



EASO Newsletter

Q4 2020

Highlights

Interview: EASO judicial trainers - delivering online training in the EASO professional development webinar series

Article: EASO more than doubled operational productivity in 2020

Article: EASO Training and Professional Development in 2020
A Year of Achievements

Events: Update on the 10th EASO Consultative Forum Plenary Meeting

1		11	
p.02	EASO Executive Director - Lookback at Year 2020 and Wishes for 2021	p.19	EASO Practical guide on the use of Country of Origin Information by case officers for the examination of asylum
2		12	
p.04	EASO more than doubled operational productivity in 2020	p.20	Latest Publications
3		13	
p.05	A new, up-to-standard reception centre on the island of Lesbos	p.21	EASO in the Press & social media highlights
4			
p.06	EASO intensifies its support to EU+ countries for continuation of refugee resettlement during the COVID-19 pandemic		
5			
p.07	Update on the cooperation with the Western Balkan partners at regional level and national level		
6			
p.08	Feedback from EASO's National training on Inclusion module		
7			
p.09	EASO Training and Professional Development in 2020		
8			
p.11	Interview with EASO Judicial Trainers		
9			
p.16	EASO Then and Now. Evolution of EASO's activities over the last ten years & future perspectives		
10			
p.18	Child applicants and their right to information New EASO & Council of Europe Animation		

Message from EASO Executive Director

Lookback at Year 2020 and Wishes for New Year 2021



Dear readers,

Another year has come and gone!

I would like to say thank you for being with us and reading our latest news and developments in the year 2020, and wish you all Happy New Year and all the best for 2021!

2020 has been a completely different kind of year! In fact, all of us needed to adapt in one or more ways. The pandemic changed our personal and work plans, challenged many of our perceptions of what is important in life, and forced us to compromise with our comfort in terms of socialising, traveling and communication.

At EASO, our response to the pandemic was fast and efficient! Despite many challenges, EASO has proved to be well equipped by [increasing its productivity](#) and activities throughout the year.

Various notable advancements in 2020 have underlined our commitment to our stakeholders throughout the ongoing global pandemic.

We have continued to provide our support to all Member States with our practical tools, guidance and by continuously engaging within our specialised networks. In turn, these networks have enabled national asylum and reception authorities to share challenges and best practices, thus sustaining asylum procedures within the pandemic. We also continued, almost uninterrupted, with our training activities by quickly transitioning to online. We had more than 8 000 participants in 2020, reaching a total of 50 000 participations since we started our training activities in 2012. We also continued the important work of providing our operational support to major EU countries of first arrival with the deployment of almost 2 000 personnel.

With the addition of a [new operation in Spain](#), in 2021 EASO will provide operational support to national asylum and reception authorities in [all five Mediterranean EU Member States](#) which receive the most asylum applications, accounting for 50% of the Agency's budget. The Operating Plans for 2021 with Malta, Greece, Cyprus and Italy have all been signed, and specifically to Spain, we have committed to support the country in developing a new model for the reception of asylum applicants.

Please enjoy reading about some of the many activities and events which EASO carried out towards the end of 2020.

I am happy to see the calendar go from 2020 to 2021, and am grateful for those who join me in greeting the new year with hope.

EASO ED Mission to Greece, October 2020



EASO more than doubled operational productivity in 2020

Despite challenges posed by COVID-19 in 2020, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) dramatically upscaled its operational presence and increased support to Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Malta, in some cases by between twice and three times 2019 levels.

EASO currently has 1 600 personnel deployed operationally providing support to the respective asylum and reception authorities. With approximately **900 personnel in Greece, 500 in Italy, 110 in Cyprus and 85 in Malta**, this equates to more than a 50 % increase over the end of 2019, with **personnel in Greece almost doubling**.

Up to the end of September 2020, the Agency substantially reinforced its operational productivity when compared to the same period in 2019. This includes carrying out over **12 400 asylum interviews (+74 %)** and the drafting of close to **12 000 recommendations (+96 %)** for decision by the authorities of Cyprus, Greece and Malta.

Furthermore, over **23 000 registrations for international protection** were carried out by EASO personnel in its operations during the same period.

