In focus:
Funded by the European Union’s Thematic Programme, the GOVAC and REVIS 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), and 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 the field of migration.
- **REVIS** - “Supporting the Implementation of the EC visa facilitation and readmission agreements in Moldova and Georgia” - seeks to enhance the capacities of government institutions in beneficiary countries to implement returns and readmission to and from Georgia/Moldova.

**GOVAC: Academia Workshop on the elaboration of a migration curriculum in Moldova**
The last academia workshop on the finalization of the academia migration curriculum took place in Chisinau from 19 – 21 November 2012. The workshop was attended by lecturers of the Departments of Political/Social Sciences and Public Administration, Economy and Law of the relevant Moldovan universities. The GOVAC academia experts’ delegation comprised Prof. Peter van Krieken and Prof. Michel Poulain. The GOVAC team and its academia experts presented migration related research questions and outlined potential BA and MA migration course to Moldovan counterparts which were accepted for further implementation. It was agreed that the proposed curriculum would be revised by the project beneficiaries until 1 February 2013. In addition, discussions were held with the governmental focal point within the MoI Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) on future internships for students of the Moldova State University at government institutions and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Moldova State University. Furthermore, a well attended open lecture was given by the GOVAC international academia experts on Migration Governance.

**GOVAC: Train of trainers (ToT) and Piloting workshop on the migration training manual in Moldova and Georgia**
The Train of trainer and piloting of the GOVAC migration manual workshop was held in Moldova from 29 – 31 October 2012. This three-day workshop included a coaching by 2 experts on how to prepare and provide comprehensive training schemes. Different preparation and presentation tools, skills and methods were introduced to the audience. WS participants comprised officials of the Border Police, REGISTRU, MoI BMA, MFA, Ministry of Education, Public Administration Academy, Moldova State University, and the Police Academy. Participants were task to prepare their own presentations on relevant migration issues according to the newly developed migration curriculum. They were assisted by the GOVAC partner experts from Portugal, Finland and Slovakia who provided insight on the areas of their expertise, namely asylum, general migration issues and irregular migration. The third day was devoted to the actual piloting of the training manual in which the participants applied their newly acquired trainer skills and gave trainings on their previously chosen topics. Given the fact it was a pilot training, young professionals from various institutions were invited to join the event.

In this issue:
**GOVAC:**
- Academia workshop in Moldova
- ToT and Piloting of migration training manual in Moldova and Georgia
- Foreseen activities

**REVIS:**
- Workshop on visa and readmission in Georgia
- Final Conference

**GOVAC and REVIS** contacts

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The GOVAC migration training manual and the Academia migration curriculum are being finalized and are planned to be published in Moldovan and Georgian languages respectively by May 2013. The GOVAC Final Conference is planned to take place presumably in Georgia in May 2013.

REVIS: Workshop on visa and readmission in Georgia

The last workshop on visa and readmission took place in Georgia on 22 – 23 October 2012. Experts from Slovenia, Moldova and Hungary were invited to give presentations on their respective countries’ visa liberalisation and/ or readmission processes. A model Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) was introduced to the participants with details on measures, specifics and the expectations of the EC. For the purpose of sharing experiences, the implementation of the VLAP of Moldova was presented. The last part of the workshop was dedicated to the topic of readmission of third country nationals with a following discussion on the current Georgian readmission policy and ways for improvement. Overall, the workshop had a positive resonance by the Georgian officials especially in regard to the exchange of experience between Moldova and Georgia.

Workshop in Kvareli, Georgia, 22 – 23 October 2012

REVIS: Final Conference in Georgia

The REVIS Final Conference and the final Project Steering Group meeting took place in Tbilisi on 4 December 2012. The Project Steering Group meeting preceded the conference of the project partners from DRC, Switzerland, Hungary, Lithuania, Finland and the Czech Republic. During this meeting the project activities, outcomes and conclusions were introduced. It was emphasized that the REVIS project brought added value for the development of visa policies and supporting reforms on readmission in both countries.

The Conference received a high attendance by Georgian partners of the project from the MFA, MoI, Ministry of IDP’s, State Office of Diaspora, Civil Services Development Agency, Innovations and Reforms Centre and International Organisations such as IOM and UNHCR. From the Moldovan side representatives from the MoI BMA, MFA, Border Police and REGISTRU were invited. It was highlighted that the project has been initially adapted to the respective national needs, notably considering priorities of both Moldova and Georgia regarding the visa free regime with the EU. The achieved results in Moldova were summarised as a further developed comprehensive legal framework for visa policy, an increased level of scrutiny regarding travel documents submitted to diplomatic missions and improved valuable networks with relevant EU institutions. A short introduction on the further project on “Supporting Moldova to implement the EU-Moldova Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation (Fighting irregular Migration in Moldova – FIRMM) with the starting date of January 2013 was provided. The developments in Georgia on visa and readmission were highlighted as well, especially the conclusion of the visa facilitation and readmission agreement with the EU and their implementation. Achievements in document security and IBM strategy were underlined.

News channels reported on the Conference including interviews by Mr. Konstatine Surguladze, the State Minister of Diaspora, and Mr. Radu Cucos, the Deputy Head of Consular Affairs of the MFA of Moldova. The news coverage can be found under this link, so far in Georgian language only: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTl8eyENiaq&list=UUheZ1gqFmpqHNQ-dvi3nmdoq&index=2.

Within the framework of the conference the Moldovan delegation had the opportunity to visit the new Public Justice Hall and receive a tour of the premises with an introduction to the procedures and services including issuances of passports, visas, permits, etc.

The REVIS project has officially ended on 31 December 2012. The project team would like to use the opportunity to thank to all of our partners and contact points for their cooperation and hard work during last 2 years. It was a valuable experience and pleasure to be a part of joint efforts.

We also wish you successful year 2013 and we stay at your disposal for any further migration related issues or projects.

Contacts

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