



Newsletter No. 10 February 2011 European Asylum Curriculum (EAC)

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www.asylum-curriculum.eu

Prologue

Dear EAC friends, dear colleagues,

With spring time coming to Europe rapidly, there are also some fresh news from the EAC team that we would like to share with you!

Looking further into 2011, there are a lot of different activities awaiting us and already now we can say that one of the most important issues is of course the transfer of EAC to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

Other articles will cover information about EAC- NCP Translation meeting held in Prague during the last days of November 2010, information about two EAC training events, report from the reference group meeting in December 2010 concerning the currently EAC modules currently being developed and short update on the EAC phase – phase III.3. At the end of this newsletter you will also find some information about very interesting interviews, which you can read on our website, with a number of people behind this amazing project.

We hope that in this newsletter you will find all the necessary information and you will enjoy it. If you have any further questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us at the e-mail: EAC-mailbox@migrationsverket.se.

EAC - NCP Translation meeting 30th November – 1st December 2010 in Prague

In May 2010 it was decided during the NCP meeting in Stockholm that there would be a conference on translation issues. This conference took place in Prague 30th November – 1st December.



The purpose of the conference was to exchange experiences, discuss options and decide how

the translation process will be taken forward. The translation is a natural part of the implementation of the project and therefore something that has been in planning since the start of EAC in 2006. The ambition of the project is to create conditions where countries that were previously limited by language barriers in the future will be able to work with the EAC's training materials and thus have the opportunity to develop their various areas of need.

Another aim of the conference was to discuss the continuing education plan for the upcoming year, but also suggestions for in what forms the EAC education should proceed, especially after the EASO-takeover.

The purpose of the conference was also to strengthen the National Network (NCP) of the EAC in the different countries and that the countries should become more involved in the EAC development and implementation.



The conference also involved an American delegation with the aim to study the EAC project, as well as sharing information on how the U.S. works with asylum-related educational materials.

For further interest in the full report and conclusions please contact emma.hasselmark@migrationsverket.se

EAC training events

During the last few months of 2010, two training sessions was held. The six weeks long e-learning part of the International Refugee Law & Human Rights module combined with the Inclusion module started in September and ended with a face-to-face part 18–22 October. Ten participants met in Utrecht, The Netherlands, to discuss and elaborate on the content of the two modules. The evaluation made of these courses shows that they were perceived very well by the participants, who especially commended the trainers and the face-to-face session. The module is currently undergoing an update and in this work all comments from evaluations and other necessary improvements will be considered.



Last, but not least, a training session on the Evidence Assessment module, with 19 participants, was held in a snowy Paris. The e-learning had begun in October and concluded with a face-to-face session 7–9 December. Since the group was rather large many different countries was represented, and we also had the pleasure of welcoming two participants travelling overseas from the United States of America. This mix enabled interesting comparisons between how evidence is assessed in different parts of Europe and in America. Furthermore, the training session consisted of discussions, cases, assignments

etc. in order to strengthen the knowledge gained from the e-learning.

Reference group meeting December 2nd

On Thursday December 2nd a meeting between the EAC-team and the Reference Group was planned in Brussels. Due to the winterly conditions in Europe, a few delegates missed the meeting because their plane couldn't leave, including 2/3 of the EAC team and the UNHCR representative Mr. Michele Cavinato. Fortunately the representatives of ECRE, IARLJ and the European Commission as well as members of the methods team could attend the meeting in Hotel Cascade and they delivered constructive feedback on the first draft of the three new modules. The role of the Reference Group (RG) is an important one, because it partially reflects non-Member States opinions on the issues discussed in the new modules and in the same time gives the experts a first idea of how their material is received.

Mrs. Cecile Ogwudire introduced the Interviewing Vulnerable People module, where Mr. Peter ten Hove elaborated on the Exclusion module and Mrs. Jennifer Beach on the module End of Protection. Their introductions were followed by the comments of the RG and it was agreed upon that the Reference Group could deliver written comments after the meeting as well, to ensure the possibility of a full review of a material - one module can take up to 180 pages to read.

The EAC team would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Reference Group for their – continuous – support for and feedback on the developed and updated modules. Furthermore we thank the expert groups for their timely delivery of the first material and for the quality of it. The next step will be that the expert groups adjust their module where needed, after which the RG can reflect one more time on the online versions end of February/beginning of March.

Update Phase III.3

As you can read in the text on the Reference Group meeting last December, the expert groups are working on the final drafts of the modules. If all goes well, we will have the last 3 of the 13 modules ready by the end of March 2011, which would be a huge achievement! This would mean the modules would be delivered within 11 months from the start (at the Budapest May 2010 Kick-off).

The EAC project team is constantly looking at possibilities and challenges of reducing the time-frame to make a module, without compromising on the quality. What would be possible if experts could work full-time on the module for example? What would the impact be for the Reference Group reflections and for organizational aspects? All questions which will be addressed at future evaluation meetings, if possible to start with at the London phase III.3 mid-term conference, which will be held from 17-18 March 2011.

We will use the experience of the current and past experts to improve the development and updating process where possible and transfer this knowledge with the EAC-concept to EASO.

For the moment we are grateful for the huge amount of work and efforts the experts have put in these three new modules and look forward to the final online versions which will reflect their commitment.

Completed interviews December 2010

Background

During December, 2010, EAC started interviewing persons involved in the project. Since more and more countries are using the EAC training, we find it important to present the experiences and results on different national and personal levels. We also find it central for the harmonization of the European Asylum System to show and present who is who and who is doing what.

Persons interviewed

- Muriel Fremal, Training responsible (Knowledge and Learning Center) + trainer, Belgium
- Gert Wobbes, MA, The Netherlands
- François Bienfait, Deputy Commissioner for Refugees and Stateless Persons, at the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (1st instance authority in the Belgian asylum procedure)
- Göran Larsson, Assistant Project Manager, founder of EAC and the Söderköpingsprocess

Newsletters and on-line presentations

These four interviews are the first in a series of interviews to come, where EAC are presenting the involvements and experiences of the NCPs on our website and in the Newsletters. Make sure to subscribe for the Newsletters, not to miss upcoming interviews.

Why inter-views?

We believe that it is very important to give the visitors or the website an informative picture of the project from persons who have long and fundamental knowledge and experience from the development and implementation of the project.