



EUROPEAN
FORUM FOR
RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

A P P R O V E D B Y T H E A G M 2 0 2 0

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The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) was established in 2000. It is a network organization counting more than 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

Welcome to the report of the European Forum for Restorative justice for 2019. You will read about the many achievements and activities of the Forum in what has been a very busy and productive year.

This year I saw the vague aspirations that we had four or five years ago becoming clear strategies and yielding concrete results. Our three strategic priorities were to increase awareness of the value of restorative justice throughout Europe, to influence policy and to develop the quality of restorative justice practice and research. Each of these areas of action contribute to our overall aim of having high quality restorative justice available to anyone who wants it throughout Europe. Obviously, we have a long way to go, but it is so encouraging to see how each year we make progress towards that goal.

Raising awareness

Our new communications and training officer, Bálint Juhász, has already made his mark by developing a new communications strategy, implementing the training plan and leading on the design of the new visual identity and website. The combination of the Newsletter, the Newsflashes, the use of Twitter and Facebook, and the production of videos have ensured that more people are aware of restorative justice and that the profile of the EFRJ has been raised.

Influencing policy

Our Executive Director, Edit Törzs, together with all the members of the Secretariat have worked tirelessly to develop relationships with international and national policy makers. One successful example of this has been participation in the Strategies for Change project through which active groups in ten countries throughout Europe have had a real impact on policy. Generally, restorative justice is valued by more and more international organisations and national governments as a result of the expertise within the Forum. Laura Hein, our policy officer, has also presented the Board with an excellent strategy on policy. She organised a very successful meeting of our European Restorative Justice Policy Network which was attended by policymakers from many European countries.

Developing restorative justice practice



Ultimately the work of the EFRJ is designed to enable countries throughout Europe to make high quality restorative justice available to its citizens. A good example of this was when several of us visited Georgia to speak at a conference and offer training to support the introduction of restorative justice for children and young people. We define high quality as the implementation of sound principles and standards of practice led by values and based upon research evidence. You will read in this report of the many activities that we are engaged in to develop restorative justice practices. These include standing committees on Values and Standards, Training and Research and working groups exploring new areas of restorative justice practice such as restorative cities and violent extremism. In 2020 we plan to launch our training curriculum and to publish a detailed document on standards of practice.

Activating membership

You will be aware that the EFRJ has a small but fiercely effective secretariat team that achieves so much through their expertise, energy and commitment. Our ambitions exceed what even our secretariat can achieve. A significant element of our strategy is to activate the expertise within our membership. 2019 saw a significant release of the potential when more than 40 members attended a meeting in Leuven to launch and participate in our new structure of committees and working groups. I will personally never forget the enthusiasm and generosity demonstrated by so many members that day. I would also like to pay tribute to the work on our board secretary, Brunilda Pali, on reforming our membership structure.

Events

The Leuven event and the conference in Bilbao, which is described in some detail in this report, stand out in my memory of 2019. I think we can confidently say that the EFRJ has a reputation for creating outstanding events. If that were not true, surely the Basque government would not have asked us to organise the Bilbao symposium with them. The source of our expertise lies within the indefatigable, creative and endlessly passionate Emanuela Biffi, Communications and Events Officer. She creates events which bring people together as a community, stimulate and challenge their thinking and practice and invite them to have a good time.

Finance and leadership

All these activities cost money and we could not have achieved so much without the steady and reassuring hand of our Financial and Administrative Officer, Rik Defrère. He has not only ensured that we kept within budgets but has also found money when we needed it. In this he has been assisted by our Treasurer, Bart Claes, who never fails to ask challenging, strategic questions.



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The Board has met twice and has covered a substantial agenda, has had vigorous discussions and made many strategic decisions. Each member of the Board is active on various committees or working groups and have represented the EFRJ at international and national conferences. These are not people who simply 'sit' on a board; they are activists. I would like the board to know how much I appreciate them and to thank Annemieke Wolthuis, the Vice-Chair, for her support to me throughout the year.

Throughout the year the organisation which we love so much has been in the safe hands of our Executive Director, Edit Törzs, assisted by Kris Vanspauwen. I want to express my personal respect for her quiet leadership exemplifying all that is best about restorative values. She balances the high aspirations of the Forum with the well-being of the staff. She is not afraid to take risks but she also knows when certain actions are not realistic. She has performed a difficult job to very high standards and we should all be very grateful to her.

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. **Our 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



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- 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

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Organisational Structure

Board

The Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice 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. The composition of the Board in 2019:

Executive Committee Board Members



Chair
Tim Chapman
Northern Ireland



Secretary
Brunilda Pali
Belgium



Vice-Chair
Annemieke Wolhuis
The Netherlands



Treasurer
Bart Claes
Belgium

Board Members



Lars Otto Justad
Norway



Aarne Kinnunen
Finland



**Roberto Moreno
Alvarez**
Spain



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 2019, the Secretariat was composed of six part-time employees:
- Executive Director, Edit Törzs – 80%
- Communications and Events Officer, Emanuela Biffi – 100% (and as of September 2019 90% and 10% on the i-Restore project),
- Financial and Administrative Officer, Rik Defrère – 50%,
- Policy Officer, Laura Hein – 60%

We extended the EFRJ staff by employing two new colleagues in 2019:

- Assistant to Director, Kris Vanspauwen from May 2019 - 20%
- Communication and Training Officer, Bálint Juhász from 24 June 2019 (50% and from September 80%).

Moreover, in 2019:

- At the end of the year, Júlia Barjau Dachs supported our team to migrate our past website to the new platform (through subcontracting).
- In the newly approved RE-Justice project we hired a part time (30%) researcher-project coordinator, Silvia Randazzo at the end of the year
- During the first half of the year we had an unpaid intern (40%), Sofie Doorman, who contributed to communications and to the organisation of our Symposium in Bilbao.





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The core team of the Secretariat in 2019:



Executive Director
Edit Törzs



Communications and
Events Officer
Emanuela Biffi



Financial and
Administrative Officer
Rik Defrère



Policy Officer
Laura Hein



Communication and
Training Officer
Bálint Juhász



Assistant to Director
Kris Vanspauwen



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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. Our membership is not only about receiving information and 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. At the 2019 Annual General Meeting in Bilbao, 87 new membership applications have been approved:

- **68 new individual members**
- **19 new organisation members** (from Estonia, Italy (3), The Netherlands, Poland (2), Belgium (2), Spain (4), UK (3), Ireland, Germany and New Zealand).

From June until the end of 2019, the interest to engage in the EFRJ as a member grew as another 31 individuals or organisations applied for membership. These memberships will be formally approved on the AGM in 2020.

Members receive a membership directory with all the contact details of other members. This is an important tool because it allows members to directly communicate with each other and develop national and international cooperation. We also developed a section of the new EFRJ website to introduce our organisational members and give more visibility to them.

The EFRJ in 2019 reviewed its membership policies. The membership system has not changed since the founding of the EFRJ, but experiences gained during our almost 20 years of operation made it important to review some elements. The purpose is offering more benefits for organisational members and the idea of introducing new membership fees that take into consideration GDP as indicators of differences in financial possibilities geographically. The first proposal was presented on the AGM 2018 in Tirana and members could comment the proposal by email. Based on the comments received a second draft has been presented and approved by the AGM 2019 in Bilbao. Since the reform implies a constitutional change and the AGM in Bilbao did not reached the required quorum (two-thirds of the full members to be present), a specific AGM has been organised on 26 November



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2019. On this extraordinary general meeting the proposed constitutional change was unanimously accepted. The new regulations are to be applied as of 1 January 2020.

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Meetings of the EFRJ in 2019

Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the EFRJ in 2019 was organized at the Deusto University in Bilbao on 04 June, the evening before our international symposium on the CoE Recommendations on RJ.

The AGM was attended by 56 persons: 39 full members (with voting right), 1 associate member and 16 non EFRJ members. Additional 5 full members were represented by proxies.

Before the start of the meeting we held a small drink reception to welcome the participants.



Most important items presented and decisions made on the AGM:

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of the previous AGM (Tirana 2018).
2. Presentation of the Annual report 2018– approved by the members.
3. Presentation of the Financial report 2018, annual accounts and budget for 2019 – approved by the members.
4. Approval of new membership applications: the AGM approved the membership of 19 organisations (from Estonia, Italy (3), The Netherlands, Poland (2), Belgium (2), Spain (4), UK (3), Ireland, Germany and New Zealand) and 68 individuals. The AGM was informed about the resignation of one individual member.
5. The Chair presented the EFRJ team and the activities of the Board and Secretariat. He warmly thanked all the team for the work, commitment and good cooperation.
6. Report of the Editorial Committee, the Training Committee and the Working Group on Restorative Cities.





7. The Secretary presented in detail to the AGM the proposed reform of the EFRJ membership policy and summarized the main reasons behind it. The proposal aims at changing some internal policies regarding membership and at implementing a new system for membership fees (making a distinction based on the country's GDP). The proposed changes were already

discussed during the previous AGM (Tirana, 2018) and afterwards the EFRJ invited the members to send further comments. The final proposal was sent out to the members before the AGM 2019. After a short discussion during which participants asked for some clarifications, the proposed reform was approved by the AGM 2019. Since the reform implies a constitutional change and the AGM in Bilbao did not reach the required quorum (two-thirds of the full members), a specific AGM was organised on 26 November 2019 in Leuven, which approved the required change of the Constitution.

