



SILVER CILC
1985 – 2010



CILC (founded in 1985) is a Dutch-based non-profit organization that designs and implements rule of law programmes and projects. CILC operates in Europe, Asia and Africa and is supported by a network of mainly Dutch legal experts, partner organizations in the beneficiary countries and (inter)national donors. CILC focuses on legal cooperation aimed at a maximum impact for a just society in which human rights are respected. CILC works in a demand-driven manner; the local cultural and socio-political context is paramount.

CILC has achieved a prominent position in international legal cooperation due to several factors. Core elements are the non-profit character of the CILC organization and the internationally-oriented attitude of its Dutch legal experts who are relatively well acquainted with other legal systems and international comparative law. CILC experts work in a demand-driven way to nourish the legal debate with partners in the countries concerned. Moreover, the Netherlands possesses a number of internationally recognized high quality legal assets: updated administrative and civil legislation, experience in capacity building, court management, international law, mediation and enforcement law.

CILC celebrates its 25th anniversary with a Studium Generale (together with the Van Vollenhoven Institute of Leiden University) on international legal cooperation in countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. In the spring of 2011 a large seminar will be organized in The Hague Legal Capital to discuss the role of CILC in the promotion of the rule of law, the importance of local ownership and the practice of international legal cooperation.



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The Hague Legal Capital

Sample of successful CILC projects

The New Civil Code of the Russian Federation, 1993 – 2010

Undoubtedly, the modernization of the Russian Civil Code is CILC's most long-lasting area of cooperation. Initiated in 1993, the cooperation still continues with the draft of a new code and more recently amendments accompanied by training sessions for the judiciary. Moreover, CILC has taken up training in European law and supported the Prokurata, the advanced Institute for the training of criminal investigations and prosecutions in St. Petersburg.

This intensive collaboration with Russian partners has had its spin-off effects in several other countries which have developed similar projects and model legislation based on the Russian experience. The unique Russian-Dutch collaboration was highlighted at a meeting between the former President Putin and the then Prime Minister Balkenende in 2007.



Saint Basil's Cathedral on Red Square, Moscow

The Palestinian Public Prosecution service, 2010 - 2014



CILC Clinic, June 2009

providing peer-mentoring and on the spot coaching on various issues and daily practices.

The assistance of the public prosecution service of the Palestinian Authority consists of capacity building in six district offices and the professionalization of the administrative staff. The programme focuses on the structure of the Palestinian public prosecution service, its chain of command, case management, professional capacity building and improving the cooperation with the police and the courts. The programme is based on equal and mutual cooperation between Palestinian and Dutch public prosecutors and other legal professionals,

Administrative Law Reform in Georgia, 1997 – 2002

In three stages, the administrative law system in Georgia has been transformed with a new General Administrative Code and an Administrative Procedure Code as successful end results. In addition, judges and civil servants have been trained in the new system and the Georgian people have been informed through a large popularization campaign. Uniquely, not only outstanding legal experts from the Netherlands and Germany were involved, but also, for instance, the current Georgian President Saakashvili. The successful collaboration with these experts has subsequently continued in a similar CILC project in Azerbaijan.

Paralegals in Mali, 2005 – 2006



The transitional national board is preparing a national paralegal training program

CILC has conducted a unique project in which a national curriculum for the training of paralegals has been established. The national curriculum has been validated during a national conference by all important stakeholders, such as the Minister of Internal Affairs. After the conference training materials have been developed, the didactic skills of trainers improved and paralegals trained. In order to create uniformity amongst paralegals, all organizations involved in the training of paralegals have to implement the national curriculum.

The Balkans Enforcement Reform Project, 2008 – 2011

The Balkans Enforcement Reform Project (BERP) supports the countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) in ensuring a more efficient and effective functioning of the systems of enforcement law at the national and at the regional level. BERP assists in the reform of legislation, the training of judicial officers and professional organizations, the development and introduction of regional best practice manuals and the dissemination of reform efforts in the sector among the general public and other legal professionals.



BERP Opening Conference in Skopje

Baseline Study for a Comprehensive Reform of the Justice System, Ethiopia, 2003 – 2005

In Ethiopia an extensive study was conducted of the entire justice system as a starting point for a huge justice system reform that is planned to be completed in 2015. In the baseline study, a thorough analysis has been made of the needs and gaps among the judiciary, the prosecution service, the police, the penitentiary system, law faculties and legislation, resulting in strategies and a work plan. In working groups, international and Ethiopian experts closely worked together.



Law Faculties in Rwanda, 2005 – 2010



LLB students at the National University of Rwanda

The law faculties of the universities of Butare and Kigali in Rwanda have been jointly strengthened. The complete teaching staff have qualified and broadened their scope through LLM and PhD programmes in South Africa, the Netherlands, Ireland and France. The development of LLB courses within the framework of the new Rwanda module system, the investments made in didactic materials, and the adoption of a student-centred approach will all together contribute to a new generation of better-trained Rwanda lawyers.

Competence in the Estonian Judiciary in EU law, 2004 – 2006

In 2004 Estonia became a member state of the European Union. In order to assist in implementing EU legislation, CILC has worked together with the Estonian Law Center Foundation to train Estonian judges, prosecutors and their trainers in this extensive and challenging field of law. Among other things innovative materials for computer-based distance courses have been developed.



Estonian Law Center