

2026-2028 Single Programming Document

Summary



Figure 1: [SPD 2026-2028](#)

The Single Programming Document (SPD) is the corporate programming instrument of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and serves as the financing decision for the Agency's operational activities. It sets out the Agency's multiannual and annual planning of activities and resources, ensuring coherence between strategic objectives, operational activities and resource allocation.

SPD 2026-2028 was approved by the Management Board on 30 September 2025. During the programming period, the Agency will prioritise the effective implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum ('the Pact') and the delivery of its monitoring mandate, while retaining the flexibility necessary to respond to evolving migration trends and potential crises that may require adjustments to operational deliverables and financial planning.

Strategic context

The 2026-2028 SPD is developed in a context of continued migratory pressures and evolving asylum needs across Member States. Despite progress in developing the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), significant disparities remain between Member States in procedural approaches, recognition rates, types of protection granted, and reception conditions. These differences play a part in secondary movements and undermine the objective of ensuring uniform treatment of applicants throughout the Union.

The Pact on Migration and Asylum seeks to address these shortcomings by reinforcing preparedness, improving crisis response and striking a more effective balance between solidarity and responsibility. As its legislative instruments become applicable from June 2026, the Pact will progressively strengthen the Agency's role in supporting a well-functioning CEAS. Consequently, the EUAA's workload, which has already increased

following the Pact's adoption, is expected to further increase across both its permanent and operational activities.

In this context, agreement was reached in February 2024 on the revision of the 2021–2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, which includes an additional EUR 190 million for the EUAA until 2027. This increase is intended to enable the Agency to support the implementation of the Pact.

2026-2028 plan of action and priorities



Figure 2: [EUAA Strategy 2024-2029](#)

The SPD is aligned with the European Commission's 2024–2029 policy priorities in the field of migration and asylum, ensuring coherence with broader EU objectives. Based on the EUAA Strategy 2024–2029, the multiannual work programme defines the Agency's objectives across four principal areas of activity: operational support, training and professional development, asylum knowledge, and horizontal activities. It establishes seven strategic objectives for the period 2026–2028.

The 2026 annual work programme translates these strategic objectives into concrete annual objectives and targets, structured around concrete activities and aligned with available human and financial resources.

Operational and technical assistance



Figure 3: EUAA operational support in Lampedusa

With the adoption of the legislative proposals under the Pact, the Agency is expected to maintain a substantial operational presence while expanding the scope of its tasks within the limits of available resources.

[Operational and technical assistance](#) to Member States will continue to be provided through [multiannual and shorter-term operational plans](#), as well as specific project plans.

Support will remain flexible and responsive to evolving migration trends, emerging needs and operational contexts. The continuation of existing support, as well as the launch of new interventions, will be guided by a robust *prioritisation process*, taking into

account urgency, expected impact, EU added value, feasibility of interventions, and the Agency's available human and financial resources. In addition, operational capabilities will be further adjusted to enable the EUAA to fulfil its new obligations under the Pact.

Quality assurance methodologies, operational tools and harmonised procedures will be applied consistently, while good practices will be exchanged and contingency planning further aligned across Member States through a common methodology. Deployment management frameworks will be strengthened to enable rapid and scalable interventions, and a mechanism will be implemented across operations to assess, report and escalate serious or persistent alleged violations of fundamental rights and international protection obligations. All interventions will incorporate exit strategies aimed at reinforcing national capacities and ensuring long-term sustainability.

The Agency will further consolidate its first response capacity by strengthening support functions, enhancing preparedness planning and designing operations within an agreed framework grounded in systematic needs assessments and structured prioritisation processes. Deployments will continue through established mechanisms, including the mobilisation of external experts, and will be supported by project management tools, performance monitoring systems, close coordination with national contact points and clear operational guidance. Operational support may also include deployments of migration management support teams, together with the provision or complementation of infrastructure such as equipment, temporary offices, facilities and essential services, including interpretation, cultural mediation and transportation.

In line with the Pact framework, the EUAA will support the implementation of the permanent relocation mechanism and other solidarity measures, in coordination with the EU Solidarity Coordinator. Priority will be given to Member States facing disproportionate pressure at the EU's external borders and to those experiencing significant challenges linked to secondary movements. The Agency will also continue supporting EU+ countries in the implementation and coordination of resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes through the Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network, tailored operational assistance, the resettlement support facility in Türkiye and other relevant third countries, as well as through support for community sponsorship and complementary pathways.

Training and professional development

Training and professional development are central to strengthening asylum and reception systems across the EU and to promoting greater convergence in national practices. In line with its mandate, the Agency will continue to plan, develop and deliver high-quality training for EUAA staff and for staff of national administrations, courts and tribunals, and national authorities responsible for asylum and reception.