Find out more in the Press Release [here](#).



A new, up-to-standard reception centre on the island of Lesbos

The European Commission together with the Greek authorities and EU Agencies including EASO, agreed to a detailed plan in December 2020 which will establish a new, up-to-standard reception centre on the island of Lesbos by early September 2021.

This is a key step towards resolving the situation after the fires that destroyed the Moria camp in September 2020.

The memorandum signed sets out the respective responsibilities and areas of cooperation between the Commission, the Greek authorities and EU agencies.

More information can be found in the Press Release [here](#).

**According to Ms Nina Gregori,
EASO Executive Director,**

“this Memorandum of Understanding marks an important step forward in building a robust template for reception centres in Europe.

The Lesbos pilot demonstrates the EU’s tangible support for Greece, as well as its commitment to ensuring dignified and safe living conditions for asylum seekers. EASO’s dedicated experts are already on the ground working with our Task Force partners to ensure that the new reception facilities will meet the EU’s standards ”



EASO intensifies its support to EU+ countries for continuation of refugee resettlement during the COVID-19 pandemic

Updates on External Dimension

The suspension on resettlement operations earlier in the year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions significantly slowed progress in the resettlement field.

The first remote interviews were resumed at the **Resettlement Support Facility (RSF), Turkey**, in August 2020 to select refugees for resettlement in Switzerland.

After a successful first remote experience in August, **Switzerland** planned another in November, but were first keen to pilot a **face to face mission at the RSF in October**.

In October, the EASO RSF opened its doors to a Swiss resettlement team in accordance with COVID-19 prevention measures.

This face to face mission was swiftly followed up by another Swiss remote mission and in December 2020, Belgium conducted its first remote selection mission at the RSF, involving 162 refugees.



Update on the cooperation with the Western Balkan partners at regional level and national level

The Western Balkan partner countries regularly cooperate and exchange practices regionally and with EU+ countries on specific asylum and reception related areas.

Within this context, in October 2020, EASO, in cooperation with UNICEF, Sweden, Germany, UNHCR and IOM, organised a **regional workshop on age assessment**.

To develop Western Balkan partners' capacities in the area of asylum, EASO and EU+ trainers are providing support in order to roll out a series of **Regional train the trainers' sessions**.

Following the **Interview Techniques** training module delivered in September 2020, in November, a virtual face-to-face session on **Interviewing Vulnerable Persons** (including children) was organised.

What is the importance of these training modules?

They foster the development of skills, knowledge and competencies needed for the early identification and subsequent interviewing of vulnerable persons.

Regional train the trainers' sessions of the Interviewing Vulnerable Persons module

To further develop Western Balkan partners' capacities to identify and address the requirements of asylum applicants with special needs, EASO is equipping national authorities with a series of EASO practical tools and guides, translated into the relevant languages needed.

EASO and the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) are working together on developing regional training sessions.

In this regard, on 8 November, a workshop on training methodology for the MARRI Regional centre was organised.

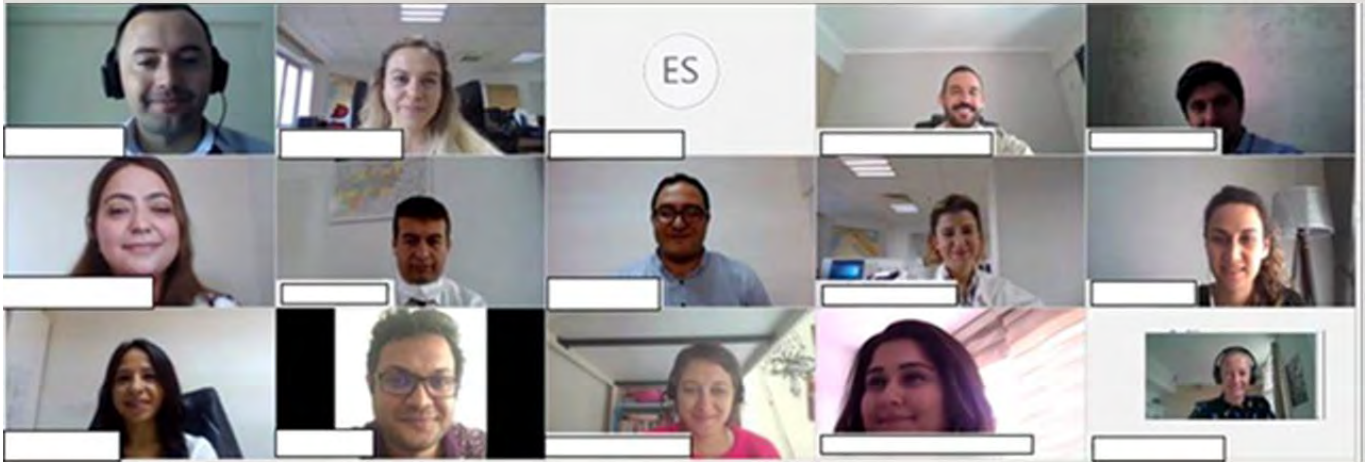
EASO and MARRI intend to pilot joint cooperation, which would bring forward additional opportunities for regionally organised training and would enable a more effective use of the trainers in the region who have successfully completed the EASO Train-the-Trainers sessions.

