European Asylum Support Office

Presentation by
Jamil Addou, Principal Head of Department &
Geert Knockaert, Head of Asylum Cooperation Sector

Table of contents

1 **The Role of EASO**

2 **Latest asylum trends**

3 **The EASO Network of Reception Authorities**

4 **Reception Systems in the EU**

- Organisation
- Type of reception conditions
- Phases in reception
- Current trends
- Current challenges
- Flexibility
- Contingency Planning

The role of EASO

EASO plays a key role in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), fostering greater convergence amongst Member State's Asylum Systems and providing the necessary support in order to translate into practice the provisions of the CEAS and to ensure that individual asylum applications are dealt with in a coherent way by all Member States

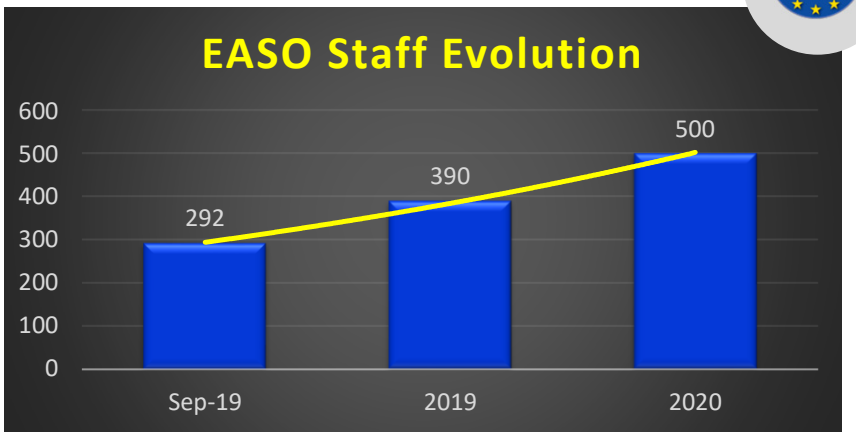
EASO is a unique centre of expertise on asylum with operational capacities on the ground, providing support to Member States under pressure in managing asylum applications

