



# **EUAA - Niger pilot Roadmap**



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# Acknowledgements

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## List of abbreviations

Term	Definition
<b>ACSG</b>	Asylum Capacity Support Group
<b>ANLTP/TIM</b>	National Agency for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and the Illicit Transport of Migrants ( <i>Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes et le Trafic Illicite de Migrants</i> )
<b>BE</b>	Belgium
<b>CEAS</b>	Common European Asylum System
<b>COI</b>	Country of Origin Information
<b>CNCLTP</b>	National Coordinating Commission for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons ( <i>Comité national de coordination de la lutte contre la traite des personnes et les pratiques assimilées</i> )
<b>CNE</b>	National Eligibility Commission (Commission nationale d'éligibilité au Statut de réfugiés)
<b>CRG</b>	Appeal Committee ( <i>Comité des Recours Gracieux</i> )
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations;
<b>CZ</b>	Czech Republic;
<b>DGECMR</b>	Department for Civil Registry, Migration and Refugee Matters (Direction générale de l'état civil, des Migrations et des réfugiés)
<b>EUAA</b>	European Union Asylum Agency
<b>EA</b>	Evidence Assessment (EUAA Core module)
<b>CEAS</b>	Common European Asylum System





Term	Definition
<b>EFJN</b>	The School of Judiciary Training in Niger ( <i>École de Formation Judiciaire du Niger</i> );
<b>ETM</b>	Emergency Transit Mechanism
<b>EUDEL</b>	European Union Delegation;
<b>EU MS</b>	EU Member States, including EU+ countries;
<b>FR</b>	France
<b>GON</b>	Government of Niger
<b>GRF</b>	Global Refugee Forum
<b>IN</b>	Inclusion (EUAA Core module);
<b>IO</b>	International Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IP</b>	International Protection
<b>IT</b>	Interview Techniques (EUAA Core module)
<b>LO</b>	Liaison Office
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation;
<b>MFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MLSA</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Ministère de l'Emploi, du Travail et de la Sécurité Sociale)





Term	Definition
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Interior ( <i>Ministère de l'Intérieur, de la Sécurité Publique, de la Décentralisation et des Affaires Coutumières et Religieuses</i> )
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NA</b>	North Africa
<b>NE</b>	Niger
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization;
<b>OFPRA</b>	French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons ( <i>Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides</i> )
<b>QD</b>	Qualifications Directives
<b>RDPPNA</b>	Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa
<b>RSD</b>	Refugee Status Determination
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>THB</b>	Trafficking in Human Beings;
<b>TNA</b>	Training Needs Assessment
<b>TORs</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TP</b>	Temporary protection
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers





Term	Definition
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nation Children and Education Fund
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



## Introduction and background

The EUAA Pilot Project with Niger (hereinafter referred to EUAA-NE Pilot Roadmap) originates from a specific UNHCR request, and it is placed within the framework of the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) organised by UNHCR as part of the Global Compact for Refugees. It is in line with the EU pledge to the GRF's Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG)<sup>1</sup>. It foresees the participation of EU MS, as a core element, and Belgium has indicated their interest in working with the EUAA on this project, to support NE on asylum and reception-related matters. As part of the GRF/ACSG, France is supporting NE in the same field, while the Czech Republic is supporting financially the EUCAP Sahel mission (not under ACSG umbrella). The EUAA collected information on the needs in NE through a series of meetings with UNHCR NE Office and the UNHCR Regional Bureau in Dakar in Jan-Feb 2021 and undertook a needs assessment mission in Niamey (Niger) in September 2021. During the mission the EUAA met the Nigerien authorities and stakeholders (EUDEL, NE, EU MS Embassies, UNHCR, IOM, EUCAP, etc.), to collect more information on asylum and reception needs.<sup>2</sup> During the mission, NE authorities confirmed their interest in being involved in EUAA's Regional Pilot Project<sup>3</sup>, as well as in jointly formulating the EUAA-NE Pilot Project, focusing on three main areas of intervention: enhancing the asylum procedure (including contributing to NE plans on streamlining the asylum procedure), support in the current asylum reform, and an evaluation of the existing reception system's gaps/needs.

The EUAA will fully engage with the Government of Niger to ensure close coordination on the implementation of activities in Niger with UNHCR and all relevant stakeholders, including via the creation of a technical coordination committee (first meeting foreseen on 7 February 2023).

Within this framework, the EUAA and the Nigerien counterparts agree on the present Pilot Roadmap for cooperation built around main topics of interest/needs as outlined in the Summary section below.

