

# ETIC Chechenia:

## an anthropological study for the CGRS.

### Assembling Emic Knowledge of Chechen Diaspora

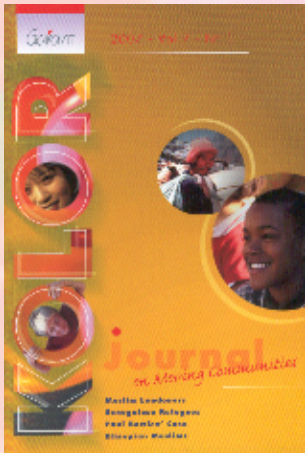
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Expeditions Researcher(s): Sam Janssen, Steven Laporte

To accommodate the sudden increase of Chechen asylum applicants in the early 2000's, the Belgian Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS or, in Dutch, CGVS) offered training sessions to its caseworkers. They asked Expeditions to assemble relevant emic knowledge about Chechen culture and patterns in its emerging diaspora, to develop the necessary educational material and to organize training.

Over the course of 2005 an assembled team of researchers from Expeditions and the XIOS college LISE group, explored Chechen community life through participant observation and in-depth interviews. Data-analysis by the Expeditions team resulted in an integrated document for internal use at CGRV and the development two tailor-made workshops given to the French- and Dutch speaking employees.

The study provided a meaningful contribution to improve the asylum application experience of Chechen refugees. It moreover laid the basis for further collaboration between the Expeditions researchers and Chechen communities in Belgium. Apart from the non-public research report of this study, Chechen experiences were brought in sight through two subsequent publications and several master thesis projects supervised by Marc Vanlangendonck.

- Expeditions, Research in Applied Anthropology (2005). Essay ETIC. Tsjetsjenië, een antropologisch onderzoek in opdracht van het Commissariaat Generaal voor de Vluchtelingen en de Staatslozen. Brussel/Leuven: Kennis en Leercentrum CGVS. Niet-gepubliceerde referentie.
- Vanlangendonck, M. (2009). "Tsjetsjeense projecten van integratie in het Vlaams Gewest (2004-2008)". In: Foyer (red). Wij zullen niet vergeten. Tsjetsjenen in België. Brussel: Regionaal Integratiecentrum Foyer. <http://www.foyer.be/IMG/pdf/TsjetsjenenInBelgieMaesDef.pdf>
- Fierens M., 2007. Tourism and refugees: a case study of the Chechen community in Flanders. *Omertaa, Journal for Applied Anthropology*. <http://www.omertaa.org/archive/omertaa0018.pdf>.



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