

Study on Language Assessment for Determination of Origin



Executive summary

Study on Language Assessment for Determination of Origin of Applicants for International Protection

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List of abbreviations

Term	Definition
AI	artificial intelligence
Dublin III regulation	Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast)
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EU	European Union
EU+ countries	Member States of the European Union and associated countries
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
ICF	ICF International, Inc.
LADO	language assessment for determination of origin ¹
Member States	Member States of the European Union
ML	machine learning
MPI	Migration Policy Institute
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

¹ In the context of this study instead of 'language analysis' the term 'language assessment' has been used to cover both thorough language analysis and initial dialect assessment.



Abstract

Language assessment for the determination of origin (LADO) is a tool used by several asylum and immigration departments to assist with the determination of the origin of applicants for international protection, often in cases where there is a lack of reliable identity documents or uncertainty related to the ethnicity and the country of origin/residence of an applicant. The **feasibility study and cost assessment on the potential of European cooperation in the field of LADO** explored the existing legal and methodological approaches used across EU+ countries (i.e. 27 EU Member States and four Schengen Associated states). It also considered the possibility of creating international cooperation models in the field. The study covers the period between 2004 and present day, and the EU and international legal framework applicable to asylum procedures. The study found that at least 11 countries currently use or have used LADO procedures, whilst 6 are considering introducing LADO in the near future. The use of LADO is regulated at national level either through legislation, jurisprudence and/or a set of administrative practices. Current cooperation on LADO is done through ad hoc bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

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This is the executive summary of the **Feasibility study and cost assessment on the potential of European cooperation in the field of language assessment for origin determination (LADO)**, carried out by ICF International Inc. as a contractor, with the collaboration of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) on behalf of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).





1. Objectives and scope of the study

The aim of this study is to examine potential models of EU+ cooperation in the field of LADO. The findings of this study are expected to help the EUAA understand the existing legal and methodological approaches used across EU+ countries and consider the possibility of creating international cooperation models in the field of LADO.

The study's **specific objectives** are to the following.

- Map the different features of existing LADO processes in EU+ countries, with special focus on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) / machine learning (ML) and its impact on asylum procedures.
- Provide comparative legal analysis across EU+ countries on the use of language assessments.
- Assess the feasibility of different international cooperation models as well as the technical and financial requirements for the establishment of an intra-EU+ platform for joint assessments.

The **scope** of the study covers EU27 Member States and four Schengen Associated Countries (31 EU+ countries) and focuses on the period between 2004 and the present day. Its legal scope focuses on the EU and international legal frameworks applicable to asylum procedures, but it also considers other relevant (upcoming) EU legislation, such as the proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Regulation².

² Proposal for a [Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending certain union legislative acts \(COM/2021/206 final\)](#).





2. Context to the study

Language assessment for the determination of origin (LADO) is a tool used by several immigration departments to assist with the determination of the origin of applicants for international protection, often in cases where there is a lack of reliable identity documents or uncertainty related to the ethnicity and the country of origin/residence of an applicant. In these cases, LADO procedures ‘play a gate-keeping role’ in their attempt to determine ‘the genuineness or honesty of asylum seekers’ claims about their origins, whether national, regional, or ethnic’.³

There is no specific regulation on language assessments in asylum procedures at EU level. The qualification directive,⁴ the asylum procedures directive,⁵ the reception conditions directive,⁶ the Dublin III regulation⁷ and the EURODAC regulation⁸ (‘EU asylum acquis’) all focus on the right of asylum seekers to interpreters and to receive information in a language they can understand, but they do not contain any rules on the use of LADO procedures within the asylum context. Similarly, the **EASO regulation of 2010**,⁹ as well as the recently adopted **EUAA regulation**,¹⁰ refer to ‘**interpreting services**’, establishing that in case a Member State faces ‘particular pressure’ in its ‘asylum and reception systems’ it can turn to the EUAA (formerly EASO) for support. Part of this action consists in deploying asylum support teams of asylum experts.¹¹ Among the responsibilities of the support teams, **technical assistance in the form of interpreting services, information on countries of origin, and handling and**

³ Eades, D. (2009), ‘Testing the Claims of Asylum Seekers: The Role of Language Analysis’. See also: Shohamy, E., and McNamara, T., (2009), ‘Language Tests for Citizenship, Immigration, and Asylum’; Reath, A. (2009), ‘Language Analysis in the Context of the Asylum Process: Procedures, Validity, and Consequences’.

