



European Forum **for** Restorative Justice

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Editing: Niall Kearney and Karolien Mariën, Glasgow
and Leuven, June 2011

European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w.

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Foreword

This year's report captures some of the highlights of 2010. It was, as with all years in the Forum, a busy time. Our involvement with the European Commission in formulating a new Directive on Victims to replace the current Framework Decision of 2001 was an exciting and important part of our activities in 2010 and enabled the Board to make good progress on one of its strategic objectives to engage more effectively with European institutions. I had the honour of representing the Forum along with Inge Vanfraechem at a formal meeting in Brussels in February 2010 to begin consultation on drafting a new Directive. All of us concerned about the development of restorative justice in Europe will be familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of Art 10 of the current Framework Decision on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings. The initiative of the European Commission to replace the Framework Decision comes at a good time – the post Lisbon Treaty era and the developments that have taken place in restorative justice (RJ) over the past 10 years provide fertile ground to produce strong, informed central policy to support steady growth in the years ahead. I have ensured that all the resources of the Forum were put to influencing the drafting of the RJ elements in the Directive so that it reflects the current state of research and practice and gives us a platform to build upon for its widespread use across Europe.

November 2010 marked a mid point in the lobbying and negotiations with European Commission on the new Directive and I represented the Forum at a review meeting with the Vice President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding, in Brussels along with heads of organisations working with victims of crime across Europe. I take this opportunity to thank those of you who were able to sign our petition "Sign up for Restorative Justice" which I was proud to hand to Thelmo Baltazar, Chef de Cabinet of the Vice President after the meeting on 3 November 2010. A significant amount of behind the scenes work led by Board member Michael Kilching went into producing a formal proposal from the Forum to the European Commission on the new Directive. The indications are that the new Directive will more than likely contain safeguards to ensure good practice

with particular regard to victims participating in RJ services; it augers well for the future of RJ.

Our biennial conference in Bilbao was a great success. The success of the conference was in no small measure to the presence and contribution of Howard Zehr who gave himself so generously and easily to all of us. The conference also saw the launch of a new initiative: the European Forum Restorative Justice Award. The first recipient of this award was Ivo Aertsen in recognition of his enormous work in the promotion and development of RJ in Europe. With the presence of these two giants of RJ, could the conference be anything other than a success? I thank them both and our local Bilbao organisers, the Forum's Communication Committee and Board member Eleonore Lind and all those who contributed to plenary sessions and delivered workshops and of course, the Forum's Secretariat.

Speaking of research and practice above, the Forum has once again contributed significantly in 2010 to the growing body of RJ knowledge. I thank our researchers Brunilda Pali and Anniek Gielen for their respective work on the "Building Social Support" and "Restorative Justice and Crime Prevention" projects and thanks of course to their steering groups and partner agencies.

Like all NGOs, the Forum is not immune to the current recession and sadly we had to say good bye to Jeanine Dams at the end of 2010 – some of you will have known Jeanine from her work at the Forum's Secretariat – I take this opportunity to thank her for all her work for the Forum. Fund raising is a major and ongoing concern for the Forum; you will see and hear more information on this as we go into 2011.

Finally I take this opportunity to thank my Board colleagues, the local team in Leuven and of course, Karolien at the Secretariat, for all their work and support during what I believe will prove to be a seminal year for the future of RJ in Europe. I encourage all our members and friends of RJ to engage actively with Forum to support the new draft Directive and our fundraising efforts in 2011.

Niall Kearney, Glasgow 2011

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, among 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 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 2010 General Meeting, is composed of:

- Niall Kearney (United Kingdom) as Chair
- Inge Vanfraechem (Belgium) as Vice-Chair
- Eleonore Lind (Sweden) as Treasurer
- Michael Kilchling (Germany) as Secretary

- Marta Ferrer (Spain)
- Bruno Caldeira (Portugal)
- Beata Czarnecka-Dzialuk (Poland)
- Aarne Kinnunen (Finland))
- Annemieke Wolthuis (the Netherlands)



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 2010 General Meeting, 60 new members were accepted: 40 full members and 20 associate

members.

When the 2010 Membership Directory was drawn up (October 2010), the Forum had 216 individual members (of which 167 with full membership status) and 46 organisation members (of which 41 with full membership status). Members come from 40 different countries.

