



EASO regional project proposal to be implemented within the framework of the  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAMME (RDPP) FOR NORTH AFRICA (NA)  
Phase V

“Regional Pilot capacity building project to enhance North-South and South-South knowledge exchanges and cooperation on asylum and reception policies and processes”

**Project Country and Geographical Focus:** Regional approach with Egypt and Niger<sup>1</sup> as initial participating countries.

**Beneficiaries/Target Population:** National authorities with policy and decision-making responsibilities on matters related to asylum, reception and international protection of refugees and asylum seekers. This includes representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior of the countries involved, as well as other ministries as relevant, with particular focus on institutions mandated to work on migration related matter. For this pilot project, priority is given to third countries (TCs) where there is a genuine interest in working with the EU on asylum related matters, coupled with progress underway at national level on the legislative and/or institutional set-up in the field of asylum/international protection.

**Partners:** EU MS<sup>2</sup>: Italian Ministry of Interior (RDPP NA secretariat); DK; CZ; BE; NL; DE.

**Duration:** 36 months (+ 3 months reporting period); Q3 2020 to Q3 2023

**Budget and EU MS financial contributions:**

Overall tentative budget: € 2,130,000.00 – Tentative yearly forecast (including HR expenses): Year 1: € 785,000.00; Year 2: € 695,000.00; Year 3: € 650,000.00;

- Danish funding: € 550,000.00 covering human resources and activities' implementation costs;
- Czech Republic funding: € 550,000.00 covering human resources and activities' implementation costs;
- EASO Third Country Support Sector project implementation funding (in line with the EASO Single Programming Document 2021-23 and beyond): € 1,030,000.00 earmarked for the implementation of activities as explained in the present proposal (2021-2023).

**Other EU MS contributions:**

It is important to note that EU MS contributions in terms of expertise/hosting work visits will be defined on a case-by-case basis during the implementation period, based both on the needed expertise/interests and EU MS availabilities. EU MS contributing to the present project in these terms are the following:

- IT will mainly contribute by participating with experts in the delivery of regional conferences and the hosting of work visits from RDPP NA countries (apart from Niger).
- BE contribution will be in terms of provision of expertise for the implementation of activities foreseen in the present proposal, with a focus on Niger;
- NL contribution will be in terms of provision of expertise for the implementation of activities foreseen in the present proposal;
- DE contribution will be in terms of provision of expertise for the implementation of activities foreseen in the present proposal, with a particular focus on the development of a pilot Projects Database and a dedicated human resource supporting EASO in this area of work;
- DK will also contribute in terms of provision of expertise for the implementation of activities foreseen in the present proposal;

<sup>1</sup> Inclusion of Niger is based on EU MS interests in enhancing asylum cooperation with Niger, as per their requests in this sense. Participation in the regional pilot project will be extended in particular to Morocco and Tunisia based on relevance and feasibility.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this regional pilot project proposal, the term “EU Member State/s” (EU MS) is to be understood as including the “Dublin-associated countries” Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Iceland. Likewise, references to “EU” are meant to include the Dublin-associated countries.



- CZ will also contribute in terms of provision of expertise for the implementation of activities foreseen in the present proposal.

EASO welcomes other EU MS to engage in the present regional pilot project, either now or in the years to come.

### ➤ Background

The present pilot project proposal responds to the objectives set out in the RDPP NA Concept paper and Programme Document's Pillar 1 (Capacity Building – Strengthening Third Countries' institutional capacities to provide international protection and manage mixed migration flows), as well as to the approach outlined in Pillar 4. Within the latter it is stated the *RDPP NA should promote south-south cooperation measures, in order to scale up institutional cooperation and regional synergies*.

EASO updated its External Cooperation Strategy in February 2019, which sets out the legal and policy framework of EASO's external actions and the support implementation framework of EASO interventions in third countries. Actions within the RDPP NA fit within this scope both in terms of EU external relations policy framework for EASO's external actions and in terms of thematic focus on asylum.

Building on the existing, stable network of EU MS within the framework of the Third Country Cooperation Network (TCC Network) and the interests to contribute to the work of the Agency expressed by EU MS in that context, EASO aims at providing a concrete opportunity for the EU/DG HOME to enhance EU involvement in the implementation of the RDPP NA as a strategic programme in North Africa. The added value of an EASO project lies also in the Agency's ability to mobilise EU MS expertise efficiently, thereby giving TCs access to a wide pool of EU know-how in a flexible and tailor made manner.

