



European Forum **for** Restorative Justice

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w.

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Foreword

It is a pleasure for me to write this cover letter about a year of Forum activities which saw us not only successfully maintain our regular outputs but also break into new ground.

The regular outputs included the high standard of project work which saw the publication of a report by Estelle Zinstag and Carmen Borg on Conferencing, work on the victims project led by Inge Vanfraechem and on the prisons project led by Borballa Fellegi. Thanks to each of them and the project partners.

I mention here a few of the many people whose voluntary efforts have contributed to the Forum's achievements in 2011. Thanks to Rob Mackay and his group of advisors who produced a report for the Forum on how we can engage more effectively in civil society. Thanks also to Kerry Clamp who did excellent work as editor of our Newsletter. Thanks to Frauke Petzold, Barbara Tudor and Tina Mallard for leading a very successful summer school in Kent in July 2011. A highlight of the summer school was the organising of a local practitioners day in co-operation with the Restorative Justice Council which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne. Thanks to Brunilda Pali for her art work that formed a mainstay of the Forum's first celebration of "Restorative Justice Week" in November 2011.

The new ground we broke into was about addressing a strategic objective to develop strong links with EU institutions and develop co-operation with other agencies in the justice field and within the European RJ world.

The European Commission's publication of the draft Directive on Victims in May 2011 presented the Forum with an opportunity to influence discussions on the restorative justice elements of the Directive. To this end, a number of lobbying campaigns were undertaken throughout the year to inform Commissioners, Ministries of Justice of the Member States, justice rapporteurs and MEPs about our concerns and amendment proposals. Thanks to Michael Kilchling for his notable contributions on this. Regular personal contact was maintained throughout the year with the European Commission. I had the honour of giving the Forum's initial response to the draft at a confer-

ence in Trier in June 2011 attended by European legal experts and representatives of the European Commission. So far I hear our lobbying led to the inclusion of a better definition of restorative justice and we will continue our efforts in 2012.

I was delighted to participate on behalf of the Forum along with Annemieke Wolthuis in meetings with the European Association for Probation (CEP), Victim Support Europe (VSE) and the European Prison Organisation (Europris) that led to the foundation of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) in October 2011. The aim of CJPE is to develop co-operation and mutual understanding and to speak with one voice about areas of common interest.

Also in October, the Forum held the first meeting of "internal stakeholders", that is, representatives of some of the major restorative justice agencies in Europe including the Restorative Justice Council (UK); Neustart (Austria); Mediante and Suggnomè (Belgium); Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich (Germany) and Konfliktraadet (Norway). Thanks to all those who attended. The draft Directive on Victims and also the issue of standards for restorative justice were discussed.

The Forum added more channels to its communications repertoire. In addition to the Newsletters, Newsflashes, website and Facebook updates, we produced video updates and joined the Twitter community in September. Plans were also initiated to substantially improve our website. These plans will be carried out in 2012.

Finding additional funding streams to support the Forum's work proved challenging. A number of foundations and grant making bodies were approached but sadly no funding was forthcoming. This is an area needing specialised attention in 2012.

Finally, I thank all those involved with the operations of the Forum: my Board colleagues, Karolien at the Secretariat, Ivo and others at the local Leuven team for their generosity and hard work for the Forum. It is an honour to chair such a group of highly talented and committed people.

Niall Kearney, Edinburgh 2012

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 the following objectives: promoting

international exchange of information; promoting the development of effective restorative justice policies, services and legislation; exploring and developing the theoretical basis of restorative justice; stimulating research; and assisting the development of principles, ethics, training and good practice.

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

The European Forum Board

The Board of the Forum, which was elected during the 2011 General Meeting, is composed of:

- Niall Kearney (United Kingdom) as Chair
- Eleonore Lind (Sweden) as Vice-Chair
- Katrien Lauwaert (Belgium) 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 2011 General Meeting, 13 new members were accepted. All of them were full members.

When the 2011 Membership Directory was drawn up (December 2011), the Forum had 212 individual members (of which 168 with full membership status) and 49 organisation members (of which 44 with full membership status). Members came from 41 different countries.



Overview of the activities

1. GENERAL MEETING

The 2011 General Meeting was organised in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 June 2011. It was attended by 19 members and 1 non-member.

