



# ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w.

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## 1. Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report 2012 of the European Forum for Restorative Justice. It is the first one under the responsibility of the Forum's newly composed board which appointed me as the new chair at its meeting session during the annual conference in Helsinki.

Before addressing some particular aspects of the work of the Forum during the previous year I would, first of all, like to express again explicit thanks to my predecessor, Niall Kearny, who invested a great deal of time and energy during his two year term as a chair. Unfortunately, Niall is not the only board member who left the board in 2012. Marta Ferrer Puig from Barcelona also resigned during the Helsinki session. Katrien Lauwaert from Leuven, left the board at the end of December having been selected and appointed as the researcher-coordinator for the new research project on desistance and restorative justice. Many thanks have to go to both of them for all of their valuable contributions. After the general meeting, Vicky de Souter from Ghent and Tim Chapman from Belfast joined the board as newly elected members.

Not enough, the Forum saw a further change of a key person in charge. After Karolien Mariën left the Forum in July, Monique Anderson took over the position as the new executive officer in October. The board was very grateful to Edit Törzs who managed to coordinate the various duties of the secretariat during the vacancy. Many thanks to Karolien and Edit, and a warm welcome to Monique. The executive officer is the most important contact person for the members.

One of the highlights of the Forum's activities of 2012 was, without doubt, the bi-annual conference in Helsinki. 258 participants from 34 countries enjoyed extraordinarily inspiring contributions by our keynote speakers Nils Christie and Ezzat A. Fattah and dozens of further presenters, and wonderful social activities during an extremely sunny summer week. We certainly experienced the best possible weather conditions in Helsinki. Responsible for all this were, besides the programme committee and the Forum secretariat, Aarne Kinnunen and his local team, the Finnish Ministry of Justice and the University of Helsinki. Extra thanks to all of them.

At the Helsinki conference, the European Restorative Justice Award was presented for the second time. The 2012 award holder is Martin Wright. Two years after its first appearance, this unique award has gained high recognition and prestige in Europe and beyond. The Forum is happy that this initiative, launched at the occasion of the Forum's tenth anniversary, has become a highly visible symbol which demonstrates the significance, and power, of the restorative justice ideals.

2012 also brought the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. Its article 12 provides, for the first time, a solid legal basis for RJ at the EU level. I am happy that the Forum achieved great success with its lobbying efforts promoting a (civil) right of access to RJ services for everyone who has been victimized in one of the member



states. Of course we have not reached everything we had proposed during the legislation procedures. Nevertheless, I think the ground is now prepared for a further sustainable development of RJ and hopefully, this will have positive effects even beyond the EU. The board will develop a strategy as to how the new provisions can be promoted in the best way during the coming implementation period. There remains a lot to do here, and we will certainly need your active support in order to reach the best results in your home countries.

A further great success that was achieved in 2012 was the approval three new EU-funded research proposals submitted by the Forum. Their focus is on "accessibility and initiation of RJ", "desistance and RJ", and "developing judicial training for RJ" respectively. This is an extraordinary success that would not have been possible without the valuable support of all the research partners and, not to forget, by Ivo Aertsen, our first chair who continuously provides an incredible amount of support to the board and the secretariat, despite no longer holding a formal position in the Forum. The need to find additional funding streams, however, that provides a solid and sustainable financial basis for the work of the Forum is a continuous challenge that will remain on the agenda of the board.

Annemieke Wolthuis, the new vice chair, and I are working together with the entire board to continue the Forum's successes in promoting RJ as strongly as possible and contributing to the growth and further development of RJ all over Europe.

Michael Kilchling



## Short information about the Forum

The European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w. is a non-governmental not-for-profit organization established according to Belgian law. It was officially created during the first General Meeting, organized in Leuven (Belgium) on 8 and 9 December 2000. Its statutes were published in the Belgian Official Journal on 19 April 2001.

The general aim of the Forum is to help establish and develop victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices throughout Europe. To further this general aim, the Forum pursues the following objectives: promoting international exchange of information; promoting the development of effective restorative justice policies, services and legislation; exploring and developing the theoretical basis of restorative justice; stimulating research; and assisting the development of principles, ethics, training and good practice.