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 EFRJ Board met twice in 2019:

- EFRJ Board Meeting I, on 3-4 and 7 June 2019 in Bilbao (Spain). This meeting was organized the days before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the day after the 2-days international restorative justice Symposium the EFRJ organised in Bilbao
- EFRJ Board Meeting II, on 27-28 November 2019 in Leuven (Belgium). This second meeting has been organised the same week in which the EFRJ organised the annual meetings with the members of its Committees and Working Groups as well as the annual meeting of the European Restorative Justice Policy Network (ERJPN).



Executive Committee meetings



The Executive Committee of the EFRJ consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and the Executive Director. They meet regularly to discuss operational matters. While regular contacts take place via phone and email, the Executive Committee meets in person two or three times a year.

The Executive Committee met twice in 2019:

- EFRJ Executive Committee Meeting I, on 26 March 2019 in Leuven (Belgium).
- EFRJ Executive Committee Meeting II, on 23 September 2019 in Leuven (Belgium).

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 Committees are groups of members appointed to work on specific areas, such as practice and training, research, information and communication. Working groups also consist of members, but they are convened by the Board to perform a specific task or produce a specific outcome in a limited timeframe (e.g. Restorative Cities).

In 2019, two new Working Groups were launched, the WG on Violent Extremism and the WG on Restorative Cities. In 2019, we organised a one day meeting in Leuven on 26 November bringing together all the members of its COMs and WGs, except from the WG on Restorative Cities since it had had its annual meeting already in January 2019. The aim was to allow the members of the different groups to get to know each other, to coordinate the work of the different COMs and WGs and to place their activities within the group in a broader scope. The day was divided to a first common session with all members and to a second session of parallel meetings of each COM and WG.



Editorial Committee of the Newsletter

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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 (3+1 times a year).



In 2019, the EDCOM was composed of ten members from eight different countries.

Editor: Rotating chief editors

Members of the editorial committee: Branka Peuraca (Croatia), Nicola Preston (United Kingdom), Robert Shaw (United Kingdom), Martin Wright (United Kingdom), Diana Ziedina (Latvia), Claudia Christen Schneider (Switzerland), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Heidi Jokinen (Finland), Kim Magiera (Germany) and Silvia Randazzo (Italy). The Newsletter was coordinated by

Emanuela Biffi at the Secretariat and Katerina Soulou represented the EFRJ Board.

The Editorial Committee had its annual meeting on 26 November 2019 in Leuven. During the meeting, beyond decisions taken concerning internal rules and structure of the Committee, the members agreed to publish articles in the form of blog pieces in the new EFRJ website and to articulate the printed newsletter in the form of a magazine.



Training Committee

As the EFRJ has started to develop its own training offer, in 2019 the EFRJ Board and the Secretariat felt the need to re-organise the EFRJ Training Committee (TRACOM) and re-define its tasks. Its purpose is to bring together RJ practitioners (and other experts from related fields) to identify,



promote, and support high-quality RJ training practice. The TRACOM is strengthening its cooperation with the Values & Standards Committee, by applying the manual and practice guidelines on RJ Values and Standards to assure the quality and ethical conduct in the delivery of training.

In 2019, the TRACOM was composed by the following EFRJ members: Daniela Arieti (Italy), Marieke Arnou (Belgium), Paul Delaney (Ireland), Belinda Hopkins (United Kingdom) and Frauke Petzold (Germany). The EFRJ was represented by

Bálint Juhász on behalf of the Secretariat and Annemieke Wolthuis and Patrizia Patrizi represented the EFRJ Board.

The TRACOM had its annual meeting on 26 November 2019 in Leuven. Its members discussed mainly the elaboration of two different training manuals, a basic training and an RJ and serious crime training manual, and how to divide the work between the members of the TRACOM. They also worked on a basic manual template and discussed how to set-up the pool of trainers.

Standards and Values Committee

The aim of the Restorative Justice Standards & Values Committee (SVCOM) is to define the values, which should determine the minimum requirements of good quality practices in the field of restorative justice. 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. End of 2018, the Board decided to transform the temporary WG on RJ Values & Standards into a long-lasting Committee since the Board agreed this is a crucial topic for our field. In July 2019 a new call for participants has been launched and in September 2019 the new Committee was established





In 2019, the SVCOM was composed by: Carmen Borg (Malta), Antonio Buonatesta (Belgium), Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Arti Mohan (India), Ana Pereira (Belgium), Valeria Tramonte (Italy), Diana Ziedina (Latvia). Edit Törzs and Kris Vanspauwen represented the Secretariat and Lars Otto Justad represented the EFRJ Board.

The SVCOM had its annual meeting on 26 November 2019 in Leuven. The meeting focused on how to support the EFRJ in drafting the practice guidelines on values and standards based on the Values and Standard Manual (published in 2018), on its content and structure. The members also shared their views on how to include values in the EFRJ work context (work regarding ethical issues, pool of trainers etc.).



Research Committee

The EFRJ Research Committee (RECOM) has already existed in the past and important contribution had been given to this committee by EFRJ members, the work of whom we would like to acknowledge as an important part of our heritage. The EFRJ Board and the Secretariat have in the past years felt the need to re-launch the EFRJ Research Committee with the objective 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.

In 2019, the RECOM was 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 Soleto (Spain), Estelle Zinsstag (Belgium/UK). Laura Hein represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Brunilda Pali the EFRJ Board.



The RECOM had its annual meeting on 26 November 2019 in Leuven. The participants discussed in detail the main objective of the Committee and how to produce concrete outcomes for each objective. Several concrete steps were discussed for the coming two years: to conduct a research 'needs-assessment', to produce a template for research briefs, to draft two thematic

briefs and one research brief per year, to map non-English research sources. The RECOM started also to discuss the possibility to produce a publication on restorative research methods and to develop a



project on European data collection. The members agreed on an annual working plan for 2020 and in the division of tasks.

Working Group on Violent Extremism

The EFRJ established a new Working Group on Violent Extremism & Restorative Justice (WGVE). The Working Group is focusing on the question of how restorative justice can support the prevention of radicalisation and (violent) extremism, promote desistance from crime and include victims. In addition, the WG's particular focus is on developing a training in the subject. The main tasks of the WG are to produce a short document explaining the potential contribution of restorative justice in this domain; to work together to develop a specific training of the EFRJ; to support and encourage research on the potential application of RJ in radicalisation and (violent) extremism.



In 2019, this WG was composed by: Miriam Attias (Finland), Emmanuela 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). Emanuela Biffi represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Tim Chapman the EFRJ Board.

The WGVE had its first meeting on 26 November 2019 in Leuven. After a sharing of the experiences of the members regarding violent extremism, the participants discussed in detail the tasks foreseen for the WG. An action plan for the coming year has been produced as well as a division of the tasks among the members of the WG. Moreover, the participants agreed on the internal structure of the WG.

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. In the beginning of 2019, the EFRJ co-organised the seminar "Building Restorative Cities" (Como, 10-12 January 2019) and formally established the Working Group on Restorative Cities, composed by EFRJ members involved in the Restorative Cities of Bristol,

Como, Leuven, Mentana, Palermo and Tempio Pausania. Representatives of other Restorative Cities also cooperate with this Working Group on a regular basis (e.g. Brighton, Utrecht, Leeds).

The aim of the Working Group on Restorative Cities is to bring together different local experiences which have the intention of creating a cultural change with citizens who are empowered in their conflict resolution skills and decision making. 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.

This WG is represented by: Grazia Mannozi (chair, Como Città Riparativa), Gian Luigi Lepri vice-chair, Tempio Pausania Città Riparativa), Ivo Aertsen (Leuven Restorative City), Bruna Dighera (ConTatto, Como Città Riparativa), Claudio Fontana (Como Città Riparativa), Mauro Giardini (Mentana Città Riparativa), Marian Liebmann (Bristol Restorative City), Anna Robino (Palermo Città Riparativa), Chris Straker (UK RJ Council), Lies Van Cleynenbreugel (Leuven Restorative City). Emanuela Biffi represented the Secretariat and Patrizia Patrizi the EFRJ Board.

During the seminar in Como on 10-12 January 2019, this newly established WG had its annual meeting to discuss together the internal structure and an annual work plan. A short film was produced after this first meeting.



External cooperation

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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 and occasionally co-organises seminars or other events with LINC. The EFRJ and LINC also cooperate in research projects, such as the recently started project RE-JUSTICE on judicial training.

The EFRJ team also takes part in seminars, events and meetings related to restorative justice organised by LINC. 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) met three times in 2019:

- **13 March 2019, Utrecht, The Netherlands** – hosted by CEP – EFRJ represented by Edit Törzs, Executive Director, Emanuela Biffi, Communications and Events Officer and Annemieke Wolthuis, Vice-Chair
- **1 July 2019, Barcelona, Spain** (linked to the CJPE Summer Course) – hosted by the EFRJ - EFRJ represented by Emanuela Biffi, Communications and Events Officer and Edit Törzs, Executive Director



- **1 October 2019, The Hague, The Netherlands** – hosted by EuroPris - EFRJ represented by Edit Törzs, Executive Director, Emanuela Biffi, Communications and Events Officer and Annemieke Wolthuis, Vice-Chair

In 2019 we decided to work on topics of common interest. Among many suggestions, we chose for 2019 the topic of sexual violence, mainly because of the upcoming Council of Europe recommendation on the topic and because this will be the topic of our upcoming summer course in 2020. The three partners prepared a background paper on sexual violence from their perspectives, which was presented and discussed during the meeting on 1 October in The Hague. The EFRJ further developed its paper into a thematic brief on the topic.

