

ALWD

ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL WRITING DIRECTORS

Preparing for Practice: A Conference on Legal Skills Training in Central and Eastern Europe

Prague, Czech Republic
May 17-20, 2005



CEEL
INSTITUTE

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The Legal Writing Institute, Association of Legal Writing Directors, United States Department of State, USAID/National Center for State Courts, the CEELI Institute, and the American Society of International Law are pleased to announce the first conference designed specifically for European law faculties interested in curricular reform in legal skills training. The primary goal of this conference is to begin a discussion among law faculty in Central and Eastern Europe and the United States about legal skills training. By starting that discussion, participants will be able to identify the skills training needs in their own country and assess which training alternatives would best fit their needs. In addition, the conference will establish on-going relationships among participants who are interested in developing legal skills training.

During the conference, the participants will discuss issues relating to the professional and academic needs for skills training in various countries. The panels will address both curricular and institutional development of a variety of academic legal skills programs. Panels will be held consecutively and not concurrently so that attendees may maximize the benefits of the conference.

The conference will begin with two full-day programs devoted to specific issues. The first program (May 17) will focus on the goals and methods used in a skills program developed by the National Center for State Courts. The second program will focus on law and language issues. Attendance at the first two days of programming is highly recommended.

Conference Program

Tuesday, May 17

Alternative Approaches to a Law Faculty Skills-Oriented Approach to Legal Education

The National Center for State Courts, implementer of the USAID-funded Serbia Rule of Law Project, along with its local collaborators, has developed a 13-week Legal Research and Writing course. The course will be piloted during February-May, 2005. The program centers on a fictitious scenario in which students perform an array of relevant legal tasks, ranging from writing memos and statutes to reviewing case files and drafting an appeal. The presentation and materials will be provided in English, although discussions and materials will show how the course was tailored to the legal system of Serbia and how those portions of the course should similarly be tailored to provide materials of the relevant legal system where the course is offered.

This program will focus on the course NCSC has developed and the experiences of the two professors who are piloting it at their respective institutions. The facilitators will discuss how

they developed the course, results from their needs analyses, the rationale underlying the structure of the course and the activities, texts, etc. they included and student feedback from the pilots. Participants will also experience, in an abridged fashion, some of the activities that have been particularly successful. The program designers are interested in exploring the relevance of this course to other law faculty teaching contexts in southeastern and central Europe and therefore will ask participants for critical feedback on the course in light of their teaching contexts.

9:00--10:00 a.m.	Laying the Groundwork
10:00 -- 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m.	Implementing the Legal Research and Writing Program
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Lessons Learned and Student Evaluations
2:30--2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45--3:45 p.m.	How the Course May be Expanded in the Future
3:45--4:30 p.m.	Discussion

Evening – free time

Wednesday, May 18

Law and Language

A subset of Law Faculty students believe that a professional level of English language proficiency will be helpful and/or necessary as they pursue their future careers. In Europe, Legal English faculty are often linguists, not lawyers. However, there are still commonalities between their roles and those of LRW/Legal Skills faculty in the U.S. This workshop will explore if and how Legal English faculty members combine content and language to satisfy the needs of their students and the law faculty, examining commonalities between Legal English and skills training, as well as introducing the Common European Framework of Reference for languages and Language Portfolio Descriptors.

9:00-10:00 a.m.	Interactive Panel <i>Needs analyses in legal skills curriculum development</i>
10:00- 10:45 a.m.	Presentation <i>Common European Framework of Reference European Language Portfolio/Descriptors</i>
10:45-11:00 a.m.	Break

11:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. Interactive Panel
Overview of Legal English Curricula in Central and Eastern Europe

12:00 --12:30 p.m. Breakout Session
The participants will split into breakout groups to discuss how the morning sessions relate to their country or region. During the breakout session, the facilitators will float, acting as neutral observers, taking notes, listening for various cultural perspectives.

