



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: Network for Children's Rights (Network - NCR)

1) Access to territory and access to asylum procedure

- It has been observed that many beneficiaries are coming illegally to Greece through Evros without present in any RIC or RIS or police authorities. So in this case they are losing their right to apply for asylum and all the rights they deserve when they are possessing the card for international protection.¹

2) Access to information and legal assistance

- A big gap has been observed in the information provided to the beneficiaries. Especially, in our first sessions with UAC and separated minors we discover that most of the times they have not received any information from Greek authorities regarding asylum and reunification procedure.
- Only recently on 26th of January the Asylum Service produced a leaflet created only for minors under 18, which is describing the procedures in a child friendly language and it is translated in 7 languages

3) Providing interpretation services

- Unfortunately, interpretation services are provided only in the Asylum services, where also have been observed delays due to the lack of personnel. Furthermore big gaps have been observed in the islands.
- Interpretation services are not provided in any public office or service, except in some hospitals, where interpretation is provided through an NGO.

4) Dublin procedure

- We face many problems with European States, mostly with Austria, Sweden, UK and Germany
- specifically in the examination of the application
 - lack of justification as regards the rejection of the application

5) Specific procedures (border, accelerated, admissibility)

Since we work in the urban area of Attica and the camp of Schisto we don't have exact information about the situation in the islands

6) Reception of applicants for international protection

Since we work in the urban area of Attica and the camp of Schisto we don't have exact information about the situation in the islands

7) Detention of applicants for international protection

- The legal framework of "protective custody", regarding Unaccompanied minors, as it is described in the Greek Law 4375/2016 article 46 paragraph 10, is not valid in practice.²

8) Procedures at First instance

- A big percentage of Unaccompanied minors heading into the first instance asylum interview without being prepared and escorted by a guardian or a lawyer and in general supported in this procedure

9) Procedures at Second Instance

- Regarding the second instance the procedure in the appeal committee is mostly written and only in a few cases there is an oral hearing.
- Only 23 lawyers were recruited by the Asylum Service to provide legal services to 17.633

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<http://ddp.net.gr/2018/02/08/%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%AE%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9-%CE%B5%CE%BC%CF%80%CF%8C%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7-%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE-%CE%B2%CE%BF%CE%AE/>

²<https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/n-4375-2016.pdf> page 1233 article 46.

asylum seekers who have challenged the first instance decisions since 2016³.

10) Availability and use of Country of Origin Information

- Regarding documents from the countries of origin we declare that the beneficiaries who come from Pakistan mostly have official documents from Pakistan, the same is with beneficiaries from Syria. The majority of the beneficiaries from Afghanistan do not have any document with them to provide.

11) Vulnerable applicants

- Since we support Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable single – parent families, the requests we receive concern mostly homeless status.

12) Content of protection – situation of beneficiaries of protection

- Most of the beneficiaries (UAC's) we support have granted refugee status and some subsidiary protection

13) Return of former applicants for international protection

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14) Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes

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15) Relocation

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16) Other relevant developments

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³ [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Greek Asylum Service Statistical Data EN.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Greek_Asylum_Service_Statistical_Data_EN.pdf)