By working closely with relevant expert bodies, the Agency will further develop the European Asylum Curriculum (EAC) and create a community of practice that supports ongoing learning and the sharing of best practices across the EU. The Agency will expand and manage the EAC training offered based on identified needs, in line with quality standards for higher education and vocational training and in compliance with the Pact legislative instruments as they enter into application. Targeted training and professional development activities will be delivered to Member States facing disproportionate pressure on their asylum and reception systems, including structured training for members of asylum support teams and the asylum reserve pool. In addition, ad hoc training activities will be developed and delivered in response to specific requests from national authorities.

Training activities will also address gaps identified through the EUAA monitoring mechanism. Relevant training will be developed and provided to experts involved in monitoring missions, and monitoring findings will be systematically translated into targeted training responses. To support these activities, the Agency will further strengthen mechanisms for the selection and mobilisation of experts involved in training planning and delivery across permanent, ad hoc, and operational support.

Beyond the EU, training support to partner countries will be strengthened as part of capacity-building efforts under the Agency's external cooperation strategy. This support will be delivered within existing cooperation frameworks, and in line with established priorities and available resources. Cooperation on training activities is pursued, where relevant, with key stakeholders including the European Commission, Justice and Home Affairs agencies, UNHCR, IOM, the Council of Europe, and other training networks and organisations, including civil society.

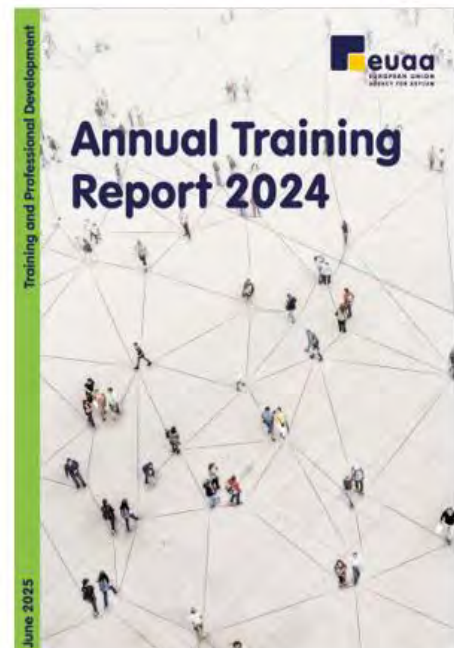


Figure 4: [EUAA Annual Training Report 2024](#)

Asylum knowledge and monitoring



Figure 5: [Asylum Report 2025](#)

Through the EUAA's products in the area of asylum knowledge, national authorities are better equipped to increase convergence in international protection decision-making, deliver faster decisions and increase uniformity in reception conditions.

In line with the Pact's objective of further enhancing convergence, the EUAA will continue working with Member States to develop common analyses and country guidance on key countries of origin, based on the EUAA's country of origin information (COI). At the request of the Commission, the Agency will also provide information and analysis for the designation of safe countries of origin and safe third countries. Information exchange will continue to be facilitated through specialist country networks, events, and dedicated tools,

including a COI query system, a COI helpdesk and the medical country of origin information (MedCOI) portal providing information on the availability and accessibility of medicines.

To strengthen situational awareness and preparedness, the Agency will continue to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the EU asylum situation, including trends, procedures and practices in EU+ countries. This includes the collection of standardised data, the production of forward-looking analyses and strategic insights, and the development of thematic and ad hoc reports. These activities support early warning, forecasting, crisis prevention and contingency planning, contributing directly to the implementation of the Pact. The Agency will also continue to produce its annual report on the situation of asylum in the EU.

To support the quality, fairness and efficiency of asylum procedures and reception systems, the EUAA will further develop standards, indicators, practical guides, judicial publications and other tools, in cooperation with Member States' experts and, where relevant, civil society organisations. The uptake and impact of these tools will be assessed, including through the analysis of references in national case-law.

Finally, from 2026 onwards, the Agency will fully roll out its multiannual monitoring programme, following pilot exercises in 2025. Under this five-year cycle, all Member States will be monitored regarding the technical and operational application of the CEAS. The monitoring methodology will be reviewed, as necessary, to reflect the entry into application of the Pact.

Horizontal activities



Figure 6: [EUAA External Cooperation Strategy](#)

Good governance remains central to achieving administrative excellence. The EUAA will continue strengthening internal control systems, strategic planning and reporting, as well as management and evaluation processes.

A skilled and engaged workforce is essential to fulfilling the Agency's objectives. Staff wellbeing and engagement will continue to be monitored regularly through dedicated surveys.

The Fundamental Rights Officer will manage the complaints mechanism, report regularly to the Management Board, and contribute to transparency through the Agency's Annual Asylum Report.

The EUAA will also strengthen cooperation with key stakeholders, including partner countries outside the EU, in coordination with Member States and the Commission, and in line with the EUAA Regulation and EU external relations policy. Liaison officers will support engagement in Member States and, subject to available resources, in partner countries. The Agency will coordinate closely with the European Commission on communication activities, contribute to accurate narratives on asylum and refugees, and address misinformation.