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

## The European Forum board

After the 2012 elections by the General Meeting the board of the Forum is composed of:



○ Michael Kilchling (Germany) as Chair



○ Annemieke Wolthuis (the Netherlands) as Vice-Chair



○ Katrien Lauwaert (Belgium) as Treasurer (until December 2012)



○ Eleonore Lind (Sweden) as Treasurer



○ Vicky De Souter (Belgium) as Secretary



○ Bruno Caldeira (Portugal)



○ Tim Chapman (Northern Ireland)



○ Beata Czarnecka-Dzialuk (Poland)



○ Aarne Kinnunen (Finland)

## Membership

The European Forum has a mixed membership structure. There are full (with voting rights) and associate (without voting rights) members. Both individuals and organisations have the right to become members.

At the 2012 General Meeting, 54 new members were accepted. 28 of them were full members and 26 of them associate members.

By end of 2012, the Forum had 256 individual members (of which 185 with full membership status) and 53 organisation members (of which 47 with full membership status). Members came from 41 different countries.

## Overview of the activities

### 1. GENERAL MEETING

The 2012 General Meeting was organised in Helsinki, Finland, on 13 June 2012.

It was attended by 41 members and 3 non-members. In addition to recurrent formal issues, like the approval of the report of the previous General Meeting, the approval of the accounts and budget and membership matters, reports of the board, the secretariat and the committees, the following items were addressed:

#### **Election of 3 new board members**

After the 2012 general meeting Niall Kearney (chair), Michael Kilchling (secretary) and Marta Ferrer were going to step out of the board. Therefore 3 new members were needed to be selected. Out of 4 candidates for the 3 places Vicky De Souter (Belgium), Tim Chapman (Northern Ireland) and Michael Kilchling (Germany) have been elected as board members.

#### **Updates on current projects**

##### 1) Victims and restorative justice

The project “victims and restorative justice” lead by the Forum, counts on the participation of partners from different countries (Austria, the Netherlands and Finland). It involves two sub-studies: the micro and the macro research. The micro-research is about asking victims about their experiences with RJ in these three countries (which count on different models of RJ). This part of the research is already done. Data collection has finalized and researchers are actually working on writing their report. The macro-level of the research implies to ask professionals themselves about their opinion in terms of the position of the victim in RJ. In the context of this project three regional workshops have been carried out (with positive evaluations). The results will turn into a publication. The proposal has been already approved by the publisher Routledge.

##### 2) ALTERNATIVE (FP7)

The ALTERNATIVE project is a collaborative research project on developing alternative understandings of security and justice through restorative justice approaches in intercultural settings within democratic societies. It is funded by the EC Seventh Framework Programme and will run for four years. In this project partners from Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Norway and Serbia work together to do theoretical and action research, and offer an alternative understanding of security including restorative justice elements. The Forum, as a partner, is involved in two different work packages of the project: in one the task is to do theoretical work on restorative justice methods and models and their relevance to EU policies, in the other the Forum is responsible for the whole dissemination of the project, including a website, workshops, publications, summer school, conference and a documentary filmed by participants of action research with participatory film making techniques.

## **Proposals**

There were no proposals.

## **Communications**

On the General Meeting it was announced that the 2013 annual General Meeting will take place in June 2013 in Lisbon (Portugal).

## **2. FINANCIAL ISSUES**

The Forum received an operating grant from the European Commission to cover non-project related costs in 2012. This operating grant was used to cover, among others, part of the salary costs of the executive officer, the secretariat, the costs for board meetings and travel costs and also hosting of the website. The Forum also received action grants for the different research projects that were conducted in 2012.

A further source of income was a grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Justice. For more detailed information about the 2012 budget is provided by the financial report annexed.

## **3. ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD**

### **Board meetings**

As in previous years, the board of the Forum had two working meetings in 2012: in June (Helsinki) and in December (Leuven). Each session covered two full days. Items discussed included: the status of finances, financial planning, funding strategies, the changes of staff in the secretariat (leaving of Karolien Mariën, maintenance of membership services during the vacancy, interim occupation of Edit Törzs, public announcement of the position, selection and hiring procedure of Monique Anderson), the state of affairs of the ongoing projects, preparation of the three new projects (public announcement of the new research positions, selection procedure, budgeting), preparation and launch of the new website, relaunch of the newsletter, lobbying with European institutions, preparation of the 2013 summer school, planning of the 2014 bi-annual conference, development of policy strategies for the coming years, improving of membership services, etc.





