OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022 AGREED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

Valletta Harbour and the Hague [6 May, 2022]

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

and

The Chairman of the board of the Central Agency of the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) of the Netherlands (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,

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

The Operational Plan is binding in its entirety, including annexes.

The implementation period of the Plan shall be from 6 May, 2022 until 31 December, 2022.

The Plan enters into force on the date after it has been signed by both 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 the Hague 6 May, 2022

Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum

The Chairman of the board of the Central Agency

for the Reception of Asylum Seekers

Nina Gregori

Milo Schoenmaker

 $^{^1}$ Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 establishing a European Asylum Support Office.

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

In the course of 2021, the Netherlands experienced a sharp increase in the occupancy in reception centres, following the relaxation of COVID-related travel restrictions. The number of applicants for international protection has grown, including evacuated Afghan nationals and family members of beneficiaries of protection in the Netherlands who could not travel to the Netherlands earlier because of the travel restrictions.

The sharp increase in applications exerted heightened pressure on the national reception system. As a result, the occupancy in reception centres grew from 26 925 to 35 764 in the period between June and December, 2021. In this context, the Dutch authorities sought to expand the reception capacity of the Central Agency of the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) by the end of 2021 and started exploring alternative solutions including an increase in the use and enhancement in the quality of temporary emergency facilities.

In September 2021, the COA announced the urgent need for 4,000 places, due to an increase in the number of applications, the fact that recognised beneficiaries of international protection stay longer in reception due to shortages on the housing market, and the arrival of evacuees from Afghanistan, who were temporarily accommodated at emergency locations of the Ministry of Defense. The organisation managed to create 6,000 additional places by the beginning of November 2021, however these were typically temporary places, with duration varying from 4 weeks to 6 months. In the medium run, the urgent need to create more structural places remained. The issue was the most visible in Ter Apel (occupancy went up by 167 %), with the next two reception - phases following suit with a rise of 56 % and 16 % respectively.

One of the main drivers of the persistent pressure is linked to asylum seekers or beneficiaries who have been granted residence permits. It is worth noting that only about 50 % of all persons under the reception system consisted of asylum applicants awaiting a final decision on their case. The number of persons in reception who have been granted international protection (about 25%) illustrates the challenges of moving out of the shelter system into private housing

The high number of unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the Netherlands (2 400 children so far in 2021, 11 % of the total) places additional stress to the reception system particularly on the vulnerability aspect as special provisions apply to this applicants' group. COA urgently needed extra places for unaccompanied children as well: 500 places until January 2022, and then an additional 100

3/17

² Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Central Organ ovang asielzoekers (COA). (10 September 2021). Update: Benodigde opvangcapaciteit COA [Update: Required COA reception capacity].

places by the end of 2022. The organisation also announced that it would increase the number of its employees. The State Secretary for Justice and Security noted that - due to the shortage in places for unaccompanied minors - from 1 November 2021, the care for unaccompanied minors aged 17,5 was taken over by COA from Nidos, and these minors would be accommodated in regular reception places, instead of specific ones for minors. Nidos expressed concerns about this change, as the legal representative of unaccompanied minors, but agreed that there was no other option available.

At the end of 2021, COA had 36,000 places – fully occupied. In December 2021, the Dutch government at the time, with former minister Mrs. Broekers-Knol, instructed the municipalities of Enschede, Venray and Gorinchem and the security region of Rotterdam-Rijnmond to create 2,000 emergency places before the end of the year, with guidance from COA. These places are managed by the municipalities (except for Gorinchem, where COA has already used the facility in the past), but discussions concerning a potential overtaking by COA continue.

As part of the Implementation Agenda for Making the Asylum Chain more flexible, COA has also been considering setting up multi-functional locations, which could be used as student dormitories or as general emergency shelters, when the reception capacity needs to be scaled down.

Against this backdrop, on 21 December 2021, the Minister for Migration addressed a letter to the Executive Director of EASO (hitherto EUAA) requesting support from the Agency considering the pressure on the country's reception system and focusing particularly on the need to create swiftly additional emergency reception capacity through the deployment of temporary accommodation units (containers).

