

Annual Report

2023

of the



EUROPEAN **FORUM**
FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

*The
Orgnasiation*

Committees

*Working
Groups*

Seminar

Policy Work

*Promoting
Learning*

Projects

*Awareness
Raising*

*Arts and
Restorative
Justice*



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Foreword

I present this report with a sense of collective pride and accomplishment. 2023 was a remarkable year, marked by the unwavering commitment of our Members, the Board, and the Secretariat, all of whom played a pivotal role in our interconnectedness. It was a year that will be etched in our hearts for a sad 'life experience' that symbolised our unity and resilience.

We ended the year with tough news: our former director, Kris Vanspauwen, passed away at the age of 48 after some years of illness. Kris left us, and he left us a lot. He left us with a stronger organisation, with a clearer vision and mission. He left us with more solid and larger structural yearly funding from the European Commission Justice Programme, something he built on previous funding schemes during his work as the leader of the EFRJ. He left us with a more connected and deeply committed Secretariat, led by Edit, who Kris coached in this role. The results of his work and legacy can still be seen across this annual report's invisible lines.

While 2022 may be remembered as a year of transition due to the many changes within the organisation, I believe 2023 will be characterised by its innovative and inclusive momentum.

Much work has been done in communication, strengthening and developing our network and partnerships, everyday life, and celebratory events. The arts in support of restorative justice have been with us at key moments. This was the case for International Women's Day, our 23rd anniversary and International Restorative Justice Week. About the latter, I find it exciting to see the map dotted with events, not only in Europe, and above all to relive what lies behind the images: the great commitment of our members who animated the week through awareness-raising initiatives, and the equally important connection and support of the Secretariat.

Developments in training and sharing have been significant, with many innovations. 2023 was the year of the first Winter Academy in Leuven (Belgium) and the first Restorative Trainers' Retreat in Roncesvalles (Spain) with a new focus on skills, attitudes and needs: an amazing event of mutual learning and inspiration. The first training focusing on prisons and restorative justice occurred at the Summer School in Varna (Bulgaria).



Two important online series were launched: Living Our Values, an exchange opportunity for practitioners, and Bite-Sized Learning of Restorative Training Facilitation, aimed at trainers. On instances of polarisation within the restorative justice community, I recall the online event Time to Talk: Being coherent... in dark times. Finally, the online courses, including those delivered in languages other than English.

he focus on different languages to reduce distance and promote inclusion and dissemination was a feature of 2023 and will, I believe, be a guiding criterion in the years to come. For the first time during Restorative Justice Week, we encouraged our members to translate campaign materials into their own language and supported them in the design and dissemination.

n the past years, the EFRJ Secretariat has supported different EU-funded projects, always as a partner organisation. New in 2023 was the Board's decision to engage in two projects as lead partners, both with crucial topics for the further advancement of the field. The first one, JUSTACT, was submitted in Autumn to design national action plans, develop a methodology for evaluating restorative justice services and involve people with lived experience of restorative justice in awareness-raising campaigns. Despite its innovative focus on multiagency cooperation and interdisciplinary work, the project was not granted, but it was a great experience to join synergies with our network. The second one, EdU_RJ, was drafted at the end of the year and finally submitted in Spring 2024: it aims at developing the first blended international advance programme (in different languages) on restorative justice studies thanks to a consortium of universities covering different regions of Europe. Fingers crossed for good news!

Today, we also have a new website, improved in appearance and usability but above all in the communicative impact of our mission and vision: the result of the great preparatory work done by our members and the Secretariat in 2023.

To do all this requires the organisation's sensitive care. I would like to highlight the work done towards our Strategic Plan (2026–2029), the most important action the Board took through joint deliberations with the Secretariat. Throughout the year, we held meetings dedicated to each area that makes up the plan, articulating objectives, actions/activities and indicators/metrics: 1. Living our shared values and strengthening our organisation to reach its objectives; 2. Developing evidence-based and high-quality restorative justice practices; 3. Support policy developments in the field of restorative justice; 4. Raising awareness on restorative justice. This is a work in progress that I am sure will strengthen us together (Board, Secretariat, and members), we conducted an external gender audit to understand better the current situation and how EFRJ can better implement gender mainstreaming.

