

European Asylum Curriculum

A Vocational Training Program for
the Asylum Process in Europe

Objectives and Content



Funded by the
European Commission





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Introduction

The European Asylum Curriculum (EAC) is a EU Member State initiative intending to enhance the capacity and quality of the European asylum process as well as to strengthen practical cooperation among the European asylum/immigration systems. With the motto “Knowledge and skills for protection in Europe” the cooperation between the Odysseus Academic Network and the Swedish, Dutch, Czech and Spanish Immigration Services aims to create a European Asylum Curriculum (EAC), which will provide common vocational training for employees of the Immigration and Asylum Services in Europe. The EAC project is executed under the auspices of the General Directors’ Immigration Services Conference (GDISC).

The asylum systems of the EU Member States have undergone major changes in order to approximate their laws and practice. What was once an area of essentially national concern has become an international issue following the introduction of several EU legal instruments on asylum. Further harmonisation is on the horizon through the establishment of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) by the year 2010, as envisaged by the Council of Ministers in the Hague Programme on Asylum.

In addition to promoting CEAS via regulations, and emphasised by the European Commission in their Communication on practical cooperation (COM (2006)67), training for asylum service personnel is crucial. Moreover, a joint training initiative is instrumental in achieving a common asylum procedure since it introduces practical cooperation, shared knowledge and consensus on core issues. Drawing on the expertise of governmental, inter-governmental and non governmental organisation, a common European training tool is likely to result in greater consistency and higher quality in decision and policymaking, thus increasing the likelihood of a fairer and more efficient procedure. It will also be cost effective by sharing existing knowledge and materials.





Although the European countries are the primary focus for EAC, the Curriculum will also be a useful tool for candidate countries. A final EAC will provide candidate countries with an applicable instrument to update and adjust their asylum procedure to attain the required European standard. The Curriculum will furthermore offer a useful tool for the European capacity building support to “third countries” in the field of migration and asylum. The cost efficiency of such a comprehensive use of EU funding and resources will therefore be significant.

The EAC Concept

Based on EU legislation on asylum and relevant international norms as well as existing developments and experiences from various learning strategies among the European states, EAC aspires to create a learning tool for the advancement of both knowledge and skills among officials working with asylum issues. The main objective is to provide the European countries with a “tool-box” that allows them to “pick and choose” from the modules in the curriculum based on their particular training needs. Each country may thus use the modules in EAC as a foundation for their own training in accordance with their specific needs. For countries less experienced in organising asylum training the curriculum demonstrates a suggested “learning path” (see further page 8-9).

The EAC primarily targets officials working on asylum issues (case officers), yet some of the modules are valuable also at management and policy levels which is indicated under the heading “target group” in each of the modules. Training is offered for new members of staff (initial level) as well as for more experienced officials (advanced level).

Practical and Interactive

Another objective for EAC is to provide a practical approach to training in the field of asylum, and for that reason the Curriculum offers an interaction between training in knowledge (theory related to international and European legal instruments) and skills (the necessary practical competences for a case officer). This interaction is visualised in the “learning path” (see page 8-9), with green representing modules on knowledge and yellow representing modules on skills. The difference between initial and advanced levels is visualised through a darker nuance of the initial levels background colour.

The practical approach is furthermore evident in the various training methods. The so-called case-based method will be utilised in several of the modules. Real as well as fictional cases will let the trainee manage asylum cases with various challenges correlating to practice and theory. Several of the knowledge modules will be based on self-training and will consequently require active participation by the trainees. The trainees will for instance learn basic elements themselves via e-training methods, mainly over the Internet. Interactive learning methods such as “questions and answers”, exchanges of ideas through web-forums (under the supervision/ tutoring of the trainer), videos etc. will be utilised during e-training as well as during face-to-face sessions between the trainer and the trainees. Role-play is another technique that will be applied and so will the “train the trainers method”. A group of trainers from the European countries could be provided an initial training, and once they have received the training they will be able to implement the modules in their national administration in accordance with relevant national legislation.

The specific content and methods for each module will however be decided in more detail when developing the modules, thus allowing further input from existing experience and expertise as well as the target group. It may also be noted that a trainer’s manual will be developed along with the modules. Yet the methods considered so far are presented under each modules in this Curriculum.

