

July 2009

Project Title: Kaliningrad Legal Professionals Human Rights and Criminal Justice Capacity Building Programme

Date: 17th – 21st December 2007

Location: Human Rights Law Centre, Nottingham

Unit: Short Courses and Training

Core Staff: David Harris, Emilie Hunter, Laura Rogers

Funder: UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

Project Summary

HRLC organized a week of meetings and training sessions on human rights and criminal justice for a delegation of leading legal professionals from Kaliningrad, complemented by study visits to institutions of the British criminal justice system such as the Magistrates' and Crown Courts, Victim and Witness Protection and the Crown Prosecution Service. Funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Objectives

The programme was designed to meet the following objectives:

- To increase the working knowledge of the British criminal justice system by leading Kaliningrad-based lawyers;
- To identify the possible areas for replication of UK best practice in criminal justice in Kaliningrad;
- To map future cooperation between Kaliningrad and Nottingham legal communities, including project development.

Participants

Five leading legal professionals based in Kaliningrad attended the course, including two barristers, a legal academic and a judge.

Activities

There were three core project activities:

- **Field visits to relevant British Criminal Justice organs**

After receiving induction materials and background information, course participants visited these key criminal justice bodies in Nottingham and met with their core representatives: Nottingham Magistrate Court, Nottingham Crown Court, Lowdham Grange Prison, Victim and Witness Support Service, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Crown Prosecution Service, and Nottinghamshire Probation Service.

- **Theoretical sessions on the British Criminal Justice system**

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Academics from the School of Law Professor Paul Roberts and PhD candidate Olga Pleshkova directed theoretical sessions on the British Criminal Justice System and its relationship with the European Convention on Human Rights. Two local legal practitioners complemented these sessions by examining the role of solicitors and barristers in the British Criminal Justice System.

- **Project Development Meetings**

HRLC Co-Director Professor David Harris and Research and Programmes Coordinator Emilie Hunter led project development meetings during the programme, focusing on identifying needs and appropriate methods to be taken in the development of future projects.

Method

HRLC trainers included experienced academics and senior representatives of criminal justice institutions.

The training method was highly participatory throughout, making extensive use of relevant case studies, discussion and comparative analysis. Reciprocal learning occurred between trainers and participants throughout the sessions which emphasised peer-to-peer skills transfer.

Field visits and the interactive dialogue which accompanied them were designed to increase participants' knowledge of how each stage of the British criminal justice system worked in practice, to enable them to make comparative analyses with home institutions, and facilitate identification and transfer of best practice.

Outcomes

Seven field visits to relevant British Criminal Justice organs, extended from 3 as outlined in the project bidding form;

- Four theoretical sessions on the British Criminal Justice system led by experts in UK criminal justice, extended from 3 sessions outlined in the project bidding form;
- Three meetings to develop future projects, identify needs and appropriate methods;
- A project report which outlines the project and potential future project concepts.