



Annual Report 2016

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

European Forum for Restorative Justice
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Foreword

A very busy year for the European Forum for Restorative Justice started in January with finishing two projects and the starting of a new Executive Director. The highlight of the year was certainly in June our biennial international conference. Restorative justice enthusiasts from many countries in Europe and beyond came together in Leiden in the Netherlands to listen to distinguished speakers, participate in a very wide range of stimulating workshops, and meet old friends and make new ones over coffee, fine food and something good to drink. Thank you to all the people who worked so hard to make it happen.

It was very important that members engaged in a really good quality debate at the AGM about the changes that the Board was proposing in the Forum 15 strategy. While there were some well considered critical comments, most of those present were generally supportive of the direction that the Board were recommending. Essentially Forum 15 involves a more strategic and proactive approach to promoting restorative justice throughout Europe, to influencing government policy and to improving the quality and impact of restorative practices through training and research. While maintaining a focus on criminal justice, the Forum will extend its scope to include the potential of restorative justice to address harms in civil society.

This validation seems to have released energy within the EFRJ. Our activities feature on social media almost every day ensuring that more and more people are aware of the Forum and its value. In the area of influencing policy our work on the EU Victim's Directive produced in a strong policy paper and guidelines on practice. We also organised a very successful conference on the Directive in Brussels. We have been active in advising the Council of Europe on penal mediation and responding to a consultation on restorative justice for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. We supported a major conference designed to influence policy and to develop practice in France. We are also cooperating with other organisations to develop restorative justice in several other countries in Europe. The Erasmus Plus training delivered by the EFRJ in October 2016 in Leuven was a successful prototype for our future venture into offering training courses.

The other key element of Forum 15 is to involve members more actively. We sent a survey to all members to find out what was going on in the countries of Europe and what support people needed from the Forum to further develop restorative justice locally. Thank you to the many members who responded. We are currently analyzing the results. In June 2017 a group of members will participate in a working group to draw up a proposal on the

key values and standards of practice that the EFRJ should promote. This will be circulated to all members for approval. Once this is agreed will we create a register of experts among our membership who would be willing to offer training, consultancy and research services in harmony with the agreed values and standards.

It never ceases to amaze me that so much valuable work has been done by so few. We have a small secretariat based in Leuven and it has undergone some change in the past year. Daria Nashat, our Executive Director, left us shortly after the Leiden conference. This was a significant loss as she had brought new perspectives and expertise to support our new direction. The Board asked Edit Törzs to replace her and Edit with her experience of the EFRJ over many years immediately took on the role with confidence and great effectiveness. Then we were faced with the departure of Mirko Miceli, who contributed his creativity and hard work to the Forum over many years. We decided not to replace Mirko till the end of this year. The Board is very grateful to both Daria and Mirko and wish them great success in the future endeavours. This has meant that for most of the past year the EFRJ has relied on three part-time members of staff, Edit, Emanuela Biffi, and Rik Defrère. They have delivered extraordinary value to our members and the wider restorative justice field. The Board cannot thank them enough.

Finally I would like to acknowledge my predecessor in the Chair, Michael Kilchling. Michael chaired the Board through the most challenging period of the Forum's history. He and Annemieke Wolthuis, the Vice-Chair, put many, many hours into seeking solutions to the complex problems that the Forum was facing. Michael's commitment to the EFRJ and his calm determination has steered us through the storm and into calmer waters. We owe him a great debt.

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.

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.

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

The EFRJ's principles include:

- Openness and respect
- A willingness to learn from all members
- Providing opportunities for expressing various points of view
- Providing channels for participation, exchange, mutual support and contact

Organisational Structure

Board

The Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice is composed of **nine volunteer Board member** 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 2016, the Annual General Meeting elected 3 new board members and re-elected one board member, who's first term expired. The composition of the newly elected board:

Executive Committee Board Members



Chair
Tim Chapman
Northern Ireland



Secretary
Brunilda Pali
Belgium



Vice-Chair
Annemieke Wolhuis
The Netherlands



Treasurer
Bart Claes
UK

Board members



Aarne Kinnunen
Finland



Michael Kilchling
Germany



Roberto Moreno Alvarez
Spain



Vicky de Souter
Belgium



Lars Otto Justad
Norway

The Secretariat

The Secretariat of the European Forum for Restorative Justice, based in Leuven (Belgium), in 2016 consisted of the Executive Director (ED), the Deputy Director (DD) the Financial and Administrative officer (FAO), the Events and Communications Officer (ECO) and the Liaison Officer (LO). On a project-basis, research-coordinators and research assistants are hired.

