

2020-1-IT02-KA204-080081

TRAINING IN MEDIATION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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About the project

Over the last years, Europe has seen the development of very different training proposals related to Restorative Justice (RJ) and mediation, some of which tend to train mediators as individual professionals with postgraduate courses, others tend to form groups of mediators linked to specific communities. The MEDIAREJ project aims to take stock of various training methods and implementing them through joint staff training and work on innovative Intellectual outputs (IOs) in 4 European countries, establishing a network among trained professionals and organisations.

OBJECTIVES

MADIAREJ aims at:

- ⌚ Fostering RJ competencies in different target groups by disseminating the RJ methodology thanks to training courses and multiplier events;
- ⌚ Developing, through the IO and the joint staff training, a standardised competences framework, a course curriculum for training, original methods and new toolkits starting from the RJ methodology;
- ⌚ Providing training for 28 mediators, trainers and professionals on RJ methodologies;
- ⌚ Raising awareness on RJ for other target groups at a local level through 4 dissemination events in partners' countries
- ⌚ Empowering staff and strengthening the operational capacity of local RJ centres, creating a permanent expert group of trainers at European level.
- ⌚ Matching an adequate quality standard, allowing skills recognition, facilitating the mobility at the European level of mediation and RJ experts.



Expected results

The MEDIAREJ project will develop:

- 1 Framework of Competencies;
- 1 Training Programme;
- 1 Toolkit on Community Practices;
- 1 Collection of sensitive zones related to gender-based violence;
- 1 set of multimedia and audiovisual materials for trainers;
- 1 online training platform.

Target groups

The project targets trainers of mediators and mediators engaged in their territories to work with mediation and RJ services, as well as university scholars and researchers.

Needs analysis

This exchange is aimed at drafting agreed guidelines to clarify the essential requirements for training trainers of mediation and RJ to operate effectively and efficiently. To reach the goal of shared guidelines, the exchange of experiences is essential, through targeted and periodic meetings. It is necessary to become aware that mediation and RJ are primarily practical sciences.

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MEDIAREJ KICK – OFF & 1ST TPM

Due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19 pandemic, MEDIAREJ kick-off meeting, originally designed to take place in Trieste, was held online between 26 and 28 of January 2021.

The meeting began with a welcome message delivered by Maritain Institute, the project coordinator. After that there was some time for partner organizations to introduce themselves and to briefly present the situation of RJ in their respective countries (Italy, Belgium, Spain, Croatia and Romania). Although some partners had already worked together, others did not know each other so this was an excellent moment to start building trust between consortium members.

Then, all partners attended an online workshop on RJ delivered by Tim Chapman, chairman of the European Forum For Restorative Justice (EFRJ) and by Alessandra Gaetani, professor at Insubria University and member of Nathan. Tim Chapman delivered a lecture about the basics of RJ, while Alessandra Gaetani talked about the humanistic approach to mediation.

The rest of the meeting served to debate on the first steps to make the project lift off, with presentations and discussions on MEDIAREJ intellectual outputs and communication strategy.



3. Teaching and training in RJ: different approaches

- Restorative justice pedagogy aims at:
- Build community among participants;
 - Inspire individual and social transformation;
 - Give voice to the unique experiences of participants;
 - Offer opportunities for real-life problem solving;
 - Provide a creative learning environment that is co-created by students and facilitators;
 - Value the expertise of practitioners, theorists, and educators; and
 - Invite institutions to view themselves as students and share in the learning process.

(Bark Tower, 2016)

After the meeting, an important part of the work was carried out by EFRJ, who is the coordinator of the first intellectual Output: FRAMEWORK OF COMPETENCIES FOR TRAINERS ON MEDIATION BASED ON RJ. This preliminary activity, necessary for the project, is an overall analysis of the state of the matter in RJ in the countries participating in the project, identifying some minimum criteria that can serve as a reference for the method, making explicit what are the mandatory and accessory ingredients of these training courses.



The consortium has contributed to this output by peer reviewing and by interviewing national experts in their countries. The outcome of those interviews have served to define the requirements of successful trainers in humanistic mediation.

In parallel, communication efforts have also started by designing the project website (where results will be published) as well as the social media and visual identity.

Jacques Maritain Institute



www.maritain.eu

European Forum for Restorative Justice



www.euforumrj.org

A.P.S. Nathan



www.nathan.caritasbergamo.it

Udruga Za Kreativni Socijalni Rad



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www.uksr.hr

Fundatia Professional

Centrul de Limbi Moderne



www.professionalcentre.ro

Asociación Àmbit



www.associacioambit.org

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And next?

MEDIAREJ 2nd TPM, originally envisaged to take place in Valencia in May 2021, also suffered the restrictions of COVID-19 and was therefore split in two: an online meeting celebrated on the 17-19 of May and a blended meeting which took place online and in Bergamo in September.

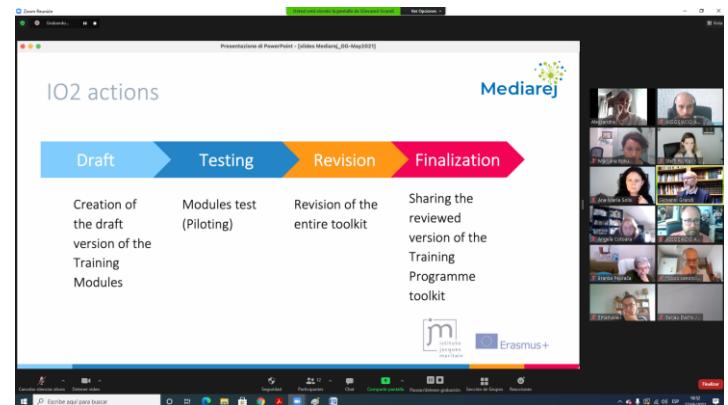
With the work on IO1, going at cruise speed, partners have also started the work on IO2, IO3, joint staff meetings and dissemination events.

IO2, coordinated by Institut Jacques Maritain, consist on a training programme based on the competence framework of IO1: a collection of guidelines that will be defined for adult educators who wish to improve their skills in providing training courses in criminal mediation. The training modules have been piloted in seminars (July 2021) involving 50 professionals among 4 partner countries (25 in Italy, 10 in Croatia, 10 in Spain and 5 in Romania). The workshops have allowed partners to test the developed modules and get feedback from the participants.

The blended meeting in Bergamo has served to asses the feedback received from the piloting activities and to carry out the core work of IO3: Toolkit on RJ Community practices.

The Toolkit will envisage two parts: Part A is a collection based on the experiences that each partner organization has had regarding the issues of restorative justice in the context of the specific situation to which a restorative response was proposed.

Part B, After examining the most common practices, the partners will identify a practice to deepen. With the direction of the IO leader, they will develop new chapters on these types of specific practices and approaches if they have not been dealt exhaustively in the formations mapped in the first phase.



The next big step for MEDIAREJ will be the Joint staff training event to be celebrated in Croatia (January 2022). In this 5-day event, participants will share the work experiences they have developed according to the humanistic approach to restorative justice in specific areas and with different objectives of adult learners. Participants will also experience the new training methodologies and tools that the other partners have developed and exchanged good practices from a European perspective.

The EFRJ will provide 3 senior trainers from its network and expert supervision of the training. Other partner organisations will participate in the JST with 5 staff members each, both trainers and other professionals. The EFRJ senior trainers will be highly experienced in the restorative approach, thanks to their working in multicultural environments and/or diversity management.

Project Website
www.mediarej.eu

Facebook page
[@mediarej](https://www.facebook.com/mediarej)

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