

**OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-2024**  
**AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM AND THE**  
**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**  
**Amendment 2**

Valletta Harbour and Nicosia

The Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum (hereinafter 'EUAA' or the 'Agency')

and

The Minister of the Interior and the Chief Registrar of the Republic of Cyprus (hereinafter 'Member State'),

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/20101 (hereinafter referred to as 'EUAA Regulation'), and in particular Article 1, Article 2, Article 3, Articles 16 to 20 and Articles 23 to 28 thereof,

Having regard to the Amendment 1 of the Operational Plan 2022-2024 of 7 June 2022 agreed between the European Asylum Support Office and Cyprus, with an implementation period between 01 January 2022 and 31 December 2024.

Considering the changes in the operational context in light of the invasion of Ukraine launched by Russian armed forces; as well as the adoption of the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection,

In light of the most recent developments in the operational context and the relevant needs expressed by the national authorities,

Hereby agree on the present Amendment 2 of the Operational Plan (hereinafter 'the Plan') for the provision of technical and operational assistance by EUAA to Cyprus.

The present Amendment 2 supersedes Amendment 1 of 7 June 2022 and is binding in its entirety, including annexes.

The implementation period of the Plan shall be until 31 December 2024.

The Plan enters into force on the date after it has been signed by all Parties.

EUAA shall share a copy of the Plan with the Members of the EUAA Management Board for information. The Plan will be made publicly available on the EUAA website.

Valletta Harbour and Nicosia.

Executive Director of the  
European Union Agency for  
Asylum

Nina Gregori

Minister of Interior for the  
Republic of Cyprus

Nicos Nouris

Chief Registrar

Eirini Christodoulou

Date

Date

Date

## 1.0. INTRODUCTION

An Operational Plan addresses the specific needs of the requesting Member State(s) with regard to:

- operational and technical needs of the Member State(s) whose asylum and/or reception systems are subject to disproportionate pressure;
- operational and technical reinforcement needs of the Member State(s) facing disproportionate migratory challenges;
- the implementation of its(their) obligations under the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

The Plan provides the framework for delivery of technical and operational assistance by the European Union Agency for Asylum, including the deployment of asylum support teams.

## 2.0. OPERATIONAL SITUATION, NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND OBJECTIVES

The organisational structure and human resourcing of the asylum and reception systems in Cyprus struggle to respond to the increasing demand and pressure. This contributes to the limited absorption capacity of the backlog of applicants for international protection, both at first instance determination and determination at appeal. With the national strategy on reception not yet endorsed and operationalised, knock-on effects continue to impact the functioning of the asylum and reception practices leading to ad-hoc decisions and workflows. The amendments of the Refugees Law<sup>1</sup> and Aliens and Immigration Law (Cap.105)<sup>2</sup> in October 2020, give the Senior Immigration Officer (Minister of the Interior) the authority to delegate issuance of a decision of return or removal or deportation order in a single administrative act at the same time of issuing a rejection decision on an asylum application. The specific amendment has an impact on the accelerated procedure, the regular procedure, and subsequent applications and it triggers the need for more harmonized workflows.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the flow of arrivals of migrants seeking international protection in Cyprus has remained high, placing significant pressure on both the asylum procedure and the reception capacity. In 2020, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated mobility restrictions, Cyprus only received about 7,400 asylum applications, a considerable drop of 46% compared to the previous year. However, by the end of October 2021, Cyprus has already registered 10,003 applications (+74% compared to the same period in 2020), the vast majority of these concerned irregular entries via the Green Line. The EUAA registered 48% of all registrations in Cyprus in the first nine months of 2021 and approximately 66% of the irregular entry registration performed in Cyprus<sup>3</sup>. By the end of October 2022, Cyprus has received over 17,000 asylum applications (approximately +70% compared to the same period in 2021). Of these, the vast majority of registrations concern irregular entries crossing the Green Line. The EUAA in 2022 has completed on average approximately 89% of all registrations conducted in Cyprus (+26% compared to the same period in the previous year).

According to the EU-Cyprus Action Plan on Migration Management, and in line with the Standard Operating Procedures<sup>4</sup> applicable to the Pournara First Reception Centre, jointly agreed in 2020, Cyprus decided to refer all new arrivals to 'Pournara', including for the initial stages of the asylum procedure e.g. up to the submission of the asylum application there. An Examination Centre adjacent to 'Pournara'

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<sup>1</sup> Refugee Law 2000 (6(I)/2000) EL: Ο περί Προσφύγων Νόμος του 2000 (6(I)/2000) amended by Act N.142(I)/2020 (12/10/2020).

<sup>2</sup> Aliens and Immigration Law (Cap.105) Ο περί Αλλοδαπών και Μεταναστεύσεως Νόμος (ΚΕΦ.105) amended by N.116(I)/2020 (17/8/2020) and N.143(I)/2020 (12/10/2020):

<sup>3</sup> According to data shared by CAS to CYOPS. The figure it is an approximation, since there are registrations categorised as "unknown".

<sup>4</sup> Standard Operating Procedures applicable to 'Pournara' Ref. ARES(2020)3974972 – 28/07/2020.

was moreover created. The services provided in 'Pournara' include identification, registration, and lodging of asylum applications, as well as medical screening and vulnerability assessments. The full assessment of asylum applications can be conducted at the Asylum Examination Centre adjacent to 'Pournara' First Reception Centre. Further, a 'Safe Zone' for vulnerable applicants, with a capacity for 80 applicants, became operational in August of 2022.

Based on the existing needs highlighted during the needs assessment exercise, the proposed focus of the cooperation between the EUAA and the national counterparts in registration and access to the asylum procedure will be a) operational and quality-focused support to Pournara First Reception Centre (FRC), implementing clear standardised procedure for registrations from the making to lodging in all locations where registrations take place; b) capacity building for stakeholders present in Pournara First Reception Centre and in general for AIU aiming at the roll out consistent registration standards and practices for both regular and irregular entries and at a closer adherence to CEAS standards and Dublin regulation provisions; c) surge capacity for registration support across the national territory.

By the end of 2020, Cyprus had approximately 19,000 applicants pending at first instance, ranking 7th among the other Member States. Between January and July 2021, Cyprus issued some 7,600 decisions, nearly five times as many as those issued during the same period last year and received approximately 7,000 new applications. Between February and March 2021, Cyprus issued more decisions than it received applications. At the end of September 2021, 16,990 applications were still awaiting a first instance decision, albeit 9% fewer compared to the same period last year. Having said this, pending cases continue to rise and, in parallel, so does the backlog. The vast majority of the unresolved applications were pending at first instance. By the third quarter of 2022, the number of pending cases has increased by approximately +39% compared to the same period in the previous year and is forecasted to reach a total of over 30,000 pending cases by the end of the year. The backlog continues to rise in parallel, making up on average 58% of the overall number of pending cases.

Therefore, the proposed line of support regarding first instance determination will be focused on a) supporting CAS in their efforts to reduce the backlog at first instance by assisting with the examination of applications of international protection, with a focus in older more complex cases and vulnerable and/or any other type of cases as per emerging needs in coordination with the national authorities and backlog management strategy b) explore alternative options for support, including alternative deployment modalities c) overall support to enhance capacity, efficiency and quality of the procedure with the aim of supporting the gradual standardisation of the asylum procedure.

Regarding determination in appeal, as of the end of October 2021, 6,225 cases are pending at the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC), recorded an increase of +423% of the backlog compared to January 2021, when 1,191 cases were pending. The number of appeals registered increased dramatically from January (128) to the peak of April (984) and then decreased to 866 in October. On average, in 2021, 758 appeals were registered monthly at the IPAC. At the end of March of 2022, the backlog of appeals was mainly constituted by cases lodged in 2021 (73%) and less than 2% of the backlog referred to cases older than 2020. The top 5 nationalities registering an appeal in October of 2021 were: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Cameroon, Nigeria. Throughout 2022, as the number of arrivals increase and first instance decisions are issued, direct effects are felt at second instance, where, by the end of the third quarter a backlog of 7823 cases were pending at the IPAC (+30% compared to the same period in the previous year).

Therefore, the proposed line of cooperation regarding second instance determination will be focused on a) backlog reduction, b) supporting the creation of efficient management workflows, c) administrative level, by supporting the administrative and statistical tasks of the IPAC and enhancing the procedural rules of the Court, d) establishment of a shared, translated, repository of information to be accessed by research officers to further enhance and expediate the research process, e) coordination (with CAS and internally) and quality, through supporting the development of quality control mechanisms and the overall coordination of deployed EUAA personnel.

Regarding reception, the EUAA operations throughout 2021 have been focused on supporting CAS with the development of the National Reception Strategy. The strategy has not formally been adopted in

2022, however the EUAA continued to support the Cypriot authorities in improving reception conditions in Cyprus, specifically through an investment in improving reception infrastructure through the installation of containers. As mentioned above, the Safe Zone was delivered in August of 2022 with a capacity to host 80 applicants. Currently, the population consists of UAMs, single women and women with children. In Kofinou, the initiation of the Kofinou plans throughout 2022 have progressed according to schedule with the Phase 2 upgrade of the Red Zone due to have containers delivered and installation completed by early 2023.