EASO STAFF

September 2019: 292 staff

Planned end 2019: 390 staff

Planned 2020: 500 staff



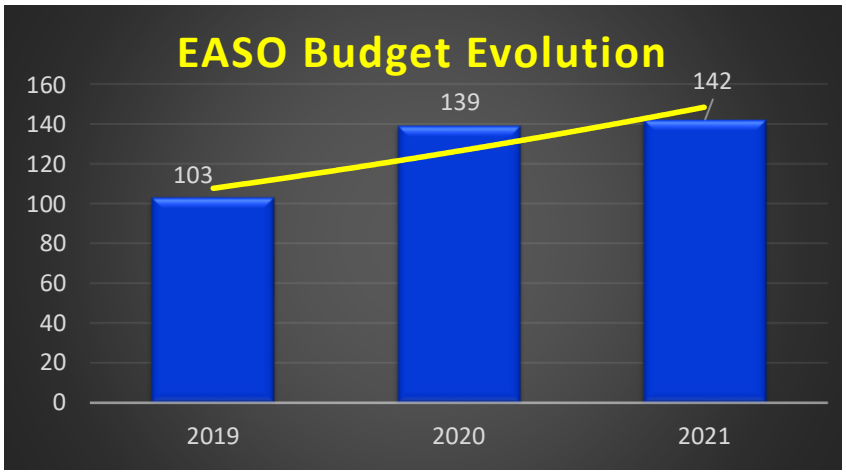
SUPPORT IS OUR MISSION

EASO BUDGET

Budget 2019: Approx**.** €103 million

Budget 2020: Approx. €139 million

Budget 2021: Approx. €142 million

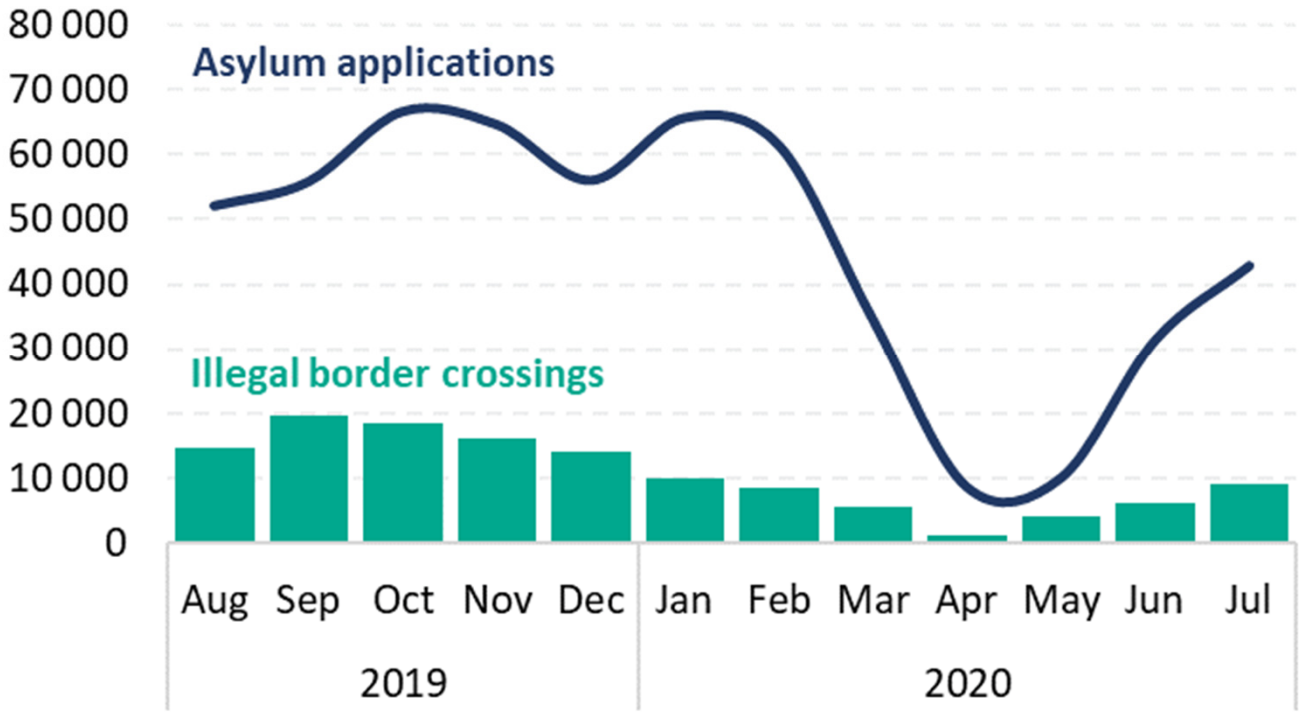


Disclaimer

These slides were produced by EASO's Data Analysis and Research Sector within the Situational Awareness Unit on the basis of data collected and exchanged under the Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS). It consists of statistical data shared with EASO by European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland (EU+) via a standard template, as well as other sources. The United Kingdom is excluded from all reference periods.

The data shared with EASO by the EU+ countries are provisional, unvalidated data and therefore might differ from validated data submitted at a later date to Eurostat (according to Regulation (EC) No 862/2007). They should be understood as giving an estimation of general trends at EU+ and national level in as close to real time as possible. Therefore, the data included in this presentation are not disaggregated by Member State, in line with the EPS dissemination policy.

Latest asylum trends (1)