⁴ [Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted \(recast\).](#)

⁵ [Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection \(recast\).](#)

⁶ [Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection \(recast\).](#)

⁷ [Regulation \(EU\) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person \(recast\).](#)

⁸ [Regulation \(EU\) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the establishment of ‘Eurodac’ for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of Regulation \(EU\) No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States’ law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes, and amending Regulation \(EU\) No 1077/2011 establishing a European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice \(recast\).](#)

⁹ [Regulation \(EU\) No 439/2010 establishes a European Asylum Support Office.](#)

¹⁰ [Regulation 2021/2303, which forms part of the 2016 package to reform the Common European Asylum System \(CEAS\), grants the EUAA new powers to improve the implementation and functioning of the CEAS by strengthening practical cooperation and information exchange among Member States.](#)

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 439/2010, COM/2016/0271 final - 2016/0131 (COD).





management of asylum cases occupy a central role (Article 14 and recital (26) of the EASO regulation).

In 2004 the Language and National Origin Group (LNOG) published a set of **guidelines**¹² to aid governments in the use of language analysis. However, these remain relatively broad and focus largely on the role that linguists should play in such a process, resulting in widely varied approaches and LADO methodologies used across countries. Within the Schengen area, 7 EU Member States (Austria, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Finland) and 1 Schengen Associated Country (Switzerland) have been using LADO procedures as part of their asylum process for years. In some instances, language assessments are carried out as a quick **plausibility check** of the applicant's background. In other cases a more **complex language analysis** is conducted, which may also serve as evidence in court. Some countries have their own **dedicated departments**, others outsource this to **private companies** (e.g. [Verified](#) or [Sprakab](#)). Recent advancements in the ability of AI to assist in language and dialect identification also create new opportunities, within the existing technical and legal limitations.

¹² The guidelines can be found at the website of the Language & Asylum Research Group: [LADO Guidelines](https://www.essex.ac.uk/language-asylum-research-group/LADO-Guidelines) (essex.ac.uk).





3. Methodological approach and limitations

The study's methodological approach was informed by research tools specifically developed and tailored to build a rich and comprehensive evidence base. The research began in September 2021 and involved the following tools:

- a **review of relevant documentation and literature** across a wide variety of sources at international, EU and national level;
- an **online survey** which was disseminated by the EUAA to national asylum and immigration authorities;
- **semi-structured interviews** with national asylum and immigration authorities that confirmed that their Member State has LADO procedures in place, private LADO service providers and EU Agencies;
- a **workshop** with national asylum and immigration authorities;
- a **legal analysis** that consisted of comparing different approaches to regulate the use of LADO and identifying main legal implications and potential challenges; and
- a **feasibility assessment** which developed and assessed the impact of options for a potential model for cooperation in the field of LADO.

The main **limitations** encountered in this study relate to:

- gaps in publicly available literature;
- gaps in accessing legislative documents on the use of LADO for the legal analysis;
- the inability to consult some stakeholder categories (i.e. international stakeholders and judicial authorities due to a lack of response, and law enforcement which, contrary to the original assumption, at inception stage they are not involved in LADO);
- limited or fragmented evidence from EU+ countries on costs associated with the use of LADO;
- lack of quantitative data on the use of LADO collected at national level (e.g. number of cases they rely on LADO analyses for).



