



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Report from the EFRJ Committees and Working Groups

In the past 20 years, the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) relied on the work of some committed members who volunteered in different Committees and Working Groups to discuss issues and produce concrete deliverables relevant for the general EFRJ yearly strategy.

Normally, these members come together to 1 day face-to-face meeting each year; commit to regular virtual meetings (Skype) and exchange of emails; may be consulted on this topic by EFRJ staff and members; make a yearly workplan and coordinate the making of the planned deliverables; report to the Board (November) and at the AGM (June).

In addition to the Committees and Working Groups below, the EFRJ established two more networks, which include participants who are not necessarily EFRJ members: 1) the EUROPEAN RJ POLICY NETWORK (the EFRJ representatives are Laura Hein, Edit Torzs, Tim Chapman, Aarne Kinnunen, Bart Claes) and 2) the CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLATFORM EUROPE (the EFRJ representatives are Edit Torzs, Emanuela Biffi, Annemieke Wolthuis).

In 2020, the EFRJ will launch 3 new Working Groups: 1) Working Group on Restorative Schools, 2) Working Group on Restorative Environmental Justice, 3) Working Group on Gender based Violence and Restorative Justice. For more info visit the EFRJ website.

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (2000-2020)

EFRJ representatives: Emanuela Biffi & Katerina Soulou & Balint Juhasz

EFRJ members: Robert Shaw (UK), Branka Peurača (Croatia), Nicola Preston (UK), Diana Ziedina (Latvia), Claudia Christen Schneider (Switzerland), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Heidi Jokinen (Finland), Kim Magiera (Germany), Silvia Randazzo (Italy)

Tasks: 1) Put together an annual plan: time schedule, co-editors, themes, format, 2) Collect expressions of interest and articles; proofreading; edit and design of the digital newsletters

Deliverable: Publish the EFRJ Newsletter on recent RJ developments 4 times a year (incl. 3/4 articles on practice, policy, legislation, research, publications, projects, events...) and contribute to "The Restorative Blog"

Report 2019

The Editorial Committee has been working during the triennium with a team of 9 members (see above). In 2019, one of the core members of this Committee, Martin Wright, resigned from this group, but he still keeps an eye from far to our work!

In 2019, there was one physical meeting of the Committee, when the EFRJ gathered its members, volunteering in Committees and Working Groups, in Leuven in November 2019. Since then, the work has been organised online, which has worked remarkably well.

After our previous editor-in-chief Kerry Clamp stood down at the end of 2018, the Committee decided to explore a whole new way of working. We currently have no chair to the committee nor an editor-in-chief. Instead, it was agreed that Committee members would be responsible for a Newsletter issue on rolling basis, as rotating editors. This gives a special touch to each issue, focusing on different themes or on different regions depending on the interests and contacts of the rotating editors. Clearly, the idea for each issue is discussed and approved by the all Committee and Secretariat before the rotating editors take the lead in contacting the authors.

During the triennium, we have been sending out the Newsletter three times a year. Some issues were more broadly addressing policy, research and practice from different countries and projects the field of restorative justice. Others were published as thematic issues: for example, in 2019, vol. 20 issue 3 was dedicated to restorative justice and environmental crime; in 2020, vol. 21 issue 1 included articles on restorative justice, intercultural conflicts and migrant





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integration and vol. 21 issue 2 will be fully devoted to the impact of the current sanitarian crisis on restorative justice.

Until 2018, each year has ended with a printed edition of the Newsletter, the rest of the issues being offered online. This did not happen in 2019 as the EFRJ launched a new visual identity on February 2020 and the printed design had to be adapted to this new style.

The 2020 will be a special year, as the printed Newsletter will be a Forum 20th anniversary Jubilee issue, with stories relating to the history and future of the EFRJ and RJ. An open call for proposals is out for this issue. Please still feel free to contribute! More info here: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/node11/call-contributions>

The rebranding of the EFRJ at the start of 2020 brought some changes to the Newsletter. The old format of the Newsletter file was supplemented by "The Restorative Blog" on the EFRJ website. The change allows to a more responsive communication about issues that matter and individual articles can be better disseminated on social media. EFRJ members will, however, still receive the collection of a selection of articles published in the blog via email three times a year. Also, all pdfs of the Newsletters are saved in the archive of the EFRJ website (<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/newsletter-archive>).





