

Institute of Conflict Resolution

***Towards a new culture of conflict
resolution***

About us

- The Institute of Conflict Resolution /ICR/ - Sofia is an association of lawyers, researchers and university professors.
- It has 18 members and fellows.
- The ICR was founded in 2000 to help establish new forms of conflict resolution as a legitimate part of the Bulgarian legal system

Mission

- Promotion of resolving social, intercultural, interpersonal and other conflicts by legal methods and in a peaceful manner.
- Developing and offering of innovative methods for resolving conflicts, based on the culture of dialogue and in accordance with the European and world standards.
- Prevention of potential social, intercultural, interpersonal and other conflicts.

Activities

- **ICR:**
- does research on creative and innovative methods of conflict resolution;
- disseminates information about restorative justice among all interested groups;
- supports public education aimed at increasing awareness of issues related to victims, offenders and the community;
- promotes exchange of ideas and mutual help.

Projects

- **Promotion of Restorative Justice in Bulgaria (own project) 2001- up to now**
- The information campaigns, educational programmes, workshops, etc. launched in the framework of this project aim to increase public awareness of the benefits of restorative justice.

Projects

- **COST Action A 21 - Restorative Justice Developments in Europe 2002-2006**
- Partnership with more than 20 European countries
- The main objective of the Action was to enhance and deepen knowledge on theoretical and practical aspects of restorative justice in Europe, with a view of supporting implementation strategies in a scientifically sound way.
- 7 books

Projects

- **AGIS - Meeting the Challenges of Introducing Victim - Offender_Mediation in Central and Eastern Europe 2004-2005**
- Partnership with more than 15 European countries
- General objective of the project was to effectively support the development of restorative justice in Central and Eastern European countries

Projects

- **COMENIUS 2 - Violence in Schools Training Action 2003-2006**
- Partnership with 6 European countries
- The main aims of this project were to:
- develop a European training package on the topic of violence prevention in the whole school context;
- disseminate good practice through training at European, national and local levels
- provide active support to key policy-makers and to schools.

Projects

- **TAIEX- Perspectives of Victim-Offender Mediation in Bulgaria 2007**
- Partnership with the National Association of Mediators and the Union of Bulgarian Jurists
- Training seminar
- Round table discussion
- Concept for legislative regulation of mediation in penal matters

Academic Programme

- The ICR contributed:
- Alternative Dispute Resolution to be introduced as a study subject in the curricula of the Faculty of Law and History at South-West University - Blagoevgrad
- Mediation in Civil and Penal Matters to be introduced in the curricula of the New Bulgarian University - Sofia
- Mediation training programme to be developed and tried by the Institute for Postgraduate Studies at the University of National and World Economy - Sofia.

Training

- ICR is approved by the Minister of Justice to train mediators and organises training on regular basis.
- We offer consultancy and training in mediation and restorative justice, including drafting of an individual programme with respect to the trainees' needs.

Expert work

- The team of ICR participated in drafting of:
- Mediation Act 2004 (amended 2006)
- Training Standards for Mediators, Procedural and Ethical Rules of Conduct for Mediators and Rules Pertaining to the Unified Register of Mediators (2005)
- Ordinance No 2 of 15 March 2007 on the Conditions and Procedure for Approval of Organizations Providing Training for Mediators; on the Training Requirements for Mediators; on the Procedure for Entry, Removal and Striking off Mediators from the Unified Register of Mediators; and on the Procedural and Ethical Rules of Conducts for Mediators
- Amendments to Penal Code and Penal Procedure Code

Other activities

- Conferences
- Campaigns
- Surveys
- National contact point for Restorative Justice
- Publications etc.

Publications

- Chankova, D. Victim-Offender Mediation, Sofia, Feneya, 2002
- Vladimirov, G. A chance to save nerves, time and money, Pari 45/2002
- Chankova, D. & Bakalov, G. La mediacion en Bulgaria, LA TRAMA N 19/2006- www.revistalatrama.com.ar/contenidos/docs/019_003_esp.pdf
- Chankova, D.& Georgieva, E. Is Mediation Applicable in Victim-offender Relationships? The View of the Offenders. SOCIETY AND LAW, N 10/2007
- Chankova, D.The Possibilities of Restorative Justice, Scientific Research, Vol.5, 2007
- + more than 20 other

Contributions

- Mapping Restorative Justice. Developments in 25 European Countries., Ed. by Miers, D. & Willemsens, J. for EFVOMRJ, Part B.2. Short Accounts of 8 Jurisdictions, 2.Bulgaria, 2004
- Handbook of Restorative Justice, Ed.by Johnstone,G.& Van Ness, D.; Chapter 24. Regional Reviews, Section G: Themes, Willan Publishing, 2007 etc.

Contact details

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