4. Study findings

4.1. Mapping of LADO practices and key features

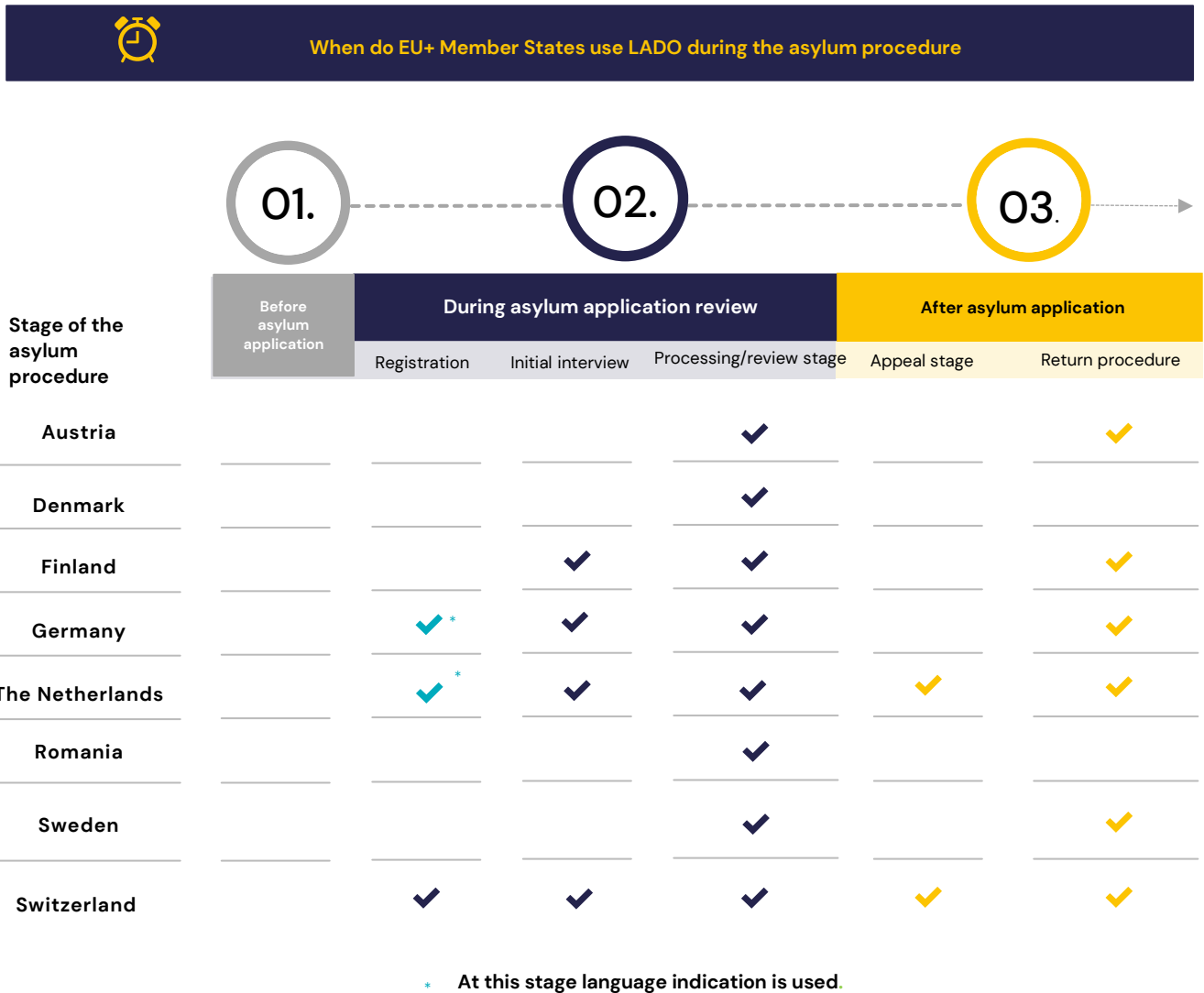
At least 11 EU+ countries (35 %) currently use or have used LADO procedures. Currently, 8 EU+ countries (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland) have LADO procedures in place. 3 EU+ countries (Belgium, Ireland and Malta) have discontinued their use of LADO primarily due to the cost of conducting LADO analyses. 6 EU+ countries (Croatia, Greece, Malta, Polonia, Portugal and Slovakia) are currently considering introducing LADO in the near future. EU+ countries introduced LADO at different points between the mid-1990s and 2020. Reasons for introducing LADO mostly included a general increase in asylum applications, or specifically more applications without documentation or with fraudulent claims of country of origin. Half of EU+ countries with formal LADO procedures in place received guidance and assistance to set them up, such as consultations or study visits from other EU+ countries or experts, peer support, or knowledge exchange.

