

EASO guidance on contingency planning in the context of reception

Following the release of its [EASO Guidance on reception conditions: operational standards and indicators](#) in December 2016, EASO has just issued the [EASO guidance on contingency planning in the context of reception](#).

The high-influx situation in 2015 and 2016 has exposed the need for EU + states to be better prepared to deal with disproportionate numbers of asylum seekers. Reception authorities need to strengthen their ability to cope with possible volatile situations that can put reception systems under high pressure. Contingency planning ensures a rapid and well-thought-out response to any extreme situation or event. As a result, contingency planning should always be undertaken when there is a risk or a high probability that a high-influx situation may occur.

The purpose of this guidance is multiple: It is meant 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. It is also a tool 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.

The Guidance focuses on key aspects of contingency planning in the field of reception, through an integral approach, notably on monitoring and evaluation, risk analysis, management and decision making process. The standards included in the document reflect existing and commonly agreed practice across EU Member States, as well as good practices identified across the EU. This is a framework for contingency planning including guidance and the sharing of best practices in order to enhance preparedness for emergencies.

The development process of the Guidance followed a consultative approach, aimed at gathering expertise from Member States and other relevant actors in the field of reception. The draft document was developed by a working group of experts from EU Member States with the support of a reference group consisting of the European Commission, the UNHCR and the Red Cross EU office.

The Guidance is available in English on the EASO website at: <https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-guidance-contingency-planning-2018.pdf>

The document is currently being translated into 22 EU languages, which will be made available on the Agency's website in the coming months.