

Expert Workshop on Country of Origin Information (COI) in the context of the refugee status determination process

Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum

Bucharest, 10 - 11 September 2012

Agenda

- Please note that simultaneous interpretation English and Russian will be provided. -

First day (10 September)		
09:30 – 10:00	Registration of Participants Coffee and snacks	
Welcome and Opening Facilitator: Ms Agata SOBIECH European Commission		
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome Address	Ms Agata SOBIECH European Commission
10:05 – 10:15	Welcome Address	Mr Catalin NECULA Romanian Ministry of Interior General Director of General Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations Mr Nelu POP General Inspector of General Inspectorate for Immigration - Mol
10:15 – 10:25	Welcome Address	Mr Gagik YEGANYAN Head of State Migration Service of Armenia
10:25 – 10:30	Welcome Address	Mr Petrus WIJNINGA UNHCR Representative in Romania
10:30 – 10:45	Welcome Address	Mr Lars-Erik FJELLSTRÖM Swedish Migration Board
Facilitator: Mr Nino HARTL European Asylum Support Office		
10:45 – 11:15	The role and importance of COI in refugee status determination	Mr Oldrich ANDRYSEK UNHCR Regional Representative in Kyiv

11:15 – 11:45	Standards set by the European Court of Human Rights to consider country information in the assessment of claims for international protection	Ms Clare BROWN European Court of Human Rights
11:45 – 12:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
12:15 – 12:45	COI Standards	Ms Silvia HUBSCHMID Country Analyst Eastern Europe and Central Asia Federal Office for Migration FOM Asylum and Return Unit Eastern Europe and Central Asia Switzerland
12:45 – 13:30	COI Units/Responsibles presentation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova (10 min./country)	EaP COI specialists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova
13:30 – 14:15	<i>Lunch break</i>	
Facilitator: Mr Nino HARTL European Asylum Support Office		
14:15 – 15:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Practical session based on the questionnaires sent in previous 3 working groups (15 pers./group) <i>45 minutes for debate and 30 minutes for reporting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group I – <i>Procedural standards (personal data protection, equal access to COI, COI reflected by the legislation)</i> • Group II – <i>COI Unit and internal workflow as means towards a high standards RSD procedure</i> • Group III - <i>Collaboration between COI Units – future joint solutions, projects etc.</i> 	
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00 – 16:30	COI process and Staff Management	Mr Eleodor PIRVU Head of Romanian Country of Origin Information Unit General Inspectorate for Immigration
16:30 – 17:00	COI quality assurance checking	Mr Eric HOFF Swedish Migration Board - Country of Origin Information Unit
17:00 – 17:30	Q&A session	
17:30 – 17:45	Wrap up of the day	
20:00	Dinner	

Second day (11 September)		
COI – Practical aspects Facilitator: Mr Oldrich ANDRYSEK UNHCR		
9:30 – 10:15	COI EU Common Portal and EASO COI Report Methodology Prospects of COI in the context of the future Common European Asylum System	Mr Nino HARTL European Asylum Support Office
10:15 – 10:45	Legal relevance and COI as evidence in refugee status determination	Mr Wolfgang BARTSCH Vice President of the Administrative Court Braunschweig, Germany
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:15 – 12:00	Knowledge and assessment of COI sources	Ms Gabriele WECKER Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
12:00 – 12:45	Practical challenges in dealing with using of COI within the decision making process	Mr Gerhard KORTS - Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Project Manager - Support Reintegration of Georgian Returning Migrants and the Implementation of the EU-Georgia Re-admission Agreement
12:45 – 14:15	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:15 – 14:45	European Asylum Curriculum - Country of Origin Information module presentation	Mr Felix DAVID EAC national trainer - Romanian Country of Origin Information Unit General Inspectorate for Immigration
14:45 – 15:15	Role of Civil Society played in the field of COI	Ms Hiske VAN DEN BERGH Senior COI consultant - unit Asylum - Dutch Council for Refugees
15:15 – 16:30	Examples of COI best practices in EU and third countries	Representatives from all the countries are encouraged to present best COI practices from national level! Example: - Romania – COI Public Portal available on the internet (5-10 min.) - Sweden – language analysis - Refworld and the future plan for implementing it in Russian language - European Country of Origin Sponsorship (ECS) - Use of External Experts in COI Research

Closure of the workshop		
Facilitator: Ms Agata SOBIECH European Commission		
16:30 – 16:40	Summary of the second day	Mr Silviu TURZA Head of International Protection and Asylum Procedures Romanian Ministry of Interior General Inspectorate for Immigration
16:40 – 17:00	Closure of the meeting	Ms Agata SOBIECH European Commission