RESEARCH COMMITTEE (2019-2021)

EFRJ representatives: Brunilda Pali & Laura Hein

EFRJ members: Katerine Barnekow (Denmark), Fernanda Fonseca (Brazil), Ena Kazic (Bosnia), Giuseppe Maglione (UK), Ian Marder (Ireland), Anna Matczak (Poland), Federico Reggio (Italy), Helena Soletto (Spain), Estelle Zinsstag (Belgium/UK)

Tasks: 1) support and encourage research on restorative justice, 2) assist researchers in the field, 2) develop strategies to better disseminate research outcomes, 4) encourage the representation of research in other criminological or related events, conferences, publications, 5) identify gaps in existing research and can suggest topics to be explored, 6) share information on grant opportunities for researchers among EFRJ members and beyond, 7) initiate project proposals, 8) assist the EFRJ Secretariat to translate the existing research knowledge accumulated in the past years at the EFRJ to practice and policy.

Report 2019

The RECOM members met for the first time in Leuven on 26 November 2019. A RECOM meeting was planned in Sassari, which had to be cancelled. RECOM may meet again at the end of 2020 in Leuven. In the first meeting four main **topics** were thoroughly discussed by the members:

- a) Support research on restorative justice
- b) Support networking and funding
- c) Support dissemination of research outcomes
- d) Support the translation of research into policy and practice.

An **action plan** was designed for 2020 with several concrete steps:

— **A research 'needs-assessment'**

Through the newsflash and e-mail, a needs' assessment call was sent to the EFRJ members about their research needs and if and how the RECOM can support. According to the input that arrived from the members, these research gaps were identified: how able is RJ to address the true roots of crime; action research in school settings; the importance of the social and cultural background in shaping RJ; research/data collection on operative RJ legislation in Europe. RECOM itself had identified the need to have research on evaluation of RJ; research on its





implementation; updated country specific research (and the translation in English of non – English studies); and restorative approaches to research methods and research itself.

— **Thematic and research report briefs**

RECOM took it upon itself to support the EFRJ to develop several research briefs, based on topics that could be useful to the membership or based on already written research reports. We are in consultation with the Secretariat on topics that are useful and the plan is to develop two briefs by the end of the year.

— **Mapping of Non-English sources**

RECOM would like to conduct as a first steps a preliminary mapping of research and researchers in different countries will be conducted. Once these have been identified, a second step is to contact researchers if they are interested to present their research in English in one paragraph. This research can be shared through the newsflash or newsletter of the EFRJ. A third step, which is more intensive is to translate original research into English. Likewise, besides research, translating interesting conceptual pieces that can be useful to the restorative thought is very exciting. Under the lead of Federico Reggio, RECOM is currently drafting a Call for Papers for a Special Issue and a Book which aim at creating a more inclusive and broader overview from outside the (anglo-saxon) debate on RJ. A main goal is to find authors whose work is related to RJ or positively contributing to the debate on RJ, but which remained lesser known due to language issues (not being written in English).

— **Restorative Research Methods**

In a 2-years plan, an edited book collection will be drafted on Methods for RJ research, a project that will be led by RECOM member Fernanda Fonseca. Ideally the chapters will be co-written by researchers from different countries, backgrounds, or by researchers-practitioners.

— **European Data System**

RECOM will explore the possibility to develop a project proposal on European data system on restorative services. Meanwhile several members of the EFRJ, such as Ivo Aertsen, Arthur Hartman, and RECOM member Helena Soletto have already started exchanging ideas on this.





TRAINING COMMITTEE (2019-2021)

EFRJ representatives: Balint Juhasz & Tim Chapman

EFRJ members: Marieke Arnou (Belgium), Frauke Petzold (Germany), Paul Delaney (Ireland), Daniela Arieti (Italy), Belinda Hopkins (UK)

Tasks: 1) create training offers to further develop professional competences, 2) develop a “pool of trainers”, i.e. European register of RJ trainers and consultants within the EFRJ membership, 3) support and encourage RJ training initiatives across Europe and beyond, promoting good practice standards and ethics, 4) encourage exchange between practitioners and trainers, 5) assist practitioners and trainers in the field, 6) develop strategies to better disseminate values and standards of RJ in practice, 7) encourage dissemination and research on training in RJ, 8) identify gaps in existing training programs and suggest topics to be explored and developed into a training program, 9) share information on training opportunities for practitioners among EFRJ members and beyond, 10) assist the EFRJ Secretariat in organising training courses (or seminar and workshops) in different parts of Europe.

