



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Report from the EFRJ Committees and Working Groups

In the past 21 years, the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) relied on the work of some committed members who volunteered in different Committees and Working Groups to discuss issues and produce concrete deliverables relevant for the general EFRJ yearly strategy.

In 2020, three new Working Groups were established and one more was launched in Spring 2021. Currently, in June 2021, the EFRJ counts on the commitment of 4 Committees and 6 Working Groups. In the past year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, their members met regularly via Zoom Meetings.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (2000-)	2
VALUES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (2017-)	3
TRAINING COMMITTEE (2019-)	3
RESEARCH COMMITTEE (2019-)	6
WORKING GROUP VIOLENT EXTREMISM (2019-2021)	8
WORKING GROUP RESTORATIVE CITY (2018-2022)	9
WORKING GROUP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (2020-2022)	11
WORKING GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (2020-2022)	12
WORKING GROUP RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS (2020-2022)	13
WORKING GROUP INSTITUTIONS (2021-2023)	14





EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (2000-)

EFRJ representatives: Katerina Soulou, Emanuela Biffi & Bálint Juhász

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

Report 2020-2021

- In 2020, the [Editorial Committee](#) (EDCOM) met online each 4-6 weeks. In 2021 the committee had 2 meetings (until June) and exchanged information via emails. It decided to have meetings every second month from September 2021 to appoint the rotating editors, propose topics and names of possible authors, and make the plan for contacting the authors, proofreading and layout design.
- The committee 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 committee 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.
- In 2020, the committee 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 committee 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 Juhász coordinates the committee. By the beginning of 2021 Branka Peurača (Croatia) stepped down due to other commitments. A call for new members to join the EDCOM was launched, but for now no one applied.
- On 8 December 2020, the committee, led by one of its members (Heidi Jokinen, Finland) published a special issue, i.e. the Jubilee Magazine celebrating the 20th anniversary of the EFRJ with a collection of articles from the past, present and future of the organisation and the RJ movement in Europe and beyond.
- Another special issue of the Newsletter, coordinated by member Silvia Randazzo (Italy/Belgium) was published in June 2020 collecting a series of articles dedicated to the impact of the pandemic in the RJ field. Articles are also published in The Restorative Blog.





VALUES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (2017-)

EFRJ representatives: Edit Törzs & Lars Otto Justad

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

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

Deliverables: 2018) manual on RJ values and standards; 2020) practice guidelines based on the manual; 2021) self-assessment tool, which is a sort of checklist that organisations may use to evaluate their practices and services.

Report 2020

- During 2020 the Committee met 6 times online, meetings were more intense in the second half of the year
- The Committee finished the drafting of the practice guide that is describing standards of good practice from the point of view of the service users (victims and offenders) and sets the framework of high quality practice as well as draws attention to common risks regarding a good standard of practice
- The Committee started to work on the self-assessment tool. During this work a new terminology was introduced, based on the purpose of the tool and based on the fact that the Committee identified more aspects to be covered: it will produce a Quality Review Toolkit The first element of this toolkit will be an online tool for professionals (policy makers, managers, restorative practitioners) assessing how much their practice is aligned with the standards described on the above practice guide. The toolkit will be extended with other practice-oriented tools and checklists in the future, focusing on different target groups (e.g. policy makers, practitioners, managers, participant evaluation).

Further plans: collection of case studies explaining the standards of good practice; short video materials on standards; guide on reflective practice, on restorative complaint procedure, on standards for practitioner training; offer for members for consultancy on standards-related issues or as a follow up of the quality review; draft principles to sign by members when applying for membership.

TRAINING COMMITTEE (2019-)

EFRJ representatives: Balint Juhasz & Tim Chapman





Chair of the Committee: Paul Delaney (Ireland)

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

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

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

Report 2020-2021

- During 2020, the Training Committee convened 7 times virtually, once in March 2021 and from June on a monthly basis.
- In January - 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. The call was opened exclusively for members of the EFRJ. The EFRJ Secretariat reviewed the applications. The call was launched on 29 April 2020 and the (extended deadline) was 7 June 2020. Through this process 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 registered trainers cover 22 different languages.
- 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.
- 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.





EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

- The Committee facilitated the organisation of the EFRJ's Winter Academy and the Spring courses in 2021. This included launching a call for registered trainers, reviewing the submissions, making recommendations for the Secretariat for the selecting the best proposal, and assisting in the training preparations and reviewing the delivered courses.
- The Winter Academy and the Spring Courses in 2021 included the first two EFRJ courses (drafted by the end of 2019): the Introduction to Restorative Justice and the Introduction to Restorative Justice Responses to Serious Harm. Furthermore the Winter Academy presented three pre-recorder Insight Talks that were made available for the participants of the courses and could be accessed independently as well.
- In 2021 the committee prepared to hold a joint workshop with the Values and Standards Committee on the Restorative Justice Over Distance EFRJ virtual symposium on practice development and high-quality restorative justice.





RESEARCH COMMITTEE (2019-)

EFRJ representatives: Brunilda Pali & Laura Hein

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

The aim of the 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 tasks of the RECOM are: 1) to support research on restorative justice, 2) to support the dissemination of research outcomes and the translation of research in policy and practice and 3) to support networking and fundraising.

Report 2020-2021

- The Committee members divided themselves in smaller working groups to carry on the action plan designed for 2020; the work was coordinated and carried out mainly by email and individual/working group calls.
- A research ‘needs-assessment’ was initiated by collecting inputs from EFRJ members through its social media and newflash.
- The ‘need-assessment’ and the internal discussions within the Committee revealed that attention from the group would be needed in several fields: attention to non-English and mainstream sources; attention to research methods; attention to data collection; attention to the role of policies in shaping the field; and attention to questions of evaluation and social impact on restorative justice.
- As a result several independent collective and far-sighted initiatives were launched within the Committee.
- One subgroup launched a call for papers to rediscover those contributions that do not belong to the mainstream literature on RJ. Based on the responses to the call for papers, the subgroup of the Committee worked on an edited book, entitled “Seeds of a Restorative Approach to Criminal Justice/Widening the Restorative Lens”, with some essays dedicated to authors whose work is related to RJ or positively contributing to the debate on RJ, but which remained lesser known. A book collection is planned for publication for 2022.
- Another subgroup of the Committee worked on developing a collection on research methods on restorative justice. The Committee has mapped, identified and recruited scholars from all over the world to reflect on what methods are the best and the most ethical to conduct restorative research. A book collection is planned for publication in 2022.
- A member of the Committee has joined forces with other members of the EFRJ to work on the issue of data collection.





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- Three members of the Committee have meanwhile published works on the role of policies in shaping restorative justice, and are planning a joint project and initiative.
- Currently, the Committee is organising a one-day conference on the topic of the Social Impact and Evaluation of Restorative Justice entitled "Measuring, researching, narrating: Discussing the (social) impact of restorative justice". The Conference is planned for October 2021. A Conference report or brief will be published.





WORKING GROUP VIOLENT EXTREMISM (2019-2021)

EFRJ representatives: Emanuela Biffi & Tim Chapman

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

Tasks: 1) exchange and gather knowledge; 2) work together to develop a specific training of the EFRJ; 3) support and encourage research on the potential application of RJ in radicalization and (violent) extremism.

Deliverable: Practice paper for understanding violent extremism and proposing a RJ response.

Report 2020-2021

- The working group has had weekly or biweekly meetings on Zoom since the last AGM.
- The meetings have served for discussing questions related to the topic or to have members of the WG present their work (internal presentations and discussions).
- Most of the work in 2021 has been to create an outline, for a policy and practice paper; this was drafted in Spring 2021 and finalized for the Virtual Symposium “Restorative Justice Over Distance” (21-25 June 2021).
- The practice paper is written for facilitators of Restorative Justice in cases of Violent Extremism and Hate Crime. The paper provides recommendations and suggestions on how to facilitate meetings in these cases. Prison staff or others who work closely with the RJ services may also benefit from reading the practice paper
- One member of the working group (Graziella Fourez) has been speaking about the topic at the RJ world 2020 e-conference at the end of August 2020. The videorecording was re-launched on 11 March 2021, European Day for Victims of Terrorism.
- Some members of the working group (Lucy Jaffe and Miriam Attias) have been speaking at webinars organized by the EFRJ on the topic of “Violence, hate and othering” (23 September 17-18h).
- Members of the working group have contributed to the RAN paper “The potential of restorative justice in cases of violent extremism and terrorism” (2021)
- Some members have been asked by the publisher Routledge to comment on a book proposal on the topic.