Subsequently, the two parties reached an agreement to conduct a joint rapid needs assessment with the aim to identify areas where operational support may be potentially provided by the Agency. The aim of the needs assessment was the following: a) to assess the needs of the reception system in the Netherlands, in terms of additional emergency reception capacity; b) consider the potential scope for an EUAA intervention; c) identify and define estimated duration of the potential intervention and the specific potential actions.

The JRNA recommended proceeding swiftly to supporting the NL authorities in order to ensure an already challenging situation does not escalate further.

The JRNA proposed a response combining:

- a) the immediate support to the reception system through the increase of the temporary reception capacity (with up to 160 containers and a pilot project of 7 staff members); and,
- b) a framework for medium-term collaboration, in view of:
 - (i) developing blueprints and technical specifications for the establishment of modular temporary reception centres;
 - (ii) exchanging expertise regarding reception-related training; and,
 - (iii) exploring the feasibility of setting up a logistical hub for first operational response.

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 1.1: Enhanced capacity of the Dutch authorities to provide temporary reception conditions
- Expected Outcome 2.1.: Enhanced operational collaboration in the field of reception

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 NATIONAL PARTNERS

The host Member State's main partners involved in the implementation of this Plan are the following:

Organisation	Responsibilities
Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers)	COA is the authority responsible for the reception of applicants for international protection in the Netherlands. It as an independent administrative body falling under the political responsibility of the State Secretary of Justice and Security. COA has been responsible for applicants' reception since 1994. It has currently approximately 3600 employees.
Ministry of Justice and Security	The Ministry of Justice and Security, more specifically the Directorate General of Migration, is the entity responsible for regulating migration in the Netherlands.

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) evaluations³ 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

.

³ 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 2018/1725⁴ and Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001⁵.

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 respects 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 refuges 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.

⁴ 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).

⁵ 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).

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, 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 activities⁶ 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. 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 EUAA⁷.

Under the complaints mechanism set up by the Agency⁸, 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 1049/2001⁹ and the EUAA implementing rules on access to documents¹⁰, 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 2018¹¹ 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

⁶ 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.

⁷ As soon as it is established in the EUAA.

⁸ As soon as it is established in the EUAA.

⁹ 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

¹⁰ 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

¹¹ 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 data bases 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') ¹² 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 Netherlands, 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.
- Provide the relevant parties with the required information and data in the context of the implementation of this Plan.
- Upon agreement, 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 preconditions.
- 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.

_

^{12 &}lt;u>EUR-Lex - 12012E/PRO/07 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</u>

EUAA will:

- designate an overall Plan Coordinator (also referred to as Coordinating Officer in accordance with 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.

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;
- o description of specific tasks, workflows and procedures, as relevant;
- o location in the host Member State where the asylum support teams will be deployed;
- o 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:

 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 Union¹³;

10/17

¹³ As laid down by Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68, OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p.1.

- ii. Member States experts, including Member State experts made available through the Asylum Reserve Pool;
- 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 Agency¹⁴ 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 Regulation¹⁵.

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.

7.0 SECURITY AND SAFETY

The principles of EUAA's Security Governance Framework¹⁶ are based on the security principles contained in the Commission's security rules. That 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 a basis of field assessment visits.

7.1. Standard security requirements

¹⁴ 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).

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Decision of the Executive Director No 61 of 12 April 2021 on the Security Governance Framework.

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 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 framework¹⁷. 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

¹⁷ Including, *inter alia*, the security principles contained in Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444.

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

Any participant¹⁸ 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. 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.

-

 $^{^{18}}$ 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.

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.

9.0. COOPERATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

9.1. Cooperation with the European Commission

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

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 Regulation¹⁹, 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.

14/17

_

 $^{^{19}}$ Reference to Article 52 of the EASO Regulation shall be construed as reference to Article 38 of the EUAA Regulation.