The proposal builds on EASO's expertise on asylum as well as on the experience gathered in the past years in the implementation of national and regional capacity building projects with TCs, including in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA)<sup>3</sup>. In particular, the proposal will build on EASO's current cooperation with Egypt within the framework of the EU-Egypt Migration Dialogue. In all these instances, as well as through a desk needs assessment/research, EASO identified interest from TCs in the region in enhancing opportunities for exchanges at technical level through the delivery and participation in regional trainings/seminars or in bilateral activities among countries with similar processes/plans in the field of asylum and reception.

In EASO experience, the synergies between the two levels (national and regional) are seen by TCs and EU MS practitioners as opportunities for achieving enhanced information sharing on how other countries in the region and in the EU deal with similar asylum-related matters. Therefore, EASO will continue striving to maintain its support at technical level targeting asylum practitioners while also maintaining a close link between TC specific support (where present – e.g. Egypt - or under investigation/development – e.g. Morocco and Tunisia) and the regional level.

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<sup>3</sup> During the project, EASO hosted three regional conferences including the participation of MS, European Commission, European Parliament, UNHCR and IOM. Additionally, as part of the ENPI project, EASO translated into Arabic the three core training modules (Inclusion, Interview Techniques and Evidence Assessment) as well as the CEAS module. This resulted in the delivery of the first EASO national training session in Arabic at regional level involving trainers and representatives from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.



### ➤ National background

With specific reference to the proposed TCs to be involved in the present pilot regional project, in **Egypt** there has been a clear expression of interest in the possible future development of a national asylum framework and, as a first step, in participating in registration activities with UNHCR. Additionally, Egypt has expressed clear interest in working with regional actors (such as Morocco) and in working on this with EASO specifically. In this context and within the framework of the EU-Egypt Migration Dialogue, EASO has established a first cooperation framework with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has implemented successfully the first jointly identified activities in view of building national capacities on asylum and anti-trafficking in human beings. In this context, EASO recently provided Egypt's national authorities with a first opportunity to exchange with EU MS experts as well as to hear about the Moroccan system and its transitioning phase from a UNHCR representative. The Alexandria seminar on EU asylum systems in February 2020 is an example of how EASO can bring added value in the delivery of asylum-related capacity building activities from the EU perspective, while also coordinating and joining forces with key stakeholders such as UNHCR to include a different perspective.

In **Niger**, following some tensions in mid-2018, UNHCR reports having succeeded in the establishment - together with the Government of Niger, of a space of tolerance and real asylum for refugees. Both registration and RSD are handled by the national authorities (Directorate for Civil Status, Refugees and Migration - DREC-RM) and *Commission nationale de l'éligibilité au statut de réfugié* (CNE) - with the support of and in cooperation with the UNHCR - within the framework of an existing legal and institutional framework as set up by the 1997 asylum law. National authorities have reportedly expressed, in EU and international settings, clear interest in capacity building support on asylum-related matters, also in view of drafting a new national asylum law. Both IT and BE have exchanged in the past with Niger in this sense (directly or via UNHCR). Interest was expressed in continuing doing so, also at regional level and in cooperation with EASO under the umbrella of the present regional pilot project proposal.

During the pre-implementation and implementation phases, EASO will take steps for extending participation in the present regional pilot project to other countries in the region, based on needs and feasibility. This will be done together with the project partners, key stakeholders (such as European Union Delegations, EUDs) and in close cooperation with Egypt as main counterpart for EASO in the region at the moment, and a key regional actor at technical and strategic levels.

At national level, in line with EASO's External Cooperation Strategy and EU MS/DG HOME interest in EASO involvement in the region, EASO will continue consultations with EUDs in **Tunisia and Morocco** to follow-up on positive expressions of interest for future bilateral cooperation. Along the same lines, EASO stands ready to start consultations with other countries in the region that might be interested in national level cooperation in the future. The present regional pilot project proposal will certainly provide an additional umbrella within which to frame EASO cooperation at national level, while also providing an opportunity both for EASO and for the RDPP NA for enhancing the direct involvement of TCs national authorities, in cooperation with EU MS, in the promotion and implementation of regional and national actions on asylum-related matters.

### ➤ Lessons learnt

Based on experience, EASO can identify the following lessons learnt, which will be used for improving the design, implementation and monitoring of the present regional pilot proposal.

