



## **EFRJ Annual General Meeting 2023**

**Pamplona, Spain - 21 June 2023, 18:00-20:00hr**

### **Minutes**

The AGM 2023 took place in Pamplona (in the Navarra region, in Spain) on 21 June, the day before the opening of our 12th International Seminar: Policy matters in Restorative Justice. The AGM was held in the CIVICAN cultural center in Pamplona.

69 persons registered online to the AGM, 1 person on the spot, and 56 persons participated actually to the AGM 2023 in Pamplona. Additionally, 4 members were represented via a proxy, and in total 33 participants had full voting rights.

Patrizia Patrizi, the Chair of the Board, was opening the meeting with her speech. The AGM in Pamplona has been her first AGM after she was elected last year to follow Tim Chapman as Chair, whom Patrizia sincerely thanked for his contribution to EFRJ development during his chairing. She has warmly thanked the work to her fellow Board members, the Director and the Secretariat and explained the agenda for the meeting.

### **1. Formal issues and Activities of the Forum**

#### **1.1. Approval of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting (2022 in Sassari)**

The meeting approved the minutes of the previous AGM that took place in Sassari on 22 June 2022 and the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held online on 10 November 2022. (Minutes were distributed to all members with the invitation.)

#### **1.2. Approval of new membership applications and other membership matters**

According to the new constitution, new memberships do not need to be formally approved by the AGM anymore. Membership applications are approved by the Board





and announced on the AGM for information. (The list of new and terminated memberships were distributed to members before the AGM. The AGM was informed about 9 new organisational memberships, including 3 new governmental organisations, 26 new individual full members and 35 new individual associate members. The AGM was also informed about the termination of 62 memberships. Additional 8 individual memberships were replaced by organisational membership.)

### **1.3. Report of the activities of the Board and the Secretariat in 2022**

In June 2022 the Board has taken a new set up, saying goodbye to previous Board members Annemieke Wolthuis, Bart Claes and Lars Otto Justad, and introducing the new members Claudia Christen-Schneider, Antonio Buonatesta and Jorge Elías Ollero Perán. Patrizia has warmly thanked the new and the previous Board members and the Staff for their work.

She then mentioned the difficulties that the pandemic has brought, and the transitional processes that started in 2022. She pointed out that the Board and the Staff are one team with different functions, sharing the same vision and strategic plan. As the EFRJ is about to turn 25 years old, she has emphasised inclusion – bringing the EFRJ closer to its membership – and expansion – pursuing the development of restorative justice beyond criminal justice. She also pointed out the importance to support communicative actions that clarify what restorative justice is and what it is not.

She also noted that 2022 was a year to further strengthen existing collaborations with other international networks and organisations.

Before giving the floor to Edit Törzs to present the annual report, she warmly thanked the Secretariat by acknowledging the hard work undertaken in 2022.

### **1.4. Approval of the annual report 2022**

Edit Törzs, Executive Director of the EFRJ, started by emphasising the vision of the EFRJ that every person in Europe has the right to access restorative justice services, at any time and in any case, explaining that the EFRJ works along three strategic priorities:

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

She then presented the highlights of the activities and the achievements of the EFRJ in the last year. She mentioned, as one of the new initiatives in 2022, the launching of an internship





programme; that we had a vacancy for the position of the Financial and Administrative Officer (Rik Defrère is going to retire), which has been successfully filled (and introduced the new FAO, Zsófia Anda); and that the Code of conduct for Board members has been introduced.

She enumerated the work done with the Commissions and Working Groups, further on practice development, and the publications of the EFRJ. Then she listed all the training courses and events of 2022 and all the policy work that has been done. Finally, she mentioned the ongoing and new projects and project applications.

She concluded by warmly thanking the Board, the Executive Committee and the Staff 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.

The Annual report of 2022 was approved.

### **1.5. Approval of the annual accounts 2022 and budget 2023**

Rik Defrère, Financial and Administrative Officer, presented the Annual Accounts of the EFRJ for 2022 and the Budget for 2023.