EASO aims to provide tailored support that addresses the specific needs at national level, through the development and implementation of EASO Roadmaps. The overall objective of the Roadmaps is to enhance the protection space for asylum seekers and refugees in line with the Common European Asylum System and EU Member States' practices.

Following the successful implementation of first-generation Roadmaps, EASO has now concluded the technical design of **second-generation Roadmaps** with several countries in the region. Upon the request from both Montenegro and Kosovo, EASO is also exploring options for the development of advanced cooperation frameworks.

The Roadmaps identify priority areas where EASO support to the national authorities has an added value and, where possible, contributes towards the accession process with a direct impact on the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the European Commissions' Progress Reports, in particular those aimed at meeting the criteria under Chapter 24: Justice, Freedom and Security.

Feedback from EASO's National training on Inclusion module



On 14-15 October 2020, EASO supported the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) in organising the first national EASO training on Inclusion as part of the ongoing cooperation between EASO and DGMM to enhance the training system of DGMM and create a pool of experts trained in EASO modules.

The training was delivered online by Turkish trainers and attended by case workers from various provinces in Turkey.

The preparation process for the training began during the 2017-2018 pilot Roadmap with the EASO training module on Inclusion adapted to reflect Turkish legislation.



EASO Training and Professional Development in 2020

A Year of Achievements



2020

Virtual delivery

In response to the challenging circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the EASO Training and Professional Development Centre has made a strategic decision to engage fully in virtual delivery, in order to ensure that training activities continue without affecting either the quantity, or the quality of the sessions.

“We had to adapt fast and learn innovative ways to deliver training sessions and we have modified our training programmes as well as our trainer’s manuals, and developed detailed scripts to ensure good management of a training session in a virtual learning context. It seems that we succeeded!”

said an EASO Training Officer.

EASO training activities saw an increase of 17% with over 4 500 individual participants, and a satisfaction rate that remained consistent compared to previous years.

Our experience made us fully aware of the challenges which virtual delivery brings to both our trainers and trainees. We built on this experience, developed solutions and provided support in an effective and efficient way.

During the Network Contact Point and Trainers Network Meetings we had the opportunity to discuss and exchange best practices. EASO trainers organised a set of presentations and workshops to provide practical advice, guidance **and effective tools to help trainers facilitate training in the virtual environment. EASO reaffirms its intention to provide continuous support to the Member States and help them to adapt their training accordingly.**

Focus on Training Quality Standards

This year has been an exceptional year for EASO training.

One of our priorities in 2020 has been to develop a robust training quality framework that will guide everything we do from training needs analysis, through the design and development of training, to delivery and evaluation.

This means putting solid policies, processes and procedures in place in the view of aligning our training to European quality assurance standards. If 2020 has been intense in this respect, 2021 will see the start of the transition period when we take the steps needed to put the training quality framework into place.

The training quality framework and the transition plan were two of the main points on the agenda for recent meetings with our main stakeholders.

