1st Plenary Meeting
EUAA Consultative Forum

Corintha St George’s Hotel
10 November 2022
Opening speech by **Ms Nina Gregori**
EUAA Executive Director
Update and exchange on the situation of asylum in the EU and the Agency’s activities

Presentations by Ms Tsvetelina Kumanova, Head of Operational Programming Sector

Ms Rachelle Cortis, Head of the Training and Professional Development Centre

Mr Bernhard Chiari, Head of Situation Awareness Unit
EUAA Operational Support Centre

Operational and Technical Assistance

- Operational support to Member States, including through deployment of asylum support teams and migration management support teams
- Support for voluntary relocation programmes

Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission

Supporting the implementation of EU+ countries’ resettlement efforts in the framework of European resettlement schemes, in cooperation with the European Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and other relevant actors.
Overview of Operational and Technical Assistance in 2022

12 operational plans (OP) under implementation

- Five multiannual operational plans: Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Malta and Spain
- Seven new operations initiated in the second half of 2021 and in 2022: Lithuania, Latvia, Belgium, The Netherlands, Romania, Czech Republic and Bulgaria

2 ongoing requests

- Slovenia and Austria

1 operation in Moldova

- Support to EU Transfer Programme

Operational budget in 2022

106,000,000 EUR
Operational Plans 2022

Main areas and examples of operational support

**ASYLUM**
- Support in lodging and registering applications for International protection, as well as in information provision
- Support in conducting interviews and drafting opinions
- Support to Dublin Units
- Support to the management of second instance backlog
- Provision of interpretation services
- Capacity building support
- Support with development of operational tools and procedures

**RECEPTION**
- Development and implementation of reception strategies, contingency plans, SOPs, guidance and operational tools
- Support in vulnerability identification, assessment and referrals
- Provision of interpretation services
- Capacity building support
- Provision of material support to improve reception capacities and conditions
- Support in site and facilities management

**TEMPORARY PROTECTION**
- Support for information provision
- Support for registrations and assessment of eligibility criteria, support for assessment of vulnerabilities
- Development, adaptation and dissemination of information tools and guidelines, including leaflets, posters and digital content
- Provision of interpretation services

Provided in the context of seven operational plans
Deployments Overview

The EUAA delivered in 2022 183,225 workdays of operational support until October 31, 2022. MS experts contributed with 4,838 workdays i.e., 2.64%
Asylum Reserve Pool

In accordance with Article 19(6) of the EUAA Regulation, an asylum reserve pool of a minimum of 500 experts shall be set up for the purposes of deploying asylum support teams in the framework of requests for assistance under Article 16(1), point (b), of the EUAA Regulation.

Experts nominated to the Asylum Reserve Pool remain in home institution, but available for deployment (& training) at any time, with 7 days notice if needed.

Asylum Reserve Pool launched on the 27th June.
As of 31 October 2022: 242 MS Experts have been selected for the ARP (contributions from 19 out of 25 MS).
76 MSE have been proposed and are under review.
New **Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism** based on Solidarity Declaration 22 June 2022:

- **5 Benefiting Member States (BMS):** Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain
- **13 Pledging Member States (PMS):** Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Romania
- **Approximately 8,000 pledges:** number of transferred persons (as of last week of October): 117
- **Possibility for financial contributions** by PMS rather than pledging
- Workflow for the Voluntary Relocation Program agreed by MS and COM
- EUAA support in identification of relocation candidates, info provision and interviews, matching, sharing redistribution lists to pledging MS.
- EUAA Data Sharing Platform and harmonised operational tools and templates shared by EUAA.
Resettlement Support Facility

Since 2019, the EUAA established and is operating a Resettlement Support Facility (RSF) in Istanbul. Since 2021 EUAA cooperates with the Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) Croatia and its partner, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) for the implementation of the RSF.

The RSF is a ‘one-stop-shop’ aimed at supporting the resettlement operations of EU+ countries from Türkiye.

The Resettlement operations are remote, face to face and hybrid selection missions / interviews or information provision missions (cultural orientation or pre departure orientation) for refugees residing in Türkiye referred by UNHCR for resettlement to EU+ countries.

RSF Services

- Interview scheduling
- Interpretation services
- Medical screening assessment
- Childcare
- Administrative, technical and IT support
- Facilitating travel arrangements for refugees
- Communication with refugees
- Provision of accommodation and meals to refugees
Training and Professional Development Centre

EUAA Training Mandate

What is new on Training?