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<sup>1</sup> EUAA was also invited by UNHCR to participate to the virtual Asylum Capacity Support Group Stocktaking Event, which took place on 12 October 2021, with the participation of the NE authorities, as well as other States, inter-governmental entities, international organisations, and civil society organisations. For more information on the ACSG, including the outcome report of the Asylum Capacity Support Group Stocktaking Event, see the ASCG portal at: <https://acsg-portal.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Several consultations were also held with EU MS, including with BE, FR and CZ. Furthermore, EUAA has established contact with the Nigerien authorities, also via a VC between EUAA Executive Director and Niger's Minister of Interior, which took place on July 13th 2021.

<sup>3</sup> The EUAA Regional Pilot Project started on 16 November 2020, with an in-depth needs' assessment phase - involving Partner Countries, European Member States and other stakeholders in the region - which was concluded in May 2021. During the needs' assessment phase, asylum-related needs common to the different countries in the region were identified and served as a basis for the design of project's activities. The Project is supported by EU Member States, and it is implemented under the umbrella of the European Commission's Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa (RDPP NA).



# Methodology

## Needs Assessment and Rationale for the intervention

In line with the background explained above, the present document has been developed using a **participatory approach** where the EUAA and Niger have been working together in the drafting and identification of areas of cooperation. It outlines relevant areas for the delivery of targeted capacity-building activities to be implemented using EUAA specific expertise and with the participation of EU MS experts, **in partnership** with Niger. It gathers input also from relevant stakeholders to achieve a shared and coordinated set up for the implementation of the foreseen actions.

The **pilot Roadmap implementation timeframe is agreed to be of 12 months (extendable, dates to be confirmed).**

To allow sufficient **flexibility and adaptability to the needs and resources** available on both sides, this document can be revised, if need arises, upon agreement of the EUAA and Niger.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure progress is monitored and **support delivered in a sustainable way**, as per EUAA methodology, a timeline and indicators for each activity will be developed. These will also support the continued improvement and adaptation of the document to meet the needs of the NE, as well as to make sure a coordinated approach (including with other stakeholders such as UNHCR) is kept throughout the implementation phase, while also adapting to respective available resources.

The EUAA will request the Nigerien authorities to fill in activity evaluation reports/forms and a mid-term/final general survey to be able to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the activities foreseen in the present document. The outcome will be shared with Nigerien officials and the incorporation of any changes based on lessons learnt gathered from this exercise will be subject to mutual agreement between the EUAA and Niger.

During the implementation phase, the EUAA and Niger agree to an **open two-way communication** to ensure technical level, day-to-day support and/or technical advice will be provided in line with the main areas of cooperation identified in the present document and compatibly with the normal workload of relevant resources.

**Mid-term/final evaluations will be performed and a dedicated exchange/meeting** with Nigerien representatives will be organised by the EUAA to discuss progress as well as the content of any needed adjustment or possible extension of cooperation, based on lessons learnt and best practices.



## General Pre-conditions and Assumptions

Assumptions refer to external and internal factors that will have an impact on the project if they are unfulfilled. Pre-conditions and assumptions are normally analysed in terms of their relative importance, expected impact on the project, and the likelihood of such impact. Identifying in advance important conditions on which the success of the project depends, and which are beyond the control of the EUAA will help the to guide the process towards achieving the project results.

Below some of the key pre-conditions and assumptions that must exist, for the results at each level to be achieved.

- The identified resources, on both the EUAA and Nigerien side, are available for effective and timely implementation.
- The implementation of the activities included in the present document entail no costs for Nigerien authorities.
- All proposed activities are jointly identified and agreed by Niger and the EUAA.
- Nigerien authorities identify and appoint relevant officials/practitioners for participating in the EUAA activities.
- Nigerien authorities and the EUAA are willing to share and exchange relevant information and knowledge for the achievement of the project's results.
- Activities might be re-adapted, based on changes in available resources or on new needs that might arise, as well as based on new information that will be gathered during implementation.
- The EUAA and the Nigerien Government are willing to exchange experiences and take into consideration best practices.
- The EUAA and Niger are willing to maintain an open two-way communication at technical level.
- The EUAA and Niger agree to make the present document publicly available in the EUAA website.



# Summary

As a result of the participatory approach explained above and of the joint assessment of needs, the EUAA and Niger have identified areas pertaining to the asylum and reception fields, where specific interests and needs can be addressed by an enhanced cooperation through EUAA capacity building activities.

Here is a summary of the long-term **outcomes (i.e. overall objectives that go beyond the one-year timeframe of this pilot project) and outputs (i.e. the project's expected results to be achieved within the pilot project's timeline)**, as well as the visual of the intervention logic below.

