



EUROPEAN
FORUM FOR
RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

DRAFT, TO BE APPROVED ON THE AGM
IN JUNE 2021

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The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) was established in 2000. It is a network organization counting almost 500 members working in the field of victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices to ensure the right of access to restorative justice services to every person in Europe at any time and in any case. The EFRJ is a Partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe.



The operation of the EFRJ is supported by the European Commission Justice Programme. The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the EFRJ. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.



Foreword

As much as we wanted to make 2020 memorable for our 20th anniversary, as you may all agree this year will always be remembered as the year of Covid-19. Unfortunately, one of the Board's first decisions was to postpone our biennial international conference in Sassari, Sardinia. The local organising team with the support of the Secretariat had worked so hard to develop an exciting programme, to set up an excellent venue and arrange for accommodation and social events. The conference is an important means of developing the restorative justice knowledge and practice base, building the international restorative community and generating valuable income which enables the Forum to enhance its services to members. It was heart-breaking to admit that the pandemic had defeated us.

Like many European citizens and organisations, we had to adapt very quickly to new conditions to ensure that the EFRJ continued to operate effectively and efficiently. The secretariat responded magnificently. Their solutions were intelligent and creative. They had to work from home isolated from each other and they worked long hours to implement the very long list of events, initiatives and achievements described in this report. The Board was aware that there was a personal cost to each member of staff in terms of well-being and physical health. The members of the EFRJ owe a great debt to Edit, Emanuela, Rik, Laura, Balint, Kris, Julia, Malini and Silvia supported by interns, Georgina and Hanga.

We have all had to become accustomed to looking at rows of heads and shoulders framed by tiny screens. At first this seemed alien and we longed to meet together in a room and to share a coffee or a meal together. Then we began to understand the potential of this new way of working together.

I recommend that you read this comprehensive annual report carefully. I hope that you will appreciate the range and quality of activities and events that have been undertaken during 2020 supported by a small but very productive team. But I also invite you to look carefully at the numbers of members who have participated actively through the Board, the committees, the working groups, presenting at webinars and conferences, and leading training courses. Notice the names and the diversity of countries that they represent. Calculate how many members and non-members have attended training, dialogues, conferences, and the arts festival. Ask yourself, could the EFRJ activated so many members and reached so many people if it had not been for digital communication? We





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have also saved time and money that would have been spent on travelling and accommodation and made a small contribution to reducing the damage to our environment.

I believe that digital contact will continue to play a major role in linking our diverse community spread throughout Europe and beyond. But distance also make us appreciate human contact and yearn to sit in a circle with each other listening, sharing and laughing. We will do this again. As my friend, Roberto, always says; the best thing about the Forum is having a meal together. I hope very much that we can all be together again next year in June in the beautiful island of Sardinia. Until then keep well and keep participating in your European Forum for Restorative Justice.

Tim Chapman

Chair

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Introduction to the European Forum for Restorative Justice

The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) is a non-profit organisation established in 2000. It is based in Leuven (Belgium) and operates according to Belgian law.

Aim

The EFRJ aims to establish and to develop high-quality 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. **Its vision is that every person in Europe has the right to access restorative justice services, at any time and in any case.**

Strategic priorities

1. Inform the public through raising awareness on restorative justice
2. Influence policy for better implementation of restorative justice
3. Develop high quality practice that is led by values and based upon research evidence

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
- 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
- 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

Organisational Structure

Board

The Board of the EFRJ is composed of **nine volunteer Board members** 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. [Here](#) more information on the Board and its members. During the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020 the EFRJ elected two new Board members since two board members completed their mandate. The new composition of the Board in 2020:

Executive Committee Board Members



Board Members

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Maia Chochua
GEORGIA



Lars Otto Justad
NORWAY



**Petra Masopust
Šachová**
CZECH REPUBLIC



Patrizia Patrizi
ITALY



Katerina Soulou
GREECE

The Secretariat

The general management of the EFRJ and its network lies with the Secretariat in Leuven. Besides taking care of the organization's activities, the Secretariat is responsible for the full HR, financial, legal administration of the organisation, the management of membership, organisation of internal meetings, the Annual General Meeting of the members, for planning (annual work plan, timeline) and evaluation (these latter together with the Board).

In 2020, the Secretariat was composed of six part-time employees:

- Executive Director, Edit Törzs – 80%,
- Communications and Events Officer, Emanuela Biffi – 100% (as of September 2019 90% and 10% on the i-Restore project),
- Financial and Administrative Officer, Rik Defrère – 50%,
- Policy Officer, Laura Hein – 60%,
- Communication and Training Officer, Bálint Juhász - 80%,
- Strategic Advisor, Kris Vanspauwen - 10%

We extended the EFRJ staff by employing one new colleague in 2020:

- Julia Barjau Dachs as Administrative Officer – 30% as of 1 February 2020

Moreover, in 2020:

- The Secretariat has two additional project officers, Malini Laxminarayan (50% as of 1 April 2020) and Silvia Randazzo (30%), who work on two EU-funded projects (LetsGoByTalking and RE-Justice).





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- The Secretariat was supported also by two (unpaid) interns in 2020: from April on we could count on the contribution of Georgina Colomé Ginella (Spain) as a policy intern to support our policy work; between September and December we had a research intern, Hanga Hasznos (Hungary) that conducted research on the self-reflective nature of restorative mediation practice and supported our work mostly with contributing to the organization of the REstART festival.

The team of the Secretariat in 2020



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. We are proud that our members come from many professional fields and backgrounds and that we create a uniquely diverse platform for researchers, practitioners (mediators, facilitators, trainers), policy makers, lawyers and other criminal justice professionals, as well as for students, artists and activists. Our membership is not only about receiving information and

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other benefits, but also an opportunity to be involved in making decisions regarding the organisation, to engage in thematic committees and working groups, contribute to our activities, host our events and to connect to many others interested in developing further restorative justice.

The EFRJ membership is divided in two general categories: Individual members and Organisational members (non-profit or governmental). Each member is entitled to decide whether to join the EFRJ as Full Member (with voting rights) or Associate Member (without voting rights).

The membership of the EFRJ is constantly growing. Currently the EFRJ counts around 470 members. At the 2020 Annual General Meeting 75 new membership applications have been approved:

- **66** new individual members
- **9** new organisation members (from Colombia, Croatia, 2 from Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, UK and Ukraine).

From June until the end of 2020, the interest to engage in the EFRJ as a member grew as another **32 individuals or organisations applied for membership**. These memberships will be formally approved on the AGM in 2021.

The AGM 2020 approved the termination 52 individual memberships because they did not pay membership fee in the last 3 years, 27 individuals resigned from their membership as their organisation become member and 5 organisations terminated their membership, but signed up for individual membership through a representative.

The EFRJ membership covers currently 44 countries. We are happy to have new members from so far underrepresented European countries, such as Greece, Georgia and Cyprus.

Our organisational members are presented on a dedicated page of the website:

<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/our-organisational-members>

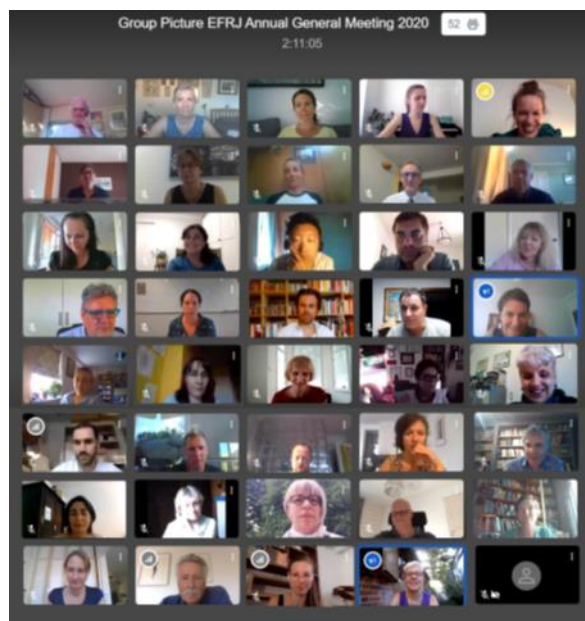


Meetings of the EFRJ in 2020

Annual General Meeting 2020

The main mission of the EFRJ is to "connect people" and we tried to do it, even if the Covid-19 emergency situation obliged us to do so virtually. The Annual General Meeting of the EFRJ took place as an online meeting on 24 June 6-8pm (CET). All members were invited to register and to take part in the online event. The AGM was recorded to allow non-members to view the video of the event that was shared on the [event's page](#) shortly after the meeting. The event included Board Elections that took place online between 17 - 24 June 2020.

The AGM 2020 was attended by 79 registered persons. 66 participants had full voting rights.



Most important items presented and decisions made on the AGM:

- 1. Approval of the agenda**, of the minutes of the previous AGM (Bilbao 2019) and of the minutes of the Exceptional General Meeting (EGM) that took place in Leuven in December 2019.
- 2. The Chair introduced the main achievements of the year** pointed out how the organisation is accomplishing with the long-term goals identified several years ago in particular. The Executive Director presented the Annual report 2019 that was approved by the AGM.
- 3. The Financial Officer presented the Financial report 2019, annual accounts and budget for 2020.** The AGM approved the annual accounts and budget.

4. Approval of new membership applications. The AGM approved 75 new memberships: 9 new organizational members (from Colombia, Croatia, 2 from Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, UK and Ukraine) and 68 individual members. The AGM approved the termination of memberships since some individual memberships have been replaced by organisational memberships and also the other way around. Furthermore, the AGM approved the termination of 52 memberships because of non-payment of their membership fee in the last three years.

6. Members reported on the EFRJ Committees and Working Groups activities, achievements and working plans. The EFRJ Chair shared the information about the launch of three new working groups - on Restorative Schools, Restorative Environmental Justice and Restorative Justice and Gender-Based Violence - and invited the members to apply if interested.

7. Board member elections. The EFRJ membership had to elect two new Board members during the AGM since two board members have come to an end (Aarne Kinnunen from Finland, working at Department of Criminal Policy, Helsinki, appointed in Belfast 2014 for his second mandate and Roberto Moreno from Spain, who worked as the Head of Adults Justice Service at the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of the Basque Government and now works for the Basque Ombudsman Office, he was also appointed in Belfast 2014). The 6 candidates were: Petra Masopust Šachová (Czech Republic), Dobrinka Chankova (Bulgaria), Henrik Elonheimo (Finland), Jorge Elías Ollero Peran (Spain), Anna Matczak (Poland) and Maia Chochua (Georgia). The most voted candidates were Maia Chochua and Petra Masopust Šachová. The Executive Director congratulated the two new Board members and thanked the rest of the candidates for their participation.

The EFRJ membership has been invited to participate in December 2020 at the Arts festival in Leuven (the REstART Festival) organised to celebrate of the 20th anniversary of the EFRJ.

After the formal AGM, the members joined again for the social moment and for a farewell to Roberto Moreno and Aarne Kinnunen.

Board meetings

Meetings of the international board consisting of 9 members are the most important internal meetings at our organisation. We focus on evaluation and strategic decisions to be made on these meetings.

The Board met twice in and had an additional extraordinary meeting on 8 April 2020.



- EFRJ extraordinary Board Meeting - 8 April 2020 (online) to discuss implications of the Covid -19 pandemic.

- EFRJ Board Meeting I, on 22 - 23 June 2020 (online) This meeting was supposed to be held in Sassari (Italy) before the EFRJ International Conference and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdown and travel restrictions we had to reorganize the Board meeting in an online format.

- EFRJ Board Meeting II, on 7 – 8 December (online). Also the second Board meeting of the year had to be organised online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was mostly dedicated to the discussions within the Board on the strategical planning of the EFRJ for the coming years.