Expected Outcome 1.1.: Enhanced capacity of the Dutch authorities to provide temporary reception conditions		
 Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Central Organ opvang asielzoekers) Ministry of Justice and Security 		
 Joint standard operating procedures are established, and regular coordination meetings are held among the concerned representatives of the national authorities and with EUAA to ensure effective collaboration and coordination. Quarterly Measure Steering Committee meetings are held between EUAA and the beneficiary national authorities in order to ensure effective operational coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Plan. A bi-directional data sharing procedure is in place between EUAA and the Dutch authorities to measure the impact of the intervention. The host Member State will be responsible for securing all permits necessary, including expansion of site capacity, environmental standards and physical access required for the design / delivery / installation / functioning of the agreed material support. The host Member State will be responsible for identifying the location(s) and securing the space for storage facilities, if necessary, for the period between the arrival of the containers and their installation in the designated reception centres. An agreement on the technical specifications for the emergency temporary reception units is reached in a timely manner; these should align to the extent possible with COA's Statement of Requirements for emergency shelters and /or existing partner agreements, as well as the technical specifications provided by the EUAA framework contract. The reception containers will remain under the ownership of EUAA Responsibility for structural maintenance of containers, if needed, rests with EUAA. The Host Member State is responsible for routine maintenance of the reception units. EUAA is responsible for the dismantling and disposal of containers after they cease to be used by the Host Member State An agreement is reached between EUAA and the host Member State on practical and administrative arrangements necessary for the deployment of EUAA perso		
Increased temporary reception capacity		
 The Dutch authorities are assisted in the increase of temporary reception capacity through the following activities: COA and EUAA to develop together site design(s) and list of necessary functions for the deployment of temporary reception units avoiding to the extent possible conflicts with COA's Statement of Requirements for emergency shelters and /or existing partner agreements; and identification of reception sites where increased capacity will be provided EUAA to provide reception units to temporarily expand reception capacity of already existing facilities COA to identify and secure temporary storage of the containers until they 		

ities through in reception
5
nd subject to pport by the onal support, costs for ment, office al authorities'

Measure NL – CO 2: Operational collaboration in the field of reception Expected Outcome 2.1.: Enhanced operational collaboration in the field of reception		
Operational Preconditions	 Joint standard operating procedures are established, and regular coordination meetings are held among the concerned representatives of the national authorities and with EUAA to ensure effective collaboration and coordination. Quarterly Measure Steering Committee meetings are held between EUAA and the beneficiary national authorities in order to ensure effective operational coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Plan. A bi-directional data sharing procedure is in place between EUAA and the Dutch authorities to measure the impact of the intervention. 	
Outputs	 Blueprints and technical specifications for the design and set-up of modular temporary reception centres are developed Expertise in the field of reception-related training is exchanged Feasibility study for a reception logistical hub is performed in view of facilitating the provision of material support to other Member States. 	
Actions	 EUAA and COA develop guidelines and/or technical specifications for the establishment of modular temporary reception centres, notably in the framework of the EUAA Reception "Hardware" Working Group. EUAA and COA exchange expertise in the field of reception-related training through, e.g., translation of modules and workshops 	

	 As part of the feasibility study, COA and EUAA explore options for the establishment of a reception logistical hub for the storage of material support to be provided by EUAA to other Member States.
Inputs	Indicative inputs:
	All inputs are subject to budget availability of the Agency
	Human resources will be defined in the course of implementation
	Other inputs: • Meetings/workshops
	Translation of relevant and applicable COA reception modules
	EUAA will offer technical advice based on needs and availability of resources
	Equipment, material and operational support:
	Conditional to EUAA assessment and approval of any request and subject to budget availability for the present Operational Plan material support by the Agency could include inter alia equipment, material and operational support, 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.
Training	COA has developed a comprehensive curriculum in the area of reception, with numerous modules available, tailored to the needs of the reception area and available online.
	Even in emergency situations in reception, COA is able to deliver all trainings of the curriculum to their staff. The regular training programme for onboarding staff can be condensed in emergency situations.
	In view of the proposed measure NL - FR 1, EUAA will deliver its training for ASTs while coordinating with COA on delivery of the context specific sessions on the Dutch reception system, covering the needed country-specific information, as well as information on SOPs, workflows, the national framework and safety and security measures.
	In reference to proposed measure NL - CO 2, EUAA will exchange experiences with COA on the training curriculum and the training paths for different profiles to be deployed in order to have technical and operational training modules proposed to the different profiles of experts.
	Collaboration in the field of training could consist among others in the exchange of expertise, allowing the EUAA to adapt, translate and integrate COA modules to the EUAA context.