



*European Forum for Restorative Justice*

*Annual Report 2006*

Editing: Jolien Willemsens and Siri Kemény  
Leuven and Oslo, March 2007

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## **Foreword**

The 2006 Annual Report for the European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w. mirrors the main activities of the Forum in the past year, namely activities and events that reflect a targeted *European* effort in a *European* context.

The effort is shown in the title of the fourth biennial conference that took place in Barcelona in June 2006: *Restorative justice and beyond: an agenda for Europe*. In this conference, the Forum for the first time explored what lies beyond the 'classical application' of restorative justice. The full report of the conference can be found on the website of the Forum: [www.euforumrj.org](http://www.euforumrj.org).

Also in 2006, two seminars were organised in cooperation with the Ministries of Justice of Austria and of Finland, under the aegis of their EU Presidencies. The seminars were meant as a follow-up to the long time joint Belgian-European Forum initiative to create a network of national contact points consisting of civil servants/policy makers of European governments. You can read more about this in the present report.

Other important activities have been the follow-up of the AGIS 1 project. The work to establish a pool of trainers has been brought a big step forward by the training and practice committee. Also, the preparations for a second summer school with training for trainers and advanced mediators, to be held in Riga in June 2007, started. When you read this, some progress has also been made with regard to the training for prosecutors and judges. A small seminar to discuss this topic took place in Leuven in March 2007, funded by the Belgian Ministry of Justice.

Not to forget – the year 2006 is also the year of the third AGIS project. The Forum was again granted money under the AGIS-programme of the European Commission. The general objective of the present project is to realise, on the one hand, an effective support to the development of restorative justice in the South of Europe, and, on the other hand, to research what could be the potential role of the European Union in the further development of restorative justice in the whole of the European Union. Thus, the project bears the same title as the conference in Barcelona, *Restorative justice: an agenda for Europe*.

The AGIS 3 project is demanding as to human resources. The staff in the Secretariat has been reinforced with both a project-officer and a project assistant. You can read more about the project in the report and on the website of the Forum.

The Forum has also been granted funding from the EU for a project on *Developing standards for assistance to victims of terrorism*. The project has started up in March 2007 with the objective of developing a set of standards on assistance and legal advice, aid and psychological assistance to victims and their families involving a broad selection of European experts from member countries and EU institutions, based on the current knowledge of victim needs and wishes in the aftermath of terrorist events, including a study of what restorative justice principles and practices have to offer in this respect. The work will be undertaken by two researchers: one based at the Catholic University of Leuven/the European Forum, the other at the International Victimology Institute (InterVICT) of the University of Tilburg.

The Forum also assists on a consultancy basis in the project *Promoting the practice of victim-offender mediation in Turkey*, awarded by the European Commission and run by a team of the Istanbul Bilgi University.

The Forum-associated COST Action A21 has been successfully finalised with a conference in December 2006. A number of publications will result from this research network in the near future.

In general 2006 has been a year with a high rate of activity. It seems as if this will continue in 2007.

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 Forum has a permanent *secretariat*, located within the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology of the Catholic University of Leuven, Hooverplein 10, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

### **1. The European Forum Board**

The *Board* of the Forum, which was elected during the 2006 General Meeting, is composed of: Siri Kemény (Norway) as Chair, Inge Vanfraechem (Belgium) as Vice-Chair, João Lázaro (Portugal) as Treasurer, Michael Kilchling (Germany) as Secretary, Frauke Petzold (Germany), Jaume Martin (Spain), Vira Zemlyanska (Ukraine), Niall Kearney (United Kingdom) and Marko Bosnjak (Slovenia).

### **2. Membership**

The 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 a member.

At the 2006 General Meeting, 94 new members were accepted: 6 organisational members and 88 individual members.

### **3. Overview of the activities**

#### General Meeting

The 2006 General Meeting was organised in Barcelona, Spain, on 16 June 2006, on the second evening of the European Forum conference. It was attended by 52 members and 4 non-members. 17 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:

- The election of four new Board members. Ivo Aertsen (Belgium), Martin Wright (United Kingdom), Vidia Negrea (Hungary, representing the

Community Service Foundation of Hungary) and Margaret Carey (United Kingdom) had resigned from the Board. Following people were elected to the Board: Inge Vanfraechem (Belgium), Marko Bosnjak (Slovenia), Michael Kilchling (Germany), and Niall Kearney (United Kingdom).