The **frequency with which EU+ countries use LADO varies significantly**, with some countries making frequent use of LADO (on approx. 10-30 % of asylum applications) and others using it far more rarely (on 1-2 % of total asylum applications).

LADO assessments take place at a very early stage in the asylum procedure. In all countries this typically takes place during the credibility assessment of the asylum procedure. LADO assessments are usually triggered when the asylum case worker raises specific doubts about an applicant's claimed origin (e.g. inconsistencies in the story) or if there is insufficient evidence to support the applicant's claim to their country of origin (e.g. lack of reliable identity documentation). In Ireland, LADO is also triggered when a case is considered particularly complex, whilst in Sweden the applicant themselves could initiate a LADO assessment, as it is offered as a service to complement their application with further evidence. As can be seen in O, LADO can also be triggered at other stages of and beyond the asylum procedure, such as in return procedures and, to a lesser extent, at 'pre-entry stage' and/or appeal.



Figure 1. Stage of the asylum procedure at which LADO is used



Source: ICF/MPI¹³ elaboration, based on consultations with migration and asylum authorities from EU+ currently using LADO.

The case worker cannot exclusively rely on LADO analyses to identify the country of origin. LADO assessments are used as supplementary evidence that provides an indication rather than verification of the country of origin. The extent to which authorities rely on LADO for asylum decisions differs across countries and depends on the type of LADO assessment that is being used.

Some EU+ countries and private LADO providers differentiate between two types of LADO, namely: **language analysis and indication**. Language indication constitutes a preliminary assessment that either confirms the applicants claimed country of origin or suggests that a full in-depth language analysis is necessary. A language analysis is a longer process, which produces a full linguistic report.

¹³ MPI: Migration Policy Institute



In the majority of EU+ countries using LADO, the only national authorities involved in LADO processes are migration and asylum authorities. In Austria judges are occasionally involved, and in Denmark police authorities used to conduct LADO before 2013. 4 EU+ countries considering introducing LADO mentioned that they would also involve border and/or police authorities in the process. As can be seen in Figure 2, LADO analyses in EU+ countries are carried out by in-house language analysts and/or external experts, either from commercial firms or to a lesser extent from universities. The main qualification to conduct language analysis is to be a professional linguist and some Member States also rely on native speakers. In some cases, Member States require that native speakers have linguistic professional qualification themselves or work closely with a professional linguist. In all EU+ countries with LADO procedures in place, the language analysis is made by an expert.

Figure 2. Stakeholders involved in EU+ countries’ LADO procedures

	What stakeholders are involved in EU+ Member State LADO procedures						
	Coordinating LADO procedures	Conducting LADO analyses			Qualifications to conduct LADO		
		National asylum and immigration authorities	In-house expertise	External LADO service providers	Other external experts (e.g. academia)	Professional linguist	Native speaker
Austria	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Denmark	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Finland	✓		✓		✓		
Germany	✓	✓*	✓		✓		
The Netherlands	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Romania	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Sweden	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Switzerland	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓

* At this stage language indication is used.

* Native speakers collaborate with professional linguists but cannot be involved in the language assessment itself

Source: ICF/MPI elaboration, based on consultations with migration and asylum authorities from EU+ currently using LADO.

The format of the LADO data collection differs across countries. All EU+ countries rely on digital recordings of the asylum seeker to carry out the language analysis. The length of the recording (either an interview or monologue) ranges from 15 to 60 minutes. Asylum applicants are usually asked to discuss topics unrelated to their asylum case, such as their personal hobbies or describing a picture in detail. Other practice is also known, where LADO providers ask questions on the asylum seeker’s knowledge of the country and or specific region/city of origin.