12:30 -- 2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 -- 2:15 p.m. Brief Summary of Breakout Session

2:15 -- 3:30 p.m. Interactive Panel

Legal Skills and Language Training

What combination of law/language works best and how can someone get the combination of skills necessary to teach language and law as skill subsets?
How should law skills programs impact university-level Legal English program design?

3:30 -- 4:15 p.m. Breakout Session

Participants add their own insights into the law/language combination. What impact does language as a skill have on international LL.M. programs in the U.S./in Europe?

4:15 -- 4:30 p.m. Brief Summary of the Breakout Session

6:00 -- 8:00 p.m. Reception

Thursday, May 19

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Plenary Session

“Assessing the Needs of Eastern European Law Schools (Faculties) – What We Can Learn From One Another”

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions

The participants will split into breakout groups (composed of participants from different countries) to discuss how the plenary topic relates to their country or region. Each group will have a facilitator and a reporter who can summarize the group’s discussion.

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Plenary Session

Reporters summarize breakout group discussions.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

“Importance of Legal Skills Training – A Comparative Approach – What We Can Learn from Each Other’s Experiences.”

1:30– 3:00 p.m. Panel

Developing legal research programs

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 – 4:45 p.m. Panel

Developing legal writing programs

4:45 – 6:15 p.m. Panel

Developing Legal English programs/Role of ESL/ESP in legal skills curriculum development

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Dinner

Developing Institutional Support

Friday, May 20

9:00 – 10:30 p.m. Panel

Interviewing, counseling and negotiation programs

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Panel

Student Activities – Moot Court and Student Publications

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch

Possible Speaker – to be announced

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Panel

Speaking and Writing for a Legal Clinic

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Break

4:00 --5:30 p.m.

Closing plenary

“Where Do We Go From Here?”

This session will explore ways to continue the discussions begun at the conference, including establishing an electronic network among participants, publication of the proceedings, both in print and electronically, and possibly scheduling a future conference.

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

THE SETTING

The conference will be held at the CEELI Institute in Prague, Czech Republic. Prague is accessible to attendees from the United States and Europe. The Institute is housed in the historic Grobovka Villa, within Havlicek Park, 35 acres of trees, vineyards, and vistas. For more information on the CEELI Institute, see www.abanet.org/ceeli/special_projects/ceeli_inst/home.html.

Who Should Attend?

The primary target audience for this Conference includes professors and deans from Central and Eastern Europe who are interested in developing legal skills training in their law faculties. The Conference is open to law faculties throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

In addition, approximately 20 law professors, deans, and judges from the United States will be attending.

Travel to the Czech Republic

Attendees are responsible for arranging their own travel to and from the Czech Republic, which is served by many airlines and other methods of transportation. In addition, attendees are responsible for obtaining the appropriate travel documents. For visa information, please see www.mvz.cz. **If you need a visa, please obtain it as soon as possible.**

Housing and Ground Transportation

The CEELI Institute has reserved a number of hotel rooms with prices ranging from U.S. \$70 to \$150 per night. All of the hotels are conveniently located near public transportation with easy access to the Institute. For information about ground transportation in Prague, see http://www.myczechrepublic.com/prague/prague_metro.html.

The CEELI Institute has reserved 63 rooms for conference attendees, as follows. Breakfast is included at all hotels. To reserve a room, please complete the portion of the registration form that relates to housing requests.

Hotel	Telephone	URL	Rooms	Rates	Location
Hotel Anna Depandance Claris, Slezská 26, Prague 2	+420 222 513 111	www.hotelanna.cz	Single (3)	2530 CZK/night	10 minutes walk to CEELI Institute
Hotel Anna Main Building	Same as above	Same as above	Double (2)	3390 CZK/night	Same as above
Hotel Prague Centre Legerova 32, Prague 2	+420 224 262 105	www.praguecentre.cz	Single (10)	89 EUR/day 99 EUR (double occupancy)	<i>2 tram stops to the CEELI Institute</i>
Hotel Agricola Rostovska 25, Prague 10	+420 271 740 120	www.jerome.cz	Single (10)	1550 CZK/night	<i>7 minute walk to CEELI Institute</i>
Hotel Olympik Tristar U Sluncové 14, Prague 8	+420 266 184 882	www.olympik.cz	Single (30)	1950 CZK/night	<i>30 min by metro and tram + 7 min walk to the CEELI Institute</i>
Hotel Juliš Václavské náměstí 22, Prague 1	+420 234 699 699	www.accome.com	Single (8)	EUR 120	<i>20 min by metro and tram + 7 min walk to the CEELI Institute</i>
Note: No refunds after April 8					