Executive Committee meetings

Four Board members: the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer, together with the Executive Director form the Executive Committee, responsible for supporting the operationalization of and following up the implementation of strategic board decisions. As the Executive Committee discusses operational issues, staff members involved in relevant tasks are also attending these meetings. The Executive Committee met three times in 2020:



- EFRJ Executive Committee Meeting I, on 02 March 2020 in Leuven (Belgium).

- EFRJ Executive Committee Meeting II, on 30 March 2020, online.

- EFRJ Executive Committee Meeting III, on 05 October 2020, online.

Regular staff meetings



The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant effect on the teamwork and team cohesion. While new staff members joined the team in 2020 and we received two interns, as of mid-March all work activities happened from distance (home office), with a short period of partially resuming office based work in September and October. Keeping team cohesion, integrating new team members and interns, as well as keeping the teamwork fluent became the major goals in these circumstances. To allow the regular management, planning and exchange, the team met regularly online once every week. During these weekly team meetings the team focused not only on work related issues, but took time to reflect on well-being of team members and provided support when needed.

Committees and Working Groups

The Committee's (COMs) and Working Groups (WGs) are important pillars in the EFRJ's work to enable every person in Europe the right of access to high quality restorative justice. Their purpose is to bring together the expertise of the EFRJ members (and other experts) to support the work of the EFRJ and to contribute actively to its mission. Specifically, the COMs are groups of members appointed to work on specific areas, such as practice and training, research, information and communication. WGs also consist of members, but they are convened by the Board to perform a specific task or produce a specific thematic outcome in a limited timeframe (e.g. Restorative Cities; Violent Extremism).

In 2020, three new WGs were set-up: the WG on Gender Based Violence, the WG on Environmental Justice and the WG on Restorative Schools.

The members of the COMs and WGs meet normally physically during their annual meetings and organize further their work during online meetings held during the year. In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic we could not bring the members together (physically) for the annual meetings, instead more regular online meetings were organized. See below for details.



Editorial Committee of the Newsletter and Blog

The Editorial Committee (EDCOM) 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. The EDCOM is in charge of putting together [the Newsletter](#) and [The Restorative Blog](#). The Newsletter is based on some of the articles published in The Restorative Blog, and typically contains three to five articles, which usually deal with new developments in European countries. The Newsletter provides the readers also with short information about new publications, upcoming events and other news. [Here](#) more information. In 2020, the EDCOM was composed of ten members from eight different



countries. One or two of them take an active role in each Newsletter as rotating chief editors.

In 2020, the members of the editorial committee were: Branka Peurača (Croatia), Nicola Preston (United Kingdom), Robert Shaw (United Kingdom), Martin Wright (United Kingdom), Diāna Ziediņa

(Latvia), Claudia Christen Schneider (Switzerland) Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Heidi Jokinen (Finland), Kim Magiera (Germany) and Silvia Randazzo (Italy) In 2020, the EDCOM was coordinated by Emanuela Biffi, with the support of Bálint Juhász, (from the Secretariat), to make the shift from the former to the new communication officer at the EFRJ. Katerina Soulou represented the EFRJ Board. Starting from December 2020, Bálint Juhsz coordinates the EDCOM.

In 2020, the EDCOM met online regularly to appoint the rotating editors, propose topics and names of possible authors, and make the plan for contacting the authors, proofreading and layout design.



Training Committee

As the EFRJ has started to develop its own training offer the purpose of the Training Committee (TRACOM) is to bring together RJ practitioners (and other experts from related fields) to identify, promote, and support high-quality RJ training practice.

The Committee's is an important pillar in the EFRJ's work to enable every person in Europe the right of access to high quality restorative justice. Its purpose is to bring together RJ practitioners (and other experts from related fields) to identify, promote, and support high-quality RJ training practice. More specifically, the EFRJ Training Committee supports the creation of training offers, the administration of the "pool of trainers" (European register of qualified RJ trainers and consultants) and encourages the dissemination and research on training in RJ. It assists the EFRJ Secretariat in organising trainings (or seminars and workshops) in different parts of Europe. [Here](#) is more information.

The TRACOM is composed by the following EFRJ members: Daniela Arieti (Italy), Marieke Arnou (Belgium), Paul Delaney (Ireland, the elected Chair of the TRACOM), Belinda Hopkins (United Kingdom), Patrizia Patrizi (Italy), Frauke Petzold (Germany) and Annemieke Wolthuis. In 2020, the EFRJ was represented by Bálint Juhász on behalf of the Secretariat and Tim Chapman represented the EFRJ Board.

During 2020, the TRACOM met on a monthly basis and assisted the establishment of the EFRJ Register of Qualified Trainers (including the criteria to become registered, the phrasing and administration of the call and reviewing the applications). Furthermore, the TRACOM discussed new training topics; drafted a new training manual for a skills course on restorative justice. Its members administered two calls for the registered trainers to deliver the EFRJ Trainings and assisted in the implementation and quality assurance of the Winter Academy. Last, the Committee initiated the Trainer's Network (a service for the EFRJ registered trainers) and coordinated the first online meeting of the Network.



Standards and Values Committee



The aim of the Restorative Justice Values & Standards Committee (SVCOM) is to determine quality and ethical standards for practice in the field of restorative justice. As the EFRJ becomes more proactive in promoting public and government support for restorative justice in general and, more specifically,

positive initiatives such as the EU Victims Directive 2012, which calls for good quality and safe restorative justice services, it is critically important that we can clearly define what we mean by restorative justice and which values support best practice in an increasing range of contexts. This Committee contributes to recognise the needs of our restorative justice community to identify the values and minimum standards for providing quality restorative justice services in Europe, collect information on the efficiency and effectiveness of restorative justice, and finally create practice guidelines and self-assessment tools for restorative justice organisations. [Here](#) more information.

The SVCOM is composed by: Carmen Borg (Malta), Antonio Buonatesta (Belgium), Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Arti Mohan (India), Ana Pereira (Belgium/Portugal), Valeria Tramonte (Italy), Diana Ziedina (Latvia). Edit Törzs and Kris Vanspauwen represented the Secretariat and Lars Otto Justad represented the EFRJ Board.

In 2020, during the regular online meetings of the SVCOM elected its chair (Claudia Christen-Schneider), discussed on the ongoing work on the values and standards manual and on the self-assessment tool for restorative justice practice organisations, looked at other areas where guidance on values and standards is needed (e.g. training, management, dealing with complaints etc.) and collected existing materials on national standards and on quality assessment of restorative justice practices.

Research Committee

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The objective of the Research Committee (RECOM) is to bring together researchers working on restorative justice, create an international and intergenerational network, and set together future research agendas and collaborations. The main objective of the RECOM are: to support research on restorative justice, to support the dissemination of research outcomes and the translation of research in policy and practice and to support networking and fundraising. [Here](#) more information.

The RECOM is composed by: Katerine Barnekow (Denmark), Fernanda Fonseca (Brazil), Ena Kazic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Giuseppe Maglione (UK), Ian Marder (Ireland), Anna Matczak (Poland), Federico Reggio (Italy), Helena Soletto (Spain), Estelle Zinsstag (Belgium/UK). Laura Hein represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Brunilda Pali the EFRJ Board.

During the annual meeting of 2019 (November) an action plan was designed for 2020 with several concrete steps such as a research 'needs-assessment'; to support the EFRJ to develop several research briefs; mapping of Non-English sources; to explore the possibility to develop a project proposal on European data system on restorative services. During the year 2020 further initiatives were proposed such as a call for papers to rediscover those contributions that do not belong to the mainstream literature on RJ. The members of the RECOM divided themselves in smaller working groups to carry on the actions mentioned above. The work was coordinated and carried out mainly by email and individual/working group calls. Two physical meetings were planned in 2020, one in Sassari (Italy) during the EFRJ international Conference and the second one at the end of the year. Both meetings have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Working Group on Violent Extremism

The WGVE is focusing on the question of how restorative justice can support the prevention of radicalisation and (violent) extremism (including polarization and hate crime), promote desistance from crime and include victims. The main tasks of the WG are to produce two short papers (for practice and policy) explaining the potential contribution of restorative justice in this domain (due in Summer 2021); to work together to develop a specific training of the EFRJ (due in Autumn 2021); to support and encourage research on the potential application of restorative justice in radicalisation and (violent) extremism. [Here](#) more information.

This WG is composed by: Miriam Attias (Finland), Emmanuelle Crane (France), Graziella Fourez (Belgium), Ali Gohar (United Kingdom), Joakim Hope Soltveit (Norway), Lucy Jaffe (United Kingdom), Katrien Lauwaert (Belgium), Cheryl Lubin (USA), Ram Tiwari (Nepal), and Roberto Moreno (Spain). Emanuela Biffi represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Tim Chapman the EFRJ Board.

Starting from Spring 2020, this WG met on a regular basis. The first meetings served as general updates about each other's projects in the field. Starting from 1 October 2020, every two weeks, one WG member prepared a presentation for others on their project. This helped to ask specific questions and have in depth discussions on one research and/or practice project on restorative justice and violent extremism (other topics included polarisation and hate crime). Some meetings were dedicated also to support Joakim Soltveit in designing a new Norwegian restorative initiative to support returnees' reintegration in their communities. Other exchanges supported Emanuela Biffi in writing an overview for the Radicalisation Awareness Network on restorative justice and (far right and Islamic) extremism.



Working Group on Restorative Cities

The EFRJ has been included in the development of different Restorative City projects since June 2018, when a group of practitioners and researchers gathered together in a workshop session which took place during our 10th international conference in Tirana. From that moment on, there has been a clear need to bring together all these local Restorative City initiatives and to create a safe space for connecting, reflecting, and dreaming. The aim of the Working Group on Restorative Cities (WGRC) 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. Restorative Cities aim at disseminating restorative values (inclusion, participation, respect, responsibility, solidarity, truth seeking, etc.) in different settings where conflict may occur, such as families, schools, neighbourhoods, sport organisations, work places, intercultural communities, etc. The final goal is to strengthen relationships, encourage active citizenship and look at conflict as an opportunity for change, rather than a threat. [Here](#) more information.

This WGRC is composed by: Chiara Perini, Viola Molteni and Claudio Fontana (CESGREM – Como Città Riparativa), Gian Luigi Lepri (Tempio Pausania Città Riparativa), Ivo Aertsen (Leuven Restorative City), Bruna Digheira (Il Gabbiano - Lecco Città Riparativa), Marian Liebmann (Bristol Restorative City), Grazia Azzali and Maria Pia Giuffrida (Spondé – Palermo Città Riparativa), Christopher Straker (UK RJ Council), Cristina Vasilescu (Institute of Social Research - Como and Lecco). In 2020, the EFRJ was represented by Emanuela Biffi on behalf of the Secretariat and Patrizia Patrizi represented the EFRJ Board.



The WGRC became quite active in 2020, meeting on a monthly basis for sharing news, developments and challenges of their restorative interventions at the city level.

During the Summer period, some WG members (i.e. Lepri, Digheira, Vasilescu and Biffi) coordinated the writing of a project proposal, submitted in the beginning of September to the European Catalyst Fund. The project proposal asked for funding to (further) design different restorative community interventions in 10 cities across Europe (Leuven, Lecco-Como and Tempio Pausania as mentors for the cities of Wroclaw, Tirana, Forcssa, Budapest, Ljubljana, Zagreb and Tallin). The funding aimed at designing, not yet implementing, the 10 action plans. On 19 November 2020, some members of the WG were invited to explain the project to the evaluators. The project was not accepted for funding but the WG plans to re-submit a similar proposal for another funding (Erasmus+ grant in November 2021).

