The Research Institute on Judicial Systems has received an AGIS grant from the European Commission to carry on the research project: Information and Communication Technology for the Public Prosecutor's Office . Partners of the

research project, coordinated by The Research Institute on Judicial Systems, are The Institute on Constitutional and Administrative Law of the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, the London School of Economics, United Kingdom, the Finnish Ministry of Justice. In addition, two other researchers of the University of Nanterre, France, and of the University of Aarhus, Denmark have been included in the research activity.

Information and communication technology (ICT) are playing an important role in the criminal justice chain, but very little is known about public prosecutor's offices. There is a strong need to exchange information among practitioners, decision makers, and scholars in order to share experiences, knowledge, and facilitate the adoption of common ICT solutions and practices in a cost-effective way.

The research, by six in-depth case studies, describes, studies, and compares ICT applications in the public prosecutors' offices in four areas: 1) case investigations; 2) case management; 3) ICT interoperability between public prosecutor's offices, courts, police and prisons; 4) ICT for sharing prosecutorial information between countries.

More in detail, the main project activities are as follows. A first research meeting among the partners was held in Bologna, Italy, in April 2006, where a common research format has been agreed to carry on the in-depth field research in the four countries where the partners are located (England, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands), plus France and Denmark. Two other interim research meetings to compare the first findings and to discuss the draft reports were held in Bologna in November 2006, and April 2007.

The research findings were presented and discussed in a Research Conference which was scheduled for the 12th and 13th of October 2007, in Bologna (Italy). The Conference was attended by practitioners of all the EU countries and candidates, Eurojust, Europol, Eurojustice, Council of Europe, UN Drugs and Crime and UN Development Program.

By December 2007 a publication with the research findings and the conference proceedings concluded the research project.

Highlights

☐ Research Conference ICT for the Public Prosecutor's Office (EU-AGIS Project), Bologna, October 12-13, 2007

Related publications

Marco Fabri (Ed), <u>Information and communication technology for the Public Prosecutor's Office</u>, Clueb, Bologna, 2007