



Annual Report 2017

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THE EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IS A PARTNER IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLATFORM EUROPE



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Foreword

In 2017 the European Forum for Restorative Justice became fully engaged in our proactive strategy, Forum 15. Our vision that everyone should have access to high quality restorative justice has guided our efforts to promote the value of restorative justice, to influence governments' policy and to develop excellence in practice and research in the field of restorative justice.

Our contributions to Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have significantly increased over the past year ensuring that positive news regarding the development of restorative justice around the world is being received by a much wider audience than previously. Please share and retweet as often as you can to make sure we reach even more people.

Restorative justice week is an excellent opportunity to promote restorative justice locally and internationally. This year we launched a new EFRJ publication 'Restorative Imagination: Artistic Pathways', a collection of 36 articles including reflections, dreams, actual projects, real experiences bringing together arts and restorative justice either as potential for dialogue or as forms for awareness raising. As an example of the potential of the arts to inform the general public about what is possible we supported the production and promotion of the film 'A Conversation'. It is based on a theatre play where two families meet after being involved in a case of rape and murder. It has been a successful example of international cooperation between our members. The script from Australia was adapted by the English director Peter Harris and the Norwegian group No Theatre. Sponsors from Spain supported the EFRJ to coordinate the making of the film. Subtitles were translated into 15 different languages by our membership and during the RJ Week it was finally screened in 69 different venues in 26 countries worldwide to an audience of about 3000 people. It continues to be shown around the world.

In 2017 we participated in about 60 events across Europe and beyond. The EFRJ has often been asked to represent the RJ field on different occasions, as experts on new developments in research, practice and training. This shows that the EFRJ is recognised as a centre of knowledge in RJ and related areas. We have supported policy makers in their efforts to implement restorative justice in countries as far apart as Belarus and Chile.

At the beginning of 2017 we organised a seminar on the implementation of the EU Victims' Directive in Brussels together with our partners in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE, composed of by CEP, Europris and the EFRJ). About 70 experts in the field of RJ, prison, probation and victim support discussed how training and cooperation can be further developed to ensure victims' rights in Europe. A policy paper and practice guide on RJ and the EU Victims' Directive was launched at the event.

In another critical policy field the EFRJ participated in the Council of Europe on a new recommendation on restorative justice. We hope that this will be agreed and disseminated in the summer and that the EFRJ can support countries in its implementation. We also participated in meetings at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which is reviewing the 2002 UN Basic Principles on RJ. The EFRJ shared its expertise on restorative justice practices, values and principles, as well as on how these practices can be implemented in international and European regulation. We recently had a follow-up meeting in Paris where we offered our support to further the development of these principles in practice. This will be of major importance in promoting restorative justice practices on an international, national and even on a very local level.

The EFRJ has created synergies with and between other international bodies and organizations as the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, European Forum for Urban Security, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights which is the principal institution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Penal Reform International, Victim Support Europe, EQUINET and the European Family Justice Center Alliance. At an international level, the EFRJ is perceived as the body of scientific, practical and legislative knowledge on restorative justice and, more generally, how to deal in a more humane way with conflicts.

In line with our commitment to raising the range and quality of restorative practices we were involved in some major events throughout the year. Linked to our Annual General Meeting, we organised a seminar on RJ in intercultural conflicts in Berlin with TOA, a German organisational member of the EFRJ. About 50 participants attended the seminar.

The first edition of the Criminal Justice Summer Courses organized with CJPE in Barcelona on radicalisation, desistance and encouraging offenders to change brought together about 80 experts in probation, prison and RJ. The 7th edition of our own Summer School dealt with RJ in cases of serious crime and it was organized in Como in collaboration with the University of Insubria and attended by 41 participants. In the autumn we organized, together with IJJO and KU Leuven, a training course on the use of RJ in cases involving child victims.

We want to build on these successes and to support our members more proactively in developing their knowledge and skills in restorative justice. We believe that our approach to professional development should be based upon sound values and principles. To this end a new Working Group was selected from members to develop a short statement on the values and standards that the EFRJ stands for. A draft document should be available for discussion at the AGM in Tirana. This will also lead to setting up basic standards for a good quality restorative practice in Europe.

Once we have agreed our values and standards we will offer to support countries in Europe and beyond to develop their practices. Our greatest resource is our members among whom there is a huge reservoir of expertise. Towards the end of 2017 we invited around 40 experts from within our membership to share their ideas on how we should proceed. We are still analysing their views, which will have a significant influence on our strategy.

As evidence of the expertise that the EFRJ can activate, we can offer the range of around 80 workshops of extraordinary quality which will be presented at our 10th conference in Tirana (14-16 June 2018).

We know that restorative works. We know that there is much resistance to it. Nevertheless;

Soyons réalistes, demandons l'impossible.

Tim Chapman

Chair

Introduction to the European Forum for Restorative Justice

The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) is a non-profit organisation established in 2000. It is based in Leuven (Belgium) and operates according to Belgian law.

Aim

The EFRJ aims to establish and to develop victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices throughout Europe. The EFRJ focuses on the application of restorative justice to criminal matters but other areas, such as family, school and community mediation, are not excluded. The EFRJ does not defend any 'best practice' model of restorative justice but recognises that restorative justice is an evolving approach. Our goal is that every person in Europe has the right to access restorative justice services, at any time and in any case.

Objectives

The EFRJ:

- Promotes international information exchange and mutual assistance
- Promotes the development of effective restorative justice policies, services and legislation
- Explores and develops the theoretical basis of restorative justice
- Stimulates research
- Assists in the development of principles, ethics, training and good practice
- Pursues other objectives determined by the General Meeting

To realise its aim and objectives, the EFRJ:

- Promotes dialogue between practitioners, policymakers and researchers (including students)
- Supports public education that increases awareness about issues for victims, offenders and the community
- Makes representation to and/or liaises with European and international institutions or organisations, including the Council of Europe, the European Union and relevant non-governmental organisations
- Raises, holds and administers funds in furtherance of its work
- Works to ensure that practice and research inform and support each other, and that these both inform and support policy making, which then informs the work of practitioners

Organisational Structure

Board

The Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice is composed of **nine volunteer Board members** from eight different countries (in accordance with the Art.28 of the EFRJ Constitution). Four Board members are part of the Executive Committee, responsible for following up the day-to-day running of the EFRJ.

In the spring of 2017, Vicky de Souter (Belgium) resigned from her board membership and the Board co-opted Patrizia Patrizi (Italy) (candidate in 2016), whose Board membership was accepted by the AGM in Berlin. The composition of the board is:

Executive Committee Board Members



Chair
Tim Chapman
Northern Ireland



Secretary
Brunilda Pali
Belgium



Vice-Chair
Annemieke Wolhuis
The Netherlands



Treasurer
Bart Claes
Belgium

Board members



Aarne Kinnunen
Finland



Michael Kilchling
Germany



Roberto Moreno Alvarez
Spain



Patrizia Patrizi
Italy



Lars Otto Justad
Norway

The Secretariat

The Secretariat of the European Forum for Restorative Justice, based in Leuven (Belgium) in 2017 consisted of the Executive Director (ED – 60%), the Communications and Events Officer (C&EO – 60-80%) the Financial and Administrative officer (FAO – 40%). For 7 months we worked on a contractual basis with a Policy Officer (PO – 50%). On a project-basis, a researcher was hired for the “Restorative justice with child victims” and for the “PREPARE” project. Our Board member Brunilda Pali was also hired part time for a month at the end of the year. In 2017 three volunteers helped our work in the Leuven office.