- Planned activities in 2006-2007: the new AGIS 3 project on 1) meeting the challenges of introducing restorative justice in southern Europe, and 2) researching the role of the EU in the development of restorative justice; the establishment of a network of national contact points for restorative justice (Vienna seminar and Helsinki seminar); the summer school for trainers and experienced mediators; the training of legal practitioners; and the establishment of the pool of trainers.
- Fundraising and financial concerns: the possible sources of funding for the Forum were presented.
- 19 people that met during the conference expressed a wish to create a network dealing with restorative approaches in schools under the European Forum umbrella. The wish was voiced by Belinda Hopkins (UK). The proposal was approved and a committee was established. It was stressed that the Secretariat does not have the resources necessary to give the committee practical or administrative assistance. It was agreed that the arrangement would be evaluated in one year.

### Board meetings

In 2006 the Board met three times: on 13-14 and 17 June in Barcelona, on 7 and 8 September in Mallorca and on 21 November in Warsaw.

Important elements of discussion during these meetings were:

- a principled discussion based on the constitution and explanatory memorandum of the Forum about what the European Forum shall be in the future, i.e. how it should develop;
- the AGIS 3 project;
- the cooperative project with the Bilgi University in Turkey;
- the relationship of the Forum with the University of Leuven;
- network of policy makers (the Vienna and Helsinki seminars);
- the work of the committees and newsletter;
- national promoters, i.e. how to involve the members in promoting the work of the Forum;
- and the conference in 2008.

Finances and funding were also discussed, as a recurrent topic.

### Committees

Five permanent 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 *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. At the 2006 General Meeting on *committee on restorative approaches in schools* was established.

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

The *information committee* missed a chair in 2006, like in 2005. In spite of this, it has not been proposed to terminate the committee.

In 2006 the *communication committee* (Chair: Christa Pelikan, Austria) focused on organising the conference "*Restorative justice and beyond – an agenda for Europe*", which took place in Barcelona (Spain) on 15-17 June 2006. The committee is prepared to organise the programme of the coming conference in Rome, April 2008.

During 2006, the *practice and training committee* (Chair: Niall Kearney, UK) focused on establishing the pool of trainers, and on organising a second summer school for trainers and managers in victim-offender mediation and restorative justice. The summer school will take place in June 2007 in Latvia.

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 2006.

### Newsletter

In 2006 Vira Zemlyanska has been the co-ordinator of the newsletter editorial board.

Three issues of the newsletter were published in 2006.

Articles covered developments in Greece, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Thailand. The newsletters also published articles on subjects like data recording on VOM and RJ in Europe (from the COST Action A21), RJ and adolescent sexual offending and the influence and importance of European legislative measures in the field of RJ, apart from reports of conferences. 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 several 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. They pertained to information about the Forum, 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 2006 the Secretariat tried to keep the information on the website up-to-date. However, this is a time-consuming job. Also, only a small amount of requests to put information on the website are being received. Updating the website and providing current information would be easier if the membership of the Forum contacted the Secretariat regularly with news about events, publications and developments, and if this information would be provided in a format which would allow easy publication on the website.

The Secretariat will, in the near future, look into the different parts of the website and think about ways how to update them in a more effective and efficient way.

The discussion room on our website is still not being used.

### Representation of the Forum

In 2006, the European Forum was represented at the following events:

- Frauke Petzold at the bi-annual conference of Victim-Offender Mediation in Germany, "11. Forum für Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich – Den Dialog führen- den Rechtsfrieden fördern", Mainz, Germany, 3-5 May 2006
- Borbala Fellegi at the conference of the Nordic Mediation Forum in Helsinki, Finland, May 2006.
- Inge Vanfraechem at the conference of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, "Juvenile Justice in Europe: A framework for the integration", Brussels, Belgium, 24-25 October 2006.

### Financial situation and funding applications

In 2006, the Norwegian government, together with the Norwegian National Mediation Service, supported the Forum for the second of three consecutive years. The Forum has not succeeded in getting structural funding.

### Projects

#### *AGIS 3*

In 2006 the European Forum was granted another AGIS project by the European Commission: "Restorative justice: an agenda for Europe". This project (AGIS 3) started on 1 June 2006 and will run until 31 May 2008.