Overview of the activities

General Meeting

The 2010 General Meeting was organised in Bilbao, Spain, on 17 June 2010. It was attended by 48 members and 5 non-members. Two members were represented by proxy. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the website (www.euforumrj.org) under the heading 'Activities'.

In addition 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 and further developed in 2010:

Project activities

The status of the following projects were reported upon:

- Building social support: This project ended at the end of March 2010 and resulted in a scientific report, a media toolkit and a practical guide on civil society.
- RJ vs juvenile delinquency: The Baltic States in European dimension-project in which the Forum was a partner. The promoter of the project was the Latvian organisation Providus.
- Restorative justice and crime prevention: The project ended in April 2010. The Italian Juvenile Justice Department was promoter, the European Forum was partner in the project.
- Conferencing: A way forward for restorative justice in Europe. This two year project, in which the Forum is promoter, consists of an exploratory study of conferencing practices for both adult and young offenders and for low and high level crimes, and their further applicability in Europe.
- Mediation and RJ in prison settings (MEREPS): The promoter of this project is the Hungarian FORESEE Research Group. The Forum is one of the partners. Its main objective is to explore the opportunities of implementing mediation and other restorative justice practices into prison settings.

Associated activities

- A book resulting from the project "Developing

standards for assistance to victims of terrorism" has been published by Springer.

Fundraising and financial concerns

The Forum had received an operating grant for 2010 from the European Commission. One of the most important aims of the Forum is to find funding independent from the European Commission and therefore a funding strategy is being developed. Funding, and especially structural funding, is one of the most difficult and challenging points in the running of the Forum.

Policy work and the relation to European organisations

The European Forum wants to create a stronger network with some important European organisations: the European Parliament and its different committees, the Council of Europe, the European Commission etc. Establishing and further developing these contacts would be one of the Forum's highest priorities for the near future.

Strategic planning exercise

The strategic planning team which had met 2 times in 2009 did not meet in 2010. However it is planned that the team will start meeting again in 2011 to continue working on an organisation strategy and structure for the Forum to help it become a sustainable organisation and to give support to the executive officer in her daily work. The team will also think of ways to facilitate and improve communication between the Secretariat and the Board of the European Forum. During the AGM Ivo Aertsen also explained the relation between the Catholic University of Leuven and the Forum. The two have been strongly linked since the very beginning of the Forum.

Proposals

There were no proposals.

Communications

Niall Kearney was proud to be able to announce that the next international conference would be organised in 2012 in Helsinki.

Committees

Five committees have been set up within the Forum.

a) Practice and training committee

The aim of this committee is to identify, promote and support principles of good practice. Frauke Petzold, chair, presented the main activities of the previous year: most of the time was invested in the organisation of the summer school which was held in July 2009 in Barcelona. The topic of the event, which was attended by 30 people, was "Towards critical restorative justice practices". The report of the summer school, together with some pictures can be found on the Forum's website.

b) Communication committee

This committee provides the mechanisms of dissemination of information to the outside world and within the Forum. Christa Pelikan explained that she, as chair of the communication committee has been mainly involved in the organisation of the programme of the Bilbao conference, assisted in this task by Eleonore Lind (Board member), Frauke Petzold (chair of the Practice and Training Committee) and Karolien Mariën (Executive Officer).

As chair of this committee Christa Pelikan has been asked by CEP (the European organisation for Probation, based in the Netherlands) to do a communication audit of their organisation. She has done so at the end of 2010.

The newsletter editorial board is part of this committee. As Vira Zemlyanska (Ukraine) stepped out of the Board during the Forum's 2010 General Meeting a new chair for this committee had to be found. A newsletter was sent to all the Forum's members saying that the editorial board was looking for a new chair and asking for volunteers. Kerry Clamp (UK) took up this task.

c) Research committee

This committee promotes and develops research that informs and supports practice and policy developments. It functions as a network of interested people. The main activity of this group is to disseminate information on conferences, research activities, etc. to members of the committee. Borbála Fellegi, chair, mentioned that if people are interested they can simply join by contacting her.

d) Information committee

The Board is wondering whether this committee still has to exist, whether it still brings something new. No firm direction on this issue was received from the members.

e) Working group on restorative approaches in schools

The working group on restorative approaches in schools (Chair: Belinda Hopkins) is a networking group for all those interested in, or involved in, developing restorative approaches in educational environments. This is a relatively new working group and its focus of activity is still to emerge.

