This report is based on the results of the Assessment missions to Georgia and Moldova (April, 2011); it was drafted by Senior Scientific Experts of the GOVAC project (Philip Martin, Michel Poulain, Peter van Krieken) in May, 2011.

Vienna, 2011
# Table of Contents:

I. BACKGROUND ....................................................................................................................................... 3

II. TOWARDS CONCERTED ACADEMIC ACTION: Executive summary ...................................................... 4

   Main partners (core teams) for the implementation of the Academia module of the project: ............ 4

III. NEXT STEPS ....................................................................................................................................... 5
The purpose of the project “Building Training and Analytical Capacities on Migration in Moldova and Georgia (GOVAC)” is to ensure self-sufficient and institutionalised training capacities in Moldova and Georgia to improve the management of migration and asylum. The methodology of GOVAC builds on the development of cooperation and partnership between government and academia, between beneficiary countries and participating EU MS, and between Georgia and Moldova. The project aims to achieve its goals by improving the data and knowledge base for research and training, as well as by fostering cooperation between government and academics. The expected outcomes include the promulgation/production of migration research agendas and curricula for academics based on the priorities identified by the Government, the attainment of a higher level of research and teaching capacity, as well as the development of sustained government-academia cooperation in migration research, migration studies, and ultimately improved migration management. A related Memorandum of Understanding concluded between Academia and Government by the end of the project should pave the way for sustainable co-operation between the two modules in both countries.

The GOVAC project deals with migration in general terms (economics, statistics, demography, socio-political, legal, business implications, etc.) and in an academic context as well as with the broader society, the labour market including civil society and the media.

The project implements two modules in each beneficiary country: a government module and an academia module. Depending on their specific objectives, modules will be implemented 1) jointly between governmental institutions and academia, 2) independently for governmental institutions and academia, 3) jointly between beneficiary countries, 4) independently for Georgia and Moldova.

An initial gaps and needs assessment for both modules and for both the government and academia is essential. The assessment builds on from knowledge gained within previously implemented projects in the beneficiary countries, the results of a questionnaire-based survey completed before the assessment mission and the assessment missions as such.

The present report is the result of expert assessment missions to Moldova and Georgia (April 2011) performed by Philip Martin, Michel Poulain, Anne Herm, Ernst van Bemmelen van Gent, Peter van Krieken, Michail Vagias, Alenka Prvinsek (ICMPD), Violeta Wagner (ICMPD) and Xenia Pilipenko (ICMPD). The mission sought to determine the current extent of migration research and training in academia, the state of knowledge of beneficiaries about migration research and training in other countries, and the needs of academics in Moldova and Georgia in order to improve migration analytical research and training.
II. TOWARDS CONCERTED ACADEMIC ACTION: Executive summary

Both Georgia and Moldova face a multitude of challenges in the field of migration and increasingly acknowledge the impacts various types of emigration, immigration and transit migration have on their economies and societies, including the longer-term effects of continued outflows of young and qualified nationals. Many of these emigrants may return, but the number of permanent emigrants may be rising. The benefits of out-migration in the form of remittances must be balanced against costs, including social costs from family separation and Dutch-disease exchange-rate appreciation\(^1\). State migration policies and strategies responding to this situation are in the process of being developed at the moment and will have effects only over time. All actors involved in this process – state institutions, academia, and international experts – are of the opinion that knowledge and awareness on migration needs to be raised, particularly through research and training of legal issues, including human and labour rights, and social and political sciences, public administration, economic development, agriculture and, last but not least, statistics and demography. Also, efforts need to be undertaken to enhance coordination and communication between academia, the administration and civil society.

Thus, the consortium of European partners under the lead of ICMPD has embarked on a needed, timely and doubtlessly demanding task in bringing together Governmental institutions and Academia for the purpose of cooperation in fact-based migration policy development. The GOVAC project is a challenge for all involved. However, implementing the project successfully will result in functioning cooperation and cross-fertilisation between Government and Academia and better policy-making.

