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

In this my last report as Chair, I want to highlight developments in 2021 that felt really important to me. First and foremost, the EFRJ is a membership network which exists to connect and activate people in the field of restorative justice. You will see in this report that there are now four standing committees and six working groups on specific issues. 91 members participate in these committees and working groups from countries not only throughout Europe but also as far afield as Australia, Singapore, the USA and Brazil. I hope readers will read the reports on these groups’ activities and maybe consider putting themselves forward to be members. Of course, online meetings has had a huge impact on creating accessibility and stimulating this active participation.

Please, also notice the range of issues that the working groups address – violent extremism, restorative cities, environmental justice, schools, gender-based violence, and institutional abuse. In my view, these working groups are expanding the scope and possibilities of restorative justice principles and practices. They are addressing the systemic conditions that generate harm and restoration.

This willingness to step out of the comfort zone of mainstream restorative justice practices is also reflected in the range of external organisations with which we are currently cooperating. I am particularly pleased to see how we have prioritised victims of harm through our engagement in the European Commission’s Evaluation of the Victims’ Rights Directive and its policy statement on gender-based violence. We have also developed our relationship with Victim Support Europe.

Other highlights for me included the publication of the EFRJ Standards and Values Manual, our participation in supporting the Venice Declaration on the Role of Restorative Justice, the continuing participation of our Italian members in supporting the development of restorative justice in Italy, the impact of the Restorative Justice Strategies for Change initiative in 10 European countries and the projects with partners producing new training programmes and addressing anti-LGBT hate crimes.
Last week I attended a conference on violence against women in France. Out of 10 presenters, 7 were active members of EFRJ. I felt very proud that our expertise is being recognised all over Europe and we are having a real influence on policy and practice.

Serving as Chair of EFRJ has been the best experience of my working life. I am so grateful for the opportunities that the EFRJ have so generously offered me. The EFRJ is in great shape with an active membership and an amazing secretariat. Thank you.

Tim Chapman
Chair
Introduction to the European Forum for Restorative Justice

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

Aim

The EFRJ aims to establish and to develop high-quality restorative justice practices throughout Europe. The EFRJ focuses on the application of restorative justice to criminal matters but other areas, such as family, school and community mediation, are not excluded. The EFRJ does not defend any ‘best practice’ model of restorative justice but recognises that restorative justice is an evolving approach. **Its vision is that every person in Europe has the right to access restorative justice services, at any time and in any case.**

Strategic priorities

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

Objectives

The EFRJ:

• Promotes international information exchange and mutual assistance
• Promotes the development of effective restorative justice policies, services and legislation
• Explores and develops the theoretical basis of restorative justice
• Stimulates research
• Assists in the development of principles, ethics, training and good practice
• Promotes dialogue between practitioners, policymakers and researchers (including students)
• Supports public education that increases awareness about issues for victims, offenders and the community
• Makes representation to and/or liaises with European and international institutions or organisations, including the Council of Europe, the European Union and relevant non-governmental organisations
• Works to ensure that practice and research inform and support each other, and that these both inform and support policy making, which then informs the work of practitioners

Organisational Structure

Board

The Board of the EFRJ is composed of **nine volunteer Board members** from eight different countries (in accordance with the Art.28 of the EFRJ Constitution). Four Board members are part of the Executive Committee, responsible for following up the day-to-day running of the EFRJ. The composition of the Board in 2021:

**Executive Committee Board Members**

**Board Members**

A main achievement in 2021 was the adoption of a **Code of conduct** for the EFRJ Board members. This document clarifies the rights, obligations and expectations of members of the Board and how they represent the EFRJ as an organisation. Newly elected board members will be asked to sign up for this code of conduct and it will be clearer to the membership what can they expect from members of the board.
The Secretariat

The general management of the EFRJ and its network lies with the Secretariat in Leuven. Besides taking care of the organisation’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). The Secretariat also coordinates the EU framework partnership and operating grant applications and consequent reporting to the EC.

In 2021, the Secretariat was composed of nine part-time employees:

- Executive Director, Edit Törzs – 80%
- Communications and Events Officer, Emanuela Biffi – 100%
- Policy Officer, Laura Hein – 60%
- Communication and Training Officer, Bálint Juhász – 80%
- Financial and Administrative Officer, Rik Defrère – 50%
- Administrative and Project Officer, Julia Barjau Dachs – 30% + 20%
- Strategic Advisor, Kris Vanspauwen – 10%
- Project Officer (LetsGoByTalking), Malini Laxminarayan – 50%
- Project Officer (RE-Justice), Silvia Randazzo – 30%

The Secretariat was supported by three (unpaid) interns in 2021:

- Georgina Colomé Ginella (Spain/Belgium) as policy intern until May 2021, assisting the work of the Policy Officer.

- Maria Belio Bergua (Spain) as translation intern between January and May 2021. Maria is a translation student of the University of Genova, specializing in legal and institutional translation. Her passion for human rights and social justice made her interested conducting her translation internship at the EFRJ. She translated briefs and video subtitles from English into Spanish and assisted our training delivered in Spanish. She was supervised by our native Spanish colleague, Laura Hein.

- Alma Zizzola (Italy) as training, practice and communication intern as of October 2021 under the supervision of Emanuela Biffi and Bálint Juhász. She studied international relations in London and is currently following a master programme in human rights and conflict management in Pisa. She has a keen interest in gender-based and sexual violence. She assists our communication activities, involved in
our working group on gender-based violence and helped the preparations of our first trainings offered in Italian.

The team of the Secretariat in 2021

Membership

The EFRJ is a network organisation offering a common space for a variety of actors engaged or interested in the further development of restorative justice practices and principles. We are proud that our members come from many professional fields and backgrounds and that we create a uniquely diverse platform for researchers, practitioners (mediators, facilitators, trainers), policy makers, lawyers and other criminal justice professionals, as well as for students, artists and activists. Our membership is not only about receiving information and other benefits, but also an opportunity to be involved in making decisions regarding the organisation, to engage in thematic committees and working groups, contribute to our activities, host our events and to connect to many others interested in developing further restorative justice.

The EFRJ membership is divided in two general categories: Individual members and Organisational members (non-profit or governmental). Each member is entitled to decide whether to join the EFRJ as Full Member (with voting rights) or Associate Member (without voting rights).
The membership of the EFRJ is constantly growing. Currently the EFRJ counts around 380 members. At the 2021 Annual General Meeting 68 new membership applications have been approved:

- 59 new individual members
- 9 new organisation members (from Spain, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, UK, Norway).

The AGM 2021 approved the termination 158 memberships because of the non-payment of the membership fee in the last 3 years, or because of changing membership status between organisational and individual membership.

The EFRJ membership covers currently 52 countries. We are happy to see a large increase in the memberships in Italy and have new members from so far underrepresented European countries, such as Azerbaijan, Croatia and Georgia.

Our organisational members are presented on a dedicated page of the website: https://www.euforumrj.org/en/our–organisational-members

Meetings of the EFRJ in 2021

Annual General Meeting 2021

The main mission of the EFRJ is to “connect people” and we tried to do it, even if the Covid-19 emergency situation obliged us to do so, for the second year in a row, virtually. The most important decision making forum of the EFRJ membership, the Annual General Meeting in 2021 took place as an online meeting on 16 June 5-7pm (CET). All members were invited to register and to take part in the online event. The AGM was recorded to allow non-members to view the video of the event that was shared on the EFRJ website: https://www.euforumrj.org/en/efrj–annual-general-meeting–2021.
In total 65 EFRJ members registered to attend the online AGM and 51 attended the meeting. In total, 28 countries were represented from all around the globe (22 from Europe and 6 from beyond).

Most important items presented and decisions made on the AGM:

1. **Approval of the agenda**, of the minutes of the previous AGM (Online 2020).

2. The Chair started his speech explaining that 2020 was the EFRJ’s 20th anniversary and that, due to the pandemic situation, it has been a difficult year for everybody. He introduced the **main achievements of the year**. He pointed out how the organisation is accomplishing the long-term goals identified several years ago, in particular: concerning raising public awareness on restorative justice, having an influence on policy and developing as well as disseminating values and standards of restorative justice practices. The Vice-chair presented the Board members and their engagements, specific responsibilities and contributions in 2020.

3. The Executive Director presented the **Annual report of 2020** that was approved by the AGM.

4. The Financial Officer presented the **Financial report 2020**, annual accounts and budget for 2021. He highlighted that 2020 and 2021 have been challenging years, but we could rely on the quick reaction and creativity of the team and on a stable financial basis of the organisation built in the previous years.

5. **Membership matters** – approval of new memberships and membership terminations.

6. Members reported on the **EFRJ Committees and Working Groups**, activities, achievements and working plans. In particular they presented the Editorial Committee, the Training Committee, the Research Committee, the Values and Standards Committee, the Working Group on Restorative Cities, the Working Group on Violent Extremism and the new working groups on Environmental Restorative Justice, Gender Based Violence, Restorative Schools and Institutional Violence.

7. The **new governmental member** - Dirección General de Justicia del Gobierno de Navarra – shared a few words with all members, staff and board and presented the institution.
As on the AGM in June we had no time to engage in a dialogue with our membership, we organised, for the first time, a 1.5 hours open, online interactive session with our members on 14 September 2021. The aim of the session was to give a platform for reflection on the relationship between the organisation and its members and to explore ways to serve better our members. After introductions we reflected with our members about the following questions in small groups:

- How can the EFRJ better support the work of its members at the local level?
- How can the EFRJ expand its outreach to be more attractive and to reach new members?
- How can the EFRJ better support exchanges and networking between members?

After the well-attended and constructive meeting we consider to organise similar online meetings with our membership in the future.

**Board meetings**

Meetings of the international board consisting of 9 members are the most important internal meetings of the organisation focusing on evaluation and strategic decisions.

