

Improving Member States' Asylum Systems and Defining Good Practices

Valletta (MT), 11-12 June 2012



European Institute of Public Administration
Institut européen d'administration publique

Location
Centre for Development, Research and Training
(Office of the Prime Minister)
San Salvatore Bastion
Sa Maison Road
FLORIANA FRN 1610
Malta



Introduction

Target Group

The seminar is aimed at public officials, caseworkers and staff in asylum departments and bodies tasked with taking decisions on individual asylum applications. It is also of interest to lawyers, consultants, practitioners, NGOs and the private sector involved in asylum and migration decision-making.

Description

The seminar will examine the quality of national asylum systems and will allow participants to reflect on how to assess in a meaningful way the credibility of asylum seekers and the evidence they produce. It will also study examples of best practices in coping with the handling of asylum applications and the alternatives to detention of rejected asylum seekers – an important issue for the Mediterranean countries. The seminar will also reflect on the serious shortcomings of the Dublin Regulation in the national asylum systems, as well as highlighting the flaws in the system itself. The link with the Dublin Regulation will be made in the clarification of the CJEU case law, where articles of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR) are central. The presentation on CFR will also make reference to the European Convention of Human Rights and present experiences from the Dutch administrative courts in applying the CFR in asylum cases. Finally, the seminar will look into issues of cooperation between

EASO and Member States with regard to improving the quality of the asylum procedures.

Learning Methodology

This seminar will be based on a mixture of presentations, discussions and workshops. It will stimulate active participation and the sharing of policy practices. Specific cases and experiences will be explored. Background documentation will also be provided in an online/e-Learning set up. Speakers will include officials from the EU institutions, national administrations, ECRE staff and practitioners.

Objectives

The seminar aims to show participants the importance of their skills in using specific tools whilst assessing asylum applications, in addition to developing and further improving them. The presentations on the Dublin Regulation and CFR will stimulate them to further observe the potential impact of the two instruments, as well as the implications of the EU Courts' judgments on national courts and practices related to granting protection. The seminar will offer an excellent platform for good practices to be defined, which can thus contribute to making the asylum processes in the EU more efficient by respecting quality standards.

Programme

MONDAY 11 June 2012

08:45 **Registration**

09:00 **Opening and introduction to the seminar**
Ms Katerina-Marina Kyrieri, Lecturer, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)

Theme 1: Making decisions on asylum applications – tools to ensure quality

09:15 **Credibility, evidence assessment in asylum cases with practical examples**
Ms Fadela Novak-Irons, Policy Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Brussels (BE)

10:15 Coffee break

10:45 **Discussion**

11:00 **Quality Management of asylum systems and defining good practices**
Mr Gert Wobbes, Immigration Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Ter Apelervenen (NL)

12:45 **Discussion**

13:00 Lunch

14:15 **Alternatives to detention of rejected asylum seekers**
Ms Katrina Camilleri, Director, Jesuit Refugee Service, Valletta, Malta (ML)

15:30 Coffee break

Theme 2: Improving asylum systems in practice

16:00 **Workshop on improving the quality of the asylum systems**
Facilitators: Ms Fadela Novak-Irons, Gert Wobbes and Katerina-Marina Kyrieri

17:30 **End of the first day**

TUESDAY 12 June 2012

Theme 3: Filling in gaps in the scope and level of protection of fundamental rights

09:15 **Methods to improve access to protection with the Dublin system**
Ms Maria Hennessey, Senior Legal Officer, European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Brussels (BE)

10:15 Coffee break

10:45 **The influence of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR) in asylum cases**
Mr Aniel Pahladsingh, Legal Officer at the Research Department of the Dutch Council of State, The Hague (NL)

11:45 **Discussion**

Closing session

12:00 **Ensuring quality of Member States' asylum procedures through practical cooperation - the role of EASO**
Mr Francois Bienfait, Head of EASO's Centre for Training and Quality, EASO, Valletta (MT)

13:00 **Discussion**

13:15 **Evaluation of the seminar**

13:30 **End of the seminar**

General Information

Programme

The programme will commence on Monday at 09.00 and will finish on Tuesday at 13.30.