Starting from September 2020, the WGRC agreed to invite two new cities, with members of the EFRJ that advanced in their local restorative city projects in Albania and Poland: Tirana (Albanian Foundation of Conflict Resolution, represented by Merita Xhediku) and Wroclaw (Wrocław Integration Center, represented by Magdalena Taraszkiewicz). At this point, the WG



decided to meet twice a month and dedicate each meeting to each city to present recent development and challenges in their own restorative city.

The mandate of this WG normally terminated in January 2021, but the WG asked for an extension until the EFRJ conference in Sassari 2022. In 2021, it wishes to meet with other restorative cities beyond Europe, or other community restorative intervention projects interesting for restorative city models.

Working Group on Restorative Environmental Justice

This new working group (WGREJ) that was set up by the EFRJ in 2020. It focuses on the question of how restorative justice can be an opportunity to bridge the ineffectiveness of current environmental responses and the pressing need to correct existing harmful practices and prevent future environmental damage. In practical terms the working group aims to produce a short document explaining the potential contribution of restorative justice in this domain; to develop a specific training of the EFRJ; to support and encourage research and initiate project proposals on the topic. [Here](#) more information.

This WG is composed by: Cristina Rego de Oliveira (Brazil), Mike Batley (South Africa), Orika Komatsubara (Japan), Lawrence Kershen (Great Britain), Ivo Aertsen (Belgium), Chiara Perini (Italy), Miranda Forsyth (Australia). Julia Barjau Dachs represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Brunilda Pali the EFRJ Board.

The WGREJ had its first meeting in November 2020. During this meeting the aim and organisation of the working group has been presented by the EFRJ Board representative Brunilda Pali and its chair Ivo Aertsen. Moreover, the group made a brainstorming session on the objectives and choices for further actions of the WG as well as defining what precisely the group wished to achieve when setting up cooperation with environmental movements.



The two main priorities the group is currently working on are:

- Policy oriented work: The group is working on entry points for restorative justice approaches within environmental policy initiatives or developments at a European and International level (UN, CoE, EU).

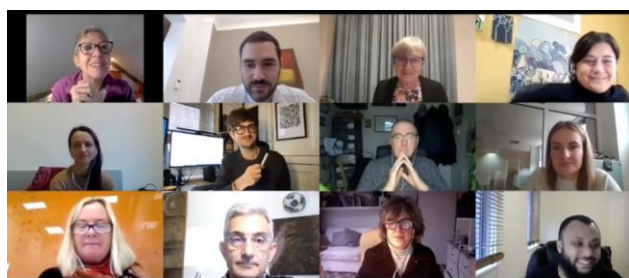
- Follow-up of pilot cases and test cases to analyse and discuss and to better understand how restorative justice in environmental crimes can be conceptualised and realised.

The first action completed as a working group took place only one month after the first meeting with the submission of the feedback for a public consultation on EU environmental law-better access to justice regulation.

Working Group on Restorative Schools

The EFRJ set up this working group (WGRS) in 2020. It is focusing on the question of how restorative practice (the term usually used for the application of restorative justice values and principles applied in settings other than criminal justice) can be used in schools to build healthy relationships amongst all members of a school community and repair these relationships when they are damaged by challenging behaviours, conflict or crime. It aims to produce a short document explaining the potential contribution of restorative justice in this domain; to develop a specific training for the EFRJ; to support and encourages research and initiate project proposals on the topic. more information. [Here](#), more information.

The WG is composed by: Mònica Albertí i Cortès (Spain), Valerie Braithwaite (Australia), Honorata Czajkowska (Poland), Aleksandra Dopierała (Poland), Maija Gellin (Finland), Belinda Hopkins (United Kingdom), Richard Rhodes (United Kingdom), Vicenç Rul·lan (Spain), Nino Shatberashvili (Georgia), Michelle Stowe (Ireland), Christopher Straker (United Kingdom), Nina Wroldsen (Norway), Abu Zaman (United Kingdom). Bálint Juhász represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Maia Chochua the EFRJ Board.



members of the group can collaborate with each other towards these goals.

This WG had its first online meeting in 2020 in the last month of the year. The first meeting officially launched the work of this group, it allowed the members to introduce themselves to each other, to identify goals for the group and to establish the first principles of how the

Working Group on Gender-Based Violence



This new working group (WGGBV) was set up by the EFRJ in 2020. Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. EFRJ recognizes and respects the concerns that many people have over restorative responses

to gender-based violence. There are real risks of victimization due to imbalances of power and control. Such violence is often deeply traumatic for the victim. This WG will be responsible for addressing these challenges and developing models of restorative justice, which are safe, anti-oppressive and effective. It aims to produce a short document explaining the potential contribution of restorative justice in this domain; to develop a specific training of the EFRJ; to support and encourages research and initiate project proposals on the topic. [Here](#) more information.

This WG is composed by: Bonini Valentina (Italy), Cochrane Gael (UK), Franck Pascale (Belgium), Haarländer Andrea (Germany), Halonen Anna (Finland), Keenan Marie (Ireland), Martin David (USA), Micoulet Noémie (France), Millington Linda (UK), Stouraiti Alexia (Greece), Zinsstag Estelle (UK). In 2020, Emanuela Biffi and Laura Hein represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Tim Chapman and Petra Masopust Šachová the EFRJ Board.

In 2020, the first meeting of the WG served to explain the aims of the WG and get to know each other: each member had few minutes to explain their background and their interest and work in GBV. The second meeting was dedicated to map the interests and skills of each WG member and their ideas and plans for this WG. Prior to this meeting, members were asked to fill in a shared document asking three questions (1. What are your interests (i.e. specific contents, themes, topics) you wish to work on this WG? 2. What are your skills (i.e. research, practice, policy work) you can share within this WG? 3. How do you see this WG working in practice in the next two years? What could be the concrete outputs of this WG?). Their responses served to create subgroups and to propose actions for the next 2 years. The WGGBV is now divided in 3 subgroups dedicated to 1. Cooperation and awareness raising with women and victims organisations, 2. Sexual violence, and 3. Domestic violence.



External cooperation

Catholic University of Leuven – Leuven Institute for Criminology

The EFRJ cooperates closely with the KU 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 (online in 2020) and occasionally co-organises seminars or other events with LINC. The EFRJ and LINC also cooperate in research projects, such as the project RE-JUSTICE on judicial training.

The close cooperation with the university enables the EFRJ also to have contacts with students. This close connection with criminology students is valuable also in terms of manpower at the Secretariat; indeed we often receive requests of students willing to join our team for an internship, although we host maximum one per semester.

Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE)

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). Our joint vision is reducing reoffending and the impact of crime through improved methods of working with victims, communities and offenders throughout Europe.

The partners in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) had two coordination meetings in 2020 and regular online meetings in the first half of the year to plan the summer course and then to revise the plans due to the Covid – 19 pandemic. Two coordination meetings took place, the first one on 14 July 2020, online, when the EFRJ was represented by Edit Törzs, Executive Director. This meeting focused on the evaluation of the webinars held in July, on planning of cooperation in 2021 and on the guidelines the partners developed with the contribution of the platform coordinator, Clara Casado on organizing the Criminal Justice Summer Course. CJPE members also informed each other on their activities regarding the pandemic and plans in the rest of the year. The second coordination meeting took place on 20 October 2020, also online. The EFRJ was represented by Edit Törzs, Executive Director, who

chaired this meeting and Annemieke Wolthuis, Vice Chair of the EFRJ. On this meeting partners discussed the Summer Course plans for 2021, policy related issues, focusing on the new Victims' Rights Strategy of the EU and ideas about a webinar series in the future.

CJPE Summer Course

The CJPE members planned the 4th edition of the CJPE Summer Course in July 2020 in Barcelona. This edition had sexual violence as its main topic and the EFRJ prepared the workshop "Restorative justice and victims for understanding and responding to sexual violence" led by two senior mediators, Vincent Mercer and Kristel Buntinx. Because of the pandemic the event was postponed.

To offer something valuable for our networks, and to offer a kind of teaser for the Summer Course in the following year, the CJPE decided to organize 3 consecutive webinars on sexual violence related issues (on 7, 8 and 9 July). Each 1 hour webinar (free of charge) was organized by one of the CJPE members. The EFRJ webinar featured the two workshop leaders, who both had a 20 minutes presentation, which was followed by a moderated Q&A session. The webinar was attended by 101 participants, it was recorded and made publicly available later. The EFRJ webinar recording is available on our Vimeo channel: <https://vimeo.com/438914037>

We sent out a common evaluation questionnaire after the webinars to the participants. Their feedback was largely positive and most of the participants encouraged the CJPE to organize webinars in the future and shared valuable ideas for further topics.

Other cooperation

The EFRJ collaborated with different regional and international organisations in 2020 such as:

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Confederation of European Probation (CEP – partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe)
- EuroPris (partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe)
- Victim Support Europe (VSE)
- European Family Justice Centers Alliance
- Rescaled
- Terres des hommes (Tdh)
- Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)

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Activity report 2020

11th international conference of the EFRJ (postponed to June 2022)

The 11th international conference of the EFRJ, following previous editions in Leuven, Budapest, Oostende, Verona, Barcelona, Bilbao, Helsinki, Belfast, Leiden and Tirana, was scheduled in Sassari, Italy on 25-27 June 2020. In close collaboration with the local organising team from Sassari University, the organisation, programme, registrations, venues, sponsors etc. of the conference were already set-up when, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conference needed to be postponed first to June 2021 and then to June 2022.

The title of the conference is "Justice beyond borders: Restoring connections through space and language". The two main topics highlighted are: 1. Space and time; and 2. Language and narratives. The focus is on justice practices overcoming natural, social, relational, political, economic, cultural borders, transforming conflict and connecting people.

The choice of the location of the island of Sardinia in Italy is not coincidental. The Mediterranean sea has always been a place of encounters, exchange, and hospitality, but also of conflict, clashes, and confrontation. The sea, apparently infinite and without borders, enabled human beings to travel towards places where they encountered natural, social and political borders.



We wish to honour the work done until now by the Team delle Pratiche di Giustizia Ristorativa in Sassari University and give our members and other professionals all the opportunity to join this event in 2022.





Webinars “Looking forward”

The EFRJ organised a series of (free) webinars called “Looking forward”, aiming at looking at the potential of restorative justice in the aftermath of the pandemic emergency crisis. The webinars brought together experts, testimonies and practitioners and revolved around questions such as: What have we discovered about our societies during the pandemic? What strengths and what weaknesses were exposed in our societies? What opportunities and what threats do these discoveries present for restorative justice? What should be the contribution of restorative justice once the crisis is over, and how should we start to prepare now?

- Webinar “**Looking forward to Sassari 2021**” (26 June).

To honour the conference days and the work done by our Italian members to prepare this event, we organized this first webinar. For this, we invited some of the experts behind the scenes of the conference. Some of their contributions were relevant for the current situation we live in, as they aimed at looking forward to restorative responses to building communities and relationships and also to strengthening the inner core of individual human beings. On 26 June, we had a virtual conversation, moderated by our chair Tim Chapman, with Patrizia Patrizi (EFRJ Board member), Giulia Brandinelli (Archivio Maria Lai), Gian Luigi Lepri and Ernesto Lodi (Sassari University and Psicolus).

- Webinar “**Confinement, isolation and social distancing**” (2 July).

The Covid-19 emergency includes exceptional authoritarian measures taken by our governments, restricting fundamental rights like freedom of movement and freedom of association and the right to work, justified by the common goal to “flatten the curve” and thus slow down the spread of the virus. Since its start, many have made comparisons between this new situation to house arrest or imprisonment. While it is unrealistic to compare our temporary confinement to the condition of prisoners, it becomes clearer that social isolation and distancing are hard forms of punishment for a human being. Prisoners serve months or years denied of human touch and interaction and often also of educational and leisure activities. During the lockdown, restrictions on family visits resulted in riots and violence in some prisons (e.g. Italy). Touch and physical closeness are seen as dangerous practices for our health, yet these are crucial for the wellbeing of our souls and the growth of bonding within our





communities. The contributors to this webinar were: Anna Matczak (Poland) – moderator; Geertjan Zuijdwegt (Belgium) – on prisoners' experiences of the crisis. Sharon Daniel (USA) – new art project in prison during Covid-19.