- Building on EASO technical expertise and past experience in working with TCs in the region in order to enhance the qualitative and quantitative added value delivered by the Agency's actions within the umbrella of EC external policies/programmes such as Migration Dialogues and RDPPs;
- Building on lessons learnt, analysis and recommendations from past EASO experience as well as from other relevant stakeholders such as EU Delegations, DG HOME and NEAR, UNHCR and IOM;



- Flexible and responsive approach to the needs of the target groups and key stakeholders as fast and unpredictable changes at political level can result in changes of direction or interest in developing or enhancing the protection space for refugees in third countries;
- Improvement of needs assessments and monitoring mechanisms in order to ensure an adequate response to the needs and an accurate targeting especially in light of remote management, which can be even more challenging when working with fast changing environments;
- Striving to achieve national authorities' ownership by having them fully on-board and actively engaged in all the project development and implementation phases, including in monitoring and evaluation.

### ➤ Complementarities

The present regional pilot project proposal builds on the work that has been carried out by RDPP NA project implementers (e.g. UNHCR) since the launch of the programme in 2015 and aims at enhancing the programme's focus on strengthening asylum policies and processes in the region, while ensuring a clear EU impact through the direct involvement of EU MS in its implementation. EASO will closely coordinate with ICMPD and the EUROMED Migration V in order to build on existing efforts towards exchanging at regional level on migration related matters, while providing additional opportunities for thematic discussions on asylum and protection –sensitive migration management. Indeed, in view of establishing functioning asylum systems in RDPP NA third countries, the added value of EASO will be its ability to provide a platform for reinforcing the EU MS' engagement in the RDPP NA (within Pillar 1) ensuring the delivery of peer-to-peer learning and exchange opportunities on asylum related matters to both countries in the North Africa region and to EU MS. EASO will also coordinate with other relevant international organisations, including UNHCR, to ensure that activities are implemented in complementarity.

The proposal is closely linked to the ongoing operational and capacity building support being provided, at national level in third countries, by other implementers under the umbrella of the RDPP NA, such as UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF. Where other country specific programmes are planned or underway, EASO will consult with relevant EU institutions (e.g. EU Delegations), and other stakeholders to ensure complementarity of the regional actions, avoiding duplication and enhancing the quality of overall outputs and the successful achievement of set objectives, while putting forward, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, European capacity building support, including training, and legislative standards at regional level in the field of asylum, under the RDPP NA umbrella.

EASO will do so through a fully participatory approach in the definition of the pilot project's results framework (as detailed in the present concept note) involving relevant TC national authorities and international actors. EASO's peer-to-peer approach, together with the regional North-South and South-South perspective of this regional pilot project, will enable linkages to other relevant initiatives implemented bilaterally by EU MS and among third countries in the region.

Finally, EASO will build upon its current positive network of contacts established with Egypt, as well as Egypt's clearly expressed interest in exchanging best practices on asylum related matters at regional level, as a first entry point for opening further opportunities at regional level with relevant countries belonging to both the RDPP NA geographical focus and, potentially, to EASO's geographic priorities more broadly (e.g. Turkey, as relevant and appropriate).

### ➤ Specific objectives

The present proposal aims at the establishment of a pilot regional forum, initially including two countries with interest in, or steps taken towards, the establishment of asylum policies, or which have recently established/implemented an asylum legislative framework (namely Egypt and Niger). EASO can provide the EU's perspective on asylum with the expert input of involved EU MS (see partner EU MS above), providing an opportunity



to promote clear EU visibility, coherence of interventions, as well as a chance to foster North-South and South-South partnerships in this field.

In particular, following a first normative/desk-based needs assessment, the present pilot proposal identifies one specific objective focused on the establishment/reinforcement of national asylum and reception-related systems.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE (target group: national authorities in targeted TCs):

**Establishing a pilot practical cooperation forum/working group/practitioners network** for senior/policy officials from EU+ and RDPP NA countries (initially two, as specified above), with policy and decision-making responsibilities on matters related to asylum, reception and/or international protection of refugees and asylum seekers. Representatives from relevant international organisations will also be invited, as appropriate.

The pilot **practical cooperation forum/working group/practitioners network** would aim at achieving the following SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

1. **Providing periodic senior/policy level regional exchange opportunities**, such as regional conferences, regional workshops linked to work visits and EASO training<sup>4</sup> (forming the three Components mentioned above, more details in the next section on Specific activities).

