

2023 Consolidated Annual Activity Report Summary

2023 Consolidated Annual Activity Report of the European Union Agency for Asylum

June 2024

Summary



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I. The year in brief

In 2023, over **1.1 million applications for international protection** were lodged in 29 EU+ countries ⁽¹⁾, which corresponds to an increase of 18 % compared to the previous year and the highest number since 2016 ⁽²⁾.

Moreover, EU+ countries issued over 1 million decisions granting temporary protection to people fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine ⁽³⁾.

Against this backdrop, the EUAA stepped up its **operational and technical assistance**, deploying the equivalent of 1 038 persons working full time in 13 Member States (+19 % compared to 2022).

Figure 1. EUAA operations in 2023



Italy and Cyprus saw the highest increase in personnel in absolute terms, while resources more than doubled in Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Regular updates on all the EUAA country operations can be found on the [Agency's website](#).

Training remained central to the Agency's support to EU+ countries, with the aim of building and consolidating knowledge and skills necessary to implement the common European asylum system, while improving and harmonising national practices.

Through nearly 1 000 sessions, in 2023 the EUAA trained more than 7 500 officials of EU+ countries' authorities, deployed EUAA personnel and civil society actors.

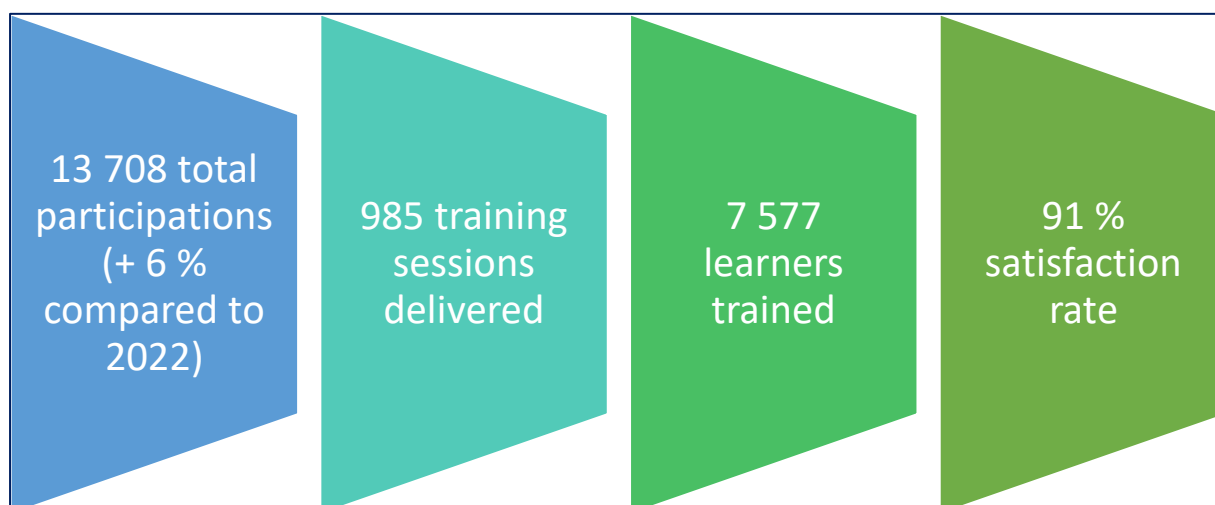
⁽¹⁾ EU countries, plus Norway and Switzerland.

⁽²⁾ [EUAA 2023 latest asylum trends report](#).

⁽³⁾ Eurostat '[Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex – monthly data](#)' (15 March 2024).



Figure 2. EUAA training in 2023



In the area of **asylum knowledge**, the [EUAA annual asylum report](#), published in July 2023, featured new interactive functionalities in its web version to facilitate access to the information of the [national asylum developments database](#).

Work on **country-of-origin information (COI) and medical country-of-origin information (MedCOI)** intensified, with particular attention devoted to the monitoring of the situation in Afghanistan and Ukraine. The EUAA established a COI helpdesk providing support to its operational activities in frontline Member States and nearly all individual Member States' MedCOI queries were addressed, despite a 20 % increase in their number, compared to 2022.