- From Hotel Prague Centre to CEELI Institute, take tram # 4, 22 or 23 from the stop I.P. Pavlova to the stop Jana Masaryka.
- From the Hotel Olympik Tristar, travel six Metro stops on Metro line B (from Invalidovna to Karlovo Namesti). At Karlovo Namesti, take tram # 4, 22, or 23 four stops to the stop Jana Masaryka.
- From the Hotel Juliš, travel two metro stops on Metro line A (from Mustek to Namesti Miru). At Namesti Miru, take tram #4,22 or 23 one stop to stop Jana Masaryka.

SPONSORS

The Legal Writing Institute is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1984 by the University of Puget Sound School of Law (now Seattle University School of Law). The Institute's purpose is to exchange ideas about legal writing and to provide a forum for research and scholarship about legal writing and legal analysis. The Institute is currently housed at Mercer University School of Law in Macon, Georgia.

The Institute promotes new activities through a newsletter, published twice a year; a scholarly journal, published about once a year; and a national conference that has been held every other year since 1984.

The Institute has more than 1,300 members, representing all of the ABA-accredited law schools in the United States. The Institute also has members from other countries, as well as from English departments, independent research-and-consulting organizations, and the practicing bar. Anyone who is interested in legal writing or the teaching of legal writing may join the Institute. For more information, see www.lwionline.org.

The Association of Legal Writing Directors is a professional association of program directors for legal research, writing, analysis, and advocacy curricula from law schools throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. ALWD meets annually, is governed by an elected Board of Directors and Officers. ALWD is a non-profit organization. For more information, see www.alwd.org.

The CEELI Institute brings judges, lawyers and legal reformers to Prague from all of the countries of Central Europe and Eurasia and the former Soviet Union for intensive practical and skills-based training to help them meet the challenges of democratization. The CEELI Institute is the only educational facility of its kind to focus on skills-related and practical training that responds to local needs. Programs and faculty are dedicated solely to the advancement of the rule of law, using CEELI's network in the region to build sustainable partnerships with local organizations and reformers. For more information, see www.abanet.org/ceeli/special_projects/ceeli_inst/home.html.

The National Center for State Courts is a United States nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice through leadership and service to United States courts and courts around the world. Through its International Programs Division, NCSC offers a comprehensive resource internationally to governments, courts, and related justice system components that seek innovative solutions to justice systems problems. The division conducts educational programs, consulting services, leadership training, applied research, and technological innovation to help judicial systems strengthen the rule of law, improve the administration of justice and enhance civil society efforts. NCSC's Serbia Rule of Law Project is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). For more information, see www.ncsonline.org, www.ncsc.org.yu, and www.usaid.gov.

The United States Department of State, Regional English Language Office, Budapest organizes and participates in teacher training seminars and workshops, advises posts on questions pertaining to English teaching, conduct needs assessments, and offer guidance on all aspects of an academic program. The Office consults with host-country ministry, university, and teacher-training officials, lectures and presents workshops on EFL methodology and practices. The Office will sponsor 20 participants from Central and Eastern Europe. For more information, see <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/engteaching/>.

The American Society of International Law was founded in 1906 and fosters the study of international law and promotes the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members from nearly 100 nations include attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students and others interested in international law. This conference has been designated as an ASIL Centennial Regional Event. For more information, see www.asil.org.

The following publishers and organizations have generously contributed to the conference:

Aspen Publishers
Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction
Thomson Sweet and Maxwell Publishing

List incomplete

Publishers' contributions will be recognized at the Conference.