In 2016 the Secretariat consisted of the following team:



Executive Director (until August 2016)
Daria Nashat



Deputy Director (Acting Director from September 2016)
Edit Törzs



Events and Communications Officer
Emanuela Biffi



Financial and Administrative officer
Rik Defrère



Liaison officer (until October 2016)
Mirko Miceli

Project staff until January 2016



ALTERNATIVE project
(Communications officer)
Emilie Van Limbergen



ALTERNATIVE project (Project officer)
Katrien Lauwaert

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 2016, the Editorial committee was composed of seven members from five different countries.

Editor: Kerry Clamp (Australia)

Members of the editorial committee include: Branka Peuraca (Croatia), Nicola Preston (United Kingdom), Robert Shaw (United Kingdom), Martin Wright (United Kingdom), Diana Ziedina (Latvia). In November, the Board re-approved these members as part of the editorial committee and it approved also a new member, i.e. Catherine Jaccottet Tissot (Switzerland). Indeed, in October the EFRJ launched a call for candidates in the editorial committee; the former candidates showed their interest in continuing and Mrs Tissot joined the team.

The Newsletter was coordinated by Emanuela Biffi at the Secretariat and Brunilda Pali supported the making of the Newsletter on behalf of the Board.

Revised Training Committee

After the Board meeting in November, the EFRJ Board decided to revise the current Practice and Training Committee. Until now, the two members of this committee (Frauke Petzold and Niall Kearney) coordinated and trained in the past EFRJ Summer Schools. The revised committee will give a chance to other members within our membership to show their expertise and be the trainers in the future Summer Schools. For example, for the next Summer School in Como, the Training Committee is composed by Frauke Petzold, Niall Kearney, Emanuela Biffi (EFRJ staff), Roberto Moreno and Lars Otto Justad (EFRJ Board). This committee coordinates the whole Summer School, i.e. being in contact with local organisers, identifying the theme and possible trainers, designing the programme, selecting participants, etc. The two trainers will be Kristel Buntinx (Belgium) and Vincent Mercer (UK) and experts from the Italian membership had been invited also for a one day conference. With this new revised format of the Training Committee, we still expect to use the organizational expertise of our former trainers and benefit from the specific thematic expertise of our new selected trainers.

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 has a heterogeneous membership including policy makers, practitioners, researchers, academics, governments, lawyers and representative of judicial authorities. 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).

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting in Leiden (NL), 52 new membership applications have been approved. The list is divided as following:

- **35** new individual members
- **10** new student members
- **7** new organization members

In 2016, there was no need to terminate any membership due to non-payment of the membership fee.

By the end of 2016, the EFRJ membership counts on a total of **312 members** from over 40 different countries.

At the end of the year, the EFRJ launched an online membership map to give more visibility to our members. The map includes names and location of individual members and name, location, website and logo of organizational members: <http://www.euforumrj.org/uncategorized/membership-directory/>.

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 important four-year 'ALTERNATIVE' project on restorative justice approaches in intercultural conflict settings, finished in 2016.

The RJ week events were hosted at the KU Leuven premises in Leuven and in Brussels 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 to have contacts with students.

On 8 November 2016, Emanuela Biffi and Monique Anderson (former EO of the EFRJ) presented the EFRJ (mission, projects, RJ WEEK) focusing on 'Building Social Support for RJ' to about 50 students of the RJ class of the Criminology Master programme of KU Leuven. Similarly, in other occasions the EFRJ staff presents during study visits organized by the RJ research line of KU LINC (e.g. on 17 October, Edit Törzs and Emanuela Biffi presented the EFRJ to a group of Argentinian judges visiting Belgium to know more 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 2016 was on the protection of victims of crime, alternatives to detention and radicalisation.



The CJPE organised two successful events in 2016 on Radicalisation (April) and on Alternatives to detention (November). The third event planned for 2016 was postponed to 2017 on the implementation of the Victims’ Directive. These events provided also the occasion to set up regular internal meetings for the CJPE to identify priorities and topics for the upcoming year. As a new initiative the CJPE will launch a summer course in 2017 for mixed group of professionals from prison, probation and

restorative justice.