This will comprise **three Capacity Building Components**:

- o Component I, Regional Conferences focused on, for instance, the drafting of national asylum laws, with the purpose of offering the opportunity to exchange experiences on a peer-to-peer level among EU MS and RDPP NA countries;
- o Component II, Workshops/thematic seminars and work visits with, for instance, a focus on the processes for the establishment of asylum and reception systems/procedures;
- o Component III, EASO training in order to enhance practical capacities on matters, for instance, related to qualification for international protection and vulnerable persons, including potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

**As part of the present regional pilot project proposal and instrumentally to its full success**, EASO will build on (and go beyond) existing efforts to map initiatives under the umbrella of the RDPP NA and will channel project resources to the **development of a Pilot Project Database** application for key North African (NA) countries (in line with the present project's capacity building priorities). The type of information that the application will collect and store, will be researched/mapped and collected as part of normal EASO needs assessments and project management functions for the implementation of the present proposal. The Pilot Project Database application will provide a chance for making this information available to project partners in a technically advanced (i.e. not an excel file), user friendly and user driven, sustainable way.

**The project partners, EC/EUDs, EASO and ultimately the partner TCs, will benefit from enhanced collaboration** among project funders and implementers as the proactive use of the Pilot Project Database will lead to more effectively avoiding duplication and fostering the creation of synergies among relevant stakeholders in priority NA countries. Finally, this can also contribute to better inform monitoring and evaluation functions in view of both

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<sup>4</sup> These shall be gradually framed in a clear and jointly defined pilot regional roadmap/process for the enhancement of the target group's awareness, knowledge and capacities in the field of asylum and international protection.



internal (in EU MS, EC, EASO) reporting needs as well as for contributing to global frameworks such as the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, e.g. Goal 10, Target 10.7 and its Indicator 10.7.2 in particular)<sup>5</sup>.

With the aim of developing a Third Country Cooperation (TCC) Platform to foster EASO, EU MS, as well as EC/DG HOME/EUDs, EASO will continue working to further enhance access to asylum-related information and data as part of EASO's ongoing TCC Network-development work. As jointly defined with EU MS, the Platform will comprise the above mentioned Project Database (following a successful testing phase) and will also include other tools such as the TC Operational Platforms and the TC Overviews on asylum and reception related matters which will also be further developed and tested in parallel to the present regional pilot project, provided that EASO will have the necessary resources in place.

Finally, the present regional pilot project proposal foresees the hiring of five human resources. EASO will ensure overall coordination of the MENA portfolio through its existing statutory staff. The five additional dedicated CA FGIV/III project positions will be essential for ensuring smooth implementation of the activities foreseen in the present proposal, and for ensuring enhanced collaboration with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders such as EUDs; UNHCR; IOM; EU MS. For this purpose, EASO presence in the region and in EASO Italy (interim support) will be established, as appropriate.

➤ **Specific activities**

**Pre-implementation phase, internal EASO process (Q3-Q4 2020): Comprehensive Needs Assessment, field visits and definition of a detailed results framework**

In line with EASO's needs assessment guidelines, and as a result of the first step of the comprehensive needs assessment approach – the normative approach – EASO has identified the above two specific objectives. Before the start of the implementation phase, EASO will internally finalise the full comprehensive needs assessment and produce a draft results framework. This will prepare the grounds for the definition of the present pilot project's detailed results framework, in partnership and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders (e.g. relevant third countries; EU MS; international organisations).

In order to further define a detailed results framework and implementation matrix, the following steps are foreseen:

1. Organize a first consultation meeting with the project partners (and other international organizations, such as UNHCR and IOM) in order to:
  - 1.1. Establish a reference working group linked to the scope of the present pilot project;
  - 1.2. Discuss the scope and purpose of the regional pilot project in order to ensure buy-in and to jointly delineate a way forward.
2. Introductory field visits and needs assessments /long term missions in each targeted third country in order to (3 visits; 3 days each; 3 EASO staff):
  - 2.1. Meet relevant national stakeholders to validate identified needs and interests in the field of asylum and international protection;
  - 2.2. Meet other stakeholders, including EUDs, UNHCR and IOM country offices and other international organisations or civil society organisations (CSOs), as relevant;
  - 2.3. Discuss the scope and purpose of the project with national stakeholders in order to jointly further delineate regional actions to ensure buy-in and overall relevance of the present pilot project.

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<sup>5</sup> Indicator 10.7.2 is based on the Migration Governance Framework (MiGoF) developed by IOM. Domain 5 of the MiGoF refers specifically to 'Government measures to deliver comprehensive responses to refugees...'



3. As a result of activities 1 and 2, finalize the pilot regional roadmap – and its detailed results framework and implementation matrix - with the inputs gathered at national level in third countries, and in consultation with the project partners.

### **Implementation phase (Q1 2021-Q2 2022): carrying out of the defined activities**

With reference to specific objective 1 (see above), **Component I** refers to the organisation of regional conferences on asylum and reception related matters; **Component II** refers to the organisation of regional thematic workshops and work visits; and finally, **Component III** refers to the organisation of EASO training.