The policy work is highly relevant to us. The Pamplona seminar aimed to build a bridge between policy and practice in restorative justice. This was sealed by the emblem of hospitality and peace, handmade by a young artist in the only juvenile detention centre in Navarre and donated to us by the President of the Government of Navarre. Our actions in this area have aimed a more explicit and comprehensive recognition of restorative justice in international documents. To this aim, the EFRJ and many of its members also participated in the European Commission's consultation process on revising the Victims Directive to include restorative justice as an explicit right. Our strategic goal for the coming years is to work more closely with national policymakers to contribute to the better implementation of the EU and other international restorative justice legislation. We also maintained and even extended our collaboration with other relevant European networks in the fields of probation, corrections, victims' rights, child-friendly justice, environmental justice and gender based violence.

or what is outlined in this foreword, the contribution of the committees and working groups, to whom I extend my gratitude, was crucial. Some launched new online series for practitioners, others organised webinars on different topics, and others launched new publications relevant to the field.

My heartfelt thanks go to all the European Forum for Restorative Justice community members. Together, we are moving towards the same goal.

We have a vision. We have a mission. We can do it!

Patrizia Patrizi
Chair



The organisation

The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) is the largest European professional network on restorative justice.

We count more than 450 members, including 80 organisations, working on restorative justice practices, research and policy in Europe and beyond. Since our establishment in 2000, we offer support to implement and develop restorative justice through training, consultancy, research, advocacy, policy developments and events.

Board

The evaluation and strategic decisions are made by the Board. The Board consists of 9 members representing different regions of Europe. Board members are elected directly by and among the members of the EFRJ.

The Board meets twice a year, but the Executive Director reports more often to the Board and some decisions are taken throughout the year by electronic communication. In 2023 the Board met 3 times: 20 and 23 March (online), 19–20 June in Pamplona, 6–7 December in Leuven.

The Board elects among its members the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, who, together with the Executive Director form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met 5 times online in 2023: 13/01, 02/03, 12/05, 15/09 and 23/10.

The Annual General Meeting of 2023 noted the resignation of Tim Chapman from the EFRJ Board and approved the co-optation of Lucy Jaffé (UK) to terminate Tim's mandate. The composition of the Board in 2023 was the following.



Patrizia Patrizi
Chair



Brunilda Pali
Vice-Chair



Antonio Buonatesta
Treasurer



Petra Masopust Šachová
Secretary



Maia Chochua
Board Member



Katerina Soulou
Board Member



Jorge Elías Ollero Perán
Board Member



Claudia Christen-Schneider
Board Member



Lucy Jaffé
Board Member



Tim Chapman
Board Member

The Secretariat



*The team in Pamplona
on 21 June 2023*

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 European Commission.

The EFRJ staff composed of the following employees in 2023

- Executive Director, Edit Törzs – 80%,
- Programme Coordinator, Emanuela Biffi – 100%,
- Financial and Administrative Officer, Rik Defrère (until end July) – 50%,
- Financial and Administrative Officer, Zsófia Anda (from February) – 50%,
- Policy Officer, Laura Hein – 60%,
- Communication and Training Officer, Bálint Juhász – 75%+5% JUSTIN,
- Programme Assistant, Julia Barjau Dachs – 50%, including MEDIAREJ project (until June),
- Strategic Advisor, Kris Vanspauwen – 10% (until March)
- Project Officer i-Restore 2.0, Silvia Randazzo – 30% (Until September)
- Project Officer i-Restore 2.0, Georgina Colomé Ginella – 30% (from October)

The Secretariat was supported by 6 (unpaid) interns in 2023:

- Elena Lindholm Belloso (Sweden/Italy) – Q1-2 (training, events)
- Renata Soares (Brazil/Belgium) – Q1-2 (communication, events)
- Pablo Romero (Spain) – Q1-2 (policy)
- Georgia Robertson (UK/Netherlands) – Q2-4 (policy)
- Teresa Schepis (Italy) – Q4-ongoing (communication, events)
- Fanni Szöllösi (Hungary) – Q4-ongoing (communication, events)