On 4 February 2016 Daria Nashat and other members of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe were received by the European Commissioner Ms Věra Jourová to discuss about fighting radicalisation in Europe.

The international seminar on **de-radicalisation measures** took place on 26 April 2016 in Barcelona and was attended by the EFRJ ED Daria Nashat, Chair Michael Kilchling and Vice-Chair Annemieke Wolthuis. The EFRJ delegated Tim Chapman as an expert to this seminar, who introduced in a plenary how restorative justice approaches are used in Northern Ireland with politically motivated prisoners and contributed to a workshop on good practices.

The CJPE conference on **alternatives to detention** took place on 3 November 2016 in Barcelona. The 1 day event was attended by about 50 participants, who enjoyed the plenaries and parallel workshops. The EFRJ was represented by Vice-Chair Annemieke Wolthuis and AD Edit Törzs. The EFRJ delegated Bart Claes (UK) and Christa Pelikan (AT) as expert speakers for this event.

Other cooperation

The EFRJ met the **CDPC** (through the Council of Europe PC-CP), continued its cooperation 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**) and

participated on the Annual Conference of the EU **FRA** Fundamental Rights Platform. In December 2016 we established collaborations with the **AGE Platform Europe** on victims of elder abuse.

The EFRJ continued its preparation work for the International Seminar “The East meeting the West: Ideas on the development of Restorative Justice”, which was co-organised by the **Asian Pacific Forum for Restorative Justice**, but due to the changing political situation in Turkey, postponed the event until a new location is decided.

Activity report

Annual General Meeting 2016

The 2016 Annual General Meeting took place on 21st June 2016 at the Kamerlingh Onnes Building of the Leiden Law School, preceding the international conference of the EFRJ. It was attended by 77 members of the EFRJ, among which 68 full members had voting rights. Additionally 33 members voted on the AGM by proxies.

The agenda included election of 4 new board members, the presentation and discussion of the annual budget and annual report of the last year, the discussion on the proposed strategy and constitutional changes (while the quorum was not enough to vote on constitutional changes at the end). New members of the Board are: Bart Claes, Brunilda Pali, Lars Otto Justad and Annemieke Wolthuis (re-elected).

The members were active during the meeting and shared many observations and suggestions related to the proposed strategy. The Committees of the EFRJ also gave feedback on their work and tried to involve new members in their work.

The AGM lasted for 4 hours (while only 2 hours were planned), which shows the active participation of members present.

Board meetings

The EFRJ organised 3 board meetings in 2016. Two meetings took place in Leuven, while one was organised parallel (before and after) the EFRJ International conference in Leiden.

1. Board meeting 1. 17-18 May, Leuven (Belgium)
2. Board meeting 2. 20-21 June, Leiden (The Netherlands, connected to the International Conference of the EFRJ)
3. Board meeting 3. 17-18 November, Leuven (Belgium)



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 twice a year, usually, or more often if needed.

1. Executive Committee Meeting I. 1-2 February, Leuven (Belgium)
2. Executive Committee Meeting II. 18-19 August 2016, Leuven (Belgium)

The February meeting was dedicated to the Forum15 process and was attended by the members of the Secretariat too. The August meeting was dedicated to find a solution for the leaving staff at the Secretariat, thus it brought together the leaving Executive Director (Daria Nashat) and the new one (Edit Törzs).

The implementation of the Victims' Directive

The EU's 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 2016 was the production 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. , This event was originally planned in December 2016, but it was finally postponed to 23 February 2017, closer to the celebrations of the EU Victims Day

EFRJ International Conference in Leiden

The 9th international conference of the EFRJ took place in Leiden, The Netherlands, on 22-24 June 2016, entitled 'Realising Restorative Justice: Human Rights and Personal Realities'. The programme was organised around six main themes:

1. Human rights and restorative justice,
2. Dignity and equality – RJ and vulnerable groups,
3. Liberty and access to justice – RJ and detention,
4. Freedom of movement and protection from persecution – RJ and the refugees,
5. Security, justice and prohibition of discrimination – RJ and radicalisation,
6. Education, the arts and cultural life – RJ and creativity.



