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: Study visits
In February – March 2012, the Knowledge Transfer study visits were organised for four academia and five government representatives from Georgia and Moldova respectively and took place at The Hague, University for Applied Sciences (for the academia module) and in Portugal (for the government module). The purpose of the study visits was to acquaint both the academia and government representatives with the practical EU/Schengen models for professional curricula as well as academic migration curricula. The study visits were dedicated to the finalisation of the academia migration curriculum and the elaboration of the content of the training manual according to the already developed and agreed professional migration curriculum.

During their study visit to The Hague University of Applied Sciences the delegates from the Tbilisi State University (Faculties of Law/ Media/ Geography and Economy), Moldova State University (Faculties of Political Sciences/ Law and Economy) and the Academy of Science (Demography) received an introduction to the higher and tertiary education system in the Netherlands, existing migration curriculum and research programmes and lectures on various migration-related topics. During the study visit the academics were asked to finalise the templates containing the main topics to be included into the respective courses of studies following their countries’ priorities.

The study visit within the governmental module took place on 19 – 22 March 2012 in Portugal. The delegates represented the Moldovan Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Police Academy and the Georgian Civil Registry Agency of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministries of Foreign and Internal Affairs, the State Minister Office for Euro and Euro-Atlantic Integration and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia. During their study visit the representatives were introduced to the Portuguese Immigration and Border Service (SEF), Migration Curricula and Training, migration management system, the asylum and refugees legal framework, visa practices and border management. They also had the opportunity to visit the temporary refugee centre in Bobadela, the SEF Headquarters in Oeiras, the Regional SEF Directorate in Coimbra and the Lisbon International Airport.

In this issue:
**GOVAC:**
- Study visits to the Netherlands and Portugal;
- Memorandum of Understanding;
- Midterm Report;
- Foreseen activities

**REVIS:**
- Workshop and study visit to Romania;
- Midterm Report;
- 3rd module, procurement of equipment
- Foreseen activities

**GOVAC and REVIS** contacts
institutions in both Moldova and Georgia has been drafted in cooperation with the directors of the Project Task Forces. Currently they are under review by the Georgian and Moldovan counterparts respectively.

GOVAC: Midterm Report

The GOVAC Midterm Report has been prepared and agreed with all project partners. The report included all activities of the Knowledge Transfer Phase; it was submitted to the EU Delegation in Georgia on March 29, 2012.

GOVAC: Foreseen activities

Working missions to Moldova and Georgia will take place in late spring/summer 2012 in order to support the drafting of the training manual according to the already developed and agreed migration curriculum. These missions were introduced at a later stage in order to provide needed support to Georgian and Moldovan officials in finalising the curricula.

The GOVAC Summer School will take place in (Batumi) Georgia from 25 – 29 June, 2012. It will be organised and mentored by the GOVAC academia experts from the EU, USA, Georgia and Moldova. In total 30 students from the disciplines of Law, Political/Social Sciences, Economy and Media from Georgia and Moldova respectively will participate. The summer school will provide research-oriented, interdisciplinary, and innovative academic courses on issues related to the migration situation in Georgia and Moldova. More background information on preparation of the summer school is provided on ICMPD GOVAC internal website http://research.icmpd.org/1691.html.

REVIS: Workshop and study visit to Romania

A workshop on Moldova’s future visa policy was organised on 2 – 3 February 2012 together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with participation of experts from the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Balasz Szabo, the Common Visa Application Centre, Mr. Andras Brett and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Marian Stan. The topics covered at the workshop were the EU Consular Handbook and the Visa Information System. Comments were provided on the draft of the Moldovan Visa Regulation. As a result of the workshop a first draft of the Moldovan Consular Handbook was handed over by ICMPD to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The study visit to the National Visa Centre in Bucharest, Romania took place upon request of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) on 14 – 15 March 2012. The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand experience with the set-up of such a visa centre, the division of tasks between the centre and consular posts and the processing of visas. Altogether seven delegates from the MFAEI, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Border Guard Service participated at the study visit. The study visit was described as outstanding and successful by all parties.

Bucharest, 14 – 15 March 2012

REVIS: Midterm Report

The ReVis Midterm Report was submitted to the EU Delegation in Georgia in February 2012. Together with the Midterm Report some changes regarding future activities were introduced including a no cost extension of the project until the end of the year 2012.

REVIS: 3rd module: procurement of equipment

An integral part of the ReVis project is the provision of technical equipment to the beneficiaries which will facilitate them in implementing both the readmission and visa facilitation agreements. Relevant stakeholders were asked to assess their needs in this respect and negotiations are ongoing regarding concrete technical details. While one part of the technical support (35 sets for the identification of forged documents for the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs) has been already ordered and is planned to be handed over during the next workshop in May, the rest of the equipment will be delivered and installed in the following months.

REVIS: Foreseen activities

A training seminar on Readmission is foreseen for the 9 – 11 April 2012 in Moldova, as well as a training seminar on Visa on 24 – 27 April 2012. Additional workshops in Georgia (e. g. on migration statistics or readmission of third country nationals) and Moldova are planned to take place in May and June.

In total, four more sessions will be organised in Georgia (two on readmission, two on visa) and six more in Moldova (three on readmission and three on visa).

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Chisinau, 2-3 February 2012

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