

The EUAA Monitoring Mechanism Explained

What is the aim of EUAA monitoring mechanism?



The EUAA monitoring mechanism is established by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) for the purpose of monitoring the operational and technical application of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)⁽¹⁾.

The overall objective of the EUAA monitoring mechanism is to assist EU Member States in enhancing the efficiency of their asylum and reception systems, in particular by preventing and identifying possible shortcomings and by assessing Member States' capacity and preparedness to manage situations of disproportionate pressure.

Following a monitoring exercise, the EUAA Executive Director shares its findings with the Member State concerned for comments, including, as appropriate, indications of its needs.

On the basis of the findings and in consultation with the Commission, the EUAA Executive Director then draws up recommendations to be adopted by the EUAA Management Board. The recommendations outline the measures to be taken by the Member State concerned within specific timeframes to address the shortcomings or issues of capacity and preparedness identified in the monitoring exercise.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 2021/2023 on the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) mandates the Agency to set up and implement a monitoring mechanism for the operational and technical application of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), pursuant to Articles 14 and 15.

What is the scope of the EUAA monitoring mechanism?

The monitoring mechanism covers the operational and technical application of all aspects of the CEAS. It is performed against objective criteria encompassing the following areas:

- Institutional framework
- Determining the responsible Member State, transfers and relocation
- Asylum procedure
- Reception
- Appeals and reviews
- Contingency planning and preparedness for situations of pressure and crisis
- Temporary protection
- Resettlement and humanitarian admission

The objective criteria are set out in the Monitoring Methodology² and define the **benchmarks** for assessing the operational and technical application of each component of the CEAS.

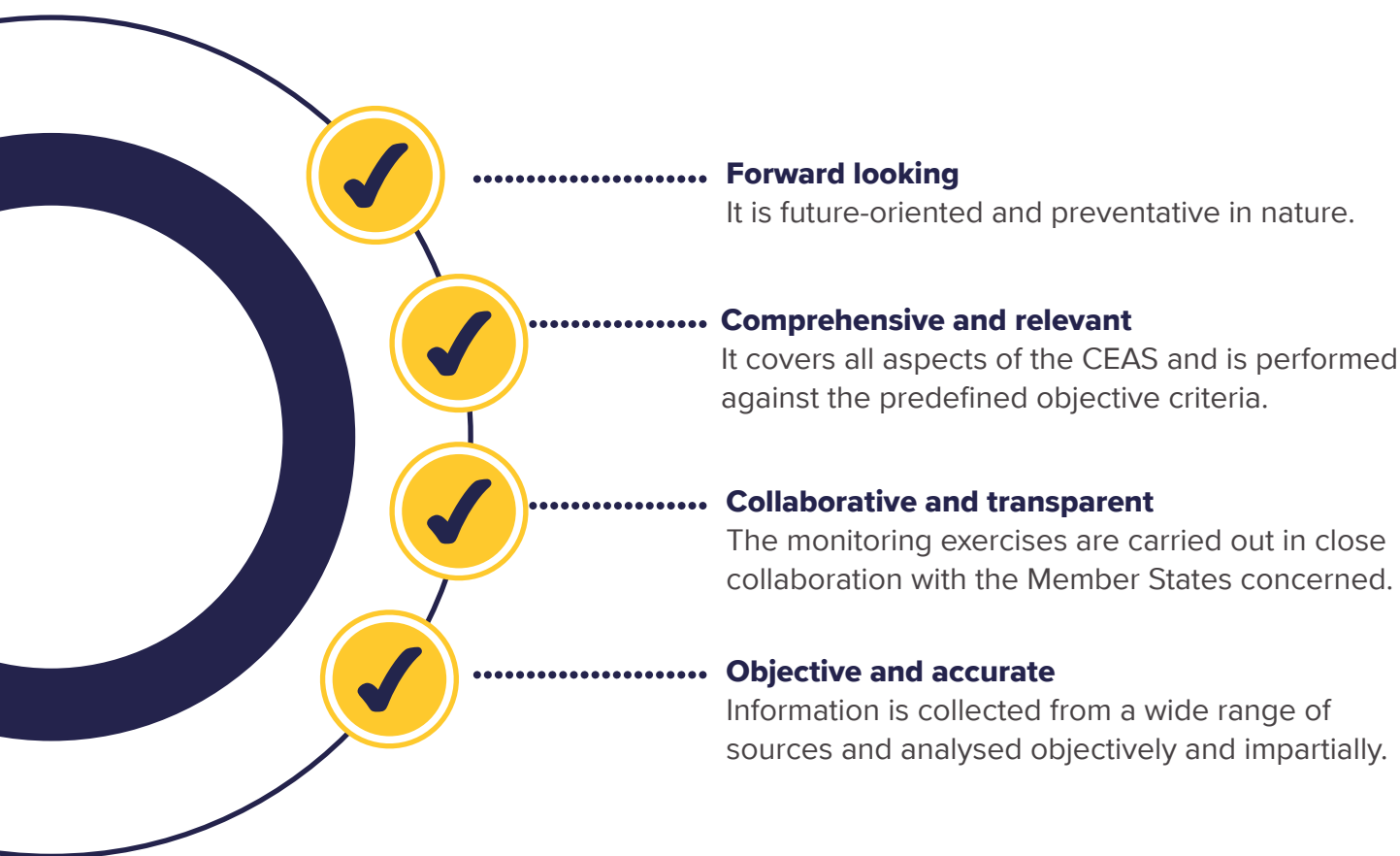
Scope limitations of the EUAA monitoring mechanism