In 2017 the Secretariat consisted of the following team:



Executive Director
Edit Törzs



Policy Officer
Kris Vanspauwen



Communications and Events Officer
Emanuela Biffi



Financial and Administrative Officer
Rik Defrère



Researcher (Child victims and PREPARE projects)
Inge Vanfraechem

Volunteers at the Secretariat in 2017

Valentina Ivcec (Croatia)
Martine Rietman (The Netherlands)
Marlies Talay (USA)

Editorial committee of the Newsletter

The Editorial committee of the EFRJ is composed of a team of international experts actively supporting the EFRJ in collecting, selecting and disseminating relevant developments in the field of restorative justice. These developments can relate to practice, but also to research, policy or legislation. In 2017, the Editorial committee was composed of seven members from five different countries.

Editor: Kerry Clamp (United Kingdom)

Members of the editorial committee include: Branka Peuraca (Croatia), Nicola Preston (United Kingdom), Robert Shaw (United Kingdom), Martin Wright (United Kingdom), Diana Ziedina (Latvia) and Catherine Jaccottet Tissot (Switzerland). The Newsletter was coordinated by Emanuela Biffi at the Secretariat.

Training Committee

The Training Committee is mainly assisting the Secretariat in organizing the EFRJ Summer Schools. In 2017 they provided help and expertise with the organization of the summer school in Como. While before 2016 members of the training committee were also responsible for delivering the summer schools, this year we applied a different approach and engaged members experienced in the topic as trainers for this edition.

The Committee is coordinated by Emanuela Biffi on behalf of the Secretariat. Members of the training committee are:

Lars Otto Justad (board), Roberto Moreno (board), Frauke Petzold (Germany), Niall Kearney (UK).

Working Group on Values and Standards

In 2017 we launched a call to our members to join a new Working Group on values and standards. We had high interest and the group was set up, met twice the year and worked on developing a set of core values that the EFRJ stands for. The meetings took place on 1 June (Berlin) and 27 October (Leuven). The group also collected literature and best examples of (national) standards for RJ practices. A draft paper on the values was also discussed on the expert meeting the EFRJ organized on 18 December 2017 in Leuven, attended by more than 40 EFRJ members.

The group is chaired by Tim Chapman (chair) and consists of Monique Anderson (Belgium), Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland), Virginia Domingo (Spain), Belinda Hopkins (UK) Gian Luigi Lepri (Italy) and Diana Ziedina (Latvia).



Membership

The EFRJ is a network organisation offering a common space for a variety of actors engaged or interested in the further development of restorative justice practices and principles. The ultimate goals of collecting and sharing experiences and practices are:

- making information available on RJ developments in Europe;
- raising awareness on restorative justice in different contexts;
- further promoting international cooperation; and
- informing and influencing policy makers.

In addition to promoting a better exchange of information, the EFRJ represents the voices and interests of many different actors trying to bring about a real change in the society through restorative justice approaches. The EFRJ is unique in that it has a heterogeneous membership including policy makers, practitioners, researchers, academics, governments, lawyers and representative of judicial authorities. Answering to the growing interest from young people in our work, the EFRJ lately also introduced a new membership category for students. The EFRJ membership is divided in two general categories:

- Individual members
- Organisational members

According to their legal status, organisations can decide to become member of the EFRJ as: local organisation, non-governmental organisation or governmental organisation. Each member is entitled to decide whether to join the EFRJ as Full Member (with voting rights) or Associate Member (without voting rights).

The membership of the EFRJ is constantly growing. At the 2017 Annual General Meeting in Berlin (Germany), 27 new membership applications have been approved:

- **24** new individual members
- **3** new organization members

From June until the end of 2017, the interest to engage in the EFRJ as a member grew as another **31 individuals or organisations applied for membership**. Among those there are two new organisational members:

- Bristol Mediation based in the UK
- C.R.I.S.I. scarl Onlus based in Italy

These memberships will be formally approved on the AGM in 2018.

The EFRJ membership can be viewed as an online map, which includes names and location of individual members and name, location, website and logo of organizational members:

<http://www.euforumrj.org/uncategorized/membership-directory/>. Members also receive a

membership directory with all the contact details of other members. This is an important tool because it allows members to directly communicate with each other and develop national and international cooperation.



In 2017 we put extensive efforts in exploring different technical solutions to make our membership and contact database more transparent and up to date. At the same time we prepared to implement a system in line with the new privacy regulations of the EU (GDPR). According to the preparatory work the EFRJ might purchase a CRM system to further handle its databases. It will make the communication and follow up of our members more efficient, which is one of the goals of the EFRJ.

The EFRJ also started working on reviewing its membership policies, which includes the distinction between full and associate members. The purpose is offering more benefits for organizational members in the future and the idea of introducing new membership fees. We will also take into consideration GDPs or other relevant indicators of differences in financial possibilities geographically.

External cooperation

Catholic University of Leuven – Leuven Institute for Criminology

The EFRJ cooperates closely with the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC). The EFRJ grew out of a LINC project in the 1990s and the EFRJ Secretariat is still based in the Institute. Being situated in the KU Leuven LINC building, the EFRJ staff has daily contacts with the LINC researchers working on RJ and related topics and participates in the monthly RJ research line meeting and co-organises a series of monthly thematic lunches on RJ. The EFRJ and LINC also cooperate in research projects, such as the most recent FP7 “ALTERNATIVE” project or the current, IJJO-coordinated “Implementing restorative justice with child victims” project.

The RJ week events were hosted at the KU Leuven premises in Leuven in November. The EFRJ team also takes part in seminars, events and meetings related to restorative justice organised by LINC. The close cooperation with the university enables the EFRJ also to have contacts with students. As an example, on 21 November 2017 Emanuela Biffi gave a class on RJ (i.e. frontal lecture and practical interactive sessions) to about 60 students of the Criminology Master program at KU Leuven. The class was based on two EU funded projects coordinated by the EFRJ in the past years (on access to and awareness about RJ).

Criminal Justice Platform Europe

The EFRJ is part of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE), which since 2012 brings together three organisations working in the fields of detention (EuroPris), probation (Confederation of European Probation, CEP) and restorative justice (EFRJ). The objective is ‘to reduce re-offending and the impact



of crime and to improve methods of working with victims, communities and offenders throughout Europe.’ The CJPE’s special focus during 2017 was on the implementation of the EU Victims’ Directive, alternatives to detention and radicalisation.

Under the egis of the CJPE, the EFRJ organised a successful one day seminar on 23 February 2017 on the implementation of the Victims’ Directive. This event focused on Art. 25 and 26 of the Victim’s Directive focusing on the training of professionals in contact with victims of crime and cooperation strategies between these services. Seventy-four people registered for this event, including CJPE representatives and invited experts.

