



Support is our mission



2019-2021 Cooperation Plan

Introduction

Given their complementary roles in the framework of the EU JHA agencies, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) cooperate closely in the area of migration and border management. This partnership is crucial in many ways and should ensure effective synergies where the respective activities are closely related.

On the basis of the Working Arrangement signed between the two Agencies on 26 September 2012, the present Cooperation Plan was developed to govern their joint work in the areas of:

1. Operational cooperation;
2. Information and analysis;
3. Capacity building;
4. Horizontal cooperation.

The activities match to the relevant areas in relation to their core objectives although some activities may affect more than one area of cooperation.

The implementation of the present plan is subject to the availability of resources and may be subject to revision also according to possible changes in the respective legal frameworks.

The respective implementing partners on both Sides may change depending on possible new structures or identified new needs for a more consistent and effective implementation of the plan.

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Frontex / EASO implementing partners		ACTIVITIES
AREA: OPERATIONAL COOPERATION		
Field Deployment Unit (FDU); Pooled Resource Unit (PRU); Training Unit (TRU); Security (SEC)	Operations Unit (OU); Training Unit (TU); Security Sector	<p>Both Agencies will aim to ensure a consistent approach towards the set-up and implementation of the Migration Management Support Teams (MMST) through a dedicated working group that will i.a.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a joint conceptual framework and communication protocol governing the terms of cooperation and the coordination of the activities of the MMSTs; • Address a number of areas in the framework of the hotspot approach, such as joint training, common health and safety measures, administrative and logistic/supply issues. <p>Europol will be included in the working group. Joint dialogue with the Commission will continue as appropriate.</p> <p>The Agencies will consult each other on common health, safety and security issues in hotspots and other areas of common operation.</p> <p>On the basis of the conceptual framework, both Agencies will investigate the development and delivery of joint training for MMST members.</p>
Operational Response Division (ORD)	Operations Unit (OU)	<p>Both Agencies cooperate in the frontline in the framework of operations, supporting the hosting Member States including within the hotspot concept and through the existing European Union Regional Task Forces (EURTF). Ways of cooperation are defined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the hotspots, which are updated periodically under the supervision of the Commission.</p>
International Cooperation Unit (ICU)	Operations Unit (OU)	<p>The Agencies will cooperate in the area of their external dimension, i.a.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing capacity building support to third countries, as appropriate; • In the second phase of the Instrument of Pre-Accession II (IPAI) project “Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” as stipulated in their respective agreements with the Commission;

Frontex / EASO implementing partners		ACTIVITIES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agencies will continue sharing good practices and explore new forms of cooperation according to identified needs, also in the light of the new Regulations concerning the two Agencies.
Pooled Resource Unit (PRU)	Operations Unit (OU); Finance and Procurement Unit (FPU); Procurement Sector	The Agencies will explore possibilities for joint procurements and/or logistics/supply of items for daily operations, which can be developed in order to harmonise and render more efficient service delivery.
AREA: INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS		
Risk Analysis Unit (RAU); Frontex Situation Center (FSC); Information Fusion Center (IFC); European Center for Returns (ECRet)	Information and Analysis Unit (IAU); Communications and Stakeholders Unit (CSU)	<p>The Agencies will work towards delivering a Common Situational Picture on irregular migration and persons in need of international protection through an already established working group. This work may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation on social media analysis and monitoring; Regular exchange of agreed raw data, and provision of analytical results in each other's regular and ad hoc analysis products, as per agreed Action Plan; Both Agencies will cooperate as part of the Working Group on Return Data for Analysis to develop an EU-wide single data collection on key return indicators; Cooperation and joint analysis of corresponding information collected in both i) debriefing newly arrived migrants (Frontex) and ii) surveys of asylum seekers in EU reception centres (EASO). <p>Cooperation and development of joint knowledge and information management activities in the area of return, including seeking interoperability in terms of user authorisation and integration of the EASO Information and Documentation System (IDS) and the Frontex Integrated Return Management Application (IRMA) platforms, as per Service Level Agreement (SLA).</p>