## **Outcome 1:**

### **Niger has effective asylum legislation, institutions, systems, and procedures in place**

To contribute to this longer-term outcome, the EUAA will (in coordination with relevant stakeholders) support the NE authorities in building in-house expertise and technical knowledge on asylum-related matters, to contribute to informing the review of the national asylum law. More specifically, NE officials will have the opportunity to participate in EUAA (regular and/or ad-hoc) trainings and professional development workshops (as relevant), as well as other capacity building activities under the Regional Pilot Project for NA and NE. In parallel to this, the EUAA can also contribute to strengthen the authorities' knowledge on asylum and reception, by developing qualitative information documents, as detailed in the activities below.

#### **Outputs**

- 1.1. The expertise of Nigerien authorities on asylum-related matters is enhanced, in view of the implementation of the asylum law reform (mainly via participation in EUAA regional pilot project for NA).
- 1.2. The understanding of Nigerien authorities on knowledge management methodologies in the field of asylum and reception is strengthened.
- 1.3. The efficiency of the registration and first instance determination process is enhanced, with particular focus on vulnerable groups.

## **Outcome 2: Niger has effective reception systems in place**

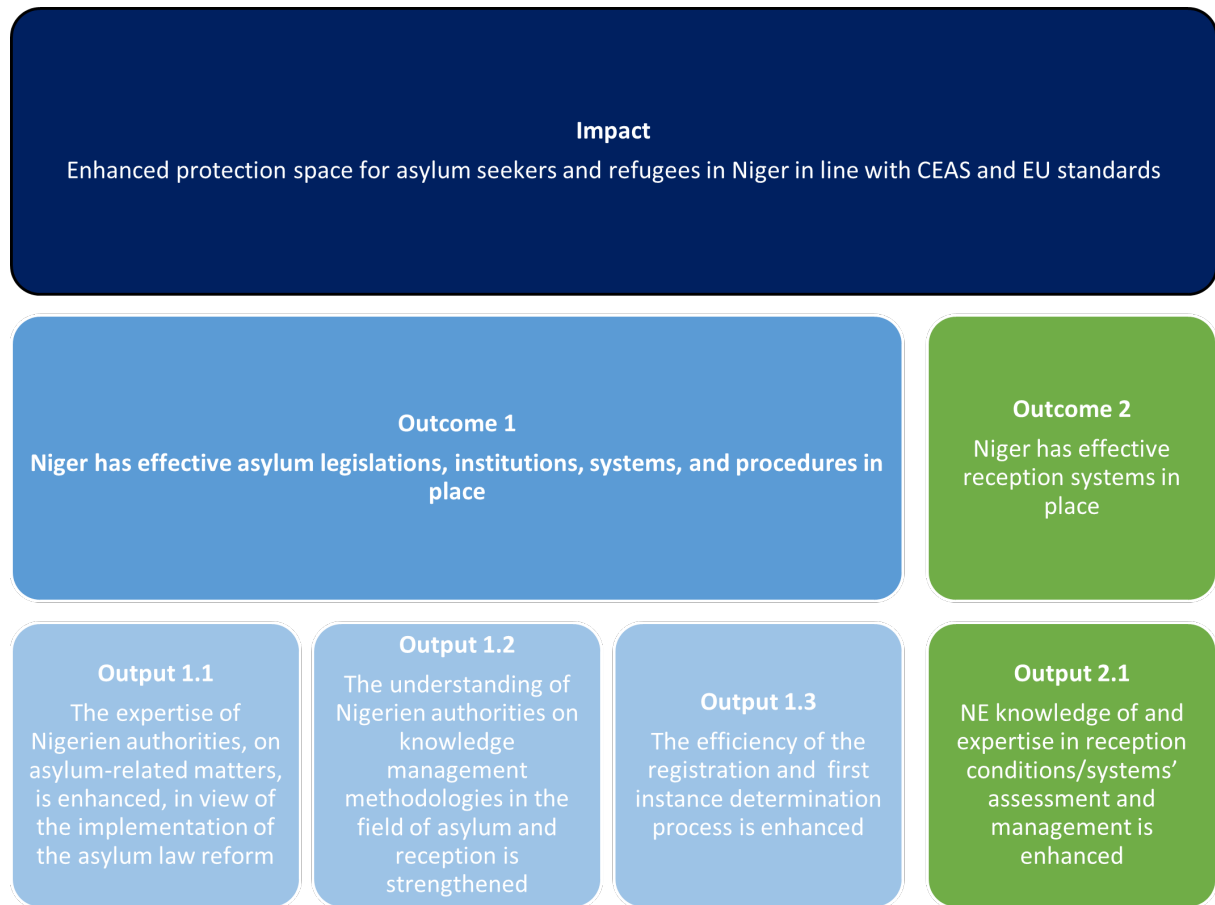
To contribute to this longer-term outcome, the EUAA will (in coordination with relevant stakeholders) undertake an evaluation of the current reception system with the participation of EU MS experts. The EUAA will also support NE in enhancing NE capacity/know how for effectively addressing the identified reception needs, with focus on vulnerable groups.