Moreover, in 2023 the Agency concluded, together with the EU+ countries, the updates of the **country guidance** on [Afghanistan](#), [Somalia](#) and [Syria](#).

The EUAA managed to meet the increased demand of **situational awareness** products, processing double the requests from last year and improving the monitoring and analysis of data on reception capacities and migratory flows.

Practical cooperation and exchange of best practices among Member States were fostered through workshops, study visits and technical meetings. To maximise the effect of such exchanges, the Agency developed or updated a total of 23 guides and tools supporting the practical implementation of the common European asylum system.

In addition, practical tools and recommended methodology on information provision in asylum were made available to stakeholders through the newly launched portal '[Let's speak asylum](#)'.

What is the difference between COI and country guidance?

While COI refers to **information** related to a given country of origin, country guidance is the **assessment** of that situation, in light of the applicable international and EU law.

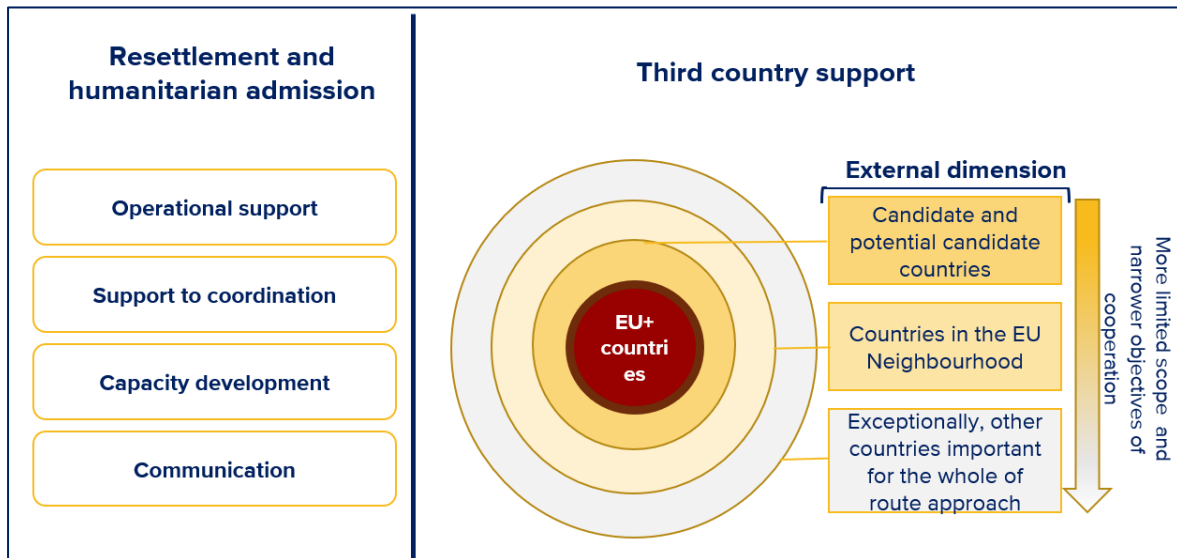
COI therefore represents the factual basis for an assessment in the form of a common analysis.



The Agency’s contribution to the **external dimension** of the CEAS was reconfirmed through the adoption, in March, of an updated external cooperation strategy, built on two pillars:

1. resettlement and humanitarian admission;
2. support to third countries.

Figure 3. Pillars of the EUAA external cooperation strategy



The Agency continued supporting EU+ countries’ **resettlement** operations through its Resettlement Support Facility in Türkiye. Among the 1 100 persons assisted, Syrians were the most represented, followed by Afghans and Iranians.

In January 2023 the EUAA assumed the annual **chairmanship of the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network**. Together with many other activities, detailed in the EUAA presidency final report, the Agency realised the first ever staff exchange within the network, with 59 staff members from 6 agencies being temporarily deployed to another agency of the network to share knowledge and expertise.

The EUAA 2023 work programme was structured around **41 annual objectives**.

