

Voluntary Relocation

Pre-screening criteria and proposed methodology

In the framework of the Sea Watch landing activities, EASO will be providing support to concerned Member States in preparing a consolidated list of all applicants for international protection (with a separate list for unaccompanied minors as well as for urgent vulnerable cases).

Each consolidated list will, whenever relevant, be handed over to each MS Delegation.

The preparation of the list will entail a pre-screening exercise as well as a matching exercise based on the following criteria, in a hierarchical way:

1. **Apply regular Dublin criteria.** Only if these do not lead to another MS responsible, continue with Voluntary relocation.
2. **Urgent vulnerable cases** requiring specialised assistance. On a case by case analysis conducted by EASO and following the attached EASO guidance on the identification of persons with special needs, a list of vulnerable applicants will be compiled for prioritised relocation.

Positive matching criteria

1. Family ties: Application of such a criterion is wider than the core family members' one (as a minimum applicant's adult aunt or uncle or grandparent), but can also go to the 'extended family'. Yet, sufficient information concerning the declared family link is to be collected, which means as a minimum that the applicant can provide a precise address and/or telephone number.

2. Language skills; knowledge of a (one or more) language spoken in one of the participating MS. As it is not possible for the registration officer to 'test' the applicant's knowledge of the language, a standard question of 'how did you learn the language' will help put skills into context.

3. Other ties: 'Do you have any other social or cultural ties with a participating MS?' (through profession, earlier visit, education,). The question if the applicant can demonstrate this should be added, to avoid random statement.

Proportional distribution

4. Equal (read proportional) distribution of the number of vulnerable applicants against the pledges.

5. Equal (read proportional) distribution of applicants with reference to their nationalities or the average recognition rate at EU level against the pledges.

6. Equal (read proportional) distribution of families and conversely of single applicants against the pledges.