CMN co-ordination

Morten Bergsmo is the CMN Director. He is Visiting Professor, Georgetown University; Visiting Professor, Peking University Law School (January 2012-); Visiting Fellow, Stanford University; Senior Researcher, Law Faculty of the University of Oslo; and Co-ordinator of the ICC Legal Tools Project. He was formerly Senior Researcher, PRIO (2006-2009); Special Adviser to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution of Norway (2007-08); Senior Legal Adviser and Chief of the Legal Advisory Section, ICC Office of the Prosecutor (2002-05); Co-ordinator of the establishment of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor (2002-03); Legal Adviser, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (1994-2002); and Legal Adviser, UN Commission of Experts for the Former Yugoslavia established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780(1992) (1993-94). He represented the ICTY to the UN negotiation process to establish the ICC (1996-2002).

Ilia Utmelidze is the Deputy Director of the CMN. He is a Legal Adviser at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. He was formerly Legal Adviser, Human Rights Department, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and has worked for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Azerbaijan. He has undertaken CMN missions to many countries.

Alf Butenschøn Skre is the CMN Senior Executive Adviser. He works closely with the Director and Deputy Director in managing the CMN activities, and interacts with the CMN Advisers and developers on a daily basis. He has undertaken missions for the CMN to many jurisdictions. The Network is also assisted by CMN Executive Adviser Kiki A. Japutra and by CMN Fellows and interns.

How to make use of the CMN services

The Case Matrix application from which the CMN takes its name is one of the ICC Legal Tools. You can learn more about the Legal Tools Project at www.legal-tools.org. Anyone who is working on one or more core international crimes cases can request access to the Case Matrix by sending an e-mail message to info@casematrixnetwork.org with a short explanation of the need. Access to the Case Matrix is without cost to the user thanks to the ICC and contributions by several Governments, including those of Canada, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands as well as the European Union. The employers of some CMN Advisers and their donors are also contributing to CMN activities, in particular the Government of Norway.

Requests for access to other CMN services or to have a CMN Adviser assigned should be addressed to info@casematrixnetwork.org. These services include advice on war crimes prosecution strategy, work plans and work processes, and assistance with the drafting of implementing legislation.

At www.casematrixnetwork.org you will find more information about the CMN organization, the CMN Advisers, a list of users of CMN services, and technical information about the Case Matrix application and other services.

This leaflet was designed by Morten Bergsmo as implemented by Hilde Sørby and Alf Butenschøn Skre.

The illustrations are used courtesy the ICC, Kontras HAM, and DC Cam. The CMN logo was made courtesy PRIO.

This Third Edition of the leaflet was edited and updated on 4 December 2011.
Knowledge-transfer, legal empowerment and capacity building

Several international jurisdictions for the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide have been established since 1993. Of these, only the International Criminal Court (ICC) is permanent. It can investigate and prosecute only when national jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to do so. Strengthening such national ability is the primary purpose of the Case Matrix Network (CMN). The cost-efficiency and quality of justice for atrocities are improved by empowering the professionals involved.

The CMN takes its name from the Case Matrix application, a tool that transfers legal information and knowledge from international criminal jurisdictions to the national level. Matrix users can freely access some 7,400 pages of digest of more than 52,000 documents in international criminal law. The Matrix also organizes serious crimes case files and evidence.

But the CMN services are by no means limited to computer applications. The services include advice on war crimes prosecution strategy, organization of work, development of work plans, their implementation, the use of analysts, and drafting of requisite legislation. The CMN has expertise to assist in other areas of criminal law and capacity building, including independence and ethics, document and information management, anti-corruption measures, and environmental crimes.

The CMN services have been developed through meticulous study of work processes in numerous international and national criminal justice agencies, in more than 35 jurisdictions around the world. They promote practical legal empowerment, especially in materially less resourceful countries. The CMN has become an open platform of services, users and advisers for broader capacity building activities.

Working with the users of CMN Services

The CMN is directed by Morten Bergsmo. He co-ordinates a group of CMN Advisers who have developed expertise in knowledge transfer and capacity building. Their task includes working with one or more users of the CMN services as expert mentors. Each user of the services may be assigned an Adviser for regular advice, follow-up, training and coaching. The group of CMN Advisers is growing and diversifying. More information can be found at http://www.casematrixnetwork.org/network-advisers/.

The users of Network services

There are more than 130 users of CMN services around the world, most of them institutional. There is considerable diversity among them. One group of users encompasses investigation and prosecution agencies in States directly affected by core international crimes, including Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Iraq and Serbia. A second group consists of similar agencies in non-territorial States, such as Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway.

A further group is made up of non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International, the Documentation Centre of Cambodia, Human Rights Watch, and the International Bar Association. A fourth group comprises internationalised criminal jurisdictions such as the ICC and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. Military lawyers, defence counsel and counsel for victims are also users of CMN services.

CMN Advisers operate pursuant to a strict code of professional ethics known as the Florence Guidelines. The CMN guarantees confidentiality to the users of its services. The Network seeks to base all co-operation on mutual trust. Every effort is made to customize CMN services to the needs of each user, including the development and adaption of software, training and individual coaching. Localised versions of the Case Matrix application can be made both in terms of law and language. The CMN bases new software developments on a detailed comparative analysis of the needs of practice to ensure that maximum value is being added.