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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

Discussion Paper

Workshop 2: Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission

1. Background and aim of the workshop

Resettlement is a key element of the EU's comprehensive asylum and migration policy and an important tool to demonstrate global solidarity with non-EU countries and for offering protection to those in need.

EASO supports EU+ countries in their resettlement efforts as part of the implementation of EU and national resettlement schemes. Several activities are being implemented to this purpose, including:

- The coordination and management of a network for Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission (including a network platform) to ensure practical cooperation and coordination with the Member States and the Commission
- Support to Member States' resettlement efforts from Turkey notably through the implementation of the Resettlement Support Facility as established in Istanbul
- Targeted support and guidance to Member States in light of the Covid-19 challenges (e.g. by piloting new ways of working, such as, remote resettlement interviewing and processing with the aim to continue resettlement operations)
- Implementation of capacity-building activities on resettlement including the development of resettlement training and tools
- Collection of data on resettlement
- Implementation of a Pilot project on private/community sponsorship in 2018 to be further elaborated with Member States and the Commission



Recently, the European Commission issued a recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU, as part of the Pact on Asylum and Migration, which was presented on 23rd September. This recommendation foresees an increasing role for EASO to provide support to Member States to implement pledges on resettlement and also calls on EASO to support Member States in the design and implementation of programmes for humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways, building further on the pilot project on private/community sponsorship and other previous work that EASO has undertaken on this.

Resettlement and humanitarian admission are areas in which many different stakeholders play an important role. In the implementation of its activities, EASO seeks to coordinate and work together with all relevant partners including the Commission, national authorities, international organisations such as UNHCR and IOM as well as relevant civil society organisations.

In its current activities, EASO started engaging with civil society organisations that have relevant expertise in the area (e.g. a contract has been concluded with ICMC for support to the implementation of the RSF in Istanbul, and regular exchanges are held with, amongst others, the Migration Policy Institute and GRSI). Without doubt, more expertise is available within civil society and EASO is keen to explore what role different CSOs play and what specific activities they are implementing both in the area of resettlement as well as humanitarian admission.

The main aim of the workshop is therefore to mutually exchange information on each other's roles and respective activities and, on that basis, explore potential scope for future synergies.

2. Structure for the workshop

- **Introductory presentation by EASO explaining EASO's activities on readmission and humanitarian admission (10 min)**
- **Presentation by the Commission on the recent recommendation on legal pathways which was presented as part of the Pact on 23rd September (5-7 min)**
- **Short Q&A (5 min)**
- **Participants go into smaller groups for inter-active discussions (45 min)**
These groups are sub-divided per theme, with discussions focused on:
 - **Resettlement**
 - **Humanitarian admission (e.g. humanitarian corridors)**
 - **Community sponsorship**
- **Groups will report back to the workshop participants (40 min)**
- **Commentary by UNHCR on the findings of the workshop and the role of civil society in the area of resettlement and humanitarian admission (5-7 min)**



3. Key questions to be discussed

The main question that participants will be asked to provide input on is: “What can civil society organisations do to support resettlement and humanitarian admission”? More specifically, per thematic, participants will be asked to provide input in response to the following questions:

- **What role does your organisation play in the area of either resettlement, humanitarian admission or community sponsorship (e.g. advocacy, or operational role and/or both)? What does this role entail? What specific activities does your organisation implement in these areas?**
- **How do you think your organisation can further expand its role as regards resettlement, humanitarian admission or community sponsorship, both in the national context as well as in the EU context?**
- **How does your work link to the activities being implemented by EASO in these areas?**