

CASE TRACKING AND PERFORMANCE SYSTEM FOR COSTA RICAN NARCOTRAFFIC PROSECUTORS

Project Implemented by Florida International University, Center for the
Administration of Justice and its subcontractor, Master Lex.

Third Brief Progress Report to INL January 1 to February 26, 2011

1. Training on investigation of drug trade and organized crime



During the week of February 21 to 26, 2011 a recognized international expert -Ricardo Ramos was hired by FIU to carry out several training sessions in Costa Rica. Mr. Ramos is senior law-enforcement specialist with over 18 years of experience in classroom instruction and an expert in multinational, multi-jurisdictional, criminal investigations. He is a twenty-two year DEA veteran, with former top secret clearance. He has traveled and taught extensively throughout South America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Mr Ramos carried out Two one-full day training sessions for prosecutors (San José), One one-full day training session for a combined group of prosecutors, OIJ and PCD officers (Liberia) and one half-day session for OIJ and PCD officers (San José). The training originally scheduled to take place in San Jose, Limón and Liberia had to be rescheduled due

to the February 23rd transportation strike, thus the trip to Limón was cancelled and training for that day rescheduled for San José. Training activities took place in San Jose and Liberia and reached 144 people. Each received a kit of training materials in advance, a copy of the power point presentation prepared by Mr. Ramos and materials and practical examples were discussed and analyzed during the training sessions. Also a list of frequent questions raised during the previous training sessions carried out by the project was prepared and they were addressed by Mr. Ramos during the training. Complementary bibliography was also provided to all participants.

Participants of training activities in Liberia included Judges, Prosecutors, OIJ and PCD people from Liberia, Nicoya and Santa Cruz in charge of narcotrafficking and organized crimes.

Participants of all sessions indicated that they were extremely satisfied with Mr. Ramos knowledge and the participatory training approach that he used to address the different questions that prosecutors and investigative police had on the matter.

2. Progress in the development of the case tracking system

2.1. Hardware and software

During this period the hardware and software components for the technological platform required by the new system were widely discuss by Master Lex with the Costa Rican counterpart teams and FIU placed the purchase order with Hewllet Packard. There will be two servers, one for the application programs and the configuration information, and the other for the case tracking database and the digitalized documents. HP has indicated that building and delivery of the equipment will take between 6 to 8 weeks but FIU is has requested a reduction of that time period.

2.2. Functional prototype development

The functional prototype was validated before the Narcotrafficking Prosecutors and Judiciary IT counterpart teams. After several adjustments regarding the addition of new data fields in some registers of the data model, it was approved by both of these teams.

3.3. System design

The System Design Report was prepared by Master Lex and reviewed by the Narcotrafficking Prosecutors and Judiciary IT counterpart teams, who provided comments and requested different adjustments until an agreement on their satisfaction with the product was reached.

3.4. System development

Master Lex started to develop the new system, with special focus on the functional extensions (hooks) for the module that will generate the key management indicators.

3.5. Other activities

The Migration and Test Plans are under development by Master Lex and several preliminary validation sessions have started with the Costa Rican counterpart teams.

3. Visit of INL Officers to Costa Rican Judiciary.

On February 24th , 2011, FIU representatives (Ana Carazo and Daniel Gonzalez) met with the President of the Supreme Court, Luis Paulino Mora to discuss the progress of INL project. During the visit the President expressed his satisfaction with the project and reiterated the commitment of the Court to assure its sustainability. He indicated the importance of this project in circumstances where Costa Rica needs better tools to fight narcotrafficking and organized crime.

On February 25th, 2011, INL Officer Marcely Sanchez attended the training sessions that took place in Liberia, was able to take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Judicial Center and meet with Supreme Court Justice Luis Guillermo Rivas, Chief Judge Margoth Rojas, Chief Prosecutor Lilliana Zamora (Coordinator of Liberia's AGO), Regional Deputy Director of the OIJ, and other Judges and Prosecutors of the Guanacaste Judicial Circuit.