Input from the target group

The GDISC countries have contributed to the development of EAC both via the survey on their national training situation and training systems (part of the needs assessment), as well as through their active participation during the EAC Conference in Madrid, June 2006. During the Conference workshops on the content, methods and implementation, participants emphasised their need for a practical training tool focusing both on knowledge and skills. The countries expressed their interest in testing the first modules and providing further input into the development of the remaining modules, both with expertise engaged in developing the modules as well as via an evaluation.

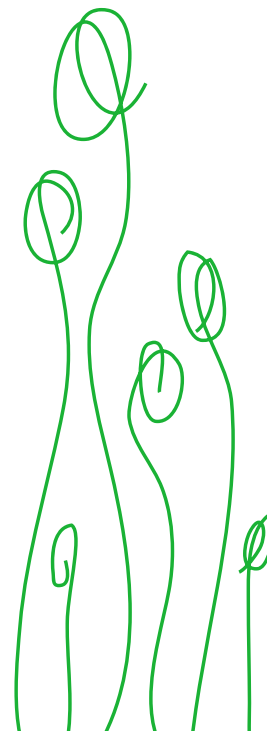


Future Development and Implementation

The modules presented at this stage are quite general and allow for further input during the actual development. As suggested by the Madrid Conference, the modules on International Refugee Law and Human Rights, Inclusion and Interview Techniques will be prioritised and developed during the next project phase. (Project phase II is expected to start in the beginning of 2007 – depending of the availability of EU funding).

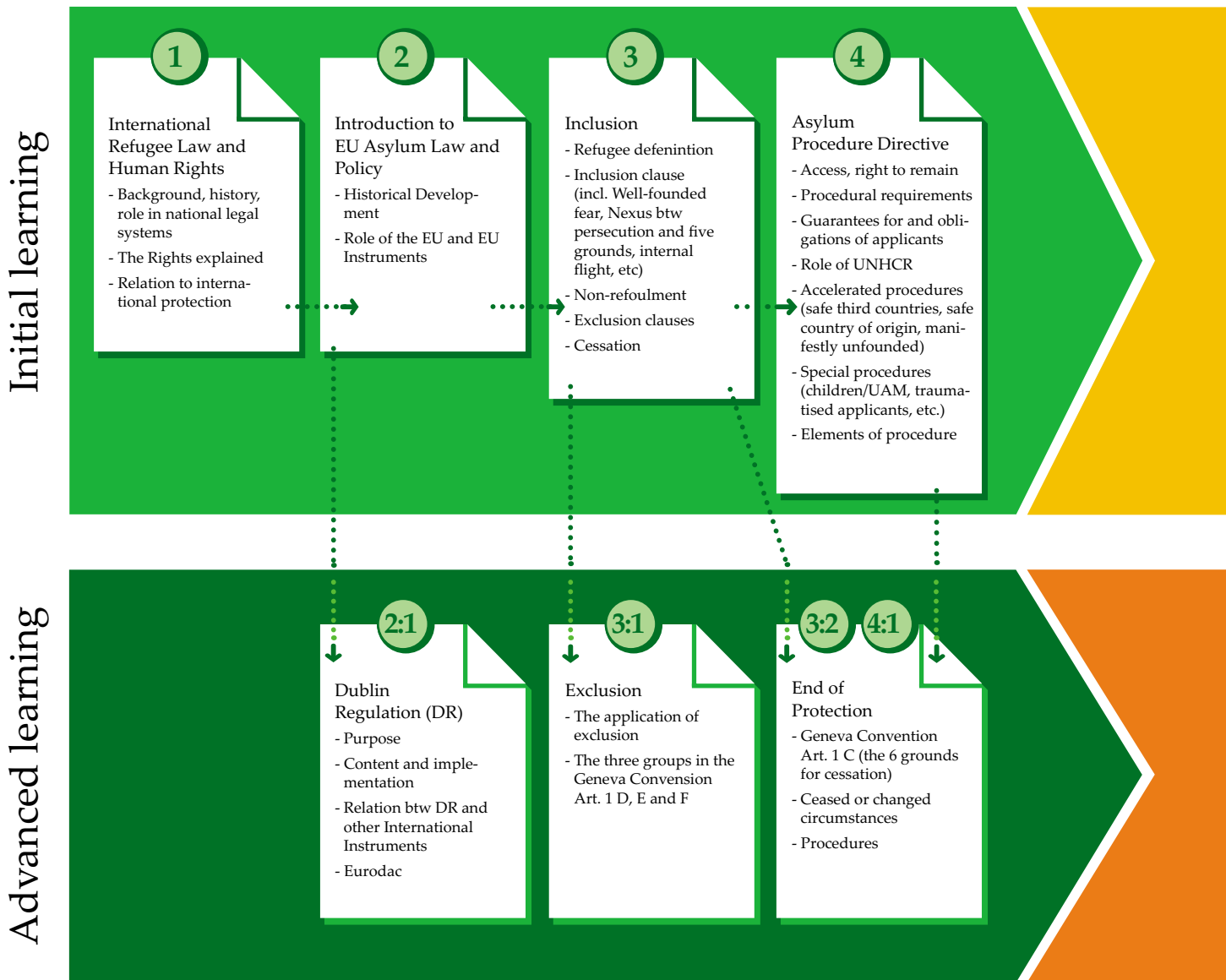
The EAC will in other words be elaborated further and the modules will be produced with support from the European countries' experiences and expertise as well as with input from relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. Moreover, the practitioners feedback when "testing" the modules will be essential. By the end of project phase I (November 2006), the pilot module on EU Law will be finalised and available for testing. The GDISC countries will be encouraged to test the module and provide feedback for the further development of EAC, a strategy that will ensure that EAC corresponds to the training needs amongst the target group. Based on the response from the countries, EAC could also be developed to meet the training needs at management and policy levels in line with their specific competencies.

