



Input by civil society to the EASO Annual Report 2017

EASO has started the production of the 2017 Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union, in line with Article 12 (1) of the EASO Regulation. The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of important asylum-related developments at EU+ and national level, and the functioning of all key aspects of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). While the final product comes out of an analytical and synthetic process that takes place in-house, a critical part of information is elicited through valuable contributions by a multiplicity of stakeholders from EU+ countries, civil society organizations, UNHCR, and other actors possessing in-depth knowledge on main developments in asylum policies and practices in EU+ countries. Previous reports are [available for review at EASO's website](#).

We would like to kindly invite you to take part in this process, by sharing your observations **on developments in asylum law, policy or practice in 2017 (and early 2018) in the areas listed on page 2**. The topics listed there reflect the structure of Chapter 4 of the EASO report, which focuses on the 'Functioning of the CEAS'. To this end, your observations may concern national practices of specific EU+ countries or the EU as a whole. Overall, the EASO Annual Report is not meant to describe the national asylum systems in detail, but present key developments in 2017, including **improvements and new/remaining concerns**. In terms of format, your contributions would be preferably offered in the form of bullet points, which would facilitate further processing of your input.

Please, bear in mind that the EASO Annual Report is a public document. Accordingly, it would be desirable that your contributions, whenever possible, be supported by references to relevant sources. Providing links to materials such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases, position papers/statements, and press releases, would allow for maintaining transparency. For your reference, you may review the [contributions offered by civil society actors for the 2016 Annual Report](#). If you do not consent on EASO making your submission available, please inform us accordingly.

In our effort to provide an inclusive overview of all relevant developments, we strive to incorporate as many contributions as possible. At the same time, the final content of the EASO Annual Report is subject to its set terms of reference and volume limitations. To this end, your submissions, which are gratefully received and acknowledged, may be edited for length and clarity so that the final product concisely serves the objectives of the Annual Report: to improve the quality, consistency, and effectiveness of CEAS. From our side, we can assure you that the valuable insights you offer feed into EASO's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the production of the Annual Report.

Please, kindly provide your input by filling in this document (with attachments, if needed) and returning it to ids@easo.europa.eu **AND** consultative-forum@easo.europa.eu **by 16 February 2018**.

Within each area, please highlight the following **type of information**:

- NEW positive developments; improvements and NEW or remaining matters of concern;
- Changes in policies or practices; transposition of legislation; institutional changes; relevant national jurisprudence.

You are kindly requested to make sure that your input falls within each section's scope. Please, refrain from including information that goes beyond the thematic focus of each section or is not related to recent developments. Feel free to use Section 16 to share information on developments you consider important that may have not been covered in previous sections.

Name of the contributing stakeholder: "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center

[Contact details]

1) Access to territory and access to asylum procedure

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

2) Access to information and legal assistance

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

In the case of unaccompanied children information is provided by the acting guardian a representative of the Directors of the Social Welfare Service, NGO workers and officers of UNHCR Cyprus.

Legal Assistance to unaccompanied minors is provided at the first instance by NGO workers, UNHCR, in the form of guidance through the legal process and not through appointment of a legal counsel.

The acting guardian of unaccompanied minor is their legal representative in all relevant matters.

3) Providing interpretation services

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

4) Dublin procedure

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

5) Specific procedures (border, accelerated, admissibility)

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

6) Reception of applicants for international protection

Reception conditions remain problematic.

The main reception facility, the Reception Center in Kofinou, cannot accommodate the applicants for international protection.

The material reception conditions scheme (voucher based assistance for basic needs and an allowance for securing accommodation) for the applicants that do not have access to Kofinou appears to have a number of problematic areas as follows:

Delays in receiving the basic needs vouchers.

Delays in depositing the rent allowance to the property owners, often resulting in hostile relations between the applicants of international protections and the property owners, with instances of evictions.

The amount allocated for the rent allowance does not correspond to the market prices. Thus international protection applicants can only access accommodation option that are not up to standard, and in most occasions cohabit in groups in order to be able to afford even the low quality accommodation options.

7) Detention of applicants for international protection

Unaccompanied children and children under the asylum framework are not detained.

8) Procedures at First instance

At first instance, the procedure remains the same for unaccompanied children, as it was during the previous reporting period.

9) Procedures at Second Instance

At second instance the process in relation to unaccompanied children has had important development in the early 2017:

In the case of a negative first instance decision, the children have the option to challenge the decision before the Administrative Court.

The Commissioner for Children's Rights, based on par. 1 (B) of art 10 of the national refugee law, appoints a lawyer to represent the child before the court.

The Refugee Reviewing Authority (RRA), previously the second instance authority, is still in existence and receives administrative recourses. Due to previous plans that this body would stop existing in light of the creating and setting up of the Administrative Court, which led to downsizing of the RRA and continuous flows of administrative recourses a considerable backlog has been created at that level.

10) Availability and use of Country of Origin Information

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

11) Vulnerable applicants

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

12) Content of protection – situation of beneficiaries of protection

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

13) Return of former applicants for international protection

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

14) Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

15) Relocation

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.

16) Other relevant developments

The situation remains the same as during the previous reporting period.