

5TH EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

**Organised in cooperation
with Istituto Don Calabria**

and with the support of

Comune di Verona

Dipartimento di Giustizia
Minorile



BUILDING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN EUROPE

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC, POLICY MAKERS, PRACTITIONERS AND RESEARCHERS



AGIS 2006

With the financial support from the
AGIS programme
European Commission - Directorate-
General Justice, Freedom and Security

Verona

Known by most because of the myth of Romeo and Julia, Verona is the second Italian city having preserved so many Roman monuments. Its splendour was sustained over more than two millennia and has left unique testimonies and art from all different historical periods. For this it was awarded the status of 'World Heritage Site' by the UNESCO in 2000.

Nowadays Verona is one of the most important economic and commercial points of the Veneto region with an active and vivid cultural life.

Palazzo della Gran Guardia

The 'Comune di Verona' has offered the Palazzo della Gran Guardia as conference location. The Palazzo is located on the Piazza Bra, in the heart of the old city and right in front of the famous *Arena*.

The conference will take place on the top floor of the Palazzo.

Tourist information

More details about the city of Verona and its surroundings can be found on the tourism website of the Province of Verona: www.tourism.verona.it.

CONFERENCE TOPIC

With the fifth conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice, we would like to further promote restorative justice in Europe.

Restorative justice is about people acting together to resolve their conflicts and to find a way to set wrongdoing right by repairing the harm incurred. It builds on the cooperation between different professions and institutions supporting the efforts of the stakeholders. Moreover, for the restorative justice movement to gain momentum and to become ingrained in society, an understanding and accepting attitude of the wider public, including the media, is needed. This conference will therefore invite participants to take a closer look at the practices and the structures of cooperation between the major actors in this field.

Involvement of policy makers and politicians and developing regular collaboration between them and service providers is one of the cornerstones of the implementation of restorative justice. This requires a common understanding of mutual expectations and of each others' responsibilities. Ways to model this cooperation and to establish sustainable structures of collaboration, taking into account the highly changeable politic scene, should be discussed.

Cooperation between researchers and practitioners, as well as ***the impact of research on policy makers***, constitutes another relevant interface when striving for the promotion of restorative justice in Europe. In this respect, a promising avenue for cooperation consists in a dialogical approach that takes into account both the needs of practitioners and of researchers. In addition, the effective presentation of research results to policy makers and to the public via the media will receive attention.

Thirdly, ***addressing the public*** implies that we establish effective mechanisms to raise public awareness and to ensure active participation of citizens. But, not only individual citizens should come to perceive restorative justice as a viable response to conflict and wrongdoing. For restorative justice to gain legitimacy as a new approach to justice, it has to be able to secure constant dialogue with civil society and be prepared to integrate citizens' voice and perspectives. Possible ways to strengthen this aspect and avoid that restorative justice grows detached from the civil society should be explored better.

A substantial part of the conference will be devoted to the AGIS project "Restorative justice: an agenda for Europe". Indeed, this is also the final conference of this project, which looked, on the one hand, at ***the development of restorative justice in Southern Europe***, and, on the other hand, at ***the potential role of the European Union in the further development of restorative justice in Europe***. After having identified the difficulties encountered in Southern Europe to consolidate the implementation of restorative justice, experiences have been shared between the experts involved in the project. In the conference, the strategies devised to meet these difficulties, as well as the experience of different services will be presented. Beyond the national scene, the need and possibilities for further EU regulation and action in this field will be addressed. Concrete ideas and proposals will be discussed.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

We will again strive for a highly interactive conference. Each half day will start with a plenary session dedicated to one of the five main themes outlined in the programme. These themes will then be further explored in the course of workshops followed by café conferences. However, workshops on all the themes will be organised throughout the conference, thus providing participants with an opportunity to attend more than one workshop on a given theme. Each workshop will consist of only one or two presentations to give ample time for discussion, not only between presenter and participants, but also between participants.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 17 April 2008

08.00	Registration
09.00	Opening of the conference
09.30	Plenary: Restorative justice and the role of the European Union , by Jolien Willemsens (Belgium)
10.15	Coffee break
10.45	Workshops
11.30	Café conferences
12.15	Lunch
14.00	Plenary: Research informing practice - practice informing research , by Christa Pelikan (Austria)
15.00	Workshops
15.45	Coffee break
16.15	Café conferences
17.00	End of the first conference day
18.00	General Meeting of the European Forum for Restorative Justice