To maintain EAC as a flexible and evolving instrument subject to periodic review and evaluation, coordination and update is vital. At the time of writing there is no final decision on how such coordination will be managed, yet several options exists which will be further discussed along with the development of EAC. Another matter of importance is of course language. EAC is being developed in English and although English could be applicable for a test group and possibly the fist trainers group (see the "train the trainers method" mentioned above), it is unlikely to be the most suitable language in most national settings. If translation needs to be effected as part of the overall coordination or in any other form, and if any EU funding is available, this is another important consideration. Input and suggestions from the target group/countries would be most appreciated in these matters as well as for the overall development of EAC.



Learning Path

..... Knowledge



Skills



International Refugee Law and Human Rights

1



The recognition of the right to freedom, justice and peace provides the foundation for the Human Rights instruments. The recognition of these rights furthermore constitutes the basis for the right to seek asylum as well as the obligation of the State to try the individual's asylum claims in a fair procedure. It is therefore essential for all officials working with the asylum procedure to have basic knowledge of Human Rights.

This module provides an overview of the basic Human Rights instruments and their relevance for refugee protection and subsidiary protection.

Target Group

Case officers, managers and policy makers.

Entry Level

Basic knowledge in asylum matters.

Content

This module provides knowledge on the broader refugee protection regime, on which EU asylum policy and legislation is based. The following subjects are addressed:

- Human Rights considerations in migratory movements and refugee protection.
- The historical overview of major developments in international refugee law.
- The definition of refugees in international instruments, the 1951 Geneva Convention in particular, and the interpretation challenges of the 1951 Convention
- The importance of the principles: Non-refoulement, non-discrimination and non-criminalisation of refugees.
- Defining the notions of exclusion and cessation.
- Status of recognised refugees in relation to debate on the right of asylum.
- The relevance of the 1951 Convention in a contemporary context.
- Obligations of States under other Human Rights instruments such as CAT, ICCPR, CRC and others, but in particular the European Convention on Human Rights and its relationship to the 1951 Geneva Convention.
- Subsidiary protection, definition and its relations to Human Rights instrument.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

- Human Rights aspects of migration processes.
- The fundamentals of refugee protection in international law.
- The key provisions of the 1951 Geneva Convention.
- The relationship between the 1951 Geneva Convention and other Human Rights instruments.
- The importance of Human Rights instruments for refugee protection and subsidiary protection

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Apply the key principles of refugee law.
- Identify and assess situations where overlooking Human Rights aspects in dealing with refugees may entail non-compliance with international Human Rights instruments.

Methods

Case studies combined with E-learning, self-assessment tests, written assignments/papers, discussions, and audio-visual materials.



Introduction to EU Asylum Law and

2



This module provides an overview of the legal and institutional framework of asylum issues within the European Union. An outline of the historical developments within the EU in the field of asylum is presented.

Target Group

Case officers and policy makers.

Entry Level

Basic knowledge in European Law and asylum matters.