#### **Outputs**

- 2.1 NE knowledge of, and expertise in reception conditions/systems' assessment and management is enhanced, with particular focus on vulnerable groups.



# Intervention Logic Visual





## Areas of Priority and Activities

In line with the EUAA methodology, the objectives identified below will be implemented in cooperation with the NE government, and with the engagement of BE and other EU MS, while complementing/integrating the EUAA regional pilot project, offering to national authorities the added value of exchanging and networking with peers from other countries in the region. The present pilot Roadmap's activities will also complement UNHCR (and other stakeholders') initiatives, to make sure duplication is avoided and synergies concretely identified (see synergies boxes below for more details).

## Outcome 1.

### Niger has effective asylum legislations, institutions, systems, and procedures in place

Outputs (expected results)	<p><b>1.1 The expertise of Nigerien authorities, on asylum-related matters, is enhanced, in view of the implementation of the asylum law reform.</b></p> <p><b>1.2 The understanding of Nigerien authorities on knowledge management methodologies in the field of asylum and reception is strengthened.</b></p> <p><b>1.3 The efficiency of registration and the first instance determination process is enhanced, with particular focus on vulnerable groups.</b></p>
Responsible authorities	<p>Department for Civil Registry, Migration and Refugee Matters – Mol (Direction générale de l'état civil, des Migrations et des réfugiés (DGEICMR)).</p>
Target group	<p>First contact officials, practitioners in the field of asylum/reception, including at the level of policymaking and law-drafting (such as, <i>inter alia</i>, representatives of MoJ, etc.), national and local government offices, jointly identified relevant local CSOs, Community Development Associations and the like.</p> <p>Other national stakeholders with which EUAA will seek to establish synergies:</p> <p><u>Under the Ministry of Interior (Mol):</u></p> <p>The <b>National Technical Committee in charge of the asylum law reform</b> was set up by NE authorities in 2021, with the objective of presenting a new draft law to Parliament by end of 2021<sup>4</sup>. The Committee's work is supported by UNHCR and other actors (e.g. FR under the rubric of the Asylum Capacity Support Group created for the Global Refugee Forum in 2019).</p> <p>The <b>National Eligibility Commission (Commission Nationale d'Eligibilite/CNE)</b> is the national actor responsible to conduct refugee status determination interviews in Niger. It brings together representatives of various ministries, but also the Human Rights Commission and UNHCR as an observer.</p> <p>The <b>Permanent Secretariat</b> of the <b>National Eligibility Commission is provided by the DGEICMR</b>, under the Ministry of Interior. The Secretariat registers, and interviews asylum seekers, thus supporting the decision making of the National Eligibility Commission.</p> <p>The Secretariat is also represented in the eight Regional Directorates in the eight administrative regions in Niger.</p> <p>Its main functions include the delivery of relevant documents to asylum seekers (asylum application certificate) and to refugees (refugee card/certificate).</p>

<sup>4</sup> However, also due to the COVID pandemic, the date – for the completion of the asylum law draft – has been postponed to a date to be determined.

	<p><b>Appeal Committee</b> (<i>Comité des Recours Gracieux – CRG</i>), administrative appeal body comprised of 4 high-level officers from four ministries: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p><u>Under the Ministry of Justice (MoJ)</u></p> <p>In accordance with the decree against trafficking in persons of 2010<sup>5</sup>, the National Coordinating Commission on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and a National Agency were created, with the responsibility of conducting prevention activities, collecting and sharing information among competent authorities, and training public services staff members (CNCLTP and ANLTP/TIM, see below for more details), were created within the Ministry.</p> <p>The <b>National Coordinating Commission on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons</b> (<i>Comité national de coordination de la lutte contre la traite des personnes et les pratiques assimilées</i> [CNCLTP]) serves as the coordinating body for the government's anti-trafficking efforts.</p> <p>The <b>National Agency for the Fight against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling</b> (<i>Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes et le Trafic Illicite de Migrants</i> [ANLTP/TIM]). ANLTP/TIM provides training on Niger's anti-trafficking law, governmental coordination, and investigative techniques, for magistrates, Defence and Security Forces, traditional leaders, civil society, etc. The ANLTP/TIM implements public awareness campaigns on trafficking and the risks of irregular migration to Europe. The ANLTP/TIM cooperates with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Women's Promotion and Children's Protection, and the Ministry of Public Health, and refers victims of trafficking to IOM.</p> <p><b>The School of Judiciary Training in Niger</b> (<i>École de Formation Judiciaire du Niger – EFJN</i>) is the institution – part of the MoJ – which organizes the standard training course for newly appointed magistrates in Niger.</p> <p>Other relevant Ministries involved:</p> <p><b>The Ministry of Population, Promotion of Women, Protection of Children</b> (<i>Ministère de la Population, de la Promotion de la Femme, de la Protection de l'Enfant</i>) works to end all forms of interpersonal violence, in particular violence against women and girls, and against children.</p> <p>The <b>Ministry of Labour</b> is in charge of supporting working migrants.</p>
<p><b>Description and assessment of the situation</b></p>	<p>Following a series of consultations and preparatory work, Niger has set up on 5 December 2020 a National Technical Committee in charge of the asylum law reform to bring forward the reform of the current asylum law. EUAA will have an observer status with the Technical Committee put in place by NE for the law reform exercise (see more information in the 'target groups' box above).</p> <p>The EUAA will be mostly supporting NE's asylum law reform efforts via access to regional exchanges offered by the EUAA regional pilot project</p>

