

Transitional Criminal Justice in Post-Dictatorial Societies

International Conference

Bucharest, 29-30 October 2010

The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, together with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and in collaboration with the Faculty of Political Science (University of Bucharest) will organize an international conference on the topic of *Transitional Criminal Justice in Post-Dictatorial Societies*. The conference will take place in Bucharest, on 29-30 October 2010.

Scholars are invited to reflect upon the manner in which criminal prosecutions came to be assessed as types of reaction against massive human rights violations, within the variety of transitions and transitional justice approaches. The genealogy of transitional justice indicates that in the last three decades, the number of trials against former leaders of non-democratic regimes increased, whereas amnesties and impunity have been systematically challenged by the necessity of prosecuting human rights abuses. The present conference aims at dealing with country-cases as well as with systematic, theoretical, and empirical approaches to criminal prosecutions and their effectiveness as transitional justice instruments. We invite theoretical, practical, and policy oriented papers examining the manner in which different countries have used criminal justice as a response to human rights abuses in non-democratic societies. Empirical studies on post-communist Central and Eastern Europe are particularly welcome.

Papers may address topics such as

- Legal and political constraints in convicting human rights abuses after dictatorships' breakdown;
- Attempts at incorporating international justice mechanisms into state and national criminal prosecutions;
- The extent to which transitional criminal justice contributes to the consolidation of the Rule of Law and/or to reconciliation/social reconstruction efforts;
- The manner in which criminal prosecutions impact law reform in a broader sense;
- The way in which precedents of external intervention impact transitional justice initiatives;
- The relationship existing between culturally patterned practices and transitional criminal justice;
- The role of the state and of civil society actors in the evolution of transitional criminal justice;

The deadline for submitting the paper abstracts (max. 200 words, in English) is **30 September 2010**. The paper proposals should be sent to: Raluca Grosescu, Head of the Public Policies Department, ICCMER ralucagrosescu@yahoo.com

Scientific Council

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