



Support is our mission

*European Asylum Support Office
Bureau Européen d'Appui pour l'Asile*

CF 01

EASO CONSULTATIVE FORUM
Call for expression of interest

Legal Basis:

In line with Article 51 of Regulation (EU) 439/2010, EASO will be setting up a Consultative Forum. This Forum shall constitute a mechanism for the exchange of information and pooling of knowledge between EASO and civil society organisations and relevant bodies operating in the field of asylum policy.

Context:

Civil society operating in the field of asylum is characterised by a considerable number of active and diverse organisations. All of these organisations can be relevant to the different aspects of the work of EASO. The Consultative Forum will be open to relevant stakeholders in accordance with EASO Regulation. EASO shall address the members of the Consultative Forum in accordance with specific needs related to areas identified as priority for EASO's work. In particular, EASO will call upon the Consultative Forum to make suggestions on the annual work programme, to provide feedback and suggest measures as follow-up to the annual report, and to communicate conclusions and recommendations of conferences, seminars and meetings relevant to the work of EASO.

Methods of consultation:

EASO will consult relevant civil society through various means throughout the year. The Consultative Forum shall meet in plenary at least once every year. Expert meetings, workshops and specific consultations including internet consultations, will also be used. These methodologies will become the ordinary way of consultation.

Selection of participants:

Given the very large number of potentially relevant organisations and their diverse nature, and in order to ensure an efficient and effective approach, EASO will select participants to its various consultative activities using the EASO Consultative Forum Register (ECFR). Organisations and bodies interested in registering should fill in the attached application form (CF 02) and send it by email to home-easo-consultative-forum@ec.europa.eu. A flexible composition, adapted according to the topics being discussed, will be adopted for the different EASO Consultative Forum activities. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance** – of the organisation's participation vis-à-vis the theme(s) discussed by the Consultative Forum.
- **Knowledge and Expertise** – degree of knowledge and expertise in the area(s) being dealt with by the Consultative Forum.

- **Availability** – of the organisation to get involved in the work of the Consultative Forum.
- **Involvement at national and EU level** – degree of involvement of the organisation in the relevant area(s) at national and EU level (European orientation).
- **Affiliation** – of the organisation in relevant networks/groups.
- **Relationship** – of the organisation with EASO and/or involvement in EU Practical cooperation measures/training/academic activities in the field of asylum.

An advisory group will support the EASO Executive Director, amongst other things, to advise on the selection participants for the different EASO Consultative Forum activities.

First plenary meeting of the EASO Consultative Forum:

The first plenary meeting of the EASO Consultative Forum will take place on 15 December 2011 in Valletta, Malta. Between 75 and 100 participants, including representatives from 27 Member States, UNHCR, European Commission, European and International Organisations will be invited. The draft agenda of the meeting (CF 03) is attached.

EASO will select participants from the ECFR. Those selected will be informed in writing by 25 November 2011.

Costs:

The EASO will cover the costs of the conference facilities and meals foreseen in the agenda of the meeting. Participants will pay for their own travel and accommodation expenses.