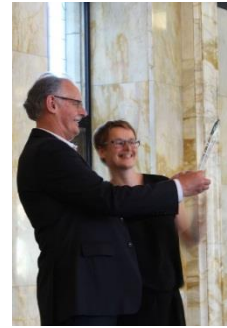
The programme included 11 plenary presentations and a circle in 4 sessions, highlighting, among others George Pavlich from Canada and Daniel Van Ness from the US, and 6 parallel workshop sessions with seven different parallel workshop options including paper presentations, films, panels, dialogue sessions and training sessions. The conference dinner in the Prentenkabinet was part of the programme on 23 June evening. The social events offered after the conference were a visit at the Children's Rights House and Defence for Children International and an optional guided tour to visit International Wall Poems in Leiden.

The conference brought together 215 participants, coming from 39 different countries across Europe and beyond, mostly The Netherlands (27%), Belgium (10%), United Kingdom (10%) and Spain (7%). In total, we had 162 paying participants, 41 free registrations (EFRJ staff and board, plenary speakers, invited people from The Netherlands and from the Basque country), 7 waivers, 4 volunteers and 1 publisher. After the conference, we collected 42 evaluation forms. Although 81% of respondents stated to be (somewhat/ very) satisfied with this conference, we received good feedback for improving our next conferences (e.g. in terms of selecting the plenary speakers, or assigning time to the workshops). Respondents had also the opportunity to propose the theme of the EFRJ conference 2018.

All information on the conference programme and practical details is available on the EFRJ website: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/leiden/> as well as the plenary and some workshop presentations: <http://www.euforumrj.org/news/efrj-conference-2016-presentations/>



On this occasion, during the reception on the evening of the first conference day, the Board awarded John Blad, restorative justice pioneer and professor in The Netherlands, with the fourth **European RJ Award** (see: <http://www.euforumrj.org/about-the-forum/2016-european-rj-award/>)



The EFRJ organising team was led by Annemieke Wolthuis (Board member from The Netherlands) and Daria Nashat (executive director), in collaboration with Emanuela Biffi (events officer), Mirko Miceli (liaison officer) and Edit Törzs (deputy director). In Leiden, we counted on the practical help of students from Leiden and Tilburg universities.

The EFRJ was able to raise some additional financial support for this event from the Basque Government, from the Dutch Ministry of Justice and from the Bianchi Foundation. We thank our sponsors again their financial contribution to this event.

To collaborate better with our membership, call was launched to allow our members to propose their location as the next venue for our conference in 2018.

Restorative Justice Week

For the past few years the EFRJ has celebrated the International RJ Week initiated by the Correctional Service of Canada and taking place every year on the third week of November. In 2016, the EFRJ focused on the potentials of storytelling for RJ, looking at different forms of arts, such as films, comics, theatre, which create the space for telling, sharing, listening to and understanding different stories. The idea originated from different projects where the link between personal stories and restorative practices is evident, thus it is interesting to further explore these connections.

The RJ WEEK 2016 was celebrated in different ways:

1. EFRJ events: The EFRJ organised three activities in Belgium using different forms of arts for storytelling in conflict settings: 1. Master-Class on Prison Theatre (Brussels, 21 November, 14.00-18.00), 2. Cartoon Workshop (Brussels, 23 November, 9.30-17.30), 3. Digital Storytelling Workshop (Leuven, 25 November, 10.00-15.00). The aim was to experience and create (restorative) stories that can inspire others to learn more about restorative

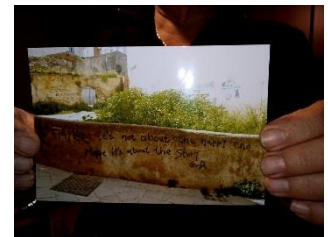


approaches to dealing with crime and conflicts in our societies. The EFRJ also contributed to the RJ class with the students of the criminology Master programme at KU Leuven on 22 November 2016. More info on the RJ week events here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/rj-week-2016/>

2. Events in Europe and beyond: Participants were encouraged to organise a RJ event and share it with the EFRJ, considering different activities and different audiences. We collected information about 38 events, including a flashmob and a postcards campaign. All events are listed on the EFRJ website and were given visibility on the social media. The EFRJ also prepared a PowerPoint presentation presenting these activities, in order for local organisers to show the slides during their own event and feel connected with this international movement. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/rj-week-2016-events-europe-beyond/>



3. Digital personal stories: Participants were invited to share their own RJ story with the EFRJ, using different formats and style to deliver their message. We collected 12 stories, including a tale and a picture. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/rj-week-2016-story/>



Representation at Conferences and other events

The Board and staff members are representing the EFRJ regularly at national and international conferences. In addition, they deliver presentations about restorative justice and related topics in the framework of their professional duties.

