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EASO publishes a new Country of Origin Information (COI) report: Syria - Actors



The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has published a Country of Origin Information (COI) report titled "Syria - Actors". This report is part of a series of Syria reports produced in 2019-2020. These reports cover actors of protection, internal mobility, key socio-economic indicators, and targeting of individuals. The reports provide information relevant for international protection status determination for Syrian asylum seekers and will be used in the development of a country guidance note on Syria.

Syrians continued to be the **top citizenship applying for asylum in the EU+ uninterruptedly since 2013**, although the number of applications lodged between January and September 2019 (some 51 200) was lower than in the same period in 2018 (about 57 000). Three in every four Syrian applications (almost 75%) were lodged in four EU+ countries.

Syrian applicants also received more first-instance decisions than any other citizenship group. Since the beginning of 2019, Syrian applicants received some 58 300 decisions. Syria was also the country of origin whose nationals had the most cases pending at first instance in the EU+. At the end of September 2019, there were some 44 600 Syrian applications awaiting a first-instance decision, some 80% of which were pending in

just five EU+ countries.

The report, EASO COI Report: Syria – Actors, aims to provide **relevant information regarding the main actors in Syria for the assessment of international protection status determination**, including refugee status and subsidiary protection, and in particular to inform the EASO country guidance development on Syria.

The report was drafted by the EASO COI sector with research contributions from the COI unit of the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, as referred to in the acknowledgments section in accordance with the EASO COI Report Methodology, and was reviewed by COI experts from Austria. Additionally, external expert reviews were carried out by ACCORD, and by Aron Lund, fellow at the Century Foundation and guest researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Additional information to complement this report can be found in the following EASO report: EASO COI Report: Syria – Security situation.

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