



**FOURTH EASO CONSULTATIVE FORUM PLENARY MEETING
11 & 12 December 2014**

Breakout session 2: EASO's operational support

- Report -

Facilitated by: **Eva Singer**, Danish Refugee Council

Supported by: **Anca Pristavu**, EASO Operational Support Officer

Summary

EASO delivered a short presentation about operational support provided to requesting Member States over the past three years. Ms Singer expressed a certain frustration concerning the practical modalities for involvement in EASO operational support by civil society

A cooperation platform should be set up and a methodology drafted in order for civil society representatives to be involved in EASO operational support. As follow up actions, participants proposed creating a roster of experts to facilitate the contribution of local and international expertise in EASO operational support area.

Detail

Participants discussed intensively the possible role of civil society in EASO operational support activities: points were stressed concerning the monitoring and evaluation indicators of the EASO special support/operating plans and on the possible way to promote an inclusive approach, with the civil society's involvement, in the interim and final evaluation phases of EASO special support/operating plans.

Participants mentioned the need for EASO to assess whether the support given to a certain Member State is translated in concrete improvements of the identified areas of the national system and to evaluate the overall impact of the support on the asylum process and on the capacity to properly address the needs of the beneficiaries of international protection. FRA suggested establishing channels for the civil society to provide EASO with feedback on changes and improvements witnessed in their areas of work in the Member State where operations are implemented. This point was extensively debated and practical examples were mentioned in relation to publicly available information that could feed into EASO evaluations (e.g. BG stock taking report - Febr.2014, the EL Interim Assessment -July 2014, the BG OP final evaluation-to be published).

ICMC (Ms Petra Hueck) requested for more down-to-earth support measures and stakeholders cooperation on the ground. The idea of a cooperation platform was introduced, where all local actors and international stakeholders are gathered around the table by EASO to discuss, before the beginning of operations in a Member State, the methodology for the implementation of a support plan and the possible roles of the stakeholders. EASO was invited to set clear priorities of action in the Member States requesting support, as



EASO might not be in a position to address all deficiencies of the system; a complementary approach which integrates EASO's operational support with the work of the civil society organisations should be sought.

Another topic of discussion concerned the deployment of experts and the creation of a roster that includes the expertise of local and international organisations that can be made available in the context of EASO operational support. A practical example was given by the Danish Refugee Council which identifies areas where the organisation could work in partnership with the national authorities within the framework of EASO special support/operating plans.

Regarding the areas where immediate intervention of civil society could facilitate the implementation the CEAS instruments, the participants mentioned their early involvement in the design of the support plans, active participation in the evaluation of the support offered and setting up monitoring measures/instruments (mid-term reports, to be made public available).

Next steps

EASO and the civil society representatives in the Consultative Forum will work towards the establishment, before the next meeting of CF in 2015, of a roster of experts in different areas of expertise that can be called upon in EASO operational support.

A local stakeholders' cooperation platform could be set up for each EASO special support/operational support plan and a methodology drafted in order for civil society representatives to support the implementation of EASO special support/operational plans.