

2019 OPERATIONAL & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE¹ PLAN
AGREED BY EASO AND CYPRUS

Valletta Harbour and Nicosia
12 December 2018

¹ Operational & Technical Assistance Plans include Operating Plans and Special Support Plans

Having regard to Articles 8, 10 and 13 to 23 of Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 establishing a European Asylum Support Office (hereinafter 'EASO Regulation'),

EASO

and

The Minister of Interior of Cyprus

Hereby agree on the Operating Plan (hereinafter 'the Plan') for the deployment of Asylum Support Teams and the provision of technical and operational assistance to Cyprus until 31 December 2019.

Any amendments or adaptations of this Plan shall be agreed in accordance with Article 18(2) of the EASO Regulation.

EASO shall share a copy of the Plan with the Members of the EASO Management Board for information. The Plan will also be published on the EASO web-site and uploaded on EASO Asylum Intervention Pool System (EAIPS) (<https://eaips.spapps.easo.europa.eu/>).

Valletta Harbour and Nicosia

Date:

Date:

Executive Director a.i. of the
European Asylum Support
Office

Minister of Interior of Cyprus

Jamil Addou

Constantinos Petrides

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Legal Framework

The EASO Regulation, in particular Article 2 (1), (3), (4) and (5) thereof, foresees EASO's duty to provide special support to Member States with specific needs, in order to improve their implementation of the instruments of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

Article 13 of the EASO Regulation states:

1. A Member State (or Member States) subject to particular pressure may request EASO for deployment of an Asylum Support Team. The requesting Member State or Member States shall provide, in particular a description of the situation, indicate the objectives of the request for deployment and specify the estimated deployment requirements.
2. In response to such a request, EASO may coordinate the necessary technical and operational assistance to the requesting Member State(s) and the deployment, for a limited time, of an Asylum Support Team in the territory of that Member State(s) on the basis of an Operating Plan.
3. All EASO activities performed in the context of the support and technical assistance as identified in the plan herewith fall under the legal framework of the host Member State. This includes, inter-alia, the safety and security of persons and assets participating in those EASO activities.

1.2 Operational Situation and Needs Assessment

EASO and Cyprus signed a Special Support Plan on 5 June 2014 for a duration of one year. This plan was subsequently amended in 2015, 2016 and 2017. With the signing of amendment number 4 in December 2017, the Special Support Plan was extended until 31 January 2019.²

The most recent amendment stepped up support for the measures on backlog management in the asylum procedure and on reception and open accommodation (more particular in the reception centre in Kofinou). Upon a request from the Cypriot authorities in late spring 2018, EASO has also deployed staff to support with the registration of applicants for international protection in the district offices of the Aliens and Immigration Service of the police in Nicosia, Limassol and Pafos.

On 19 September 2018, the Cypriot Asylum Service submitted a formal request to EASO for support in the area of backlog and case management (first and second instance), first and second reception, registration and capacity building – following consultations between the Asylum Service and EASO and ongoing needs assessments.

According to a recent Comprehensive Needs Analysis exercise (CNA) conducted by EASO in Cyprus and consolidated into a Prioritised Needs Assessment (PNA), backlog management and reception are still key priorities - while also new areas of intervention have been identified.

There is still a clear need of support on backlog stabilisation, management and reduction; the number of pending cases at the end of October 2018 stood at 5,614. In order to establish efficient workflows and reduce current and new backlog, two corresponding measures will be put in place.

² Special Support Plan, Amendment n.4, 15/12/2017

Early identification of vulnerable groups and a comprehensive referral system have emerged as priorities in Cyprus, along with structured improvement in the data management system. New initiatives will be taken in this regard.

In September 2018 the Cypriot government decided on the establishment of a new permanent first reception centre 'Pournara' in Kokkinotrimithia. This new centre, opened on 5 November 2018, replaces the emergency facility which had been operated under the contingency plan 'Nafkratis'.

A first reception facility providing all services, if well coordinated with the renewed efforts in the Kofinou reception centre and with other actors such as the social welfare and health services, has the potential to significantly improve Cyprus' reception system. It will also be an important step towards getting a better overview of asylum in Cyprus in terms of data and trends.

