

2nd JHAAN meeting, 21 June 2021

TOUR DE TABLE - EASO

EASO has continued with its operational activities in 5 locations - Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Malta and also in Spain, mainly in the Canary Islands. Till May 2021, EASO experts deployed in the field have conducted almost 11 000 registrations in EL, IT, CY and MT which represents 34% of all applications lodged and they have drafted more than 6000 concluding remarks, which is almost one third (29%) of the decisions issued.

This year EASO kicked off the implementation of a first Operating Plan in Spain covering five areas of support: four in the field of reception and one in resettlement.

Following a targeted needs assessment, EASO deployed a team, including MS experts on the ground in March. This team has worked closely with the ES authorities on exploring ways to improve reception facilities design and work towards harmonisation of information provision and vulnerability workflows across the reception centres and train frontline personnel. Support to resettlement will start as of the summer but an activity plan to develop a curriculum for pre-departure orientation and related training and training materials was already agreed upon with the Secretary of State.

EASO also continues supporting the relocation workflows following ad-hoc disembarkation events in Italy and Malta (with 615 registrations in Italy and 99 in Malta in the period of Jan-May 2021). Also, EASO continues supporting relocation of UAMs and vulnerable children from Greece - in the same reporting period, 503 assessments for relocation have been conducted; 491 persons have been successfully matched to a partner MS and 1 600 persons have been transferred.

With regards to training activities, EASO has also continued to provide training with so far over 4700 participations, including operational trainings (almost 1800 participations) in 349 sessions with adjusted working methods. The training was mostly provided on topics such as Evidence Assessment, Interviewing Vulnerable Persons, Reception, Interpreting in the Asylum Context and on Inclusion. After finalising the update of its Core modules, EASO's Training Centre is currently working on updating/reviewing its Foundation modules and its modules in the area of vulnerability and reception, as well as on the development of new courses for trainers.

The training centre also started developing a specific pre-deployment course on Code of Conduct module aiming to promote ethical and professional behaviour in EASO operations.

EASO's Asylum Knowledge Centre still continues working in the fully online mode, organising networks' meetings, webinars, workshops, etc. on different topics.

Several publications have been issued since March 2021:

- Situational update on COVID-19 vaccination for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection (March 21, update issued in May 21)
- COI Report: Syria - Military service (April 21)
- COI Report: Nigeria - Trafficking in Human Beings (April 21)
- COI Report: Syria: Socio-economic situation - Damascus city (April 21)
- COI Report: Nigeria - Security situation (June 21)
- Asylum Case Law in 2020 (May 21) - overview of asylum cases 2020 based on the EASO Case Law Database, which presents more extensive summaries of each case. The database serves as a centralised platform on jurisprudential developments related to asylum.

- Situational update on 'Safe country of origin' concept in EU+ countries (June 2021)
- Country Intelligence Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country of transit (April 2021)
- Country Intelligence Reports on Somalia, Ukraine, Sudan, Algeria as a countries of origin
- EASO Analytical Briefs Issues 3, 4 and 5 2021 (released on monthly basis)
- EASO PUBLIC page Latest Asylum Trends in March 2021 (20 May 2021)
- Quarterly Report on the Implementation of the Dublin III Regulation (25 May 2021)
- EASO Assessment of Reception Conditions Tool (April 21) and EASO Practical guide on the application of the internal protection alternative (May 21) have been developed.

Horizontal updates:

- EASO is planning to launch its flagship report - EASO Asylum Report on 29/6. The event will be hosted online - the registration is still open until Friday 25/6. The event will also be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube for the general public. An invitation to join this event has been shared with the network.
- Furthermore, in May this year, EASO has celebrated its 10 years anniversary (since EASO became operational). Therefore, on 14-15 October 2021, an event is planned to mark the occasion of the anniversary. The EDs of the JHA Agencies will be invited - save the date.
- At the last HA Council meeting of 8 June, the 5 Mediterranean Member States announced that they would agree to allow the adoption of the EUAA Regulation outside the package approach which they had supported so far. This is significant progress towards a political agreement on EASO new mandate. Hopefully, the text itself can be quickly finalised within the Council and the EP in order to have the new mandate in place as soon as possible.
- EASO held a meeting with eu-LISA colleagues to discuss technical changes relevant for signature of a new agreement between the two agencies on hosting the EASO Recovery site.
- As of July 2021, EASO plans to enter phase 2, which means obligatory shifts for all staff (except those covered with an exception).