



Practical cooperation & first years of the EASO

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Outline

1. EASO's responsibilities and aims
2. Specific areas of established activity:
 - Information, documentation and analysis
 - Quality and training
 - Special and emergency support
3. New areas and challenges:
 - Early warning
 - Relocation and hotspots



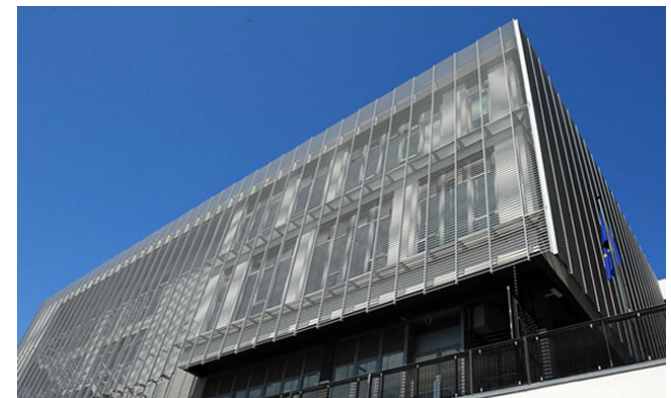
EASO's responsibilities and aims

- Support to practical cooperation on asylum
- (Arts. 3-7)
- Support to Member States, including those facing particular pressure (Arts. 8-10)
- Support the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (Arts. 11, 12)



EASO aims (2)

- ‘A centre for excellence on asylum, so Member States are better able to provide international protection, while dealing fairly and efficiently with those who do not qualify’ (Recital 13)
- ‘Increasing convergence and ensuring ongoing quality’ in asylum claim determination (Recital 5)
- ‘Support is our mission’ (EASO motto)



Information, documentation and analysis

- Statistics
- Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU
- Country of Origin Information reports
- ***Tensions?***
 - Precision and speed
 - Transparency, consultation
 - Comprehensive, objective data



Training and quality

- Previously, at national discretion – subsequently, a binding obligation (Asylum Procedures Directive)
- Tools:
 - EASO training curriculum; handbook
 - Practical guides
 - E-learning; blended learning; train-the-trainers
- Challenges
 - Resource-intensive
 - Updating
 - Differences in national law, approaches



Support to Member States



- Upon request, subject to MS resources deployed
- **Special and emergency support:**
 - *Greece, 2011-16*
 - *Italy, 2013-15*
 - *Bulgaria 2013-14*
 - *Cyprus, 2012-13*
 - *Sweden, Luxembourg 2011*
- **Challenges:**
 - Availability of experienced, expert personnel
 - Technical advice rather than direct operational support
 - Continuity of support
 - Communication and organisation

New challenges



- Early warning
 - Art 9, EASO Regulation; Art 33 , Dublin III Regulation
 - EASO in a key role: gathering and providing information to Member States/EU – serves to trigger responses
 - Development and implementation of necessary measures (including under Preventative Action Plans, Crisis Management Action Plans)
- In practice?
 - Threshold – when operation of Dublin is jeopardized (Art 33, Dublin)
 - Apparent reluctance – for fear of consequences?
 - Late warning?

Hotspots and relocation

- EASO's role – Council Decision 2015/1523
 - Deploying EASO teams for 'joint processing' , including registration and fingerprinting (recital 4)
 - Coordinating 'operational support' from other Member States (Art 7)
- Challenges
 - Coordination of actors
 - Numbers arriving vs. availability of places
 - Discrimination?
 - Trust in the process?



Questions about relocation and hotspots



- **NON-IMPLEMENTATION:** Approx 500 people relocated as of Feb 2016 (ca. 0.3% of target)
- **COORDINATION:** lack of clear leadership, roles among actors?
- **THE ALLOCATION PROCESS**
 - Asylum-seekers' consent/intentions – not formally proposed for consideration – THOUGH 'matching' being attempted
 - Compatibility with rights and dignity?
 - Sustainability?
- **LONG-TERM IMPACT** of Action Plans and conditionality – likely to guarantee success and improve ability to withstand future pressure?

Thanks for your attention!