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

Board meetings

In 2010 the Board met two times: on 15-16 June in Bilbao and on 8-9 December in Leuven.

Important elements of discussion during these meetings were:

- the research projects (Building social support, Conferencing, Restorative justice and crime prevention,...)
- new applications (Victims and RJ-project, operating grant 2011, Accessibility and initiation-project)
- financial concerns
- structural funding and the need for a strategic approach
- the relationship between the Forum and the University of Leuven
- the 6th international conference of the European Forum in Bilbao (17, 18 and 19 June 2010)
- the work of the committees and the newslet-



ter

- the task of the Secretariat and daily work.
- the organisation of a seminar for Members of European Parliament (MEPs)
- cooperation with other organisations in the field and important European organisations (European Commission, European Parliament,...)
- a proposal for the renewal of the 2001 Framework decision
- the website

Newsletter

Until the 2010 Annual General Meeting (17 June) Vira Zemlyanska has been the coordinator of the newsletter editorial board. As she stepped out of the Forum's Board, she was also no longer chair of the editorial Board. Replacement was found in Kerry Clamp (UK).

Three issues of the newsletter were published in 2010. The first issue appeared in January 2010 and dealt with the building social support project which ended 2 months later. The second issue (June 2010) dealt with several topics including restorative justice and the voluntary sector and the first World Congress on juvenile restorative justice which took place in Lima (Peru) in November 2009. The last one (November 2010) dealt with the specific topic of domestic violence.

The Calendar, Newsflash and Readers' Corner were recurrent 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 and is available in electronic version on the Forum's website.

Information provision

The Secretariat dealt with numerous requests for information. They pertained to 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.

6th International Conference

The 6th international conference of the European Forum took place on 17, 18 and 19 June 2010 in Bilbao (Spain). The conference was organised in close cooperation with and with the financial support from the Basque Government. It was attended by 296 people from 41 countries and covered 3 main themes:

- The work of the practitioners - Restorative justice in different countries
- Cooperation with legal practitioners - A way to increase the involvement of judges, prosecutors and the police
- Conferencing - A way forward for restorative justice in Europe

There were 39 workshop sessions (with a total of 74 presentations). Most of them fitted one of the three main themes, some others still handled another topic. Next to this wide range of workshop sessions, there were also 6 plenary presentations. Speakers in these plenary presentations were, among others, Howard Zehr (USA), Joanna Shapland (UK), Estelle Zinsstag (Belgium), Gema Varona (Spain) and Ivo Aertsen (Belgium). We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this conference, through a plenary presentation, a workshop, through participating or practical support.

During the 6th international conference in Bilbao the European Forum has launched a Restorative Justice award. This award will be handed out every two years to a person or organisation who has contributed substantially to the further development of restorative justice in Europe. The first restorative justice award was handed out to Ivo Aertsen, former chair of the Forum and Prof. at the Catholic University of Leuven.

Financial situation and funding applications

In 2010, the Norwegian government supported the Forum for the second of three consecutive years.

The European Commission awarded an operating grant for 2010 (January until December). The Forum has also applied for an operating grant for 2011.

Sign up for restorative justice

In 2010 the European Forum has launched an online petition "Sign up for Restorative Justice". The aim of this petition was:

a) to support legislative and other initiatives to support a broader implementation of restorative justice in the Member States

b) to obtain the necessary resources for the European Forum to continue working on the development of restorative justice.

The petition was signed by 2081 people and was handed over by Niall Kearney to Telmo Balthazar, chef du cabinet of Viviane Reding, on 3 November 2010. Thanks to all of you who supported this initiative!

Projects

Building social support for restorative justice

The building social support project ended in March 2010. This project was awarded to the Forum by the European Commission. The Forum has, as the promoter of this project, collaborated with several partners with extensive experience in the field like the School for Mass Communication Research, and the Leuven Institute of Criminology from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology (Austria), Restorative Justice Consortium (UK), National Mediation Service (Norway), Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution and Radio La Benevolencija (the Netherlands).

The project focused on the following 3 questions:

1) How can interaction and cooperation with the media be set up in order to inform the public about restorative justice and in order to educate the public about crime and justice, and

more specifically about restorative justice?