#### **Component I**

**1.1.1 First Regional Conference** North Africa-EU MS, in cooperation with relevant International organisations – topic identified as outcome of the needs assessment process (1.5/2 days; 25/30 participants; location in NA region). From a very first assessment conducted by EASO (confirmed in recent consultations with Egypt), the topic of this first Conference could be centred around the exchange of experiences on the processes behind the adoption of national asylum laws, at policy level and with a peer-to-peer approach involving all participating countries (third countries and EU MS).

As examples of the possible deliverables of the first Conference, participating countries could agree:

- To establish a senior/policy level pilot regional forum for officials (both from third countries and EU MS) who will be involved throughout the implementation phase of the present pilot project: 5 meetings organised in EU+/TCs on a rotation basis;
- On a list of up to three priority topics to be addressed through the activities outlined below.

**1.1.2 Second Regional Conference, to build on the outcome of the first, to be organised in Q3-Q4 2021** (1.5 days; 25 participants; location in NA region);

#### **Component II**

**1.1.3 Ad-hoc Regional thematic workshop** with focus on the process for the establishment of asylum systems/procedures, **and follow up work visit:**

- Two ad-hoc regional thematic workshop (1.5 days; 15-20 participants, location in NA region) on:
  - Establishment and access to the Asylum procedure (1.5 days); and
  - International protection under the CEAS: legal pillars and set-up of procedural steps (2 days);
- Two follow-up work visit to a country in North Africa and/or to a EU+ country (3-5 days; 5-7 participants), linked to the ad-hoc regional thematic workshop (possibly to a country undergoing the process of establishing an asylum system OR where this has recently been put in place).

#### **Component III**

**1.1.4 EASO training on selected topics identified** as relevant for RDPP NA countries senior level officials (5/7 participants; 2 modules/year; 3.5 days in Malta):

From a very first assessment conducted by EASO, and when complementary to already acquired knowledge, the topics of the first EASO T-t-Ts targeting senior/policy level officials, could be the following:

- Raising awareness on matters related to qualification for international protection (i.e. EASO Inclusion, Introduction to international protection and Reception training modules);
- Vulnerable persons, including potential victims of trafficking in human beings and the links with the asylum process/international protection of potential THB victims (e.g. EASO THB Module).



These activities entail, as per EASO training methodology, an online phase of two to three/four weeks and a face to face phase session of up to 3.5 days to be held in Malta or in another location within the EU. A limited number of representatives from the pilot regional forum will be able to participate (up to 5/6 in total), ensuring a balanced representation of all participating countries (in particular third countries).

**1.1.5 Regional roll-out session** (up to 4 days in total, 25 participants, location in NA region):

Following the Training-the-Trainer sessions, **two regional roll-out session per topic identified** (possibly back-to-back) will be organized in the region (2/4 days if back to back – 1/2 days per topic - location TBD), targeting relevant national authorities (up to 25 participants) from the countries involved (mainly from third countries). The number of roll-out sessions could be scaled up, depending on needs, time, resources, and languages. The sessions will be led by one national trainer (from third countries), who previously completed the EASO Training-the-Trainer sessions mentioned above. The national trainer will be supported by an EU+/EASO experienced trainer.

**Sustainability**

EASO will ensure the sustainability of the pilot phase and is foreseeing the possibility to integrate the project deliverables and linked resources in its structure, for example by including them in future EASO Single Programming Documents.



## ANNEX B

### Development Engagement Document

Project title:	Regional pilot capacity building project to enhance North--South and South-South knowledge exchanges and cooperation on asylum and reception policies and processes
Donor reference (F2)	2020 – 15608
Executing agency	European Asylum Support Office (EASO)
Beneficiaries:	Senior policy officials from North African countries (initially Egypt and Niger)
Project Site:	Valletta, Malta
Duration:	16 November 2020 – 15 November 2023 (36 months), with additional 3 months of reporting period – until 15 February 2024
Budget:	DKK 4,100,000,000 (EUR 550.616,42)

#### 1. Introduction

The present development engagement document details the objectives and management arrangements for the development cooperation concerning the Regional pilot capacity building project to enhance North-South and South-South knowledge exchanges and cooperation on asylum and reception policies and processes (hereinafter Regional Pilot project), 16 November 2020 – 15 November 2023, as agreed between the parties specified below.

The present development engagement document is annexed to the *Agreement between the European Asylum Support Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark on the modalities for the voluntary financial contribution to the EASO regional pilot capacity building project to enhance north-south and south-south knowledge exchanges and cooperation on asylum and reception policies and processes* (herein referred to as 'the Agreement'), and constitutes an integrated part hereof together with the budget. The funds are part of Denmark's dedicated support for technical assistance and capacity building in the regions of origin and on the migratory routes.