In 2019, together with partners in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe we co-organised the third edition of the **International Criminal Justice Summer Course entitled “Criminal justice in a Polarised Society”** that offered a unique opportunity for criminal justice colleagues from different jurisdictions and fields to reflect on what impact polarisation is having upon crime. The Summer Course took place in Barcelona (Spain) between 3 and 6 July 2019.

The course offered three parallel workshops on different topics related to the main theme, as well as a plenary, two seminars and local visits for the whole group. Each CJPE member focused on a different aspect of this main theme: how to manage violent extremist offenders in prison settings; how to encourage social inclusion in a polarised society; how to engage communities and transform conflicts in polarised societies. We had 51 participants from 20 different countries and from various fields, including prison, probation, law enforcement, restorative justice, policy, training and research.

Each participant could sign up to one of the three parallel workshops: 10 registered to the EFRJ series of workshop sessions that explored the dynamics of identity, in- and out-group mechanisms and how to work with different people experiencing polarisation, with the aim of engaging communities and making use of differences as an opportunity for growth and transformation. The trainers, Gian Luigi Lepri and Marieke Arnou, shared ideas, case studies, stories and



practical tools for reducing tensions, encouraging participation and inclusion, promoting dialogue and empowering different (vulnerable) groups involved in conflicts in polarised societies, as well as to explore the limits of such restorative interventions. A concrete example of restorative

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work in a polarized community setting was offered through the experiences presented from Tempio Pausania (Italy).

Other cooperation

- The EFRJ collaborated with different regional and international organisations in 2019 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
- European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)
- European Family Justice Centers Alliance
- Rescaled
- Terres des Hommes
- IIRP
- Radicalisation Awareness network (RAN)



Activity report 2019

Training on restorative justice in serious crime cases in French – Brussels 28–29 March 2019

As requested by several EFRJ members, for the first time we organized a training in a language different than English. Not only the training, but all information, registration was provided in French. We choose Brussels as venue for this training, suiting better our French speaking participants. We rented rooms from the Justice House in Molenbeek. About 30 French-speaking participants (Belgium, France, Switzerland, and even Russia) attended this training on RJ in serious crime delivered by our organizational member Mediante, the Wallonian restorative justice service. The training programme was based on our previous summer school in 2017 on the same topic. <https://old.euforumrj.org/events/formation-en-francais-jr-aux-cas-de-criminalite-grave/>



International Symposium – Bilbao 5–6 June 2019

We organised a 2-days international restorative justice Symposium in Bilbao on 5-6 June 2019. The event was prepared together and with the financial support of our organizational member, the Ministry of Labour and Justice of the Basque Government (represented by EFRJ Board member Roberto Moreno). It was hosted by Deusto University and supported by the Justice Programme of the European Commission. Additional local supporters have been the Instituto de Reintegración Social de Euskadi (IRSE) and the Asociación de Derecho Colaborativo de Euskadi (ADCE).





The **main theme**, From penal mediation to restorative justice: Policies and practices in transition, was divided into 3 main topics of the plenaries:

- 1) Restorative justice unlimited?: The application of restorative justice in all the stages of the criminal procedure and for all types of crime,
- 2) Restorative justice, prison and probation: risks and opportunities, and
- 3) Restorative justice and empowerment: focus on specific target groups.



The EFRJ

invited 11 keynote speakers for the **plenaries**: Ian Marder (Ireland), Alberto Olalde (Spain), Nacho Martínez (Spain), Theo de Roos (The Netherlands), Brunilda Pali (Belgium, replacing Karin Sten Madsen from Denmark, who had to cancel her participation for last minute health

issues), Bernd Glaeser (Austria), Diletta Stendardi (Italy), Jesús María Guerrero Getxo (Spain), Jorge Ollero (Spain), Ursula Fernee (Ireland) and Antonio Buonatesta (Belgium). We provided simultaneous Spanish-English translation during all plenary sessions.

The **video recording** of the plenaries and interactive sessions will be available in September on the Vimeo channel of the EFRJ.

Additionally, the Symposium included moments to get to know the local experiences and much attention was given to the parallel workshops and interactive sessions facilitated by invited experts around specific themes. These sessions were meant to be participatory, creating a forum for sharing and discussing experiences, challenges and opportunities around each theme.

- **10 parallel dialogue sessions** were organised aimed at encouraging interactions and learning from participants by collecting ideas and recommendations on the topics proposed. These sessions were facilitated by two experts each on the following topics: 1. Values and standards for restorative justice, 2. Different practice models, 3. Access to restorative justice and victims' participation, 4. Restorative justice for children





and adolescents, 5. Cooperating with criminal justice authorities, 6. Training of restorative justice facilitators, 7. Support and supervision of restorative justice facilitators, 8. Databases of restorative justice services. Two dialogue sessions were organised in Spanish: 9. The restorative justice encounter / El encuentro de justicia restaurativa and 10. The Basque experience on restorative juvenile justice / La experiencia vasca de justicia juvenil restaurativa.

- During the programme **2 interactive sessions** were organised. These sessions started with a small introduction to the topic in the auditorium, the participants were then divided in 8 small discussion groups that reported to the plenary at the end of the session. Two facilitators were assigned per each group, one English speaking and one bilingual, so that the discussion groups could take place either in English or Spanish. The topics of discussion were: 1. Prison talks on restorative justice: from practice to reflection, facilitated by Bart Claes (Belgium) and 2. Access to restorative justice for young people, facilitated by Annemieke Wolthuis (The Netherlands) and Brunilda Pali (Belgium).

Further parallel **participants' contributions were organised** to allow the participants to contribute to the programme, by:

- organising **fringe meetings** aimed at bringing together participants interested in the same topic with the idea to engage into a dialogue and exchange. 5 fringe meetings were proposed;
- organising practical **workshops** that included case studies and exercises. 3 workshops were available (2 in Spanish);
- delivering **presentations** on specific research or practice topics. Participants could choose between 5 presentations (divided into two presentation rounds);
- bringing **poster presentation**. 6 digital posters were presented in the auditorium and the printed posters were displayed in the cloister;
- bringing **printed communication materials** that were displayed in the cloister near the auditorium.
-

Two **additional initiatives** took place as side events of the Symposium:

- Ad-hoc meeting of the European RJ Policy Network (ERJPN): this was a closed informal meeting for policymakers working in the field of RJ (more details in D2.2);
- Working Group on restorative practice in schools: this was an open meeting, initiated and led by one of the EFRJ members interested in setting up a new working group in 2020.





As part of the Symposium, on 5 June evening, participants attended the theatre play “La Mirada del Otro” in the Azkuna Zentroa¹, the former wine exchange market in Bilbao, after a walking dinner in the same venue. “La Mirada del Otro” is part of a trilogy, product of 10 years research, artistic and pedagogical work conducted by the collective Project 43-2. This specific theatre piece focuses on the restorative encounters between ETA dissidents and the families of their victims, presenting elements for transforming the conflict and promoting a culture of peace. This artistic contribution was

offered by the EFRJ organisational member IRSE-EBI (Instituto de Reintegración Social de Euskadi), with additional support from the EFRJ and the Ministry of Labour and Justice of the Basque Government.

The theatre play was followed by **a discussion with the artists and experts** from the field. Esther Pascual Rodríguez, Professor in Law and Criminology at the UFV- Universidad

Francisco De Vitoria, one of the promoters of this pioneering experiences of RJ had to cancel her participation at the last moment and was replaced by Alberto Olalde, actively involved in this experience as mediator of the restorative encounters between victims and former members of ETA. The discussion was facilitated by Gemma Varona from the Basque Institute of Criminology. EFRJ Board member Roberto Moreno took part in the discussion, also assisting with the translations between English and Spanish.



The Symposium received also much attention of the local media. Four articles were published during the symposium on restorative justice and the event:

- Lavanguardia and El Confidencial, 5 June 2019: “La UE transita hacia la Justicia Restaurativa, con Euskadi a la cabeza” (Redacción)²
- El Correo, 6 June 2019 (p. 20): “La justicia restaurativa mitiga el sufrimiento de las víctimas y reduce la delincuencia” (Julen Sobejano)
- El Correo, 6 June 2019 (p. 15): “Justicia más humana” (Txema Soria)

¹ Link: <https://www.azkunazentroa.eus/az/ingl/home>

² Link: <https://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20190605/462696330266/la-ue-transita-hacia-la-justicia-restaurativa-con-euskadi-a-la-cabeza.html>; https://www.elconfidencial.com/ultima-hora-en-vivo/2019-06-05/la-ue-transita-hacia-la-justicia-restaurativa-con-euskadi-a-la-cabeza_2304506/



- Naiz:, 6 June 2019: “Justicia restaurativa, una apuesta europea muy válida en Euskal Herria”³ (Ramón Sola)



The Symposium attracted **212 registered participants**, including the EFRJ team, representatives of the local organizing teams and supporters, volunteers, plenary speakers and other invited guests. A total of **45 countries** were represented in this event. Most participants came from Spain (109), Netherlands (11), Belgium (10), Albania (9), Ireland (9), United Kingdom (8) and Italy (7). 16 participants filled in the **evaluation** form after the event (digital format, only in English), 92% expressed to be (very/somewhat) satisfied with all aspects of the Symposium.