Content

This module contains five sub-modules on the following:

- Introduction to EC Law (sources and institutions).
- The building of the institutional framework for the Asylum Policy
- The legal acquis regarding the Asylum Policy
- The operational support for the asylum policy
- The external dimension of the asylum policy

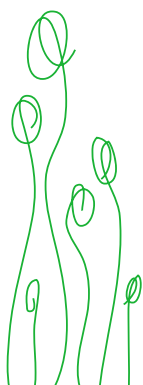
Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

- The way the European Asylum Policy developed and its perspectives for the future.
- The impact of the institutional framework on the content of the first generation of legal instruments.
- The content and objectives of the constitutive elements of the EU acquis regarding asylum, including the question of burden sharing.
- The implementation of the European Asylum Policy through Member State cooperation and financial programmes.
- The discussion about the external dimensions of asylum.
- How the EU Law affects the National Law in general.

Methods

E-learning-based lectures combined with case studies, audio-visual materials self-assessment tests, written assignments/short papers, discussions under the supervision of the trainer.



Inclusion

3

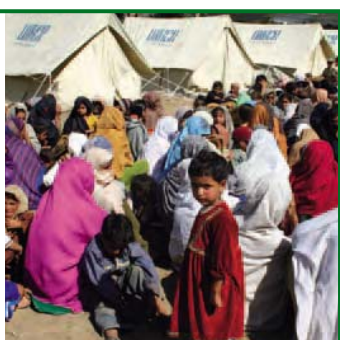


Photo by UNHCR

After the introductory modules on International Refugee Law and Human Rights as well as EU-Law, initial knowledge on the international legal instruments dealing with refugee protection and subsidiary protection has been provided. In addition, the module on Inclusion provides training on the interpretation and use of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its relation to the EU Qualification Directive. The module furthermore includes the definition of and qualification for subsidiary protection.

Target Group

Case officers, managers and policy makers.

Entry Level

Knowledge in International Refugee Law and Human Rights as well as EU Law.

Content

This module provides knowledge at an initial level on the definition of refugees in the Geneva Convention (1951). The following subjects will be addressed:

- The objective and subjective dimensions of “well-founded fear”.
- Definitions of persecution according to the UNHCR’s Handbook and the EU Qualification Directive.
- Convention reasons: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, and particular social group.
- The nexus between persecution (well-founded fear) and Convention reasons.
- Outside the country of his/her nationality (refugee “sur place”).
- Unable or unwilling to avail himself/herself protection of the country (agents of persecution, the role of State authorities, “agents of protection”, internal flight alternative).
- Non-refoulement under Article 33.
- Right to remain in the country Article 31.
- Subsidiary protection.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

- The definition of refugees.

At the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Apply the definition to particular cases.
- Identify more complex cases whose assessment needs additional knowledge/experience.

Methods

Case studies combined with E-learning, self-assessment tests, written assignments/short papers, discussions and the use of audio-visual materials. The UNHCR’s handbook will be applied.



Asylum Procedure Directive

4



In the conclusion from the European Councils meeting in Tampere, October 1999, it was provided that a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) should include common standards for fair and efficient asylum procedures in the Member states. The minimum norms laid down in the Councils Directive on procedures in Member States for granting or withdrawing refugee status was the first measure on a common procedure (2005/85/EC).

The main objective for this directive is to introduce a minimum framework within the Community on procedures for granting and withdrawing refugee status. This module will therefore provide participants with knowledge on the minimum norms (most of which are binding for Member States from December 1, 2007).

Target Group

Case officers, manager and policy makers.

Entry Level

Knowledge in International Refugee Law and Human Rights, as well as EU Law and national asylum procedures.

Content

This module provides knowledge at an initial level on the main minimum standards, principles and guaranties that all member states shall implement in their national asylum procedures in accordance with the Council Directives on minimum standards on procedure.

Objectives

Part I

At the end of this part of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

- Access to the (asylum) procedure and the right to remain in the country during the procedure.
- The requirements for procedures (individual, confidentiality, objective- impartial and requirement for decisions – in writing and with reasons).
- The guarantees for applicants (language, interpreter, communication with UNHCR, etc.)
- The obligations of the State as expressed in the Qualification Directive, the Procedures Directive, as well as the correlation to other international Human Rights instruments (such as CAT, ICCPR, CRC, the European Convention on Human Rights).

