



SUPPORT IS OUR  
MISSION

EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE

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*December 2016*



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# WHO WE ARE



## OUR MISSION:

As an important actor of European Solidarity, EASO plays a **key role in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)**, fostering greater cooperation with and between Member States and providing the necessary support in order to translate into practice the core values of the CEAS: equity and fairness, and to ensure that individual asylum cases are dealt with in a coherent way by all Member States.

**EASO is about people,  
about commitment and  
real operational  
activities on the ground.**

**EASO+**

**We are there to support MS asylum systems, EU as a  
whole and refugees to cope better with the migration  
challenges**

# EASO IN FIGURES

**BUDGET 2017:** 66 mil EUR

**STAFF:** 126

**TRAINING:** Over 14.000 participants

**COIs:** Over 9.000

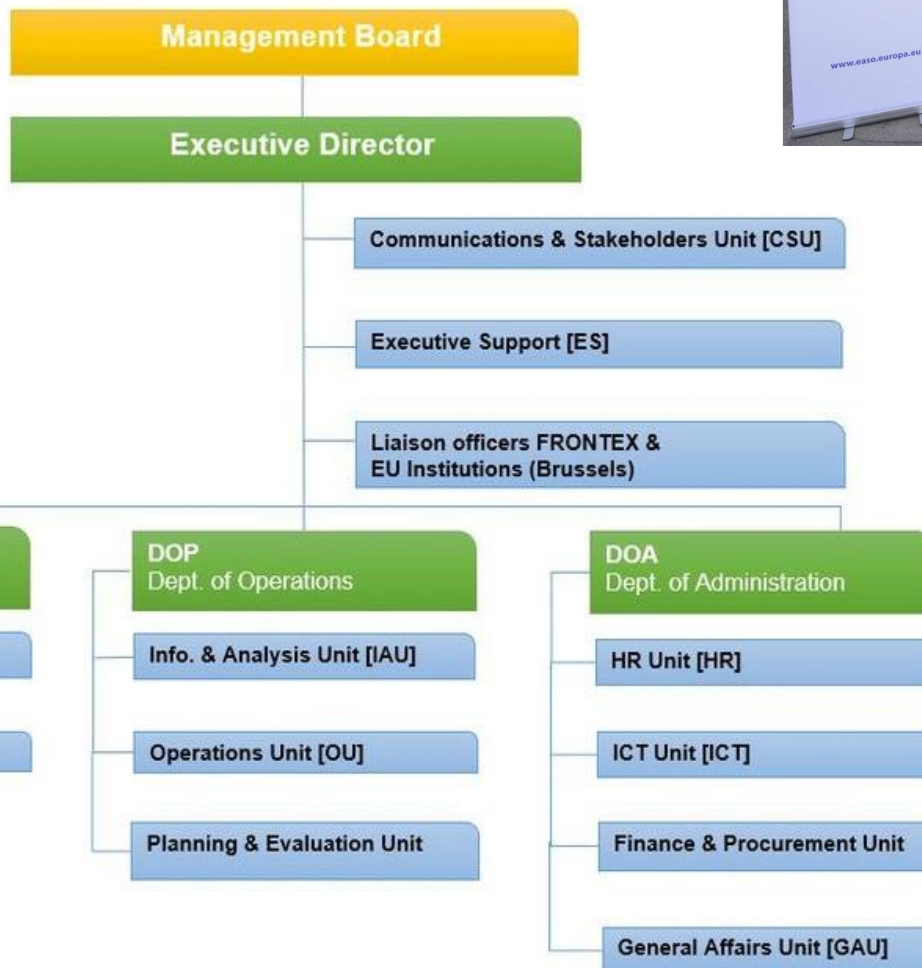
**Deployed experts:** Over 1.000

**Meetings:** Over 600



# EASO ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

## How decisions are made?



### The Management Board:

Is the Agency's planning and monitoring authority. It is composed of representatives of the EU Member States and Associate Countries, the European Commission and a representative of UNHCR.

### The Executive Director:

The Executive Director, José Carreira, has been appointed by the Management Board in 2016, and is in charge of the day-to-day management of the agency.

The Executive Director is supported by 3 Departments namely:

1. Department of Asylum Support;
2. Department of Operations;
3. Department of Administration.

# WHAT WE DO



- EASO's focus points
- Early Warning and Preparedness System
- Country of Origin Information
- Training and Quality
- EASO and the Hotspots
- Main challenges
- EASO Consultative Forum



# EASO'S FOCUS POINTS:

- **permanent support:** common training, common asylum training material, common quality and common Country of Origin Information (COI);
- **special and emergency support:** assistance to repair or rebuild asylum and reception systems;
- **support to the Hotspots:** coordinating all activities under the EASO “Hotspot” Operating Plan;
- **information and analysis support:** sharing and merging information and data;
- **third-country (i.e. non-member country) support:** supporting the external dimension of the Common European Asylum System;



# EARLY WARNING AND PREPAREDNESS SYSTEM (EPS)


EPS is developed by EASO starting 2012

**AIM:** To provide EU+ countries and EU Institution with accurate, timely and complete monitoring of the practical functioning of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) via a timely operational data collection and rapid analysis.