- Webinar **"Violence, hate and othering"** (23 September).

The Covid-19 crisis and the consequent repressive measures to contain it, have increased certain violent behaviours (e.g. domestic violence, hate crime), created new forms of crimes and deviances (e.g. youth not complying to social distancing regulations) and deepened existing inequalities and polarisation (by scapegoating and dehumanising marginalised people and populations at risk). In the Summer, the Black Lives Matter social movement, protesting against police brutality and all racially motivated violence against black people, re-gained international attention during the global demonstrations following the killing of George Floyd in May 2020. The combination of economic and social tensions caused by the pandemic, as well as confinement and other restrictions, have significantly complicated and aggravated the level of stress, anxiety and conflicts between family members, neighbours and citizens. In light of these actual dangers, what are the new forms of crime and violence that emerged during these last months and what can the restorative justice community do to support a peaceful coexistence? What can we learn from restorative practitioners who already work on cases of hate crime and polarisation? The contributors of this webinar were: Miriam Attias (Finland) - reflection on the potential of restorative justice in cases of hate crime, othering and polarization; Lucy Jaffe (UK) - reflection on the structural implementation of community-oriented restorative initiatives in cases of hate crime; Tehmina Kazi (moderator).

All webinars have been recorded and are available on the Vimeo channel of the EFRJ:

<https://vimeo.com/euforumrj>

RJ World e-Conference (22-31 August 2020)

The EFRJ, in cooperation with other international and national organisations in the field of restorative justice, took part in the first RJ World e-Conference on 22-31 August 2020. During



10 days, participants from all over the world could listen to inspiring presenters – facilitators / practitioners / teachers / researchers / artists – who are passionate about sharing insights and ideas in the realm of restorative justice and restorative practices in all sectors. The e-Conference was entitled "**Vision, Voices and Values**". The EFRJ contributed to the programme with 23 pre-recorded videos, including 5 keynote lectures. All video recordings are available on the Vimeo channel of the EFRJ for further use. Topics included: Criminal Justice; Youth Justice; Prisons; Legal and Judicial; Environmental Justice; Victim support; Schools; Faith; Academic; Hate Crime; Extremism; Literature; Sexual Violence; Creative Arts; Training; Policy.

More info here: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/rj-world-conference>

Restorative Justice Week

Every year in the third week of November the International Restorative Justice Week takes place all over Europe and beyond. The EFRJ has been participating in the celebrations for many years. In 2020, to celebrate its 20th anniversary, the EFRJ launched a new visual identity, which includes also the banner we offered to be used by members to mark the celebrations for the Restorative Justice week in their own communication materials:



In 2020, the EFRJ highlighted two central topics for the Restorative Justice Week:

- The significance of non-punitive justice responses to the harms caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and its repercussions to the various communities; and

- The expanding awareness of restorative justice's benefits and its applicability to a wide range of contexts.

The EFRJ's restorative justice section of the organisation's website was expanded with 6 new webpages on particular areas where restorative justice can be applied. These pages gather key information on specific domains and include the information as a downloadable and printable document for further dissemination:

- Restorative Justice and Sexual Violence
- Restorative Justice and Violent Extremism
- Alternatives to Detention
- Restorative Justice and Child Justice
- Restorative Environmental Justice
- Restorative Cities

Additionally, the EFRJ publicly shared four video recordings produced by the partners of the Erasmus+ KINTSUGI project. This project, coordinated by the Italian partner WELCOME, was dedicated to training in restorative justice.

Prior to celebrations the EFRJ launched a call to collect events organised by its members during the Restorative Justice Week. It gathered information of over 40 events across Europe which were shared in an online map on the EFRJ website in a special edition of the EFRJ Newsflash and on social media (Facebook) during the week long campaign, using the #RJWeek hashtag.

Despite the uniqueness of this year, the EFRJ and its members showed creativity and resilience to make sure that also in 2020 it was possible to raise awareness about restorative justice.

RJ in times of the Covid-19

From April to July 2020, our organizational member Social Insurance Board (Estonia) and our member Dr. Ian Marder (Maynooth University Department of Law, Ireland) called monthly meetings of restorative justice services and experts from across Europe to discuss how we might use restorative justice and its practices during the Covid-19 crisis. These meetings

involved over 30 persons from 12 European jurisdictions to discuss their experiences of delivering restorative justice online as well as the use of restorative practices to support citizens and professionals during and following lockdowns. The reports of these meetings, that summarise the key points of the discussions, can be consulted in EFRJ website, [here](#), and a thematic brief was edited based on the outcomes.

During these meetings attention has been given to the need for truth and reconciliation in response to the harm, suffering and anger caused by the pandemic. Together with our members and colleagues from Milan and Bergamo the EFRJ worked on a position paper to propose just responses to Covid-19 harms. The paper includes reflections on the needs of different categories of victims of Covid-19 and proposals to respond to these needs of justice and truth, as well as on the needs to identify non-punitive justice responses to what happened. Some first reflections were published in our [Newsletter in June](#) by Claudia Mazzucato (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan) in which Mazzucato questioned whether Covid-19 survivors, families who lost their loved ones in challenging situations, and communities facing strict public health regulations, are experiencing collective trauma and facing similar needs to those arising from post-conflict transitional settings. The aim is to raise awareness (within policymakers and the general public) about the potential of alternative justice responses to the Covid-19 crisis, instead of (or in parallel to) the criminal justice ones already initiated in some countries, proposing restorative-oriented reflections and actual experiences as adopted in other cases of collective traumas. The annual meeting of the European Restorative Justice Policy Network (ERJPN) was partly dedicated to discuss this topic with European policy makers.

EFRJ's 20th anniversary: from 2000 to 2020!

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the EFRJ organised several initiatives:

REstart Festival - The art of justice, solidarity and repair

REstart was an art festival on restorative justice, first of this kind, organised on the occasion of the EFRJ's 20th anniversary. The festival aimed at creating a collective reflection on justice, solidarity and repair in today's Europe in the aftermath of personal and societal trauma, conflict, and harm. The Festival was firmly anchored in the values and methods of restorative justice which aim at connecting people and restoring just relations. Attention was given to restorative justice responses to societal level conflicts originated and violence escalated during crisis situations, with the aim of giving a voice to the suffering and harm experienced in this period and to "restart" to connect with people.

To encourage reflections and animate the debate, the EFRJ invited artists, activists and restorative justice professionals to propose a performance or exhibition that reflected the concept of the festival and aimed to create a reflection on the themes proposed.

The programme was centered around three key topics: Justice, Solidarity and Repair. It included virtual photo exhibitions, films, books, games, music, prerecorded presentations, and workshops, all meant to appreciate innovative participatory ways to respond to conflict and harms through restorative lenses.



The image on the poster is a window in Leuven with a drawing by Lisa Van Der Auwera. During the lockdown in Spring 2020, many residents of Leuven expressed themselves through drawing and writing messages on their windows the image on the poster was one of these.

A trailer of the Festival can be watched on the [EFRJ Vimeo channel](#). The booklet, that includes all the artworks participating in the REstART Festival can be downloaded from [here](#). The video recordings of the live talks with the contributors were published on the [EFRJ Vimeo channel](#).

The REstART Festival was supported by the Justice Programme of the European Union and the city of Leuven. The city had offered also the venue for this Festival, i.e. the Leuven Public Library, that was finally not used because of the Covid 19 restrictions. Registrations to the Festival were free of charge, but participants could contribute with donations. A total of 538 participants registered to the Festival, mostly from Europe and covering all five continents.



EFRJ Jubilee

8 December marks the day in which the EFRJ was officially established in 2000. For this reason, we organised a 1,5 hour gathering with our members and friends of the EFRJ. [The EFRJ Jubilee](#) wished to give a voice to members who contributed in different ways to the making of the EFRJ as it is today. For this reason, we invited our former chairs and directors to give a five minutes speech, sharing some anecdotes about the past of the EFRJ as well as some nice hopes and dreams for its next 20 years.

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Our “Community Guest Stars and Celebrities” were all our former chairs (Ivo Aertsen, Siri Kemeny, Niall Kearney, Michael Kilchling) and some of our former directors (Jolien Willemsens, Monique Anderson, Kris Vanspauwen). Our current director (Edit Torzs) moderated the event and our current chair (Tim Chapman) closed it. All were presented with original titles that expressed their role at the EFRJ.

Additionally, the event included 3 more guest contributors: the editor of the Jubilee Magazine (EDCOM member Heidi Jokinen) presented this new publication celebrating the past, present and future of the EFRJ while two musical breaks (a song and a guitar performance) were offered by our members from the Basque Country (the last place we met in June 2019 with the EFRJ community) and by a student from the music conservatory in Sassari (the venue that will host our next conference, postponed from June 2020 to 2022).

Recordings are available on our website and [Vimeo channel](#).



The Jubilee Magazine

The Jubilee Magazine is a special issue of the EFRJ's Newsletter published for the organisation's 20th anniversary. It celebrates the past, present, and future of the EFRJ and the restorative justice movement in Europe.

The publication is the result of many different hands, including some senior professionals of restorative justice; as well as the young generation of activists in the field, mostly from Europe but not only. The Jubilee Magazine passes along intergenerational wisdoms, nostalgic

memories, intercultural experiences, thoughtful reflections, and wishful dreams, all united under the colourful umbrella that makes up the EFRJ.

Download [here](#) the Jubilee Magazine. A printed copy was sent in January 2021 to the authors and organisational members of the EFRJ.

Development of a framework for RJ Standards & Values

The development of a framework for RJ Standards & Values is a key aim of the EFRJ. In 2018 we published a [Practice Guide on Values and Standards](#) for restorative justice practices. We look at this document as a starting point for further discussions with the field on how a good quality RJ practice should look like. We would like to support the field in Europe by offering this reference point for high quality restorative justice practices and to help the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive and the EU strategy on victims' rights, which call for safeguards to ensure secure participation of victims in RJ processes.

The EFRJ Values and Standards Committee, with the contribution of Tim Chapman, Chair, and on behalf of the Secretariat Edit Törzs and Kris Vanspauwen, produced the draft manual. To finalise the Manual, the draft was widely circulated for feedback among other committees and working groups of the EFRJ as well as among members of the European Restorative Justice Policy Network and large organizational members of the EFRJ.

The EFRJ Values and Standards Committee is also currently working on a quality review toolkit (earlier mentioned as self-assessment tool) for RJ practitioners and practice organisations to be able to identify areas of work where further development or changes are needed to develop their practice towards the standards we envisage.

Training provision

In 2020 the EFRJ made key progress in its endeavour to promote high quality restorative justice through training development and provision across Europe and beyond. To advance

good practices of restorative justice and accessibility to restorative services the EFRJ pursues to become a significant training provider in the field of restorative justice. In 2020 the most important elements of the work toward these goals were:

- 1) Further development of specialised curricula (training manuals and other resources for trainers) and learning materials.
- 2) Elaboration of the principles and processes of offering trainings.
- 3) Establishment of the EFRJ Register of Qualified Trainers.
- 4) Setting up the Trainers' Network for registered trainers.
- 5) Organising the Winter Academy

The unusual circumstances of 2020 related to the Covid-19 pandemic stimulated the EFRJ to explore the possibilities of online learning and the inherent rules of this environment more profoundly than it was prior envisioned. This had an impact on each element of the EFRJ's training development work. The lessons learnt will allow the EFRJ in the future to better incorporate online components in its training provision, even in the era when the possibility to organise face to face learning events will resume.