First Rik has warmly thanked the Board for the longer transitional period before his pension. Then he started with presenting the Balance Sheet for 2022. The total asset of 2022 was 689.886 euros (compared to 630.242 euros in 2021) due to a considerable increase in capital reserve as a result of a very profitable year, of which the result was incorporated in such reserve.

Afterwards he briefly analysed the Profit and Loss accounts. Even though the operational cost in 2022 has tripled compared to 2021 (185.373 euros in 2022 vs 63.651 euros in 2021, due to the event in Sassari in 2022 and restrictions on travel in 2021 due to the pandemic), also the core income was approx. 100.000 euros higher than in the previous year (due to the Sassari conference, registration fees and webinars).

The result of 2022 was positive with an amount of 97.181 euros (compared to the loss of 4.219 euros in 2021), due to the record number of participants in the Sassari conference, also due to the EC changing the rules for travel, accommodation and subsistence (introducing unit costs). For 2023 it is not expected that the EFRJ will make a profit on the unit costs due to all travel and accommodation costs being more and more expensive.

The Budget for 2023 is less optimistic than for 2022, with a positive amount of 24.140 euros.





The annual accounts and budget have been approved.

Patrizia thanked Rik for his clear presentation and all the hard work during his years at the EFRJ.

## **2. Resignation of Board member and co-optation of Board member**

Then Patrizia has announced that the EFRJ Board co-opted Lucy Jaffe as a new Board Member (having the most votes at the previous election) due to the early resignation of Tim Chapman. Lucy will finish the term of Tim and will have the possibility to run in the next elections. Patrizia warmly thanked Tim for his extraordinary work.

Lucy thanked the Board for co-opting her, and explained why she decided to take on this important leadership position. She offered her leadership experience and knowledge to the EFRJ, a background in fundraising and a strong motivation to change the system. The full speech of Lucy can be found on the EFRJ website under the Restorative Blog section (<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/change-system-so-restorative-justice-becomes-part-our-everyday-life>).

The AGM has noted the co-option of Lucy Jaffe and has unanimously confirmed her appointment. Patrizia gave a warm welcome to Lucy.

## **3. Next Annual General Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting will be organised on 11 June 2024, alongside with the next Restorative Justice Conference in Tallinn, Estonia on the week of 10 June 2024.

## **4. Communications, proposals from members**

The communications were related to next year's conference in Tallinn, the launch of the Restorative Justice Award of 2024 and the next Winter Academy between 5-9 February 2024.





After the announcements an interactive activity took place where the participants of the AGM were asked to discuss two questions: 1) identify two main topics that are important around restorative justice in their respective countries, and 2) collect ideas on how the EFRJ could help support/tackle these issues. Members discussed the questions in small groups and collected their answers on post-its that they left for further summary by the EFRJ Secretariat (Annex).

Due to all the fraudulent emails that were sent in the name of Patrizia, the members have also been warned not to reply to them.

No proposals or communication received from the audience.

## **20:00 Closure of the Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was followed by a drinks reception in the hall of the cultural center CIVICAN.





