



THE NEW EUAA

EXTERNAL COOPERATION STRATEGY

In March 2023, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) adopted a revised **External Cooperation Strategy**. The Strategy builds on the Agency's significant experience and proved added value as a **centre of expertise** on asylum and reception, a **forum for coordination**, and a **network of**

contacts. It determines the overall direction, objectives, and scope of EUAA actions in the external dimension along two pillars: **Third-Country Support and Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission**.



The EUAA will support the full alignment of candidate and potential candidate countries with the norms and standards of Common European Asylum System and will assist other selected partner third countries in enhancing their asylum and reception system.

The EUAA will provide Member States with enhanced support in their resettlement, humanitarian admission activities, and complementary pathways for third-country nationals in need of international protection.

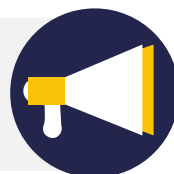
The EUAA actions in the external dimension will be guided by the principles of **coherence** with relevant EU policies and partners' interventions, **solidarity** with partner third countries, and **sustainability** of capacity building activities to develop long-lasting national capacity.

The Strategy identifies the following **strategic objectives**:

- 1 Support EU institutions and EU+ countries in the external dimension of the CEAS, in line with the 'Team Europe' approach
- 2 Strengthen partner third-country legislation and asylum and reception systems
- 3 Offer infrastructure and logistical support to EU+ countries' resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes in selected third countries
- 4 Facilitate planning, cooperation, coordination, and implementation of actions in the area of Resettlement, Humanitarian Admission, and Community Sponsorship and Complementary Pathways linked to international protection

In addition, the Strategy updates the Agency's **legal and policy frameworks** of reference; outlines a renewed **prioritisation approach to third-country support**; develops **new ideas for resettlement and humanitarian admission**; addresses questions related to **funding and human resources**; highlights the need to **strengthen cooperation and coordination** with relevant stakeholders; and clarifies the **way forward** for its implementation, monitoring, and revision.

HIGHLIGHTS



Third-country support

Relation-centred approach	Catalogue of services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear prioritisation and differentiation of EUAA support: first candidate and potential candidate countries, next countries in the EU neighbourhood, and lastly “whole-of route” countries - Striking a balance between stability and flexibility - Widest support to Western Balkan partners, including integration into EUAA networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listing all capacity building activities that can be offered to partner third countries to facilitate joint needs assessments - Including services linked to the facilitation of operational cooperation between EU+ countries and candidate and potential candidate countries
Pursuit of external funding	Liaison officers in third countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From EU instruments (IPA and NDICI-Global Europe) and EU+ countries’ voluntary contributions - Always including project staff - Accompanied by enhanced cooperation in Council fora (EMWP, MOCADDEM) and the Third Country Cooperation Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aiming to facilitate communication with competent authorities and build/maintain effective cooperation mechanisms - In line with the criteria of the EUAA Regulation and in close coordination with the EU Delegation and relevant stakeholders

Resettlement and humanitarian admission

Operational support	Support to coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing the services of the Resettlement Support Facility (RSF) in Istanbul - Exploring “outreach services”: agile, multi-countries, facility-less services linked to quickly changing needs of EU+ countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing coordination in the Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network, thematic working groups, and the Expert Platform on safe pathways for Afghans - Promoting joint outreach to third countries
Capacity development	Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In EU+ countries: structural and frontline support to national programmes - In third countries: workshops, training, and info exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting interested EU+ countries with awareness raising and communication campaigns to increase the visibility of resettlement