##### 1.1 Parties

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by The Inter-Ministerial Migration Task Force (MTF)

and

EASO (also referred to as 'the Grantee')

## 1.2 Documentation

- Project Agreement
- Development Engagement Document
- Budget.

## 1.3 Contributions

Denmark, represented by the Inter-ministerial Migration Task Force (MTF) of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commits to a contribution to the engagement of

4,100,000 DKK (four million one hundred thousand DKK) [EUR 550.616,42 (five hundred fifty thousand EUR)]

for 39 months (16 November 2020 – 15 February 2024)

## **2. Background**

The pilot project proposal responds to the objectives set out in the EU Regional Development and Protection Programme North-Africa (RDPP NA) Concept paper and Programme Document's Pillar 1 (Capacity Building – Strengthening Third Countries' institutional capacities to provide international protection and manage mixed migration flows), as well as to the approach outlined in Pillar 4. Within the latter it is stated the RDPP NA should promote south-south cooperation measures, in order to scale up institutional cooperation and regional synergies.

EASO updated its External Cooperation Strategy in February 2019, which sets out the legal and policy framework of EASO's external actions and the support implementation framework of EASO interventions in third countries. Actions within the RDPP NA fit within this scope both in terms of EU external relations policy framework for EASO's external actions and in terms of thematic focus on asylum.

Building on the existing stable network of EU Member States (EU MS) within the framework of the Third Country Cooperation Network (TCC Network) and the interest to contribute to the work of the Agency expressed by EU MS in that context, EASO aims at providing a concrete opportunity for the EU/DG HOME to enhance EU involvement in the implementation of the RDPP NA as a strategic programme in North Africa. The added value of an EASO project lies also in the Agency's ability to mobilise EU MS expertise efficiently, thereby giving Third Countries (TCs) access to a wide pool of EU know-how in a flexible and tailor-made manner.

The proposal builds on EASO's expertise on asylum as well as on the experience gathered in the past years in the implementation of national and regional capacity building projects with TCs, including in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). In particular, the proposal will build on EASO's current cooperation with Egypt within the framework of the EU-Egypt Migration Dialogue. In all these instances, as well as through a desk needs assessment/research, EASO identified interest from TCs in the region in enhancing opportunities for exchanges at technical level through the delivery and participation in regional trainings/seminars or in bilateral activities among countries with similar processes/plans in the field of asylum and reception.

In EASO’s experience, the synergies between the two levels (national and regional) are seen by TCs and EU MS practitioners as opportunities for achieving enhanced information sharing on how other countries in the region and in the EU deal with similar asylum-related matters. Therefore, EASO will continue striving to maintain its support at technical level targeting asylum practitioners while also maintaining a close link between TC specific support (where present – e.g., Egypt - or under investigation/development – e.g., Morocco and Tunisia) and the regional level.

### 3. Development Engagement Objective

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE** (target group: national authorities in targeted TCs):

Establishing a pilot practical cooperation forum/working group/practitioners’ network for senior/policy officials from EU+ and RDPP NA countries (initially two, as specified above), with policy and decision-making responsibilities on matters related to asylum, reception and/or international protection of refugees and asylum seekers. Representatives from relevant international organisations will also be invited, as appropriate.

The pilot practical cooperation forum/working group/practitioners’ network would aim at achieving the following **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**:

- Providing periodic senior/policy level regional exchange opportunities, such as regional conferences, regional workshops linked to work visits and EASO training (forming the three Components mentioned above, more details in the next section on Specific activities).

This will comprise three Capacity Building Components:

- Component I, Regional Conferences focused on, for instance, the drafting of national asylum laws, with the purpose of offering the opportunity to exchange experiences on a peer-to-peer level among EU MS and RDPP NA countries
- Component II, Workshops/thematic seminars and work visits with, for instance, a focus on the processes for the establishment of asylum and reception systems/procedures
- Component III, EASO training in order to enhance practical capacities on matters, for instance, related to qualification for international protection and vulnerable persons, including potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

For the Danish International Development Agency (Danida)’s reporting purposes the following key outcome and output indicators have been selected to document progress:

Project title	EASO Regional Pilot capacity building project to enhance North-South and South-South knowledge exchanges and cooperation on asylum and reception policies and processes
Project objective	Establishing a pilot practical cooperation forum/working group/practitioners' network for senior/policy officials from EU+ and RDPP NA countries (initially two, as specified above), with policy and decision-making responsibilities on matters related to asylum, reception and/or international protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

