

Introduction

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Last update: June 2025

The country guidance documents provide country-specific common analysis and guidance in relation to the assessment criteria established in the recast [Qualification Directive](#) (Directive 2011/95/EU) [1](#) and in the newly adopted Qualification Regulation (QR)[\(2\)](#), which will repeal the QD with its entry into application on 1 July 2026. They are developed by the EUAA together with a network of senior-level policy officials from EU+ countries and represent their joint assessment of the situation in main countries of origin, in accordance with current EU legislation and jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The European Commission and UNHCR also provide valuable input in this process.

The aim of the country guidance documents is to assist decision-makers and policy-makers in their daily work and to foster convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection and the type of protection granted?in the context of the Common European Asylum System.

The development, review and update of country guidance is regulated under [Article 11 of the EUAA Regulation](#) [\(3\)](#).

In accordance with Article 11(3) EUAA Regulation, Member States have the obligation to take into account the common analysis and guidance notes when examining applications for international protection, without prejudice to their competence to decide on individual applications.

Country Guidance: Methodology



For more details on the process of producing country guidance documents and the exact role of stakeholders involved, see 'EUAA, [Country Guidance Methodology](#), November 2024'.

This document encompasses the development, review and update of country guidance and regulates the work of the EUAA Country Guidance Network and all related processes.

Common analysis, guidance note and methodological approach

The country guidance document consists of two components: the guidance note and the common analysis. These two parts focus on the situation in the country of origin and provide analysis and guidance on the assessment of relevant international protection needs.



Guidance note

The guidance note is the first part in the structure of the document.

It outlines the key conclusions of the common analysis in a light user-friendly format.

Common analysis

The common analysis is the second, more detailed, part.

It, firstly, summarises the relevant factual basis according to the available COI and, secondly, analyses this factual basis in accordance with the applicable legislation, relevant jurisprudence and general guidance.



The Country Guidance documents should be read in conjunction with the separate document ‘EUAA, [Country Guidance: Explained](#), February 2025’.

This document outlines the general guidance relied upon in this analysis, as well as the methodological framework, approach and indicators used to assess the different elements of qualification for international protection.

Scope of this update

The current version of the guidance updates the ‘EUAA, [Country Guidance: Syria](#), April 2024’.

Following the recent developments in Syria, namely the fall of the Assad regime and the establishment of a Transitional Administration, EU+ countries together with the EUAA identified the need to update the ‘EUAA, [Country Guidance: Syria](#), April 2024’.

The contents of the guidance note and the common analysis are structured according to ‘EUAA, [Chapters of the country guidance](#)’ in *Country Guidance: Explained*, February 2025’. However, given the short reference period on which the present guidance is based on and the uncertainties deriving from the transitional situation in Syria, the structure and content of some chapters may be different, compared to other country guidance documents.

This common analysis is based on country of origin information (COI) covering the period from November 2024 to February 2025. Some limited additional information until 11 March has also been reflected. Where relevant, some information has been added directly from the reporting sources.

This interim document takes stock of the change of regime and draws some preliminary conclusions pending a fuller update when the situation in Syria permits. It aims to provide guidance on the impact of the fall of the Assad regime on the profiles who were covered in the 'EUAA, [Country Guidance: Syria](#), April 2024'. Given the short timeframe of this guidance, information is limited and the assessment it contains are necessarily provisional. It builds upon the 'EUAA, [Country Guidance: Syria](#), April 2024', and addresses the impact of the change of regime in the country on the protection needs of the specific applicant profiles covered in the previous guidance.

Where an applicant is not found eligible for refugee status, guidance is provided on the relevant considerations for granting subsidiary protection under Article 15(a) and Article 15(b) QD/QR.

The section on the application of Article 15(c) QD/QR gives an overview of the main security developments and trends in indiscriminate violence from November 2024 to February 2025, including early March 2025. It also provides guidance combining quantitative and qualitative elements in a comprehensive holistic assessment. The importance to take into account personal circumstances is further highlighted.

This interim guidance further gives an update regarding the actors of persecution or serious harm and evaluates if any actors of protection could be identified.

Lastly, this document analyses the possibility of an internal protection alternative in Damascus city.

It should be noted that the information referred to in this document is generally limited to events having taken place until 28 February 2025, with some minor updates from the period until 11 March 2025. Within this timeframe, information on several topics remained limited and/or conflicting. Any more recent COI available at the time of examining Syrian applications should be considered.

This update is based on the following EUAA COI report:

Syria: Country Focus



EUAA Country of Origin Information Report:

Syria – Country Focus

(March 2025)

Available in [PDF](#) and [online](#).

[Annex: Country of origin information references](#) provides further details on all COI reports used as a basis for the analysis within this document. References and links within this document are to the respective sections of these COI reports.

Check the [EUAA COI webpage](#) for the latest EUAA COI products on Syria.

The analysis and guidance within this document should be considered valid as long as current events and developments in the country fall within the trends and patterns described within the COI on which the assessment at hand is based on.

The analysis and guidance provided within this document are not exhaustive.

1

Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast).

2

Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

3

Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010.