



EFRJ Annual General Meeting 2024

28 May 2024 18:00–20:00

Estonian Ministry of Justice – Suur-Ameerika 1, 10122 Tallinn

MINUTES

Opening

Patrizia Patrizi (Chair) greets the present members at 18:09 and opens the AGM.

Patrizia thanks the Ministry of Justice and the University of Tallinn for co-organising several events during this week.

Edit Törzs (Executive Director) presents herself and the others presenting, Patrizia Patrizi as the Chair and Zsafia Anda as the Financial and Administration Officer.

Edit starts with an interactive session, asking some questions from the audience about who are not members yet, who are members, who are organisational members and who is for the first time in Estonia, how many EFRJ AGM's each person has attended.

1. Formal issues and activities of the EFRJ

Patrizia starts with the formal part of the AGM.

First, the AGM needs to approve the minutes of the last AGM (2023 Pamplona). The minutes were previously shared with the members. No questions or remarks.

The minutes of the AGM 2023 are approved unanimously.

Patrizia remembers Kris Vanspauwen, one of the former directors of the EFRJ, who died last year at the age of 48 after many years of illness.

Patrizia then goes on to highlight important moments of 2023:

2023 was characterised by innovative moments and a lot has been done to extend and strengthen the network and partnerships.

There were important events such as the International Women's Day and the International RJ Week.

In 2023 there were many new training initiatives, such as the 1st Winter Academy in Leuven, the 1st Trainers' Retreat in Spain, the Summer School in Varna which was the first time that RJ in prison was addressed and then also the first "time to talk" with the membership on polarisation.





There were also online courses delivered in other languages than English. Extending to other languages will be an important subject for the coming years to disseminate information and training.

The Secretariat supported in the past years many EU funded project applications as partner organisation. In 2023 two applications were coordinated by the EFRJ. The first project since a while the EFRJ applied to as coordinator, JUSTACT, was about designing annual action plans to evaluate RJ services and help awareness raising campaigns. Despite its innovative focus, it was not funded. The second, EDU-Restorative Justice, is about establishing the first international certificate programme in RJ that was now submitted as an Erasmus+. We will only have a reply in September 2024.

The Board and Secretariat started the strategic planning for 2026–2030. 4 Main areas & Objectives:

- 1) EFRJ as a sustainable organisation
- 2) Developing high quality practice in Europe
- 3) Supporting policy development
- 4) Raising awareness on restorative justice

We conducted a gender audit to mainstream our work better in this area.

We also had the Pamplona Seminar on policy-making and the aim is to work closer with other states on policy.

Work was also done towards the Victim's Directive to see that RJ will be strengthened.

The aim is to work closer with national policymakers to include better RJ legislation.

We also maintain and extend the work for victim's rights, environmental justice, Gender Based Violence, child justice, etc. Furthermore we extend work through our Working Groups and committees with webinars, publications, research.

Patrizia finally thanks to all the members who supported us moving towards the same goal, together we can do it.

2023 Annual Report (Edit Törzs – ED)

We want to give you a glimpse of what we have done in 2023.

First, Edit presents briefly the EFRJ, its history, membership and aims.

Some of the most important activities and achievements in 2023:

- Regarding practice development, we published several guidelines. They take a value-based approach to show how high-quality practice can look like specifically. They are based on the practice guide that was published in 2021.
- We organised several webinars, such as the "Living Our Values" series, which is connected with the guides. We were told that we don't do much for practitioners so this space was created to give a space to practitioners to come together and share. It can also be an intervision opportunity and is aimed specifically for practitioners.
- We also entered a Council of Europe Tender on supporting countries in RJ and got in but since then we didn't get any news.