In memoriam Kris



*Kris Vanspauwen with
members of the Secretariat
on 2 May 2023*

In November we received the sad news that our beloved colleague, Kris Vanspauwen, passed away after a long sickness. Kris, as a mediator and researcher was active member of the EFRJ for a long time and formally joined our team in 2013 as Executive Officer. In this role for only two years, he made tangible impact. He extended our partnerships and staff capacity, secured structural funding, digitalised processes, started building a long-term strategy and initiated important internal processes that were key to become the organisation we are now. As a genuinely open and curious person, he built good connections with many EFRJ members, asked their opinion and listened to their insights. But, most of all, he led his team with attention and care for each one of us and also for the team as a whole. We were honoured that despite of his serious illness we could collaborate in different roles with Kris, first as consultant and then as strategic advisor, a role that he fulfilled with great commitment until March 2023. Restorative justice and dialogue were among his many passions, that were not only part of Kris's professional identity, but he embedded these core values in many other aspects of life. He valued and nurtured human relations the most. We are forever grateful for the dedication, wisdom, leadership and friendship of Kris.

Internship Programme

As we are approached regularly by young professionals or students interested in internship opportunities, we developed an internship programme and launched a call for interns with two deadline during the year. We received an average 30 candidatures, most of them from highly relevant candidates. We invite usually 6–8 shortlisted candidates for an interview and select 2–3 interns for each cycle of the year.

All interns had a mentor from the team and participated in our regular team meetings, besides working on their individual tasks. At the end of their internship they had an evaluation talk with their mentors, as well as with the Executive director.

Annual General Meeting

The EFRJ Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the most important decision making platform of the membership. In 2023 it took place on 21 June in Pamplona, Spain. The meeting was attended by 56 persons. The AGM approved the Annual report of 2022, the Annual accounts of 2022 and the budget for 2023. In an interactive session participants 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.

Other organisational matters

Gender audit

In 2023, for the first time ever we conducted an external audit focusing on gender. This gender audit aimed at establishing a baseline against which progress can be measured over time, identifying critical gender gaps and challenges, and making recommendations of how they can be addressed through improvements and innovations. We thank again all our members who filled in the corresponding questionnaire!

It was a useful process for the team and board to reflect on gender mainstreaming and gender issues related to our organisation and to restorative justice. While the audit focused on gender, it came up during our reflections and discussions that intersectionality and other issues of potential discrimination and implicit bias are also relevant.

Strategy development

In 2023 the EFRJ Board continued its work on more clear internal regulations and processes, on better monitoring and evaluation tools.

During the year it also started the process on developing our upcoming four years' strategic plan for the period 2026–2029. It identified key areas of work and designed a process based on the theory of change method.

Work started in the direction of developing a fundraising strategy and a reserves policy.

Council of Europe tender

Through a tender process by the Council of Europe we successfully offered the expertise of the EFRJ and its members in the area of criminal justice reforms.

Committees

Committees are groups of members appointed to work on a volunteer basis on specific areas, such as practice and training development, research, information and communication.

Editorial Committee

The Committee worked on the three Newsletter issues of 2023 (volume 24). The first one was dedicated to present the local restorative justice context of the EFRJ's seminar in Pamplona and included also articles reflecting on the EFRJ's first Winter Academy. The second issue focused on existing good practices of restorative justice responses to sexual violence. The third issue was exploring the use of art and artworks in the restorative justice context. In addition it also edited articles exclusively published on the Restorative Blog.

[More information →](#)

Values & Standards Committee

This Committee works on practice development and high quality practice standards. In 2023 the committee developed two guides, one on the principle of voluntariness and one on the principle of confidentiality. The committee also launched an online forum for practitioners, the "Living our values" series, where, always focusing on a principle, participants are invited to share cases, issues and questions regarding their restorative practice.