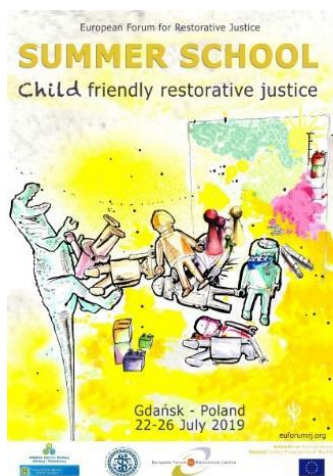
³ Link: https://www.naiz.eus/fr/hemeroteca/gara/editions/2019-06-06/hemeroteca_articles/justicia-restaurativa-una-apuesta-europea-muy-valida-en-euskal-herria?slug=justicia-restaurativa-una-apuesta-europea-muy-valida-en-euskal-herria

EFRJ Summer School on Child-friendly restorative justice

The EFRJ organised its 8th international Summer School in Gdańsk, Poland on 22-26 July 2019, on the main theme “Child-friendly restorative justice”. The event was prepared together with representatives of the Gdańsk Center for School and Peer Mediation and the Polish Centre of Mediation Division Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot and was hosted in the Faculty of Law and Administration of Gdańsk University.

The focus of the training was on all youngsters in contact with the justice system, to identify appropriate restorative responses to conflict and crime involving this specific vulnerable group. Among others, much attention has been given to innovative practices for offering a safe space to share emotions and encourage dialogue and the sharing of emotions when children and adolescents are involved in a restorative process.

The training included few frontal presentations, and it mostly consisted of practical workshops and interactive exercises focusing on:



- access to RJ for minors
- preparatory meetings for minors, their families and communities of support
- facilitation of a RJ process involving minors
- experiencing different languages for engaging with minors
- cooperation with other institutions (e.g. child care, victim support, schools)

The trainers used different formats, such as case studies (e.g. the story of bullying between two young adolescents), role plays and the sharing of personal conflict stories, to engage participants with the topic from a professional and personal development perspective.



The EFRJ developed the programme together **with two trainers and mediators, Bie Vansereven (Belgium) and Belinda Hopkins (UK)**. Bie Vansereven works in the field of restorative justice with adolescent delinquents and victims since 1998, currently as a mediator and family group facilitator for the Flemish organisation Alba. She is one of the pioneers who implemented Family Group Conferencing in Belgium and trained many other facilitators. Over time, she has developed different strategies of non-verbal communication, using images and toys to encourage dialogue with young people. During the Summer School, Bie was accompanied by her colleague Lynn Gastmans. Belinda Hopkins is the director of Transforming Conflict, the UK national centre for restorative approaches in youth and community settings, recognised as a provider of high quality training by the UK's Restorative Justice Council. In 2006 she defended her PhD research on the implementation of a whole school restorative approach, and in 2017- 2019 she was part of the EFRJ Working Group on Values and Standards for restorative justice practices.



Trainers Bie Vansereven and Belinda Hopkins

The programme also included sessions led by the local team in Gdańsk and a **thematic field visit in Malbork** a city one hour away from Gdańsk. In particular, visits were organised, first, to the Family Court in Malbork, part of the District Court, an example of 100 years tradition of specialised court, dealing first with cases of minors who committed a punishable act or are socially maladjusted and also with other family matters, e.g. related to civil law, family law (such as alimony, tutelary cases, etc., except from divorce cases). Second, to the Probation Centre for Youth at the District Court, an institution for socially maladjusted young people who require specialist support in the open settings. Finally, to the Youth Educational Centre in Malbork, an institution for socially maladjusted young people who require specialist support due to various deficits.



The local team organised also a **short visit in the Correctional Institution in Gdańsk-Oliwa**, that deals with the rehabilitation of minors who committed a crime. Additionally, as EFRJ events aim at encouraging interpersonal exchanges, most participants had a residential experience, staying in the same hotel and walking together to Gdańsk University, and participating in a guided tour of the city of Gdańsk and the social dinner in the coastal town of Sopot.



The Summer School 2019 provided a safe and inspiring space for 33 **participants** (including trainers, EFRJ representatives and local organisers) from 16 different countries. In total, 23 participants filled in the **evaluation** form after the Summer School, 91,3% expressed to be (very/somewhat) satisfied with all aspects of the Summer School.

The video report of the Summer School conveys participant's impressions about the programme.

Restorative Justice Week

The International Restorative Justice Week (#RJWeek) took place all over Europe and beyond in the week between 17-24 November 2019. The EFRJ organised and coordinated a series of events to celebrate this week with its members:

1. Our video campaign: Why restorative justice matters?

Throughout the Restorative Justice Week we shared each day a video highlighting an application of restorative justice or an approach to its practice. In these short videos Board members of the EFRJ and our Executive Director presented how restorative justice can be beneficial in so many different regards. This campaign, entitled "Why Restorative Justice Matters?", includes a series of 6 videos published on our Vimeo channel and social media.

- **Why restorative justice matters in today's societies?** By Tim Chapman: <https://vimeo.com/368265002>
- **Why restorative justice matters in Europe?** By Edit Törzs: <https://vimeo.com/368264785> 3
- **Why restorative justice matters in Children's Rights?** By Annemieke Wolthuis: <https://vimeo.com/368264653>
- **Why restorative justice matters in the criminal justice system?** By Roberto Moreno: <https://vimeo.com/368264936>
- **Why restorative justice matters in desistance from crime?** By Bart Claes: <https://vimeo.com/368264716>
- **Why restorative justice matters for communities?** By Patrizia Patrizi: <https://vimeo.com/368264861>

2. Our campaign on restorative environmental justice

At the end of the RJ Week we launched a new booklet and additional video on the role that restorative justice can play in one of the most pressing issues of our time: environmental justice.

- **Booklet “Environmental Justice: Restoring the Future. Towards a restorative environmental justice praxis”.** This booklet, edited by Brunilda Pali and Emanuela Biffi, is a collection of theoretical reflections, pioneering experiences as well as activism and art projects written by practitioners, activists, artists, young people, scholars and scientists committed to restorative principles and practices as ways to do justice in harmed environments and communities affected by environmental damages. Printed booklets are available at the EFRJ Secretariat, disseminated in our events, and the digital copy can be downloaded here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qHvE8fji19jVnUOnoyi2r815wEdDR0e/view?usp=sharing> 4



- **Video “Environmental Justice: Restoring the Future”.** To introduce the booklet, Board member Brunilda Pali talks about restorative environmental justice in this video: <https://vimeo.com/375217391>
- This addition to our "Why Restorative Justice Matters?" campaign shows our strong belief to explore further areas where restorative justice can be used as a key element to find solutions to our most fundamental challenges.

3. Film screening in Leuven

Together with our organisational member Moderator, we hosted the screening of François Kohler's documentary "Je ne te voyais pas" and an after-talk with the director and two participants of the film on 21 November 2019 in Leuven. The film follows different cases and presents them at different stages of the mediation process in Belgium together with a pilot project from Switzerland, which brings together victims and prisoners from different cases. The film has been released in Switzerland in December, and it will be screened in several European countries in 2020.



4. Informative campaigns and social media visibility

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We used different channels to inform the RJ community about the initiatives during the RJ Week. We invited our followers to use: #rjweek #efrj2019 and @euforumrj in our social media. Three digital campaigns were sent to disseminate the initiatives for the RJ Week, as special editions of our regular Newsflash: to inspire and inform about the top 30 events organised by our members in different countries, to inform about the initiatives organised by the EFRJ team and disseminate the calendar including all local initiatives, to listing all videos, publications, events and initiatives that were launched or coordinated by the EFRJ.

5. Coordination and dissemination of our members' activities

The calendar on the (old) EFRJ website includes 80 events which took place in 25 different countries across Europe and beyond during the RJ Week 2018, e.g. meetings, conferences, new books and reports' publications, dinners, street promotional campaigns, lessons, interviews, debates, film screenings, lectures, panel discussions, talks, social media daily news, trainings, theatre plays, sharing of memorable RJ stories.

6. Solidarity with other causes

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (17 November), we wished to remember the many millions of people killed and injured on the world's roads as well as their families, friends and many others who are also affected. The EFRJ re-disseminated the deliverables of the EU funded project "Victims of road traffic offences" (in which the EFRJ was a partner in 2016-2018), i.e. the manual, report and two digital stories. These materials are available on the EFRJ website: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/projects>

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November), we supported the cause for fighting violence against women with this post on our newsflash and social media: "Just one sentence about the scale of the problem: in Europe one in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of fifteen according to the survey of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. In the past years the EFRJ has been involved on different projects relevant to this topic, such as domestic violence and sexual violence, showing the potential and challenges for using restorative justice in these cases." (see here: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/projects>).

7. Legacy from the past Restorative Justice Weeks

We noticed that some materials launched in the Restorative Justice Week 2017 were still used in the local events in 2019, e.g. the film "A conversation" (No Theatre, 2017) was screened in new countries, also thanks to the 16 subtitles, and the booklet "Restorative Imagination: Artistic Pathways. Ideas and experiences at the intersection between art and restorative justice" (edited by Emanuela Biffi &

Brunilda Pali, 2017) was used for inspiration in local initiatives. Also other videos on our Vimeo channel (i.e. RJ Week 2018) and other publications (i.e. values and standards practice guide; projects on traffic offences and sexual violence) were given visibility throughout the week.

