

# 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 1: Training and Professional Development

#### 1. Background and aim of the workshop

The importance of a harmonised training pathway to develop the knowledge and skills of professionals involved in asylum and reception processes across the EU stands out as one of the core activities of EASO's mandate (as per art. 6 of its founding Regulation), enshrined also in other key legislative instruments of the CEAS.

Since its establishment, EASO has implemented this task through a unified training curriculum on the asylum *acquis*, implemented on voluntary basis by the EU Member States, through the trainthe-trainers methodology. This has allowed the Agency to reach a total number of 50,632 participants enrolled in its training sessions, from 2012 to September 2020.

EASO Training Curriculum is developed in close cooperation with Member States experts and reviewed by the 'Training Reference Group', composed of UNHCR, members of academia, members of civil society and the European Commission.

In order to better respond to the needs of Member States and to align vocational training activities with the learning needs, EASO is currently reviewing and upgrading its training offer, in line with the principles established by the European Sectorial Qualification Framework for Asylum and Reception Officials (ESQF). This process involved a mapping exercise of the tasks performed by the asylum and reception personnel at the EU level, and the development of a learning path matching the qualifications and level of expertise needed, with varying degrees of complexity.



Within this context, EASO would like to present its vision on the future Training Curriculum, exchange views with other institutions and entities developing training pathways in the field of asylum, and explore possibilities for future cooperation.

Considering the above, through the thematic workshop on Training and Professional Development, EASO would like to:

- Present EASO's Training Curriculum and the changes undergoing in light of the development of an ESQF, with particular regard to design and development of new learning;
- Map out existing training curricula, programs, modules delivered by other institutions in the field of asylum and reception and their respective expertise;
- Explore areas of potential cooperation in the design and development of training modules in the new curriculum;
- Explore practices, methods and innovative techniques used by civil society organisations when delivering training;

Participants to this workshop are expected to:

- share views and ideas on existing training program and activities implemented in the national or international context, within their remit;
- share good practices and discuss challenging issues;
- suggest areas and practices of interest for future developments;

## 2. Structure for the workshop

The workshop will be of a participatory nature, to guarantee attendees' ownership and engagement. After an introductory presentation on the concepts and principles related to EASO's future Training Curriculum, in relation to the ESQF, participants will be invited to reflect and discuss on their potential contribution.

To maximise participation and effective sharing of ideas, the plenary will be further divided in to 5 sub-groups, which will discuss the following questions (one for each sub-group):

- How does civil society/your organisation support MS in the implementation of the CEAS?
- What support/services does your organisation provide?
- What are the tasks performed by your staff?
- What training programmes do CSOs offer in these areas and related to the tasks performed?
- What training methods/good practices are used by CSOs?



Each group will cover the points raised by each of the questions simultaneously by contributing to the Mural.

Participants will then reconvene in the workshop plenary and share their views facilitated by EASO focal points.

As a final wrap-up, a question on the potential areas of cooperation and engagement with EASO Training Centre in the field of development and design of the learning curriculum will be shared with all participants, along the lines of 'How can CSOs contribute further to EASO training activities?'.

The ultimate goal of this final discussion would be to explore suggestions for potential cooperation on the design and review of thematic training areas, according to participants' knowledge and expertise.