[More information →](#)

Training Committee

The Committee worked on a guide on principles and good restorative training practices that will serve as a resource for any trainer that wishes to facilitate training in a restorative way. Another task was dedicated to design a training curriculum on restorative training facilitation.

Additionally, the Committee supported the organisation of the first (January - February 2023) and second (February 2024) Winter Academy of the EFRJ and other training events (Restorative Trainers' Retreat and Summer School).

[More information →](#)

The Research Committee

This Committee discussed the creation of a database of research, including resources that are not published in English. It also started the organisation of so called 'Restorative Coffees' to give space to (young) researcher to talk about their investigations and to promote the dissemination of research outcomes as well as 'restorative' research methods. A special subgroup worked on the intersections between transitional justice and restorative justice by collecting best practices and challenges.

[More information →](#)

Working Groups

Working groups are initiated by the membership for a two years time and focus on specific areas of implementation for restorative justice.

Environmental Restorative Justice

The Working Group continued its work towards the publication of a practice guide, including case studies, that will be officially launched in 2024.

[More information →](#)

Institutions

The Working Group is working on a manual on principles and guidelines on restorative justice addressing institutional abuse. It is also working on a publication on the same topic, with contributions from members of the working group as well as other researchers and practitioners experts on the matter. The working group organises internal hearings with external professionals and people with direct experience of institutional abuse, who help the working group members to gain insights and discuss relevant matters, feeding the work of the working group.

[More information →](#)

Hate, Polarisation and Violent Extremism

The Working Group has contributed to some meetings of the Radicalisation Awareness Network and supported the organisation of the first "Time To Talk" online meeting with members.

[More information →](#)

Restorative Schools

The Working Group has worked on a guidance for restorative schools that support the journey of educators and educational institutions to build a relational and restorative school. The publication will be finalised and published in 2024. The group prepared a participatory story-based workshop that introduces the participants to the principles of restorative education in an experiential way.

[More information →](#)

Gender Based Violence

The Working Group finalised the publication "From Survivors to Survivors: Conversations on restorative justice in cases of sexual violence" that will be officially launched in 2024. The sub-group on domestic violence started to organise a webinar on restorative justice in domestic violence cases that will be held in 2024. The sub-group on Macro level issues took the lead in contacting relevant women's rights organisations to start a dialogue on RJ in cases of violence against women.

[More information →](#)

Restorative Cities

The Working Group published "[A journey around restorative cities in the world: A travel guide](#)".

[More information →](#)

Meeting of committees and working groups

As the current Committees and Working Groups were set up at the beginning of 2023, we organised an in-person meeting connected to our international seminar in Pamplona where we invited the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each Committee and Working group.

The meeting took place on 21 June 2023 in Pamplona and was attended by 28 persons, including Secretariat and Board representatives. During the day we worked with various interactive methods to cover topics around the role of these groups in the work of the EFRJ, to identify connecting topics and interests between the groups and to exchange about working methods that can inspire other groups.



Meeting of committees and working groups on 21 June 2023 in Pamplona

Webinars

- 21 September: "Living Our Values – Voluntariness". The EFRJ Values and Standards Committee initiated a series of conversations reflecting on our core restorative values. The first edition focused on voluntariness based on the launched guidelines on voluntariness.

More info: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/events/living-our-values-voluntariness>

- 22 November: "Living Our Values – Confidentiality". The EFRJ Values and Standards Committee organised this second in a series dedicated to exploring the core restorative values and principles that guide our practice. It focused on confidentiality in restorative justice.

More info: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/events/living-our-values-confidentiality>

- 28 November: "Time To Talk". This first of a series of an online event that offers a space for sharing among EFRJ members only. This talk was dedicated to the challenges the restorative justice field is facing to be coherent with its values in dark times of violence and polarisation.

More info: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/events/time-talk-i> – 42 registered participants



Seminar

Policy Matters in Restorative Justice – Seminar in Pamplona

We organised several events in 2023. The largest was our 12th International Seminar hosted and supported by the Penal Enforcement and Restorative Justice Service of the Government of Navarra between 22–23 June. It brought together 139 professionals (policymakers, academics, service directors, practitioners) from 29 different countries across the globe. Thanks to their expertise, more than half of them contributed as speakers in one (or more) of the 21 workshops dedicated to policy and practice developments, quality standards, legislation, interagency cooperation, awareness raising and research.

