



## Press Release

PR 07/2016

07 March 2016

### EASO intensifies its efforts on Relocation

*The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) steps up operational support in Italy and Greece.*

In the past weeks, EASO has been significantly scaling up operations in Italy and Greece, which started respectively in September and October 2015.

EASO's role in Italy and Greece focusses on three main activities: provision of information to new arrivals, in order to inform applicants on the relocation scheme (in the hotspots) and on the asylum procedure in Italy and Greece; supporting the registering process and the matching of applicants with the most appropriate Member State for Relocation.

In Italy, around 30 EASO experts are currently deployed in the hotspots: Lampedusa, Pozzallo, Trapani and the recently opened hotspot of Taranto - as well as in vital areas and hubs: Catania, Villa Sikania, Agrigento, Questura of Rome, Questura of Milan and Bari.

In Greece, an EASO team of around 50 people is present in the hotspots of Lesvos, Chios and Samos, as well as in the Port of Piraeus and several other camps in Athens (Eleonas, Elliniko, Schisto), in Diavata (Thessaloniki) and Idomeni (border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

To date, some 874 people have been relocated. Overall, 16.000 people have been informed by EASO about the relocation programme and around 1440 cases are in the process of being relocated.

Moreover, EASO has provided logistical support to Greece to support the opening and operation of the hotspots and relocation. Such support has been key for today's relocation of 212 people from Greece to France and Portugal.

*Any further information on EASO may be obtained by contacting Mr Jean-Pierre Schembri on the following e-mail address: [jean-pierre.schembri@easo.europa.eu](mailto:jean-pierre.schembri@easo.europa.eu)*

*Follow us live on twitter [@EASO](https://twitter.com/EASO)*