Meetings with the Certification and Accreditation Working Group and EASO Training National Contact Points were the culmination of a journey during which Member States have supported us to understand what implications any changes will have in their national context and to suggest the practicalities for a smooth transition.

The Trainers Network Meeting was an opportunity to explain the transition process and gauge the initial reactions of our trainers. We are very pleased to say that the feedback was extremely positive and the enthusiasm from trainers was overwhelming.

A Training Quality Framework – Why?

Having a documented framework is essential for putting in place quality standards and nurturing a culture of quality. It ensures that all stakeholders involved in EASO training have a common understanding of what we mean by quality in the context of our training.

It provides a support for maintaining consistently high standards. Importantly, we will have a system in place to evaluate our efforts and act on recommendations to ensure continuous improvement.

The framework will form the blueprint of solid foundations to achieve accreditation for our Training Curriculum.

Certification of current trainers will begin in 2021

[link](#) to the Training Plan 2021

A Training Quality Framework – How?

We have developed a transition plan to guide the Centre throughout the process of gradually achieving this robust quality system over the coming years. It informs the steps needed to take to put the quality framework in place.

One of the key elements in ensuring a robust training system is to be able to assess whether learners have achieved the intended outcomes of the learning. For this reason, we are redesigning and fine-tuning learning outcomes and developing assessment strategies for each module.

In 2021, existing trainers will be given the opportunity to become certified trainers. This means that they will be able to follow the Assessor's Module and have their knowledge and experience recognised through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Assessments (in the event that they have delivered less than three training sessions in a module). As you can see from the 2021 EASO Training Plan, the process will initially involve trainers in the EASO Core Modules.

Interview with EASO judicial trainers

Delivering online training in the EASO professional development webinar series



The **Courts and Tribunals Sector of EASO** organises professional development workshops for members of courts and tribunals of EU+ Member States that aim to advance their expertise in the field of international protection. Such workshops are led by EASO judicial trainers that are members of courts and tribunals themselves.

Responding both to the pandemic and a request for virtual training from its Network, the Courts and Tribunals Sector has recently introduced a new online professional development activity, known as ***Professional Development Webinar Series***. This is a series of online training sessions that bring together approximately 20 participants from different Member States who, with the help of two EASO judicial trainers, discuss case studies, exchange experience and participate in interactive exercises that will enhance their knowledge on international protection law.

Professional Development Webinar Series have already taken place on the topics of ***Country of Origin Information, Evidence and Credibility Assessment, Asylum Procedures and Detention***. Let us hear from judge, Barbara Simma and deputy chairperson of Ireland's International Protection Appeals Tribunal, John Stanley on their experience as EASO judicial trainers and more specifically on delivering online training in the EASO professional development webinar series!



Can you present yourself and explain your role as a judge specialised in the field of international protection?

Barbara Simma: *I was appointed an administrative judge at a first instance tribunal in Austria – the Bundesverwaltungsgericht – in 2014. In that role I adjudicate – among other legal subject matters – complaints against decisions of the Austrian Asylum Authority in proceedings concerning international protection.*



John Stanley: *I am a deputy chairperson and member of Ireland's International Protection Appeals Tribunal. As a member of Ireland's Tribunal, I hear appeals on many aspects of international protection, including in respect of refusal of international protection, inadmissibility, refusal of consent to make a subsequent application, and transfer of applicants to another member state under the Dublin regulation.*

As a deputy chairperson, the chairperson of the tribunal can assign to me any of her functions. Broadly, those functions have to do with ensuring efficiency and fairness, and avoiding undue divergence, in decision making. In particular, I oversee the tribunal's system for monitoring and improving the quality of its decision making.

Could you share some information about your role and tasks as an EASO judicial trainer? When did you start? Why did you decide to apply to the EASO Judicial Trainers' Pool?

Barbara Simma: *I was lucky and happy to be part of the team of judges that worked on the Judicial Practical Guide on Country of Origin Information in 2017. When afterwards there came a call for expression of interest in delivering training workshops also on this topic I felt invested and well prepared to put my name down. Since this moment, I have been a judicial co-trainer in two face-to-face trainings, one in Sofia in 2018 and one in Athens in 2019, and in one webinar on COI in June 2020.*

As judicial co-trainers we at first discuss the content and the agenda of a training, often referring to already existing material that we could use as a starting point. We then think how to best present the different chapters of the content, while using case studies and moot court examples. However, I must also mention the invaluable assistance from EASO in preparing the training workshops by providing material, supporting with any technical issues, proposing tools to engage the audience, etc. I recall the first webinar I had to organise where the input from EASO on possibilities to ease the lecture format and encourage discussion on the platform was very important.

