

Press Release

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Interim assessment on the implementation of the EASO Operating Plan for Greece

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has published an interim assessment on the implementation of the EASO operating plan for Greece. This interim assessment report looks into the state of implementation of the EASO support measures (contained in the EASO Operating Plan for Greece), compares the current situation with the situation in March 2011, identifies the changes made till end of May 2014 and highlights where further efforts are needed.

The report can be found via the following link: <http://easo.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/Interim-assessment-on-the-implementation-of-the-EASO-Operating-Plan-for-Greece.pdf>

Following a request made by the Greek Government, in February 2011, EASO agreed to support Greece with its establishment of the new Asylum Service, First Reception Service, Appeal Authority, and reception in general and reduction of the backlog via the deployment of experts from the different EU member states via the so-called Asylum Support Teams. The first phase of EASO's support to Greece ended in March 2013. Following a request made by the Greek Government early 2013 for further support, EASO will continue to support Greece until December 2014. In this second phase EASO supports Greece via the deployment of Asylum Support Teams, which provide training on nationality establishment (in close cooperation with Frontex) and support on EU funding, support on the collection and analysis of statistical data and support in the field of Country of Origin Information. Depending on the request by the Greek government, EASO can rearrange or step up its operations.

This interim assessment report shows that with the support of EASO and other stakeholders involved, Greece has taken concrete steps towards establishing a modern asylum and reception system for offering protection to those in need. Whilst Greece has set up an asylum procedure at first and second instance, capacity building and consolidation should continue, in particular in the field of reception and clearing of the backlog of asylum cases, with a view to ensure the sustainability of the new procedures and further improve the standards in accordance with EU and Greece's legal obligations. Further implementation of a data quality management will enhance the assessment of Greek asylum data collection and analysis, within the Common European Asylum System.

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