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, the following items were addressed:

Project activities

- **Victims and Restorative Justice:** This project (in which the Forum is promoter) started in February 2011 and will end at the end of October 2012. Within the framework of this project 3 workshops will be organised in February 2012 (in Vienna, Tilburg and Helsinki) where the preliminary results will be discussed. The outcomes of the project will also be discussed at the Forum's 7th international conference in June 2012 in Helsinki.
- **Conferencing:** A way forward for restorative justice in Europe. This two year project, in which the Forum was promoter, consisted 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. The project ended in February 2011 and resulted in a final report and a practical guide.
- **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. This project will end in the beginning of 2012 and will have its final conference in January of that year.

Approval of new composition of the Board

The following Board changes were approved at the 2011 AGM: Inge Vanfraechem (vice-chair) stepped down from the Board to work on the Forum's Victims and RJ project and was replaced as vice-chair by Eleonore Lind (treasurer);

Katrien Lauwaert (Belgium) accepted the Board's invitation to take on the role of treasurer.

Appointment of selection committee

Since 3 Board members (Marta Ferrer, Niall Kearney and Michael Kilchling) are leaving in June 2012, there will be an election of new Board members during the 2012 AGM. In accord with the Forum's constitution, a selection committee was appointed during the 2011 AGM. The task of this committee is to look for new candidates for the Board. The proposed candidates for this selection committee (Inge Vanfraechem, Martin Wright and Virginia Domingo) were approved by the general meeting.

Proposals

There were no proposals.

Communications

Niall Kearney announced that the 2012 AGM would take place in June 2012 in Helsinki along with the Forum's 7th international conference.

More details on the 2011 General Meeting can be found in the report which is on the Forum's website (www.euforumrj.org) under the heading 'Activities'.

2. FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Forum received an operating grant from the European Commission to cover non-project related costs in 2011. This operating grant was used to cover, among others, the salary costs of the executive officer, the 2011 summer school, the costs for Board meetings and travel costs.

The Forum also received action grants for the different research projects that ran in 2011.

The Forum also received a grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police of 11.100 EURO.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD

Board meetings

As in previous years, the Board of the Forum met twice in 2011: in June (Leuven) and in December (Berlin). Items discussed included: finances, funding, the 2012 conference, the state of affairs of the projects, the application of new projects, the website, lobbying with European Institutions etc. In addition to these meetings the Board, and particularly the executive committee (chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer) has regular contact with each other, and with the executive officer (based in Leuven).



The executive committee also met twice (in Leuven): once in March and a second time in September. The topics which were discussed here are the same as the topics discussed at the Board meetings.

Funding Strategy

One of the main priorities of the Board in 2011 was the search for structural funding, to become less dependent from the European Commission's funding. The Board further worked on the funding strategy which was already developed in 2010. This was a complete new area for the Forum that required a lot of work. By the end of 2011 there were no concrete results yet, but the Board decided to keep focusing on this in 2012.

Policy work and the relation to European organisations

Another priority of the Board in 2011 was lobbying with European institutions on the development of the new Directive on Victims that will replace the current Framework Decision on the

standing of victims in criminal proceedings. The Board members wrote letters to the Members of European Parliament (MEPs) and Ministries of Justice. The Forum also informed its members and explained how they could actively contribute. The Forum also organised a seminar for MEPs in Brussels.

Other

Some Board members also had personal meetings with MEPs, others presented at conferences about the Forum's work on the new Directive or worked on their national level to get as much involvement as possible in the development of the new Directive.

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

In 2011 the secretariat consisted of 1 full-time staff member: the executive officer. The executive officer was assisted by a part-time administrative support for 4 months (September - December 2011). Their salaries were funded by the 2011 operating grant.

Among other things, the work of the secretariat consisted of following up on the different research projects, applying for new projects, bookkeeping, updating the website, dealing with incoming requests, membership administration, organisation of the seminar, assisting in the organisation of the summer school, contributing to the work done on the development of the new Directive, preparing the final reports of the different projects for the Commission etc.

5. COMMITTEES

Six committees have been set up within the Forum.

Practice and training committee

The main focus of this committee in 2011 led by Frauke Petzold was the organisation of the 2011 Summer School that took place from 11 until 15 July in Kent (UK). The work of the practice and training committee included the conceptual design of the summer school, the preparations, the practical organisation etc.



Communication committee

The main task of this committee, led by Christa Pelikan, in the previous years, has been the contentwise organisation (programme) of the Forum's conferences. It is expected that this committee will be quite active in 2012 preparing for our biennial conference.

Newsletter Editorial Board

Kerry Clamp chaired the editorial board of the newsletter. In 2011 3 issues of the newsletter were produced, sent to all the Forum's members, put online and distributed at different conferences and seminars. The 1st issue was dedicated to the conferencing-project, the 2nd one included submissions from members on different topics and the 3rd one was dedicated to the MEREPS project (Mediation and RJ in prison settings). The Calendar, Newsflash and Readers' Corner were recurrent sections in the newsletter.