Deliverable: 1) Internal document on gaps in existing training programs and suggestions of topics, 2) Develop criteria for and launch “pool of trainers”, 3) Develop practice guidelines for trainings (format and objectives)

Report 2019

The first meeting of the new Training Committee took place in Leuven on the 26th November 2019. At this meeting, the committee agreed an outline for an ambitious work-plan to be developed and implemented for the coming year. At its second meeting which was held online on the 13th March 2020, Paul Delaney was elected as chair for the period March to August 2020 and Daniela Arieti for the period August 2020 to January 2021.

The committee prioritised two main pieces of work to be undertaken in 2020. The first priority was the **production of two EFRJ Training Manuals:** 1) An Introduction to Restorative Justice, and 2) Restorative Justice Responses to Serious Harm. We are grateful to Tim Chapman for the initial drafts for both manuals. The second priority was to develop a process to enable the EFRJ to launch a call for the establishment of a **Register of Qualified Restorative Justice Trainers.** Working online, the committee agreed a set of requirements and competencies that would be necessary for trainers to become registered, and finally the committee agreed on the draft format for an application form and process to be used to enable the EFRJ to launch the call and





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select trainers for the register. In this regard, the EFRJ has so far received 66 applications for the register. Finally, on behalf of my colleagues on the Training Committee, I am pleased to inform the AGM that our work plan is being successfully implemented.

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VALUES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (2017-2021)

EFRJ representatives: Edit Torzs, Kris Vanspauwen & Lars Otto Justad

EFRJ members: Carmen Borg (Malta), Antonio Bounatesta (Belgium), Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Diana Ziedina (Latvia), Valeria Tramonte (Italy), Ana Pereira (Belgium), Arti Mohan (India)

Tasks: 1) reflect on standard values and basic principles in RJ practices; 2) The committee will be responsible to support the EFRJ on how to include values in the EFRJ work context (suggestions regarding ethical issues, pool of trainers, service provision etc.).

Deliverables: 2018) manual on RJ values and standards; 2019) practice guidelines based on the manual; code of conduct/ ethics in terms of EFRJ governance and practice; complaint procedure; draft principles to sign by members when applying for membership; 2020) self-assessment tool, which is a sort of checklist that organisations may use to evaluate their practices and services.

Report 2019

The SVCOM had its first meeting on 26 November 2019 in Leuven. The meeting focused on how to support the EFRJ in drafting the practice guidelines on values and standards based on the Values and Standard Manual (published in 2018), on its content and structure.

The Committee since its meeting **collected existing practice guidelines** on restorative justice and started the drafting of the EFRJ practice guide. Based on an agreed outline, committee members draft actual chapters or collect case studies from their countries to add. The idea is that the draft will be shared with practice organisations from the EFRJ membership for their feedback and will be launched at the end of 2020.





WORKING GROUP VIOLENT EXTREMISM (2019-2021)

EFRJ representatives: Emanuela Biffi & Tim Chapman

EFRJ members: Miriam Attias (Finland), Emmanuelle Crane (France), Graziella Fourez (Belgium), Joakim Hope Soltveit (Norway), Lucy Jaffe (United Kingdom), Katrien Lauwaert (Belgium), Ali Gohar (United Kingdom), Ram Tiwari (Nepal), Cheryl Lubin (USA)

Tasks: 1) produce a short document explaining the potential contribution of restorative justice in this domain; 2) work together to develop a specific training of the EFRJ; 3) support and encourage research on the potential application of RJ in radicalization and (violent) extremism.

Deliverable: 1) Short document for understanding violent extremism and proposing a RJ response.

Report 2019

The working group on violent extremism is a new working group that started with a physical meeting of the committee in Leuven in November 2019. Some members of the working group were also able to join a joint event organized by RAN EXIT, RAN RVT and the EFRJ in Dublin in December 2019. An ex post paper was published in January 2020 based on the event with the title: [The role of restorative justice in preventing and responding to violent extremism](#) (link to website and PDF download).

Since then, the work has been organized online by email and zoom meetings. This has only been partly effective since members of the working group have been busy and replies to emails could have been improved. The working group does not currently have a chair but may benefit from having one in terms of coordination efforts and progression.

