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 that 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: Development of the Training Manual for the Migration Curriculum (Governmental Part)

The migration curriculum for the Governmental Module of the project was developed and approved by the stakeholders in Georgia and Moldova at the beginning of 2012. Therefore, the GOVAC project is now focused on the development of the training manual for future migration course trainers. The instructional part of the training manual for the first migration curriculum module, Migration Management, was finalised by the GOVAC team in May 2012 in close cooperation with all project partners. The training manuals for both Moldova and Georgia will have similar content except for some country-specific parts. The Migration Curriculum Training Manual consists of the following modules: Migration Management, Identity Documents and Migration Data Management, Citizenship and Statelessness, Regular Migration and Visa, Irregular Migration and Border Management, International Protection, IDPs (only for Georgia), Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants, and Integration of Foreigners (only for Moldova).

GOVAC: Working Meetings on Migration Curriculum Development, Tbilisi (Governmental part)

Meetings on the development of the training manual for government officials in Georgia took place in Tbilisi in June and July 2012. During these meetings, GOVAC project officers visited several stakeholders and collected relevant country-specific information to be used to develop the training manual. The project partners in Georgia also discussed the organisation of the workshop and migration curriculum piloting, which will take place in Tbilisi in October/November 2012, as well as the development and approval of the training manual.

GOVAC: Summer School

The GOVAC Summer School took place near Batumi, Georgia, on 24 - 29 June 2012. It was mentored by GOVAC academic experts from the Netherlands, USA, Georgia and Moldova. In total, 31 students of law, economics, journalism, political and social sciences and human demography from both Georgia and Moldova participated in the one-week programme. The Summer School provided research-oriented, interdisciplinary and innovative academic discussions related to the migration situation in both countries. In addition to receiving lectures from prominent academic experts on state of the art research in different migration areas, the participants carried out their own research and held practical debates.

GOVAC Summer School, 25 - 29 June 2012

The students of the Summer School had the opportunity to present and discuss their research projects. These discussions will be used for the finalisation of the research paper. The most successful students will have the opportunity to publish their research paper in the Summer School reader and also to receive an unpaid internship of up to three months with a state institution that is involved in migration management in Georgia or Moldova. The Summer School was perceived as a success by all involved parties.

GOVAC: Foreseen Activities

**Workshop II (Academia):**

The academia workshops on the finalisation of the migration curricula are planned to take place in Tbilisi on 17 – 21 September 2012 and most likely in November 2012 in Chisinau.

**Workshop II (Government):**

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**GOVAC and REVIS**

Coordination Groups Meeting

**Contacts**

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.
The workshops on the finalisation of the government migration curriculum will take place in Tbilisi and Chisinau October/November 2012.

**REVIS: Workshop and Study Visit to Romania**

Multiple workshops have been conducted within the framework of the REVIS project on visa policy and readmission in both Moldova and Georgia.

From 9 - 11 April 2012, a training seminar on **readmission procedure** for Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs field officers was carried out in Chisinau. Two Romanian experts from the Immigration Office gave presentations on EU regulations and standards regarding readmission policies and its impact on migration management, mechanisms and practices of inlend detection of illegal foreigners in EU Member States. In addition, the norms and procedures of return policies, expulsion and extradition at the EU level were presented.

The following training seminar in Chisinau on the **experiences and procedures of issuing visas at borders** was held from 24 - 25 April 2012. The seminar was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior Bureau of Migration and Asylum and the Border Guard Service. Topics of discussion were the EU common legislative framework, the role of the visa policy on security in the EU and visa issuance at borders. The Romanian system of issuing visas was presented as well.

Additionally, a seminar on the **visa facilitation agreement, visa policy roadmaps and managing the readmission of third country nationals** took place in Kvareli, Georgia, 10 - 11 May 2012. In the spirit of the Revis project, which strives to facilitate the exchange of experience between both countries involved in the project, two experts participating in this seminar were from the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MoI Bureau of Migration and Asylum. In addition, relevant Moldovan legislation on readmission was shared with Georgian authorities (upon their request) for future reference.

**Kvareli, 10 - 11 May 2012**

The most recent workshop that was organised in Moldova dealt with the development of the Visa Information System and took place 30 – 31 May 2012. Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the MoI Bureau of Migration and Asylum, the Border Guard Service, Registru, the Centre for Special Telecommunications and and the Centre for E-Governance were invited to the seminar. It was chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar focused on the Moldovan **visa application and visa information system**, as well as the Romanian visa information system.

Recommendations for a new visa-issuing system were introduced by the Romanian expert. It was emphasised that more discussions on the cooperation of Moldovan diplomatic missions and consular offices should be initiated with the Bureau of Migration and Asylum, as well as discussions regarding practical issues of the final decision-making process of issuing visas.

**Chisinau, 30 - 31 May 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 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.

Examination sets for the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and magnifiers for the Georgian Ministry of Interior were procured. The examination sets have been already delivered to the Moldovan Embassies.

A video conference system has been purchased for the MoI Bureau of Migration and Asylum in order to facilitate interpretation for migrants to be readmitted.

**REVIS: Foreseen Activities**

The no-cost extension of the project until the end of 2012 is planned in order to wrap up all activities and secure enough time and resources for reporting.

The following activities are planned before the project ends:

- The last **workshop on visa and readmission** will be conducted in Georgia in September/October 2012.
- The **final conference** will take place in Georgia during autumn 2012.

**GOVAC and REVIS Coordination Groups Meeting:**

The 2nd GOVAC Project Coordination Group Meeting and the 3rd REVIS Project Coordination Group Meeting are jointly planned to take place in Vienna in September 2012. The meetings will be used for highlighting the projects’ activities and lessons learned so far, as well as for the coordination of future activities in both projects.

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