



## Newsletter No. 4

February 2008

# European Asylum Curriculum (EAC)

### Prologue

Dear colleagues.

It has been a while since our last newsletter and a lot of things have happened since. The module 'EU Asylum Law' is online and has been tested by national trainers who after that, trained their own colleagues. We have submitted a project proposal EAC phase III under the European Refugee Fund to develop three more modules. The Kick off for phase III will be in the first week of April in Prague. And last but not least: we are also working on the next EAC conference (combined with the GDISC asylum conference) which will be held in October 2008 in the Netherlands.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter and if you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us (contact details on GDISC website: [www.gdisc.org](http://www.gdisc.org)).

The EAC-project group

### EAC Phase III

The specific objective for project phase III is to develop three EAC modules in line with the framework and concepts set out in phase I, as expressed in the Curriculum and correlating documents. The EAC modules to be developed are: Country of Origin Information (COI), Evidence Assessment and Interview Techniques Specialised on Children. The content and methods of the modules will be drafted consistent with the Curriculum, incorporating the best aspects

from existing training programs among the European Immigration Services and other relevant actors. Each module will consist of a preparatory self-training part in an e-learning format (the theoretical part) combined with face-to-face sessions for practical and skills oriented exercises. A Trainers Manual will be developed for each module with relevant information for national trainers on how to use content and correlating methods in a training situation. "Train-the-trainers" sessions on finalised module will be offered M.S.'s national trainers. Working language will be English.

Content experts from the European Immigration Services will develop the modules in collaboration with a methods team. In the COI module, ACCORD (Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation) will be actively engaged, and the EAC training will thus drawing on the experiences from ACCORD's COI Online training. Each module will receive methods support for developing the training material. The methods team consists didactical methods experts from the Dutch training centre KLC (Knowledge and Learning Centre), and e-learning experts with special competence on learning technologies (providing guidance for the content experts on how to draft in an e-learning format) as well as relevant technical competences for developing and managing the EAC Online training. In all, seventeen experts will be engaged on part time to draft the modules.

The project group (consisting of seven representatives from the Immigration and Migration Services in Sweden, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Spain, the United Kingdom

and the Odysseus Academic Network) will work in close cooperation with the teams to guarantee uniformity of the modules and overall project implementation according to plan.

By the end of the project the EAC modules and correlating training manuals on COI, Evidence Assessment and Interview Techniques Specialised on Children are developed. Parts of the modules are developed in an e-learning format Online. One training occasion per finalised EAC modules has been offered M.S. national trainers

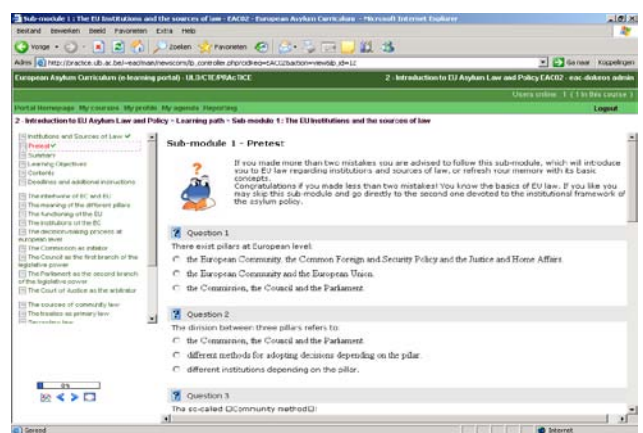
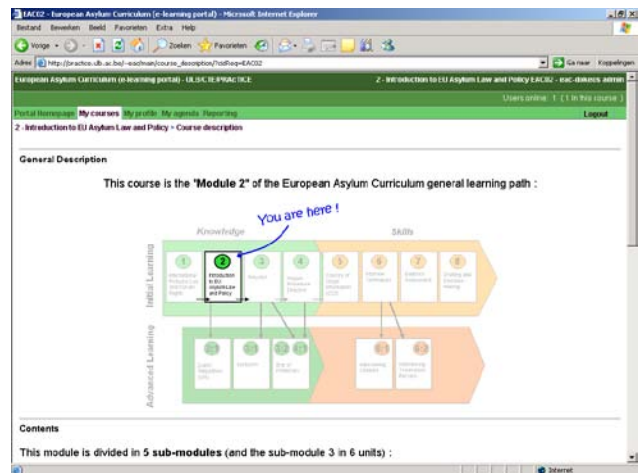
## Testing process

From September 07 until January 08 the first EAC module 'EU Asylum Law' was tested by the national trainers from 6 different countries (Cyprus, Finland, France, Netherlands, Poland and Sweden). These National Trainers started with the module by completing the online part in September. This was followed by a Train the Trainer session in Utrecht, the Netherlands. During this session both (legal) knowledge and (didactical) skills were targeted. After that they 'tried out' their newly gained knowledge and skills to small groups of students (their colleagues) in their own countries who also completed the module online, using the tools which the program provides like the forum to upload their assignments.

Both trainers and trainees were in general enthusiastic about the EAC-concept as a whole and the EU Asylum law module in specific and they strongly acknowledge its potential for the future. They also had plenty of suggestions for improvement (links that didn't work, assignments that took too long or were too easy etc). Their experiences will be used in upgrading the module on 'EU Asylum Law', but also in the next modules which are being developed.

The next testing process (of the module 'Interview Techniques') will start this month with trainers from 9 countries. Trainers from the 6 countries of the first testing round will be joined by representatives from Austria Lithuania, Norway and the Slovak Republic.

## Some screenshots of the EAC online:



## Kick Off meeting

The third phase of the EAC project will start with the kick-off meeting held at the



beginning of April in Prague. This meeting will commence the development of the Country of Origin Information module, Evidence Assessment

module and Interview Techniques Specialised on Children module. Each of these modules will be drafted by a team of experts developing the content of the module in accordance with the Curriculum and previously developed modules. All content experts from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) involved in this phase will meet there with the project, methods and e-learning team.

The main aim of the kick-off meeting is to introduce all engaged experts to the EAC concept, to explain what is expected from them, describe their specific tasks and the methods of drafting the modules. More detailed planning will be discussed during the workshops on each module. E-learning experts will provide guidance for the experts on how to draft in an e-learning format and the methods team will explain the training methods. Overall project management will be also presented and explained. All activities will be based on lessons learned from the phase II.

## EAC & GDISC Asylum Conference

Following the success of the EAC Working Conference "Towards a European Asylum Curriculum" held in Madrid in June 2006, EAC project group in cooperation with the GDISC Secretariat is busy preparing the second EAC Conference.

This conference will be hosted by the the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND) in October 2008 in the Netherlands. The EAC Conference will be merged with the GDISC Asylum Conference as the target group for both conferences is the same. The first two days of this combined GDISC EAC/Asylum Conference will focus on the EAC project.

Four EAC modules have been developed in the first two phases of the project. As soon as these modules are finalised, the training could be used in the GDISC Member States. The EAC Conference will offer an ideal opportunity for the Asylum Directors and the Heads of Training Units to meet and discuss the implementation of this project in their own organisations as well as to discuss its maintenance and update once the EAC is finalised. This also relates to the developments concerning a European Support Office as mentioned in the Green Paper on the future CEAS.

During the Conference the results of the Phase II of the European Asylum Curriculum will be presented to the delegates, including the outcome of the testing process.

During the workshop participants will have an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the finalised project, its update, maintenance and coordination.