In addition to these meetings the board members, and particularly the executive committee (chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer) had regular contact with each other, and with the executive officer (based in Leuven).

### **Policy work and relation to European organisations**

Another priority of the board was lobbying with European institutions on the development of the new Directive on Victims that has replaced the former Framework Decision on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings. The board had developed a policy strategy aiming at significantly strengthening the legal basis for RJ in the new piece of legislation. The strategy included sequences of letters to the responsible members of the European Parliament committees in charge for this matter and the national Ministries of Justice.

### **Representation**

A further new strategy of the board is focusing on an increase of the visibility of the Forum at international conferences and other public events. In 2012 the Forum was represented at several international conferences. These include the annual symposium of the European Society of Criminology in Bilbao where several panel sessions about RJ were offered, the final conference of the CABVIS project of Victim Support Europe in Lisbon, organized by APAV and the Fundamental Rights Agency conference in December 2012, entitled: “Justice in Austerity: challenges and opportunities for access to justice”.

## **4. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT**

In 2012 the secretariat consisted of 1 full-time staff member; the executive officer. The secretariat completed many core tasks in 2012, including bookkeeping, dealing with incoming requests, membership administration and sending newsflashes. In addition, the secretariat contributed heavily to the organization of the 2012 conference. 2012 saw the launch of the Forum’s new website, and the secretariat worked with the web designers on the design and transferred the data to the new site. With respect to grant applications, in 2012 the secretariat was involved in successful action grant applications for 3 new projects and also for an operating grant for 2013. Furthermore, the secretariat was also involved in supporting a number of grant application for projects for which the Forum is to be a project partner.



## 5. COMMITTEES

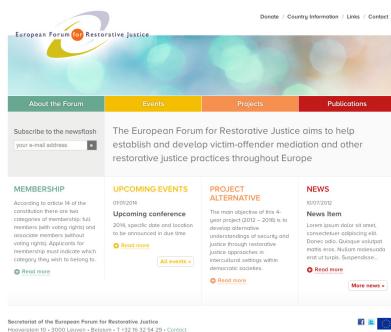
During 2012 there were five formal committees in operation; the communication committee (chaired by Christa Pelikan), the practice and training committee (chaired by Frauke Petzold), the editorial committee (chaired by Kerry Clamp), the research committee (chaired by Borbala Fellegi) and the committee on restorative approaches in schools (chaired by Belinda Hopkins). Work of the committees is varied and includes activities such as compiling the newsletter and distributing information via electronic newsletters (European Forum Research Committee Newsletters: EUFOREC News). We are thankful to all of our members who contribute to the Forum through their work in committees. The work of the committees will be reviewed in 2013.

## 6. INFORMATION PROVISION

The Secretariat dealt with numerous requests for information about the Forum and its activities, about contact persons or institutions in other countries, information about training or educational programmes in restorative justice, and about specific aspects of restorative justice.

As the Secretariat is based in Leuven, information and literature is provided on a regular basis to students, not only from Leuven but also from abroad.

The Forum website was completely re-designed in order to make it more user-friendly and better accessible for smartphone use. The re-launched site was put online in association with the 2012 Restorative Justice Week (18-24 November). In 2012 3 printed Newsletter issues were published. The Forum also continued the regular sending out of electronic Newsflashes to its members and contact persons. The communication strategies of the Forum further include providing information and updates via Facebook and Twitter.



## 7. CONFERENCES

The bi-annual conference 2012 was held in Helsinki from 14 through 16 June. Its programme, titled "Connecting People – Victims, Offenders, and Communities in Restorative Justice" included 5 plenary

sessions and 5 workshop sessions during which 25 thematic workshops were offered. In total, more than 250 participants from 30 countries attended. These include non-European countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, the US, and even China.

At the Helsinki conference the European Restorative Justice Award was presented for the second time and was awarded to Martin Wright.