The Board had 2 official meetings in 2021 and met two additional times for discussing the EFRJ’s next 4 years’ strategy:

- EFRJ extraordinary Board Meetings - 22 January and 3 March (online) to finalise the EFRJ 4 years strategy and work plan for the EC Framework Partnership application.
- EFRJ Board Meeting I, on 31 May and 15-16 June 2021 (online) - This meeting was supposed to be held in Sassari
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdown and travel restrictions we had to reorganize the Board meeting in an online format during three half day meetings.

- EFRJ Board Meeting II, on 13-14 December 2021 (online). After preparations of a live Board meeting in Leuven, finally also the second Board meeting of the year had to be organised online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Executive Committee meetings

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

In 2021, as all EXCOM meetings were planned online, it has been decided that the Executive Committee will meet six times online for shorter meetings instead of four half-day meetings.

- **EFRJ Executive Committee I**, on 15 March 2021 (online, 9:30 – 15:30 CET)  During this meeting, among other subjects, a new code of conduct for board members of the EFRJ was discussed.

- **EFRJ Executive Committee II**, on 10 May 2021 (online, 13 – 15:30 CET) This meeting focused on the FPA application and on the preparation of the AGM and the EFRJ Virtual Symposium “Restorative Justice Over Distance”

- **EFRJ Executive Committee III**, on 5 July 2021 (online, 13 – 15:30 CET). During this meeting the committee has prepared, among other topics, the European Restorative Justice Network (ERJPN) annual meeting and discussed the EFRJ communication’s strategy.

- **EFRJ Executive Committee IV**, on 6 September 2021 (online, 10 – 12 CET). This meeting was the first EXCOM after the summer break and focused on follow-up different issues that were discussed at the last EXCOM and board meeting before summer. The EXCOM also discussed the strategy for the EFRJ’s contribution to the evaluation of the EU’s Victim’s Rights Directive and issues related to our CRM and website.

- **EFRJ Executive Committee V**, on 25 October 2021 (online, 13 – 15:30 CET). On this meeting the EXCOM discussed the upcoming ERJPN
meeting and one day conference on social impact, as well as looked at the functioning of working groups and committees.

- **EFRJ Executive Committee VI**, on 29 November 2021 (online, 13 - 15:30 CET) On this meeting the EXCOM planned the format and agenda of the upcoming board meeting, and discussed the HR plans for next year.

### Regular staff meetings

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant effect on the teamwork and team cohesion. Keeping team cohesion, integrating new team members and interns, as well as keeping the teamwork fluent became the major goals in these circumstances. To allow the regular management, planning and exchange, the team met regularly online once every week. During these weekly team meetings the team focused not only on work related issues, but took time to reflect on well-being of team members and provided support when needed. Besides these weekly meetings, the staff met a few times outside the office.

### Committees and Working Groups

The Committee’s (COMs) and Working Groups (WGs) are important pillars in the EFRJ’s work to enable every person in Europe the right of access to high quality restorative justice. Their purpose is to bring together the expertise of the EFRJ members (and other experts) to support the work of the EFRJ and to contribute actively to its mission. Specifically, the COMs are groups of members appointed to work on specific areas, such as practice and training, research, information and communication. WGs also consist of members, but they are working on a certain area and for a limited time. In 2021, one new WG was set up on the topic of institutions.

The members of the COMs and WGs meet normally physically during their annual meetings and organise further their work during online meetings held during the year. In 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and for the second year in raw, we could not bring the members
together (physically) for the annual meetings, instead, more regular online meetings were organised.

**Editorial Committee**

The Editorial Committee (EDCOM) of the EFRJ is composed of a team of international experts actively supporting the EFRJ in collecting, selecting, and disseminating relevant developments in the field of restorative justice. The EDCOM is in charge of putting together the Newsletter and launching articles in The Restorative Blog. The Newsletter is sent to EFRJ members and it is uploaded on the EFRJ website as a PDF as well. It includes the most interesting and thorough articles published in The Restorative Blog, and has an editorial introduction. It typically contains three to six articles, which usually focus on a theme, or deal with new developments in European countries.

In 2021, the EDCOM had the following members: Robert Shaw (UK), Nicola Preston (UK), Emily Molinary (Italy), Diana Ziedina (Latvia), Claudia Christen Schneider (Switzerland), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Heidi Jokinen (Finland), Kim Magiera (Germany), Silvia Randazzo (Italy/Belgium). The EFRJ Board was represented by Katerina Soulou and the Secretariat by Bálint Juhász in the EDCOM. Former member, Branka Peuraca has resigned from her position in the EDCOM in January 2021. Emily Molinari has joined the EDCOM in September as a new member. The EDCOM had 4 online meetings in the year, and the work was organised via emails interim the meetings.

18 articles and 3 thematic newsletters were launched during the year. The issues focusing on the following topics: #22(1): Restorative justice and racial (in)justices and hate crimes (edited by Branka Peurača & Silvia Randazzo); #22(2): Restorative justice and inclusion (edited by Kim Magiera & Nicola Preston); #22(3): “Questions we don’t dare to ask” – a critical look at restorative justice (edited by Claudia Christen-Schneider & Heidi Jokinen).

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

**Training Committee**

As the EFRJ has started to develop its own training offer the purpose of the TRACOM is to bring together restorative justice practitioners (and other experts from related fields) to identify, promote, and support high-quality restorative justice training practice.
The committee is an important pillar in the EFRJ’s work to enable every person in Europe the right of access to high-quality restorative justice. The TRACOM supports the creation of training offers, the administration of a “pool of trainers” (EFRJ Register of Qualified Restorative Justice Trainers and Consultants), and encourages the dissemination and research on training in restorative justice. It assists the EFRJ Secretariat in organising training (or seminars and workshops) in different parts of Europe.

In 2021 the TRACOM was composed by the following EFRJ members: Daniela Arieti (Italy), Marieke Arnou (Belgium), Paul Delaney (Ireland, the elected Chair of the TRACOM), Belinda Hopkins (United Kingdom), Patrizia Patrizi (Italy), Frauke Petzold (Germany), Tim Chapman (UK) and Annemieke Wolthuis (The Netherlands). The Secretariat was represented by Bálint Juhász. In November, Marieke Arnou resigned from the Committee because of her other commitments. Her replacement will be arranged in 2022.

In 2021, the TRACOM has monthly meetings (12 altogether) and has worked on several components of the EFRJ training strategy, such as the structure of the offered courses (progressive learning blocks); the better organisation of the application procedure for trainers; guidance for designing specifications on different topics by the working groups. It also discussed and gave recommendations on other issues: providing opportunities for the professional development of restorative trainers; the remuneration of the trainer’s work; possibilities for accreditation of the EFRJ courses in the future; and the vision of the Winter Academy. Additionally, the members of the TRACOM have provided guidance for the trainers of the EFRJ courses in 2021; organised 3 online Trainers’ Network meetings, gave feedback in the consultation process of the Mediarej project (training of restorative trainers); and prepared a joint workshop with the Values and Standards Committee on the new Manual on Restorative Justice Values and Standards for practice for the EFRJ online symposium in 2021.

In 2022 the TRACOM will continue to work on the following issues: further design of the structure of the EFRJ courses; quality assurance of the EFRJ restorative training courses; the EFRJ Winter Academy; and on possibilities for accreditation.

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

Standards and Values Committee

The Values and Standards Committee was established in 2019 in response to the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) becoming more proactive in promoting public and governmental support for restorative justice in general and specifically for positive
initiatives such as the 2012 EU Victims Directive, which calls for high quality and safe restorative justice services. The committee is therefore dedicated to defining values and ethical standards that will promote this type of high-quality restorative justice practice in Europe. To achieve this aim, the committee is developing practice guidelines and self-assessment tools for restorative justice organisations and practitioners.

Current members of the committee are Carmen Borg (Malta), Antonio Buonatesta (Belgium), Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland), Olga Kiseleva (Russia), Arti Mohan (India), Ana Pereira (Portugal), Valeria Tramonte (Italy), Diana Ziedina (Latvia). Edit Törzs represents the Secretariat and Tim Chapman and Lars Otto Justad represent the EFRJ Board.

The members usually meet once a month for a video conference to discuss ongoing work and plan the next work projects.

In 2021 The committee finalised and published the 'Manual on Restorative Justice Values and Standards for Practice', which describes the standards for good practice from the perspective of service users (victims and perpetrators) and sets out the framework for quality practice, as well as identifying common risks for a good standard of practice. The published manual was launched and presented on a webinar during the International RJ Week in November 2021.

Alongside this manual, and as part of the overarching goal of creating an ‘RJ Quality Review Toolkit’, the committee also created and published three self-assessment toolkits to assess the extent to which RJ practice reflects the values and standards described in the newly published manual.

For 2022, it has committed to developing a set of guidelines to further explain the standards of good practice, as well as producing short videos on the standards that can also be used for training purposes. In addition, participatory activities for EFRJ members are planned, such as during the upcoming conference in Sassari in June 2022.

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

**Research Committee**

The objective of the Research Committee (RECOM) is to bring together researchers
working on restorative justice, create an international and intergenerational network, and set together future research agendas and collaborations. The main objective of the RECOM is: 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 2021 the RECOM was mainly engaged in organising the important and successful online Conference “Measuring, researching, narrating: Discussing the (social) impact of restorative justice”. The event, which brought together presenters (mainly scholars) from all over the world, aimed to engage in collective, critical and productive discussions around themes of social impact and evaluation of restorative justice. The RECOM is working on follow-up initiatives concerning the Conference (publications) as well as on other initiatives for 2022, such as an online event to get together students studying RJ from different countries, a summary report on research concerning RJ and distance and on RJ data collection in Europe.

The RECOM members meet regularly online every 6/8 weeks and has email exchanges in between to follow up the work. The RECOM is composed by Katerine Barnekow (Denmark), Fernanda Fonseca (Brazil), Ena Kazic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Giuseppe Maglione (UK), Ian Marder (Ireland), Anna Matczak (Poland), Federico Reggio (Italy), Helena Soleto (Spain), Estelle Zinsstag (Belgium/UK). Laura Hein represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Brunilda Pali the EFRJ Board.