The programme also included 4 plenary sessions. The keynote speech was delivered by Diego Galego on the role of social movements in influencing policymaking. The other three plenaries were organised in dialogue format with the speakers: Carmen Guil Roman and Estelle Zinsstag focused on the challenges and potential of restorative justice in cases of gender-based violence; Eduardo Santos Itoiz and Annie Devos discussed their respective regional action plans to further develop restorative justice strategies; and finally the last plenary gave the floor to four speakers reflecting about some challenges and next steps for the field, Ivo Aertsen, Claudia Mazzucato, Ana Carrascosa and Alfredo Casares.

Speakers at the Policy Seminar in Pamplona 22-23 June 2023





*European Restorative Justice
Policy Network meeting in Paris,
13 November 2023*

Engaging in Policy Work

Advocating for a More Comprehensive Inclusion of Restorative Justice in the EU Victims' Rights Directive

It is among our key policy aims to get good restorative justice provisions included in relevant international policy/legal provisions. In 2023, also thanks to our Working Groups, we engaged with different policy institutions with this aim. This year the European Commission proposed to revise the EU Victims' Rights Directive. The EFRJ and its members participated in the consultation process, and also gave [feedback](#) on the proposed amendments. Our aim is to use this "once in a decade" opportunity to ensure a more effective and equal access to high-quality restorative justice services for all victims of crime through the revision of this binding document for EU members states. The EFRJ also advocated with main actors of the European Parliament working on the Directive, and will continue the conversation with the Parliament as well as with the European Council.

Adding a Restorative Perspective to International Documents

We engaged in discussions with the UNODC on how to include restorative justice in the UN model strategies on reducing reoffending, with the Council of Europe on the inclusion of restorative justice in the draft Recommendation on combating hate crime and with the European institutions on the EU Directive 2008/99/EC on Environmental Protection through Criminal Law. We welcome the new Council of Europe Recommendation on Rights, Services and Support for Victims of Crime (2023).

European Restorative Justice Policy Network Meeting

On 13 November organised the yearly meeting of the European Restorative Justice Policy Network in Paris hosted by the French Ministry of Justice with 32 participants representing 18 countries/jurisdictions. The main topics of discussion were the use of restorative justice in cases of violence against women and the Istanbul Convention as well as the European Commission's proposed revision of the Victims' Rights Directive.

Building a network - inside and outside of borders

Catholic University of Leuven – Leuven Institute for Criminology

The EFRJ cooperates closely with the KU Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC). The close cooperation with the university enables the EFRJ to have contacts with international visiting scholars and students. Also, it allows the Secretariat to access the main premises of the university for meetings, events and other activities. KU LINC is also a key partner in Leuven Restorative City (LRC), a local partnership of municipality, university, restorative justice services and civil society organisations committed to promote restorative values and practices beyond the criminal justice system.

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 (European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services, 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 CJPE meets 3 times a year to discuss common (policy) priorities and strategies and issues regarding general coordination. Each year we co-organise a Summer Course in Barcelona, that in 2023 focused on mental health.

Child-Friendly Justice European Network

A new Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2023 with the Child-Friendly Justice European Network. The aim is to collaborate on the development of child-friendly restorative justice, to raise awareness on restorative justice among child justice professionals and to build capacities of both networks.

Victim Support Europe

In the last years we strengthened our collaboration with VSE to bring together more closely victim support and restorative justice services in the field. We discussed a common position concerning restorative justice in the revised Victim's Rights Directive. In February we sent a joint letter to the European Commissioner for Justice, M. Reynders, on restorative justice services in the revised Victims' Rights Directive.

