



EUROPEAN **FORUM**
FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restoration of Normality: Mirroring the Past in the Future

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Europe and Restorative Justice

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EUROPEAN **FORUM**
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The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ)

- Founded in 2000, based in Leuven (Belgium)
- Assists and supports the establishment and development of victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices in Europe
- Network of practitioners, researchers and policy makers interested in RJ
- More than 450 members (individuals and organisations)
- Partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) together with CEP and Europris





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VISION

Every person in Europe should have the right of access to restorative justice services, at any time and in any case.

Strategic objectives

To inform and educate the public about RJ

To inform and influence policy on RJ

To develop high quality, research based RJ practice



EFRJ Policy Goals

1. Improve current RJ (legal and policy) provisions
2. Inclusion/strengthening of RJ approaches in other strategical (legal and policy) areas (CJS and beyond)
3. Spread the knowledge and raise awareness on RJ at the policy level

**Development of the distinct
policy strategies targeting**

- United Nations
- Council of Europe
- European Union
- Country level



ERJPN

European RJ Policy Network



RJS4C

RJ Strategies fir Change



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European Restorative Justice Policy Network (ERJPN)

- Network of policy makers (Ministry of Justice) in Europe set up by the EFRJ in 2018
- Objectives:
 - to collaborate more closely with national policy makers
 - bring together policy makers interested in RJ, provide a forum for discussion and mutual learning
 - sharing experiences, reforms, best practices and challenges in Europe
 - support the planning and implementation of RJ policies
 - inform policy makers about new developments (research, policy)
- 22 European countries/jurisdictions represented in the ERJPN



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Restorative Justice Strategies for Change (RJS4C)

- Collaborative project initiated by EFRJ members in 2019 which aims to encourage the development of restorative justice in Europe, inspired by the CoE Rec on RJ (CM/Rec(2018))
- It seeks to achieve this by identifying, connecting and supporting a small group of persons ('Core Members') in each participating jurisdiction, whose role it is to develop and implement a co-created strategy with a larger group of policymakers, practitioners, researchers, activists and other relevant, local parties.
- The project involves ten participating jurisdictions: Albania, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.
- Extremely valuable experiences; synergies between the work done at the national level and the EFRJ policy strategies at the European/international one (meta-strategies)



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EFRJ and the Czech Republic

- 5 Czech EFRJ members: 1 organizations and 4 individuals
- Czech member of the Board of the EFRJ
- Representation of the Czech Ministry of Justice in the ERJPN
- Country participating in the RJS4C project
- Presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU (second half 2022)



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EU policy objectives the EFRJ aims for

1. **Long term: binding act** on RJ (directive) and **right to access high quality RJ services**
2. **Mid-term:** have RJ supported in other relevant policy and legislative instruments of the EU (victims' rights strategy, strategy on the rights of the child, violent extremism, general procedural acts on the criminal procedure, alternatives to detention compensation for victims, environmental justice...)
Specific crimes (sexual violence, domestic violence, hate crime etc.)
Crime prevention
3. **Ongoing:** Raise awareness on RJ among EU policy makers (EC, EP, Council)



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RJ supported in relevant EU policies/legislations

- **EU strategy on the rights of the child (adopted in March 2021)**
 - Submission of two joint position paper with TdH on “restorative” child friendly justice
- **EU environmental law**
 - The EFRJ, through its new established Working Group on Environmental Restorative Justice, participated in the Commission public consultation by sending a feedback to encourage the use of restorative justice methods and values also in the environmental sector.
- **EU Directive 2008/99/EC on Environmental Protection through Criminal Law.**
 - The WG on Environmental Restorative Justice has submitted a commentary to the EC. The focus of the commentary is on the potential of restorative justice in cases of environmental crime.
- **EU initiative Combating gender-based violence**
 - With the WG on Gender based Violence we submitted a position paper mainly on RJ in the Istanbul Convention.
- **EU initiative to include hate crime and hate speech in the list of EU crimes**
 - We submitted a feedback mainly based on the project LetGobyTalking on victims of anti- LGBT hate crime and RJ



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RJ supported in relevant EU policies/legislations

- **EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020 - 2025)**
 - EFRJ feedback to the strategy
 - RJ provisions are included in the strategy
 - The EC invited the **EFRJ to be part of the new EU Victims' Rights Platform; plenary and ad hoc meeting (victimisation in prisons; gender- based violence, hate crime, victims' compensation, children)**
- Evaluation of the Victims' Rights Directive (currently ongoing)

As part of the EU strategy on victims' rights, the EC promotes an initiative to evaluate the Directive in order to assess to what extent it has achieved its objectives in terms of its implementation and practical application in EU countries.



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THANK YOU!

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