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

**Working Group on Violent Extremism**

The Working Group on Violent Extremism (WGVE) is focusing on the question of how restorative justice can support the prevention of radicalization, terrorism, and (violent) extremism, promote desistance from crime, and include victims and communities in the justice process.

In 2021, the WGVE published the practice paper “Restorative justice in cases of violent extremism and hate crimes”, presented during the EFRJ symposium in June. The paper explores practices in cases of polarisation, hate crime, and (violent) extremism, seeing these steps as
a continuum towards extreme acts of violence. The WGVE then was divided into two subgroups, one working on the development of a training programme on these topics, and one writing a policy paper based on existing international instruments on violent extremism and terrorism. Two WGVE members left the group (Ali Gohar and Ram Tiwari), while the others committed to stay together until the end of the WGVE’s mandate, postponed until June 2022 on the occasion of the EFRJ conference.

This WG is composed by: Miriam Attias (Finland), Emmanuela Crane (France), Graziella Fourez (Belgium), Joakim Hope Soltveit (Norway), Lucy Jaffe (United Kingdom), Katrien Lauwaert (Belgium), Cheryl Lubin (USA), and Roberto Moreno (Spain). Since its establishment in November 2019, in this WGVE, Emanuela Bifﬁ represents the EFRJ Secretariat and Tim Chapman the EFRJ Board.

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

**Working Group on Restorative Cities**

The aim of the Working Group on Restorative Cities (WGRC) is to bring together different local experiences which have the intention of creating a cultural change with citizens who are empowered in their conflict resolution skills and decision making. Restorative cities aim at disseminating restorative values (inclusion, participation, respect, responsibility, solidarity, truth-seeking, etc.) in different settings where conflict may occur, such as families, schools, neighborhoods, sports organizations, workplaces, and intercultural communities. The final goal of Restorative cities is to strengthen relationships, encourage active citizenship and look at conflict as an opportunity for change, rather than a threat. Here is more information.

In 2021, the WGRC organised internal inspirational meetings, with presenters within the WGRC or invited guests. It also delivered one of the parallel workshops during the EFRJ symposium and agreed, for 2022, to publish a travel guide and apply for a EU funded project. Two new cities joined the WGRC (Wroclaw and Tirana), one left (Como - because the project is currently in pause) and four more got in touch to present their work (Utrecht, Cascais, Bergamo and Zagreb).

The WGRC is composed by: Cristina Vasilescu (Lecco Città Riparativa – Italy, chair in 2021-2022), Gian Luigi Lepri (Tempio Pausania Città Riparativa – Italy, chair in 2020-2021), Ivo Aertsen (Leuven Restorative City – Belgium), Bruna Dighera (Lecco Città Riparativa – Italy), Marian Liebmann (Bristol...
Restorative City - UK), Chris Straker (Consultant/ Trainer – UK), Anna Matczak (Wroclaw Restorative City – Poland), Merita Xhediku (Tirana Restorative City – Albania).

Since its establishment in January 2019, this WG is represented by Emanuela Biffoi on behalf of the EFRJ Secretariat and Patrizia Patrizi representing the EFRJ Board.

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

**Working Group on Restorative Environmental Justice**

This working group was established in 2020 with the purpose to focus on the question of how restorative justice can be an opportunity to bridge the ineffectiveness of current environmental responses and the pressing need to correct existing harmful practices and prevent future environmental damage.

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

The working group meets online every 6 weeks since it was established and their members collaborate regularly together on different projects related to the work of raising awareness on the field of environmental restorative justice such as writing joint publications and organising and participating together in different events.

In 2021, the working group has already achieved (among others) to: collaborate with other international organisations working for the rights of nature and discuss the potential of introducing the concept of restorative justice at the legal definition of ecocide; give feedback to EU policy initiatives concerning the protection of the environment; create a mapping of different real cases where ERJ could be applied and discuss those during the WG meetings.

In 2022, the working group is preparing its first workshops for the International EFRJ Conference in Sassari (Italy) and the Victimology Symposium in San Sebastian (Spain).
Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.
Working Group on Restorative Schools

The EFRJ set up the Restorative Schools Working Group (RSWG) in December 2020. It is focusing on the question of how restorative practices (the term usually used for the application of restorative justice values and principles applied in settings other than criminal justice) can be used in schools to build healthy relationships amongst all members of a school community, to proactively provide to tools for relationship and conflict management, and to repair relationships when they are damaged by challenging behaviours, conflict or harm.

In 2021 the RSWG was composed by: Mònica Albertí i Cortès (Spain), Valerie Braithwaite (Australia), Honorata Czajkowska (Poland), Aleksandra Dopierała (Poland), Maija Gellin (Finland), Belinda Hopkins (United Kingdom), Richard Rhodes (United Kingdom), Vicenç Rullan (Spain), Nino Shatberashvili (Georgia), Michelle Stowe (Ireland), Christopher Straker (United Kingdom), Nina Wroldsen (Norway), Abu Zaman (United Kingdom). Bálint Juhász represented the EFRJ Secretariat and Maia Chochua the EFRJ Board. During the course of the year Vicenç Rullan has resigned from his working group membership, and Valerie Braithwaite became an honorary member (without participating in each meeting).

In 2021 the RSWG has monthly online meetings (with a summer break, altogether 9 meetings). It explored the needs of its members and the common values of the group, discussed different approaches to restorative schools with the aim of creating a common language and laying foundations for future standards suggested by the working group. The group built a data collection form to collect data on restorative school initiatives in Europe and started to collect data in November 2021. Additionally, the RSWG was represented at several public events by its members. Christopher Straker, Belinda Hopkins, Aleksandra Dopierała, Maija Gellin, Nino Shatberashvili, and Michelle Stowe) contributed to the Relational Schools e-Conference (held in April 2021) with a panel discussion (on 16 April 2021: “On a Journey Towards a Restorative School”). It facilitated a workshop on the “Restorative Justice Over Distance” virtual EFRJ symposium on 25th June 2021, and Michelle Stowe took part in the Restorative School Culture webinar organised by the NACRJ and the EFRJ on 13 December 2021. This event was co-moderated by the chair of the RSWG, Belinda Hopkins.

In December 2021, Belinda Hopkins, Christopher Straker and Nino Shatberashvili participated in a consultancy meeting with representative of the Ministry of Education in Georgia and provided guidance on launching pilot restorative school initiatives in the country. Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

Working Group on Gender-Based Violence

The Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (WGGBV) looks at gender-based violence as a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and continuing to be one of the most
notable human rights violations within all societies. The WGGBV, in line with the EFRJ's approach, recognizes and respects the concerns that many people have over restorative responses to gender-based violence and it works for addressing challenges and developing models of restorative justice, which are safe, anti-oppressive, and effective. Here is more information.

On the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March 2021), the WGGBV organised a webinar on GBV with 5 speakers members of this WGGBV, focusing on different aspects of the issue (legislation, practices for domestic and sexual violence, familicides, and healing circles for survivors), attended by about 50 participants. In May, a position paper was submitted on behalf of the WGGBV to the European Commission to respond to the open consultation concerning GBV. The position paper focused mainly on RJ in the Istanbul Convention and included recommendations to the EC concerning RJ in cases of GBV. The WGGBV is currently divided into three subgroups dedicated specifically to sexual violence or domestic violence, or working for understanding the resistance of women and victim support organisations. In 2022, each of these subgroups will continue to work on different outputs (guidelines, papers, etc.) that will be presented during the year.

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

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.

**Working Group on Institutions**

The Working Group on Institutions was set up and started to be operational in 2021, with...
the three-folded objective to: 1. Bring together a group of restorative practitioners, policy workers and academics/scholars, and other stakeholders who will explore issues associated with the application of restorative justice concepts and practices in institutional settings; 2. Direct these explorations towards developing understandings of institutional settings, the phenomena of harmful behaviour, and the methods of responding to abuse; 3. Inventorise the potential applications of restorative concepts and practices in particular settings.

The members of the WG on Institutions, that met for the first time on the 27th May 2021, are: Robert Mackay (Chair, UK), Silvia Randazzo (vice-chair, Italy), Ivo Aertsen (Belgium), Claudia Mazzucato (Italy), Razwana Beugum Abdul Rahim (Singapore), Francesca Bertelli (Italy), Sophie Grimbert Tweed (France), Laura Hein (Italy – representing the EFRJ Secretariat), Marie Keenan (Ireland), Anne-Marie McAlinden (UK), Caroline Petrilla (US), Caroline Petruzzi McHale (France), Tim Chapman (UK), Anneke Van Hoek (The Netherlands) and Gemma Varona (Spain).

The WG has met every about six weeks, and it has employed several sessions in an exercise of registering the diversity of background and experiences among the members and establishing a methodology and a plan to bring together insights and findings of the way institutions operate as entities, which have internal and external relationships towards individuals and other social and political bodies; the nature and complexity of power relationships and abuse; the social-legal-ethical issues associated with institutional abuse; and the challenging and enriching role that restorative justice theory and practice can play with institutions. One of the several common understandings within the group is certainly the potential for Restorative Justice to have an impact in the area of institutional behaviour, especially in relation to victimisation and abuses of power, that the WG aims to further explore.

In 2022, the WG will start operating through sub-groups, to explore further in-depth the complexity of the matter and work on the outputs progressively identified. The working group is also preparing its first workshops for the International EFRJ Conference in Sassari (Italy) and the Victimology Symposium in San Sebastian (Spain).

Further information on the work of the committee may be found here.
External cooperation

Catholic University of Leuven – Leuven Institute for Criminology

The EFRJ cooperates closely with the KU Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC). The EFRJ grew out of a LINC project in the 1990s and the EFRJ Secretariat is still based in the Institute. Being situated in the KU Leuven LINC building, the EFRJ staff has daily contacts with the LINC researchers working on RJ and related topics and participates in the monthly RJ research line meeting and occasionally co-organises seminars or other events with LINC. The EFRJ and LINC also cooperate in research projects, such as the project REJUSTICE on judicial training.