EU+ countries and private LADO service providers have explicit quality assurance measures in place for their use of LADO. The quality assurance measures currently in place consist primarily of thorough testing of language analysts and native speakers at recruitment stage, random validation of results and cross-checks either within an agency or between LADO providers, as well as training. In Germany there are also specific quality assurance measures specifically for the use of the language and dialect recognition tool (DIAS).

Taking into account differences in coverage between EU+ countries' LADO procedures, **current LADO analyses cover a wide span of languages across the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), Eastern and Sub-Saharan Africa, South and East Asia, and the Caucasus.** The languages most covered by current LADO procedures and highlighted as valuable for future support are Arabic dialects. All EU+ countries are looking to expand the linguistic and geographic scope of their LADO analysis but face challenges with the availability of experts. To a lesser extent, other challenges faced include using LADO for asylum seekers from different countries who speak the same dialect or from border regions.

4.1.1. Legal analysis

The **use of LADO is regulated at national level either through legislation, jurisprudence and/or a set of administrative practices.** The specific approach to regulating it – i.e. elements covered by the national framework – varies across countries, although the evidence gathered suggests that in most cases, the national framework does not specifically regulate many key aspects of LADO. For instance, the study found no evidence of countries establishing an official definition of LADO, nor specific criteria to determine when LADO should be used. Nevertheless, 5 EU+ countries have legislation that specifically refers to the use of LADO in the asylum process. Some EU+ countries include elements relating to the process or requirements, such as who should carry out the LADO assessment, source of the data, at which stage LADO should be used, and the weight given to the LADO outcome.

The study identified 15 judgments relating to their use of LADO in 4 EU+ countries, none of which suggest that any asylum decisions have been overturned because of having used LADO. 13 of these cases were pronounced by national courts (from the Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland and Poland) and the remaining 2 were pronounced by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and a national court in a country not covered by the study (the United Kingdom). These cases also do not seem to pose an obstacle for potential further cooperation in the field of LADO. However, some of the aspects addressed by the courts are relevant to consider when examining potential models for EU+ cooperation in the field of LADO, such as guidelines concerning key aspects of the role, scope, and requirements of LADO analyses.

There is no evidence of legislation imposing further limitations to the use of AI and machine learning tools for the purposes of LADO than those applicable to the wider use of AI tools (i.e. the 2021 Artificial intelligence Act Proposal¹⁴ and European General Data Protection

¹⁴ Proposal for a [Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending certain union legislative acts](#) (COM/2021/206 final).





Regulation (GDPR)¹⁵. Some national authorities and private LADO providers which do not make use of AI/ML tools for the purposes of LADO expressed reservations about the use of AI in LADO, mostly due to concerns over a potential lower degree of accuracy and thus reliability.¹⁶ . On human rights or ethical implications, the evidence collected for this study does not reveal any cases by national courts or the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) declaring that the use of the DIAS software led to a violation of human rights.

4.2. Feasibility study

Current cooperation between EU+ countries on LADO takes the form of an ad hoc working discussion forum where the EUAA is also invited. This is the first European multilateral cooperation model in the field of LADO. EU+ countries also cooperate through ad hoc bilateral or multilateral cooperation around various issues concerning LADO. This consists of cross-checks between service providers, as well as knowledge exchange and participation in relevant conferences. Some countries also cooperated with non-EU+ countries on LADO, such as Turkey that has started a language analysis project. Overall, most EU+ countries agreed that the EUAA support would be valuable for their country in developing international cooperation around the use of LADO.

The study found that **national authorities face challenges with the use of LADO**. These include the difficulty of finding qualified experts and/or native speakers, the expensive use of LADO, as well as insufficient capacity and resources. The main challenge identified affecting cooperation in the field of LADO is the absence of a legal basis enabling EU+ cooperation between national asylum authorities. This specifically involves data protection concerns about authorities sharing software and asylum applicant voice recordings and exchanging native speakers and language analysts. Another challenge is the limited willingness of some stakeholders to cooperate with one another, such as academics cooperating with national authorities, and private entities cooperating with competing national entities conducting LADO analyses.

