

EASO CONSULTATIVE FORUM
28-29 NOVEMBER 2016
ATHENS, GREECE



INTERACTIVE, PARTICIPATORY FORMAT
Authentic dialogue matters for EASO

Since early 2016, EASO has renewed its commitment to promote enhanced dialogue and cooperation with civil society. To this end, throughout the year, **EASO has further engaged with actors from the civil society in its core business**, inviting experts and representatives to participate to thematic meetings, seminars, workshops and to contribute to the development of tools and materials, as well as exploring ways for an increased involvement of civil society in EASO's operational activities. EASO has **strengthened its feedback system**, developing more sound responsiveness towards organizations responding to the consultations, **providing information bilaterally and multilaterally to civil society organizations approaching EASO**, being alert and receptive to search, analyse and take into account information and inputs provided by civil society, with a view to identify opportunities to build practical cooperation.

Within the framework of the EASO Consultative Forum activities, and responding to the needs expressed by multiple stakeholders, EASO in March 2016 organized **two information meetings targeting civil society organizations operating on the ground in Sicily, Italy**, promoting dialogue on key issues such as the relocation scheme and the implementation of the hotspots approach.

A meeting to discuss best practices and lessons learnt concerning synergies between institutional and civil society actors in the context of relocation, was organized on **20 September 2016 in Lisbon**, looking at the experience of Portugal in the relocation process from Greece, and listening to relevant NGOs, national authorities, IOM, UNHCR and relocated applicants.



European Asylum Support Office
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Finally EASO actively participated to a number of **meetings and platforms chaired by NGOs** in Italy, Greece and other EU countries.

The **proposal of new Regulation¹** foresees a revision in the composition and working methods of the Consultative Forum, in view to be independent and to assist the Executive Director and Management Board in matters related to asylum.

¹ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010

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Get involved!

#EASOCF16

DISCLAIMER

The participants to the 6th EASO Consultative Forum plenary meeting are kindly informed that they may appear in a video and photo footage documenting proceedings of this meeting.

Please inform EASO staff should you wish not to be photographed/filmed

Background & Main Objectives

Strengthening dialogue and pooling expertise between institutional and non-institutional actors involved, with different roles, in the field of asylum and reception, can help to better face the multiple challenges of the current high migration pressure.

The EASO Consultative Forum² represents a venue for constructive exchange, cross-fertilization and pooling of knowledge among relevant stakeholders operating in priority areas of EASO's work.

The plenary meeting of the 6th EASO Consultative Forum is taking place in Athens to facilitate the participation of actors operating in Greece and is hosted in a fully participatory format. This will enable more interactive discussion and allow participants to proactively engage, propose topics of discussion, share ideas through the presentation of posters, exchange dynamically with a diversified set of representatives and better understand the work of EASO and other relevant stakeholders.

What participants can expect from the meeting:

- Engage in meaningful conversations around three priority thematic areas and promote collective knowledge;
- A participatory process hosted by a team of professionals skilled in participatory leadership;
- The possibility to provide inputs and share ideas most relevant to the work of EASO;
- EASO actively listening and participating in authentic dialogue;
- A record (graphic and report) of the outcome of the meeting shared afterwards;
- A venue to meet and exchange with about 200 participants from a diversified set of civil-society organisations and institutions, refugees representatives, local authorities and third-countries representatives.
- A *marketplace* available to host info stands for the requesting participants.

Participants should be ready to:

- Actively engage in sharing knowledge, ideas and experiences for 1.5 days;
- Listen to each other carefully, listen for insights and in-depth questions;
- Link and connect ideas that matter for EASO and which can help to better address the current challenges;
- Accept that divergent opinions are ok and suspend judgments, assumption and certainties;

² Art. 51 Regulation 439/2010 founding EASO

Format

The 6th EASO Consultative Forum plenary meeting will focus on the most significant developments that have been affecting the European asylum context in the past year, such as the establishment of the European relocation programme, the hotspot approach and the different legislative proposals under discussion.

An opening high-level panel will help set the scene and outline what is changing in the European asylum framework under different perspectives.

The meeting will then unfold into a fully participatory process, steered by a hosting team of professionals skilled in participatory techniques and visual recording. Based on the discussion of the first session, participants will be offered the floor and asked to bring forward their own concrete proposals and fill in the agenda. Topic owners will discuss their proposed ideas around key questions in small groups seeking solutions to the identified challenges, and prepare a poster. On the following half day, time will be dedicated to showcases and discussion that will inform the closing panel debate. This debate will cover different aspects of challenges in 2016, developments and ways to strengthen synergies between institutional actors and civil society to address the refugees' crisis and support the building of a single and fair European asylum system.