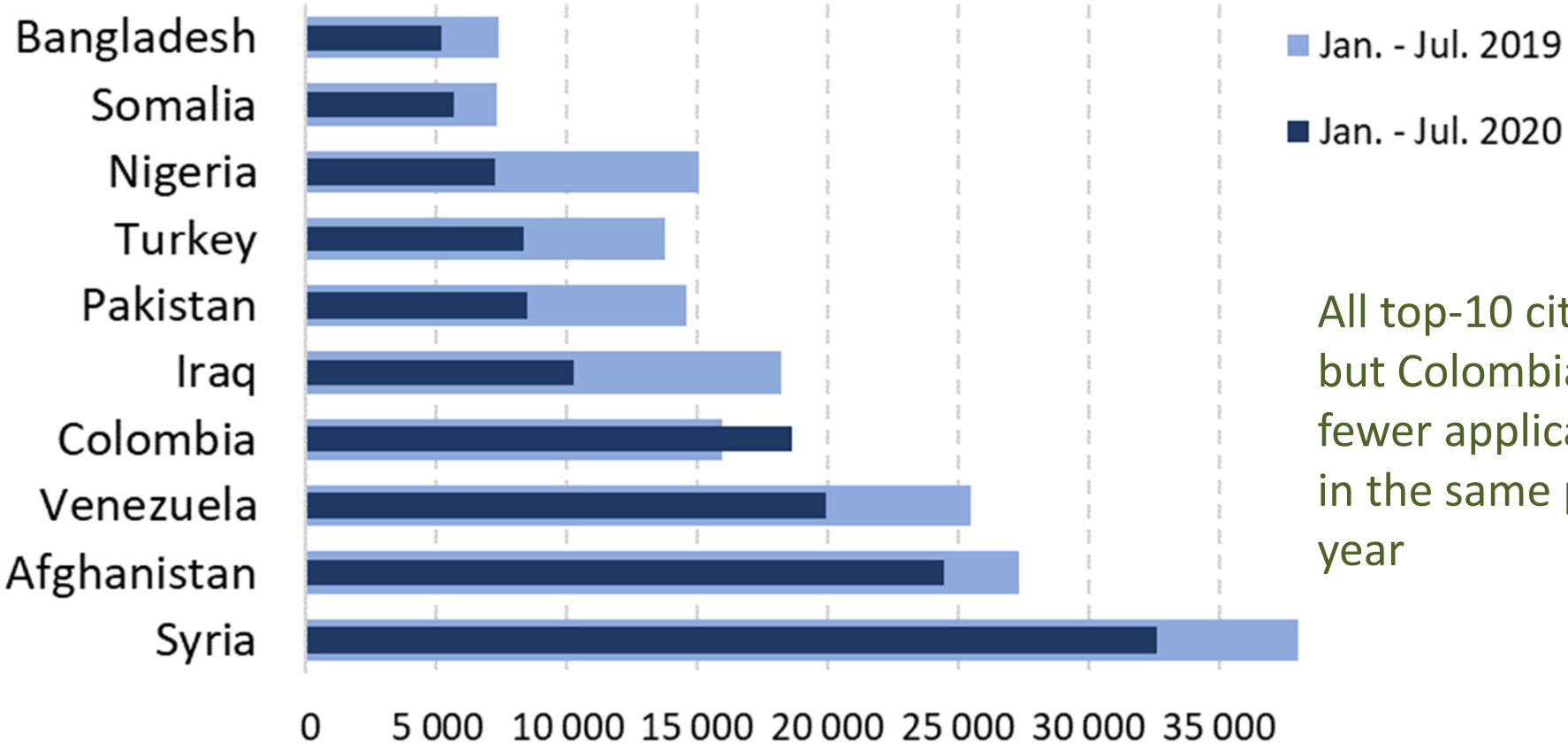


Before the pandemic, asylum trends were higher than in the previous two years

Applications dropped to record lows in April (8 730, - 87 % from January) and May (10 200, - 84 %), due to containment measures

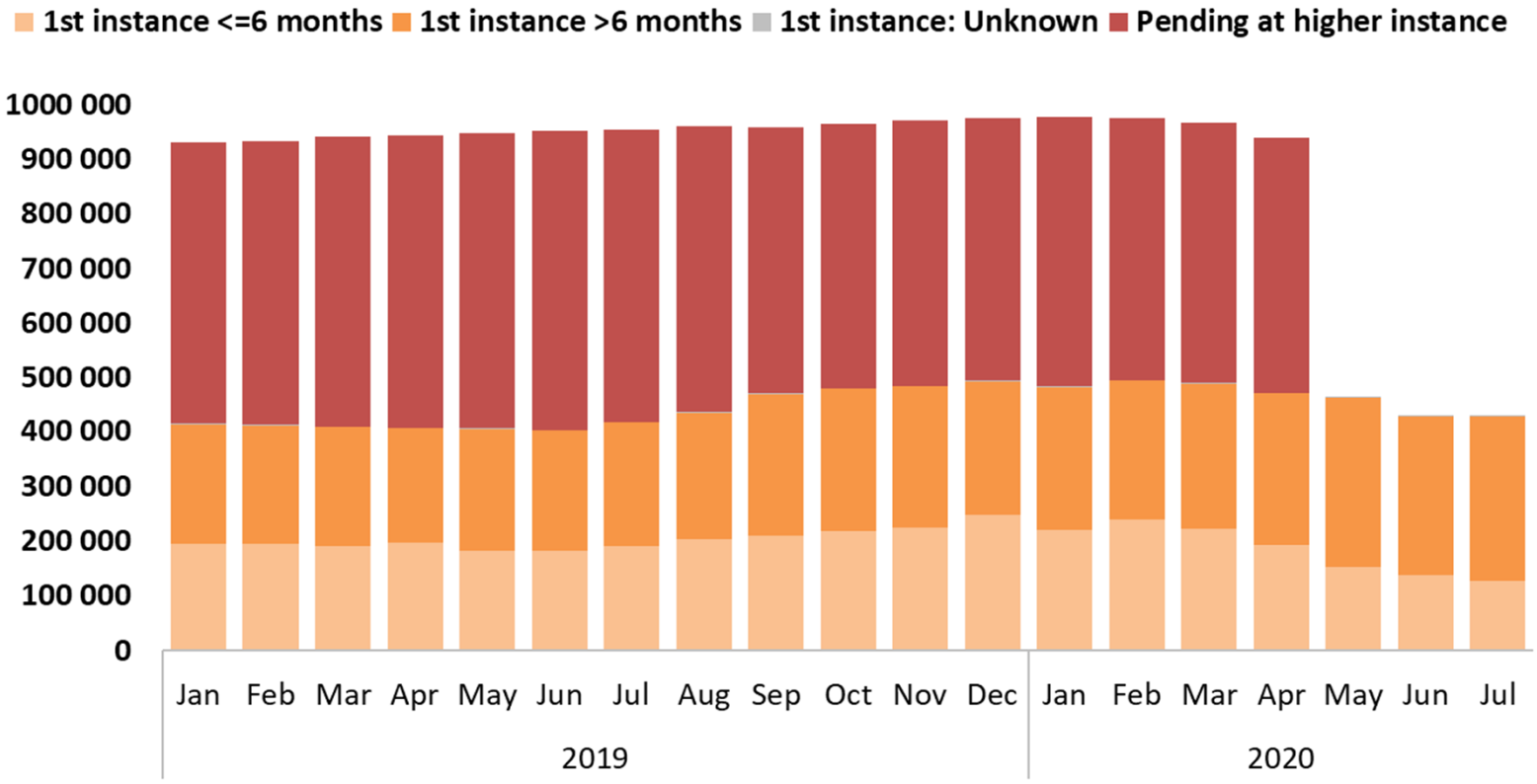
Asylum trends on the rise since then, but still halved from pre-COVID levels.