Funding for LADO measures at national level has mostly been internal (i.e. national budget allocated to relevant authorities). **Funding for EU-level cooperation mechanisms** chaired by EU agencies have mostly been financed through the Agency(ies)' internal budget(s). Potential funding mechanisms identified for EU-level cooperation in the field of LADO are the European Commission's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), especially as it specifies funding for cooperation between Member States on language assessment in the field of asylum. Potentially, funds could also be allocated to the European Commission's plan on Artificial Intelligence which could also play a role in the funding of an EU+ cooperation model in the field of LADO. The cooperation would also be funded by the budget allocated to any EU

¹⁵ [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC \(General Data Protection Regulation\)](#).

¹⁶ At the time of submission of this report, the concerns raised are of a theoretical nature as there is currently no evidence suggesting that the reliability/accuracy of AI/ML LADO tools is comparatively lower than of human LADO analysis methods.





agency(ies) involved, such as eu-LISA and CEPOL (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training).

The **study identified three potential options for an EU+ cooperation model:**

1. Strengthening EU+ practical cooperation,
2. EU+ guidelines and templates; and
3. EU+ LADO service.

The options are arranged in increasing order of the extent of the EU-level intervention and have been designed as ‘building blocks’, meaning that each option incorporates the measures from the previous option, introducing additional measures.

Option 1 is built around an intra-EU platform with a repository of national LADO practices, relevant case law and directory of available expertise (i.e. available countries, languages and dialects for LADO analysis offered by Member States and other LADO providers).

Option 2 complements this with the production of guidelines, templates, checklists and trainings and workshops on LADO practices and standards.

Option 3 presents the deepest level of EU intervention in the field and consists of an ‘EU+ LADO service’. This entails the EUAA providing the services of LADO experts (through creating a pool of experts in the field of LADO and a procurement of services by LADO experts) and establishing an EU-level AI/ML LADO service for language indication.

The study team assessed the options across the assessment criteria, namely:

- legal, operation and technical feasibility,
- efficiency,
- effectiveness,
- coherence, and
- EU added value.

Table 1 below displays the ratings assigned to each of the options for each assessment criterion. The scores range from -3 to +3, with 0 signifying ‘no change compared to the status quo’. Despite the ‘building block’ structure of the options, the scores attributed to each option reflect the standalone performance of each option.



Table 1. Ratings per options 0¹⁷, 1, 2 and 3

Option by criterion	Option rating (--- to +++)			
	Option 0	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Criterion				
Legal feasibility				
Existence of legal conditions for a cooperation model	0	0	0	-3
Compliance with fundamental rights	0	0	+1	+1
Operational and technical feasibility				
Compatibility with past, current and potential future frameworks	0	+2	+2	+2
Accessibility of cooperation model for key stakeholders	0	+2	+1	+3
Efficiency				
Administrative costs/benefits	0	-1	-2	+1
Compliance costs/ benefits	0	-1	-1	-2
Effectiveness				
Streamlining coordination	0	+1	+2	+3
Impact on how LADO is used	0	+1	+2	+3
Coherence with EU policy objective				
Coherence with EU policy objectives	0	+1	+2	+3
Coherence with EUAA's objectives	0	+2	+2	+3
EU added value				
Added value to the EU	0	+1	+2	+3
Total	0	+8	+11	+17

Source: ICF/MPI elaboration

Option 1's main advantage is its operational, technical, legal and financial feasibility, in addition to being the only option to not present any legal challenges in its implementation. In contrast to this, option 1 presents the smallest added impact, as it presents the slightest change from the baseline.