John Stanley: *My first task as an EASO judicial trainer was to provide training on qualification for international protection in Valletta in March 2020. The training took place when Covid-19 was on the cusp of its worldwide spread (the WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic on 11 March), and my co-trainer, and some of the attendees, could not travel to Malta for the training because of the growing concerns about the virus. Later, I remembered everyone shaking hands when we gave out the certificates at the end of the training, and realised it would be a while before that would happen again.*

Before I joined the trainers' pool I had attended EASO training in Valletta several times, and I found its content excellent, and its style very appealing. Moreover, I learned much all the others being trained. As I'm focussed on ensuring ever better quality of decision making in Ireland's Tribunal, I had a particular use at home for the experience I might get as a trainer.

It seems to me that learning, and being both student and teacher, are life-long activities, and that attending EASO training, and being an EASO judicial trainer, are excellent ways for an asylum law decision maker to engage in these pursuits.

What did you learn from the experience of being an EASO judicial trainer while preparing and delivering workshops for fellow members of courts and tribunals?

Barbara Simma: *Preparing and holding this type of training workshop provides a platform for engaging with colleagues from all over Europe. It allows us to exchange knowledge and different practices, as well as to learn about the problem areas European judges are currently battling with. Since the goal is always to provide practical and useful information, as a trainer you are required to understand the participants' needs, interests and expectations. This defines how and what you prepare. Ideally, both trainers and participants alike leave the workshop all the richer for the experience.*

John Stanley: *I could write a long list of things learned from being an EASO trainer. I'll just mention what occur to me as the top three things. First, thorough preparation of all material, including in respect of the material that a co-presenter is due to present, makes a huge difference. Good preparation allows the trainer to be flexible with the material so he or she can adapt it to the particular needs and interests of the attendees (and present a co-presenter's material, if a co-presenter cannot attend due to Covid-19!).*

Secondly, each group attending training is different, with its variety of expertise and perspectives, and its particular dynamic. Being alive to this, and allowing the training to mould itself accordingly, makes training more effective and fun. Thirdly, when addressing people from a variety of member states, native English speakers, especially if they are Irish with too much to say, must speak slowly and clearly!

You were one of two judicial trainers to deliver the first online workshop in June 2020. How did this impact your role, and what challenges did you face?

Barbara Simma: *I was very proud to be part of the first webinar this year together with a colleague from Finland. Challenges, as is usually the case, included getting familiar with the technical aspects of an online workshop. This included understanding the platform and how to understand what can be done through this online means and in which ways. Further, we really thought about how to make the content more understandable and relatable via the online format. I am very grateful to EASO about being adamant on the fact that we needed to create tools to try and engage the participants as much as possible. For example, asking them questions via polls or quizzes.*



“

I found it to be the biggest challenge to create an environment and occasions to initiate and facilitate active participation by everyone. Overall, it was a fascinating project that we could not have developed in the same way without the support and help from EASO.

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John Stanley: *When I signed up for the trainers’ pool, I envisaged regular jaunts to Valletta, not my kitchen. Nonetheless, delivering the first online workshop was fascinating. As you can imagine, the challenges of adapting to online training (at least for me, having not done this often before) were numerous. I think an important challenge is in finding ways to allow participants to talk together, not only so that between presentations they can swap ideas and experiences, but also so that in teasing out things together they can give themselves the confidence to talk and ask questions during the presentations. EASO coffee breaks, lunches, and group suppers are much missed! I’m sure as we get more comfortable with online training we will find creative ways to do address this.*

In preparing for the online training, my co-presenter, Marie-Cécile Zys, and I met with Eleni and Nicholas from EASO each of the four or so weeks leading up to the training, to satisfy ourselves that the preparation was going according to plan. Our new online environment may have prompted this approach, but it seems to me an excellent one that minimises the possibility of things going wrong, and that all future training would benefit from.