Decrease in decision-making more modest…



All top-10 citizenships but Colombians lodged fewer applications than in the same period last year

Fewer cases pending at both first and higher instances

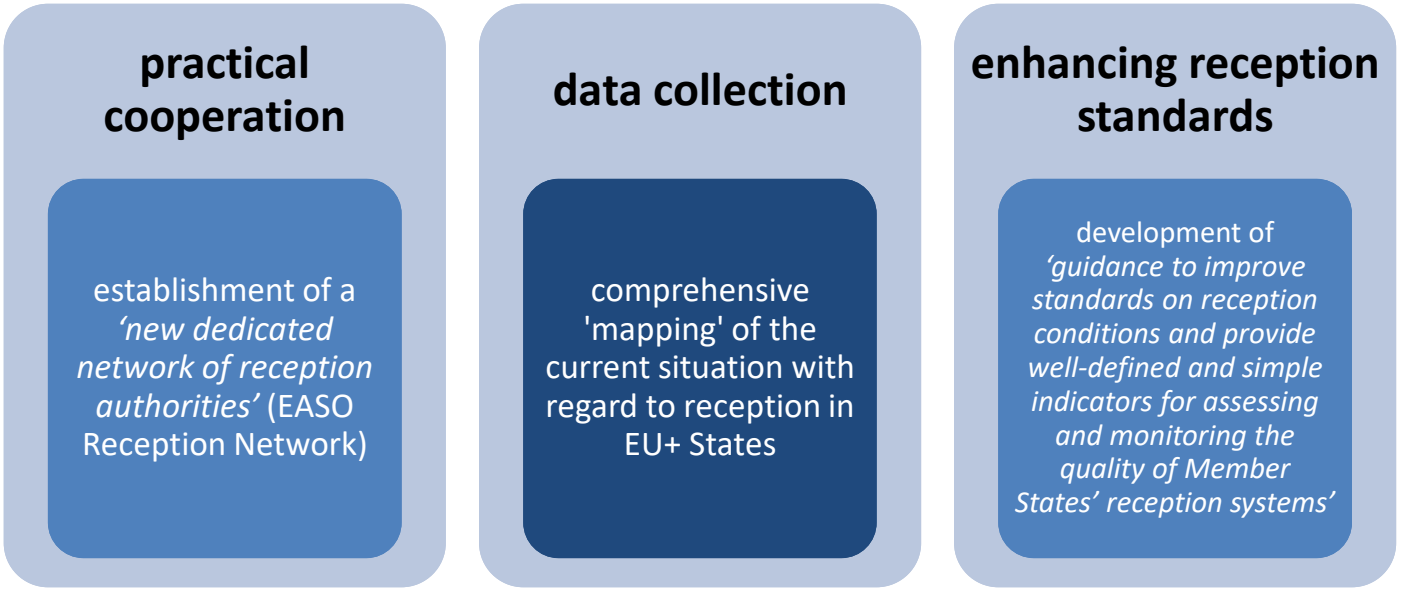


First instance pending cases were increasing up to the beginning of 2020

The trend was reversed as of March 2020

At the end of April, there were roughly as many cases pending at first as at higher instances

Reception related measures in the EU Agenda on Migration - (May 2015)