In line with the objectives of 2021 Operational Plan for Cyprus, the EUAA shall continue supporting the Cypriot Asylum Service (CAS), in close consultation with the Commission, with the implementation of a functional Reception Model for Cyprus including support with management capacity and development of relevant SOPs and workflows along with the continuation of reception support in reception facilities, with an increased focus on quality and capacity building.

On 24 February 2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine led to a nationwide humanitarian emergency. The resulting influx of refugees to the European Union led to Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022, where Art.3 par.2 stipulates that the EUAA should provide operational support to Member States that have requested assistance to help them cope with the situation, including for the purposes of applying the aforementioned Decision. In Cyprus, the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 was activated by Ministerial Decision on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022, and the article 20 of the Cyprus Refugee Laws which incorporates the Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/EC.

Against this backdrop on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 the Cypriot authorities requested support from the EUAA for the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive in Cyprus via a letter addressed to the Executive Director of the EUAA. Following this, the EUAA Executive Director on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May responded to the request confirming EUAA capacity to support with the allocation of new resources as needed.

Between March 14 and May 9 2022, a total of 12,142 Ukrainian nationals have arrived in Cyprus and in the same period 10,093 Ukrainians have registered for temporary protection. In Cyprus, Ukrainian nationals who are eligible to register for temporary protection can do so either via an online application or at district immigration offices. To date a total of 4,344 applications have been lodged online, 558 in offices in Nicosia, 1,135 in Larnaca, 412 in Famagusta, 2,719 Limassol and 1,291 in Paphos.

The EUAA is committed to supporting Cypriot authorities in implementing transfer exercises, as requested and in the case of pledges being offered to Cyprus from other Member States. In August of 2022, the solidarity platform was activated with Cyprus as a benefitting member state. Following the initial receipt of pledges from France and Germany, workflows were launched in Cyprus to identify eligible candidates to include in the exercise. Until the end of September, a total of 1293 candidates were offered relocation out of which, 1008 candidates were identified as eligible for matching. By the end of September, a total of 270 candidates had been proposed for redistribution in the two redistribution lists compiled for France and Germany. Additional redistribution lists are to be compiled for Bulgaria, Germany, France, Luxemburg and Romania.

Therefore, the proposed line of cooperation regarding Dublin and the relocation exercises will be focused on a) enhancing support to the Dublin Unit at CAS, improving the adherence to procedure and processing capacity of the Unit given the expected increase in pressure on the Unit resulting from requests forwarded by the relocation exercise, b) providing operational support to the relocation exercise enhancing the capacity of the Cypriot authorities to respond to pledges.

Considering the above, beyond offering day-to-day support to all phases of the asylum procedure and to reception, the needs assessment identified additional crosscutting needs relating to quality, procedures and capacity building. Specifically, this relates to the standardisation and harmonisation of cross cutting quality systems as a growing need, with a number of procedures in Cyprus lacking clear and established workflows. The EUAA will assist with the streamlining and standardising of quality procedures through implementing tools and templates, SOPs and other quality assurance mechanisms.

This will be further facilitated by a horizontal quality, procedures and capacity building function which will work across measures to support with implementing quality throughout the OP. To complement the work that the horizontal team will develop and implement capacity building activities and relevant thematic workshops. Additionally, the team will support with the implementation of trainings for relevant stakeholders as jointly identified with the national authorities through the annual Training Needs Assessments (TNA) conducted by C2 Training and Professional Development and reflected in the Training Plan.

Special needs/vulnerability identification, assessment and referral mechanisms, across asylum and reception process. The EUAA assistance with the quality of the asylum procedure could also include capacity building activities to strengthen the knowledge of the procedure and legal framework for Cyprus authorities.

In accordance with the operational situation and needs assessment described herewith, the Parties agree to pursue the achievement of the following operational objectives and results:

- **Expected Outcome CY 1.1.:** By the end of 2024, access to asylum procedure in Cyprus complied with CEAS and followed a harmonised workflow.
- **Expected Outcome CY 1.2.:** By the end of 2024, the asylum processing capacity of CAS was enhanced with efficient case management procedures for the examination of pending applications for international protection in line with CEAS.
- **Expected Outcome CY 1.3.:** By the end of 2024, the IPAC had a strengthened capacity to manage second instance appeals in line with CEAS.
- **Expected Outcome CY 2.1.:** By the end of 2024, reception standards in the locations supported by the EUAA improved in line with CEAS.
- **Expected Outcome CY 2.2.:** By the end of 2024, the CY authorities have enhanced their capacity in strategically planning and managing the reception framework in line with CEAS.
- **Expected Outcome CY 3.1.:** By the end of 2024, the Cypriot authorities will have an enhanced capacity to manage and promptly process outgoing Dublin cases according to CEAS.
- **Expected Outcome CY 3.2.:** Functional mechanism for cooperation/ solidarity among EU MS and relocation exercises from Cyprus was implemented following a request in line with the EU legal framework.
- **Expected Outcome CY 4.1.:** Enhanced capacity of the Cypriot national authorities to effectively implement the Temporary Protection Directive.

The agreed outcomes shall be achieved through the implementation of the measures specified in Annex I to the Plan.

The designated Plan Coordinator(s), with the support of the Measure Coordinator(s) where relevant, shall follow up the implementation of the Plan through mechanisms and tools deemed appropriate by the implementing Parties, such as a joint quarterly steering committee or other.

The agreed measures may be subject to annual and/or *ad-hoc* reviews as necessary to ensure their continued relevance and added value.

### **3.0. MAIN RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES**

The following section lists the host Member State's national stakeholders responsible for the implementation of various phases and procedures of the asylum and reception processes. Some of the counterparts listed below may also be involved in the implementation of this Plan are the following:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Asylum Service, Ministry of the Interior	<p>The Asylum Service (CAS) is responsible for the first instance determination of asylum applications, including the determination of the Member States responsible under the Dublin III Regulation criteria. Pursuant to the latest amendments of the Refugees Law the Asylum Service is authorised to issue with a negative decision a return decision in a single administrative act. If no response received by the rejected applicant about voluntary return or request for assisted voluntary return, then the return decision is referred to Aliens and Immigration Unit (AIU) who remains in charge for execution of return decisions and deportation orders.</p> <p>The decisions are based on the Refugee Law (6(1)/2000) and its subsequent amendments.</p> <p>The Asylum Service is also responsible, by the Refugee Law, for the operation of reception and accommodation centres for asylum seekers, as well as for coordinating all other competent authorities on asylum issues.</p>
Aliens and Immigration Unit to the Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order	<p>The Aliens and Immigration Unit to the Police (AIU) is primarily responsible for receiving and registering applications for international protection on behalf of the Asylum Service (including fingerprinting for EURODAC and Dublin purposes). AIU is also responsible for implementing detention and deportation orders issued by the Director of the Civil Registry and Migration Department (CRMD). The Cypriot police is also responsible for facilitating and maintaining migration related IT-systems, such as the Eurodac and DubliNet NAP. To both systems, large works are expected to take place in the coming years.</p>
Civil Registry and Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior	<p>Civil Registry and Migration Department (CRMD) is the result of the consolidation of the Migration, Registration and Election Services, which were part of the Ministry of the Interior. CRMD is competent for civil registry and migration matters, such as issuance of residence permits to third country nationals who are holders of international protection status, handling applications for family reunification and issuing of entry and residence permits.</p>
Social Welfare Services, Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare	<p>The Social Welfare Services (SWS) carry the responsibility for the provision of Social Welfare Services to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. Where the applicant is an unaccompanied minor, the Director of the SWS acts as the guardian of the minor during the asylum procedure. SWS takes all measures necessary under the Refugee Laws and Regulations under it on the minor's behalf and to their best interest including in respect to the asylum procedure.</p>
Ministry of Health	<p>According to the Refugee Law, applicants for international protection are entitled to medical treatment free of charge at public hospitals and health centres, when the applicant does not have sufficient funds. The Ministry of Health is responsible for coordinating access to health services with public healthcare providers (OKYPY) for asylum seekers.</p> <p>Obligatory medical screening examinations also take place at public hospitals, under the leadership and supervision of OKYPY, upon the submission of the application for international protection.</p>

Organisation	Responsibilities
International Protection Administrative Court	The IPAC began operating as of 18 June 2019 with appeals submitted before the court as of July 2019. The IPAC is competent for examining appeals relating to provisions of the Refugee Law. Appeals have a suspensive effect, and both facts and points of law are examined. With a constitutional amendment, in September of 2020 the time limit to appeal before the IPAC was reduced. Following the constitutional amendment allowing for an exception from the general 75-day time limit for an appeal against a negative decision of the Asylum Service before the Administrative Court, the time limits to lodge an appeal against a final decision of the Asylum Service in front of the IPAC were amended by a legislative act into: 30 days for the regular procedure and 15 days for the accelerated procedure and for detention orders. Additionally, the time limits to launch an appeal against a decision of the International Protection Administrative Court was reduced to 14 days from 42 days.
Supreme Court	The Supreme Court of Cyprus is the highest court of the Republic. All appeal decisions taken by the IPAC can be further appealed before the Supreme Court. At this level, they will not have a suspensive effect and only points of law are examined.

#### 4.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

EUAA is implementing a structured Monitoring and Evaluation methodology allowing evidence-based measurement of progress, corrective action-taking and reflective reviews.

In terms of monitoring, EUAA is making use of a number of tools developed in order to collect input from the implementation of the Plan and to guarantee feedback in real time.

