



Press Release

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**EASO launches Practical Tools for First-Contact Officials on Access to the Asylum procedure**

*EASO, together with Frontex, has developed a number of new practical tools which aim to assist first-contact officials working at the borders and detention facilities, border and coast guards, police, immigration authorities and personnel of detention facilities, in ensuring access to the asylum procedure for those who may be in need of international protection. The tools can be accessed [online](#).*

The growing scope and complexity of migration movements creates a challenging environment at the external borders of the EU. Persons with different motives and objectives move alongside each other within mixed migration flows using the same routes and means of transport. Such journeys may be long, hard and life-threatening, often organised in an irregular manner. Alongside people whose reasons for travelling are not protection-related are those who have protection needs that require immediate action. These may include persons in need of international protection as well as victims of human trafficking, torture, rape or other serious forms of violence, separated or unaccompanied children, women at risk and other vulnerable persons.

Being often the first point of contact for third country nationals reaching the EU, the first-contact officials play a crucial role in timely identification of those persons, addressing their basic needs, guaranteeing their fundamental rights, providing them with information and directing them to adequate procedures and to the competent authorities.

In order to support them in fulfilling their obligations to ensure access to the asylum procedure for those who may be in need of international protection, EASO and Frontex in close cooperation with the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and UNHCR initiated the development of the **Practical Tools for First-Contact Officials on Access to the Asylum procedure**. These tools are included in an information pack that will soon be distributed to the EU+ States, and which contains the following elements:

- **A Practical Guide on Access to the Asylum Procedure** that provides information about the core obligations of the first-contact officials, the rights of persons in need of international protection, information on the procedural guarantees and support that is provided in the first-contact context.
- **A Poster on Access to the Asylum Procedure** that can be displayed, for example, in the first-contact officials' workplaces at the border-crossing points, at airports and in detention centres, and serve as a constant reference tool for first-contact officials.
- **A Pocket Book on Access to the Asylum Procedure**, a small booklet suitable for operational purposes. It can be carried as a constant reminder of the core obligations for the first-contact officials when dealing with persons who may wish to apply for international protection.

- **A Leaflet on Frequently Asked Questions** that provides quick access to relevant information about Access to the Asylum Procedure by posing direct questions that first-contact official should have answers to.

The tools are accessible online on the following link: <http://easo.europa.eu/accesstoprocedure>.

*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)*

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