



Press Release

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The European Asylum Support Office publishes its working programme for 2013

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has recently published its Work Programme for 2013. During its third year of operations, EASO plans to further consolidate its operations. The European Union aims at putting in place a Common European Asylum System by the end of 2012. This makes 2013 a crucial year for the implementation of such a system. Within this context, EASO's main priorities for 2013 are: provide operational emergency support to the asylum system of Greece and other Member States in need; develop an EU tailor-made Early warning and Preparedness System on asylum, providing asylum trend analysis and risk scenarios; further develop high quality common asylum training across the EU; provide a common level of Country of Origin Information (COI) across the EU and issue regular COI reports; and consolidate the EASO organisation.

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has recently published its Work Programme for 2013. In 2013 EASO shall **provide operational emergency support to the asylum systems in Greece and other Member States in need**. Emergency Support in case of particular pressure in a Member State will be given on the request of a Member State, after an assessment of the situation by EASO. Hereto, experts of EU Member States who are part of the so-called *Asylum Intervention Pool* could be deployed in the EU Member State under particular pressure.

EASO will develop an EU tailor-made '**Early warning and Preparedness System**' on asylum, providing asylum trend analysis and risk scenarios in accordance with the EASO Regulation, as well as in view of the upcoming implementation of the Article 31 of the Dublin Regulation. Using the Early warning and Preparedness System, EASO provides forecasts of potential flows from third countries. Moreover, constant data collection on asylum from Member States allows for the assessment of the capacity of Member States to cope with the influx of asylum seekers they are receiving, enables the early detection of gaps and needs; thus allowing efficient and timely action.

Moreover, EASO shall **further develop high quality common asylum training across the EU**. EASO training activities will be carried out within the framework of EASO's Training Strategy developed in 2012. The two main instruments of EASO training are: the development and the dissemination of a common European learning material; and the organisation of common European training sessions for EASO trainers as well as the organisation of trainings for the purposes of special support and emergency support programmes.

EASO will also **provide a common level of Country of Origin Information (COI) across the EU and issue regular COI reports**. The availability of and the expertise on Country of Origin Information is one of the cornerstones of decision-making in asylum cases and as such can enhance harmonisation.

Continuous support in the field of COI is an important tool in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System.

In addition, during 2013 EASO will **further consolidate its organisation**. In this context, EASO will recruit new staff members, essentially consisting of experts in the field of asylum.

As to relocation, EASO will **support any further development of relocation activities among Member States** building upon experiences from the evaluation of EUREMA and other bi-lateral relocation activities from Malta carried out by the European Commission together with participating Member States and EASO during 2012. In line with its founding Regulation, EASO will support further developments in the field of relocation which might be agreed at EU level.

The EASO 2013 Working Programme can be accessed via the following link: www.easo.europa.eu

Any further information may be obtained from the European Asylum Support Office by contacting Mr Jean-Pierre Schembri on the following e-mail address: jean-pierre.schembri@ext.ec.europa.eu