-  It does not interfere with the competence of the Member State to decide on individual applications for international protection.
-  It does not interfere with the responsibilities of the European Commission related to the transposition and implementation of the CEAS legal instruments.
-  It does not examine individual complaints or communications.
-  It does not assess the performance of individual employees.

⁽²⁾ [Management Board Decision No 198 of 16 June 2026.](#)

What are the general principles of the EUAA monitoring mechanism?

The Monitoring Methodology defines the following **general principles** for monitoring:



Which types of information are used for the purposes of monitoring?

In order to be as comprehensive, objective, and as accurate as possible, the monitoring of the CEAS relies on information collected in a systematic manner from a wide range of sources. This includes qualitative and quantitative information, provided both in written and oral form.

The primary source of information for the monitoring exercise is the Member State concerned. This includes information already available to the EUAA, such as relevant statistical data, thematic overviews published in its Database on International Protection in Europe, and the national contingency plans, among others.

Additional information is collected through **dedicated monitoring tools**:



- A comprehensive **Member State questionnaire**, which covers the different aspects of the CEAS.



- **Case sampling**, which serves to provide an indication into how processes are being implemented in concrete cases for specific types of administrative procedures or workflows, without drawing general conclusions or aiming to reassess individual cases.



- **On-site visit**, during which the team of experts verifies the gathered information and collects additional insight on how the asylum and reception processes are implemented within the Member State. This is done through a variety of tools and activities which include: meetings with the Member State authorities and other relevant stakeholders, observations, interviews, scenario-based questions, consultation of additional documentation, etc.