EASO activities in support of the Kofinou reception centre were suspended following a security incident in February 2018. Recent EASO security and reception assessment reports have noted tangible and positive changes in the wake of the incident. All conditions for renewed EASO engagement, as set out in the joint declaration *EASO/UNHCR Support towards an Effective Reception System in Cyprus* (March 2018) have now been met.

Despite the general improvement, according to the same reports *"additional staff is needed to provide more social guidance, information provision, assessments of (special) needs and to structure further the daily routines in the reception centre"*. Since early November 2018, EASO is again providing expert support in the centre in Kofinou with four social workers.

As part of the CNA/PNA carried out by EASO, a stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted in order to assess possible collaborations. EASO has worked closely with the Cyprus Asylum Service and other relevant stakeholders such as UNHCR in order to identify the main challenges and main areas of work.

The current plan contributes to the overall objective or main impact result indicating that persons in need of protection in Cyprus have access to CEAS conform international protection. It contributes to four distinct result outcomes (special objectives):

1. Improved registration system and access to procedure in Cyprus
2. Cyprus enhances implementation of reception conditions
3. Cyprus has increased capacity to manage and reduce with asylum backlog
4. Cyprus databases for backlog management systems are improved (Efficient data management)

Support provided under EASO's mandate envisages tailor-made assistance, capacity building, expert advice and support and quality control tools - in line with the needs identified for the next three years.

The Host Member State and EASO will provide Member States' experts with information on the general state of play with regard to the procedure for international protection and reception system in the Host Member State and specific information about the state of play of the deliverables as described in the specific measures. Every effort will be made by the different parties to provide a suitable working place for the expert(s) participating in the activities to implement the Plan. EASO will provide the technical equipment required for the work of the Asylum Support Teams and will reimburse costs incurred by persons participating in the activities, according to the applicable EASO rules.

1.3 Flexibility Clause

The Plan aims to provide timely, active and flexible support to the identified needs of the Host Member State. The foreseen activities will be implemented in consideration of the changing circumstances of the international protection and reception systems in the Member States, as well as any specific circumstances on the ground, and subject to the availability of financial resources and experts.

The schedule of the measures and tasks in the Plan is a forecast and may change. Any change will be subject to a discussion between EASO and the Host Member State. The Executive Director of EASO is authorised to make changes that may be accommodated within the objectives of a measure without requiring an amendment of the Plan, provided that they do not affect the overall budget and that the Host Member State is timely informed in writing.

The Plan may be revised including amendment, suspension or termination of Measures at any time in order to reflect new operational developments in accordance with Article 18(2) of the EASO Regulation.

1.4 Lawfulness and Respect for Fundamental Rights

Support related to the participation in EASO activities under this Plan must be carried out in a way that fully respects human dignity. All personnel involved in operational support activities shall maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, respect and promotion of fundamental rights and international protection. This particularly applies vis-à-vis persons who are in need of international protection. Personnel is expected to meet obligations imposed upon them by the provisions of this Plan, in compliance with the requirements of the CEAS.

Whilst taking part in the EASO operational support activities, all personnel shall respect the applicable International law, European Union law and the national law of the Host Member State. They shall maintain the highest standards of integrity and conduct. They are to act responsibly and proportionally to current objectives. Whilst carrying out supporting functions, all personnel must not discriminate persons on grounds of sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, age or sexual orientation. All persons are expected to treat every person with courtesy, respect and due consideration for the nature of any legitimate activity in which they are engaged. To perform their duties properly, they shall serve the public interest and refrain from any activities which could undermine or compromise their independence and the appropriate performance of their duties.

During the implementation of this Plan, all personnel must apply a zero tolerance attitude with respect to the infringement of fundamental human rights. All persons in EASO operational support activities shall comply and act in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

1.5 Confidentiality and Data Protection

Without prejudice to the public right of access to documents, as laid down in Regulation (EC) 1049/2001³ and the EASO implementing rules on access to documents⁴, all versions of this document shall be made available to the competent authorities in each EU Member State, as well as the associate countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

This Plan shall be made publicly available once it has been signed by EASO and the Host Member State.

Personal data will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) 45/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. EU data protection legislation applicable to EASO that may enter into force during the implementation period of this Plan shall likewise apply as of the date of entry into force. The current plan also takes into account the General Data Protection Regulation as updated in May 2018⁴ with a Corrigendum to the 2016/679 Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (Data Protection Directive).

³ Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001, regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

⁴ Decision No. 6 of the Management Board of EASO of 20 September 2011 laying down practical arrangements regarding public access to the documents of EASO.

Whenever processing personal data during the activities agreed within the current Plan, EASO will act on behalf of the competent authorities of the Host Member State, following the applicable EU and national laws and regulations, as well as the instructions received from the Host Member State as the data controller. EASO will implement the necessary technical and organisational measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of the personal data it processes. This is to prevent any unauthorised disclosure of or access to this information.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

This chapter of the Plan describes the various measures to support the authorities of the Host Member State in the field of international protection and reception.

EASO will provide technical support to experts participating in this Plan with the aim of ensuring that all deliverables make good use of the expertise and information already available to EASO. All intellectual property rights of the work of the experts performed in the context of the Plan are vested in EASO. Selected deliverables developed under this Plan may be published.

2.1 Main National Partner Organisations

The Host Member State's main organisations involved in this Plan are the following.

Organisation	Responsibilities
Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior	<p>The Asylum Service (AS) is the competent authority to examine applications for international protection at first instance. In case an application is rejected by the Asylum Service (even if subsidiary protection is granted), the applicant has the right to an administrative appeal against this decision, before the independent Refugee Reviewing Authority (RRA), to be replaced by an Asylum Tribunal (part of the Administrative Court).</p> <p>The decisions are based on the Refugee Laws (2000-2014).</p> <p>The Asylum Service is also responsible, by the Refugee Laws, for the operation of reception and (open) accommodation centres for asylum seekers, as well as for coordinating all other competent authorities on asylum issues.</p>
Aliens and Immigration Service of the police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order	<p>The Aliens and Immigration Service (AIS) is primarily responsible for receiving and registering applications for international protection on behalf of the Asylum Service (including fingerprinting for EURODAC and Dublin purposes). The AIS is also responsible for implementing detention and deportation orders issued by the Director of the Civil Registry and Migration Department.</p>
Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance	<p>The Social Welfare Services (SWS) carry the responsibility for the provision of social welfare services to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. Where the applicant is an unaccompanied minor, the Director of the SWS acts as the guardian of the minor during the asylum procedure and takes all measures necessary under the Refugee Laws and the Regulations under it on the minors behalf and in his interest including in respect of the asylum procedure.</p>

Organisation	Responsibilities
Cyprus Civil Defense	Cyprus Civil Defense in the framework of the Special National Plan “Nafkratis” had the responsibility for the management of the temporary accommodation centre in Kokkinotrimithia (Pournara) and remains present in the now permanent first reception centre. The CCD assists the Asylum Service in the notification and coordination of the other involved Governmental Departments and Services for actions within the temporary accommodation establishment. In addition, the Civil Defence is usually present in areas where small boats with immigrants approach Cyprus providing first response and relief for the people in need. The CCD undertakes also transport of the immigrants to and from the Reception Centre.
Ministry of Health	According to the Refugee Law, applicants for international protection are entitled to medical and pharmaceutical treatment free of charge at public hospitals and health centres, when the applicant does not have sufficient funds. Obligatory medical screening examinations are also taking place at public hospitals upon the submission of the application for international protection.
Refugee Reviewing Authority (RRA)	The Refugee Reviewing Authority is an independent administrative body, responsible for examining applications for international protection rejected by the Asylum Service.
Administrative Court	Cyprus restructured the judicial framework in 2015, introducing an Administrative Court. Asylum seekers can appeal to the Administrative Court, either against the decision of the Asylum Service or against a decision of the Refugee Reviewing Authority.
International Protection Administrative Court	The International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC), established in July 2018, will replace the existing Administrative Court and will be competent for examining appeals relating to provisions of the Refugee Law.

2.2 Acceptance of Deliverables

Plans address the operational needs of Member States under particular pressure that have requested support from EASO. Such Plans give directions on the delivery of EASO’s technical and operational assistance and the deployment of Asylum Support Teams.

EASO shall ensure quality control of agreed deliverables. Where practical and applicable, steps shall be taken to document the Host Member State’s formal acceptance of deliverables.