Research committee

Borbála Fellegi, chair of this committee, continued her work of collecting and sending out news about recent publications, research results and events. She also tried to motivate the different members of the committee to send her in return their news, but she only received this news very occasionally.

Information committee

During the 2011 AGM the question was raised whether this committee still has to exist, whether it still brings something new. It was decided that the Board would discuss the functioning of this committee at its Board meeting and if deemed appropriate, would delete this committee. At the June Board meeting it was decided to indeed stop this committee.

Working group on restorative approaches in schools

The working group on restorative approaches in schools is a networking group for all those interested in, or involved in, developing restorative approaches in educational environments. The chair of this committee, Belinda Hopkins, mentioned that she doesn't often get news from people and that the committee should focus on how to create more active communication.

6. INFORMATION PROVISION

The Secretariat dealt with numerous requests for information about the Forum 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 hosted by the KULeuven, information and literature is provided on a regular basis to students, not only from Leuven but also from abroad.

The Forum also sent out regular electronic Newsflashes to its members and contactpersons. We also updated our website and Facebook pages and joined Twitter.

7. SUMMER SCHOOL (11-15 JULY, KENT (UK))

Every 2 years (in the years when there is not a conference organised by the Forum) the Forum organises a Summer School which is aimed at practitioners working in the RJ field. The purpose of these events is to 1) provide a supportive environment for RJ trainers and practitioners in which to share their perspectives on critical issues that confront the field of RJ practice, 2) explore and adapt the Forum recommendations in training programmes and 3) motivate trainers and mediators to have more international exchange.



The topic of the Forum's 2011 Summer School was "What do practitioners say after they say hello?". It was co-organised with Kent Youth Offending Service, Waage Institut and West Midlands Probation Service. The participants in the

Summer School also attended a practitioners day held in collaboration with the Restorative Justice Council (UK), which was also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne. The event was attended by 29 people from 9 different countries. The report of the 2011 Summer School can be found on the Forum's website (www.euforumrj.org) under the heading 'Summer Schools'.

8. SEMINAR "RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROMOTING THE INTEREST OF VICTIM AND OFFENDER"

Restorative justice actively involves the victim and offender. Services representing these 2 groups have different focuses but nevertheless it is important that both organisations are in regular contact with each other. Therefore the Forum has organised a 1-day seminar to bring these parties together. The seminar was organised in Brussels (Belgium) on 15 June 2011. Representatives from victim-services, offender services and RJ-services came together and discussed how the RJ field can meet the expectations and needs from all partners involved. The seminar was attended by 41 participants coming from 15 different countries (Brazil, Belgium, Turkey, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Poland, UK, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Austria and Israel).

9. MEETINGS ON STANDARDS

The issue of RJ standards and training certification for Europe is emerging for attention. The Forum has already developed recommendations on training which need revision with a view to providing a much stronger framework quality framework for safer practice in the future. This meeting was organised to stimulate thinking in these fields and took place on 25 October in Leuven. The following representatives attended: Siri Kemény (Konfliktraadet, Norway), Lawrence Kershen (Restorative Justice Consortium, UK), Christoph Koss (Neustart, Austria), Els Goossens (Suggnomè, Belgium), Antonio Buonatesta (Médiante, Belgium), Regina and Gerd Delattre (TOA-servicebuero, Germany). Niall Kearney (chair) and Katrien Lauwaert (treasurer) represented the Forum.

10. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WEEK

In 2011 the Forum welcomed the opportunity provided by Restorative Justice Week 13 to 20 November 2011 to focus on the excellent restorative justice work taking place all across Europe. The Forum encouraged all its members and friends to use Restorative Justice Week to communicate about their work to a wider audience. By way of support, the Forum offered a number of suggestions to help plan activities during Restorative Justice Week. People could download a poster on Restorative Justice Week which was available (for free) on the website. In the coming years the Forum will continue supporting the international Restorative Justice Week.



11. PROJECTS

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) and Eigen Kracht Centrale (Netherlands). It ran from January 2009 and ended in February 2011.



This two-year project consisted 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, focused 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 research project resulted in a scientific report as well as a practical guide on setting up conferencing programmes in Europe. The latter includes information on the different models and the conditions that have to be met for their successful implementation.

More information on this project can be found on the Forum's website (www.euforumrj.org), under the heading "Projects".

