



Newsletter No. 8 May 2010 European Asylum Curriculum (EAC)

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www.asylum-curriculum.eu

Prologue

Dear Colleagues,
We are just starting the new phase III.3 and it is the right time to inform you about the ongoing activities within our project. In this newsletter you will find information about the Mid-term conference in Paris where the work with three training modules more or less were completed and about translation of EAC training modules. You will also be able to read about the Kick off conference in Budapest starting up the development of the last three modules in the Curriculum, and EAC training activities during this spring and summer.

We hope that in this newsletter you will find all the necessary information and that you will enjoy it. If you have any further questions or suggestions, have a look at our website www.asylum-curriculum.eu and don't hesitate to contact us! Do you have questions regarding training please contact: eac-training@asylum-curriculum.eu

The EAC-project group

EAC Mid-term conference in Paris

Hosted by the French Office for Refugees and Stateless persons [Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et des Apatrides / OFPRA], the Conference marked the end of phase III.2 under the chair of André Nilén, the new EAC project manager. Beside the plenary, the conference encompassed a project management group meeting, a meeting dedicated to the issue of translation of the modules and three workshops for the finalisation of phase III.2 modules: "Asylum Procedure Directive", "Drafting and Decision Making" and "Dublin regulation". An online version was delivered for all three modules on time, but some revisions still had to be done – also based on the comments from the Reference Group. A time-plan was agreed upon to finish the improved versions before the upcoming trainings. During the plenary, experts were very positive in describing their experience of drafting common European training material within a team composed of different nationalities, legal backgrounds and practices, a challenge that was worth taking up.



While concluding phase III.2 of the project, the Conference also served as an introduction to an issue which should give EAC a new dimension - translation: Thanks to the combined efforts of France and Belgium, five modules should be translated into French by the end of the year and be uploaded on the EAC platform by TIU. Poland has also translated one module into Polish. Other countries, including the Czech Republic and Italy, expressed a strong interest in doing something similar. At the same time, Belgium plans to use some of the modules in French within the capacity building project it is running in Burundi. Frequently referred to during the Conference, the translation topic is developed under a separate heading.

Translation of EAC modules

Translation of EAC modules into other languages was a significant issue discussed during the Mid-Term Conference. It is clear that this is crucial for several countries for further national implementation of EAC. However, the train-the-trainer sessions arranged by EAC will still be in English. At the conference the policy for translation of EAC modules into other languages was set by the project management group. It was agreed that in case of using an external translator for translations, the translator needs to secure competence in the asylum field or set the standard in the contract. The copyright issues and ownership issues have to be taken into consideration. If the organisation has

internal resources that can do the translations, these resources can be used for translations as well.

To assure the quality of the translations, the text must be checked by an independent source. Internal resource can check also internally translated modules but it is important that there is some level of independence in regard to the first translator. Since more and more states express their interest in the translation of individual EAC modules into other languages, the EAC project decided to organise a translation conference in autumn of 2010 where the practical questions concerning translations can be discussed.



Two train-the-trainer courses successfully completed

The first two of this year's planned train-the-trainer courses have now been completed. Twenty-six new trainers are ready to deliver national EAC training. For six weeks, thirteen participants from seven countries studied the online material on the combined modules 'Interview Techniques' and 'Interviewing Children'. The concluding face-to-face session took place April 13-16 in Vienna, Austria.

During the online phase the participants learned about the preparation of the interview and practical arrangements, as well as questioning techniques and different methods of interviewing. The face-to-face session focused on discussions, practical exercises and role-plays on conducting successful interviews with both adult asylum seekers and children.

Over five weeks, thirteen other participants have been studying the online material for the module 'Country of Origin Information'. Their face-to-face session took place in Utrecht, the Netherlands on April 26-29. There they worked with different exercises to consolidate their understanding of the online content. By working with an example case they also experienced how they can deliver training on the module in their national training sessions.

Both courses included a much appreciated session on didactics, focusing on how to act as national trainers and how to facilitate learning.

The participants in these two training occasions had access to the first version of an online tutorial and a complementing example course to experiment on. They are developed with the aim of letting the future EAC trainers get acquainted with how to use the online trainer tools.

The evaluation results are overall very positive, even though the participants in the training in Vienna were affected by the flight cancellations caused by the Icelandic volcano eruption.

Complete evaluation summaries are available from EAC-TIU.

New train-the-trainer courses

The online preparation phase of the new module on 'Dublin Regulation' has been finalized, and the face-to-face training is taking place in Utrecht 25-27 May. On line

preparations for the 'Drafting and Decision making' module started in the middle of May.

For more information on EAC training, please visit www.asylum-curriculum.eu.



Kick-off for phase III.3 in Budapest

The opening conference of the final phase of EAC with the purpose to develop the last 3 modules was held in Budapest, 5-7 May. The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian Office for Immigration and Nationality (OIN) in Budapest and the participants were welcomed by General Deputy Director Mr. István Ördög. After an introduction by the EAC Project Management and presentations by the TIU and Methods Team, the three expert groups started their work on the last three modules to be developed:

- Interviewing Vulnerable Persons
- End of Protection
- Exclusion

The work of the upcoming months will be divided in six Time Boxes, ending spring 2011. Like in previous phases, the main work will be carried out by expert groups, consisting of five experts each. Each group contains experts from different countries (in this phase DE, CZ, NO, LT, AT, UK, NL, FR, and SE), including one representative from a NGO and academic input via the Odysseus Network.



Thanks to the Hungarian OIN and the participants, the meeting was a perfect start of the last development phase!