Option 2 presents a substantial positive impact towards a more harmonised use of LADO across EU+ countries, by contributing to a minimum level of quality and safeguards in place for the use of LADO across EU+ countries. Option 2 will also significantly contribute to the EU's policy objectives, including the New Pact on Migration and Asylum's aim to support efficient asylum procedures by providing national authorities necessary tools, and the EUAA's operational goals of being a hub for exchanging knowledge and a bigger actor for monitoring and guidance. The main challenge posed by option 2 is its accessibility (the capacity and resources for national authorities to attend the regular trainings) and administrative costs (to draft and consistently update guidelines).

Option 3 is the highest ranking for operational and technical feasibility, and also presents the largest positive impacts towards effectiveness and coherence criteria. It constitutes the most

¹⁷ 'Option 0' reflects maintaining the current status quo.



accessible option, relieving national authorities of the administrative burden of coordinating LADO procedures. It would imply the largest degree of harmonisation and cooperation on the use of LADO, as all EU+ countries would rely on the same services vetted and procured by the EUAA. In contrast to options 1 and 2 which mostly benefit EU+ countries with little to no experience using LADO, option 3 is the only option with significant added value also for Member States familiar with language assessment. Nevertheless, option 3 faces significant legal challenges to its implementation (mostly about data protection risks for sharing personal information when national authorities share recordings of speech samples) and compliance costs for the EUAA in putting together the procurement of LADO services, and for EU+ countries to adapt their internal procedures.

Lastly, all options comply with the EU Charter for Fundamental Rights¹⁸, especially its Article 18 guaranteeing the right to asylum. Option 3 only runs some fundamental rights compliance risks, as AI/ML is an area that is currently in the process of being regulated (see the EU AI Act).

¹⁸ European Union, [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#), 26 October 2012, 2012/C 326/02.



5. Recommendations

The study team identified the following operational recommendations towards a potential development of an EU+ cooperation in the field of LADO.

- 1. Carry out an internal assessment of the EUAA's current interest and available resources to dedicate to EU+ LADO cooperation.** The EUAA could conduct an internal assessment of the available resources and extent of interest to develop EU+ LADO cooperation.
- 2. Identify which options (or measures) to be used and/or developed in-house.** The EUAA could present the findings of this study to the EUAA Management Board and potential other relevant stakeholders (e.g. DG HOME). Consequently, the EUAA could facilitate a discussion to rank the available options. A suggested outcome of this step is a ranking of the potential options and/or measures.
- 3. Consult with selected external stakeholders expected to be involved in the options on their available resources and interest.** A ranking of the potential options for EU+ LADO cooperation could be discussed with external stakeholders that are expected to be involved, such as EU stakeholders potentially assisting the EUAA in implementing the options. This would cover liaising with eu-LISA on the feasibility and preconditions of setting up a working platform for exchange of voice samples and reports integrated to an automated system to support LADO assessment. The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) would also be consulted on their potential involvement of designing a training package. Other relevant stakeholders, such as international representatives and private consultants could be involved depending on their concrete expertise on the matter.
- 4. Foster synergies with existing efforts.** The EUAA could then ensure that the current ad hoc cooperation efforts are incorporated and in line with the proposed EU+ cooperation model. This will primarily involve the informal working group on language cooperation, but also could look further afield to LADO work outside the EU+ area, such as conferences organised with other non-EU LADO users. In this step, the EUAA could also look into ensuring synergy with other EU working groups (e.g. Frontex country working groups) and EUAA initiatives (e.g. EUAA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission (RST&HA) Network).
- 5. Draft a working plan and timeline for the development of the option.** At this stage, the EUAA could make a final internal decision on which option they will go ahead with, if necessary, also with the relevant amendments and *caveats* that emerged from the discussions. Thereafter, the responsible EUAA staff could develop a detailed working plan and timeline, with specific financial and human requirements and attribution of tasks and responsibilities per stakeholder. This plan and timeline could be reconfirmed with all necessary stakeholders both within the EUAA and beyond.
- 6. Secure relevant funding.** The EUAA could explore the potential funding mechanisms for the selected option and/or measure(s), including those presented by the study (e.g. AMIF).



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