- The applicant's right to legal assistance (e.g. the right to contact and be represented by a lawyer), and the scope of legal assistance.
- The applicant's obligations (to report in person without delay, to hand over documents, to inform about residence, etc.).
- Withdrawal of application (e.g. applicant absconds/disappears).
- The role of UNHCR.

Part II

At the end of this part of the training participants know about:

- Initial asylum Procedures (accelerated procedures and special procedures).
- Personal interview and the status of report.
- Guarantees for unaccompanied children (assisted by representative, specially trained interviewer etc.).
- Detention of applicant.

Methods

Case studies combined with E-learning, self-assessment tests, the use of audio-visual materials, written assignments/short papers, and discussions.

Country of Origin Information

5



Country of Origin Information (COI) is information that assists case officers in answering questions about the political, social, cultural, economic, humanitarian and human rights situation in the applicant's country. COI is consequently an important tool for the Refugee Status Determination procedure (RSD). COI should serve as a preparatory instrument for the interview as well as documentary evidence for assessing credibility and objective fear in the specific case.

The main objective of this module is to provide participants with an adequate understanding of the importance of COI in the RSD process. The module will also provide participants with practical experience on how to work with COI, as well as knowledge in the quality standards and how to assess the sources of information.

Target Group

Case officers.

Entry Level

Knowledge in International Refugee Law and Human Rights.

Content

This module aims to impart knowledge and initial skills about the role of COI in the context of Refugee Status Determination (RSD). The need of COI in the asylum procedure will be elaborated and participants will be trained on working with COI.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

- The COI role in the RSD. They will have an overview and background about the importance of COI in the asylum procedure.
- The standards of quality concerning COI and COI research.
- The importance of COI evidence and its relation to standards of proof in both first and subsequent asylum procedures.
- Public versus non-public information (transparency in COI).

At the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Identify needs for relevant information.
- Identify sources and evaluate their objectivity and credibility.
- Define COI needs in relation to claims.
- Use COI information in practice.

Methods

Case studies during which participants will practise different COI-assessment activities. In-depth studies and exercises for research on COI.

Interview Techniques

6



When an asylum seeker enters a country and applies for asylum, the asylum authority in that country has to assess if the asylum seeker meets the requirements for protection. In other words, to reach a correct assessment of the applicant's claims, the asylum seeker must be interviewed by the asylum authority (a case officer). During the interview the case officer shall identify the applicant's claims for asylum.

The objective of the training in Interview Techniques is therefore to provide participants with the necessary skills to conduct an interview in order to receive all information needed to determine refugee status, and to conduct the interview in an appropriate and respectful manner.

Target group

Case officers.

Entry level

Knowledge in International Refugee Law and Human Rights as well as Subsidiary Protection. Participants must have observed at least 5 interviews.

Content

This module provides skills on an initial level about interview techniques. Taking notes and compiling a report will be part of the training as well as how to deal with interpreters.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Use specific interview techniques.
- Prepare an interview.
- Achieve a good balance between the form and the content in an interview (i.e. to gather specific information and to be able to steer the interview).
- Importance of asking asylum seekers about contradictions as a way to clarify inconsistency.
- Recognise traumatised persons and to involve a specialized interviewer/special competence.
- Take notes during the interview and finalise them in a report.
- Deal with interpreters and other third parties.
- Deal with cultural differences and gender aspects.

At the end of the training participants will be aware of:

- The context of the interview (i.e. the role of interpreters, interviewers and the asylum seeker's dependant position).
- Their own attitudes.
- The effect the case officer's own actions and attitudes may have on the asylum seeker as well as the interview process.
- That the primer task for case officers is to impartially gather required information and treat the asylum seeker with respect.

Methods

To stimulate the expenditure of the repertoire of actions, the trainer will use role-play based on real cases.

Evidence Assessment

7



Evidence assessment constitutes an important and integral part of the Refugee Status Determination procedure (RSD). The fact-finding process within the RSD procedure is not completed until a wide range of evidence has been obtained and examined. The validity of any evidence and the credibility of the applicant's statements need to be assessed in relation to relevant facts of the individual case.

This module will assist the case officer in identifying reliable evidence in order to reach a well-considered decision on international protection.

Target Group

Case officers.

Entry Level

Knowledge in International Refugee Law and Human Rights as well as EU Law and COI.

