In focus:
What are the GOVAC and REVIS projects

Funded by the European Union’s Thematic Programme both projects are being implemented in Georgia and Moldova by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with the support of several EU Member States and Switzerland, as well as the Council of Europe, and the Hague University for Applied Sciences:

- **GOVAC** - "Building training and analytical capacities on migration in Moldova and Georgia" – aims to set up a durable mechanism which ensures self-sufficient and institutionalised training capacities in Moldova and Georgia for the management of migration and asylum;
- **REVIS** - “Supporting the Implementation of the EC visa facilitation and readmission agreements in Moldova and Georgia" - seeks to enhance capacities of Government institutions in beneficiary countries to implement returns and readmission to and from Georgia/Moldova.

GOVAC: Internship to ICMPD, August 29 – September 23, 2011

The internship to ICMPD was implemented from August 29 to September 23, 2011. One representative from government and one representative from academia from both Georgia and Moldova were invited to take part in the internship. The internship to ICMPD was focused on applied migration research. The participants as well as the concrete topic for migration research were chosen by the Project Task Force (PTF) in Georgia and Moldova in close cooperation with ICMPD.

After consultations with the ICMPD GOVAC and Research team, the research areas for both country teams were identified. As the issue of legal integration seemed to be the most important and interesting topic for Georgian governmental and academia institutions, the issue of acquisition of citizenship in Georgia and the EU as the ‘highest possible level of integration’ was researched during the internship. For the Moldovan GOVAC project counterparts, the research area was defined as Migration movements between Moldova and the EU taking into account the fact that today Moldova represents a country of origin, transit and destination of international migrants at the same time. The research methodology included analysis of both statistical data on migration movements and relevant policies issues.

The two country teams were working independently on the chosen research topic under the supervision of the ICMPD Research Team and GOVAC project team. At the end of the internship the first draft research paper was finalized, and the document was submitted for review to the academia experts in the GOVAC project. The final research paper will be presented at the workshops in Georgia and Moldova in October and November, 2011.

The interns also took part in everyday ICMPD activities: internal trainings, working...

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- **GOVAC**: Internship in ICMPD, September, 2011;
- **GOVAC**: Workshops in Tbilisi/Chisinau in October-November;
- **REVIS**: Assessment missions to Georgia and Moldova in July, 2011;
- **REVIS**: Workshops in Tbilisi/Chisinau in October-November, 2011
meetings and briefings, meetings with ICMPD field representatives, etc. The guided tour to the Austrian Ministry of Interior was organised as well.

**GOVAC: Knowledge transfer Workshops, Tbilisi and Chisinau**

The next step in the implementation of GOVAC project is the organisation of the Knowledge Transfer Workshops in both countries. The workshops will be organized for governmental and academia modules in parallel: both target groups will have separate and joint sessions.

The aim of the workshop is to present and analyse the possible professional and academia migration training models existing in the European Union and Schengen countries, to undertake the first activities on the mapping of the migration curricula and their content, and to discuss possibilities of future cooperation between Government and Academia in Georgia and Moldova. The representatives of all migration related governmental institutions will be invited to the workshops, as well as representatives of universities involved in the implementation of the project.

Project experts from the Czech Republic, Finland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, and Bulgaria will take part in the workshops supported by the ICMPD and the Danish Refugee Council. The academia part will be represented by Prof. Peter van Krieken, Prof. Philip Martin, Prof. Michel Poulin and Ms. Anne Herm.

The workshop in Tbilisi will take place in the “Old Tbilisi hotel”, on **October 18 – 21, 2011**; in Chisinau – in the Best Western “Flowers” hotel on **November 23 – 25, 2011**.

**REVIS: Assessment missions to Georgia and Moldova**

The Expert missions to Moldova and Georgia took place in July with the aim to assess the current situation on the spot and suggest necessary adjustments in the project.

The mission to Moldova was conducted on 4 – 8 July by experts on readmission from the Czech Republic and on visa from Hungary. During their stay in Chisinau, meetings with the Ministry of the Interior, Border Guard Service, State information resource centre (Registru), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs but also with the Common Visa Application Centre, IOM and International Association of Road Hauliers of Moldova (AITA) were organized.

During the mission’s final meeting with experts from all the beneficiary ministries, the adjusted content of both modules was agreed. In the first module (Readmission) the series of workshop will be targeted at supporting the Moldovan authorities in negotiation of readmission agreements with third countries. The second module (Visa) will deal with drafting the new Moldovan visa policy, which should be more in line with EU visa policy while at the same time keep its national characteristics.

The second mission, to Georgia, took place on 25 – 28 July. Experts on readmission from Lithuania and Hungary and on visa from Hungary met with among others the Ministry of Justice (CRA), Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of IDPs, Refugees and Accommodation but also IOM, German Embassy, Liberal Academy Tbilisi (NGO).

As a result of the mission the content of both modules was adjusted and approved by all stakeholders during the final meeting. The first module (readmission) will be dedicated to sharing experience about readmission and special cases, data collection and analysis. Workshops in the second module (Visa) will cover European visa policy and related issues such as labour migration or the visa liberalization road map.

The findings of both missions were summarized together with the updated plan of activities in the ReVis Project Assessment report which is available upon request (see for contact details below).

**REVIS: Activities foreseen for October and November 2011**

The first workshop of Module I (Readmission) will take place in Chisinau on **25 – 27 October**. Two experts from ReVis Partner states will in cooperation with Moldovan counterparts discuss possibilities how to ensure more successful negotiation of the Readmission Agreements with third countries.

Merged workshops on Readmission and Visa will take place during the following week, from **2 to 4 November** in Tbilisi. The first two days of the workshop will be dedicated to readmission in general and above all to special cases. The last day of the workshop will deal with the Visa Code with a view to supporting the implementation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

**Study visits to Switzerland** (Module I readmission) and **Hungary** (Module II visa) are planned for November. Six experts from each of the beneficiary countries will take part in this activity and not only benefit from the knowledge from the hosting country but also from the exchange of experience with each other.

Upon requests from both countries, a **joint workshop** on visa related issues is foreseen to take place in Tbilisi by the end of 2011. This will be a unique opportunity for both parties to share their experience and ideas about their future visa and in migration policy in general.

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