Seminar organized in collaboration with the Radicalisation Awareness Network

During the year we built up our collaboration with the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), set up by the EC, and with the new Unit on Prevention of Radicalisation in the DG Home. Due to an interest to explore in depth the RJ approach to violent extremism we were invited to share our expertise during different events. In particular:

- the EFRJ gave a presentation during the meeting organised by RAN working group on Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism (RVT), held in Bilbao on 20-21 June) and entitled “How can victims of terrorism contribute to social cohesion after a period of violence”;
- the EFRJ participated at the study visit on RJ organised by RAN in Croatia (Zagreb, 12-13 September);
- we have been invited to attend the RAN Plenary (30 October, Brussels);
- the EFRJ in collaboration with RAN EXIT and RAN RVT organised an event in Dublin (3-4 December) on RJ approaches in cases of violent extremism and political violence. It was organised as closed event bringing together about 45 victims, former combatants, professionals in victim support/ exit work/ RJ to learn what elements (insights, methodological approaches and tools) of restorative justice can be implemented in exit work and in addressing victims’ and offenders’ needs. Particular attention has been given to the actual RJ experiences in Italy, the Basque Country, Northern Ireland, Palestina/Israel. A final public report provided by the EFRJ was published in January 2020.

Organisation of study visits to Leuven

We regularly receive expression of interest from international expert groups to visit the EFRJ, usually together with a visit to restorative justice organisations in Belgium and a visit to KU Leuven LINC:

- On 7 February 2019 we received a delegation of the **ToA Serviceburo from Germany**, a member of the EFRJ, with whom, besides presenting them our work and introducing them our staff, offices and documentation center we discussed strategic plans for the upcoming years and potential collaboration.



- On 8 October 2019 we welcomed a group of **Albanian** experts. We organized a full day programme for them, including introduction of the EFRJ, research of KU LINC, the Belgian mediation system, presentation on our past project with IJJO regarding child victims and restorative justice and a visit to a mediation service working with juvenile cases in Leuven (ALBA).
- On 23 October 2019 we hosted a group of experts from **Georgia**, who participated on a study visit organized in the framework of the EU4Justice project. During our 2 hours meeting, we introduced our organization and a general picture of restorative justice in Europe, as well as the mediation system in Belgium.



Development of a framework for RJ Standards & Values

Since the development of a framework for RJ Standards & Values is a key aim of the EFRJ, in 2019 we turned our previous working group on standards and values to a standing Committee. Based on the work done on the Practice Guide (in 2018) and with the support of the Values and Standards Committee, in 2019, we developed the concept, structure, target audience and scope of the Guideline for RJ standards and values. The work is still ongoing regarding the actual guideline. Due to the high interest on Practice Guide on Values and Standards for restorative justice practices published by the EFRJ in 2018, we had to reprint it and further disseminate it.

Training provision

The EFRJ is putting more and more attention to develop and offer high quality and specialized trainings on restorative justice, which also contribute to the implementation and high level practice of restorative justice.

Development of new training provision plan

The EFRJ started to conceptualise and to develop the organisation's training portfolio. The EFRJ developed two training manuals and their related curriculum with the involvement of experts and the supervision of the EFRJ's Training Committee:

- **"An introduction to Restorative Justice and Restorative Processes"** is a basic training that aims to raise awareness of the nature, quality and effectiveness of restorative justice practices.





- **“Restorative Justice Responses to Serious Harm”** is designed as preparation for specialist practices concerning of restorative justice approaches to addressing serious harm. This course is designed as preparation for specialist practices (which should only be undertaken after completing training for general practice) and to support the management and quality assurance of restorative justice programmes for managers and policy makers.

Both manuals include a description of the purpose of the course, discuss the target groups the trainings are intended for, the quality of course leader, the required training style and methodology, and the outcomes participants can expect. The manuals present an overview of the training contents, provide elaborated description of each session, and the content the sessions should cover.

The EFRJ plans to organise these two trainings in Autumn 2020.

The EFRJ, with the support of the Training Committee, discussed the establishment of the Register of approved trainers/consultants. In particular, we explored rules and guidelines as well as key criteria for the evaluation and selection of its members, kind of expertise and skills of the trainers etc. in order to be ready in 2020 to launch a call for trainers.

Further training activities

Furthermore, the EFRJ serves as a source of know-how and information. In 2019, we actively responded to requests for training from members states:

- 15-16 April 2019, Tbilisi, Georgia: as requested by our Georgian members, we co-organised a regional conference on restorative justice in Tbilisi, with the contributions from several EFRJ Board members;
- 3 October 2019, Prague, Czech republic: we contributed with a workshop
- 6 December 2019, Poznan, Poland: we were asked to deliver some practical workshops within the framework of a conference on mediation in Poznan with the contribution of several EFRJ members.

Policy oriented work

New 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 is developing 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)



provisions, to include RJ approaches in other strategical (legal) 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.).

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 a more close link 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:

- We organised an informal policy meeting with several members of the ERJPN that attended the international symposium in Bilbao to deepen the discussion on how the ERJPN could address the opportunities and challenges raised by the CoE recommendation. We actively involved the members of the ERJPN in the revision and dissemination of the country policy briefs we developed on the new Council of Europe recommendation on restorative justice and its potential impact at the national level.
- 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. Already in 2018, 24 policy makers of 22 countries replied positively to our invitation to join the ERJPN, welcoming the creation of this policy network: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany (and Schleswig Holstein), Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia,

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Luxemburg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain (Catalonia), Sweden and UK (Scotland and Northern Ireland). In 2019 we were able to attract representatives from Croatia and a further representation from the Czech Ministry of Justice. We got expression of interest to participate at the network from Hungary, Northern Ireland, Norway and The Netherlands.

- We organised the annual meeting and seminar of the ERJPN in Leuven on 28-29 November 2019. In the first part of the meeting the EFRJ invited the participants to give their comments and inputs on its policy strategy and asked for their support for future policy initiatives. The participants were then invited to exchange information RJ developments in their countries. A thematic session on data collection and evaluation of restorative practices followed. We invited Prof. Dr. Arthur Hartmann, from the University of Applied Sciences in Public Administration in Bremen to present the model of the Federal VOM-statistics in Germany in use since 1993. The second part of the meeting was dedicated to an interactive session, structured on the World café method to engage participants in several rounds of small-group conversation around three topics: How to raise the public awareness on RJ (among the general public, professionals and other stakeholders); Development of good legislative basis in RJ: challenges and best practices; From legislation to practice: challenges and lessons learned.
- As in the previous annual meeting of the ERJPN, we offered to the participants the opportunity of an optional study visit to a local (Belgian) restorative justice experience. This year we organised a study visit to the Leuven Restorative City (LRC) project.



Participation at policy events and meetings

The EU institutions are increasingly demanding the EFRJ to share its expertise on restorative justice and to contribute from a RJ perspective to different topics. In particular in 2019:

- On 27 March 2019 the EFRJ chair Tim Chapman and Executive Director Edit Törzs had a meeting with Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska, team leader of DG Justice on Procedural Criminal Law and her colleague. On the meeting we discussed the work plan of the EC regarding victims' rights and potential contribution of restorative justice. The EC provided us with the recent Milquet report, based on which there could be opportunities for more support for restorative justice as a tool to enhance compensation of crime victims. We also discussed the





need for judicial training on the topic and the need of victim support services to be trained on restorative justice.

- The EFRJ was invited to contribute to the Working Party on Cooperation in Criminal Matters (COPEN) high level meeting organised by the **Finnish presidency of the Council on Detention and its Alternatives** (Brussels, 6 September). The meeting was organised to discuss measures that could be taken in EU in order to enhance the use of alternatives to detention; measures that include topics also relating to prison conditions, overcrowding and prison radicalization. During the meeting the EFRJ gave a presentation on restorative justice measure addressing the above mentioned topics and responded to the inquiries of Member States representatives.



After the meeting we sent to the organisers of this high level meeting a policy brief on restorative justice and alternatives to detention to be distributed among the Member States as well as further inputs on the draft Council conclusions on alternative measures to detention: the use of non-custodial sanctions and measures in the field of criminal justice (2019/C 422/06). It is worth to mention that, thanks to our contribution, the Council conclusions contain some relevant comments regarding RJ and in particular:


- it states that *“restorative justice can offer opportunities with regard to the way in which offences are dealt with, by acknowledging the role of the victim and wider society and by focusing on repairing the harm caused by the offender”*;
- at the national level it encourages the Member States to consider *“the scope for and benefits of using restorative justice”* as well as to *“provide training for legal practitioners on the use of alternative measures to detention, including restorative justice, and on existing recommendations as developed by the Council of Europe on this topic”*.
- it invites the EC *“to continue to support (...) the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ)”* and to examine options for closer cooperation with the organisation.

The DG Justice invited us to contribute to the **High level Experts' Meeting: What future for victims' rights?**, organised by the European Commission on 6 November in Brussels. This meeting brought together experts from Member States dealing with assistance to victims of crime, including members





of the European Network on Victims' Rights and victims' organisations. The meeting was dedicated to defining priorities for the upcoming term of the Commission in the area of victims' rights and was organised in the frame of the preliminary discussion on a possible revision of the Victims' Rights Directive. The aim was to take stock of recommendations from several recent reports on victims' rights (Milquet report, Fundamental Rights Agency reports and Victim Support Europe reports) and to focus on victims of different categories of crime. Thanks to our input during the discussions, the final report of the meeting points out the "lack of legal framework on restorative justice, as well as the potential usefulness of restorative justice services" addressing victim's rights.