The EFRJ invited experts from France and Portugal to give a workshop on training (i.e. Benjamin Sayous presented the interdisciplinary model used in France to train prison and victim support workers on RJ; Gustavo Duarte presented the model used in Portugal to train volunteers working for victim support services). In the plenary, Christophe de Muylder from Belgium represented a Belgian collective of parents whose children have been murdered and, between real stories and concrete problematics, he presented the challenges and needs faced by these victims.

The EFRJ launched its Practice guide for restorative justice services on the Victims' Directive (VD) and a Briefing Paper about the Regulation of Restorative Justice in the Directive 2012/29/EU, both written in 2016. This Practice guide allows practitioners to incorporate the Victims' Directive into their practices, by briefing them on the importance of the expectations and requirements of the Directive, and answering potential questions that might rise during their practices. It also informs them on the right stakeholders whom they need to cooperate with on the national level and on the kind of trainings they should follow/organise for a good implementation

From 2017 on, the CJPE started a new initiative, a joint Criminal Justice Summer Course. The idea of a joint summer course of the CJPE members arose already in 2016. In 2017 we held monthly teleconferences to prepare the event. The first edition of the CJPE Criminal Justice Summer Courses took place in Barcelona on 4-7 July 2017. The 3-day Summer Course consisted of 3 workshops tailored for a mixed audience of prison, probation and RJ experts and practitioners. The topics of the Course were on issues related to radicalisation, desistance and engaging offenders to change. The Course brought together 48 participants from across Europe, excluding workshop leaders, speakers, CJPE representatives and local organisers. Fourteen participants attended the workshops organised by the EFRJ on practices such as motivational interviewing and RJ meant to encourage offenders to change their behaviour. As experts on this specific topic we had invited Tim Chapman (chair of the EFRJ) and Paul Delaney (coAim). The evaluations collected after the event demonstrated the success and continuing interest in this type of event: for this reason, we decided to repeat the Summer Course in 2018 and continue the experience on an annual or biennial basis.



The CJPE member organisations met on the occasions of the above mentioned seminar and summer course, as well as on 18 October 2017 in Utrecht to discuss joint activities and further cooperation.

Other cooperation

The EFRJ met the Council of Europe European Committee on Crime Problems (**CDPC**, through the Council for Penological Co-operation, **PC-CP**), continued its cooperation through projects with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (**IJJO**) and the Academy of European Law (**ERA**), developed a new project proposal with the European Forum for Urban Safety (**EFUS**) and the Belgian support service for victims of traffic offenses (**Rondpunt**) and built contacts with the EU **RAN network**. We also kept contacts and participated on events of Victim Support Europe (**VSE**) and the International Institute of Restorative Practices (**IIRP Europe**). We continue our membership within the EU **FRA** Fundamental Rights Platform. We continued our collaborations with the **AGE Platform Europe** on victims of elder abuse. In 2017 we established new contacts with the European Family Justice Center Alliance (**EFJCA**), **EQUINET**, **OSCE** and **Penal Reform International**. With the OSCE we worked on a side event planned for the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on Access to justice in Vienna between 17 and 18 July, in cooperation with our members in Austria, IRKS and

Neustart. Unfortunately the whole meeting was cancelled last minute. Our representative was invited to speak about RJ as a way of enhancing access to justice in November 2017, when the SHDM took place finally in Vienna. Regarding possible support for the 10th International Conference of the EFRJ in 2018, we made contacts with UNICEF, Save the Children, OSF and OSCE offices based in Albania, as well as with the Albanian Ministry of Justice, Albanian Parliament and different foreign embassies in Tirana.

The EFRJ continued its preparation work for the International Seminar “The East meeting the West: Ideas on the development of Restorative Justice”, which is to be co-organised with the **Asian Pacific Forum for Restorative Justice**. Discussions on potential venues and date and preferred topics took place in 2017 without significant and more concrete plans for 2018.

Activity report 2017

Annual General Meeting 2017

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the EFRJ took place on 1 June 2017 in Berlin, Germany. This was followed by an expert seminar on restorative justice practices to deal with intercultural conflicts on 2 June 2017, which was organised by the EFRJ in cooperation with the the Servicebureau for Victim-Offender Mediation and Conflict Settlement (TOA Servicebureau, Cologne, Germany) and DBH e.V. – Association for Social Work, Criminal Law and Criminal Policy (Germany). Speakers reflected on the use of mediation or other restorative practices in involving refugees, presented local projects of



conflict resolution in intercultural settings and compared mediation practices across Europe (mostly, Germany, England, Norway). The EFRJ further disseminated the findings of its recently concluded project ALTERNATIVE on restorative justice in intercultural settings. The seminar was free for EFRJ members to encourage their attendance on the AGM. The seminar was also a first experiment on a bilingual event: some parts of the seminar were in German, other in English and few sessions were bilingual. This enabled higher attendance from Germany. All together we had 57 participants during the event.

Board meetings

Meetings of the international board consisting of 9 members are the most important internal meetings at our organisation. We aim to focus on strategic decisions to be made on these meetings.

The EFRJ Board met twice in 2017:

1. 31 May to 1 June, Berlin, Germany
2. 25-26 October, Leuven, Belgium



Following up the discussions on the 2016 AGM in Leiden, as well as the work in the Forum15 project, the Board especially focused on internal processes and structures, on the proposed constitutional changes in this year. Board members led the process to create an updated internal policy on financial management and an internal policy on board members' functions, which clarifies internal responsibilities for a better internal management. The Board was also following up our project partnerships and financial and human resources matters. It also discussed external relations, especially related to policy matters and the consultation processes with the UN and CoE. A large task for the Berlin meeting was to review the four year work plan (2018-2021) we had to submit for the

Justice Programme call. The Board gave advice and input regarding the events we organise (summer school, RJ week, CJPE summer course, international conference) and on the October meeting it focused also on the EFRJ Experts' workshop we organised based on the work of the Values and Standards working group.

Executive committee meetings

The Executive Committee of the EFRJ consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary (all of them are Board members) and the Executive Director. They meet regularly to discuss operational matters. While regular contacts take place via phone and email, the Executive Committee meets in person as of 2017 not only two, but three times a year:

Executive Committee Meeting I - 30-31 January 2017, Leuven;
Executive Committee Meeting II - 4 October 2017, Leuven;
Executive Committee Meeting III - 11 December 2017, Leuven.

On these meetings we focused on how to put strategic decisions of the Board into practice. The meetings this year especially dealt with the internal financial management issues, with an internal guideline on organising events, financial matters, the job vacancy and we also had the chance to work with an excellent consultant on future IT needs and a new business model developing. This process will continue in 2018.