2) How can cooperation be developed with civil society organisations (including socio-cultural organisations, schools, religious communities, etc.) in order to inform and educate the public and to create broad support for restorative justice?

3) How can we increase the involvement of individual citizens in the functioning of local restorative justice programmes (eg. as volunteers)?

The methodology of the project consisted in analysing the above questions against a theoretical background, identifying good practices and promising examples which have as an objective building social support for restorative justice through several study visits, formulating practical recommendations in the form of a toolkit and a scientific report. For each of these three points, practical experiences in different European countries were studied. An analysis was made of how to apply theoretical insights in these three areas to the restorative justice field.

The project has resulted in a scientific report, a media toolkit and a practical guide on civil society. Both the guide and the toolkit collect recommendations and good practice examples.

Restorative Justice and Crime Prevention

The European Forum has been a partner in this project, led by the Italian Juvenile Justice Department. The other partners in this project were Istituto Psicoanalitico per le Ricerche Sociali (Italy), University of Leeds (UK) and Catholic University of Leuven. The main part of the research has been conducted at the European Forum.

In sum, there are several dimensions and levels on which the preventive potential of restorative justice processes and outcomes can be studied. The project specifically focused on:

1) The theoretical study of the connecting points between restorative justice and crime prevention models. Attention was also paid to specific ethical issues which are raised in this context;

2) A research on the extent to which restorative justice is inscribed in either crime prevention policies or other – for example crime victim – policies in the 27 EU Member States and the underlying rationale for this; and

3) An inventory and analysis of existing empirical research on the effect of restorative justice practices on crime prevention.

Extensive desk research, a survey in the EU Member States and the consultation with an expert group resulted in a final report.

The findings of the project should contribute to the discussions at both national and EU policy level about whether and how restorative justice can support crime prevention policies.

Conferencing: A way forward for RJ in Europe

This project was awarded to the Forum by the European Commission. Partners in the project were Leuven Institute for Criminology (Belgium), National Institute of Criminal Sciences and Criminology (Belgium), University of Sheffield (UK), Youth Justice Agency Northern Ireland (UK), Eigen Kracht Centrale (Netherlands). It runs from January 2009 until February 2011.

This two-year project consists of an exploratory study of conferencing practices, for both adult and young offenders and for low and high level crimes, and their further applicability within Europe. The researchers, supported by a steering group composed of both academics and practitioners, focus their work on three main research questions:

- To what extent has conferencing been developed internationally?
- What are the processes used in and outcomes achieved by conferencing, and how do they compare to victim offender mediation (VOM)?
- How could conferencing practices be developed further in Europe?

As this was the first encompassing study on this specific topic in Europe, information was gathered not only by conducting an extensive literature review but also by doing surveys, interviews and study visits. The project included an international conference (June 2010, 300 participants) and an expert workshop (September 2010, 40 participants) in order to get feedback on the preliminary results.

The study focuses on conferencing practices

which are related to crime and assesses their processes as well as outcomes. Furthermore the study compares conferences with the more widespread VOM. In addition a detailed bibliography was developed. The last part of the study explicitly focuses on the challenges when implementing conferencing in a continental European legal and socio-cultural context and proposed new avenues for its further development in a European context.

The research project will result in a scientific report as well as a practical guide on setting up conferencing programmes in Europe. The latter will include information on the different models and the conditions that have to be met for their successful implementation.

Mediation and Restorative Justice in prison settings

This European project, carried out by an international Consortium led by the Hungarian organisation Foresee Research Group, focuses on the role of mediation and RJ practices in prison settings, reaching out to victims of serious crimes and inmates condemned for such crimes.

The MEREPS Consortium includes 7 organisations from 4 European countries.

- Foresee Research group (promoter) (Hungary)
- Innokut Researching Ltd. (Hungary)
- The National Institute Of Criminology (Hungary)
- Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS) (UK)
- University Of Applied Sciences In Public Administration in Bremen (Germany)
- Victim Offender Mediation Service Bremen (Germany)
- European Forum For Restorative Justice

The main objective of the project is to explore the opportunities for implementing mediation and RJ practices into the prison settings. Further aim is to test if such practices can help supporting victims of crime, raising responsibility-taking in offenders, supporting the prison staff and inmates in peacefully resolving their internal conflicts and reintegrating offenders into society after release. Piloting RJ in the correctional settings also allows to test the potential of RJ in the most serious

crimes that usually have a significant impact on both victims and offenders.

