

Certification of the EASO Training Curriculum

The EASO Training Curriculum (EASO TC) contributes to the coherent and harmonised implementation of the CEAS by supporting the establishment of a common quality level across the EU. To this end, and as established in the Work Programme for 2015, EASO is actively exploring appropriate methods to certify and accredit the EASO TC in a manner that provides the greatest benefit to Member States and to the EU as a whole. The objective is to support Member States in ensuring that personnel responsible for asylum matters are trained as required by the provisions of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive (APD) and other EU instruments and that they have the adequate and appropriate knowledge, skills and competences. Certification of the EASO TC will be developed without prejudice to national systems.

There are currently no qualifications associated with successful progress through the EASO TC learning materials. Learners are issued with a certificate of attendance. Given the overall European policy context for education, employment, skills and qualifications, and the significant engagement of Member States with the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF), it has been decided to explore the accreditation of the EASO TC in the context of a European reference framework for qualifications systems. This would enable skills and qualifications to be easily recognised across borders and it would thereby promote harmonised implementation of EU law in the area of Asylum. European qualifications systems are progressively moving toward a learning outcomes-based approach and the implementation of the EQF has acted to encourage these developments. Level descriptors for the EQF are based on learning outcomes. Independently of the details of any decision regarding accreditation of the EASO TC, EASO will therefore move from a learning objective-based approach to a learning outcomes-based approach in all of the EASO TC modules.

Parallel activity is underway to explore accreditation options for the EASO TC. Assessment-related issues should be addressed alongside discussions with awarding body / bodies. Any relationship with EQF must be based on qualifications which are, in turn, based on learning outcomes. Implementation of a learning outcomes approach will generate benefits for learners and for trainers but will not, alone, address issues related to accreditation. An external partner – an accrediting body

– should have accreditation powers in the context of an appropriate National Qualifications Framework as well as the ability to accredit bespoke or customise Awards or partial qualifications.

The newly created EASO Certification and Accreditation Working Group (CAWG) will play a key role in the development and future implementation of the certification and accreditation project, providing liaison between the Member State and the EASO. The initial objective for the Certification and Accreditation Working Group is to actively contribute to the development of learning outcomes that relate to EQF level descriptors. To support this objective, work has been undertaken to review the EASO TC, to suggest concrete learning outcomes based on the current modules, to explore the potential relationship with the EQF and to develop guidance for the Certification and Accreditation Working Group. An independent expert has reviewed all training materials for each module and described the potential relationship between the learning outcomes or objectives, as currently defined, to EQF level descriptors - making reference to knowledge, skills and competences. Instructions for the EASO Certification and Accreditation Working Group in the development of learning outcomes – the assessment thereof - and the possible application of EQF descriptors was produced for the first out of four Working Group meeting that took place in Malta 24-25 March 2015. In order to successfully carry out the certification and accreditation of the EASO Training Curriculum, it is of utmost importance that Member States are fully involved from the beginning of the process and commit to active participation in the activities of the Certification and Accreditation Working Group on an on-going basis.