Content

This module provides knowledge and skills on an initial level about the assessment of evidence in the asylum process. It pays attention to the assessment of the applicant's credibility and the way objective and subjective factors can influence this process. Awareness of cultural, gender, and linguistic differences will also be addressed.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

- Different ways of assessing evidence.
- Subjective and objective factors in assessing credibility.
- Inconsistencies and contradictions in interviews.
- Benefit of a doubt aspect.
- How to use expert and/or medical evidence.
- The impact of torture.
- Gender, cultural and linguistic differences.

At the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Ascertain and evaluate relevant facts concerning a case.
- Reach a well-considered decision on credibility and need of international protection.

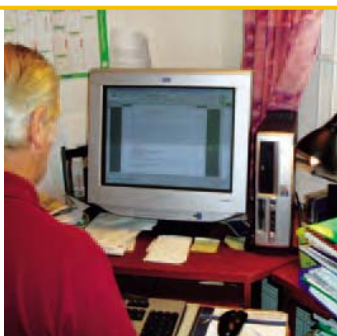
Methods

Case-based learning: Discussing cases combined with E-learning sessions, role-play etc.



Drafting and Decision-Making

8



At the end of the process of gathering information, a decision on the status of the asylum seeker shall be reached. Can the asylum seeker stay (temporary), or does he/she have to return to his/her country of origin?

The objective of the module on "Drafting and Decision Making" is to teach participants how to make accurate decisions, based on the information gathered and in accordance with the requirements in the Procedures Directive. The aim is also to teach participant how to draft decisions in a legally correct and, for the applicant, comprehensible manner.

Target group

Case officers.

Entry level

Participants need to have (some) experience as a case officer.

Content

This module provides skills on an initial level to formulate and motivate the decision in accordance with the requirements of the directive.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

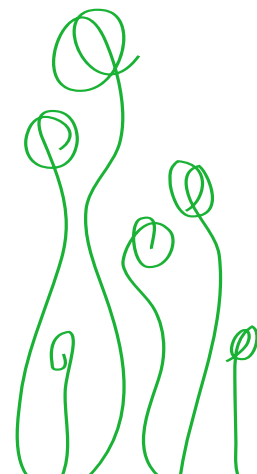
- The necessary components in a decision.
- The requirements of the directive.
- How to deal with special circumstances in asylum procedures (confidentiality, several family members, etc.).

At the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Use the requirements of the directive in specific case of the asylum seeker.
- Argue in a juridical correct, logical and understandable manner and put them down in writing.
- Identify the characteristics of a strong decision.
- Identify the characteristics of a weak decision.
- Demonstrate awareness of the pitfalls in their arguments.

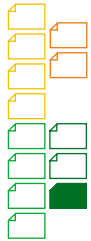
Methods

Theoretical lectures will be alternated with case-based learning, discussions, and written assignments. The preparatory phase can be done through E-learning.



Dublin Regulation

2:1



The European Council agreed in Tampere to work towards establishing a Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Article 63 of the Amsterdam Treaty stated that the Council should adopt several measures concerning asylum issues in a period of 5 years, including minimum standards on the criteria and mechanisms for determining which Member State is responsible for considering an application for asylum submitted by a national of a third country in one of the Member State.

This module will provide the participants with knowledge and skills on fundamental issues concerning the application of the binding Dublin Regulation.

Target Group

Case officers.

Entry Level

Knowledge in International Refugee Law and Human Rights as well as EU Law.

Content

This module provides knowledge and skills at an advanced level on the Dublin Regulation and the way it operates. Training will be provided on how to work with the EURODAC database and the electronic network “DUBLINET”.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

- The purpose and content of the Dublin Regulation.
- The specific aspects of the Dublin Regulation (family reunification, Unaccompanied Minor Asylum seekers (UMA's), humanitarian clause, time-limits).
- Relation between Dublin Regulation and other international instruments (Geneva Convention, ECHR, bilateral readmission agreement made between Member States etc.)

At the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Determine which Member State is responsible to apply the specific criteria in a spirit of justice and understanding for examining an asylum application.
- Use EURODAC and “DUBLINET”.

Methods

Case studies will be performed in a training environment in which the participant can practice on “DUBLINET” and EURODAC. A possible trainee-ship will allow the trainee to experience the practical use of EURODAC and the “DUBLINET”. The preparatory phase can be done through E-learning.

Exclusion

3:1



The 1951 Geneva Convention was never intended to protect all persons in all circumstances. The Convention contains provision for when persons, who would otherwise qualify as refugees, are considered not to be in need of protection. These so called “exclusion clauses” are found in Article 1, section D, E and F of the 1951 Convention.