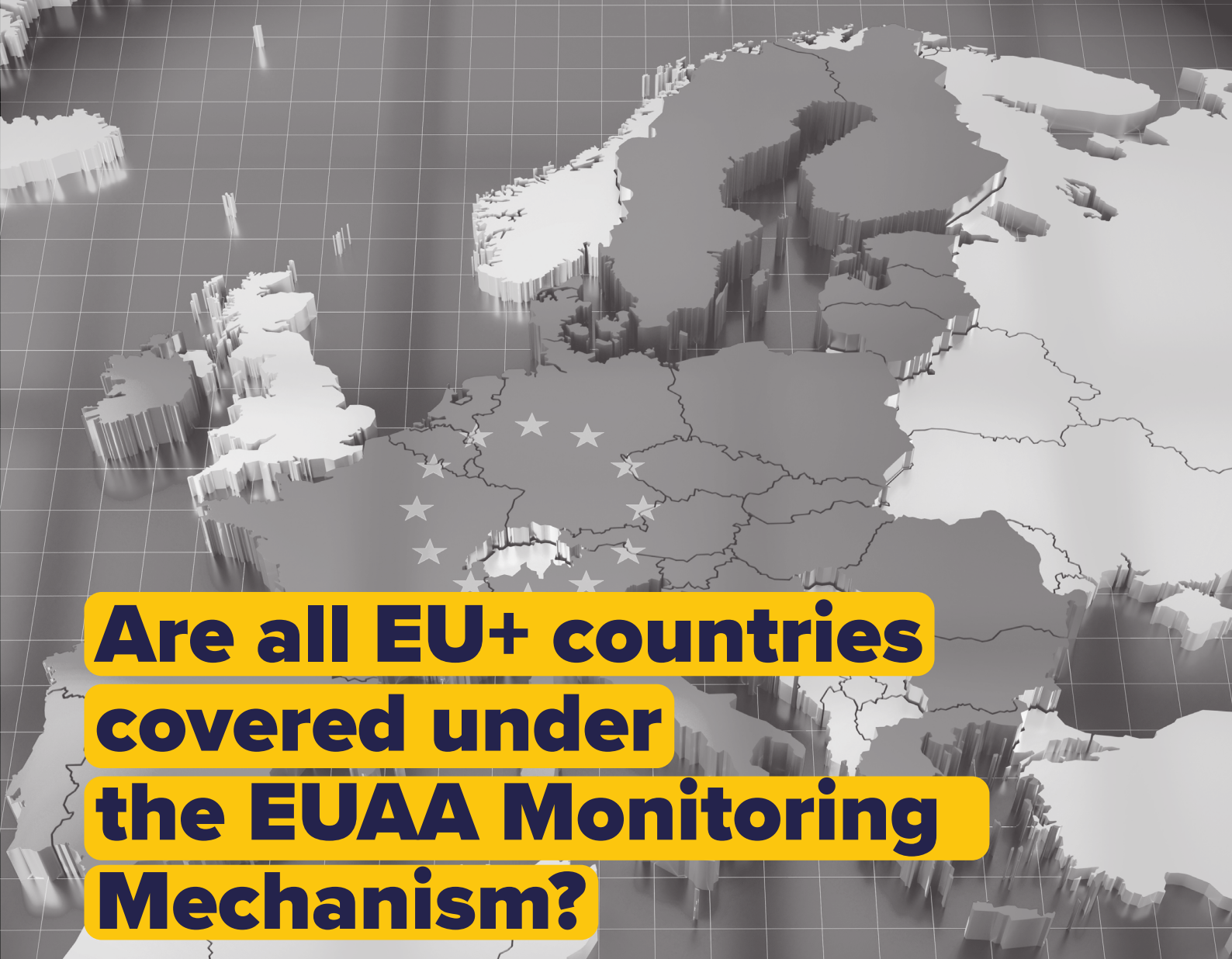
Additionally, the EUAA may take into account information available from relevant **intergovernmental organisations or bodies** – in particular UNHCR – and other relevant organisations on the basis of their expertise, including **national independent organisations and/or bodies** with competence on migration and asylum such as National Human Right Institutions and Ombudspersons as well as civil society organisations.



Which are the types of monitoring exercises?

The EUAA monitoring mechanism comprises three types of monitoring exercises on the basis of their scope:

	Type of exercise	Thematic scope	Geographic scope	Frequency
	Country monitoring Covering the operational and technical application of all aspects of the CEAS in a specific Member State.	Operational and technical application of all aspects of the CEAS	In a specific Member State	At least once every five years
	Thematic monitoring Covering thematic or specific aspects of the CEAS with regard to all Member States.	Thematic or specific aspects of the CEAS	In all Member States	In accordance with the monitoring multiannual and annual monitoring programmes
	Ad-hoc monitoring where the information analysis on the situation of asylum raises serious concerns regarding the functioning of a Member State's asylum or reception system.	Specific aspects raising serious concerns on the functioning of the asylum or reception system	Initiated in a specific Member State	In case of serious concerns - at the request of the European Commission or at the initiative of the EUAA in consultation with the Commission

A 3D map of Europe is shown in the background, rendered in a light gray color. Overlaid on the map are twelve white stars, arranged in a circle, representing the flag of the European Union. The stars are positioned over various European countries, including France, Germany, and the UK.

Are all EU+ countries covered under the EUAA Monitoring Mechanism?

