In focus:

What are the GOVAC and REVIS projects

Both projects are funded by the European Union’s Thematic Programme and both take place in parallel in Georgia and Moldova. Moreover, both projects are being implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The projects are supported and co-implemented by several EU Member States and Switzerland, as well as the Council of Europe, and the Hague University for Applied Sciences. Although the same organisations are involved in the implementation of the projects, the thematic areas and the main objectives of GOVAC and REVIS are different:

- **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. The project aims at the development of cooperation and partnership between governmental and academia institutions, between beneficiary countries and participating partners, and between Georgia and Moldova;
- **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, as well as the capacities of Government institutions to issue supporting documents required for visa applicants to the EU in line with international standards.

Launching Conference for GOVAC and REVIS projects – 13 May, 2011, Chisinau (Moldova)

On 13 May the Launching Conference for both GOVAC and REVIS projects, funded by the EU, took place in Chisinau, Moldova. The Conference gathered representatives from organisations of both projects (Danish Refugee Council, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Council of Europe, and the Hague University of Applied Sciences), the EU delegation to the two beneficiary countries Moldova and Georgia, and the Moldovan and Georgian institutions involved in the implementation of the projects.

During the Conference the activities of both projects were presented. The Conference also allowed for the sharing of valuable experiences in the area of visa facilitation, readmission, as well as the governmental-academic cooperation on migration.

The participants of the conference were welcomed by Ambassador Dirk Schuebel, Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova, as well as by Ms Ketevan Khutsishvili, Project manager, EU Delegation to Georgia, who both emphasized the importance of the newly-launched initiatives for the implementation of the Mobility Partnership and for the EU-Moldova and EU-Georgia visa dialogue.

Among other speakers at the conference were Mr. Liviu Prodan, Head of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (the counterpart of both projects in Moldova), Ms Ketevan Gemelauri, Head of the Department for International Relations and Projects Management Department of the Civil Registry Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (the counterpart of both projects in Georgia), Ms Gabriela Abado, Deputy Director General of ICMPD, Mr. Varlam Tchkuaseli, Migration Manager from the Danish Refugee Council, prof. Peter van Krieken, the Hague University for Applied Sciences, as well as representatives of Moldovan and Georgian academia: prof. Ia Iashvili, Tbilisi State University, and prof. Valeriu Mosneaga, State University of Moldova.

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GOVAC and REVIS projects’ partners:

Both projects have the same counterparts in Georgia and Moldova:

- Georgia, Ministry of Justice, Civil Registry Agency
- Moldova, Ministry of Interior, Bureau for Migration and Asylum

The projects also cooperate with other ministries, state institutions, and non-governmental organisations. Additionally, one of the GOVAC project modules deals with academic institutions where the main partners are Tbilisi State University and State University of Moldova.

GOVAC project partners:

- Bulgaria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Bulgaria, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Czech Republic, Ministry of Interior
- Finland, Immigration Service
- Finland, Ministry of Interior
- The Netherlands, Immigration and Naturalisation Service
- Poland, Ministry of Interior and Administration
- Portugal, Foreign Nationals and Border Service
- Slovakia, Ministry of Interior, Migration Office
- Switzerland, the Federal Office for Migration
- Council of Europe
- The Hague University for Applied Sciences

Ongoing activities: GOVAC

GOVAC team in cooperation with all project partners as well as the focal points in Georgia (Civil Registry Agency, Ministry of Justice) and Moldova (Bureau for Migration and Asylum, Ministry of Interior) finalized the reports on assessment missions to both countries which took place in April 2011. The reports were distributed to all project partners. These documents provide the basis for the next activity within the project – Knowledge Transfer Workshops which will be held in Moldova and Georgia in September-November 2011. The purpose of this activity is to present models on professional and academic migration curricula. The workshops will be implemented separately for governmental and academia modules, however, they will also include cross-modal (government and academia) topics.

Another upcoming activity within the project which is currently under preparation is the internship to ICMPD. The internship will be focused on applied migration research. The research will be implemented according to the priorities defined by the Project Task Force, which one of the project management bodies. The research paper will be produced jointly by one of governmental and one representative of an academic institution from both countries. The internship will last one month and it is planned for August/September 2011.

REVIS project partners:

- Bulgaria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Czech Republic, Ministry of Interior
- Finland, Immigration Service
- Hungary, Ministry of Interior
- Lithuania, Ministry of Interior
- Switzerland, the Federal Office for Migration

Ongoing activities: REVIS

After the inception phase, during which project partners were acquainted with the project and with each other, REVis is in its analytical phase now. A desk research, the main activity of this phase, was completed and shared with project experts for comments and possible questions.

In July missions to Moldova and Georgia are taking place. One expert on readmission from the Czech Republic and one on visa from Hungary are visiting Moldova between 4 and 8 July. The mission to Georgia is taking place in the last week of July, with experts from Lithuania (readmission) and Hungary (visa). They will interview colleagues from various ministries, such as: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and the Border Guard of both countries. In addition, for the visa module of the project, visits are planned to ministries of Information Technologies, of Labour, of Education, of Transport, of Youth and Sports, of Health and of Culture. Also, meetings will take place with international stakeholders.

Both missions will be concluded by a meeting of the Focus Group, i.e. representatives of all authorities involved, during which the concrete contents of the project activities will be jointly agreed and adjusted to the identified needs of the Georgian and Moldovan authorities.

The first activities of the implementation phase are to take place in October 2011.

Contacts

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