- 14/01/2016 Lisbon, conference Project IVOR: Emanuela Biffi presented in the plenary of the final conference of the EU-funded project 'IVOR - Implementing victim-oriented reform of the criminal justice system in the European Union (2014-2016)', attended by about 200 professionals. More info here: <http://www.apav.pt/ivor/index.php/en/>
- 12/02/2016 Leuven, Seminar with prof. Carrie Menkel-Meadow: Emanuela Biffi and Edit Törzs attended the exchange of experiences between Prof. Carrie Menkel-Meadow and the Research Line on Restorative Justice and Victimology (KU LINC). Prof. Menkel-Meadow is a sociologist and legal expert specialised in international

conflict management, feminist legal theory, and the ethics of law, a renowned mediator, international advisor and trainer.

- 12/02/2016 Leuven, Seminar on RJ and religious and moral counseling in prisons: Emanuela Biffi attended this seminar organised by the Research Line on Restorative Justice and Victimology (KU LINC) . More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Invitation-Research-Seminar-12-February-2016.pdf>.
- 15/02/2016 Brussels, conference 'Children's rights behind bars': Emanuela Biffi and Mirko Miceli participated to the final conference of the EU-funded project 'Children Rights Behind Bars: Human Rights of Children deprived of liberty. Improving Monitoring Mechanisms' attended by about 200 participants. More info here: <http://www.childrensrightrbehindbars.eu/>
- 12-13/04/2016 Berlin, Symposium on Juvenile Justice and Practice: Daria Nashat attended this conference organized by German Ministry of Justice together with Free University. More info here: https://www.bmjjv.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Artikel/SymposiumJugendkriminalitaet_Programm.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1
- 19/04/2016 Brussels, conference on Alternatives to Detention: Emanuela Biffi, Mirko Miceli and Daria Nashat participated in the conference 'Reducing prison population: advanced tools of justice in Europe' organised by KU Leuven and attended by about 80 participants. More info here: <http://www.reducingprison.eu/en>
- 20-21/04/2016 Kortrijk, IIRP training: Emanuela Biffi attended the last two days training (out of four) 'Basic Restorative Practices' organised by the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) and attended by about 25 participants. More info here: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/basic-restorative-practices-4-days-kortrijk-belgium-18-21-apr-2016-tickets-20515223586>
- 27/04/2016 Brussels, EP conference on support of victims of terrorism: Mirko Miceli attended the conference 'Specific Support to the Families of the Victims of Terrorism' organised at the European Parliament.
- 28/04/2016 Mechelen, workshop on circle processes: Daria Nashat attended the interactive workshop 'Peacemaking Circles for Prison Chaplains'.

- 25-26/05/2016 Utrecht, VSE conference: Emanuela Biffi, Daria Nashat and Annemieke Wolthuis participated as workshop presenters in the conference 'Taking victim support to the next level: connect and commit' organized by Victim Support Europe attended by 225 participants. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/news/vse2016-annual-conference/>
- 10/06/2016 Brussels, Verrekijker consultation: Daria Nashat attended a meeting organised by Moderator and KU LINC and attended by Flemish NGOs, prison services and policymakers to explore RJ in the Flemish society and identify opportunities outside the criminal justice field.
- 20/06/2016 Vienna, FRA Forum: Daria Nashat attended the forum 'Rights, Respect, Reality: the Europe of Values in Today's World' organised by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) on the key-themes 1) Inclusion, 2) refugee protection, 3) the digital age and attended by 700 participants. More info here: http://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/frf-2016-chairs-statement-0_en.pdf
- 31/08-01/09/2016 Lillestrøm NO, CEP Conference: Mirko Miceli and Annemieke Wolthuis attended the conference 'Working with young adult offenders' organised by the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), member of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/2395/>
- 06/10/2016 Como IT, Lecture on RJ as Victim Right: Michael Kilchling was the keynote speaker for the lecture 'Restorative Justice as a Victim's Right' organised by CeSGReM (the centre for RJ and mediation studies), local partner in the organisation of the EFRJ Summer School 2017. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/efrj-chairs-lecture-rj-victims-right/>
- 12/10/2016 Milan, RJIJ annual lecture: The EFRJ was represented by some of its key-members (i.e. Ivo Aertsen, Estelle Zinsstag) during the annual lecture of the 'Restorative Justice: An International Journal' (RJIJ). More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/2016-rjiij-annual-lecture/>
- 13/10/2016 Leuven: Emanuela Biffi and Brunilda Pali participated to the kick-off meeting of the project 'Art & Science: PiLoT1'. Since then, a collaboration started with an artist who will be creating a short animation