On 13 November 2012 the Forum and the Leuven Institute for Criminology hosted a workshop with Ted Wachtel (IIRP). Lode Walgrave acted as discussant in this lively and interactive workshop, entitled "Defining Restorative: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective to Unify Practices in Criminal Justice, Education, Social Work and Leadership". The thought provoking workshop provided practitioners and academics from the field of Restorative Justice with an opportunity to share ideas and experiences.



## 8. EUROPEAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLATFORM

The Criminal Justice Platform is a joint initiative by the Forum, Victim Support Europe (VSE), the European Organisation for Probation (CEP) and the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris). It aims at reaching a closer cooperation on criminal justice related issues of common interest. Through this initiative the interest for the work of the participating organizations shall be increased. In addition, the political attention for the different practical aspects of European criminal policy shall be strengthened.

In 2012 representatives of the Platform had four working meetings held in The Hague, Utrecht, Amsterdam and Leuven. The first meetings this year were aimed at getting to know each other better and identifying the needs and added value of cooperation. This was led by CEP with professional workshop leaders to accompany the process. The Leuven meeting was hosted by the Forum in conjunction with its December board meeting. In Leuven the participants agreed to start a first concrete policy initiative which will have its focus on the implementation of the new EU Victim Directive. It was also decided that Restorative Justice is a key issue to work on together. The existence and goals of the Platform have also be shared with the European Commission.

## 9. PROJECTS

### Completed projects

Three projects completed in 2012.

The Forum was promoter of the “Victims and restorative justice” project (JUST/2009/JPEN/AG/0628) which ran between 1 January 2011 and October 2012. The project gained insight, through empirical research into the needs, experiences and position of victims when participating in restorative justice programmes. The research addressed both the micro and macro level of restorative justice practices. In 2012 there were 3 regional workshops on the topics of “Victim policy and mediation”, “Victims and Restorative Justice: Violence in intimate relationships” and “Victims and Restorative Justice: What method to use?”, which took place in Tilburg (the Netherlands), in Helsinki (Finland) and Vienna (Austria) respectively. In addition, the Forum’s international conference, which took place in Helsinki, was linked to this project.



The Forum was partner in the “MEREPS - Mediation and restorative justice in prison settings” project (JLS/2008/JPEN/015). The project explored the opportunities for implementing mediation and restorative justice practices in the prison setting and in serious offences. Additionally, it examined whether such practices can contribute to supporting victims of crime, raising responsibility-taking by offenders, supporting the prison staff and inmates in peacefully resolving their internal conflicts and reintegrating offenders into the society after release. The Forum’s involvement in this project was mainly of a consultative nature. The project was promoted by the Hungarian Foresee Research Group.



The Forum was an associate partner in the “Improving Knowledge and Practice of Restorative Justice: A Comparative Research Study on Restorative Justice” project by the Schleswig-Holstein Association for Social Responsibility in Criminal Justice, Victim and Offender Treatment. This project run from 01/10/2010 till 30/09/2012 and sought to identify the current state of affairs of Restorative Justice Measures in Germany, Estonia, Hungary and the UK. By comparing different practices, such as experiences, legal frameworks, new tools and financial aspects, a basis was formed that shall influence decision making at the management- and political level, as well as help to identify the impact of different jurisdictions and concepts. Another important part of the project was to strengthen cooperation between relevant actors and eliminate existing obstacles. The Forum contributed to the conferences organised during the project as well as took active steps in the dissemination phase of the project.

### **Ongoing projects**

The Forum is a partner in the “Substantial support for victims: Towards a holistic response to crime. Latvia and beyond” project. The promoter of this project is Providus, based in Riga, Latvia. The overall objective is to prevent victimization by enhancing support for victims and fostering a more holistic response to crime, where the needs of the victim, offender and society are equally acknowledged. The Forum provides a research advisor in the project and also has a role in dissemination.