Impact Indicator		[To be finalised during inception phase]	
Baseline	Year	2020	[Situation prior to engagement activities]
Target	Year	2023	[Intended situation by the end of engagement (phase)]

Outcome 1 (Specific Objective)		Providing periodic senior/policy level regional exchange opportunities, such as regional conferences, regional workshops linked to work visits and EASO training (forming the three Components mentioned above, more details in the next section on Specific activities).	
Outcome indicator		<i>Indicators will be finalised during the project's inception phase</i>	
Baseline	Year	2020	[Situation prior to engagement activities]
Target	Year	2023	[Intended situation by the end of engagement (phase)]
Output 1		<i>Outputs will be finalised during the project's inception phase</i>	
Output indicator		<i>Output indicators will be finalised during the project's inception phase</i>	
Baseline	Year	2020	[Situation prior to engagement activity]
Annual target	Year 1	2021	[Intended situation after first year of implementation]
Annual target	Year 2	2022	[Intended situation after two years of implementation]
Annual target	Year 3	2023	[Intended situation after three years of implementation]

#### 4. Risk Management

Possible risks will be reflected in the project risk register to be developed during the inception phase.

#### 5. Inputs/budget

Project HR:	Budget breakdown EUR	Budget breakdown DKK
1 FG III - Admin/Fin Support Officer for 37 months (34+3 months of reporting period)	€ 182,500.00	1,452,009 DKK
1 FG III - Admin/Fina Support Officer for 34 months	€ 167,500.00	1,340,316 DKK
<b>Total - covered with DK contribution</b>	<b>€ 350,000.00</b>	<b>2,792,325 DKK</b>
<b>Remaining DK contribution will cover Regional Conferences over the three years</b>	<b>€ 200,600.00</b>	<b>1,307,675 DKK</b>
<b>TOTAL DK contribution</b>	<b>€ 550,600.00 (rounded)</b>	<b>4,100,000 DKK</b>

#### 6. Management arrangement

Details on the management arrangement are contained in Articles 5 and 6 of the Agreement.

## **7. Financial Management**

More information on the financial management arrangement is contained in Articles 3 to 6 of the Agreement. The grantee can utilize own rules and procedures, while adhering to the minimum requirements as stipulated in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Financial Management Guidelines for Grants channelled through Multilateral Organisations (<https://amg.um.dk/en/tools/financial-management/>).

### 7.1 Procurement of goods and services

Procurement of goods and services shall be in accordance with the applicable EU rules and regulations and adhere to Danish requirements of economy and efficiency in so far consistent with the applicable EU rules and regulations<sup>1</sup>.

### 7.2. Transfer of funds

The Contribution of DKK 4,100,000 (Four Million and One Hundred Thousand Danish Kroner only) shall be paid in two instalments by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to EASO in DKK, following the entry into force of the Agreement. The first instalment of DKK 2,6 million will be paid within 30 days from receiving the Debit note. The second and final disbursement of DKK 1,5 million will be paid following receipt of the Inception report and within 30 days from receiving the Debit note.

Any loss due to the variation of exchange rates between the grant in DKK and the currency used must be covered within the grant.

### 7.3 Accounting requirements

The accounting treatment of the Danish Contribution in the EASO Annual Accounts will be carried out in accordance with the accounting rules adopted by the European Commission's Accounting Officer which are based in the IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards). A reference to the outstanding balance of the Danish Contribution to EASO will be made in the disclosures of the annual accounts at the end of the year.

### 7.4 Financial reporting requirements

The financial report as per Article 6(2) of the Agreement to which this document is annexed shall be drawn up to the same level of detail as in the budget (reflecting any agreed changes made). The report shall clearly state the disbursements made by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the consumption and outstanding balance at the time of the reporting.

### 7.5 Unspent funds

Any unspent balance or any savings of project funds shall be returned to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) together with any interest accrued from deposit of Danish funds.

Unspent balance of funds shall be returned to the following bank account:

Danske Bank

Sort Code: 0216

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/2018/financialregulation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/2018/financialregulation_en.pdf)

Account no.: 4069172962

Swift code: DABADKKK

IBAN: DK62 0216 4069 1729 62

The refund should refer to the JobID and F.2 reference number of this agreement.<sup>2</sup>

## **8. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Details on Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting are contained in the project's documents and in Article 6 of the Agreement.