Risk Analysis Unit (RAU)	Information and Analysis Unit (IAU)	<p>In cooperation with Europol, both Agencies will perform joint analyses to update and enhance a joint intelligence picture on secondary movements of irregular migrants and asylum seekers across the EU+ Countries / EU Member States (MS) and Schengen Associated Countries (SAC).</p> <p>This will include a comprehensive overview of secondary movements, including for the purpose of asylum shopping, with a view to further strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the respective Agencies, EU+ Countries / EU MS and SAC to respond to the phenomenon.</p>
Vulnerability Assessment Unit (RAU)	Asylum Support Unit (ASU); Information and Analysis Unit (IAU)	<p>The Agencies will explore the possibility to enhance cooperation in the areas covered by Frontex Vulnerability Assessment (VA) activities, particularly in the following domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss provision of information from EASO on major developments related to asylum border procedures; • Possible provision of a tailored knowledge product by Frontex on relevant VA findings related to referral procedures and registration capacities; • Exchange of expertise and knowledge on the development of quality control methodologies and related tools.
Risk Analysis Unit (RAU)	Information and Analysis Unit (IAU)	<p>The Agencies will explore the possibility of jointly procuring external expertise on significant countries of origin and transit on the basis of EASO's experience with Country Intelligence Reports.</p>
AREA - CAPACITY BUILDING		
Training Unit (TRU)	Training Unit (TU)	<p>Development and delivery, on the basis of the conceptual framework on MMSTs, of joint training for MMST members.</p>
Training Unit (TRU)	Training Unit (TU)	<p>Synergies for cooperation will be identified on the basis of Frontex common core curricula and relevant modules of European Joint Master's in Strategic Border on thematic developments and delivery of training.</p>
Training Unit (TRU)	Training Unit (TU)	<p>Frontex will provide support to EASO in developing the European Sectoral Qualifications Framework for asylum officials and reception officers and will advise on key elements for a training governance and accreditation system.</p>

<p>European Center for Returns (ECRet); Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO)</p>	<p>Asylum Support Unit (ASU); Information and Analysis Unit (IAU)</p>	<p>The Agencies will explore synergies in the areas of asylum and return, as part of the same migration continuum, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where relevant, EASO will explore with the support of Frontex the possibility of mainstreaming of potential connections between core asylum processes and the return process during thematic meetings and in the development of support material; • Both agencies will cooperate in the development of support measures to the MS with the aim of ensuring a protection-sensitive migration management at the borders.
<p>Research and Innovation Unit (RIU)</p>	<p>Information and Analysis Unit (IAU)</p>	<p>The Agencies will exchange best practices and lessons learned for research programmes for the review and update of internal research policies and procedures.</p>
<p>Research and Innovation Unit (RIU)</p>	<p>Information and Analysis Unit (IAU)</p>	<p>The Agencies will identify, define and plan future joint research studies / projects. The assessment of the scope of work, priorities and already-planned research activities will allow EASO and Frontex research entities to identify specific research projects which could be jointly conducted or where the two entities could support each other or closely collaborate.</p>
<p>Research and Innovation Unit (RIU); Risk Analysis Unit (RAU)</p>	<p>Information and Analysis Unit (IAU)</p>	<p>The Agencies will cooperate on methodologies for big data, forecasting and monitoring. Possible joint research activities on migration and asylum modelling and forecasting will be evaluated. This activity aims at jointly assessing forecasting methods and models for long-term migration trends. The identification of relevant migration categories / indicators and timeframes would be another key element of this activity.</p>
AREA - HORIZONTAL COOPERATION		
<p>Cabinet (CAB)</p>	<p>Executive Office (EXO)</p>	<p>The Agencies will invite each other to attend their respective Management Board meetings when appropriate and, on ad hoc basis, will continue to hold joint Management Board sessions.</p>

Frontex / EASO implementing partners		ACTIVITIES
Risk Analysis Unit (RAU)	Information and Analysis Unit (IAU); ICT Unit (ICT)	Cooperation with eu-LISA and the Commission is foreseen, in order to ensure that the Common Repository for Reporting and Statistics (CRRS) architecture corresponds to end-user needs. The Agencies will exchange information on analysis-relevant developments in requesting access to large-scale EU IT systems for analysis and reporting.
International and European Cooperation Division (IEC)	Liaison Officer (LO)	EASO LO at Frontex Headquarters will continue activities in accordance to the terms of reference.
Pooled Resource Unit (PRU); Capability Programming Office (CAP)	Human Resources Unit (HR)	The Agencies may, where relevant, exchange information on procurement plans and continue to provide mutual assistance in regard to recruitment procedures.
Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO)	Communications and Stakeholders Unit (CSU); Department of Asylum Support (DAS)	The Agencies will explore possible joint activities/synergies between their Consultative Fora. They will promote attendance of each Agency's Consultative Forum and participation in their initiatives as appropriate, as well as cooperate bilaterally with the Frontex Fundamental Rights Officer in relevant activities.

Signed in Helsinki, on 18 July 2019, in three copies in the English Language, one for EASO, one for Frontex and one for European Commission DG Home.

For EASO

The Executive Director

[SIGNED]

Nina Gregori

For Frontex

The Executive Director

[SIGNED]

Fabrice Leggeri