

Press Release

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EASO and Italy sign agreement to continue EASO support to Italy until April 2016

EASO and Italy signed a [new Support Plan](#) which provides for EASO tailor-made support to Italy to be implemented over a period of 12 months. The support focuses on long-term operational support for the Italian Territorial Commissions and Sections in the field of: Country of Origin Information (COI) and administrative preparation of the asylum files; tackling of the existing backlog of pending cases in the Dublin procedure; and strengthening the capacity of reception measures (such as those for unaccompanied minors). Moreover, EASO will continue training personnel employed with the Italian National Asylum Commission and to engage in capacity building measures for the newly established COI Unit.

Due to the high pressure on the Italian asylum and reception system, Italy has asked for continued support in order to ensure sustainability of the good results achieved through the EASO first Support Plan for Italy and to improve its asylum and reception system in line with requirements of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

The implementation of the [new Support Plan](#) will start in April 2015 and it will be realized over a period of 12 months, ending in April 2016. EASO will continue to support Italy's efforts to improve and strengthen its strategic management, as well as upgrading the standards of its asylum and reception system in the context of the implementation of the Common European Asylum System. EASO shall continue training personnel employed with the Italian National Asylum Commission and will continue to engage in capacity building measures for the newly established COI Unit. Moreover, [new EASO support actions](#) will focus on long-term operational support for the Italian Territorial Commissions and Sections in the field of: Country of Origin Information and administrative preparation of the asylum files; tackling of the existing backlog of pending cases in the Dublin procedure; and strengthening the capacity of reception measures (such as those for unaccompanied minors). Support Teams made up of EASO experts and experts from Member States will be set up to collaborate on these endeavors.

Following the signature of this [new Support Plan](#), Dr Visser, EASO Executive Director, noted that: *After the successful implementation of the first Support Plan for Italy in 2013-2014, the new Support Plan will provide Italy with the necessary tools to strengthen its asylum determination system and reception capacities. It is now time to focus on the long-term sustainability. With the excellent and dedicated cooperation of our Italian partner authorities I believe the new Support Plan will provide real added value in helping Italy meet its asylum and reception challenges. I am convinced that by working together, we will be able to achieve the objectives of the Special Support Plan and set another example of successful practical solidarity in the EU.*

Background

EASO support to Italy dates back to June 2013. Anticipating the implementation of the new European Asylum Package, while facing large fluctuations in the number of arrivals of immigrants, together with the need of keeping high standards in its asylum and reception processes, have motivated Italy to ask EASO for assistance in enhancing its Asylum and Reception Systems. In this context, following a request made by Italy, in June 2013, the EASO Executive Director decided to render Special Support to Italy using the joint expertise of EASO and Member States. The first EASO Support Plan for Italy ran until December 2014, and focused on a number of prioritised areas, such as: data collection and analysis, Country of Origin Information (COI), Dublin system, reception system and emergency capacity, and training of independent judiciary.

As a result of the support provided by EASO under the first Support Plan during 2013-2014, Italy managed to reinforce parts of its international protection and reception system. Italian staff has been trained and Italy developed its COI capacity. Moreover, significant progress was achieved in terms of increasing Italy's capacity for reception and registration of applicants for international protection, as well as their preparedness and reaction capabilities.

Italy, as an EU Member State at the external border, on the southern Mediterranean migration route, continues to be under serious migratory and refugee pressure. The request for continued support by EASO was inspired by Italy's will to ensure sustainability of the good results achieved by EASO through the measure contained in the Operating Plan for Italy so that the current and future challenges can be adequately addressed. The implementation of the [new Special Support Plan](#), will start in April 2015 and it will be realized over a period of 12 months, ending in April 2016.

Quick Links

EASO's Special Support Plan for Italy (2015): [EN](#)

EASO Operating Plan for Italy (2013-2014) [EN](#), its first [EN](#) and second amendment [EN](#)

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