WORKING GROUP RESTORATIVE CITY (2018-2022)

EFRJ representatives: Emanuela Biffi & Patrizia Patrizi

EFRJ members: Gian Luigi Lepri – Tempio Pausania Città Riparativa (Italy), Ivo Aertsen – Leuven Restorative City (Belgium), Bruna Dighera – Lecco Innominata Vie (Italy), Cristina Vasilescu, Claudio Fontana and Viola Molteni, Como - CONtatto (Italy), Marian Liebmann – Restorative Bristol (UK), Chris Straker – UK RJ Council (UK), Magdalena Taraszkiewicz - Restorative Wroclaw (Poland), Merita Xhediku - Tirana Restorative City (Albania)

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

Deliverables: 2019) seminar “Building Restorative Cities” (Como, 10-12 January 2019); short film; article on the EFRJ Newsletter; articles in the International RJ Journal; study visits; meeting of Italian members in Rome; coordination of activities during the RJ Week; 2020) general brief on what is (and is not) a RJ City; EU-funded project applications; internal seminars

Report 2020-2021

- Since Spring 2020, the group has met twice a month. In addition to regular “technical meetings”, the group dedicated time to internal presentations on the different restorative city projects. Additional topics were discussed with the group: Christ Straker (RJ Council) proposed definitions and representations of the concept of restorative cities; Ivo Aertsen (Leuven) reflected about the notions of justice for restorative cities; and Cristina Vasilescu (CONtatto) presented on methodologies for the social impact of restorative cities.
- In Summer 2020, a subgroup worked together on a project application for the European Social Catalyst Fund (shortlisted but rejected). The group plans to apply for other grants under the Erasmus+ calls.
- In Autumn 2020 the group expanded, including members from the cities of Wroclaw (Poland) and Tirana (Albania).
- In February 2021, the group invited Denis De Vries from the city of Utrecht to know more about how the “peaceable schools” project expanded to the city. In March 2021, Mattias de Backer, postdoctoral researcher at KU Leuven Institute of Criminology, joined a working group meeting to discuss the topic of police and youth violence and the potential for restorative cities.
- On 7 March 2021, Marian Liebmann (Restorative Bristol) presented on restorative cities at the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
- By Summer 2021, the group will decide on specific topics to talk about, experts to invite and cities to contact for the future of the working group. A small task force will also look at the calls for Erasmus+ and other EU funding to propose a project on restorative cities.
- By 31 July 2021, some group members (Leuven, Lecco, Tempio Pausania, and Como) will apply for the Transformative Action Award.





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- The group would like to continue with this format until the EFRJ conference in Sassari 2022 and identify a new way of operating (not necessarily supported by the EFRJ Secretariat and Board) to keep existing for a longer period.

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE VZW

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WORKING GROUP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (2020-2022)

EFRJ representatives: Emanuela Biffi & Laura Hein & Tim Chapman & Petra Sachova

EFRJ members: 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).

Tasks: This is a new WG that 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 encourage research and initiate project proposals on the topic.

Report 2020-2021

- This new WG met twice at the end of 2020. The first meeting served to explain the aims of the WG and get to know each other. The second meeting was dedicated to map the interests and skills of each WG member and their ideas and plans for this WG.
- The WG members decided to divide in three sub-groups: 1. Systemic change and engaging organisations and communities in understanding RJ; 2. GBV specificities with RJ: focus on RJ and sexual violence; 3. GBV specificities with RJ (and criminal justice): focus on RJ and domestic violence. Each sub-group has its own focus and deliverables and organises its own work. The WG in its full composition decided to meet every two months.
- The WG is working on a position paper on the definitions of RJ and GBV.
- An internal event with two “RJ ambassadors” (victims of GBV that went through RJ processes) was organised.
- For the celebrations of the International Women Day (8 March) several members of the WG organised a webinar on gender-based violence.