1) Development of specialised curricula

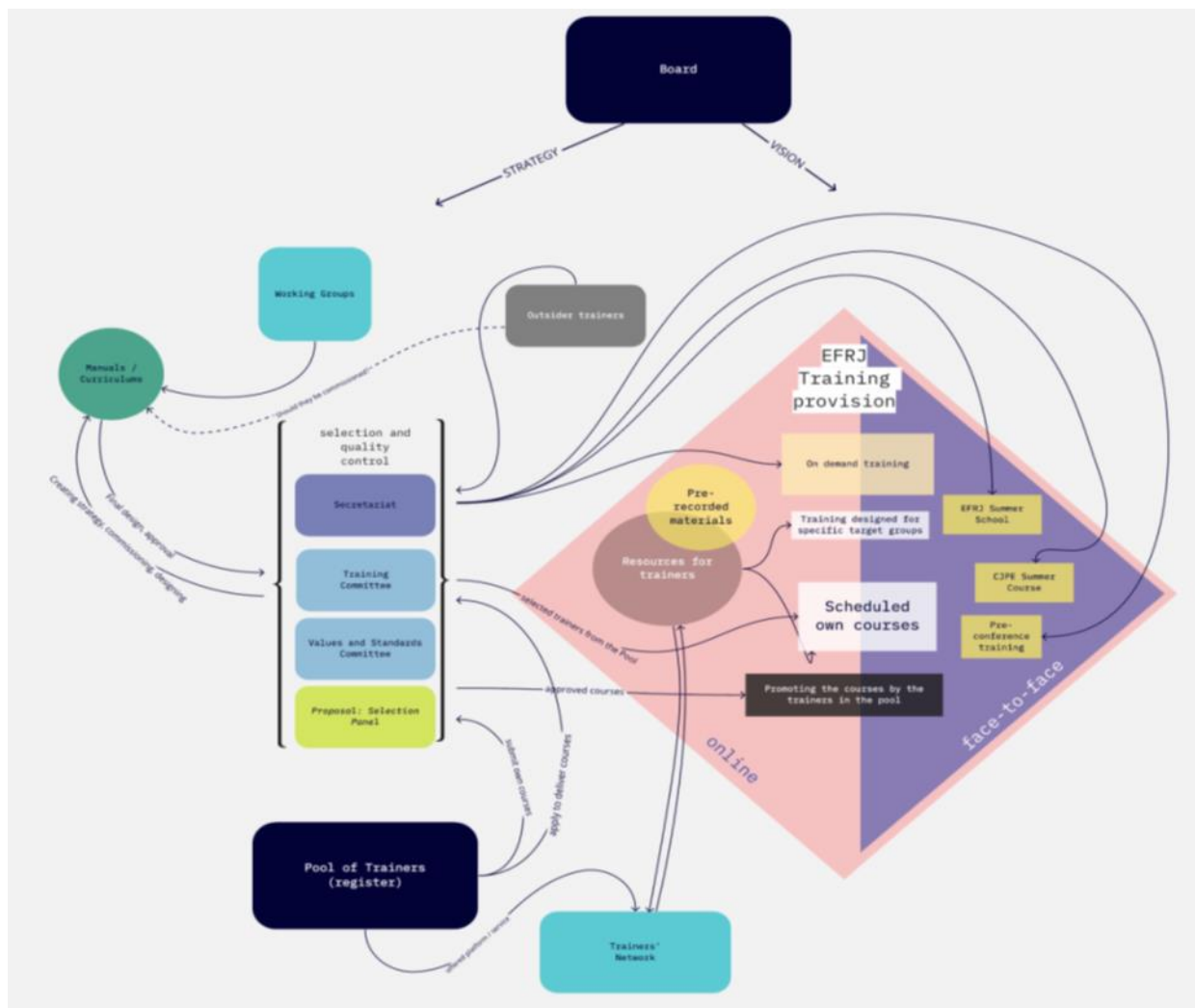
In 2020 the EFRJ Training Committee drafted and adopted one new training manual, the **Basic Skills for Restorative Practice**. The manual enables the EFRJ to organise skills training based on this framework. For further topics the EFRJ Training Committee supported the idea to produce 'Training Content Material' documents instead of manuals, as these would allow trainers to more freely use their own methodology.

For the participants of these courses, as learning materials, the EFRJ developed the two course booklets on:

- Introduction to Restorative Justice
- Introduction to Restorative Justice Responses to Serious Harm



2) Elaboration of the principles and processes of offering training



The EFRJ's Training Committee discussed extensively the framework of the organisations training provision and the processes around responding to training needs, creating training offers, selecting and appointing suitable trainers. The Committee emphasised the principles of transparency, fairness, adequateness and the adherence to high quality in these processes and proposed procedures to ensure these qualities.



According to the Committee's suggestion EFRJ will organise trainings in different formats. Firstly, it will offer its own courses based on its own materials (manuals, training content documents). Secondly, it responds to ad hoc training requests and match them with the most suitable training offers of the individual trainers in EFRJ Register of Qualified Trainers. And last, it will also invite trainers to submit their courses, and promote the trainings that have valuable content and apply to good standards of practice.

The EFRJ aims to create meaningful resources and professional development opportunities for the registered trainers, and the Trainers' Network as a resource and knowledge sharing platform was established. Furthermore the EFRJ will create and make available resources for every registered trainer.

3) Establishment of the EFRJ Register of Qualified Trainers and Trainer's Network (Pool of trainers)

To work towards advancing restorative justice to a high standard of quality, advocating for inclusion of restorative justice in all policies addressing criminal and social justice issues, and promoting excellence in practice, the EFRJ established the Register of Qualified Trainers. This facilitates the organisation of trainings, and enables the EFRJ Secretariat to connect emerging training needs with suitable trainers .

April 2020 with the contribution of the Training Committee the EFRJ designed the call for trainers to apply for registration and the criteria of approval. As a general principle the EFRJ aimed to adopt an inclusive approach to the procedure that allows the registration of trainers with a wide range of different expertise. The application will become permanently open and



is exclusively for members of the EFRJ. Through this process currently 62 trainers entered into the Register covering a large number of diverse areas of restorative justice training and related subjects (over 100 different training areas were submitted); and

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registered trainers cover 22 different languages.

To create a platform for professional exchange, to provide useful resources for the trainers in restorative justice and related subjects, and to better understand the needs of the members in the EFRJ Register Qualified Trainers we invited them to join the Trainers' Network. The first meeting of the Trainers' Network took place online on the 22nd October 2020 and it had 36 participants (more than 50% of the registered trainers). them and what they would find useful. The meeting was chaired by Belinda Hopkins, member of the EFRJ Training Committee. It was decided that the network will come together regularly in the future.

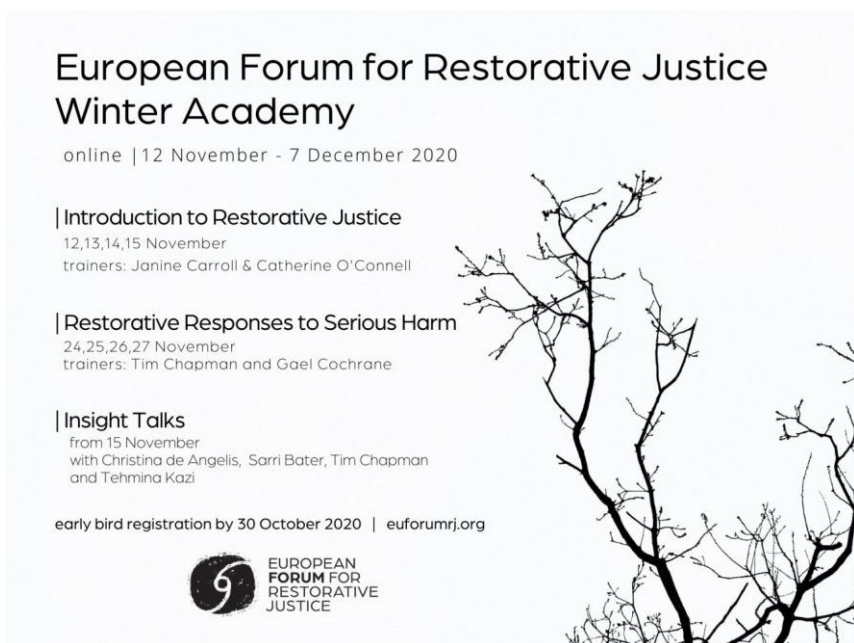
4) Organising the Winter Academy

The EFRJ organised a Winter Academy for the first time in 2020. It took place between 12 November and 7 December, online. The event was designed to offer a concentrated learning opportunity for those interested in restorative justice. It was the first time the EFRJ offered its Introduction to Restorative Justice and Introduction to Restorative Justice Responses to Serious Harm courses, and it was also the first time that these were organised in an online format. Additionally to these courses the

Winter Academy included three Insight Talks. These were pre-recorded video presentations with a linked live Q&A session that closed the Winter Academy.

The Insight Talks addressed the following topics:

- Integrating a Consciousness of Systemic Power and Privilege into Restorative Justice (by Christina de Angelis and Sarri Bater).



**European Forum for Restorative Justice
Winter Academy**


online | 12 November - 7 December 2020

| Introduction to Restorative Justice
12,13,14,15 November
trainers: Janine Carroll & Catherine O'Connell

| Restorative Responses to Serious Harm
24,25,26,27 November
trainers: Tim Chapman and Gael Cochrane

| Insight Talks
from 15 November
with Christina de Angelis, Sarri Bater, Tim Chapman
and Tehmina Kazi

early bird registration by 30 October 2020 | euforumrj.org

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- The application of restorative justice values, principles and practices to a range of different contexts - family, schools, neighbourhoods, cities, organisations (by Tim Chapman).
- Restorative Justice for LGBT hate crime: developing restorative cultures and leadership (by Tehmina Kazi).

Both courses employed interactive learning methodology involving several small group exercises, plenary discussions and reflections. The courses discussed the subject through practical examples, in some cases scenarios based on real life cases (in anonymised way). Both courses were fully booked (with several people on the waiting list) and all together over 50 people got access to the Insight Talks (in that case the number of participants was unlimited).



Policy oriented work

Policy strategy

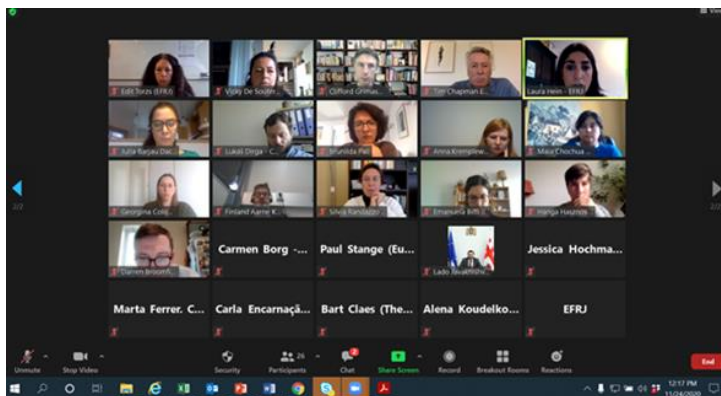
To work at the policy level is a core mission of the EFRJ with the aim to develop and improve RJ legal framework in Europe and beyond. The EFRJ Board and Secretariat developed a comprehensive policy strategy that enhances the efforts of the EFRJ to work towards advancing restorative justice to a high standard of quality and advocating for inclusion of

restorative justice in relevant policies addressing criminal and social justice issues. Our main goals are to improve current RJ (legal and policy) provisions, to include RJ approaches in other strategical (legal and policy) provisions and to spread the knowledge and raise awareness on RJ at the policy level. We these aims we want to continue to work, in a more strategic way, at different policy levels, the EU, the UN, the CoE and at the national level and to strengthening our collaboration with the expertise of our members, project partners (RJS4C), regional and international organisations (CJPE, VSE etc.).