- Our WG's and committees really became a cornerstone of our work. In 2023 we organised a meeting for the chairs and vice-chairs to come together and find synergies between the groups.
- Training provision is also quite a new area of work and is very important. We had some new initiatives such as the Winter Academy. The first edition was with 3 parallel courses on victims, domestic violence and children; then we had the CJPE course on mental health and we had different online courses also in Italian.
- Another part of the training related work is to develop the quality of the training in Europe. We have 68 members in the Register of Trainers.
- We offer different practice development events or materials for this pool, and we organised for the first time a trainers' retreat peer learning event, which we plan to offer more often and also training workshops.
- We also developed in some projects different resources for training.
- Last year 166 people attended one or more of our trainings. We never had this high number of participants before.
- We also organise other events, not only conferences. Last year we had a seminar in Pamplona that looked at policy matters in RJ.
- We received also study visits in Leuven and this is an option we can offer.
- We also accept invitations and we want to bring RJ and the EFRJ to other events. We attended 78 different events in 18 countries and online as well. We try to connect and bring RJ to other fields. Some were national and some international events. We really want to be active and be present.
- Policy work is a very important work stream that has been developed during the last 5 years and we are an appreciated and recognised partner at an international level. Most of the EU member states are already represented in the ERJPN.
- We deepened the collaboration with VSE, we could also sign and send a common letter to the Justice Commissioner, which also shows how much we are aligned in terms of RJ for victims.
- The revision proposal for the Victims' Directive reached the EU Parliament. We found good support and we can build on the experience and thank members who helped to establish contacts.
- We also work with the CoE to follow up on the 2018 Recommendation as well as the Venice Declaration and we hope this year we'll have more clarity what steps the CoE will take.
- We also work with the UNODC where we are invited to different expert meetings. There is ongoing work on creating model strategies for reducing reoffending, and we're in the loop of these meetings. About 13 strategies are highlighted and one is fully on RJ, which is a great support to our field.
- We also collaborate with other organisations and networks and this is very important. Last year we also signed an MOU with the Child-Friendly Justice European Network.
- We also have the newsflash, the newsletter, the Vimeo channel for videos and the website is also an important place with useful resources for everyday work in RJ.
- Projects were also mentioned: we finished two last year and we submitted 5 new project applications.
- Organisational matters: there was the successful OG application, AGM in Pamplona, external gender audit, the EXCOMM met 5 times, 10 staff members were working for the Forum, not at the same time but throughout the year with a 4.4 FTE; we are overwhelmed with the interest





to do an internship with the EFRJ. We had 6 interns last year and now here we are also supported by interns who do it all on a voluntary basis.

- We also had some changes in the team, there was fluctuation and a lot of administrative work related to that.
- The new website was prepared last year but only put up this year.

While we celebrate the achievements of last year, I also want to stop to remember Kris Vanspauwen and Rasim Gjoka. Rasim was one of the funding members of the EFRJ and has been leading the work in Albania since the beginning of the EFRJ. A big supporter of the EFRJ and a good friend.

Thank you also to all the members who supported us during the passing away of Kris. Edit finishes by thanking the staff, Board and members.

Patrizia asks for voting on the approval of the annual report.

The 2023 Annual report is approved unanimously.

Financial Report 2023 (Zsofia Anda – FAO)

There are no big changes to the income statement. We closed the year with a positive result of 73.883 Euros.

The biggest part of costs is staff and this increased mainly due to the inflation. The core income was a bit lower than in 2022 because we only had a seminar and not a conference, which means less income.

We had a higher income from the operating grant and projects. Still, we have a little less income than in 2022.

We are very dependent on the EU OG that covers 75% of our total costs. But, the Board is starting to work on a fundraising scheme.

The budget has not changed much for 2024, the structure still stays the same. Some costs are higher due to the inflation, but we will have less project hours and thus still lower staff costs. We expect a higher core income due to it being a conference year. The same amount of OG was approved like before, but less project incomes are expected. But we hope we'll still be in balance.

Patrizia asks about questions. None. Voting:

The AGM approves the financial report of 2023 and the budget for 2024 unanimously.





2. Proposals from membership

We did not receive any formal requests for proposals. But members have the possibility to contact the Board and suggest topics for the AGM. There were no proposals from members for this AGM.

3. Election of new Board members

4 members of the Board have their term ending in 2024. Tim resigned last year and the Board co-opted Lucy Jaffé to finish his mandate. Katerina Soulou decided not to run for a second term. The first terms of Maia Chochua and Petra Masopust Sachova are also ending.

The election committee made of Daniela Arieti, Ivo Aertsen and Monique Anderson were in charge of motivating and assisting candidates. Ivo Aertsen explains that their task was to review and approve candidates according to the eligibility criteria of the constitution and also encourage members to apply. One spontaneous application of a candidate arrived and then the committee had to reach out to the others. There were no members on the Board from Scandinavia, gender-diversity is starting to be a problem, we have a minority of men now. We reached out to male candidates in several countries but no one of them was able to apply. Another criteria to look for was organisational management skills, some expertise we could use in the Board and also fundraising skills. 15 members were contacted and finally 6 accepted and were approved (including the spontaneous application).

Ivo presents the 6 candidates who were all presented to the membership through the website:

- Ida Helene Asmussen, Denmark
- Maia Chochua, Georgia
- Idil Elveris, Turkey
- Lucy Jaffe, UK
- Annegrete Johanson, Estonia
- Petra Masopust Sachova, Czech Republic





The AGM selected an Election Committee on the spot (Bálint Juhász as staff representative, Eric Wiersma and Laura Mooiman as members) who followed together the online election system and announced the results later.