on restorative justice, published by the end of the academic year 2016-2017.
<http://set.kuleuven.be/English/news/2016/pilot1>

- 17/10/2016 Leuven, PhD Defense: Emanuela Biffi, Rik Defrere and Edit Törzs (as well as former EFRJ staff members, i.e. Mirko Miceli, Daria Nashat) attended the PhD defence of the EFRJ Board member Brunilda Pali on RJ in intercultural settings at KU Leuven. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/phd-defence-rj-intercultural-settings/>
- 20-21/10/2016 Mallorca, Conference on police in youth settings: Tim Chapman presented on conflict resolution techniques through restorative practices to an audience of European policemen. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/conference-police-youth-settings/>
- 27/10/2016 Bilbao, training on EU restorative juvenile justice: Tim Chapman and Roberto Moreno organised a training to present the EU model of restorative juvenile justice in Bilbao. A follow-up workshop will take place on 18 May 2017 in Oñati. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/training-eu-juvenile-rj-model-spain/>
- 15/11/2016 London, EU Custody & Detention Summit: Edit Törzs presented in the plenary of the European Custody and Detention Summit. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/events/eu-custody-detention-summit/>
- 18-19/11/2016, Montelupo Fiorentino (Firenze). Tim Chapman (Chair) presented for the workshop 'Restorative justice and its practices: promotion of wellness tools', in support of RJ implementation in Tuscany.
- 21/11/2016 Paris, RJ conference: Antonio Buonatesta, Estelle Zinsstag and Lode Walgrave (key-members of the EFRJ) were appointed by the Secretariat to participate and present in the conference organised by the French platform 'Citoyens et Justice' is organising a conference on RJ. None of the EFRJ staff could attend because of the RJ WEEK events.
- 24/11/2016 Leuven, Belgium: Edit Törzs and Emanuela Biffi attended the conference organised by the Flemish mediation service, moderator on the implementation of the Victims' Directive.

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 (e.g. ESC Eurocrim Conference in Muenster, Germany on 21-24 September 2016; European Day of Mediation for Social Inclusion 16 September 2016 in Lunéville, France; conference on radicalisation the 16 September in Brussels, Belgium; CEP conference on alternatives to detention in CEE countries on 16-18 November in Dubrovnik, Croatia; Restorative Justice day in Ferrara, Italy, on 25 November 2016; conference and AGM of the Restorative Justice Council, UK on 22 November 2016, London, UK; 7th annual conference of the Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) 'Security and victimization: Challenges of social reaction and victims' protection' 24-25 November, Belgrade, Serbia).

Erasmus+ training Restorative ME

The EFRJ, for the first time in its history, successfully applied for a grant to organise a Training Course (TC) under the Erasmus+ programme. The course, entitled 'Restorative ME' took place in Leuven between October 9 and 16 2016.



Restorative ME provided participants with strategies, methodologies and tools of work typical of mediators stimulating constructive communication, emphatic dialogue and acceptance of different points of views and positions as a resource. Participants could broaden their knowledge of restorative justice practices and principles through a variety of non-formal education techniques, workshops, and interactive sessions. The formative visits to the Catholic University of Leuven, the Secretariat of the EFRJ and a local organisation engaged in mediation enriched the training with insights from research and practice on restorative justice.

The training was aimed at young youth workers from Belgium, Croatia, Latvia, Macedonia, Italy, Romania and Spain.

