



EFRJ Annual General Meeting 2022

Sassari, Italy - 22 June 2022, 17:00-19:00hr

Minutes

After 2 consecutive years in which the EFRJ Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place online due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM 2022 took place in Sassari (Island of Sardinia, Italy) on 22 June, the day before the opening of our 11th International Conference. The AGM was held in the Aula Magna of the Sassari University.

139 persons registered to the AGM, 90 persons participated to the AGM 2022 in Sassari and 8 participated online. 2 members were represented via a proxy. 62 participants had full voting rights, among them 19 organisational members.

1. Formal issues and Activities of the Forum

1.1. Approval of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting (2021 online)

The meeting approved the minutes of the previous AGM that took place online on 16 June 2021. (Minutes were distributed to all members with the invitation.)

1.2. Approval of new membership applications and other membership matters

Since the last AGM, 63 new members applied for an EFRJ membership:

- 8 new organisations, 6 as full members (from Azerbaijan, Finland, France, Georgia and 2 from the US) and 2 as associate members (both from Italy)
- 55 new individual members (27 full members, 28 associate members).

Participants voted and all new memberships were approved.

Then the “List of terminated membership” was presented, that included:





- 56 membership considered to be officially terminated by resignation. These are members who did not pay their membership fee in the last three years and the EFRJ suggested to the AGM to terminate their membership because of non-payment;
- 2 resigned memberships;
- 4 individual memberships that ended and were replaced by organisational memberships.

No questions were raised by the participants and the list of terminated membership was approved.

1.3. Report of the activities of the Board and the Secretariat in 2021

Tim Chapman, chair of the Board expressed his appreciation for seeing the EFRJ growing as the main interlocutor on restorative justice and its increasing influence in Europe. He also pointed out the importance of collaborating actively with the policy network (ERJPN) set up by the EFRJ in 2018.

He praised the precious role of the EFRJ membership for the work and development of the organisation and encouraged the members to be even more activate through, for example, proposing themselves as members of the EFRJ Committees and Working Groups or in promoting the setting up of new ones. He reminded that the newest WG set up is looking into how restorative justice can respond to systemic harm or violence. He remarked the project Restorative Justice Strategies for Change (RJS4C, the idea of this projects born during Tirana 2018) as a very relevant and successful initiative promoted by the EFRJ membership.

Before giving the floor to Edit Törzs to present the annual report, he warmly thanked the Secretariat by acknowledging the hard work undertaken in 2021.

1.4. Approval of the annual report 2021

Edit Törzs, Director of the EFRJ, started by thanking Tim Chapman for his amazing work as chair and the excellent collaboration during the past years.

She then presented some highlights of the activities and the achievements of the EFRJ in the last year. The draft annual report of 2021 was sent to all members before the AGM.

She concluded by warmly thanking the staff, the Board and the Executive Committee for their work, commitment and good cooperation. She also warmly thanked the EFRJ membership, as without their precious support and work all the above could not happen.

Participants of the AGM commented by acknowledging the amazing work done by the EFRJ.

The Annual report of 2021 was approved.





1.5. Approval of the annual accounts and budget

Rik Defrère, Financial and Administrative Officer of the EFRJ presented the Annual accounts of the EFRJ for 2021 and the budget for 2022. Balance Sheet and Liabilities: The final asset of 2021 was 630.242 euros in line with the balance sheet of 2020. The result of the year between costs and income see a little loss of 4.219 euro, due mainly to the unforeseen negative credit interest implied by our bank.

The years accounts still suffered a bit from the Covid-19 restrictions, but went much better than in the year before (2020). Also the budget foreseen for this year (2022) is quite optimistic since we foresee to have an income at the end of the year of around 35.000 euro.

We can conclude that the EFRJ survived the two Covid-19 years not only concerning the activities implemented but also in the financial matters. The organisation stays in a healthy financial situation.

The annual accounts and budget have been approved.

Edit thanked Rik for his clear presentation and reminded that this was the last year he would do it since Rik will retire at the beginning of 2023.

2. Board member elections

The EFRJ membership had to elect five new Board members during the AGM 2022.

The term of the following Board members came to an end in June, but in case of a first mandate, they could be re-elected for a second term:

- **Annemieke Wolthuis**, The Netherlands, Vice-chair (appointed in Leiden 2016, second mandate)
- **Lars Otto Justad**, Norway, Konfliktrådet (appointed in Leiden 2016, first mandate)
- **Brunilda Pali**, Belgium, KU Leuven Institute of Criminology (appointed in Leiden 2016, first mandate)
- **Bart Claes**, Belgium, Avans University NL (appointed in Leiden 2016, first mandate)
- **Patrizia Patrizi**, Italy, Sassari University (appointed in Berlin 2017, first mandate)





2.1. Introduction of the Selection Committee and the procedures, appointment of an Election Committee

Ivo Aertsen (Belgium), as chair, presented the selection committee and its members: Aarne Kinnunen (Finland) and Olga Kiseleva (Russia). The main tasks of the committee are to support and motivate possible candidates across the membership of the EFRJ, to communicate with the candidates to seek and approve nominations, to prepare the elections and to control the election procedures. Ivo clarified how the selection committee proceeded in the selection of the Board candidates and the criteria used for it. He underlined the important role and functions of the Board within the EFRJ. He also reminded that the new Board members will be elected for 4 years.

