In Focus:

Funded by the European Union’s Thematic Programme, the GOVAC project runs until the end of May 2013 and is 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 EU Member States and Switzerland, as well as the Council of Europe, and the Hague University for Applied Sciences.

The GOVAC project officially ends on 31 May 2013. The project team would like to use this opportunity to thank all partners and contact points for the excellent cooperation and hard work during the two years of the project’s implementation. It was an invaluable experience and a great pleasure to be part of this important and highly appreciated project.

The GOVAC project team wishes all partners success with their future endeavors.

Spotlight:
Final Steering Group Meeting and Project Final Conference

GOVAC Steering Group Meeting, 23 May 2013

The GOVAC Steering Group meeting took place on 23 May 2013 at the Public Service Hall in Tbilisi. It was organised in close cooperation with the Public Service Development Agency of the Georgian Ministry of Justice. The aim of the meeting was to bring together all implementing partners of the project and to present the main project results and the final report, which were approved by the project partners. All project partners and counterparts expressed their highest appreciation with regard to the project outcomes and excellent organisation of all project activities.

The Final GOVAC Conference took place on 24 May 2013 in Tbilisi. The conference offered a unique opportunity to gather all parties involved in the project and discuss the activities and achievements of GOVAC. It also allowed for the sharing of valuable experiences in the area of government–academia cooperation on migration. The Final Conference highlighted the past activities, outcomes and achievements of the GOVAC project in the last two years and conducted facilitated sessions on the needs of migration-related education and training, migration and development, the social costs of migration and the involvement of the media in providing information on migration issues. Presentations were delivered by the project’s stakeholders in all four sessions, including closing discussions. The conference was very well received by all participants involved.

Overview of the Main Project Outcomes:
Academia Migration Curriculum/Training Manual

The Migration Training Manual and the Academia Curriculum represent the major outputs of the GOVAC project.

The Migration Training Manual included 9 topical modules which can be used for training staff at different governmental institutions, such as ministries, border guards, police academies, training centres, etc. In particular, it was designed and will be used in the future by the Georgian Training Centre of Justice and the Moldovan Bureau for Migration and Asylum, as well as the police academies in both countries, and the Public Administration Academy in Moldova. Moreover, the manual contains a methodology module and specific practical exercises under each of the thematic modules. This additional methodological part was included to support future trainers in the preparation and implementation of the training. The first module of the manual – Migration Management – has already been piloted in both countries.

The Academia Curriculum was designed to assist the Moldova and the Tbilisi State Universities in the implementation of migration-related studies at the Bachelor’s level at the faculties of Law, Economy, Social–Political Sciences, Media and Journalism.

The Migration Training Manual and the Academia Curriculum were distributed to all counterparts in Georgia and Moldova in

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The participants of the conference also received the electronic version of both documents in Georgian, Romanian and English. The electronic version of the documents can be obtained through the GOVAC project team.

**Memorandum of Understanding between Academia and Government**

Memorandums of understandings on cooperation between the government and academia as an important form of cooperation were discussed among all interested stakeholders during the entire project implementation. The development and, in particular, signing of the MoUs between academia and government have been seen as an important tool to guarantee the project’s sustainability. Developed in close cooperation with counterparts in Georgia and Moldova, the draft MoUs were translated into Georgian and Romanian languages and submitted for final consideration and approval in February 2013. In Moldova, the MoU between the Ministry of Interior and Moldova State University was signed in May 2013. In Georgia, the MoU between the State Commission on Migration Issues and the Tbilisi State University is ready to be signed. During the Final Conference, the Georgian counterparts stated that the MoU will be signed in the near future. Additionally, the draft MoU between the Moldovan Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and Moldova State University is at the negotiation stage.

**Research Publications**

The internship at ICMPD HQ, which focused on migration-related research, was conducted from 29 August to 23 September 2011. One representative from government and one representative from academia from both Georgia and Moldova were invited to take part in the internship. The participants, as well as the concrete topics for the research, were chosen by the Project Task Force (PTF) in Georgia and Moldova in close cooperation with ICMPD. Mr Veaceslav Cirlig, Head of the Migration Policy Department of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova, and Ms Natalia Chubinidze, a representative of the Civil Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, formed the governmental part of the internship research team. The academia part of the research was supported by Mr Valeriu Mosneaga, Head of the Political Science Department of the Moldovan State University, and Ms Mariam Kevlishvili, Assistant Professor at Tbilisi State University.

At the end of the internship, first draft research papers were finalised, and the documents were submitted for review to the GOVAC project experts. The final documents were published and distributed among project partners and interested institutions and organisations in Moldova and Georgia. The Georgian team worked on a research paper titled “Citizenship policies in Georgia and the European Union” and the Moldovan team produced a research paper titled “Migration movements between Moldova and the EU: policies and numbers”.

The research papers were published in the form of a book and distributed among all project partners. The publication is also available in an electronic format.

After the completion of the GOVAC Summer School which took place in June 2012, the discussed and further elaborated research papers were submitted to ICMPD, and, in close cooperation with the GOVAC project’s academia partners, published in the Summer School Reader. The Summer School Reader was distributed among interested institutions and organisations both in Georgia and Moldova. The Summer School reader is available in both hard copy and electronic format and can be obtained through the GOVAC project team.

**Lessons Learned Report:**

Due to the specific methodology applied during the project, the complexity of its activities, as well as the broad range and diverse background of the counterparts, the ICMPD GOVAC project team has decided to approach project partners with a request to evaluate the project before its official end.

The Lessons Learned publication is a collection of testimonials, comments, suggestions and evaluation articles written by the GOVAC partners in regard to the project activities and the main outcomes. This report, titled “Lessons Learned: Academia and Government in Action,” is available upon request.

**Main GOVAC Project Highlights:**

**Internship at ICMPD HQ (August–September, 2011)**

“During this one month at ICMPD, I personally learned a lot and "I would participate in such an activity again, with the greatest pleasure!" – Natalia Chubinidze, Georgia, participant of the internship

“An activity such an internship which takes longer, usually gives not only work-related experience, but also contributes a lot towards personal growth, and the GOVAC internship at ICMPD HQ was one such multi-beneficial activity.” – Valeriu Mosneaga, Moldova, participant of the internship

**Summer School in Georgia (June 2012)**

“The Summer School was the highlight of the GOVAC project for me, largely because it's informal natured allowed for more in-depth discussions on migration issues.” – Prof. Philip Martin, GOVAC project academia expert

“Participation in GOVAC project totally changed my visions, point of views and changed my world also. After interesting, amusing, informative lectures I go back home with something to think.” – Lia Jalagania, Georgia, Summer School student

Such a Summer School is "important for young generation, in order to develop professional technocrats' skills, which are absolutely necessary to ensure our countries' political future.” – Anna Petrachi, Moldova, Summer School student

**Training Manual Piloting Exercise (October–December 2012)**

“Piloting this very specific training course on migration was one of the most important experiences in my life. In my point of view, this topic is indeed essential for my country and its citizens, and gaining more knowledge in this field through sharing EU countries’ experiences and understanding the different steps taken by governments creates an idea of how migration can be best managed throughout the community” – Ketevan Chaduneli, Georgia, Training Centre of Justice

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