The close cooperation with the university enables the EFRJ also to have contacts with students and occasionally have interns among them.

Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE)

The EFRJ is part of the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE), which since 2012 brings together three organisations working in the fields of detention (EuroPris), probation (Confederation of European Probation, CEP) and restorative justice (EFRJ). Our joint vision is reducing reoffending and the impact of crime through improved methods of working with victims, communities and offenders throughout Europe.

The partners in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) had two coordination meetings in 2021 and regular online meetings to plan the summer course traditionally organised in the first week of July in Barcelona. Two coordination meetings took place during 2021. The first one on 19 January 2021, which was organised online and chaired by CEP.

The second coordination meeting took place on 18 October 2021 in person in Leuven, Belgium. The EFRJ, which hosted this event, was represented on both meetings by Edit Törzs, Executive Director and Laura Hein, Policy officer.

CJPE Summer Course
The CJPE members planned the 4th edition of the CJPE Summer Course already in July 2020 in Barcelona. This edition had sexual violence as its main topic and the EFRJ prepared the workshop “Restorative justice and victims for understanding and responding to sexual violence” led by two senior mediators, Vincent Mercer (UK) and Kristel Buntinx (Belgium). Because of the pandemic the event was postponed to 2021.

In the beginning of 2021 we decided to go on with a live edition of the summer course in 2021. While in spring it was not clear if we the pandemic situation would allow to organise a live event in Barcelona during the summer months, we decided to move the summer course to autumn (19-22 October 2021). Organisation of venue, speakers, workshop leaders, registrations, study visits, catering, advertisement etc. continued and we finally opened registration to this edition on 26 July 2021. By the autumn travel and live events become difficult, again and some of the confirmed contributors could not commit anymore in these circumstances. Therefore the CJPE partners finally decided to cancel the summer course again in 2021.

The CJPE, taking into account the travel restrictions around the Covid-pandemic, still found it important to keep the professional debate going on between the professionals in the prison, probation and restorative justice sector on certain issues. Therefore, we organized 2 free webinars in the course of 2021:

**Webinar on Victims’ Rights in Europe – Why do they matter for offender reintegration?** on 7 July 2021. Find more information and the recordings on our website.

**Webinar on Managing Sexual Offenders** on 30 November 2021. Find more information and the recordings on our website.

**National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (US)**

In 2021 we started a cooperation with the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice from the United States. We met several times to learn about each other’s work and explored ways of collaboration. In 2021 we started a webinar series entitled “International restorative relations” bringing together speakers and audiences from Europe and the US focusing on topics relevant in both areas:

- Monday 26 April (17.30–19.00h CET) - **Trauma informed restorative approaches** (Joe Brummer, USA; Claudia Christen-Schneider, Switzerland)
**EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**
Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

- **Monday 24 May (17.30-19.30h CET)** - **Police, community and youth relationships** (Remko de Boer, The Netherlands; Emma Goddard, UK; Vanessa Westley, USA; Micah Johnson, USA)
- **Monday 27 September (17.30-19.00 CEST)** - **Restorative responses to LGBTQ+ hate crime** (Mark Walters, UK; Malin Roiha and Ignacio Elpidio Domínguez Ruiz, Spain; Jasmyn Story, USA)
- **Monday 13 December (17.30-19.0h CET)** - **Restorative School Culture** (Michelle Stowe, Ireland and Nancy Riestenberg, USA)

More information on these webinars can be found on our [website](#).

### Other cooperation

The EFRJ met or collaborated with different regional and international organisations in 2021 such as:

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Confederation of European Probation (CEP – partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe)
- EuroPris (partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe)
- Victim Support Europe (VSE)
- European Family Justice Centers Alliance
- Rescaled
- Terres des hommes (Tdh)
- Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)
- Validity Foundation
- Fair Trials
- Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature
- European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence
- European Judicial Training Network
Activity report 2021

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

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

Instead of the live conference, on 21-25 June 2021, the EFRJ coordinated and organised its first virtual symposium. The event was entitled “Restorative Justice Over Distance”, as a reminder of the Covid-19 pandemic that for the second year in a row obliged us to propose online activities to connect and exchange, despite the distance. The symposium provided the virtual space for knowledge sharing and exchange among our growing international community of restorative justice practitioners, researchers, policymakers, students and activists.

The aim of the symposium was to map what is happening in the field and also to reflect on the future of restorative justice. In times when the words solidarity, responsibility and truth are the motto, we wished to better understand what is the position of restorative justice on key issues that matter to our societies where criminal and social justice go hand in hand.

The programme consisted of plenary sessions (i.e. the opening and closing, the interactive dialogues and a world café) and a wide range of parallel activities (i.e. workshops, panels or presentations). For this, we invited renowned speakers and EFRJ members active in our working groups and committees, and we contacted the 63 authors (plus their co-authors) who submitted an abstract for the conference in Sassari 2021. New in the programme,
compared to previous events, during the opening session we organised a networking game for supporting participants in getting to know each other and for creating a sense of community around the symposium.

In addition to the live (plenary and parallel) sessions, participants had access to the materials available all week long in the exhibition room, a webpage created in the EFRJ website for publishing permanent materials proposed by participants and working groups (i.e. posters, videos, articles). In some cases, these were used as preparatory documents for one of the parallel sessions, while in others they were published for dissemination purposes.

The event had 238 registrations and on average 150 person joined the different events each day. The online platform of the event was provided by an Estonian company, Worksup, that provided technical support before and during the event. The platform enabled participants not only to join the live events or to visit the exhibition room, but also to get in touch with each other and to answer follow up questionnaires. Recordings and other materials remained available on the platform for registered participants for a month after the event. The evaluation form was filled in only by 46 participants, but those answers expressed a 96% overall satisfaction with the event.

More information on the virtual symposium (programme, booklet) is available on our website.

We wish to honour the work done until now by the Team delle Pratiche di Giustizia Ristorativa in Sassari University and we hope that our members and other professionals will have the opportunity to join this event in 2022.
Conference on the social impact of restorative justice

The EFRJ Research Committee took the lead in organising a one-day online conference on 5 November 2021 entitled “Measuring, researching, narrating: Discussing the (social) impact of restorative justice”. It brought together 8 international speakers focusing on these topics: 1. Efficiency and evaluation of restorative justice programmes; 2. Moving from evaluation towards the social impact of restorative justice; 3. The role of European and international organisations in popularising and fostering restorative justice cultures, practices, policies; and 4. Narrating the impact of restorative justice. The conference was attended by about 90 participants (changing throughout the day). More information on the speakers and full programme is available on the EFRJ website.

Restorative Justice Week

Every year in the third week of November the International Restorative Justice Week takes place all over Europe and beyond. The EFRJ has been participating in the celebrations for many years, and typically contributes to the events in two ways. First, by launching its own materials during the week and offer these for its members for further use. Second, by gathering information on the events organised by its members and partners and sharing this information in the form of an online campaign using its website, social media channels and Newsflashes.

In 2021, for the 25th edition of the RJ Week, the EFRJ has suggested a special key message to focus on: “Protect and Empower the Person Harmed”. Restorative justice processes have a great potential to empower victims and survivors of crime, and to offer them closure.

There is more and more understanding of how restorative justice can serve victims of different types of harm, including serious cases. Yet, restorative justice is still not accessible widely to all victims in every country. That is why the EFRJ has put this topic at the heart of the 2021’s Restorative Justice Week campaign. In addition to the main key topic of 2021, “Protect and Empower the Person Harmed”, the EFRJ has communicated (on social media, webpage and its special newsflash) each day on a specific topic and offered different
initiatives related to them.

For the official start of the RJ Week, on Sunday 21 November 2021, the EFRJ together with the NACRJ (National Association of Community on Restorative Justice in the USA) made publicly accessible, and only till the end of the month, the recordings of their earlier webinars from the series "International Restorative Relations".

On Monday 22 November, the EFRJ aimed at linking their annual key message "Protect and Empower the Person Harmed" to The significance of Values and Standards in RJ processes. To do so, on this day, the EFRJ launched its "Manual on Restorative Justice Values and Standards for Practice" offering a webinar by members of the Values and Standards Committee. Find more information on this event here.

On Tuesday 23 November, the EFRJ campaign focused on Restorative Justice for Victims of Anti–LGBT and Hate Crime sharing in social media quotes from victims of anti LGBTQ+ hate crimes gathered during the LetsGoByTalking project in which the EFRJ was partner in 2020 and 2021.

On Wednesday 24 November, the campaign focused on the Accessibility to Restorative Justice with a live keynote talk by Tim Chapman: Victims’ Experiences of Access to and Participation in Restorative Justice: some interim findings from a narrative research project.

On Thursday 25 November, and in the occasion of the International Day of the Elimination of the Violence Against Women (UN), the EFRJ contributed in raising awareness around the topic of Restorative Justice for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Abuse with the screening of the film "Another Justice".

On Friday 26 November, the EFRJ focused on The Significance of the Collaboration with the Judiciary in Offering Restorative Justice sharing the updated information from the EFRJ RE-JUSTICE project and inspiring video excerpts produced in the project.

On Saturday 27 November the EFRJ focused on RJ Responses to Traumas Caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. For this day, the EFRJ launched a collection of materials related to this issue and made publicly available the recording of its webinar "A restorative city in times of a pandemic" (May, 2021).

On Sunday 28 November, the official end of the RJ week, the EFRJ network was invited, through social media to react and reflect on the past week and its events.
Additionally we launched an interactive map on the first day of the week with all the events related to the RJ Week 2021 and organised by the EFRJ’s network around the world. These events were also included in the special edition of our Newsflash for the RJ Week and in the social media daily communication during the week.

In total, beside the EFRJ’s own activities, the EFRJ campaign communicated of over 35 initiatives in 15 different countries in Europe and beyond.

