

PILOT EASO RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT FACILITY IN TURKEY

Information Note

Resettlement to the European Union (EU) is the transfer of refugees from a host country to an EU Member State, where they will be admitted and granted the right to stay and any other rights comparable to those granted to beneficiaries of international protection.

The Pilot Project for an EASO Resettlement Support Facility (RSF) will allow EASO to support EU+ countries' resettlement operations from Turkey in a collaborative and innovative way, by providing a varied range of resettlement services at the availability of EU+ countries. Through the RSF, EASO will pilot an **EU-model to increase operational cooperation between States in order to facilitate refugees' resettlement from Turkey.**

The Pilot Project will cover a period of 18 months, starting from April 2019. Its monitoring mechanism will ensure the evaluation of the results achieved, assess performance and propose recommendations for further interventions. The RSF services are provided in Istanbul, Turkey and is operated in cooperation with the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC).



Why a Pilot Project in Turkey?



Turkey is the world's largest refugee hosting country, with almost 3.5 million refugees at the start of 2018, and the country hosting the highest number of refugees in need of resettlement worldwide, according to the 2019 UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs. EU+ countries have been resettling refugees from Turkey with increased intensity since 2016, thereby implementing their commitments to international solidarity and contributing to the creation of durable solutions for vulnerable refugees.

Most of the EU+ countries' resettling refugees conduct individual interviews with refugees under resettlement consideration in Turkey. Such interviews take place during a resettlement selection mission and are complemented by pre-departure orientation activities for the selected refugees. Through the RSF, EASO aims to maximise the number of EU+ countries successfully involved in resettlement as well as the actual departures of vulnerable refugees from Turkey to the EU.



Support is our Mission

How does the Resettlement Support Facility work?

The RSF will serve as a one-stop-service delivery facility managed from a single location, offering support which resettling EU+ countries can utilise based on their individual operational needs. Within this structure, **EASO aims to facilitate EU+ countries' cooperation and test innovative practices for increased effectiveness of the resettlement process.**

What is the RSF's expected added value?

- | A single platform to allow for cooperation between Member States in the fulfilment of their pledges;
- | Testing of innovative practices for increased effectiveness of the resettlement process;
- | Increased efficiency through a common EU resettlement support structure in Turkey;
- | A tested replicable model for cooperation among EU+ countries on resettlement.

How was the idea of the Pilot Project developed?

- ▶ **June 2015:** the European Commission launches the first EU resettlement scheme for 20,000 persons in need of international protection.
- ▶ **March 2016:** EU Heads of State of Government and Turkey agreed on the EU-Turkey Statement, whereby it is agreed in particular to resettle, for every Syrian readmitted by Turkey from the Greek islands, another Syrian from Turkey to the EU Member States.
- ▶ **April 2017:** Upon request from the European Commission, an EASO Resettlement expert joins the Migration Policy Team at the EU Delegation in Ankara, Turkey.
- ▶ **May-September 2017:** EASO works with colleagues from 18 EU+ countries to observe and map their working practices during their missions in Turkey.
- ▶ **October 2017:** During an EASO Workshop on Resettlement (Malta, 19-20 October), the results of the observation and mapping are shared with Member States' participants. Possible actions to be taken are suggested with a view to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the current resettlement processing from Turkey.
- ▶ **January-September 2018:** EASO undertakes a Feasibility Assessment to define in concrete terms the content of such support, based on needs, challenges and opportunities identified jointly with Member States, the European Commission and in consultation with the UNHCR and IOM.
- ▶ **October 2018-February 2019:** EASO preparations for the Pilot Project, including the publication of an open tender procedure for a service delivery contract for an RSF in Turkey, to be managed by EASO in agreement with EU+ countries.
- ▶ **April 2019:** Selection of ICMC as EASO's operational partner and launch of the RSF Pilot Project in Turkey.

For more information on the RSF Pilot Project, please contact rsf@easo.europa.eu.