2.2. Introduction of the candidates

Eleven candidates submitted their application to the Selection Committee along with the supporting words of their proposers and seconders. The Committee has approved the nominations of ten candidates:

Antonio Buonatesta (Belgium), Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland), Ursula Fernee (Ireland), Lucy Jaffe (United Kingdom), Annegrete Johanson (Estonia), Lars Otto Justad (Norway), Jorge Ollero Perán (Spain), Brunilda Pali (Belgium), Patrizia Patrizi (Italy) and Pia Slögs (Finland). One candidate was not approved as the seconder and proposer were not EFRJ members.

The written and video presentations of each candidate as well as the Proposers', and Seconders' statements are available on the EFRJ website, [here](#).

The candidates did not present themselves during the AGM since the voting started earlier. The EFRJ members have been invited to look carefully at the candidates presentations before the AGM to prepare for the voting.

2.3. Voting

The voting to elect the new Board members started one week before the AGM and took place online. This enabled every full member to participate in the voting (even those that were unable to attend the AGM). The voting closed during the AGM. EFRJ member could only vote once, organizational members' votes weighted 3.

The results were announced shortly after the closure of the voting, during the AGM.





126 EFRJ members participated at the voting (26 organisations and 100 individuals).

The newly elected Board members are:

Antonio Buonatesta (Belgium), Claudia Christen-Schneider (Switzerland), Jorge Ollero Perán (Spain), Brunilda Pali (Belgium) and Patrizia Patrizi (Italy).

3. Amendments to the EFRJ Constitution

Bart Claes presented the amendment to the EFRJ Constitution that is in order to comply with the new legislation in Belgium.

We had an external legal advice in order to comply with the new legal requirements and the board discussed the proposed changes.

The official document is in Dutch, but we provide an ‘unofficial’ English translation to share it with our membership but it should be noted that the wording might differ slightly from the original Dutch version.

One change we include refers to the new Belgian law that allows NGOs to make profit but the income needs to be invested for the purposes of the organisation.

In order to approve changes in the constitution we need two thirds of all our full members present or represented at the AGM. The AGM 2022 does not comply with this requirements.

Thus, we will organize an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) during the Autumn 2022 to convene our members to vote for the changes. In an EGM we need to reach 50% of the participants to approve the changes in the constitution, without a minimum requirement for the number of participants. The EGM will take place online.

The EFRJ members have the possibility to ask questions during this AGM and to send comments after it that will be taken into consideration before the EGM.

Before the AGM we already received very relevant comments on the constitution (for example on gender equality and wording) from our members that will be taken into account

Voting

The voting of the changes of the new constitution did not take place because the AGM did not present the required numbers of participants.





4. Guidelines for EFRJ Committees and Working Groups

Emanuela Biffi, Programme coordinator of the EFRJ, presented the Guidelines for EFRJ Committees and Working Groups.

Given the growing numbers of members' requests for participating in the Committees and Working Groups and requests for establishing new thematic groups, and given the amount of coordination work that this implies for the Secretariat, the EFRJ attempted to put together in a document some key questions on the establishment and management of EFRJ Committees and Working Groups.

This Guideline was drafted in 2021 by appointed members of the Board and Secretariat (Emanuela Biffi, Tim Chapman, Maia Chochua and Lars Otto Justad). It has been shared with the Chairs and members of existing Committees and Working Groups and, later on, with the full membership for receiving feedback with the aim to present it at the AGM 2022.

In particular, the Guideline gives information about the difference between EFRJ Committees and Working Groups, on how EFRJ Committees/ Working Groups look like, how they are established and on how can EFRJ members apply to take part in a Committee/ Working Group. It then reflects on what are the tasks and responsibilities of EFRJ Committees and Working Groups and those of individual members who participate in them, why it is important to appoint a Chair and eventually a vice-Chair and the terms of references to apply. A section is specifically dedicated to the role of the EFRJ Secretariat. It also gives further information on the mandate of EFRJ Committees and Working Groups, how it can be extended and how members can resign or re-submit a membership application.

This Guidelines are meant to help to clarify nature and scope of EFRJ Committees and Working Groups and that serves to their functioning.

One comment came about the role of the representative of the Secretariat and suggested to discuss the possibility for the Secretariat to take full responsibility of administrative issues. From the Secretariat it was replied that this suggestions will be taken into consideration but also that it is important to understand that each team member has to deal with 2 or 3 Committee/ Working Group (and some are even working in sub-groups) and it is too much the burden to coordinate all. This is the reason why Committee/ Working Group need to take more responsibility, even more since there is a request from the EFRJ membership to create new ones. It was also noted that the EFRJ does not want to be strict in setting rules because each WG has its own dynamic.





Another comment was related to how the work of the different Committee/ Working Group could be linked more, how to support more synergies since the many cross-cutting topics. It was suggested to plan meetings between the Chairs to allow this exchange.

5. Next General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be organized end of May/June 2023, alongside with an RJ event. The venue and exact date will be communicated during the Autumn.

In Autumn 2022 an Extraordinary General Meeting will be organised online to vote for the changes proposed on the EFRJ constitution.

6. Communications, proposals from members

The communications were mostly related to some logistics regarding the EFRJ International Conference that followed the AGM.

No proposals from the audience.

19:00 Closure of the Annual General Meeting

The AGM was followed by the European Restorative Justice Award ceremony. A drinks reception took place in the lecture hall of the Sassari University.