Would you recommend to other judges to become an EASO judicial trainer? In your view, what are the essential qualities a judicial trainer must possess?

Barbara Simma: *Absolutely. Being an EASO judicial trainer is beneficial on so many levels. It is a great way to impart some of one’s own experience and knowledge, as well as an opportunity to meet colleagues from all over Europe.*

This helps to further one’s knowledge of the subject matter as well as to hone and develop communication skills (and in English, too!). In short, it was a very valuable experience that gave me at least as much back as I put in to the workshops as a co-trainer. And essential qualities are – apart from the obvious, some knowledge on the subject matter – a pinch of curiosity, no hesitation to try things out and a willingness to engage and to support others to engage.

John Stanley: *I would. I think being a judicial trainer enriches one’s work as a judge or tribunal member. It prompts clear thinking, and to be clear on the justification for a point of view (or to question it). It allows a decision maker to benefit from the experiences and perspectives of those from other legal traditions.*

Some important qualities for an EASO judicial trainer seem to me include curiosity and openness to learning, an interest in finding practical solutions to problems faced by judges, and appreciation and enjoyment of cooperation. Of course, having good experience and knowledge of asylum law is important too, though I think that it's more important again for the trainer to be aware of the limits of that knowledge, and to be agile with it.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Barbara Simma: No, except thank you!

“

John Stanley: Just to say thank you to Basia, Eleni, Isidoros, Paul, Nicolas, and all at EASO for being such good colleagues, and providing great support, both to me as a trainer, and to all of us who benefit from the work of EASO in our decision making every day.

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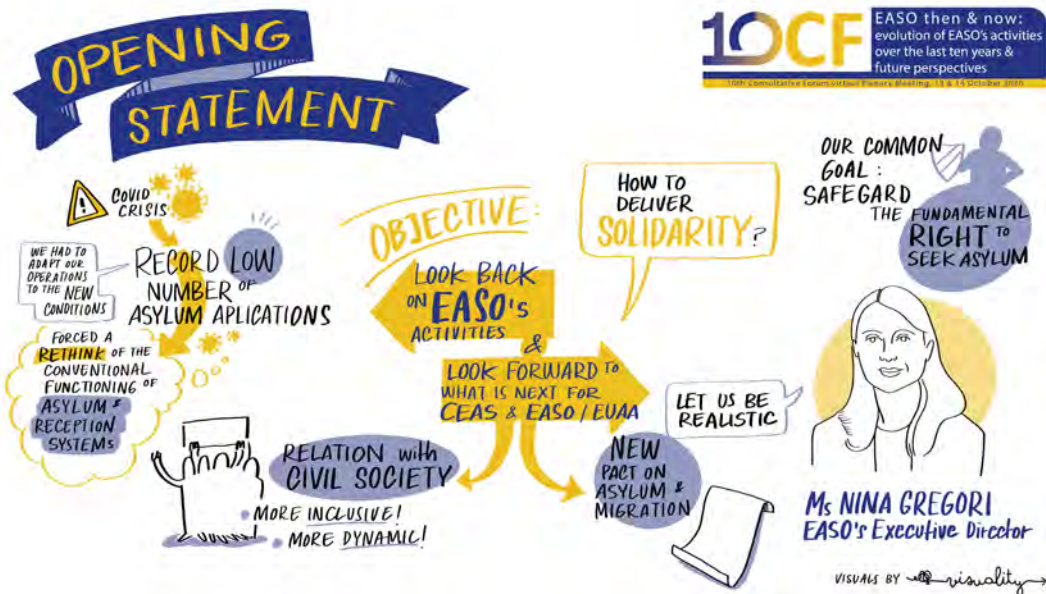


For more information about EASO's support to Courts and Tribunals you can visit EASO's Website here:

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/asylum-support-training/courts-and-tribunals>

EASO then and now

Evolution of EASO's activities over the last ten years & future perspectives



EASO organised its 10th Consultative Forum Plenary as a virtual meeting in the mornings of 13 and 14 October 2020. This year's Plenary marked the 10th edition of the Consultative Forum and the overall theme focused on the evolution of EASO over the last ten years and perspectives for the future.