2.3 Conditions for Deployment

General rules and conditions for Asylum Support Teams’ deployment as well as special instructions for Asylum Support Team members (including databases that they are authorised to consult and the equipment that they may carry in the Host Member State, as well as practical information concerning location of deployment and related workflows) are published on the following platforms:

- EASO Asylum Intervention Pool’s National Contact Point platform (EASO AIP NCP);
- EASO Asylum Intervention Pool System (EAIPS)

- EASO country-specific online platforms developed as part of the EASO Information and Documentation System (IDS) (e.g., EASO IDS Greece Operations Platform, EASO IDS Italy Operations Platform, EASO IDS Cyprus Operations Platform). These platforms are made available to members of ASTs upon their engagement, allowing for preparation for deployment (in case of national experts) and daily implementation of their tasks;
- Relevant thematic pages of the EASO IDS concerning the asylum and reception system of the Host Member State, including information on relevant practices, legislation, case law and statistical background. The host Member State shall contribute to information concerning the asylum and reception system of the Host Member State, including information on relevant practices, legislation, case law and statistical background to be available on IDS for AST Teams.

Specific Asylum Support Team deployment details are provided under each measure, where applicable.

2.4 Organisational Pre-Conditions

The Host Member State shall grant appropriate access rights for the Asylum Support Team members to all relevant databases and commits to provide the Asylum Support Teams with the required information and data in the context of this Plan.

The Host Member State shall designate an overall Plan Coordinator, as well as a specific Measure Coordinator for each measure stipulated in the Plan.

As far as operationally feasible, and where relevant, the working files shall be made available by the Host Member State in English.

Minimum working and security conditions (see section 3) are considered as organizational pre-conditions.

2.5 Implementation Period

The implementation period of this Plan is from 1st January 2019 until 30th December 2019.

The Plan, including the implementation period, may be revised at any time in order to reflect new operational developments.

2.6 Monitoring, Reporting and Communication

The Executive Director shall designate the Union Contact Point under Article 20 of the EASO Regulation, who acts as an interface between EASO, the Host Member State, and the Asylum Support Team members. The Union Contact Point provides assistance, on behalf of EASO, on all issues relating to the conditions of deployment of the Asylum Support Teams, monitors the correct implementation of the Plan, and reports to EASO on all aspects of Asylum Support Teams' deployment.

A monitoring and reporting system will be established in order to assess any further needs or changes and to ensure the overall effective monitoring of the implementation of the Plan. Further, at the end of their deployment, Asylum Support Team members will provide a Final Report to EASO using the template available on the IDS and EAIPS platforms.

During the implementation of this Plan, experts as well as other personnel deployed as part of Asylum Support Teams will be briefed regularly on current situational and operational developments to address challenges and identify improvements.

Particular attention shall be paid to the need to continuously develop, improve and make available EASO support tools. Should such need be identified or changed during the plan implementation, it shall be communicated to EASO for further consideration.

The Host Member State and the Union Contact Point will manage the exchange of information concerning the tasks under the Plan.

EASO will maintain close cooperation and communication with the relevant stakeholders. EASO will also provide information to its partners (i.e. the European Commission, concerned EU Agencies, and international organisations) about the operational activities, as appropriate and in line with EASO transparency and communication policies. The timing and content of communication with the media shall be agreed upon between EASO and the Host Member State.

Where relevant the two parties will facilitate media coverage to ensure a wider dissemination and visibility of results.

2.7 Incident reporting

Participants in EASO activities who have reason to believe that a violation of the Code of Conduct has occurred or is about to occur, are obliged to report the matter to the Executive Director of EASO and to the Host Member State Coordinator for the Plan via the appropriate channels.

Any incidents that may occur during the deployment of an expert in the Asylum Support Teams shall be reported through the same channels. Incident reporting templates can be found on the IDS platform.

2.8 Evaluation

Periodical monitoring and mid-term reviews and a final evaluation will be carried out in order to assess the implementation of the Plan, or in case of a need for significant extension or substantial amendment of the current EASO Plan. EASO will institute a formal monitoring framework for the duration of the plan based on a validated methodology and using agreed indicators.

Feedback from the deployed Asylum Support Team members shall be gathered on the completion of their deployment and prior to reimbursement of expenses.

