



PRESS RELEASE

Valletta Harbour, 14 May 2014

EASO starts new project with Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will be participating in the work of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). Moreover, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Tunisian Republic will be participating in the work of both EASO and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex). The kick-off meeting of this first EASO external action took place in Malta on 13 and 14 May. The project is financed by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The meeting brought together representatives of the three beneficiary countries together with experts from Member States and EASO to discuss and schedule the project activities. Participants also visited the EASO premises. The project aims to contribute to a better understanding of the function, operations and activities of EASO and Frontex and the role EU Member States play within the organisations. Through the project, EASO and Frontex will assess and identify the technical assistance needs of Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia and the suitability of the existing EASO and Frontex tools for their possible adaptation. Activities foreseen in the project include field visits, trainings, familiarisation visits, workshops, meetings, thematic seminars, and translations of selected EASO training modules, and other necessary documents and publications in Arabic. The target groups are asylum and border management authorities with operational responsibilities, performing activities such as the exchange of information, capacity building, international cooperation and legal activities. Among the target groups are representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Ministries of Interior of Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

This initiative is not only important for the beneficiary countries but also for EASO since this is the first time that the agency is engaging in such actions within the external dimension of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) following the adoption of the EASO External Action Strategy in November 2013. Moreover, the initiative is being undertaken with countries with which the EU has concluded (Tunisia and Morocco) or is negotiating (Jordan) an EU Mobility Partnership, which creates the right framework for EU level cooperation with Third Countries of interest to the EU. EASO and Frontex will use existing tools that they have in place and involve Member States experts in the delivery of the measures foreseen in the project.

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



A project implemented
by EASO



This project is funded
by the European Union

"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".