The very first edition of the Consultative Forum was organised in 2011 - the year that EASO became fully operational. Although expectations for the Agency were high, its resources were few, reflecting its stage of development as a start-up agency. On the occasion of its 10th edition, and with discussions on the future of the Agency expected to be resumed soon, it was therefore timely to look back on the development of EASO's activities over the last ten years, as well as to look at what is next, for the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and the Agency's role therein.

The meeting consisted of both plenary discussions (day 1) as well as interactive thematic parallel break-out sessions (day 2).

EASO's Executive Director, Ms. Nina Gregori, opened the meeting emphasising that this year's Consultative Forum was special for several reasons, including the fact that the meeting was held online as the pandemic continued to have major impacts around the world, including on the situation of asylum and migration.

Mark Camilleri, the Head of the Executive Office, introduced the roundtable discussion and invited EASO's Heads of Centres to discuss the evolution of EASO's activities over the last ten years. **Lilian Tsourdi, Odysseus Network/Assistant Professor at Maastricht University**, provided a commentary on what role EASO has played in the CEAS and how its activities have evolved over time, including its implications.

During the second session, **Petra Baeyens, Senior Legal Officer at ECRE**, provided a commentary on the future perspectives for the CEAS in light of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum and the Agency's role therein, followed by **Joanna Darmanin, Deputy Head of Asylum Unit, European Commission, DG Home and Migration**, who presented the Pact and also addressed the transformation of EASO into the EUAA.

On day two of the Forum, three inter-active parallel workshops were organised on Training and Professional Development; Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission and Vulnerable Groups.

Overall all, three workshops aimed at providing more detailed information on EASO activities, exchanging information on EASO's and civil society's role and activities in the areas discussed, and serving as an opportunity to explore possibilities to strengthen future cooperation.

Despite it being online, the event was a success, with the plenary sessions followed by around 200 participants and the workshops followed by around 100 participants, with more joining in for the reporting session and closing remarks.

In case you have any questions or need more information about this online event, please contact

consultative-forum@easo.europa.eu

or

visit our dedicated area on the EASO website

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/2020-consultative-forum>



Age Assessment Process

Child applicants and their right to information New EASO & Council of Europe Animation



The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the Children's Right Division of the Council of Europe (CoE) have jointly developed an **Animation on Age Assessment for Children** ([watch it here](#)) aiming to inform children and young persons about the process of an age assessment, their rights and obligations, in a child-friendly manner. Hearing and integrating the opinions of youth has been a priority in the development of the animation which is aimed at educating youth on both their rights and obligations during the age assessment process in Europe.

This animation is also a tool to support European national authorities when informing children and young persons of the possibility of having their age assessed. Understanding the process of age assessment enables children and young persons to make informed decisions and helps to remove their potential feeling of insecurity or discomfort in participating in this additional process.

While the animation is shared with National authorities, the final target group is youth in need of information on age assessment, and what it entails. The animation encourages youth to ask questions on all matters of their concerns including the age assessment process.

You can find more information [here](#).

EASO Practical guide on the use of Country of Origin Information by case officers for the examination of asylum applications

A new **EASO Practical Guide on the use of Country of Origin Information (COI)** by case officers for the examination of asylum applications was published at the end of December. The overall objective of this guidance is to support case officers to correctly use COI during the examination of an application for international protection. The guide contains what every case officer needs to know about COI: what is COI, what are its quality standards, where to find COI, how to formulate research questions, as well as guidance on how COI can best be integrated into the different steps of the asylum procedure.

To support case officers in their daily work, guidance is provided on the use of COI (a) in order to investigate an applicant's identity and country of origin; (b) to be able to assess the credibility of the claim; and (c) to be able to assess the legitimacy of fear upon return. In order to better illustrate the use of COI in the process of the examination of an application for international protection, different examples based on four concrete asylum cases are used throughout the practical guide.

The guide is available on EASO's website under 'Asylum Support & Training: Practical Tools', <https://www.easo.europa.eu/practical-tools>.

