HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR "CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE"
14-16 May 2008

Side Events

"LAUNCH OF THE ODIHR TRIAL MONITORING REFERENCE MANUAL"

Organized by OSCE/ODIHR

15 May 2008

13.00 – 15.00

Meeting Room 1

This event will present and officially launch the ODIHR Trial Monitoring Reference Manual. The Manual synthesizes best practices and lessons-learned from trial monitoring programmes conducted by the ODIHR and 12 OSCE field operations, including experiences from monitoring war crimes trials. It provides a resource for practitioners who develop and run trial-monitoring programmes. For its users, the Manual would help enhance the quality of trial monitoring programmes, thereby contributing to better compliance with fair trial standards in the participating States

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"RUSSIAN CONSTITUTION: NEW INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN"

Organized by the Interlegal Foundation

16 May 2008

13:00 – 1500

Meeting Room 2

RF Constitution, adopted in 1993, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin, who is now criticized in his country to be "pro-western" , proclaimed democracy, rule of law and human rights to be its major values. According to the TEXT of the Constitution those norms and principles are guaranteed. How thoroughly are they IMPLEMENTED, particularly after year 2.000, when the new President began to use the authority, guaranteed to him by the "Yeltsin's Constitution"? What happened to the major constitutional rights and freedoms and how the very basic democratic institutions – Parlamentarism, federalism, rule of law, freedoms of speech, assembly and association were transformed – without changing even a one word in the TEXT of the Constitution – is explored in the new book, published by State University – Higher School of Economics. Book editor and author of one of the chapters is ready to present the study, as well as to discuss with the interested audience the future transformation in the institutional design of Russian Constitution, particularly after recent changes in power balance between the office of President and Prime Minister.