Voting has been open since few days and the AGM is given 20 minutes to still vote if has not done yet. In the meanwhile Bruna and Petra lead an interactive session.

4. Interactive session

During the 20 minutes until the voting is officially closed, Bruna and Petra want to cherish the memory of those who are gone. They ask all members to stand up and get connected by the hands in a big net. Bruna and Petra initiate a signal by squeezing the hand and the signal travels through all the participants until it returns to them.

The next activity is a discussion among 3 members per circle and later the small groups are asked to meet in larger groups of 9 people. The groups are asked to discuss on what do they think the goals of the EFRJ should be for the upcoming 5 years. The aim is to receive information and suggestions from the members, which might help the Board for the strategic planning. The groups are asked to then record their answers on Mentimeter. Bruna presents the results on the Mentimeter slide (see Annex).



Election results

Laura Mooiman on behalf of the Election Committee presents the results:

233 full members could have voted out of which 136 voted (58%), which is almost double participation rate compared to past years.

The AGM 2024 elected as Board members:

- Maia Chochua (second term)
- Petra Masopust Sachova (second term)
- Lucy Jaffé (first term)
- Annegrete Johanson (first term)





5. Announcements

- Next AGM 2025 in May/June before the Seminar in Athens
- CJPE Summer Course in Barcelona between 2 – 5 July 2024
- International RJ Week in November 2024
- Larger membership survey during the second half of 2024 and feedback on the draft strategical plan is expected from the members
- The RJ Award Ceremony will take place tomorrow from 17:45 – 18:30 at the University of Tallinn

Hannah Moore, a traditional storyteller and RJ practitioner from the UK closes the AGM with a story, and then there will be the reception.

Notetakers: Claudia Christen-Schneider, Laura Hein, Georgina Colomé Ginella





Annex

AGM 2024 – Tallinn, Interactive session

What are the goals that you would like the EFRJ to achieve in the next 5 years?

A broader focus on Restorative Justice outside the criminal justice system

Periodic meetings with practitioners to troubleshoot difficult situations

More outreach and communication with the general public about the EFRJ

Working groups have been established to focus on specific issues. Perhaps share updates periodically before the work of the group is entirely completed.

To still be solvent and successful – still going and financially doing well!

To have enhanced even further the international collaborations and connections, shared learning and shared practice, with countries beyond Europe.

Funding for working groups

Education of RJ more widely in Europe

Europe response to restorative work in secure mental health settings

Promoting access and engagement to wider diverse communities

1. Practical solutions on how to prevent and address Community polarisation in restorative practices (procedures) 2. Standardise or harmonise definition of RJ at EU level (EU directive on RJ)

The forum to be more inclusive in terms of language, ethnic background etc.; practical guide for policy making at national level; to have evaluating tools of different RJ programmes;

Development of practice guidelines

RJ is more well known in the world. RJ is the preferred method to solve conflict. Developing good methods for RJ for children and youths. RJ is more accessible for children and young people.

Use the views of young people in RJ and involvement of children and RJ, the importance of lived experience

More financial resources from diverse funding portfolios Sharing/ leading on joint research projects Lead the way in the world for Practitioners' Network

Be catalyst for change in structural and systemic injustice, such as gender, race, children, environment, violent extremism, world peace according to a forum model; increase training opportunities

To be exploring how restorative practice can be used to respond to large scale global themes, challenges and social injustices





EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

Adaptation of restorative language we use

Spread the values of RJ to everyone!

Deliver free copies of the newsletter

To reach to common people like our parents for them to have a more restorative attitude

Dedicated F.T schools officer on Secretariat supported by Schools Working Group. Connect with M. of J. who are not yet part of the Restorative network Engage more legal professionals EU Directive on RJ

Develop good argumentation for why RJ is the better way.

EFRJ House (good space for work, community, relaxation, with garden)

- evaluate peace-making strategies - restore the dialogue among young and old people
generational gap - build more RJ cities - involve public administrations - present funding opportunities to members

We had a discussion of how to share stories/case studies from different countries with different countries.

How to promote consistency of dedication and motivation across all members of the working group, not just relying on the commitment from one or two.

Education about Systemic Bias power and privilege

Increasing the participation in committees and working groups

Great job! Increase number of members, to other sectors, more individuals. Expand advocacy strategy and combine with human rights approaches, particularly towards Eur. Council. RJ in education.

— EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE vzw

— Herbert Hooverplein 10, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

— euforumrj.org · info@euforumrj.org

— Tel. +32(0)16.373.598 · Mob. +32(0)466.20.91.12

— 0474 656 137 · RPR Leuven

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