This module will provide the participants with knowledge on how to interpret and implement the exclusion clauses, including the importance of considering a restrictive use due to the serious consequences exclusion has for the individual.

Target group

Case officers and Policy Makers.

Entry level

Knowledge in International Refugee Law and Human Rights as well as Inclusion/Subsidiary Protection. Minimum of 1 year experience as a case officer.

Content

This module provides advanced knowledge and skills about Article 1 D, E and F of the Geneva Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights (especially Articles 3 and 8), the UN Convention Against Torture (Articles 7 and 3), and relevant Humanitarian Law. Case officers gain better insight in the subject “Exclusion Clause” so that these cases will be recognised early in the asylum process and can therefore be addressed at interview. This will ensure that potential “exclusion-cases” will be handled correctly.

Objectives

At the end of the training the participant will understand:

- What the exclusion clause is.
- The meaning of this clause in a wider (legal) context.
- Why it is important to recognise exclusion indications in an early stage.
- What the national policy consequences can be in 1F-cases.

At the end of the training the participant will be able to:

- Identify exclusion clause cases.
- Formulate relevant questions in order to establish and identify possible “exclusion-cases”.

Methods

Theoretical lectures to explain Article 1 D, E and F and other relevant articles, combined with discussions on cases dealing with different aspects of the “Exclusion Clause”. The trainers will select cases and participants will be asked to contribute with own examples. The preparatory phase can be done through E-learning.

End of Protection

3:2 4:1



The minimum norms laid down in the Council Directive on standards for the qualification as refugees (2004/83/EC) lays down provisions not only on the requisites for granting protection to refugees, but also on the withdrawal of refugee status in a variety of circumstances.

A common interpretation and application of the conditions for ending refugee protection is thus an integral part of the European Asylum System. Experienced case workers should be familiar with the common withdrawal regime and be able to apply it to individual cases.

Target Group

Case officers, policy makers and managers.

Entry Level

Good knowledge in International Refugee Law. 1 year's experience as case worker.

Content

This module provides knowledge on common standards, principles and guaranties which all member states have to implement to end refugee protection. The following subjects are addressed:

- Revocation, end of protection or refusal to renew status (different options reflect different legal procedures in different Member States; end of protection as common feature; different reasons to put an end to protection).
- Cessation (the only finalisation of protection regulated by the Geneva Convention; Protection is not needed; Reasons for cessation; Important concepts such as refugees have voluntarily re-availed themselves of the protection of the country of nationality, refugees have voluntarily re-established themselves in the country they fled, refugees can no longer refuse protection of the country of nationality due to the cessation of the circumstances that made them be recognised as refugees).

- Other circumstances for ending protection (e.g. protection should never been granted; behaviour of the refugee does not deserve protection etc.).
- Procedural requisites.
- Rights of the former refugee.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants should be able to:

- Understand the different ways in which a protection regime ends.
- Evaluate whether the specific circumstances of a case require further action in order to formally end protection.
- Prepare, and eventually, write decisions on end of protection.

Methods

Case studies combined with E-learning, self-assessment tests, written assignments/ short papers, discussions and the use of audio-visual materials.



Interviewing Children

6:1



Specific skills and knowledge are required to interview children since children's perception of the environment, memory and sense of time is considerable different from an adult's. It is therefore important that anyone conducting an interview with a child is fully aware of these differences.

The objectives of the module on "Interview Techniques" are; to provide the participants with knowledge and skills in children's development staged; to provide specific techniques for interviewing children; and to provide knowledge and skills on how to assess the information given by a child properly.

Target group

Case officers who handle cases with children in the asylum process, both unaccompanied minors as well as children in families.

Entry level

Two years of experiences in the asylum process and a feeling of affinity with children in the asylum process.

Content

This module offers knowledge and skills at an advanced level in common interview techniques for interviewing children. Specific knowledge and skills on how to talk with and interview children is also provided.

Objectives

After the training the participants have gained knowledge in:

- The development stages of children.
- The cross cultural and cultural specific aspects of children's development.
- The emotional state of children applying for asylum in relation to their age.
- How children store information in their memory and how they tell this information.
- Different theories on interviewing children.
- The differences between interviewing adults and children.
- The effect of their own attitude towards the child and the interview process.