EASO network of Reception Authorities

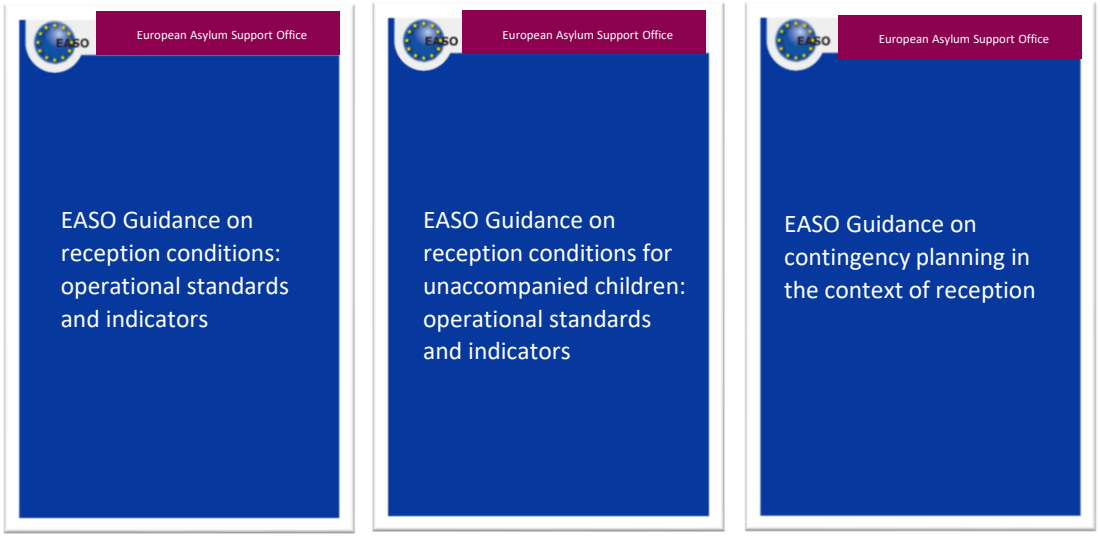
The EASO Network of **Reception Authorities** (the '**Reception Network**') is a **network** of **23 EU+ States' national agencies engaged** in the EASO **activities on reception**. Each EU+ State is invited to **nominate a NCP** to **participate** in the Reception Network.

Members of the Reception Network

Asylum Support Unit	EU + States	EU Commission	Observers
Operational Support Information & Analysis	National Reception Authorities	DG Home Representative	-UNHCR -Serbia

EASO Guidance on Reception

To **support Member States** in the implementation of **key provisions of the RCD** while **ensuring an adequate standard of living for all applicants** for international protection, including those with special reception needs.