EFRJ Summer School in Como

Every two years, the EFRJ organises a Summer School in a different location in Europe and on a different theme. The 7th edition of the Summer School (24-28 July 2017), which turned out to be a great success, was organised in cooperation with our Italian organisational member CESGREM- Centre for Restorative Justice and Mediation Studies of the University of Insubria in Como, Italy. The theme was 'Restorative Justice in serious crime: Good quality standards and effective services'. The topic has been chosen because it is in line with the EFRJ's agenda during the next years, namely to ensure that every person in Europe will have the right of access to RJ services, in any criminal case and at any stage of the criminal procedures and to ensure that justice systems will deliver more effective and efficient services. Experience with serious crime cases in restorative justice practice is still a new field to explore in many countries, but the interest shown to attend this summer school underlines the need for providing more practice oriented trainings on this topic.

We engaged two senior mediators and expert trainers, well known within the EFRJ membership for their experience in RJ practice and research in serious crime cases: Kristel Buntinx (Belgium) and Vincent Mercer (UK). Also, we dedicated one day in the programme to a local experience on the encounters organised for victims and ex-members of some terrorist groups of the 1970-80s Italy. The programme included also some lectures given by our local organisers (i.e. the research team at

CESGREM and magistrates from the local court) and social events (i.e. a piano concert introduced by a lecture on music and RJ and the dinner in the house of a magistrate).

Thanks to the successful international cooperation between these active and engaged members of the EFRJ and the enthusiasm of the hosting organising team, we were able to reach the maximum number of participants a long time before the event took place: in fact already on 30 April we had to close registrations and open a waiting list to keep track of the interest in the topic and format of the Summer School. In total 41 people were present in Como, including 34 participants and 7 organisers/ trainers. In the evaluations, we received positive feedback on all aspects related to this Summer School (e.g. organisation, location, topic, programme, trainers, social events) and we decided to organise an intensive course with Kristel Buntinx in Tirana in 2018 as a pre-conference activity to allow more participants to benefit from the training.



Restorative Justice Week

The International Restorative Justice Week (#RJWeek) took place all over Europe and beyond in the week between 19-26 November 2017. As usual, the theme of this RJ week was Inspiring Innovation. The EFRJ organised and coordinated a series of events to celebrate this week with its members, and not only:

- The calendar on the EFRJ website includes almost 150 events which took place in 26 different countries across Europe and beyond, e.g. meetings, conferences, new books and reports' publications, dinners, street promotional campaigns, lessons, interviews, debates, film screenings, lectures, panel discussions, talks, social media daily news, trainings, theatre plays, sharing of memorable RJ stories.

- On the first day of the #RJWeek (19 November), the EFRJ sent to almost 2300 recipients a campaign to officially launch this international event. This Newsflash highlighted some special initiatives where the EFRJ was a partner in the organisation, like for example the series of events organised by the RJ City project in Leuven (e.g. TEDx Salon with board member Brunilda Pali).

- During the RJ week Emanuela Biffi gave a RJ class (i.e. frontal lecture and practical interactive sessions) to about 60 students of the Criminology Master program at KU Leuven. The class was based on 2 EU funded projects coordinated by the EFRJ in the past years (on access to and awareness about RJ).



- We launched a new publication: Restorative Imagination: Artistic Pathways. Ideas and experiences at the intersection between art and restorative justice (edited by Emanuela Biffi & Brunilda Pali, 2017). This is a collection of articles and images reflecting on ideas or projects where arts have been used in the RJ field. The booklet can be downloaded for free via the EFRJ website; printed copies can be ordered at the Secretariat.



- We launched the new film: A conversation (No Theatre, 2017), subtitled in 15 different languages by our members. During the RJ week 68 screenings took place worldwide, with more than 3000 people as audience. Screenings were always organised by our members who took responsibility for introducing the topic and leading the discussion after the film (based on guidelines prepared by us).



Policy oriented work

It is an interesting coincidence that 2017 saw the review of the two most profound basic international documents on restorative justice, namely the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters from 2000 and the Council of Europe Recommendation N° R (99) 19 on mediation in penal matters. The EFRJ was involved in both processes, which are still ongoing the following year.

The EFRJ (represented by Edit Törzs) attended the meetings of the Council of Europe PCCP in 2017 and delegated experts (Tim Chapman and Ivo Aertsen) invited to these meetings by the CoE. In the meanwhile we also provided written feedback on draft proposals. Although Ian Marder, member of the EFRJ was the appointed expert for revising the 1999 Recommendation, this work was done with ongoing communication with the EFRJ team.

Our chair Tim Chapman, together with EFRJ member Ian Marder, published an article for CEP website concerning the consultancy work done during the meetings of the PC-CP Working Group in Strasbourg.

Regarding the UN, the Justice Section of the UNODC started a consultation process and contacted us in January 2017 to provide comments on the state of affairs and use of the UN ECOSOC resolution on basic principles in RJ. We answered to that call with a paper. Later this year we were asked to suggest experts to an Expert Group Meeting on Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters from 22 to 24 November 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. We proposed three experts (one research, one practice and one policy oriented person). The UN invited our colleague Kris Vanspauwen to this meeting, who was asked to give a presentation on the use of



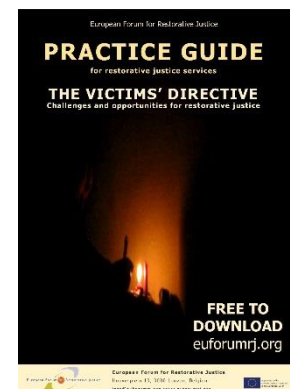
restorative justice in serious crime cases and who contributed to the discussions during the three days.

In 2017 the EFRJ also did a desk research on the effectiveness and efficiency of restorative justice, which was based on existing literature and research outcomes. The draft paper summarizes the most important findings relevant to participation, the restorative justice process and to its outcomes and offers an extensive list of literature and references. We will publish this report in 2018 and we will make a shorter flyer/infographic based on the paper for a more easy access.

The implementation of the EU Victims' Directive

The EU Victims' Directive (Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime) and especially its Art. 12. is the first Directive of the EU containing propositions related to restorative justice. This directive also replaced the previous EU-level legal basis for RJ, namely the 2001 Framework Decision on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings. The implementation deadline of the directive was November 2015.

The main activity of the EFRJ related to the implementation of the Victims' Directive in 2017 was the launch of a Practice guide for RJ services, a Briefing paper about the Regulation of Restorative Justice in the Directive 2012/29/EU, and a survey research among its members on the implementation of the restorative justice related articles of the Victims' Directive. (These can be found at <http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/research-reports/>).



The EFRJ also prepared an expert workshop of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe on Art. 25 and 26 of the Victims Directive, respectively on training of professionals and lay people and cooperation between services in order to provide better support and protection to victims of crime across Europe.

Further the year we analyzed the survey answers and launched the report based on it again, marking the European Day of Crime Victims in 2018.

Grants and funding

The EFRJ relies strongly on the financial support of the EU, more precisely on the operating grant offered to European networks through the EU Commission's Justice Programme. The EU introduced a new, two-step system to access this grant. In 2017 we successfully prepared and presented a work plan covering 2018-2021, which allowed us to be invited to propose a yearly work plan in the coming four years to seek funding from the EU. This step was crucial to secure this funding option for the coming years. The work plan presented for 2018 was also accepted and granted. Although we acknowledge and appreciate the EU financial support to our operation, in the coming years we try to find solutions to make our income structure more balanced and be less dependent on EU funding. In 2017 we also managed to get external financial support for the seminar in Berlin and for the Restorative Justice Week (especially for the production of the film 'A conversation').