Results from the monitoring activities shall be reported through mechanisms deemed appropriate by the implementing Parties, such as steering meetings or other.

Periodic or mid-term and final (ex-post) evaluations<sup>5</sup> can be carried out in order to take stock of lessons learned and good practices. The evaluation(s) will be conducted in line with EUAA's Evaluation Framework, which is based on the European Commission's Better Regulation methodological guidelines for evaluations. They may be performed externally through engagement of evaluation specialist(s), internally by Agency staff, or a hybrid approach.

In order to ensure completeness of evaluations and to take into account the views and feedback from the Parties involved, senior and other key persons from the National Authorities of the host Member State may be invited to interviews with the evaluators or to provide feedback by alternative means. The National Authorities shall commit to supporting the evaluation process and participating in such engagements with evaluators by mutually agreed appointments.

An evaluation report on the results of the operational and technical measures shall be submitted to the Management Board on conclusion of an evaluation. The report on the final (ex post) evaluation will be due within 60 days from the end of the provision of operational and technical measures. For transparency and accountability purposes, evaluation report(s) may be made publicly available on the

<sup>5</sup> Article 16(4) and Article 18(2)(k) EUAA Regulation.

Agency's website after internal checks have been made to ensure compliance with the applicable provisions in Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725<sup>6</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001<sup>7</sup>.

Other monitoring and evaluation deliverables, as applicable, shall be shared with the host Member State and communicated to the EUAA governance structure (e.g. Management Board members and National Contact Points) where relevant.

## **5.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

### **5.1 General legal basis for the Plan**

In accordance with Article 1 of the EUAA Regulation, the Agency shall contribute to ensuring the efficient and uniform application of Union law on asylum in the Member States in a manner that fully respects fundamental rights. The Agency shall facilitate and support the activities of the Member States in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), including by enabling convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection across the Union and by coordinating and strengthening practical cooperation and information exchange. The Agency, shall improve the functioning of the CEAS, including through the monitoring mechanism and by providing operational and technical assistance to Member States, in particular where their asylum and reception systems are under disproportionate pressure.

Article 2 of the EUAA Regulation specifies the tasks the Agency is entrusted to perform, while in accordance with Article 3 thereof, each Member State shall appoint at least one national contact point for communication with the Agency on matters relating to the tasks referred to in Article 2.

The Agency shall provide operational and technical assistance to a Member State in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the EUAA Regulation.

### **5.2. Legal framework applicable to the Plan**

EUAA activities performed in the context of the operational and technical assistance as identified in this Plan are in principle governed by EU law, complemented, where appropriate, by the national law of the host Member State. This includes, inter-alia, the safety and security of persons and assets participating in those EUAA activities.

### **5.3. Lawfulness and Respect for Fundamental Rights**

This Plan shall be implemented by the Parties in full compliance with the applicable law, and with full respect to human dignity. This includes, inter alia, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, as well as the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951.

Any person contributing to EUAA operational support activities and taking part in the implementation of the Plan shall respect the applicable International law, European Union law and the national law of the host Member State. They shall maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct, professionalism, respect and promotion of fundamental rights and international protection.

They are to act responsibly and proportionally to the agreed objectives. Whilst carrying out supporting functions, all personnel must not discriminate persons on grounds of sex, race, religion, ethnic origin,

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<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, (OJ L 145, 31.05.2001, p. 43).

age or sexual orientation. All persons are expected to treat every person with courtesy, respect and due consideration for the nature of any legitimate activity in which they are engaged. To perform their duties properly, they shall serve the public interest and refrain from any activities which could undermine or compromise their independence and the appropriate performance of their duties.

During the implementation of this Plan, all personnel must apply a zero-tolerance attitude with respect to the infringement of fundamental human rights.

This obligation is particularly important when dealing with persons who are in need of international protection. To that end, participants in EUAA operational support under this Plan shall comply and act in accordance with the 'EUAA Code of Conduct for persons participating in EUAA operational support activities'. Participants in operational support activities will be requested to sign a declaration on compliance with the EUAA Code of Conduct.

Participants in EUAA's operational activities<sup>8</sup> who have reason to believe that a violation of the EUAA Code of Conduct has occurred or is about to occur, are obliged to report the matter to the Executive Director of EUAA and to the host Member State Coordinator for the Plan via the appropriate channel: [complaints\\_operations@euaa.europa.eu](mailto:complaints_operations@euaa.europa.eu). Such an incident is to be reported using the **Incident Report Form (Annex II)**.

Pursuant to Article 49 of the EUAA Regulation, a Fundamental Rights Officer appointed by the Management Board shall be responsible for ensuring the Agency's compliance with fundamental rights in the context of its activities and promoting the respect of fundamental rights by the Agency. The Fundamental Rights Officer shall, *inter alia*, provide observations to the detailed evaluation reports, and be in charge of implementing the complaints mechanism of the EUAA<sup>9</sup>.

Under the complaints mechanism set up by the Agency<sup>10</sup>, any person who is directly affected by the actions of experts in the asylum support teams, and who considers that his or her fundamental rights have been breached due to those actions, or any party representing such a person, may submit a complaint in writing to the Agency.

#### **5.4. Confidentiality, Public Access to Documents and Data Protection, Intellectual property rights**

Without prejudice to the right of access to documents, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001<sup>11</sup> and the EUAA implementing rules on access to documents<sup>12</sup>, all versions of this document shall be made available to the competent authorities in each EU Member State, as well as the associate countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

EUAA and the host Member State shall consult each other on any requests for public access to documents relating to this Plan and treat such requests in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 or the respective national law, whichever is applicable.

Personal data will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. The current Plan also takes into account the General Data Protection Regulation as updated in May 2018<sup>13</sup> with a Corrigendum to the 2016/679 Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such

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<sup>8</sup> The 'participants in EUAA's operational activities' are to be construed as persons deployed to asylum support teams ('AST') referred to in Section 6.3. of the Plan.

<sup>9</sup> As soon as it is established in the EUAA.

<sup>10</sup> As soon as it is established in the EUAA.

<sup>11</sup> Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001, regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents

<sup>12</sup> Decision No. 6 of the Management Board of EASO of 20 September 2011 laying down practical arrangements regarding public access to the documents of EASO

<sup>13</sup> Corrigendum, OJ L 127, 23.5.2018, p. 2 ((EU) 2016/679)

data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (Data Protection Directive), which is applicable to stakeholders at national level.

Whenever personal data is processed by EUAA within the activities agreed in the current Plan, EUAA will act as data processor on behalf of the competent authorities of the host Member State, following the applicable EU and national laws and regulations, as well as the instructions received from the Host Member State as the data controller.

In order to perform their tasks in accordance with this Plan, participants to activities under this Plan are only allowed to access the databases mentioned below, under section 6.

EUAA will implement the necessary technical and organisational measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of the personal data it processes taking into account possible additional instructions received from the host Member State. This is to prevent any unauthorised disclosure of or access to this information.

The host Member State agrees that any personal data obtained in the course of the implementation of the Plan and by any EUAA personnel working on behalf of the Member State authorities can be processed in the EUAA IT systems, including cloud-based systems, exclusively under the instructions of the Member State and until an alternative system exists that can substitute the processing system used by EUAA.

The host Member State also agrees to indicate a contact point in view of its role as a data controller for any data processed by EUAA on behalf of the national authorities of the host Member State.

All rights in any writings or other work produced by members of asylum support teams shall be the property of EUAA and/or the European Union, where such writings or work relate to activities undertaken in the context of the Plan. EUAA and/or the European Union acquires irrevocably ownership of the results and of all intellectual property rights, such as copyright, and industrial property rights, on the materials produced specifically for EUAA under the Plan and incorporated in such works, without prejudice, however, to the specific rules concerning pre-existing rights on pre-existing materials or other detailed rules contained in the relevant Framework Contracts concluded by EUAA for purposes related to the implementation of this Plan. Selected deliverables developed under this Plan may be published.

### **5.5. Civil and criminal liability of members of the Asylum Support Team**

Articles 26 and 27 of the EUAA Regulation will be applicable to the members of the asylum support teams deployed in the host Member State.

### **5.6. Non-substantial changes during implementation**

The Plan aims to provide effective and flexible support to the identified needs of the host Member State. Therefore, the foreseen activities will be implemented in consideration of the changing circumstances which may occur in the international protection and reception systems in the Member States or on the ground, as well as in the context of the availability of financial resources and experts.

The implementation of measures and delivery of technical and operational assistance foreseen in the Plan may be subject to non-substantial changes that may be accommodated within the objectives of a measure, so long as they do not affect the overall EUAA budget, do not require an amendment to or adaptation of the Plan, and that the host Member State is timely informed in writing.

Changes required to the agreed Input(s) and Output(s) in the framework of the Plan shall as a general rule be considered non-substantial, unless such changes require significant additional resources which cannot be accommodated within the overall EUAA budget, as well as when they impact on and/or require an amendment of the agreed Outcome(s).

## 5.7. Amendments to the Plan

Any changes that prove to require an amendment to or adaptation of the Plan, shall be agreed in writing between the Executive Director of EUAA and the host Member State, after consulting the participating Member States, where necessary, in line with Article 18(5) of the EUAA Regulation.

Changes to outcome(s) specified in Section 2.0. shall as a general rule be considered substantial changes and will be subject to an amendment.