A number of potential partners in Moldova and Georgia have been identified during the assessment missions to both countries which took place within the academia module of the project (April 11 – 15, Georgia; April 18 – 20, Moldova) and the governmental module of the project (April 3 – 6, Moldova; April 11 – 14, Georgia). In Moldova, the independent, university-embedded Moldova Migration Studies Centre (MMSC) would represent a potential and qualified partner; in Georgia the Georgian Migration Studies Centre (GMSC). During the workshops to be organised in both countries in September/October 2011, the potential partners shall discuss and agree approach and methodology tailored to the identified priorities and needs, paving the way for the next steps according to the project workplan.

Main partners (core teams) for the implementation of the Academia module of the project:

One of the project management bodies responsible for the GOVAC project implementation is the Project Task Force (PTF), which is established in both countries Moldova and Georgia. The list of representatives of the PTF was approved at the GOVAC project Steering Group meeting in Chisinau on May 12, 2011.

The main objective of the PTF is to support cooperation between government and academia to meet the analytical needs of authorities, analysing, conceptualising and implementing policies on migration. The PTFs consist of government officials in the two beneficiary countries who will function as main focal points during the project implementation under the lead of Government. The PTFs remain active throughout the project implementation and will ensure that government priorities and needs, particular in the context of implementation of Mobility Partnership are fully reflected in the development and implementation of the curricula. The PTFs have two main tasks:

- To define government-academic cooperation structures, reflecting project implementation activities;

---

\(^1\) Increase of remittances caused by growing out-migration flows may result in so-called Dutch-disease effect, i.e. real exchange rate appreciation and loss of country’s competitiveness in international market.
To develop a draft Memorandum of Understanding on continued government-academia cooperation after the formal end of the project.

The representatives of core teams for the Academia module, listed below, are at the same time part of the PTFs.

**Georgia:**
- Prof. Levan Aleksidze (Vice rector of the Tbilisi State University), Deputy Director of the PTF for Georgia, chair of the academia team for Georgia;
- Prof. Revaz Gachechiladze (Social and Political Sciences, Tblisi State University);
- Ms Nino Parsadanishvili (International law, Tblisi State University, in conjunction with prof. Aleksidze);
- Ms Nina Shatberashvili and Ms Tamar Bragatia (National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, NALA).

**Moldova:**
- Prof Valeriu Mosneaga (Political Science, Moldova State University), Deputy Director of the PTF for Moldova, chair of the academia team for Moldova;
- Ass. Prof Valeriu Sainsus (Demography, Academy of Economic Sciences);
- Prof Nicolai Sali (Psychology, Social Assistance, Free International University of Moldova, ULIM);
- Dr. Viorica Antonov (Institute for Development and Social Initiatives, IDIS).

**III. NEXT STEPS**

The next step is to elaborate curricula, including the research methodology, for a credible training program in conjunction with all project partners and Georgian and Moldovan counterparts (governmental and academic institutions as well as civil society) who will implement the research and training. Following the successful launching conference of the GOVAC project on May 13, 2011, and the common agreement of the Steering Group on May 12, 2011, the next steps in organizing the workshops in Georgia and Moldova respectively, to be held in September/October 2011 will be conducted. The workshops shall be based on written responses from academic partners that will help in preparing these activities. The workshops will consist of **inter alia:**

1. Adequate data, studies, laws, etc.: presentations on what is known and should be known. This part will help to clarify priorities for the new research institutes;
2. Examples of the kinds of research and teaching modules implemented by similar institutions in other countries adjusted to the needs as identified and agreed during the assessment missions;
3. An overview of the 3 R’s of migration: recruitment, remittances and returns that lay out the major issues for migrant-sending countries;
4. Presentations by the Moldovan and Georgian partners presenting their revisions of the draft research agenda and curricula (perhaps limited to GOVAC partners and the ICMPD team);
5. Public discussion with stakeholders, journalists, trade unions, employers associations, students, etc.;
6. Discussion of next steps.