A final evaluation aims to ensure that the EASO support processes are constantly refined by assessing EASO's performance in implementing the Plan, identifying the lessons learned and recording good practice. It may be performed externally through engagement of evaluation specialist(s) or by EASO preferably prior to completion of the implementation of this EASO Plan or immediately upon completion. The Host Member State and other stakeholders shall be involved.

Periodical and mid-term review and final evaluation results, as applicable, shall be shared with the Host Member State and communicated to the EASO governance structure (e.g. Management Board members and National Contact Points).

3. SECURITY

EASO should apply the security principles of the Commission's security rules. Commission Decision 443/2013 on the security in the Commission defines, that security shall be based on the principles of legality, transparency, proportionality and accountability.

The safety and security of persons participating in EASO activities under the plan are under the overall legal framework of the host Member State and shall be provided by the respective authorities legally responsible and accountable for the public order and security on the territory of that Member State.

EASO will endeavor to support the identification of required security measures and the implementation of those that are under its remit, both legally and functionally, in close cooperation with the MS security responsible.

To that end:

- Standard security requirements, identified herewith, should apply as a general rule;
- Specific security requirements for the specific plan, to be identified jointly by EASO and the host Member State security responsible, should be established in an annex to this plan.

3.1 Standard security requirements

The standard security requirements are rather pertaining to elements to be present in the implementation of the plan, not to minimum security standards:

- Both the host Member State on one side and EASO on the other shall appoint a security responsible, acting as a single point of contact for security matters for the operation, both at central and local level.
- A pre-deployment briefing program, drafted in close cooperation with the respective national authorities, focusing both on general security rules and awareness, as well as on security aspects specific for the deployments. With regards of the decentralized nature of deployments, using e-learning and other distance based training techniques should be considered.
- Emergency (evacuation) plan - certain operational activities, such as in hotspots, require that staff shall have a clear guidance and training how to evacuate quickly in case of emergencies. In a more general context, there could be a need to evacuate from the operational area as well. A security responsible should maintain updated information on the availability of evacuation plan and routes.
- Communication tools - as a minimum, EASO staff in an operation should be in possession of independent radio communication equipment and if possible also to have such interoperable with the local law enforcement in charge of the security of the operation.
- Security of information - sensitive non-classified and classified information should be protected adequately. EASO security responsible should be involved in supporting the proper classification of relevant information.
- Security of IT and communication equipment - EASO IT equipment is adequately prepared to protect the information level it has been foreseen to process.
- Personal security behavior should be included in the pre-deployment training, led by operational teams and performed for the experts during the first days of arrival to the operational area. This may refer to the EASO code of conduct as well.
- Reporting security incidents from the operational area to the EASO HQ is essential with a view of the overall security management.

3.2 Specific security requirements

- Specific security requirements for the implementation of the Operating Plan, in particular security sensitive areas such as hotspots, shall be defined on the basis of a pre-deployment security assessment visit with the aim of identification of specific potential risks, identification of mitigation measures and communication of those measures to the MS and involved stakeholders, prior to the deployment.

4. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

1.1. Cooperation with the European

All activities under this Plan will be closely coordinated with the Host Member State and with the steady support of the European Commission.

1.2. Cooperation with UNHCR

In accordance with Article 50 of the EASO Regulation, EASO aims at a coherent and complementary continuation of the fruitful cooperation with UNHCR. The Union Contact Point will liaise with the UNHCR office in the Host Member State for a continuous cooperation and coordination of practical activities agreed with the Host Member State under the current Plan.

5. MEASURES

The current plan contributes to the overall objective or main impact result indicating that persons in need of protection in Cyprus have access to the asylum procedure and reception facilities fully in line with the Common European Asylum System and Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013.

There are two primary impact indicators of the Roadmap in regard to asylum procedure: first is the reduction in the first instance backlog by 25% in 2019 and by 50% in 2020 based on the assumption that arrivals will remain stable and EASO and CAS capacity is reinforced. The second impact indicator is the reduction of the duration of the full asylum procedure from registration to first instance decision, which in 2018 is considered to be between eight months and two years. The expected result is to reduce the full duration of the procedure down to one year by the end of 2019 and to eight months by the end of 2020.