Representation at Conferences and other events

The EFRJ staff and board (and sometimes appointed members) were present in several events in 2017, either as participants and/or speakers/trainers, as listed below in chronological order:

1. **Paris 18-19/01/2017 Conference:** The EFRJ co-organised a conference on the implementation of RJ in France together with the French Institute for Restorative Justice (IFJR). Edit Törzs (plenary speaker), Emanuela Biffi (moderator in a workshop session) and Annemieke Wolthuis (participant) actively engaged in the conference. A table was set-up with display copies of our research projects as well as flyers and brochures for dissemination. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/conference-rj-france/>
2. **Berlin 18-19/01/2017 Day of victims:** Our Finnish Board member, Aarne Kinnunen, represented the EFRJ in Berlin for the 'Day of victim assistance' organised by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection in Germany. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/day-victims-germany/>
3. **Trento 20-21/01/2017 Conference:** Two former chairs of the EFRJ Board, Prof. Ivo Aertsen and Michael Kilchling, presented during an international RJ conference in Italy. Also Grazia Mannozi from the University of Insubria, local organiser for the EFRJ Summer School 2017 in Como, was present for the closing speech. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/conference-rj-italy/>
4. **Fribourg 10/02/2017 RJ Day:** Catherine Jaccottet Tissot (member of the EFRJ editorial committee) spoke about the role of RJ in Swiss law during the RJ Day organised at the University of Fribourg. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/rj-day-switzerland/>
5. **Montelupo 18/02/2017 Training:** Tim Chapman gave a training to support and further promote RJ in Tuscany. This is part of a long term cooperation with this Italian local team.
6. **Bucharest 23/02/2017 Seminar:** Our Board member Bart Claes represented the EFRJ and give a presentation and a workshop at the seminar 'Alternatives to detention' organised by the Academy of European Law (ERA) in Romania. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/seminar-alternatives-detention/>
7. **Brussels 23/02/2017 Expert seminar:** The CJPE organised an expert seminar on the implementation of the Victims' Directive, particularly on training of professionals and cooperation of services (Art. 25 and 26). <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/experts-seminar-victims-directive/>
8. **Zagreb 7-9/03/2017 Training:** Tim Chapman delivered a training to support the work of Branka Peuraca (member of the EFRJ editorial committee) and her colleagues to develop the RJ practices in Croatia.
9. **Glasgow 13/03/2017 Dialogue sessions:** Tim Chapman, together with Prof. Joanna Shapland, contributed to the first of a series of public dialogues on RJ, culminating in a one-day conference, organised in Scotland between February and October 2017. The aim of these

events was to increase awareness and understanding of RJ, provide an assessment of the potential for and barriers to the development of RJ in Scotland and produce a platform for advancing the use of RJ in Scotland.

<http://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/Learningfromotherplaces/RestorativeJustice.aspx>

10. **Udine 17/03/2017 Interactive lecture:** Emanuela Biffi presented on RJ to about 120 students from an Italian high school 'Istituto Bearzi', including a frontal lecture, short films and role plays. The event was part of the 'week of legality' organised in the region.
<http://www.euforumrj.org/events/rj-120-italian-students/>
11. **Leuven 23/03/2017 Seminar:** Our Board member Brunilda Pali presented on arts in criminology in a series of seminars on interdisciplinary research in criminology. She mostly focused on the arts-based project 'Art for social change: exploring justice through new media documentary', in which the EFRJ was a partner. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/seminar-interdisciplinary-research-criminology/>
12. **The Hague 29/03/2017 Conference:** Tim Chapman presented at the conference of the European Forum for Urban Security and CEP (member of the CJPE) on the prevention of radicalisation. Tim spoke about the contribution of RJ in the reintegration of violent extremists based on the ALTERNATIVE research project. <https://efus.eu/en/topics/risks-forms-of-crime/radicalisation/efus/13301/>
13. **Budapest 3-5/04/2017 Conference:** The vice-chair of the EFRJ Board, Annemieke Wolthuis, participated in the final conference of the MARGIN project on insecurity in marginalised areas. She contributed in a panel discussion on 'Institutional perspectives on crime prevention and restorative justice'. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/conference-insecurity-marginalised-areas/>
14. **Brussels 04/04/2017 Meeting:** Director Edit Törzs, together with EFRJ member Antonio Buonatesta from Mediante (Belgium), met the Ministry of Justice from Luxembourg to support RJ developments in the country. http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_event/rj-in-luxembourg/
15. **Leuven 19-20/04/2017 Films and lectures:** Our Board member Brunilda Pali took part in the two-day initiative 'Utopia or dystopia? The role of justice in a 'pre-crime' future', presenting one of the films screened at KU Leuven. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/films-lectures-role-justice/>
16. **Dublin 9-10/05/2017 Conference:** On the occasion of the biannual conference organised by the International Institute for Restorative Practices, Tim Chapman presented on the response of RJ to the changing political and social conditions in the world, while Emanuela Biffi presented in a workshop session on the ALTERNATIVE filming project.
<http://dublin2017.iirp.edu/>
17. **Dublin 11-12/05/2017 Training:** Emanuela Biffi attended the 2-day Advanced Facilitator Training on Complex and Sensitive Cases organised by SynRJ, which dealt with similar issues as the EFRJ Summer School which took place in Como, Italy, on 24-28 July.
<http://www.euforumrj.org/events/restorative-practices-victim-support-events-dublin/>