And much more

Additionally, we had contacts, visits or other type of collaboration with: RESCALED: the European movement for detention houses; the European Prison Training Academies (EPTA) network, the European Family Justice Centers Alliance (EFJCA), the EU Radicalisation Awareness network and CEPOL; the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

We strengthen our policy work by being part of the EU Victims' Rights Platform, the EU Network for Children's Rights, the Fundamental Rights Platform of FRA and as observers of the Council of Europe PC-CP and CDPC.

The EFRJ team, board or assigned members represented the organisation on more than 60 events during the year, including 5 official invitations from governmental bodies (Slovakia, Finland, Spain, Georgia, Catalonia).

In 2023 two groups of professionals visited the EFRJ, a research delegation from Cuba and a group of 10 professionals from the Italian organisation Welcome.



Promoting Learning and Good Practices

1st Winter Academy

To foster learning and to promote best restorative justice practices, the EFRJ launched new events this year. In the beginning of the year, we organised the first in-person Winter Academy in Leuven. 45 participants from 11 different countries joined the three parallel practice-oriented courses on the use of restorative justice in cases of domestic abuse, on victims' needs and on restorative schools. The [event](#) also served as an exchange opportunity for the participants of the different courses, and the location ensured also the learning about local practices in Belgium through study visits.

Restorative Trainers' Retreat

The [Restorative Trainers' Retreat](#) followed the seminar in Pamplona. It was a mutual learning event that the EFRJ organised for the first time to offer skills strengthening possibilities for trainers, and enable the transfer of the invaluable expertise of trainers in our network. Both events will be repeated, the [2nd Winter Academy](#) will take place in couple of weeks from now in Leuven.

We also started two online series: the [Living Our Values](#) offers an exchange opportunities for restorative justice practitioners, while the workshops of the [Bite-Sized Learning](#) address trainers.



Summer School in Varna & CJPE Summer Course in Barcelona

We also organised the 9th [EFRJ Summer School](#) in Varna Bulgaria on prisons and restorative justice and the [CJPE Summer Course](#) (with our partners) in Barcelona. The event focused on mental health, and the particular strand offered by the EFRJ on trauma informed practice. Both summer events have become a tradition by now. Participants found both of them a positive learning experience.



Two new types of training events, the Trainers' Retreat in Roncesvalles and Summer School in Varna

Online Training

We continued to deliver online courses and events for trainers. Two introduction courses took place in Italian: *Introduzione alla Giustizia Riparativa* (Introduction to Restorative Justice), and *Introduzione alla Giustizia Riparativa in Risposta a Offese Gravi* (Introduction to Restorative Justice Responses to Serious Harm). The online course *Applying Restorative Justice to Domestic Abuse* offered a conceptual introduction to the subject.

Registered trainers were invited to networking meetings and new series was launched: "Bite-Sized Learning of Restorative Training Facilitation" with its first edition focusing on role play.

Engaging in Innovation Through Projects

New and Ongoing Projects in 2023

The year 2023 signed the end of two Erasmus+ projects we have been partners in: MEDIAREJ was dedicated to training in mediation and restorative justice, while PROTECT was meant for exchanging good practices on restorative justice and promoting the victims' rights protection. We also continued to work in the projects JUSTIN (developing knowledge and skills of facilitating restorative justice in cases of serious crimes in the Czech and Slovak Republics) and i-RESTORE 2.0 (advancing accessibility to high quality restorative justice processes for children in contact with the law). The i-Restore 2.0 has reached its midpoint. In the first half of the project we worked on capacity building of national professionals, and two training manuals have been developed: A Basic and Advanced skills on restorative justice with children manual, and a Train the trainers manual. In the second part of the project, the EFRJ team is working on developing practical guidelines for practitioners who conduct restorative justice with children and is involved in dissemination activities. The Justin project came to its final phase: you can download the project's input report and the Manual for Restorative Meetings in Cases of Serious Crime.

We also applied to other funding schemes to support as partners 7 new applications. By now we received one piece of good news already: the Erasmus+ project CROSSING PROTECT will start in Spring 2024 with a partnership committed to increase exchange and cooperation between restorative justice and victim support services and women organisations to better support victims of gender-based violence.