The EUAA Regulation is binding on all EU Member States with the exception of Denmark⁽³⁾.

Associated countries will be able to participate in the EUAA monitoring mechanism only after new arrangements with the Union are concluded (Recital 65 and Article 34 of the EUAA Regulation).



Iceland



Liechtenstein



Norway



Switzerland

⁽³⁾ In view of the position of Denmark as laid down in the EUAA Regulation, if mutually agreed between Denmark and the Agency, the Member State may participate in the monitoring mechanism.

How often are the EU Member States monitored?

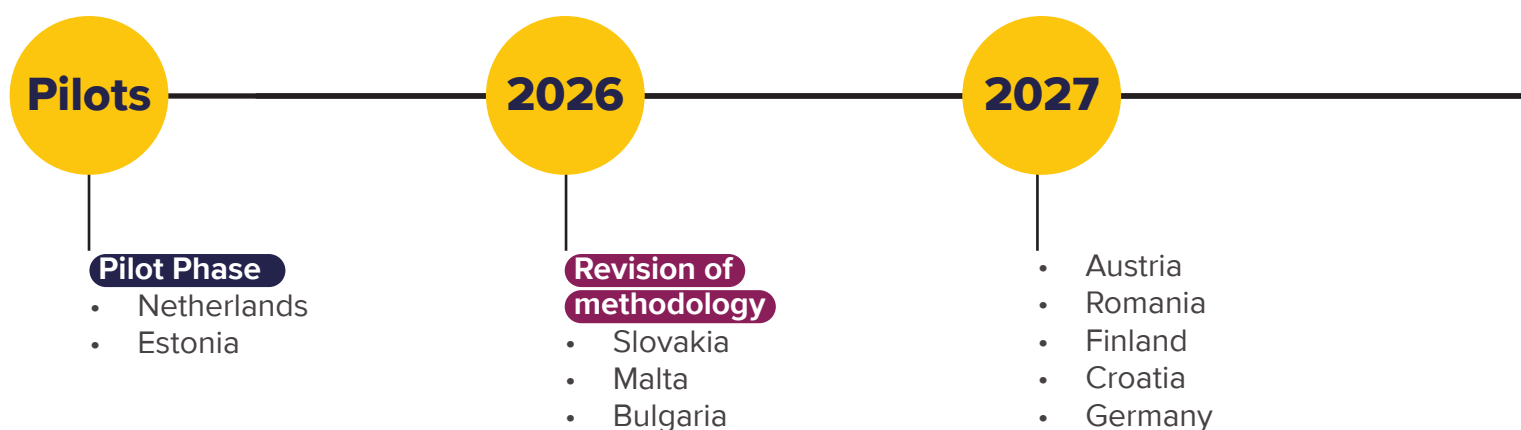
In accordance with Article 15(1) of the EUAA Regulation, **each Member State is monitored at least once in a five-year period**, which is also referred to as the ‘**monitoring cycle**’.

The schedule of Member States to be monitored during each year of the monitoring cycle is defined in the **multiannual monitoring programme**, which also sets out the number of thematic monitoring exercises which can be forecasted.

The order and the timeline for the country monitoring exercises in a specific year are defined in the annual monitoring programme, adopted by the Management Board by 30 June of the preceding year, in line with section 9 of the Annex to MB Decision No 198/2026

The **annual monitoring programme** also establishes the number and topics of the thematic monitoring exercises along with their timeline.

The Management Board Decision No 165 of 14 May 2024 establishes the multiannual programme for the period 2026-2030 and the preceding pilot phase for the monitoring mechanism:

