



# 10CF

## EASO then & now: evolution of EASO's activities over the last ten years & future perspectives

10th Consultative Forum virtual Plenary Meeting, 13 & 14 October 2020

### Discussion Paper

### Workshop 3: Vulnerable Groups

#### 1. Background and aim of the workshop

This workshop will address issues related to vulnerable persons in the context of international protection.

In line with its mandate, EASO aims at encouraging practical cooperation and information sharing among EU+ countries and other relevant experts on this topic. To achieve this, EASO integrates aspects related to persons with special needs in all its activities with the final aim of encouraging policy coherence, such as in the context of operations, training and other asylum support activities relating to vulnerable persons.

In order to support practical cooperation and exchange of best practice between EU+ countries in dealing with vulnerable persons, EASO coordinates the Vulnerability Experts Network (VEN). The VEN is composed of Member States authorities, European agencies, civil society organisations, international organisations, and academia. The VEN convenes on a regular basis to discuss and identify priorities and activities to be implemented by EASO.

In order to pro-actively learn and receive input from civil society and to influence EASO's activities related to vulnerability, participants will share challenges and practices and pool knowledge within the Consultative Forum.

#### 2. Structure for the workshop

The first session of the workshop will provide an overview of EASO's activities on persons with special needs, as well as on the VEN, its structure and objectives. Then, the seven priority areas defined by the VEN for 2021 will be presented to the participants. These priorities include the following:



- Dissemination and promotion of the tools
- Mental health
- Victims of torture
- Relocation
- Interviewing applicants with special need (including remote interviews)
- Missing children
- Domestic violence

These themes will be the base for discussion within smaller groups. Each group will select one to three priority areas defined by the VEN and discuss them in more detail, based on the questions as set out below.

After the discussions, participants will reconvene in the plenary and each group will report to all the participants of the workshop on the ideas elaborated within their group. EASO will then deliver a final presentation to the participants of the Consultative Forum, where the most recurrent and promising recommendations elaborated in this specific workshop will be summarized and shared.

### 3. Key questions to be discussed

The main questions that participants will address are:

1. According to your experience, how can EASO and the VEN effectively address these priorities? What specific activities would participants suggest to EASO?
2. Would participants be interested in engaging with EASO during the designing phase of any specific activity? If yes, please explain your interest.
3. What could be the active role of CSO in the implementation phase of these priorities, and activities?
4. How would you strengthen the linkages between CSO and EASO in the area of vulnerability?