



EASO HOTSPOT OPERATING PLAN TO GREECE

- Amendment No 1 -

The EASO Hotspot Operating Plan to Greece was signed on 30 September 2015 by the former Executive Director of EASO Dr Robert K. Visser and the Alternate Minister of Interior and Administrative Reform of Greece Mr Ioannis Mouzalas.

Given the need for an extension of the duration of the Plan and adjusted needs in the scope of the support measures, the amendments (marked in *Italics*), as described in Annex I, are hereby agreed.

EASO shall send a copy of the amendment to the Members of the EASO Management Board.

Valletta Harbour and Athens, December 2015

Executive Director a.i.
of the European Asylum
Support Office

Jose Carreira

Alternate Minister
of Interior and Administrative
Reform of Greece

Ioannis Mouzalas



Annex I

This Hotspot Operating Plan lays down the conditions and objectives of EASO’s specific technical and operational support to Greece and sets out the conditions for participation in these specific EASO activities.

The amendment covers the period from 1 January 2016 until 31 March 2016. At the end of this period, the Plan will be automatically renewed until the end of 2016, under the existing conditions covering the same number of experts, duration and place of deployments and scope of activities, unless there is an exchange of letters stating otherwise.

- EASO Measure HEL 1 is amended as follows:

EASO Activity HEL 1: Support with the provision of relevant information to potential relocation candidates and the registration process at the Asylum Service	
Responsible authorities	Asylum Service, Regional Asylum Offices and Asylum Units (especially in Athens, Lesvos and Samos)
Current situation	<p>More than 200,000 migrants have arrived in Greece during the first eight months of 2015, out of which 75 % are coming from countries affected by war and violence (Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Eritrea and Afghanistan). The main points of entry are the islands along the blue border with Turkey. Identification, screening and, on a voluntary basis, de-briefing takes place at the locations of apprehension. In some places, medical screening is performed, information is provided by UNHCR and IOM and vulnerability checks are made. During the identification, the question is addressed whether the third country nationals intend to lodge an application for international protection. If the answer is positive, he/she is then referred to the Regional Asylum Office/Asylum Unit.</p> <p>Despite an efficient asylum procedure and eligibility rates at least as high as the average EU rate, the great majority of new arrivals currently does not express their intention to apply for international protection in Greece and instead wants to move on to other countries. Even persons who could benefit from family reunification clauses in the Dublin Regulation often prefer to continue travelling, regardless of the costs and risks involved, as the necessary procedures are perceived as too lengthy. Given the very high number of new arrivals, additional human resources are required to address any information gaps and provide tailor-made information on the international protection procedure and advice as to where and how applications may be lodged.</p> <p>Between the expression of intent to apply for international protection (the ‘making’ of an application) and the actual registration of that intent (the formal ‘lodging’ of the application) could be a certain time gap.</p> <p>The entry into force of Art. 6 APD on 20 July 2015 introduces a requirement for all Member States to register within 3 (max. 10) working days all applications made to the competent or ‘other’ authorities. EASO has provided guidance to Member States on how such requirements should be understood and implemented.</p>



Objective(s)	<p>Potential applicants for international protection to be earlier identified and information about the <i>international protection</i> procedure provided. At the earliest time possible, registration of the intention to apply for international protection (the 'making') and full registration of the application itself (the formal 'lodging') is performed.</p> <p>More persons in need of international protection, especially those with special needs, provided with the necessary information about the international protection system in Greece in order to enable effective access to the examination procedure.</p>
Pre-condition(s)	- Information material about the Greek procedure for international protection and other background documents provided.
EASO support	<p>At least 2 experts per deployed place / 3 months, 2 travel days</p> <p>Envisaged place of deployment: Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Leros, Chios and Athens</p>
Implementation	2016: Q1, with automatic extension to Q2-Q4, and the possibility to extend in 2017
Deliverable (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information provided to new arrivals about the international protection procedure in Greece and advice as to where and how applications may be lodged (including information on the Dublin and relocation procedure), as well as the cooperation requirement and possible consequences of non-cooperation. <i>Information provided on the relevant next steps in the procedure (decision process, reception facility, etc.) in Piraeus.</i> - Support offered in identifying persons as potential 'relocation candidates'. - All persons who express the intention to apply for international protection referred to the Asylum Service for further registration and processing of the application. - <i>Advice provided on nationality assessment and possible security (exclusion) issues to caseworkers registering relocation candidates.</i>