## 5.8. Suspension of measures and/or the Plan implementation

In accordance with Article 18(6)(c) of the EUAA Regulation, the Executive Director shall, after informing the host Member State, suspend or terminate, in whole or in part, the deployment of the asylum support teams if the conditions to carry out the operational and technical measures are no longer fulfilled or if the Plan is not respected by the host Member State or if, after consulting the Fundamental Rights Officer of the EUAA, it considers that there are breaches of fundamental rights or international protection obligations by the host Member State that are of a serious nature or are likely to persist.

## 5.9. Protocol (No 7) on Privileges and Immunities

Protocol (No 7) on the privileges and immunities of the European Union ('the Protocol')<sup>14</sup> applies to the Agency staff members (statutory staff), when they are deployed for the purposes of the implementation of the Plan on the territory of the host Member State, including to the Asylum Support Teams.

The host Member State shall ascertain that the relevant provisions of the Protocol are implemented and shall provide the necessary support to the Agency in this regard.

## 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION STRUCTURE

This chapter describes the various conditions for and aspects of support to the authorities of the host Member State in the framework of the Plan.

### 6.1. Organisational Pre-Conditions

#### The host Member State will:

- designate an overall Plan Coordinator, as well as a specific Measure Coordinator for each measure stipulated in the Plan.
- grant appropriate access rights for the members of asylum support teams and EUAA representatives to all relevant databases and provide the relevant parties with the required information and data in the context of the implementation of this Plan.
- facilitate the provision of appropriate working space. Every effort shall be made by the Parties to provide suitable working conditions and, where required, working place for the participants in the activities implemented in the framework of the Plan. Minimum working and security conditions are considered as organisational pre-conditions.
- As far as operationally feasible, and where relevant, the working files shall be made available by the host Member State in English (unless otherwise agreed).
- The host Member State shall provide EUAA with information on the implementation of the Plan through timely input to the Early warning and Preparedness System and the delivery of tailored information on the implementation of measures agreed in the Plan.

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<sup>14</sup> EUR-Lex - 12012E/PRO/07 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Facilitate the implementation of the EUAA survey data collection systems (including but not limited to Surveys with Asylum Related Migrants (SAM), Surveys of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine (SAM-UKR)).

**EUAA will:**

- designate an overall Plan Coordinator (also referred to as Coordinating Officer in accordance to Article 25 of EUAA Regulation), as well as a specific Measure Coordinator for each measure stipulated in the Plan.
- provide technical support to experts participating in this Plan with the aim of ensuring that all deliverables make good use of the expertise and information already available to EUAA.
- provide the technical equipment required for the work of the asylum support teams and reimburse costs incurred by persons participating in the support activities deployed by EUAA in the framework of this Plan, according to the applicable EUAA rules.
- *support the development and implementation of agreed tools and procedures, taking into account the EUAA tools and guidance.*

## **6.2. Conditions for Deployment**

General rules and conditions for deployment are published on the following platforms, which the experts/asylum support team members are obliged to consult:

- EUAA Operational Deployment Management System (ODMS)
- EUAA country-specific operations platforms. These platforms are made available to members of asylum support teams upon their deployment, allowing for preparation for deployment and daily implementation of their tasks.
- Other appropriate communication tools may be used as necessary.

The platforms contain relevant information, such as:

- special instructions for the members of asylum support teams, including databases that they are authorised to consult;
- description of specific tasks, workflows and procedures, as relevant;
- location in the host Member State where the asylum support teams will be deployed;
- logistical arrangements including information on working conditions, practical information concerning location of deployment and related workflows, etc.;
- equipment that members of asylum support teams may carry in the host Member State, transport and other logistics;
- other specific instructions and provisions as necessary.

Relevant thematic pages of the EUAA Information and Documentation System concerning the asylum and reception system of the host Member State, including information on relevant practices, legislation, case law and statistical background may be consulted.

The host Member State shall contribute to information concerning its asylum and reception systems, including information on relevant practices, legislation, case law and statistical background.

The host Member State and EUAA will provide experts with information on the general state of play with regard to the procedures for international protection and reception in the host Member State and specific information about the state of play of the deliverables as necessary for the specific measures on a continuous basis. Specific asylum support team deployment details may be provided under each measure, where relevant.

## **6.3. Composition of asylum support teams**

The asylum support teams may be composed of the following resources:

- i. The Agency's staff members, i.e. statutory staff employed by the Agency subject to the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union<sup>15</sup>;
- ii. Member States experts, including Member State experts made available through the Asylum Reserve Pool<sup>16</sup>;
- iii. Associate Countries experts, i.e. experts made available through contributions to the Asylum Intervention Pool by associate countries referred to in Article 34 of the EUAA Regulation, with which the European Union has an arrangement in place on the modalities of its participation in EUAA's work;
- iv. Seconded National Experts (SNEs), i.e. experts employed by a national, regional or local public administration of an EU Member State or an associate country or by a public inter-governmental organisation and seconded to the Agency<sup>17</sup> for the provision of support to its operational activities;
- v. Other experts not employed by the Agency: Experts on contract, i.e. individuals providing services in relation to the Plan upon conclusion of a public contract between the Agency and the legal entity with which these individuals have an employment and/or contractual relationship, including temporary agency workers, or with remunerated external experts in line with Article 93 of EUAA Financial Regulation<sup>18</sup>.

The implementation of the Plan shall be based on the common understanding that the provision of resources, other than EUAA (statutory) staff, to be deployed for the purposes described above can under no circumstances lead *per se* to the establishment of an employment relationship between EUAA and the members of the asylum support teams. Throughout the duration of the deployment of the asylum support teams in the activities undertaken in the context of the present Plan, the employer of the asylum support teams members is and remains their employer.

#### **6.4. Implementation modalities - the embedded model**

In accordance with Chapter 6 of the EUAA Regulation, the Agency may organise and coordinate technical and operational assistance to the requesting Member State or Member States, which may entail the deployment of an asylum support team.

The notion of the 'embedded model' represents an integrated approach to the implementation of the Plan, applicable exclusively with regard to experts on contract, including remunerated external experts. In accordance with this model, experts on contract deployed as members of asylum support teams, are embedded within the respective national authorities to ensure utmost efficiency, quality and sustainability of the anticipated results. In practice, those experts on contract are seconded by EUAA to national authorities of the host Member State and therefore perform their assignment(s) on the premises of the relevant national authorities (e.g. the National Asylum Service).

In such cases, a coordination mechanism shall be agreed by the Parties to oversee both the overall implementation of the Plan at national level and its implementation at local level (i.e. in the respective location of the host Member State) or for the respective measure foreseen in the Plan, including with regard to the allocation and the administration of resources. For this purpose, detailed administrative and reporting workflows and procedures related to the provision and management of 'embedded' resources and reflecting respective roles and responsibilities shall be established and agreed upon in writing between EUAA and the host Member State. In setting up the aforementioned coordination mechanism, the following rules must be complied with as a minimum:

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<sup>15</sup> As laid down by Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68, OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p.1.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as it is established in the EUAA.

<sup>17</sup> Decision No 01 of the Management Board of EASO of 25 November 2010 laying down rules on the secondment of national experts (SNE) to the European Asylum Support Office (ref. number: EASO/MB/2010/03).

<sup>18</sup> Article 93 of Management Board Decision No 54 of 14 August 2019 on the EASO Financial Regulation (as amended by Management Board Decision No 74 of 28 July 2021). The MB Decision nr 54 of 14 August 2019 remains in force despite EASO being replaced by the EUAA. Any references in the EASO Financial Regulation to 'EASO' or the 'EASO Regulation', should therefore be construed as references to the 'EUAA' or equivalent provisions in the 'EUAA Regulation', respectively.

- (a) EUAA shall duly advise the employers of the experts on contract or the remunerated external experts themselves of their envisaged secondment to the national authorities of the host Member State before such secondment takes place;
- (b) The national authority shall clearly acknowledge that they endorse the obligations and responsibilities pertaining to them as hosting authority vis-à-vis the experts on contract seconded to them;
- (c) The national authority is responsible for ensuring proper working conditions for the expert on contract, and is responsible for the health, safety and security during work. EUAA may not be held liable for any breach in the Health and Safety rules that might occur in the premises of the national authorities and/or under the supervision of the national authorities.

## **7.0 SECURITY AND SAFETY**

The principles of EUAA's Security Governance Framework<sup>19</sup> are based on the security principles contained in the Commission's security rules. The Commission Decision 443/2013 on the security in the Commission defines that security shall be based on the principles of legality, transparency, proportionality and accountability.

The safety and security of persons participating in EUAA activities under the Plan falls under the overall legal framework of the host Member State and shall be provided by the respective authorities legally responsible and accountable for the public order and security and safety on the territory of that Member State.

EUAA will endeavor to support the identification of required security and safety measures and the implementation of those that are under its remit, both legally and functionally, in close cooperation with the MS security responsible (see relevant definition in Section 7.1 below).

To that end:

- Standard security and safety requirements, identified herewith, shall apply as a general rule.
- Specific security and safety requirements for the Plan, to be identified jointly by EUAA and the host Member State security responsible, shall be established in an annex to this plan.
- The safety and security measures shall be identified jointly on the basis of field assessment visits.

