



**SPECIAL SUPPORT PLAN**  
**AGREED BY EASO AND CYPRUS**  
**Amendment No 4**

Valletta Harbour and Nicosia  
21 December 2017



Having regard to Articles 8, 10 and 13 to 23 of Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 establishing a European Asylum Support Office (hereinafter 'EASO Regulation'),

Having regard to the Special Support Plan agreed by EASO and Cyprus on 5 June 2014, for a duration of one year, which was subsequently amended in 2015, 2016 then on 28 February 2017 as Amendment no 3.,

The Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office (hereinafter 'EASO')

and

The Minister of Interior of Cyprus

Hereby agree to extend the duration of the Special Support Plan (hereinafter 'the Plan') by 12 months until 31 January 2019 on the basis of adjustments to needs in the scope of the support measures. The amendments to the Plan are marked in *italics*. Deletions are indicated by [ ] brackets.

Any amendments or adaptations of this Plan shall be agreed in accordance with Article 18(2) of the EASO Regulation.

EASO shall share a copy of the Amendment with the Members of the EASO Management Board for information.

Valletta Harbour and Nicosia

21 December 2017.

Executive Director of the European  
Asylum Support Office

Minister of Interior of Cyprus

[SIGNED]

[SIGNED]

José Carreira

Constantinos Petrides



**Annex I**

This Special Support Plan lays down the conditions and objectives of EASO’s specific technical and operational support to Cyprus until *31 January 2019* and sets out the conditions for participation in these specific EASO activities.

The implementation period of the EASO Measures is extended until 31 January 2019.

*Whenever processing personal data during the activities agreed within the current Plan, EASO will act on behalf of the competent authorities of the Host Member State, following the applicable EU and national laws and regulations, as well as the instructions received from the Host Member State as the data controller. EASO will implement the necessary technical and organisational measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of the personal data it processes. This is to prevent any unauthorised disclosure of or access to this information.*

*EASO stands ready to support the Asylum Service through secondment of staff, if needed.*

- EASO Measure CY 8: Support with backlog management in the asylum procedure, is amended, as follows:

<b>EASO Measure CY 8.1: Support with backlog management in the asylum procedure</b>	
<b>Responsible Authorities</b>	Asylum Service
<i>Description and Assessment of the Situation</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the end of 2016 the backlog of the Asylum Service consisted of 1633 cases (concerning 2135 persons), compared to 1105 cases (1557 persons) in 2015.</li> <li>2. The Asylum Service currently consists of the following personnel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Head, two coordinators (on reception and asylum procedures), and 13 administrative officers whose tasks are divided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 administrative officers are dealing with the examination of asylum applications. One of them is examining cases with particular vulnerability (e.g. FGM cases) and another officer is examining cases of unaccompanied minors.</li> <li>- 1 administrative officer is responsible for the preparation of statistics (national, EASO and Eurostat), the operation of the national asylum database, the coordination of the Immigration Departments of the Police and she is also responsible for the operation of the Reception Centre in Kofinou</li> <li>- 1 administrative officer is responsible for legal matters (Case Law, National Refugee Law etc.)</li> <li>- 1 administrative officer is the NCP for EASO, contact point for the CY SSP, for the EMN, in relocation related matters and also in the discussions of the new CEAS</li> <li>- 1 administrative officer is responsible for the operation of DubliNet, to perform Dublin Interviews, Eurodac etc. She is also participating in the</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>



