



**EASO SPECIAL SUPPORT PLAN TO CYPRUS
- Amendment No 1 -**

The EASO Special Support Plan to Cyprus was signed on 5 June 2014 by the Executive Director of EASO and the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus.

Given the need for an extension of the duration of the Plan and adjusted needs in the scope of the support measures, the amendments (marked in *Italics*), as described in Annex I, are hereby agreed.

EASO shall send a copy of the amendment to the Members of the EASO Management Board.

Malta and Cyprus, 1 July 2015

The Executive Director
of the European Asylum
Support Office

SIGNED
Dr Robert K. Visser

The Minister of Interior
of the Republic of Cyprus

SIGNED
Sokratis Hasikos

Annex I

This Special Support Plan lays down the conditions and objectives of EASO’s specific technical and operational support to Cyprus until *29 February 2016* and sets out the conditions for participation in these specific EASO activities.

The implementation period of the EASO Measures is extended until 29 February 2016.

- EASO Measure CY 1 is amended as follows:

EASO Measure CY 1: Support the Cypriot Data Collection and Analytical Capacity	
Responsible Authorities	Aliens and Immigration Police of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior (including Dublin Office) Civil Registry and Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior Refugee Reviewing Authority
Current situation	Asylum Statistics of concern to Eurostat, FRONTEX and EASO are collected by four different services/entities within the Cyprus Public Service. These are the Asylum Service, the Refugee Reviewing Authority, the Civil Registry and Migration Department and the Aliens and Immigration Service of the Police. There is no coordination between the above-mentioned Services on the collection of the statistics.
Objective(s)	Enhance the capacity of staff with regard to methodologies and methods of analysis aimed at assessing the Cypriot asylum system in the framework of the CEAS. Enhance inter-service coordination
Pre-conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Appointment of staff responsible for subject-related topics. – Involvement of the national representative in the EASO group for the Provision of Statistics (so-called EASO GPS-Network). – Involvement of the national representative in FRONTEX Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) – Involvement of the national entry point for collection of data under Regulation 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection
EASO support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mapping of existing information sources is performed, with the aim to retrace statistics related to the asylum procedure (first and subsequent/second instances), from the arrival (reception centres) to asylum decisions (return/integration), the Dublin-related procedure and the EURODAC system, and identify potential gaps in the asylum system; 2. Data collection: operative guidelines of collecting asylum information for improving the harmonisation of data collection practices are drafted;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Data provision: definition of tables mirroring legal categories with statistical categories (as defined by EASO, FRONTEX and Eurostat guidelines) is provided. A set of indicators to qualify coherency of operational data with validated data provided according to EC 862/2007 Art. 4 and Art. 6 are established; 4. Data analysis – capacity building: support in management of backlog and monitoring of stock of pending cases is given, as a proxy of MS capacity to cope with asylum influx and definition of typical indicator to measure the efficiency of asylum system (processing time, criteria to plan caseworkers’ activities etc.); 5. <i>Provision of technical support/expertise on developing an asylum data collection system.</i> 6. A final workshop in which the aforementioned deliverables are presented to all stakeholders involved is organised. <p>Preparatory meetings in Malta: participation of CY delegates as A-category in EASO data collection and analysis-related activities</p> <p>2 experts / 5 calendar days each, 1 travel day each</p> <p>2 experts / 1 calendar days each, 1 travel day each</p> <p>2 experts / 5 calendar days each, 1 travel day each</p> <p>2 experts / 2 calendar days each, 1 travel day each</p> <p>3 experts / (incl. 2 experts from EUROSTAT) / 2 calendar days each, 1 travel day each</p> <p><i>1 expert / 30 calendar days, 1 travel day per mission</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>6 activities / 12 experts / 62 calendar days</i></p>
Implementation	2014: Q3 (September), Q4; 2015: Q1-Q4
Deliverable(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowchart and general structure of asylum informative platform (who, what, when) is available. • Operative lines of collecting asylum information for improving harmonisation of data collection practices are available. • Mirror tables to improve comparability of statistics provided are available. • Standardized reporting of CY capacity to deal with asylum influx to support the definition of a preventive action plan is established. • <i>Expertise/support on developing an asylum data collection system provided.</i> • One final workshop is organised.

- EASO Measure CY 4 is amended as follows:

EASO Measure CY 4: Support in relation to minors/unaccompanied minors in need of international protection	
Responsible Authorities	<p>Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance</p> <p>Civil Registry and Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Aliens and Immigration Police of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order</p>
Current situation	<p><i>1. Age assessment</i></p> <p><i>The established age assessment procedure involves dental panoramic x-ray combined with wrist x-ray as well as an examination by a paediatrician. Relevant age assessment interviews performed by the Asylum Service as well as welfare assessment reports, prepared by the Social Welfare Services, are added to the medical procedure.</i></p> <p><i>In order to follow a holistic approach, an additional assessment of the age of applicants for international protection claiming to be unaccompanied minors by psychologists is being considered. Due to lack of relevant knowledge and experience, there is a need for best practice exchanges how to combine the different methods available and if decided to incorporate an assessment by psychologists, to organise specific trainings for them.</i></p> <p><i>2. Guardianship and representation</i></p> <p><i>There is an immediate need for identifying best practices and for training staff entrusted with the guardianship and representation of children in need of international protection. Standard Operating Procedures and written inter-institutional guidelines are not available yet.</i></p>
Objective(s)	<p>Enhance the capacity of the relevant stakeholders in assessing the age of asylum applicants and in referring unaccompanied minors to suitable facilities.</p> <p>In line with “EASO age assessment practice in Europe” report, take a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach to age assessment, e.g. the development, implementation and training on age assessment by both non-medical and medical methods, including a social services assessment, psychological interviews/tests, age determination interviews, physical development assessment by paediatricians, along with the medical tests such as bone x-rays.</p> <p><i>Improved knowledge and expertise in safeguarding unaccompanied minors in need of protection. Guardianship system further developed.</i></p>
Pre-conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointment of staff responsible for subject-related topics. - Appointment of a coordination group of the stakeholders involved. - A (final) decision on the selection of the age assessment instrument, meeting the requirements of Article 25(5) and of Article 19 of EU Directive



	<p>2013/32, is taken (expected before summer 2014). If the final method selected involves x-ray, it needs to meet the conditions in the Council Directive 2013/59/EURATOM.</p>
<p>EASO support</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Age assessment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Best practice exchange how to implement the age assessment methodology (based on EASO's publication on Age Assessment) in the CY asylum and reception procedure, especially with regard to an assessment by psychologists. Specialised trainings provided for psychologists in this field.</i> - Specialised training (in Greek) is given to dentists (40) appointed by the Ministry of Health to conduct the specialised dental panoramic x-rays for age assessment. - Two workshops to introduce the age assessment system to the relevant stakeholders are organised. On the part of the Social Welfare Services, 20 social workers and 36 institutional officers are expected to attend the workshops. On the part of the Ministry of Health, 20 general practitioners, 40 dentists and 8 persons from the Mental Health Services are expected to be attending the workshops. 2. <i>Guardianship and representation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Based on a needs assessment, roles and responsibilities defined between institutional stakeholders involved.</i> - <i>Strategic guidance provided on intake-procedures and reception standards.</i> - <i>Support delivered in enhancing the guardianship system, fulfilling the needs of the actors involved as well as the implementing obligations from the recast EU asylum acquis (such as Dublin III provisions). This may include an analysis of workflows, the creation of protocols/checklists and the possible development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).</i> - <i>Training, coaching and/or on-the-job advice to strengthen the capacity of CY officials to implement the guardianship system.</i> <p>2 experts / 10 calendar days each, 1 travel day each 2 experts / 2 calendar days each, 1 travel day each 2 experts / 2 calendar days each, 1 travel day each 3 experts / 6 calendar days each, 1 travel day per mission 2 experts / 5 calendar days each, 1 travel day each 2 experts / 10 calendar days each, 1 travel day each 2 experts / 12 calendar days each, 1 travel day each 2 experts / 5 calendar days each, 1 travel day each</p> <hr/> <p>10 activities / 17 experts / 52 calendar days</p>



Implementation	2014: Q3 and Q4; 2015: Q1-Q4; 2016: Q1
Deliverable(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Input to the age assessment methodology is provided.</i> • <i>Specialised training on age assessment (in Greek) is given to dentists and psychologists.</i> • <i>At least 2 workshops on age assessment are organised.</i> • <i>Roles and responsibilities in the field of guardianship defined.</i> • <i>Guardianship system through strategic advice and practical tools enhanced.</i> • <i>CY officials better equipped to implement the guardianship system.</i>

- A new EASO Measure CY 7: Support with capacity building of CY officials, is added in the Special Support Plan, as follows:

EASO Measure CY 7: Support with capacity building of CY officials	
<i>Responsible Authorities</i>	<p><i>Aliens and Immigration Police of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order</i></p> <p><i>Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance</i></p> <p><i>Refugee Reviewing Authority [Administrative Court - expected to be established by the end of 2015, TBC]</i></p> <p><i>Civil Registry and Migration Department</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of Health</i></p> <p><i>Asylum Service</i></p>
<i>Current situation</i>	<p>1. <i>Tailor-made workshops/ad-hoc thematic seminars</i></p> <p><i>The responsible authorities are in the process of further strengthening their capacity in the field of asylum. There are various needs for training and capacity building mainly due to the implementation of the new legislative amendments in transposing the recast EU asylum acquis.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Victims of torture</i></p> <p><i>Based on the provisions of Istanbul Protocol for the effective examination and documentation of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, health care professionals should act on the basis of the necessary expertise for the purpose of objective documentation of their findings. The documentation of physical and psychological findings should be based on knowledge acquired through an essential and on-going training, which according to Annex IV of Istanbul Protocol.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the above and also the comments/recommendations of the Council of Europe's Committee for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CPT), there is a need to organise training targeted to health care professionals who are involved in the process of examining potential victims of torture and develop corresponding guidance material.</i></p>



