# International Journal of Legal Information the Official Journal of the International Association of Law Libraries

Volume 35

Issue 2 *The New Russia: Law and Legal Information* (Summer 2007)

Article 6

7-1-2007

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#### Recommended Citation

Cukadar, Sami (2007) "2006 IALL Conference Travel Grant: A Report," International Journal of Legal Information: Vol. 35: Iss. 2, Article 6.

 $A vailable\ at: http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/ijli/vol35/iss2/6$ 

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### 2006 IALL Conference Travel Grant: A Report\*

SAMI CUKADAR\*\*

To begin my conference report, I wanted to give some brief information about Turkish Higher Education. Turkish Higher Education comprises 53 state universities and 28 foundation universities. Out of the 81 universities there are 28 faculties and libraries. The Istanbul Bilgi University, where I work, is a private non-profit institution within the Turkish system of higher education. It was approved by the Turkish Grand Assembly in 1996. In 1997, the university libraryat Istanbul Bilgi University became a famous and important private university library in Turkey. In 2001, I was appointed to handle the Faculty of Law Collections. I subsequently applied for the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) scholarship to attend the extraordinary and well organized conference in Russia in September 2006.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the International IALL Officers, Board Members and to all the members of IALL for their support of my participation in this conference. Likewise, thank you to the Organizing Committee for their warm welcome and hospitality. I also thank Ashgate Publishing for giving me a copy of the "Handbook of Legal Information Management" book, and conference sponsors Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partner, Hein Online, Westlaw International and LexisNexis.

This was the first time I attended an IALL conference. I was excited to met new people and see beautiful places. When I arrived in St. Petersburg, it was rainy and cold. I arrived in my hotel on Saturday of September 9, 2006. On Sunday morning I visited some historical places of St. Petersburg and in the afternoon the conference program started.

The conference has two different sides: the academic side and the social and events side. The conference topics were focused on three important subjects:

<sup>\*</sup> *IALL 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on International Law Libraries*, September 10-14, 2006 at St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg State University) Russia.

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- 1. The Russian Constitutional Law and the Development of Federalism:
- 2. Legal Education: the Problem of Unity and Differentiation (Bologna Process); and
- 3. The Legal System of Russia.

The first topic was Constitutional Law and the Development of Federalism and the speaker was Dr. Sergey P. Mavrin, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation. His presentation was titled "The Constitutional Court in Russia: Formation, Structure, Competence and Role in the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Freedoms." I was impressed to hear from a Judge of the Constitutional Court of Russia. He provided a personal account of the development of Russia's new legal system.

The second speaker was Igor A. Drozdov, the Chief of the Secretariat for Chairman of the Higher Arbitrazh Court of the Russian Federation, who spoke on the topic "The Role of Arbitration Court in the Judicial System of the Russian Federation." He gave detailed information about Russia's Arbitration Court and economy. The last lecturer for the day was Dr. Serey D. Knyazev, Vice Dean of the Law Institute of the Far-East State University and Chairman of the Election Committee of Primorye Territory on the topic "Federalism and Elections: National and Regional Aspects." He provided the necessary contexts for Russia's general and local election systems, main election law and the historical development of federalism and elections in Russia.

The second session started with a lecture from Professor Ilya A. Dementyev, Vice-Rector of the Saint Petersburg State University on the topic "Bologna Process: Uniformity and Differentiation." He discussed the importance of the Bologna Process, Lisbon Convention, Russian Legal Education Systems, and mobility of students. The next speaker was Dr. Anatoly Y. Kapustin, Dean of the Law Faculty of the Russian University of People's Friendship (Moscow), who talked about the "Bologna Process: Practical Steps for Russian Law Schools." He particularly discussed the European Union's relation with the Bologna Process and the overall importance of the Bologna Process. The last topic in this session was "New Development in Law Libraries and Librarianship in Russia" by Professor Mikhail V. Krotov, President of the Russian Association of Law Libraries. His lecture focused on the responsibility of law libraries, resources, and library digitization projects in Russia.

The final session was "Legal System of Russia in Contemporary State." In this session the first speaker was Professor Valery A. Musin, Ad Hoc Judge in the European Court of Human Rights, Head of the Chair of Civil Procedure of the Saint Petersburg State University. His talk was titled "Recent Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights". He lectured about information on European Court of Human Rights, Case Law, and some examples of European Court decisions. Also, he used an example to explain the duration of a case and how it was decided. Professor Yuri Lubimov, Chair of Civil Law of the Faculty of Saint Petersburg University explained the Russian Civil Law System, market economy, and the adaptation of Russian private, civil law in EU contexts.

The conference academic program ended with Professor Sergey A. Belov, Chair of the State and Administrative Law, Saint Petersburg speaking on "Russian Constitutional and Administrative Law." He discussed Russia's party system, election legislation, advisory and decision-making bodies and democracy in the Russia Federation. All of the speakers gave excellent lectures.

As for the social events of the conference, the local IALL Planning Committee worked hard and prepared an excellent program. The museums, historical places, the national library, and other libraries such as the Nizhny Novgorod State University law library, cultural monument, bridges, and the River Neva in Saint Petersburg were all unforgettable. The State Hermitage Museum is an extraordinary museum that houses over 3,000,000 works of art from the Stone Age to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. IALL receptions and dinner venues were held in historic or elite restaurants, all with excellent fare.

With respect to the informal education side of the conference, the duties and responsibilities of information specialists have changed very fast due to the rapid development of Information Communication Technologies, and information resources moving from print to electronic formats. In this context, we had the opportunity to update our knowledge and share new ideas, learn from others' experiences, and network among librarians and colleagues.

What are the differences between IALL Conferences from others I attended before?

- Met law librarians, publishers, academic staff worked and teach Law from different countries and institutions.
- Conference was well organized.

- Very good academic content.
- Time was reserved to visit historical places.
- Speakers were selected from the host country.
- Speakers included lawyers, judges, and legal academics.
- Topics were law subjects, with an academic focus.
- Only a few local participants attended the conference.
- Participants came from different institutions such as university libraries, court libraries, constitutional court libraries, and bar libraries.

#### What I got from the conference

- In my opinion, the countries economic situation was parallel to library services and library organizations.
- Developed countries have very good library associations or organizations and a variety of library services.
- I got much information about the Russian Legal System.
- Met nice people and saw beautiful places in Russia.
- Learned how to organize a local library association in Turkey.

To sum up, this extraordinary conference was useful, educational, and contributed to my personal and professional development. The conference participants were friendly, enthusiastic and generous with their knowledge. Before I end my report, once again, I would like to thank the IALL President Mr. Jules Winterton, Immediate and Past President Dr. Holger Knudsen, Secretary Ms. Ann Morrison, Dr. Mark Engsberg, Professor Halvor Kongshavn, Professor Richard A. Danner, Ms. Petal Kinder, Ms. Amanda Barratt, and all IALL members, officers and the local planning committee members. My participation to IALL conference was a great pleasure. I hope the IALL conference can be held in Turkey in the near future.