## **9. Anti-corruption clause**

No offer, payment, consideration or benefit of any kind, which could be regarded as an illegal or corrupt practice, shall be made, promised, sought or accepted - neither directly nor indirectly - as an inducement or reward in relation to activities funded under this grant, incl. tendering, award, or execution of contracts. Any such practise will be grounds for the immediate cancellation of this grant and for such additional action, civil and/or criminal, as may be appropriate. At the discretion of the Danish MFA, a further consequence of any such practise can be the definite exclusion from any projects funded by the Danish MFA.

## **10. Child labour clause**

The authority, organisation and/or consultant shall abide by the local laws and by applicable international instruments, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organisation conventions.

## **11. Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment**

The Grantee agree to ensure that the engagement is implemented in an environment free from all forms of harassment, exploitation, abuse and harassment, sexual or otherwise, especially in case of vulnerable groups. Sexual abuse is defined as actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. Sexual exploitation is defined as any actual or attempted abuse of position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. Sexual harassment is defined as any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

The above definitions are referred to as Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH).

EASO confirms:

- (1) that it has adequate policies/standards or frameworks in place to prevent SEAH<sup>3</sup>;
- (2) that all employees have been informed about these policies/standards/frameworks; and

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<sup>2</sup> JobID to be provided by the MTF

<sup>3</sup> In line/adherence with the Inter Agency Standing Committee's Minimum Operating Standard on prevention of SEA and/or the elements on prevention of SEA of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability

- (3) that there are appropriate SEAH reporting procedures and complain mechanisms in the organisation including the protection of victims of SEAH and that prompt and adequate action is taken if SEAH is observed, reported or suspected.

In case the development engagement includes subgrantees, the grantee is responsible for ensuring the prevention of SEAH also at the level of subgrantee.

MFA has zero-tolerance towards SEAH and will consider non-adherence to point 1, 2 and 3 as grounds for immediate termination of grant.

## **12. Prerequisites**

The Danish cooperation with the implementing partner will commence on the date of the signature and entry into force of the Agreement to which this document is annexed, by the by the duly authorized representatives of both Parties. The Agreement shall have retroactive effect as of 16 November 2020 (as per Article 4 thereof).

**EASO regional pilot project for North Africa (implemented under the umbrella of the RDPP NA)**

**Implementation timeframe: 16 Nov 2020 - 15 Nov 2023 (TBC)**

**Reporting period 16 Nov 2023 - 15 Feb 2024 (TBC)**

Breakdown of activities	Estimated cost		
	CZ funding	DK funding	EASO Project Funds
<b>Human Resources</b>			
Three full time EASO staff (CA FGIV): - 1 CA FGIV for the implementation+reporting period; - 2 CA FGIVs for the implementation period.	€ 550.000,00		
Two full time EASO staff (CA FGIII): - 1 CA FGIII for the implementation+reporting period; - 1 CA FGIII for the implementation period.		€ 350.000,00	
Administrative Agreement with EUD and long term mission			€ 100.999,96
<b>Pre-implementation phase: comprehensive needs assessment, field visits and definition of a detailed results framework</b>			
Introductory field visits and needs assessments in each targeted third country (starting with EG and NE)			€ 55.000,00
<b>Specific objective - Providing periodic senior/policy level regional exchange opportunities</b>			
Possible Consultancies (including for needs assessment phase; Projects Database; etc. - TBC based on needs)			€ 85.000,00
<b>COMPONENT 1 - Regional Conference North Africa-EU MS</b>			
First Regional Conference North Africa-EU MS in NA region		€ 60.000,00	
Second Regional Conference North Africa-EU MS in NA region		€ 60.000,00	
Third Regional Conference		€ 60.000,00	
<b>COMPONENT 2 - Regional thematic workshops and work visits</b>			
First Ad-hoc regional thematic workshop in NA region			€ 60.000,00
Second Ad-hoc regional thematic workshop in NA region			€ 60.000,00
First follow-up work visit to a country in North Africa and/or to a EU MS		€ 20.600,00	€ 10.000,00
Second follow-up work visit to a country in North Africa and/or to a EU MS			€ 30.000,00
Third d-hoc regional thematic workshop in NA region			€ 60.000,00
Third follow-up work visit to a country in North Africa and/or to a EU MS			€ 30.000,00
<b>COMPONENT 3 - EASO training curriculum on selected topics</b>			
EASO T-t-T targeting senior/policy level officials			€ 40.000,00
Regional roll-out sessions in NA (one/year)			€ 240.000,00
<b>Projects Data Base</b>			
Possible Consultancies (TBC based on needs)			€ 45.000,00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€ 550.000,00</b>	<b>€ 550.600,00</b>	<b>€ 815.999,96</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>€ 1.916.599,96</b>		