Furthermore, evidence on improved reception conditions, possibly referring to reduction of homeless asylum applicants, is another relevant impact indicator of the current Roadmap and can be assessed through qualitative reporting.

The OP contributes to four distinct result outcomes (also: special objectives or measures):

5. Improved registration system and access to procedure in Cyprus
6. Cyprus enhances implementation of reception conditions
7. Cyprus has increased capacity to manage and reduce with asylum backlog
8. Cyprus databases for backlog management systems are improved (Efficient data management)

Measure CY 1.0.: Improved registration system and access to asylum procedure in Cyprus.

Measure Performance Indicators

Indicator 1: Evidence of harmonisation of the referral system and prioritisation of vulnerable applicants

Baseline: challenges in referral and no prioritisation

Target: report demonstrating increased harmonisation of referrals and prioritisation of vulnerable applicants

Indicator 2: median duration time from registration request to registration

<p>Baseline: up to 60 days waiting time Target: maximum 10 days</p>	
Responsible Authorities	Asylum Service, Aliens and Immigration Service of the Police
Beneficiaries	Asylum Service, Aliens and Immigration Service of the Police / indirect: Asylum seekers who submit the application for asylum
Description and Assessment of the Situation	<p><i>Needs assessment indicates challenges - in particular, the delay identified during the registration process with samples indicating up to 60 days waiting time between first request and actual registration. There are also differences in procedure between district offices.</i></p> <p><i>The Asylum Service in a letter dated 19/09/2018 requested the following support from EASO:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Support on registration</i> - <i>Training on identification and handling of cases of vulnerable persons and more specifically of victims of trafficking for immigration police and CAS officers</i>
Pre-condition(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator • CY will provide appropriate working space and equipment to EASO registration staff • CY provides regular updates and data/analysis on registration in order to optimize planning and deployed resources and to get an updated overview of asylum in Cyprus.
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nos. of Registrations • Improved SOPs and procedure in use on standardisation of registration across the various districts • Support tools: early identification and referral of vulnerable applicants
Action deliverable(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration support • Updating/development of SOPs and other tools • Training of EASO registration staff, officers of the Aliens and Immigration Police and CAS officers
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 interim registration assistants / 12 months (deployment in the various districts - Pafos, Limassol, Larnaca and Nicosia – and potentially in first reception centre Pournara) • 4 interpreters / 12 months • Training 2/3 days

Measure CY 2.0.: Cyprus enhances implementation of reception conditions.

Measure Performance Indicators

Indicator 1: evidence of improvement of reception conditions based on EASO operational standards and indicators of reception conditions.

Baseline: zero – quality measurement tool not applied before

Target: report demonstrating a quality system is designed and in place

Indicator 2: early identification system for vulnerable applicants

Baseline: not in place

Target: early identification system in place and tested

Indicator 3: harmonised data collection systems (Kofinou and Pournara)

Baseline: no harmonisation and no system in Pournara

Target: data collection systems

Responsible Authorities	Asylum Service, Civil Defense, service providers in Kofinou and Kokkinotrimithia, Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Health
Beneficiaries	Asylum Service, Civil Defence and service providers in Kofinou and Kokkinotrimithia / indirect: Asylum seekers in Cyprus hosted under reception system
Description and Assessment of the Situation	<p><i>EASO has recently re-engaged in Kofinou in 2018 deploying 4 social workers, the current capacity of the centre is 400. EASO has also allocated resources to create a ‘safe zone’ in Pournara with capacity of 25-30.</i></p> <p><i>Both actions have been planned in response to the request expressed by the Asylum Service in a letter dated 19/09/2018 and in the subsequent consultations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Deployment of experts on vulnerable applicants</i> - <i>Deployment of social workers</i> - <i>Training on identification and handling of cases of vulnerable persons and more specifically of victims of trafficking (target group: Reception Centre officers)</i> - <i>Material support</i>
Pre-condition(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator • CY will provide regular updates and data/analysis on reception in order to optimize planning, resources and to get an updated overview of reception in Cyprus. • CY will provide material, practical and technical support for the installation of the required infrastructure foreseen in Kofinou and Pournara
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic individual case follow-up (Kofinou) • Functional safe zone (Pournara) • SOPs and other reception support tools • Communication/coordination mechanism

