



## Newsletter No. 5

August 2008

# European Asylum Curriculum (EAC)

The EAC-project is co-financed by the European Union

### Prologue

Dear colleagues,  
Much progress has been made towards a common European Asylum Curriculum since the last Newsletter in February. The second phase of the EAC project ended this summer, while the third phase simultaneously started this spring (co-financed by the European Commission). We are looking forward to the GDISC EAC Conference to be held in The Hague on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008. This Newsletter is intended to update you on these and other recent and future developments. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and if you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us (contact details on GDISC website: [www.gdisc.org/projects](http://www.gdisc.org/projects)).

The EAC-project group

### End of EAC Phase II

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June Phase II of EAC ended officially with the final delivery of 4 modules:

- EU Asylum Law
- Interview Techniques
- International Refugee Law and Human Rights
- Inclusion

For these modules the Web surrounding and related methodology (Online training) was developed, as well as the so called "Trainers Manuals". Thereby this phase of the project has produced the first 4 of the 13-module-EAC package. The delivered modules have been devised and reviewed by experts on content, didactics and e-learning. To discover first hand the experiences of trainees and trainers when actually working with the modules, two of them have been tested and evaluated this year by 10 different countries: Asylum Law and Interview Techniques. The testing process consisted of a train-the-trainer session at the Knowledge and Learning Centre in Utrecht in October 2007 and March 2008, followed by national trainings in the participating countries. After an e-learning part of the training, the final information needed in the module was transferred by the trainers in a face-to-face session.



The outcomes of the evaluations of the testing process will be used to upgrade the modules and the feedback by the trainers and trainees will be used in the further development of existing and future EAC-modules. Valuable input was also obtained from the Reference Group (UNHCR, ECRE, IARLJ and EC) via their participation in two conferences held in Brussels, from 15-16 October 2007 and on 22 May 2008. The purpose of these meetings was to provide the Reference Group with information on the project development and to receive feedback from the Reference Group on the modules regarding structure, content and methods. The meetings were attended by Project Group members and module experts. We want to thank all the experts for their highly appreciated input in the created modules!

### **EAC Phase III and Kick-off Meeting in Prague**

During 2008/2009 the modules on **Country of Origin Information, Evidence Assessment and Interview Techniques Specialised on Children** will be developed. In the third phase the process of implementing the finalised EAC modules will also start via “train-the-trainers” sessions. After each module is developed, the project will offer national trainers a training session on the content and methods for the module.

Attached to this Newsletter you will find the program for these first ‘official’ EAC-trainings, starting in January 2009 with the “Train-the-Trainer” session in Utrecht for the module Inclusion. The schedule differs from the earlier mentioned schedule in the GDISC Bulletin September.

### **Kick-off meeting Phase III**

At the beginning of April, the third phase of the EAC project commenced with a meeting hosted by the Czech Ministry of Interior in Prague. Three groups of experts from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, the

Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) met there with the EAC project and methods team. The main aim of the kick-off meeting was to introduce the experts to the EAC concept, explain what is expected from them, describing their specific tasks and the methods of drafting the modules.

Each module is drafted by a team of content experts supplied by various GDISC countries for the task. For each module a coordinator holds the task to coordinate the work. The Country of Origin Information module is lead by Ms Andrea Jakober from Austrian Accord/Red Cross, the coordinator of the module Evidence Assessment module is Belgian expert Mr. Francois Bienfait from the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons and the module Interview Techniques Specialized on Children module is coordinated by Mr. Klaus Krainz from the Federal Asylum Office in Austria.



The kick-off meeting was opened by the representative of the Czech Ministry of Interior Mr. Tomáš Urubek who welcomed the participants and underlined the importance of the commitment of the countries involved in the project.

During the plenary sessions e-learning expert from the methods team - Mr. Eric Uytterbrouck - explained the difference between traditional and online training and the advantage of using the latter. His colleague Mr. Thierry de Henau described the lessons learned from Phase II by making the experts aware of traps and pitfalls to avoid in Phase III. As for the content the module experts will have two missions: To define the reference content (What must be learnt from the module?) and to elaborate on a learning program (How to help participants learn?). Ms. Wilske Nijenhuis and Marjelle Elema, didactic experts in the methods team, made a presentation on how the methods team will be able to assist the module experts in producing the modules.

During the second day a workshop on the process and structure of the modules was held. The experts were divided into module groups and instructed to discuss and agree on a very first draft of a structure for the module, connections between the modules as well as risks of overlapping and the existing materials that should be used for the module.

On the last day of the kick-off each module team presented the first "skeleton" for a module structure. Agreement was also made on content, working rules and the timetable for the work. Roles and responsibilities within the teams were well defined. The experts had a chance to get to know each other, share their experience and start discussions on the content of each module as well as on the division of their roles in the team.

Concluding remarks were made by Mr. Jan Westmar, EAC project manager, who confirmed that the objectives of the kick-off meeting were fully met. Good progress was made within a friendly and open atmosphere during the workshops, as well as good understanding of the concepts and tasks ahead.

### GDISC EAC Conference 22<sup>nd</sup> of October

The next main event for the EAC project will be the upcoming EAC Conference, which will be held in The Hague and combined with the GDISC Asylum Conference (23-24th October). Invitations have been sent and for the EAC Conference the two main topics will be:

- National training
- Implementation of the EAC

7 of the 13 modules will be delivered by the project in early 2009, 'live' training is planned from January 2009. This gives asylum services and other interested parties the opportunity to think about national implementation of the EAC package. This topic will also be discussed in the first workshop of the EAC Conference day. The second part of the EAC Conference will stress the challenges ahead and the implementation of the EAC project. We are looking forward to meeting many of you in The Hague!

### Upcoming EAC Training opportunities

Attached to this Newsletter you will find the program and information for the first 'official' EAC-trainings, starting in January 2009 with the "Train-the-Trainer" session in Utrecht for the module Inclusion!

