

July 2009

The ICC Legal Tools and the European Union: Towards a Successful Partnership

**Date:** September 2008 - June 2009

**Location:** Nottingham, Brussels, The Hague

**Unit:** International Criminal Justice

**Core Staff:** Morten Bergsmo, Knowledge Transfer Ambassador  
Dr. Olympia Bekou, Project Director  
Emilie Hunter, Project Director  
Caroline Przybylla, Project Officer

**Student Research Assistants:** Alvin Tan, Sabrina Munao, Mark Chadwick

**Funder:** University of Nottingham Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy Group

**Project Summary**

Funded by the University of Nottingham Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy Group, the ICJ Unit embarked on a knowledge transfer project with EU policy makers in September 2008, which aimed to facilitate exchange between HRLC experts and EU policy makers on the role that specifically designed research tools, such as HRLC's National Implementing Legislation Database and the rest of ICC Legal Tools, can play in enhancing the functionality of criminal justice for atrocities and in furthering the EU's broad commitment to promote the ICC.

**Objectives**

The project was guided by the following objectives:

- To raise awareness of the Legal Tools and its potential value to EU and national policy makers as a potential solution to the problem that nearly 57% of ICC State Parties have not yet adopted legislation implementing the Rome Statute and to identify how the remaining 43% of State Parties may be equipped with adequate resources to prosecute international crimes and cooperate effectively with the ICC;
- To raise awareness of the Legal Tools and its potential value among EU organs that are mandated to support the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute;
- To identify what role research institutes can play in enhancing legal practice and policy at the EU level.

**Participants**

The project's primary target groups included:

- EU level and national policy makers,
- researchers and civil society organizations with an EU-ICC focus;
- members of relevant Working Groups, such as the EU Working Group on International Law (COJUR)/ICC; Directorates' General, Focal and Contact Points from the European Commission, Council and Parliament

## Activities/Content

- *Expert Consultations and Demonstrations with key actors of EU Commission and Council, Brussels, November 2008*  
Emilie Hunter and Morten Bergsmo met with key actors of the EU Commission and Council, including the EU ICC Focal point and members of the Legal Service/ External Relations Section of the Council, to present the ICC Legal Tools Project and discussed how it could be integrated within the relevant EU organs.
- *Demonstration for National Policy Makers: Seventh ICC Assembly of States Parties meeting, The Hague, November 2008*  
The project team coordinated a briefing seminar for government representatives on the *ICC Legal Tools*, where the HRLC National Implementing Legislation Database, and the Legal Tools Project more broadly were presented. The seminar attracted more than 40 government representatives from Europe, Africa and Asia Pacific. It was hosted by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was co-sponsored by the governments of Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the UK.
- *Demonstration for representatives of civil society organisations/ NGOs and user networks, ICC Assembly of States Parties, The Hague, November 2008*  
Hosted by the Coalition of the International Criminal Court (CICC), the project team together with the other Legal Tools Partners, gave a presentation for over 70 NGO representatives, entitled '*Introduction to the ICC Legal Tools Project*'.
- *Bilateral engagement with the International Criminal Justice Team of Amnesty International, London, December 2008, led by Morten Bergsmo, Emilie Hunter, Olympia Bekou*
- *Presentation on 'Knowledge Transfer in Public International Law' to the University of Nottingham Public International Law Discussion Group by Project Officer Caroline Przybylla, December 2008*

## Outcomes

### Project Brochure

- Funding Application submitted to EU COST: '*Addressing the challenges of an international criminal justice system through electronic legal services*'
- Preparation and dissemination of joint research paper:
  - '*Knowledge Transfer in Public International Law – an analysis of the evolving role of academic research institutes in supporting the ICC*'