

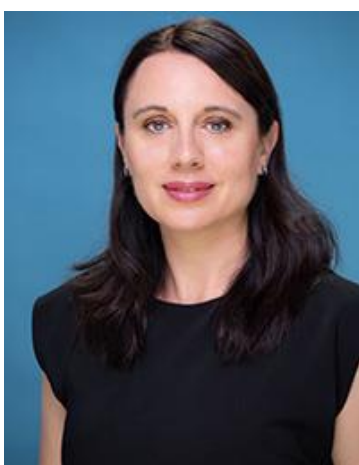


# 10CF

EASO then & now:  
evolution of EASO's activities  
over the last ten years &  
future perspectives

10th Consultative Forum virtual Plenary Meeting, 13 & 14 October 2020

## Biographies of Speakers



**Nina Gregori** is the Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), based in Malta. She took over her duties on 16 June 2019.

Ms. Gregori previously worked at the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia for over 20 years, occupying the Senior Management post of Director General (or Deputy Director General) for over a decade, responsible for asylum, migration, integration and internal administrative affairs.

She was actively involved in the drafting of Slovenian positions for dossiers on migration, asylum, the Schengen area and visas for the relevant working bodies of the European Union since 1999. During the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2008 she chaired the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA), in which she was also a national delegate until becoming the Executive Director of EASO.

Ms. Gregori has participated in more than 80 Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial meetings as leader (in the absence of the Minister) or as a member of the Slovenian delegation, and has been a member of the Slovenian delegation in meetings of the European Council.

Ms Gregori also served as a national delegate in the Expert Working Group Migration at the OECD and as a member of the Advisory Board of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Long a member of the Slovenian Interdepartmental Commission on Human Rights, she was a permanent member of various delegations of Slovenia in procedures and instruments of the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

Ms. Gregori has been actively involved in the development and work of EASO since its beginning. She was a member of the Agency's Management Board from 2015 until taking up her duties as the Executive Director.

She has a University degree in Political Science from the University of Ljubljana.



**Mark Camilleri** has been involved in the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) since its inception and is currently the Head of the Executive Office. Previously, Mr. Camilleri occupied the post of Legal Officer in the Asylum Unit within DG Home Affairs, European Commission, where he was in charge of coordinating practical cooperation measures and setting up EASO. He was also responsible for the EURASIL network workshops and was project manager of the EU COI Portal. Mr. Camilleri has also occupied the post of International Affairs Officer and Enlargement Coordinator where he was tasked with analysing and following up policy developments in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, and supporting the accession negotiation process of Turkey, Croatia, FYROM, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, and Iceland. Previously, Mr. Camilleri worked at the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta as EU Programme Manager.



**Patrick Austin** is the Head of the Operational Support Centre, responsible, upon approved request, to assess, prioritise, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate direct operational support to EU+ countries based on approved budgets, clear entry, exit and sustainability strategies, which are in line with the Agency's mandate, thus enabling EU+ countries to respond to particular pressure on their asylum and reception systems. The Unit has four Country Operations Offices, Operational Tools Sector and is managed by a Head of sector who reports to the Head of Unit.



**Rachelle Cortis** is the Head of the Training and Professional Development Centre a.i., responsible for assisting EU Member States in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) by providing training to harmonise and improve practices.

Rachelle joined EASO in July 2012 soon after the Office was set up and initially held a coordinating role in assisting the Head of Unit and the Head of Department in the day-to-day management of training related activities. In January 2017 she was appointed Head of Training Curriculum Sector and later on Head of Training Unit. Prior to her work experience at EASO, she was a Senior Programme Manager in the Funds and Programs Division (FPD) at the Office of the Prime Minister in Malta which was set up in July 2011, to handle the reform and management of EU Funds. She was tasked with the management of the Migration Funds, at the time consisting of four funds: European Refugee Fund, Return Fund, Integration Fund and External Border Fund. Between 2004 and 2011 she worked within the Office of the Refugee Commissioner in Malta holding several positions and as from 2008 she served as Deputy Refugee Commissioner. During this period, she also acted as project manager for various EU projects, aiming to build capacity within the Maltese Office and introducing several training initiatives with other Member States and organisations such as GDISC and UNHCR as well as with international experts.



Before joining EASO in December 2012, **Ward Lutin** worked as a Programme Officer in the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) in Geneva, where he was responsible for two working groups on asylum and COI. He also edited the 2012 Asylum Procedures Report.

Between 2000 and 2009, he worked consecutively as protection officer, COI officer, senior protection officer and international relations officer in the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons in Brussels.

Ward joined EASO on December 2012 as COI and Documentation Officer, at the EASO Centre for Information, Documentation and Analysis, where he coordinated EASO activities relating to Country of Origin Information (COI) and other country-specific practical cooperation initiatives.

In 2016 he became Head of the Information and Analysis Unit and in 2018 Head of the Department of Operations. As from January 2020 he is the Head of the Asylum Knowledge Centre.

The Asylum Knowledge Centre (C3) is responsible for developing a wide knowledge base on asylum in the EU+, by collecting, processing and analysing information on asylum-relevant topics and trends; fostering practical cooperation on a thematic basis between relevant EU+ authorities in the field of asylum; producing and disseminating a variety of relevant and timely knowledge products; and developing guidance and practical tools in view of a stronger convergence in the implementation of the CEAS in EU+ countries.



**Lilian Tsourdi** is an Assistant Professor and Dutch Research Council grantee at the Law Faculty of Maastricht University, as well as a visiting professor at Sciences Po Paris. She is a member of the coordination team of the Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe, the 'Odysseus Network'. Lilian previously held academic positions at the Refugee Studies Centre of the University of Oxford, and the Law Faculty and of the Migration Policy Centre of the European University Institute (EUI). She obtained her PhD from the Law Faculty and the Institute for European Studies of the ULB. She has published her research widely in important publishing houses and journals (e.g. Human Rights Law Review, Common Market Law Review). Her monograph on the constitutional foundations and administrative governance of the EU asylum policy is forthcoming in Oxford University Press.



**Petra Baeyens**, is a Senior Legal Officer at ECRE where she works on asylum in Europe by developing ECRE's legal and political advocacy work on the right to asylum in Europe and monitors compliance with EU law, inter alia through the management of the AIDA database. She, previously, worked as a Senior Legal and Policy Officer Protection at Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen , a Belgian ngo that advocates for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, where she was in charge of the policy and advocacy work on protection. She also worked directly with refugees and migrants while working as an Associate Protection Officer at UNHCR Burundi, and while working at the Belgian Federal Migration Centre where she provided legal advice to migrants.



**Joanna Darmanin** joined the European Commission in 2004 and worked in the field of maritime affairs and fisheries and later in consumer policy, public health and food safety.

Since 2018, Ms Darmanin has been working in the Asylum Unit at DG HOME most recently serving as Deputy Head of Unit. Previously she worked as Head of the Operations Department in the European Asylum Support Office in Malta.