- Already in the last years the EFRJ and its members were invited to contribute to the revision process of the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters (ECOSOC Res. 2000/14) and the UN Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes. In 2019, Tim Chapman, Annemieke Wolthuis and Edit Törzs, as well as many EFRJ members, participated on a 3 days **Expert Group Meeting conveyed by the UNODC** – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with the support of the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) in Bangkok (17-19 June) reviewing a new draft of the Handbook, putting more focus on victims, serious crime and indigenous justice.
- 
- At the end of 2019 we explored the possibility to attend **the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** (Kyoto 20 – 27 April 2020). We submitted two proposals for organising ancillary meetings and finally the UNODC invited the EFRJ to join its ancillary meeting on restorative justice aimed to launch the revised Handbook on Restorative Justice and the Training Curriculum. The Congress is postponed due to the Covid -19 pandemic.
 - In June 2019 the EFRJ **applied for the consultative status with ECOSOC** that provides NGOs with access to ECOSOC, its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, as well as to special events organised by the President of the General Assembly. Our main aim is to actively participate in the work of ECOSOC Functional Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), contribute to its work on RJ and to advocate for the inclusion of RJ approaches in other strategical areas. Our application is currently under revision and we should have a response around April 2020.



Restorative Justice Strategies for Change (RJS4C)

Last year 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 already 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.

In 2019, core members organised national awareness raising initiatives as well as meetings which brought together stakeholders in order to co-create a local strategy for the development of restorative justice in their country. 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. The 2019 the meeting was hosted by Ireland and funded by the Maynooth University Department of Law (Dublin, 25-26 April). The meeting in Ireland involved the sharing of information and expertise from each country, as well as a series of training sessions on design thinking, policy development, strategic change and multi-agency working.

In order to improve the financial sustainability of the project in the long period, we are looking for funding opportunities. We submitted a funding proposal for a private foundation for this purpose. In general they were supportive of the project, but could not offer financing for 2019 and 2020. Therefore we are exploring other funding alternatives.

Awareness raising and Communication

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New Communication strategy

Building on the work done in this domain in 2017 and 2018, in 2019 we developed a completely new external communication strategy. We made an analysis of our current external communication, identified aims (raise awareness, inform, engage), levels and target groups of communication. Consequently, we worked on identifying our key messages, communication channels and communication instruments for each target group. In general, we would like to differentiate our communication towards different target groups, use more attractive visual materials and produce more videos. While printed materials remain important, we would like to create more accessible and informative online materials and engage more with the press in the future.

The innovative design of our new website is part of this broader, contemporary communication strategy as well as the use and integration of a wide range of social media channels to inform our members and others interested on RJ across Europe.

New visual identity and a new website

One of the main achievement for the EFRJ was to refresh its visual design and to create a new website. The new website has been designed to address the general need coming from the field for more accessible and reliable information on restorative justice. Thus an essential part of the website is designed as an information hub on restorative justice and to serve as a resource kit for different target audiences inquiring about restorative justice and related matters.

The EFRJ decided to renew its content management system (CRM) integrated to the new website to enable it to use other communication tools in a more integrated way. This system enables the EFRJ to manage membership data, payment information, attendance to its events and other contacts in a systematic way.

Simultaneously the EFRJ's visual identity was renewed. After a long process to find the organisation's new visual identity, the drafts of the Spanish designer, Joan Barjau Capdevila received unanimous support from the Board members and the team of the Secretariat, and the logo, the fonts and colours he proposed were adopted.



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In the meanwhile we collected proposals from members for a slogan for the EFRJ and used social media for voting on the proposals. The new visual design and the new slogan (*"Connecting people to restore just relations"*) were launched together with new website.

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 this reason, we decided to tailor the brief to different kind of audiences, thus we are developing diverse kind of briefs, in particular:

- a) Research briefs, meant to summaries research reports written by the EFRJ and others aiming at disseminating research outcomes;
- b) Thematic briefs, thematic summaries on different topics and the related RJ approaches;
- c) Policy briefs, useful for policy makers and or to raise awareness in policy settings;
- d) Infographics, aimed at disseminating to the general public core elements of RJ.

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

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.

Raising awareness on restorative justice and dissemination of information

The EFRJ aims to disseminate information on new RJ developments, research outcomes, events and trainings. We do it through our website, printed materials, social media, events and our regular electronic Newsflashes. As partner in different EU funded projects, the EFRJ also supports the dissemination of the project activities and results.

Social media

As in the recent years, in 2019 the EFRJ used a wide range of social media channels to communicate on a daily basis about important news related to the organisation, its membership and other important issues from related fields. These channels include: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. In addition the EFRJ has a Vimeo channel to share audiovisual content: in 2019 the EFRJ produced and shared 24 new videos. By the end of 2019 it started to develop its Instagram channel.

The audience reached via social media goes beyond the EFRJ membership and beyond the RJ community, reaching professionals and laypeople interested in social justice, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, non-violent communication, etc. As in the EFRJ Newsflash, social media offers the space for communications which are not strictly EFRJ-related or related to its members.

Similarly to earlier years, the audience of the EFRJ accounts on these channels has been growing steadily (26% increase in people who like the EFRJ page on Facebook, 28% increase in the number of Facebook followers, 43% increase of Twitter followers and 101% increase the followers of the EFRJ LinkedIn page that was launched in 2018). In 2019, the EFRJ has published daily posts on its Facebook page and Twitter channel, and shared weekly updates on its LinkedIn account.

In the past year EFRJ developed own audiovisual materials and uploaded it to its Vimeo channel. In addition it upload several of its videos directly to Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages: in 2019, the EFRJ developed 24 own audiovisual materials, reaching 5067 total video views.

You can access our most used social media on the link below:

- <https://www.facebook.com/euforumrj/>

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- <https://twitter.com/EuForumRJ>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/efrj/>

The calendar of events on the EFRJ website includes

- events organized by the EFRJ;
- events where the EFRJ is a partner in the organization;
- events where the EFRJ team (Board, Staff, or a representative within the membership appointed by the team) is invited to present;
- events attended by the EFRJ team (Board or Staff);
- events where our video materials are screened (EFRJ Vimeo channel);
- launch of new RJ materials on a given day or week (e.g. during the European Victims Day, or the International Day Against Gender Violence, etc.)

In 2019 the calendar on the EFRJ website included 139 events (116 in 2018; 102 in 2017). This can be viewed here: https://old.euforumrj.org/euforum_events/

Newsflash

Since 2013, the EFRJ sends regular updates on events, publications, and inspiring projects or talks to a larger RJ community, which goes beyond the EFRJ membership. Thanks to the amount of information received from our members or followers, the Secretariat continued to send around two Newsflashes per month in 2019. In 2019, the EFRJ sent out 21 Newsflashes (regular ones and special editions). The special editions of the EFRJ Newsflash aim to inform about specific issues or activities. In addition to the Newsflashes the EFRJ sends special mailings to members or other specific group of recipients. In 2019 we sent out 8 special mailings. The number of recipients increased from 2469 (in 2018) to 2551 by the end of 2019. All EFRJ Newsflashes are saved on the EFRJ website: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/newsflashes>

Newsletter

The EFRJ Editorial Committee, coordinated by the EFRJ Secretariat, collaborated throughout the year to publish three digital editions (March, July, September) of the EFRJ Newsletter, including articles on RJ developments in countries, research and innovative practices. The usual printed edition (December), a collection of the best articles of the year, was finally not edited, published and printed, as it coincided with the period of transition into the new visual style of the EFRJ (January).

As usual, the EFRJ Newsletter includes a collection of non-academic articles in the field of RJ and the regular article 'News from the EFRJ team' which updates members about EFRJ-related issues. All editions are available on the EFRJ website: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/newsletter-archive>

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 2019 we made 24 new videos, including short interviews, recordings of plenary sessions of our Symposium and videos related to our events. These are available on the Vimeo channel of the EFRJ: <https://vimeo.com/euforumrj>

Projects

Since few years now the EFRJ does not initiate 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 2019

KINTSUGI (Erasmus+) Exchange of European Good Practices on Restorative Justice (Oct 2018-Sept 2020) – Coordinated by WELCOME a.p.s.

The EFRJ is partner of this European project that intends improve skills and competences of partners' staff involving trainers, social workers, offenders' tutors and mediators. The project foresees the implementation of a joint training programme for restorative justice operators. Beneficiaries of the project's training programme will be able to implement effective methods and tools fostering social inclusion of people subjected to alternative detention measures through the implementation of restorative justice practices. We selected two of our members in Belgium to benefit from these trainings through a call. The EFRJ is also involved in the coordination of the project and is in charge of the organisation of the final seminar in 2020.

The first training was held on 8-12 April 2019 in Belfast and the second one on 21-25 October in Rome. For more information: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/kintsugi-2018-2020-6>

STRAFRECHTMEDIATION: GEBORGD IN KWALITEIT – DUTCH PROJECT ON QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MEDIATORS

As associate partner the EFRJ

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supports the project by sharing available quality standards from Europe and its work and publication on values and standards for restorative justice. In 2019 Annemieke Wolthuis, board member of the EFRJ contributed to this project and to a panel during its final conference in Utrecht on 12 November 2019.

i-RESTORE Better Protecting Child Victims Rights through Restorative Justice, Coordinator: Terre des Hommes Hungary, duration: 24 months

This project promotes the use of restorative justice in cases involving child victims by improving knowledge among national stakeholders on child-victim friendly restorative justice and empowering children to advocate for better protection of child victims. It proposes to offer opportunities for professionals to learn from each other, and to ensure that restorative justice fully respects the rights of child victims. It will do this by using a holistic and participative approach. The project focuses on Albania, Romania and Greece. As partner of this project the EFRJ contributes to the research on laws, policies, and projects on the topic and to map trainings and capacities. The EFRJ is also involved in the organisation of trainings and study visits To Belgium and to the Netherlands.