18. **Dublin 17-18/05/2017 Conference:** Emanuela Biffi attended the conference of Victim Support Europe entitled 'Victims of Crime: Rights, Needs & Responses'.
<http://www.euforumrj.org/events/restorative-practices-victim-support-events-dublin/>
19. **Oñati 18/05/2017 Training:** Tim Chapman supported the development of RJ with young people in the Basque Country using the European Model of Restorative Justice with Children and Young People. The initiative was organised together with our Board member Roberto Moreno. <http://www.iisj.net/en/workshops/el-modelo-europeo-de-justicia-restaurativa-con-menores-un-reto-para-euskadi-european-model>
20. **Rome 24/05/2017 Conference:** Tim Chapman presented at the Italian conference 'Justice and restorative practices for a community of wealth', organised by Psicolus – Scuola Romana di Psicologia Giuridica. <http://www.psicoius.it/convegnogiustiziariparativa2017/>
21. **Sassari 26-27/05/2017 Conference:** Our newly co-opted Board member Patrizia Patrizi contributed to the event 'Prigione e territorio: percorsi di integrazione dentro e fuori le carceri' (Prison and territory: integration paths inside and outside the prisons) organised by the University and the municipality of Sassari in cooperation with the board of the forensic order.
22. **Berlin 2/06/2017 Seminar:** The EFRJ organised an expert seminar on RJ in intercultural conflicts for about 50 participants from different European countries.
<http://www.euforumrj.org/events/seminar-rj-intercultural-conflicts/>
23. **Canoas, Brazil 2/06/2017 2017 Annual Lecture:** The 2017 Annual Lecture of the 'Restorative Justice: An International Journal' was introduced by Prof. Ivo Aertsen from KU Leuven (editor in chief of RJJ, former chair of the EFRJ Board). It was entitled 'Restorative justice and the criminal justice system: Challenges and possibilities for Brazil and Latin America'.
<http://www.euforumrj.org/events/2017-rjjannual-lecture/>
24. **Glasgow 5-8/06/2017 Training:** Tim Chapman (and colleagues Mary Munro and Giuseppe Maglione) delivered a training on restorative conferences and circles at Strathclyde University in Scotland, entitled 'Foundation Skills in Restorative Practices: Intensive Course'.
<http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/lawschool/newsevents/foundationskillsinrestorativepractices/>
25. **Brussels 14/06/2017 Workshop:** Emanuela Biffi presented in a workshop organised by the AGE Platform Europe, dedicated to further protect and support older persons who suffered abuse and violence. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/supporting-victims-elder-abuse/>
26. **Leuven 15/06/2017 Study visit:** A group of practitioners from the prison services in Germany visited the EFRJ and KU LINC to learn more about RJ in Belgium.
<http://www.euforumrj.org/events/german-prison-officers-study-visit/>
27. **Dundee 21/06/2017 Conference:** Tim Chapman spoke at a national youth justice conference in Scotland on modern trends in youth justice, including RJ.
28. **Bergamo 3-8/07/2017 School:** Patrizia Patrizi and Gian Luigi Lepri have been two of the lecturers at the Summer School 2017 'La giustizia dell'incontro: fondamenti ed itinerari della

restorative justice' (Justice in the meeting: foundations and routes of restorative justice) organised by the University of Bergamo (Ivo Lizzola) in collaboration with the diocesan Caritas. https://www.unibg.it/news_e_appuntamenti/la-giustizia-dellincontro-fondamenti-ed-itinerari-della-restorative-justice-0

29. **Barcelona 4-7/07/2017 Summer Courses:** During the CJPE Summer Courses, Tim Chapman presented in a plenary and lead a series of practical workshops on engaging offenders to change. Emanuela Biffi represented the EFRJ during the 3 day courses, while Annemieke Wolthuis joined the CJPE meeting. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/cjpe-summer-course/>
30. **Nuoro 13-16/07/2017 Conference:** Board member Patrizia Patrizi was one of the invited experts at the event 'Giustizia riparativa / per – dono nella comunità' (Restorative Justice / for-give in the community) organised by the association and social cooperatives 'Ut Unum Sint'. The event was attended by detainees and volunteers. <http://www.lanuovasardegna.it/nuoro/cronaca/2017/07/13/news/giustizia-riparativa-tre-giorni-di-incontri-con-ut-unum-sint-1.15612050>
31. **Como 24-28/07/2017 Summer School:** The EFRJ summer school took place at the University of Insubria in Como. EFRJ representatives, part of the organising team, were Emanuela Biffi and Roberto Moreno. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/efrj-summer-school-2017/>
32. **Lesbos 31/08-3/09/2017 Conference:** Brunilda Pali attended the 45th Annual Conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control (Mytilene, Greece) entitled 'Uncovering Harms: States, corporations and organizations as criminals'. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/conference-in-greece/>
33. **Kiev 3-4/09/2017 Meeting:** As part of an evaluation of a family conferencing project in two closed juvenile justice institutions in Ukraine, Annemieke Wolthuis participated in a meeting in Kiev to discuss international research and a methodology for the interviews and focus groups to be held in the boys colony Pryluky and the girls colony Melitopol in different parts of the country. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/efrj-vice-chair-ukraine/>
34. **Cardiff 13-16/09/2017 Conference:** Aarne Kinnunen, member of the EFRJ board attended the 17th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (ESC) in UK, on behalf of the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/esc-conference-2017/>
35. **Leeds 18-19/09/2017 Conference:** Tim Chapman was one of the speakers in the international conference 'New Advances in Restorative Justice Theory and Practice' organised by the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies and the funder of the Community of Restorative Researchers, Ian Marder, at Leeds University, UK. <http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/2017/new-advances-in-restorative-justice-theory-and-practice-the-centre-for-criminal-justice-studies-international-conference>
36. **Strasbourg 21/09/2017 Meeting:** Our Executive Director Edit Törzs attended the meeting of the Council of Europe PC-CP on the draft of a new recommendation on RJ in criminal matters. <http://www.euforumrj.org/news/draft-recommendation-rj/>

37. **Florence 23/09/2017 Conference:** Tim Chapman attended the conference 'Trasgressione, Riparazione e Ricostruzione' organised by the association Psicologi della Toscana together with our Italian board member, Patrizia Patrizi, and our member of the working group on values and standards for RJ, Gian Luigi Lepri. Tim spoke on the challenges for RJ in Europe.
38. **Dublin 2/10/2017 Conference:** Tim Chapman attended the conference on Motivational Interviewing. Together with Paul Delaney (our trainer during the CJPE criminal justice summer courses in Barcelona), he explored the links between RJ and MI.
39. **Brussels 12-13/10/2017 Workshop:** Brunilda Pali attended the Europris workshop on Risk and Needs Assessment. <http://www.europris.org/5965-2/>
40. **San Sebastian 24/10/2017 Workshop:** Tim Chapman, Brunilda Pali and Roberto Moreno participated in a workshop on Restorative Memory organised by the Basque Institute of Criminology. http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_event/san-sebastian-workshop-restorative-memory/
41. **Madrid 7/11/2017 Meeting:** The member of the EFRJ Board Roberto Moreno (Basque country, Spain) attended the Justice Commission of the Congress of Deputies in the Spanish Parliament. He gave a lecture on RJ. http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_event/basque-justice-commission/
42. **Leuven 08-09/11/2017 Training:** Tim Chapman, Brunilda Pali, Edit Törzs and Inge Vanfraechem presented in the IJJO training on RJ with child victims we co-organised, as partners in this project <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/training-rj-child-victims/>
43. **Barcelona 15-17/11/2017 Conference:** Tim Chapman attended the EFUS conference 'Security, Democracy & Cities'. He presented on restorative cities. http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_event/barcelona-efus-conference/
44. **Vienna 16-17/11/2017 Meeting:** Borbala Fellegi, founder and director of the Foresee Research Group (Hungary), organisational member of the EFRJ, was appointed to represent the EFRJ at the OSCE's Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on Access to Justice as a Key Element of the Rule of Law. http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_event/osces-meeting-access-justice/
45. **Milan 17-19/11/2017 Conference:** Board member Patrizia Patrizi was one of the plenary speakers in the national conference on legal psychology. Her presentation was on the restorative possibilities in legal psychology, entitled 'Le nuove prospettive promozionali e riparative della psicologia giuridica'. Gian Luigi Lepri (from the working group on values and standards for RJ) presented in a parallel workshop on victims and restorative approaches, entitled 'Vittime, vulnerabilità e servizi riparativi'. http://www.fondazionegulotta.org/admin/upload_image_doc/all-1504869734.pdf
46. **Leuven 21/11/2017 Class:** Emanuela Biffi gave a RJ class (i.e. frontal lecture and practical interactive sessions) to about 60 students of the Criminology Master program at KU Leuven. The class was based on 2 EU funded projects coordinated by the EFRJ in the past years (on access to and awareness about RJ).

