



I am **Dobrinka Chankova** - Professor of Criminal Procedure Law at South-West University, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. I have also taught Victimology and Alternative Dispute Resolution, including Victim-offender mediation and Restorative Justice at the same University, for almost two decades. From 2004 until 2018, I lectured on Mediation in Penal and Civil Matters at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia. I received my Ph.D. from Sofia University in 1993. Further, I have specialized in the USA, UK, Austria, etc. During the year 2009, I was a Research Fellow at Tokiwa International Victimology Institute, Japan. For a long time, I have been a trainer of Judiciary, Bar Association, and NGO activists in Bulgaria and abroad on RJ ideology, principles, models, etc. I have trained mediators in Bulgaria and have been a guest lecturer in Japan, India, Hong Kong, South Africa, predominantly on the RJ issue. I am a resource faculty for the World Society of Victimology Post-graduate courses on Victim Assistance. So far, I have conducted around 20 research projects at both the national and international levels and have published widely (more than 100 journal articles, contributions to books, manuals, own books, etc.) in the areas of criminal and restorative justice and victimology.

I am a founder and Chair of the Institute of Conflict Resolution (ICR) - Sofia (NGO) from 2000 until now. The ICR is among the oldest Bulgarian organizations whose main objective is the promotion of RJ in different domains. I have served as an expert of the National Assembly and Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria and the Council of Europe Committees on Crime Problems and Mediation in Penal Matters, which developed Recommendation 99/19 on mediation in penal matters. I am also a founder member of the EFRJ and have been involved in many of its numerous activities - projects, publications, conferences, committees, etc. nearly 20 years. EFRJ Summer schools are my initial idea.

Being a convinced restorative justice proponent, I did my best to introduce RJ in the Bulgarian criminal justice system, schools, custodial settings, etc. I participated in numerous surveys and working groups with the Ministry of Justice, developing relevant bills, including the latest one on restorative measures for children (still under preparation). I do believe that as an EFRJ Board member, I will be able to find new solid arguments, to bring together

stakeholders, and send a strong message to the Bulgarian and other countries' policy-makers where RJ is underdeveloped, which will accelerate the process of further establishment and extending RJ. I would try to promote intensive international cooperation, new experimentation, joint research, and exchange of good practices. I also think that more extensive use of deliberative democracy practices, as well as modern information technologies in the daily life of the EFRJ, will further enhance its results.

Proposer: Dr. Martin Wright (United Kingdom) - 2nd European Restorative Justice Award Laureate (2012)

I have known Dobrinka since the beginning of the EFRJ. The many posts she has held show her extensive work for the spread of restorative justice, her commitment to both its theory and practice, and her international outlook.

Seconder: Anneke van Hoek - co-founder and project manager of the Restorative Justice Netherlands Foundation

I have met Dobrinka as partner in the project Restorative Justice in Europe. She is one of the early RJ pioneers and has a wide international network and valuable experience as academic scholar, researcher, trainer and advisor on European and national legislation and policy matters. An EFRJ board member with such extensive experience could be very helpful in the further development and expansion of RJ in Europe.