<sup>5</sup> The Ordinance No. 2010-86 on Combatting Trafficking in Persons (16 December 2010) sets out penalties for traffickers and protections for victims.

	<p>as well as via national activities focused at enhancing NE authorities' knowledge of specific aspects of the asylum and reception procedure. This will be done in line with EUAA methodology (e.g. via seminars or thematic EUAA training as appropriate) in complementarity with UNHCR and other actors, such as OFPRA (see synergies box below for more details).</p> <p>Despite the fragile security situation in the Lake Chad region, Niger maintains an open-door policy for refugees coming from ECOWAS Member States, especially from Mali and Nigeria, which have a visa-free regime, and legal provisions regarding irregular entry and stay are generally not intended to apply to them.</p> <p>Except for the above-mentioned nationalities (ECOWAS Member States), Niger's Law No. 40/1981 on the Entry and Stay of Foreigners requires the holding of documents and visas, and it regulates the entry and stay of foreigners in Niger.<sup>6</sup></p> <p>The most significant factor affecting migration flows in the Niger in recent years is the adoption of Law 2015-36 against smuggling of migrants (Law No. 2015-36), of May 2015. This law which aims at preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants, was passed in response to the increase in the number of migrants crossing from Niger into Libya and Algeria.</p> <p>UNHCR and the Government of Niger signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in December 2017 setting up the Emergency Transit Mechanism to evacuate vulnerable refugees from detention in Libya to Niamey, the capital of Niger, thereby temporarily expanding the Niger asylum space to these refugees and asylum seekers. This MoU has been extended in February 2020 for another two-year duration.</p>
<p><b>Pre-conditions / assumption</b></p>	<p><u>For qualitative knowledge management / sharing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niger and EU MS consent to share and provide insights on the identified areas.</li> <li>• Niger identifies in a timely manner the specific areas of interest regarding the organisation of asylum procedures and reception.</li> </ul> <p><u>For capacity building activities and needs assessments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity-building/training activities might be re-scoped, based on the needs that might arise once the review of the current asylum law is finalized.</li> <li>• Nigerien authorities identify and appoint officials/practitioners (including EN speakers) for participating in EUAA training and professional development workshops, in view of starting to gradually build a pool of national experts.</li> <li>• Relevant EUAA modules and/or professional development series can be translated in French, based on needs and upon Niger request.</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> The Law No. 40/81 also requires, a foreigner intending to stay in Niger, during the period of validity of the visa, to request the delivery of a stay permit from the Ministry of Interior. While no explicit provision concerns the removal of foreigners in an irregular situation within the national territory, irregular stay is considered a criminal offence.

