

“Restorative justice is a framework, in which dealing with social problems can be interpreted. The consensual approach typical of RJ provides vast reserves of power, which can be mobilized for the sake of peace in the society” Klára Kerezsi, PhD Thesis

WITH or WITHOUT YOU



RJ IS A POLITICAL ACT

RJ is an alternative social organizing principle.

CRIME is a decay in social relations when injury, pain, harm, suffering caused.

ALTERNATIVE

DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE UNDERSTANDINGS
OF SECURITY AND JUSTICE
THROUGH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE APPROACHES
IN INTERCULTURAL SETTINGS
WITHIN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

Gabriella Benedek
Foresee Research Group
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Restorative Justice

- A **system of individualized approaches to justice** where each persons comes in with a personal story (gender, race, class, nationality, age) --) **WHO?**
- **through participation, dialogue,** communication, story telling, narratives --) **HOW?**
- engage in a process of a detailed consideration and agreement on **justice outcome** --) **WHAT?**

Model by Christa Pelikan (IRKS)

THEORY AND PRACTICE

IN THE ALTERNATIVE PROJECT



Department of Criminal Law and Criminology
of the K.U.Leuven Faculty of Law

Norwegian Social Research Institute (NOVA)

European Forum of Restorative Justice (EFRJ)

THE FOUR ACTION RESEARCH SITES



**ACTION RESEARCH:
LOOK. THINK. ACT. PLAN**

- **IRKS** - PUBLIC/SOCIAL HOUSING ESTATE in Vienna
- **Foresee** – VILLAGE/SMALL TOWN in Hungary
- **VDS** – multiethnic and multicultural parts of SERBIA
- **University of Ulster** – transition from a conflicted society to an agreed society after 40 years of violent civil conflict in Northern Ireland

MAIN CONCEPTS in ALTERNATIVE



- Justice
- Security/Safety
- Intercultural setting
- Restorative, restoration
- Community
- Conflict
- Conflict transformation
- Civil society

Concept papers elaborated by the partners in yr1

Foresee Research Group

PRACTICING ENCOUNTERS

GABRIELLA BENEDEK
DR. ÉVA GYÖRFI
GÁBOR HÉRA
DR. BORBÁLA FELLEGI
GYULA GALYAS

DÓRI SZEGŐ
SZILVI SÜKI-SZIJJÁRTÓ
LÁSZLÓ BALLA

KOPPÁNY KELEMEN
KITTI SALAMON



Work Package Five

WP5 – Foresee - Objectives

- Identifying **the conditions and circumstances** required for the successful application of the restorative justice approach and practices in conflicts in intercultural settings (in local communities).
- Identifying those **conflict areas** in which restorative practices can be effectively applied in intercultural settings, and to evaluate the possible outcome of the restorative interventions.
- Finding out how and at what points restorative theory and practice can be **integrated into the existing institutional structure** with special focus on the justice, law-enforcement and welfare system, in order to make the operation of the existing statutory system more effective.
- We also aim to assess how the restorative practices and approach can be **aligned with other professions/intervention methods** (community development, child protection, social work services etc.), and to identify the limitations of the different intervention methods.

OUR INTERCULTURAL CONTEXT



- An 'ISLAND OF PEACE' or a 'VOLCANO'
- SEVERAL intersecting CULTURES (ethnic, religion, life-style, world-view) i.e. COMMUNITIES
- Existing patterns and patterns of conflict transformation
- Why is it difficult to talk and discuss about injuries and pain in direct, personal communication VS. communication through representatives of groups/cultures or by MEDIA

TWO YEARS OF WORK

- **PREPARATION** (Concept paper on Securitization, and working material 'Naming the Gypsy' by Balázs Berkovits and Eszter Balogh)
- **CHOOSE THE SITE**, make CONTRACT
- **FIND LOCAL COORINATOR, BUILD SUPPORT GROUP**
- **BUILD TRUST**, COOPERATE, **VIDEO-DIARY**
- **DIAGNOSIS**: research, mapping and reflection
- **TEST CASES** : Observe direct practice of conflict transformation. Evaluation with LOCAL RESEARCHERS.
- **RJ INTERVENTIONS** (services, training, implementation)

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!



“New solution come to life when traditional ones seem helpless with handling problems.”

<http://alternativeproject.eu/>

www.foresee.hu

gabriella.benedek@foresee.hu