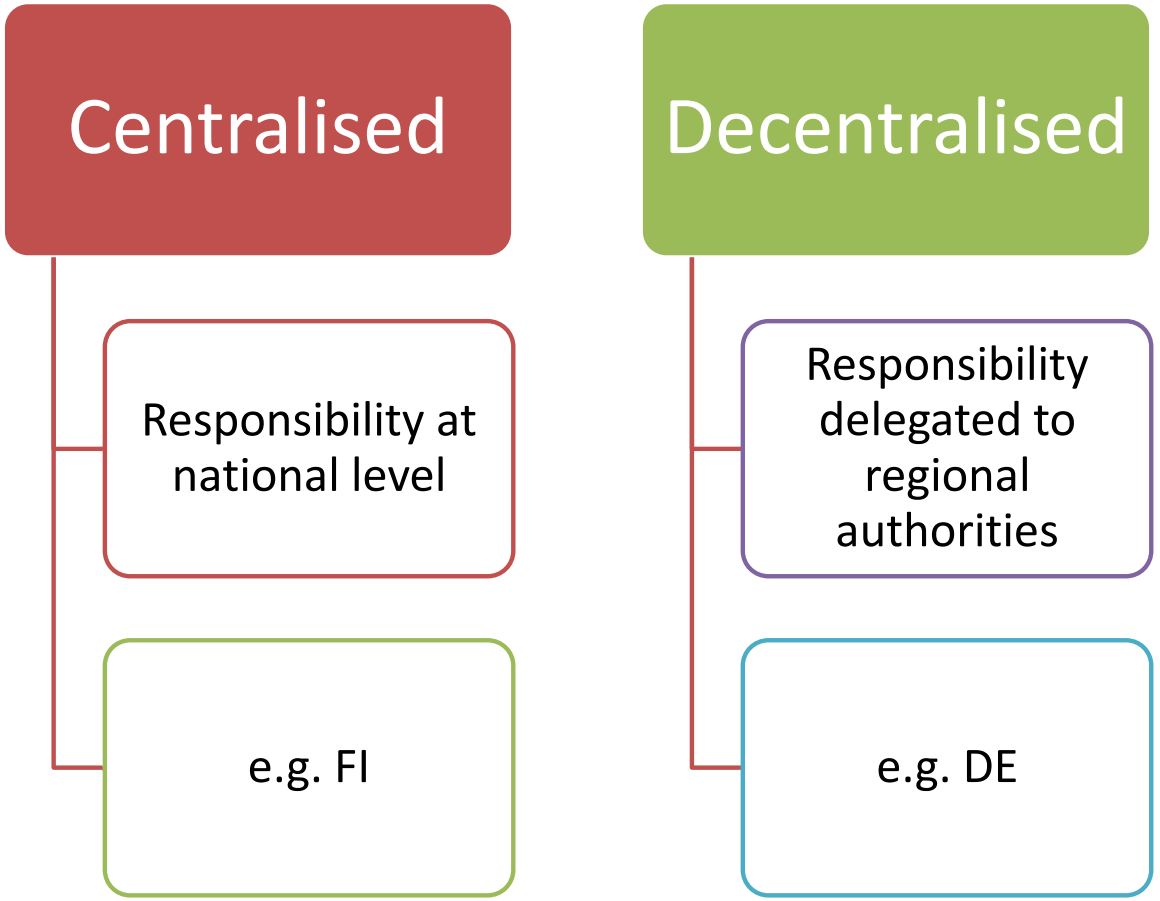
Self-assessment tool

To help implement EASO Standards and Indicators

EASO Practical Tool on Quality Management of Reception Conditions

Reception systems in the EU

Responsibilities



Reception systems in the EU

Management

National authority as Operator

- **All reception facilities managed by the State authorities**
- e.g. NL

National authority subcontracts the management of the centres to operators

- **Responsibility, decisions, budget and quality control remains with the administration while daily operations is contracted to operators**
- e.g. NO

Mixed systems

- **National authority manages own centres and in addition partners/other organisations are complementing**
- e.g. BE

Reception systems in the EU

Reception facilities

Large scale centres

- ++ Efficient
- ++ Cost effective
- - Impact
- - Quality

Small scale centres

- + Daily management
- + Quality
- -/+ Cost effective
- - Efficiency

Private accommodation

++ Privacy
+ Management
- Cost effective
- Efficiency

Reception systems in the EU

Reception facilities

State owned centres

- ++ Contract
- ++ Cost effective
- - Often requires important investments
- - Time constraints

Local government

- + Shared responsibility
- + Anonymous
- + Integration
- - Slow increase of reception capacity

Private sector

- ++ Competition
- + Efficiency
- - Dependency
- - Price

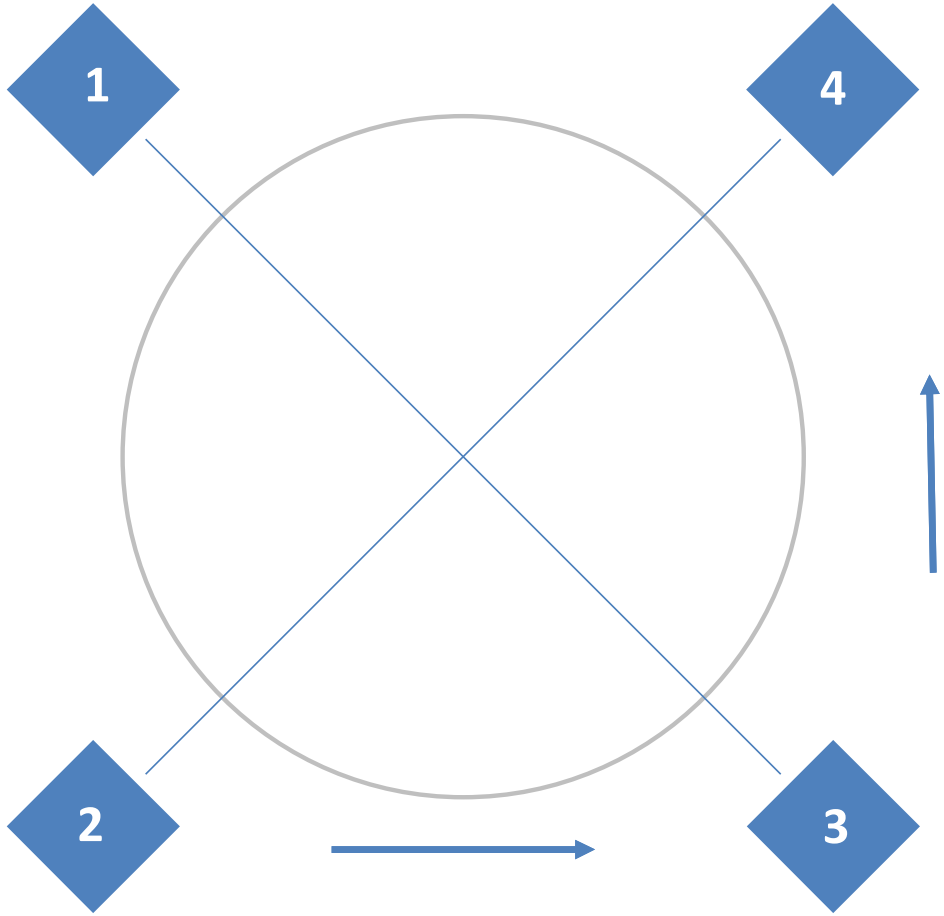
Reception in relation to the asylum process