To improve the skills and knowledge of the EFRJ Secretariat a Training on Advocacy and EU policy was organised (24-25 September 2020, Leuven). This interactive training was delivered by EUChanger, a company supporting non-profits to develop their advocacy strategy and activities. For cost efficiency, we organized this training together with colleagues from Rescaled, a non-profit advocating for small-scale detention. The training was customized to the needs of these two organisations and was conducted in live while some participants joined online.

European Restorative Justice Policy Network (ERJPN)

The ERJPN was set up in November 2018 with the aim to bring together representatives of the Ministries dealing with RJ in each EU member state (and beyond) in order to share experiences, to create links and a forum of discussion. A further purpose is to make European policy makers aware of new research outcomes, innovative practices and international policy matters regarding RJ. It is also an opportunity for the EFRJ to create closer links with policy makers, to learn more about the needs in their countries in the development of policy and legislation on restorative justice and, consequently, to target its support in a more effective way.



The EFRJ coordinated the ERJPN throughout the year, we gave visibility and further disseminate the network beyond its members and attracted new countries to join the network. In particular:

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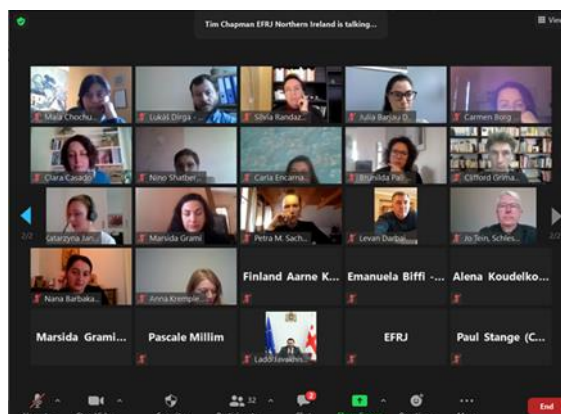
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We sent to the members of the ERJPN regular updates regarding the policy related work of the EFRJ. The aim is to keep ERJPN members informed in a more regular basis on what the EFRJ is doing in the policy field, collect their inputs and comments, as well as on relevant policy documents and initiatives at the EU, CoE and UN level. The idea behind is that we would like to promote a closer connection between our policy work at the European and international level with the work of national policy makers at the national level, as mutual support and for cross-fertilisation.

- Throughout the year we continued with the identification and selection process of relevant policy makers in order to increase the number of countries represented in the network. Between 2018 and 2019, representatives of 23 countries/jurisdictions replied positively to our invitation to join the ERJPN, welcoming the creation of this policy network: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany (and Schleswig Holstein), Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain (Catalonia), Sweden and UK (Scotland and Northern Ireland). In 2020 we were able to attract representatives from Albania, Romania and UK – England.
- We organised the third annual meeting of the ERJPN that was held online on 23rd and 24th November 2020. 28 persons coming from 20 different European countries/jurisdictions registered to the event. We had the pleasure to have the European Commission Coordinator on Victims' Rights participating to the event with two other colleagues from the victims' team of the EC.
- The annual meeting of this year was focused on three main thematic blocks. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to frontal presentations of these topics, followed, in the second day, of working group discussions on these same topics. In particular:
 - The new EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020-2025) and the Victims' Rights Platform



Ms. Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska, EC Coordinator on victims' rights, presented the new EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020-2025), adopted by the EC in June 2020, its approach and main priorities. She further explained in detail the most important actions for RJ foreseen in the strategy. The working group discussed mainly what national policy makers need to put the EU strategy into practice and what the EFRJ could do to support the implementation of the strategy.

- Inputs from restorative justice to justice-related issues in the management of Covid-19 pandemic

Prof. Claudia Mazzucato presented on the search for forward-looking responses to justice-related issues in the management of Covid-19 pandemic underlined the need for restorative responses in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some first reflections were published in our [Newsletter in June](#). During the working group, the participants mapped the situation and discussed what would be a relevant and feasible initiative to implement in the participating countries and how can the EFRJ could support.

- Values and standards for high quality restorative justice practices

Edit Törzs, Executive Director of the EFRJ, presented on the EFRJ work on values and standards for high quality restorative justice practices, a key aim of the EFRJ. These standards form the basis for good legislation and good internal policies on the organization of services, evaluation and development of practices, and a basis for dealing with complains. The aim of the working group was to share the state of affairs in the countries and to discuss good practices and challenges.

EFRJ is a member of the newly established EC Victims' Rights Platform

The European Commission invited the EFRJ to become a member of the [Victims' Rights Platform](#), set up by the EC as one of the key actions of the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025) to ensure a more horizontal approach to victims' rights. The Platform brings together the main EU level actors relevant for victims' right such as the European Network on victims' rights, the EU Network of national contact points for compensation, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Eurojust, the Fundamental Rights Agency and civil society.

This is an excellent opportunity for the EFRJ to engage more closely with EU policy makers and European networks working in the field of victims' rights, to advocate for the inclusion of restorative justice in relevant EU policies and legislations and to contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy on victims' rights.

Providing expertise to the EU, CoE and UN

EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025)

On 24 June the European Commission adopted the [EU Strategy on Victims' Rights for 2020-2025](#). The strategy recognizes restorative justice as important for its first objective, namely empowering victims of crime, for them to participate in criminal proceeding and to recover. It further states that "restorative justice services provide victims with a safe environment to make their voice heard and support their healing process" that there is a "lack of knowledge about RJ services among professionals and victims" and that therefore "Member States should ensure high quality standards in delivering RJ services and provide for training of restorative justice practitioners. It moreover considers that "the potential benefits of such services depend on the availability, accessibility and quality of restorative justice services in the Member States".

The EFRJ gave its contribution to the strategy by submitting to the EC its feedback on the potentials of restorative justice in addressing victims' rights. The EFRJ feedback can be download from the European Commission's website, [here](#).

Evaluation of the Victims' Rights Directive

As part of the EU strategy on victims' rights, the EC promotes an initiative to evaluate the Directive in order to assess to what extent it has achieved its objectives in terms of its implementation and practical application in EU countries. In December 2020, the EFRJ sent its comment to the roadmap can be download from the European Commission's website, [here](#).

EU strategy on the rights of the child (2021 – 2024)

The European Commission adopted (March 2021) an EU strategy on the rights of the child that provides the framework for EU action to better promote and protect children's rights. Under the thematic area "Child - friendly justice" the European Commission invites the

Member States to “develop robust alternatives to judicial action: from alternatives to detention, to the use of restorative justice and mediation in the context of civil justice”.

Within the framework of the general consultation called by the EC, the EFRJ submitted together with Terres des hommes (Tdh) a joint position paper (August 2020) that addresses one of the priorities of the strategy, namely child friendly justice. In particular we call on the EC to include restorative justice and support the implementation of restorative justice practices, specifically in the area of promotion of a restorative child-friendly justice and restorative justice for the prevention of violence in school settings. The position paper can be download from the European Commission’s website, [here](#).

The EFRJ further collaborated with Terres des hommes and other partners working in the field of the rights of the child on a second policy paper, co-created with children, on the broader yet targeted area of child justice.

EU environmental law

The EFRJ, through its new established Working Group on Environmental Restorative Justice, participated in the Commission public consultation on the EU environmental law – better access to justice (launched in October 2020) by sending a [feedback](#) to encourage the use of restorative justice methods and values also in the environmental sector.

Council of Europe

The CoE is working on a recommendation on the assessment, management and reintegration in the community of individuals accused or convicted of sexual offences. Mainly inspired by the CoE Rec on RJ, we drafted and submitted to the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP) a position paper aimed to draw their attention to a broader conception of RJ, its potential to support the reintegration of sexual offenders and its benefits for the recovery of victims and communities. We also propose draft suggestions that may be included in the Recommendation.

Moreover, the CoE is working on a new Recommendation on rights, services and support for victims of crime (as an revision of Recommendation Rec (2006)8 of the Committee of Ministers on assistance to crime victims). We have been invited by the scientific experts in charge of the drafting of the revised Recommendation to give our inputs on RJ provisions.

In order to strengthen its collaboration, the EFRJ submitted a request for the observer status on the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP). The decision on this request should be taken during one of the next CDPC meetings in 2021.

UN/UNODC

Already in recent years the EFRJ and its members have been contributing to the revision process of the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matter (ECOSOC Res. 2000/14) and the UN Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes.

This second edition of the UN Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes was planned to be launched during the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto (planned on 20 – 27 April 2020) and the UNODC invited the EFRJ to contribute to it. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the UN Congress was postponed to 2021. The new Handbook was launched during an online event on 22 May 2020 organised by the UNODC and the EFRJ chair, Tim Chapman was invited to give a speech.

In order to promote and disseminate this new UN Handbook, the EFRJ drafted a thematic brief on it, pointing out the potentials and main (new) aspects of the Handbook: [here the link to the brief](#)

Restorative Justice Strategies for Change (RJS4C)

In 2018 we started the project “Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change”, initiated by our membership, aimed at developing restorative justice in ten European countries focusing on the implementation of the new CoE recommendations. The project is led by the EFRJ together with its two members Maynooth University Department of Law and Restorative Justice Nederland. Without external funding, the project engaged core groups, composed of researchers and practitioners, from ten countries: Albania, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. The role of the core members is to develop and implement a co-created strategy with a larger group of policymakers, practitioners, researchers, activists and other relevant, local parties. More information can be found in the [dedicated webpage](#) in our website.

The core members meet once a year in one of the participating countries. With the coordinators of the project we were organising the meeting that was planned to be hosted

by the Estonian Ministry of Justice in Tallinn on 14-15 May with the participation of local stakeholders. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the meeting in Estonia had to be postponed, instead we organised an online event on 14 May.

In order to promote more synergies between the policy work of the EFRJ at the European and international level with the work done by the core members of the project at the national level, we sent out policy updates to the members of the RJS4C members. With this same aim, the policy officer of the EFRJ was invited by the Italian core members to present (online, on 23 July) to the Italian stakeholders on the EFRJ policy work as well as insights on RJ developments in Europe.

Awareness raising and Communication

Communication strategy for 2020

The EFRJ communicates its messages to the broad public through several channels: its website, social media accounts, the Restorative Blog, its Newsflashes, video materials, through targeting media platforms with messages with aim of getting more visibility for these, by organising awareness raising events, developing materials and campaigns and by joining international campaigns that observe causes in align with the EFRJ's messages.

For 2020 the EFRJ designated three key focus topics for its communication:

- Creating awareness about the cutting-edge resources presented by the EFRJ
- That the organisation has come of age and it has accumulated experience throughout its 20 years of existence
- Promoting that an alternative way of making justice is possible, a way that is more humane

Another part of the communication activities were centred around the history of the organisation to celebrate of the EFRJ anniversary.

The pandemic modified the communication plan and added a new layer to it. The EFRJ actively responded to the situation by publishing the meeting reports of the ad-hoc working group on restorative justice and Covid-19, by launching the 'Solidarity Over Distance' campaign, by offering a series of webinars titled 'Looking Forward' on the situation of

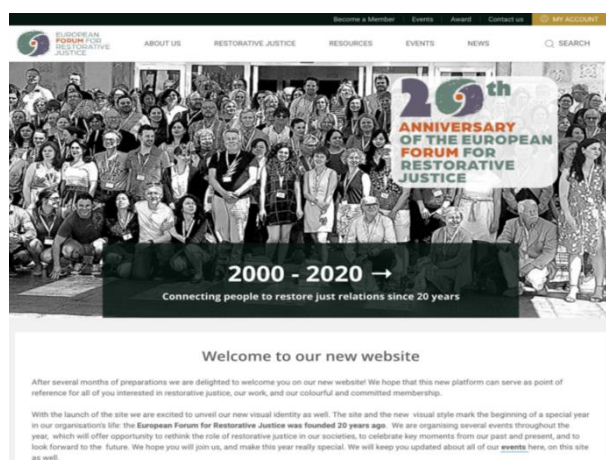
confinement and increased tensions within the society and by dedicating a Newsletter issue to the subject of restorative justice in the times of the pandemic.

