

Press Release

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EASO and Italy sign Special Support Plan

EASO and Italy have today signed a special support plan which provides for EASO Special Support to Italy, until the end of 2014, in a number of prioritized areas, such as data collection and analysis, Country of Origin Information (COI), Dublin system, reception system and emergency capacity, and training of independent judiciary.

Anticipating the implementation of the new European Asylum Package while facing large fluctuations in the number of arrivals of immigrants, together with the need of keeping a high standard asylum and reception process have motivated Italy to ask EASO for assistance in reinvigorating its Asylum and Reception Systems.

Dr Robert K. Visser, Executive Director of EASO, and Prefect Angela Pria, Head of the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration within the Ministry of Interior of Italy, have today signed, in Malta, the EASO Special Support Plan for Italy. The Special Support Plan provides for technical and operational assistance by EASO to Italy up until the end of 2014. **EASO will support Italy in a number of prioritized areas, such as data collection and analysis, Country of Origin Information (COI), Dublin system, reception system and emergency capacity, and training of independent judiciary.**

Following a request made by Italy on 7 December 2012, the EASO Executive Director decided to render Special Support to Italy using the joint expertise of EASO and Member States, based on the fact that Italy's present asylum and reception system faces major challenges and difficulties in guaranteeing a homogenous level of services foreseen by the national legislation, when significant numbers of immigrant arrivals take place.

The EASO Special Support Plan to Italy will improve and enhance the Italian Asylum and Reception System, providing for specialization of personnel on Country of Origin Information, reinforcement of the analytical capability and of the Dublin system, quality conditions in reception centers, operational procedures for the emergency capacity and further support to appeal instances. Under the Special Support Plan, which was signed today, EASO will provide for 42 support activities in Italy, of technical and operational assistance to assist in enhancing Italy's implementation of the instruments of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

EASO will draft development plans, operative guidelines, manuals, organise trainings, thematic workshops and provide for technical advice and quality standards.

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