### **7.1. Standard security requirements**

The standard security and safety requirements are rather pertaining to elements to be present in the implementation of the Plan, not to minimum security standards:

- Both the host Member State on one side and EUAA on the other shall appoint a single point of contact responsible for security matters under the Plan both at central and local level (hereafter 'security responsible').
- The host Member State shall ensure that the working conditions for the performance of the activities under the Plan are compliant with the national occupational health and safety norms and regulations.
- A pre-deployment briefing programme, drafted in close cooperation with the respective national authorities, focusing both on general security rules and awareness, as well as on specific security aspects for each deployment will be provided. With regard to the decentralised

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<sup>19</sup> Decision of the Executive Director No 61 of 12 April 2021 on the Security Governance Framework.

nature of deployments, the use of e-learning and other distance-based training techniques should be considered.

- Emergency (evacuation) plan. Certain operational activities, such as operations in field locations, require that staff shall have clear guidance and training on how to evacuate quickly in case of emergencies. In a more general context, there could be a need to evacuate from the operational area as well. Emergency plans shall be drafted and maintained up-to-date by the competent authority/person(s), whereas they shall be made available to the concerned parties and exercised regularly. A security responsible shall maintain updated information on the availability of evacuation plans and routes.
- Communication tools. As considered relevant by the EUAA Security sector, EUAA operational staff shall have access to independent radio communication equipment. If possible, the equipment shall be interoperable with the local law enforcement in charge of the security of the operation.
- Security of information. Sensitive non-classified and classified information shall be protected adequately, in accordance with the applicable legal framework<sup>20</sup>. EUAA's security responsible shall be involved in supporting the proper classification of relevant information.
- Security of IT and communication equipment. EUAA's IT equipment is adequately prepared to protect the information level it has been foreseen to process.
- Personal security behavior shall be included in the pre-deployment training, led by operational teams and performed for the experts during the first days of arrival to the operational area. This may refer to the EUAA Code of Conduct as well.
- Reporting security incidents from the operational area to the EUAA Headquarters is essential to ensure an overview of the overall security management is maintained.

## **7.2. Specific security and safety requirements**

- Specific security and safety requirements for the implementation of the Plan shall be defined on the basis of a pre-deployment security assessment visit with the aim of identification of specific potential risks, identification of mitigation measures and communication of those measures to the Member State and involved stakeholders, prior to the deployment of asylum support teams.

## **7.3. Suspension of operational activities on security and safety grounds**

EUAA reserves the right to suspend operational activities on the basis of current risk assessment(s), while keeping informed the host Member State on the findings and identified mitigating measures required for resumption.

The host Member State may also suspend temporarily, in whole or in part, the implementation of operational activities in case of serious imminent safety and security incidents, developments, or as mitigating or preventive measures or direct threats to personnel, activities or physical presence. The EUAA Plan Coordinator and the EUAA security responsible shall be informed without delay.

The Parties will agree on conditions for resumption as soon as possible.

## **7.4. Security incident reporting**

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<sup>20</sup> Including, *inter alia*, the security principles contained in Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444.

Any participant<sup>21</sup> in EUAA's operational activities who becomes aware of a(n) (impending) incident related to the security and safety of persons, assets or premises is obliged to report the matter to the Executive Director of EUAA and to the Host Member State Coordinator for the Plan via the appropriate channel: [security\\_incidents\\_operations@euaa.europa.eu](mailto:security_incidents_operations@euaa.europa.eu). Such an incident is to be reported using the **Security Incident Report Form (Annex III)**.

## 8.0. COMMUNICATION

The Executive Director will appoint one or more experts from the Agency's staff to act or to be deployed as a Coordinating Officer in accordance with Article 25 of the EUAA Regulation.

The Coordinating Officer will act as an interface between the Agency, the host Member State, and experts participating in asylum support teams, and will foster cooperation and coordination between the host Member State and the participating Member States.

The Coordinating Officer will also monitor the correct implementation of the operational plan, act on behalf of the Agency as regards all aspects of the deployment of asylum support teams and report to the Agency on all those aspects, and report to the Executive Director where the operational plan is not adequately implemented.

The host Member State and the Coordinating Officer will manage the exchange of information concerning the tasks under the Plan.

During the implementation of this Plan, members of asylum support teams shall be briefed regularly on the current situational and operational developments to address challenges and identify improvements.

Particular attention shall be paid to the need to continuously develop, improve and make available EUAA support tools. Should such need be identified or changed during the Plan implementation, it shall be communicated to EUAA for further consideration.

EUAA will maintain close cooperation and communication with the relevant stakeholders. EUAA will also provide information to its partners (i.e. the European Commission, concerned EU Agencies, and international organisations) about the operational activities, as appropriate and in line with EUAA transparency and communication policies. The timing and content of communication with the media shall be agreed upon between EUAA and the host Member State.

Where relevant, the Parties will facilitate media coverage to ensure a wider dissemination and visibility of results.

As a publicly funded EU body, the Agency is accountable for and committed to transparency for the public resources it makes use of.

In this regard, EUAA may brand its operational activities to ensure appropriate visibility. This includes the application of fixed branding and use of visibility items, such as on, but not limited to, containers and premises, as well as in offices where the Agency provides operational and technical assistance. It also includes the branding of mobile assets which it may deploy, including vehicles.

Such branding may also include visibility clothing and materials worn by personnel deployed by the Agency in order to identify their association to, or funding by, the Agency.

In specific cases, the Agency and the respective national authority/ies may agree on co-branding of visibility clothing and/or materials, in line with the visual identity rules and guidelines of both/all parties.

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<sup>21</sup> The 'participants in EUAA's operational activities' are to be construed as persons deployed to asylum support teams ('AST') referred to in Section 6.3. of the Plan.

## **9.0. COOPERATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

### **9.1. Cooperation with the European Commission and EURTF**

All activities under this Plan will be closely coordinated with the host Member State and in close cooperation with the European Commission as well as with the other EU Agencies.

### **9.2. Cooperation with UNHCR**

In accordance with Article 38 of EUAA Regulation, the Agency aims at a coherent and complementary continuation of the fruitful cooperation with UNHCR. The EUAA Coordinating Officer will liaise with the UNHCR office in the host Member State for a continuous cooperation and coordination of practical activities agreed with the host Member State under the current Plan.

### **9.3. Cooperation with IOM**

In accordance with Article 52 of the EASO Regulation<sup>22</sup>, In July 2019 the Agency signed a working arrangement with IOM to establish a cooperation framework covering the relevant areas of common work and interest setting objectives and principles of such cooperation. Therefore, the EUAA Coordinating Officer will liaise with the IOM office in the host Member State for a continuous cooperation and coordination of practical activities agreed with the host Member State under the current Plan and in accordance with the working arrangement.

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<sup>22</sup> Reference to Article 52 of the EASO Regulation shall be construed as reference to Article 38 of the EUAA Regulation.

## ANNEX I – Operational Measures

<b>Measure CY 1: Support to Asylum</b>	
<p><b>Expected Outcome CY 1.1:</b> By the end of 2024, access to the asylum procedure in Cyprus complied with CEAS and followed a harmonised workflow.</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome CY 1.2:</b> By the end of 2024, the asylum processing capacity of CAS was enhanced with efficient case management procedures for the examination of pending applications for international protection in line with CEAS.</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome CY 1.3:</b> By the end of 2024, the IPAC had a strengthened capacity to manage second instance appeals in line with CEAS standards.</p>	
<b>Responsible Authority(ies)/Main National Partner(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Interior (MOI)</li> <li>• Cyprus Asylum Service (CAS)</li> <li>• International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC)</li> <li>• Cyprus Supreme Court</li> </ul>
<b>Operational Preconditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient human resources available to ensure adequate absorption capacity in the relevant CY authorities.</li> <li>• Sufficient and adequate workstations including IT facilities for the implementation of EUAA activities to ensure adequate absorption capacity made available by the Cypriot authorities.</li> <li>• Systematic data sharing on the outputs of EUAA deployed personnel under the performed operational activities and detailed overall national data on the respective statistical indicators are in place to allow measuring the impact of EUAA’s intervention.</li> <li>• Agreement on the implementation of standardised workflows and SOPs.</li> <li>• Sufficient investment on a functional digital system capable of supporting real-time case management is in place by the relevant CY authorities and accessible by relevant EUAA personnel.</li> <li>• Abidance by all relevant stakeholder to the agreed Standard Operating Procedures.</li> <li>• Regular coordination meetings are held among concerned representatives of national authorities and with EUAA to ensure efficient collaboration at national level.</li> <li>• Steering Committee meetings are held between EUAA and the beneficiary national authorities, to ensure effective operational coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the OP. For containers, following an official specific request for support, commitment to undertake and implement all the required exploratory and preparatory studies and activities according to an agreed schedule, and all electro-mechanical infrastructure to be implemented on time to allow any preparatory work to start.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs</b>	<p><b>Output 1:</b> Support to the implementation of standardised access to all phases of the access to the asylum procedure and the referral of applicants with special needs.</p>