47. **Sarajevo 22/11/2017 Meeting:** Tim Chapman attended the meeting for the Ambassadors of Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He spoke about the contribution of RJ to peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_event/sarajevo-meeting-ambassadors-peace/
48. **Various locations across Europe and beyond 19-26/11/2017 RJ Week:** The international RJ WEEK is organised annually on the third week of November <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/rj-week-2017/> All events coordinated by the EFRJ in 2017 can be seen on the calendar http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_events/2017-11/
49. **Ottawa 22-24/11/2017 Meeting:** Our colleague Kris Vanspauwen (former Executive Officer and current consultant) represented the EFRJ in an expert meeting from the UNODC in Canada. The occasion of the meeting was to review the use and application of the Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters. http://www.euforumrj.org/euforum_event/unodc-expert-meeting-rj-criminal-matters/
50. **Leuven 23/11/2017 TEDx talk:** board member Brunilda Pali presented on the (lack of) images in RJ, starting from the well-known Lady Justice and looking at art projects encouraging dialogue in communities in conflict, in the TEDxLeuven Salon entitled 'And Justice for All...'. www.tedxleuven.com
51. **Rome 23/11/2017 Training:** Board member Patrizia Patrizi intervened in the training course 'Riparare. Pratiche di giustizia riparativa per persone in conflitto con la legge' (Repairing. RJ practices for people in conflict with the law) in the Prison Administration Department, with a presentation entitled 'In equilibrio precario, tra biografie e comunità riparative' (in precarious balance between biographies and rehabilitation communities).
52. **Leuven 23-24/11/2017 Workshop:** A Workshop on Societal Impact has been organised by the Crime & Social Control Thematic Group (CRIM) and hosted by the KU Leuven. Among other speakers, the secretary of the EFRJ board Brunilda Pali presented on the event.
53. **Ferrara 15/12/2017 Conference:** Patrizia Patrizi and Gian Luigi Lepri presented on a conference focused on victims' issues, organised within the Master's Degree 'Tutela, diritti e protezione dei minore' (support, rights and protection of minors).
54. **Leuven 18/12/2017 Meeting:** Members of the EFRJ were invited to join an expert consultation meeting on the Forum 15 project and the future of RJ in Europe. <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/consultation-experts-within-efrj-membership/>

Besides attending all these events, leaflets and other materials of the EFRJ were distributed at other conferences and events attended by our partners and members.

Information provision

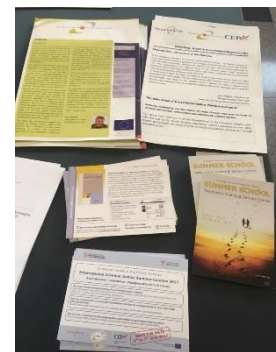
The EFRJ Secretariat deals on a daily basis with requests for information, cooperation in activities and projects, dissemination of research findings and video materials in the field of RJ. This is usually done via emails, social media and phone calls. From time to time, the EFRJ Secretariat receives visitors (national or international) who make use of the RJ archive at the LINC institute.

Dissemination

The EFRJ aims to disseminate information on new RJ developments, research outcomes, events and trainings. We do it through our website, printed materials, social media, events and electronic Newsflashes. As partner in different EU funded projects, the EFRJ also supported the dissemination of the project results.

The EFRJ website includes a section for its latest publications, available to be downloaded for free. In 2017, we continued to work on the implementation of the Victims' Directive: the following publications are available under '**Research reports**' (<http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/research-reports/>).

- Practice Guide for RJ Services: The Victims' Directive – Challenges and opportunities for restorative justice (Emanuela Biffi)
- Briefing Paper about the Regulation of Restorative Justice in the Directive 2012/29/EU (Brunilda Pali)
- Restorative Justice in the Victims' Directive: Survey results (Brunilda Pali)



On the website, under '**Books and other publications**' we keep track of recent relevant publications, mostly from our project partners (<http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/books/>). In 2017 we announced:

- Restorative Imagination: Artistic Pathways. Ideas and experiences at the intersection between art and restorative justice- Edited by Emanuela Biffi & Brunilda Pali (launched for the RJ Week)
- Restoring Justice and Security in Intercultural Europe- Edited by Brunilda Pali and Ivo Aertsen (based on the ALTERNATIVE project we were partner in)
- Action Research in Criminal Justice- Edited by Inge Vanfraechem and Ivo Aertsen (based on the ALTERNATIVE project we were partner in)
- Restorative Responses to Sexual Violence: Legal, Social and Therapeutic Dimensions- Edited by Estelle Zinsstag and Marie Keenan (based on a Daphne project we were partner in)

The EFRJ website also includes a **list of films and documentaries** which is constantly updated (<http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/films-and-documentaries/>). This web page had been developed as part of the 'Accessibility and Initiation for RJ' project. In 2017 we announced the film we produced together with a Norwegian theatre group, sponsored by Spanish partners, part of a large international cooperation with EFRJ members:

- A Conversation (No Theatre, 2017)

In 2016, thanks to the suggestion by one of our members, we started to collect communication materials on RJ (mostly flyers) in different languages. This is helpful for our community to see how RJ is defined, described and offered to a wider audience which goes beyond RJ specialists and it may reach also vulnerable groups (e.g. children or migrants, for whom the message must be delivered in an easier language). This webpage was launched in the beginning of 2017 (<http://www.euforumrj.org/your-communication-materials/>).

In addition to all the new resources published on the EFRJ website, the EFRJ makes large use of its social media to further disseminate events, project proposals, research findings, etc.

Social media

In 2017, the EFRJ continued to use its social media (mostly Facebook and Twitter) to announce events, disseminate new publications, share pictures, etc. The audience reached via social media goes beyond the EFRJ membership and beyond the RJ community, reaching professionals and laypeople interested in social justice, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, non-violent communication, etc. As in the EFRJ Newsflash, social media offers the space for communications which are not strictly EFRJ-related or related to its members.

The EFRJ Facebook page gained a lot of attention in 2017, with a total of 1996 likes on 31 December 2016 (1552 likes in 2016). In Twitter we have 741 followers (509 in 2016); in the LinkedIn group page we have 1106 members (1080 in 2016). Since 2016 we are using a scheduling system (buffer.com), free of charge, to make sure that every day the Facebook and Twitter pages of the EFRJ post one or more items. According to the statistics on Vimeo, during all year the EFRJ Vimeo channel received 1747 plays.



Newsflash

Since 2013, the EFRJ sends regular updates on events, publications, and inspiring projects or talks to a larger RJ community, which goes beyond the EFRJ membership. Thanks to the amount of information received from our members or followers, the Secretariat continued to send two (instead of one) Newsflashes per month. Also the number of recipients increased from 1900 (in 2016) to 2289 by the

end of 2017. All EFRJ Newsflashes are saved on the EFRJ website:

<http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/newsflashes/>

In addition, occasionally we sent special editions of the EFRJ Newsflash to inform about specific issues or activities.

