



Programme area n°18 Asylum and Migration

OBJECTIVE

Functioning national asylum and migration management systems ensured and the right to seek asylum safeguarded

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > National systems for asylum and migration management, including voluntary return
- > Services to help asylum seekers to exercise basic rights

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Supporting initiatives that contribute to a well-functioning asylum system, enabling asylum seekers to bring forward their claim for international protection, have the claim processed in due time, be offered accommodation during the processing of their case and be given the opportunity to return voluntarily, all in accordance with the legal instruments of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)
- > Strengthening case processing systems for asylum seekers
- > Developing reception facilities with a focus on unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups
- > Supporting voluntary return
- > Strengthening the cooperation between public authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and/or international organisations such as the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- > Cross-border cooperation
- > Exchange of knowledge and best practice, either bilaterally or multilaterally, on ways to improve national asylum and migration management systems
- > Small grant scheme(s) for NGOs
- > Capacity building of NGOs

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

More than 1,2 million asylum seekers requested international protection in Europe in 2015, more than double the number of people compared to 2014. As a result border and asylum systems in Europe are currently under enormous pressure. In 2015 the EEA and Norway Grants put increased focus on activities aiming to alleviate some of the pressure asylum and migrant reception services are experiencing.

The increasing volume of asylum seekers requires well-functioning migration management systems that safeguard the right to seek asylum. Since 1999, the EU has worked to create a Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The CEAS establishes common standards for the asylum procedure.

The UN Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees is the key legal document defining refugees, their rights and the legal obligations of states. Asylum is granted to people who flee persecution in their own country and are in need of international protection.

All EU Member States and EEA EFTA countries are signatories of the European Convention on Human Rights, which prohibits return to the country of origin where there is a risk of torture or other cruel or inhuman treatment (“non refoulement”). They are also part of the Dublin system that defines the state responsible for processing an application for asylum. All asylum seekers shall have their application considered in only one of the countries participating in the collaboration.

All programmes under this programme area contribute to a well-functioning asylum system, enabling asylum seekers access to secure asylum procedures in line with the legal instruments of the Common European Asylum System.

PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

> Priority shall be given to the needs of unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

BILATERAL INTEREST

Knowledge exchange and exchange of best practice between donor and beneficiary countries is of interest in this area, especially on the organisation of reception facilities, on case management systems and on vulnerable groups.