	<p>Inclusion of translations in this agreed document will be considered a request.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EUAA commits to support NE experts in the delivery of capacity building activities, including remotely.</li> <li>• Participation in EUAA TtT modules requires very good knowledge of spoken and written English to ensure trainees' full learning experience, as well as their participation and interaction with the trainers and the fellow trainees.</li> <li>• National rollouts: Niger and EUAA/EU MS trainers deliver the sessions jointly with active participation on both sides, both during online and face-to-face sessions/webinars (based on COVID situation and restrictions).</li> <li>• The Agency/EU MS have capacity to have presence in Niger for longer needs assessment missions (up to 4 weeks per mission).</li> <li>• The security situation in NE allows for short/long term missions, including visits to relevant locations outside Niamey<sup>7</sup>.</li> <li>• NE authorities are willing to cooperate with EUAA /EU MS experts and to facilitate their work, including giving secure/safe access to relevant offices/premises/locations and to relevant national authorities, supporting with visa and entry/exit formalities to/from the country.</li> <li>• Existing referral mechanism/SOPs (or similar procedural documentation/regulations) are available and shared with the EUAA.</li> <li>• Nigerien authorities identify and appoint NE first contact officials (including EN speakers) for participating in relevant EUAA targeted activities.</li> <li>• The EUAA commits to a participatory approach and confidentiality on deliverables, as might be requested by NE authorities.</li> </ul>
<b>Deliverables</b>	<p><b>Output 1.1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EUAA reports following participation in NE Technical Committee meetings (see activity 1.1.1 below).</li> <li>✓ NE officials trained in up to two or three selected EUAA core and foundation modules or professional development workshops (see activity 1.1.3), in view of starting to gradually build a pool of national experts.</li> <li>✓ French versions of EUAA products (e.g. EUAA training modules as well as professional development series as detailed below, activity 1.1.5).</li> <li>✓ Joint Training Plan (at least an outline or draft) see activity 1.1.5</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 1.2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Joint pilot methodology for the delivery of EUAA qualitative information (see activity 1.2.1).</li> <li>✓ Qualitative information exchanges in EN (i.e. the answers to specific queries/questions from NE, developed by EUAA with EU MS expertise/information from EUAA IDS) to be translated in French. (1.2.2).</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 1.3</b></p>

<sup>7</sup> EUAA to conduct relevant assessments, in cooperation with EEAS and NE authorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Report and advice, in conjunction with the EU MS experts, on the authorities' needs in terms of first instance determination process (see activity 1.3.1 and 1.3.2).</li> <li>✓ Joint Action Plan (at least an outline or draft), based on the results of the needs assessment report (including relevant capacity building activities, see activity 1.3.3).</li> </ul>
<b>Description of activities with indicative timeline</b>	<p><b>Output 1.1 The expertise of Nigerien authorities, on asylum-related matters, is enhanced, in view of the implementation of the asylum law reform</b></p> <p>1.1.1 The EUAA attends the NE <b>Technical Committee on the asylum law reform</b>, with an observer status (Q3-4/2022).</p> <p>1.1.2 <b>NE officials participate in the activities organized under the EUAA Regional Pilot Project for North Africa (NA) and Niger (NE), in 2022-2023</b> (Q3-Q4/2022 and 2023 according to the project's duration).</p> <p>1.1.3 Nigerien officials participate in relevant (regular and/or ad-hoc, e.g. Core and Foundation Modules) <b>EUAA training and/or professional development workshops</b> identified, in view of starting to gradually build a pool of national experts (Q2 – Q3 2023).</p> <p>1.1.4 One <b>national thematic training/workshop based on</b> a relevant EUAA module and/or professional development workshop, based on the NE needs, to be delivered by trained NE officials (if applicable) supported by EUAA/EU MS experts, targeting NE national authorities (Q1-Q2 2023).</p> <p>1.1.5 <b>Training Needs Assessment</b> (TNA) and development of a training plan (Q1 2023), as follows:</p> <p>1.1.5.1 Presentation of the EUAA's methodology on Training Needs Assessment (TNA, Q1 2023) and exchange with NE authorities.</p> <p>1.1.5.2 Development and translation of a survey to be used as basis for the Training Needs Assessment (Q2 2023).</p> <p>1.1.5.3 Development of a training plan for the years 2023-2024 based on the TNA (Q1-Q2 2023).</p> <p>1.1.6 <b>Translation</b> of relevant EUAA training modules as well as professional development series in French, and inclusion in the EUAA training platform (Q3-4 2022-Q1 2023).</p> <p><b>Output 1.2 The understanding of Nigerien authorities on knowledge management methodologies in the field of asylum and reception is strengthened.</b></p> <p>1.2.1 Formulate a <b>joint pilot methodology</b> for the delivery of EUAA qualitative information (e.g. answer to specific queries/questions NE might have on specific aspects of EU+ national asylum laws and/or procedure) (Q2-Q3/2023) and translate it in FR.</p> <p>1.2.2 Support <b>qualitative information exchanges</b> (e.g. the overview of specific systems/procedures developed by the EUAA with EU MS</p>