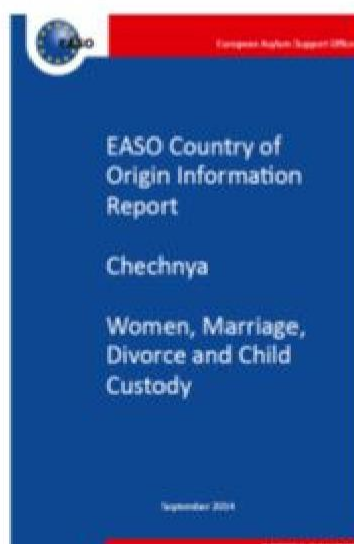
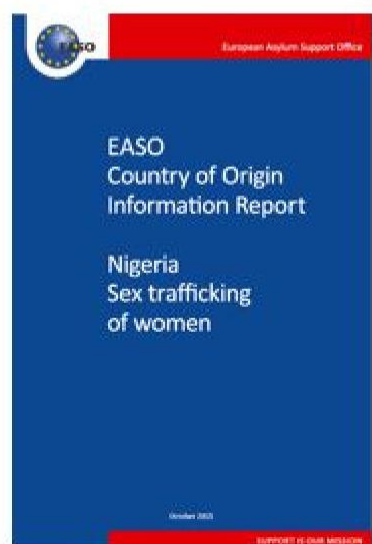
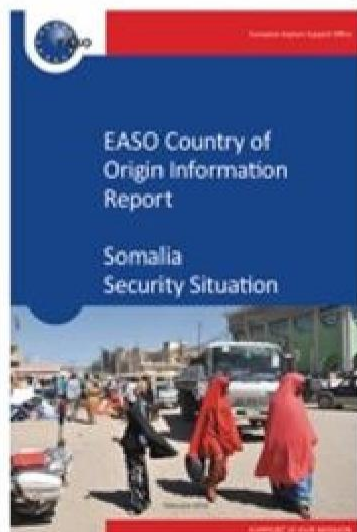
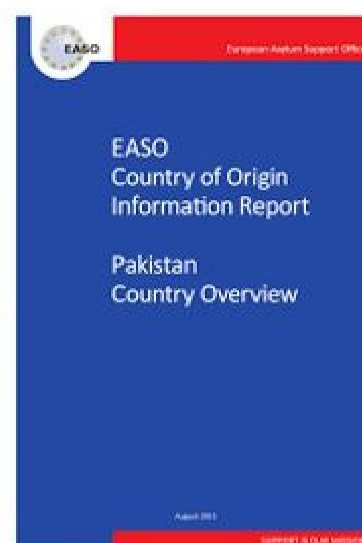
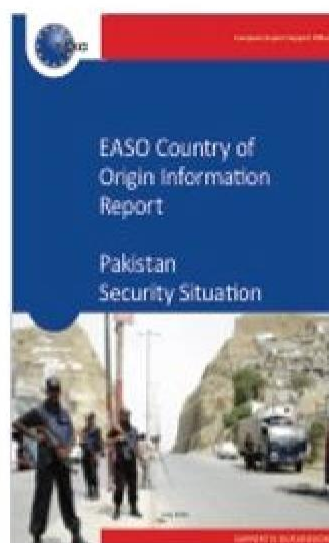
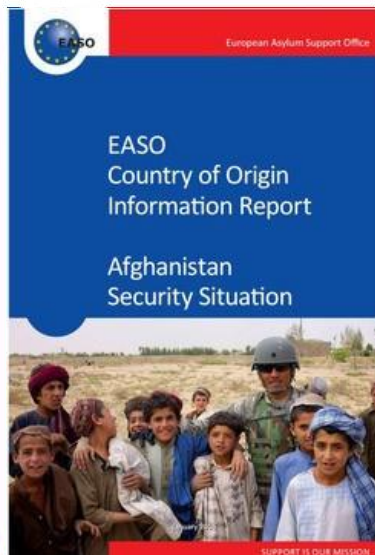
Refers to information on countries from which asylum seekers originate, relevant for the decision-makers in the field of asylum.

COI can play a determining role in achieving the aim of the CEAS: similar cases should receive similar outcomes across the EU.

## **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION (COI)**



# Country of Origin Information



# TRAINING AND QUALITY

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Training  
Cooperation with Courts and Tribunals  
Support for Asylum Processes  
Activities on Vulnerable Groups







## TRAINING

The cornerstone of EASO training activities is the EASO Training Curriculum, a common vocational training system designed mainly for case officers and other asylum officials throughout the EU.

## COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

EASO is working towards creating a Professional Development Series aimed at providing courts and tribunal members with a full overview of the Common European Asylum System.

## ASYLUM PROCESSES

Mapping of MS current practices and policies, organisation of thematic meetings and production of reports, as well as the development of practical tools and guidance documents.

## VULNERABLE GROUPS

Its focus to-date has been on activities related to children, including unaccompanied minors, and on the link between asylum and trafficking in human beings



# EASO AND THE HOTSPOTS

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- EASO support in the Hotspots
- EU Relocation Programme
- EASO activities in Greece
- EU-TR Statement
- EASO activities in Italy



# EASO SUPPORT IN THE HOTSPOTS. HOW DOES IT WORK?

EASO concludes **HOTSPOT OPERATING PLANS** with the host MS.

These plans aim at initiating, promoting and facilitating the EU MS synchronized efforts to support the registration and further processing of applications for international protection in the operational Host MS, where EASO Asylum Support Teams' activities will take place.

The Host MS Authorities are responsible for all asylum-related operational activities in the defined operational areas, including registration of applications for international protection, examination and decision taken in the asylum files.

EASO ensures the coordination between the participating experts in the Asylum Support Teams and technical means deployed by the Agency in the framework of EASO "Hotspot" Operating Plan.



# EASO SUPPORT IN THE HOTSPOTS. WHAT EASO DOES?

EASO staff and EASO deployed experts:

- Provide information at the disembarkation points
- Check for document fraud
- Registration of the applications for international protection
- In Greece - Conduct eligibility and admissibility procedure
- Explain the Relocation programme
- Support unaccompanied minors
- Support Hotlines



# EU RELOCATION PROGRAMME

## SOME FACTS

### IMPLEMENTATION OVER 2 YEARS

*Beneficiaries need to apply for asylum and be fingerprinted*

NO RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE MS OF RELOCATION

The following are  
taken into  
consideration when  
matching profiles:

1. Vulnerability;
2. Existence of  
relatives;
3. Language skills.

**34,953**

To be  
relocated  
from Italy

**63,302**

To be  
relocated  
from EL

**54,000**

Initially placed in  
pool - COM now  
proposed that these  
should be allocated  
for resettlement of  
Syrians from Turkey





6.972

applicants relocated  
as on 21 November 2016

**Italy – 1.757**

Mainly from Syria and Eritrea

**Greece – 5.805**

Mainly from Syria, Yemen, Iraq and  
Eritrea







# EASO ACTIVITIES IN GREECE

**9 locations:** EASO is present in Greece in Hotspots: Lesvos, Chios, Leros, Samos, Kos, **and in** Athens, Thessaloniki, Alexandroupoli, Corinth

**Since 2015, EASO provides support to Greece, in the context of Hotspot approach and relocation, by performing a number of tasks:**

- Identification of potential applicants for international protection and active information provision about the international protection system in Greece and the relocation procedure in general;
- in addition, advice on nationality assessment and possible exclusion issues to caseworkers registering relocation candidates;
- Processing outgoing Dublin take charge requests, including relocation cases;
- Detection of possible document fraud.

## **EASO and the EU-TR Statement**

- Besides, EASO' work on relocation, EASO teams in the hotspots work on the operational implementation of the **EU-Turkey Statement**;
- Since March 2016, EASO has been supporting the Greek Asylum Service with regard to the Greek eligibility and admissibility procedures;
- To this end, EASO has deployed experts who conduct interviews to ensure systematic individual assessment of the admissibility of each application for international protection in Greece.



# EASO PRESENCE IN GREECE

More than 200 EASO staff deployed in 9 locations in Greece

## EASO and Relocation:

EASO is deploying 57 staff working in the framework of relocation in Greece:

- 23 National experts
- 27 Interpreters
- 7 EASO staff

## EASO and the EU-TR Statement;

EASO is deploying 156 staff:

- 51 National experts
- 74 Interpreters
- 31 EASO staff (of which 20 registration officers seconded to Greek AS)



# EASO ACTIVITIES IN ITALY:

**13 LOCATIONS:** **Hotspots:** Lampedusa, Pozzallo, Trapani, Taranto **and in** Catania EURTF, Villa Sikanina, Questura of Rome, Bari, crotone, Mineo, Sicily Mobile Team, Rome Mobile Team

**EASO supports Italy with the provision of technical and operational assistance since 2013.**

**Operational support to Italy in the context of hotspots and relocation was launched since mid-September 2015**

**EASO experts in Italy provide operational support in the following main areas:**

- Provision of relevant information to potential applicants for relocation of eligible nationalities. Those activities are conducted in all operational hotspots in Italy;
- Moreover, EASO Mobile teams for information provision are deployed in Rome and in Catania to swiftly cover relevant locations and points of disembarkation;
- Handling registrations of applicants for international protection, in view of the relocation procedure, in a number of regional hubs and by a roving team;
- Handling outgoing Dublin take charge requests for relocation cases. Those activities are conducted in the Dublin Unit in Rome.



