Victim-Offender Mediation and Restorative Justice, as well as the profit-and-loss account and explanations for the year 2008 as it was closed on december 31, 2008.

We are not part of the Board of this vzw.

Our examination has been performed according to the standards for control and consequently include the sample surveys and the controle methods that were considered necessary in the given circumstances.

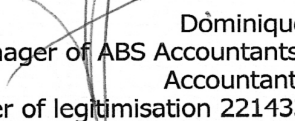
The bookkeeping-entries were controlled and were found to be consistent with the available pieces of evidence.

The situation 2008 is the faithful reflection of the costs incurred and incomes received in the year 2008. In our opinion the attached balance gives a faithful image of the capital and of the financial situation of the vzw on 31 december 2008, as well as of the results of its activities for the year that was closed on before-mentioned date, composed in accordance with the bookkeeping legislation and the commonly accepted Belgian bookkeeping principles which are being applied in an identical way.

The financial year was closed with a profit of 15.979,00 euro.

This means that the VZW's own property was 86.548 euro on 31/12/2008

The final balance on 31 december 2008 provides a total balance of 499.421 euro.


Dominique Vaes
Business Manager of ABS Accountants BVBA
Accountant I.A.B.
With number of legitimisation 221433 N 96



Balance-sheet Forum 31/12/2008 (in Euro)

Assets		Liabilities	
Fixed assets	1.965,19	Own property	21.549,61
Customers	1.876,00	Profit previous years	64.998,79
Receivables	217.826,63	Suppliers	299.165,03
Bank account	277.591,80	Deferred income	113.707,40
Cash	161,21		
TOTAL	499.420,83	TOTAL	499.420,83

Cost-incomes 2008 and Budget 2009 (in Euro)

COSTS	Result 2007	Budget 2008	Result 2008	Budget 2009
Postage	3.846,77 EUR	2.500,00 EUR	4.589,34 EUR	4.000,00 EUR
Copies	211,13 EUR	400,00 EUR	391,05 EUR	400,00 EUR
Travel, accomodation	5.668,26 EUR	3.000,00 EUR	10.208,84 EUR	10.000,00 EUR
Office supplies	1.693,70 EUR	500,00 EUR	4.184,38 EUR	1.500,00 EUR
Documentation	406,68 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	200,00 EUR
Computer supplies	0,00 EUR	300,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Other	516,69 EUR	400,00 EUR	339,85 EUR	250,00 EUR
Software	159,72 EUR	200,00 EUR	353,70 EUR	200,00 EUR
Website	13.340,25 EUR	1.000,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	1.000,00 EUR
Accountancy	2.314,13 EUR	1.050,00 EUR	2.662,00 EUR	1.500,00 EUR
Newsletter	990,64 EUR	1.300,00 EUR	1.584,04 EUR	1.800,00 EUR
Publications	4.511,91 EUR	1.000,00 EUR	1.870,63 EUR	1.000,00 EUR
Membership	95,00 EUR	100,00 EUR	95,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
Financial	409,06 EUR	500,00 EUR	1.092,59 EUR	500,00 EUR
Representation	45,85 EUR	500,00 EUR	388,17 EUR	250,00 EUR
Meetings	0,00 EUR	250,00 EUR	250,00 EUR	1.500,00 EUR
Conference organisation	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Summer School	4.174,04 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	5.000,00 EUR
Seminar	1.888,15 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Personnel	15.336,03 EUR	35.000,00 EUR	39.204,15 EUR	118.700,00 EUR
Vacation provision	-5.904,14 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Provision personnel	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Memberships not paid	2.760,00 EUR	700,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	3.000,00 EUR
Overhead KUL	882,40 EUR	1.750,00 EUR	1.239,47 EUR	0,00 EUR
Tax	567,63 EUR	0,00 EUR	354,20 EUR	400,00 EUR
Depreciation	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	808,88 EUR	1.350,00 EUR
AGIS 3 staff	134.826,45 EUR	60.050,00 EUR	68.732,66 EUR	0,00 EUR
AGIS 3 travel	1.013,56 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
AGIS 3 equipment	877,25 EUR	497,25 EUR	365,51 EUR	0,00 EUR
AGIS 3 consumables	153,90 EUR	150,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
AGIS 3 conferences	82.597,67 EUR	59.140,00 EUR	68.064,47 EUR	0,00 EUR
AGIS 3 publications	484,72 EUR	3.175,00 EUR	4.202,18 EUR	0,00 EUR
AGIS 3 overhead	1.325,27 EUR	2.000,00 EUR	817,48 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism staff	45.366,02 EUR	57.374,99 EUR	40.805,02 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism books	0,00 EUR	50,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism conferences	15.171,72 EUR	33.468,00 EUR	3.225,10 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism publications	0,00 EUR	1.575,00 EUR	128,40 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism overhead	365,93 EUR	3.270,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism partners	40.845,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	40.000,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
BSS staff	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	48.268,79 EUR	104.500,00 EUR
BSS travel	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	7.476,23 EUR	12.960,00 EUR
BSS consumables	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	24,79 EUR	650,00 EUR
BSS equipment	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	511,74 EUR	396,00 EUR
BSS conferences	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	2.217,79 EUR	63.300,00 EUR
BSS publications	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	4.200,00 EUR
BSS overhead	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Crime prevention travel	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	615,60 EUR	0,00 EUR
TOTALS	376.941,39 EUR	271.200,24 EUR	355.072,05 EUR	338.656,00 EUR

INCOME	Result 2007	Budget 2008	Result 2008	Budget 2009
Summer School	3.782,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	6.000,00 EUR
Pool of Trainers	150,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	150,00 EUR	200,00 EUR
Membership	15.340,00 EUR	15.000,00 EUR	17.190,00 EUR	15.000,00 EUR
Registration fees	10.091,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	23.164,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Books, newsletter	1.664,00 EUR	200,00 EUR	174,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
External Services	5.673,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Financial	3.784,19 EUR	400,00 EUR	2.361,35 EUR	500,00 EUR
AGIS 3 EC	210.000,00 EUR	81.382,25 EUR	95.000,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
AGIS 3 related income	10.916,00 EUR	49.000,00 EUR	44.045,75 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism EC	108.000,00 EUR	72.115,88 EUR	73.000,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Terrorism related income	0,00 EUR	26.000,00 EUR	9.040,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Operating grant EC	28.000,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	48.500,00 EUR	106.855,00 EUR
BSS grant	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	57.987,60 EUR	139.206,00 EUR
BSS related income	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	46.800,00 EUR
Other	336,64 EUR	27.102,11 EUR	437,97 EUR	23.995,00 EUR
TOTALS	412.979,39 EUR	271.200,24 EUR	371.050,67 EUR	338.656,00 EUR

RESULT	36.038,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	15.978,62 EUR	0,00 EUR
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