EFRJ new website

The new website was launched on 4 February 2020. The EFRJ website is the principal instrument in the EFRJ's communication. It presents information on the organisation, its mission, activities, working groups and committees, and its members. It also collects and shares important resources on:

- restorative justice ([https://www.euforumrj.org/en/restorative justice nutshell](https://www.euforumrj.org/en/restorative%20justice%20nutshell) ,
- its values ([https://www.euforumrj.org/en/values restorative justice](https://www.euforumrj.org/en/values%20restorative%20justice)),
- principles, standards of good practice ([https://www.euforumrj.org/en/standards good restorative justice practice](https://www.euforumrj.org/en/standards%20good%20restorative%20justice%20practice)),
- evidence on its applicability and research findings ([https://www.euforumrj.org/en/researchrestorative justice](https://www.euforumrj.org/en/research%20restorative%20justice)),
- and literature around it ([https://www.euforumrj.org/en/publications documents](https://www.euforumrj.org/en/publications%20documents)).

The website is continuously updated with the most important news (<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/news>), the upcoming events (<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/events>), the collection of Newsletters ([https://www.euforumrj.org/en/newsletter archive](https://www.euforumrj.org/en/newsletter%20archive)) and Newsflashes (<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/newsflashes>) and blog pieces as well.



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EFRJ restorative justice briefs

With the wider objective to provide stronger services and support to EFRJ membership as well as to improve the dissemination and accessibility to RJ related contents, the EFRJ, with the support of the expertise of its members and Committees/WGs, is producing different formats of publications (briefs) to make existing research and practice materials more readable, accessible and widely used.

The aim of these briefs is then not only to disseminate research outcomes and make them available for the policy and practice field, but also to translate research in a language which is more accessible to a wider audience of readers. The contents of the briefs are available on the EFRJ website but are also designed to be disseminated, in their printed version, in different occasions as meetings, project/policy events, awareness raising initiatives, etc.

For the Restorative Justice Week 2020, 6 Briefs were edited into brochures by a graphic designer, and corresponding websites were created making the material available in html format as well under:

<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/restorative-justice-areas-application>

The following briefs are available on the EFRJ website:

- EFRJ research brief on Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Detention
- EFRJ thematic brief on Restorative Cities
- EFRJ thematic brief on Restorative Environmental Justice
- EFRJ thematic brief on Restorative Justice and Child Justice
- EFRJ policy brief on the CoE Recommendation
- EFRJ policy brief on Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Detention
- EFRJ policy brief on Restorative Justice and Violent Extremism
- EFRJ infographic on Restorative Justice for Victims
- EFRJ brief on 2nd edition UN Handbook on Restorative Justice (new 2020)
- EFRJ thematic brief on Restorative Justice, Restorative Practices and Covid-19 (new 2020)

The drafting of the briefs and their conceptual and graphic development is part of EFRJ broader communication strategy. Further briefs will be developed, responding also to the specific needs coming from the field, from RJ researchers and practitioners.

Social media

The EFRJ communicates on a range of social media channels to swiftly share its updates on a daily basis. These cover the news of the organisation, they include posts on the activities of EFRJ members, and disseminate other developments related to restorative justice and the vision of the EFRJ. These platforms enable the EFRJ to engage in discussion with followers on these platforms and respond to comments. Through shares by followers the posts can reach a broad audience beyond the contacts of the EFRJ.

The channels used by the EFRJ include the most popular social media platforms in Europe: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. The EFRJ started to share updates on the latter platform more actively in 2020. The EFRJ also has a Vimeo channel to share audiovisual content.

Newsflash

The Newsflashes enable the EFRJ to stay in touch not only with its members, but with people who attended the organisation's events in the past, came across its website or other communication channels; and allows the EFRJ to disseminate the essential and most interesting updates from the field in a succinct and easy to read format. The Newsflashes include information about the activities of the EFRJ and give visibility to developments related to its members. Moreover, they gather current information from other restorative justice organisations and those whose profile are relevant. On some occasions the EFRJ has sent out special editions, for example during the International Restorative Justice Week, or linked to the REstART Festival.

In 2020 the design of our Newsflashes was updated to make aligned with the organisation's new visual style. In 2020 we sent out 20 Newsflashes. The number of recipients increased from 2551 (in 2019) to 2913 by the end of 2020.

Newsflashes are accessible for everyone, subscribers receive them in their email inbox. In addition, the Newsflashes are also published through the EFRJ website:

<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/newsflashes>

Newsletter

The EFRJ has been producing Newsletters since the year of its foundation. These include articles presenting professional reflections, research findings, notes from the field, book reviews, and other relevant texts. The Newsletters are edited by the Editorial Committee, a dedicated body of members working pro bono to create outstanding publications for the professional community around the EFRJ.

In 2020 we publish three digital editions (April, July, October) of the EFRJ Newsletter. A Newsletter Bibliography of the first 20 volumes (2000 - 2019) was published together with the first issue of 2020. These included the authors and titles of all appeared articles in the first 20 years:

https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/newsletter_bibliography.pdf

Moreover, a special edition of the newsletter, the Jubilee Magazine, was published for the EFRJ's 20th Anniversary (December). The articles were written by members and partners of the EFRJ reflecting on the organisation's past, present and future, including notions of the wider context of the restorative movement. The publication was also printed for contributors of the REstart Festival and members who requested a physical copy. It was published in a new format, and also printed with 64 coloured pages:
<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/efrj-jubilee-magazine>



In 2020 all the Newsletter articles were published in the Restorative Blog

<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/restorativeblog>), a section of the EFRJ website dedicated to share articles, interviews and blog pieces.

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Videos

The EFRJ finds it important to raise awareness on restorative justice using more and more visual materials. Besides regularly updating the list of restorative justice related films on our website, we started to produce more visual materials. In 2020 the EFRJ dedicated more resources than in the previous years to create video materials and to share these on its different communication channels. This was partly because of the pandemic (the communication through video materials increased in general), partly because of the participation on the RJ World e conference that required the production of pre-recorded video materials, partly because of REstART, as the art festival featured several films; and finally also because the EFRJ's communication strategy gives a prominent role to video materials produced and shared on the channels of the organisation

In 2020 the EFRJ with the contribution of its active members created 62 videos that were shared publicly or were available to attendees of specific events (RJWorld e-conference, the EFRJ Winter Academy, REstART Festival). These are available on the Vimeo channel of the EFRJ: <https://vimeo.com/euforumrj>

Projects

For the past few years the EFRJ has not initiated its own (action) research projects, as we would like to focus on translating research outcomes to policy and practice. Still we find project cooperation a great way to extend our knowledge, our network, to focus on certain unexplored areas or new topics and to support the work of the field by giving access to our European network or expertise and by sharing project outcomes for the benefit of the field. By some of the projects we also try to implement the idea of restorative justice within fields, where it is not a mainstream approach.

Ongoing projects in 2020

1) **i-RESTORE**: *Better Protecting Child Victims Rights through Restorative Justice (Sept 2019-Aug 2021)* - Coordinator: Terre des Hommes Hungary

The EFRJ has dedicated a 10% project officer for 24 months to this project promoting the use of restorative justice in cases involving child victims. In 2020, in cooperation with Restorative Justice Nederland, it coordinated the research phase of this project. The global research report as well as the three country reports (Albania, Greece, Romania) were published in June on ChildHub. The research phase served to design the training package for professionals: this work was done in the second half of 2020. Indeed, about 135 professionals will be trained in the 3 countries in the beginning of 2021 and 400 more will attend the e-learning programme that will be available on the ChildHub Academy website also beyond the project ends.

For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/irestore-2019-2021>

2) **RE-JUSTICE**: *Sustainable training in a challenging field (Nov 2019 – Oct 2021) - Coordinator: KU Leuven, Belgium*

The EFRJ has hired a part-time project officer for this project focusing on developing and piloting training for judges and prosecutors in restorative justice. The project is extremely relevant to further promote the effective application of the provisions of the Victim's Directive, as it promotes a sustainable way the process of raising awareness, building knowledge and developing skills and attitudes amongst of judges and public prosecutors, firstly and mainly in Greece, Spain and Italy and, ultimately to the 27 EU MS level. The EFRJ is partner in this project and provides expertise and technical support in the designing and implementation of the training courses. Among other activities in 2020, it organized a course on blended learning in July and the transitional workshop in October and it engaged in the development of the competency profile for the judiciary.

For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/re-justice-2019-2021>

3) **LETSGOBYTALKING** - *Protecting and defending the rights of victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes: innovative paths through restorative justice (Jan 2020 – Dec 2021) – Coordinator: Universitat de Barcelona, Spain*

The EFRJ hired a part-time project officer for this project aiming at contributing to the reparation of anti-LGBT hate crimes through the promotion of restorative justice in the EU. The kick-off meeting took place in February 2020 in Barcelona. The project is highly relevant for enhancing the rights of victims established in the Directive 2012/29/EU. As a partner in this project, the EFRJ contributes to the achievement of the project's main objectives, namely: to analyse the perspectives of victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes and key professionals; to identify and study programmes of RJ in cases of hate crimes; to foster the exchange of

experiences and the cooperation between professionals; to develop training guidelines and courses for RJ practitioners; to raise-awareness about the RJ efficacy. The countries involved in the project are: Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Bulgaria and Poland. In 2020, the EFRJ carried out research at the national level in Belgium with key-stakeholders, aiming to better understand the current practices and opinions related to hate crime and restorative justice. Additionally, it led the mapping reports of all countries and began development of the workshops, both national and international.

For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/letsbygobytalking-2020-2022>

4) **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE** - RJS4C (Jan 2019 – Jan 2023)

RJS4C is a collaborative project which aims to encourage the development of restorative justice in Europe. It seeks to achieve this by identifying, connecting and supporting a small group of persons – the ‘Core Members’ – in each participating jurisdiction, whose role it is to develop and implement a co-created strategy with a larger group of policymakers, practitioners, researchers, activists and other relevant, local parties – the ‘Stakeholder Group’. RJS4C is a voluntary initiative coordinated, among others, by the EFRJ.

For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/restorative-justice-strategies-change-rjs4c-2019-2023>

Projects just started in 2020:

1) **PROTECT** (Erasmus+) – *Exchanging good practices on restorative justice and promoting the victims’ rights protection (Nov 2020 – Nov 2020)* – Coordinator: WELCOME a.p.s., Italy

At the end of 2020, we started to be part in this new Erasmus+ project, which builds on the experience of KINTSUGI. Within this two years project, together with the PROTECT partners, we will deliver a 60 hours training programme divided among 3 weeks in 3 different locations (Lisbon, Barcelona, Rome) and aim at publishing a training tools based on these peer-learning experiences. The focus of this project is on training different professionals (restorative justice practitioners, victims support officers, probation officers, social workers, etc.) in victims’ rights and restorative justice. The aim is to learn from each other about challenges and opportunities in each other’s work.