Hosting and harvesting conversations that matter in a participatory format is a strategic approach for the European Commission and its agencies and consultative bodies as conveners of meaningful dialogue. With this form of empowerment, stakeholders become not only better informed, but also

contribute to jointly setting objectives, discussing challenges and exploring solutions through participatory collaboration.

A graphic recording, which is a real time visualization of the outputs from conversations and dialogue taking place, will help to capture and make visible the collective intelligence of the meeting.

6th EASO Consultative Forum plenary meeting 28-29 November 2016

Stratos Vassilikos Hotel
Athens, Greece

PROGRAMME

Monday 28 November 2016

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00 – 10:00	Setting the scene: what is changing in the European asylum framework? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ European Commission: Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos ▪ EASO: Executive Director, José Carreira ▪ UNHCR: Director Bureau for Europe, Vincent Cochetel ▪ Greek Asylum Service: Director, Maria Stavropoulou ▪ ECRE: Secretary General, Catherine Wollard
10:00-11.45	Introduction to the plenary and first round of participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitator Ian Andersen (External Communications Adviser, DG Interpretation, European Commission) <i>Participatory working methods and good practice</i>
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee available in the mezzanine</i>
11:45– 13:15	Participatory workshops: challenges and solutions <i>Exploring synergies with EASO and what works well</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unpacking relocation and the hotspot approach. 2. Information, analysis and communication within a polyphonic context. 3. Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups in the context of high influx: identification, referral, reception, integration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EASO introduction and rapporteur from civil society
13:15-15:00	Lunch break Market place of ideas: space open to organizations and individuals to present ideas and work at information stands
15:00 - 15:30	Reporting from the workshops
15:30 – 17:45	YOU create the agenda! <i>Bring the topic you wish to discuss, host a group and record the outcomes of the discussion. Focus on issues emerged from the thematic workshops particularly relevant for the work of EASO</i>
18.00-19.30	Screening of “The journey continues” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ActionAid Greece introduction: Country Director, Gerasimos Kouvaras and Sevi Papadopoulou, Social Mobilization Activities Coordinator Social Drink

6th EASO Consultative Forum plenary meeting 28-29 November 2016

Stratos Vassilikos Hotel
Athens, Greece

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 29 November 2016

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00 – 10:30	Share the outcome of your own agenda session <i>If you have proposed a session on Monday afternoon, you will have been given a poster to record outcomes of the discussions. Posters will be exhibited for everyone to see, allowing further discussions between participants.</i>
10:30 – 12:00	Panel debate: stocktaking of 2016 challenges, developments and ways ahead to strengthen synergies between institutional actors and civil society to address the refugees' crisis and to build a single and fair Europe of asylum. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ EASO: Executive Director, José Carreira▪ European Parliament: MEP Peter Niedermüller▪ European Commission: DG HOME, Head of the Asylum Unit, Henrik Nielsen▪ Greek Asylum Service: Director, Maria Stavropoulou▪ UNHCR: Head of Policy and Legal Support Unit, Sophie Magennis▪ Queen Mary, University of London: Founding Director, Immigration Law Programme, Violeta Moreno-Lax▪ ECRE: Senior Policy Officer, Aspasia Papadopoulou▪ METAdrasi: Antigoni Angelaki, Project Manager <i>Moderator Ali Al-Jaberi</i>
12.00-12.30	Final word to the participants
12.30-13.30	Lunch

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Participatory Workshops

1. Unpacking relocation and the hotspot approach.

The Council Decisions of September 2015 established provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece with the aim of setting up the European relocation scheme over the next two years. Together with the hotspot approach and the EU-Turkey agreement, relocation is unique within EU asylum practices. 2016 saw national and European institutions, as well as other relevant stakeholders, fully engaged to give practical implementation to these new measures. Within this framework, EASO has been called to shift to more tailor-made practical operational support, playing an important role in Italy and Greece, in particular with regard to registration of applications for international protection, joint-processing of asylum applications, referral of potential outgoing Dublin take-charge requests, and assistance with the relocation of applicants for international protection, matching and data collection. In Greece, EASO supports the Greek authorities in specific parts of the admissibility procedure in order to ensure systematic individual assessment. This working group will focus on challenges, best practices and solutions related to the practical implementation of the relocation and hotspot approach by unpacking the different steps, looking at the actors involved and possible synergies. Participants will be invited to share experiences and ideas related to steps more relevant to their areas of work/expertise, including, for instance, provision of legal aid, referral, cultural orientation, matching, and integration.

