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The role of EASO

EASO plays a key role in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), fostering greater convergence amongst Member State’s Asylum Systems and providing the necessary support in order to translate into practice the provisions of the CEAS and to ensure that individual asylum applications are dealt with in a coherent way by all Member States.

EASO is a unique centre of expertise on asylum with operational capacities on the ground, providing support to Member States under pressure in managing asylum applications.
**EASO STAFF**

- **September 2019:** 292 staff
- **Planned end 2019:** 390 staff
- **Planned 2020:** 500 staff

**EASO BUDGET**

- **Budget 2019:** Approx. €103 million
- **Budget 2020:** Approx. €139 million
- **Budget 2021:** Approx. €142 million
Disclaimer

These slides were produced by EASO’s Data Analysis and Research Sector within the Situational Awareness Unit on the basis of data collected and exchanged under the Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS). It consists of statistical data shared with EASO by European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland (EU+) via a standard template, as well as other sources. The United Kingdom is excluded from all reference periods. The data shared with EASO by the EU+ countries are provisional, unvalidated data and therefore might differ from validated data submitted at a later date to Eurostat (according to Regulation (EC) No 862/2007). They should be understood as giving an estimation of general trends at EU+ and national level in as close to real time as possible. Therefore, the data included in this presentation are not disaggregated by Member State, in line with the EPS dissemination policy.
Before the pandemic, asylum trends were higher than in the previous two years.

Applications dropped to record lows in April (8,730, -87% from January) and May (10,200, -84%), due to containment measures.

Asylum trends on the rise since then, but still halved from pre-COVID levels.
Decrease in decision-making more modest...

All top-10 citizenships but Colombians lodged fewer applications than in the same period last year.
First instance pending cases were increasing up to the beginning of 2020.

The trend was reversed as of March 2020.

At the end of April, there were roughly as many cases pending at first as at higher instances.
Reception related measures in the EU Agenda on Migration - (May 2015)

- **practical cooperation**
  - establishment of a ‘new dedicated network of reception authorities’ (EASO Reception Network)

- **data collection**
  - comprehensive 'mapping' of the current situation with regard to reception in EU+ States

- **enhancing reception standards**
  - development of ‘guidance to improve standards on reception conditions and provide well-defined and simple indicators for assessing and monitoring the quality of Member States’ reception systems’
The EASO Network of Reception Authorities (the ‘Reception Network’) is a network of 23 EU+ States’ national agencies engaged in the EASO activities on reception. Each EU+ State is invited to nominate a NCP to participate in the Reception Network.
Members of the Reception Network

- Asylum Support Unit: Operational Support, Information & Analysis
  - EASO
- EU + States: National Reception Authorities
  - European Union
- EU Commission: DG Home Representative
  - European Commission
- Observers: -UNHCR
  - Serbia
EASO Guidance on Reception

To **support Member States** in the implementation of **key provisions of the RCD** while ensuring an **adequate standard of living for all applicants** for international protection, including those with special reception needs.
Self-assessment tool

To help implement EASO Standards and Indicators

EASO Practical Tool on Quality Management of Reception Conditions
Reception systems in the EU

Responsibilities

- **Centralised**
  - Responsibility at national level
  - e.g. FI

- **Decentralised**
  - Responsibility delegated to regional authorities
  - e.g. DE
Reception systems in the EU

Management

National authority as Operator

- All reception facilities managed by the State authorities
  - e.g. NL

National authority subcontracts the management of the centres to operators

- Responsibility, decisions, budget and quality control remains with the administration while daily operations is contracted to operators
  - e.g. NO

Mixed systems

- National authority manages own centres and in addition partners/other organisations are complementing
  - e.g. BE
Reception systems in the EU

Reception facilities

- Large scale centres:
  - ++ Efficient
  - ++ Cost effective
  - - Impact
  - - Quality

- Small scale centres:
  - + Daily management
  - + Quality
  - -/+ Cost effective
  - - Efficiency

- Private accommodation:
  - ++ Privacy
  - + Management
  - - Cost effective
  - - Efficiency
Reception systems in the EU

Reception facilities

State owned centres
- ++ Contract
- ++ Cost effective
- - Often requires important investments
- - Time constraints

Local government
- + Shared responsibility
- + Anonymous
- + Integration
- - Slow increase of reception capacity

Private sector
- ++ Competition
- + Efficiency
- - Dependency
- - Price
Reception in relation to the asylum process

1. ARRIVAL CENTRES
   - Registration
   - Needs assessment
   - First interview
   - First reception

2. RECEPTION CENTRES
   - During the asylum process
     - Access to services
     - Access to labor market
     - Schooling
     - Pre-intergration

3. PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION
   - Integration

4. RETURN CENTRES
   - Return counselling
Current Trends

**Process approach**
within the asylum chain with all stakeholders (eg. arrival centres)

**Tailored information provision**
through websites, app’s

**Outflow management**
through compulsory/voluntary repartition for municipalities

**Quality management**
through (self-)assessments making use of standards and indicators
Challenges in Reception

- **Flexibility**: Ability to develop / reduce / retain / regain capacity and resources to fit changing patterns in terms of arrivals.
- **Outflow Management**: Difficulties to cooperate on integration / return and to guarantee exits from the system.
- **Security & Sanctions**: Issue of “challenging clients” making the smooth operation of the system more difficult.
Transitions towards Integration

What works and what doesn’t?

- Maintain residents in procedure in collective centres for long periods
- Relying purely on good will / volunteer municipalities

Work on a nationwide dispersal mechanism, at least for applicants with high chances of recognition

Support and engage municipalities but develop a compulsory repartition system to guarantee outflow
Flexibility

- Outsourcing to private operators + different levels of contracts to reflect capacity levels
- "Stand By Capacity" of 10,000 out of 31,000 in North Rhine Westphalia
- Maintaining buffer capacity on site
- Flexibilisation Programme
EASO Guidance on contingency planning in the context of reception

**Objective**

- To serve as an *aid to the detailed planning and management of* the various actors in a high-influx situation and to facilitate early action against a potentially serious situation.

- To help *manage future uncertainty by developing responses in advance* when there is a risk or probability that a high-influx situation may occur. It will help reception authorities to anticipate and solve problems that arise in *situations that require an immediate response.*
Contingency planning

- Creation of extra capacity in existing housing
- Setting up a network of suppliers and actors
- Negotiation of modalities for budgetary increase
- Creation of new housing structures

Increasing housing capacity
Contingency planning

**Increasing capacity within an active reception facility** (e.g. empty rooms or buildings on the premises, using common areas as bedrooms) - to benefit from the existing staff and the network around the reception centre (e.g. schools and medical services)

**Keeping an empty reception centre**

**An area, inside or outside the premises of an active reception centre**, with only infrastructure on the ground (e.g. electricity, water supplies and sewage) and a contract that a company can build extra housing capacity

**Contract with external service providers** (e.g. private actors, national real estate suppliers) without paying for empty places

**Other alternatives**
COA: Scenario for high infux

- Creation of a “Unit for Migration Intelligence”
- Joint prognosis twice a year
- Contingency plan, scenario based
- Identification of bottlenecks + countermeasures
- Relies on early warning indicators / Early warning system
Thank you!

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