



Newsletter No. 11 August 2011 European Asylum Curriculum (EAC)

The EAC-project is co-financed by the European Union
www.asylum-curriculum.eu

Prologue

Dear EAC friends, dear colleagues,

Cold and foggy mornings and sharp and more and more scarce sunny afternoons announce the advent of autumn. Hoping that all of you have enjoyed nice and relaxing summer holiday, we believe that it is the right time to read next EAC Newsletter providing you with the development of the EAC project and the main news and events of this year.

It should be underlined that this Newsletter can be seen as a landmarking one. It draws a line between the officially envisaged termination of the project planned for the end of August 2011 and its prolonged phase which will last till the end of 2011.

The autumn issue of the newsletter brings you a basic summary of EAC trainer courses that have been implemented until now or are under way. You will also find some interesting notes on their courses and outcomes.

Beside this you will find information on meetings held in the spring, such as Nuremberg Meeting on German Translation held in April 2011 and Reference group meeting that took place in May 2011. An interesting article by EAC Program Manager Andre Nilén will provide you with a brief look at the main points and results of the June EAC Final Conference in Valletta.

And last but not at least, an outline information on the EAC future and its transfer to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) will close the Newsletter.

We hope that you will find all the necessary information and enjoy reading all the news.

If you have any further questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us at the e-mail: EAC-mailbox@migrationsverket.se.

EAC trainer courses 2011

Since the last newsletter in February 2011, seven EAC trainer courses have been held all over Europe. Six of them were planned, and the seventh was held after a request from the Swedish Migration Board. This was the Interviewing Children's module organised in Malmö, Sweden, in June. Two American colleagues joined the course and got to experience an EAC course and meet their European colleagues overseas.

A combined course with Interview Techniques and the new module Interviewing Vulnerable Persons was organised in collaboration with our Czech colleagues in Prague in May. As much as seventeen EAC trainers' participated and expert trainers Klaus Krainz from Austria, Cecile Ogwudire from the UK and Linn Krane from Norway had their hands full coaching and guiding their students. As seen in the evaluations of the courses the participants were very pleased with both their trainers and the content of the course. One case officer declared that he as an experienced case officer had learned much more than he initially expected and came back with new tools to use in his daily work.



The modules Exclusion and End of Protection were trained for the first time this spring. Both face-to-face sessions were held in Paris in June and it was overall a very good experience. OFPRA hosted both courses that ended up with very good results in the following evaluation, especially regarding the enthusiastic expert trainers. Lively role-plays and discussions characterised the face-to-face session.

In addition to the four trainer courses mentioned above, Country of Origin Information was trained in Nuremberg in February, Drafting and Decision Making in Rome in March and Dublin regulation in Stockholm in April.

As this letter is being written the first two trainer courses hosted by EASO have recently started. Four additional courses will be organised this autumn and all face-to-face sessions will be held on Malta.

Nuremberg Meeting on German Translation - April 2011

On Thursday April 28th a meeting between the EAC-team and the National Contact Points of Austria, Switzerland and Germany was organized to speak on the translation of all 13 EAC modules in German. Earlier, in February, the General Director of the German BAMF had indicated that 2011 would be a year in which he would like to see training prioritized and after a presentation by the EAC-team he decided to go for the full package. During the meeting, hosted by the BAMF, the three countries agreed to work together on the translation of the modules. The COI-module was already translated by Switzerland and Austria offered to translate a module as well. It was also agreed to exchange information and experience on the translation process, and the EAC team offered their lessons learned as input as well. Birgitta Sturesdotter from the EAC Temporary Implementation Unit showed the requirements and procedures for translation and gave the participants input for the further steps to be taken. Herman Fabriek gave a presentation on the state of play of the project and thanked Lisa Alescio from the German BAMF and colleagues for the help in organizing and hosting the meeting. The three countries agreed to inform each other on the next steps leading to the translation of all 13 modules in German.

EAC and the Reference Group met to discuss the lessons learned - May 2011

The EAC training programme wouldn't have been the same without the efforts and important input of the Reference group, which contains representatives of UNHCR, ECRE, IARLJ and European Commission. After having cooperated with the group since the beginning of the project it was now time to look back in order to be able to go forward. A meeting was held the 18 May with the main aim to make an evaluation and reflection over our experiences of the joint work.

We had a discussion both around the structure of the work and the procedures used. Based on

lessons learned during these years, among other things, the importance that EAC involve the group in an early stage of the development was stressed. We gathered several good ideas that will be transferred to EASO.

We also discussed the involvement of the Reference Group in the work with updating a number of modules during the autumn 2011 and made a plan for that.

EASO was also represented at the meeting and naturally the future cooperation under the Support Office was discussed and also here some new ideas came up. This meeting will now be followed up with a meeting in October.

EAC Final Conference in Valletta - June 2011

Constructive meeting on the development of EAC



The conference on the implementation and the further development of the European Asylum Curriculum was held on the 21st - 22nd of June in Valletta, Malta. Representatives from the Member States, as well as from the European Commission, UNHCR, FRONTEX, Odysseus Network and other academia and NGO: s were present.



The participants discussed what they envisage as being the next steps regarding common training, new ideas and how we can jointly develop the European cooperation even further through a common training agenda. They came up with several recommendations

for the EAC team and EASO. Proposals for developing new training modules on i.a. reception of asylum seekers, updating the existing ones and establishing an EAC training pool are some examples that were brought up. Many of the representatives also underlined the importance of continuing involving experts from UNHCR, the academia and NGO's in order to keep the best quality of the training material.

The executive director of EASO, Dr Robert Visser, who opened the second day of the meeting, presented his ambition in the field of training and his strong support of EAC. The curriculum is clearly a flagship for EASO and training will be one corner stone of the Office's operational activities.



The first part of the conference focused on practical training issues such as how to organise the EAC trainers and how the EAC National Contact Points can collaborate even closer. The second part dealt with even more forward looking topics. The UNHCR Director of Europe Daniel Endres lifted an interesting perspective by addressing the issue of using EAC globally and in cooperation with other stakeholders.

Then Professor Philippe de Bruycker held an interesting address on the retrospective and the further development of EAC. To his help he had a panel of big thinkers from different organisations.

The topic how to further implement EAC was introduced by Francois Bienfait, Deputy Director of the Belgian commission for refugees. Belgian could really serve as a good example in this regards having already trained

an important part of their staff in an EAC module.

The conference also gave asylum practitioners at the executive level the opportunity to take stock of the complete Curriculum and see what the EAC can offer in terms of training support.

The conclusions will now serve as input to EASO when the office will start preparing its' training activities. The full result of the conference will soon be posted on the website after the conference.



For more information see our homepage www.asylum-curriculum.eu

Transfer of EAC to EASO

The EAC team daily answers questions on how and when the Curriculum will be transferred to the EASO. So here we gladly present the latest update. The project phase has been extended to the end of the year in order to give the Support Office some additional time to set up its organisation and structures. Meanwhile, EASO will take more and more responsibility and the fact is that the training sessions this autumn will be organised in Malta and co-organised with the EAC.

Even in this phase of transition EAC have plenty of activities planned for. Besides the training, three modules will be updated, the Reference group gathered, the first EAC trainer pool meeting arranged as well as the bi-annual NCP-meeting. Finally and not the least some first steps in the development of training modules on reception issues will be taken.

In the beginning of next year EASO will run the training activities on their own. However

the former EAC team will be available for support and sharing of experiences. The goal has been all the way to normalise EAC and have it operated by a permanent body. Now we are very close to that and it is the highest recognition of the great result EAC has achieved!