The Forum is a partner in the “Art for social change: Exploring justice through new media documentary” project, which runs between October 2011 and September 2013. This interdisciplinary international arts research collaboration explores the use of new media technologies and documentary strategies to document and actively participate in the practice of restorative justice in an effort to test the potential for activist art to have a direct role in changing social conditions. This research will be translated into the design of a new form of new media documentary work that both represents and embodies the practice of restorative justice, engaging with the public in a qualitative analysis of the structural inequalities underlying current systems of retributive justice and modelling strategies to achieve a more productive, democratic and humane civil society.

### **New projects**

The Forum is a partner in the “ALTERNATIVE” project (7th Framework programme) which runs between 2012 and 2015. The overall objective of this project is to provide an alternative and deepened understanding based on empirical evidence on how to handle conflicts within intercultural contexts in democratic societies in order to set up security solutions for citizens and communities. In its role as partner the Forum is responsible for a) studying existing RJ models and their potential application to conflicts in an intercultural context, b) analysing the relevance of RJ in intercultural settings and possible implications for EU policies and c) dissemination through 1) the making of a film/documentary, 2) four regional workshops, 3) publications, 4) the website, 5)





organisation of a summer school, 6) the organisation of workshops in an international EFRJ conference and 7) the organisation of a final conference.



In 2012 three new action grant applications were successfully presented to the EC. These research projects – on accessibility and initiation of restorative justice, on the connection between desistance and restorative justice and on developing judicial training for restorative justice – will run from the beginning of 2013, however practical steps already have been taken in 2012 to appoint three new researchers. Additional to this, the Forum is a partners in one new project granted in 2012 and starting in 2013 on developing integrated responses to sexual violence and exploring the potential of restorative justice.

#### 10. NEW JOURNAL: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

A new international journal on RJ was founded in 2012. *Restorative Justice* seeks to facilitate the development and exchange of the best and most rigorously researched theoretical and practical scholarship within the domain of RJ. It aims to gather and present in a systematized way the fruits of academic research as well as practice and policy related information on RJ worldwide. We hope thereby to deepen empirical and theoretical knowledge and achieving a fluent exchange of ideas which will stimulate debates within the field of RJ and advance the development of RJ worldwide in a critical and independent way.

The Journal is edited in Leuven by Ivo Aertsen, Stephan Parmentier, Inge Vanfraechem and Lode Walgrave. Michael Kilchling and further Forum members are represented in the editorial and the international advisory boards. Members of the Forum can benefit from reduced subscription fee. More information is provided on the Forum website.





## Appendix: Financial Report

### 1. Profit and loss accounts

#### COSTS

	Budget 2012	Results 2012	Budget 2013
<b>Operating costs</b>	47.080,00	43.806,82	84.081,88
<b>Wages costs</b>	135.000,00	138.681,94	308.605,45
<b>Projects – operational costs</b>	91.500,00	57.553,91	52.099,00
<b>Provision wages KUL</b>		-23.795,73	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273.580,00</b>	<b>216.246,94</b>	<b>444.786,33</b>

#### INCOME

	Budget 2012	Results 2012	Budget 2013
<b>Core</b>	28.645,00	27.796,83	27.650,00
<b>Operating Grant EC</b>	50.000,00	50.000,00	116.342,00
<b>Victims and RJ</b>	142.040,00	98.293,14	
<b>FP7 - Alternative</b>	53.000,00	55.627,08	75.000,00
<b>Desistance</b>			76.396,00
<b>Accessibility</b>			89.500,00



<b>Judicial training</b>			57.809,00
<b>Other</b>	0,00	4.575,00	5.300,00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273.685,00</b>	<b>236.292,05</b>	<b>447.997,00</b>
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>105,00</b>	<b>20.045,10</b>	<b>3.210,67</b>

## 2. Balance sheet

In EUR	2012	2011
<b>Fixed assets</b>	770,92	
<b>Amounts receivable -1y</b>	47.749,35	65.305,00
<b>Liquid Assets</b>	545.522,95	266.496,63
<b>Transitory accounts</b>	1.129,96	1.210,00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>595.173,18</b>	<b>333.011.63</b>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>	186.655,54	166.610,44
<b>Provisions liab./charges</b>	0,00	23.795,73
<b>Amounts payable -1y</b>	54.390,64	118.697.32
<b>Transitory accounts</b>	354.127,00	23.908,14
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>595.173,18</b>	<b>333.011,63</b>