ARRIVAL CENTRES

- Registration
- Needs assessment
- First interview
- First reception

RECEPTION CENTRES

- During the asylum process
  - Access to services
  - Access to labor market
  - Schooling
  - Pre-intergration



RETURN CENTRES

- Return counselling

PRIVATE ACCOMONDATION

- Integration

Current Trends

Process approach

within the asylum chain with all stakeholders (eg. arrival centres)

Tailored information provision

through websites, app's

Outflow management

through compulsory/voluntary repartition for municipalities

Quality management

through (self-)assessments making use of standards and indicators

Challenges in Reception

Flexibility

Ability to develop / reduce / retain / regain capacity and resources to fit changing patterns in terms of arrivals

Outflow Management

Difficulties to cooperate on integration / return and to guarantee exits from the system

Security & Sanctions

Issue of “challenging clients” making the smooth operation of the system more difficult

EASO

Transition towards Integration

What works and what doesn't?

Maintain residents in procedure in collective centres for long periods

Relying purely on good will / volunteer municipalities

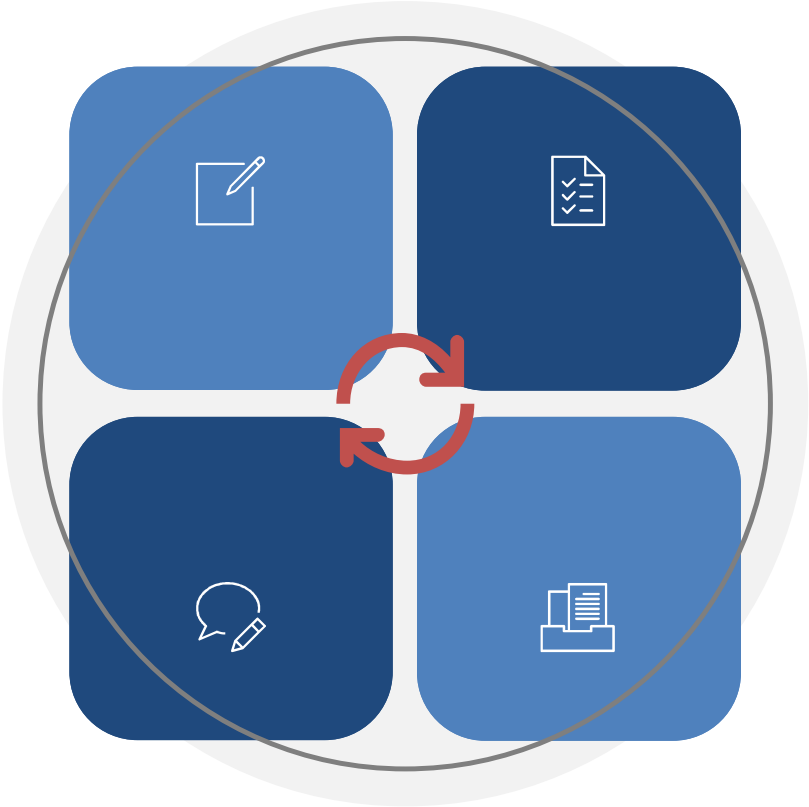
Work on a nationwide dispersal mechanism, at least for applicants with high chances of recognition

Support and engage municipalities but develop a compulsory repartition system to guarantee outflow

Flexibility

Outsourcing to private operators + different levels of contracts to reflect capacity levels