Newsletter

The editorial committee, coordinated by the EFRJ Secretariat (Brunilda Pali and Emanuela Biffi in 2017), collaborated throughout the year to publish three digital editions (March, July, September) and a printed (December) of the EFRJ Newsletter. As usual, the EFRJ Newsletter includes a collection of non-academic articles in the field of RJ and the regular article 'News from the Board' which update members about EFRJ-related issues. The printed edition, which is a collection of the best articles published in the digital Newsletters, was distributed to all members and used for dissemination in events organised by the EFRJ and its key-partners. All editions are available on the EFRJ website:



<http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/newsletters/>

In 2017 we were contacted by the editors of the Russian "Mediation and Law" magazine to translate and publish articles based on our Newsletter.

The Forum 15 project: A Fundamental Review of the Role and Strategy of the European Forum for Restorative Justice

An important process, entitled Forum15 started in May 2015, which looks into different aspects of organisational development, strategy, vision and internal regulations of the EFRJ.

In the coming years the EFRJ will work towards the vision that every person in Europe will have the right of access to high quality restorative justice. It strives to be recognized throughout Europe as the primary, independent network connecting those working towards advancing restorative justice to a high standard of quality and advocating for the inclusion of restorative justice in all policies addressing criminal and social justice questions.

In 2017 the work in the framework of Forum15 focused mostly on internal developments and on creating a new business model for the organization. Internal regulations on HR matters, financial procedures, rules related to working with volunteers and a description of different board functions were adopted. An internal guideline for organizing events and a basic communication strategy were developed. With an external consultant we also worked on developing a new business plan, which would enable the EFRJ to become more independent from grants and EU funding. The business model, which is still in progress, would focus on service delivery based on the expertise present in the EFRJ membership and in line with the general aims of the EFRJ on further developing restorative justice practices.

As part of the Forum15 strategy, we set up the Values and Standards working group and worked throughout the year on a document establishing the basic values the EFRJ would engage with and that can be a basis for developing a more detailed RJ standard recommendation in Europe, as well as a kind of quality requirement for our future services. On 18 December 2017 we organised a successful one-day meeting for expert members of the EFRJ in Leuven, Belgium, where we discussed the outcomes of the work of the Values and Standards WG and ideas about how the expertise of EFRJ members can be more used to develop restorative justice in Europe.



Projects

During 2017 the EFRJ was a partner in the following projects:

- 2016-2018 Project entitled **“PREPARE - Preventing radicalisation through Probation and Release”** coordinated by the EFUS- European Forum for Urban Security (EFRJ as partner) – our role is to act as an expert organisation and give trainings or other expert input for partner cities on how to use restorative justice in the local multiagency strategies helping radicalised offenders to exit. We are also part of the coordination meetings of this project.
- 2016-2018: Research project coordinated by the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO, Belgium): **“Implementing Restorative Justice with Child Victims”** (EFRJ as partner) – the role of the EFRJ is big in this project, we assist the coordination, took part in study visits and in the research on the state of affairs in participating countries, co-organised a training and study visit in Leuven. In 2018 our main tasks will be translating the practice guide produced to different languages and adapting it to an online course, to provide internal and external evaluation of the project and local developments, to help dissemination and to co-organise a final conference in Brussels (December 2018).
- 2016-2018: Research project coordinated by the Academy Of European Law (ERA, Belgium): **“Enhancing Cross-border Mutual Legal Assistance and Recognition of Decisions in Countering Terrorism and Preventing Radicalisation in Detention”** (EFRJ as associate partner) – in this project we contribute with experts presenting on certain restorative justice related topics during the trainings organised in the framework of the project.
- 2016-2018: Research project coordinated by Rondpunt (Belgium): **“Victims of road traffic offences”** (EFRJ as associate partner) – in this project the EFRJ took dissemination role and also helped the researchers to find interviewees in certain countries.
- 2017-2019 Project entitled **“Strafrechtsmediation: Geborgd in kwaliteit”** coordinated by Slachtoffer in Beeld (The Netherlands) – in this project the EFRJ has a consultancy role and we had a meeting with the project coordinator in Utrecht on 18 October 2017. As this project runs in Dutch, our board member, Annemieke Wolthuis from the Netherlands acts as a main contact person.

In 2017 we were contacted for the following new project applications:

- Call from the European Parliament for a 'Study on how can the EU and Member States better help the victims of terrorism?', received from Milieu, a law and policy consulting firm in the heart of Brussels that works largely for the EU institutions. NOT SUBMITTED.
- Angela Furlan from the Italian organisation ADUC contacted us for a project proposal to be submitted for two EU action grants 1. to help victims of gender-based violence (deadline 8 march) and 2. on non-discrimination and vulnerable categories (deadline 21 March). DECLINED.

- Nuno Ramos from ISCTE-IUL (Portugal) contacted us for a project proposal entitled 'Adjusting for Diversity in Justice through Intercultural/Individual Diversity Training'. Call under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020: 'Action grants to promote the access to justice and support of victims of gender-based violence and the treatment of perpetrators'. DECLINED.
- Sanja Copic from the Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) contacted us for a project proposal entitled 'Building bridges: empowering multi-ethnic communities through inter-ethnic restorative dialogue and non-discrimination policies and practices'.
- Sanjin Buzo from Victims Support Europe (VSE) contacted us to meet on 18 August for preparing a project together. They planned to introduce a two years project with about 10 countries involved focusing on the information provision for victims and (national) cooperation of agencies, police, justice services and victim support services. Restorative justice (as a topic for information provision and trust building between RJ services and victim support) was discussed as a potential part of this project, but the EFRJ was not further consulted in the process.

Financial Report 2017

EFRJ 2016 - 2017 Result		
	2016	2017
Profit and loss accounts		
Operational Costs	-140.738,52	-142.112,23
Staff Costs	-162.213,45	-111.342,77
Other costs	-920,69	-943,70
Exceptional costs	-831,39	-27,39
Total Costs	-304.704,05	-254.426,09
Core Income	74.962,37	36.471,60
Various Grants	44.086,00	24.830,45
EC-Grant Desistance	23.319,48	0,00
EC-Grant Sex. Violence	2.398,90	0,00
EC-Grant Dom. Violence	-2.186,69	0,00
EC-Operating Grant	185.712,42	178.565,46
EC-Child Victims Project	0,00	0,00
EC - FP7 - Alternative	41.291,69	0,00
Total Income	369.584,17	239.867,51
Result of the year	64.880,12	-14.558,58

Balance Sheet		
Fixed Assets	294,45	0,00
Amounts receivable -1Y	1.353,93	790,50
Liquid Assets	233.424,17	230.943,27
Transitory accounts	702,70	1.349,76
Total Assets	235.775,25	233.083,53
Capital and Reserves	226.936,51	226.936,51
Result 2017		-14.558,58
Amounts Payable -1y	8.838,74	18.620,60
Transitory accounts	0,00	2.085,00
Total Liabilities	235.775,25	233.083,53