



Concept Note

Study on Quality of RSD interviewing and decision-making

HUNBU/RFQ/2020/008
31 August 2020

Background of the study

The Regional Representation of UNHCR in Central Europe intends to carry out a study in order to analyse the quality of refugee status determination (RSD) in Slovenia. In particular, the study will analyse the quality of decision-making and interview techniques.

Objectives of the study

High quality refugee status determination procedures are a prerequisite for refugee protection. In order to ensure that refugees can exercise their rights under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention), and – specifically in an EU context – their rights under the Qualification Directive, it is essential to know if an individual is entitled to these rights.

As part of its supervisory responsibility under Article 35 of the 1951 Convention, UNHCR supports signatory States around the world to develop and improve asylum systems and related legal frameworks. UNHCR's collaboration with asylum authorities includes the review of asylum decisions and related processes with a view to maintaining high quality standards of refugee status determination.

Specific objectives

The study will comprise a quality review of first instance decisions rendered by the Slovenian asylum authority between July 2017 and December 2019. The main focus of the review will be on the analysis of claims including establishment of relevant facts, identification of harm or persecution, credibility assessment, legal analysis, country of origin information, vulnerability and best interests considerations and application of relevant laws. The study will further require the attendance of a number of interviews with asylum applicants, including children, in order to assess the quality of interview techniques used.

Expected outputs

The expected output consists of a report on the basis of the assessment, as well as a set of recommendations aimed at improving the quality of interviewing and decision-making in the asylum procedure in Slovenia.

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| Expected results | Based on the results of this study, UNHCR will be able to assist the Government of Slovenia with targeted capacity building regarding RSD. The expected outcome is the improved quality of the RSD procedure in Slovenia. |
| Methodology for study | <p>The methodology shall include the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of written asylum decisions, taking into account the Slovenian national legal framework as well as the UNHCR Procedural Standards for Refugee Status Determination Under UNHCR's Mandate; • Attending asylum interviews held by the Migration Office with applicants for international protection and analysing the quality of interview techniques used, based on the PEACE model. |
| | The service provider may further develop the proposed methodology. |
| Duration of project | 15 October 2020 – 15 March 2021 |
| Budget | 10,000 USD |