	<p>3. <i>EASO Training Curriculum</i></p> <p><i>There is currently a national trainer on the “Interviewing Children” Module and the intention of the Asylum Service is to attend the “Train-the-trainer” sessions on the “Reception Module” and the “Interviewing vulnerable persons Module” with the purpose of organising national trainings on these Modules.</i></p>
<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Improved knowledge of CY officials on the practical implementation of the recast EU asylum acquis at 1st and 2nd instance. Enhanced capacity of health care professionals examining potential victims of torture.</i>
<i>Pre-conditions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator by each responsible authority.</i> - <i>Training/workshop topics to be indicated by the responsible authorities.</i> - <i>CY will provide a list of participants in due time before the events begin.</i>
<i>EASO support</i>	<p>1. <i>Tailor-made workshops/ad-hoc thematic seminars</i></p> <p><i>At least 2 workshops/ad-hoc thematic seminars are delivered. Where suitable and beneficial, a regional approach may be pursued. Duration of each workshop in total, including preparation, up to 5 days each: 2 activities/ 4 experts / 5 calendar days, 1 travel day each</i></p> <p>2. <i>Examining victims of torture</i></p> <p><i>Trainings for the following target group: Coroners (Members of Medical Council/Board established for this purpose), Pathologists (Members of Medical Council), Psychiatrists (Members of Medical Council), Psychologists, General Practitioners, Paediatricians, Orthopaedics, General Surgeons, Gynaecologists, Paediatric Surgeons: 2 activities/ 4 experts / 3 calendar days, 1 travel day each</i></p> <p><i>Based on a needs assessment, support provided in developing practical tools and/or guidance material: 2 activities/ 4 experts / 5 calendar days, 1 travel day each</i></p> <p>3. <i>EASO Training Curriculum</i></p> <p><i>Trainings in the EASO Training Curriculum will be provided online and followed by mandatory face-to-face sessions either in Malta for the train-the-trainer session or in Nicosia in case of national trainings. Selected modules include Interviewing Vulnerable Persons, Interviewing Children, Reception and others upon request.</i></p> <p><i>Train-the-trainer sessions in Malta: 2 activities/ 4 trainees/ 4 calendar days</i></p> <p><i>National trainings in Nicosia: 2 activities / 4 experts (coaches)/ 3 calendar days including support during e-learning</i></p>
<i>Implementation</i>	<i>2015: Q3-Q4; 2016: Q1</i>
<i>Deliverable(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Up to 2 workshops/ad-hoc thematic seminars delivered, covering for instance contingency planning and professional development for judges.</i> • <i>Up to 2 trainings provided for health care professionals who are involved in the process of examining potential victims of torture.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>As established by a needs assessment, practical tools developed to guide health care professionals in examining potential victims of torture.</i> • <i>At least 2 national trainings in the EASO Training Curriculum, in particular the Modules Interviewing Vulnerable Persons and Interviewing Children (with the support of Member State coaches).</i> • <i>Train-the-trainers delivered in the EASO Training Curriculum for up to 4 CY trainees.</i>
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- A new EASO Measure CY 8: Support in enhancing the capacity of the Dublin Unit, is added in the Special Support Plan, as follows:

EASO Measure CY 8: Support in enhancing the capacity of the Dublin Unit	
<i>Responsible authorities</i>	<i>Asylum Service Aliens and Immigration Service of the Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order</i>
<i>Current situation</i>	<i>The Dublin Office is part of the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior. Two officers are appointed to operate, parallel to other duties, the Dublin Office. One officer has been temporarily transferred to the Civil Registry and Migration Department and therefore, there is only one officer to deal with the increasing numbers of incoming and outgoing requests. The outgoing requests require interviews and family tracing in cooperation with the Social Welfare Services. A substantial number of requests are being accepted and this requires coordination with the Civil Registry and Migration Department, the Immigration Office of the Police and the Social Welfare Services for transferring the applicants to other Member States.</i>
<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Enhanced knowledge and capacity of the Dublin Unit on the implementation of the Dublin III procedures.</i>
<i>Pre-condition(s)</i>	<i>CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator.</i>
<i>EASO support</i>	<i>1 activity/ 2 experts / 5 calendar days, 1 travel day 1 activity/ 2 experts/ 30 calendar days, 1 travel day</i>
<i>Implementation</i>	<i>2015: Q3-Q4</i>
<i>Deliverable(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. A technical report drafted on the situation of the functioning of the Cypriot Dublin Unit and requirements in terms of Eurodac and DubliNet stations. Furthermore, Terms of Reference developed for a joint processing pilot.</i> <i>2. A joint processing pilot implemented for a limited period of time, establishing joint team of experts working together with the staff of the Dublin Unit to process the incoming and outgoing Dublin requests according to the Dublin III Regulation, as established in the agreed Terms of Reference.</i>

- Current EASO Measure CY 7: Final evaluation of the implementation of the EASO Special Support Plan to Cyprus becomes EASO Measure CY 9.