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

RE-JUSTICE Sustainable training in a challenging field, Coordinator: KU Leuven, duration: 24 months

In order to promote the effective application of the provisions of the Victim's Directive, this training project on restorative justice targets the professional groups that for approximately 20 years have been identified by multiple European bodies and by previous EU funded projects, as presenting a need for training in this particular area. The project promotes through developing a new, blended learning training, a sustainable way to the process of raising awareness, building knowledge and developing skills and attitudes amongst the judges and public prosecutors, firstly and mainly in Greece, Spain and Italy and, ultimately to contribute to the promotion of the same process at 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.

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

PREPARE Preventing radicalisation through Probation and Release (Oct 2017-Sept 2019)
– Coordinated by the European Forum for Urban Security

This project aimed to contribute to the prevention of radicalisation through disengagement and rehabilitation programmes during release and probation, notably through multi-agency partnerships that include local authorities (City of Malaga and Generalitat of Catalonia in Spain, Rotterdam and The Hague in the Netherlands, Rennes and Bagnolet in France and Vilvoorde in Belgium). The EFRJ was part of the Steering Committee and provided expert input on restorative justice related to

answering to the risk of radicalisation. In 2019, Tim Chapman, chair of the EFRJ, was invited to share his expertise on restorative justice in the context of radicalisation in a meeting with the representatives of the local authority in the Hague. He also gave his contribution to the drafting of the project's guidebook. The EFRJ policy officer Laura Hein attended the 4rd coordination meeting in Avignon (27-28 June 2019). For more information: <https://efus.eu/en/topics/risks-forms-of-crime/radicalisation/public/14239/>

LetsGoByTalking Protecting and defending the rights of victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes: innovative paths through restorative justice (2020 – 2022) – coordinated by Universitat de Barcelona By enhancing the rights of victims established in the Directive 2012/29/EU, this project aims to contribute to the reparation of anti-LGBT hate crimes through the promotion of restorative justice in the EU.

The EFRJ is partner in this project starting in 2020 and will contribute to the achievement of its 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.

The project was approved in 2019 and will start with the kick-off meeting in Barcelona (February 2020).

<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/lets gobytalking-2020-2022>

EXIT Europe This project focuses on the reintegration of former violent extremist offenders and on prevention of radicalisation. The EFRJ is not a formal partner in this project, but we provided consultancy services to develop a part of the train the trainers trainings in this project, to include a module on restorative approaches.

Project applications in 2019

In 2019 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:

- **MJ-JUSTICE** – EC Justice Programme: This project aimed at tackling training gaps for legal practitioners when minors are involved in judicial proceedings, either directly, as a defendant, victim, witness or indirectly when decisions have a considerable impact on their

lives. The proposal was coordinated by Fondazione Agenfor International in Italy. The proposal was rejected.

- **LetsGoByTalking** – see above, granted.
- **RE-Justice** – see above, granted.
- **ERA** Project Proposal on Enhancing Cross-border Mutual Legal Assistance and Recognition of Decisions within the Context of Detention – we supported this proposal with a supporting letter and since the project is granted, we assist ERA with its implementation regarding RJ related contributions.

The EFRJ also systematically updates its members on new EC funding opportunities and helps them to find international partners for their project proposals. In 2019 we published a special edition of our Newsflash to members, drawing their attention to open EC calls related to our field. We received project partnership proposals from 7 different organisations from 5 different countries, and we tried to link them to form consortiums. Still, we notice that the main concern for many members is that they are not ready to take up coordination role in such projects.

Representation at Conferences and other events

The EFRJ staff and board (and sometimes appointed members) were present in several events in 2019 (62 events in total), either as participants and/or speakers/trainers. We find it important to learn from other fields, to contribute with presentations or workshops on restorative justice, to meet members, colleagues, experts and policy makers and to raise awareness on the EFRJ and on restorative justice through being present on events. In 2019 EFRJ representatives attended the following events:

- 6-7 February 2019 Helsinki: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman presented on how can RJ strengthen society and restore justice, covering the CoE Recommendation, the EFRJ work on values and standards for RJ and the ALTERNATIVE research project on RJ in intercultural settings.
- 10-13 February 2019 Rome: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman and board member Patrizia Patrizi contributed to the winter school “Restorative Justice. An inclusive and accountable justice in traditional contexts of the sentence and beyond” (original title: Restorative Justice. Una giustizia inclusiva e responsabile nei contesti tradizionali della pena e oltre).
- 21 February 2019 Porto Alegre: EFRJ Board member Katerina Soulou gave a presentation at AJURIS School of magistrates. The topic was “Restorative responses to terrorism and political violence”.



- 27 February 2019 Brussels: EFRJ board member Brunilda Pali, EFRJ intern Sofie Doorman and Emanuela Biffi attended to one day conference “The radicalisation machine: why radicalisation is a problematic concept”.
https://www.law.kuleuven.be/apps/activiteiten/nl/portaal/index/view_activiteit/4539
- 28 February 2019 Brussels: EFRJ board member Brunilda Pali and Emanuela Biffi attended to the VUB – Vrije Universiteit Brussel Crime and Society Research Group (CriS) seminar on the representation of environmental protest online and offline, project funded by The British Academy.
- 1 March 2019 Ghent: EFRJ board member Brunilda Pali and EFRJ funder Ivo Aertsen collaborated in the making of the theatre piece “The Voice of Nature – The Trial” of artist and environmental researcher Maria Lucia Cruz Correia at the Festival “Same same but Different”. The performance was attended by Emanuela Biffi and EFRJ intern Sofie Doorman
- 3-8 March 2019 Santiago de Chile: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman gave a restorative justice training for the Catholic University of Chile.
- 12-15 March Sassari: Board member Brunilda Pali was invited by the University of Sassari to give different interventions about RJ to different audiences, i.e. high school and university students, educators, art schools, and municipality.
- 21 March 2019 Bergamo: The EFRJ chair Tim Chapman took part in the panel discussion “Beyond hate, beyond crime” together with other EFRJ members. This was part of a larger series of seminars at the university of Bergamo on “Doing justice in times of anger”.
- 27 March 2019 Brussels: EFRJ Chair Tim Chapman spoke on and Edit Törzs attended a policy targeted event on “Combating Hate Crime in the EU: Preventing Hate Crime, Prosecuting Perpetrators and Supporting Victims”.
- 4 April 2019: The board member Bart Claes represented EFRJ at the Dutch Council of Criminal Justice and Child Protection annual conference on the topic of restoration and victims in prison.
- 4-5 April 2019 Oñati: Emanuela Biffi, Roberto Moreno, Katerina Soulou and Annemieke Wolthuis attended the two day workshop “Art in prisons: talking restorative justice through artistic and narrative projects” organised by the International Institute for the Sociology of Law.
- 8-12 April 2019 Belfast: Tim Chapman performed training for the Kintsugi Erasmus+ project, attended by Emanuela Biffi and two EFRJ members on behalf of the EFRJ.
- 10 April 2019 Athens: Board member Katerina Soulou attended to the presentation of the research findings of the Dianeosis organisation which focused on recent developments on the Greek justice system.



- 10 April 2019 Belfast: The board member Tim Chapman presented the research findings of the ALTERNATIVE project where the EFRJ was partner in 2012-2016.
- 10 April 2019 Brussels: EFRJ board member Bart Claes and executive director Edit Törzs participated at the Rescaled conference to share ideas on the vision of the small scale detention houses.
- 15 April 2019 Athens: EFRJ board member Katerina Soulou participated in the event "Stigmatizing speech, beneficiaries and human rights" organised by Social Dynamo.
- 15-16 April 2019 Tbilisi, Georgia: Tim Chapman, Roberto Moreno, Annemieke Wolthuis, Aarne Kinnunen and Lars Otto Justad, members of the EFRJ board, were part of the experts at the regional conference on restorative justice. The key goal of this event was to promote application of restorative justice mechanisms in criminal justice for both juveniles and adults.
- 24-25 April 2019 Leuven: EFRJ board member Brunilda Pali presented her paper at the conference "Criminology and Democratic Politics". Edit Törzs attended the event on 24 April.
- 25-26 April 2019 Dublin: Edit Törzs, Laura Hein and Board members, Tim Chapman and Bart Claes attended to the first meeting to support the policy initiative "Strategies for Change", involving experts from 10 countries engaged in RJ and criminal justice reforms.
- 26 April 2019 Leuven: Brunilda Pali organised a symposium on RJ responses to environmental harm and ecocide at the KU Leuven Institute of Criminology. Edit Törzs attended the event and Sofie Doorman, intern at the EFRJ video recorded the event.
- 30 April to 5 May 2019 Switzerland: Tim Chapman performed a training on RJ and serious crime for the Swiss RJ Forum.
- 6-16 May 2019 Sassari: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman was in Sassari university with Board member Patrizia Patrizi and the RJ team of the university for a series of RJ talks with students, prisoners and RJ professionals.
- 7 May 2019 Lugano: EFRJ board member Brunilda Pali presented on RJ in Europe during the conference "La giustizia riparativa: esperienze in Europa e in Svizzera" in Switzerland. The aim of this event was to extend RJ and create a section of the Swiss Forum for RJ in Ticino, the Italian part of Switzerland.
- 10 May 2019 Breda: EFRJ board member Bart Claes gave his inaugural lecture on restorative justice, prison and desistance from crime at Avans Hogeschool.
- 15-17 May 2019 Kortrijk: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman and Patrizia Patrizi talked in the IIRP conference about "Activating Community: A Restorative Response to Intercultural Conflict" and restorative cities. Edit Törzs, Emanuela Biffi and Laura Hein attended the conference.



