

Promoting the legacy of International tribunals:

Regional Conference - Sarajevo 15/16 June 2009

Sarajevo (BH) 15/16 June 2009 - UNICRI, in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), has convened a Regional Conference in Sarajevo on 15 and 16 June 2009.

This Conference was devoted to the presentation of the “ICTY Manual on Developed Practices” and was prepared by the ICTY and UNICRI as part of the project to promote the Tribunal’s legacy.

The *ICTY Manual on Developed Practices* is the outcome of a two-year collaboration between the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and UNICRI.

The Manual is intended to serve as a reference tool for global and national level policy makers, international criminal law practitioners and other international, internationalised or hybrid tribunals and it aims to facilitate the widespread dissemination of the most effective practices developed by the Tribunal.

It is a tool to promote a common language and establish a solid basis of good practices in war crimes prosecution, not just in the Balkans, but also in other post conflict and crisis areas worldwide. In that respect, the Manual underscores the key role of UNICRI as an interregional Institute of the UN in promotion of the legacy of ICTY in the Balkan Region and in other countries and regions all around the world affected by conflicts.

The Regional Conference in Sarajevo envisages the participation of representatives and practitioners from the courts in the Balkans, as well as the other International and Hybrid Tribunals such as the ICC, SCSL, ICTR, STL. Furthermore, various embassies in Sarajevo and International Organizations such as the EULEX mission to Kosovo, participates in this event.

Mr. Sandro Calvani, UNICRI’s Director, who has chaired one of the work sessions, has underlined the capital importance of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. “After several years of important achievements the Tribunal is now moving towards the end of its mandate, envisaged for the end of 2010. It is, hence, essential that the legacy of the ICTY in terms of expertise and good practices acquired during the years of its activity is properly recorded and transmitted to the national judiciaries in the regions and countries dealing with similar crimes.”

Among the participants attending the Bosnian conference, the Minister Justice of Bosnia Herzegovina who opened the conference, Mr. Milorad Barasin, Chief

Prosecutor of BiH, Ambassador Raimondo de Cardona, Italian Ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Judge Fausto Pocar from ICTY.

Yesterday, the first and second sessions of the programme were dedicated to the presentation of the features of the ICTY manual; during the afternoon, the discussion was focused on the experiences of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, and the International Tribunals for Rwanda and Lebanon.

The conference was made possible thanks to the contribution of the Prosecutor's Office of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina has hosted the event.

For further information on the conference and on the ICTY – UNICRI manual contact: Mr. Francesco Miorin at miorin@unicri.it