

THE ROLE OF EUAA ROADMAPS - COOPERATION FOR PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

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Roadmap for cooperation between EASO and Western Balkan countries in the field of asylum

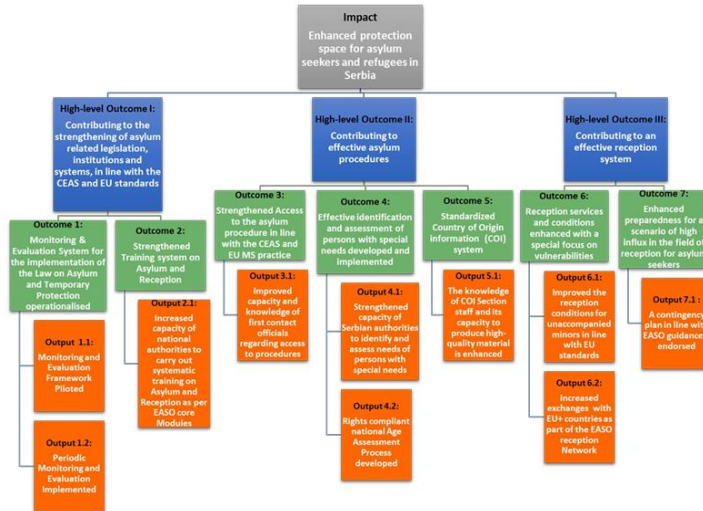
The Roadmaps are instruments of the European Union that contribute to a greater harmonization of the asylum and reception systems at the regional level of the Balkan states, with the asylum system of the European Union

The European Union Asylum Agency has so far signed 6 Roadmaps with the Balkan countries, namely:

- North Macedonia (2020 – 2022)
- Serbia (2020 – 2022)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (2020 – 2022)
- Albania (2020 – 2022)
- Montenegro (2022 – 2023)
- Kosovo (2022 – 2024)


**EASO's support to
Western Balkans &
non-EU countries**

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION?



The priority areas for cooperation are:

1. strengthening access to the asylum system in line with the CEAS,
2. strengthening the quality of decision-making in the first instance in line with CEAS,
3. strengthening the capacities of national authorities to identify, ascertain and respond to the needs of children;
4. strengthening the reception system aligned with EU and CEAS reception standards.





ACHIEVED RESULTS : *Strengthening access to the asylum system in line with the CEAS*

Under the first priority area, national legislative systems are mainly aligned with European legislation. In this sense, all Balkan states have in the period between 2018 and 2020 adopted new laws on Asylum and International Protection in accordance with EU law. However, further alignment is needed after according to New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

ACHIEVED RESULTS: Strengthening the quality of decision-making in the first instance in line with CEAS

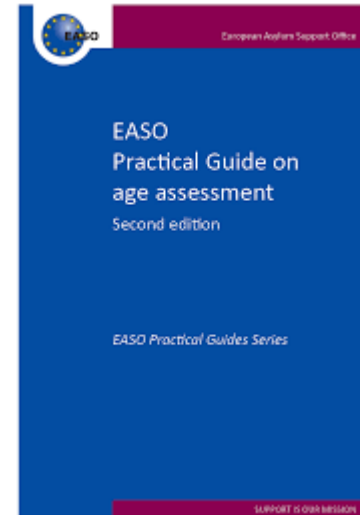
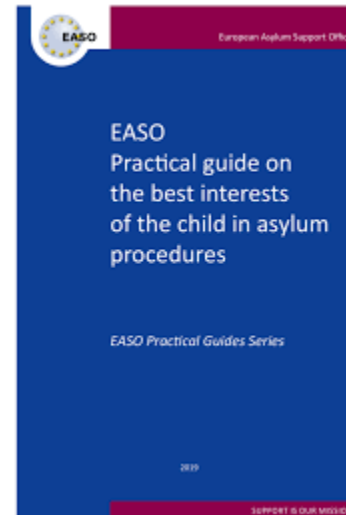
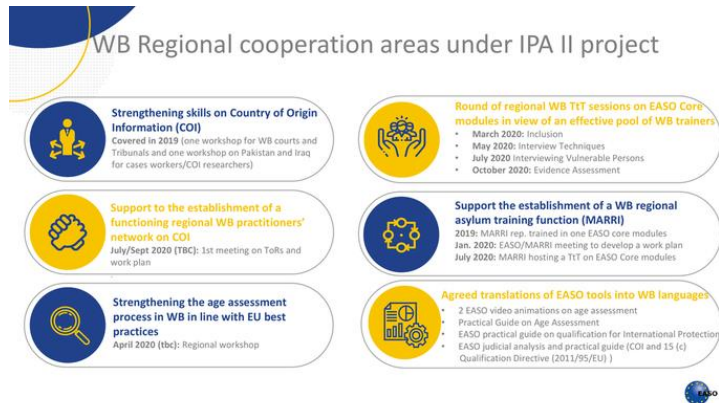


the European Agency has organized various meetings, on job coaching, various training and training courses, conferences, seminars at regional level to strengthen the expertise and technical capacity of agents to practice and correctly implement the procedures related to the asylum request.

Also, the Agency has translated crucial documents in matter of asylum and migration into all the languages of the Balkan countries, such as Practical Guides on Personal Interviews, Assessment of Evidence, Requirements for International Protection, Practical Guide on Exclusion, etc.



ACHIEVED RESULTS: *Strengthening the capacities of national authorities to identify, ascertain and respond to the needs of children*



Under this priority area, the European agency for asylum has translated EASO practical guidelines concerning protection of children and vulnerable persons, and moreover it has conducted series of training activities an on-job coaching, seeking to strengthening the capacities of personnel in Reception centers and in the Border Police



ACHIEVED RESULTS: *Strengthening the reception system aligned with EU and CEAS reception standards.*



- *Montenegro was one of the first countries from the Western Balkans, that has implemented the Temporary Protection Directive in line with EU Law.*
- *Around 10.000 requests for have been granted to Ukrainian refugees*
- *In this sense, the Agency has contributed significantly to assist authorities from Western Balkan countries on how to implement the Directive*



CONCLUSIONS

External evaluation of the EUAA's Roadmap as an instrument for cooperation with third countries – learning from Western Balkan partnerships

November 2022

General evaluation:

...The evaluation found that the Roadmaps, as a framework for cooperation between the Agency and third countries, were not only highly relevant to meet the needs of national counterparts, but also as a broader framework that outlines long-term strategic priorities for cooperation

See (EUAA/EVAL/2022/14/FR; Final draft)

Recommendation 1: Further facilitate and encourage operational cooperation between Member States and Western Balkan countries

Recommendation 2: Reconsider the format of the cooperation with partner third countries

Recommendation 3: Reconsider the approach to staffing the planning and implementation of the Roadmaps

Recommendation 4: Clarify the Agency's new mandate and limitations to the types of support it can provide to third countries

Thank you for your attention!

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