Table 1. Status of annual objectives broken down by activity area

Activity areas	Status of annual objectives					
	Fully achieved	Nearly achieved	Partially achieved	Not achieved	NA	Total
Operational and technical assistance	8	1	0	0	0	9
Operational support and tools, programming, monitoring and evaluation of operations	2	0	1	0	0	3
Training and professional development	7	0	0	1	0	8
Asylum knowledge	6	2	2	0	0	10
Protection of fundamental rights	1	0	0	0	0	1
Horizontal activities	4	1	1	3	1	10
Total	28	4	4	4	1	41



II. Budgetary and financial information

The EUAA budget for the year 2023, as resulting from the Single Programming Document 2023–2025 Amendment 1, of 19 December 2022, amounted to EUR 180.1 million in commitment and payment appropriations.

Following the budget amendment adopted by the Management Board on 25 September 2023, the Agency's budget for 2023 was reduced to **EUR 165 135 127** in **commitment appropriations** and **EUR 170 135 127** in **payment appropriations**.

This amount refers only to funds received from the EU budget. It does not include the additional revenue deriving from other sources, which was not entirely quantifiable at the time of adopting the amendment and therefore was indicated in the EUAA budget with a generic p.m. token ⁽⁴⁾.

The revenue of the Agency was composed as follows:

- subsidy from the EU budget;
- contributions from Schengen associated countries, namely Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, and their accrued interest;
- funds granted under two contribution agreements signed with the Commission;
- interest income accrued from contributions provided by Czechia and Denmark in 2022.

Table 2. 2023 revenue per fund source, excluding amounts carried over from previous years (figures rounded to next full number).

Budget title	Fund source	Revenue in the budget (€)	Revenue after defining p.m. tokens (€)	Revenue received (€)	Remaining balance (€)
2	Subsidy from the EU budget	170 135 127	170 135 127	170 135 127	0
3	Contributions from Schengen associated countries (including accrued interest)	p.m.	15 089 751	15 089 751	0
4	Other contributions (including accrued interest)	p.m.	2 071 144	2 071 144	0
5	Other income/recovery of expenses, interest income	p.m.	320 460	291 210	29 250
Total income		170 135 127	187 616 482	187 587 232	29 250

In 2023 the Agency implemented 97 % of the commitment appropriations and executed 93 % of the payment appropriations coming from the EU subsidy.

⁽⁴⁾ p.m. stands for *pro memoria* and indicates that an amount may be assigned to the budget, even if it is not clear what that amount would be, or if it would exist at all.





III. Human resources, internal control and evaluations

Human resources

In 2023 the number of **statutory staff** ⁽⁵⁾ assigned to the EUAA remained unchanged (505), despite increased demands of operational support and other tasks. Additional allocated staff included 17 project-based contract agent posts and 90 operational short-term contract agent posts, which the Agency was awarded temporarily and specifically in response to the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Out of a total of 612 total posts in the recruitment plan, 542 (88.6 %) were filled by the end of 2023.

In December 2023 the Agency adopted its **human resource strategy**, which aims at three main goals:

- attract the right talent;
- manage, develop and support staff;
- encourage a positive work environment and staff wellbeing.

The strategy will be implemented through an action plan developed for each of the three above mentioned goals and covering the 2023–2028 period.

Internal control

In 2023 the Agency assessed its 17 internal control principles as either fully effective (7) or effective (10).

Based on the analysis of results at the internal control principle level, it was concluded that all the EUAA's internal control components are either effective or fully effective. They are working as intended, with improvements needed to address moderate or minor deficiencies.

Information on internal control deficiencies and the corresponding corrective actions are available on the [EUAA website](#).

Evaluations

The Agency conducts internal or external mid-term and *ex post* evaluations of programmes and activities that entail significant spending. In 2023 the EUAA completed 10 evaluations. At the end of the year, 9 additional evaluations were ongoing.

Throughout 2023 the EUAA was engaged in the implementation of 107 improvement actions stemming from 27 evaluations.

A detailed report on the status of implementation of the above-mentioned actions is available on the [Agency's website](#).

⁽⁵⁾ Statutory staff refers to staff employed by the Agency in accordance with the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the Union.