The research approach of the project is based on triangulation, namely by the combination of interview-based surveys, focus groups meetings and action research. Through this approach, the findings will yield information about both the theoretical and practical aspects of the subject, and it can result in designing and realising an innovative good practice. Through the triangulation of methods, advantages of all three methods can be combined in order to better understand the underlying process behind RJ in the correctional settings.

Restorative Justice vs juvenile delinquency

This project was introduced by Providus. The goal was to promote the effective development of restorative justice as a response to youth crime in the Baltic States and to enhance mutual knowledge of best practices and initiatives in the field of restorative justice in this region and beyond. It focuses on Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, but nevertheless has a strong European dimension through its activities.

The Forum was involved in providing expertise, supervising the research work, doing comparative research work, publishing the project results on the website, communicating with speakers and identifying speakers for the international conference and workshops.

Financial report

Letter from the accountant

A **B** **S**

ACCOUNTANTS

VZW
EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICEACCOUNTANTSVERSLAGOVER HET BOEKJAAR 2010
VAN
1/01/2010 TOT 31/12/2010Mevrouwen,
Mijne Heren,

In onze hoedanigheid van accountant brengen wij u verslag uit over de uitvoering van onze controleopdracht.

Wij zijn overgegaan tot de controle van de jaarrekening over het boekjaar 2010, omvattende de periode van 1 januari 2010 tot 31 december 2010, afgesloten met een balanstotaal van 549.109,(00) euro en waarvan de resultatenrekening afsluit met een winst van het boekjaar van 31.719,(00) euro.

Verklaring over de jaarrekening

Ons onderzoek werd uitgevoerd overeenkomstig de controlenormen van het Instituut der Accountants en Belastingconsulenten. Deze beroepsnormen eisen dat onze controle zo georganiseerd en uitgevoerd wordt dat een redelijke mate van zekerheid wordt verkregen dat de jaarrekening geen onjuistheden van materieel belang bevat, rekening houdend met de Belgische wettelijke en bestuursrechtelijke bepalingen.

Wij hebben op basis van steekproeven de verantwoording onderzocht van de bedragen, opgenomen in de jaarrekening.

Wij maken geen deel uit van het bestuursorgaan van de vzw en hebben ons oordeel dan ook in volledige onafhankelijkheid kunnen vormen.

Naar ons oordeel, rekening houdend met de toepasselijke wettelijke en bestuursrechtelijke voorschriften, geeft de jaarrekening, afgesloten per 31 december 2010, een getrouw beeld van het vermogen, van de financiële toestand en van de resultaten van de vzw European Forum for Restorative Justice.

Het beheersorgaan heeft besloten om het resultaat van het boekjaar toe te wijzen aan het overgedragen resultaat.

Leuven , 10 juni 2011


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Cost-incomes and Budget 2010

COSTS	Budget 2010	Result 2010	Budget 2011
Operating costs	125.025,13 EUR	139.737,42 EUR	142.670,00 EUR
Building social support	25.809,00 EUR	17.956,42 EUR	0,00 EUR
Crime prevention	17.300,00 EUR	16.307,76 EUR	0,00 EUR
Conferencing	173.524,00 EUR	141.869,12 EUR	13.860,00 EUR
Victims and RJ	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	78.859,00 EUR
TOTALS	341.658,13 EUR	315.870,72 EUR	235.389,00 EUR
INCOME	Budget 2010	Result 2010	Budget 2011
Core	32.658,13 EUR	32.746,09 EUR	28.150,00 EUR
Operating grant EC	86.000,00 EUR	52.714,37 EUR	50.000,00 EUR
Conferencing	165.000,00 EUR	178.217,13 EUR	10.000,00 EUR
Building social support	25.000,00 EUR	37.567,13 EUR	0,00 EUR
Crime prevention	16.000,00 EUR	20.000,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
Grants Ministries	17.000,00 EUR	19.835,48 EUR	10.058,25 EUR
Victims and RJ	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	78.859,00 EUR
Other	0,00 EUR	6.510,00 EUR	58.321,75 EUR
TOTALS	341.658,13 EUR	347.590,20 EUR	235.389,00 EUR
RESULT	0,00	31.719,48	0,00