- EASO Measure HEL 2 is amended as follows:

EASO Activity HEL 2: Support with handling outgoing Dublin take charge requests, including relocation cases	
Responsible authority	Asylum Service, Dublin Unit
Current situation	<p>The European Commission proposed to make use of the emergency response mechanism under Article 78(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. This provision, which is being activated for the first time, aims to set up an emergency relocation scheme to assist Member States in need. Brief description of the registration and Dublin procedure in Greece:</p> <p>Third country nationals are registered as applicants for international protection in the Asylum Service's database (ALKIONI). The registration form contains information on the identity of the applicant but also Dublin relevant</p>

	<p>information (hierarchy of criteria), previous applications for international protection and a few questions relating to the current application.</p> <p>Following the registration process, when circumstantial evidence and proof are available regarding the possible request to another Member State (e.g. on humanitarian grounds due to family/cultural relations, i.e. use of discretionary clause as per Art. 17(2) of recast Dublin), the Regional Office refers the case to the Dublin Unit by sending an e-mail informing about the present case and file number. The physical file is then forwarded to the Dublin Unit. It includes the registration form and inter alia any documents submitted by the applicant such as consent for reunification and/or documents from family members residing in other Member States etc. All information and scanned documents are uploaded in ALKIONI.</p>
Objective(s)	Potential Dublin cases, including in the context of relocation, in which another Member State could be responsible for examining the application for international protection, timely identified and processed.
EASO support	10 experts / 3 months / 2 travel days per mission
Implementation	2016: Q1, with automatic extension to Q2-Q4, and the possibility to extend in 2017 (additional 20 experts are envisaged)
Deliverable (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational system set up to identify and register applicants for international protection, who wish to be candidates of the relocation procedure, in order to place them on a dedicated list during the registration process performed by the Asylum Service with the assistance of EASO experts as appropriate. This includes a prioritisation of applicants identified as persons with special needs. - Support provided with the submission of Dublin and relocation cases (including by matching the identified applicants and the Member State of relocation to the extent possible), organising and engaging in correspondence between Greece and the receiving Member State and submitting outgoing requests (along with the relevant elements of their individual case files) to a specific receiving Member State. - Information provided to candidates and participating Member States, including on transfer, as appropriate.

- EASO Measure HEL 3 is amended as follows:

EASO Activity HEL 3: Support with the detection of possible document fraud	
Responsible authority	Asylum Service
Current situation	<p>Secure identity documents are presented as proof of identity and nationality for registration in the international protection procedure. Document verification is crucial in ensuring that these documents are both genuine and presented by the rightful holder.</p> <p>In this context, there is a need for advice and training regarding the</p>



	examination of identity documents. No unit or expert team specialised on the examination of identity documents exists, although staff have received relevant training from the Hellenic Police. Suspect documents are referred to the Hellenic Police for verification.
Objective(s)	Increased awareness of different types of identity documents and of document abuse and associated criminality. Increased confidence in what to look for when presented with an identity document.
EASO support	2 experts / 3 months / 2 travel days per mission
Implementation	<i>2016: Q1, with automatic extension to Q2-Q4, and the possibility to extend in 2017</i>
Deliverable (s)	- Provide advice on existing practices, techniques, tools and tips related to identity documents (especially related to documents of claimed Syrians, Iraqis, Afghanis and Palestinians – stateless persons).