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

As partner in different EU funded projects, the EFRJ supported the dissemination of the project results. In 2016, the EFRJ concluded two projects where it was partner in ('ALTERNATIVE' and 'RJ in cases of domestic violence') and the final deliverables are made available for free on the EFRJ website. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/research-reports/>.

The EFRJ website also includes a list of films and documentaries constantly updated (the original page had been developed as part of the 'Accessibility and Initiation for RJ' project). Members informed us about the release of two new RJ films in 2016. More info here: <http://www.euforumrj.org/publications/films-and-documentaries/>.

In addition to all 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.

Website and social media

The EFRJ website includes a section for its latest publications, available to be downloaded for free, and a database of films and teaching programmes to be consulted. In 2016, thanks to the suggestion by one of its members, the EFRJ started to collect communication materials on RJ (mostly flyers) in different languages. This new section on the EFRJ website will be launched in the beginning of 2017. In 2016, the website counted 15,685 users who initiated at least one session throughout the year (the total number of pages viewed is 72,297).

In 2016, 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 offer 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 2016, with a total of 1552 likes on 31 December 2016 (1194 likes in 2015; 989 likes in 2014). In Twitter we have 509 followers (369 in 2015); in the LinkedIn group page, 1080 members (924 in 2014). 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.

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. During the last months of 2016, the amount of information to be shared increased and the Secretariat started to send two (instead of one) Newsflashes per month. Also the number of recipients increased from 1450 (in 2015) to more than 1900 (in 2016). 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. New in 2016 was the special edition in relation to EU grants calls and the survey on the Victims' Directive. The winter greetings from the EFRJ has also been printed and sent together with the Newsletter in a hard copy for all members.

Newsletter

The editorial committee, coordinated by the EFRJ Secretariat (Emanuela Biffi in 2016), 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/>



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. Two working groups were set up, one on internal matters and the other on membership and strategy (called external WG).

In 2016 the two working groups met in February in Leuven to discuss the results of the membership survey launched in 2015 and to further work on the internal and external strategies. The internal WG focused on the preparation of the constitutional changes required and the external WG worked on strategies to involve the expertise of the membership in the work of the EFRJ and to create a new business plan.

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.

The proposed constitutional changes and an outline of a new strategy was circulated among the members in May and reactions of members and the proposal was discussed on the Annual General Meeting of the members in Leiden. Until this point the work was facilitated by two external advisors (Anneke van Hoek and Gert Jan Slump) from the Netherlands.

As the required quorum for voting on the constitution was not present in Leiden, the Board started a reflection on how to put these proposed changes in effect and how should the EFRJ review its decision making processes to make it possible for members to have voting possibilities from distance. The work on Forum15 and the steps towards the development of the organisation will continue in 2017.

Projects

The EFRJ become (associate) **partner in four new projects** approved in 2016:

2016-2018: Research project coordinated by the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO, Belgium): "Implementing Restorative Justice with Child Victims" (EFRJ as partner)

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)

2017-2019: Research project coordinated by Rondpunt (Belgium): "Victims of road traffic offences" (EFRJ as associate partner)

2017-2019 'Strafrechtmediation: Geborgd in kwaliteit' coordinated by Slachtoffer in Beeld (The Netherlands) (EFRJ as associate partner)

The EFRJ was partner in two EU funded projects **concluded** in the beginning of 2016:

2012-2016 Research project on RJ in intercultural settings coordinated by the KU Leuven (KULINC, Belgium): "ALTERNATIVE – Developing alternative understandings of security and justice through restorative justice approaches in intercultural settings within democratic societies"

2014-2016 Research project on domestic violence and RJ coordinated by the Verwey Jonker Instituut (The Netherlands): "Restorative Justice in cases of domestic violence: Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs"

FP7 – Alternative - "Developing alternative understandings of security and justice through restorative justice approaches in intercultural settings within democratic societies"

The 4-year European research project coordinated by KU Leuven LINC aimed to provide an alternative of how to address conflicts within intercultural contexts in democratic societies in order to set up security solutions for citizens and communities. In its methodology, this project combined theoretical research (on three large topics as (1) alternative epistemologies of justice and security, (2) conflict intervention in intercultural contexts and (3) existing methods of restorative justice and their relevance in intercultural conflicts) with action research carried out in four different countries with different types, levels and settings of conflicts (with local and migrant residents in social housing neighbourhood in Austria, with Roma and Non-Roma inhabitants in a small town in Hungary, three different kinds of conflicts involving gangs, immigrants and different religious groups in the United Kingdom, and in conflicts between Serbs, Albanians, Muslims and Croats in Serbia).

