

EFRJ Annual General Meeting

Bilbao, 04 June 2019, 18:00-20:00hr

Law Faculty, Deusto University Bilbao – Auditorium

DRAFT MINUTES

To be approved on the AGM 2020

17:00 Registrations

18:00 Opening of the Annual General Meeting

Presentation of the agenda by Tim Chapman, Chair.

1. Formal issues and Activities of the Forum

1.1. Approval of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting (Tirana)

Minutes AGM 2018 approved.

1.2. Approval of the annual report 2018 - [Annex III](#)

Tim Chapman, Chair of the EFRJ, introduced the EFRJ and main achievements of 2018, stressing the importance of the EFRJ membership. He highlighted the growth in the membership; from the AGM 2018 in Tirana, the EFRJ received 87 new membership applications including 19 organisational ones.

Edit Törzs, Director of the EFRJ, presented the annual report of 2018. The document was sent to all members before the AGM. Edit gave not a formal presentation of numbers and formalities, but a glimpse of the activities run by the EFRJ in 2018. Edit focused on the strategic developments and priorities of the EFRJ. She used origami pictures as the leitmotiv of her PP presentation, inspired by the crane origami as a symbol of peace and healing (“Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes”). The aim was also to share this information with new members attending the AGM. She moved on by presenting some 2019 activities and future strategies: stronger focus on policy work (new policy network





ERJPN, EU, CoE and UNODC); starting of a new project "Restorative Strategies for Change" (RJS4C) to develop country specific strategies for the development of restorative justice in 10 countries based on the 2018 CoE Recommendation on restorative justice; designing and developing of new trainings; awareness raising initiatives (RJ week); new external cooperation and project; attendance of events and conferences (65 different events attended by board and staff during 2018); developing the values and standards manual and translating it in a practice guide; working on a new communication strategy, new website and visual style; new Working Group on Restorative Cities launched in January 2019 and other Committees and Working Group to be launched in 2019 (new Training Committee and Research Committee, Committee on values and Standards of Restorative Justice, WG on Violent Extremism); next EFRJ International Conference in Sassari (Italy) on 25 – 27 June 2020.

Participants of the AGM commented by acknowledging the amazing work done by the EFRJ.

Annual report approved.

1.3. Approval of the annual accounts and budget

Rik Defrère, EFRJ Finance and Administrative Officer, presented the annual accounts and budget 2018. The EFRJ is a non-profit organisation, the goal is not to make profit, but to have a solid financial foundation to make the future less uncertain.

Rik made the presentation of the financial report 2018: balance sheet (assets and liabilities) and income statement (income and costs). The incomes of 2018 came mostly from the OG2018, from membership fees and conference fees. Costs as well as Income augmented from 2017 to 2018. Even if the staff costs increased in 2018 we have a surplus of 11.515,55 euro. Rik moved forward to the presentation of the Budget 2019. We have more operational costs and staff costs than in 2018, but also the income will increase.

To conclude, the EFRJ has a stable financial environment, is continuously growing its initiatives supported also by the reinforcement of the staff. The EFRJ is looking at other funding options outside the EC in order to be more independent financially.

The AGM approved the annual accounts and budget.

1.4. Approval of new membership applications and other membership matters

Since the last AGM2018, 87 new members applied for EFRJ membership:





- 19 new organisations (17 full members + 2 associate members) from Estonia, Italy (3), The Netherlands, Poland (2), Belgium (2), Spain (4), UK (3), Ireland, Germany and New Zealand
- 68 new individuals (50 full members + 18 associate members).

Membership applications approved.

1 member resigned from EFRJ membership.

Approved.

1.5. Report of the activities of the Board and the Secretariat

Edit presented the current staff situation and introduced the staff members. She warmly thanked the staff, the Board and the Executive Committee for their work, commitment and good cooperation.

1.6. Report of the Editorial Committee, the and Working Groups

Editorial Committee (EDCOM). Report by Silvia Randazzo.

Committee members are: Martin Wright (UK, European RJ Award winner in 2012), 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), coordinator of the EFRJ Secretariat is Emanuela Biffi and Katerina Soulou (Greece) is the Board representative.

The EDCOM met last time in Leuven in December 2018. A new working strategy has been discussed (since the former editor, Kerry Clamp left). The EDCOM will have rotating chief editors, a senior member and new member will rotate. The third Newsletter of 2019 will focus on environmental justice and RJ.

