In focus:

Fundied 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: Knowledge Transfer Workshops in Tbilisi and Chisinau**

Knowledge Transfer Workshops were organised in Tbilisi (Georgia) and Chisinau (Moldova) from October - November, 2011. The workshops were comprised of governmental and academia modules that took place in parallel: both target groups had separate and joint sessions.

The aims of the workshops were: 1) to present and analyse the various professional and academia migration training models existing in the European Union and Schengen countries, 2) to undertake the first activities on the mapping of the migration curricula and their content and 3) to discuss possible future cooperation between government and academia. The representatives of all migration-related governmental institutions took part in the workshops, as well as representatives of universities involved in the implementation of the project.

**Tbilisi, October 18 - 21**

The workshops in both countries had only very short plenary sessions; instead, participants were involved in interactive working group activities during which the first draft of the migration curriculum was developed and the research priorities were identified. In **Tbilisi (Georgia)** the workshop took place from 18 - 21 October 2011 and gathered representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories and Refugees of Georgia, Economy and Sustainable Development, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, State Office for Diaspora Issues, National Statistical Office of Georgia, and other state institutions. The academia part of the workshop was attended by representatives from the Tbilisi State University (International Public Law, Demography Institute, International School of Economics, and Journalism) and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

**Chisinau, November 23 - 21**

In **Chisinau (Moldova)**, the workshop took place on 23 - 25 November 2011. The participants represented the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Education, Economy, Labour, Social Protection and Family, IT and Communications, State Border Guard Service and other state institutions. Moldovan Academia was represented by the Moldovan State University (Law, Journalism, Sociology and Social Work, International Relations, Political and Economic Sciences), Academy of Sciences, Academy of Economic Sciences, Police Academy and the Academy of Public Administration.

The main results of the workshop were first drafts of governmental and academia migration curricula, which were developed jointly by

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- **GOVAC:** Study visits at the beginning of 2012;
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Georgian/Moldovan and foreign experts during the working group sessions. The curriculum will be finalized, reviewed and approved by all project partners in the near future.

**GOVAC: Knowledge transfer Study Visits**

In February – March 2012, the Knowledge Transfer Study visits will be organised for four academia and government representatives from Georgia and Moldova each and will take place at the Hague University for Applied Sciences (academia) and in Portugal (government). The study visits will be dedicated to the finalization of migration curriculum.

**REVIS: Workshops and study visits**

Since October 2012, a number of workshops have been implemented. The first workshop, which dealt with the topic of negotiating readmission agreements, took place in Chisinau from 25 - 27 October 2011 with the participation of an expert from the Finish Migration Service, Mr. Matti Heinonen and an expert from the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, Mr. Istvan Takacs.

The second workshop, which was on the readmission of special cases and on the Visa Code, took place from 1 - 4 November 2011 in Tbilisi. In this workshop, the following experts shared their respective experience and gave insight into their national legislative framework: Ms. Marie-Luise Brakesiek from the German Central Aliens’ Authority, Mr. Veaceslav Cirlig from the Moldovan Bureau for Migration and Asylum and Mr. Gábor Vida from the and Hungarian Border Police. The last day of the workshop was dedicated to the explanation of the Visa Code by Ms. Éva Simon from the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, a joint workshop on the exchange of experience on the implementation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement between Moldova and Georgia was carried out in Tbilisi from 6 - 8 December 2011. Fifteen Moldovan delegates from various state authorities were invited to share their experience. Besides presentations from Hungarian expert Mr. Balázs Szabo and Slovenian expert Mr. Matjaž Saloven, they had also an opportunity to visit the Public Service Hall in Rustavi to see how documents are issued in Georgia.

To an already full calendar, two study visits were added – a visa module to Hungary and a readmission module to Switzerland. Altogether, six delegates from various Moldovan and Georgian authorities participated in each of the study visits.

During their visit to Budapest, participants had the chance to meet representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Hungarian Office for Immigration and Nationality and to learn about procedures used at the Ferenc Liszt International Airport.

The study visit to Switzerland started in the Federal Office for Migration in Berne and was followed by a visit to the border crossing point Basel I (between Switzerland, France and Germany). It ended at the Zurich Airport, where participants were informed about the various forms of repatriation. Both study visits were highly appreciated by both (hosting and visiting) parties, especially as it had provided an opportunity to exchange personal views on different issues.

**REVIS: Activities foreseen**

The workshop on the drafting of the consular handbook for the new Moldovan "Visa Code" was postponed until the Code is approved. The new date is 30 January – 1 February 2012.

There are four other sessions foreseen for Georgia (two on readmission, two on visa) and six for Moldova (three on readmission and three on visa). Concrete dates will be planned according to the availability of beneficiary authorities.

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