



European Asylum Support Office

SUPPORT IS OUR MISSION

Country of Origin Information and the principles of Due Process

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Selection of three principles

- Transparency & traceability
- Impartiality
- Duty to give reasons

TRANSPARENCY & TRACEABILITY

- Presenting the information:

- ACCORD Training Manual:

- “To ensure transparency, COI should be fully referenced to enable readers to independently verify and assess the information. Every piece of information should be traceable to its source. Information should be clearly presented and its meaning must not be distorted.”*

- Common EU Guidelines for Processing COI:

- “The researched information can be presented in different ways: quoting, rephrasing or summarizing. It may depend on circumstances – sometimes it is easier, more adequate or effective to rephrase or summarize than to quote”*

- EASO COI Report Methodology:

- Presentation; summary; analysis



TRANSPARENCY & TRACEABILITY

Presenting Information:

listing, quoting sources

e.g. UKBA Country reports, Danish FFM reports

vs.

summarising and analysing

e.g. Norwegian Landinfo reports

Transparency vs. usability



TRANSPARENCY & TRACEABILITY

- Referencing is key
- Original sources
- Non-public sources – dilemma use the information or not? Security concerns for the source
- Good practice: research logbook
 - Facilitate an assessment of the profoundness of research, particularly useful if no information is found.
 - Facilitate an assessment of the neutrality/objectivity of the collection and selection of the information.



IMPARTIALITY/NEUTRALITY

- First threat to impartiality: the question
- Independent & trained researcher
- Methodology
- E.g. principles of corroboration and balance

The duty to give reasons

- The use of COI in a decision:
 - Verification of material facts
 - Assessment of risk/fear

- What is the effect?
 - Misuse of COI: COI mostly does not provide a black or white answer
 - COI influences the standard of proof

The duty to give reasons

E.g. EASO COI Report on Afghanistan – Taliban strategies - recruitment:

Recruitment of fighters by the Taliban is in general organised locally and happens through existing social structures

- local commander
- tribal leaders
- local mullah or madrassa

Forced recruitment, by way of Taliban fighters directly approaching individuals and threatening with the use of force or retaliation, is exceptional. However, such exceptions have been reported in areas under strong Taliban influence or control (Helmand, Kunduz, Kunar, Uruzgan) and in areas where social and state protective structures are absent, such as IDP camps.





Questions

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