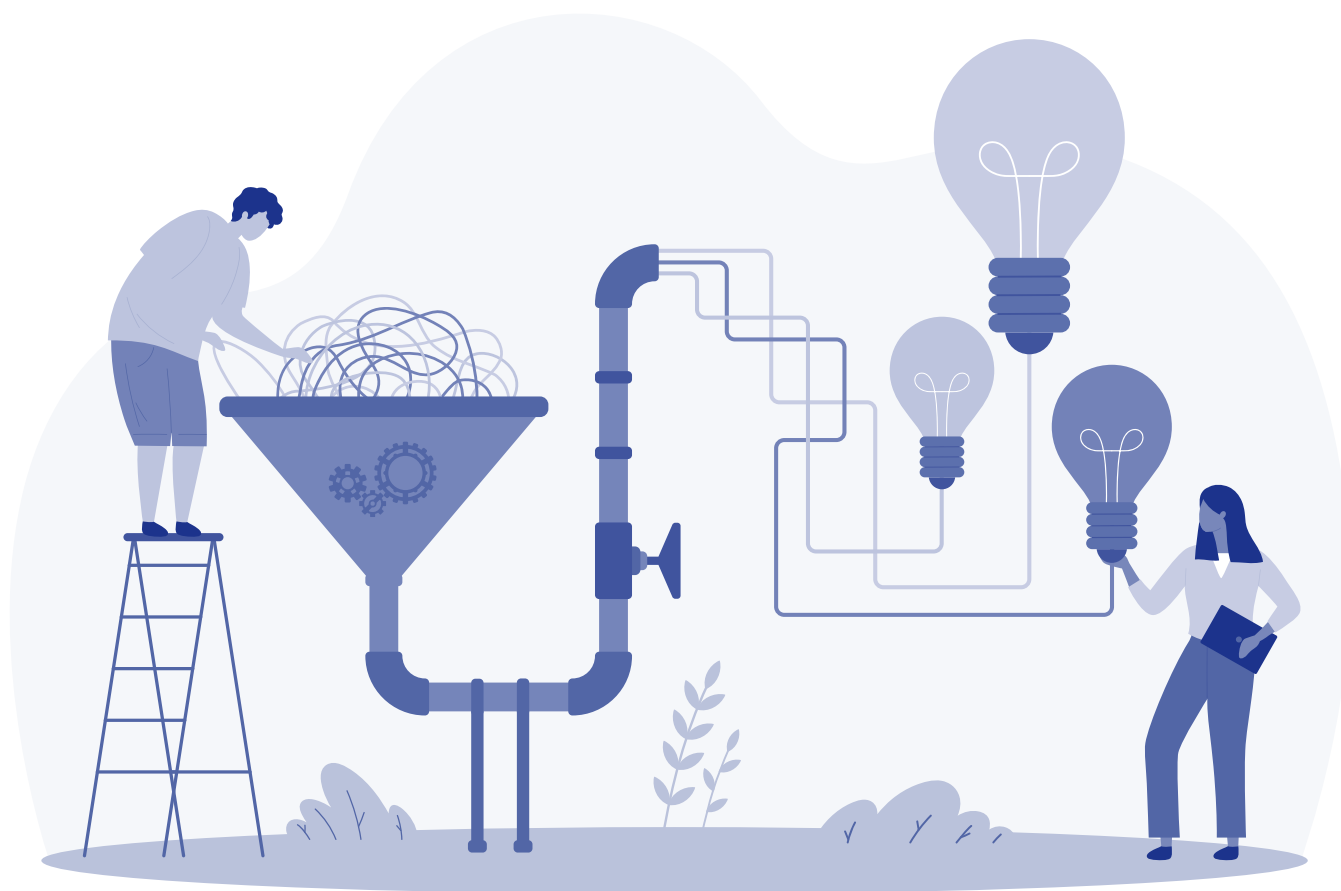




During this period, the Agency shall perform **at least one thematic monitoring exercise**.

Who performs the monitoring?

The **Monitoring Unit within the EUAA** is responsible for the planning, programming and implementation of the monitoring exercises and all subsequent activities. This includes the coordination of teams of experts that are appointed by the EUAA Executive Director to carry out on-site visits as part of the monitoring exercises. The teams of experts are composed of experts from the Agency's own staff, the European Commission, Member States experts and, as observer, the UNHCR.



What are the stages of a monitoring exercise?

Each monitoring exercise spans across the following key stages:



This procedure applies to the country monitoring exercises. For thematic and *ad hoc* monitoring, adjustments may be required in line with the principle of proportionality.

For more information, visit the EUAA website: <https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-knowledge/monitoring-ceas>



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The Management Board Decision No 198/2026
remains the officially adopted text and prevails in
the event of discrepancies with this brochure.