To read more about the EFRJ RJ Week communication campaign go to the special Newsflash edition and the RJ Week webpage on our website.

**REstART mini festival**

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary (December 2020), the EFRJ organised REstART, a week long online art festival that aimed at creating a collective reflection on justice, solidarity and repair in today’s Europe in the aftermath of personal and societal trauma, conflict, and harm.

One year later, we organised a smaller, half day event on 8 December, creating a moment for exchange between artists, practitioners and others interested in this topic.

Additionally, registered participants could watch the film “Another justice” (2016, directed by Chloé Henry-Biabaud and Isabelle Vayron), telling the story of the restorative encounters between Agnes and Leonard after the murders of Agnes’ daughter and grandchild, and meet the directors of the film.

We wish REstART to become a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience and we wish to build on these experiences to further plan our real live REstART Festival in December 2025!

**RJ in times of the Covid-19**

On 31 May 2021 we organised a bilingual (ITA/ENG) webinar entitled “A restorative city in times of a pandemic”. Starting from June 2020 the restorative city of Lecco (Italy) organised a series of restorative circles (the so called RestoCovid Circles) bringing together doctors and nurses, survivors of Covid-19, family members who lost someone because of the pandemic, and other citizens affected by this situation. The voice spread around the city and by the summer of 2021 this group has hosted 5 circles (9 meetings between June and September 2020) bringing together 70 citizens. The webinar gave voice to five witnesses who participated with their different roles in the RestoCovid Circles.
The topic was presented at the annual conference of the UK RJ Council in November 2021 by Emanuela Bif. In November we launched a webpage dedicated to Covid-19 and restorative justice on the EFRJ website.

Development of a framework for RJ Standards & Values

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

The EFRJ Committee on Values and Standards takes the lead in these developments. In 2021, the Committee launched a new “Manual on Restorative Justice Values and Standards for Practice”. The Committee also works on a Quality Review Toolkit that would offer tools for practitioners, managers of restorative justice services and for policy makers to assess the quality of their practice and identify areas where development is needed. In 2021 a questionnaire for participants of restorative justice processes and an assessment tool for practice organisations based on the above manual were developed. Members of the EFRJ are working on translations of the Manual and these additional language versions will be published on the EFRJ website in the future.

Training provision

In 2021, the EFRJ broadened its training related activities by developing new training materials; delivering online training events that included new courses and training delivered in a new language; by extending and coordinating the trainers’ network and offering regular exchange and networking possibilities for registered trainers, and by actively responding to emerging consultancy and training needs. The work and recommendations of the Training Committee has informed all areas of the different EFRJ training activities.

Development of specialised curricula

In the past year the Training Committee has decided to take a new approach to delivering guidance on the EFRJ course contents and applied methodology. Leaving the concept of
detailed manuals that describe course content and each training activity step-by-step jointly, the committee has moved a more layered guidance by aiming to develop three different types of documents. These constitute of the following: 1) course specifications, 2) a general training delivery principles document, 3) a collection of activity sheets that can be applied in different combinations. In addition, all EFRJ training courses should adhere to the principles outlined in the EFRJ’s Manual on Restorative Justice Values and Standards for Practice that was published in 2021. This new approach allows a more coherent training delivery requirements framework, and at the same time they give more flexibility to apply the training to different contexts and the individual trainers to employ their own personal training style while fulfilling the EFRJ training standards and covering the content required by the EFRJ in its entirety. The course specifications give detailed guidance on the particular training content that should be covered in a training event on different topics. They set the frame requirements on the way the courses have to be delivered, yet do not prescribe the exact activities or restrict the order of the introduction of the course components. The Training Committee decided in 2021 that the specification documents will be developed in collaboration with the EFRJ working groups working on specific topics and the Training Committee itself. The committee has produced the general instruction that will guide in drafting of the specification documents. The a general training delivery principles document will describe the standard requirements and methodological principles of training delivery on behalf of the EFRJ. This document was decided to be drafted in the upcoming two years – drawing conclusions of the experiences of the ongoing courses. Activity sheets are resources for trainers that can be applied in specific or general contexts, and the Training Committee recommends the further creation and dissemination of these among trainers. Additionally, in 2021, based on conclusions and outcomes of the i-Restore project, the EFRJ has commissioned two senior trainers (Bie Vanseveren and Lynn Gastmans from Belgium) to create a set of activity sheets on the topic of restorative justice for children. These were piloted in a first training event on the topic organised by the EFRJ in November 2021.

**EFRJ Register of Qualified Trainers and Trainer’s Network (Pool of trainers)**

To work towards advancing restorative justice to a high standard of quality, advocating for inclusion of restorative justice in all policies addressing criminal and social justice issues,
and promoting excellence in practice, the EFRJ established the Register of Qualified Trainers in 2020. In 2021 the EFRJ maintained regular contact with the registered trainers. A call was launched (September 2021) for the registered trainers to apply for contributing to EFRJ learning events (training courses, workshops) in 2022. The EFRJ offered them networking and professional exchange opportunities. Three virtual Trainers’ Network events were organised throughout the year (27 April, 4 June and 17 September).

Additionally, as an information exchange platform a closed Facebook group was set up, and every registered trainer was invited. The application to the Register has remained open throughout the year, and 2 individual applicants and one organisation with several trainers have submitted their application and were accepted to become members of the Register. In 2021 the register had 65 registered contact persons on the list (the organisation is counted as one contact).

Organising Training Courses

In 2021, the EFRJ organised 5 online training courses. Because of the pandemic the idea of the physical Winter School was postponed to the year later, and instead, the EFRJ organised more online training events than originally planned. These included second (and third) English language editions of the EFRJ courses that were first organised in 2020; a Spanish language version of an existing course, and the introduction of a new training course organised for the first time also in English language. In overall, the courses were well attended with participants from various countries and professional backgrounds, and both participants’ anonymous feedback was positive, and in the internal evaluation process found the courses of good standard, also pinpointing a few areas for improvement. The following table shows an overview of the courses organised in 2021 and their attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Trainers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Restorative Justice (EN, online, spring 2021) 15–16 22–23 April, each day 4 pm - 7:30 pm CET.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Monique van der Zouw (NL) and Maartje Berger (NL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In total 75 persons participated in the EFRJ courses in 2021. Recognising the language limitations of offering courses in English only, the EFRJ has started to organise courses in other languages, the first one in French, two years ago and now in Spanish. This will be followed by other languages in the following years. The EFRJ successfully reached out to participants beyond its membership, as 75% of the training participants were not members of the EFRJ.

The following charts show the country and professional background of the participants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Trainers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Restorative Justice Responses to Serious Harm</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gael Cochrane (UK) and Martina Jordan (UK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(EN, online, spring 2021) 28–29 April, 5–6 May, each day 4 pm - 7:30 pm CET.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducción a la Justicia Restaurativa</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mercedes Matás (SP) and Angel Avilés (SP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(SP, online, spring 2021) (18,20,25,27 May each day 4 pm - 7:30 pm CET.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Restorative Justice (EN, online, autumn 2021)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tim Chapman (UK) and Anna Halonen (FI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–5, 18–19 October each day 4 pm - 7:30 pm CET.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restorative Justice for Children</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Bie Vanseveren (BE) and Lynn Gastmans (BE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(EN, online, autumn, 2021) 10, 12 November each day 2 pm - 6 pm CET.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of participants</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Manuals developed by the EFRJ Training Committee in 2019, and the activity sheets on restorative justice for children developed in 2021. The selected trainers submitted detailed training rationales in advance that was evaluated by a member of the Training Committee who gave feedback on the plans. All the courses were assisted and observed by Training and Communication Officer of the EFRJ, who after the events also evaluated the courses together with the trainers. Participants had to fill in voluntary and anonymous feedback forms in each case and they received certificates of attendance.

The EFRJ used various materials to share information about the training events. Here is for example a video that was created for the Spanish language introduction course: https://vimeo.com/545731923 and the flyer used to promote the English language Introduction course in the Autumn 2021.

Policy oriented work

European Restorative Justice Policy Network (ERJPN)

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

Between 2018 and 2020, representatives of 26 countries/jurisdictions replied positively to our invitation to join the ERJPN, welcoming the creation of this policy network: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany (and Schleswig Holstein), Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain (Catalonia), Sweden and UK (England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
Ireland). In 2021 we were able to attract representatives from Hungary, Austria and
Denmark and new representatives of France and Croatia.

We sent to the members of the ERJPN regular updates regarding new EU/international
initiatives related to RJ as well as on the policy related work of the EFRJ. The aim is to keep
ERJPN members informed in a more regular basis on what the EFRJ is doing in the policy
field, collect their inputs and comments. In order to strengthen our application for the JUST
Operating Grants FPA, we asked the support of the Ministries involved in the ERJPN (of EU
MSs) by sending us a letter of support. We were extremely pleased of the very positive
replies, receiving 15 support letters for our application.

The annual meeting is the main event of the policy network in the year. We sent out a “save
the date” in July 2021 to the members of the ERJPN alongside with a short survey to check the
availabilities and preferences of the members about having the annual meeting live in Leuven or in an
online format. Due to the responses to the survey and due to the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic and
the consequent restrictions taken in Europe we finally decided for a virtual meeting. The fourth annual
meeting of the ERJPN was held online on two consecutive days on 15 and 16 November 2021, from
10:00 to 13:00 (CET time). The event was attended by 24 representatives coming from 19
European countries/jurisdictions. The annual meeting of this year aimed mainly at offering
space to updates on RJ developments in the EU (i.e., the evaluation of the EU Victims’
Directive), in the CoE and, in particular, in the participating countries. The second day of the
annual meeting was dedicated mainly to “Accessibility to RJ”, different presentations have
been offered around this topic, including the presentation of the new EFRJ Manual on
Values and Standards and a report on research done by the Scottish Ministry of Justice on
raising awareness on RJ.

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

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

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

The EFRJ participated at the plenary meetings (February and December 2021) and at several ad hoc meetings of the Platform (on the role of European NGOs, on victimisation in prisons and on gender based violence). After these ad-hoc meetings we shared with the EC our position papers on the topics.