	<p><b>Output 2:</b> Support CAS with efficiently managing and examining first instance applications for international protection and contributing to strengthening their capacity for case management.</p> <p><b>Output 3:</b> Support to enhancing the capacity of the IPAC to effectively manage the backlog of cases pending at second instance and increase decision making at IPAC.</p>
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Expected Outcome CY 1.1: By the end of 2024, access to the asylum procedure in Cyprus complied with CEAS and followed a harmonised workflow.</b></p> <p>In line with the Standard Operating Procedures applicable to the <sup>23</sup>'Pournara' First Reception Centre (FRC) jointly agreed in 2020, Cyprus decided to refer all new arrivals to 'Pournara', including for the initial stages of the asylum procedure e.g., up to the submission of the asylum application, there. The activities carried out in 'Pournara' include identification, registration, and lodging of asylum applications, as well as medical screening and vulnerability assessments. The full assessment of asylum applications is currently undertaken at the Asylum Examination Centre, adjacent to the 'Pournara' first Reception Centre, additionally to the other locations in the Country (CAS and EUAA Operational Office). EUAA support to access to procedure (registration and lodging) in 2021 was provided mainly (and as of April 2021 exclusively) at the 'Pournara' First Reception Centre.</p> <p>Building on the EUAA's existing involvement in the FRC 'Pournara', the 2022-2024 implementation period will continue to support the registration and lodging of asylum requests and broader the support to the whole registration procedure in line with CEAS, in FRC 'Pournara' and elsewhere considered necessary by the CY authorities. This will include the timely implementation of information provision activities, quality face-to-face registration e.g., identification and referral of persons with indicators of special needs and/or Dublin cases (see CY3.1 for more information on Dublin) and the establishment of clear SOPs, workflows and guarantees and tools to support their implementation ultimately aiming to align the application procedure across locations with CEAS. Additionally, given the continued steady increase in the number of new applicants for international protection, EUAA assistance will focus on flow management support, including prioritisation of cases with vulnerabilities. This will include support to the screening, assessment, and referral of applicants with special needs as soon as an application is made and harmonisation of referral and take-charge procedure with other steps of the asylum process.</p> <p>To further strengthen the capacity of all relevant stakeholders, tailor-made capacity building activities will be made available relating to a variety of thematic areas relevant to access to procedure.</p> <p>The support that EUAA can provide in Pournara can be impacted by the planned upgrading and implementation of the Masterplan for the First Reception Centre agreed by the Cypriot authorities with EU funds.</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome CY 1.2: By the end of 2024, the asylum processing capacity of CAS was enhanced with efficient case management</b></p>

<sup>23</sup> Standard Operating Procedures applicable to 'Pournara' Ref. ARES(2020)3974972 – 28/07/2020.

**procedures for the examination of pending applications for international protection in line with CEAS.**

By the end of September 2021, the number of applicants pending first instance examination stood at 16,990, albeit 9% fewer compared to the same period of 2020. By the end of September 2022, considering the spike in the number of arrivals throughout the year, this number had risen to 27,725 approximately +39% compared to the same period in 2021.

In the 2022-2024 period, the EUAA aims to continue supporting the Cypriot authorities with the examination of applications for international protection, including performing interviews and drafting recommendations. These actions will be strengthened by COI support and the development of a quality support function within the CAS for the examination of first instance applications for international protections as jointly agreed with the CAS. This will reinforce case and backlog management systems at the CAS which the EUAA plans to support. Capacity building activities will also be made available to all relevant stakeholders supporting the examination of first instance applications.

To further support the need for CAS to handle the large number of pending applications at first instance, the examination centre at Pournara will be enhanced and expanded following a formal request from CAS. This will include the provision of containers which will provide office space for additional caseworkers to be deployed to the Pournara Examination Centre.

**Expected Outcome CY 1.3: By the end of 2024, the IPAC had a strengthened capacity to manage second instance appeals in line with CEAS.**

As a result of the continuous number of arrivals and subsequently the increase in the number of decisions issued at CAS, an increasing number of appeals have been lodged at the IPAC. By the end of the third quarter of 2022 the number of appeals pending at the IPAC had reached 7819 (+29% compared to the same period in 2021).

The EUAA's support to the IPAC will focus on establishing improved efficiency at the Court aiming to reduce the actual backlog by reinforcing the overall case management, from the registration of the appeal to the issuance of the final decision. This will notably include providing support to the processing of the appeal, the preparation of the decision and to COI and case law research. This will also include the establishment of a repository for digital resources to better respond to the growth of cases pending at second instance in a timelier manner.

The EUAA's intervention at the IPAC for the 2022-2024 period will support the development of an efficient case flow management system, including the recast of its rules of procedure, in close collaboration with the EUAA Courts and Tribunals Sector. Assistance will also be provided to strengthen the administrative, clerical and statistical capacity of the Court.

The EUAA will also continue to support in strengthening the expertise and skills of the members of the IPAC through tailor-made capacity building professional development activities in the field of international

	<p>protection law in collaboration with the EUAA Courts and Tribunal Sector.</p> <p>Finally, EUAA will continue to support IPAC with the digitalisation process of the judiciary system through the implementation of the e-justice system at the court and will facilitate the liaison with CAS for what concerns the interaction between first and second instance digital systems and communication.</p>
<p><b>Inputs<sup>24</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Indicative Human Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of asylum support teams</li> </ul> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts resources will be allocated to this measure for the timeframe that this support is deemed needed jointly by stakeholders and the EUAA. If the need subsides, the resources can be reallocated to other measures or deployment locations within Cyprus.</i></p> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts profiles (name and level) (based on the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1) are indicative and subject to change.</i></p> <p><b>Inputs CY 1.1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 13 Asylum Registration Experts (Up to 16 to be deployed upon the completion and operationalisation of the Masterplan for the Expansion and Upgrading of Pournara First Reception Centre and upon the request from CY authorities to support with 100% Face to Face registrations)</li> <li>• Up to 8 Asylum Information Provision Experts</li> <li>• Up to 8 Asylum Flow Management Experts</li> <li>• Up to 7 Vulnerability Experts</li> <li>• Provision of interpretation services: Up to 23 Interpreters</li> </ul> <p><b>Inputs CY 1.2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 2 Asylum and/or Reception Statistics Experts</li> <li>• Up to 53 Case Experts</li> <li>• Up to 7 Asylum and/or Reception Operations Experts</li> <li>• Up to 1 Asylum Flow Management Expert</li> <li>• Up to 2 Monitoring and Evaluation Experts</li> <li>• Up to 6 Legal Experts- Asylum and/or reception</li> <li>• Up to 1 COI Expert</li> <li>• Up to 1 Deployment Management Expert</li> <li>• Provision of interpretation services: Up to 45 Interpreters</li> </ul> <p><b>Inputs CY 1.3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 32 Asylum Second Instance Support Experts</li> <li>• Up to 4 Legal Experts- Asylum and/or Reception</li> <li>• Up to 2 Asylum and/or Reception Statistics Experts</li> <li>• Up to 2 Flow Management Expert</li> </ul>

<sup>24</sup> The agreed inputs are the resources to be deployed during the Plan implementation. These will be subject to at least annual revision and may be revised as necessary (increase/decrease/profile/level/measure) according to operational needs and budget availability.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of interpretation services: Up to 20 Interpreters</li> </ul> <p><b>Cross cutting Quality, Procedure and Capacity Building Team:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-disciplinary team of up to 5 RE Experts will support horizontally across all measures included in the OP to implement the measure-based activities described above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Horizontal resources/ inputs for all activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of interpretation and translation services <i>The maximum number of interpretation services seconded to CAS amounts to 25 interpreters</i> <i>The maximum number of interpretation services seconded to IPAC amounts to 20 interpreters</i></li> <li>• Provision of support in accessing EU and other funds through the deployment of Structural and EU funding mechanism Experts on a horizontal level</li> <li>• Provision of support in procurement procedures, tender procedures, international contracts in the reception sector through the deployment of a Reception Procurement Expert whose tasks will be assigned according to the tasks as outlined in the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1</li> <li>• Provision of capacity building activities according to a Capacity Building Plan developed based on the operational needs assessed by the multi-disciplinary team jointly with the stakeholders</li> <li>• Provision of security and IT services</li> <li>• Conditional on the agreement between EUAA and CY authorities and subject to budget for the present operational plan. Material and operational support could include inter alia provision of NFI and containers, works, services, communication/promotional materials, costs for trainings/meetings/workshops, infrastructure costs, IT equipment, office supplies and others where required for the joint EUAA and national authorities' activities.</li> </ul>
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<b>Measure CY 2: Support to Reception</b>	
<b>Expected Outcome CY 2.1.:</b> By the end of 2024, reception standards in the locations supported by the EUAA improved according to CEAS.	
<b>Expected Outcome CY 2.2.:</b> By the end of 2024, the CY authorities have enhanced their capacity in strategically planning and managing the reception framework in line with CEAS.	
<b>Responsible Authority(ies)/Main National Partner(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Interior (MOI)</li> <li>• Cyprus Asylum Service (CAS)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Operational Preconditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification on roles and responsibilities on reception between relevant national stakeholders.</li> <li>• Sufficient human resources available to ensure adequate absorption capacity in the relevant CY authorities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient and adequate workstations including IT facilities for the implementation of EUAA activities to ensure adequate absorption capacity made available by the Cypriot authorities.</li> <li>• Systematic data sharing on the outputs of EUAA deployed personnel under the performed operational activities and detailed overall national data on the respective statistical indicators are in place to allow measuring the impact of EUAA’s intervention.</li> <li>• Agreement on the implementation of standardised workflows and SOPs.</li> <li>• Abidance by all relevant stakeholders to the agreed Standard Operating Procedures.</li> <li>• Regular coordination meetings are held among concerned representatives of national authorities and with EUAA to ensure efficient collaboration at national level.</li> <li>• Steering Committee meetings are held between EUAA and the beneficiary national authorities, to ensure effective operational coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the OP.</li> <li>• For containers, following an official specific request for support, commitment to undertake and implement all the required exploratory and preparatory studies and activities according to an agreed schedule, all permits and authorisations in place, and all electro-mechanical infrastructure to be implemented on time to allow any preparatory work to start.</li> <li>• Ensuring an adequate security contract also covering security service provision in outdoor areas for all relevant reception locations.</li> <li>• For any support related to UAMs, ensuring a sufficient ratio of legal guardians present in all reception locations, across the four districts.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs</b>	<p><b>Output 1:</b> Support to the improvement of reception locations and enhanced the quality of reception conditions.</p> <p><b>Output 2:</b> Support to quality reception governance and strategic planning.</p>
<b>Actions</b>	<p><b>Expected Outcome CY 2.1: By the end of 2024, reception standards in the locations supported by the EUAA improved according to.</b></p> <p>The EUAA’s commitment to supporting reception service providers in relevant locations (receptions centres and offices) remains a priority for the 2022-2024 Operational Plan. This is provided that the operational pre-conditions outlined above are acknowledged, respected, and implemented. EUAA operational support to Social Welfare Services (SWS) requires the full commitment and engagement of the Services to the provisions of the Plan by becoming a fully-fledged signatory party. The EUAA is not in a position to support the SWS without the full commitment to the operational preconditions outlined above and to co-signing the Operational Plan.</p> <p>The Kofinou Reception and Accommodation Centre has been steadily supported by an EUAA team of social workers, reception support officers (including Member States Experts), interpreters, and a reception coordination officer since early 2019. This has led to improvements in the quality of reception conditions and support provided in facilities supported, especially on individual case</p>