At the meeting in Leuven, the working group decided to remove radicalization from its working group name. This was decided after a process and discussion where the group agreed that being radical is not necessarily a bad thing, because it may be a factor for positive change. The group also decided that hate crime is closely linked to violent extremism and should be included in the focus of the working group.

The work so far has been about gathering relevant literature about the use of Restorative Justice in cases of VE and share this information with the working group. The working group also drafted two proposals for the (now postponed) EFRJ Sassari Conference 2020 for 2 panel discussions about violent extremism as well as hate crime, polarization and intergroup conflict.





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Members of the working group were also in contact with Bálint Juhász, Training and Communications officer in order to give input to a call for testimonies, including permissions and conditions, to collect personal stories from participants of restorative justice processes in different cases, including violent extremism and hate crime.

The working group will continue to gather fears/concerns and questions from practitioners working on these cases, as well as proactively gather narratives/personal stories and examples of the use of RJ in cases of VE and hate crime. Members of the working group will also exchange information about current developments from their home countries about the topic.

On an ad hoc basis, the working group supported the work of the secretariat; e.g. when the EFRJ was tasked to write a consolidated overview for the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) on the potential of restorative justice in cases of right wing extremism and Islamic extremism, the working group shared information, case studies and research publications with Emanuela Biffi, who drafted this paper for RAN (forthcoming in July 2020).

The research paper and gathering of stories and examples could be a base for the working group to prepare a position paper on RJ and VE (including hate crime) for the EFRJ in the coming year. A training programme could then be designed (and offered).





WORKING GROUP RESTORATIVE CITY (2018-2020)

EFRJ representatives: Emanuela Biffi & Patrizia Patrizi

EFRJ members: Grazia Mannozi - CESGREM – Como Città Riparativa (Italy), Gian Luigi Lepri – Tempio Pausania Città Riparativa (Italy), Ivo Aertsen – Leuven Restorative City (Belgium), Bruna Dighera – ConTatto, Como Città Riparativa (Italy), Claudio Fontana, CESGREM – Como Città Riparativa (Italy), Mauro Giardini, C.E.A.S. – Mentana Città Riparativa (Italy), Marian Liebmann – Bristol Restorative City (UK), Anna Robino, Spondé – Palermo Città Riparativa (Italy), Chris Straker – UK RJ Council (UK), Lies Van Cleynenbreugel – Leuven Restorative City (Belgium)

Tasks: Put together an annual plan to further develop local projects and contribute to the European movement

Deliverables: 2019) seminar “Building Restorative Cities” (Como, 10-12 January 2019); short film; article on the EFRJ Newsletter; articles in the International RJ Journal; study visits; meeting of Italian members in Rome; coordination of activities during the RJ Week; 2020) general brief on what is (and is not) a RJ City; informal meeting and workshop sessions in Sassari; coordinated field trip in Tempio Pausania; RJ city seminar.

Report 2019

The WG on Restorative Cities was established during the 10th EFRJ conference in Tirana (Albania) and the first Meeting was held in Como (Italy) in January 2019 with the support of the University of Insubria and the EFRJ. During the meeting a video has been realized giving a voice to the representatives of different Restorative Cities (www.euforumrj.org/en/working-group-restorative-cities). The WG was chaired by Grazia Mannozi (2019 – 2020) followed by Gian Luigi Lepri (2020-2021).

The main aim of the group is trying to define and analysing the common grounds of the different projects that supported the different local context to define themselves Restorative Cities. Some of the members of the group wrote together an article published in *The International Journal of Restorative Justice*, in 2019 (www.elevenjournals.com/tijdschrift/TIJRJ/2019/2). During the period of the Covid-19 the group suspended the activities and now we started again with strength and wiliness to include new cities in the group. We would like to make a call for the end of the year 2020. In the last meeting that toked place online we decided to:





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- participate in the call for project proposals launched by the European Social Catalyst Fund (ESCF) <https://www.euscf.eu/>,
- write a booklet to find 4/5 main common topics that could support the development of a restorative city at local level,
- to meet on line every month,
- to keep sharing experiences.

The working group will be very pleased if it could be supported by the EFRJ Secretariat, as usual. At the end of November 2020, Patrizia Patrizi (representative of the EFRJ Board in this WG) will participate in the conference of the European Forum for Urban Security (<https://efusconference2020.eu/>), presenting the concept of a Restorative City and representing this WG in this event.

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