Friday, 18 April 2008

09.00	Plenary: Involving policy makers , by Roman Koval (Ukraine)
10.00	Workshops
10.45	Coffee break
11.15	Café conferences
12.00	Lunch
14.00	Plenary: The development of restorative justice in Southern Europe , by Clara Casado (Spain)
15.00	Workshops
15.45	Coffee break
16.15	Café conferences
17.00	End of the second conference day
17.30	Fringe meetings
20.00	Conference dinner

Saturday, 19 April 2008

09.30	Plenary: Addressing the public , by Sir Charles Pollard (United Kingdom)
10.30	Workshops
11.15	Coffee break
11.45	Café conferences
12.30	Closing plenary
13.30	End of the conference

Travelling to Verona

Verona's international airport Valerio Catullo is situated approx. 10 km outside of the city. There is a shuttle bus service to and from the airport about every 20 min. The airport bus terminal is outside Porta Nuova Railway Station.

An alternative is to fly to Venice or to Brescia airport. In both cases you will need to take a train or bus to Verona. The trip will take about 1 hour.

Accommodation

In order to facilitate the process of arranging accommodation, participants can make use of a free centralised booking service, the *Cooperativa Albergori Veronese (CAV)*. They have made block reservations in a number of hotels and have obtained special rates for this conference (if reservation is made before 20 March 2008). For instructions on how to make a reservation, please look for the accommodation form on our website www.euforumrj.org.

Please note that there are only a limited number of small hotels in the city centre of Verona. It is to be expected that they will be fully booked fast.

The programme might be subject to alteration

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

A more detailed programme, including the workshop programme, will be sent to registered participants as soon as it becomes available, together with detailed practical information. All conference information will also be posted on the Forum's website under 'conferences': www.euforumrj.org.

Number of participants: The conference is limited to 300 participants. Places will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Language: The working language of the conference will be English. However, we will try to be creative in accommodating people who are not proficient in English as much as possible.

Registration: Complete the enclosed registration form and send or fax it back to the Secretariat of the Forum. The registration form can also be downloaded from www.euforumrj.org. Registrations will only be final after payment of the fee. The deadline for registration is 1 April 2008. The registration fee for the conference includes lunches on Thursday and Friday.

Cancellation policy: Refunds (75%) will only be made if written notice of cancellation is received before 15 March 2008.

Waivers: A limited number of waivers of the registration fee will be granted to people with financial difficulties to attend the conference. Applications for a waiver should be made by 15 February 2008 at the latest, using the waiver application form which can be downloaded from www.euforumrj.org.

Workshop presentations: We warmly invite you to present in a workshop, or to act as a chair or facilitator in one of the workshops or café conferences. If you are willing to be actively involved in the conference, please indicate this on your registration form. A call for presentations is enclosed and can also be downloaded from www.euforumrj.org.

Fringe meetings: On Friday 18 April, after the conference presentations, the workshop rooms will be made available for fringe meetings. Groups of people (for example the Committees of the Forum) who want to make use of this opportunity to meet should inform the Secretariat as soon as possible. A programme for these fringe meetings will be sent to all registered participants in the conference.

Exhibitions and displays: A free sharing table will be provided for display of participants' programme materials. Publishers and other exhibitors may rent display place. They should contact the Secretariat of the European Forum. Note that the organisers will not sell any materials for others, nor will they take responsibility for supervising the materials being displayed.

Conference dinner: A conference dinner is organised on Friday 18 April in a village about 20 km outside Verona. Transport per bus to and from the restaurant will be organised. Since this requires some organisation, registrations for the conference dinner have to be made by 1 April at the very latest. No late registrations and cancellations will be accepted.

Guided tour of the historic centre: On Saturday afternoon, a guided tour of the historic centre of Verona is being offered by the city of Verona. A limited number of people will be able to participate. Places will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. You should register via the conference registration form.

European Forum for Restorative Justice v.z.w.

Hooverplein 10, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

Tel. 0032 16 32 54 29/0032 16 32 51 05, Fax 0032 16 32 54 74

info@euforumrj.org, www.euforumrj.org

Organised by



European Forum for Restorative Justice
Victims, offenders, community

In cooperation with



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