	<p>management, information provision for new arrivals, vulnerability identification and referral.</p> <p>Based on this, between 2022-2024 EUAA support to reception will shift to focus on cross-cutting coordination and harmonisation of reception activities across facilities and in locations where reception services are provided in close collaboration with relevant reception stakeholders. Strengthening reception activities and enhancing information provision within reception facilities will be prioritised. This will include a special focus on reception facilities/locations and activities supporting vulnerable applicants and those with special reception needs and improving the quality of reception available to them. This could also include enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders to harmonize reception care, conditions and support to applicants with special needs.</p> <p>Following the operationalization of the Safe Zone in the First Reception Centre (FRC) Pournara for unaccompanied girls and single women/ women with children in August of 2022, the EUAA remains committed to supporting its signatories in delivering their activities in this area if the SOPs agreed. Support here (provided the preconditions in the SOPs are fully implemented) includes deployments supporting information provision and vulnerability aiming at enhancing access to services and timely referrals for residents in the area. Ensuring by the CY authorities, and particularly by SWS, a regular presence of an adequate number of legal guardians (in proportion to the population of UAMs present in the center), institutional officers, SWS officers and CAS care givers, as per agreed SOPs, is crucial for EUAA to continue providing support.</p> <p>Beyond supporting in the Safe Zone in the FRC Pournara, the EUAA remains committed to support the centre with further reception and outflow/ allocation support, through the deployment of relevant dedicated experts to the centre.</p> <p>Additionally, following a request and agreement between the EUAA and Cypriot authorities and subject to budget availability and compliance to preconditions listed above, the EUAA can provide Non-Food Items (NFI) and containers.</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome CY 2.2: By the end of 2024, the CY authorities have enhanced their capacity in strategically planning and managing the reception framework in line with CEAS and EUAA standards.</b></p> <p>The EUAA continues to commit to supporting the Cypriot authorities in strategic planning and governance of reception including support to establishing a systematic allocation system, prioritising the identification of shelters, especially adequate solutions for applicants with special reception needs. This in turn helps facilitate the outflow from relevant first- and second-line reception centers.</p> <p>Activities under this outcome will include enhancing the capacity (e.g. planning, design) of the reception stakeholders by providing technical assistance to support the development of masterplans, contingency plans, reception centre design and relevant reception-related SOPs. Specialized workshops and capacity building activities on groups which may require special reception responses, revision and/or development of reception-focused tools and templates with the support of the cross-cutting quality, procedures and capacity building team. To complement</p>
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	<p>this, the EUAA remains committed in supporting the capacity of the reception stakeholders in self-assessing reception conditions in line with EUAA standards on reception. One tool which can be used to support the Cypriot authorities responsible for is the ARC tool. Operational support towards its implementation can be provided to generate the assessment of locations where reception conditions are provided. From this, in close consultation and collaboration with the cross-cutting quality, procedures and capacity building team, capacity building activities for relevant authorities can be supported to address the gaps and challenges highlighted through the results of the assessment.</p>
<p><b>Inputs<sup>25</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Indicative Human Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of asylum support teams</li> </ul> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts resources will be allocated to this measure for the timeframe that this support is deemed needed jointly by stakeholders and the EUAA. If the need subsides, the resources can be reallocated to other measures or deployment locations within Cyprus.</i></p> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts profiles (name and level) (based on the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1) are indicative and subject to change.</i></p> <p><b>Inputs CY2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 4 Social Work Experts</li> <li>• Up to 3 Asylum Information Provision Experts</li> <li>• Up to 2 Asylum Flow Management Experts</li> <li>• Up to 1 Legal Expert- Asylum and/or Reception</li> <li>• Up to 3 Vulnerability Experts</li> <li>• Up to 1 Asylum and/or Reception Statistics Expert</li> <li>• Up to 2 Asylum and/or Reception Operations Experts OR Reception Expert OR Reception Centre Design Experts</li> <li>• Up to 1 Reception Child Protection Expert</li> <li>• Provision of interpretation services: Up to 20 interpreters</li> </ul> <p><b>Cross cutting Quality, Procedure and Capacity Building Team:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-disciplinary team of up to 5 RE Experts will support horizontally across all measures included in the OP to implement the measure-based activities described above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Horizontal resources/ inputs for all activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of interpretation and translation services <i>The maximum number of interpretation services seconded to CAS amounts to 25 interpreters</i></li> <li>• Provision of support in accessing EU and other funds through the deployment of Structural and EU funding mechanism Experts to support accessing funds on a horizontal level</li> <li>• Provision of support in procurement procedures, tender procedures, international contracts in the reception sector through the deployment of a Reception Procurement Expert</li> </ul>

<sup>25</sup> The agreed inputs are the resources to be deployed during the Plan implementation. These will be subject to at least annual revision and may be revised as necessary (increase/decrease/profile/level/measure) according to operational needs and budget availability.

	<p>whose tasks will be assigned according to the tasks as outlined in the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of capacity building activities according to a Capacity Building Plan developed based on the operational needs assessed by the multi-disciplinary team jointly with the stakeholders</li> <li>• Provision of security and IT services</li> <li>• Conditional on the agreement between EUAA and CY authorities and subject to budget for the present operational plan. Material and operational support could include inter alia provision of NFIs and containers, works, services, communication/promotional materials, costs for trainings/meetings/workshops, infrastructure costs, IT equipment, office supplies and others where required for the joint EUAA and national authorities' activities.</li> </ul>
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<b>Measure CY 3: Support to the implementation of the Dublin Regulation and Voluntary Relocation Exercises</b>	
<p><b>Expected Outcome CY 3.1:</b> By the end of 2024, the Cypriot authorities will have an enhanced capacity to manage and promptly process outgoing Dublin cases according to CEAS.</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome CY 3.2:</b> Functional mechanism for cooperation/ solidarity among EU MS and relocation exercises from Cyprus was implemented following a request in line with the EU legal framework.</p>	
<b>Responsible Authority(ies)/Main National Partner(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Interior (MOI)</li> <li>• Cyprus Asylum Service (CAS)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Operational Preconditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient human resources available to ensure adequate absorption capacity in the relevant CY authorities.</li> <li>• Sufficient and adequate workstations including IT facilities for the implementation of EUAA activities to ensure adequate absorption capacity made available by the Cypriot authorities.</li> <li>• Systematic data sharing on the outputs of EUAA deployed personnel under the performed operational activities and detailed overall national data on the respective statistical indicators are in place to allow measuring the impact of EUAA's intervention.</li> <li>• Agreement on the implementation of standardised workflows and SOPs.</li> <li>• Abidance by all relevant stakeholder to the agreed Standard Operating Procedures.</li> <li>• Regular coordination meetings are held among concerned representatives of national authorities and with EUAA to ensure efficient collaboration at national level.</li> <li>• Steering Committee meetings are held between EUAA and the beneficiary national authorities, to ensure effective operational coordination, implementation and monitoring of the OP.</li> <li>• For containers, following an official specific request for support, commitment to undertake and implement all the required</li> </ul>

