



Newsletter No. 6

July 2009

European Asylum Curriculum (EAC)

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

Prologue

Dear colleagues,
Time for an update on the progress of the European Asylum Curriculum: in this Newsletter you will find the latest on the start of the next phase of EAC with 3 new modules being created and about the first steps building an EAC Temporary Implementation Unit at the same time.

We hope you'll enjoy the newsletter and if you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us (EAC-mailbox@migrationsverket.se).

The EAC-project group

Upcoming EAC Training opportunities!

The next EAC trainings will be held in autumn 2009 and for this purpose a survey was sent out by the GDISC secretariat to all asylum directors. Goal of the survey was to get a good impression of the current need for training from the Member States and ways how the trainings could be organised.

With the first reactions taken in account we have made a training program for autumn 2009 and subscription is open for the next trainings (see attached file)! Until the 15th of September subscription is open for the modules Evidence Assessment and International

Building the TIU

During the GDISC EAC/Asylum Conference held last October in The Hague, we discussed the transition of the developed modules towards an organisation. The feedback and suggestions which the EAC project got led to the conclusion by the GDISC Steering Group that the construction of an EAC Temporary Implementation Unit was the right way forward.

The GDISC Steering Group has asked the EAC Project Management Group to draft a project plan and this has led to the application under the European Refugee Fund end of March. The objectives are:

- In parallel with the development of new training modules, the project will establish a specific unit (Temporary Implementation Unit, TIU) to ensure the accuracy and maintain the content of the existing modules, including training manuals as well as coordinating training activities and methodology support at EU level.

- A new IT platform for operational use to serve the EU-wide National training of officials, will be installed. The specific objective for EAC-TIU is to set up an operational IT platform sized to allow for parallel national training activities by the national asylum authorities. The specific knowledge on administering the EAC e-learning portal will be taken over from the current provider – the University of Brussels

(ULB, who will continue focusing on the development of new training modules in EAC phase III.2) - for operational use in the Member States. The EAC-TIU will establish a network of national trainers/contact points for support and identifying needs for updates of existing training materials. In addition the TIU will plan and coordinate eight training activities (for both new and existing training modules) during the project period. The EAC-TIU will as well establish documentation on methods and procedures for using EAC operationally.

The current state of the project is that staff is recruited and the transition of knowledge from the ULB to the TIU has started. The TIU is expected to organise the first trainings and module updates in autumn 2009.

EAC Phase III.2 and Kick-off Meeting in Venice

During 2009/2010 the modules on the **Asylum Procedure Directive, Decision Making and the Dublin regulation will be developed**. After each module is developed, the project will offer national trainers a training session on the content and methods for the module.

Kick-off meeting Phase III

From May 12-14th of May, the second part of the third phase of the EAC project commenced with a meeting hosted by the Italian Ministry of Interior. The conference was held on the island of San Servolo, just for the coast of beautiful Venice. Three groups of experts from 8 countries (Belgium, the Czech Republic, 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 Dublin Regulation module is lead by Mr Frank Schimmelpfennig from the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the coordinator of the module Asylum Procedure Directive is Mr Philippe De Bruycker, Professor at the University of Brussels as associate partner from the Odysseus Network and the third module is coordinated by Mrs Helene Klackenberg from the Swedish Migration Board.



The kick-off meeting was opened by EAC overall programme officer Jan Westmar from the Swedish Migration Board who welcomed the participants and underlined the importance of the commitment of the countries involved in the project.

During the plenary sessions the methods team – first Mr Thierry De Henau - explained the difference between traditional and online training and the advantage of using the latter. He furthermore described the lessons learned from earlier phases by making the experts aware of traps and pitfalls to avoid in Phase III.2. 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?). Mrs. Karin in 't Hout 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.

Special focus was made on a variety of learning activities which enable better learning.

During the last part of the first and the whole 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.

New was the introduction of a Work Breakdown Schedule (WBS), with Time Boxes and deadlines for the several deliverables during the project, to ensure a consistent build up of the modules, with clear definitions of roles and responsibilities. This was presented by the project officer for phase III.2, Mr Herman Fabriek.

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, 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.

The EAC Learning Path