The general objective of the project is to realise, on the one hand, an effective support to the development of RJ in the South of Europe (*Going South*), and on the other hand, to research what could be the potential role of the EU in the further development of restorative justice in the whole of the EU (*EU policies*).

The specific objectives of the project are:

- a) to provide effective support to the development of RJ in Southern European (SE) countries by:
  - studying, at the legal-conceptual and practical level, what the possibilities are for implementing RJ in SE countries;
  - discussing how the experience in the rest of Europe can inform and support the development of restorative justice in SE;
  - preparing strategies for promoting the development of an integrated policy concerning restorative justice in SE;
  - actively working towards creating dynamics for exchange and co-operation (networking) between SE countries in this field;
  - discussing what countries in the rest of Europe can learn from the developments in criminal justice in SE.
  
- b) to identify whether there is a need for further regulation about restorative justice at the level of the EU by:
  - analysing the existing legislation on the national level in all EU Member States;
  - making an overview of the existing international regulations;
  - exploring the main needs at national level which could have implications for EU policies;
  - studying whether these needs require specific regulation or other initiative at the level of the EU;
  - studying whether there is a legal basis and whether it is opportune to actually regulate these issues at the level of the EU;
  - if so, discussing the concrete forms, instruments and the content of the EU policies that are required.

The project started with the biennial conference of the European Forum, organised in June 2006 in Barcelona. This conference served on the one hand, to identify the main needs regarding RJ in Europe and, on the other hand to do a first approach to the main challenges and supportive factors that the SE countries encounter when implementing RJ. A first core and steering group meeting (Bordeaux and Helsinki respectively) have allowed to further elaborate on the findings of this first international conference.

The next steps to be taken are:

- On 10-12 May 2007, a seminar will be organised in Lisbon
- On 29, 30 November and 1 December 2007, a second core group and steering group meeting will be held in Trier
- On 17-19 April 2008, Rome will be the venue for the final international conference where the conclusions of the project will be presented.

Three staff members are working in the context of this project. Jolien Willemsens is acting as *project coordinator* and is responsible for the coordination of the project, the financial management, and the EU policy research work. Clara Casado is the *project officer* and is in charge of the Going South part of the project. Leni Sannen, finally, is acting as *project assistant* and takes care of the administrative work ensuing from the project.

At the end of the two years, the *project officer* and the *researcher* are responsible for editing the two publications that will result from the project.

These publications will be made widely available by posting them on the website of the European Forum.

### *Turkey project "Promoting the practice of victim-offender mediation"*

The European Forum is providing consultancy in a European Commission-funded project run by Istanbul Bilgi University on "Promoting the practice of victim-offender mediation". The European Forum will contribute by doing some research on best practices on how to set up, organise and run a mediation service. The Forum will also assist in organising some study visits and the final conference of the project.

## International initiatives

### *European Network*

In 2002, the Belgian government took the initiative to adopt a Council Decision setting up a European Network of national contact points for restorative justice.<sup>1</sup> The idea was that this network should support the effective implementation of restorative justice through national policies and by criminal justice agencies. The initiative had been taken in close cooperation with the European Forum, and the proposed network should be seen as complementary to, and supportive for, the work of the Forum.

The Belgian proposal was sent to the European Parliament for consideration, and it gave a positive advice in April 2003. The next step is that the proposal should be dealt with by the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in the Council of the European Union. Until now, no initiative has been taken in that direction. If and when this will happen is completely dependent on the political initiative of the Council.

The Austrian and Finnish Presidencies of the European Union were willing to pick up this idea again and hosted each one seminar: Austria in June and Finland in December 2006. The seminars tried to map the present situation and interest, and discussed further steps to be taken towards the realisation of a network of national contact points. Reports about these seminars are available on the website of the Forum: [www.euforumrj.org](http://www.euforumrj.org).

### *COST*

A final conference of the COST<sup>2</sup> Action A21 "Restorative justice developments in Europe" marked the end of this action in November 2006 in Warsaw, Poland.<sup>3</sup> A good number of members of the European Forum have taken part in it. The COST group is finalising a number of publications.

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<sup>1</sup> Official Journal: C 242/20, 8.10.2002, p.20.