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Manage interviews in the "best interest" of the child from the judicial perspective (to convert theory into practice/implementation).
- Approach children in different ages and in various emotional states.
- Use specific interviewing techniques for children.
- Recognise children with trauma.
- Deal with trauma in an interview.
- Deal with translations and interpreters.

Methods

An interview guide on how to conduct interviews with children will be provided and applied. To stimulate the expenditure of the repertoire of actions, the trainer will use role-play based on real cases.



Interviewing Traumatized Persons

6:2



Photo by UNHCR

Persons seeking asylum often come from a threatening or traumatic environment in their home country/ country of origin. They may furthermore have distressing experiences when fleeing their country. As a consequence asylum seekers may have developed trauma, which may influence both the amount of information as well as the manner in which the information is provided during the interview.

One objective of the module on “Interviewing Traumatized Persons” is to provide participants with knowledge in symptoms and effects of posttraumatic stress syndromes. Cultural aspects are taken into consideration. Another objective is to provide skills to perform an interview with traumatized persons in a professional, respectful and sympathetic manner.

Target group

Experienced case officers.

Entry level

A minimum of two years of experience as a case officer interviewing asylum seekers, and a feeling of affinity with the subject.

Content

This module provides knowledge and skills at an advanced level in assessing the credibility of the asylum seeker whilst paying attention to their psychological and cultural background.

Objectives

At the end of the training participants have gained knowledge in:

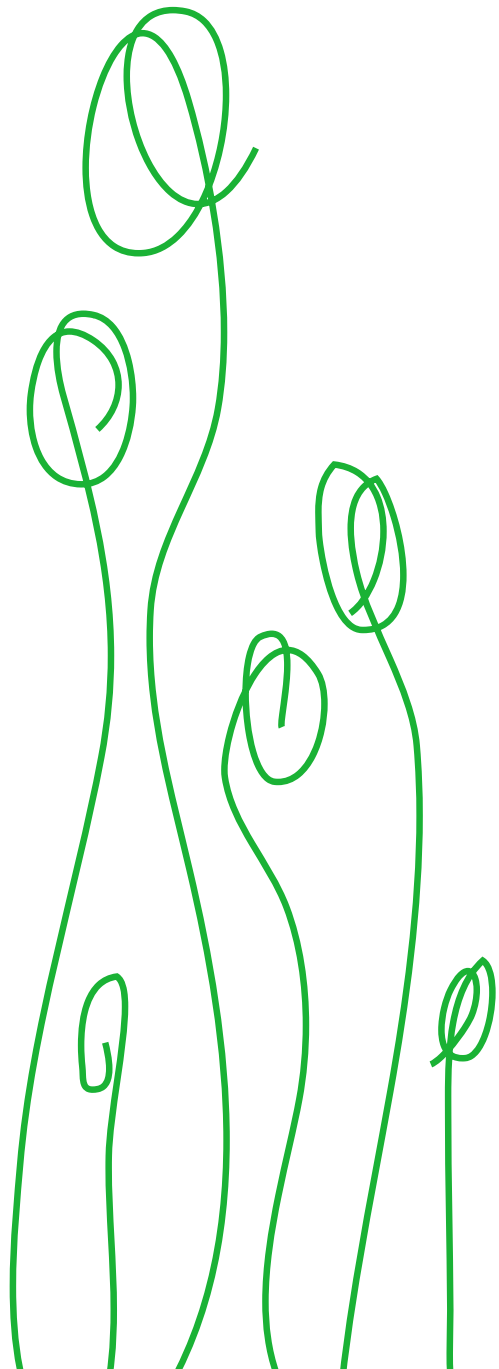
- Post-traumatic-stress-syndrome and other trauma syndromes.
- Policy and legal issues regarding interviewing traumatized asylum seekers.
- The reasons why people can be afraid to tell their story because of the consequences this story can have on the asylum seeker.
- The effects of the behaviour and attitude of the interviewer on the applicant and the amount of information the interviewer will (or will not) gather.

At the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Apply policy and legal issues regarding the hearing of traumatized asylum seekers.
- Interview the asylum seeker in a respectful, professional and sympathetic way.
- Recognise signals of traumatized asylum seekers expressed in different ways depending on their cultural backgrounds.
- Reflect on their own behaviour and cope with their emotions.

Methods

In this module theoretical lectures are mixed with role-playing together with actors and discussions on cases.





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