



11th EASO Consultative Forum Annual Plenary Meeting

Discussion Paper for workshop on vulnerable applicants

A) Background and aim of the workshop

EASO fosters practical cooperation between Member States and integrates considerations related to vulnerability in all its activities. EASO addresses issues related to vulnerable persons such as children, including unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking in human beings, persons subjected to torture, serious psychological, physical and sexual violence and other cruel and inhuman treatment, persons at risk because of their gender, gender identity or sexual orientation, persons living with disabilities, with mental health concerns, elderly persons, single parents, etc.

EASO supports as well asylum and reception authorities by providing managers and staff working in this field with platforms for exchange and by coordinating thematic meetings on priorities selected, but also through other methods, tools and interventions. To ensure that these meetings, guidance documents and tools developed are relevant, effective and the content is promoted and shared throughout MS's input and participation from civil society is crucial.

B) Structure and format of the workshop

The EASO vulnerability team will be presenting (abt 20min):

- Some follow up to recommendations made by the CF in the past and how they were integrated in EASOs support activities to Member States,
- will provide a snapshot on the current work of EASO on the topic of vulnerability linked to the needs of applicants for international protection
- and lastly, the team will provide CF members with a preview on priorities selected for 2022/23

The priorities will form the base for further discussion in smaller groups with the purpose of identification/sharing of good practices and identifying interest and potential collaboration between EASO and CF members.

EASO priorities selected for 2022/23 jointly with the EASO Vulnerability Experts Network (VEN):

1) Mental Health (MH)

- **Thematic meeting** on special needs related to mental health for children
- **Guidance** on psychosocial programming incl on interviewing techniques and evidence assessments dedicated to Mental Health

2) Children

- **Thematic meeting** on Afghan youth as preparatory activity for potential arrivals

- Development of **standard operating procedures** on transnational procedure for children
- 3) Trafficking in human beings (THB)
- **Thematic meetings** on re-trafficking/protection against trafficking in reception
- 4) Gender based violence (GBV)
- **Guidance** on identification of gender-based violence during the asylum procedure
 - **Thematic meeting/Guidance** on safe reception
- 5) Victims of Torture (VoT)
- **Guidance** on asylum interview and evidence assessment dedicated to victims of torture

Group composition: Based on the number of registrations received for the **workshop on vulnerability** smaller breakout groups will be formed. Participants will discuss the questions listed under point 3 linked by referring to the priorities introduced.

C) Key questions to be discussed

The EASO vulnerability team would like to learn and discuss with participants in smaller groups:

Exchange and learning

Question 2: What linkages to CF members see, if any, to your own priorities selected?

Sharing and listening

Question 1: Are there any good practices by CF members to share on any of the upcoming priorities EASO has shared?

Potential collaboration

Question 3: do CF members see potential and have interest in collaborating with EASO on any of the topics and if so how (e.g. thematic meetings, research, participatory efforts/focus groups, case studies etc)?

Collaboration and support

Question 4: Do CF members see areas they would like EASO to contribute/support on linked to your own priorities selected?