Victims and RJ

This, project, funded by the European Commission, started in February 2011 and will end in October 2012. Its general objective is to achieve more knowledge, through empirical evidence, on the needs, experiences and position of victims when participating in restorative justice (RJ) programmes. The development of RJ has led to some questions with regard to the position of the victim and therefore this project will deal with questions at both micro- and macro-level.

At the micro-level, the focus lies with the personal experience of the victim regarding the offer of mediation, the experience of communicating with the offender in an (in)direct way, the mediation outcome and the judicial context. Interviews will be done in Austria, Finland and the Netherlands with victims who have participated in a 'successful' mediation; victims who participated in a mediation process that stopped; and victims who have been offered mediation but for whom the process has not started.

At the macro-level, the legislative, organisational and institutional framework of victim-offender mediation and conferencing are studied, in order to better understand the orientation on victim issues. Furthermore, an online survey will be carried out for restorative justice programmes and victim support services throughout Europe.

Interim results will be discussed during regional workshops in Austria, Finland and the Netherlands (February 2012) and at an international conference in Finland (Helsinki, 14-16 June 2012).

This project will lead to a better understanding of the needs, experiences and position of victims in victim-offender mediation and conferencing and will formulate recommendations with regard to the further development of restorative justice practices as well as the cooperation between restorative justice programmes and victim support organisations.

More information on this project can be found on the Forum's website (www.euforumrj.org), under the heading "Projects".

Mediation and Restorative Justice in prison settings (MEREPS)

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 in-

mates 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.

The project will end in the beginning of 2012 and will have its final conference in the beginning of that year.

Substantial support for victims: Towards holistic response to crime, Latvia and beyond

The centre for Public Policy Providus (Riga, Latvia) was awarded a grant by the European Commis-

sion. The Forum is one of the partners in this project, which started in June 2011 and which will run until May 2013.

The overall aim of this project is to prevent victimization by enhancing support for victims and fostering a more holistic and healing response to crime, where the needs of the victim, offender and society are equally acknowledged. The project aims to achieve the following 4 goals:

- a) To provide research based strategic and policy recommendations for development of good victims policies that address victim's needs, and respond to crime in a balanced and restorative way.
- b) To improve information and support available to victims of crime.
- c) To enhance understanding about the benefits of a restorative response to crime and responsiveness towards victim's needs among law enforcement agencies, media and society at large.
- d) To improve cooperation and networking among state agencies and NGOs working with victims of crime within Latvia and beyond.

The project will result in a research report and a summary (both in English and Latvian).

Art for social change: Exploring Justice through new media documentary

The project started on 1 October 2011 and ends on 30 September 2013. It is operated in partnership with LINC (KULeuven), University of California, STUK Art Centre (Leuven), Suggnomè and the Forum.

This interdisciplinary international arts research collaboration will explore the use of new media technologies and documentary strategies to document and actively participate in the practice of restorative justice in an effort to test the potential for activist art to have a direct role in changing social conditions. This research will be translated into the design of a new form of new media documentary work that both represents and embodies the practice of restorative justice – engaging with the public in a qualitative analysis of the structural inequalities underlying current systems of retributive justice and modelling strategies to achieve a more productive, democratic and humane civil society.



Financial Report

Cost-incomes and Budget 2012

<u>COSTS</u>	<u>Budget 2011</u>	<u>Result 2011</u>	<u>Budget 2012</u>
Operating costs	142.670,00 EUR	100.581,53 EUR	78.080,00 EUR
Conferencing	13.860,00 EUR	25.032,30 EUR	0,00 EUR
Victims and RJ	78.859,00 EUR	74.092,30 EUR	136.000,00 EUR
FP7 - Alternative	0,00 EUR	0,00 EU	59.500,00 EU
TOTAL	235.389,00 EUR	199.706,13 EUR	273.580,00 EUR
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Budget 2011</u>	<u>Result 2011</u>	<u>Budget 2012</u>
Core	28.150,00 EUR	41.473,45 EUR	28.645,00 EUR
Operating grant EC	50.000,00 EUR	60.000,00 EUR	50.000,00 EUR
Conferencing	10.000,00 EUR	19.616,44 EUR	0,00 EUR
Grants Ministries	10.058,25 EUR	11.103,91 EUR	0,00 EUR
Victims and RJ	78.859,00 EUR	74.092,30 EUR	142.040,00 EUR
FP7 - Alternative	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR	53.000,00 EUR
Other	58.321,75 EUR	0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR
TOTAL	235.389,00 EUR	206.286,10 EUR	273.685,00 EUR
RESULT	0,00	6.579,97	105,00