	<p>expertise/information from EUAA databases) in English, to be translated in French (Q2-Q3/2023).</p> <p><b>Output 1.3 The efficiency of the registration and first instance determination process is enhanced, with particular focus on vulnerable groups</b></p> <p>1.3.1 Assess the needs of the Nigerien Permanent Secretariat and the eligibility bodies in relation to the first instance asylum procedure, i.e. covering also identification of persons with special needs during the access phase (Q4/2022).</p> <p>1.3.2 Expert advice/report based on the results of the needs assessment (see activity 1.3.1) (Q4 2022-Q1 2023).</p> <p>1.3.3 Identify and organize one ad-hoc seminar and/or work visit on topics of interest or deliver other possible capacity-building activities, based on the results of the needs assessment as well as on other existing similar activities (Q1-Q32023).</p> <p>It is important to mention here that NE officials' participation in relevant (regular and/or ad-hoc) EUAA training and professional development seminars/workshops, is relevant also for Output 1.3 (see activities 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 above).</p>
<p><b>Synergies</b></p>	<p>The <b>EU Delegation in Niger (EUDEL NE)</b> is the co-lead, jointly with the Ministry of the Interior, of the <i>Cadre de Concertation sur la Migration</i>, a platform that aims at the coordination of all actors working on migration in Niger. As the EUTF is the main source of funding for asylum/migration projects in NE, the EUD NE has a central role in coordinating and informing EU MS on migration and asylum related affairs. The EUAA will work in close cooperation with EUDEL in Niamey to make sure complementarities and synergies are in place with relevant actors in Niger. The EUAA is also committed to enhance information sharing and coordination on asylum and reception-related matters in cooperation with the EUDEL.</p> <p>The EUAA will establish close coordination also with the following actors in Niger:</p> <p><b>UNHCR Niger</b> supports the structural strengthening of the Nigerien asylum system and implements activities to support and assist refugees in the region. UNHCR has set up and coordinates the Guichet Unique ('One-Stop Shop'), which is a single compound in Niamey that serves as protection and assistance platform for all urban asylum seekers and refugees. A local NGO is also supporting UNHCR in the everyday management of the Guichet Unique in Niamey, together with the <i>Commission Nationale d'Eligibilite/CNE</i>, the <i>Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement</i> (CIAUD) and <i>Humanite et Inclusion</i> (HI). UNHCR is also supporting the current asylum law-reform efforts. Cooperation and synergies will be put in place as part of this pilot-Roadmap.</p>



Under the ACSG's framework, the French government through its **Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA)**<sup>8</sup>, will support Niger's General Directorate of the Civil Registry, Migration and Refugees and Ministry of Interior (DGECC-M-R), in reforming its national asylum framework, through the revision of the current legislative framework on asylum, a self-assessment of capacity gaps and needs of the national asylum system and other relevant activities, as necessary. Synergies will be sought with OFPRA.

**Belgium** has expressed an interest to participate actively in this project, with their expertise on asylum and reception.

**UNICEF** is one of the main actors implementing protection-related activities under the RDPP NA<sup>9</sup> (Phase 3 and 4, 2019-21) in Niger. The focus of UNICEF's work on migration (64% of the RDPP funds) is mainly on aiding children who have requested asylum in Niger. Synergies can be sought with EUAA activities that will focus on vulnerabilities and on children.

<sup>8</sup> In addition to OFPRA, the Council of State and National Court of Asylum (CNDA), in conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior (Directorate of Foreigners in France, DGEF) and the United Nations Directorate of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), will also support the NE Government on the reform.

<sup>9</sup> The Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa (RDPP NA) is funded by the European Union under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the North of Africa window of the EU Trust Fund for Africa, and by those States participating in an ad hoc consortium and willing to contribute. The RDPP NA strategy, whose country leader is Italy, includes a protection and a development component. For more information on the RDPP NA, see the latest DG HOME factsheet: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/pages/publication/regional-development-and-protection-programme-north-africa-rdpp-na\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/pages/publication/regional-development-and-protection-programme-north-africa-rdpp-na_en)