01. Target Audience
02. Additional thematic areas
03. FRO and CF to be consulted
04. Asylum and Reception authorities
European asylum curriculum

Foundation modules

Vulnerability modules

Core modules for caseworkers

Advanced core modules for caseworkers

Advanced vulnerability modules for caseworkers

Modules on interpretation

Exclusion and End of protection modules

Registration

Modules for managers

Reception modules

COI and MedCOI

Dublin modules

Resettlement modules
European asylum curriculum

Modules on interpretation
- Working with an interpreter
- Interpreting in the asylum context

Regulation modules
- Registration: access
- Registration: lodging

Reception modules
- Introduction to reception
- Health, safety and security in reception
- Psychosocial support and guidance in reception
- Conflict management and mediation in reception
- Technical reception standards
- Conflict management and mediation in reception
- Identification of Vulnerable Persons B: needs assessment and design of interventions

Foundation modules
- Introduction to the legal framework on fundamental rights and international protection in the EU
- Introduction to vulnerability
- Introduction to ethical and professional standards
- Introduction to communication for asylum and reception practitioners
- Professional wellbeing

Vulnerability modules
- Children in the asylum process
- Trafficking of Human Beings
- Gender-based violence
- Applicants with diverse SOGIE

Modules for caseworkers
- Core modules for caseworkers
  - Inclusion
  - Asylum Interview Method
  - Evidence Assessment
  - Interviewing vulnerable persons
- Advanced core modules for caseworkers
  - Inclusion advanced
  - Advanced interviewing
- Advanced vulnerability modules for caseworkers
  - Managing cases with children
  - Managing THB cases
  - Managing GBV cases
  - Managing cases of applicants with diverse SOGIE

Exclusion and End of protection modules
- Identification of potential exclusion cases
- Exclusion
- Managing exclusion cases
- End of protection

COI and MedCOI
- Management in the reception context
- Management in the asylum context

Modules for managers
- Introductory
- Intermediate
- Advanced
European Asylum Curriculum for trainers
Training under the EUAA Operations

12 Operational Plans in place

Support in the areas of asylum, reception and temporary protection

Training plans per OP, targeting the needs of national officials and EUAA Asylum Support Teams
Training support in the context of the war in Ukraine

Special planner and brochure

Training activities:
- Tailor made (TP legal and policy framework, communication and info provision, including to specific groups)
- Modules

Delivered under the frameworks of:
- Permanent Support and
- Operational support
Involvement of Civil Society in training development

Involvement in the past and step forward

- Pilot Project on consultation
  - SOGIESC, Children, Intro to reception, GBV
- EUAA art. 50
  - Extension of the consultation on Eac

- CSOs in Training development
- In EUAA training curriculum
  - COI, Interpreting in the asylum context, Inclusion Advanced
- CF participation
  - high participation of CF members in consultation
Pilot Project – Consultation on selected training modules

High participation of CF members

- Applicants with diverse SOGIESC: 5 CF members consulted
- Children in the asylum process: 4 CF members consulted
- Introduction to Reception: 5 CF members consulted
- GBV: 2 CF members expressed interests – consultation ongoing

21 CF members will be consulted
Consultation on selected training modules

Next steps in consultation of civil society

2023 Thematic meeting on training – planning of activities

Call for expression of interests

Selection of CF members for consultation

Sharing the training materials and the template for providing comments
2022-2023 Developments and priorities (provisional)

VULNERABILITY PATH
- Children in the asylum process
- Managing cases with children
- Managing cases of applicants with diverse SOGIESC
- Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)
- Managing THB cases
- Victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- Managing GBV cases

ADVANCED FOR CASEWORKERS
- Inclusion advanced
- Advanced interviewing
- Interviewing Vulnerable Persons
- Age assessment

RECEPTION PATH
- Introduction to reception
- Reception of Vulnerable Persons (A)
- Conflict management and mediation in reception
- Psychosocial support and guidance in reception
- Health, safety and security in reception
- Technical reception standards

REGISTRATION
- Access to the asylum procedure
- Registration lodging
Situational Awareness Unit: Information and Analysis

Annual report on the situation of asylum in the EU
presenting developments in asylum trends and policies, sharing best practices and summarising challenges

Information and Analysis on Developments in Asylum
collecting information and producing analysis of developments in legislation, policies, practices and jurisprudence related to asylum, databases

Data analysis and research
research on the root causes of asylum-related migration as well as analysis on asylum trends, support to EUAA Operations
Regular portfolio

Thematic

- Ukraine situation (weekly)
- Afghanistan situation
- Western Balkan VTC (bi-weekly)
- Belarus-Lithuania border (weekly)
- Contribution to ISAA report (ad hoc)

Support to COM/Blueprint network

- Flexible according to needs and requests
- E.g. Asylum Trends and COVID-19 (2020)

Ad hoc
Situational Awareness Unit: Way ahead

**Products & Services**
- Reports and fact sheets (public)
- EPS dissemination
- IDS, Case Law Database

**Data collection**
- Own sensors embedded (SAM-UKR)
- Dissemination on the ground, in social media, and via NCP/NGOs
- Joint analyses (recent examples: IOM, OECD, Frontex)
Country of Origin Information (COI)

**COI production and methodology**
- EU+ common methodology
- Reports, queries, factsheets
- COI for country guidance
- COI for safe countries concepts

**COI support to operations**
- COI support and capacity building for EU+ and third countries.

**COI Networks**
- Networks of COI country specialists from EU+ countries
- Strategic Network + 12 country specific networks

**COI Portal**
- Common portal for EUAA and EU+ COI products
  - [https://coi.euaa.europa.eu](https://coi.euaa.europa.eu)
Country Guidance

Joint analysis and common guidance: qualification for international protection.

*New obligation for Member States to take the guidance notes and common analysis into account (Article 11 EUAA Regulation).

