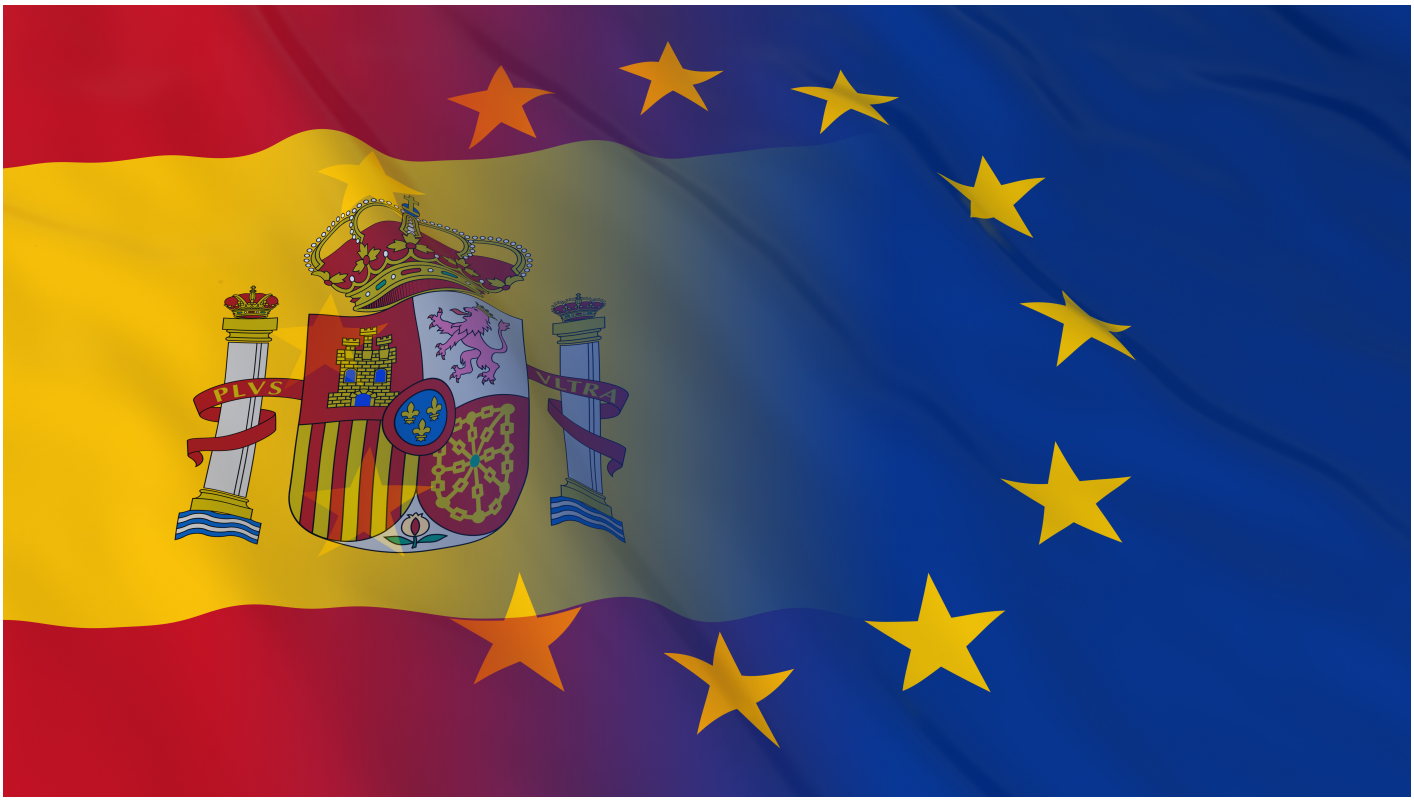
News Published: 13 June 2023

EUAA and Spain reinforce operational cooperation



The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the Spanish Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration as well as the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030, have signed a new Operational Plan that will enable the Agency to continue providing support to the Spanish authorities with their reception systems until 2026. The EUAA will also provide extensive support with identified training needs, as well as with the continuing implementation of the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism.

The plan was signed by **Nina GREGORI**, Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), as well as **Jose Luis ESCRIVÁ**, Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations and **Ignacio ÁLVAREZ**, State Secretary for Social Rights, on behalf of the Spanish authorities.

With the updated Operational Plan, the Agency will provide operational and technical assistance in four main areas:

- **Strengthening the national reception authorities' capacity to identify, access and manage EU funding** including inter alia the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, in the areas of data management and reporting.
- **Supporting with information provision** and the **vulnerability assessment** of international protection applicants as well as persons fleeing Ukraine who have registered for temporary protection in Spain.
- **Strengthening the capacity of the national authorities to implement a humanitarian attention programme** addressed to mixed flows of migrants, including people with international protection needs; as well as to manage an emergency system by deploying Asylum Support Teams to help develop and implement a preparedness and response framework.

- **Strengthening the capacity of the national authorities to foster common action in reception of Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) on Spanish Territory** by helping to design and pilot a n**ational mentorship programme**. This will include the provision of **harmonised information on asylum and reception**, and support on data management and funding.



Background

Following significant increases between 2020-2021, the number of irregular arrivals in Spain decreased in 2022 by 25% over 2021. Until April 2023, around 5 200 persons arrived irregularly, which is a 44% decrease year-on-year. However, Spain has recorded around 40 000 asylum applications in the first quarter, most of them from Latin America and who arrived regularly under the European Union’s visa liberalisation framework.

The EUAA first began to support the Spanish authorities with reception matters in December 2020. The Agency currently has around 60 personnel deployed, including in Madrid and Las Palmas de Gran Canarias, as well as in the four state-run Reception Centres for Refugees and Asylum seekers (CARs) and in the four Reception and Referral Centres (CREADEs) around the country.

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