	<p>exploratory and preparatory studies and activities according to an agreed schedule, and all electro-mechanical infrastructure to be implemented on time to allow any preparatory work to start.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p><b>Output 1:</b> Support to the Cypriot authorities to identify and assess potential Dublin cases and process requests according to the Dublin III Regulation.</p> <p><b>Output 2:</b> Support to the voluntary Relocation exercises, including the identification of cases and matching.</p>
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Expected Outcome CY3.1: By the end of 2024, the Cypriot authorities will have an enhanced capacity to manage and promptly process outgoing Dublin cases according to CEAS.</b></p> <p>Support to the Dublin Unit at CAS has been a long term and ongoing form of support by the EUAA. Support to the CAS Dublin Unit has increased exponentially, focusing exclusively on outgoing requests</p> <p>Support provided throughout 2022-2024 will have a specific focus on the supporting the Dublin Unit at CAS in managing and processing Dublin requests and transfers. The EUAA team deployed to the Unit will support with case processing of outgoing requests, including in scheduling, interviewing, reviewing files and case tracking. Furthermore, a systematic operational data collection tool will be created for Dublin in order to enhance reporting and statistical analysis produced by the unit and support to the case management system of the Dublin Unit of CAS will be provided, to improve both the efficiency as well as the national data reliability. The EUAA remains committed to supporting relevant authorities with building their capacity to identify, assess and process potential Dublin cases.</p> <p>To further strengthen the capacity of all relevant stakeholders, tailor-made capacity building activities will be made available relating to a variety of thematic areas relevant to the Dublin procedure.</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome CY 3.2: Functional mechanism for cooperation/solidarity among EU MS and relocation exercises from Cyprus was implemented following a request in line with the EU legal framework.</b></p> <p>Under the activation of the solidarity platform a relocation exercise was launched with Cyprus as a benefitting member state. The channelling of registrations towards relocation began in August, until the end of September, a total of 1,296 applicants were offered relocation out of which 998 were eligible to be considered for matching. Of these, a total of 106 families were identified as well as 257 vulnerable applicants.</p> <p>In order to support Cyprus with outflow solutions, enhancing the principle of solidarity among EU Member States, the EUAA, in close collaboration with the Commission, will support Cyprus authorities in implementing relocation exercises in accordance with applicable SOPs if and when requested and in the case where pledges are offered to Cyprus from other Member States.</p> <p>The EUAA will also facilitate the exchange of information and best practices between Member States regarding relevant SOPs and transfer</p>

	<p>procedures: this will enhance their capacity to ensure info provision and implementation of transfers. To compliment the above, tailor-made capacity building activities will be made available to relevant authorities relating to thematic areas relevant to relocation.</p>
<p><b>Inputs<sup>26</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Indicative Human Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of asylum support teams</li> </ul> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts resources will be allocated to this measure for the timeframe that this support is deemed needed jointly by stakeholders and the EUAA. If the need subsides, the resources can be reallocated to other measures or deployment locations within Cyprus.</i></p> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts profiles (name and level) (based on the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1) are indicative and subject to change.</i></p> <p><b>Inputs CY3.1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 6 Dublin Regulation Experts</li> <li>• Up to 1 Monitoring and Evaluation Expert</li> <li>• Up to 4 Asylum Registration Experts</li> <li>• Up to 3 Flow Management Experts</li> </ul> <p><b>Inputs CY3.2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 1 Asylum Registration Expert</li> <li>• Up to 2 Asylum and Reception Programme and Project Management Experts</li> <li>• Up to 1 Asylum and/or Reception Operations Expert</li> </ul> <p>Provision of interpretation services: Up to 13 interpreters (for both CY3.1 and CY3.2)</p> <p><b>Cross cutting Quality, Procedure and Capacity Building Team:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-disciplinary team of up to 5 RE Experts will support horizontally across all measures included in the OP to implement the measure-based activities described above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Horizontal resources/ inputs for all activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of interpretation and translation services The maximum number of interpretation services seconded to CAS amounts to 25 interpreters</li> <li>• Provision of support in accessing EU and other funds through the deployment of Structural and EU funding mechanism Experts to support accessing funds on a horizontal level</li> <li>• Provision of support in procurement procedures, tender procedures, international contracts in the reception sector through the deployment of a Reception Procurement Expert whose tasks will be assigned according to the tasks as outlined in the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1</li> <li>• Provision of capacity building activities according to a Capacity Building Plan developed based on the operational needs</li> </ul>

<sup>26</sup> The agreed inputs are the resources to be deployed during the Plan implementation. These will be subject to at least annual revision and may be revised as necessary (increase/decrease/profile/level/measure) according to operational needs and budget availability.

	<p>assessed by the multi-disciplinary team jointly with the stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of security and IT services</li> <li>• Conditional on the agreement between EUAA and CY authorities and subject to budget for the present operational plan. Material and operational support could include inter alia provision of NFI and containers, works, services, communication/promotional materials, costs for trainings/meetings/workshops, infrastructure costs, IT equipment, office supplies and others where required for the joint EUAA and national authorities' activities</li> </ul>
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<b>Measure CY 4: Support to Temporary Protection Directive</b>	
<b>Expected Outcome 4.1:</b> Enhanced capacity of the Cypriot national authorities to effectively implement the Temporary Protection Directive.	
<b>Responsible Authority(ies)/Main National Partner(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Interior (MOI)</li> <li>• Cyprus Asylum Service (CAS)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Operational Preconditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard operating procedures on the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive are established and fully in line with the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022.</li> <li>• Sufficient human resources available to ensure adequate absorption capacity in the relevant CY authorities.</li> <li>• Sufficient and adequate workstations including IT facilities for the implementation of EUAA activities to ensure adequate absorption capacity made available by the Cypriot authorities.</li> <li>• Systematic data sharing on the outputs of EUAA deployed personnel under the performed operational activities and detailed overall national data on the respective statistical indicators are in place to allow measuring the impact of EUAA's intervention.</li> <li>• Agreement on the implementation of standardised workflows and SOPs.</li> <li>• Abidance by all relevant stakeholder to the agreed Standard Operating Procedures.</li> <li>• Regular coordination meetings are held among concerned representatives of national authorities and with EUAA to ensure efficient collaboration at national level.</li> <li>• Steering Committee meetings are held between EUAA and the beneficiary national authorities, to ensure effective operational coordination, implementation and monitoring of the OP.</li> <li>• The number of asylum applications remain steady and manageable.</li> <li>• For containers, following an official specific request for support, commitment to undertake and implement all the required exploratory and preparatory studies and activities according to an agreed schedule, and all electro-mechanical infrastructure to be implemented on time to allow any preparatory work to start.</li> </ul>

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Output 1:</b> Support to registrations and assessment of the eligibility criteria for temporary protection both in-person (in all districts where CAS operates and where a need is identified) and online.
<b>Actions</b>	<p><b>Expected Outcome 4.1: Enhanced capacity of the Cypriot national authorities to effectively implement the Temporary Protection Directive.</b></p> <p>To support the Cypriot authorities in managing registrations of temporary protection, the EUAA will deploy experts to the CAS offices in Nicosia and in asylum and immigration offices (AIU) in districts where CAS officers are also present (Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos) according to the needs. Based on the requests received, EUAA might assist the Cypriot authorities with information provision, temporary protection registration and the assessments of eligibility criteria both in-person and online. The EUAA might deploy flow managers to CAS who will review online registrations, prepare files, and manage the flow of in-person registrations.</p> <p>Based on the evolving situation and its impact on the national context, and conditional upon agreement between EUAA and the Cypriot authorities, the Agency may provide further support to enhance the capacity of the Cypriot asylum and reception system to implement the Temporary Protection Directive, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailored information provision.</li> <li>• Translation and interpretation services.</li> </ul> <p>Thematic capacity building activities to be made available to stakeholders.</p>
<b>Inputs<sup>27</sup></b>	<p><b>Indicative Human Resources:</b></p> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts resources will be allocated to this measure for the timeframe that this support is deemed needed jointly by stakeholders and the EUAA. If the need subsides, the resources can be reallocated to other measures or deployment locations within Cyprus.</i></p> <p><i>The Remunerated Experts profiles (name and level) (based on the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1) are indicative and subject to change.</i></p> <p><b>Inputs CY4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 2 Asylum Registration Experts</li> </ul> <p><b>Cross cutting Quality, Procedure and Capacity Building Team:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-disciplinary team of up to 5 RE Experts will support horizontally across all measures included in the OP to implement the measure-based activities described above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Horizontal resources/ inputs for all activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of interpretation and translation services The maximum number of interpretation services seconded to CAS amounts to 25 interpreters</li> </ul>

<sup>27</sup> The agreed inputs are the resources to be deployed during the Plan implementation. These will be subject to at least annual revision and may be revised as necessary (increase/decrease/profile/level/measure) according to operational needs and budget availability.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provision of support in accessing EU and other funds through the deployment of Structural and EU funding mechanism Experts to support accessing funds on a horizontal level</li><li>• Provision of support in procurement procedures, tender procedures, international contracts in the reception sector through the deployment of a Reception Procurement Expert whose tasks will be assigned according to the tasks as outlined in the CEI EASO/2021/885 Annex 1</li><li>• Provision of capacity building activities according to a Capacity Building Plan developed based on the operational needs assessed by the multi-disciplinary team jointly with the stakeholders</li><li>• Provision of security and IT services</li><li>• Conditional on the agreement between EUAA and CY authorities and subject to budget for the present operational plan. Material and operational support could include inter alia provision of NFI and containers, works, services, communication/promotional materials, costs for trainings/meetings/workshops, infrastructure costs, IT equipment, office supplies and others where required for the joint EUAA and national authorities' activities</li></ul>
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