	<p>discussions of the Asylum Working Party on the new Eurodac and Dublin Regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 administrative officer is responsible for Tenders and EU funded projects.</li> <li>- The Asylum Service has been reinforced with 4 private experts providing services for the examination of applications through an AMIF co-funded project</li> </ul> <p>3. In the current circumstances, with the asylum applications steadily rising and the staff currently employed, it is difficult to conclude with the examination of the applications within 6 months, especially taking into consideration that the numbers of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable persons are also on the rise.</p>
<i>Operational Objective(s)</i>	<i>Provision of assistance to CY in order to manage the backlog of pending cases through the deploying of Asylum Support Teams.</i>
<i>Stakeholders and Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Asylum Service</i>
<i>Pre-conditions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator.</li> <li>- Training on the CY national law and procedure will be provided to the deployed experts by CY.</li> <li>- CY will provide regular updates on the state of play of the backlog in order to optimize resources deployed.</li> </ul>
<i>Deliverable(s)</i>	<p>1. <i>Deployment of MS experts</i></p> <p><i>Deployment of 8 MS experts (preferably Greek-speaking) in order to provide expertise in dealing with the current backlog:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 case workers [ ]</li> <li>- 1 case worker with expertise on vulnerable applicants</li> </ul> <p><i>to support the Asylum Service in conducting personal interviews on the merits of the case. [ ]</i></p> <p><i>Sharing of best practices regarding backlog management from respective MS based on deployed experts sending Member State.</i></p> <p><i>EASO operational trainings delivered for the deployed experts and focused on main elements of the asylum procedure and the SOPs.</i></p> <p><i>EASO quality assurance tool applied.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Support in terms of the material requirements for deployment of MS experts</i></p> <p><i>EASO is to provide the ICT tools and logistical framework as necessary.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Support for information and communication material and campaigns can be provided as necessary.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 experts / 1 calendar year / 6 missions (2 months each)</li> <li>• 6 operational trainings (January; March; May; July; September;</li> </ul>



	<i>November)</i>
Implementation	2018: Q1 – 2019: Q1
Performance Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weekly update produced on the productivity of deployed MS experts (numbers of interviews performed and draft recommendation reports), in cooperation with IAU.</li> <li>2. Logistical and ICT support is provided by EASO HQ (work stations, printers, office supplies, consumables)</li> </ol>

- EASO Measure CY 5: Support in the field of reception and open accommodation, is amended, as follows:

<b>EASO Measure CY 5.1: Support in the field of reception and open accommodation</b>	
Responsible Authorities	<p>Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Kofinou local Council or other organisation/private entity that will undertake the management of the Centre</p> <p>Team overlooked by the Asylum Service daily present at the Reception Centre for asylum seekers in Kofinou.</p>
Description and Assessment of the Situation	<p>The Reception Centre for asylum seekers (current capacity of [ ] 400 persons). The total number of 12 staff members is expected to be increased [ ] and there is a possibility that a totally new management structure will be implemented at the Centre [ ] as of March 2018.</p> <p>The Asylum Service anticipates on preparing itself for the management of the Reception Centre as from March 2018 with a substantially larger [ ] number of staff. Key elements are: training of staff working in the field of reception and management of the centre.</p>
Operational Objectives	Enhance the capacity of the Asylum Service in managing and developing improved reception facilities in order to fulfil international obligations in the field of reception of asylum seekers and refugees.
Stakeholders and Beneficiaries	Asylum Service
Pre-condition(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- [ ] Re-appoint the Kofinou local Council as the organisation responsible for the management of the Centre or select another organisation/private entity following a call for tenders for managing the centre</li> <li>- Appointment of a measure coordinator.</li> <li>- Appointment of a coordination group of the stakeholders involved.</li> <li>- Agreement by CY on the outline of the trainings on basic and intermediate level.</li> </ul>



<p><i>Deliverable(s)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Standard Operational Procedures for the [ ] Reception Centre are drafted.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Training at basic level for staff working in open accommodation centres, in the Reception centre Kofinou, is provided.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Training at intermediate level for staff working in open accommodation centres, in the Reception centre Kofinou, is provided.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Coaching for existing and new staff of the Reception centre Kofinou is provided.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Enhanced technical and material support in the management of Kofinou Reception Centre and Kokkinotrimithia Emergency Centre is provided.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Support for information and communication material and campaigns can be provided as necessary.</i></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>8 reception experts (until 1 March 2018) / 1 mission (2 months)</i></li> <li>• <i>2 reception experts (from 1 March 2018) / 5 missions (2 months each)</i></li> <li>• <i>2 reception trainings (March 2018; September 2018)</i></li> </ul>
<p>Implementation</p>	<p>2018: Q1 – 2019: Q1</p>