Introduction

INTRODUCTION | Last update: June 2026

The country guidance documents provide country-specific common analysis and guidance in relation to the assessment criteria established in the Qualification Regulation (QR) 1, which repealed the recast Qualification Directive (QD) 2 with its entry into application on 12 June 2026.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 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (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.

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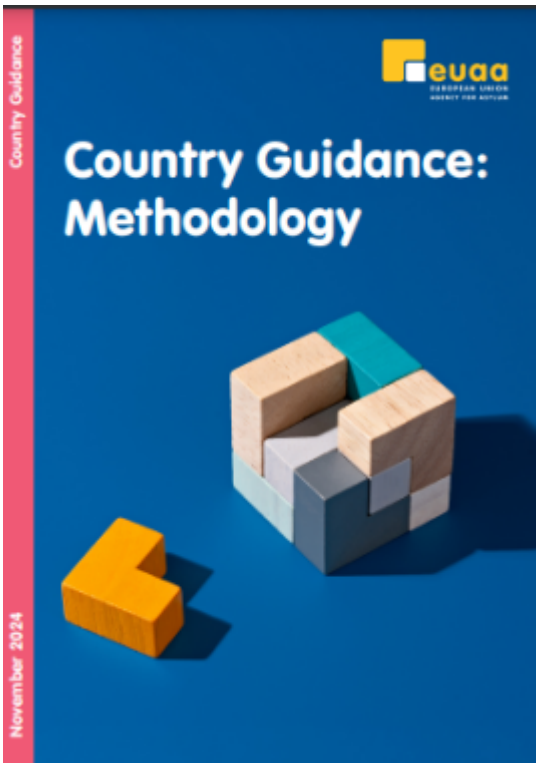


For more details on the process of producing country guidance documents and the exact role of stakeholders involved, see ‘Country Guidance: Methodology’ (November 2024).

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.

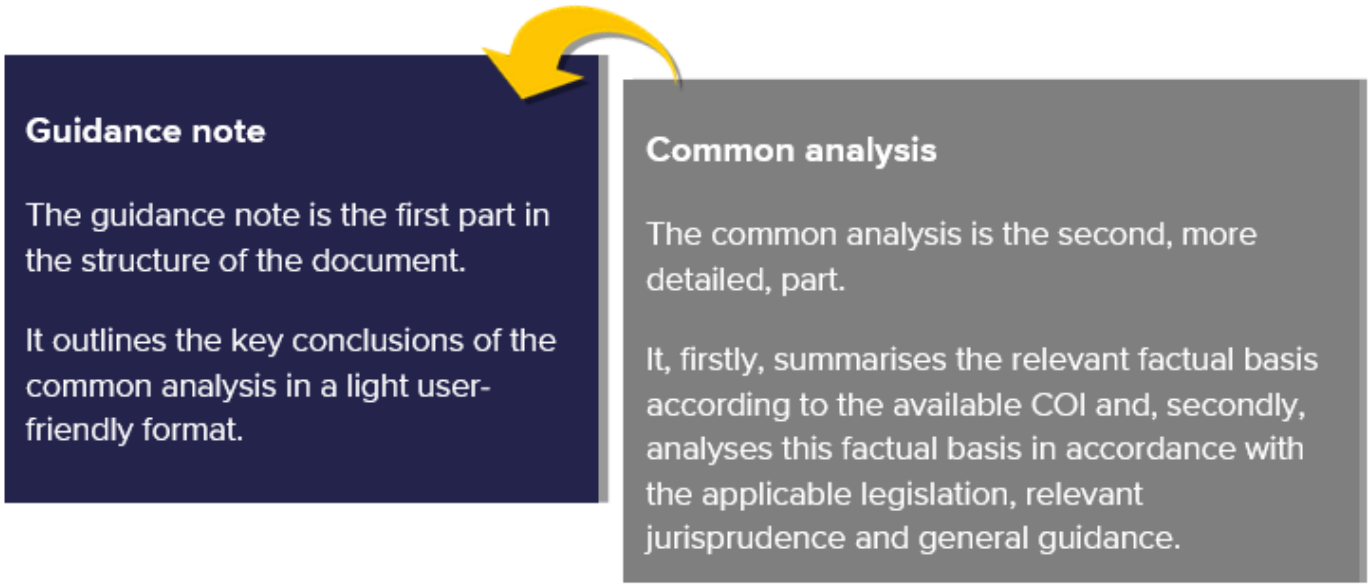
This common analysis is based on country of origin information (COI) covering the period 1 October 2023 to 30 November 2025. Some additional information on major legislative, security-related, and humanitarian developments covering the period 1 December 2025 – 25 March 2026 has also been reflected. Each section of the country guidance documents also clearly states the timing of its last update.

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.

Common analysis, guidance note and methodological approach

The country guidance document consists of two important 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.



2026_CGexplained

The Country Guidance documents should be read in conjunction with the separate document 'EUAA, *Country Guidance: explained*, February 2026'.

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 and supersedes the EUAA, *Country Guidance: Afghanistan*, May 2024. A new approach regarding the incorporation of COI in the legal analysis has been adopted in this document and all sections of the document have been updated and restructured to reflect this approach.

This update is mainly based on the following recent COI:

Cover of Afghanistan Country Focus
Cover of COI: Afghanistan Country Focus
COI Query Afghanistan

Country Focus 2024

EUAA COI Report: Afghanistan -
Country Focus (November 2024)

Available PDF.

Country Focus 2026

EUAA COI Report: Afghanistan - Country Focus (January 2026)

Available in PDF and HTML.

COI Update 2026

EUAA COI Query Response: Major legislative, security-related and humanitarian developments (March 2026)

Available in PDF.

Annex I: Country of origin information references provides further details and links to all COI documents used as a basis for the analysis within this document. References within this document are to the respective sections of these COI documents.

While the country guidance is fundamentally based on COI, it is not COI itself. For additional information regarding the relationship between country of origin information and country guidance see Country Guidance: explained.

- 1

  Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of 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.

- 2

  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).

- 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.

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