



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

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War Crimes Justice Project

Calendar of activities

September 2011

Friday, September 2,

Pilot IHL Training, Belgrade, Serbia

Between 2 and 6 September, the project held three pilot training sessions on genocide, crimes against humanity, command responsibility, international co-operation and witness support for 19 prosecution and court assistants, amongst them project sponsored legal support staff, at the Judicial Academy in Belgrade. The trainers included two Judges from the Court of Appeal. With this training the project successfully concluded the cycle of pilot trainings on the IHL curriculum for judicial and prosecutorial staff in Serbia, having piloted in total seven key modules. The trainings were based on the project-developed IHL curriculum. The Judicial Academy remains committed to include the training on the training curriculum in its regular programs.

Tuesday, September 13

Final Delivery of transcripts by ICTY to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbian authorities

Transcripts in the languages of the region make it easier for local judiciaries to use the testimonies given before the ICTY. Many of cases being worked on by local judiciaries include witnesses that testified before the ICTY previously. Their transcripts are very useful in analysis and investigation of war crimes by local judiciaries and thus greatly contribute to increasing the efficiency of the process of determining guilt for war crimes.

War Crimes Justice Project



Project funded by the EU

Implemented by



Friday, September 16

Final Defence Training, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The training was targeted at judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers handling war crimes cases. The purpose of the seminar is to identify ways to make complex war and organized crime trials more effective. The seminar was led by Phillip Weiner, Judge of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Prosecutor Drew Engel and defense attorneys Edina Residovic and Aleksandar Lazarevic. It was organized in cooperation with the Criminal Defense Section of the Ministry of Justice and the Federation Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre.

Monday, September 19 and Tuesday, September 20

Training of trainers on the ICTY specific training, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The goal of the training, which took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was to transfer the Tribunal's institutional knowledge and specialised skills to jurisdictions in the region, thereby enhancing their capacity to handle complex war crimes cases. The training was intended to strengthen the ability of the Tribunal's local counterparts to locate and seek ICTY information and materials relevant to their work and covered the use of the website and databases such as the ICTY Court Records Database and the Appeals Chambers Case Law Research Tool. It also covered making requests to the ICTY for legal assistance and for variation of protective measures under the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

Advanced pilot training on Modules 8 & 9, Judicial Institute, Priština, Kosovo

On 20 and 21 September, the project held an advanced training seminar for a group of 10 local judges and prosecutors in co-operation with the Kosovo Judicial Institute in Pristina. The training focused on modes of liability in war crimes cases and was based on the project-developed international criminal and humanitarian law curriculum which will be handed over to the Kosovo Judicial Institute for inclusion in its regular programs at the end of the project. The training forms part of a two-fold training initiative for local judges and prosecutors, consisting of a training course in Pristina and a study visit to the ICTY in early October.

Training of trainers, IHL training in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Curriculum

On 19 and 20 September, war crimes trainers in Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in a training of trainers led by Joseph Sawyer from the National Judicial College in the United States. The training focused on the further development of adult education methods and the application of those methods to training based on the war crimes curriculum developed as part of this project.

Monday, September 26

Witness Support Coordination meeting, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Providing effective and comprehensive support to witnesses testifying in war crimes cases requires co-operation of multiple actors, including civil society. This meeting is intended to contribute to fostering ties between various witness support services.

Thursday, September 29

Defence training in joint advocacy skills, Teslić, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The final in a series of trainings which provided judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers working on war crimes cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a unique opportunity to work jointly in advocacy training.

October 2011

Saturday, October 1

Witness Support Training, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (TBC)

Providing effective and comprehensive support to witnesses testifying in war crimes cases requires co-operation of multiple actors, including civil society. This meeting is intended to contribute to fostering ties between various witness support services.

Thursday, October 6

IHL training for the entity level judges and prosecutors, Bosnia and Herzegovina

War crimes trainers in Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in a training of trainers. The training focused on the further development of adult education methods and the application of those methods to training based on the war crimes curriculum developed as part of this project.

Monday, October 10

Defence Peer-to-peer training, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Peer-to-peer meetings aim to enhance the capacity of legal professionals in the region in the processing of complex war crimes cases. The meeting fosters regional ties amongst practitioners.

Wednesday, October 26

Final Regional Peer-to-Peer of judges and Project closing event, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Peer-to-peer meetings aim to enhance the capacity of legal professionals in the region in the processing of complex war crimes cases. The meeting fosters regional ties amongst practitioners.