WORKING GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (2020-2022)

EFRJ representatives: Julia Barjau & Brunilda Pali

EFRJ members: Cristina Rego de Oliveira (Brazil), Endangered Wildlife Trust - Mike Batley and Ashleigh Dore (South Africa), Orika Komatsubara (Japan), Lawrence Kershen (Great Britain), Ivo Aertsen (Belgium), Chiara Perini (Italy), Miranda Forsyth (Australia)

Tasks: To look at possible entry points for restorative justice in EU and UN environmental policy; to follow up the ecocide international legislation; to discuss and follow up test cases; to develop network and partnership with activists and organisations working in the field of Environmental Restorative Justice; to write a position paper and organise a dissemination event.

Deliverables: Feedback submitted for the Commission Adoption on EU Environmental Law - Better Access to Justice; Feedback submitted on the EU Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on Improving Environmental Protection through Criminal Law; Feedback submitted for the draft of the ecocide law created by STOP ECOCIDE FOUNDATION; participation at the Listening Circle organised by Rights of Nature for the Earth Week.

Report 2020-2021

- The working group has met every 6 weeks since Autumn 2020.
- In addition to these regular meetings, the working group has had regular and sporadic meetings for further collaboration with the following organisations: Rights of Nature, STOP ECOCIDE FOUNDATION, Center for Climate Crime Analysis (CCCA) and Conservation Litigation.
- Most of the participants of the working group have participated together at The Special Issue of TIJRJ on Environmental Restorative Justice.
- Most of the participants of the working group have presented at the Virtual workshop on "Environmental restorative justice: A new justice framework for preventing and addressing environmental harms" organised by IISL.
- The group is working on a common database to develop a mapping document with all cases, organisations, activists, literature and jurisprudence related to Environmental Restorative Justice.





WORKING GROUP RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS (2020-2022)

EFRJ representatives: Bálint Juhász & Maia Chochua

Chair of the Working Group: Belinda Hopkins (United Kingdom)

EFRJ members: Mònica Albertí i Cortès (Spain), Valerie Braithwaite (Australia), Honorata Czajkowska (Poland), Aleksandra Dopierała (Poland), Maija Gellin (Finland), 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)

Report 2020-2021

- The working group convened virtually in December 2020 for the first time and since then it had monthly meetings.
- To create common ground for the working group, it explored the needs of its members and the common values of the group.
- The working group discussed different approaches to restorative schools with the aim of creating a common language and understanding for the group members and laying foundations for future standards suggested by the working group.
- The group built a data collection form to collect data on restorative schools, this is still under construction, and will be launched by September 2021.
- The working group (represented by Christopher Straker, Belinda Hopkins, Aleksandra Dopierała, Maija Gellin, Nino Shatberashvili and Michelle Stowe) contributed to the Relational Schools e-Conference (held in April 2021) with a panel discussion (on 16 April 2021: [“On a Journey Towards a Restorative School”](#)) and with the individual presentation of several of its members.
- The working group prepared to facilitate a workshop on the “Restorative Justice Over Distance” virtual EFRJ symposium on 25th June 2021.





WORKING GROUP INSTITUTIONS (2021-2023)

EFRJ representatives: Tim Chapman, Laura Hein & Silvia Randazzo

EFRJ members: Ivo Aertsen, Gemma Varona, Robert Mackay, Anneke Van Hoek, Claudia Mazzucato, Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim, Sophie Grimbert Tweed, Marie Keenan, Anne-Marie McAlinden, Caroline Petruzzi McHale, Caroline Petrilla, Francesca Bertelli

Tasks: to be clearly defined, with the view of the following scope of the WG:

- Bring together a group of restorative practitioners, policy workers and academics/scholars and other stakeholders who will explore issues associated with the application of restorative justice concepts and practices in institutional settings
- Direct these explorations towards developing understandings of institutional settings, the phenomena of harmful behaviour, and the methods of responding to abuse
- Inventorise the potential applications of restorative concepts and practices in particular settings.

Deliverables: to be defined

Report 2021

The WG has just been set up, holding the first meeting on the 27th May 2021. During the first meeting, some first steps have been identified for the following months, to give a clear direction to the WG and to define working modalities:

- To define the theoretical frame of reference of the WG, identifying some definitions and some common issues that can be taken into account when talking about RJ in different institutions, and a common understanding of what RJ means in these very diverse contexts
- Define the work modalities in practice: it was proposed as a good practice to work in sub-groups, but it will be further discussed
- Define some final “products” and deliverables of the WG