For the first time in more than 10 years we submitted a proposal as coordinators. The proposal JUSTACT aimed at promoting access to restorative justice through the design of methodologies for multi agency cooperation, awareness raising and evaluation of restorative justice programmes.

The Secretariat in Leuven



Spreading the Word

Public Awareness Campaigns and Actions

We have continued our commitment to communicate about restorative justice. Thanks to the work of the Editorial Committee, three editions of our Newsletter were published. Each issue focused on a special subject. The first one, preceding our policy seminar in Pamplona, explored different angles of the new comprehensive law on restorative justice that was adopted by the Parliament of Navarra in the beginning of the year. The second featured articles on the use of restorative justice as a response to sexual violence. The final issue presents articles on arts and restorative justice.

We joined the campaign promoting the French film "Je verrai toujours vos visages" - thanks to this movie restorative justice gained a lot of attention among people who have heard about it for the first time, especially in countries where French is a/the main language. In Belgium the term 'restorative justice' was even shortlisted among the 10 finalists of the word of 2023 by the daily Le Soir!

The international Restorative Justice Week was a prime moment of the year to celebrate and raise awareness about restorative justice under the theme "Repair and Reform: Restoring Dialogue, Solidarity & Justice in Today's Societies". The EFRJ collected and over 70 events from across the Globe, and we gave visibility to them on our site. The slogan and the campaign materials were translated to several different languages - thanks to your contributions!

The slogan of the 2023 Restorative Justice Week





Zahvy Vera's No, Gracias

Arts and Restorative Justice

We organised 3 events on arts and restorative justice in 2023. The first one, on 10 March, a few days after the international women's day, was in honour of women who experienced violence and injustice and found in restorative justice their way to move forward. After screening the film online for one week, we gave the voice to Maiana Bidegain, film director and protagonist of the documentary "Rencontre avec mon agresseur" (Meeting with my abuser).

The second one was organised live in Leuven during the international Restorative Justice Week: the film "Je verrai toujours vos visages" (All Your Faces) was screened in a local cinema, followed by a talk with senior restorative justice experts from Belgium.

Finally, our REStART initiative celebrating our 23rd anniversary took place on 8 December online entitled "Dancing Restorative Justice". We met with Zahvy Vera (Cuba/ Spain) and Pilar González Rivero (Spain) to reflect about the role of arts as part of the restorative justice journey. The discussion Zahvy's lived experience of child sexual abuse and restorative justice, a personal story that she dances in her autobiographical performance "No, gracias".

The discussion after the screening of the Je verrais toujours vos visages in Leuven



Financial report 2023

Profit and loss accounts	2022	2023
Operational costs	-185.373	-184.966
Staff costs	-297.963	-330.692
Financial costs	-3.894	-2.329
Other costs (VAT correction)	-	-853
Depreciations	-603	-822
Exceptional costs	-	-
Total Costs	-487.833	-519.662
Core income	160.803	109.815
Various grants	7.195	19.708
European Commission - Operating Grant	371.775	389.451
European Commission - i-RESTORE project	311	-
European Commission - i-RESTORE 2.0 project	26.107	30.643
European Commission - RE-JUSTICE project	-	17.210
European Commission - LetsGoByTalking project	3.279	-
Mediarej project	8.035	18.495
Protect project	1.663	4.892
Polarity Party project	5.761	-
JUSTIN Erasmus+ project	-	2.784
Financial income	85	547
Total Income	585.014	593.545
Result of the year	97.181	73.883
Balance Sheet	2022	2023
Fixed assets	1.205	1.042
Amount receivable -1 year	610	610
Liquid assets	608.107	674.553
Transitory Accounts	79.964	93.9
Total Assets	689.886	770.171
Capital and reserves	330.023	403.906
Amounts payable -1 year	48.302	49.582
Transitory Accounts	311.561	316.683
Total Liabilities	689.886	689.886

Our vision is that high quality restorative justice services become accessible for every person at any time and in any case.

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The European Forum for Restorative Justice is funded by the European Union. The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the European Forum for Restorative Justice. The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

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