**Annual General meeting 2023 Interactive activity – summary of anonymous answers**

	<b>1) Identify two main topics that are important around restorative justice in your country</b>	<b>2) How the EFRJ could help support/tackle these issues</b>
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mediation is only a Restorative Practice, but not Restorative Justice</li> <li>- We do not have a general law for all the country</li> <li>- Providing support for joint research projects for evidence and real examples</li> <li>- Favoring exchange of ideas and realistic optimism</li> <li>- Addressing racism &amp; systemic racism, anti-racism &amp; hate crime (also in Brazil, Finland, Australia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve accessibility of EFRJ to community (association, citizens, facilitators)</li> <li>- Learning to/for politicians/political support</li> <li>- Involve association of gender violence in EFRJ</li> <li>- Promote awareness about restorative practices for politicians and responsables of justice system</li> <li>- Regulating the role of prosecutors in their own statute to clarify their role as gatekeepers (a satisfactory role)</li> <li>- Decriminalizing restorative justice (it is not contradictory with the previous)</li> </ul>
Basque County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connecting restorative justice with memory policies (post conflict)</li> <li>- Restorative justice in prisons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network</li> <li>- Previous experiences</li> <li>- Counselling</li> </ul>
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid rigidity in practitioners trainings/hiring</li> <li>- How to keep the genuinity of restorative justice now that we have a legal framework</li> <li>- Data protection in restorative justice</li> <li>- Recognition of benefits in GBV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help us implement the reform</li> <li>- Help us not compete among restorative justice supporters in Italy</li> </ul>
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective equal access for all citizens – a right (to RJ)</li> <li>- Evaluative research</li> <li>- Raising awareness amongst public, politicians, justice professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support to develop implementation strategies and action plans</li> <li>- Influencing EU Research policies</li> </ul>
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Really applying the criminal law / criminal procedure -&gt; more cases and serious cases – judges &amp; prosecutors are hesitant</li> <li>- Initiatives in schools are missing</li> <li>- Using restorative justice for societal change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support with contact &amp; information for high level politicians</li> <li>- Help with (social) media usage for awareness raising / training</li> </ul>





	- Awareness in the general public	
Ireland	- Systemic violence and abuse of power - Police-community relations - Victim right of access/referral	
Hungary	- Legislation allows more serious cases to go to restorative justice but in practice it does not happen. Prosecutors don't refer those cases - Reoffenders cannot participate in restorative justice - Judges cannot refer cases anymore (some years ago they could)	- A training for prosecutors would be amazing as I feel they do not understand what restorative justice is and isn't
Portugal		- Reviving restorative justice & bringing attention to it
Finland	- Juvenile justice	
Switzerland	- Coverage of restorative justice in the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Prison and Probation in Practice and Analysis	
Georgia	- Shift of mindset from punitive to restorative - Need of legislation (adults)	- Expertise - Resources - Networking - Advocacy work with government
Norway	- Spread awareness of restorative justice into schools - Establish connections between judicial system and the educational sector	- EFRJ to advocate for relationship / connection of schools with restorative justice
United Kingdom	- Incoherence in service funding - Victims' right of access/referral - Hate crime including anti-immigration, islamophobie	
Brazil	- Lack of training for legal professionals and social workers/academics - Not using restorative justice in the mainstream criminal justice system	- Providing more interchanging in research about institutionalizing restorative justice, using restorative justice to provide welfare access
Cuba	- Raising awareness and a new mindset about restorative justice in society - Lack of legal basis about restorative justice in the community context	- Advice on restorative practices and bibliographic materials
Taiwan	- Cultivate local restorative justice values	
Russia	- Legislation on restorative justice - Attention from the regional and federal authorities, political will	- Cooperating with the restorative justice movement despite the position of the government and the political situation - Help with translation of events and materials
?	- Topics beyond criminal justice	





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- decolonization</li> <li>- environmental issues</li> <li>- restorative city/society</li> <li>- conflicts between citizens and state agencies</li> </ul>	
??	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of clarity on the scope of restorative justice</li> <li>- Lack of financial resources to pay people working</li> </ul>	
???	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More focus on schools would be helpful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More focus on schools would be helpful</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Values &amp; standards work (discussion on resources &lt; limitations)</li> <li>- Exchanging best practices to fight racism and xenophobia</li> <li>- More information for schools – model policies or a framework</li> <li>- Appoint a full-time dedicated schools coordinator to strengthen the work in schools</li> <li>- Translating the international instruments</li> <li>- Documenting &amp; sharing examples of good practice in different countries</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Encouraging people to keep open minds</li> <li>- Assisting organizations &amp; work done on restorative justice outside of criminal cases for example decolonization, social injustice, etc.</li> </ul>