The next meeting of the EDCOM will be held in Leuven in November 2019.

Training Committee (TRACOM). Report by Emanuela Biffi.

The members of the Committee are: Niall Kearney (UK), Frauke Petzold (Germany) and Beata Czarnecka-Dzialuk (local organiser of the EFRJ Summer School in Poland). The Committee is coordinated by Emanuela Biffi on behalf of the Secretariat. The main goal of the training committee was the organisation of the EFRJ Summer School 2019.



Emanuela reported on the 8th edition of the Summer School, that will be held in Gdańsk, Poland, on 22-26 July 2019. The theme is "Child-friendly Restorative Justice". The focus will be on both young victims and offenders, to identify appropriate restorative responses to conflict and crime involving this specific vulnerable group. Among others, much attention will be given to innovative practices for making the offer and encouraging dialogue and the sharing of emotions when children and adolescents are involved in a restorative process. The trainers are Bie Vansereven, Alba (Belgium) and Belinda Hopkins, Transforming Conflict (UK).

A new Training Committee will be launched (before the Summer) since its mission will be broadened to supporting the EFRJ in the creation and design of new training offers.

Working Group on Restorative Cities (RCWG). Report by Grazia Mannoizzi (CESGREM – Como Città Riparativa), chair of the WG.

The members of the RCWG are: Ivo Aertsen (Leuven Restorative City), Bruna Dighera (ConTatto, Como Città Riparativa), Claudio Fontana (CESGREM – Como Città Riparativa), Mauro Giardini (C.E.A.S. – Mentana Città Riparativa), Marian Liebmann (Bristol Restorative City), Anna Robino (Spondé – Palermo Città Riparativa), Chris Straker (UK RJ Council), Lies Van Cleynenbreugel (Leuven Restorative City), coordinator of the EFRJ Secretariat is Emanuela Biffi and Patrizia Patrizi (Italy) is the Board representative.

In the beginning of 2019, the EFRJ co-organised the seminar "Building Restorative Cities" (Como, 10-12 January 2019) and formally established the Working Group on Restorative Cities, composed by EFRJ members involved in the Restorative Cities of Bristol, Como, Leuven, Mentana, Palermo and Tempio Pausania. A [short film](#) was produced after this first meeting. The aim of the Working Group on Restorative Cities is to bring together different local experiences which have the intention of creating a cultural change with citizens who are empowered in their conflict resolution skills and decision making.

In 2019, the EFRJ will re-launch the Research Committee and will launch a new committee on Values and Standards as well as new working group on Violent Extremism.





2. Presentation of the proposal regarding membership reform

2.1. Detailed presentation of the proposed changes in the EFRJ membership

The EFRJ Secretary, Brunilda Pali, presented in detail to the AGM the proposed reform of the EFRJ membership policy and summarized the main reasons behind it. The proposal aims at changing some internal policies regarding membership, as a distinction of the voting rights and benefits between the different membership status and types, and at implementing a new system for membership fees (making a distinction based on the country's GDP). The proposed changes were already discussed during the previous AGM (Tirana, 2018) and afterwards the EFRJ invited the members to send further comments. The final proposal was sent out to the members before the AGM 2019.

For more details see [Annex IV – New membership proposal](#)

2.2. Discussions

A short discussion followed during which participants asked for some clarifications on what is meant with organisations; what to do in case of countries that are not present in the Eurostat database on GDP (Belarus for example) and on the fact that for some organisations the membership fee would increase significantly.

2.3. Voting

The proposed reform was approved by the AGM 2019.

3. Voting on the change in the Constitution required for the membership reform

The membership reform implies a constitutional change, specifically regarding the number of votes individual and organisational members will have. The AGM in Bilbao did not reach the required quorum (two-thirds of the full members). Thus, an Extraordinary General Meeting will be organised in Leuven in November 2019 to ratify the required constitutional changes.

4. Proposals

No proposals were raised by the members present





5. Next General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be organized on 24 June 2020 in Sassari (Italy), the day before the 11th international EFRJ Conference (25 – 27 June 2020).

6. Communications

The communications were mostly related to some logistics regarding the 2-day International RJ Symposium that followed the AGM on the newly adopted CoE Recommendation on RJ in criminal justice matters.

20:00 Closure of the Annual General Meeting