"Stand By Capacity" of 10.000 out of 31.000 in North Rhine Westphalia



Maintaining buffer capacity on site

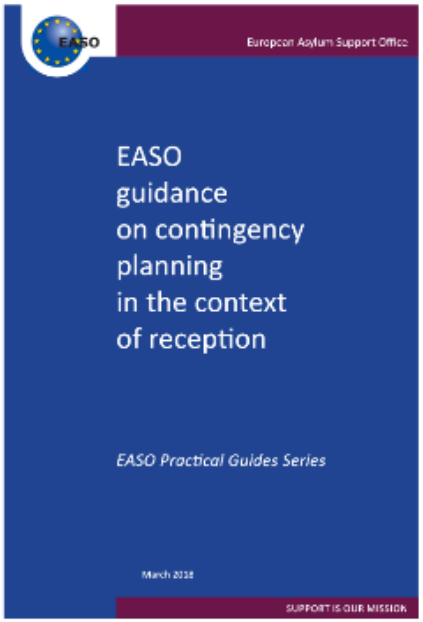
Flexibilisation Programme

EASO Guidance on contingency planning in the context of reception

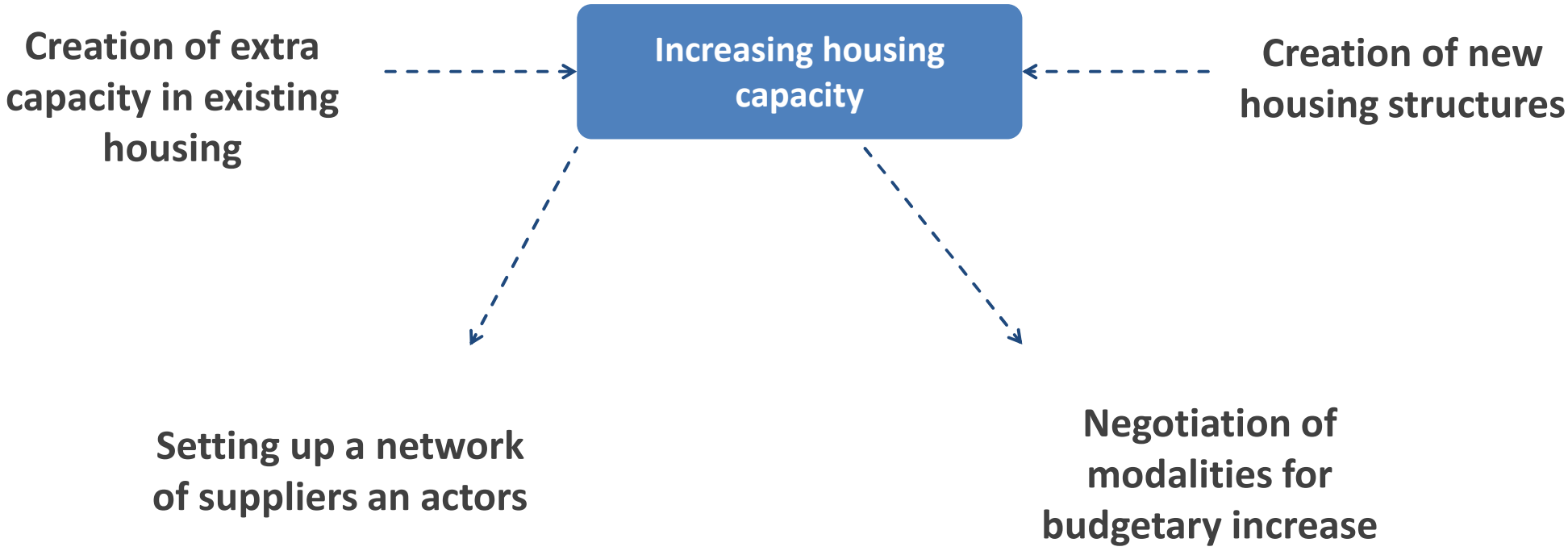
Objective

- To serve as an **aid to the detailed planning and management of** the various actors in a high-influx situation and to facilitate early action against a potentially serious situation.

- To help **manage future uncertainty by developing responses in advance** when there is a risk or probability that a high-influx situation may occur. It will help reception authorities to anticipate and solve problems that arise in **situations that require an immediate response.**



Contingency planning



Contingency planning

- Increasing capacity within an active reception facility (e.g. empty rooms or buildings on the premises, using common areas as bedrooms) - to benefit from the existing staff and the network around the reception centre (e.g. schools and medical services)
- Keeping an empty reception centre
- An area, inside or outside the premises of an active reception centre, with only infrastructure on the ground (e.g. electricity, water supplies and sewage) and a contract that a company can build extra housing capacity
- Contract with external service providers (e.g. private actors, national real estate suppliers) without paying for empty places
- other alternatives

COA: Scenario for high infux

- Creation of a “Unit for Migration Intelligence”
- Joint prognosis twice a year
- Contingency plan, scenario based
- Identification of bottlenecks + countermeasures
- Relies on early warning indicators / Early warning system

Thank you!

✉ Jamil Addou: Jamil.Addou@easo.europa.eu

✉ Geert Knockaert: Geert.Knockaert@easo.europa.eu