**Influencing policy on the EU, CoE and UN level**

**European Union**

**EC evaluation of the Victims' Rights Directive**

The European Commission (EC) started the evaluation process of the Victims’ Rights Directive (Directive 2012/29/EU) in the second half of 2021 “to assess to what extent it has achieved its objectives in terms of its implementation and practical application in EU countries”.

The EFRJ has taken several steps to support this evaluation process. We had an interview and participated at the focus group with European NGOs organised by ICF (a consulting firm) and Victim Support Europe (VSE) tasked by the EC to carry out the evaluation of the Directive.

The EFRJ submitted to the EC a position paper on the evaluation of the RJ provisions in the Victims’ Rights Directive. Our submission is based on an extensive research process. In order to identify strengths and weaknesses relating to the implementation of these provisions at the national and the regional level, we sent a survey to selected EFRJ members and networks. The position paper is mainly based on information collected through this survey as well as on research conducted by the EFRJ in the last years. We received 45 responses to the survey covering 18 European countries. The position paper can be downloaded from the EFRJ dedicated webpage, [here](#).

At the end of the year (on 21 December), the EFRJ sent its feedback to the EC promoted Call for evidence for an impact assessment to collect inputs concerning a possible update of the EU rules on victims’ rights. [Here](#) is the link to EFRJ feedback. In 2022 we will continue our policy engagement with the European institutions to advocate for the revision of the RJ
provisions in the Victims’ Rights Directive and for a right of access to restorative justice for victims and offenders.

**EC revision of the Directive on Environmental Protection through Criminal Law**

In May 2021, the EFRJ Working Group on Environmental Restorative Justice submitted a commentary to the EC to revise the EU Directive 2008/99/EC on Environmental Protection through Criminal Law. The focus of the commentary is on the potential of restorative justice in cases of environmental crime, taking into account the complexity and specific nature of various forms of environmental harm and ecocide, and how existing restorative justice processes could be adapted in order to make truly restorative responses possible. Our submission includes innovative examples in some countries, and recommendations to the EC. [Here](#) you find the EFRJ commentary and more information.

**EC open consultation on gender based violence and on hate crimes**

In May 2021, the EFRJ Working Group on Gender Based Violence participated in the EC open consultation on “Combating gender-based violence – protecting victims and punishing offenders”. The WG submitted a position paper mainly concerning RJ and the Istanbul Convention. The pdf can be downloaded [here](#).

In April 2021, the EFRJ submitted to the EC its comment ([here](#)) on “Hate speech & hate crime possible inclusion on list of EU crimes”.

**Council of Europe**

**Venice Declaration on the Role of Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters**

The summit of the Ministers of Justice of the member states of the Council of Europe took place on 13–14 December 2021 in Venice, Italy. The first Conference of Ministers of the semester of the Italian Presidency (entitled “Crime and Criminal Justice – What is The Role of Restorative Justice in Europe”) was fully dedicated to restorative justice. The event concluded with the unanimous adoption of a new Venice Declaration on the role of restorative justice in criminal matters. The EFRJ was officially represented at the event by Maia Chochua (board member). Professor Ivo Aertsen (founding member and first Chair of the EFRJ) also took part in the conference. Both of them addressed the high level audience as experts on restorative justice.

Some of EFRJ members were also invited to present during the Senior Officials Meeting in preparation of the Conference of the Ministers of Justice, held in Como (Italy) on 11 and 12 October 2021. Among others, Maia Chochua (EFRJ board member), Michael Kilchling
(former EFRJ Chair), Ivo Aertsen (EFRJ founder and former Chair), Beata-Czarnecka-Dzialuk (former EFRJ board member), Claudia Mazzucato, Ian Marder and Grazia Mannozzi (active EFRJ members).

Beside engaging in a wide dissemination of the Venice Declaration, its content and impact in Europe, the EFRJ is planning to initiate concrete follow-up initiatives with the CoE as well as with CoE Member States inspired by the recommendations included in the Venice Declaration.

**CoE Recommendation on the reintegration in the community of individuals accused or convicted of sexual offences (adopted October 2021)**

On 20 October 2021, the CoE adopted the Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States regarding the assessment, management and reintegration of persons accused or convicted of a sexual offence. Mainly inspired by the CoE Rec. on RJ, in 2020 we drafted and submitted to the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP) a position paper aimed to draw their attention to a broader conception of RJ, its potential to support the reintegration of sexual offenders and its benefits for the recovery of victims and communities. Indeed, Rule 33 of the Recommendations recommends the facilitation of RJ (where available and appropriate).

**EFRJ observer status on the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP)**

In June 2021, the CoE granted to the EFRJ the observer status on the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP). The observer status gives us the possibility to attend the plenary and working group meetings of the PC-CP, to engage in the discussions and strengthen our cooperation. Our policy officer (Laura Hein) attended the conference celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the PC-CP and the 11th Plenary meeting of PC-CP, on 22 and 23 November 2021.

**UN/UNODC/ECOSOC**

**The Kyoto Declaration and RJ**

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto on 7–12 March 2021, adopted the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under the topic “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration” the Kyoto Declaration calls Member States to “facilitate, where appropriate
and in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, restorative justice processes at relevant stages in criminal proceedings in order to assist the recovery of victims and the reintegration of offenders, as well as to prevent crime and recidivism, and assess their usefulness in this regard” (paragraph 42). EFRJ chair, Tim Chapman, and Executive Director, Edit Törzs, attended several sessions relevant for RJ during this UN Congress.

Interesting to note is that the Kyoto Declaration calls specifically for assessing the usefulness of RJ in particular regarding the recovery of victims, the reintegration of offenders, the prevention of crime and recidivism. The EFRJ plans to engage more on this and on exploring the possibility of an European data collection and evaluation system.

**ECOSOC**

After almost two years of our application, in October 2021 the EFRJ was granted and NGO consultative status at the ECOSOC. This status enables us to contribute more actively to the work of certain UN bodies, including the Commission on Crime prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

**Restorative Justice Strategies for Change (RJS4C)**

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

The core members meet once a year (either in one of the participating countries or online). In 2021, the partnership was invited by the Ministry of Justice of Estonia to organise the annual meeting in Tallinn. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we decided to hold the meeting online (on 20 May) and to postpone the meeting in Estonia to 2022. During the meeting in 2021 we decided to extend the project for one year, until 2024. In order to promote more synergies between the policy work of the EFRJ at the European and international level with the work done by the core members of the project at the national level, it was also decided to set up a policy working group within the RJS4C to discuss a meta-strategy for the development of RJ in Europe. From September 2021 regular meetings of this working
group took place online. During the EFRJ virtual symposium “Restorative Justice Over Distance” (21 – 25 June) a session was dedicated to share with the audience the extremely successful experience of the RJS4C and several core members of the project presented the activities carried out in their countries in the context of RJS4C. Our policy officer, Laura Hein, was invited twice during the year to meet the RJS4C stakeholder group to give updates on EU and CoE policies related to RJ.

**Awareness raising and Communication**

In 2021, the communication activities of the EFRJ sought to strengthen its relations within its network and beyond. The communication strategy aimed to engage our membership in various exchange and dissemination activities; to create platforms that enable stronger international relations within Europe and beyond; to enhance collaboration with EFRJ partners in creating better understanding of restorative justice; to create awareness of its policy priorities; to give visibility to the innovative initiatives of its members, and, finally, to inform the wider public about the manifold potential of restorative justice and support associated causes by joining a number international campaigns.

In 2021, the EFRJ has joined international campaigns launched by the European Union, the Council of Europe, the UN and a partner organisation, Victim Support Europe, to support the overarching causes stated in these campaigns and to bring attention to the potential of restorative justice in the issues in the focus of these campaigns. These included for example the European Day of Victims, the International Women’s Day, the Earth Day, the UN World Cities, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the entire UN Woman’s UNITE campaign among others. To these campaigns the EFRJ has contributed with audiovisual materials, events, social media and website updates. The EFRJ has also joined other organisation’s events to raise awareness on the potential of restorative justice in their issues or areas of work.

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

**EFRJ website**

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In 2021, the EFRJ has used extensively its website, which is the heart of its communications. The most essential information is shared through the website, and the other communication channels typically direct users to the website with hyperlinks or other indications.

After launching the new website in 2020, the EFRJ made significant developments to its website. By the end of the year it counted 519 different webpages, and over 50% of its total webpages have been updated in 2021. The number of visitors have increased since 2020 (when it was between 8000–1000 for the year), it was 11873 in 2021. The website had 24752 page views in total.

**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.

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
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. Some of the briefs are also available in Spanish and in French languages.

**Social media**

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

The channels used by the EFRJ include the most popular social media platforms in Europe: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. The EFRJ also has a Vimeo channel to share audiovisual content. The audience of the EFRJ accounts on these channels has been growing since the last year (7% increase in people who like the EFRJ page on Facebook, 11% growth in the number of Facebook followers, 19% more Twitter followers, 87% increase the followers of the EFRJ LinkedIn page, and 52% more followers on Instagram).

**Newsflash**

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

Newflashes are accessible for everyone, interested people can subscribe easily through the EFRJ website, and they receive them in their email inbox. In addition, the Newflashes are also published through the EFRJ website.

The number of subscribers to the EFRJ Newflash has been growing in the past years and by the end of 2021 it reached almost 3000 addresses.