Seminar Venue

The seminar will take place at the Centre for Development, Research and Training (CDRT) (Office of the Prime Minister), San Salvatore Bastion, Sa Maison Road, Floriana FRN 1610, Malta tel.: +356 22001875.

Working language

The seminar will be conducted in English.

Fee

The participation fee is €850 and includes documentation, one lunch and refreshments. Accommodation and travel costs are at the expense of the participants or their administration.

EIPA offers its members a reduction of 10% of the registration fee. This reduction is available to all civil servants working for one of EIPA's member countries (i.e. AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, ES, SE, UK) and civil servants working for an EU institution, body or agency. Officials of the EU institutions, bodies or agencies should enquire about applicable arrangements. If you are eligible for a discount, please tick the box in the registration form. Please note that reductions cannot be accumulated. For more information, please visit EIPA's website: <http://seminars.eipa.eu> (FAQ - special discounts).

Hotel reservations

Please note that EIPA has not made any special arrangements for a hotel. However, together with the confirmation you will receive a list of hotels which are in the vicinity of the seminar venue.

Meals

Lunch on the first day will be served at CDRT. Should you require a special menu (e.g. vegetarian, diabetic), please inform the Programme Organiser so that this can be arranged.

Registration

Kindly complete the registration form and return it before 28 May to Ms Noëlle Debie, Programme Organiser, European Institute of Public Administration, P.O. Box 1229, NL-6201 BE Maastricht. Tel.: +31 43 32 96 226; fax: +31 43 32 96 296; e-mail: n.debie@eipa.eu.

You can also submit the online registration form which you can find on EIPA's website <http://seminars.eipa.eu>.

Your name and address will be part of EIPA's database for our mailing purpose only. If you do not want to be included in our mailing database, please tick the box in the registration form.

Confirmation

Confirmation of registration will be forwarded to participants on receipt of the completed registration form.

Payment

Prior payment is a condition for participation. Please indicate the method of payment on the registration form. For cancellations received within 15 days before the activity begins, we will have to charge an administration fee of € 150 unless a replacement participant is found.

Cancellation policy

EIPA reserves the right to cancel the seminar up to 2 weeks before the starting date. EIPA accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred (travel, hotel, etc.). For EIPA's cancellation policy, please visit our website <http://seminars.eipa.eu> (FAQ - Cancellation policy).



Registration Form

Improving Member States' Asylum Systems and Defining Good Practices
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Surname: Title: M/F
First name:
Current position:
Organisation:
Department:
Work address:
Postal code & town: Country:
Tel. no: Fax no:
E-mail address:

Payment – 1232305

The participation fee includes participation in the seminar, documentation, one lunch and beverages

€850

☐ **Discount of 10%** (Please check first the conditions at www.eipa.eu (FAQ – special discounts))

Method of payment

☐ **Bank transfer**

The participants or their administration will receive an invoice for the payment of the registration fee.

Invoice address (if different from the abovementioned address):

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E-mail:

☐ **Credit card**

☐ American Express Card ☐ Eurocard/Mastercard ☐ Visa Card

Card no.: Expiry date: /

Name Card holder: (in case this differs from above)

Address Card holder: (in case this differs from above)

Postal code: Country: (in case this differs from above)

Card Validation Code: (the last three digits on the BACK of your card)

(Exempt from VAT by virtue of Article 11, para. 1 (o), subpara. 2 of the Dutch Law on VAT of 1968)

Meals

Vegetarian: ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ Fish allowed: ☐ yes ☐ no Other dietary requirements:

As the number of seats is limited, please return the completed registration form before 28 May 2012 to:

Ms Noëlle Debie, European Institute of Public Administration, P.O. Box 1229, NL-6201 BE Maastricht,
tel.: +31 43 32 96 226; fax: +31 43 32 96 296; e-mail: n.debie@eipa.eu



Your name and address will be part of EIPA's database for our mailing purpose only.
Please tick ☐ if you do not want to be included in our mailing database.