



## Newsletter No. 9 September 2010 European Asylum Curriculum (EAC)

The EAC-project is co-financed by the European Refugee Fund  
[www.asylum-curriculum.eu](http://www.asylum-curriculum.eu)

### Prologue

Dear Colleagues and EAC Friends,

As the summer is inevitable over it is the right time to inform you about our recent activities and future plans. In this newsletter you will find report on the Ministerial conference "Quality and Efficiency in the Asylum Process" which took place 13-14th September in Brussels. You will find information about the progress made in developing our last three modules from the EAC III.3 phase which was started just before the summer as well as about upcoming EAC train-the-trainers meetings. In this newsletter you will also find an invitation for our "Translation meeting" concerning the translations of EAC modules into national languages which will take place 1st December in Prague and the expected transfer of EAC to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

If you have any further questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us or visit our informative website [www.asylum-curriculum.eu](http://www.asylum-curriculum.eu)

**Ministerial Conference 'Quality and Efficiency in the Asylum Process' 13 – 14th September 2010, Brussels - '2012 is almost tomorrow'**

Under the Belgium Presidency of the European Union, a number of asylum related objectives were discussed during this two-day conference. The main objective of the conference was to determine good practices that can contribute to making the asylum processes in EU member states more efficient while respecting quality standards. Not only delegations from the EU member states were invited to the Conference, but also UNHCR, EU institutions and many different representations from civil society. The Ministerial Conference had a clear focus on both practical cooperation and solidarity, as these are very topical issues for the establishment of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS). From an EAC point of view, it is good to acknowledge that the Ministerial Conference discussed the EASO's priorities, especially mentioning: training of asylum officers and support of Member States under particular pressure.

Day 1 of the Conference was devoted to plenary presentations and break out workshops on three main themes: Vulnerable Asylum Seekers with Special Needs, Decision Making and Intra-European solidarity. The EAC project played a central role during the Decision Making discussion. One of the interesting outcomes of the discussion was that EU-legislation and decision making processes must be simple to learn and to implement in the different EU Member States: we have to focus on simplicity and basic standards regarding the reasoning of the decision making process. It was stressed that EAC is one of the projects that offers the right tools for the harmonization within the CEAS. On the other hand, EAC is also facing some barriers like linguistic, financial and cultural issues, for the very next future. Several organisations also mentioned that common training should be available also for interpreters as well as NGO\*s.

Parallel to the Ministerial gathering on day 2, the Belgium Presidency had organized a Marketplace for good practices, where government and civil society presented, exchanged and discussed interesting examples of quality and efficiency in the asylum process. The promotion of EAC during the marketplace has certainly contributed to knowledge about the training system throughout Europe. This Conference was a moment for intense and open discussion on themes of significant value to all of us. The fact that 2012 is almost tomorrow, is in the interest of EAC: to create a common approach to capacity building and enhancing qualities/competences within the European Union in the field of Asylum.

## Transfer of EAC to EASO

The European Asylum Curriculum will be transferred to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), which is stated in the Stockholm programme and mentioned in the office's regulation. There are however some outstanding questions, e.g. how will the transfer be done and when. Ramböll Management and the EAC project team are currently working together to prepare the transfer and are now conducting a feasibility study, which should be finalized in the beginning of November. By the end of November, EASO will gather its management board for the first time and hopefully some clarifying decisions will be realized



André Nilen and Gert Wobbes at the Ministerial conference in Brussels

## The development of the last three modules

The three expert groups working on the last three modules of the Curriculum have reached the stage where the actual drafting of the module has started and in October the first "prototypes" will emerge. In the last months, decisions have been taken on the structure of the module and the Reference Group, consisting of representatives of the IARLJ, ECRE, UNHCR and the European

Commission, got the opportunity to comment on this structure. The groups also received input on didactics and e-learning from the Methods Team in a mutual meeting at the University of Brussels, to give them the tools to set up an interactive and learning-based module.

In their August-September meetings across Europe, the experts agreed on learning objectives and activities and the next months will be dedicated to finalising the modules and getting them online. The Reference Group meeting – where the last feedback on the content of the module is exchanged – is planned for early December.

With thanks to the efforts of the expert groups and the methods team, all looks well for a final delivery of the last three of the 13 EAC Curriculum modules in March 2010.

#### **EAC Conference for translation /training**

During the National Contact Point meeting for EAC that was held in Stockholm in May 2010, it became very clear that the translation of EAC was the main obstacle for the national implementation of this training tool. Considering this obstacle it was decided to arrange a specific conference to deal with all questions related to translation where we can exchange experiences regarding translation and further discuss the translation procedure.

**This conference is planned to be held in Prague the 30th November to the 1st December.**

At the time of the conference we will be close to finalizing the last three modules for the EAC, which means that we will be able to offer thirteen different modules for training in all steps of the asylum

procedure. Therefore we also intend to discuss further training plans, national implementation and as well the transfer of EAC into the EASO office.

We plan to send out the invitation for this conference shortly and we will address this invitation to both those responsible for possible translation activities as well as to the National Contact Points for EAC in each country.

#### **EAC training events**

According to the 2010 training plan for national trainers, training sessions in Introduction to EU asylum Law and Policy module and Asylum Procedure Directive module has been held this autumn. The e-learning part started in end of June and lasted until mid-September. This part was then followed by two face to face sessions in Warsaw beginning 20th and lasting until 24th of September. Nine national trainers participated in the EU Law module and 12 in the Asylum Procedure Directive module.



EU asylum Law and Policy module in Warsaw

To evaluate these training sessions, a new computer based system will be used. The newly developed survey will allow us to make much better use of the evaluation results and will also enable evaluating all different training activities. It will as well give a better and more structured view of the training outcomes.

Right now we are planning for the last two training sessions this year. The first one will consist of a combination of, firstly the Refugee Law and Human Rights module and secondly the Inclusion module. The main reason for having a combined training is that we consider knowing the International Refugee Laws and the different Human Rights instruments gives a necessary grounding for understanding of the Inclusion procedure. The e-learning for these two modules started at September 6th and will last until October 15th. The face to face session will then be held in Utrecht 18 - 22nd of October.

The second and last training activity this year will be in the Evidence Assessment module. The participants will start doing the e-learning part the 25th October and continue until the 26th November. The e-learning will be followed by a face to face session in Paris 6<sup>th</sup> December.

There are still places available at both training sessions if you would like to participate. Please visit the EAC website: [www.asylum-curriculum.eu](http://www.asylum-curriculum.eu) for information on how to apply.



Procedure Directive module session in Warsaw