- 20-21 May 2019 Strathclyde: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman was one of the team leaders providing the two part intensive course “Foundation Skills in Restorative Practices” at the University of Strathclyde.
- 12-13 June 2019 Strasbourg: EFRJ board member Katerina Soulou attended the annual conference of Victim Support Europe.
- 17-19 June 2019 Bangkok: Tim Chapman chair, Annemieke Wolthuis vice-chair and executive director Edit Törzs, as well as many EFRJ members participated in a 3 days Expert Group Meeting conveyed by the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) reviewing a new draft of the UN Handbook on restorative justice, putting more focus on victims, serious crime and indigenous justice.
- 18 June 2019 Cologne: EFRJ policy officer, Laura Hein, joined the German colleagues of TOA – Servicebüro for the launch of their campaign “VOM – On the Road”.
- 20-21 June 2019 Bilbao: Emanuela Biffi participated on the event of the RAN RVT working group entitled “How can victims contribute to social cohesion after a period of violence?”.
- 27-28 June 2019 Avignon: EFRJ policy officer, Laura Hein attended the project meeting of the PREPARE project.
- 1-4 September 2019 Oslo: EFRJ vice chair Annemieke Wolthuis presented at the European Conference on Domestic Violence on restorative justice experiences in Finland and in the Netherlands.
- 6 September 2019 Brussels: EFRJ board member Bart Claes and policy officer Laura Hein attended to an EU Council Presidency meeting on “Detention and its Alternatives” organised by the current Finnish Presidency of the European Council.
- 12-13 September 2019 Zagreb: EFRJ board member Katerina Soulou was at the RAN (Radicalisation Awareness Network) study visit “Restorative Justice in Croatia” and presented cases of violent extremism. <https://buff.ly/34yPgOW>
- 18-21 September 2019 Ghent: EFRJ board member Brunilda Pali and policy officer Laura Hein attended the 19th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology.
- 24-25 September 2019 Munte: EFRJ Secretariat staff attended the yearly “Thinking days” of the Research line on restorative justice and victimology of KU Leuven LINC.
- 25-26 September 2019 Budapest: Emanuela Biffi attended the kick-off meeting of the project i-Restore on child victims and restorative justice.
- 3 October 2019 Prague: EFRJ executive director Edit Törzs and the board member Lars Otto Justad presented during the international conference “Visegrad Group 1989 – 2019: On the Road to restorative justice?”, organised by the Czech Mediation Service.





- 8 October 2019 Rome: EFRJ board member Patrizia Patrizi was one of the speakers during a seminar dedicated to RJ and the social sector. "Restorative justice can strengthen the social conditions for which in prison people do not enter, or do not return".
- 8 October 2019 Mikkeli: The EFRJ chair Tim Chapman presented on the narrative dialogue approach to restorative justice in a mediation conference.
- 10 October 2019 Prato: The EFRJ board member Patrizia Patrizi presented on "restorative justice journeys" in a kick-off event organised by Caritas to launch a series of RJ trainings in 2020 across Italy.
- 14 October 2019 Lecce: EFRJ board member Patrizia Patrizi spoke at a conference for Italian magistrates working on juvenile and family cases.
- 15 October 2019 Athens: EFRJ board member Katerina Soulou attended the Meeting with the Greek Centre for the Study of Crime.
- 16 October 2019 Brussels: Laura Hein, EFRJ policy officer, attended the annual roundtable organised by Victim Support Europe, that brings together NGOs working in the field of criminal justice and supporting different types of vulnerable groups.
- 18 October 2019 Bologna: EFRJ board member Patrizia Patrizi contributed to the round table on psychology and human rights.
- 19 October 2019 Catania: EFRJ board member Patrizia Patrizi talked on the last day of the Italian congress "Orientamento inclusivo e sostenibile: ricerche, strumenti, azioni".
- 21 October 2019 Leuven: EFRJ staff and board members Brunilda Pali and Annemieke Wolthuis attended the emeritus ceremony and conference of Prof Ivo Aertsen at KU Leuven.
- 21-24 October 2019 Rome: EFRJ chair Tim Chapman and the events and project officer Emanuela Biffi, attended the training and study visit organized within the Kintsugi Erasmus+ Project.
- 30 October 2019 Brussels: EFRJ policy officer Laura Hein attended the plenary of the RAN – Radicalisation Awareness Network set up by the European Commission.
- 6 November 2019 Brussels: Laura Hein, EFRJ policy officer, attended the High Level Experts' meeting: What future for victims' right? organised by the European Commission and the Finnish Presidency to define priorities for the upcoming term of the Commission in the area of victims' rights.
- 7-9 November 2019 Rome: EFRJ board members Patrizia Patrizi and Tim Chapman participated at the Conference of Legal Psychology where they have been awarded with the Medal of the Italy's President for bringing together the insights of the psychology, restorative justice and law.



- 12 November 2019 Utrecht: EFRJ vice chair Annemieke Wolthuis represented the EFRJ and gave a presentation on the quality standards of mediation in the seminar organised by the University of Applied Sciences.
- 13-14 November 2019 Antwerp: EFRJ vice chair Annemieke Wolthuis participated at the 3rd International Conference of the European Family Justice Alliance “One Safe Place for Hope and Empowerment”. <https://buff.ly/35GXztk>
- 19 November 2019 Brussels: Emanuela Biffi attended the conference “Participation in European Prisons”.
- 21 November 2019 Leuven: Edit Törzs introduced and Communication and training officer Balint Juhász led a discussion after the documentary film screening co-organised with the Flemish mediation service Moderator as part of the programme of their yearly conference.
- 29 November 2019 Leuven: Staff and board EFRJ members Brunilda Pali, Edit Törzs, Laura Hein, Tim Chapman and Bart Claes attended at the annual European Restorative Justice Policy Network meeting.
- 3-4 December 2019 Dublin: Emanuela Biffi, Roberto Moreno and Tim Chapman presented at the event “The Role of Restorative Justice in Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism” organized by Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) of the European Commission.
- 5 December 2019 Sofia: EFRJ vice-chair, Annemieke Wolthuis presented on an international legal seminar organised by the Bulgarian Centre for Non-for-Profit Law and the Institute for the State and the Law to celebrate 30 years Convention on the Rights of the Child. She offered insights into the strong links between Restorative Justice and Children’s Rights to local judges and practitioners.
- 6 December 2019 Poznan: as none of our staff and board members could go, we appointed EFRJ members Peter Keeley (Northern Ireland), Daniela Arieti (Italy) and Gert Jan Slump (The Netherlands – via skype) to participate in a conference on RJ organized yearly by our members in Poland.
- 6 December 2019 Malta: Board Member Patrizia Patrizi participated in the working group meeting of the European Social Fund project “Participation for Employment at CCF: Social inclusion through Education and Training” aiming to improve detainees' inclusion into the labour market and society.
- 11 December 2019 Tallinn: Annemieke Wolthuis was invited by the Ministry of Justice of Estonia to talk about restorative justice in domestic violence cases on a seminar about applying restorative justice in sexual violence cases and domestic violence cases.



EUROPEAN **FORUM** FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

Besides attending these events, leaflets and other materials of the EFRJ were distributed at other conferences and events attended by our partners and members.

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EFRJ 2018 – 2019 Financials

	2018	2019	Budget 2020
Profit and loss accounts			
Operational Costs	-153.709,11	-163.519,03	-188.037,41
Staff Costs	-152.068,97	-210.002,10	-296.026,28
Financial Costs	-5.001,43	-781,84	
Other costs	0,00	0,00	
Depreciations	-378,96	-1.399,92	-1.403,71
Exceptional costs	0,00	-1.740,09	
Total Costs	-311.158,47	-377.442,98	-485.467,40
Core Income	72.708,31	62.727,17	60.500,00
Various Grants	11.047,49	64.222,15	35.000,00
Financial Income	3.327,35	9,11	
Exceptional Income	0,00	85,00	
EC-Operating Grant	220.510,18	260.344,34	302.752,00
EC-Child Victims Project	11.912,69	10.679,77	0,00
EC-Prepare Project	3.168,00	0,00	4.752,00
EC-i-Restore Project	0,00	3.701,75	7.403,50
Erasmus+ Kintsugi Project	0,00	11.181,00	0,00
EC-RE-Justice Project			26.800,00
EC-Let'sGoByTalking Project			51.108,82
Total Income	322.674,02	412.950,29	488.316,32
Result of the year	11.515,55	35.507,31	2.848,92

Balance Sheet	2018	2019
Fixed Assets	769,33	2.420,89
Amounts receivable -1Y	0,00	679,72
Liquid Assets	536.897,02	602.758,00
Transitory accounts	0,00	1.579,01
Total Assets	537.666,35	607.437,62
Capital and Reserves	223.893,48	223.893,48
Result 2019		35.507,31
Amounts Payable -1y	20.940,98	43.453,37
Transitory accounts	292.831,89	304.583,46
Total Liabilities	537.666,35	607.437,62