Research

The main responsibility of the EFRJ in the Alternative project was one of the work packages on theoretical research and dissemination. The research done by the EFRJ consisted of two main areas:

1 - Studying existing RJ models and their potential application to conflicts in an intercultural context. This work aimed at identifying and analysing existing RJ models, such as mediation, conferencing, peace circles and social mediation based on existing literature and a survey. In addition, the EFRJ was tasked to analyse the potential application of these RJ models to conflicts in an intercultural context.

2 - The other part of the research focused on the relevance of RJ in intercultural settings and possible implications for EU policies. This included the study of EU policies with respect to security and justice, with respect to diversity and intercultural tensions, and with respect to RJ (and to bring them together in one perspective).

Dissemination

The Alternative project included ongoing dissemination activities. One tool for dissemination was film making at action research venues and involved citizens affected in intercultural conflicts. The films were presented on an online platform (<http://alternativefilms.euforumrj.org>) to be used for trainings, national and European awareness raising, project communication, documentaries etc.

The EFRJ was also the leading partner responsible for publishing a Practitioners' Manual. In addition, the EFRJ contributed to the organisation of four regional workshops for sharing the experiences gained during local project activities and action research and co-organised the final conference of the ALTERNATIVE project, which took place from 16 -18 November 2015 in Leuven (Belgium). The EFRJ run a blog, produced executive summaries and published policy briefs for researchers, practitioners and policy makers. The EFRJ also designed and manages the Alternative project website (www.alternativeproject.eu).

Domestic Violence project

The international project entitled 'Restorative justice in cases of domestic violence. Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs' coordinated by the Vervey-Jonker Institute (NL) aimed at collecting information from experienced practitioners on the use of RJ approaches in the context of domestic violence cases and to create an evidence based manual for practitioners. In addition to the European Forum for Restorative Justice (BE), the other partners are the Institut für Konfliktforschung (A), the Landsorganisationen for Kvinderkriscentre (Denmark), European Public Law Organisation (GR), Independent Academic Research Institute (UK) and the Ministry of Justice of Finland (FI). In 2016 the EFRJ co-organised the final conference of the project in Brussels.

Project applications

During 2016 we were also involved in the following **new project applications**:

2017-2021 Proposal entitled 'RE-STORY: Re-storying radicalization through the lenses of restorative justice and storytelling' coordinated by KU Leuven (Belgium) – rejected

2017-2019 Proposal on RJ for victims of violence coordinated by the Instituto Don Calabria (Italy) – declined

2017-2018 Proposal entitled 'PREPARE - Preventing radicalisation through Probation and Release' coordinated by the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) – granted

Financial Report 2016

EFRJ 2015 - 2016		
	2015	2016
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS		
Operational Costs	-96.031,96	-140.738,52
Staff Costs	-193.463,80	-162.213,45
Other costs	-30.105,30	-831,39
Exceptional costs	-1.681,48	-920,69
Total Costs	-321.282,54	-304.704,05
Core Income	60.136,16	74.962,37
Various Grants	0,00	44.086,00
EC-Grant Desistance	0,00	23.319,48
EC-Grant Accessibility	-2.776,22	0,00
EC-Grant Seks. Violence	541,82	2.398,90
EC-Grant Dom. Violence	2.823,90	-2.186,69
EC-Operating Grant	140.000,00	185.712,42
Victims & RJ	-2.865,55	0,00
EC - FP7 - Alternative	130.789,57	41.291,69
Total Income	328.649,68	369.584,17
Result of the year	7.367,14	64.880,12

BALANCE SHEET		
Fixed Assets	664,46	294,45
Amounts receivable -1Y	675,00	1.353,93
Liquid Assets	224.819,00	233.424,17
Transitory accounts	971,33	702,70
Total Assets	227.129,79	235.775,25
Capital and Reserves	162.056,39	162.056,39
Result 2016		64.880,12
Amounts Payable -1y	45.468,58	8.838,74
Transitory accounts	19.605,00	0,00
Total Liabilities	227.129,97	235.775,25