<sup>2</sup> COST ('European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technological Research') is an intergovernmental European framework for international co-operation between nationally funded research activities. COST is not financing research directly, but the exchange, analysis and co-ordination of research.

<sup>3</sup> For more information concerning the COST Action, please consult the 'Projects' part of the website of the European Forum: [www.euforumrj.org](http://www.euforumrj.org).

#### **4. Financial report**

Contents:

Letter from the accountant

Attachment 1: Balance-sheet Forum 31/12/2006 (in Euro)

Attachment 2: Costs-Incomes and Budget 2006-2007 (in Euro)

# ABS

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3000 LEUVEN  
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ACCOUNTANTS

To whom it may concern

17th of april 2007

Datum

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 2006 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 2006 as it was closed on december 31, 2006.

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.

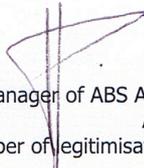
The bookkeeping-entries were controlled and were found to be consistent with the available pieces of evidence.

The situation 2006 is the faithful reflection of the costs incurred and incomes received in the year 2006. In our opinion the attached balance gives a faithful image of the capital and of the financial situation of the vzw on 31 december 2006, 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 13.165,52 euro.

This means that the VZW's own property was 34.706,78 euro on 31/12/06 (21.541,26 euro from 2005 + 13.165,52 euro profit from 2006).

The final balance on 31 december 2006 provides a total balance of 280.234,27 euro.

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



BURGERLIJKE  
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ONDER DE VORM  
VAN EEN BESLOTEN  
VENNOOTSCHAP  
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## ATTACHMENT 1

Balance-sheet Forum 31/12/2006 (in Euro)			
Assets		Liabilities	
Fixed assets	2.339,33	Own property	21.541,26
Customers	1.603,53	Profit 2006	13.165,52
Membership fees receivable	2.460,00	Suppliers	49.453,35
Other receivables	853,13	Vacation provision	5.904,14
Bank account	272.740,85	Deferred income	190.170,00
Cash	237,43		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280.234,27</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280.234,27</b>

## ATTACHMENT 2

### *COSTS-INCOMES AND BUDGET 2006-2007 (IN EURO)*

COSTS	Budget '06	Result '06	Budget '07
Postage	20.000,00	1.957,45	20.000,00 for
Copies	for all	160,65	all 'running'
Travel, accommodation	'running'	3.122,90	costs
Office supplies	costs	886,97	
Documentation		13,56	
Other		459,53	
Software		157,30	
Website		877,25	
Accountancy		992,20	
Newsletter		846,14	
Publications		653,63	
Membership		95,00	
Financial		338,50	
Representation		185,65	
Meetings		0,00	
Conference organisation	22.000,00	1.120,00	0,00
Summer school	0,00	0,00	5.000,00
AGIS 3 staff costs	0,00	40.472,88	0,00
AGIS 3 travel	0,00	2.709,62	0,00
AGIS 3 consumables	0,00	146,84	0,00
AGIS 3 equipment	0,00	692,89	0,00
AGIS 3 conferences	0,00	35.826,57	0,00
AGIS 3 publications	0,00	865,89	0,00
AGIS 3 overhead	0,00	738,98	0,00
Personnel	27.500,00	10.440,93	25.200,00
Vacation provision	-10.000,00	3.225,57	0,00
Provision personnel	0,00	0,00	0,00
Advance tax payment	0,00	56,20	0,00
Memberships not paid	0,00	385,00	700,00
Overhead KUL	0,00	867,25	1.260,00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59.500,00</b>	<b>108.295,35</b>	<b>52.160,00</b>

INCOMES	Budget '06	Result '06	Budget '07
Norway	12.000,00	12.478,26	12.000,00
AGIS 3	0,00	38.000,00	0,00
AGIS 3 related income	0,00	49.495,00	0,00
Summer school	0,00	0,00	7.000,00
Conference	27.000,00	0,00	0,00
Membership	10.000,00	18.437,50	12.000,00
Books, newsletter	400,00	712,00	200,00
Financial	0,00	374,70	300,00
Other	10.100,00	1.963,41	20.660,00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59.500,00</b>	<b>121.460,87</b>	<b>52.160,00</b>
<b>REST</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>13.165,52</b>	<b>0,00</b>