EASO Introduction: Dimitra Pippidou, Field Officer, Operations Unit

Rapporteur: IOM and Greek Forum of Refugees

2. Information, analysis and communication within a polyphonic context.

In the wake of the high migration pressure experienced by Europe in 2015-2016, particularly by Greece and Italy, multiple institutional and civil-society actors have dedicated resources to gather data and information for different purposes, based on their specific mandates and targeted recipients. A number of reports, gap analysis, advocacy statements, research papers, brochures, articles, and statistics have been published, presenting often dissonant and partial pictures of a situation that is highly complex and changes rapidly. Research and data analysis are key to provide evidence-based inputs to policy-makers; communication is essential to inform the involved parties – refugees and citizens – and disseminate clear messages through different channels, including social media. Within a polyphonic context, however, it can be challenging to ensure comprehensive outreach and consistent messages provided by several actors. As flagged by ECRE and AIRE in their report on Greece, too many actors, giving similar messages, might cause more confusion and uncertainty among refugees. EASO has dedicated great efforts to further enhance its data collection and analysis system and implement a communication strategy for relocation, including the development of a mobile app. This working group will discuss challenges, best practices and solutions to better integrate products of information and documentation, to improve information sharing and dissemination, to cross-check sources, in an effort to reinforce consistent narratives, bridge communication gaps and build trust in the relocation programme and in the actors involved.

EASO Introduction: Ward Lutin, Head of Info and Analysis Unit

Rapporteur: Asylum Corner-Lai-momo

3. Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups in the context of high influx: identification, referral, reception, integration.

The needs of vulnerable groups in the context of mixed flows and high migration pressure require special attention from all stakeholders in order to be identified and addressed properly throughout the asylum procedure. Persons with special needs include, for instance, unaccompanied and separated children; single parents with children; persons with serious or mental illness; elderly; pregnant women or those who recently gave birth; disabled people; victims of torture, violence, human trafficking and persons with a post-traumatic disorder. Within the framework of relocation and the hotspot approach, tools, measures and safeguards for vulnerable cases have been developed by institutional and civil-society actors involved with their respective mandate. EASO's work in the area of vulnerable groups has become further integrated within its operational support in Greece and in Italy. In January 2016, EASO launched the *Tool for the Identification of Persons with Special Needs (IPSN)*, which is accessible online; a tool for the Best Interest Assessment of the Child in the context of relocation was developed; vulnerabilities assessment is performed as part of the admissibility procedure in Greece; and child-friendly information material for relocation is under development. EASO is also finalising the Guidance on Reception Conditions. This working group will discuss experiences, lessons learned, tools, needs, standards, challenges to address the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly looking at the context of high influx in Greece and Italy and in the framework of relocation and the hotspot approach.

EASO Introduction: Riikka Peltonen, Quality and Vulnerable Groups Officer, Asylum Support Unit
Rapporteur: Save-the-Children and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

A side event: "The journey continues"

The play "The journey continues" was created by fifteen Afghan young women refugees who live in the Schisto camp and participate in ActionAid's programmes. With the help of ActionAid's facilitator and a director they wrote the play, created the costumes, the make-up and the props and took part in it. It was the first time that they were exposed to this form of art and expression. The play was presented to the Greek public in the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus in September 2016. The women wanted to tell the story of their trip, their hardships and the difficulties in the camp. They also wanted to keep alive their dream to reach their destination in Northern and Western Europe.



"You, the audience, have witnessed the story of an Afghan woman, as played by her and told by her. It's neither a story of fantasy nor of horror. The aim is not to make you sad. It is a truly bitter story. It talks about strength not weakness. It talks about the value of the goal to reach this that we have worked for so hard and that we put ourselves in danger for. That which we will not stop trying to achieve: a brighter future". (The women who wrote the play).

ActionAid Hellas supports women led activities, skill development, awareness and capacity building which aim to strengthen women's capacities, coping mechanisms, confidence building and leadership skills to cope better in their new environment.

List of selected background material

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/index_en.htm

Seventh report on relocation and resettlement (9.11.2016).

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third country national or a stateless person (Recast)

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted and amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast)

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a Union Resettlement System and amending Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council

EASO

Latest Asylum Trends September 2016 <https://www.easo.europa.eu/latest-asylum-trends>

Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2015
<https://www.easo.europa.eu/information-analysis/annual-report>

EASO practical tools <https://www.easo.europa.eu/practical-tools>

OTHER SOURCES

Guild et al., Enhancing the CEAS and Alternatives to Dublin, (European Parliament, 2015):
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/519234/IPOL_STU\(2015\)519234_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/519234/IPOL_STU(2015)519234_EN.pdf)

Guild et al., New Approaches, Alternative Avenues and Means of Access to Asylum Procedures for Persons Seeking International Protection, (European Parliament, 2014):
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/509989/IPOL_STU\(2014\)509989_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/509989/IPOL_STU(2014)509989_EN.pdf)

Moreno-Lax, Europe in Crisis (Red Cross EU Office, 2016): <http://www.redcross.eu/en/News-Events/NEWS-ROOM/Migration-Europe-in-Crisis/>

List of registered participants³

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