Action deliverable(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social workflows by interim social workers • Consultancy and training by MS experts on SOPs, community activities, integration, coordination • Set-up of safe zone in Pournara • Training of EASO social workers/new teams in Kofinou and Pournara
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 MS experts Kofinou / 12 months • 4 interims social workers Kofinou / 12 months • 1 interim social worker Pournara / 12 months • 2 various profiles / 10 months • 2-3 interpreters Kofinou / 12 months • 1-2 interpreters Pournara / 12 months • 1 security assistant / 12 months • Training EASO social workers/new teams in Kofinou and Pournara

<p>Measure CY 3.0.: Cyprus has increased capacity to manage and reduce asylum backlog.</p> <p>Measure Performance Indicator</p> <p>Indicator: number of pending cases</p> <p>Baseline: 5,614 (October 2018)</p> <p>Target: stabilisation and reduction in backlog by 30% by December 2019.</p>	
Responsible Authorities	Asylum Service, Administrative Court (Asylum Tribunal)
Beneficiaries	Asylum Service / indirect: Applicants for international protection in Cyprus
Description and Assessment of the Situation	<p><i>At the end of October 2018 the backlog was comprised of 5,614 pending cases. The current duration of the procedure can be from 8 months up to 2 years. The current capacity of a case worker is approximately 16 cases per month.</i></p> <p><i>The final objective is the stabilisation and reduction of backlog through joint effort of AS/EASO caseworkers.</i></p> <p><i>This measure also lays the groundwork for EASO support to the newly established Administrative Court (second instance). Three judges are to be appointed by the end of 2018.</i></p> <p><i>The Asylum Service in a letter dated 19/09/2018 requested the following support from EASO:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Proposal for continuation of EASO support in backlog management</i> - <i>Training of judges to be posted in the newly established tribunal for International Protection (second instance)</i>
Pre-condition(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CY will provide regular updates and data/analysis on the backlog in order to optimize planning, resources and get an updated overview of the asylum procedure in Cyprus.
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews • Opinions • SOPs and other support tools • Training package for judges in the Administrative Court (second instance)
Action deliverable(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case work/file handling • Development of SOPs and other support tools • Training of EASO caseworkers/new AS caseworkers • Training of judges in the Administrative Court (second instance)
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 MS experts, 6 interim caseworkers / 12 months • 2 MS experts, 8 interim caseworkers / 7 months • 5 interpreters / 12 months • 7 interpreters / 7 months • 1 interim Ops Assistant / 12 months • Additional office space • Training of AS/EASO caseworkers / number of weeks depending on the level of experience and needs of candidates • Trainers (MS judges) / 3-4 days

<p>Measure CY 4.0.: Cyprus databases for backlog management systems are improved (Efficient data management).</p> <p>Measure Performance Indicator</p> <p>Indicator 1: backlog data management system to enhance quality of asylum processing</p> <p>Baseline: mechanism not in place</p> <p>Target: backlog data management system developed to support asylum processing</p> <p>Indicator 2: Prioritised referral system within backlog data management system in place</p> <p>Baseline: no prioritisation referral system</p> <p>Target: referral system developed and piloted</p> <p>Indicator 3: Evidence of prioritisation of cases</p> <p>Baseline: no prioritisation</p> <p>Target: system for prioritisation developed and piloted</p>	
Responsible Authorities	Asylum Service, Aliens and Immigration Service of the police,
Beneficiaries	Asylum Service and Immigration Police / indirect: Asylum seekers in Cyprus
Description and Assessment of the Situation	<i>The needs assessment presents a fragmented and inconsistent overview of data available and a general difficulty in coordination between different actors involved. In addition, there is a need for a</i>

	<p><i>consistently applied data management mechanism to support backlog management.</i></p> <p><i>The Asylum Service requested support from EASO on data backlog management during consultations in November 2018.</i></p>
Pre-condition(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator • CY will provide regular updates and data/analysis on all aspect of the asylum procedure in order to optimize planning, resources and get an updated overview of asylum in Cyprus.
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved or new database developed on a modular basis to reflect the asylum procedure • Communication/coordination mechanism
Action deliverable(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultancy and training by EASO experts on data and database development and management • Workshops on communication/coordination
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 MS experts / 3 months • Training on asylum procedure