# EASO PRESENCE IN ITALY:



EASO is deploying 81 staff in 13 locations + in the roving team (short-term deployment):

- 48 National experts
- 27 Interpreters
- 6 EASO staff

# MAIN

## CHALLENGES:

Security situation

Lack on MS experts

Lack of pledges for relocation





# EASO CONSULTATIVE FORUM



## Authentic dialogue matters for EASO!

EASO continuously engages with actors from the civil society in its core business, inviting experts and representatives to attend thematic meetings,

*and*

to contribute to the development of tools and materials, as well as exploring ways for an increased involvement of civil society in EASO's operational activities.

# Common European Asylum System – External Dimension



# An example of EASO EXTDIM Support the ENPI Project

مشارك  
EASO الأردن في أعمال  
ومشاركة  
تونس والمغرب  
EASO وFRONTEX في أعمال

- Title of the project: Participation of Jordan in the work of EASO and participation of Tunisia and Morocco in the work of EASO and FRONTEX
- Financed through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
- Signature of the contract: 31 December 2013
- Start of the project: 1 March 2014
- Duration of the project: 28 months (Project ended on 30 June 2016)
- Partner countries: Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia
- EU-Mobility Partnerships: Morocco, 7 June 2013  
Tunisia, 13 November 2013  
Jordan, 9 October 2014
- Involving EASO, FRONTEX, MS, EU Delegations, DG HOME, DG NEAR, DG DEVCO and in coordination with UNHCR, IOM, other IOs and NGOs

# IPA II Programme

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- **Title of the project:** Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey
- **Geographical coverage:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, Montenegro, Kosovo\* and Turkey
- **Duration of the project and planned start date:** Three years: 1 January 2016- 31 December 2018
- **Total budget:** 8,25 MEUR
- **Implementing organisation and participating organisations/ Member States:** Frontex and IOM are the beneficiary of the contracts (two contracts); EASO implements activities with EU Member States (MS) and Associated Countries (AC), in cooperation with Frontex, UNHCR and IOM
- **Target group:** National authorities with operational responsibilities on matters related to asylum and/or international protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

# New Partnership Framework with Third Countries under the EU Agenda on Migration

- Communication from COM, 7 June 2016
- Partnerships with TC to take the form of tailored ‘ *compacts* » according to the situation and needs of each partner
- First : Jordan & Lebanon; Then : Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali & Ethiopia; Later : Tunisia & Libya
- Objectives :
  - EU can achieve greater results by speaking with one voice (rather than having different MS acting in parallel)
  - To save lives in the Mediterranean Sea;
  - To enable migrants & refugees to stay close to home and avoid taking dangerous journeys
  - To increase the rate of returns to countries of origin & transit



- Actions :
  - To improve the legislative and institutional framework for migration
  - Concrete assistance for Capacity Building on Border & Migration Management, including providing Protection for Refugees
  - Stemming the irregular flows while offering Legal Migration Channels, including increased Resettlement efforts
  - Increasing rates of Return and Readmission with a preference to Voluntary return and a focus on reintegration
- EASO can work on Capacity building of National Administrations which play a role in Internal Protection

# THE FUTURE OF EASO

Discussions on a European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA) with an enhanced mandate and considerably expanded tasks.

## Main tasks of EUAA:

- ensure a greater convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection across the Union;
- enhanced information exchange on asylum;
- develop and provide training;
- monitor and assess the implementation of the CEAS



# The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)

- **Strengthening the mandate of the European Asylum Support Office**
- Building upon the existing mandate of EASO while **transforming it into a fully-fledged Agency**
- Considerably **expanding the tasks** to address any structural weaknesses in the application of the EU's asylum system
- Providing the Agency with its own resources and the means to become **a centre of expertise in the field of asylum**

# Expanding the tasks of the Agency

- **Monitor and assess the implementation of the CEAS;**
- **Provide increased operational and technical assistance to Member States** for the management of the asylum and reception systems, in particular in cases of disproportionate pressure.
- **Enhance the practical cooperation and information exchange on asylum;**
- **Promote Union law and operational standards to ensure uniform application of the legal framework on asylum;**
- **Ensure greater convergence in the assessment of protection needs across the Union;**
- **The revised EASO Regulation tasks the Agency to monitor and assess all aspects of the CEAS**
- **The role of the Agency in operational and technical assistance will be significantly expanded**



# THANK YOU!

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