



Press Release

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EASO and Cyprus sign agreement to continue EASO support to Cyprus until February 2016

EASO and Cyprus signed an amendment of the EASO Support Plan which provides for further tailor-made support to Cyprus until 29 February 2016. Besides continuing the implementation of the initial support measures, new activities on statistics, age assessment, guardianship, training and Dublin III procedures have been added.

Following a request by Cyprus to further improve and enhance the Cypriot asylum and reception system, the EASO Executive Director decided to continue the support to Cyprus by providing expertise from EASO and the EU Member States up to the end of February 2016.

The request for further support was motivated by the will to ensure sustainability of the positive results which have already been achieved within the context of the support measures implemented from July 2014 until June 2015, so as to adequately address current and future challenges. There is a need for supporting the training of staff, setting up an effective guardianship system for unaccompanied minors in need of international protection, providing expertise on developing an asylum data collection system and managing the implementation of Dublin III procedures.

EASO is coordinating special support teams in Cyprus and works closely together with the Cypriot authorities, UNHCR and other stakeholders.

Background

On 26 May 2014, Cyprus requested EASO for support to improve the asylum and reception system in specific areas (e.g. data collection and analytical capacity, international protection, screening and identifying persons with special needs, age assessment and reception/open accommodation). Based on the situation in Cyprus, the EASO Executive Director decided on 5 June 2014 to render technical and operational support via the joint expertise of EASO and Member States until 1 July 2015.

Following a request made by the Cypriot authorities, EASO agreed on 1 July 2015 to extend the implementation period of the Special Support Plan and to amend certain activities and add specific measures, accommodating the needs of the Cypriot authorities involved in the asylum procedure.

Quick Links

Amendment No 1 of the EASO Special Support Plan to Cyprus (2015): [EN](#)

EASO Special Support Plan to Cyprus (2014): [EN](#)

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@easo.europa.eu