The guide was developed by experts from EU+ countries, with valuable input from the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) and ARC Foundation. Valuable input was also received from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on earlier versions of the guide. The finalised guide does not necessarily reflect the position of UNCHR. The process was facilitated and coordinated by EASO. Before its finalisation, a consultation on the guide was carried out with all EU+ countries.

This practical guide is an addition to the EASO Practical Guides Series.



Latest Publications

Check them out!

Visit EASO's [Website](#) to find all our latest Publications and download them with one click!

- ✚ EASO Practical guide on the use of country of origin information by case officers
- ✚ MedCOI Report: Medical Country of Origin Information Report Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- ✚ EASO Case Law Newsletter - Issue No 1/2020
- ✚ COVID-19 emergency measures in asylum and reception systems
- ✚ Judicial analysis Exclusion: Articles 12 and 17 Qualification Directive Second edition
- ✚ Compilation of jurisprudence Exclusion: Articles 12 and 17 Qualification Directive Second edition
- ✚ Judicial analysis Reception of applicants for international protection (Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU)
- ✚ Iraq: Treatment of Iraqis with perceived affiliation to ISIL
- ✚ Iraq: The Protest movement and treatment of protesters and activists



EASO in the Press & Social Media Highlights

Top tweets

Welt.de: [This pilot project aims to dispel doubts about the EU asylum pact](#) - not only should the national asylum authority, with the support of the EU asylum office EASO.

Mundiarior.com: [Spain has 8,000 asylum seekers waiting for a reception quota](#) - The minister has requested "an external evaluation from the European Asylum Office (EASO) to identify the needs of the system.

Euobserver.com: [Asylum applications to EU fall 31 percent compared to 2019](#) - The European Asylum Support Office (Easo) says the number asylum applications throughout the EU (plus Norway and Switzerland) dropped by 31 percent, when compared to the same period in 2019.

Agenceurope.eu: [Pandemic continues to have impact on level of asylum claims being filed](#) - The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) confirmed on Wednesday 14 October in a new publication, that the restrictive measures related to Covid-19 have continued to have an impact on asylum applications in the EU.

France24.com: [The happiness of the evacuees from Lesbos](#) - Since the fire in the Moria migrant camp, the Greek government, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Asylum Office (EASO) have evacuated more than 2,000 people to mainland Greece. Our special envoys witnessed one of these emotional evacuations. Final chapter of our series on Lesbos.

Agenparl.eu: [Age assessment process: child applicants and their right to information new easo & council of europe animation](#) - World Children's Day is an opportunity for advocating, promoting and celebrating children's rights.

Lemonde.fr: [In Spain, the new life of Venezuelans](#) - According to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), more than 4 million people have fled the country.

@easo: Driven by 500 dedicated staff working in Malta & throughout the continent we ensure fair & equal treatment of all asylum seekers. Our new corporate video shows how [#EASO](#) supports Member States to give protection to people in need: <https://bit.ly/3lrXlgv>. [View tweet.](#)

@BAMF_Dialog: Panel I: "Knowledge & Information Management in the #Migration Context: Cooperation in Europe & Beyond". @EASO, @OECD, KCMD & BAMF discuss the increasing importance of an efficient communication of information by institutions in the context of migration. #EMNGermany #EMNMigration. [View tweet.](#)

@NinaGregoriEASO: Thankful for the invit. to S&D [@EP Justice](#) WG mtg, where I presented [@EASO](#)'s work in operations & our challenges with available resources. We exchanged views on the New Pact on Migration & Asylum & the role that the EUAA could have in future. [@EASO](#) counts on [@EP Justice](#) support. [View Tweet.](#)


@NinaGregoriEASO: The 10th edition of the @EASO Consultative Forum Meeting was the right place for a constructive dialogue with Civil Society. I am grateful for the great participation & discussions. Together we can achieve more towards common solutions through better cooperation. #10EASOCF. [View tweet.](#)

Contact us



European Asylum Support Office

MTC Block A
Winemakers Wharf
Grand Harbour Valletta
MRS 1917
Malta

Tel: +356 22487500 

Email: info@easo.europa.eu

Press and media enquiries:
press@easo.europa.eu