For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/protect-2020-2022>

2) **MEDIAREJ** (Erasmus+) – *Training in Mediation and Restorative Justice (Nov 2020 – May 2023) – Coordinator: Istituto Jacques Maritain, Italy*

The EFRJ appointed a part-time project officer for this project on training trainers (and senior practitioners) in restorative justice. Within the framework for this project, the EFRJ is responsible for the first intellectual output ("Framework of competencies for trainers on mediation based on restorative justice") which will take the form of a handbook for restorative justice training programmes (due by 31 May 2021) and will set the basis for the following activities within this project. The consultation process for the handbook will include a focus group discussion with the EFRJ Training Committee and an online survey for the European Register of Qualified Restorative Justice Trainers as well as tailor-made interviews with specific professionals in the field. In March 2023, the EFRJ will also organise the international final conference of the MEDIAREJ project in Brussels. Finally, the EFRJ is responsible for the sustainability and follow up activities once the project ends.

For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/mediarej-2020-2023>

Finished projects in 2020:

1) **KINTSUGI** (Erasmus+) – *Exchange of European Good Practices on Restorative Justice (Oct 2018-Sept 2020) – Coordinator: WELCOME a.p.s., Italy*

In the past two years, the EFRJ was one of the partners of KINTSUGI, a European project that intended improve skills and competences of partners' staff involving trainers, social workers, probation officers and mediators. KINTSUGI partners delivered two trainings in 2019 (Belfast and Rome) and one in 2020. This was originally planned in March 2020 in Namur, but finally took place online in October. The EFRJ was responsible of the final seminar of this project (originally planned in Sassari in June 2020). Finally, it took place online: 4 videos produced by the KINTSUGI partners were launched during the international Restorative Justice Week (15-22 November 2020) followed by an online Q&A session open to a wider audience and a closed session with participants only (27 November 2020). Two EFRJ members participated in the three KINTSUGI trainings on behalf of the EFRJ and contributed to the programme of the final event.

For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/kintsugi-2018-2020>

Project applications in 2020

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In 2020 we were approached by many project proposals to engage as partners. After a careful selection based on the main topic, required engagement and expertise, the quality of the proposal and the capacity of the EFRJ, we engaged in the following new project applications:

- PROTECT (Erasmus+) – granted, see above
- MEDIAREJ (Erasmus+) – granted, see above
- REGUIDE: A holistic, restorative and gendered approach to guide returnees to their European home countries (Horizon2020) – submitted, rejected
- RESTARTER: RESTorative justice Approach for ReinTegration of Extremists and Returnees (Internal Security Fund) – submitted
- Restorative cities: developing community engagement and skills in conflict resolution and other social challenges (European Social Catalyst Fund) – rejected
- REstART: The art of justice, solidarity and repair (Culture of Solidarity Fund) - rejected

The **EFRJ also systematically updates its members on new EC funding opportunities** and helps them to find international partners for their project proposals. In 2020 we shared news on the new EC Justice Programme calls on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/EuForumRJ/status/1217495438867271681?s=20> and Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/euforumrj/posts/3212286115467385>

We also kept supporting our members to engage in a consortium on topics that were relevant for them (e.g. violent extremism, restorative cities, training, victims' rights). We received project partnership proposals from 12 coordinators and engaged in 4 proposals (see above) and we applied for funding as coordinators in 2 other (non EC) proposals, inviting our members to join the consortium. Even if we declined as a partner, we tried to identify possible partners interested in the proposed topics and link them with the coordinators.

Representation at Conferences and other events

The EFRJ was represented by staff or board members on the following events in 2020 (OG funds were mostly not used). The list is much shorter compared to previous years because of the Covid-19 pandemic many events have been cancelled/postponed.



- 20 January 2020, Thessaloniki, Greece: Board member Katerina Soulou attended the kick-off meeting of the project RE-JUSTICE on judicial training and restorative justice, where we are partner in.
- 22-23 January 2020, Bienne, Switzerland: Vice-chair Annemieke Wolthuis, together with EFRJ member Frauke Petzold, gave a training on domestic violence and restorative justice for our organisational member Swiss Forum for RJ.
- 14 February 2020, Tempio Pausania, Italy: Emanuela Biffi and Patrizia Patrizi met the students of five different high schools that participate in the community action "Tempio Pausania Restorative City" to reflect on how to be present (through a photo or poster exposition, or through artworks occupying public spaces) the EFRJ conference in Sassari.
- 17 February 2020, Mogliano Veneto, Italy: Emanuela Biffi introduced restorative justice to a group of students (aged +18) volunteering in a detention centre for young people near Venice as part of a local missionary experience. The dialogue included a presentation on the concepts of guilt and penalty by lawyer and lecturer Gianmaria Fresia.
- 20 February 2020: virtually, through a webinar, EFRJ chair Tim Chapman presented on restorative justice and alternative measures to support children in conflict with the law, in a webinar organised by Terres des Hommes on the platform Child Hub.
<https://childhub.org/en/child-protection-webinars/alternatives-detention-and-restorative-justice>
- 24 February 2020, Oslo, Norway: virtually, through a video message, EFRJ director Edit Törzs paid tribute to the birthday anniversary of Nils Christie, one of the key-contributors of the development of restorative justice in Europe. <http://www.konfliktraadet.no/nils-christie-inspirerer-fortsatt.6288326-314028.html>
- 25 February 2020, Florence, Italy: Board members Tim Chapman and Patrizia Patrizi spoke about restorative justice and children in conflict with the law at the "Seminario di Mediazione Penale Minorile" organised by our organisational member Associazione Aletheia in the historic Palazzo Vecchio in Florence.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/736457636762674/>
- 28 February 2020, Prato, Italy: Board member Patrizia Patrizi together by Gian Luigi Lepri and Ernesto Lodi delivered a training course on restorative justice organized by Caritas. In addition to the Caritas volunteers, justice operators (social workers, educators and prison



police) participated. The initiative is of interest because it has the objective, not only of deepening restorative justice, but of building meanings and languages shared between different systems operating on the same territory.

- 6 April – Some EFRJ staff and Board participated in the 1st Zoom meeting with Ian Marder and Annegrete on RJ in times of corona <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/restorative-justice-and-covid-19-responding-restoratively-duringto-crisis>
- 30 April: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman gave a keynote presentation “Mitigating polarization: lessons from the restorative justice approach” at the (virtual) roundtable discussion organised within the project BRIDGE by Leuven city. BRIDGE ('Building Resilience to reduce polarization and growing extremism') is a European project coordinated and subsidized by the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS).
- 4 May 2020 - Some EFRJ staff and Board participated in the 2nd Zoom meeting with Ian Marder and Annegrete Johanson on RJ in times of corona <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/justice-and-healing-during-pandemic>
- 11, 13 and 18 May - UNODC online meetings on restorative justice in higher education (3 regional events), attended by Edit Törzs and/or Laura Hein
- 13 May 2020 - Tim Chapman presented in a webinar organised by Terre des Hommes mission in Albania, titled: “Model of reintegration services for children in conflict with the law in Albania” <https://childhub.org/en/child-protection-webinars/english-model-reintegration-services-children-conflict-law-albania>
- 14 – 15 May: Laura Hein and Edit Törzs participated at the annual meeting (online) of the RJS4C project.
- 22 May: The UNODC launched its 2nd edition of the Handbook of restorative justice programmes in an online webinar, which was attended by Edit Törzs and Laura Hein. Tim Chapman, Chair was a speaker.
- 29 June: Policy officer Laura Hein and Annemieke Wolthuis, Vice-Chair attended the European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the next World Congress on Justice With Children
- 23 July: Laura Hein presented (online, in Italian) to the Italian stakeholders of the project RJS4C the EFRJ policy work as well as insights on RJ developments in Europe.

- 30 July: Laura Hein and Edit Törzs had a meeting with the scientific experts of the PC-CP working group of the CoE.
- 22-31 August: the EFRJ contributed to the first RJ World e-conference with 24 pre-recorded presentations and assisted its speakers to organize live Q&A sessions. The conference was attended by Edit Törzs, Bálint Juhász, Emanuela Biffi, Laura Hein and Julia Barjau Dachs on behalf of the Secretariat and many members of the EFRJ Board.
<http://rjworld2020.com/>
- 10 September: Bálint Juhász attended the online Campfire session organised by EuroPris on Building professional communities online.
- 21 September: Edit Törzs attended the online Campfire session organised by EuroPris on Developing an environmental policy for an international network.
- 22 September: Laura Hein attended the High-level conference on the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025) organised by the EC.
- 29 – 30 September: Policy officer Laura Hein and Annemieke Wolthuis, Vice-Chair attended the 13th European Forum on the Rights of the Child.
- 30 September 2020 – Tim Chapman delivered an online training on polarization, restorative justice and community circles organised by the prevention service of the city of Leuven as partner in the European project BRIDGE ('Building Resilience to reduce polarization and growing extremism'), coordinated and subsidized by the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS).
- 14 October: Edit Törzs gave a podcast interview for the IN-CJ as part of a podcast series with international criminal justice professionals on the effects of the pandemic on their fields.
- 19-20 October: Edit Törzs attended the Safe to be project online final conference (on LGBT hate crime).
- 2 November: Laura Hein presented (in German) on European and International documents on RJ during an event organised online by the Ministry of Justice of the Land Schleswig Holstein (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Verband für soziale Strafrechtspflege).
- 13 November: Emanuela Biffi presented (in Spanish) on restorative (juvenile) justice in times of corona during the VI international conference on restorative justice organized by

the Colombian Ministry of Justice and Law. The online event brought together about 1000 participants from the Colombian social protection and justice systems.

<https://www.minjusticia.gov.co/Noticias/la-justicia-restaurativa-tiene-la-palabra-en-su-vi-congreso-internacional>.

- 19 November: Edit Törzs attended the online VSE Annual Conference.
- 26 November: Board members Bart Claes and Annemieke Wolthuis presented online respectively on restorative justice in prisons and with child victims in an event organized by our organizational member the Estonian Social Board. Many other EFRJ members attended.
- 2-3 December – Board member Katerina Soulou presented on "Enjeux sociétaux et justice restaurative (terrorisme, violences sexuelles, violences conjugales, etc.)"
https://www.enap.justice.fr/sites/default/files/colloque_justice_rstaurative_programme_08sept2020.pdf
- 11 December - EFRJ Secretary, Brunilda Pali gave an online presentation on the ERA Counter-terrorism conference on restorative justice and extremism
- 11 December – online 10th Anniversary of our member organization Restorative Justice Netherlands – attended by Edit Törzs and Bálint Juhász



| EFRJ 2019 – 2020 Financials | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 |
| Profit and loss accounts | | |
| Operational Costs | -163.519 | -75.219 |
| Staff Costs | -210.002 | -299.327 |
| Financial Costs | -781 | -2.153 |
| Other costs | - | - |
| Depreciations | -1.400 | -1.403 |
| Exceptional costs | -1.740 | - |
| Total Costs | -377.442 | -378.102 |
| Core Income | 62.727 | 51.475 |
| Various Grants | 64.222 | 18.497 |
| Financial Income | 9 | - |
| Exceptional Income | 85 | 10 |
| EC-Operating Grant | 260.344 | 236.767 |
| EC-Child Victims Project | 10.680 | - |
| EC-I-Restore Project | 3.702 | 7.404 |
| Kintsugi Project | 11.181 | - |
| EC- RE-Justice | - | 18.588 |
| EC-Let'sGoByTalking | - | 23.022 |
| Mediarj | - | - |
| Protect | - | - |
| Total Income | 412.950 | 355.763 |
| Result of the year | 35.507 | -22.339 |
| Balance Sheet | | |
| | 2019 | 2020 |
| Fixed Assets | 2.421 | 1.017 |
| Amounts receivable -1Y | 680 | 645 |
| Liquid Assets | 602.758 | 685.570 |
| Transitory accounts | 1.579 | 778 |
| Total Assets | 607.438 | 688.010 |
| Capital and Reserves | 259.401 | 237.062 |
| Amounts Payable -1y | 43.453 | 60.468 |
| Transitory accounts | 304.584 | 390.480 |
| Total Liabilities | 607.437 | 688.010 |