*New feedback surveys to collect your input and provide insight into the use and impact of the different country guidance documents.

Share your feedback!

Afghanistan: Apr '22
Next update: '23

Iraq: Jun '22
Next update: tbc

Nigeria: Oct '21
Next update: tbc

Somalia: Jun '22
Next update: '23

Syria: Nov '21
Next update: '23
Asylum and Reception Cooperation and Guidance Networks

- Ukraine: Processing applications; Exclusion; private housing
- Political Opinion
- The use of open-source intelligence
- Family reunification
- Dublin transfers

Network Meetings

- Interpretation in the asylum procedure
- Mental health in the reception context

Exchange programs

- Interviewing applicants with religion-based claims
- Evidence assessment
- Political opinion
- Military service in asylum applications
- Recommendation on: family reunification; Dublin transfers
- Modular Reception Capacity Toolkit
- Information provision: access to procedure; temporary protection; self-identification of vulnerabilities and special needs

Practical tools and guides

- Operational support

Provide technical support on asylum procedure and reception to EUAA operations on an ongoing basis.
2022 Topics and activities on vulnerability

**Mental Health**
- Support for children and women during high influx situations
- Guidance on Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

**Children**
Development of a tool for guardians

**Torture**
Thematic meeting on victims of torture

**Gender based violence and SOGIESC**
- Ukraine humanitarian crisis: coordination and response to GBV"
- Practical guidance on SOGIESC related issues

**Trafficking in human beings**
Access to asylum for THB victims

**Ongoing/planned projects**
- Vulnerability toolkit
- Vulnerability Strategy
- Standards and indicators on vulnerability
EUAA Support to Courts and Tribunals

EUAA COURTS AND TRIBUNALS NETWORK
NCPs from the 27 MS (+ NO & CH), CJEU and ECtHR, FRA, UNHCR, ERA, EJTN, IARMJ and AEAJ

EUAA POOL OF JUDICIAL EXPERTS

EUAA JUDICIAL PUBLICATIONS
consulted with the Consultative Forum cover most of CEAS in 14 languages available to download on EUAA website hard copies upon request to judicialsupport@euaa.europa.eu

EUAA JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES:
- Workshops in MT and EU
- Judicial Regional Activities
- Expert Panels
- High Level Conference with CJEU and ECtHR
EUAA Monitoring Project
Milestones

✓ Project kick-off: internal organisation
  • Consultations with key stakeholders
  • Development of Methodology and Programme
  • Adoption by the EUAA Management Board
  • First pilot monitoring exercise - lessons learned
  • Project closure

Full scale implementation of first phase of the monitoring
Consultative Forum under the EUAA

Presentation by Ms Sheila Maas, CF Secretariat, EU Affairs Sector
EUAA Consultative Forum Meeting

Transitioning from CF EASO to CF EUAA

- Looking back on CF EASO
- EUAA Regulation and changes to the CF
- Transition CF EASO to CF EUAA
- Next steps
Background/context to the (EASO) Consultative Forum

What is the Consultative Forum?

• Civil Society Platform
• Defined in Founding Regulation
• Objective = close dialogue
• CF as mechanism for exchange of information and pooling of knowledge

CF activities & cooperation with civil society

Meetings

Consultations

Direct participation selected CSOs
Participation of selected CSOs across Agency activities

CF Meetings

Electronic consultations

Direct involvement by selected/expert CSO

VEN
- Advisory Group > 30 CSOs

Training
- Reference Group

Thematic cooperation
- Reference/Working Group

COI
- Specialised CSOs

External Dim
- Relevant CSOs consulted during needs assessment

Resettlement & Hum Adm
- Participation expert CSOs

Operations
- Cooperation in the field
Main changes of the CF EUAA

The EUAA Regulation reinforces the CF’s role and foresees changes to its composition, activities and areas of consultation

- Part of Agency’s structure
- Exercises tasks independently
- Advise MB and ED on asylum-related matters
- Revised composition, activities, areas of consultation
# MB Decision on the Consultative Forum

What does it include?

## Chapter 1: General Provisions
- Composition
- Process to become member to CF
- Withdrawal or revocation of membership
- Thematic consultation groups
- Working methods
- Declaration of interests

## Chapter 2: Conditions for transmitting information
- CF meetings
- Consultations and inform about ongoing work
- CF to communicate relevant conclusions, findings of its work
- Rules on sharing sensitive non-classified information
EUAA Consultative Forum composition (type of organisations)

Total number of CF Members: 101
EUAA Consultative Forum composition (geographic distribution)

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Lithuania
Malta
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The Netherlands
State of play in the transition of CF EASO to CF EUAA

Consultations

Call for expressions of interest

MB Decision

CF reconstituted

First Meeting
Election Chair a.i.

Development working methods by CF
The CF Working Methods

Examples of elements that it can include – to be discussed by CF members

• Objectives for the Consultative Forum
• General principles of working
• Governance structure
• Decision-making
• Planning of CF work and implementation of activities
• Communication channels and tools
• Cooperation with the Fundamental Rights Officer
• Specific working methods for the thematic consultation groups on COI and VG