**Newsletter**

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

The Committee has produced three Newsletter issues in 2021. These were edited by rotating guest editors (members of the Committee), and had the following focus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Guest editor(s)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 / 1</td>
<td>Branka Peurača and Silvia Randazzo</td>
<td>26 February 2021</td>
<td>Thematic issue on restorative justice and its application in the challenging context of racial (in)justices and hate crimes including an editorial, 1 interview and 5 articles.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Vol_22_1.pdf">https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Vol_22_1.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 / 2</td>
<td>Kim Magiera and Dr Nicola Preston</td>
<td>8 June 2021</td>
<td>Thematic issue on restorative justice and inclusion featuring an editorial and 5 articles.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Vol_22_2.pdf">https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Vol_22_2.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 / 3</td>
<td>Claudia Christen-Schneider and Heidi Jokinen</td>
<td>30 October 2021</td>
<td>Thematic issue on critical considerations around restorative justice “Questions We Don’t Dare to Ask”, with an editorial, 3 articles and 1 interview.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Vol_22_3.pdf">https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Vol_22_3.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All the Newsletter articles were also published in the Restorative Blog, a section of the EFRJ website dedicated to share articles, interviews and blog pieces. The Restorative Blog included other pieces of the text that were released exclusively there (since they did not fit any of the thematic Newsletter issues.) All together 18 new articles were shared on The Restorative Blog in 2021.

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 2021 the EFRJ produced 82 videos that were shared publicly or were available to attendees of specific events (e.g. the recording of the REstART events, the EFRJ Symposium, or the One day virtual conference on the social impact of restorative justice.) The publicly available videos are either embedded in the EFRJ website or can be found on the EFRJ’s Vimeo channel.

Projects

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

In 2021, the EFRJ continued to participate (as a partner) in several projects and applied (as a partner and/or coordinator) in other calls for project funding.

Finished projects in 2021, with the EFRJ as a partner:

| Bibliography | Robert Shaw | 30 October 2021 | Updated Newsletter Bibliography of the first 21 volumes (2000 – 2020) was published together with the last issue of 2021. This included the authors and titles of all appeared articles in the previous 21 years. https://www.euforumrj.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Newsletter_bibliography.pdf |

The EFRJ has dedicated a 10% project officer (Emanuela Biffl) for 24 months to this project promoting the use of restorative justice in cases involving child victims. In cooperation with Restorative Justice Nederland, in 2021 the EFRJ was responsible for: the contents and methodologies of the 9 national trainings (3 in Albania, 3 in Greece and 3 in Romania) that took place online in the beginning of the year; the contents and methodologies of the e-learning launched on the ChildHub Academy; the organisation of the 2nd advocacy event that took place online as a dialogue between three of the RJ Advisory Group members; the organisation of the (virtual) study visits that brought together the young people who took part in the Child Advisory Boards; the participation in the two virtual conferences on RJ with children (including the 2021 World Congress “Justice with Children” that gathered over 4,800 intergenerational participants from over 100 countries). All this work was based on the research findings published in 2020. Additionally, the project partners participated in one of the parallel workshops dedicated to victims (children and LGBT community) during the EFRJ International Symposium (June 2021). Finally, in December, Emanuela Biffl (project officer) and Annemieke Wolthuis (board member) delivered training in Tallinn, financed by the Estonian Ministry of Justice, based on the i-RESTORE project findings.


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

The EFRJ hired a 50% project officer (Malini Laxminarayan) for this project aiming at contributing to the reparation of anti-LGBT hate crimes through the promotion of restorative justice in the EU. As a partner in this project, the EFRJ contributed to the achievement of the project’s main objectives, namely: to analyse the perspectives of victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes and key professionals; to identify and study programmes of RJ in cases of hate crimes; to foster the exchange of experiences and the cooperation between professionals; to develop training guidelines and courses for RJ practitioners; to raise-awareness about the RJ efficacy. The countries involved in the project were: Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Bulgaria and Poland. In 2021, the EFRJ organised a 2 days national workshop online in Belgium, a 1 day transnational workshop (online), a half day training for Belgian participants, a train the trainers session for Belgian participants, attended the partners’ meetings, contributed to dissemination and participated on the final conference of the project (live in Barcelona). Additionally, the project partners participated in one of the parallel workshops dedicated to victims (children and LGBT community) during the EFRJ International Symposium (June 2021).

**Ongoing projects in 2021, with the EFRJ as a partner:**

1) **RE-JUSTICE: Sustainable training in a challenging field** (Nov 2019 – Oct 2021, extended to April 2022) – Coordinator: KU Leuven, Belgium

The EFRJ has hired a 30% project officer (Silvia Randazzo) for this project focusing on developing and piloting training for judges and prosecutors in restorative justice. The project is extremely relevant to further promote the effective application of the provisions of the Victim’s Directive, as it promotes a sustainable way the process of raising awareness, building knowledge and developing skills and attitudes amongst of judges and public prosecutors, firstly and mainly in Greece, Spain and Italy and, ultimately to the 27 EU MS level. The EFRJ is a partner in this project and provides expertise and technical support in the designing and implementation of the training courses. In 2021, the EFRJ was responsible for: the drafting of the Manual for Trainers to be used in training to judges and public prosecutors on restorative justice; the development and drafting of training materials for trainees, including handouts, video-lectures, case studies, exercises, and guidelines; the production of training video materials, in collaboration with Moderator and KU Leuven (LINC and LIMEL), with direct testimonies from parties involved in restorative processes, mediators, judges and public prosecutors; the organisation of a panel discussion on judicial training on restorative justice at the EFRJ International Symposium (June 2021).

For more information: www.euforumrj.org/en/re-justice–2019–2021

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

This Erasmus+ project builds on the experience of KINTSUGI (concluded in 2020). PROTECT focuses on training different professionals (restorative justice practitioner, victim support officers, probation officers, social workers, etc.) in victims’ rights and restorative justice. Within this two years project, the PROTECT partners will deliver a 60 hours training programme divided among 3 weeks in 3 different locations (Lisbon, Barcelona, Rome). The EFRJ is responsible for publishing three training tools based on these peer-learning experiences. For this reason, in 2021 it launched a call for members to apply to participate in the training, deliver 2 hours sessions in each training and finally write the report based on the knowledge gathered during the training. 4 EFRJ members and 2
staff members (i.e. Laura Hein and Julia Barjau) will participate in this project, coordinated by Emanuela Biffi.

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

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

The EFRJ appointed a 20% project officer (Julia Barjau) for this project on training trainers (and senior practitioners) in restorative justice. Within this project the EFRJ is responsible for the first intellectual output (“Framework of competencies for trainers on mediation based on restorative justice”); this took the form of a Handbook for restorative justice training programmes, including a literature review as well as the findings of a consultation process with experts in the field. The Handbook was published at the end of 2021. In March 2023, the EFRJ will also organise the international final conference of the MEDIAREJ project in Brussels. Finally, the EFRJ is responsible for the sustainability and follow up activities once the project ends.

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

**Projects just started in 2021:**


Perform Europe is an EU-funded project aimed to rethink how performing arts works are presented across borders in a more inclusive, sustainable and balanced way by testing new touring and distribution practices and providing policy recommendations for a future EU support scheme. The EFRJ applied to take part in the piloting phase by touring the public event “The Polarity Party” (MichaelDouglas Kollektiv, Germany) in Bucharest, Sassari and Poznan. The event gathers a maximum of 120 participants taking part in a choreography dedicated to polarisation and hate. The 1st digital event will take place in January 2022 and a live performance is planned for the 11th international conference of the EFRJ.


2) **REGUIDE – A holistic, restorative and gendered approach to guide returnees to their home countries** (Belspo Brain–BE 2.0, Sept 2021 – 2025). Coordinator: Vrije Universiteit Brussel

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**European Forum for Restorative Justice**

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

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In this project, subsidised by a Belgian funding scheme for action research and interdisciplinary networks, restorative approaches are proposed to support the reintegration of returnees (mostly women and children) in Belgium. The EFRJ (represented by Emanuela Biffi) has a role in the Advisory Group. EFRJ Board member Brunilda Pali, hired via the KU Leuven partner, is involved in the research phase of the project until 2023.

**Project applications in 2021**

In 2021 the EFRJ Secretariat was approached to engage as partners in several project proposals. After a careful selection based on the main topic, required engagement and expertise, the quality of the proposal and the capacity of the EFRJ, the EFRJ engaged in the following new project applications:

- **Restorative Justice goes online - a new way to deal with cyberbullying** (Erasmus+) – submitted by coordinator Arnera Società Cooperativa Sociale (Italy) – rejected
- **ACT JUST: Addressing hate crimes motivated by racism: Empowerment and reparation through restorative justice** (CERV-2021-EQUAL) – submitted by coordinator Universitat de Barcelona (Spain) – rejected
- **JUSTCARE: Restoring access to justice for victims with mental health issues** (JUST) – submitted by the Gobierno de Navarra (Spain) – rejected
- **i-RESTORE 2.0: For Accessible Quality Restorative Justice processes for children in contact with the law in Europe** (JUST) – submitted by Terre des hommes – granted
- **The art of conflict and restorative dialogues** (Perform Europe) – submitted by the EFRJ – granted, see above
- **ODR4all: Shaping the future of Digital Justice Ecosystems with Online Dispute Resolution Tools** (COST) – submitted by the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain) – rejected

For different reasons, we did not engage in a few other requests for partnership (e.g. a COST action on missing persons in the context of conflict, natural disasters and irregular migrant journeys). Also, we supported our members in two more applications for funding.
Representation at Conferences and other events

In 2021, the EFRJ was represented by Staff or Board members (or appointed Working Group or Committee members) on the following events:

**14/01 online:** Emanuela Biffi attended the event organised by UN Woman on “Championing Women’s Participation in Peace Processes.

**11/2 online:** Emanuela Biffi attended a workshop organised by the SWaPOL project dedicated to a better cooperation between social work and police.

**17/2 online:** Emanuela Biffi attended a RAN webinar on Radicalisation hubs in the EU.

**19/2 online:** Laura Hein attended the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights event on the results of the first-ever EU-wide survey on crime victimisation.

**21/2 online:** Annemieke Wolthuis (Board) and Emanuela Biffi (Staff) participated in a virtual Q&A session, organised by Terre des hommes, together with the authors of the i-RESTORE research report dedicated to the application of restorative justice in cases involving child victims in Albania, Greece and Romania. [www.euforumrj.org/en/irestore-2019-2021](http://www.euforumrj.org/en/irestore-2019-2021)

**7-12/3 Kyoto/online:** Tim Chapman (Board), Edit Törzs (staff) and Mariann Liebmann (member) attended online the UN Crime Congress.