## Outcome 2. Niger has effective reception systems in place

<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>2.1 NE knowledge of, and expertise in reception conditions/systems' assessment and management is enhanced, with particular focus on vulnerable groups.</b>
<b>Responsible authorities</b>	Department for Civil Registry and Refugee Matters - Mol
<b>Target group</b>	Officials, practitioners in the field of migration/asylum, including first contact points, such as at border entry/exit points, national and local government offices (such as, <i>inter alia</i> , representatives from MoJ, National Police, Gendarmerie, etc.), jointly identified relevant local CSOs, Community Development Associations and the like.
<b>Description and assessment of the situation</b>	<p>Niger has a mixed reception policy which foresees both encampment and urban settings. According to Decree No. 87-076 on Entry and Stay Conditions of Foreigners in Niger, refugees and asylum seekers can access basic health and social services, education, and employment on an equal basis with Niger nationals. For free shelters, medical care, psychological support and social activities, Niger authorities redirect refugees to UNHCR and its partners (including the One-Stop-Shop - 'Guichet unique' – for assistance and access to services).</p> <p>In terms of reception in the past few years, Niger has been slowly abandoning the encampment policy for an urbanisation policy. So far 10,000 Nigerian refugees have already been transferred from camps to urban settlements and Malian refugee camps are currently being dismantled and refugees are being resettled in nearby urban settings. At the same time, the Nigerien government will grant access to social houses and land property to around 40,000 refugees by 2021. The referral of persons in need of international protection found in mixed flows is supported by IOM and UNHCR.</p> <p>Within this framework, NE authorities have requested to review the current reception system and identification procedures for newly arrived people (early identification of applicants with special needs; verify existing information on Countries of Origin of asylum-seekers, etc.) throughout the country.</p>
<b>Pre-conditions / assumption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niger and the EUAA are willing to share and exchange relevant information and knowledge for the achievement of this result.</li> <li>• The Agency/EU MS have capacity to have presence in Niger for longer missions (up to 4 weeks per mission).</li> <li>• The security situation in NE allows for short/long term missions, including visits to relevant locations outside Niamey<sup>10</sup>.</li> <li>• NE authorities are willing to cooperate with EUAA /EU MS experts and to facilitate their work, including giving secure/safe access to relevant offices/premises/locations and to relevant national authorities, supporting with visa and entry/exit formalities to/from the country.</li> <li>• Existing referral mechanism/SOPs (or similar procedural documentation/regulations) are available and shared with the EUAA.</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> EUAA to conduct relevant assessments, in cooperation with EEAS and NE authorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigerien authorities identify and appoint NE first contact officials (including EN speakers) for participating in relevant EUAA targeted activities.</li> <li>• The EUAA commits to a participatory approach and confidentiality on deliverables, as might be requested by NE authorities.</li> </ul>
<b>Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Technical advice/report on identified gaps/needs of the reception system in Niger (see activity 3.1.1).</li> <li>✓ EUAA relevant tools<sup>11</sup>, related to reception, will be shared with the NE authorities.</li> <li>✓ Joint Action Plan (at least an outline or draft) to address identified reception needs, with focus on vulnerable groups (see activity 3.1.3).</li> </ul>
<b>Description of activities with indicative timeline</b>	<p><b>Output 2.1 The efficiency of the NE reception conditions and systems is improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups</b></p> <p>2.1.1 Assess NE reception needs via short/long-term missions of EUAA /EU MS experts in pilot areas to be identified jointly with the NE authorities, in view of both enhancing current capacities and of informing the law reform process (Q4 2022-Q1 2023).</p> <p>2.1.2 The EUAA to share with the NE authorities, as needed and requested, EUAA relevant tools, related to reception and vulnerability, in support of the revision of the current reception system.</p> <p>2.1.3 The EUAA /EU MS/external expert to jointly develop with NE an Action Plan for addressing the identified reception needs (Q1/2 2023).</p> <p>It is important to mention here that NE officials' participation in relevant (regular and/or ad-hoc) EUAA training and professional development seminars/workshops, is relevant also for Output 2.1 (see activities 1.1.4 and 1.1.4 above Q1-Q3/2023).</p>
<b>Synergies</b>	<p>In cooperation with the <b>EU Delegation</b> in Niamey, synergies will be explored with EU MS and with other donors and relevant stakeholders engaged in Niger (e.g. Italy, France).</p> <p><b>Belgium</b> has expressed an interest to participate actively in this project, with their expertise on asylum and reception. Equally, <b>Fedasil</b>, which is the Belgian Federal Agency responsible for the reception of asylum seekers, have expressed their willingness to be involved in this project, providing their expertise on reception.</p> <p><b>UNHCR</b> – for a more detailed description see the 'target groups' paragraph, at outcome 1.</p> <p><b>UNICEF</b> - for a more detailed description see the 'target groups' paragraph, at outcome 1.</p>

<sup>11</sup> A number of EUAA tools are available and could be used all along the project's implementation - the Vulnerability toolkit; Guidance on Reception conditions: operational standards and indicators; Guidance on Reception conditions of unaccompanied children: operational standards and indicators; Guidance on Contingency planning in the context of reception. They are available on the EUAA website at the following link: <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/asylum-knowledge/reception>.



**IOM** collaborates with the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Civil Protection on Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in Agadez region, since October 2016, to find migrants and bring them to the nearest town (Agadez, Arlit or Dirkou). IOM conducts humanitarian rescue operations has five open transit centres for migrants in Arlit, Dirkou, Agadez and Niamey and registers foreign migrants stranded in Niger returning to their countries of origin (including via the voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) programme). In light of this, synergies on relevant EUAA activities in this area will be sought.

**COOPI** has been present in Niger since 2012. It is one of the main INGO working on reception and migration in Niger, with an established presence in country and a participation in the RDPP NA. Considering this, synergies with relevant EUAA activities in this area will be sought.