**18/3 online:** Emanuela Biffi attended the Creativity in Youth Justice Symposium.

**12/4 online:** Edit Törzs was a speaker on a webinar entitled Restorative Justice and the Dynamics of Knowledge Transfer Across Countries and Sectors organised by the International Network for Criminal Justice.

**16/4 online:** The EFRJ was represented by Julia Barjau Dachs (staff), Ivo Aertsen and Lawrence Kershen (members – Environmental RJ WG) on the listening circle on Rights of Nature, Ecocide and Restorative Justice organised by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN).

**16/4 online:** Members of the Restorative Schools Working Group organised a panel discussion as part of the programme of the Relational Schools eConference.

**17/4 online:** Patrizia Patrizi (Board) and Malini Laxminarayan (Staff) participated in an online seminar on hate crimes organised by Sassari University “L’analisi del fenomeno nella prospettiva della Restorative Justice e riflessioni sulla normativa Italiana”.

**17/5 online:** Annemieke Wolthuis (Board) delivered the training “Mediation and the best interest of the child” for the European Policy Institute (EPI) in Skopje. [https://epi.org.mk/?lang=en](https://epi.org.mk/?lang=en)
21/5 online: Annemieke Wolthuis, Katerina Soulou, Tim Chapman (Board), Emanuela Biffi and Silvia Randazzo (Staff) participated in the i-RESTORE conference on child victims and restorative justice. www.euforumrj.org/en/irestore–2019–2021

3–4/6 online: Brunilda Pali (Board) and Julia Barjau (Staff) participated in the two-day seminar “Environmental restorative justice: A new justice framework for environmental harm” organised by the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law. www.iisj.net/en/workshops/environmental-restorative-justice-new-justice-framework-environmental-harm

12/7 online: Patrizia Patrizi (Board) and her colleagues from the Team of Restorative Practices in Sassari University presented the findings of the EU funded project “FAIRCOM” that supports victims of sexual violence. https://sexualviolencejustice.eu/

14 – 16/7 Napoli: Laura Hein (Staff) presented during the training for Italian magistrates entitled “to punitive justice to restorative justice (dalla giustizia sanzionatoria alla giustizia riparativa)”, organised by Italian Training School for Magistrates (Scuola Superiore della Magistratura.

31/8 online: Petra Masopust Sachova (Board) presented on restorative justice solutions for hate crime in a OSCE event. www.osce.org/odihr/494062

9/9 Sassari: Tim Chapman and Patrizia Patrizi (Board) gave a lecture for the Master students of the course “Restorative justice and mediation for people and community wellbeing” in Sassari University.

17/9 online: Emmanuelle Crane, Katrien Lauwaert and Cheryl Lubin (members of the Working Group on Violent Extremism) presented on restorative justice as a viable means of rehabilitation and reintegration at the seminar organised by ERA (European Academy of Law), attended by judges, prosecutors, lawyers and prison and probation officers. The event, entitled “Reducing Radicalisation in Prisons with Alternatives to Imprisonment”, was part of the series “Detention and MLA – Enhancing Cross-border Mutual Legal Assistance and Recognition of Decisions within the Context of Detention”. https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?_SID=d5392d81dda80b67f47d1539a5d63b9859af14qq00841044821811&_sprache=en&_bereich=artikel&_aktion=detail&idartikel=130899

21/9 online: Edit Törzs (Staff) presented on restorative justice at the internal meeting organised by Validity Foundation as part of the Voices for Justice project. The aim is to understand how restorative justice works for people with disabilities.

1/10 Leuven: Brunilda Pali (Board) was one of the speakers for the Book launch “Hysteria - Crime, Media, and Politics”. www.vub.be/events/2021/book-launch-hysteria-crime-mediacrime-politics
1/10 Trento: Gian Luigi Lepri (member of the Working group on Restorative Cities) presented the concept of restorative cities at the international conference “Progettare comunità”.

5/10 Brussels: Emanuela Biffi (Staff) attended the peer workshop gender-based violence and sexual harassment, part of the SET THE TONE project. The interactive workshop served to exchange experiences and competencies to help us to define the training needs for changing behaviours and attitudes towards sexual harassment. [https://set-the-tone-project.eu/](https://set-the-tone-project.eu/)

11–12/10 Hannover: Emanuela Biffi (Staff) and the project partners of the Erasmus+ PROTECT met in the premises of our organisational member WAAGE Institute, that also organised a study visit in the district court of Hannover. [www.euforumrj.org/en/protect-2020–2022](http://www.euforumrj.org/en/protect-2020–2022)

11–12/10 Vienna/online: Tim Chapman (Board) presented in a panel on the future of child justice during the FRA (Fundamental Rights Agency) Fundamental Rights Forum. The programme included many topics relevant for our network, such as violent extremism, hate crime, polarisation, child justice, environmental justice, just responses to covid-19.

12/10 online: Edit Törzs (Staff) attended the RAN High Level Conference organised by the Radicalisation Awareness Network.

13/10 online: Miriam Attias (member of the Working Group on Violent Extremism) attended the RAN Practitioners Plenary organised by the Radicalisation Awareness Network.

12–13/10 Prague: Laura Hein (Staff) presented together with Tim Chapman (Board) and Petra Masopust Šachová (Board member) during the CEP (Confederation of European Probation) Conference “The Restoration of Normality: Mirroring the Past in the Future”.

12–13/10 Como: Maia Chochua (Board) and other EFRJ members (Ivo Aertsen, Ian Marder, Michael Kilchling, Beata-Czarnecka-Dzialuk) participated in the preparatory meeting organised for the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers to prepare the conference “Crime and Criminal Justice – What is the Role of Restorative Justice in Europe” (Venice, 14 December 2021).

16/10 online: Patrizia Patrizi (Board) was one of the speakers invited to the conference on restorative and community justice organised by the CSV FVG (center for voluntary services in the region Friuli Venezia Giulia). The conference looked at principles and practices useful for the voluntary sector as well as justice institutions in the territory with the aim of providing additional tools useful for achieving more security, empowerment and social peace. [www.csvfvg.it/convegno-giustizia-riparativa-e-di-comunita/](http://www.csvfvg.it/convegno-giustizia-riparativa-e-di-comunita/)


3/11 Budapest: Edit Törzs (Staff) visited the Validity Foundation working on disability issues. The meeting happened in the framework of Validity’s project on access to justice for people with mental health disabilities.

8–9/11 Wroclaw: Patrizia Patrizi, Tim Chapman (Board), Marian Liebmann, Ivo Aertsen, Belinda Hopkins and Ian Marder (EFRJ members) presented at the international conference "The idea of restorative city – a bridge over troubled water". The event was organised within the framework of the project “Restorative Justice. Strategies for Change”.

17/11 Bergamo/online: Tim Chapman, Patrizia Patrizi (Board), Emanuela Bifff and Julia Barjau (Staff) presented during the one day seminar dedicated to training trainers in restorative justice, organised within the framework of the MEDIAREJ project. www.euforumrj.org/en/mediarej-2020-2023

18/11 online: Emanuela Biffi (Staff) presented on cybercrime and restorative justice during the workshop dedicated to victims of cybercrime organised within the Council of Europe’s Octopus Conference on Cybercrime.

18/11 Barcelona/online: Edit Törzs (staff) presented on developments of restorative justice in Europe on the national conference on restorative justice organised by the Catalan Government

22 – 23/11 Strasbourg: Laura Hein (staff) attended the Conference celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the CoE working group Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP) and the 11th Plenary meeting of the PC-CP. www.cuttingcrimeimpact.eu/news-events/events/cci-conference/


25/11 Brussels: Emanuela Biffi (Staff) attended the conference “Designing Security Futures” organised within the framework of the Cutting Crime Impact project. www.cuttingcrimeimpact.eu/news-events/events/cci-conference/

1–2/12 Leuven: Laura Hein (policy officer) presented during the Workshop on Domestic Violence in prison and probation organised by CEP and Europris.

3/12 online: Emanuela Biffi, Julia Barjau, Laura Hein, Balint Juhasz and Edit Törzs (Staff) attended (with rotating roles) the conference “Safe Justice for Victims: Transforming
Justice Systems/Future Trends” organised by Victim Support Europe. [https://victim-support.eu/vse-autumn-conference-2021/]

9/12 Milan: Brunilda Pali (Board) was one of the speakers in the multipolar conversation “The Art of the Encounter: Building a Beauty that Builds an Inclusive and Just Environment”, engaging speakers and the public in exploring the potential of art and beauty as a powerful and peaceful means to create inclusive spaces. [www.unicatt.eu/NEB](www.unicatt.eu/NEB)

9–10/12 Tallin: Emanuela Biffi (Staff) and Annemieke Wolthuis (Board) delivered a training on restorative justice for children, organised by the Ministry of Justice. Additionally, they participated in the evening screening of the film “A Conversation” followed by a debate in a local cinema and delivered a presentation for policymakers.

14/12 Venice: Maia Chochua (Board) participated in the conference “Crime and Criminal Justice – What is The Role of Restorative Justice in Europe” organised by the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers conference, which resulted in the Venice Declaration for Restorative Justice.

21/12 Perugia/online: Tim Chapman and Patrizia Patrizi (Board) presented during the conference “La riparazione nella Giustizia Minorile” organised within the framework of the project of the "Astrolabio".
## EFRJ 2020 – 2021 Financials

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<tr>
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<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit and loss accounts</strong></td>
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<td>Depreciations</td>
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<td>Mediarej</td>
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<td>Result of the year</td>
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### Balance Sheet

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<tbody>
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<td>Liquid Assets</td>
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<td>Transitory accounts</td>
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<td>Capital and Reserves</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>630.242</strong></td>
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